CHESTER PARKS AND RECREATION
FALL/WINTER 2018/2019

Celebrating Community through People, Parks and Programs!
Chester Parks and Recreation 2018/2019

Celebrating Community through People, Parks and Programs!

203 Middlesex Avenue, Chester, CT 06412
860-526-0013 extension 223, parkrec@chesterct.org
Visit our website at: http://chesterct.org/?page_id=7810

Chester Park and Recreation Commission

The next 2018 meetings of the Commission are September 26 and October 24, 7:00pm at the Town Hall.

Commission members are Chairman Michael Abramson, Deron Grabel, Ivey Gianetti, Dawn Saunders, John Saunders, Vice Chairman John Williams, and Kurt Ziemann.
Commission Clerks: Kenna Campbell, Tyler Saunders
Director: Elizabeth Netsch

Our Seasonal Staff Members are
Members of the Chester Park and Recreation Commission 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 of net expenditures is 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, Lake View Park 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. The Chester Public Works Department is instrumental in maintaining our parks. In addition, volunteers from Divers’ Cove helped prepare Pelletier Park for the summer season.

The department sold 169 non-resident park passes during the summer of 2017, and a record 203 passes in 2018, with income to the Town’s General Fund for fiscal year 2017/2018 of $12,692. Fees collected for the Children’s Summer Program contributed $30,135 to the General Fund. The balance of Camp fees collected was used to operate the Summer Camp Program. Scholarship funds, determined by the Human Services Director and the Chester Elementary School Counselor, helped fund expenses for those who would not otherwise be able to participate in the Camp. The Camp program operates without money from the taxpayer funded budget and $1,315 in scholarship contributions were received from the Chester Rotary Club, Elizabeth Bird and Nathan Siegel, Rebecca Foley and Dean Barton, Paul Just, Candace and Justin Kronholm, Nickey Olaniyi, and Kimberly Stack. First Student provided school bus service from Chester Elementary School and John Winthrop Middle School to the Town Hall helping us offer programs to the youth in our community during the academic year.

Self-funded programs included 142 participants in the 2017 Children’s Summer Camp Program, filling 317 spaces. Academic year self-funded program registrations included 40 Karate participants and half-day programs including 20 children in Science and 15 in crafts at the Town Hall, a Magic Show and Workshop with 20 children at the Chester Meeting House, a field trip of 32 to Bounce U, and an all-day trip to Nomads with 43 students in grades Kindergarten through grade 8. Sports clinics at Chester Elementary School included Field Hockey clinics run by volunteers of the Valley Regional High School Field Hockey players and their Coaches Beth Powers and Randy Netsch, 15 participants in Flag Football, 15 children in Volleyball clinics, 40 youth basketball players coached by volunteers, 21 Rookie Basketball participants, and 18 adult basketball members.

Additional Adult programs included 15 Yoga participants at the Town Hall and 37 registrants for Ballroom Dancing at the Meeting House. American Red Cross courses included two classes each, with 26 participants, in Community CPR/AED and First Aid, 4 in CPR/AED for the Professional Rescuer, and 21 in Babysitter’s Training. Our Counselor-in-Training program prepared 16 7th and 8th grade students to assist the Camp Counselors and Lifeguards for the 2018 season.

Chester Parks and Recreation ended the fiscal year in 2018 by enrolling 142 different children in 336 camp spaces. Chester residents comprised 74% of our Summer Camp participants. Camp and Lifeguarding positions provided summer employment to 20 local residents. We are fortunate to have the resources of several beautiful park facilities and over 50 exceptional employees and volunteers. They help fulfill the purpose of the Chester Park and Recreation Commission by improving the quality of life for all citizens by “Celebrating Community through People, Parks, and Programs”.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION
FISCAL YEAR 2017/2018
OUR PROGRAMS ARE OPEN TO RESIDENTS OF ALL AREA TOWNS.

