

DEDICATION

The 2007/2008 Annual Report
is dedicated to

Joyce Aley

in recognition of her 20 years of service
to the Town of Chester as Tax Collector.



IN MEMORIAM

The 2007/2008 Annual Report is also dedicated
to the memory of

Roger Trabucchi

a longtime resident of the Town of Chester
and former member of the Board of Finance.

TOWN OF CHESTER

Address: 203 Middlesex Avenue, Chester, CT 06412
Telephone: 860-526-0013
Facsimile: 860-526-0004
Official Town Web Site: www.chesterct.org

TOWN HALL DIRECTORY

Animal Control	767-3219	
Assessor	extension 512	assessor@chesterct.org
Development Office		
Building	extension 207	bldgofficial@chesterct.org
Fire Marshal	extension 212	firemarshal@chesterct.org
Inland Wetlands Officer	extension 212	inlandwetlands@chesterct.org
Planning and Zoning	extension 208	zoningofficial@chesterct.org
Sanitation	extension 206	sanitarian@chesterct.org
Finance	extension 215	finance@chesterct.org
First Selectman	extension 202	firstselectman@chesterct.org
Administrative Assistant	extension 202	adminasst@chesterct.org
Human Services	extension 213	humanservices@chesterct.org
Information	extension 202	info@chesterct.org
Judge of Probate	extension 221	probatecourt@chesterct.org
Parks and Recreation	extension 223	parkrec@chesterct.org
Police Services		
Resident Trooper	526-3605	policervices@chesterct.org
Emergency	911	
Registrar of Voters	extension 211	
Tax Collector	extension 513	taxcollector@chesterct.org
Town Clerk	extension 511	townclerk@chesterct.org
Treasurer	extension 214	treasurer@chesterct.org
Water Pollution Control Authority		wpc@chesterct.org

MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS

Chester Elementary School	23 Ridge Road	526-5797
Community Center	61 Middlesex Avenue	526-0016
Fire Department	6 High Street	526-0019
John Winthrop Junior High School	Warsaw Street, Deep River	526-9546
Meeting House	4 Liberty Street	526-0015
Public Library	21 West Main Street	526-0018
Public Works Department	16 Grote Road	526-0020
Valley Regional High School	Kelsey Hill Road, Deep River	526-5328

TOWN HALL HOURS

Selectman's Office and Town Clerk's Office

Monday, Wednesday, Thursday 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM

Tuesday 9:00 AM to 7:00 PM

Friday 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM

Assessor's Office

Monday, Wednesday and Thursday 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM

Tuesday 9:00 AM to 7:00 PM

Friday 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM

Tax Collector's Office

Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM

Building Department

Monday through Friday October – April 9:00 AM – 10:00 AM

May – September 8:30 AM– 9:30 AM

and by appointment

Sanitation Department

Monday and Thursday 7:00 AM to 8:00 AM

Tuesday 4:30 PM to 7:00 PM

Zoning Department

Monday and Wednesday 8:00 AM to 12:00 PM

Human Services Department

Monday, Wednesday, Thursday 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM

Judge of Probate

Monday through Thursday 8:00 AM to 1:00 PM

and by appointment

Offices with the exception of the Probate Office are closed for lunch Noon to 1:00 PM

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ELECTED OFFICIALS

(Served Fiscal Year: July 1, 2007 – June 30, 2008)

Selectmen

Thomas E. Marsh 11/17/09
Bruce H. Watrous 11/17/09
Martin L. Heft 11/17/09

Town Clerk & Registrar of Births, Marriages & Deaths

Debra Germini Calamari 01/04/10
Asst: Sharon S. Echtman

Town Treasurer

Elizabeth A. Netsch 11/17/09
Julie Netsch, Deputy 11/17/09

Tax Collector

Joyce A. Aley 11/17/09
Asst: Robert DeRoo

Board of Finance

David W. Cohen 11/19/13
Richard H. Morrow, Jr. 11/19/13
Christian Steven Johnson 11/22/11
Kim S. Just 11/22/11
Virginia Edmands Carmany 11/17/09
Jennifer B. Wislocki, Chmn. 11/17/09

Board of Finance Alternates

Richard Christian Nankee 11/19/13
Edmund J. Meehan 11/22/11
Vacancy 11/17/09

Board of Education

Charles A. DellaRocco 11/08/11
Wendy C. King 11/08/11
Laurie Rubinow 11/08/11
Ellen J. Beardsley 11/03/09
Pamela M. Christman, Chmn. 11/03/09
Amy S. Conderino 11/03/09
Judith Abel Dona 11/03/09
Suzanne Rathbun Fetter 11/03/09
Carol A. Johnson 11/03/09

Board of Assessment Appeals

Bruce H. Watrous, Chmn. 11/22/11
Dudley W. Clark, Jr. 11/17/09
Daniel M. Watts 11/17/09

Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission

Albert G. Bisacky 11/22/11
George H. Foulds 11/22/11
Kim S. Senay 11/22/11
Lisa Catherine Wahle, Chmn. 11/22/11
Vacancy 11/22/11
Peter D. DeLisa 11/17/09
Sally A. Sanders 11/17/09

Planning and Zoning Commission

Janet Cummings Good 11/19/13
Michael A. Sanders 11/19/13
Steven E. Tiezzi 11/19/13
Richard K. Gold 11/22/11
Jon Mark Lavy 11/22/11
Lawrence Mirl Sypher 11/22/11
Michael W. Joplin, Chmn. 11/17/09
Virgil J. Lloyd 11/17/09
Sally Leigh Murray 11/17/09

Planning and Zoning Commission Alternates

Cynthia Dale Fiscina 11/19/13
Steven E. Merola 11/22/11
Lawrence H. Zeisner 11/17/09

Library Trustees

Molly W. Lund 11/19/13
Teresa C. Schreiber, Chmn. 11/19/13
Margaret A. Carter-Ward 11/22/11
Edith M. Prisloe 11/22/11
Sandra Senior-Dauer 11/17/09
Barbara Prestley Standke 11/17/09

Board of Fire Commissioners

Richard M. Schreiber	11/22/11
Joel P. Severance, Chmn.	11/22/11
John M. Divis	11/17/09
Charlene O. Janecek	11/17/09
Patricia A. Pendergast	11/17/09

Thomas E. Marsh, First Selectman	
Ex-Officio	

James Grzybowski, Fire Chief	
Ex-Officio	

Bernard Negrelli, Fire Marshall	
Ex-Officio	

Regional Board of Education

Richard H. Strauss	11/05/13
Elaine M. Fitzgibbons	11/08/11
Lynne J. Pease	11/03/09

Registrar of Voters

Charlene O. Janecek	01/05/11
Katherine M. Marsh	01/05/11

Water Pollution Control Authority

E. John King, Jr.	11/22/11
Joan M. Mudge	11/22/11
Patricia P. Bisacky	11/17/09
Tommy Karl Englert	11/17/09
Leroy Edward Ward III, Chm	11/17/09

Zoning Board of Appeals

Mark C. Borton	12/31/11
Tommy K. Englert	12/31/11
James Edward Miller	12/31/11
John J. DeLaura, Jr.	12/31/09
Mario S. Gioco, Chmn.	12/31/09

Zoning Board of Appeals Alternates

Justin Michael Kronholm	12/31/11
Vacancy	12/31/11
Andrew Vomastek	12/31/09

Justices of the Peace

Shirley Joy Davis	01/05/09
John C. Giddings	01/05/09
Mario Gioco	01/05/09
Margaret E. Gister	01/05/09
Christopher Z. Komondy	01/05/09
Marguerite A. Komondy	01/05/09
Carl F. Manning	01/05/09
Emily S. Masters	01/05/09
Elizabeth A. Perreault	01/05/09
Harvey E. Redak	01/05/09
Lisa Michelle Smith	01/05/09
Anna Shubik Sweeney	01/05/09
Jerry A. Walden	01/05/09
Whitelaw Wilson	01/05/09

Judge of Probate

Justine R. Tobis	01/05/11
Gloria Amatruodo, Clerk	

State Congressman – 2nd Congressional District

Joe Courtney	01/03/09
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State Senator – 33rd Senatorial District

Eileen Daily	01/03/09
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State Representative – 36th Assembly District

James F. Spallone	01/03/09
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APPOINTED OFFICIALS

(Served Fiscal Year: July 1, 2007 – June 30, 2008)

Accounts Manager		Chester Housing Partnership	
Peter Evankow		David Mesite	
		Vacancy	
		Vacancy	
Accounts Clerk		Vacancy	
Sharon S. Echtman		Vacancy	
		Vacancy	
Administrative Assistant		Citation Hearing Officers	
Lynne Jacques		Lawrence M. DiBernardo	11/17/09
		W. Michael McCulley	11/17/09
Animal Control Officer		Elizabeth A. Perreault	11/17/09
Robert Jenkins		Peter J. Zanardi	11/17/09
		Vacancy	11/17/09
Assessor		Community Decommissioning	
Patricia Stevenson		Advisory Committee	
Asst: Sheila Ahearn		Vacancy (Full Member)	11/17/09
		Vacancy (Alternate Member)	11/17/09
Auditors		Compliance Officer	
Marien and Company LLC		John S. Bennet	11/30/09
Building Official		Connecticut River Estuary Regional	
Ronald Rose	08/14/08	Planning Agency	
		Salley Leigh Murray	12/04/09
		Stephen E. Williams	12/04/09
Cable Television Advisory Council		Connecticut River Estuary Transit	
Number Five		District	
Vacancy (Town)	07/30/09	Leslie B. Strauss	02/21/09
Vacancy (School)	07/30/09		
		Connecticut River Gateway	
Cedar Lake Advisory Committee		Commission	
Peter J. Auster	07/01/10	Margaret Wilson	07/01/10
Steven E. Merola	07/01/10	Martha Wallace, Alternate	07/01/10
George H. Foulds, Chmn.	07/01/09		
Denise L. Learned	07/01/09	Central Regional Tourism District	
Harvey E. Redak	07/01/09	Vacancy	07/01/11
Cemetery Association			
Robert Klomp, President			
Alan Cuneo, Vice President			
Janette DeRoo, Secretary			
Robert DeRoo, Treasurer			

Conservation Commission

Peter J. Auster	11/01/11
Errol F. Horner	11/01/11
Lee S. Sharp	11/01/11
Richard P. Holloway	11/01/10
Claudia W. VanNes	11/01/10
Justin P. Good	11/01/08
Michael P. Prisloe, Jr., Chmn.	11/01/08

Director of Health

Konrad Kotrady, M.D.	02/01/12
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Assistant Director of Health

Vacancy	02/01/12
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Emergency Management

Joel Severance, Director	
Bruce N. Bickford, Deputy	
Vacancy	

EMS South Central CT Emergency**Medical Services Council**

Emily S. Masters	12/01/08
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Fields/Grounds Committee for Regional School District 4

Vacancy	11/17/09
Vacancy	11/17/09

Fire Marshall

Bernard F. Negrelli	Lifetime
Keith C. Nolin, Deputy	

Harbor Management Commission

Robert L. Bachand	10/03/13
Joel P. Severance, Chmn.	10/03/13
Vacancy	10/03/13
Bruce W. Coderre	10/03/11
James D. Pinno	10/03/11
Leroy Edward Ward, III	10/03/09
Vacancy	10/03/09

Harbor Management Comm. Alternates

Vacancy	10/03/11
Vacancy	10/03/09

Harbor Master

George G. Bartlett	07/01/09
John Bennet, Deputy	

Historian

Robert Miceli	
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Human Services Director

Rose Biningger	
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Inland Wetland Officer

Anna Shubik Sweeney	
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Internet Access Coordinator

Rudy J. Urban, Jr.	11/17/09
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Regional Mental Health Board

Vacancy	04/30/10
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Middlesex County Revitalization Commission

Vacancy	11/17/09
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Municipal Agent for Children

Tri-Town Youth Service Bureau	
Gail Onofrio, Director	Lifetime

Municipal Economic Development Commission

Laurel A. Johnson	11/01/11
Macon C. Toledano	11/01/11
Michael A. Sanders	11/01/10
Patrick L. Woomer, Chmn.	11/01/10
Jeanette Caron	11/01/09
Dawn Williams	11/01/09
Margaret D. Reyser	11/01/08

