

TOWN OF CHELMSFORD

Town Offices

50 Billerica Road • Chelmsford, Ma 01824

Phone 978-250-5201 • Fax 978-250-5252 • www.townofchelmsford.us

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TOWN OF CHELMSFORD
CELEBRATIONS COMMITTEE

44TH YEAR FOURTH OF JULY CELEBRATIONS

~ SUNDAY, JULY 3, 2011 ~

(Please note due to construction this is a tentative date)

6:00–8:00 PM	Kiddy Train Rides; Chelmsford Rotary Club
6:00–10:00 PM	Art Festival; Chelmsford Art Society
5:00–10:00 PM	Country Fair; Chelmsford Lions Club
5:00–6:00 PM	Dance Group; Dance Unlimited
6:30 PM	Twirling Group; Chelmsford Suburbanites
7:00–9:00 PM	Band Concert; Chelmsford Community Band
9:00–10:00 PM	Jazz Concert

~ MONDAY, JULY 4, 2011 ~

7:00–10:00 AM	Coffee Shop; 1st Parish Universalist Church
8:30 AM	Annual Flag Raising; Police & Fire Honor Guard
8:00–3:00 PM	Country Fair; Chelmsford Lions Club
9:30 AM	Annual John Carson Road Race
9:30 AM–1:00 PM	Art Festival; Chelmsford Art Society
10:00 AM	Annual 4th of July Parade; Chelmsford Business Assn.
12:00 PM	Chelmsford Parade Committee Raffle

NO FIREWORKS DISPLAY

50 Billerica Road Chelmsford, MA 01824-3162

ATEF

What is the Chelmsford Arts and Technology Education Fund?—The purpose of the Chelmsford Arts and Technology Education Fund (ATEF) is to provide supplemental funding to support educational initiatives and projects that enhance the existing curriculum of the Chelmsford Public Schools.

Who can apply for funding?—Applicants for ATEF funds must be a School Council or a member of the professional teaching

staff employed by the Chelmsford Public Schools. The School Committee, as a body, may apply through the Superintendent of Schools who is a member of the ATEF Committee.

What types of projects are eligible for funding?—All projects that receive supplemental funding must support the mission and belief statements of the Chelmsford Public Schools and be in accordance with the Chelmsford School Committee policy. The proposal shall fall under one of four major categories: program, event, equipment or supplies. The proposal shall be germane to one of three major curriculum areas: liberal arts, fine arts or technology.

How much funding will be awarded?—Individual grants up to \$750 will be awarded during the current funding cycle. ATEF grants may be made in addition to other funds obtained by the applicant from other sources. Monies awarded do not become part of the Chelmsford School Department Budget.

What are the ATEF Committee's current funding priorities?—Criteria for evaluating proposals will include the following:

- The applicability of the project to the existing curriculum/curricula.
- The creativity of the project.
- The number of students to be served by the project.
- The potential for future benefits deriving from this specific project.

Some examples of past projects funded include: Classroom Learning Centers (science, language arts); Computer Interaction Program; Mural Construction; Wireless Microphone System; Art Immersion Day; Supplies for Music Listening Center; Library Materials.

2011/2012 ATEF Committee Members:

Kirk Marshall, Chairman	(978) 275-9880
Beverly Barrett	(978) 250-0396
Colleen Stansfield, Secretary	(978) 256-3588
Angelo Taranto	(978) 251-8205
Patricia Dzuris	(978) 323-9604
Evelyn Thoren	(978) 256-1482
Kimberly Fielding	(978) 251-8891
Susan Yuhas	(978) 244-2408
Frank Tiano, Superintendent of Schools	

ROUND UP YOUR TAX BILL FOR ATEF, EVERY DOLLAR HELPS!

NEWS FROM THE TOWN OF CHELMSFORD

ASSESSORS DEPARTMENT

50 Billerica Road, Chelmsford, MA

TAX EXEMPTION GUIDELINES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2012 (JULY 1, 2011 TO JUNE 30, 2012)

All Exemption applications must be filed on an annual basis @ the Assessor's Office in the Town Hall. Applications are accepted starting July 1st of each fiscal year through 90 days after the mailing of the actual bill in December.

Property must be owner occupied and if it is in a trust you must be a trustee and a beneficiary to qualify for an exemption

Last year's tax return must be presented as proof of income. If you do not file income tax you must request from the IRS a non-filing verification form prior to filing for your exemption. You may call the IRS at 1-800-829-1040 for this request .

CLAUSE 41C (\$500 PER YEAR) REQUIREMENTS:

- Must be at least 65 years old on or before July 1, 2011
- Must have resided in MA for 10 years on or before July 1, 2011
- Must have owned and occupied MA property for 5 years on or before July 1, 2011
- Annual gross income cannot exceed \$24,158 if single or \$36,237 if married. This includes social security, pension, bank interest, annuities or IRA distributions
- Whole Estate (not including the value of your home) cannot exceed **\$40,000 if single, or \$55,000 if married. This includes money in bank, stock, bonds, IRA's, Annuities, etc.
- Asset statements including July 1, 2011 must be provided to verify eligibility (savings, checking, IRA , annuities,stocks, bonds etc)

CLAUSE 17D (\$175 PER YEAR) REQUIREMENTS:

Surviving Spouse, Aged 70, Or Minor Child

- A. The applicant must have been:
- A surviving spouse on or before July 1,2011 OR
 - A person age 70 years or over before July 1, 2011 and owned and occupied the property as their residence for at least 5 years, OR
 - A minor child of a deceased parent.
- B. Value of whole estate (not including the value of your home) cannot exceed \$40,000. This includes money in bank, stock, bonds, etc.

CLAUSES 22 THRU 22E:

Veterans Exemption—Applicants must certify through Veterans Administration (VA) at least a 10% service connected disability.

CLAUSE 37 (\$500 PER YEAR):

Blind Persons Exemption—The applicant must be legally blind and provide a certificate from the Commission of the Blind each Fiscal year.

CLAUSE 18:

Hardship Exemption—This is discretionary by the Board of Assessors.

TAX DEFERRAL REQUIREMENTS:

If single owner or joint owner with persons other than spouse

- A. You must be 65 years old on or before July 1, 2011
- B. Have owned and occupied the property on or before July 1, 2011
- C. Have been domiciled in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for the preceding 10 years, and
- D. Have owned and occupied real estate in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts as your domicile for at least 5 years.
- E. Gross income from all sources in the preceding year cannot exceed \$40,000.

