



The City Courier



Fire Chief Paul Caldwell's Retirement Celebration



On August 11, 2019, among family, friends, City and County Councils, associates, and fire service colleagues, the department hosted a retirement celebration for Chief Paul Caldwell for his 27 years of service to the fire department. He was honored with gifts, surprises, merriment, acknowledgements, and good food. His last day of employment was August 23, 2019. The new fire chief is Mr. James Jackson. He began employment with the City on August 28, 2019. Great adventures await both Chiefs!

From the Desk of the City Administrator



Welcome again to the second edition of *The City Courier*, a digital quarterly newsletter designed for the employees of the City of Chester. This edition will highlight some of the events that took place in the previous fiscal year. One very exciting event for me was joining the City of Chester's team a year ago. It has been my pleasure to serve the citizens and employees of Chester as City Administrator. We had a productive year and we are looking forward in 2019-2020 to Setting Goals, Working the Plans, and Achieving Results! I hope that you all will continue to dedicate yourselves to become the best professional that you can be. If we work together and not against each other, we can all celebrate success together.

Please remember: No one is perfect. We all make mistakes. No one is superior to another one; reaching excellence is a continuous journey and we cannot rest on our laurels. Let's make this fiscal year the best that it can be!



City Administrator Stephanie Jackson

Finance



The Finance Department Bids a Farewell to Accounts Payable Clerk, Mrs. Debbie Watkins and Finance Director, Mr. Jerry Baker.

Although, we are deeply saddened by their departure; we are extremely happy for Mr. Baker and Mrs. Watkins. Best wishes to them both as they turn the page and start a new chapter in life.



Fire Department



January 12, 2019—The Chester Fire Department's Annual Firefighters Banquet

Years of Service Pins were presented to:

- Eugene Hudson— 15-year service pin
- Ricky Grant—35-year service pin

Certificates for Personnel with Highest Number of Emergency Response Calls

- Ricky Benson— Part-time Employee
- James "JP" McNeil— Full Time Employee

A Retirement Award Plaque was presented to Billy Brakefield in recognition of 22 years of service to the department.

An Administrative Award was presented to Vee-Veca Torrence for providing 25 years of excellent and exceptional customer service.

The Leadership Award —Chief Caldwell and Fire Marshal Don Wood were honored by CFD Officers and the Administrative Assistant for their constant leadership, daily ethics of work and duty that goes well beyond the call of duty.

The 2018 Firefighter of the Year Awards were presented to:

- David Peeples—Part-time employee
- Ray Dotson—Full-time employee

March 30, 2019— Smoke Alarm Blitz: The department joined with the Chester County Recreational Department and the Red Cross in the Gayle Mill Village Area installing around 100 smoke alarms.

New Brush Truck: The department's new brush truck Unit 132 is at Station 1 and will be placed in service, once a few more pieces of equipment are received and mounted on the truck.

Online BS in Fire Science available at Columbia College

SHOUT-OUTS:

Congratulations to following fire department employees:

Department Promotions:

Riley Cloud— Captain
 Matt Rogers— Lieutenant
 Gene Hudson—Lieutenant



New brush truck Unit 132

Human Resources



On Wednesday, January 9th, the City of Chester held its annual Employee Breakfast at the Chester Farmers and Artisans Market from 6:30am-8:30am. The breakfast was catered by Our Kitchen Restaurant and sponsored by Winters Law Firm. We had a good employee turn out and everyone enjoyed starting their workday with a delicious breakfast and fellowship with coworkers.

On Friday, February 22nd and Friday, March 1st, we decided to put a different "twist" on our normal type of training. All administrative staff were given the opportunity to attend a one-hour stress management training class by participating in Chair Yoga. The class was hosted by Ms. Jan Jackson, who is an instructor at the Chester YMCA. Ms. Jackson showed the group that even though you spend the majority of the workday sitting in a chair at your desk, there are ways to sit properly, exercises you can do in your chair and at the same time, relieve stress. It was a very informative class, and everyone walked away feeling relaxed and stress free!

HR had the opportunity to attend our first Career Fair at Winthrop University on Thursday, March 28th from 10:00am-1:30pm. This Career Fair was a Government Fair offered to current and former Winthrop students who are interested in a career in public service. Corporal Makeesharia Tobias also attended the Career Fair with HR and was able to talk to students about a career in law enforcement. We enjoyed the opportunity to meet and talk with students who desire a career in public service as well as network with other municipalities.

