

THE Cheshire Chatter

Cheshire Council on Aging PO Box 507 • Cheshire, MA 01225

July / August • 2023

Announcing the Inaugural Cheshire Summer Festival



or are feeling a bit rusty, there will be dance instruction before and during the event The CCA looks forward to honoring the strong Polish members Cheshire

surrounding towns, as well as continuing efforts to strengthen connections with all members of the

> SAVE THE DATE: Saturday, July 22nd, 2023 from 5pm - 8pm at the former Cheshire Elementary School grounds. Bring the kids, lawn chairs, blankets to join in the fun. The Cheshire Community Association hopes to see you there. THERE IS NO FEE FOR ADMISSION TO THIS EVENT.

Following 12 successful events in the town center, the Cheshire Community Association (CCA) is pleased to introduce the next evolution of the town Block Party. This year it is moving to the former Elementary School grounds and looking to continue putting smiles on faces of all ages for years to come!

Included with the move is a new name, the Cheshire Summer Festival, and a commitment to diversifying the programming; exemplified by this year's entertainment: the Eddie Forman Orchestra, offering the best in Polka and Rock & Roll favorites, along with a Breakdancing performance by the Funk Box Dance Studio, owned by Cheshire resident and professional breakdancer Andres Ramirez.

The CCA is excited to let everyone know that Ozzie's Food Truck will be back with a special menu including Polish & American fare, and along with the children's playground right there on the grounds, there will be an expanded offering of Face Painting and Balloon Tying to make sure all the kiddos are very happy! Also, for those that cherish the history of the Elementary School there will be a special celebration in recognition of the Cheshire School Building Centennial.

As always there will be a HUGE RAFFLE for amazing items donated by local businesses!!

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Brenda's Thoughts

It's officially Summer as of this writing! This brings back certain activities at the center such as the availability of bikes for riding, shuffleboard, pickleball, to name a few.

Starting in July there will be a weekly BBQ at the Center with a fee of \$3 for senior citizens and \$5 for those under age 60. The day each week will vary so be sure to check the menu/ calendar to get the correct days. Anyone planning to attend should give advanced notice by calling the center 743-9719.

Something new in July is a wreath-making class. Now, I know what you are thinking, "wreath-making isn't new...." This is true, but have you ever made a wreath using clothes pins?

The Center has scored some tickets for the Million Dollar Quartet performance at the Colonial Theatre. Tickets are \$30. Get yours and more info by calling the Center.

There will also be a presentation by Barry Emery

COA	Board	l Mem	bers
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Robert Balawender	413.743.3356
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Carol Francesconi	413.743.5028
Mal Gwozdz	413.743.9356
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about the Cheshire Historical Digital Archives. The presentation is free. Check out the special events and calendar pages for more details.

Lorraine Faucher will be returning in August for another card-making event. All you card crafters come join us; newbies are always welcome; we had 3 new to the craft last time.

Quilting has haulted for the Summer, but will be back in the Fall. Watch for the startup dates in the next issue of the Chatter and on the COA Facebook Page.

Hey! If you have any ideas for an activity that you think would be enjoyed at the Center, give us a call or stop by and show us what you have in mind. We are always looking for new ideas. There are some pretty crafty people around here (I mean that in the best possible way). Share your knowledge/skills.

Something coming up, but we only have limited information at this point is the annual Cheshire Cruise Nite and Fireworks. We know it will be taking place on Saturday, August 19th, beginning at 4 pm at the former Cheshire Elementary School grounds with car show, vendors, live entertainment, and of course, fireworks Watch for more information via social media/signage.

In the meantime, have a safe and Happy 4th of July. Remember, fireworks are fun, but can also be dangerous if not properly handled. The Center will be closed that day. Be sure to come out to the annual Cheshire Summer Festival on July 22nd.

Enjoy the Summer!

Brenda Caufield

Director of COA Center







Cheshire 2023 Memorial Day Parade and Flag Day Ceremony



BILL LEVIS





A Flag Day ceremony was hosted at the former Cheshire Elementary School on June 14th with *Gillian Jones, Staff Photographer and Columnist for the Berkshire Eagle,* on hand to document the event.

