

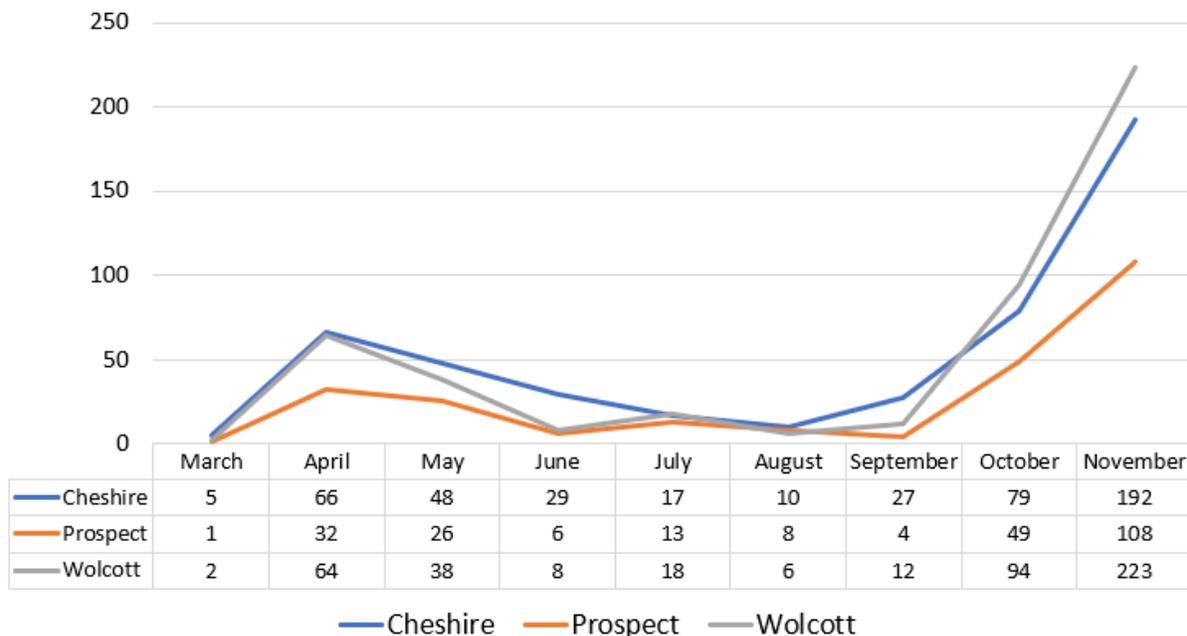


MEMORANDUM
TOWN OF CHESHIRE
 84 SOUTH MAIN STREET, CHESHIRE, CONNECTICUT 06410
 Telephone (203) 271-6660 FAX (203) 271-6639

TO: Town Council
FROM: Sean M. Kimball, Town Manager
SUBJECT: Town Manager’s Report – December 2020
DATE: December 8, 2020

COVID-19 Pandemic

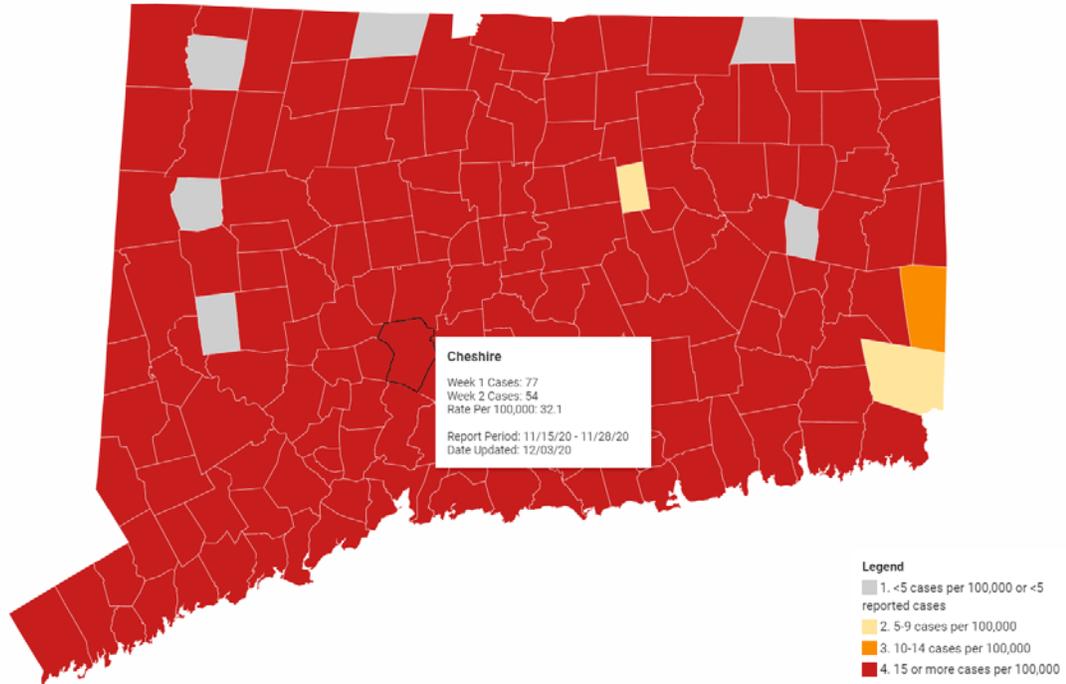
Case numbers have continued to increase significantly over the past month as we are experiencing a statewide surge in COVID-19 positive cases. As always, we continue to work very closely with our partners at the Chesprocott Health District to make decisions to best protect the health and welfare of Cheshire residents while balancing the need to keep our schools and businesses as open as possible. However, the surge in cases can be seen quite clearly in the chart below, showing that Cheshire had more cases in the month of November (192) than we had in the months of June through October combined (162).