Public Works



A 90-gallon roll cart is provided to each home for storage and collection of garbage. It is emptied ONCE A WEEK.

Any excess garbage must be placed in a City-approved bag. These bags are ONLY available at City Hall and cost \$2 each. Roll carts and bins should be removed from the curb by 7 p.m.

Residents can order an additional roll cart for \$21.

This fee will be added to the customer's water bill. There is no charge to use additional recycling bins and doing so can help reduce the volume of garbage in the roll cart.



Why recycle?

The City of Chester wants to emphasize the positive impact we can make on our environment just by recycling. Recycling conserves natural resources and helps protect the environment. It saves energy, prevents pollution and reduces the amount of valuable, reusable materials that go to landfills.

The City is dedicated to helping the community flourish and protecting the environment. Our education programs promote waste reduction, reuse and recycling options to businesses, schools, and the general public. We are committed to making recycling and other environmental practices convenient and easy for residents and businesses.

The City of Chester provides a fully integrated solid waste management plan that includes garbage collection, recycling, education, and state-of-the-art technology. Every item that is recycled or reused makes a difference. Before you toss, stop and think.

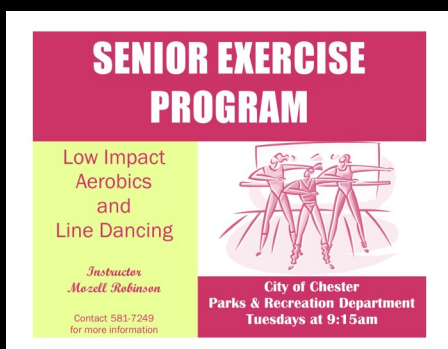
Parks & Recreation



Chester Parks & Recreation Department provides recreational and special activities for the City of Chester, including managing wellness and fitness programs. We are busy throughout the year maintaining parks, a football field, 7 tennis courts, a nature trail, and a competition sized swimming pool.

Senior Games is offered the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month from 10:30 – 12noon at the Activity Building.

Senior exercise and dance is every Tuesday from 9:15-10:00 at



the Parks & Recreation Department. The class is informal but will keep seniors active and provides time for a lot of socializing.

Summer Camp is a 9 week camp offered by the City that provides enriching recreational activities on and off site to youth ages 5-12yrs. of age. Youth also enjoy the use of the city's facilities and get to meet City officials and employees. Times of camp are 8am-1:00pm.

Wylie Parks Pool holds a capacity of 88 people and there are 8 Red Cross trained and certified lifeguards on duty to keep the public safe.

Police



We have already started planning for summer 2020 and we want to provide as much community information as possible. We will begin the summer with a kick off. It is High Five Friday that will be featured to all children who successfully completed the school year with good grades. We do not want to leave other students out, so we will have the students who struggled to talk with one of our officers to see if they can help them through the curriculum. We will serve snow cones and popcorn and have a BLAST! We will also be gearing up for our Family Pool Day that will be held at Wylie Park Pool. We will also be visiting many Vacation Bible School sessions to talk about the dangers of strangers and bullying. We hope to see you all in support of our events as we move through the summer months.

The Chester Police Department would like to shout-out Cpl. Tyler Covington for completing DRE training in Florida.

**To be inspired is
great, to inspire is
incredible.**

**-selected by the Police
Department**



Municipal Court



Our Municipal Court is located at 2740 Dawson Drive in the Chester County Law Enforcement Building.

The staff of the Municipal Court includes:

Judge Angela M. Killian, Chief Judge
Judge Gail Hamilton
Judge Theodore Wilder, Jr.
Ms. Gisela Gaither, Clerk of Court
Ms. Marilyn Kelly, Asst. Clerk of Court

To acquire knowledge, one must study; but to acquire wisdom, one must observe.

-selected by Human Resources

DID YOU KNOW?

**The Chester Fire Department began with 3 firemen and grew to 12 men, with a new fire station in 1980. Two of the firemen were about to graduate high school. They students were Todd Orr and Fred Revels.
*Information provided by David McAbee, Chief (1990-2005)***

Planning Commission

The Planning Commission of the City of Chester is responsible for the reviewing proposed amendments to the Zoning Ordinance for the City of Chester including determination of whether the proposed amendment is in conformity with the comprehensive plan of the City. Meetings are normally held on the fourth Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m.

