

# Councilwoman Karen Chew

## January Report

Website and Television Update: Please continue to refer to it and the cables stations for information. There is a lot of information and updates posted on these media. I had a meeting with the new website vendor on December 27 to discuss usage and improvements. I have asked for input from the residents about the pages and links you would like to see included. As a reminder, this website is for you so it needs to include those items you feel are important to you. You may refer to the Council reports on the Contact page. As before please use the photos to access the reports. Don't forget to follow us on both Twitter and Facebook use "@ChesilhurstBoro" for Twitter and "Chesilhurst Borough" on Facebook.

Continue to look for additional information at Borough Hall. There are many new flyers with important information posted on the bulletin board so stop by to see if there are answers to questions you may seek. Please see Ms. Rose before posting any flyers. Any community flyer not authorized will be removed.

Personnel Committee: No updates

Finance: I am in communication with the Acting State Director | Community Programs Director | New Jersey State Office | Rural Development | United States Department of Agriculture to discuss financial options available to develop facilities for programs needed in the Borough and surrounding municipalities.

Economic Development: I am reconnecting with Camden County College to reopen discussions about establishing a training facility in the Borough.

Emergency Management: As a reminder please use caution as you use open flame and other heat sources during this Winter season. Practice fire safety by not leaving any fire or heat source unattended. Remember to check the batteries in your smoke and CO2 detectors often and change the filter in your heat system. This is the time to check to see if you are truly prepared to weather any major storms or other disaster such as power outages, fires, gas leaks, mandatory evacuations, etc. There are many providers and websites available to help you prepare a survival kit for you and your family. You can contact the Red Cross, Homeland Security, and FEMA just to name a few. Don't wait until the disaster is knocking at the door. Do your part to keep you and your family safe and ready for what Mother Nature throws at you.

The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), Emergency Medical Service (EMS), and Fire Department are always looking for volunteers. If you are qualified or are able to become qualified please contact these agencies and help your community when needed.

Veterans Affairs: **Income Tax Exemption for Veterans**

**New for Tax Year 2017.** You are eligible for a \$3,000 exemption on your Income Tax return if you are a military veteran who was honorably discharged or released under honorable circumstances from active duty in the Armed Forces of the United States by the last day of the tax year. Your spouse (or civil union partner) is also eligible for an exemption if he/she is a veteran who was honorably discharged or released under honorable circumstances and you are filing a joint return. This exemption is in addition to any other exemptions you are entitled to claim and is available on both the resident and nonresident returns. You cannot claim this exemption for a domestic partner or for your dependents. Copies of the form and instructions have been provided to the Tax Office if you need them.

Historical Committee: Nothing to report.

History Highlight (as posted in the Courier-Post October, 2006 special printing)

Did you know an Underground Railroad stop operated in Chesilhurst in a home at the southeast corner of Hendricks and Walnut Avenues. I have been researching this information for verification. If anyone has any proof please contact me either by phone or email. If proof can be provided it may be possible to have the site added to the National Registry of Historic Sites.

Our Town:

Do you have some noteworthy news you would like to share? I am still looking for information to post in the “Our Town” segment of my report. If you have information you would like to share regarding appointments, promotions, graduations, honors, births, etc. please email me at [Councilwoman.Karen.Chew@gmail.com](mailto:Councilwoman.Karen.Chew@gmail.com). We would be happy to share your great news. As a reminder if you have a community event that you would like posted on the website or cable station, please send the information to me no later than two weeks in advance for publication.

Respectfully submitted,  
Karen Chew

14 September 2017