

# **Cheshire Chatter**

# March / April 2022



Cheshire Council on Aging P.O. Box 507, Cheshire, MA 01225

Photo contributed by Gene Gebarowski

As the seasons change here in the Berkshires, so are things changing here at the Center for Senior Living.

Gene Gebarowski, has resigned his position as Chairman of the Council on Aging. Gene has been at the heart and soul of the Center for many years and has dedicated many volunteer hours to the betterment of the Center. He has done most of his work behind the scenes and most people are unaware of all that is required to keep the Center at its utmost productivity.

We have also lost our director with the resignation of Carole Hilderbrand. Carole has been there for all our Seniors, always willing to help no matter what the need. Whether it be assisting those in need of further services or providing programs that will enhance the lives of our seniors, she was always there. From well-being calls, creating programs that would be of interest, applying for grants that would improve our outreach to supervising the meal program that served 500 meals per month to our seniors.

We thank both Gene and Carole and know that we appreciate all you have done for us.

Let us strive to continue the good works they have done and remember that our goal continues to be providing the best services needed by the seniors in our community.

**Brenda's Thoughts** – As most of you know, I have been running the kitchen for almost a year now. While Llove that role. I have also been asked to step in as Interim Coordinator. Although this is

now. While I love that role, I have also been asked to step in as Interim Coordinator. Although this is challenging, I have the best group of volunteers that anyone could ask for. They are absolutely amazing, and I look forward to helping to make a difference in our community with them by my side. If you haven't been into the Center yet for a meal or a coffee, stop by! The delicious food, laughter, and great conversation that fills the room is what it is truly all about. We offer a sit-down meal Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday or Grab n' Go Monday- Friday. If you have any questions, please call 413-743-9719.

Spring is just around the corner, so don't forget to stop in and enjoy the bikes, shuffleboard, and pickleball.

# **Growing Up In Cheshire**

### Part 1.

## by Patricia Gebarowski

About a year and a half ago, Gus Martin brought me a copy of the book "Cheshire Farms" that he had created with the Cheshire Historical Commission. It's a history of the many farms of Cheshire, more than a few still standing. I eagerly looked through it with him and was very surprised to see a photo of a small gray building on page 11 on what once was the George Reynolds farm on West Mountain Road. When my family first

came to Cheshire and rented a house just down the road, that little barn and the property it stood on was part of the Rathbun farm. We got to know Mrs. Fannie Rathbun, recently widowed after 66 years of marriage to Norman Rathbun. I was missing a grandmother so when everyone seemed to call her "Grandma", so did I. She was kind, treated me more like a grown up than a child and was always happy for my company. I loved her stories about her life with "Gramp" and moving to that farm in



1904. I would listen raptly as she told of things from bygone days. That picture in Gussie's book brought me back to a long-forgotten incident.

The snow was very deep, and I was quite short at age 10. I was bundled up warm in my winter jacket, corduroy pants and galoshes over my shoes. For once, I had found both of my mittens and a knitted ear warmer Grandma Rathbun had given to me. It was a bit of a walk to the little barn that housed the ducks and chickens.

It was sturdily constructed of clapboards and cement, a long low building with a wooden door fashioned out of old boards and kept closed with a stick leaning against it.

I plowed my way to the door, moved the stick and went into the little barn. I closed the wood door behind me to keep out the cold blowing wind and snow. The small gaggle of animals made quacks and clucks at the sight of me and the anticipation of food.

I dutifully made sure there was water in the containers, broke the ice on top and filled the shallow metal pans with feed as Grandma had instructed me. The afternoon sun was hidden behind gray clouds and the few small windows made everything dim and shadowed inside. I had no wish to linger there so I finished quickly. I went to the door and pushed it to open, as there was no latch, but it wouldn't budge. I immediately realized I had lifted the stick leaning against it as I came in but it had fallen back into place when I closed the door. I don't recall being very scared but I'm sure I was. I called out loudly for help even knowing there was no one in earshot to hear me or any passersby on the snowy road that day. I didn't have much hope Grandma would come looking for me. She would have thought that I walked back down West Mountain Road to our little house after finishing my chore. Being somewhat forgetful she might not recall that I was supposed to have supper with her and stay the night.