Park and Recreation Commission

Susan G. Hotkowski	11/01/10
Sam C. Lindberg	11/01/10
Edward C. Hull, II	11/01/09
James L. Ready, Chmn.	11/01/09
Craig M. Brennan	11/01/08
Katharine Toledano	11/01/08
John B. Williams	11/01/08

Park and Recreation Director

Elizabeth A. Netsch

Resident State Trooper

Trooper Adam Brown, State Police – Troop F

Retirement Board

Katherine M. Marsh	12/16/10
Van C. Standke, Chmn.	12/16/10
Charlene O. Janecek	12/16/09
Jennifer M. Termini	12/16/09
David W. Cohen, BOF Member	12/16/08

Road Committee

Joseph Bergonzi
 Frank N. Ferrari, Jr.
 Christian F. Hamilton
 Louis F. Heft
 Alan F. Warner

Sanitarian

Lee Vito

Tree Warden

Jeremiah T. LaMark 11/17/09

Tri-Town Youth Service Bureau

Representative

Vacancy 11/17/09

Valley Shore Emergency

Communications Board of Directors

John Divis	11/17/09
Charles F. Greeney, Jr.	11/17/09

Zoning Enforcement Officer

Judy Brown

General Government

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Thomas E. Marsh, First Selectman

Bruce H. Watrous, Selectman

Martin L. Heft, Selectman

The Town of Chester is governed by the Board of Selectmen - Town Meeting form of government. This uniquely New England governmental structure has changed over the centuries but the core functions have remained essentially the same. In the 1600's the Board of Selectmen exercised the general power to superintend the concerns of the town. That is still true today, however some of the specific duties have evolved. In the early days the Selectmen, among other things, insured that the town boundaries were properly marked and had the important duty of "nominating" taverners to keep houses of public entertainment. The Selectmen met twice a year with the Justices of the Peace, grand jurors, constables and tythingmen to consult about the suppression of profaneness, vice and immorality. From 1714 to 1798 the Selectmen and justices of the peace were required to inspect local schools once every quarter year and inquire into qualifications of the master, the proficiency of the children and give needful directions to increase knowledge, civility and religion.

Today the Board of Selectmen acts as the executive branch of Town government. Many of the other functions now fall to various Boards and Commissions that report to the Board of Selectmen. For example, the Board of Finance is responsible for the financial administration of the Town, including preparing the annual budget and setting the mil rate. The Town Meeting is the legislative body of the Town and is open to all registered voters and property owners.

Though the duties and responsibilities have changed over the centuries it is remarkable that so much of our Town government is conducted through the generous donation of time, effort, and expertise of volunteers that serve on Town boards and commissions.

The 2007/2008 fiscal year could be dubbed the "Year of Construction". During the course of the fiscal year the Dock Road and Wig Hill Bridges were replaced. In October of 2007 the town voted to approve the proposed sewer connection to the Deep River treatment plant. Approvals were provided by the DEP to move forward on dam repairs at the Upper Jennings and Schrieber dams. Ongoing discussions with the State Department of Transportation centered on the replacement of the Middlesex Avenue bridge over Chester Creek as well as the replacement of the Water Street bridge over Great Brook and the Main Street bridge over Pattaconk Creek.

The following are some of the town government highlights from fiscal year 2007/2008

- The 2007/2008 Town Budget approved in May of 2007 in the amount of \$11,503,720 reflected the following:
 - Town budget -3.36%
 - Capital budget -20.57%

- Chester Elementary budget +4.99%
- Region 4 budget +9.98%
- Approval of a \$2.5 million dollar sewer project
 - \$1,000,000 in STEAP grant funding
 - \$375,000 in Clean Water Fund grants
 - \$1,125,000 in 2% Clean Water Fund loans
- Replacement of the Wig Hill and Dock Road Bridges
 - \$279,707 Wig Hill construction cost
 - \$68,986 Dock Road Bridge cost
- Approval of the 2008/2009 budget in May of 2008 in the amount of \$12,022,263 reflected the following:
 - Town budget -7.55%*
 - Capital budget +330%*
 - Chester Elementary budget +4.63%
 - Region 4 budget +5.68%

**Road construction budget was moved from operating to capital. The net change when both budgets are combined is +3.17%*

LOWER CONNECTICUT RIVER VALLEY SELECTMEN'S ASSOCIATION

The Lower Connecticut Valley Selectmen's Association (LCVSA), formed in 1967, brings the chief elected officials of the region together monthly to discuss common interests. Michael Pace of Old Saybrook is Chairman of the LCVSA. Some common interests have included elderly services, public transit, solid waste disposal and regional recycling and Household Hazardous Waste facilities.

CONNECTICUT RIVER VALLEY COUNCIL OF ELECTED OFFICIALS

The Connecticut River Valley Council of Elected Officials (CRVCEO) chaired by Essex First Selectman Phil Miller, brings together sixteen towns along the Connecticut River. Officially formed in 2000 by the General Assembly, the chief elected officials of Chester, Clinton, Cromwell, Deep River, East Haddam, East Hampton, Essex, Haddam, Killingworth, Lyme, Middlefield, Middletown, Old Lyme, Old Saybrook, Portland and Westbrook are brought together to discuss common issues.

The Council meets on a monthly basis, rotating from town to town. As a voice on legislative issues, the Council has fought in Hartford on the state budget, municipal ethics, environmental issues and other mandates.

Over the fiscal year, the Council has discussed coordinated economic planning, emergency management, regional transportation and environmental issues.

CONNECTICUT RIVER ESTUARY METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

CREMPO was formed in 2004 after the 2000 Census changed the designation of areas within the nine towns from rural to urban, based on localized concentrations of population. CREMPO conducts its planning through the staff at CRERPA. CREMPO is comprised of the nine Chief Elected Officials from the towns within the CRERPA region. The Metropolitan Planning Organization sets priorities for transportation projects within the region and adopts long range planning policies for transportation.

CRERPA has worked with CREMPO over the last year to process transportation projects and funding in coordination with the Connecticut Department of Transportation (CT DOT); coordinate the Federal Certification Review Process; adopt standards for project selection; submit quarterly and annual contracts and reporting to CT DOT. Additionally, CRERPA staff assisted many member towns with road projects, corridor studies, applications for project funding, and traffic counts for selected roads. CRERPA also continues to provide comprehensive planning services for the Estuary Transit District.

REGISTRAR OF VOTERS

Charlene O. Janeczek, Democratic
Katherine M. Marsh, Republican

The Office of the Registrar of Voters is a position, governed by the Connecticut General Statutes and financially supported by the municipality in which the Registrars serve. Registrars are responsible for voter education, organizing and conducting the annual canvass of voters, maintaining the accuracy of the registry list, updating voters files, preparing department budgets, training election officials, working town meetings when requested, absentee ballot assistance for convalescent home residents, ensuring the proper maintenance of voting machines in preparation for their use at elections, and filing the election results with the Municipal Clerk.

Over the past year, the registrars were involved in a local election, sewer referendum and Region 4 referendums, and the presidential primary. The new optical scan voting machines were used for all elections, referendums and primaries since November of 2007.

As of June 30, 2008, Chester had 2481 registered voters; 933 democrats, 530 republicans, 1011 unaffiliated and 7 to minor parties. Chester is part of the State of Connecticut Voter Registration System. The system allows the towns direct communication via computer with the Secretary of State Office and, indirectly, with other towns and cities that are part of the centralized voter system as required by HAVA.

Although the Registrar of Voters position is an elected position, politics does not have any place in a Registrar's Office. It is the responsibility of both Registrars to ensure fair and equitable enactment of all election laws.

TOWN CLERK

Debra Germini Calamari, Town Clerk

L and Records: This fiscal year 913 instruments were recorded in the Town Clerk's Office and 21 maps were filed.

Vital Statistics: During this fiscal year as Registrar of Vital Statistics, twenty-nine (29) births were registered in Chester: sixteen (16) boys and thirteen (13) girls. All but two (2) children were born in other Connecticut towns. There were nine (9) residents who were married in Chester; twenty-two (22) residents who were married out of town; and there were fifteen (15) non-resident marriages in Chester. There was one (1) civil union that took place in another town. There were twenty-five (25) residents who died here; twenty-one (21) non-residents died in Chester; and there were twenty-three (23) residents who died out of town.

Dog Licenses: All dogs must be licensed when they become six months of age. On the first of June, reminders are sent to all currently registered dog owners; they may license their dog in person or by mail. Rabies vaccination forms as well as spaying and neutering certificates must be submitted at the time of renewal. There were 505 dogs and 5 kennels registered during this fiscal year.

Voters: Residents may apply for admission as electors at the office of the Town Clerk on a daily basis or with the Registrar of Voters. Registrars hold special sessions prior to primaries and elections. These schedules are filed with the Town Clerk and are posted on the town sign post.

Other Duties: The Town Clerk's Office maintains and certifies agendas, meeting times and minutes of various Town boards and commissions. The Town Clerk serves as Clerk to Annual and Special Town Meetings and acts as the Custodian of the Town Seal and Registrar of Vital Statistics Seal. The Town Clerk prepares and administers annual budgets for the office and all duties and responsibilities are prescribed by State Statutes and Town Ordinances.

TOWN MEETINGS

October 23, 2007

VOTED BY REFERENDUM: To approve the Town of Chester to appropriate the sum of \$2,000,000 for costs in connection with the design, construction, equipping and financing of improvements to the sanitary sewerage system of the Town, including authorizing the issuance of bonds, notes or obligations of the Town in an amount not to exceed said \$2,000,000, authorizing the First Selectman to apply for and accept state grants for the project, and authorizing the Water Pollution Control Authority to construct said project.

Yes: 457

No: 284

RESOLVED:

1. That the Town of Chester appropriate TWO MILLION DOLLARS (\$2,000,000) for costs in connection with the design, construction, equipping and financing of improvements to the sanitary sewerage system of the Town, contemplated to include: (1) construction of gravity sewers along Main Street from the vicinity of Maple Street to Middlesex Avenue; (2) construction of a force main traveling eastward along Main Street, paralleling the proposed gravity sewers to the intersection with Middlesex Avenue (Route 154), thence traveling southward along Middlesex Avenue and terminating near the Deep River town line; (3) construction of gravity sewers from the discharge of the force main at the Deep River town line southward connecting to an existing manhole at the intersection of Middlesex Avenue and Winter Avenue; (4) upgrade and conversion of the Water Street Pump Station; (5) construction of service connections from the sewer mains to the street line; (6) paving and other restoration work incidental to the project; and (7) related work, improvements, equipment and appurtenances. The project is contemplated to be undertaken substantially as described in the report prepared by Fuss & O'Neill Consulting Engineers entitled "Chester Wastewater Planning Study" dated April 2004, as supplemented by an addendum dated February 16, 2007. The appropriation may be spent for design, installation and construction costs, appurtenances, equipment, materials, testing and inspection costs, surveying, engineering and other consultant fees, legal fees, net temporary interest and other financing costs, and other expenses related to the project or its financing. The Water Pollution Control Authority may reduce or modify the scope of the project, and the entire appropriation may be spent on the reduced or modified project. This appropriation is in addition to funding provided through the \$500,000 Fiscal Year 2001/02 Small Town Economic Assistance Program ("STEAP") grant proceeds being applied to defray initial costs of the project. No portion of this appropriation shall be expended on construction costs for the project until such time as the Town shall have entered into a project funding agreement with the State of Connecticut for grant and loan financing of the eligible costs of the project pursuant to State of Connecticut Clean Water Fund Program.