If single owner or joint owner with spouse:

- A. You must be 65 years old on or before July 1, 2011
- B. Have owned and occupied the property on or before July 1, 2011
- C. Have been domiciled in the Commonwealth of D. Massachusetts for the preceding 10 years, and
- D. Have owned and occupied real estate in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts as your domicile for at least 5 years.
- E. If joint owners, combined gross income from all sources in the preceding year cannot exceed \$40,000.

If any other person has an interest in the property such as being a remainderman of a life estate, mortgage with a bank or joint ownership they must also sign deferral agreement.

COMMUNITY PRESERVATION LOW/MODERATE INCOME EXEMPTION

Owners must own and occupy the property as primary residence as of January 1st, 2011.

All owners must include household income for calendar year 2010 which includes the following:

1. Household Annual Gross Income from all sources.
 - a. Wages, pensions and interest etc.
 - b. Include income from all household members who were 18 or older and not full time students during the calendar year 2010

CIRCUIT BREAKER CREDIT

Taxpayers age 65 or older may be eligible to claim a refundable credit on their state income taxes for the real estate taxes paid during the tax year on the residential property they own or rent as their principal residence. The taxpayer's "total income" cannot exceed \$51,000 for a single filer who is not the head of a household, \$64,000 for a head of household, or \$77,000 for taxpayers filing jointly. In addition, the assessed valuation of the property cannot exceed \$765,000. For specific qualification requirements and applications contact the Massachusetts Department of Revenue website @ www.mass.gov or call their toll free number 1-800-392-6089 Monday through Friday, 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM and 1:30 PM to 4:00 PM.

BRUCE FREEMAN RAIL TRAIL

The Chelmsford Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) is responsible for coordinating activities on the trail. See <http://townofchelmsford.us/Bicycle.cfm>.

The Friends of the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail (FBFRT) provide volunteers and funding for the trail as well as trail maps, parking locations, and other information See <http://brucefreemanrailtrail.org>.

Event Registration—To use the trail for an organized event, please complete the online registration form at <http://townofchelmsford.us/Bicycle.cfm>. Completed forms are automatically emailed to the Chelmsford BPAC, the Town of Westford, and FBFRT. Registered events are added to the calendar on the FBFRT website. Organizers will be contacted by the Towns to discuss event logistics.

Parking—Please park only in designated parking areas at Old Town Hall, Cushing Place, Byam School (non-school hours), and Pond Street. There is NO rail trail parking at Ginger Ale Plaza (Bertucci's). Parking will be restricted at Old Town Hall during 2011 due to building renovations. Parking will become available at Sunny Meadow Farm on Robin Hill Road once construction is complete. The new parking area will be connected to the trail by a short paved path.

Maintenance—The Town DPW sweeps the rail trail twice every year, in the spring and fall. The DPW also paints crosswalks, installs signs, and repairs the trail. Volunteers take care of routine light maintenance and litter removal. Contact info@brucefreemanrailtrail.org to volunteer. All users can help the trail look nice by properly disposing of trash and picking up litter.

Amenities—The BPAC is coordinating acquisition of a kiosk, constructed by students at Nashoba Valley Technical High School and funded by FBFRT, for Chelmsford Center. The Friends of the Library in Chelmsford donated a bench. The Chelmsford Garden Club planted daffodils along the trail in Chelmsford Center. Portable toilets are available once again this year at Cushing Place in Chelmsford Center and at Pond Street. They are sponsored by FBFRT, The Charles River Wheelmen, and A-1 Portable Toilets.

Modification—The portions of the trail in Westford, Carlisle, Acton, and Concord are being designed under two separate contracts. See the FBFRT website for more information. The Town is working with businesses abutting the trail to develop handicapped-accessible entry points between Old Town Hall and Chelmsford St. (Rt. 110). Parking will be restricted to customers of the businesses.

NEWS FROM THE TOWN OF CHELMSFORD

BOARD OF HEALTH

Richard Day, Director
Susan Rosa, RN, Manager of Healthcare Services
(978) 250-5241 • (978) 250-5243

The following are services provided by the Board of Health at the Town Offices:

1. Blood Pressure Screening—First Thursday of each month from 9:00 AM to 12:00 noon
2. Educational and Health Promotion Programs

Appointments are required for the following services:

1. Immunizations for children and adults—\$15.00 administration fee
2. Lead Paint Screening, Children 6 years and under—\$15.00
3. Mantoux (TB) Testing—\$15.00 fee
4. Cholesterol Screening—\$15.00 fee, Clinic dates will be advertised in the newspaper
5. Home Visits—Referral required from physician or Home Health Agency.
6. Copies of records of previously administered vaccines—(\$5.00)

PNEUMOCOCCAL VACCINE RECOMMENDATIONS

If you are 65 years of age or older, and have never had this vaccine, it is recommended by the Mass Department of Public Health Immunization Program that you receive the Pneumococcal vaccine. You may call the Board of Health with any questions as well as to set up an appointment.

SUMMER CAMP SAFETY

Sending your child to summer camp? Make sure that the camp your child is going to attend has met the Massachusetts Dept. of Public Health Regulations and has been inspected by the Board of Health.

CHOLESTEROL SCREENINGS

Requires pre-registration by calling the Board of Health—\$15.00 fee required.

May 18, 2010 (Tuesday)

DEADLINE TO REGISTER: Thursday April 29, 2010

September 14, 2010 (Tuesday)

DEADLINE TO REGISTER: Friday August 20, 2010

Location: Board of Health Office, 50 Billerica Rd, Chelmsford
Time: 8:30 AM–11:00 AM

MEDICAL SHARPS DISPOSAL Chelmsford Residential Drop-off

STATE BAN on the Disposal of Residential Medical Sharps—Residents are no longer allowed to dispose of any sharps into the town's curbside trash collection system. The Chelmsford Board of Health has set up specific dates and times to implement a sharps disposal program which will provide a means for proper disposal of Medical Sharps (needles, syringes with needles, lancets, and Epi-pens) for Chelmsford residents only. (No business, medical office or commercial disposal accepted)

Requirements:

1. Pre-registration—FREE TO ALL TOWN RESIDENTS THAT PRE-REGISTER with the Chelmsford Board of Health a minimum of 2 weeks before a scheduled date. (Note: you only need to register once)

Please call the BOH office at 978-250-5241 to pre-register or go to the town web site (www.townofchelmsford.us), and click on the link for sharps disposal to fill out and submit the form.

All non-registered individuals will pay a min. fee of \$5 per quart sized container.