I looked around my dark, dusty, cobwebby prison thinking about how long it would be until someone freed me. The fowl feathered folks that lived in here needed to be fed every day so someone would probably be here tomorrow and I would be found. That thought spurred me into action. All the little windows were high on the wall and not made to open. The door was my only way out. I pushed and pushed and it seemed to me that the stick only wedged itself more firmly. Finally, driven to desperation I kicked the door mightily a few times. Suddenly the door opened a few inches, but the stick had fallen sideways now, still blocking the door from swinging outward. I slowly got my arm through the crack and felt around for that stick. Pushing against the door as hard as I could I got my arm out a bit further. I was able to grasp it, slowly working it loose and out of the way. The door opened as I pushed against the new snow blocking it and then I burst out into the fresh, non-chicken or duck scented air. I carefully replaced that stick the way I found it and trudged back up the drive to the farmhouse now lit up with a warm glowing light in the windows, my heartbeat slowing to its normal pace.

### **Afterwards**

by Lynn Ungar She told her granddaughter the whole harrowing story, glossing over nothing. Not just the lives lost, and the jobs, but also how it seemed like the world went dim when they lost dancing and singing, when the theaters and stadiums and concert halls closed down, when the school playgrounds went silent. We never forgot, she assured the girl, what a hug feels like. We never stopped wanting that. But, Grandma, the girl asked, how did you do it? How did you make it through? It wasn't easy, the woman replied. But at some point we decided we were more attached to living than to our old ideas about the way things were supposed to be.

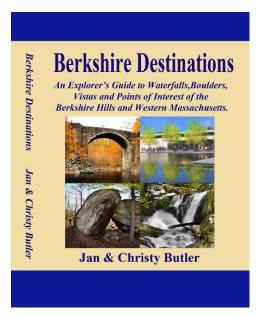
# The Honorable Judge Joan McMenemy Visits Cheshire

March is National Judicial Outreach Month in Massachusetts, the Trial Court's annual community outreach effort when judges engage with communities across the Commonwealth about the importance of an impartial and independent judiciary governed by the Rule of Law. The Hon. Joan M. McMenemy will be making this year's presentation. Judge McMenemy is the First Justice of the Berkshire Juvenile Court and has been on the bench since 2010. Prior to becoming a judge, she worked for 16 years as an assistant district attorney. Judge McMenemy will be addressing issues of crime, public safety, addiction, mental health and the intersection of these issues with the courts.

Cheshire COA for Active Living
119 School Street, Cheshire, MA 01225
Wednesday, March 16, 2022
12:15pm

# Upcoming March Event at the Center with Christy Butler

On <u>Wednesday, March 23rd at 12:30</u> Christy Butler will be at the Cheshire COA Center for Active Living on 119 School Street with his powerpoint presentation of his most recent book Berkshire Destinations. Even if you are not a walker or hiker you will be entertained as Chris shows and tells of many points of interest here locally to visit. The event is open to everyone. Books and posters will be available from the author for purchase at the conclusion. We hope to offer this event again some evening later in the spring. Please call the Center @ 743-9719 if you need further information. Walkers, Hikers and Explorers will experience many delightful afternoons of adventure and discovery within the many nooks and crannies found throughout Berkshires County or Western Massachusetts. Waterfalls, expansive vistas, along with immense glacial erratics or boulders, are destinations to be found in the 4th of a series of guide books by Jan & Christy Butler who live right here in Cheshire.



Their most recent guide "Berkshire Destinations" is richly illustrated with photographs, maps, plus details such as GPS and written directions to insure everyone will find their way. Previous guides, "Connecticut Waterfalls" published by Countryman Press, then their self-published books "Rockachusetts" along with "Erratic Wandering" focused strictly on waterfalls or glacial erratics/boulders. This guide "Berkshire Destinations" has expanded to encompass all of the interests from waterfalls, erratics, vistas, points of interest and even some of the wonderful statues from the many renowned sculptors that have resided here. More information can be found, along with a Look-Inside-The-Book through our web site www.berkshirephotos.com or at https://www.berkshire-destinations.com/

Christy Butler is a visual artist with an Associate Degree in Liberal Studies-Majoring in Design and a Bachelor of Arts in Business Administration majoring in Marketing and Management. Other related studies include Mass Communications, Filmmaking and Photography. After being published in variety of Literary and Specialty Magazines, along with other Audio-Visual endeavors, Butler, a Vietnam Veteran, created and directed a grant-funded and web-based archive of veteran's personal photos from their military experiences: <a href="www.shoeboxphotos.net">www.shoeboxphotos.net</a>. This was followed by a series of New England State Waterfall posters created with Jan Butler: <a href="www.berkshirephotos.com">www.berkshirephotos.com</a>



An email thread happened between several Cheshire Seniors on January 29 as we experienced a snow and intense wind storm. The weather prediction was dire as some parts of New England were possibly getting snow measuring by the foot, winds that could take down power lines and extremely cold temperatures. It went as follows:

#### H. Started the thread:

2:00pm Jan29

Hang in there.

