



January 2022

WATT'S NEWS



CMELD would like to wish everyone a Happy and Healthy New Year!



THE TOWN HALL WILL BE CLOSED ON MONDAY, JANUARY 17, IN HONOR OF MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY

Please keep in mind:

- When paying your CMELD and Water Bills it is important to enclose the "return portion" of your bill with payment in order to identify the proper account.
- When using online bill pay, personal check or money order, please indicate your entire customer number.
- If you are paying 2 or more bills with one check, indicate account numbers separately and the amount to be applied to each.
- Remember, if paying both electric and water bills at the same time they must be separate payments. Water payments should to be made to Chester Water Department.

WATER METER and PIPE FREEZE UPS

With the extremely low temperatures, residents could experience water meter freeze ups. This could result in broken pipes and water running into basements. We cannot stress enough the importance of keeping the area where your water meter is located above freezing. If your basement is unheated, not only is the water meter in danger of freezing, but your water pipes beyond the meter can also freeze resulting in flooding and potentially expensive repairs. There are insulated and/or electrical wraps that can be used as well as heaters or lights on timers. Also, please keep your faucet open just a little; running with just a trickle of water. This will help to avoid any pipes freezing.

Just a couple reminders from CMELD:

- ◆ Payments must be received on or before the discount due date in order to be eligible for the discount.
- ◆ Paperless billing is now available-contact the office to learn more.
- ◆ Payments received during the last week of the month may not be reflected on your new bill.
- ◆ Payments can be dropped 24/7 in the black lock box on the Town Hall steps.
- ◆ CMELD will work with customers to develop budget or payment plans.
- ◆ Past due and shut off notices are based on the number of days of non-payment, not account balance.
- ◆ Springfield Partners for Community Action can help fuel assistance eligible customers with weatherization evaluations and upgrades.
- ◆ Energy New England provides residential home energy assessments for CMELD consumers, services are paid for by Chester Municipal Electric.

What do you call a reindeer with no eyes?

I have no eye deer!!!

Why are bad school grades like a shipwreck in the Arctic Ocean?

They're both below C level!!!

Why did the gingerbread man go to the doctors?

He was feeling crummy!!!

What did the gingerbread man put on his bed?

A cookie sheet!!!

How do snowmen travel around?

By icicle!!!

What kind of money do snowmen use in the North Pole?

Cold cash!!!



Chester Historical Society

Boston Gold Cane – On December 21 Chester’s Boston Gold Cane was presented to Harriet Kelso Gilman at the Kelso Homestead on Bromley Road. Harriet who is 100 years old was born at this family homestead on June 3, 1921. The presentation was made by John Hultman President of the Society. Society members John Garvey and Annette Lamountain, Selectman Ricard Holzman, and members of Harriet’s family were in attendance. The Bay State’s Boston Gold Cane was a promotional gimmick of the Boston Post newspaper. The thinking being every town would receive a gold headed cane, inscribed with the name of the paper on the shaft. Every time the cane would be awarded to a Senior of the Communities the paper would be part of the ceremony and press coverage. This would keep their name in the minds of the people across the state.

William Stevens 93, believed to be the oldest in Chester in 1909 received the first Boston Post Gold Cane. The cane was lost or destroyed and until 1986 the presentations began again with replica canes made by Lincoln G. Charles Non-Ferrous Castings Franklin, N.H.

The Society recently received a generous bequest from the estate of George Morey Jr. This will be combined with a bequest from the estate of Aldo Bizzazzoro, and other memorial contributions and we will be applying for a matching grant from the Massachusetts Historical Commission for the continuing renovations to the second floor of the Chester History Museum.



Power Outages & Downed Power Lines

Call 413-447-0268



First step: Report the outage

When your lights go out, let us know as soon as possible. When you speak to a representative, it's helpful if you can provide any of the following information:

- Are your lights dim or out?
- Did you check your fuse or breaker box for blown fuses or tripped circuits?
- Are your neighbors' lights out?
- Is a power line down?
- Did a tree limb fall on a power line?
- Is there any damage to the utility pole?
- Are the streetlights out?
- Did you hear a noise?

Next steps for your home

Turn off all electrical equipment, including your water heater, electric furnace or heaters, stove, washer and dryer, stereo and TV, to help prevent overloading the system when power is restored. (Major appliances can be turned off at the breaker box.) Do however, turn on a porch light and one inside light so you and CMELD's crew will know when service is restored.

If you see any downed utility line, stay far back and call CMELD: 413-447-0268. Keep children and pets away, too. A downed line doesn't have to spark to be dangerous. And a wire can be dangerous even if you're not touching it; water, metal, tree branches, concrete or other materials touching the wire can conduct electricity from a wire to you.

If your neighbor's power comes back on but yours does not, call CMELD again.

IMPORTANT THINGS TO KNOW:

If a utility line is touching a person, stay back and call 911. Do not touch them or you could get hurt.

If a wire falls on your car, stay in the vehicle until help arrives and power is cut off. You are safe as long as you remain inside; the rubber tires act as an insulator. If you try to get out and you touch the ground and electrified car at the same time, you will complete the circuit to ground for the electricity, and you could be electrocuted. If you have to get out of the vehicle due to a fire, jump clear of the car with both feet together, and make sure you don't touch the car when you touch the ground. Then, keeping your feet together at all times, shuffle or hop far away from the vehicle and power line.

