Chesterfield Council on Aging October 2018 Newsletter

Chesterfield COA & Community Center 400 Main Road, PO Box 7 Chesterfield, MA 01012 **Jan Gibeau, Director** coa@townofchesterfieldma.com 413-296-4007

October Calendar of Events

<u>Monday</u>		<u>Tuesday</u>	<u>Wednesday</u>	<u>Thursday</u>	<u>Friday</u>
1 Advanced Tai Chi 9:30-11am Feldenkrais 7:00pm	2	Chair Yoga 10-11am	Coffee & Chat 9am Mah-Jongg 1-4pm	4 Men's Bfast 9am Knit & Chat 10am Easy Does It Exercises for T'ai Chi 5:15pm Beginner T'ai Chi 6:30-7:30pm	5
8 Columbus Day		Chair Yoga 10-11am Itreach Team 11:15am	Coffee & Chat 9am Mystery Foliage Trip & Lunch 9:30am Blood Pressure Clinic 10am Mah-Jongg 1-4pm	Brown Bag 10am Easy Does It Exercises for T'ai Chi 5:15pm Beginner T'ai Chi 6:30-7:30pm	12
Advanced Tai Chi 9:30-11am Feldenkrais 7:00pm	16	Chair Yoga 10-11am	Coffee & Chat 9am Mah-Jongg 1-4pm	Easy Does It Exercises for T'ai Chi 5:15pm Beginner T'ai Chi 6:30-7:30pm	19 Square Dance 10/21 7pm
Advanced Tai Chi 9:30-11am COA Board Mtg 10am Veterans' Agent 11am Feldenkrais 7:00pm	23	Chair Yoga 10-11am	Coffee & Chat 9am Flu Clinic 10-12 Mah-Jongg 1-4pm	Easy Does It Exercises for T'ai Chi 5:15pm Beginner T'ai Chi 6:30-7:30pm	26
Advanced Tai Chi 9:30-11am Feldenkrais 7:00pm	30		Coffee & Chat 9am Mah-Jongg 1-4pm u, Director. Office hours: T Ids, Data & Accounting Ma		

October Highlights

See the Hilltowns Light up Mystery Fall Foliage Ride With Lunch at the Lake House

Wednesday, October 10th
Meet at Community Center at 9:30am
Lunch at Lake House in Ashfield

It's time for our annual Fall Foliage Mystery Ride! Last year was a blast. If you would like to join our carpool caravan, please RSVP to Jan Gibeau: 296-4007.

Hilltown to Valley Connections

Wednesday October 17th, 11am-Noon Chesterfield Community Center 400 Main Rd.



Did you know you could ride the Hilltown Easy Ride van to connect with PVTA buses and other public transportation services?

Eligible van riders can book a ride to either Williamsburg or to Northampton and transfer to any PVTA bus, or even the Peter Pan bus, for trips out of town. PVTA bus destinations could include the Hampshire Mall, Amherst, or Holyoke.

The Hilltown Easy Ride is a service for seniors over 60 and veterans in the towns of Chesterfield, Cummington, Goshen, Worthington and Plainfield. You must complete an FRTA application before using the service. For an application, call 413-296-4232 or go online to FRTA.org.

Interested? We will be holding an information session and travel training on using the PVTA system on October 17th. This is a free service PVTA offers to groups who want to use public transportation more, but have questions on how it works. Travel Training will take place.

PVTA Travel Trainers will explain:

- How to plan your trip
- How to get to and from your bus stop
- How to ride a specific route

- How to recognize bus numbers, bus stops, and landmarks
- How to pay fares and purchase tickets and passes
- How to board with a mobility device
- Where to position your mobility device on the bus
- How to prepare for the unexpected
- Street crossing at bus stops
- How to read and understand bus schedules

The info session is 11am – Noon, followed by an optional practice outing to Northampton for shopping or lunch from noon-3:30pm.

There is no cost for the training, but you will need \$3.00 cash for the optional practice PVTA bus ride, plus whatever you would like to spend in Northampton for shopping and lunch.

Call the Hilltown Easy Ride to sign up for this informational session: 413-296-4232. RSVP requested by Oct 12th for planning purposes.

Happy Birthday in October!



