



Vintages



Volume 21, Issue 6

Editor: Gail Knight

June 2021

AMENITIES STATUS

Steve Schlesinger
For the Board

Now that we can see light at the end of the Covid tunnel, we are delighted to announce the opening of the pool for the 2021 season on Friday June 4th. Due to New Jersey Department of Health guidelines, we are required to have, in addition to the lifeguard, a "Covid Point of Contact" person to log all attendees for possible contact tracing, cleaning and general enforcement of social distancing. This additional expense means we will need to limit the pool hours to 1:00 PM to 6:00 PM daily. Even with these limits, this requirement has completely consumed the pool budget and any unexpected repairs or expenses may require us to curtail pool use.



We have also made several enhancements to the clubhouse over the last few weeks. The deck that overlooks the pool has been repaired and stained. Painting and power washing of the building exterior has been completed. Inside touchups include refinishing the tabletops in the library. Thorough cleaning will happen soon, and we are looking forward to announcing the opening of the clubhouse in the near future!

Thank you all for your understanding as we work to safely begin returning to normal.

2021 FOUR SEASONS AT CHESTER — POOL REGULATIONS

Steve Schlesinger

1. The pool will be open from 1pm to 6pm, 7 days a week. Access is only through the pool gate (Unless you require the elevator) while the clubhouse remains closed.
2. Only permanent residents may use the pool. No guests, children, grandchildren etc.
3. You must check in with the state-mandated "Covid Point of Contact" person upon entering.
4. The Covid Point of Contact person will clean the pool furniture and the bathrooms. Only pool-level bathrooms are to be used.
5. The ground will have marks where chairs, chaises will be positioned for appropriate social distancing.
6. Social distancing (6 feet) except for family members will be maintained everywhere including in the water.
7. No pool toys etc. will be provided.
8. One person at a time will be allowed in the hot tub for 15-20 minutes, with the exception of couples who may use the hot tub together.
9. Glass containers, alcohol, pets and smoking are not allowed.
10. IMPORTANT: For those using any amenity, a waiver must be signed.



Absolutely no swimming when a lifeguard is not present!

Restrictions by the state may change during the summer, the pool rules will be adjusted accordingly. Thank you for your cooperation as we all strive to have a safe summer.

RECREATION COMMITTEE MEETING UPDATE

Hope Swarts

The Recreation Committee will meet on Tuesday, June 8 at 10:45 a.m.
If the weather is pleasant, the Committee will meet on the Clubhouse deck.
If it is inclement, the Committee will meet at 3 Young Court.
All interested residents are invited to attend."



GARDEN TOUR AT FOUR SEASONS ON JUNE 5TH

Robin Morley

The Landscape Committee is excited to announce that there will be a garden tour of 7 residents' gardens at Four Seasons on Saturday, June 5th from 10 am to 1 pm, rain or shine.

All residents are welcome to come and do a self-guided tour of these colorful and unique yards.

You will receive a flyer in your mailbox several days before the tour giving you the location of each yard on the tour and the highlights of each garden. Bring it with you on the tour as a reference.

No need to call and reserve a spot, just come and enjoy the beauty of these gardens in our own community and talk with the clever gardeners who maintain them.



Annual Members Zoom Meeting
Thursday, June 10 at 7PM.

FOUR SEASONS — COVID WAIVER AND RELEASE FORM

The Covid waiver that will be required to access the amenities at Four Seasons will be collected at the Memorial Day event or at the pool by the Covid Point of Contact Person. Alternately you can put it in my mailbox at 12 Wyckoff Way or email the scanned waiver to me at sschlesinger1@outlook.com.

The waiver is for an individual so one is needed for each person.

Thanks so much for your cooperation!!