The City's appointees to the Commission are:

Bob Smith, Chair

Angela Bedford-Days

Diane Simpson

Wyonia Hinton

2019 PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING DATES

- ◇ January 22nd
- ◇ February 26th
- ◇ March 26th
- ◇ April 23rd
- ◇ May 28th
- ◇ June 25th
- ◇ July 23rd
- ◇ August 27th
- ◇ September 24th
- ◇ October 22nd
- ◇ November 26th
- ◇ December 24th

CITY COUNCIL

Mayor Wanda Stringfellow

WARD I

William "Budda" Killian
Susan H. Kovas

WARD III

Annie M. Reid
Linda T. Tinker

WARD II

Betty Bagley
Mayor Pro Tem Angela Y. Douglas

WARD IV

Carlos Williams
William R. King, II

Welcome Mayor Wanda Stringfellow!



Mayor Stringfellow is no stranger to the City of Chester's government. She was sworn in on May 7, 2019 to her 4th term as Mayor. She has had a great start. One of her first initiatives was organizing the four Community Safety Meetings on May 31-June 5, 2019.



Councilwoman Susan Kovas graduates from the Institute of Government.



January

Arthur L. Evans, Jr.
Reginald McBeth
Debbie Watkins
Eric Williams

February

Jerry Baker
Ricky Grant
Rotonio Kennedy
Jeffery Rinke
Makeesharia Tobias

March

Ray Dotson, Jr.
Nick Harris
Joe M. Smith, Sr.
Theodore Wilder, Jr.

April

Nathaniel Cureton
David Ford
Lolita Fournery
Stephanie Jackson
William Jordan
William King
Susan Kovas
James P. McNeil, III
Lawrence Naniot
Camille Smith
Anita Springs
Walter Stephenson, IV

May

Tyler Covington
Gisela Gaither
Annie Reid
Carla Roof

June

Garret Baynes
Joseph Correll
Gail Hamilton
Don Wood

July

Heath Cabaniss
Chris Clinton
Gail Harrell
Marilyn Kelly
William Killian
Christopher Kinard
Brandon Kinard
Tamika McMullen
Terry Sanders
Linda Tinker

August

Richard Benson
Riley Cloud
Brandon Devine
Jonathan Grant
Terry Roberts
Dustin Roof
Rickey Sanders
Jaquavis Tucker
Jamie Compton

September

Kim Grafton
Terry Foster
VeeVeca Torrence
Michael Waits
Marquita Fair
Joshua Coggins
Yolanda Funn
Desmond Pressley
Carlos Williams
Ronnie Wright

New Hires:

January:

Tyrel Graham, Police

February:

Garret Baynes, Police

March:

Frank McClurkin, Public Works
William Jordan, Public Works
Donnie Ward, Fire
Nathaniel Cureton, Fire
Chapin Jones, Fire

April:

Camille Smith, Police

May:

Joshua Coggins, Fire

June:

Lameisha Heath, Police

July:

Gavin Blanks, Fire
Robert Harris, Police
Christopher Kinard, Fire
Tyson McKenzie, Fire
Lavar Richardson, Police
Marquita Fair, Finance
Terry Sanders, Police

August:

Desmond Pressley, Fire
Adam Wells, Fire
Jamie Compton, Fire

Retirees:

February :

Tim Gibson, Fire

August:

Lt. Lolita Fournery, Police
Debbie Watkins, Finance
Fire Chief Paul Caldwell, Fire

THANK YOU
FOR YOUR SERVICE

HAPPY RETIREMENT!



Mrs. Carla Roof
Department Head of the Year
2018-2019

Mrs. Roof was recognized as the City's first Department Head of the Year, which is a new award under the leadership of City Administrator Stephanie Jackson. She is described by Administrator Jackson as a dedicated and conscientious department head who has the City of Chester at heart. She was recognized for this honor at the June 24, 2019 Council meeting. Mrs. Roof is pictured being presented a plaque by Administrator Jackson, Mayor Stringfellow, and Council members. Her family surprised her and came to celebrate with her. Congratulations to Mrs. Roof!



State Fire Inspector
of the Year

Fire Marshal Don Wood
2019

Congratulations to Mr. Don Wood
for being recognized at the
State Level for this award.



