

# CHESTERFIELD TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER

September 1, 2020



## CROSSWICKS LIBRARY

Crosswicks Library offers ongoing programs including Book Club, Mahjongg, Lego Club, Story Time, Music Class, Play Dough Fun, Nifty Knitting, Make n Take, and Bridge Class.

In addition to these programs we also offer one-time events.

We request RSVPs for all our special programs.

## CROSSWICKS COMMUNITY HOUSE

Follow our Facebook page for community events all throughout the year. Hosting a party or event? Consider renting the Crosswicks Community House, charming and spacious with large kitchen and brand new playground. Rental information can be found at [crosswickscommunityhouse.org](http://crosswickscommunityhouse.org).

## CHESTERFIELD KEENAGERS

Celebrated 41 years as a senior group on March 1, 2020. Welcoming new members 55+ to come join us for a yearly dues of \$5.00.

Meetings are held twice a month on 2nd & 4th Wednesday except for the months of July & August. Each meeting starts with a luncheon provided by our members followed by the meeting & scheduled activities.

Come out and see us we are a group of very congenial happy seniors. Give us a try and bet you will become one of the group. Marjorie Wenski- President contact address is [mewarena@verizon.net](mailto:mewarena@verizon.net)

## **CHESTERFIELD TOWNSHIP FIRE DEPARTMENT**

Chesterfield Township Fire Department is actively looking for volunteers of all levels. In March 2019, we consolidated Fire District #1 & Fire District #2 into one Fire District and most recently one fire company. Currently we are staffed with a Lieutenant and two (2) firefighters from 7 AM - 5 PM Monday through Friday. In addition, there is 1 (one) firefighter/Driver from 5 PM – 7 AM Monday through Friday and around the clock on weekends which during these times the rest of the crew is made up of volunteer firefighters.

Our qualified volunteer firefighter numbers are down due to numerous reasons, from older members becoming inactive to younger members becoming career firefighters in other towns. Chesterfield Township has doubled in size in the last 15 years. However, our active membership is down at least two-thirds from 15 years ago. We accept anyone that wants to volunteer. We have an associate membership, a junior firefighter program that starts at the age of 16 and an active membership. All members attend meetings and assist with fire company functions. Those who choose to pursue becoming qualified firefighters, will receive their training and protective gear at no cost to them. Our Junior Firefighter Program is a great opportunity for anyone who may want to pursue a career as a firefighter. RCBC offers a Technical Science Degree Program and a handful of the required courses are normally covered for our volunteers. In addition, there is a Volunteer Tuition Credit Program in which a volunteer in good standing, their spouse and dependent children, could be eligible to receive tuition credit in the amount of \$600 per year over a four year service period.

In the last fifteen years, we have had at least 17 members who became career firefighters. Anyone who is interested in becoming a member can attend our meetings which are the first Monday of every month at 7:30 PM. Stop by the fire house at any time or call (609) 298-1024 if you would like more information about joining.

## **CHESTERFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

The Chesterfield Township Historical Society is happy to report the Historical Society Museum is now open for the second and fourth Sundays of August and September. Our *Summer Speaker Series* has been shortened with some speakers postponed until next year. We had a nice turn out and good weather for the first Open House on Aug. 9. Richard Moody spoke about *Quakerism and Peace*. Dan Wolverton will talk about the History of the Crosswicks Community Association on Sunday, Aug. 23rd.

The Museum is also excited about its new display of Crosswicks Fire Company artifacts dating back to 1822. The artifacts were recently acquired from Union Fire Co. 1, formerly of Crosswicks, now merged with Chesterfield Fire Co. The artifacts are on display now. They can be viewed during the remaining Open Houses through September.

For COVID safety, the Museum practices social distancing and mask guidelines. Speaker events take place outside. BYO chair is in effect.

The Annual heritage Plein Air Event and Art Sale is scheduled for October 10th. We have a growing roster of artists. To meet COVID-19 guidelines, the event format may have to change. A virtual gallery of paintings with an outdoor Plein Air component on October 10th, weather and restrictions permitting, is being considered. Find event info and artist registration forms at [chesterfieldtwphistoricalsoc.org](http://chesterfieldtwphistoricalsoc.org). Stay healthy and stay tuned!

## **Driveway Permits Required**

Driveway permits are required for all work done on driveway aprons. A driveway apron is the surface area located between the roadway and the driveway.

All driveway aprons on residential properties in the Township (not otherwise reviewed and approved by the Planning Board) shall have a minimum width of 20 feet at the paved edge of the municipal street and be paved back a distance of 20 feet from the paved edge of the road until the apron connects with the entrance of the driveway, which entrance shall have a minimum width of 12 feet.

Prior to paving, please submit application to the Township Clerk's office. Two copies of a site plan will be required along with the application. Application fee is \$100 and if there is drainage or swale an escrow of \$500 will be required to cover engineer inspection costs.

## **Reusable Green Bag Initiative**

Have you ever seen plastic bags on the side of the road while driving to work, or going to school, maybe even on your way to get groceries? One plastic bag can take up to 20 years to completely decompose into toxic particles. December 30, 2019 a new ordinance was discussed during our Chesterfield Township committee meeting regarding single use plastic bags and how the Chesterfield community can reduce the intake of these bags or stop them altogether. While no action was taken upon this, UNA-USA South Jersey, SEWA, and the Green Team have come together and taken on a new initiative: reusable bags. The main goal for distributing these bags to each house is to reduce the town's plastic waste and take the next step towards becoming a green community. The expected time for the delivery of these bags will be around summertime. Ravi Arya, chair of UNA-USA South Jersey, states "my team and I are working to bring about a new culture of sustainable shopping and environmental appreciation." Over 40% of our residents don't know that plastic bags cannot be recycled. These sturdy reusable bags are extremely versatile and the safest alternative for the environment. Rather than wasting multiple plastic bags weekly, we should utilize these reusable bags and participate in saving our planet and decreasing our single-use plastic consumption.

## Safe Medication Disposal



Chesterfield Township is pleased to announce our new Safe Medication Disposal site. Located in the lobby of the Municipal Building directly outside of the Police Station, it will be accessible during all regular township hours 8:30a – 4:00p Monday thru Friday. Throughout the country, residents in the past had been encouraged to flush drugs down the toilet, but negative environmental impacts to waterways have been identified and this is now discouraged. Scientific studies have shown that pharmaceuticals – including antibiotics, anti-convulsants, mood stabilizers and sex hormones - are commonly found in trace amounts in drinking water supplies throughout New Jersey and the rest of the country. And disposal of medications within regular trash leads to increased contamination of landfills and a rise in management costs as the leachate is routinely pumped from the landfill sumps. In addition, due to a drastic increase in the abuse of household pharmaceuticals, law enforcement is recommending swifter removal of unused medications from households, and a higher level of vigilance on safeguarding drugs from abuse. We are proud that Chesterfield is now part of the solution by offering a means for our residents to safely dispose of medications that are no longer needed. We urge everyone to make use of this important resource.