Elizabeth Sloan, Karl Wickland, John Lyons, Ralph Driver, Maryellen Blais, Cheryl Kress, Amy Gavalis, Christine Coderre, Thomas Kress, Maryann Young, Gerald Randall, Susan Fuller, Daphne Thompson-Addabbo, David Boyer, Francis Keefe, Michael Oneill, Lois Hripak, Mary Wickland, John Follet, Ruth Wade, Bonnie Kellogg, Lillian Bisbee, Michael Metzger, Laurence Hunkler, Theodore Skawski, Mary Perkins, Lester Shaw

Boys Scouts: Always ready to help

Did you know that the trail from Davenport Daycare/CDC was made by Tevin Oborne so people could avoid the risks of walking up the hill on Rt. 143? Did you know that Troop 705 regularly picks up litter along Rt. 143? They also help the Fire Department to put up the no parking signs. Did you also know that they put flags on every veteran's grave on Veteran's Day?

The COA is grateful to Tazby Oborne, the scout who recently constructed and installed the base for our new "Open" flag at the Community Center to let people know when we are here. Troop 705 has also offered to make a new exterior sign to be installed by our ramp so people can see what's happening and be updated when there are changes in events. On top of that, they have offered to

help some older people with projects they can not do alone. They need our help because if the town can't find more potential scouts to join them, we may lose the troop. Be a good scout yourself and if you know someone who might be interested or have a grandson looking to have fun, please call: 413-296-4211.

We need our youth to keep our communities safe and active.

The Chesterfield Congregational Church is participating in Church World Services annual CROP walk, a fundraiser which provides help primarily with water and agricultural resources to areas in need around the world. The church participates as part of the Hilltown Walk and 25% of the funds raised by the local churches will go to the Western Mass Food Bank which services most of the Hilltown Food Pantries. This year's walk is a "virtual walk", leaving donors free to raise funds any way they wish. The fundraising will culminate with a spaghetti luncheon at the Chesterfield Church on **Sunday October 21st** at 12:30pm. Please contact Sylvia Lapinski at 296-0134 if you wish to donate or learn more, or come to the luncheon where donations will be accepted. As part of the Hilltown CROP Walk tra-dition, the winner of The Golden Sneaker will be determined at the luncheon!

Looking for:

People who like cooking breakfast with friends

On the first Thursday of every month we have a men's homemade breakfast from 9-10:30am at the Community Center. We could use some help from volunteers who would like to join those of us who cook and hang out with each other. It's fun and we get to chat and have our own breakfast. Usually there are three of us working together. It's fun and like old times, when men and women used to get to chat in different rooms. Not politically correct? Of course not, but a great and natural way to enjoy each other's company. Let us know if you would like to join our rotating team. * No one person is left to do it all alone.

Neighbor to Neighbor Handy Helpers

From time to time, many of us run into things we used to do for ourselves that we can no longer handle alone. Moving from "I can do it myself" to finding someone who can lend a hand is not easy. Many of our friends already help out but we are looking for some volunteers willing to be

available as "Handy Helpers", to give a hand with things like fixing a window, lifting something that is too heavy (but not too heavy for a stronger person), hanging a picture, minor carpentry work, providing a ride or other tasks that we can no



longer handle. This is not a commitment to regularly do household chores. It would be for occasional help only. Would you become a handy helper?

If you can help with either program, give Jan Gibeau a call at 296-4467.

On Monday, October 22nd at 7pm, the film *Fix It* will be shown at the Chesterfield Community Center. There is no charge.

Single-payer is health insurance. A single public agency organizes and performs payment for health care. Delivery of health care remains private. All medically necessary care would be funded. Prices are kept under control through negotiation with providers, as it is with the Veterans Administration. The confusion of thousands of health care policies and uncertainty about coverage will end.

This film describes how coverage expands to include everyone, how this insurance is funded, how the current costs of deductibles and co-pays are eliminated, and how it impacts providers.

Following this film, two local physicians will describe why they support single-payer insurance



Senior Profile: Meg McWherter

Chesterfield Town Treasurer, Meg McWherter, has been contributing to town life since she and her husband moved here in 1981. She was a 4H leader for the "Hilltown Hoppers and Honkers," for kids, including her own, who owned rabbits and geese. In 1996, she was elected to the Chesterfield/Goshen Regional School Committee which she served on for about 9 years through the opening of the New Hingham School until her kids were well into High School. At the same time, she served as an Administrative Assistant for the Select Board.

In 2004, Meg's husband, Paul, passed suddenly, leaving her alone to raise their 2 youngest kids, both teenagers, Amy and Kyle. Kyle currently goes to UMASS and lives with her. Amy owns True North Equestrian and is a Horse Trainer / Instructor in Penfield, NY. Erin runs a Whispering Pines B&B with her husband Chris and their son Logan in Cooperstown, NY.