2. Use of Proper Containers—Only sharps that are in a puncture proof container ie: (liquid detergent bottle, coffee can, or a red purchased sharps container) and are two thirds to three quarters full will be accepted. A quart or gallon size plastic milk bottle is not acceptable.

Date, Time, and Location

Tuesday, September 13, 2011: 9:00 AM–6:00 PM, Board of Health Office (50 Billerica Rd, lower level 02)

Tuesday December 13, 2010: 9:00 AM–4:30 PM, Board of Health Office (50 Billerica Rd, lower level 02)

DISEASES OF SUMMER

Lyme Disease and West Nile Virus are two diseases of summer that you want to protect yourself from.

Lyme Disease—Lyme disease is caused by bacteria that are spread by tiny infected ticks (in Massachusetts, by deer ticks). Both people and animals can be infected with Lyme disease. The only known way to get Lyme disease is from the bite of an infected tick. The best way to prevent Lyme disease is to avoid areas where there are deer ticks. Wear a long sleeved shirt and long pants, light colors so you can spot the tick easily, and tuck your pant legs tightly into your socks. Use repellents containing DEET according to manufacturer recommendations. Check for ticks daily. The tick must usually be attached for at least 24 hours to pass on bacteria, so removing the tick promptly will greatly decrease your chances of being infected. Their favorite places are on the legs, in the groin, armpits, along the hairline, and in or behind the ears. The ticks are tiny, so look for new "freckles". Remove any ticks using fine point tweezers. The tick should not be squeezed or twisted, grasp it close to the skin and pull straight out with steady pressure. Know the symptoms of Lyme disease and seek medical attention if necessary. An early symptom is a small red rash area that spreads and clears in the center looking like a donut. However the rash may not appear. Other symptoms are flu-like symptoms, such as fever, headache, stiff neck, sore and aching muscles and joints, fatigue and swollen glands. Seeking medical treatment and taking antibiotics early, will usually clear up the rash within days and usually prevents later problems. Untreated Lyme disease can affect the joints, nervous system, and heart in the later stages.

West Nile Virus (WNV)—West Nile Virus infection can cause illness varying from a mild fever to more serious disease like encephalitis or meningitis. WNV grows in birds and is spread from bird to bird by infected mosquitoes. If mosquitoes infected with the virus bite horses or humans, the animal or person can become sick. The risk of getting WNV is highest from late July through September. To protect yourself from WNV you can avoid outdoor activity between dusk and dawn. If you must be outdoors, wear long sleeved shirt and long pants. Use a repellent containing DEET according to manufacturer directions. Fix any holes in your screens and make sure they are secure. To avoid the number of mosquitoes around your home, get rid of any standing water that is available for mosquito breeding. Mosquitoes will begin to breed in any puddle or standing water that lasts for more than 4 days. Turn over plastic wading pools and wheelbarrows when not in use, use landscaping to eliminate standing water that collects on your property, do not allow stagnant water in birdbaths, clean clogged gutters and remove leaves and debris that may prevent drainage of rainwater. Most WNV infections do not cause any symptoms. Mild infections can cause fever, headache, and body aches, often with a skin rash and swollen lymph glands. In a small percentage of infected people, the disease can be serious. There is no specific treatment for WNV infection. People with mild illness usually recover on their own. Doctors provide supportive therapy for people with more serious complications such as encephalitis or meningitis. The best thing is prevention.

Public Health fact sheets on Lyme Disease and West Nile Virus may be picked up at the Board of Health office.

FIGHT THE BITE—HELP PREVENT MOSQUITOES

Central Mass Mosquito Control Project
(508) 393-3055 • www.cmmcp.org

If you reduce your exposure to adult mosquitoes, you reduce the potential for infections such as West Nile Virus and Eastern Encephalitis. Adult mosquitoes are harder to control. Prevention in the larval stage is the best method.

CALL OR EMAIL the Central Mass Mosquito Control Project early in the springtime (After May 15, 2011) for a survey of your area if you have wetlands nearby. All mosquitoes need still, non-flowing water to complete their life cycle. Remember to check your window and door screens to keep mosquitoes out of your home. Avoid areas of high mosquito concentrations during dusk and dawn. Use repellents as needed, and please follow the label directions.

MERCURY THERMOMETER EXCHANGE PROGRAM

Residents may bring in old mercury thermometers and drop them off at the Board of Health Office or at the Recycle Office. You will receive a digital thermometer for each mercury thermometer that you drop off.

NEWS FROM THE TOWN OF CHELMSFORD

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS PAMPHLETS/INFORMATION

These pamphlets may be picked up at the Board of Health Office. The Pamphlets will give information on:

1. What to do to prepare you and your family for the unexpected.
2. Coping with disaster.
3. Basic overview of nuclear, biological and chemical agents.

CHELMSFORD BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Chelmsford Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) is working to make Chelmsford's roads and open spaces more accessible and more bicycle- and pedestrian-friendly for the mutual benefit of users of non-motorized and motorized means of transportation. Please see the BPAC webpage, <http://www.townofchelmsford.us/Bicycle.cfm>, for useful links, contact information, and information about the committee's activities. The BPAC also has a monthly column, Steps & Spokes, in the Chelmsford Independent. Past columns are available via the BPAC webpage.

With the summer season upon us, please obey the following rules when engaging in bicycle and pedestrian activities:

Bicyclists

- Wear a proper fitting helmet. Replace old helmets and any that have impacted the ground in a fall
- Bicycles are conveyances like a motor vehicle and are subject to the same driving rules. They should be ridden with the flow of traffic and adhere to all stop signs and traffic signals
- Bicycles should yield to pedestrians just as though they were a motor vehicle
- If riding at before dawn or after dark, wear bright and preferably reflective clothing and equip your bicycle with a headlight and taillight

Pedestrians

- Use a sidewalk if available and passable
- Look both ways before crossing a street
- If no sidewalk is available, walk or run on the side of the road closest to oncoming traffic. This gives you the ability to see the vehicles closest to you and maximizes the time for you to react should you need to take evasive action
- Wear light colored or fluorescent high visibility ("Day-Glo[®]") color clothing and/or a reflective safety vest to make yourself more visible to oncoming drivers
- Avoid wearing earphones as they may interfere with hearing approaching vehicles
- Be cognizant of pets walking with you so that oncoming motorists can also see them.
- Inline skaters should wear helmets and pads to reduce injury should they fall

Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan—As recommended in the recently completed Chelmsford Master Plan, the development of a detailed Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan for the Town is being undertaken by the BPAC. The committee will be soliciting input from residents, bicyclists, walkers, runners, businesses, and those working in and commuting into and through Chelmsford. Please check the BPAC webpage for notices on public information sessions and for a survey form to have the opportunity to provide the committee with valuable input to this important plan.