Ages 5 through 15

YOUTH PROGRAMS THIS FALL

Field Hockey Clinics
with the Valley Regional High School Coaches and Players

Field Hockey for grades 2 through 8, is held 5:00-6:15pm on Wednesdays, September 26, October 3, 10 PLUS a BONUS Friday on October 5 at Chester Elementary School with Valley Regional High School Coaches Beth Powers, Randy Netsch and the high school team players. No previous experience is required. Learn a new sport or practice your skills. All levels are welcome. Sticks, balls, mouth guards and goggles will be provided, but students may bring their own equipment. The fee is $10 per player or $15 per family for the 4 sessions.

link: Field Hockey Clinic registration, 2018 Field Hockey Clinic poster

Flag Football
with the Parks and Recreation Staff

Get outside for some fall fun with Flag Football for grades 3 through 6 held after school at Chester Elementary School, 3:15-4:15pm directly following school dismissal on Fridays, September 28, October 5, 12 PLUS a BONUS Wednesday on October 10 at Chester Elementary School. $10 with Camp Director Tyler Saunders and the Parks and Recreation Camp Staff. No previous experience required. The fee is $10 per player for the 4 sessions.

link: Flag Football registration, 2018 Flag Football poster

Karate for Students ages 5 to 15

Karate classes for ages 5 through 15, meet 5:00-6:00pm on Mondays, session 1 = September 10, 17, 24, October 1, 8; session 2 = October 15, 22, 29, November 19, 26; session 3 = December 3, 10, 17, January 7, 14; session 4 = January 28, February 4, 11, 25, March 4; session 5 = March 11, 18, 25, April 1, 8; session 6 = April 29, May 6, 13, 20, June 3 in the Chester Town Hall Community Room. The cost is $45 per session payable to the instructor Tammy Marino.

link: Karate registration, Karate poster
REGISTRATION
Call 860-526-0013, x223 or e-mail parkrec@chesterct.org for information, to reserve a space, or for a registration form or visit http://chesterct.org/?page_id=7810, request a registration form from Chester Elementary School, visit the Parks and Recreation Office on the second floor of the Town Hall, or use the registration form at the end of this brochure.

Participants do not need to be Chester residents.

COUNSELOR-IN-TRAINING for our Summer Camp

Please call 860-526-0013, x223 or e-mail parkrec@chesterct.org if you are interested in this program!

This program is available to 7th and 8th grade students who have previously attended OUR CAMP. The classes meet 2:45-5:00pm on January 9, 11, 16 and 12:45-5:30pm on January 18, in the Chester Town Hall Community Room with Waterfront Supervisors and Camp Directors Tyler Saunders and Katie Amara. The $95 includes 8 days of Summer Camp.

School bus transportation is available.

RETURNING 8th grade students who participated in our 2018 program may reapply for a summer of 2019 CIT position. There is a $25 registration fee for returning applicants and they are required to participate on January 9 and 16.

link: CIT registration, CIT poster

American Red Cross Babysitter’s Training

American Red Cross Babysitter’s Training will be held in the Community Meeting Room in the Chester Town Hall for students in grade 5 through age 15, 8:45am-3:45pm on Friday, March 8 with Director and Red Cross Instructor Elizabeth Netsch and the Parks and Recreation Summer Staff. The training will help participants develop skills in leadership and professionalism, basic care, safety and safe play and first aid. The fee is $45. Registration is limited.

link: Babysitter's Training registration, Babysitter Training poster

Youth Lacrosse Clinic

LACROSSE CLINICS for grades 2 through 8 will be offered in the spring at Chester Elementary School. Look for the schedule after the high school game schedules have been posted.

ACCORDING TO CONNECTICUT GENERAL STATUTE 19a-77 WE ARE REQUIRED TO DISCLOSE THAT TOWN OF CHESTER PROGRAMS ARE NOT LICENSED BY THE STATE OFFICE OF EARLY CHILDHOOD.
YOUTH BASKETBALL for grades 2 through 6 will be held November 12 through March 1 at Chester Elementary School. Times and days of the week will be posted as adults, who participate in Coaches Orientation and First Aid training, volunteer to coach. The registration fee is $50 per player.

The schedule will be available as coaches volunteer!

REGISTRATION MUST BE RECEIVED BY 5:00PM OCTOBER 30, 2018!

LATE REGISTRATIONS CANNOT BE ACCEPTED!

The children will be divided into equal skill level groups in grades 2 through 6, when more than one team is available for a particular age level. Unless notified otherwise, please have your child attend the first age appropriate scheduled practice, beginning November 12.

Chester children in grades 2 and 3 will be grouped together on teams, by gender. They will practice in Chester, but all games will be played at Deep River or Essex Elementary Schools, with half court play and 8 foot hoops. Games may be held on Thursday or Friday evenings or Saturday mornings. They will use a time clock, but no score will be kept.

Chester participants in grades 4, 5, and 6 will be grouped together on teams, by gender. They will practice in Chester and all games will be played at Chester and Deep River Elementary Schools on Friday evenings and Saturday mornings, and Essex Elementary School on Thursday and Friday evenings. Players will use the 10 foot hoops.