Meg is very grateful for all the support that everyone in Chesterfield provided for an extended period during all those teenage years. The residents of this town are really special.

In 2011, Meg was appointed as Assistant Town Treasurer for Chesterfield, and later that year elected to the Town Treasurer position to fill the shoes of Donna Judd-Whiteley, who had served as Chesterfield Town Treasurer-Collector for many years until she moved out of town. In her posi-

tion, Meg says, "I am responsible for all town funds. All town fees, payroll and tax collections go through my office and I have responsibility to sign the checks". Besides the Treasurer's job, she is self - employed and has been doing bookkeeping, accounting and taxes for various clients since 1990.

As far as hobbies, Meg says she doesn't have time for much, but you might see her occasionally riding on her moped around town along with Glen, her Prince from New York. They have explored every dirt road in a 25 mile radius of Chesterfield at this point. She says she has a little note on her desk that says, "Dying at your desk is not a retirement plan". Meg does love horses, consequently, one of her favorite childhood memories is of the first time she rode a pony.

"I love animals; I've had horses as long as I could have horses. My last one lived with me for 32 years." She also has a dog, Clancy, that is her constant companion. Her perfect day would include: "Being with my family, my dog and riding. That's my perfect day, right there. I am very blessed because my daughter owns a horse farm which allows me to ride whenever I want when I visit and I don't have to clean stalls anymore". She also loves hiking, and being out in nature.



Thank You for Your Donations!

Thank you for supporting our Council on Aging programs when you attend fitness, Mah Jongg, Men's Breakfast, Coffee & Chat, basket and gourd classes, and COA monthly events! We greatly appreciate your donations, which make it possible for us to continue offering a wide array of activities and to create new events and programs that respond to your needs and interests. We also offer our continuing gratitude to Chesterfield residents who have given so generously to the Senior Housing Fund. Please use the form below to make a donation to the Chesterfield COA or Chesterfield Senior Housing Fund! ~ Jan Gibeau

The Chesterfield Council on Aging and the Co benefit from your support for our program for Chesterfield	ms and to create in-town housing
I would like to contribute to the Chesterfield COA Chester	rfield Senior Housing Fund
(Please make out your check to "Town of Chesterfield" and de on the check; mail to Janice Gibeau, Director, Chesterfield CO	signate "Senior Housing Fund" or "COA programs" 4, PO Box 7, Chesterfield, MA 01012.)
NameT	elephone
Address	
Email	
Thank you for helping support	t Chesterfield seniors!

\$

Regional News

Seniors Aware of Fire Education



October is Fire Safety month. This year's fire safety theme is: LOOK -- LISTEN -- LEARN!

- LOOK for places fire could start --like extension cords, frayed and/or under rugs and fire place screens in place. Ask yourself or a loved one, where could fires start in our house and what can we do to keep fires from happening?
- LISTEN for the sound of smoke detectors when you test them each month.
- LEARN by doing a fire drill during which you establish two ways out of every room and a meeting place where everyone in your family knows to go in case of a fire or emergency.

--Worth Noyes, SAFE Educator Williamsburg & Cummington Fire Departments

The Senior SAFE program is sponsored by many of your fire departments and the Massachusetts Department of Fire Services.

Hilltown to Valley Connections



Did you know you could ride the Hilltown Easy Ride van to connect with **PVTA buses** and other public transportation services?

Eligible van riders can book a ride to either Williamsburg or to Northampton and transfer to any PVTA bus, or even the Peter Pan bus for trips out of town. PVTA bus destinations could include the Hampshire Mall, Amherst, or Holyoke.

Interested? We will be holding a one hour information session and travel training on using the PVTA system at the Chesterfield Community Center, 400 Main Rd., on **Wednesday October 17**th, **at 11am.** It will be followed by an optional practice outing to Northampton for shopping or lunch from noon-3:30pm. There is no cost for the training, but you will need \$3.00 cash for the optional practice PVTA bus ride, plus whatever you would like to spend in Northampton for shopping and lunch.

Call the Hilltown Easy Ride to sign up for the informational session: 413-296-4232

We are not alone!

My friend in Australia sent a video with three scenarios of warnings on how folks can get scammed. It could happen here, too!