Safe Routes to Schools—This program, sponsored by MassRides, helps local schools develop safe walking and bicycling routes. Once a school meets its program goals, funding for improvements may be made available. All four elementary schools have enrolled in this program and we are expecting to sign the two middle schools into the program shortly. The BPAC is available to help any other school's Parent Teacher Organizations that would like to get on board. Contact Karen Taylor at kpetito@gmail.com for more information about this program.

Bruce Freeman Rail Trail—The BPAC coordinates activities and events on the Rail Trail. All groups of 25 or more participants wishing to use the trail must fill out an Event Registration Form. This is an electronic form that once completed is sent automatically to the committee. The form can be found on the BPAC webpage at www.townofchelmsford.us/bicycle.cfm.

Bicycle Helmets—BPAC encourages all bicycle riders to wear a proper fitting helmet. A reminder that all bicycle riders under the age of 17 are required by law to wear a helmet when riding a bicycle on a public way. In 2010, the BPAC received a grant of 125 bicycle Helmets through the Statewide Bicycle, Roller Blade, Skateboard, and Scooter Helmet Program run by the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security- Highway Safety Division. The committee has applied for a similar grant again in 2011. Please check the BPAC webpage at www.townofchelmsford.us/bicycle.cfm for information on days and times for the distribution of helmets.

CHELMSFORD CULTURAL CENTER

The Chelmsford Cultural Council, as part of the Massachusetts Cultural Council, annually distributes state grants for cultural programs to benefit the citizens of Chelmsford. This year the following groups applied for and received funding from the Council:

Acton Community Chorus, Inc. concerts \$300;
Fred Barzyk, dramatic narrative/film \$550;
Davis Bates, Under One Sky Storytelling \$540;
Chelmsford Council On Aging, "Picasso's Peeps" Visual Arts \$600; Chelmsford Council On Aging, St Patrick's in Style \$250;
Diane Dexter, music shows \$420; Denise Doucette, music shows \$510;
Fruitlands Museum, PowWow \$200;
Hands on History 7th Mass Regiment \$585;
Illumination Opera, \$1,000; Gregory Maichack, Georgia O'Keeffe Art workshop \$420; Paula McCarron, Jersey Families History \$290; Robert Creeley Foundation, Inc., 11th Annual Creeley Award \$150; John Root, "Music of Gaslight Era" \$510; Tommy Rull, Music \$130; Westford Chorus, Winter Concert \$585

The CCC is looking for interesting displays and collections. The CCC maintains a locked display case at the Chelmsford Public Library to showcase individual or group collections and art work. For more information check the Council's website at www.chelmsfordculturalcouncil.com

The Chelmsford Cultural Council is looking for new members. If you would like to apply to be a member of Chelmsford's Cultural Council please contact Tricia Dzuris in the town manager's office or just come to one of our meetings. We meet on the 3rd Tuesdays of each month (except July) at 6:30 PM at the Chelmsford Library.

Visit the Chelmsford Cultural Council's website at www.chelmsfordculturalcouncil.com and find us on Facebook.

PARADE COMMITTEE

CHELMSFORD PARADE COMMITTEE, INC.
presents
THE TOWN OF CHELMSFORD
INDEPENDENCE DAY PARADE

The Chelmsford Parade Committee, Inc. has been very busy planning the 2011 parade and we hope members of the community will again want to help support this effort and attend the parade which will be held on Monday, July 4th at 10:00 AM!

Raffle tickets have been mailed to Chelmsford residents and we anticipate the support from our community will again help with the funding of the parade. All proceeds will be used to support the Parade Committee's efforts to continue the tradition of offering the very best parade in Massachusetts (we actually think New England!) that day. The drawings will be held immediately after the parade.

This year we will again have a "Sports Extravaganza Raffle" which will award one winner the following great prize: 2 Boston Red Sox tickets; 2 New England Patriots tickets; 2 Boston Bruins tickets; 2 Boston Celtics tickets and 2 New England Revolution tickets. The price for one of these tickets is only \$10.00. We will also again have our "Cash Raffle" with prizes as follows: 1st prize, \$1,000.00; 2nd prize, \$500.00; 3rd prize, five (5) \$100.00 prizes! Tickets are 10 for \$10.00 or \$1.00 each. If you have not received tickets or would like additional ones please feel free to contact a member of the Parade Committee.

NEWS FROM THE TOWN OF CHELMSFORD

We would also love to see some of our neighborhoods get together and enter a float in the parade! We are also looking forward to seeing Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts and of course our local Veteran's join in all the fun and celebrating! You can get an application and additional information on our web site: www.chelmsfordparade.org.

If you are interested in helping please contact one of our committee members, we would love to have you! Parade Co-Chairs are: Jeff Hardy (978-250-8415) and Brian Reidy (978-256-1808). Committee Members include: Jim Cullen, Mark Duffy, Janet Granata, Hank Hamelin, Kathy Kelley, Chuck Marcella, Lynn Marcella, and Rick Romano. You can also e-mail us at: chelmsfordparade@aol.com

THE CHELMSFORD POLICE ATHLETIC LEAGUE

presents

FREE OUTDOOR MOVIE NIGHT

Join us for an outdoor showing of

MADAGASCAR 2: ESCAPE TO AFRICA

- Giant 2-Story Inflatable Screen
- Free Refreshments
- Surprises
- Just Bring A Blanket Or A Chair!
- Thursday August 25, 2011 7:30 PM
- McCarthy Middle School Field

www.chelmsfordpal.com

CHELMSFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY

25 Boston Road, Chelmsford, MA 01824
978-256-5521

Hours

Mondays–Thursdays..... 9:30 AM–9:00 PM
Fridays–Saturdays..... 9:30 AM–5:30 PM

THE ANNA C. MACKAY BRANCH LIBRARY
43 Newfield St. North Chelmsford 01863
978-256-5521, ext. 6

Hours:

Wednesday..... 10:00 AM–8:00 PM
Friday..... 10:00 AM–5:00 PM

Contingent on the town meeting vote MackKay may be open on Saturdays beginning July 9th, 2011

Visit us on our website at any time
www.chelmsfordlibrary.org

Sign up for our e-news alerts on our website.

