



TOWN OF CHESHIRE
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TO: Town Council
FROM: Sean M. Kimball, Town Manager
SUBJECT: Town Manager's Report – February 2024
DATE: February 13, 2024

Cheshire Public Library

The Cheshire Library has a full slate of winter programs for all ages, of note:

- We held our second, quarterly Afterhours Event on Friday, January 26th featuring Psychic Medium, Rebecca Anne LoCicero with 105 attendees.
- The first three Saturday concerts have been well attended. The next concert will be on Saturday, March 2nd featuring Irish music by Liz McNicholl

Library Director, Beth Piezzo, and the Coordinator of Senior Services, Stefanie Theroux, are co-facilitating the six-week program Powerful Tools for Caregivers at the Library in the evening through March and early April to accommodate those in caregiving roles who are still working during the day. This program begins Thursday, March 7th at 5pm at the Cheshire Library.

The Library will be closed on March 6th for a staff professional development day.

Senior Center Income Tax Program and Elderly/Disabled Tax Credit Programs

- The Senior Center is accepting appointments for the AARP Income Tax Program, which runs through the end of March. Please contact the Senior Center for details and to schedule an appointment.
- The filing period is currently open for the Elderly (65+) / 100% Disabled Tax relief for homeowners which runs from February 1st to May 15th. Income thresholds and credit amounts are available on the Town website at:
https://www.cheshirect.org/government/departments_and_divisions/assessor/tax_relief_programs . For more information, please contact the Assessor's Office at 203-271-6620.

Grand List/Revaluation and Tax Assessment Appeal Deadline

The October 1, 2023 Grand List was officially filed at the end of January per state statute. The state-mandated revaluation process represented the vast majority of the almost \$1 billion increase in the Grand List from \$3,032,209,830 to \$3,998,150,399. Real Estate assessed values increased by 39% to

\$3.45 billion, Personal Property increased by 9.93% to \$211 million and motor vehicle values decreased by 4.54% to \$340 million.

It is important to remember that an increase in assessed property values does not necessarily mean an increase in property tax bills. Revaluation is a revenue-neutral process intended to rebalance the grand List every 5 years to ensure that everyone is paying their fair share of the overall municipal tax burden. The new mill rate established at the end of the budget process will be based upon these higher values, and property owners will be able to estimate their taxes by applying the new mill rate to their new assessed property value.

As a reminder, property owners wishing to appeal 2023 Grand List real estate, business personal property assessment or their 2022 supplemental motor vehicle assessment before the Board of Assessment Appeals must submit a written application to the Board on or before **February 20, 2024**. These forms will be available on www.cheshirect.org and from the Assessor's Office in the Town Hall at 84 South Main Street. By state statute, an appeal can be heard **ONLY** if the request has been submitted on the prescribed form to the Cheshire Board of Assessment Appeals by **February 20, 2024**.

Economic Development Update

Please see the attached Economic Development monthly report for a number of recent updates and new business openings. Of particular note, we are thrilled to announce that a multi-year lease has been signed for 6,800 sq.ft. main area of the Waverly building including the restaurant, tavern and banquet room. The ownership group is beginning extensive renovations including replacing window, roofing and HVAC equipment and will open under the name Il Gusto Italian Restaurant, Wine and Bar. The group currently owns and operates Adriana's in New Haven and plans to open Il Gusto in late summer. This is great news for the Waverly, a historic Cheshire institution that has sat idle since May of 2019.

Holiday Hours

Please be aware that Town Offices will be closed for the observation of Presidents Day on Monday, February 19, 2024. There will be **no** garbage/recycling delay.

Upcoming Town Council & Committee Meetings:

Town Council Sustainability Committee Meeting

February 21, 2024 at 7pm, Room 207/209, Town Hall

Town Council Ordinance Review Committee Meeting

February 27, 2024 at 7pm, Room 207/209, Town Hall

Town Council Regular Meeting

March 12, 2024 at 7pm, Council Chambers, Town Hall

Town Council Public Hearing on the Town Manager's Proposed Budget

March 19, 2024 at 7pm, Council Chambers, Town Hall