North Adams Legion Post 125 Cmdrs. Dennis St. Pierre and Mark Sprague demonstrated how to fold the flag while local children read what each fold means. Children taking part in the reading included Lexi Larabee, 10, Addison Poirot, 8, Callie Meyette, 12, Jack Lanski, 10.

The ceremony was supposed to include a flag burning, but the weather disrupted that part of the event. Worn, torn, faded, or unserviceable American Flags were retired during the ceremony by the Adams American Legion Post 160.

Lexi Larabee, 10, sang the national anthem



Meet the Mayor of Ashuwillticook

by Pat Gebarowski





Photos at left were taken by Gene Gebarowski Artistic Rendering above is the creation of Kathleen McGrath. Paintings are published with the permission of the artist Kathleen



Norm Richardson decorates his yard and little shed with found objects. Sometimes they are left on his doorstep, a small tricycle perhaps, the donor apparently thinking it would look good hanging on the shed, the roof or added to the fence that encloses the yard.

Anyone who spends time on the Ashuwillticook rail trail has passed Norm's place at the crossroads to Mallard Cove. A bench on the other side of the trail allows the passerby to gaze over the lake, the property and the mountains in the background. It's a peaceful, quiet rest stop, sure to restore your soul.

Norm's grandfather put the mobile home in during the 1970s. He tacked on an enclosed porch overlooking the lake sometime after. Norm's grandfather worked for the railroad that passed by so closely to his home. He brought back various pieces of railroad history, discarded signs, or parts that were no longer useful. He displayed things on and in his shed, and Norm has continued the tradition. Norm says he started hanging the objects on the shed or placed them on the roof so that he does not accidentally hit them when he mows his lawn. The yard is tiny and heavily planted with flowers, shrubs, bushes and decorative rocks and objects. A birdbath near the fence will be singled out by your

eye as you stop and take it all in. Then you'll notice a bicycle on the fence with an old rusted metal handcart next to it.

Norm's late mother lived in the trailer for many years and Norm moved in after she passed. She loved to plant flowers and the





Ashuwillticook Trail runs along the picturesque Cheshire Lake. Photo by Gene Gebarowski

bright variety of seasonal blooms have been added to by her son. He is a man of many interests and boundless energy. As a young man he worked in the kitchen at the Country Charm Restaurant for 17 years. He was in charge of preparing the prime rib for the weekend crowd. He still wakes up and worries that he forgot to start the beef cooking. He often walked to work there or took his motorcycle because it was hard to find a parking space at the popular restaurant.

When he left there, he worked outdoor construction, and for the past twenty five years as a roofer. He has been an ultra runner for many years and was often seen running barefoot on the grassy verge of the trail. He has stopped that, he says, since so many Canada geese populate the path now. For 22 years, Norm delivered mail for the Postal Service working weekends, taking Sundays off for church. About a year ago the workers were mandated to be available every weekend and he had to give it up. So he no longer does the mail route but he misses it. He enjoyed meeting the Cheshire postal customers he delivered to. He also fishes, kayaks, rollerblades, and exercises his two dogs. There is 10 year old Australian shepherd, Einstein, and the newly added French Brittany spaniel, 12 week old Phoebe. He recently adopted an unwanted cat as well. He is a certified Scuba diver and has responded to mishaps with snowmobiles or vehicles on the local water.

The eclectic property, the bouncing dogs behind the fence and the friendly greeting assures an encounter at Mallard Cove will leave you with a smile. Many on the trail call Norm the Mayor of the Ashuwillticook.

Local artist Kathleen McGrath, was attracted to the colorful property, and her painting of Norm's decorated shed is the profile picture of the Friends of the Ashuwillticook Facebook page, which has 1500 members. Followers post observations of natural



Spring flowers on the Ashuwillticook Rail Trail. Rendering by Kathleen McGrath

sightings along the trail, photos of wild life or stunning vistas encountered.

I am reminded of the hand embroidered sampler from the '30s or '40s that hung over the telephone bench in my grandparent's dining room. It read "Let me live in a house by the side of the road and be a friend to man".

Norm embodies that sentiment to all who pass by on the rail trail, encountering his friendly greeting, or pausing to take in the cheerful, ever-changing decor of his property and the light on the water at Mallard Cove.