- 1. Don't use a portable credit card reader unless you are comfortable with the situation, for instance in a store and you know you are dealing with a store employee. If a delivery person comes to the door and gives you a package but asks for a card and signature, make sure he/she is authentic. The person could put your card in the reader just like in the store, but it is a fake reader and they then go to a computer and clone your card.
- 2. If you are called about suspicious activity in your bank account and are asked to call back, do two things. One, use a different phone if you can and look up the number yourself, and two, do NOT give the 3-4 digit pin that is on the card or your Social Security number. Otherwise, you may be calling back a scammer instead of your bank.
- 3. When you are using an ATM, I'm sure you know to hide the keypad with your body. But, also, do not let anyone distract you, perhaps to pick up something. An accomplice could steal your card.

I'm not trying to be scary here, but the number of ways we can get taken just keeps rising! So please keep your wits about you and be safe.

Carefully, Jean O'Neil, TRIAD Committee Member 413-268-2228, jeanoneilmass@gmail.com

Northern Hilltowns Consortium of COAs honors Peg Whalen



The many contributions of Peg, (lower right), as the Regional Outreach Coordinator from the Hilltown Community Health Center, were recognized at a special luncheon in her honor at our monthly meeting on September 10th. Peg has been a vital part of the COA's work in expanding the outreach networks developed by many of the COAs. Several of the towns are now moving toward becoming Age Friendly Communities. We appreciate how far Peg has taken us on this journey and look forward to her support as we move forward to a new direction.

Highland Valley Elder Services Annual Meeting & Keys to Aging Well Expo



Thursday, October 4 at 4pm Hadley Farms Meeting House 41 Russell St. Hadley

Enjoy music, hors d'oeuvres, and meet local service vendors.

For more information, call HVES: 413-586-2000.

Would you like to receive your newsletter by email instead of snail mail?

If so, please email Kristen at **regionalcoanews@gmail.com** to be put on the email list.

If you receive a post card like the one pictured below, discard it. It is not contracted with Medicare as it states. Medicare recommends that people do not complete and return this postcard, but instead call a SHINE counselor to discuss Medicare and their unbiased, comprehensive health insurance options.

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Six Top Tips for Consumers to Stop Illegal Robocalls

- 1. File complaints with the Federal Communications Commission: Complaint data is the best tool federal agencies have to gauge the extent of the robocall epidemic. While filing a complaint may not prompt an immediate response, complaint data may prompt the FCC to take action.
- 2. Add your number to the Do-Not-Call List: While the DNC list does not stop all robocalls, it is a valuable resource for removing your number from the call lists of companies that do not want to violate the law. Sources of robocalls that you do business with, such as banks or student loan servicers, and sources of scam calls that often have no regard for the law, will still get through.
- 3. **Revoke consent:** If you're receiving robocalls from a bank, lender, or other company you do business with, they likely have your consent (hidden in the fine print) to robocall you. While they like having the option, it isn't their right and you can revoke your consent at any time. Tell the (continued on page 7)

On the Go!

The Northampton Senior Center has arranged the following outings, and you are welcome to join!



Please make your reservations early as these trips fill up fast! Call Francine Frenier at the Northampton Senior Center: 413-587-1228.

October 21 — Sunday: Halloween in Salem. Enjoy the Salem Street festivities and a Tour of House of Seven Gables. Lunch is on your own in downtown Salem. Cost is \$82.

December 10 — Monday: White Christmas Big Band show and luncheon at Aqua Turf, Plantsville, CT. Rob Zappulla and his 13-piece Big Band will perform holiday favorites. Cost is \$102. There is a \$10 discount if paid in full by October 30th.

2019—Sneak Peak

April 27-May 5: Memphis-Home of the Blues & Tunica-Casino Capital of the South. Cost is \$798 per double. There is a \$25 discount if paid in full by Jan. 15. This 9 day trip includes: 8 nights lodging including 4 consecutive nights at a Tunica area Casino Resort. 14 meals including: 8 breakfasts and 6 dinners. Admission to the Tunica Museum, free time on Beale Street in Memphis. Guided tour of Memphis. Admission to Memphis Rock N' Soul Museum. Mansion Tour of Home of Elvis Presley – 'Graceland' . . . and Sun Studio.

May 29-31: **Ogunquit, Maine.** Multi day, share with group from Connecticut, who will come pick us up. Two night stay at Meadowmere, city tour of Portland, Nubble Lighthouse Cruise, shopping in Kittery and much more. Cost is \$460 per double. There is a \$25 discount if paid in full by Feb. 11. Sign up early; only 22 seats available.