Practices will begin November 12th. Games will begin on January 3rd and end on February 23rd. Chester will celebrate MARCH MADNESS on Friday, March 1st, from 5:15 until 8:35 pm, featuring players v. parents and coaches.

link: Application to Coach of Referee Youth Basketball, Youth Basketball registration

REGISTRATION MUST BE RECEIVED BY 5:00PM OCTOBER 30, 2018!

LATE REGISTRATIONS CANNOT BE ACCEPTED!

ROOKIE BASKETBALL CLINIC

The program meets at the Chester Elementary School gym, Fridays, 3:00 until 4:15pm, January 25, February 1, 22 AND following the early dismissal, 1:00-2:15pm on February 15, with a snow day make-up, 2:15-3:15pm on February 15.

Open to Chester residents in Kindergarten and grade 1!

This program is staffed by our CIAC Certified Coaches and our Summer Camp Counselors and Lifeguards. All supervisors are certified in first aid and CPR. Our employees over 18 are also certified in medication administration. If your child may need medication during the program please request an authorization form from the Director of Parks and Recreation at 860-526-0013, x223 or parkrec@chesterct.org. Provide the Director or the Sports Director with the form and medication by the first clinic meeting.

link: Rookie Basketball Clinic registration

$20 REGISTRATION FEE DUE DECEMBER 1
FAMILY ACTIVITY

CHESTER YOUTH BASKETBALL PLAYERS AND PARENTS' MARCH MADNESS!

FRIDAY, MARCH 1, 2019 in the CHESTER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL GYM

GRADES K THROUGH 6 VERSUS PARENTS AND COACHES!

The GAME SCHEDULE IS:

5:15-5:55pm Grades K & 1 Rookies
5:55-6:35pm Grades 2 & 3 Girls
6:35-7:15pm Grades 2 & 3 Boys
7:15-7:55pm Grades 4-6 Girls
7:55-8:35pm Grades 4-6 Boys

ENJOY A PIZZA DINNER WITH YOUR FRIENDS!
There is no charge or registration for this program.

ADULTS

Youth Basketball Coaches and Referees Needed!
Adults interested in volunteering to coach youth basketball are requested to contact the Director at 860-526-0013 extension 223 OR e-mail parkrec@chesterct.org by October 10. Referees must be at least 14 years of age and will be compensated at a rate of $14 per game. All coaching and referee candidates must meet reference and background check requirements, review and complete orientation requirements, and complete first aid training within one year of beginning to coach or referee. First aid classes are offered free of charge.

link: Application to Coach of Referee Youth Basketball

Adult Recreational Basketball

Recreational Basketball for ages 16 through adults, meets 7:00-9:30pm on Thursdays, beginning November 1 through March 7, excluding school vacation days and school weather cancellations, at Chester Elementary School. The $10 fee for Chester residents and $15 fee for non-residents and signed registration form are due before playing.

link: Adult Recreational Basketball registration
INTRODUCTION TO MARTIAL ARTS FITNESS FOR ADULTS AND TEENS
Instructor, Tammy Marino is a 6th Degree Black Belt in Shobayashi Shorin-Ryu Karate, training in the Martial Arts since 1973. The course includes basic Karate techniques, self-defense awareness, conditioning exercises, non-contact kickboxing skills, target and air shield drills. The first session meets October 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 from 6:00pm until 7:00pm in the Community Meeting Room at the Chester Town Hall. The fee is $45 for the 5 classes, payable to the instructor, Tammy Marino.

link: Karate for Adults registration, Karate for Adults poster

BALLROOM DANCING SWING, FOXTROT, CHACHA
With Instructor Karen Pfommer from Dance in Rhythm, LLC
Mondays, November 12, 19, 26, and December 3
weather make-ups December 10, 17
6:30-7:30pm at the Chester Meeting House
Couples or Singles
REGISTRATION IS $40 PER PERSON FOR 4 CLASSES.
Fee payable to the instructor Karen Pfommer

link: Ballroom Dancing registration, Ballroom Dancing poster

ALL LEVELS OF Yoga in Chester
Sponsored by Chester Parks and Recreation and Gather for Wellness through May 21
Participate any Tuesday Night, 6:00pm-7:00pm
CHESTER TOWN HALL
2ND FLOOR COMMUNITY ROOM
$10 drop in fee payable to the instructor, Annette Babek, the evenings you attend