Within four weeks, the maple sap will be flowing.

Within six weeks the earliest migrating birds will begin to arrive in numbers.

Within eight weeks the early spring wildflowers will emerge from the earth.

You will feel the warm sun on your face again.

source: Stowcology

Then P. wrote the following and shared it to the group:

2:30 pm As I watched the trees nearly bent double by the marauding wind, the sound it made had me searching out the window thinking it was an approaching snowplow barreling down Route 8. Suddenly the sky blazed red, due west, obscured by the hill and houses across from mine, but still amazingly brilliant. Within barely a minute it became dark pink and spread along the length of the tree line on the rise beyond the highway. Seconds later the gloom erased it and darkness came.

Sorry to carry on like this but I rarely get any weather drama from that direction. I'm used to spectacular shows from the eastern vista on the other side of the house giving awesome shows of approaching storms or a herd of deer literally dancing in the field celebrating a fresh rain and new grass.

I'm thankful every day that I am in this warm safe place and get to witness the grand show that is nature around me.

Just as I was marveling at the sunset, my friend's message came in and reminded me that as bone chillingly harsh as today is, quite soon the warm sun and softness of spring will be here.

#### H. Then responded to the group:

3:30pm Jan29 Today's weather brought back memories of living on an island off the coast of Maine during a blizzard over 50 years ago. I am remembering one bad winter storm like this when my neighbor's 3-year-old child ran a temperature of 104 degrees. We were a 45-minute boat ride away from a doctor or hospital. There were high winds and heavy seas making it impossible for a boat to dock at the wharf. My neighbor and I spent the entire night bathing her child in cool cloths trying to keep her temperature down until morning when the ambulance boat could come and transport her to a hospital on the mainland. As bad as today has been I am grateful to live in Cheshire with a fire department, a police department, and an ambulance just a phone call away.

#### J. then added to the thread:

4:30 pm Jan 29 I started thinking about sitting around a pot belly stove in my aunt Sarah's kitchen with all my cousins and aunt Sarah's father-Grandpa Miller in his rocking chair. I was 6 or 7 years old at the time. I can still hear the wind howling. I stayed over and slept in a double bed with my cousins Barb ( we called her Sis) and Lorraine. Three in a bed and I was in the middle. My aunt put hot water bottles by our feet, and we were cozy warm. The next morning the heat coming from the pot belly was so welcoming as we sat around it again while eating freshly baked Borgo's bakery hard rolls slathered with a lot of butter and delicious hot chocolate with real whipped cream that came from the top of the milk in the glass bottles delivered by "The Milkman". I cherish those great memories.

# The Emergence



By T.F. Williamson



Shown here is a tiny snapper with the remainder of and making its way toward water. (Photo by TF Williamson)

After waiting the "normal" amount of time for the eggs to hatch and the emergence of the tiny, quarter-size babies, the Williamsons did a "cache check" of the eggs on August 14th, 2021. They weren't ready. The eggs were still incubating so they quickly covered the delicate batch and left them to continue as they have since the times of dinosaurs. Making a quick assessment before covering the eggs, the Williamsons noted there were between 15-20 eggs in the cache.

Keeping a watchful eye and awaiting any sign that the tiny Chelydra were ready to break out and head for water, it was noticed on Saturday, September 4th that a small tunnel appeared on the edge of the cache. Again, an inspection of the egg lair was made and this some egg shell; its first meal before leaving the cache time it was noted that all but a couple of the eggs had hatched and apparently made their way out via the aforementioned tunnel. There was one solitary baby that the Williamsons aided in its journey to

water. The remaining eggs were again covered and left to their own devises; despite the high mortality rate of eggs and juveniles, snapping turtles have managed to survive since as far back as the Crustcean period. Maybe one day these little specimen will grow to be as big as their ancestors who reside in Snapper Sanctuary.

It was later learned by the Williamsons that others in the neighborhood had also found some of the tiny travelers in their yards and they, too, gave them a helping hand to the water's edge.