HOLIDAY CLOSINGS

Monday, May 30, 2011—Memorial Day
Monday, July 4, 2011—Independence Day
Monday, September 5, 2011—Labor Day
Monday, October 10, 2011—Columbus Day

ONE BOOK CHELMSFORD

One Book is the name of Chelmsford's community-wide reading campaign. Everyone in town is encouraged to read the same book and to attend book discussions and other programs related to the book. This year Chelmsford is reading "The Hunger Games" by Suzanne Collins. There is still time to read "The Hunger Games" and participate in a book discussion (the week of June 13–18) and to take in the Garden Tour (June 10). Check our website for the complete schedule.

THE HERITAGE GARDEN TOUR WITH SUE SPICER OF CHELMSFORD'S COUNTRY LANE GARDEN CLUB

Friday, June 10th at 10:00 AM—If you have already read "The Hunger Games" you may recognize some of the plants and herbs mentioned in that novel in the Library's Heritage Garden. The Heritage Education Garden, located just outside the original Adams Library building, was prepared and planted in 2005 and 2006 by the Country Lane Garden Club. Each wedge-shaped bed highlights culinary, medicinal, household or ornamental plants that were common in the area in 1894, when the Adams Library opened. Join us for a tour of this beautiful garden.

CLARA BARTON VISITS CHELMSFORD

Thursday, June 23, 2011—Clara H. Barton, (1821–1912), North Oxford, MA native, and founder of the American Red Cross, earned the name Angel of the Battlefield for her limitless, courageous and unflinching spirit in bringing supplies to the front lines of the Civil War. Armed with medicinal supplies, clothing and food she saved the lives of countless soldiers on both sides who would have perished without her. Join Lynne McKenney Lydick as she brings this inspirational woman to life in Follow the Cannon: a Reading of Clara Barton's Civil War Letters.

CHELMSFORD FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY BOOK DROP OFFS THIS SUMMER

May 21st Saturday.....9:00 AM–Noon
June 11th Saturday.....9:00 AM–Noon
June 25th Saturday.....9:00 AM–Noon
July 9th Saturday.....9:00 AM–Noon
July 13th Wednesday.....2:00 PM–4:00 PM
July 23rd Saturday.....9:00 AM–Noon
July 27th Wednesday.....2:00 PM–4:00 PM
Aug 3rd Wednesday.....2:00 PM–4:00 PM
Aug 13th Saturday.....9:00 AM–Noon
Aug 17th Wednesday.....2:00 PM–4:00 PM
Aug 27th Saturday.....9:00 AM–Noon

Please add these important dates to your calendar: The 2011 Friends of the Library Annual Book Sale will take place on Sept 23rd, 24th and 25th at the town offices gym

THE FRIENDS' FOURTH OF JULY "BUILD A FLOAT COMMITTEE" WANTS YOU

We are planning to make a float for the 4th of July Parade using the summer reading theme "One World Many Stories." We are now looking for volunteers to help design and build the float. If you are interested email bherrmann@mvlc.org

Be sure to stop by the Friends of the Library booth at the 4th of July Country Fair.

ART EXHIBITS @ THE CHELMSFORD LIBRARY

May 2011 Congressional Art Show—an annual art competition to showcase the talent of high school students across the Fifth Congressional District of Massachusetts. This exhibit is coordinated by the Offices of Congresswoman Niki Tsongas.
Reception: Saturday, May 14, 2011, from 2:00–4:00 PM

June 2011 "Gleaners: Art Made from Found Objects" The Chelmsford High School A.P. Art Class looks at our environment and what we leave behind.
Reception: Thursday, June 9, 2011, 5:00–7:00 PM

July 2011 Fourth of July Exhibit by the Chelmsford Art Society

August 2011 "Ancient Visions—New Canvases" oil paintings of Figures and Landscapes by artist George Chen.
Reception: August 6, 2011, 2:00–4:00 PM Music at 2:30 by Zhao Zhi-Min School of Chinese Music

Check the website at www.chelmsfordlibrary.org for details on monthly art exhibits and receptions. Refreshments and music are funded by the Chelmsford Friends of the Library.

BOOK GROUPS @ THE CHELMSFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY

Evening Book Discussion Group—This evening group meets at the main library on the first Monday of each month (with the exception of Monday holidays) at 7:00 PM. Group does not meet during the summer months.

The June 6, 2011 discussion will be on the Pulitzer Prize-winning book *Tinkers* by Paul Harding

Morning Book Discussion Group—Join us for a lively discussion on the third Wednesday of each month at 10:00 AM in the main library. Upcoming discussions:

May 18, 2011 Sarah's Key by Tatiana De Rosnay
June 15, 2011 Little Bee by Chris Cleave
July 20, 2011 Book titles are picked for the remainder of the year.

History Book Discussion Group meets at 7:00 PM on the last Thursday of the month

May 26th, 2011 Eden's Outcasts by John Matteson

NEWS FROM THE TOWN OF CHELMSFORD

June 30th, 2011 Fatal Shore by Robert Hughes

The MacKay Mystery Group meets at the MacKay Library on the 4th Wednesday at 6:45 p.m.

HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES IN CHELMSFORD Tuesday, May 10 at 6:00 PM

David Hedison of the Chelmsford Housing Authority will give an explanation of what affordable housing is. Georgi Mueller and Nancy Palma of Front Door Realty, LLC will discuss the home buying process. Elizabeth Phelan of Enterprise Bank will present an overview of the Mortgage Process.

"PETE GOES TO THE MIDDLE EAST"

Premiering at the Chelmsford Library on Thursday, May 12th at 7:00 PM

"Pete Goes to The Middle East" is the latest travel documentary from Chelmsford TeleMedia's Pete Pedulla. "Pete Goes to the Middle East" is an example of "desktop filmmaking"—a camcorder, a computer and a little ingenuity were all that were required to make it. And, if it interests you, Chelmsford TeleMedia can show you how. Visit the Library's website to see a trailer of Pete's film.

FRIDAY MORNING LECTURE SERIES

"Geopolitics and the Caucasus" presented by Robyn Angley
Friday, May 13, 2011 at 10:00 AM

The countries and regions of the Caucasus with their strong national identities are located at a geopolitical crossroads. What role does the Caucasus play in global geopolitics? How do Russia, Turkey and the United States influence developments in this small but intriguing part of the world? The Chelmsford Library and the Learning in Retirement Association (LIRA) sponsor the Friday Morning Lecture Series.

A Little Extra—Our Friday Morning Lecture Series ends after this May lecture (until September i.e.), but please join us for the tour of the Library's Heritage Garden on the second Friday of June (June 10). On the second Friday of July at 10:00 AM. Chuck Maffeo of Chelmsford will lead a discussion on the PBS film on the Shakespeare-Marlowe connection "Much Ado about Something."