You may contact the artist

Kathleen McGrath

by IM on Facebook

at https://www.facebook.com/groups/909533679387958

Cheshire Seniors - Plus 3 - Gather To Place Flags On Veteran Graves



"This Memorial Day" by LTC Ret. Samuel Lombardo

This is Memorial Day
In our land of the free.
It's because of those who sacrificed
Whose graves you're here to see
They fought on foreign lands
And across the open sea,
And paid the ultimate price
To keep you and I free.
So put all things aside
And honor this important day,
Which we have dedicated
As our Memorial Day.

From left to right - Tim's dad and father-in-law were veterans and his brother made a career in the Marines. Bob served during Vietnam and his father and two uncles served during WWII. Lucan is a descendant of veterans. Dale's father served in the Army in WWII. Dennis's father, while serving in the Army Air Corp, was captured and held at the POW camp, Stalag 13. Nancy's husband served in Korea and her brother was in Vietnam. Scott's father served as a Marine during the Korean War. Nancy's dad was in WWII. Al's mother served as an Army WAC and father was in the Army in WWII. Will has two grandfathers that served during WWII. One was in the Air Force serving as a plane mechanic and the other was in the Army and was serving in Pearl Harbor when it was attacked. Val's dad served during WWII and her son is in the Army Special Forces. Vicki standing with her husband Ken, who served in the Coast Guard. Meghan has many

ancestors that served. Sandra's father was in the Army in WWII, her brother served in the Navy in Vietnam era and Joe served in the Navy for 6 years with one year in Vietnam.

A poem or prayer is always shared with the group and this year it was "This Memorial Day" by LTC Ret. Samuel Lombardo; shown above.







Sandra Sloane Memorial Day Display Commemorates Veterans of Multiple Wars

The Commemorative Display by Sandra Sloane was exhibited at the Senior Center and at the Cheshire Library prior to Memorial Day. The hard work put into the compilation of the facts, pictures, and information for this special display is greatly appreciated by the Cheshire community. War of 1812 Spanish American War Gettysburg Korean War

The Evolution of Cheshire's Fire Stations

Cheshire Fire Department was first organized in 1892. The first station was in the basement of the town hall built in 1898 and the door where the fire equipment was stored is shown at the lower right of the building

The first station was next moved to the old trolley power house (at right). Trolleys

were discontinued in the mid 1930s. Some of the equipment used to provide the electricity for the trolleys is shown below at the left.









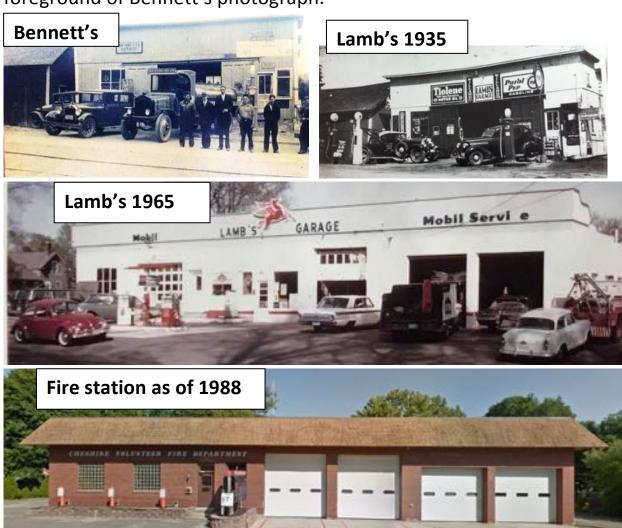


This (below) is what the upstairs looks today.



After the trolleys, the building (second from top above, on right) was converted to the town's fire station. These 3 trucks (above left) were squeezed into the lower floor garage. Now, the building houses the current Police Station and garage for the cruisers. The upstairs now contains historical items.

The current fire station was a former auto repair garage known as Bennett's (below) and later as Lamb's. Note the trolley tracks in the foreground of Bennett's photograph.









This little fellow stopped into the Center one day to say hello and admire the state flag, as well as the table decorations.