link: Yoga registration, Yoga poster

American Red Cross First Aid and CPR/AED Classes
At the Chester Town Hall Community Room
$35 for one class, $45 for both classes
* Free to Chester Parks and Recreation Staff and Volunteers
CPR/AED on Wednesday, October 10, 5:30-8:00pm and/or
First Aid Friday, October 12, 5:30-8:00pm
OR both classes in one day on Friday, January 18, 12:45-5:30pm

link: CPR-AED-First Aid registration, CPR-AED-First Aid poster

Call 860-526-0013, x223 or e-mail parkrec@chesterct.org for information, to reserve a space. For a registration form select the link or use the registration form at the end of this brochure.
Payment may be cash, check payable to “Chester Parks and Recreation” or scroll down to the Summer Camp section of our web page at http://chesterct.org/?page_id=7810 and select the “DONATION” button to use a credit card.
Substitute Lifeguard and Camp Counselor Combined Position

Chester Parks and Recreation is accepting letters of interest for the position of Substitute Lifeguard and Camp Counselor for the summer of 2019. Applicants must hold current Lifeguard Training certification or be completing the training by May, 2019. Successful applicants will perform duties as a Lifeguard and a Camp Counselor, based on the needs of the Department. Substitute employees will be considered first if a full-time seasonal position becomes available. The rate of pay starts at $11.00 per hour and increases with experience.

Call 526-0013, extension 223 or e-mail parkrec@chesterct.org for a specific job description, pay rate, or with any questions.

Please send a letter of interest regarding the positions above, including previous experience and availability from June 15 through August 19, by March 8, 2019 to:
Town of Chester, Parks and Recreation, 203 Middlesex Avenue, Chester, CT 06412 or e-mail parkrec@chesterct.org

A PARK ACTIVITY FOR ALL AGES

I SPY CHESTER........

MORE THAN MEETS THE EYE!
It’s a scavenger hunt.  No! Wait !!!
There are puzzles and word games.
Oh, it’s a walking tour of Chester.

All locations are within walking distance from Main Street.
It’s a great way to stay active
(and you may just learn something, too!).

This is a clue to answer the last North Quarter Park question.

Full size maps and answers are available at the Parks and Recreation office and at
http://chesterct.org/?page_id=7810.
link: Map and Puzzle Sheet. Visit one, or all six locations in one day. (If you want the answers you may access them HERE.)

NORTH QUARTER PARK IS UNDER RENOVATION.
Areas of the park and playground may be closed throughout the year.

New Helmet Law takes effect on October 1, 2018.
Public Act No. 18-167 expands the types of activities during which children under age 16 must wear protective headgear and adds parks to the places where such headgear must be worn.

Currently any child under age 16 riding a bicycle must wear a helmet.
The new statute also includes skateboarding, nonmotorized scootering, roller skating, and in-line skating
PARKS

Cedar Lake
The Town of Chester owns Cedar Lake and maintains two public beaches on its shores. The area of the lake is about 80 acres and is fed by two springs and two inlet streams with outflow into the Pattaconk Brook. The lake is about 60 feet deep in the middle. The Town owns approximately one third of the shore. Another third is owned by Camp Hazen YMCA. The remainder is private residences and State owned property, including a boat launch. Chester’s main beach, on West Main Street, has a 50,000 square foot swimming area that is as deep as 20 feet in one corner during the spring. The park at the shore is named Robert H. Pelletier Park in memory of the Chester resident who was the Head Lifeguard for more than two decades. The park area is 0.7 acres and includes seasonal lifeguard coverage, picnic tables, a pavilion, grills, and a food concession. The smaller waterfront facility is located on Cedar Lake Road and was named Lake View Park in 2012. It is unstaffed and has no designated swimming area. The beaches require patrons to have a permit. Details and prices may be found on the PARK FEE SCHEDULE link at chesterct.org.

North Quarter Park
North Quarter Park is a 22 acre, multi-use facility, located at the corner of Main Street and Middlesex Avenue. It includes a playground, picnic area, and multi-use fields in a wooded setting. The northern section of the park has a well-maintained .5 mile nature trail loop. The end of the trail offers beautiful views of the wildlife and habitat of the Chester Creek. A variety of water fowl, birds, and vegetation can be seen along the trail and in the creek.

Parker’s Point Boat Launch
This .6 acre boat launch facility is located at the end of Parker’s Point Road on the Connecticut River. It offers boat trailer parking and a picnic area with a beautiful view. The shore is a favorite winter eagle viewing location. A permit is required for parking. Details and prices may be found on the PARK FEE SCHEDULE link.