A History of Westford, Massachusetts in Its Place Names
Tuesday, May 24, 2011 at 7:00 PM

Robert W. Oliphant, the author of "Westford Gazetteer: A History of Westford, Massachusetts in its Place Names," will be discussing how some streets, ponds, meadows and other places in the neighboring town of Westford got their names.

Clean & Green: Reducing our Carbon Footprint—on the 4th Wednesday of each month at 7:00 PM at the main library

Join us for speakers and workshops on earth-friendly topics.

May 25th Drew Grande of the Sierra Club "Beyond Coal"
June 22nd Phil Jones of Jones Farm in Chelmsford will give us all the dirt on achieving healthy soil.

This fall, Paul Eldrenkamp and Rachel White will return with more tips for bringing your home into the 21st Century. This series is funded by the Chelmsford Friends of the Library and by a grant from Constellation Energy. More information at: www.chelmsfordlibrary.org/programs/programs/clean_and_green.html

COMMUNITY RECIPE EXCHANGE

To promote the Library's cookbook collection (and just for fun) we are thinking about having a recipe exchange this summer at the Library. We are looking for a few volunteers who are interested in taking the idea and developing it into a community program over the summer. If this sounds like a volunteer opportunity you would like to get involved in, please contact our Community Services Department. We'll set up a meeting with anyone who is interested and see what we can cook up for a fun community project!

RETURN OF "YOUR STAND-UP POETRY GUY," JACK MCCARTHY

Saturday, June 4, 2011 at 2:00 PM—Jack McCarthy, "Your Stand-up Poetry Guy," is returning to the East Coast and will deliver an afternoon of his original performance poetry at the Chelmsford Library. There will be a 30 minute limited open mike.

LOCAL AUTHORS EVENT AT THE CHELMSFORD LIBRARY

Saturday, June 18, 2011 at 2:00 PM—Join us for this unique library program, enjoy light refreshments and meet some of our local authors. The following authors are scheduled to participate: Cindy Reynolds, Paul Wankowicz, Marianne O'Connor, Richard L. Rotelli, Alfred Alcorn and Esther MacDonald

More information http://www.chelmsfordlibrary.org/programs/programs/local_authors.html

"WORLD WIDE WEDNESDAYS @ CHELMSFORD" SUMMER CONCERT SERIES

At the MacKay Library, 43 Newfield St. North Chelmsford.

Concerts run from 6:30–7:45 PM on Wednesdays from July 6th through August 10th.

July 6th "The Hot Tamales Brass Band"
July 13th "Samba Tremeterra"—music of Brazil
July 20th "Mollies' Misfits"—Irish music
July 27th "Rhythm Method"—Blues Band
Aug 3rd "Odaiko"—Japanese drumming
Aug 10th "Grupo Fantasia"—Salsa Music

If rain, or threat of rain, concerts will take place in the Senior Center, 75 Groton Road, North Chelmsford.

Thanks to the Chelmsford Friends of the Library for making our programming possible.

The Chelmsford Genealogy Club meets at the main library on the first Tuesday of each month at 7:00 PM. This is an informal genealogy group for sharing of information and ideas. Free and open to the public. For more information call the Library at 978-256-5521 or visit www.chelmsfordlibrary.org.

Writers' Groups—led by a library volunteer. A writers group meets at the library on the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month from 6:45–8:45 PM. Open to anyone who's interested in writing -all genres, all levels of skill. For more information call the Library at 978-256-5521 or visit www.chelmsfordlibrary.org

CONVERSATION CIRCLES @ THE LIBRARY Led by our library volunteers

French Conversation Circle—A French Conversation Circle meets monthly on the second Thursday at 7:00 PM in the main library.

Spanish Conversation Circle—A Spanish Conversation Circle is held on the first Wednesday of each month at 7 p.m. in the main library. If you are interested in practicing or improving your Spanish please join us.

English Conversation Circles—English Conversation Circles for beginners meet weekly on Tuesday mornings at 9:30 AM in the main library. An advanced Circle meets on Tuesdays at 1:00 PM. These Circles provide an opportunity to speak in English in a relaxed environment. Check the Library's website for more information and ESOL resources.

Chinese Conversation Circle—A Chinese Conversation Circle is held on the last Wednesday of each month at 7:00 PM in the conference room of the main library.

The Chelmsford Library has a selection of French and Chinese Materials and Hindi DVDs. Visit the Library's website for more information.

"Now ...it's Your Turn," our popular readers' advisory program, will meet Thursday, July 14th at noon in the fireplace room at the main library. Join the library's staff for brown bag lunches featuring book talks on both current and classic titles you can add to your reading list. Bring your lunch and we'll provide desserts and drinks.

Teens: For information regarding programming, teen volunteer opportunities and book reviews check the teen website at www.chelmsfordlibrary.org/teen

CHILDREN'S DEPARTMENT AT THE MAIN LIBRARY Spring events

Saturday, May 21 10:30 AM, Teddy Bear Concert
Kids' performer Steve Blunt makes his first visit to Chelmsford for this annual event! This year's concert will take place at Central Baptist Church's Littorin Hall. We will have a picnic on the

NEWS FROM THE TOWN OF CHELMSFORD

Common afterwards if weather permits; the library will provide juice and snacks. All ages; drop-in

Tuesday, June 7th at 10:00 AM, Animal Affair

Animal Affair returns with their petting zoo. Come see bunnies, chicks and more! Children will visit the animals in small groups for 15 minutes. Time slots begin at 10:00 AM and end at 11:40 AM. Sign up starting May 24 in the Children's room. All ages.

Summer Reading at Chelmsford Public Library—This summer's theme is "One World, Many Stories." Reading logs will be available June 4. Join us to experience cultures from around the world!

Every week, July 5 through August 20:

Mondays at 10:00 AM Drop-in story time for ages 2.5–6

Mondays at 7:00 PM Bring the whole family to our Pajama Storytime

Tuesdays at 10:30 AM Drop-in crafts for children ages 6 and up

Wednesdays at 10:00 AM Drop-in story time for ages 12–30 months

Thursday mornings The Children's Department will host SPECIAL SUMMER READING EVENTS. See schedule below.

Fridays at 10:00 AM Baby storytime for ages 0–12 months

Saturdays All about families—Join us for SPECIAL FAMILY PROGRAMS.