A true sign that Winter has fled when the Hummingbirds appear on flowers of red. Photos by Brenda Caufield





Sunday, July 9th • 2pm

Million Dollar Quartet @ Colonial Theater, \$30 per ticket. Call Center for details.

Wednesday, July 12th • 12:30pm

Barry Emery Presentation... "Cheshire Historical Digital Archives and Book #8". FREE. Everyone is welcome to attend

Saturday, July 22nd • 5pm – 8pm Cheshire Summer Festival

Where: Former Elementary School Grounds

Music: Eddie Forman Orchestra

Food: Ozzie's Food Truck w/ delicious

American & Polish fare

Raffles, Face Painting, Balloon Tying Clowns, Playground, as well as Cheshire School Building Centennial Celebration

Bring the kids, lawn chairs, blankets; get comfy and enjoy the evening entertainment, good company, and good food!

AUGUST

Thursday, August 3rd • 1pm

Card-making with Lorraine. \$5 to attend. Take-away three cards with envelopes. Please call Center to preregister. Bring a friend!

Saturday, August 19th • 4pm

Annual Cruise Nite in Cheshire at the (former) Elementary School Grounds; includes car show, vendors, activities, live entertainment, and of course, fireworks to top off the evening. There is an entry fee to participate in the car show, but admission to the Cruise Nite event is free.

Monday, August 21st • Noon

Clothespin Wreath-making. Please call Center to preregister. \$5 fee for make and take. Bring a friend.

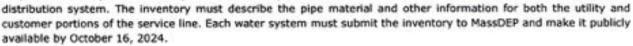
July - August

BBQ COOKOUTs at the Cheshire Senior Center. Check calendar for the days as they vary each week. Cost is \$3 for seniors/\$5 for people under 60. Preregister with the Center for an accurate head count.

413.743.9719

2023-2024 WATER SERVICE LINE INVENTORY

The US EPA recently published revisions to the Lead and Copper Rule, which require all public water systems to complete an inventory of service lines in their water



Between now and October 2024, the Cheshire Water Department will be reviewing records, distributing a survey for customers to provide information on their service pipe at the water meter inside each home/business and selectively conducting service line inspections at the

property line.

The Cheshire Water Department is committed to providing clean, safe drinking water to all customers and regularly conducts sampling for lead in accordance with federal and state requirements. This service line inventory is intended to further protect the community from potential lead exposure by reducing risks.

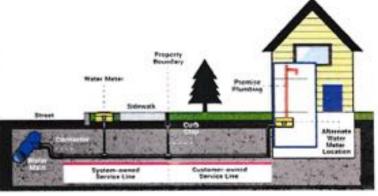
For more information and updates:

Cheshire Water Department:

https://www.cheshire-ma.gov/water-department

MassDEP (Lead and Copper Rule Revisions): https://www.mass.gov/info.details/lead-service-line-planning-program

MassDEP (lead in drinking water): https://www.mass.gov/lead-in-drinking-water



~ Community Sotes ~

Town Clerk- Dogs that were not licensed by JUNE 1st will have a Late Fee of \$15 added to the cost of the licenses.

Time to renew Town Compactor stickers. Bags & window sticker, \$150; window sticker only \$100 (if you still have bags or bag stickers. Purchase at Town Hall.

Cheshire Library - Story Hour is every Tuesday from 11:00 am to 12:00pm, stories and a craft each week. Library hours: Monday 9:30 to 2:30; Tuesday 12:00 to 7:00 and Wednesday 11:00 to 3:00.

Cheshire Ladies' Reading Club – Since 1879, the Cheshire Ladies Reading Club has met on a regular biweekly schedule reading entertaining and enlightening works at the meetings, increasing our knowledge of history, and sharing favorite poems. As we are a reading club, books are read by the members at the meetings. We have resumed meeting at members' homes on a rotating basis. If you are interested in learning more about our group, please contact Pat Gebarowski at patandgene@gmail.com, 413-743-2177 or 413-242- 4663 for more information.