L’hommedieu Park
This old mill site is located on Spring Street, along the Pattaconk Brook. It is a peaceful setting with a dam, rushing waters, a picnic table, and views of Mallards, Wood Ducks, Great Blue Heron, and beavers. A historic narrative is located in the park.

Chester Creek Overlook
The overlook is a .4 acre waterfront spot with a deck, seating area, and parking lot on the Chester Creek, just a stone’s throw from the Connecticut River. It is located at the end of Railroad Avenue. The Town dock at the overlook houses marine rescue watercraft.

Chester Elementary School Baseball Fields
Three baseball fields are maintained by the Parks and Recreation Department at Chester Elementary School, on Ridge Road. The property was originally donated to the Town in 1928 by Jessie C. Bates, Hilton C. Brooks, and William P. Holden for athletic fields. The fields or any park above, may be available for group usage of 10 or more, by submitting the Group Use for Unstaffed Parks form.
PARK SAFETY

NORTH QUARTER PARK IS UNDER RENOVATION.

Ice Skaters!
Please remember, the ice in Chester is not monitored for safety!

Fishing!
Please do not fish in the swimming areas, even in the off-season.
We have a problem with hooks in swimmers’ feet!

DOG OWNERS!
Please abide by the statutes of our State and ordinances of our Town.
Dogs are not permitted on playgrounds or beach parks, except guide dogs.
Dogs in other areas of the parks must be controlled by a leash.
Dogs may not roam on the property.
Any waste material deposited by your dog must be removed before leaving the immediate area.

NORTH QUARTER PARK SAFETY NOTE
Preschool age equipment at North Quarter Park is appropriate for 2 to 5 year olds.
The larger Big Toy unit is appropriate for children ages 5 to 12, only.
Please supervise all children on the playground.

We hope you enjoy the Town properties maintained by the Chester Park and Recreation Commission.
They include Pelletier Park, Lake View Park, the ball fields at Chester Elementary School, L’Hommedieu Park, Chester Creek Overlook, North Quarter Park and Parker’s Point Boat Launch.

Contact us if you have a comment or a concern regarding any one of our parks!

Call 526-0013 extension 223 or e-mail parkrec@chesterct.org
**Chester Parks and Recreation General Program Registration Form**

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**PLEASE CALL 526-0013, extension 223 or e-mail** parkrec@chesterct.org  
**FOR INFORMATION OR TO CONFIRM AVAILABILITY.**

Complete the following information. Return the form and fee (checks made payable to Chester Parks and Recreation) to the Parks and Recreation mailbox at the Town Hall, Chester Elementary School, or mail to:  
Town of Chester  
Parks and Recreation  
203 Middlesex Avenue  
Chester, CT 06412

Participant’s Name: ________________________ Grade (if child): _____ Age (if child): _____

Phone Number: ___________________________ e-mail Address: ________________________________

Mailing Address: _________________________________________________________ Town: ____________

Parents’ Name(s) and Phone Number(s) During the Program (if under 18):

Please list any concerns regarding your child that should be brought to the attention of the Parks and Recreation Staff. Indicate if your child will require medication during the activity (if participant is under 18).

________________________________________________

Emergency Name(s) and Phone Number(s):

The following people have permission to sign my child out (if the participant is under 18):

____________________________________________________________________________________

The parent of a child under 18, or a person designated above, must come into the building to sign them out after the activity.

**PLEASE INDICATE AT THE TOP OF THIS FORM if you do not wish your CHILD’S OR YOUR PHOTO to appear in newspapers or on the Town web site, social media, flyers, e-mails, or bulletin boards.**

I give permission for my child or myself, named above, to participate in the programs listed above. I give the instructors and staff of the Parks and Recreation department permission to seek emergency medical treatment for my child or myself. I understand that there are inherent risks to this activity and I assume those risks. The undersigned does release, acquit, discharge, and hold harmless the Town of Chester, the Chester Parks and Recreation Department, and any of its officers and employees from any actions, claims, damages, costs or expenses growing out of my participation in the said activity, due to the negligence of the Town of Chester, the Chester Parks and Recreation Department or its officers or employees. This release and agreement is binding upon myself, my heirs, executors, administrators or assigns. I agree to adhere to the program policies of the Chester Park and Recreation Commission.

_______________________________________________  
Signature (of Parent or Guardian if under 18)  

_________________________  
Date