2. That the Town issue its bonds, notes or other obligations, in an amount not to exceed TWO MILLION DOLLARS (2,000,000) to finance the appropriation for the sewer project. The amount of bonds, notes or obligations issued shall be reduced by the amount of grants received by the Town for the project and applied to defray the above appropriation. The bonds, notes or obligations shall be issued pursuant to Section 7-259 or Sections 22a-475 to 22a-483 of the General Statutes of Connecticut, Revision of 1958, as amended, and any other enabling acts. The bonds, notes or obligations shall be general obligations of the Town secured by the irrevocable pledge of the full faith and credit of the Town.
3. That the Town issue and renew its temporary notes or interim funding obligations from time to time in anticipation of the receipt of the proceeds from the sale of the bonds, notes or other obligations and the receipt of grants for the sewer project. The amount of the notes or interim funding obligations outstanding at any time shall not exceed TWO MILLION DOLLARS (\$2,000,000). The notes or interim funding obligations shall be issued pursuant to Sections 7-264 and 7-378 or Sections 22a-475 to 22a-483 of the General Statutes of Connecticut, Revision of 1958, as amended, and any other enabling acts. The notes or interim funding obligations shall be general obligations of the Town secured by the irrevocable pledge of the full faith and credit of the Town. The Town shall comply with the provisions of Section 7-378a and Section 7-378b of the General Statutes with respect to any temporary notes if the notes do not mature within the time permitted by said Sections 7-264 or 7-378, and the Town shall comply with the provisions of Section 22a-479© of the General Statutes with respect to any interim funding obligations.
4. That the Selectmen, or a majority of them, and the Treasurer of the Town shall sign any bonds, notes or other obligations by their manual or facsimile signatures. The law firm of Day Pitney LLP is designated as bond counsel to approve the legality of the bonds, notes or other obligations. The Selectmen, or a majority of them, and the Treasurer are authorized to determine the amounts, dates, interest rates, maturities, redemption provisions, form and other details of the bonds, notes or other obligations; to designate one or more banks or trust companies to be certifying bank, registrar, transfer agent and paying agent for the bonds, notes or other obligations; to provide for the keeping of a record of the bonds or notes; to designate a financial advisor to the Town in Connection with the sale of the bonds, notes or other obligations; to sell the bonds, notes or other obligations at public or private sale; to deliver the bonds, notes or other obligations; and to perform all other acts which are necessary or appropriate to issue the bonds, notes or other obligations.
5. That the Town hereby declares its official intent under Federal Income Tax Regulation Section 1.150-2 that project costs may be paid from temporary advances of available funds and that (except to the extent reimbursed from grant

moneys) the Town reasonably expects to reimburse any such advances from the proceeds of borrowings in an aggregate principal amount not in excess of the amount of borrowing authorized above for the project. The Selectmen, or a majority of them, and the Treasurer are authorized to amend such declaration of official intent as they deem necessary or advisable and to bind the Town pursuant to such representations and covenants as they deem necessary or advisable in order to maintain the continued exemption from federal income taxation of interest on the bonds, notes or other obligations authorized by this resolution, if issued on a tax-exempt basis, including covenants to pay rebates of investment earnings to the United States in future years.

6. That the Selectmen, or a majority of them, and the Treasurer are authorized to make representations and enter into written agreements for the benefit of holders of the bonds, notes or other obligations to provide secondary market disclosure information, which agreements may include such terms as they deem advisable or appropriate in order to comply with applicable laws or rules pertaining to the sale or purchase of such bonds, notes or other obligations.
7. That the First Selectman, on behalf of the Town, is authorized to apply for and accept grants and loans to finance the appropriation for the project, and to enter into any grant or loan agreement prescribed by the State of Connecticut or any other grantor or lender, and the Board of Selectmen, the First Selectman, the Water Pollution Control Authority, the Treasurer and other proper officers and officials of the Town are authorized to take any other actions necessary to obtain such grants or loans pursuant to Section 22a-479 of the Connecticut General Statutes, Revision of 1958, as amended, or to any other present or future legislation, or to implement such grant or loan agreements. Any grant proceeds may be used to pay project costs or principal and interest on bonds, notes or other obligations issued to finance the project.
8. That the Water Pollution Control Authority is authorized to construct the sewer project, to approve design and construction expenditures and any land acquisition costs incurred for the sewer project, and to contract with engineers, contractors and others on behalf of the Town for said sewer project.
9. That the Board of Selectmen, the First Selectman, the Water Pollution Control Authority, the Treasurer and other proper officers and officials of the Town are authorized to take all other action which is necessary or desirable to construct and complete the sewer project and to issue bonds, notes or other obligations and obtain grants to finance the aforesaid appropriation.

VOTED: To approve the acceptance of, and authorize the First Selectman to execute an agreement for a STEAP grant from the State of Connecticut, Department of Environmental Protection in the amount of \$500,000, to be used for the purpose of proposed improvements to the sanitary sewerage system of the Town.

November 13, 2007

VOTED: To accept the amount of one hundred eleven thousand and eleven dollars from the State of Connecticut LOCIP grant program, as recommended by the Board of Selectmen and Board of Finance, and appropriated the same amount to Account Item Road Repairs No. 10-02-30-1130-446 for the repair of Wig Hill Road and Dock Road bridge building projects.

VOTED: To authorize the expenditure of the sum of thirty five thousand dollars (\$35,000.00) from Capital Reserve Line Item 20-00-31-0000-207 Dock Road Improvements for the temporary replacement of the Dock Road Bridge.

VOTED: To authorize the expenditure of the sum of eighty thousand nine hundred sixty two dollars (\$80,962.00) from Account Item Highway Equipment, No. 20-00-30-0000-030 for the purchase of a Ford F550 work truck.

May 6, 2008

VOTED BY REFERENDUM: To reject the Regional School District No. 4 budget of \$16,751,235 for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2008.

Yes: 90 No: 131

The total vote from Chester, Deep River and Essex was:

Yes: 340 No: 357

With 697 people having voted, Deep River had 84 Yes and 131 No and Essex had 166 Yes and 95 No.

May 27, 2008

VOTED: To select the method of payment and due date of installments of property taxes in keeping with CT General Statutes 12-143 as follows:

- a. Real estate taxes due in two halves, first half due July 1, 2008 and the second half due January 1, 2009.
- b. All motor vehicle bills due in one payment of July 1, 2008.
- c. All motor vehicle supplement bills due in one payment on January 1, 2009.
- d. Minimum interest charge of \$2.00.
- e. Negate all bills under \$5.00.

VOTED: To authorize the following transfers as recommended by the Board of Finance:

- a. \$55,000 from 20-00-01-0000-007 Capital Reserve Undesignated to 20-00-30-0000-030, Highway Equipment. \$50,000 toward replacement of the 1993 John Deere Payloader, and \$5,000 toward the replacement of the 1998 Chevrolet 3500 pick-up.
- b. \$5,563.25 from 20-00-31-0000-042 Cedar Lake Nuisance Plan, from \$10,653.79 20-00-45-0000-070 Cruiser Replacement, and from \$4,701.65

20-00-90-0000-090 Road/Sidewalk repairs to 20-00-42-0000-060 Ambulance Replacement.

VOTED: To authorize the expenditure of \$13,000 from Capital Reserve line item 20-00-31-0000-042 Cedar Lake Nuisance Plan for funding of weed removal in Cedar Lake as approved by the Board of Finance.

VOTED: To authorize the expenditure of \$75,000 from capital reserve line item 20-00-11-0000-010 Revaluation for the completion of the 2008 data mailer revaluation.

VOTED: To authorize the expenditure of \$86,665.05 from Capital Reserve line item 20-00-31-0000-044 Dam Repair for repairs to Schriber Park and Upper Pond dams.

VOTED: To budget for the Town of Chester for fiscal year July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009 an amount not to exceed \$12,022,263 as recommended by the Board of Finance.

VOTED: To adopt a five year capital plan to be updated annually as recommended by the Board of Finance.

VOTED: To authorize the Treasurer to post the Capital Fund interest and closed line item balances to the Capital Undesignated line item on a quarterly basis through fiscal year end June 30, 2009.

VOTED: To authorize the First Selectman and Treasurer to borrow such sums of money from time to time as may be necessary to defray expenses of the Town in accordance with authorized appropriations of fiscal year ending June 30, 2009.

May 28, 2008

VOTED BY REFERENDUM: To approve the Regional School District No. 4 budget of \$16,700,504 for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2008.

Yes: 197 No: 108

The total vote from Chester, Deep River and Essex was:

Yes: 853 No: 491

With 1,344 people having voted, Deep River had 244 Yes and 253 No and Essex had 412 Yes and 130 No.

TOWN WEBSITE

Rudy Urban, Jr., Internet Access Coordinator

As Internet Coordinator I have interpreted that to mean keeping the website as up to date as possible in a timely manner. Keeping with that I have found it my duty to keep the monthly calendar of notices on town activities of concern current. This includes Board and Commission Meeting agenda notices and minutes. Special Board and Commission events such as sitewalks are also posted. There are often cancellations and rescheduling posted as well. Our Town Events such as the 4 on the 4th Road Race, Chester Fair, Townwide Tag Sale etc. are also listed. Of course Town Meetings and Town Votes on matters are shown.

I then keep a Board & Commission Minutes file available with all agendas and minutes of meetings.

Other changes are seasonal such as Park and Recreation and the Library and I will change theirs throughout the year.

The list of elected and appointed officials is accessible. From time to time the list needs updating due to attrition.

This is close to all of what I do. The site however contains a good amount more. Visitors can find out about the beauty of Chester and what makes our town unique. We are also linked to the Chester Merchants where our businesses are showcased.

Many items on the site are there as a help, such as a recycling schedule for electronic devices and hazardous materials as well as a Transit(Public Transportation) list of times and locations. Our places of worship are listed and much more. I hope everyone has a chance to visit the site and any ideas may be passed to the First Selectman.

It has been my pleasure to serve in this capacity.

Thank you,
Rudy Urban

VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH PROGRAM

“**V**olunteer activity has been a mainstay for Chester and should be encouraged,” states the Town’s Vision Report. Contributions of time, energy, and skills are essential in helping to keep taxes down and promote the social and economic growth of our Town.

The Town of Chester survives on its volunteers. Volunteer possibilities can be found at Chester Hose Company, various boards and commissions, working at the polls, etc. If you have a desire to help people or provide community service, have a sense of public duty, feel a need to reciprocate because you or someone you know has received volunteer services, or just enjoy giving, your help is always needed. From July 1, 2007 – June 30, 2008, several people were recognized for their major volunteer contributions to the community: Lillian Bella - September 2007, Bob Sumner - December 2007, Joseph Bergonzi – January 2008, Al Warner – February 2008, Leif Nilsson – March 2008, Lauren Agnelli and Matthew Male – May 2008 and Election

Poll Workers – June 2008.

How the Volunteer of the Month program works. . .

- Citizens nominate volunteers by letter or by filling out one of the forms available in the Selectman's Office or online at www.chesterct.org
- The Board of Selectmen reviews the nominees and selects a *Volunteer of the Month*.
- The Board of Selectmen will present each honoree with a pin and a certificate highlighting their volunteer achievements.
- A Volunteer Plaque displaying each volunteer's name and month honored will be displayed in the Town Hall for all to see.

Finances

BOARD OF FINANCE

Jennifer Wislocki, Chairman

Fiscal year 2007-2008 required budgeted expenditures of \$11.5 million resulting in a mil rate of 23.12. Approximately 65% of the total budget consists of education while the other 35% is allocated to general government, public works, public safety, health and welfare and reserves. While the town has a conservative fund balance, it is an ongoing goal to control spending while providing the services required and desired by taxpayers. The challenge is to accomplish this without overburdening the taxpayers or jeopardizing the town's financial condition.

Chester's Board of Finance oversees the raising and expending of the Town's revenues. Throughout the year, the board meets monthly to review actual expenditures versus budget, approve bills and discuss any fiscal related issues that arise. The budget process is very intensive and encompasses a detailed review by the Board of Finance in conjunction with the Board of Selectmen and appropriate personnel from the town. Priorities are discussed in order to allocate required funds for the Town's ongoing operations, infrastructure, public safety and other services that the taxpayers require as well as those required by state and federal mandates. Due to the composition of Chester's tax base, a majority of the burden falls on the residents of the town. We have seen a decline in state and federal revenues while at the same time an increase in federal and state mandates that continue to be unfunded. This creates pressure on the Town's budget and requires spending to remain controlled. It is the goal of the Board of Finance to see that this is accomplished.

Input from residents is crucial and welcomed during the budget review process which begins in January and continues through April. Another goal is to make the budget information accessible on the town's website as well as the schedule of meetings that involve the budget.

