



**TOWN OF CHESHIRE**  
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**TO: Town Council**  
**FROM: Sean M. Kimball, Town Manager**  
**SUBJECT: Town Manager's Report – December 2024**  
**DATE: December 10, 2024**

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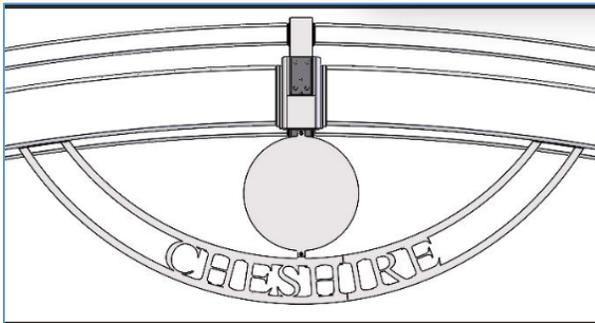
**Annual Winter Wonderland at Bartlem Park**

Thank you to all who attended and all who participated in our newly reimagined Winter Wonderland at Bartlem Park. We had an incredible turnout on a picture-perfect evening. Activities included games for all ages, wagon and horse-drawn carriage rides, cookies and hot cocoa, alpacas, music, the holiday tree and menorah lighting and of course Santa arriving in a CFD Fire Truck for pictures. The newly expanded area of Bartlem Park South was certainly on full display and received rave reviews. A special thank you goes to Barb Costello, Elizabeth Mayne and John Gawlak from Recreation for the organizing and programming. Additionally, a huge “thank you” to Mark Cunningham, along with Dan Bombero, Rich Pruitt and all of our incredible DPW maintainers who worked incredibly hard to create holiday light displays, decorated poles, menorah and tree decorations, and perhaps most impressively, the in-house creation of one of the most beautiful decorated hay wagons you’ll ever see! Thank you of course to our Recreation Commission, our student volunteers, the Lions Club, the Cheshire Junior Women’s Club, PowerStation Events and of course the Town Council for all of their support.



## **Bartlem Park South Update**

- All newly expanded park areas are open for public use.
- Approx half of the punch list resolved, the remainder is largely landscaping to be done in spring.
- Reduced contractor erosion and sediment control inspections from weekly to monthly, many have been removed but those remaining will stay in place until the summer per DEEP requirements.
- Paving of the rest of the Bartlem Park parking lots and access drives is scheduled for the Spring.
- Bandshell currently is on track for February/March fabrication completion. The Town Seal and “Cheshire” wording at the eve of the bandshell has been finalized. The edge of the seal and the words below will be a “silver frost” metallic color (not shown below), with the actual seal our traditional white background with blue imagery.



## **Library Updates**

With the departure of Beth Piezzo as she relocates to New Hampshire, I have appointed Deputy Director Sandy Hernandez as Interim Library Director for the duration of the recruitment period. Last week Sandy shared the following information with me regarding a unique and innovative new library program, called “Book Boxes” that has been very well received:

Over 4 months, we've given out 67 book boxes. Each program “event” is capped at 10 people but we typically allow 2-5 in off the waitlist. People register for the program and fill out a google form where they list their book preferences, interests, favorite color, etc. One of our Reference Librarians, Kristy Crisler, then creates the box with a couple of our library books and some small gifts tailored to their interests. She also wraps everything in tissue paper in their favorite color. All this goes into a box and she created a special barcode that allows staff to check the items out without the patron having to open the box and see what's inside. She also includes a review card so patrons can let her know what they thought of the book, the treats, the box, etc. This new offering has been incredibly popular with at least one patron leaving Kristy a note in the box telling her how much she loves the program. Praise for the program made its way onto the Cheshire Facebook forum recently which has created more positive buzz for it.

## **Town of Cheshire Volunteer Holiday Reception**

The annual holiday reception for Cheshire volunteer officials is scheduled for Wednesday, December 18<sup>th</sup> from 4:00pm-7:00pm at Viron Rondo Osteria. The deadline to RSVP to the committee or commission’s staff liaison is tomorrow, Wednesday, December 11<sup>th</sup>.

## **Groundbreaking for the Two New Elementary Schools**

The Next Generation School Building Committee has announced a two-part Groundbreaking Ceremony for Monday, December 16<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 Noon, ending around 2:30 p.m. Invited participants will be meeting at the Waverly/Il Gusto parking lot for a bus departure at noon and a post-ceremony reception to follow at Il Gusto.

## **Cheshire's Energy Assistance Program**

Cheshire Human Services is an intake site for the energy assistance program. The energy assistance program offers financial assistance to income eligible households in paying for a *portion* of a household's heating costs during the winter months. This is a supplemental assistance program, and award amounts are lower this energy season, so it is helpful to plan accordingly. Payments are made directly to fuel or utility vendors.

Program eligibility is based on income and household size. Applicants are required to provide documentation of current income for household members over the age of 18. This is an annual program, so an application does need to be completed yearly. Individuals interested in applying should contact Kristen Cherry at 203-271-6690.

## **Upcoming Town Council Meetings:**

### **Town Council Special Meeting Re: Chesprocott**

Wednesday, December 11, 2024 at 7:00 p.m., Council Chambers Caucus Room, Town Hall

### **Town Council Joint Personnel Committee/Town Council Meeting**

(Tentatively - January 13, 2025 at 7:30 p.m.)

### **Town Council Regular Meeting**

Tuesday, January 14, 2025 at 7:00 p.m., Council Chambers, Town Hall

### **Town Council Public Hearing Re: School Naming**

Thursday, January 16, 2025 at 6:00 p.m., Council Chambers, Town Hall