The City of Chester's Fire Marshal Don Wood is the
State's Fire Inspector of the Year



Mr. Wood is pictured above with his Fire Chief Paul Caldwell, Administrator Jackson, Councilwoman Reid, Councilman Killian, Mayor Stringfellow, Councilwoman Bagley, Councilwoman Douglas, and Councilman Williams

Employees of the Month:

December



Vee-Veca
Torrence, Fire

January



Sylvia Young,
Human Resources

February



Don Wood,
Fire

March



David Ford,
Public Works

April



Rotonio Kennedy,
Public Works

June



Melodie Tate,
Human Resources

Trivia Question

At the time of the Declaration of Independence signing, what was the population of the United States?

Answer within newsletter

The Mission of the Service Departments of the City of Chester is to:

Partner with our community to collectively provide exceptional, professional, and fiscally responsible services to our citizens with the goal of enhancing the quality of life by promoting a safe, active, and healthy environment.

The Chester Fire Department's Annual Firefighters Banquet January 12, 2019

Retirement Plaque:
Billy Brakefield



25 Years of Service:
VeeVeca Torrence



Leadership Honors:
Chief Caldwell & Don Wood



Volunteer Firefighter of the Year:
David Peebles
Fulltime Firefighter of the Year:
Ray Dotson



The City of Chester Economic Development Community Focus Kick-Off Meeting April 30, 2019



Swearing-In Ceremony May 7, 2019

Mayor Wanda Stringfellow



Councilwoman Betty Bagley



Councilwoman Annie Reid



Councilman William Killian



Councilman Carlos Williams

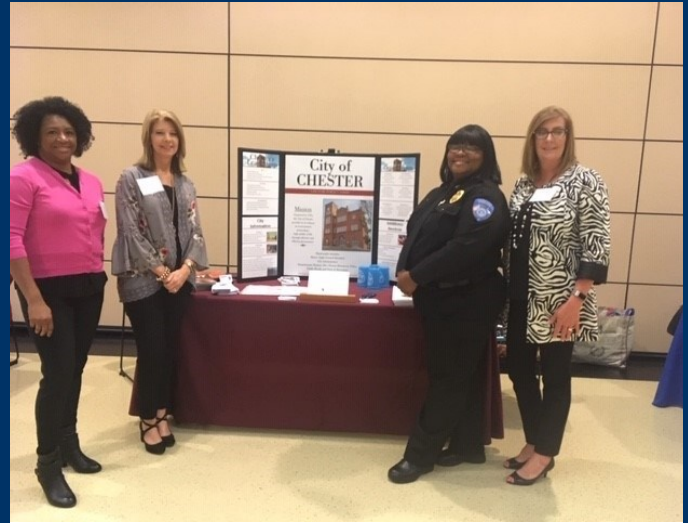


Mayor Wanda Stringfellow and City Administrator Stephanie Jackson

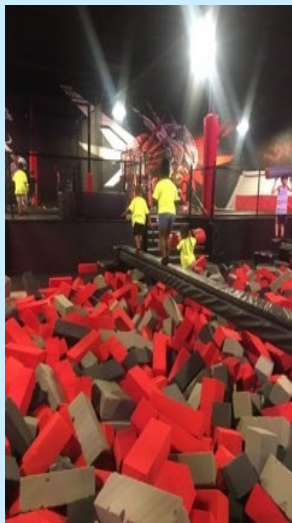




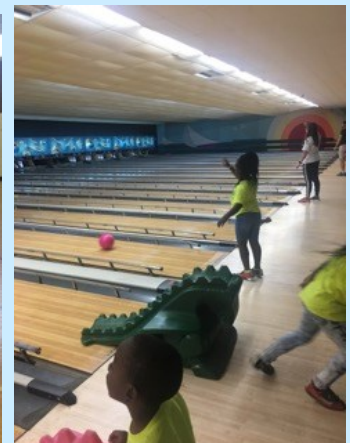
Stress Management Training Class
Chair Yoga was hosted by Ms. Jan Jackson,
instructor at the Chester YMCA



Career Fair, held at Winthrop University on
Thursday, March 28th. Human Resources and the
Police Department participated