ASSESSOR'S REPORT

Patricia A. Stevenson, CCMail, Assessor

Sheila E. Ahearn, Assessor's Clerk

As you can see from above we have a new addition to the Assessor's office. Sheila has taken Marilyn Baumann's place and is the new Assessor's Clerk. She previously worked at the Assessor's office in Killingworth. She has a warm and friendly smile and has been a pleasure to work with.

Marilyn has become the new Assessor in Haddam and we all wish her well in her new endeavor.

Chester was very fortunate to see a net increase of 1.75% for the October 1, 2007 Grand List. This helped to keep the recent increase in the mil rate to a minimum.

During our ongoing revaluation effective for October 1, 2008, we would like to take the opportunity to thank all our residents for making the data mailer verification such a huge success. Since this was our first endeavor using data mailers, I was hoping to see a return of approximately 50%. Wasn't I surprised when 85% of the data mailers were returned? Hats off to our Chester Residents!

Please pay special attention to local publications such as the *Chester Events* and most local newspapers for news updates pertaining to the revaluation process and its progress.

It also informs our residents including our seniors of important information relating to a variety of programs which the assessor's office administers.

There are a great number of programs, both state and local, available to our residents. This includes seniors, disabled, blind, veterans and local firefighters. We are happy to announce that the local homeowner's tax relief program will be extended for another year. In order for you to be eligible for the senior programs, you must qualify under the State of Connecticut Homeowner's income guidelines. If you are not sure whether you qualify for any of these programs please contact our office 860-526-0013 x 512 and we will be happy to assist you in any way we can.

As always our office appreciates the support of Chester's fine citizens. We would also like to welcome our new residents and we hope you will stop by our office if you have any questions or concerns.

BOARD OF ASSESSMENT APPEALS

Bruce H. Watrous, Chairman

The Board of Assessment Appeals is designed to serve as an appeal body for taxpayers who believe the town erred in the valuation of their property or erroneously denied them exemptions.

The Board of Assessment Appeals meets in March for Real Estate and Personal Property each year. To file an appeal the taxpayer must make written application on or before February 20th. They must appear or have their attorney / agent appear, before the Board at one of its meetings and answer all questions concerning his or her taxable

property in the town. Application forms are available upon request in the Assessor's Office or on the town website at www.chesterct.org/permits.

For appeals of Motor Vehicle assessments the Board meets in September, annually.

It is the duty of the three elected members of the Board to process each appeal by reviewing the property in question to determine whether the assessment should be reduced, raised or left unchanged. The Board, as required by law, notifies each taxpayer in writing as to the action taken in response to the appeal.

During the 2007 assessment year, a total of three (3) appeals were made. Of the three (3) appeals, two (2) resulted in decreased assessments and one (1) was denied.

TOWN TREASURER REPORT

Elizabeth A. Netsch, Treasurer

The Treasurer manages the cash flow, investment, and borrowing of Town funds in the most profitable and safe means available. All Town funds are received and disbursed by the Treasurer, when appropriately authorized.

The Treasurer is responsible for the management of the Town General Fund and Board of Education Accounts, which include all accounts that are the depositories for the budgeted revenues and expenditures. There are 16 separate additional funds for specified programs and retirement plans, maintained outside the annual budgeted General Fund. The 17 funds are deposited in 28 different accounts at 11 different institutions. The Town reports all funds on a general ledger system.

Interest earned on the General Fund, for the fiscal year 2007/2008, totaled \$109,925. Earnings on other Town accounts were \$67,404, excluding retirement funds. The total interest and dividend income from the Treasurer's office available to purchase goods and services was \$177,329 between July 1, 2007 and June 30, 2008.

Through optimum and safe investments, efficient management of cash flow, and careful review of all orders drawn on the General Government and Board of Education, the Treasurer provides the most effective use of the taxpayers' money.

RETIREMENT BOARD

Van C. Standke, Chairman

The Town of Chester Retirement Board is made up of five Board Members appointed by the Board of Selectmen for a three-year term. Members of the Retirement Board are Van Standke, Chairman, Jennifer Termini, Charlene Janecek, David Cohen and Katherine Marsh. The Retirement Board meets quarterly, and the public is invited to attend. Meeting schedules and agendas are available on the Town web site or from the Town Clerk.

The Retirement Board administers three retirement plans: Town of Chester Retirement Plan for Town employees, the Voluntary Deferred Compensation Plan (457) for Town employees, and the Volunteer Service Award Program (VSAP)

for Members of the Chester Hose Company. The Board is responsible for plan administration and investments to fund the plans.

The Town retains Milliman and Company as the actuarial firm to provide the necessary reporting and valuations for the Town Retirement Plan and VSAP. Milliman calculates the annual deposits to be made by the Town to provide the future retirement benefits for plan participants. In addition, Milliman assists the Town by providing administrative and consulting assistance.

Town Retirement Plan

The Town of Chester Retirement Plan benefitted from asset allocation as volatility generated negative performance in the stock and bond markets. Assets as of June 30, 2008 were \$776,611, after benefit payments and deposits during the year of \$66,848, compared to \$769,839 on June 30, 2007. Investments in this plan are managed by ING Life Insurance and Annuity Company, and consist of a money market fund, a stock fund, a bond fund and a balanced fund. Investments during the year are made in equal parts to each of the three investment funds, not including money market, and the year's final deposit is intended to rebalance the three funds to approximately the same amount. During the fiscal year, Verrill Dana, a law firm, was retained to complete a Summary Plan Description (SPD) of the Retirement Plan for distribution to participants. This document will be completed and approved in the fall of 2008. Additionally, the actuary prepared a chart of benefit elections which will provide estimated percentages for various benefit elections. This chart will be included in the SPD.

Volunteer Service Award Program (VSAP)

The Volunteer Service Award Program was created to provide a retirement benefit for qualified Members of Chester Hose Company. Assets as of June 30, 2008 were \$350,852, after benefit payments of \$37,955 and including deposits during the year of \$19,000. This compares to a balance on June 30, 2007, of \$388,301. The plan assets are invested in mutual funds of the Vanguard Group.

Voluntary Deferred Compensation Plan (457)

The Voluntary Deferred Compensation Plan provides Town employees the opportunity to contribute to a personal retirement fund on a tax-favored basis. ING Life Insurance and Annuity Company administers the plan. As of June 30, 2008, employees had balances in the plan totaling \$193,508.

Health / Human Services

ESTUARY COUNCIL OF SENIORS, Inc.

Paula C. Ferrara, Executive Director

The Estuary Council of Seniors, Inc. (ECSI) is a non-profit regional senior center located at 220 Main Street in Old Saybrook with café sites in Clinton, Westbrook, Chester, and Old Lyme. Since 1974, the ECSI's mission has been to promote senior's quality of life, community involvement, and independent living. Annually the ECSI provides 87,000 nutritious meals including Meals On Wheels, transportation to 1,600 medical outpatient appointments outside the nine-town Estuary Region, well over 1,000 free preventative health screenings, and social and exercise programs too numerous to count.

During the 2007/2008 fiscal year, ECSI provided 44 Chester seniors with 1,102 congregate meals and 12 Chester seniors with 1,601 Meals on Wheels (homebound meals). 4 Chester seniors were provided 10 rides to medical appointments outside the nine-town Estuary Region through the EMOTS program. In total, 161 Chester seniors received 3,804 services through ECSI.

ECSI is funded in part by contributions from the nine towns in the Estuary Region, Senior Resources Agency on Aging with Title III funds made available under the Older Americans Act, other grants, individual donations, and fund raising efforts.

For information on our breakfast and lunch nutrition program, Meals on Wheels, EMOTS, exercise programs, and social programs please call 388-1611 weekdays from 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. and Saturday 8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

PROBATE COURT - DISTRICT OF SAYBROOK

Justine R. Tobis, Judge of Probate

Gloria D. Amatrudo, Clerk

The Probate Court is part of the judicial branch of state government and is supported primarily by fees established by state statute. The Probate Court has jurisdiction over decedent estates and trusts, conservatorships for persons incapable of managing their personal and financial affairs, guardianships of persons with mental retardation, parental rights matters, adoptions, guardianships and custody of minor children, and changes of name. During the period from July 1, 2007 to June 30, 2008, the following matters were opened and/or heard by the Saybrook Probate Court:

Decedent's Estates:

Full probate estates opened	24
Small estates (including tax purposes only)	11
Administration Accounts	26
Other petitions	24

Trust Matters:	16
Guardianships of the Mentally Retarded:	
Appointments	1
Reviews/Other Petitions	6
Conservatorships:	
Appointments	2
Reviews/Other petitions	14
Guardianships of Estates of Minors	
Appointments	0
Reviews/Other petitions	2
Guardianships of Person/Custody of Minors Matters	4
Parental Rights Matters/Adoptions	2
Change of Name	3
Passport Applications	30

While court personnel cannot give legal advice, the public is welcome to visit the Court to discuss probate procedures. The Court is now open on Monday through Thursday from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., and at other times by appointment. Booklets published by the Connecticut Probate Administration which describe many of the functions of the Court are also available at the Court free of charge.

HUMAN SERVICES

Rosie Binger, Director

The Director of Human Services administers the Town's welfare programs and is responsible for assessing, planning, coordinating and implementing social service programs for the adult, disabled and senior residents of the town. Client-centered advocacy, disseminating information and service facilitation are the main responsibilities of the Director. Information and referral is then made to the federal, state or local social service program for assistance.

Emergency assistance is provided to residents through several town services. These programs include the Welfare Emergency Fund, the Chester Fuel Fund, and the Salvation Army Emergency Fund. This fiscal year, 65 individuals and families received help with medical costs, rent, food vouchers, and oil and electricity bills. Generous donations were received from the Chester Rotary Club, A Style Above, Chester Village West, St Joseph's Church, Chester Hose Company, Jacobson & Associates, Middlesex Shoreline Association of Realtors, Chester Ambulance Association, Lions Club, Century 21, United Church of Chester, Whelen Engineering, Chester Boy Scouts - Pack 13, Chesterfields, Riverway Recording Studio, Tammy Jencks and the St. Joseph's CCD class, Trooper Adam Brown's Toy Drive and the many residents and friends of Chester.

As always, the community pulled together through the holiday season. This year 33 individuals and families received Thanksgiving baskets, 10 elderly residents

received presents from the St Joseph's widows group and 51 children received toys for Christmas and free winter clothing from the "Warm the Children" program. The Salvation Army provide 25 children with "Payless" back to school vouchers and the community fund sponsored scholarships for 15 children to attend summer park and recreation programs.

This year, 48 families received fuel assistance through the state, with the Chester Town Hall serving as an intake site.

A heartfelt thank-you to all the organizations, residents, businesses, churches and synagogue for your generous donations and dedicated help for those in need. Your kindness truly demonstrates that Chester is a community that supports and cares about its neighbors.

The Human Services Director is available at Town Hall on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday mornings or by calling 526-0013 x213 to set up an appointment.

SANITARIAN

Lee Vito, Sanitarian

The Health Department has the responsibility of ensuring compliance with the State of Connecticut Department of Public Health regulations and to enforce local ordinances. These responsibilities include, but are not limited to, the following: soil testing for land subdivisions, new septic systems and septic system repairs. The Sanitarian reviews all septic system proposed plans before granting approval and issuing a permit to construct the septic system. All septic systems are then inspected to ensure compliance with the State Public Health Code.

All applications for building additions, decks, pools, etc. are also reviewed as required by State Public Health code regulations.

All food service establishments and food vendors are licensed as required by town ordinance and all are inspected regularly for compliance with the State Public Health code regulations. This includes the requirement of a certified "Qualified Food Operator" responsible for the food operations.

The Health Department responds to all complaints in a timely manner, including "anonymous complaints".

Other Health Department duties and responsibilities include inspection of school cafeterias, daycare facilities, the issuance of water well permits, lead paint investigations, pool inspections, etc. Also, the Sanitarian manages the mandatory septic tank pump out program for the WPCA and assists the WPCA in wastewater issues that affect the Town Municipal subsurface Sewage Disposal System and water quality.

For the year 2007-2008 the following were performed by the Health Department:

- New Septic Systems – 5
- Repair of Septic Systems – 10
- Well Permits – 18
- Sub-division – 1
- Food licenses issued – 20 (permanent)
- Food licenses issued – 23 (temporary)

Office hours for the Sanitarian are Mondays, 7 am – 8 am, Tuesdays, 4:30 pm – 7:00 pm, Thursdays, 7 am – 8 am. Other hours are available by appointment if necessary by calling 526-0013 ext. 206 and leaving a message. Residents are encouraged to call with any questions or if information is needed.