Historical Commission - The Cheshire Historical Commission is again accepting donations of items or



Cheshire Lions Club -

The Cheshire Lions Club remains an active contributor to our community during these trying times. We are always

looking for new members. Among our contributions, we support ongoing eye research efforts. We have also supported numerous local organizations such as the Youth Center, the Friends of the Cheshire Council on Aging, the Cheshire Fire Department and various charitable organizations and athletic teams. We donate annual scholarships to Cheshire graduates from Hoosac Valley High School, McCann Technical School and BART. Every year, during the Christmas season, we conduct our Give A Gift program to provide those in need, local families and seniors, with Christmas gifts. Our club also installs and cares for the American flags located throughout the town. If you are interested in joining or would like more information or have any questions, please contact Jennifer Waterman at jen@watermanexcavating.com.

documents relating to our town's history. Please call 743-5423 for details.

The Community Book Club has taken a summer break and will resume again in the Fall with the book *Tinkers* by Paul Harding.

The Cheshire Police Department would like to thank the residents of Cheshire for their support on our budget. We are very excited to hire another full time officer giving us a total of three.

Become a Friend of the Cheshire Council on Aging

The Friends of the Cheshire Council on Aging provide financial and other support serving the needs of the senior population of Cheshire. By become a "Friend" and paying a ten-dollar annual membership fee, you will be supporting the activities of our seniors.

All non-profits are receiving less money from the government so the need to provide financial support from other sources has become critical. The "Friends" support activities that the Town is unable to finance. Here is a partial list of activities the "Friends" have helped financially support this past year:

- Presentations by local authors, speakers and entertainers.
- The annual nonagenarian birthday party.
- The monthly birthday lunches.
- The Cheshire Food Pantry.
- Cultural events such as plays at local theatres and trips to area museums.
- The purchase of ice cream certificates in support of the annual flag ceremony.

As a "Friend," any monetary support provided is most appreciated. For further information, please contact Ed or Pam St. John in one of the following ways:

Mail: 4 Edmunds Street, Unit N101,

Adams, MA 01220

Phone: 413.743.5603

E-mail: estjohn1@roadrunner.com

Cheshire COA Center for Active Living

CHP Mobile Health Van - The CHP medical van is scheduled for Thursday, July 6th, 9-12 with August date TBD. Please follow our Facebook page for dates and times as they sometimes change. CHP Mobile Health Unit staff offers blood pressure checks, A1C screenings, cholesterol checks and "sick" visits on top of typical and annual vaccinations. No appointment needed and open to anyone. You may also call Brenda with any questions at the COA office @ 413-743-9719.





Cheshire COA Van -The COA Cheshire Center for Active Living van is available Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays. Please call 24 hours before to schedule a ride. A \$3.00 donation is appreciated. Call: (413) 446-2559.

The Café at 119 School Street, Cheshire - Hot Lunch for Seniors - The Elder Services lunches will be served Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays

inside at 11:30am with the Grab n Go meals to continue five days a week if there is a need. To reserve your meal, call 743-9719 at least 24 hours in advance. Suggested Meal Donation of \$3.00 for those 60 and over.



Bingo- Every Tuesday following lunch at 12:30, \$1 per card

Brown Bag – Free paper bag of food available on the 4th Friday of each month between 11:30am and 12:30pm. Dates are July 28th and August 25th. Contact Brenda to sign up – 743-9719.

Morning Exercise - 9am -10am Mon., Wed., and Fri.

Chair Yoga - 10am -11am Fridays, Led by Maryann Kuffs

Blood Pressure Readings - 10am -11am Mon., Wed., and Fri.; performed by Mal & Carol

Foot Clinic - The Foot Clinic will be scheduled for July 20th 8:30am - 1pm. Sorry, no walk-ins - appointments only. It is held inside the Center. Call Brenda @ 413-743-9719 to schedule an appointment and for protocol. There is a \$35 fee for this clinic.

Quilting - Suspended for the Summer.

Cheshire Senior Club - Open to anyone that would like to join us, it is a monthly chance to get out and have some fun and friendship. In the next two months we will be going to the Old Man Jeff's BBQ Restaurant and another one as yet to be determined by our group. We get together every Wednesday after lunch about 12:30 PM at the Senior Center. Drop by and hang out for a meeting, they're fun. Questions or for information call Gene @ 743-2177.

Community Book Club - has suspended meetings for the Summer.