Steve Schlesinger

CHESTER LIBRARY VIRTUAL AND OUTDOOR ADULT PROGRAMS FOR JUNE 2021

6/1 at 4pm: Healthy Summer Eating & Grilling – Nutrition & Wellness workshops from Rutgers
 6/2 at 10:30am: WaterColor Art for adults - get together on the Patio Party
 6/2 at 2pm: Outdoor Library Listening Party.
 6/3 at 10:30am: Chester Garden Club - Outdoors
 6/3 at 4pm: Andrea Simon, author of Floating in the Neversink
 6/7 at Noon: Senior Lunch & Learn - Poison prevention; Children act fast, so do poisons.
 6/8 at 2pm: American Mahjong –outdoor play for adults 18+
 6/10 at 10am: Outdoor Adult Quilting Group
 6/15 at 10am: Morning Book Club - My Brilliant Friend by Elena Neapolitan. (outdoors)
 6/15 at 1:30pm: Afternoon Monthly Book Club - The Night Watchman by Louisa Erdrich (outdoors)
 6/17 at 10am: Unexpected Health Benefits of Gardening - workshops from Rutgers
 6/17 at 11:15am: Online job searching via Zoom
 6/17 at 4pm: Cooking basics and kitchen hacks - workshops from Rutgers
 6/22 at 2pm: American Mahjong –outdoor play for adults 18+
 6/28 at 11am: Music before lunch on the Library patio
 6/28 at 2pm: Drop-in monthly coloring club for adults
 6/29 at 4pm: Between each step; a married couples hike on New Zealand's Te Araroa by Patrice La Vigne.
 6/30 at 11am: Digital days outdoors at the Library; Setting up and navigating your gmail account.

Register for all programs at chesterlib.org

Need Help?

Contact Donnella Tilery

donnella.tilery@chesterlib.org

or

Call 908-879-7612



BOOK CLUB SCHEDULE

Submitted by Lisa Resnick

The following is our book schedule for the next few months.

June 9 - **Hamnet** by Maggie O'Farrell

July 14 - **Daughters of Yalta** by Catherine Grace Fox

Interested in updates or joining the discussion?

Contact Pat Perkins @ peacefulpat13@yahoo.com to be included in the book club email roster.

Contact Peggy Zysman @ peggy.zysman@gmail.com with general inquiries



WHO WAS THAT GUY PIKE?

Tom Morley

The American Colonies were preparing for war with the British. In 1715, Zebulon signed up and served. His young wife, Isabella, remained at the couple's farm in Lamington, NJ. It was there on January 5, 1779, that Zebulon Montgomery Pike was born. When the Revolution was over, Zeb's father returned home and resumed farming. Before long the family moved to a new farm in Buck's County, Pennsylvania, farmed there for a few years and eventually moved even further west in the State.

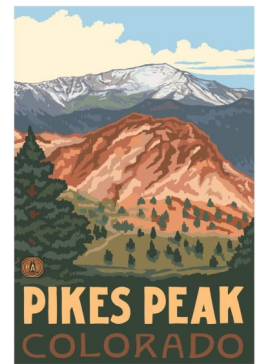
With the end of the Revolutionary War, the new United States looked even more to westward expansion. Farmers on the East Coast were moving to Ohio, Tennessee, and Kentucky. Zeb's father also headed further west, not to look for farmland but as a soldier for his country to defend the new settlers against the Indians who were fighting to protect their villages and hunting grounds. In 1790 Congress gave President Washington the authority to call out the volunteer militia in Kentucky, Virginia, and Pennsylvania. Captain Pike, now 40 years old and the father of four children answered the call and joined the Pennsylvania Militia. Two years later Washington called up the US Army in an effort to save the lives and property of the frontier. All of the troops were under the command of General Anthony Wayne and his mission was to make the western territory safe for all settlers.

Young Zebulon by now was living with his family at Fort Washington in Cincinnati, Ohio. Young Zeb matured quickly in this setting, he attended a number of common schools and was tutored by his father. Like his father before him, Zebulon junior joined the US Army at the age of 15. He impressed many by his energy, stubbornness, and bravery. His assignment for his first five years was to facilitate the movement of supplies to the number of forts build along the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers. He did this on barges and often was in charge of a dozen at any one time. Soon he reached the rank of Second Lieutenant and in the same year of 1799 the rank of First lieutenant. As Zebulon rose up the ranks, he was now put in charge of a number of small forts each new one being built further West. His mother had relations in Kentucky, and it was during this time that he met and married his wife, Clarissa Brown who followed him to all his fort assignments.

After this period of time, he received a permanent assignment to Fort Kaskaskia on the Mississippi River about 50 miles south of St Lewis. There were 80 families living in the Fort including Meriwether Lewis. The US under Thomas Jefferson had just purchased the land west of the Mississippi all the way to the Rockies. The land on the other side of the Rockies was still under Spanish control. It was from this Fort that Lewis and Clark recruited men for their adventure.

Lieutenant Pike too was chosen to lead an expedition to follow the Mississippi all the way to its source to a lake in Minnesota. The year was 1804 and he had been in the US Army for ten years, had seen little combat and few chances for any glory. The era of exploration had begun in America and Zebulon Pike wanted to be part of it. The land west of the Mississippi was variously controlled by France, Britain, and Spain and few US citizens had ever set foot on it. The Louisiana Purchase of 1803 as a huge parcel of land in the middle of the continent and the US had to compete with trading routes, valuable trading routes, with European powers. Many thought it was valuable as a trading route to the Orient. With the information from Lewis and Clark it was now seen as an enormous continent with amazing animals, minerals, and other natural resources.