TRI-TOWN YOUTH SERVICES

Gail M. Onofrio, Director

Since Tri-Town Youth Services' establishment in 1984, the nonprofit has served youth (birth to 18) and their families who reside in Chester, Deep River, and Essex. The agency works with youth to strengthen connections with family, peers, school, and the community, carefully ensuring our services augment, not duplicate other programs. On the community level, Tri-Town convenes the local prevention council. And, this year, the agency continued to lead community mobilization efforts around asset building through Healthy Communities–Healthy Youth of Chester, Deep River, and Essex.

Counseling and crisis intervention were provided to residents for a wide range of issues through day and evening appointments with 24-hour phone availability. Issues addressed include parenting and relationship concerns, depression, suicide ideation, sexual abuse, and substance abuse, with referrals made in some instances. Our early intervention program, the Tri-Town Juvenile Review Board hears cases of youth in trouble with the law as they are referred.

Much of our work is directed to positive youth development, parent education, and building healthy families and communities. With the school social worker, we trained Peer Advocates at Valley Regional; facilitated two youth advisory boards, organized community service activities, facilitated several mentoring programs, offered supervised teen recreation activities, a youth job bank, babysitter training classes, Homework Hangout, a Summer Co-op for middle school youth, and involvement in Safe Grad. Parent programs included groups for parents/caregivers and their one-year-olds or two-year-olds, parent consultations, and courses such as “Why is my Child Misbehaving?” and “The Stranger You Know.” We sponsored the nineteenth annual substance prevention/awareness week, “High on Life”, successful through support from multiple facets of the community.

The Bureau's Board of Directors is comprised of three to five members from each of the three towns and a youth representative. Our special thanks to: volunteers who have donated time and talent, to local taxpayers who support the bureau by providing the matching funds needed to procure our State Department of Education grant, and to all who have made monetary donations essential for maintaining our operating budget.

VISITING NURSES OF THE LOWER VALLEY, INC.

Priscilla Munro, M.S., Executive Director

While current economic indicators point to a fledgling business environment, I am pleased to report that the Visiting Nurses of the Lower Valley (VNLV) has just completed a banner year. Almost four hundred patients received 27,000 visits, a new record for us, and Chester is second only to Essex, in terms of the number of patients served. As more seniors choose to age gracefully at home, we expect this trend to continue.

Once again, we wish to express our appreciation to the Town of Chester for supporting its residents who are without the means to pay for needed home care. Eight patients received 83 critically needed nursing and home health aide visits. As a growing number of Americans are without health insurance, and government program benefits continue to shrink, the funding that Chester provides is increasingly important for the overall health of the community.

VNLV's scholarship program, which is in its eleventh year, is an annual event to honor the memory of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Murtha of Essex. Awards were presented to four outstanding young women, all of whom are pursuing educational programs in health care. This year's scholarships went to Rachel Harris of Ivoryton, and Kaile Janetatos, Katherine Ritter and Amy Weisenburger, all of Chester.

VNLV is pleased to announce the launching of a new business, Lower Valley Care Advocates, dedicated to serving the holistic needs of older people who want to remain at home as they age. AARP has recently reported that 87% of people over 50 with disabilities choose home over any other setting. This is not surprising, given that we all want choice and control over our everyday decisions, and the home environment provides comfort, familiarity, security, convenience and independence, all of which contribute to a sense of well-being. The key to successful aging in place is planning and coordination. The staff of Lower Valley Care Advocates is expert at determining just what services are needed to achieve this goal. Please call 767-2695 for further information.

In closing, our staff wishes to recognize the support, commitment and leadership of our volunteer board of directors: Carl Manning, President, Ted Heiser, Arthur Henick, Peg Lieberman, and Skip Weisenburger of Chester; and Dr. Sally Crawford, Wendy Connor, Judy Heiser, Dick Levene and Andrew Mitchel from Essex. We also extend our heartfelt appreciation to our wonderful transportation volunteers: Gail Morris, Lucy Weed and Leo Zavatone.

WORKPLACE SAFETY AND HEALTH COMMITTEE

The Town of Chester has in effect a Workplace Safety and Health Committee pursuant to State Law. Representatives from Chester Elementary School, Chester Parks and Recreation Commission, Chester Hose Company, Chester Public Library, the Public Works Department, the Police Department and the Town Hall make up the Committee. Meetings are held quarterly to discuss any safety and health concerns; Workers' Compensation issues; Prevention and Control measures and conduct Safety and Health Training. All new Workers' Compensation claims are reviewed to ensure that any corrective measures are immediately acted upon. As a result of the Workplace Safety and Health Committee, the Town has been successful in reducing claim activity and accidents in the workplace.

Planning & Environment

PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION

Michael W. Joplin, Chairman

During the fiscal year 2007-2008 the Chester Planning and Zoning Commission successfully completed a comprehensive, detailed revision of the Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD). This revision and update was accomplished with continuous and invaluable contributions of Linda Krause, Jean Davies, Margo Burns and the entire staff of the Connecticut River Estuary Regional Planning Agency (CRERPA.) Together with CRERPA, the commission members met a vigorous and demanding schedule for nearly three years. The result is a thorough examination of land use in the context of the town's history, current and future demands, infrastructure and technology development, environmental concerns and ultimately the town's chosen goals.

Compared to the former 1995 POCD, it is a different kind of document – less conceptual and philosophic and more specific and concrete while in fact the logical outgrowth and continuation of the former plan. It is very much a call to action, specifically Chapter 9. The Plan sets a direction of stewardship and preservation; prudent and selective change; decisions rooted in a critical understanding of history and an equally critical approach to future alternatives. The central question is: What will this town and our quality of life be like in twenty-five or thirty years? The answer to this question is largely determined by the land-use decision we make today and in the very near future.

Though a critical revision to the POCD is required every 10 years, it is hoped that the Plan presented at the public hearing in June '08 will establish a template or baseline for many years to come. The Plan is available through Chester Town web site www.chesterct.org and will be formally accepted November 2008. It is truly an impressive document; the result of long and demanding hours over the past few years ... many of them volunteer or donated from both the Commission and CRERPA

staff. They all served the town well.

Next step: the most urgent planning concerns for Chester are centered on the village and Route 154 along its entire length from Deep River to Haddam. The Village has neither applicable underlying zoning regulations nor a specific plan for guiding future development in the larger areas. Simultaneously, zoning along Route 154 requires a detailed, critical review and revision of its current status in order to guide future residential and commercial development. Village District and Route 154 regulations and guidelines will be formulated in the next year and brought to public hearing in late 2009.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

Patrick Woomer, Chairperson

For the past two plus years, the EDC has been focused on providing a business prospective to the deliberations of Planning & Zoning as they worked on the new Plan of Conservation and Development for the Town. Our major impact was in presenting a potential plan for the future zoning of the Route 154 area to provide for the growth of existing businesses as well as attracting new opportunities.

Now that the Town is close to adopting the new POCD, the EDC will concentrate efforts to develop actual plans for development of both the Route 154 and Village Districts that will be both business “friendly” and consistent with the overall direction for the Town as established by the POCD.

For this purpose the EDC will reorganize in order to focus on these three projects: 1)Support and input for both the Village District and 154 Study Sub-committees set up by P&Z. 2)Continue support for existing business and liaison with other Town Commissions. 3) Improve the Town web site to include easy access for existing and new businesses to all Town services and information links.

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

Mario S. Gioco, Chairman

In the year 2007-2008, the ZBA heard five cases. Two were granted, none were denied and three were withdrawn. The ZBA ended the year with five regular members and two alternates. The authorizing statutes allow a maximum of five members and three alternates. Four regular members and one alternate member were elected in the November general election. One alternate member was appointed to fill a vacancy by the Board of Selectmen. The Board reviewed the application process and made changes to the application to assist the residents/land owners/tenants in applying for a zoning variance. As part of a continuing process, State Statutes were reviewed governing receipt of applications, conflicts of interest for Board members, exceptional difficulty and hardship, along with general procedures for public hearings, etc. The Board’s goal is to make the application process and the proceedings “user-friendly.”

BUILDING DEPARTMENT

Ronald Rose, Building Official

From July 1, 2007 to June 30, 2008 the value of Building Permits totaled \$6,050,077.51.

Fee charges for permits total: \$ 62,956.00

Residential	207	Value	\$5,042,989.00
Commercial	13	Value	\$1,007,088.51

Breakdown:

Building Permits	110	\$5,270,439.20
Electrical Permits	45	309,169.31
Plumbing Permits	33	136,377.00
Heating Permits	29	330,592.00
Wood Stove Permits	3	3,500.00

State Education Fee submitted to the State of Connecticut during this time period: \$982.06

ESTUARY TRANSIT DISTRICT

The Estuary Transit District (ETD) was established in 1981, with the help of CRERPA, to provide public transportation in the Region. In July, 2003, CRERPA successfully transferred administration of the program to an independent office for the Estuary Transit District. CRERPA provides transportation planning services for the district.

CONNECTICUT RIVER ESTUARY REGIONAL PLANNING AGENCY

The Connecticut River Estuary Regional Planning Agency (CRERPA) is in its 41st year of planning for the nine-town Estuary region. CRERPA consists of two representatives from each member town, one representing the Board of Selectmen and the other representing the Planning Commission. The CRERPA Board meets on the first Monday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at the Agency office in the Saybrook Junction Marketplace. Our current Chairman is Bruce Edgerton of Deep River.

CRERPA has a staff of 7 full and part-time employees, with consultants who are occasionally contracted independently. CRERPA staff continues to assist member towns with local open space plans, which will serve as building blocks for a regional

greenway plan. The greenway plan will be part of the background work for the Regional Plan of Conservation and Development.

CRERPA is supported financially from a variety of federal, state and local sources. A significant portion of the CRERPA budget continues to be the annual contribution of its member towns, with other major support coming from the Connecticut Department of Transportation, the State Office of Policy and Management, the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection, and the Department of Emergency Management. CRERPA helps its member towns work together voluntarily to solve common problems affecting the Estuary Region.

Board Members as of June 30, 2008:

CHESTER	Sally Murray, Steve Williams
CLINTON	Alan Kravitz
DEEP RIVER	Bruce Edgerton, Chairman; Rob Wylie
ESSEX	
KILLINGWORTH	Pat Smulders, Jere Adametz
LYME	Frank Skwarek, Ning Rich
OLD LYME	Jane Marsh, Vice Chairman
OLD SAYBROOK	Karen Jo Marcolini, Richard Tietjen
WESTBROOK	William Neale, Secretary; Lee Bridgewater

INLAND WETLANDS AND WATERCOURSE AGENCY (IWWA)

Lisa Wable, Chairperson

Wetlands perform critical ecological and economic functions. Because of their ability to absorb water, trap sediment and filter pollutants, wetlands protect water quality and property. Wetlands, watercourses and their associated riparian zones provide essential habitat to fish and wildlife. They serve as venues for recreation, education and aesthetic enjoyment. Prior to passage of the CT Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Act in 1972, between a third and half of the State's original wetlands had been destroyed because their value was not understood.

The Chester IWWA implements the State's Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Act through regulations based exclusively on the Act. Criteria for decision-making outlined in the Act direct the agency to consider the short and long-term effects of proposed activities on wetlands, and to seek alternatives that minimize impact while allowing property owners use of their land.

A wetland permit is generally required for activities in or within 100 feet of a wetland or watercourse. An activity further than 100 feet away may also be regulated if it is likely to impact a wetland or watercourse. Some activities are permitted "as-of-right" and others may require only an administrative permit from the Chester Wetland Agent. The town wetland map provides a very general location of wetlands and watercourses, but does not depict all wetlands and should be used only as a guide.

The Chester IWWA regulations and permit application are available online from the Town's website. Anyone considering activities on their property should contact the Chester Wetland Agent to determine if a permit is required.