# OPTOMETRY, OO SMALL TOWNE SCALE by Pauly Bell

Old Mr. Keegan walked down Dean Street to the Post Office every morning. During the summer when I wasn't in school, I would occasionally be out in the yard or on the back piazza when he went by. He would stop, touch the brim of his fedora, smile and say "Good morning." He looked a bit seedy and sad. His shoes were scuffed, and his pants rumpled. When I asked my mother about it, she explained that his wife had died about a year before and he wasn't taking care of himself. I determined to be extra pleasant the next time we met.

One morning my mother was in the garden when he passed by. He came around the private hedge and walked over to have a look at her tomatoes. They talked for a while. She asked him how he was feeling. "Can't complain. But I will probably have to see the eye-doctor one of these days. I'm not seeing too clearly." She looked up at him and said, "Looks to me as if your glasses are a bit loose. I have a tiny screwdriver in my sewing machine. Do you want me to see if I can tighten them for you?" He agreed so she took his glasses into the kitchen and washed them with hot soap and water and brought them out to him. "Jeannette, this is wonderful! I can see everything clearly again! I can't thank you enough." He went on his way smiling and with two ripe tomatoes. After that, every couple of months or so, Mr. Keegan would stop by and ask Jeannette if she could "tighten" his glasses.

#### 21st Century Update:

My several readers and sunglasses are greatly in need of "tightening" with my tiny Bernina screwdriver (The original was a Singer.)



# **Preparing for Natural Disasters –**

### We Want to Hear from You!

The Town of Cheshire has received grant funding from the State Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) program to learn about our changing weather and develop a Natural Hazard Mitigation and Climate Adaptation Plan. As part of this project, we want residents to share with us their experiences of surviving past severe storm events in Cheshire. Please fill out a short survey for us! This online survey will only take a few minutes and can be found at

<u>www.surveymonkey.com/r/CheshireMVP</u>. Paper copies of the survey can be found at the Cheshire Senior Center, Town Clerk's Office, and the Library. Your answers about past and recent storm occurrences will help us document storm events that have impacted Cheshire residents.



Warming trends are altering our weather patterns, creating unstable conditions that send us more severe storm events that challenge us as a community. Hazard mitigation is a term that describes an action taken to reduce the harm that natural disasters have on people and property – it is the up-front work to mitigate or reduce the impacts of a disaster when it strikes. Mitigation is pro-active, rather than reactive, and is an action taken to solve a problem on a permanent, long-term basis. An adopted Hazard Mitigation and Climate Adaptation Plan will make Cheshire eligible for state and federal funding to implement hazard actions. Examples of hazard actions that some Berkshire towns have taken to protect infrastructure or government operations include:

- Replacing undersized culverts with larger ones to reduce the risk of flooding or road washouts
- Upgrading road drainage systems to handle higher volumes of road runoff during severe storms
- Moving critical records and communication systems out of the basement to higher, less flood-prone floors
- Expanding emergency communication systems to alert people of impending storms or disasters

The Cheshire Hazard Mitigation Plan will lay out a strategy to help the Town lessen the impacts that natural disasters and changing weather patterns are predicted to have on residents and the natural world. As part of our work, the project will:

- Gather and assess the best scientific data that is relevant to Cheshire and the Berkshires
- Identify the strengths within the Town to meet and adapt to the challenges ahead
- Identify the weaknesses within the Town that hold us back from adapting to the challenges
- Prioritize realistic action steps that can be taken to create a more resilient community

If you have stories or photographs that might be informative, please contact the Town's consultant, Courteny Morehouse at <a href="mailto:cmorehouse@berkshireplanning.org">cmorehouse@berkshireplanning.org</a> or Town Administrator, Jennifer Morse at <a href="mailto:jmorse@cheshire-ma.gov">jmorse@cheshire-ma.gov</a>. Updates of the project will be posted on the Town website and Facebook pages. A public presentation to discuss initial findings of the project will be given on Monday, March 14 at 7pm. To RSVP email Courteny Morehouse at <a href="mailto:cmorehouse@berkshireplanning.org">cmorehouse@berkshireplanning.org</a>. Registration link can also be found on the Town website.

Written by Lauren Gaherty and Courteny Morehouse from Berkshire Regional Planning Commission. BRPC is helping the Town of Cheshire put together their Hazard Mitigation and Climate Adaptation Plan.