June 11-13: **Island Hopping**. Stay in Hyannis for two nights. Take the high speed ferry over to Nantucket one day and Martha's Vineyard on the other. Enjoy the free time, lunch on each island. Stop in Edgartown. Includes 2 breakfasts. Cost is \$550 per double. There is a \$25 discount if paid in full by Feb. 25.

Sept. 4-12: Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island & New Brunswick. Passport required. Cost is \$1,070 per double. There is a \$25 discount if paid in full by June 1. This 9 day trip includes: 8 nights lodging including 5 nights in Canada, 14 meals including: 8 breakfasts and 6 dinners. Guided tour of Acadia National Park, guided tour of Halifax, Peggy's Cove and Lunenburg. Admission to King's Landing Historical Settlement. Guided Tour of Prince Edward Island. Admission

to the natural wonder: "Hopewell Rocks". Visit to the Waterside Town of Saint John.

Nov. 9-24: **Panama Canal Cruise**— 16 days. Starting at \$1,999 per double. Bus to NY Pier. Return home from Tampa airport to Bradley, then bus to Northampton. Escorted cruise on Norwegian Dawn. Lots of daily activities, entertainment, casino & parties. Includes all meals on board, free style dining. Limited seats. Sign up by Sept. 1, 2019. Passport required.



Hilltowners from Goshen, Chesterfield and Williamsburg return from their five day jaunt to Washington DC. Norene & Joe Roberts, Barbara & Robin Bak, and Liz Ducharme & Cindy Lefebvre. The Mercedes Benz tour bus is in the background.

(continued from page 6)

caller you "revoke consent." If the calls continue, contact customer service and tell them that you do not consent to receive calls and that you want your number to be added to their "do not call" list.

- 4. **Don't engage with the caller:** Most autodialed robocalls include a prompt to press a key or give a voice command. DON'T! Pressing a key, even if the recording says it's to remove your number from the list, tells the caller that your number is active and that you'll likely answer future calls. Even worse, the voice commands can be recorded and used against you by scammers to represent consent to purchase products or services.
- 5. Don't answer unknown numbers on your mobile device: Easier said than done, this will help avoid robocalls. But important calls can come from unknown numbers and most landline phones don't have call-blocking features.
- 6. **Install call-blocking apps:** Various call-blocking apps, like <u>YouMail</u> and <u>NoMoRobo</u>, provide a free or low-cost service to mobile smartphone users that filter out identified scam robocalls and allow users to block specific numbers and report the calls. But typically these apps don't help landline users.

Chesterfield Council on Aging 400 Main Road, P.O. Box 7 Chesterfield, MA 01012

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> Publicity Assistant: Bev Henrichsen

Newsletter Designer: Kristen Estelle

This Newsletter is sponsored in part by a grant from The Executive Office of Elder Affairs.

Out and About in October

Thurs. October 4th at 4pm Key to Aging Well Expo Hadley Farms Meeting House 41 Russell St. Hadley, MA See page 6.

Weds. October 17th at 11am
Easy Ride— Hilltown to Valley Presentation
Chesterfield Comm. Ctr. 400 Main Rd. Chesterfield, MA
See page 5.

Fri. October 19th, 9am & 10am Spa Day at Smith Vocational 80 Locust St. Northampton, MA

Students in the Cosmetology program are offering the following: Haircuts \$5.00; Manicure \$4.00; Pedicure \$8.00; Facial \$8.00. Please call 413-587-1414 x3531 to make an appointment. Each ap-

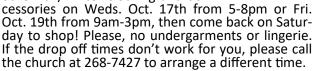


pointment takes about an hour and are scheduled for 9 am and 10 am in Room 124 of Building A at the school. Upcoming additional spa days: Nov.16th, Dec. 21st, Jan. 25th, March 1st, April 12th and May 17th.

Saturday, October 20th 9am-3pm Goshen Congregational Church Fall Clothing Exchange

45 Main St. Goshen

The spring clothing exchange was such a huge success that they are doing it again! Please drop off your washed, gently-used men's, women's and children's coats and other fall/winter clothing and ac-



Tues. October 30th at 12:15pm Halloween Harvest: Ghosts, Goblins and More with Davis Bates Williamsburg Senior Center Café 141 Main St., Williamsburg, MA

Stories and songs. Please call two days ahead to reserve lunch, if you're interested: 268-8407.

The new home for the Worthington COA is 2 Packard Park, Worthington, and the phone number is 413-238-4294.