The 2007-2008 fiscal year was relatively quiet. The Agency issued seven regular permits for activities including a septic system, storage shed and refrigerator, dock, repair of a seawall, bridge, and sewer line work. Four as-of-right determinations were made: 2 for farming activities, 1 forestry activity, and 1 for water company line repairs. One permit modification was approved for a loading dock. Two violation notices were issued for unregulated activities, one minor and one major. Significant progress has been made in reconciliation of both. In December of 2007, the agency established a document clarifying the roles and responsibilities of all officers, staff and commissioners.

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Sandy Prisløe, Chairman

The Conservation Commission consists of seven members appointed by the Board of Selectmen. The commission is required to develop and maintain a town open space inventory; the commission also may inventory and study the town's natural resources and make recommendations concerning their conservation and best uses to other town boards, commission and officials.

During the past year, the commission spent a significant amount of time preparing and reviewing material for the town's new Plan of Conservation and Development. Information and recommendations about Chester's natural resources and their appropriate uses and preservation were included in the Plan's narrative and as specific action items to guide town activities and policy in the future. Commission members also work on the development and inclusion in the plan on a section dealing with sustainability which has become a major focus of the Conservation Commission.

The commission organized and hosted a town forum on energy and sustainability that was held in April on Earth Day at the Meeting House. A short movie on the state's plans to combat global warming was followed by a panel discussion with local experts and the audience talking about what individuals can do to help conserve energy as individuals and as a society.

In support of sustainability as a focus of the commission, the commission arranged for an energy audit of the Town Hall with the goal of identifying action items that the town could undertake to reduce energy consumption in the building. The report found that many energy saving actions already had been taken and identified several additional things that can be done to further reduce energy use.

As the town's open space committee, the commission worked with the Selectmen, the Chester Land Trust and the Trust for Public Lands (a nonprofit organization that facilitates the purchase and preservation of open space) to prepare a grant application to the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection for the possible acquisition of a four plus acre parcel along the Connecticut River. Acquisition of river front property has been identified as a town goal. The commission will continue to work with all appropriate groups to help with this purchase.

HARBOR MANAGEMENT COMMISSION

Joel Severance, Chairman

The Commissioners continue in the arduous task of refining our dock management revisions to our Harbor Management Plan. The report has been back and forth twice this year ... each time with extensive revisions. One included Commissioner Pinno and me traveling to the DEP to negotiate some of the issues important to us.

There was a major dock replacement application before us, requiring significant negotiating with the applicant. We finally settled and sent our approval with recommendations to the DEP. We also reviewed two other revised applications, reviewed two preliminary expansion requests for comment (both denied) and approved three dredging applications.

We are continuing our water quality monitoring program in Chester Creek.

We welcomed new member Bob Bachand to the Commission.

CEDAR LAKE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

George Foulds, Chairman

Our primary concerns during 2007-2008 were water levels in Cedar Lake and the increasing density of nuisance vegetation.

Water levels in Cedar Lake change considerably in response to storms, in part because all of the water collected in a 2,000 acre watershed is funneled through an opening only four feet wide in the outlet from the Lake. Beaver dams in Cedar Swamp may also limit outflow from Cedar Lake under some conditions, despite pipes placed through the beaver dams in previous years. With the assistance of the local Boy Scout Troop, one of the pipes was repositioned in October 2007. All of the dams were breached in November 2007 to produce openings at least as large as the size of the outlet from Cedar Lake.

We proposed hydroraking as the best method to remove nuisance vegetation from the area leading out from the boat launch and along the western shore of the Lake. Hydroraking performed in 2004 apparently worked well for two years. However, by the third year, plant regrowth again reached nuisance levels. Although we thought May 2008 would be a good time to perform the hydroraking and money was allocated for the purpose, the work has been delayed to May 2009. Plans should be made in the budget process for hydroraking every three years.

We have meetings the second or third Monday of every calendar quarter. We invite anyone who uses the lake to attend and participate in the meetings and thank the several concerned citizens who attend most meetings.

CONNECTICUT RIVER GATEWAY COMMISSION

The Connecticut River Gateway Commission, which meets monthly at the CRERPA office, was established in 1973 by State Statute to protect the scenic and environmental qualities of the Lower Connecticut River through a compact among the eight towns that border the River estuary. The Commission participates in the acquisition of land and easements for conservation purposes. Gateway member towns have agreed to adopt common zoning standards for development in the State designated Gateway Area. During the year, the State Greenways Council recognized the Gateway Area as a Designated State Greenway.

Public Safety

POLICE SERVICES

Resident Trooper Adam Brown

The following is a total of law enforcement events in Chester from 07/01/07 - 06/30/08

Total calls for service:	3,891	Burglaries	10
Speeding tickets	1252	Larcenies	29
Speeding warnings	181	Criminal Mischief	06
D.W.I. Arrests	12	Emergency Committals	15
D.W.I. Accidents	01	(involuntary)	
Accidents	92	Missing Person(s)	07
Sexual Assaults	01	Alarms (responded)	154
Domestics	08	Patrol Checks	1043

ANIMAL CONTROL

Robert Jenkins, Animal Control Officer

Another year has come and gone. I sometimes wonder where the time goes; but as I go over my State sheets, I see just where my time was spent.

Redeemed:	21
Sold as Pets:	1
DOA:	1
Raccoon:	1
Euthanized:	0
Complaints:	180
Dog Bites:	7

Cat Bites:	1
Infractions:	8

For your information, when I have an animal bite, it could take many hours to investigate, oftentimes resulting in quarantining the animal at the pound. This means, checking on the well-being of the animal twice a day, feeding the animal, walking it, making sure the pen is clean and that it has fresh water twice a day. When I receive a complaint, it takes a lot of time as well. I listen to your complaint and have you put it in writing. Some of these problems can be solved with a verbal warning and this also takes time. Talk to your neighbor first – this may keep peace in the neighborhood. If this doesn't work, feel free to call.

BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS

Joel Severance, Chairman

This year we continued in our record number of calls. While most were medical we unfortunately had major house fires, surely testing our volunteers and equipment.

We anxiously await the arrival of our new QUINT, a specialized truck that will replace two other pieces of apparatus. We were able to sell these two replaced units pending the putting into service of the new truck.

We also received a very versatile ATV, at no cost to the Town. This unit has capabilities for search and rescue, forest and grass fires, police work (off road) the carrying of patients from deep in the forest and for utilization during town-wide events, like the road race, fair, etc.

The Board welcomed back Charlene Janecek as a member.

FIRE MARSHAL

Bernie Negrelli, Fire Marshal

Permits Issued:

Blasting	4
Burning	17
Liquor/Beer	4

Other Activities:

Oil Tank Removals	7
Oil Tank Abandoned	1
Propane Installation	1
Inspect State Licensed Occupancies	21
Other Inspections	19
Major Fire Investigations	3
Seminars	4

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Joel Severance, Director

The Chester Office of Emergency Management has received planning grants to facilitate improving our capabilities to respond to large scale and regional disasters.

The funds were utilized to improve radio equipment in the Office and start the change over of the Emergency Operations Center from the Lobby to Conference Room B. This is a more suitable location for the gathering of emergency responder leadership during a large scale emergency. Such as was the case during the April significant rain event coupled with the breaking up of the ice on our many streams. The EOC was activated to manage the town wide flooding. The room is now on the generator and has radio connectivity to the base stations in the OEM. There is also a large screen HDTV/Monitor enabling the participants to see weather patterns; enabling them to make decisions, and to display maps of the Town. We also have a program for pulling up Google Earth. The upgrading will be continued with the '09 EMPG grants.

We were also able to assist in the Fire Department, Police Department and Emergency Medical Service in the purchase of a new versatile ATV.

Jean Davies, a resident, and Sr Planner with CRERPA and I are active on the State sponsored Region2 Emergency Planning Team. The REPT is developing a regional emergency operations plan. This will bring a wide range of resources to us should our needs exceed our and our mutual aid relationships capability.

The Emergency Management link on the Town website is where we regularly post news, comments on current potential emergency situations; such as hurricanes, heat spells, cold weather, etc.

PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Kim M. Caron, Superintendent of Schools

MISSION

We, the schools of Chester, Deep River, Essex, and Region 4, engage all students in a rigorous, challenging, and cohesive educational program. As a community of learners, we foster individual student achievement and empower students to excel in an environment of collaboration, responsibility, and mutual respect. We prepare our students to be knowledgeable, involved citizens in a rapidly changing world.

REGIONAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The 2007-2008 school year brought many challenges and accomplishments to the Chester, Deep River, Essex, and Region 4 schools. The following are highlights:

- High-achieving school districts intentionally align school goals, district goals, and Board goals to cultivate a mission-driven organization. The development of a cohesive, mission-driven organization, pre-kindergarten through grade

twelve, is a fundamental condition for educational excellence. As such, the Boards and the Superintendent work as a unified team to implement a shared vision for the education of all children of Chester, Deep River, and Essex.

- In an effort to improve regional cohesiveness, the Boards established a cooperative arrangement to conduct joint meetings beginning August 2007. The joint meeting structure was designed to accomplish tasks of mutual interest and benefit to the individual Boards and essential to the development of a cohesive educational program. In addition, the joint meeting design diminished cumbersome and inefficient governance practices through an expanded regional pre-kindergarten through grade twelve line of sight. As well, the meeting design maintained a format by which the individual Boards continued to address discrete district issues, duties, and responsibilities.
- School year 2007/2008 saw the initiation of the Joint PK-12 Board of Education committee structure in the three major areas of Board responsibility; policy, finance, and curriculum. This design successfully meets our stated goal to enhance Board focus and PK-12 continuity in curriculum development, policy advancement, and financial operations across the Chester, Deep River, Essex, and Region 4 school districts. Overall, the PK-12 committee structure is serving to build regional continuity in the development of Board policy, PK-12 curriculum development, and sound standard financial practices.
- Over school year 2007/2008 there has been more newspaper coverage regarding positive activities and recognitions within the Region's schools. This coverage includes student recognitions from the elementary, middle, high school level to press releases regarding various school awards. The following are highlights:
 - Recognition of JWMS as one of only a handful of schools in New England as a New England League of Middle Schools "Spotlight School of Excellence"
 - Recognition of JWMS with the outstanding school climate award presented by the Connecticut Association of Schools
 - Continued accreditation of VRHS with commendations by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges

In addition, the manner in which the Region handled several difficult situations such as MRSA, Norovirus, and numerous beef recalls resulted in positive feedback. AlertNow and our website have been valuable tools in our effort to improve communications.

- The Chester, Deep River, Essex, and Region 4 schools experienced significant growth in positive school climate and culture creating the right conditions for

educational excellence. Most significantly, the school improvement process and K-12 curriculum committees, under the leadership of the Assistant Superintendent, are serving to support a more cohesive and coordinated approach to teaching and learning horizontally and vertically across schools and grade levels. This K-12 approach to teaching and learning across schools is proving to be much needed and very effective.

- Regional K-12 committees are designing curriculum and instruction to ensure high levels of achievement for all students. The result of this work is improved and purposeful decision-making around all aspects of the teaching and learning.
- A major focus area of our work has been to ensure fiscal responsibility and to build trust and confidence in the Region's financial operations. We have made significant progress in this area since August 2006. The following summarizes the improvements:
 - Improved accountability and control over all budget expenditures
 - Improved accuracy and reporting of the districts' budget and expenditures
 - Improved budget workshops and budget format

FUTURE DIRECTION

The world of today is changing at an unprecedented rate creating excitement, creating opportunity, and creating uncertainty about the world of tomorrow - the world of the 21st century. The 21st century workplace is a more global, more connected, more diverse, more competitive place. Our students will compete for their role in that workplace with millions of other young people from America, from India, from China, and other countries around the globe. The challenge before us is to prepare all young people for success in an evolving global society. I ask all of us, together, to commit to actions that better prepare the young people in our charge for success in the 21st century global society.

- Encourage a positive school culture that supports high expectations for 21st century teaching and learning.
- Embrace professional learning communities and collaboration as a process for school improvement.
- Welcome accountability and rigorous standards based upon the Connecticut Mastery Test, Connecticut Academic Performance Test, challenging grade level expectations, and other indicators of success.
- Support pre-kindergarten through grade twelve continuity within a cohesive educational program as an organization to maximize student achievement.
- Continually strive for educational excellence for the children of Chester, Deep River, and Essex.