Senior Haircuts – 10 a.m. – Noon. Haircuts by Meraki Salon of Adams. Discounted Senior cost is \$20. Call center to book your appointments for Monday, July 17th and Monday, August 14th.

Biking – Bikes are available Mon.-Thurs 9a-1p, for use from the Cheshire COA Center, with easy access to the Rail Trail. Call 743-9719 or drop by the Center before 1 p.m. to schedule a "use" time.

Shuffleboard – is starting up again, continuing as long as weather is pleasant. Check with the center for dates/times. 743-9719.

Pickleball – continuing as long as weather is pleasant; court is currently located at the former Cheshire Elementary School. 743-9719.





Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Blood pressure readings available @ Senior Center M-W-F 10-11						Cheshire Pantry 11-12
2	Exercise 9-10 Lunch 11:30 BBQ Cookout	Happy 4 th of July! Center Closed	Exercise 9-10 Coffee Hour 10-11 Lunch 11:30 Senior club 12:30	6 Grab-n-Go 10-12 CHP Van 10-12	Grab-n-Go 10-12 Exercise 9-10 Chair Yoga 10-11	8
9	10 Exercise 9-10 Lunch 11:30	Exercise 9-10 Lunch 11:30 Bingo 12:30	Exercise 9-10 Coffee Hour 10-11 Lunch 11:30 Senior club 12:30 Barry Emery 12:30p	13 Grab-n-Go 10-12 BBQ Cookout	Grab-n-Go 10-12 Exercise 9-10 Chair Yoga 10-11	15
16	Exercise 9-10 Lunch 11:30 Haircuts 10-12	Exercise 9-10 Lunch 11:30 Bingo 12:30	Exercise 9-10 Coffee Hour 10-11 BBQ 11:30 Senior club 12:30	20 Grab-n-Go 10-12 Foot Clinic 8:30-1	Grab-n-Go 10-12 Exercise 9-10 Chair Yoga 10-11	22
23	Exercise 9-10 BBQ 11:30	25 Exercise 9-10 Lunch 11:30 Bingo 12:30	Exercise 9-10 Coffee Hour 10-11 Senior club 12:30	27 Grab-n-Go 10-12	Grab-n-Go 10-12 Exercise 9-10 Chair Yoga 10-11 Brown Bag 11:30	29
30	31 Exercise 9-10 Lunch 11:30					

August

2023



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Blood pressure readings available @ Senior Center M-W-F 10-11		Exercise 9-10 Lunch 11:30 Bingo 12:30	Exercise 9-10 Coffee Hour 10-11 Lunch 11:30 Senior club 12:30	Grab-n-Go 10-12 BBQ 11:30 Card Making w/Lorraine 1p	Grab-n-Go 10-12 Exercise 9-10 Chair Yoga 10-11	Cheshire Pantry 11-12
6	7 Exercise 9-10 Lunch 11:30	Exercise 9-10 Lunch 11:30 Bingo 12:30	Exercise 9-10 Coffee Hour 10-11 BBQ 11:30 Senior club 12:30	10 Grab-n-Go 10-12	Grab-n-Go 10-12 Exercise 9-10 Chair Yoga 10-11	12
13	Exercise 9-10 BBQ 11:30 Haircuts 10-12	Exercise 9-10 Lunch 11:30 Bingo 12:30	Exercise 9-10 Coffee Hour 10-11 Lunch 11:30 Senior club 12:30	17 Grab-n-Go 10-12	Grab-n-Go 10-12 Exercise 9-10 Chair Yoga 10-11	Cheshire Cruise Nite & Fireworks 4 pm at former Elementary School Grounds
20	Exercise 9-10 Lunch 11:30	Exercise 9-10 Lunch 11:30 Bingo 12:30	Exercise 9-10 Coffee Hour 10-11 Lunch 11:30 Senior club 12:30	24 Grab-n-Go 10-12 BBQ 11:30	Grab-n-Go 10-12 Exercise 9-10 Chair Yoga 10-11 Brown Bag 11:30	26
27	Exercise 9-10 Lunch 11:30	Exercise 9-10 Lunch 11:30 Bingo 12:30	30 Exercise 9-10 Coffee Hour 10-11 BBQ 11:30 Senior club 12:30	31 Grab-n-Go 10-12		