

Chesco News

THURSDAY, JULY 24, 2008

It's a Grower's Market

Back by popular demand, the Grower's Market offers County employees access to locally-grown fresh fruits and vegetables. This year, vendors will be located in the GSC front parking lot and at the Courthouse courtyard off High Street on select Wednesdays from 11:00 am – 2:00 pm. Stop by and pick up some of the fresh produce and prepared vegetarian meals made with local produce from the lunchtime farmers' market.



Remaining Grower's Market dates:

GSC—August 13, September 17, October 8
Courthouse—July 30, August 20, September 10, October 1



Pictured here at the Grower's Market in front of the GSC is Paul Hauser of the Chester County Gleaning Farm selling his wares to County employees.

It's Fun to Stay at the...

Participating Chester County YMCAs are currently waiving initial fees for County employees. This offer applies only to NEW members, but the savings can go up to as high as \$120.

If you're looking for a place to work out, the opportunity has presented itself; but act soon, as the offer is only good for membership until June 30, 2009. Visit the Wellness Website for details about participating YMCAs under Fitness Center and Health Club Memberships.

Chester County in the Forbes.com Top 10

It's official. According to Forbes.com, Chester County ranked 10th in the nation when it comes to the best places for raising a family. Forbes simply confirmed what many of us already know, but to substantiate the claim, Forbes referred to Chester County's 96% graduation rate and an average SAT score of 1075 (among other reasons).

If you agree – or if you think that there couldn't possibly be nine other



places in America that are better than Chester County for raising a family – let us know. Why have you chosen to live here, and for many of us, to raise our families here? What are the some of the "bests" of Chester County? Email your reasons to rbrain@chesco.org. A future issue of Chesco News will list some of the most popular responses, and we will have a random drawing for a "prize" from a local eatery.

Official opening of the Chester County Justice Center

Another event to mark on your calendar: On **Sunday, September 7th**, the new Chester County Justice Center will be "officially opened". The afternoon will feature tours of the new building.



Employee Blood Drive

The Commissioners thank everyone contributing to Chester County's most recent employee blood drive. Please mark your calendar for the next blood drive—September 24th, at the GSC and the Masonic Lodge.

Safety Corner – BBQ Tips

Summer is in full swing, which means BBQ season for a lot of people. Here are a few suggestions from the Safety Committee to minimize the risks of injury while using your grill:



Check your grill thoroughly for leaks, cracking, or brittleness before using it.

Make sure the grill is a safe distance away from your house, garage, or trees.



Have a fire extinguisher, a garden hose attached to a water supply, or a bucket of water close at-hand.

Never leave the grill unattended.

Never pour starter fluid onto an open flame – it can easily flashback along the fluid’s path to the container in your hands.

Never attempt to extinguish a grease fire with water. It will only cause the flames to flare up. Use an approved portable fire extinguisher and aim at the base of the fire.

Safety in the Workplace

The Chester County employee safety committee has received a great response to the survey sent to employees in June. Results will be published in a future issue of Chesco News.



But in the meantime, how much do you know about safety procedures regarding office fire drills, office electrical safety or the County’s stance on cell phone and road safety? Often we don’t learn about these procedures until we really need to...

To find out more about the County’s safety procedures, go to bottom left corner of the home page of WebCC. There you will find a black and yellow triangle icon that takes you to the safety and risk management home page.

Stand Up and Be Counted

In preparation for the 2010 Decennial Census (that’s once every ten years to you and me!), Chester County is taking part in the Local Update of Census Addresses (LUCA) program. LUCA is designed to update address lists in the rapidly-growing Chester County. Of the 26 municipalities reviewed by the County, more than 4,300 addresses were added to the census address list – an important exercise as national and state government funding is often awarded to the County and municipalities based on population needs. The 2010 Decennial Census figures will be more accurate, thanks to the preparation of the County, its local municipalities, and the Census Bureau.

Dress Down Report

Even though the summer casual dress code is in place, don’t forget that the third Friday of each month is the official “Dress Down Day” for Chester County charities. Use this day to don jeans and sneakers – or continue with the summer casual attire – but don’t forget your \$3 (minimum) donation.

On August 15, 2008, County employees are invited to dress down and donate to the Chester County **Com-**



munity Volunteers in Medicine (CVIM). CVIM provides medical and dental services to the uninsured, working poor of Chester County, and has been in serving the community for over a decade.

And as a reminder, the last Friday of each month is a Dress Down Day for the food cupboard of Community Service Council – also known as Chester County Cares. On this day, employees are asked to ‘Dress Down’ and for the privilege, make donations of appropriate **toiletries** for Community Service Council, placing them in specially



marked containers in the lobby of the GSC and near the elevators in the Courthouse. For more details about this Dress Down Day, and County guidelines for all Dress Down Days, go to WebCC and click on *HR/ Employee Info*, then *Business Casual Dress Code Guidelines*.