Thursday Special Events—all begin at 10:30 AM

July 21 PuppeTree Theater of Vermont presents the classic story, "Caps For Sale" with a global twist. Drop in for kids ages 4-up

August 18 Let's make ice cream! This always-popular event returns again. Sign up beginning August 6 for kids entering grades 1-5.

Saturday Special Family Programs—all begin at 10:30 AM

July 9 Dads and Donuts. Dads, moms, and the whole family are invited to this popular drop-in storytime followed by a snack.

July 16 Origami with Gustavo. Learn how to fold simple shapes or even a paper crane with this ancient Japanese art. Drop in for parents and kids entering grades 1–5.

July 30 Harry Potter birthday party. Celebrate Harry's birthday with crafts and cake. Drop in for parents and kids entering grades 1–5.

August 13 Dads and Donuts: see July 9 above.

August 20 Our grand finale! Performer TBA; check our website for details!

EXTRA-SPECIAL PROGRAMS!

Wednesday August 3, 11:00 AM—"Didgeridoo Down Under." What is a didgeridoo? Find out at this special performance which combines music, art, puppetry and comedy. Drop-in for kids entering grades 1–5

Thursday August 11, 2:00 PM—Ben Rudnick and Friends on Chelmsford Common. Join us for a fabulous outdoor concert with Ben and his bandmates. Enjoy the music while shopping at the Chelmsford Farmers Market. Rain location: First Parish Church vestry.

EXTRA-EXTRA SPECIAL

Thanks to the Friends of the Library for sponsoring all of our summer events. We couldn't do it without them!

NEWS FROM THE ANNA C. MACKAY BRANCH LIBRARY IN NORTH CHELMSFORD

Please check the website www.chelmsfordlibrary.org/mackay/programs.html. Our programs are sponsored by the Chelmsford Friends of the Library.

ON GOING PROGRAMS AT THE MACKAY LIBRARY:

- MacKay Knitting Circle meets the 4th Wednesday from 6:30–8:00 PM on the first floor.
- MacKay Mystery Book Group meets the 4th Wednesday from 6:45–8:00 PM in the Anna MacKay Room
- MacKay Novel Conversations meets the 1st Friday of the Month from 12:00–1:00 PM in the Anna MacKay Room. This group does not meet in July or August.
- MacKay Summer Story Times will be held Fridays at 10:30 AM, July 8–August 19. Join us for puppets, story and song followed by a make and take craft. This story time is for children ages 2 and up.

MAY @ MACKAY

"One Book Chelmsford" Book Discussion—Join us Friday, May 20th at noon, at the MacKay Library to discuss "The Hunger Games" by Suzanne Collins.

Mystery Author Visits—Wednesday, May 25th 6:45–8:00 PM. The MacKay Library welcomes author Leslie Wheeler to a mystery discussion. She will discuss her new book "Murder at Spouters Point," a modern New England mystery which blends Native American culture and seafaring with a grisly murder.

JUNE @ MACKAY

Summer Reading at the MacKay Library—We will begin distributing summer reading logs at the MacKay Library on Wednesday, June 8th

MacKay's Summer Reading Kickoff Concert—"Under One Sky: A Multi-Cultural Celebration with Roger Tinknell and Davis Bates. Wednesday, June 29th at 6:00–7:00 PM. "Under One Sky" is an exciting program of stories and songs celebrating reading and cultural diversity. We hope you can join us for this wonderful family concert on the lawn, weather permitting.

This program is supported in part by a grant from the (name of local cultural council), a local agency which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency

JULY @ MACKAY

Creature Teachers: Animals of the Rainforest—Friday, July 22nd at 1:00 PM at the MacKay Library. For children entering kindergarten and up. Sign up begins July 8th.

Bridging the World with Stories Concert—Friday, August 5 at 1:00 PM. We welcome Tim Van Egmond, folksinger and storyteller. Join us for this wonderful fun-filled family concert. Sign up begins July 22nd.

We All Scream for Ice Cream!—Join us as we celebrate summer reading by making ice cream together on Friday, August 19th at 1:00 PM. For children entering kindergarten and up. Remember to bring your gloves and mittens. Sign up begins August 5.

NEWS FROM THE LIBRARY'S REFERENCE DEPARTMENT

New Library Catalog Coming Soon!—The Chelmsford Public Library (and all the libraries in the Merrimack Valley Library Consortium) will be switching to a new catalog at the end of May 2011. We are excited to make the new catalog, called Evergreen, available to you. You'll still be able to do everything you can with our current catalog, and we'll also gain a lot of new features. Check our website for more information.

New Study Rooms Available—Need a quiet place to study or meet with a colleague? The library recently completed a small renovation project, building three new study rooms near the Reference Desk. Each room is equipped with internet access and power outlets. These new study rooms are perfect for individuals, tutors or one-on-one meetings. Contact the Reference Desk at 978-256-5521 x211 to reserve a small study room.

Reference: Now You Can Take It with You!—Need a reference book to finish your research? Now you can take it home. Most of our reference collection, which previously could not leave the building, is now available to check out for 7 days. We feel this makes the collection more useful to patrons, while striking a balance with making sure the resources remain available for other people. Also, to make them easier to find, we've put the reference books on the same shelves as the rest of the non-fiction books. Let us know what you think!

New Sections for Career, Auto Repair, Genealogy and More! The library installed new subject tables for the topics of Career Resources, Auto Repair, Genealogy, Maps and Reference. Gathering all resources on certain subjects into one place and highlighting it as a collection, makes relevant information easier to find and use. These new subject tables are downstairs by the Reference Desk.

KEEP UP WITH THE LIBRARY!

There are many ways to keep up with what's going on at the library:

- Sign up for email and RSS announcements, event notifications and reading lists from our homepage <http://chelmsfordlibrary.org>
- Follow us on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/chelmsfordlib>
- Get announcements and information on our blog at <http://chelmsfordlibrary.org/blog>
- Check out our online events calendar at <http://calendar.chelmsfordlibrary.org>

NEWS FROM THE TOWN OF CHELMSFORD

COMMUNITY ACTION COMMITTEE

FUNDING AVAILABLE FOR COMMUNITY PROJECTS

Have you ever wanted to take on a project around town but didn't know how to get funding? Chelmsford's Community Action Program Committee (CAPC) has \$10,000 available, \$2,500 per quarter, to help offset the cost of things like painting projects, repairs, beautification, small construction or other innovative ideas that benefit our community. Applications are now being accepted from individual citizens or local groups.

CAPC will fund 50% of a total project up to \$2,500, with consideration for full funding for projects costing no more than \$250. It is expected that projects benefit the Town of Chelmsford and that the applicant donate labor and contribute or seek another funding source for the remaining 50%. The goal of CAPC is to provide the necessary seed money to encourage community participation in making our town better.