Public Works

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

John Divis, Foreman

The Public Works Department is staffed by two full time maintenance employees and the Foreman. The First Selectman is the Director of Public Works in title only. Outside contractors are utilized throughout the year to supplement our limited staff. Even though staff is limited the list of functions handled by Public Works is extensive. Public Works is perhaps the most visible service to the majority of Chester residents. Department functions include:

Some of the functions handled by the Department include:

- minor road repairs
- building maintenance
 - Community Center, Meeting House, Public Library, Public Works Department, Town Hall, Visitor's Center
- vehicles and equipment maintenance
- monthly brush pick up
- mowing and trimming of town properties and parks
- park maintenance requests
- catch basin cleaning in spring and fall
- leaf removal from town properties
- winter road maintenance
- roadside tree trimming

The Public Works Department relies on the expertise of a volunteer Road Committee to assess the specific needs of the roads as listed in the Town's five-year road improvement plan. The Committee views each road on the plan, and compiles a priority and work list. Subject to available funding, the work is contracted. During the 07/08 fiscal year over 2 miles of roadway underwent some level of repair. Road work was completed on the following roads and lanes; Castle View, Hickory Hill, Kirkland Ave, Old County, Old Depot, Pelton Hill, and School Lane. In addition the Wig Hill Bridge and the Dock Road Bridge were both replaced.

Finally, as paving work for Dock Road was about to begin inspection of the Dock Rd. Bridge revealed significant structural deficiencies resulting in the implementation of strict load limitations. An aggressive plan to build a temporary structure was developed. The permitting process once again proved to be arduous, delaying the process into fiscal 2007/2008.

A new Ford F550 truck was purchased in the 07/08 fiscal year. The truck has a unique design that allows for a number of different configurations to be used. The truck chassis allows for a dump body, flat bed, and road sander to be interchanged with minimal effort. This has allowed for much greater flexibility in use for the town crew.

DEEP RIVER TRANSFER STATION BULKY WASTE AND RECYCLING INFORMATION

Chester residents may dispose of certain materials at the Deep River Transfer Station on Route 80 in Deep River, subject to the following regulations:

No household garbage will be accepted. By Town Ordinance residents are required to have a private hauler. Private haulers will also pick up recyclables. Any violation of this provision shall immediately terminate privileges afforded by the permit.

Recyclables: By Town Ordinance residents are required to have a private hauler. Any violation of this provision shall immediately terminate privileges afforded by the permit.

Permit Required: Chester residents must display a “Town of Chester Access To Public Services” permit on the windshield of their vehicle to gain access to these facilities. These stickers must be placed on the passenger side of the front windshield and may be obtained at the Selectman’s Office with proof of residence and vehicle license plate number.

Hours of Operation: Deep River Transfer Station

Wednesday & Friday 8:00 AM through 4:00 PM

Saturday & Sunday 8:00 AM through 4:00 PM

Regulations:

- 1) All users shall separate loads and place in proper containers under direction of attendant(s), who will be on duty during regularly scheduled hours.
- 2) Attendant(s) has the right to refuse entry to anyone not having proper identification or whose load does not comply with these regulations.
- 3) As provided in current Chester bulky waste regulations, the Town of Deep River will accept only household bulky waste under this contract; waste originating from business or commercial sources or from households under construction, demolition or landscaping contracts will not be accepted.
- 4) Residents may use passenger cars, small trailers and pick-up trucks, each of which must display the required permit.
- 5) All items and material must be transported in containers.
- 6) No hazardous materials, paper goods or commercial waste will be permitted.
- 7) Do not combine materials in containers meant for specific items.

ESTUARY REGION HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE

The Estuary Region Household Hazardous Waste Facility opened on selected Saturdays between May through October. The Estuary Region HHW facility will be closed November-April. The facility is located off Route 9, exit 4. Go straight off exit ramp, cross over RR tracks, and pass CRRRA Transfer Station and the HHW facility is on the left. For more information contact 388-3497.

Acceptable Materials:

Household:

- Drain cleaners
- Metal polish
- Oven cleaners
- Floor cleaners
- Mothballs
- Photo chemicals
- Full/partially-full aerosols
- Arts & crafts supplies
- Household batteries
- Asbestos-containing floor tiles
- Water-reactive materials (such as peroxides and metallic sodium)
- Mercury Thermometers (A free digital thermometer will be given in exchange.)

Garage:

- Fire starters including hand-held propane torch cylinders
- Old chemistry kits
- Transmission fluid
- Gasoline, kerosene
- Waxes and polishes
- Brake fluid
- Rust preventatives

Workshop:

- Rust preventatives
- Wood preservatives
- Wood strippers

- Oil-based paint
- Lead-based paint
- Paint thinner
- Degreasers
- Solvents
- Sealants

Yard/Garden:

- Weed killer
- Insect sprays
- Rodent poison
- Muriatic acid/pool chemicals
- Cesspool cleaners

Unacceptable Materials:

- Latex paint (This can be air-dried or dried with sawdust or kitty litter and disposed in the garbage.)
- Explosives, fireworks, ammunition
- BBQ Propane tanks
- Fire extinguishers (Your fire department may accept these.)
- Empty aerosol cans
- Radioactive material
- Medications
- Infectious or biologically active materials
- Dioxin
- Unknown materials
- Waste Oil
- Vehicle Batteries
- Any commercial hazardous waste

TREE WARDEN

Jerry LaMark

The Town Tree Warden is responsible for the care and control of all trees and shrubs within the limits of any public road or grounds except those along state highways under the control of the commissioner of Transportation. The Tree Warden is a member of the Tree Warden's Association to keep up to date on responsibilities, techniques and changes in law. As tree warden, it is his responsibility to see that public trees are maintained properly, removed if deemed hazardous and replaced where necessary. Over the course of the year, the Town of Chester works very closely with our local public utility companies as well as tree experts to trim back the roads. Our roadside tree trimming program has continued to coincide with the Public Works Department road program.

WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY

L. Edward Ward, Chairman

The long awaited Main Street Sewer Project will be operational in January 2009. Final paving will occur by April 2009. The WPCA thanks all residents for tolerating the inconvenience of this construction.

The WPCA has been preparing for the commissioning of the new sewer system. We are currently updating our Regulations to reflect the changes in the system and current standards and practices that have changed since the regulations were first adopted in 1987. The revised WPCA Regulations should be adopted in first quarter of 2009.

The WPCA also disseminated a Fats, Oils, and Grease (FOG) guidance packet to all-commercial eating establishments that are connected to the sewer system addressing the Department of Environmental Protection "General Permit for the Discharge of Wastewater Associated with Food Preparation Establishments" requirements. Compliance timeline is no later than July 1, 2011.

We have also restructured the sewer billing cycle. The WPCA has approved a twice a year payment cycle – due April and/or October. The 2008/2009 budget reflects the issues and activities of the WPCA. Items of significant interest are:

- Zero increase to the 2008/2009 budget. EDU charge is \$547.34.
- The WPCA has approved a twice a year billing cycle – April and October.
- The EDU calculations for this budget are based on the existing EDU formulas that have been used in prior years. EDU calculations for the 2009-2010 budget under the new sewer system will be based on water usage calculations.

During 2009, the WPCA will continue to work and oversee the new sewer system operations. In addition, we will be working on de-commissioning the old sub-surface disposal system and site on Maple St. to comply with all applicable regulatory requirements.

The WPCA meetings are held every third Wednesday of the month at 7:00 in Conference Room B of the Town Hall. Public comments are welcome during the meeting or by mail at WPCA, Town of Chester, 203 Middlesex Avenue, Chester, CT 06412-1200 or email at wPCA@chesterct.com.

CHESTER CEMETERY ASSOCIATION, INC.

Robert P. Klomp, President

The Chester Cemetery Association looks after the general maintenance of the town's cemeteries at Cedar Lake, Laurel Hill and the two old cemeteries on Cemetery Hill near the Town Green.

The headstones and markers at Cedar Lake (west) Cemetery and the upper and lower cemeteries on Goose Hill are to be inventoried thanks to a project of young workers under the guidance of the Chester Historical Society and the funding by a state grant.

We received a gift from Hazel Archambault which enabled us to repair a marble headstone for a John Smith and equally important we were able to place six boxwood shrubs in the area of the "Paupers Graves" at the base of the Laurel Hill Cemetery. This has been something we wanted to do for several years. We will also be placing a small stone there.

Our cemeteries are open sun up to sun down and visitors are welcome to enjoy the settings. Each cemetery has a trustee who inspects it. The mowing is contracted under the direction of Vice President Alan Cuneo. The Treasurer is Robert DeRoo.

We do not have any full plots in our inventory; however, there are cremation plots at Laurel Hill currently priced at \$250.

As always, we welcome new members and volunteers.

Recreational / Cultural / Historical

PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Elizabeth A. Netsch, Director

Members of the Chester Park and Recreation Commission seek to promote healthy lifestyles through recreation, by providing parks and programs that meet the needs of all town residents, while maintaining a fiscally responsible operation. Most of the budget net expenditures are for park maintenance, while programs are self-funded. In addition, contributions from groups and individuals in the community have helped finance various activities.

The Commission is responsible for the maintenance and renovation of 7 facilities in Chester. They are North Quarter Park, the Chester Creek Overlook at the Town dock, Pelletier Park on Cedar Lake, the beach on Cedar Lake Road, Parkers Point boat launch on the Connecticut River, L'hommideau Park on the Pattaconk Brook, and the baseball fields at Chester Elementary School.

Park projects this year included the renovation of the Holden Field at Chester Elementary School.

Income to the Town's General Fund, from the sale of non-resident park passes for fiscal year 2007/2008 was \$8,246. Fees collected for the Children's Summer Program and swimming lessons contributed \$17,803 to the General Fund. Donations from the Chester Rotary Club, the staff members and PTO of Chester Elementary School, and local citizens provided camp scholarships.

A beach party was held at Cedar Lake, with an attendance of 150. Self-funded programs included 119 participants in the Children's Summer Program, 15 adult and 119 youth basketball players, 50 people attending a trip to New York City, and over 55 students in American Red Cross courses including Community CPR/AED, First Aid, Babysitter's Training, and CPR/AED for the Professional Rescuer. There were 70 participants in Ballroom Dancing, 26 taking swimming lessons, and 149 children attended programs during the early dismissal Fridays throughout the school year. Thirty children competed in the Hotshot competition and over 200 people attended our "March Madness" basketball event.

The purpose of the activities and facilities operated by the Chester Park and Recreation Commission is to improve the quality of life for all citizens. We are fortunate to have the resources of several beautiful park facilities and over 50 exceptional employees and volunteers.

CHESTER PUBLIC LIBRARY

Linda Fox, Library Director

This was a year for celebrating both the new and the old at Chester Library. Newly expanded service hours became possible when Leigh Basilone joined the library as Circulation Assistant. Having four staff members allowed the library to stay open at lunchtime on Monday, Wednesday and Friday, for a total of 40 open-hours per week. This old library building's centennial celebration came in August with an afternoon of old-fashioned fun featuring music, a quilt cake, lemonade and the guest appearance of building donor, S. Mills Ely, portrayed by Peter Walker. Especially for this event, Sandy and Marilena Vaccaro created an illustrated timeline highlighting significant events at the library, in Chester and the world over the past century.

During the summer of 2007, challenged to fit 100 candles on a birthday cake, young readers outdid themselves, covering not just the cake, but an entire window with celebratory candles. At the same time, seven to ten year olds researched, wrote, and illustrated a brief history of Chester Library. Throughout the year, children met for stories and crafts, pizza and PJ's, magic and much more. Attendance at programs directed by Children's Librarian, Patty Petrus, reached 790.

On a somber note, Dr. Mark Johnston's death in November brought the end of a rewarding collaboration and series of book discussions that spanned sixteen years. The Library was honored by Mark's request that donations in his memory be made to Chester Library. These funds will be used to foster Mark's love of literature and learning through future book discussions.

Sharing materials among libraries makes almost every library stronger. This year, Pam Larson borrowed 1253 items from and loaned 736 books, movies and CDs to other libraries. Additionally, library users from 30 other Connecticut towns visited Chester Library to borrow materials, taking advantage of the Connecticutcard system which allows people to use their hometown library cards at any public library in the state.