# **Cheshire COA Center for Active Living**

(Senior / Community Center)

### **CHP Mobile Health Van**

The CHP medical van is scheduled for Cheshire once a month. Please follow our Facebook page for dates and times. If you need any non-emergency medical attention or have medical questions stop by and ask the CHP Mobile Health Unit staff. No appointments 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 \$2.00 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.

## Cheshire Pantry In collaboration with the Cheshire Fire Department-The

Pantry is located at the Cheshire Community / Senior Center and is open to Cheshire residents of any age on the first Saturday of the month from 11am to noon. Emergency food is also available by calling the Center at 743-9719. Monetary donations and nonperishable food, toiletries and paper goods may be left at the Center any Monday through Thursday 9 till 1 PM. I Love Cheshire t shirts with the Food Pantry logo are being sold as a fund raiser.

When notified of a need, a hearty food bag is delivered. This is available by calling 413-743-9719. If emergency assistance is needed call 413-329-2212. Delivery is available for those isolated or without transportation.

**Brown Bag** – Free paper bag of food available on **Friday**, March 25<sup>th</sup> and **Friday**, April 22<sup>nd</sup> between 1 and 2 pm. Contact Brenda to sign up.

Morning Exercise - 9am -10am Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays

**Foot Clinic** - The Foot Clinic will be scheduled for March 10<sup>th</sup>. Sorry, no walk-ins - appointments only. Held inside the Center. Call Brenda @ 413-743-9719 to schedule an appointment and for protocol. There is a fee for this clinic.

Quilting - Quilting is on the second and fourth Thursday of the month, 1pm-3pm led by Betty King.

**Cheshire Senior Club** - Club meets every Wednesday at 12:30 pm and has resumed its monthly restaurant outings.

The Blood Pressure Readings, and the Community Book Club are on hold.

# **Community Notes**

**Town Clerk-** The 2022 Cheshire Dog Licenses are due beginning April 1<sup>st</sup>. Dogs not licenses by June 1<sup>st</sup> will have a Late Fee of \$15 added to the cost of the licenses.

Cheshire Annual Town Election is Monday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2022. Polls at 119 School Street, Community/Senior Center, are open from 9:00am to 7:00 pm. Last day to register to vote in this election is Tuesday, April 12<sup>th</sup>, 2022 from 9:00am to 8:00pm in the Town Clerk's Office in Town Hall.

Cheshire Annual Town Meeting is Monday, June 13th, 2022.

**Cheshire Fire Department -** Fire Department Drive Thru Pancake Breakfast to go. Sunday March 13th, 8am to 1130am. At the firehouse.

**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.

**Historical Commission -** The Cheshire Historical Commission is again accepting donations of items or documents relating to our town's history. Please call 743-5423 for details. Our next meeting will be in March.

**Cheshire Community Association** - Skating on Cheshire Lake One of the many great attributes of our amazing town is Outdoor Recreation. Picturesque Hoosac Lake is included in this category, in particular during the summer when kayaking, fishing, paddle-boarding, boating and other activities are enjoyed.

In winter, Ice Fishing is also very popular especially when derbies are held by the Cheshire Fire Department (CFD) and Rod & Gun Club. Just a few weeks ago the CFD had a record number of nearly 400 participants in their annual fundraising event!

Another wonderful opportunity for winter recreation on the lake is skating. The challenge however is that it's even more at the whim of Mother Nature. While ice condition, other than thickness, is not a concern for most winter activities on the lake, skating is all about it.

Therefore, in order to make for a great experience, one might say the planets need to align (sometimes with a dose of human intervention (a)).

It turned out that Sunday, February 20<sup>th</sup> was one of those days. There had been some warm weather and rain, and then cold temperatures, which is basically a sequence that "resets" the surface. The ice was looking great on Saturday, but it was cold and windy and then we got 5 inches or so of the fluffy white stuff in the afternoon.

That's where the human element came into play. With a forecast of sunny and 25 degrees on Sunday, the Cheshire Community Association (CCA) mobilized late Saturday afternoon and evening to clear an area for adventurous souls to enjoy (See the masthead picture). Big thanks to CCA VP Jeff Reynolds for bringing out his tractor!

Ultimately, a nice group was able to take advantage of the open ice. There were families with little ones skating for the first time, along with some serious young hockey players and their Dads. As we like to say, "success is measured by smiles on faces", and based on our simple observations - we done good.

While this is a new endeavor for the CCA we're committed to offering creative ways to build community.