Past projects have included creating accessible walkways, planting gardens in public places, installing bike racks, building foot bridges, creating a playground, planting trees, installing benches and more. Any Chelmsford resident or community group is welcome to apply by visiting www.townofchelmsford.us and typing "Community Action Program Committee" in the search box. Click "Application", print, fill out and submit to Tricia Dzuris in the Town Manager's Office at 50 Billerica Road in Chelmsford, 01824. For more information, call Tricia Dzuris at 978-250-5201.

OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

CALL 2-1-1 FOR NON-EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE

MEMA and the Council of Massachusetts United Ways (COMUW) continue to promote Mass2-1-1 as the Commonwealth's primary telephone information call center during times of emergency. The easy-to-remember 2-1-1 telephone number will be utilized as a 24/7 resource for human service and Public Safety/disaster response and planning agencies. It was designed, in part, to reduce the number of non-emergency calls made to 9-1-1.

This partnership offers citizens the opportunity for 'one-stop-shopping', with access to vital updated disaster information, numerous post-disaster programs, interpreter services, and call tracking of caller locations. Mass2-1-1 will also have the ability to act as the registration site for spontaneous volunteers and donations from the public during an emergency or crisis.

On a day-to-day basis, 2-1-1 is the national abbreviated dialing code for free access to health and human services Information and Referral. 2-1-1 is an easy-to-remember and universally recognizable number that makes a critical connection between individuals and families seeking services or volunteer opportunities and the appropriate community-based organizations and government agencies. 2-1-1 makes it possible for people to navigate the complex and ever-growing maze of human service agencies and programs. By making services easier to access, 2-1-1 encourages prevention and fosters self-sufficiency.

Mass2-1-1 was created by The Council of Massachusetts United Ways on behalf of 22 local United Ways serving every community of the Commonwealth. For more information about Mass2-1-1, go to <http://www.mass211.org>.

CHELMSFORD RECYCLES

Recycling News: For more information, consult your "Chelmsford Recycles" flyer, go to www.townofchelmsford.us/Recycling-Department.cfm or www.chelmsfordrecycles.org, or call the Recycling/Solid Waste Office at 978-250-5203 or the Recycling/Solid Waste Info-Line at 978-250-5299

GREAT PROGRESS ON WASTE REDUCTION!

Chelmsford residents have done a tremendous job working within the two barrel trash limit. As a result the Town's trash tonnage is down 15% compared to last year. That drop in tonnage, combined with the favorable pricing the Town negotiated on its disposal contract, will save the Town over \$230,000 on trash this year. Continued recycling, composting and other waste reduction efforts by all Chelmsford residents will result in even more savings, so please keep up the great work.

We've heard from many happy residents praising the new "single stream" recycling system for its increased convenience, and participation in curbside recycling is up. Remember there is never a limit on how much recycling you can put out on your week, as long as each container does not weigh more than 50 pounds. And be sure to recycle ALL of your paper – Chelmsford made money on paper for the first time and will continue to do so as long as paper prices remain high.

SUMMER 2011 NEWS AND EVENTS:

Fall Brush Drop-off: Tentative Date Saturday, October 15, 2011 at Community Tree, 163 Billerica Road, 9-1. Bring brush and branches no longer than 8 feet and no larger than 6 inches in diameter. If you miss or can't make it to the Town sponsored drop-off, brush can be taken to Community Tree year round for a charge (call 978-256-0341 for hours and fees).

ONGOING PROGRAMS

Electronics, tires, appliances and other large metal items: contact Appliance Recyclers, Inc. for curbside collection for a charge. Go to www.apprecycl.com or call 877-228-2898 for prices or to schedule a collection. Our current contract expires June 30 – any price or program changes for the coming fiscal year will be in the next "Chelmsford Recycles" flyer.

Bring cell phones, rechargeable batteries, button batteries, and ink/toner cartridges to the collection boxes outside the Recycling Office and unwanted eye glasses to the collection box outside the Clerk's Office.

Mercury: Fluorescent bulbs shed will be open the first Wed. of the month from April through November or by appointment (call 978-250-5203). NEVER leave bulbs on the ground or anywhere outside the shed. Small, intact CFLs may be brought to the bucket at the Recycling Office during normal Town Offices hours. Mercury (glass) thermometers and mercury thermostats: bring to Town Offices (Recycling Office, Board of Health or Town Clerk)—receive a digital thermometer in exchange for your mercury fever thermometer (while supplies last). The Town's mercury programs are funded by Covanta Energy.

Bring CDs/DVDs, audio/video tapes, floppy drives and other forms of electronic media to the Technotrash box at the Recycling Office for a limited time.

There's never been a better time to start composting! Kitchen scraps can add many pounds to your trash and many tons to the Town's annual solid waste. They are also loaded with nutrients your lawn and garden need. In addition, yard waste such as leaves and grass clippings, which are banned from the trash, can be composted with your kitchen scraps. The Town sells several models and sizes of compost bins ranging from \$35 to \$45— call 978-250-5203.

Donate usable items: Take usable furniture and household goods to the Lowell Wish Project (www.thewishproject.org or 978-441-WISH); try giving items away at www.freecycle.org; or donate goods (year round) to Boy Scout Troop 74 (978-935-9474) for their Giant Yard Sale held every May.

Leaves/grass clippings—call Jones Farm, at 978-256-8065 for fee-based pick up and drop-off options.

Anti-idling law: Massachusetts law prohibits unnecessary vehicle idling. This 1972 law was recently amended to further restrict vehicle idling on or near school grounds in an effort to improve school air quality because children are especially vulnerable health problems from vehicle emissions. The anti-idling law applies to EVERYONE everywhere in MA – not just where you see the signs! Let's make Chelmsford's schools IDLE-FREE ZONES for the health of our children.

BigBellies® are here!—Solar powered BigBelly® trash compactors are in place at Varney Park, Roberts Field, Southwell Field, the Town Common and the McCarthy School field. Because trash is compacted, the containers need to be emptied less often, and they provide a tidy, pest resistant container which keeps trash from blowing into the parks. (These containers should not be used for dog waste.) This BigBelly® project is funded in part by a grant from the Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources, Green Communities Division.

July 3–4 Country Fair: The Office of Recycling and Solid Waste and the Chelmsford Recycling Committee will need a lot of hardy volunteers to help with bottle and can recycling at the July 3-4 Country Fair. Please call 978-250-5203 to sign up!