Volunteers are essential to Chester Library. In addition to handling ongoing tasks, volunteers pitched in on occasion when an extra hand was needed for a special event, giving untold hours of service. They presented programs, baked cakes, read to children, planted flowers and weeded books, refinished furniture, sang and made music, all for the improvement of Chester Library. The Library sincerely thanks the dozens of people who gave so generously of their time and talents.

The Friends of Chester Public Library, under the continuing leadership of Tracy Quale, underwrote construction of display space in the basement, published *The Bookmark*, and funded movie and music purchases and all library programs. These substantial enhancements to Chester Library are possible thanks to the efforts of the Friends' Board of Directors, the many volunteers who work at book sales, and the community members who join the Friends and, with their membership, support the work of this essential group.

In addition to providing ongoing leadership for the library, the Library Board of Trustees coordinated the 100th Birthday Celebration and hosted a reception in appreciation of the many volunteers who do so much for Chester Library. Sharon Cromwell resigned from the Board this fall, stepping down from her role as Chair after many years of thoughtful service. The current Trustees are Peggy Carter-Ward, Molly Lund, Deedee Prisloe, Terry Schreiber, Sandy Senior-Dauer, and Barbara Standke,

Closing the books on the first year with computerized circulation records, statistics show that total circulation was up 9%, reaching 33,592 items. Of these, 65% were books, 24% movies, 6% recorded books, and the remainder music and museum passes. Patrons initiated 2024 reference questions, an increase of 13% over last year, and the library registered 234 new users.

CHESTER INTERNATIONAL LINKS ASSOCIATION

Martin L. Heft, Chairman

Celebrating over ten years since being established in May of 1995 to enhance relations with Chester, England, the Chester International Links Association (CILA) has scaled down its activities after hosting the First Chester World Symposium, a gathering of residents from other Chester's in the U.S., Canada and England. With a change in leadership of both Connecticut's CILA and England's CILA, the functions geared toward more of host home exchanges than particular events.

As residents travel to England, and vice versa, CILA extends a warm welcome and assists with the travel accommodations and scheduling. Over the past year several CT families have traveled to England and most recently the local soccer organization that we assisted in setting up a game.

While the purpose of CILA remains the promotion and development for the future of close cooperation, mutual understanding and appreciation for each other's history, culture, customs and artistic, environmental and commercial inheritance; within a framework of friendship and respect for our common heritage, we are still working on "spreading our wings" to be inclusive to all the thirty Chesters of the World (www.chesterct.org/cila/World_Chesters.pdf).

Membership shall be open to all individuals and organizations which are in agreement with the purpose and objective of CILA. Our Constitution and photos along with general information, membership application and meeting schedule are available on the Town Website at www.chesterct.org/cila/cilalinks.htm.

ROBBIE COLLOMORE MUSIC SERIES

Collomore Music Committee

The 34th Season of the Robbie Collomore Music Series was both an artistic and financial success. Our season began with our annual Barbara and Edmund Delaney Young Artist Concert. Pianist Konstantin Soukhevetski gave an extraordinary performance, which ranked among the finest we have had in our 34 years. This was followed by song writer/ singer Susan Werner. A packed house included many of her fans, some of whom traveled long distances to hear her. Our first Spring Concert featured Tanglefoot, a Canadian folk group which again attracted many enthusiastic fans, and of particular note, a large contingent of students. The final concert featured cellist Darrett Adkins who was available through our connection with Juilliard where he is on the cello faculty. Attendance at all concerts was excellent with most being sold-out. Interest in our series continues to grow as evidenced by a growing mail list and a substantial number of season subscribers.

We were able to balance our budget thanks to generous support by business and corporate sponsors and advertisers in our program booklet, without withdrawing any principle from the Cornwall Trust. This was fortunate as the Cornwall Trust account decreased slightly in value due to market fluctuations. However, its performance easily surpassed the general market indices.

The 2008/2009 programs will again feature a diverse and talented group of performers. These include: The New York Festival of Song presenting a vocal program, "The Last Time I Saw Paris"; folk singer extraordinaire, John McCutcheon; The jazz group, Manhattan Brass; and lastly, the world famous St. Petersburg String Quartet. We invite you to attend.

The Collomore Music Committee: Randy Allison, Ray Archambault, Anne Easton, Andrea Ely, Karli Gilbertson, Donald Hanson, Rick Holloway, Doreen Joslow, Nikki Lindberg, Martin Nadel (chairperson), Bettie Perreault, Sue Saltus and John Williams.

Chester, Connecticut

CERC Town Profile 2008

Town Hall
P.O. Box 218
Chester, CT 06412
(860) 526-0013

Belongs to
Middlesex County
Lower River Labor Market Area
Middlesex County Economic Dev. Region
Connecticut River Estuary Planning Area



Demographics

Population (2007)				Race/Ethnicity (2007)			Town	County	State
	Town	County	State						
1990	3,417	143,196	3,287,116	White	3,776	151,198	2,875,466		
2000	3,743	155,071	3,405,565	Black	42	8,169	324,251		
2007	3,904	166,232	3,549,606	Asian Pacific	50	3,812	125,880		
2012	3,995	173,217	3,647,526	Native American	3	75	8,220		
'07-'12 Growth / Yr	0.5%	0.8%	0.5%	Other/Multi-Race	33	2,978	215,789		
				Hispanic (any race)	84	6,223	405,662		
Land Area (sq. miles)	16	369	5,009	Poverty Rate (1999)	1.3%	4.6%	7.9%		
Pop./ Sq. Mile (2007)	244	450	709	Educational Attainment (2000)					
Median Age (2007)	44	41	39	Persons Age 25 or Older	Town	%	State	%	
Households (2007)	1,567	65,454	1,332,283	High School Graduate	720	26%	653,300	28%	
Med HH Inc. (2007)	\$77,787	\$72,202	\$65,859	Some College	728	27%	553,667	24%	
Age Distribution (2007)				Bachelors or More	981	36%	720,994	31%	
	0-4	5-17	18-24	25-49	50-64	65+	Total		
Male	99 3%	280 7%	116 3%	659 17%	426 11%	276 7%	1,856		
Female	106 3%	313 8%	102 3%	693 18%	386 10%	448 11%	2,048		
County Total	8,662 5%	26,759 16%	15,052 9%	58,034 35%	34,112 21%	23,613 14%	166,232		
State Total	211,025 6%	609,581 17%	332,254 9%	1,223,861 34%	683,396 19%	489,489 14%	3,549,606		

Economics

Business Profile (2005)			Top Five Grand List (2006)		Amount	% of Net
Sector	Establishments	Employment				
Agriculture	4.5%	2.6%	Chester Woods Inc	\$14,700,000	3.9%	
Const. and Mining	10.7%	5.6%	Whelen Engineering Co Inc	\$4,051,300	1.1%	
Manufacturing	7.2%	15.2%	318 Main LLC	\$2,760,800	0.7%	
Trans. and Utilities	4.1%	6.5%	The Eastern Co	\$2,644,700	0.7%	
Trade	16.2%	12.0%	Whelen Aviation LLC	\$2,487,200	0.7%	
Finance, Ins. and Real Estate	5.2%	6.7%	Net Grand List (2006)	\$376,967,550		
Services	45.5%	51.3%	Top Five Major Employers (2006)			
Government	6.6%	0.0%	Whelen Engineering Inc	First Student Transportation Service		
			Chester Village West	Chesterfield Healthcare Center		
			Greenwald Industries (Division of		Town	State
			Retail Sales (2006)	\$52,664,966	\$131,862,299,674	
			All Outlets			

Education

2004-2005 School Year				Connecticut Mastery Test Percent Above Goal					
	Town	State		Grade 4		Grade 6		Grade 8	
Total Town School Enrollment	550	567,138		Town	State	Town	State	Town	State
Most public school students through grade 6 attend Chester School District, which has 344 students. Students then go to Regional School District 4, which has 870 Students.				Reading	72 0	90 0	76 0		
				Math	66 0	73 0	63 0		
				Writing	70 0	85 0	74 0		
For more education data please see: http://www.state.ct.us/sde/	Students per Computer	Town	State	Average Class Size				Average SAT Score	
	Elementary:	4.7	4.2	Grade K	17.0	Grade 2	14.7	Town	State
	Middle:	1.7	3.5	Grade 5	14.7	Grade 7	19.2	Verbal	543 504
	Secondary:	2.5	3.4	High School	14.1	Math	534 508		

Chester Connecticut



Government

Government Form: Selectman-Town Meeting				Annual Debt Service (2006)	\$485,390
Total Revenue (2006)	\$10,798,296	Total Expenditures (2006)	\$10,669,734	As % of Expenditures	4.5%
Tax Revenue	\$9,104,351	Education	\$7,167,101	Eq. Net Grand List (2004)	\$709,865,131
Non-tax Revenue	\$1,693,945	Other	\$3,502,633	Per Capita	\$177,068
Intergovernmental	\$1,083,262	Total Indebtness (2006)	\$7,971,222	As % of State Average	127%
Per Capita Tax (2006)	\$2,215	As % of Expenditures	74.7%	Date of Last Revaluation (2005)	2003
As % of State Average	106.0%	Per Capita	\$1,939	Moody's Bond Rating (2006)	A2
		As % of State Average	96.3%	Actual Mill Rate (2006)	22.12
				Equalized Mill Rate (2006)	12.77
				% of Grand List Com/Ind (2003)	16.3%

Housing/Real Estate

<i>Housing Stock (2007)</i>	Town	County	State	Owner Occupied Dwellings (2000)	1,122	44,216	869,742
Existing Units (total)	1,689	72,351	1,445,682	As % Total Dwellings	70%	66%	63%
% Single Unit	80.6%	74.4%	64.8%	Subsidize Housing (2001)	35	5,076	148,930
New Permits Auth. (2007)	9	558	7,746	<i>Distribution of House Sales (2007)</i>			
As % Existing Units	0.53%	0.77%	0.54%	Town County State			
Demolitions (2007)	0	44	1,285	Number of Sales			
House Sales (2007)	38	1,848	32,395	Less than \$100,000	0	32	495
Median Price	\$333,500	\$303,000	\$295,000	\$100,000-\$199,999	3	219	5,866
Built Pre 1950 share (2000)	43.7%	27.6%	31.5%	\$200,000-\$299,999	11	637	10,094
				\$300,000-\$399,999	12	506	5,655
				\$400,000 or More	12	454	10,285

Labor Force

<i>Place of Residence (2007)</i>				<i>Commuters (2000)</i>			
Labor Force	Town	County	State	Commuters into Town from:	Town Residents Commuting to:		
Employed	2,219	89,511	1,780,481	Chester	508	Chester	508
Unemployed	77	3,702	85,018	Deep River	170	Middletown	220
Unemployment Rate	3.4%	4.0%	4.6%	Middletown	142	Essex	161
<i>Place of Work (2007)</i>				Essex	125	Old Saybrook	133
# of Units	151	4,964	104,094	East Haddam	115	Deep River	105
Total Employment	2,081	70,669	1,686,262	Old Saybrook	106	Hartford	77
2000-'07 Growth AAGR	0.6%	0.7%	0.1%	Haddam	101	Westbrook	73
Mfg Employment	856	10,746	191,264	Killingworth	88	New Haven	54
				Westbrook	88	Norwich	53
				Clinton	73	East Haddam	47

Quality of Life

<i>Quality of Life</i>				<i>Residential Utilities</i>			
Banks (2007)	Town	State	Library (2001)	Town	Electric Provider		
Lodging (1998)	4	1,029	Total Volumes	14,315	Connecticut Light & Power		
Day Care Facilities (1999)	3	756	Circulation Per Capita	5.9	(800) 286-2000		
Infant Mortality Rate			<i>Distance to Major Cities</i>		Gas Provider		
Per 1,000 births (2001)	0.0	4.5	Hartford	27	na		
Crime Rate (2004)			Boston	99	na		
Per 100,000 Residents	374	2,981	New York City	92	Water Provider		
			Providence	62	Connecticut Water Company		
	Town	County			(800) 286-5700		
Hospitals (1999)	0	1			Cable Provider		
Total Beds	0	275			Comcast Cablevision of Clinton, Inc.		
					860-388-3354		

