



TOWN OF CHESHIRE
84 SOUTH MAIN STREET, CHESHIRE, CT 06410
Telephone (203) 271-6660 FAX (203) 271-6639

TO: Town Council
FROM: Sean M. Kimball, Town Manager
SUBJECT: Town Manager's Report – September 2025
DATE: September 9, 2025

2025 Cheshire Fall Festival



Friday, September 12th, 2025– Food Trucks and Music

Saturday, September 13th, 2025 – Cheshire Fall Festival

Sunday, September 14th, 2025 – Carnival 12pm-6pm

Mark your calendars for what promises to be an amazing weekend in Cheshire! The annual Cheshire Fall Festival is scheduled for this Friday, September 12th and Saturday, September 13th. The celebration begins on “Food Truck Friday” including the Kiwanis Carnival and two concerts using the new Bartlem Park Bandshell, and continues all day Saturday with vendors on the Bartlem Park Great Lawn, followed by the annual fireworks show (sponsored by Regency Centers of the Shops at Stone Bridge). The carnival will also remain available on Sunday. For additional information and a complete schedule of events, please go to <http://cheshirefestival.com/>.

Bartlem Park Bandshell Ribbon Cutting

This **Friday, September 12th at 6:45pm** – community leaders and key individuals who supported the Bartlem Park South project will be gathering just before the concerts kick off to celebrate the substantial completion of the new Bartlem Park Bandshell, effectively wrapping up the entire park expansion project! All are invited to attend the celebration as we kick off the 2025 Cheshire Fall Festival!



Dan Pugach Big Band at the Bartlem Park Great Lawn

Ball & Socket Arts is partnering with the Friends of the Cheshire Public Library on a very special edition of Live @ the Factory with Dan Pugach Big Band on **Friday, September 19th at 6:00pm** featuring original big band music from the Grammy-winning Dan Pugach Big Band at Bartlem Park's new bandshell!

In the event of rain, the concert will be moved to the Cheshire High School Thorpe Auditorium. Advance registration encouraged. Register through Ball & Socket Arts at <https://ballandsocket.org/events/2025/danpugachbigband>.

Bartlem Beats Summer Concerts

If you have not been able to attend the Bartlem Beats concerts yet this summer, you still have the chance! The final concert will be held on **Sunday, September 21st from 6-8pm** at the Bartlem Park Great Lawn. We hope to see you there as we wrap up the 2025 season with a very exciting performance from American Girl, a Tom Petty and The Heartbreakers Tribute Band.



Library 2025 Summer Reading Program

The 2025 Cheshire Library Summer Reading program was a historic success! Kudos to our entire library staff, especially the children's librarians who drummed up the excitement in the schools back starting in May. The library saw a 4% increase of sign-ups from last year with a total of 1,516 participants. But the historic part came as our biggest increase was with participants that finished the program. These are the participants who completed their hours of reading and all of the challenges we had during the summer. There was a 50% increase in participants that finished overall and a 137% increase of adults that finished- a result that is attributed to the fact that we introduced their own finishing party. This is the largest number of finishers we have ever had since we've been keeping stats for our summer reading program. It is also the largest number of participants in the program's history!

Next Generation School Building Committee August Update

The following report was received from Rich Gusenburg, Chair of the Next Generations School Building Committee, in lieu of an in-person report for September due to the number of items on the agenda:

1. We are aware that the Council enjoys hearing that the two projects are "on time" and "under budget" and I am pleased to report that we are on time and under budget.

2. Progress on the schools is noticeable. At Barnum School, the exterior, driveways and curbing are being completed with one playfield scheduled for seeding. Exterior bricks are being laid at both sites. Large crews are working throughout the sites completing roofing, running plumbing lines and ducts and electrical. In some cases, hallways are being sheetrocked. (Pictures attached)
3. We were recently informed that the company that was hired to make the bricks for Barnum School had a catastrophic event and are closed indefinitely. At this time, we are working to procure a new supplier. According to O&G this could have some effect on our timeline but should not cause any serious issue.
4. Tecton Architects continue to work with school staff to detail the bids for furniture and technology. These should come before the building committee in October.
5. The Next Generation School Building Committee recently received a report from Mike Zuba from MP Planning on progress on updated enrollment projections and redistricting options. We asked for this presentation since we are paying for the monthly invoices. The final report is expected in October/November and the school administration and BOE will then review and act on it.
6. The Next Generation School Building Committee heard from Aaron Alibrio from Johnson Controls regarding potential plans for adding solar panels to Barnum and Norton Schools as part of the town's Energy Conservation Plan. Committee members have expressed strong support for energy conservation efforts, as seen in our inclusion of geothermal systems in both buildings, but also expressed concerns regarding the aesthetics of car ports and solar panels on certain peaked roofed areas of the buildings. The architects will provide renderings for our upcoming meeting on September 25th.
7. O&G has a program entitled "O&G Builds"; This is a program run when construction is taking place on an occupied site such as Norton. In the near future meetings will set up with different trade contractors to come to the construction trailer and give a talk/presentation to a select group of older elementary students then the students will be escorted on to the construction site to see the real-world application of what was discussed/presented to the students in the trailer. O&G staff are coordinating the details with the principal on how many students they will be able to accommodate and which students would benefit most, but this is a great opportunity for students thinking of a career in the trades or construction to get some real-world experience.

Barnum School:



PreK is at the right, library and gym are to the left. Classrooms are behind.



Brickwork on the south side of the building



Play field ready for seeding

Norton School:



Brickwork in the courtyard



Sheetrocked hallways



Sheetrocked hallways

Upcoming Town Council Meetings:

Town Council Special Meeting

Thursday, September 11, 2025 at 7:00 p.m., Town Council Chambers

Town Council Ordinance Review Committee

Thursday, September 18, 2025 at 6:30 p.m., Room 207/209

Town Council Special Meeting

Tuesday, September 23, 2025 at 6:30 p.m., Town Council Chambers

Town Council Regular Meeting

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