History's review of the first American expedition up the Mississippi was mixed. Pike failed to reach the true source of the river, failed to stop the illegal fur trading by Europeans, and failed to make peace with the Indian tribes. His maps were poorly drawn and full of errors and he did not discover a single lake or stream that had not already been discovered or named. But Pike acquired the experience and skill that he would need for the more difficult expedition to follow.



(Continued on page 5)

Upon his return he expected a hero's welcome and a quick promotion to Captain. Neither happened. He was immediately put to work on preparing for another in the Western Territory looking for the sources of the Arkansas and Red River. This expedition was better outfitted in terms of equipment and supplies. There was one serious error made by Pike. He decided that, since the weather would be warmer in the West, the mission would not need woolen winter clothing and that a cotton uniform would be enough, or so he thought. This decision was almost fatal to the mission.

The expedition set off on July 15, 1806. Up the Missouri River (against the current) into Kansas and then Oklahoma by November. They had limited success with the Indian tribes who already had dealings with the Spanish Army that by this time was searching for Pike and his men. The Indians were more impressed by the Spaniards, their clothing and horses than they were by Pike and his men.

On November 15th they spotted the peak in what they called the Mexican Mountains (Pike's Peak today) which formed the boundary between the Louisiana Territory and territory belonging to Mexico. On November 24th, thinking they were near the source of the Arkansas River, they built a fort near Pueblo, Colorado. Pike attempted a climb with his men but he soon decided that it would be a Herculean effort to do so because of the steepness and the snow that was rapidly rising in height. Pike wrote in his journal "I believe no human being could have ascended to its pinnacle". Another miserable month was spent looking for the Arkansas and Red River sources. The men had turned their bedding into socks and cloaks. They were sleeping on the bare ground without blankets with only a fire to keep warm.

About this time the Spanish Army caught up with them and in their weakened condition insisted that Pike and his men follow them to Santa Fe, Mexico to meet with the authorities since they were in Spanish Territory and were suspected of spying. The Red River they thought they were following was in reality the Rio Grande River. Once in Santa Fe, Zebulon became political prisoner, accused of possibly spying, and told he would have to stay in Mexico until his papers were thoroughly studied. Pike was extremely well treated as were his men during this period of time. The Spaniards concluded that he was a spy but he was allowed to return home since Spain did not want a war with the United States.

Returning ultimately to Washington, DC and briefing President Jefferson of his mission, he finally received the rank of Captain, followed by Major and was assigned to go to New Orleans. With his family, he spent three years there before the start of the War of 1812 protecting the flow of river traffic from the possibility of British interference.

When the war broke out, he was reassigned to Plattsburg, NY on Lake Champlain. From there he led an assault on some military barracks in Montreal and ended up burning them to the ground. By now he had reached the rank of Colonel. Next assignment was the Battle of York (Toronto today) where he was promoted to the rank of Brigadier General. The Battle of York was a success and while he was waiting for the terms of surrender to be signed, a British Ammunition storehouse exploded near him scattering rocks and debris in every direction. Pike was severely wounded and moved to a navy ship in the harbor where he died though not before hearing the shouts of victory from his men on shore. He was thirty-five years old and had served the US Army for twenty years.

Zebulon Pike

(b. 1779 in Lamington, NJ

just 15 minutes from Chester, NJ)



COMMUNITY PROBLEMS / QUESTIONS ?

Taylor Management, our property management firm, creates work orders and interfaces with contractors about any questions regarding landscaping, maintenance or other problems in the community.

When you have any questions or concerns, please contact Daniela DeVries at ddevries@taylormgt.com or call either 973-267-9000 x316 or 973-532-8216 direct.

Clare Ramirez, Property Manager can be reached at cramirez@taylormgt.com or call either 732-764-1001 x131 or 732-357-8441 direct.

Clare is onsite on Thursdays.

Clubhouse office phone is 908-879-7635

Four Seasons at Chester is on Facebook

All you need to do to participate is have a Facebook account and become a friend of "Four Seasons at Chester"

Facebook administrators are:
Hope Swartz, Karen Shuffler,
Allan Newcomb

WHO'S WHO?

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1-888-992-9288

Automated External Defibrillator (AED)

Located in the fitness center at the
Clubhouse — Call 911

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