You can follow us on Facebook for updates on events and other important happenings https://www.facebook.com/search/top?q=cheshire%20community%20association

#### Cheshire Proud! Cheshire Ladies' Reading Club - Happy 96th Birthday to Evelyn

Reynolds

On Monday, February 7, 2022 the Cheshire Ladies Reading Club surprised 70 year member of the Cheshire Ladies Reading Club, Evelyn Reynolds, with a 96th Birthday gathering at her home. Harriet Teichert, club president, researched the year of Evelyn's birth and discovered that Winnie the Pooh was created in 1926. The Author, A.A. Milne, and the illustrator, E. H. Shepard created the first book of "Winnie the



Pooh " that was printed in 1926 with 350 numbered and signed copies on handmade paper. How did Winnie the Pooh originate?

Mr. Milne had a son, Christopher Robin, who shared the love of reading each day. They started with a brown bear and named it Edward. One day while visiting a zoo, Christopher noticed the name Winnie on a sign on a bear enclosure and thought it was a keen name. At their home they had a swan named Pooh who had disappeared thus creating Winnie the Pooh. Also changed was the color of Winnie the Pooh, originally a brown bear, to a mustard yellow bear wearing bright red sweaters. Children adore reading the adventures of Winnie to this day.

To date, 50 million copies have been sold worldwide with an original, signed copy from the first printing, number 233 sold for \$35,000 and Sotheby's of London auctioned off an edition for \$493,000! Evelyn did not realize that she shared the same birth year with such a major reading character and smiled throughout the party. Presently Disney Productions has the rights of ownership. Birthday cards, a birthday cake, ice cream, and soft drinks were enjoyed by all along with happy memories of sharing pot luck dinners at Evelyn's beautiful farm house for many years to celebrate President's Day. It was a pleasure to spend a heartwarming day with such a dear person.

An adaptation of the poem "Now That We Are Six" by A. A. Milne was shared at the event.

#### Now That We Are (Ninety) Six

When we were One, we had just begun.
When we were Two, we were nearly new.
When we were Three, we were hardly me.
When we were Four, we were not much more.
When we were Five, we were just alive.
But now that we are 96, we are so clever,
So I think we should stay 96 forever and ever.

Cheshire Lions Club - How the Cheshire Lions Club Benefits Our Town



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 Ed St. John at 413-743-5603 or <a href="mailto:estiphn1@roadrunner.com">estjohn1@roadrunner.com</a>.

### 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 becoming 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. Among the activities the "Friends" have financially supported this past year are:

- \* A presentation by local author, Kevin O'Hara.
- \* Financial support for the monthly birthday lunches.

- \* The annual nonagenarian birthday party.
- \* Financial support of the Cheshire Food Pantry.
- \* Cultural events such as a play at Barrington Stage and the performance of "White Christmas" at the Colonial Theatre.
- \* Museum trips such as one to the Susan B. Anthony Birthplace Museum, the Quaker Meeting House, and the Susan B. Anthony Statue followed by lunch at Basswater Grill.
  - \* The purchase of ice cream certificates in support of the flag ceremony.

Any support which you are able to provide would be most appreciated. Please contact Ed or Pam St. John at 4 Edmunds Street, Unit N101, Adams, MA 01220 or call at 743-5603 or email to <a href="mailto:estjohn1@roadrunner.com">estjohn1@roadrunner.com</a> for further information.

#### **Resources and Contacts**

**Interim Coordinator Brenda Caufield** 413-743-9719

#### **COA Board Members**

Robert Balawender 413-743-3356 John Bianchi 413-743-5723 Carol Francesconi 413-743-5028 Mal Gwozdz 413-743-9356 Barbara Proper 413-743-4945 Peter Traub 413-743-3496 Van 413-446-2559

#### Car, Adams COA

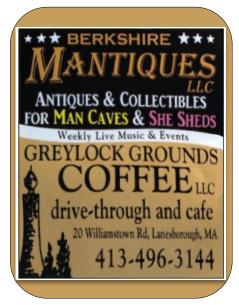
Medical Appointments 413-743-8333

#### **Friends of Cheshire COA**

Ed and Pam St. John estjohn1@roadrunner.com

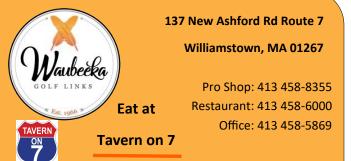
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