Parks & Recreation Summer Camp

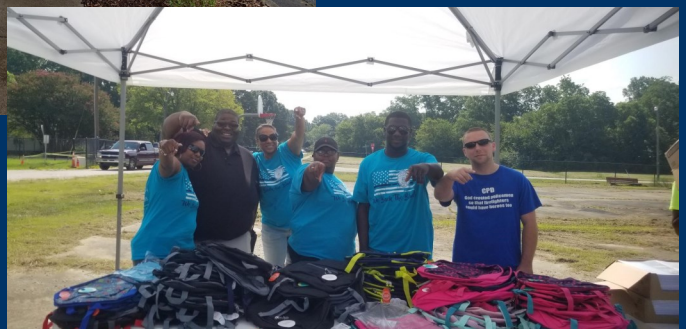


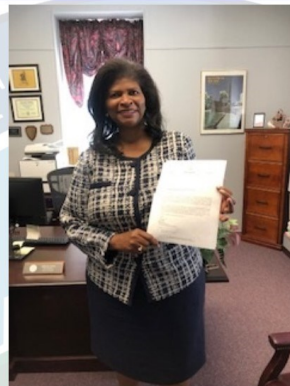


The Wylie Park Pool was open from June 8th through August 10th this year. The City's lifeguards are pictured with the Horizons Summer Camp group.

Back to School Bash

656 students received book bags!
THANK YOU TO ALL THE
DONORS!!





City of Chester Receives OZ Grant

Congratulations to City Administrator Stephanie Jackson and City Council!

Mrs. Jackson applied for the Opportunity Zone Grant and recently received notice that the City of Chester received the Grant Award of \$20,000.00 for the development of a Prospectus to identify and highlight investment opportunities in Opportunity Zones in the City of Chester.

74th Revival AAA Glidden Tour



Coming to the City of Chester

September 26, 2019 at 2 p.m.



Classic Car Tour

The Glidden Car Tour will take place in Chester County and the City of Chester on September 26, 2019. The tour will bring 135 cars into downtown for display. Added to the excitement of viewing the cars will be a scavenger hunt sponsored by the City.

Citizens will have an opportunity to search for the cars and submit a picture of themselves. Listed below are some of the cars that will be coming to Chester. A complete list will be provided in the scavenger hunt. Come enjoy an afternoon of family fun at this spectacular car tour.



Car Scavenger Hunt



Cars Coming to Chester. Complete List Provided with the Scavenger Hunt.

1937 BUICK	1913 STUDEBAKER	1938 FORD	1938 HUMPMOBILE	1911 LOCOMOTIVE	1932 DESOTO
1929 DUSENBURG	1937 CADILLAC	1930 PACKARD	1940 MERCURY	1929 MARMON	1940 LINCOLN
1936 DESOTO	1928 CHEVROLET	1931 CHRYSLER	1911 WHITE ROADSTER	1908 LOZIER	1912 FORD
1931 FORD A	1914 FORD	1933 FORD	1911 FRANKLIN	1910 BUICK	1911 FRANKLIN
1929 PACKARD	1927 OLDS	1941 DODGE	1929 FORD A	1932 PLYMOUTH	1928 HUMPMOBILE
1936 FORD DELUXE	1936 FORD PICK UP	1933 PLYMOUTH	1924 WHITE ROADSTER	1928 VELIE	1929 FORD

CHILI CHEESE DIP submitted by the Police Department

- 1-15oz can of chili by Hormel
- 1-8oz block of cream cheese
- 1-large cup of shredded cheese
- 1-bag of Fritos Scoops

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Use large spoon to spread cream cheese evenly at the bottom of any deep dish. Spread the Hormel chili over the cream cheese. Sprinkle cheese on top of the Hormel chili and bake for 25 minutes.

GRILLED CORN RECIPE COURTESY OF PAULA DEAN submitted by Human Resources

- 1/2 cup mayonnaise
- 5 ears corn, husks and silk removed
- 1 cup shredded Parmesan
- Chili powder
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper

Prepare grill. Brush a thin layer of mayonnaise on corn. Sprinkle the corn with cheese, chili powder, salt and pepper. Wrap each corn with foil and place on the grill. Turn occasionally and cook for about 10 minutes (until kernels begin to brown). Serve warm.

Carla's notes: I use frozen mini corn on the cob. Place the corn in a bowl of water and place in the microwave for 5 minutes. Drain off water and follow the recipe above.



June 1, 2019

To my good friend Carla, I appreciate your friendship.
Wishing you continued success!



All the best,

Ralph Norman
Ralph Norman, Member of Congress

Trivia Answer:

The population of
the United States
was 2,000,000.

City Courier Staff:

Marquita Fair
Stephanie Jackson
Melodie Tate
Makeesharia Tobias
Vee Veca Torrence
Shelley Watts, Editor



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