Cheshire, along with 159 other towns in the state, has been designated a “Red” alert level community with a case rate of 32.1 daily cases per 100,000 residents. The map on the next page and additional information can be found on the state’s COVID-19 portal at:

<https://portal.ct.gov/Coronavirus/COVID-19-Data-Tracker>

Average Daily Rate of COVID-19 Cases Among Persons Living in Community Settings per 100,000 Population By Town



We are continuing to stress to our residents and employees that it is imperative that we rethink our daily activities and shrink social circles and avoid groups and gatherings. Private gatherings continue to be the primary confirmed sources of spread. As always, please remember to wear your mask, wash your hands and keep your distance from non-family members.

Town operations are continuing unchanged at this time despite sporadic COVID-19 positive cases and exposures requiring quarantine. We have not experienced any spread within the workplace to date and the positive cases we've experienced have all stemmed from family member cases or gatherings outside of work.

With the winter season upon us, our Public Works Department has implemented a strategy to mitigate the operational impact of COVID including splitting up crews for breaks at multiple facilities, contingency plans for relief drivers and a Chesprocott-approved plan to "test out" of quarantine for reporting directly to a plow truck only if absolutely necessary.

Recreations Department Updates/Offerings

- Annual Tree Lighting
 - Thank you to Cheshire Recreation Department, Public Works and all who helped coordinate the COVID-modified annual tree lighting ceremony complete with a new additional lighted tree at Bartlem Park, a visit from Santa via a Cheshire Fire Truck, Town Council members in attendance, the Cheshire Junior Women's Club and essay contest winner Eliana Orlinksi, and the Cheshire Lions Club for a beautifully refurbished Santa Chair. The event was streamed live on Youtube and Facebook, and is available online on those platforms for anyone to enjoy.

- Bartlem South/Chapman Property Master Plan:
 - We held a very successful Virtual Public Engagement session online on Thursday, December 3rd with incredible public participation, comments and feedback on the Bartlem South concepts presented by Weston and Sampson. If residents have additional thoughts or comments please contact us by email at Recreation@chshirect.org. The next steps will include the consultants and staff incorporating the public's feedback as best as possible into a draft preferred master plan concept to be presented to the Town Council in the coming months.

Public Building Commission Project Completion Reports

Attached please find project completion reports for Council review submitted by the Public Building Commission for the following capital projects:

- Library Roof and HVAC Unit Replacements
- Districtwide Lavatory Improvements
- Doolittle Bathrooms (2019 Phase I)
- Parks Bathroom Improvements (Mixville, Cheshire Park, McNamera and Lock 12)

Award of \$1.5 million Small Cities Grant for Beachport Apartments

I am pleased to report that the Town, on behalf of the Cheshire Housing Authority, was successful in its application for a \$1.5 million Small Cities Grant to modernize the Beachport Apartments.

This project will modernize the fire alarm and emergency call-for aid system, allowing all the buildings to be monitored individually and collectively even in the event of loss of power. The system is capable of providing the exact location of the call identifying the building, unit, and room; and the device type that was activated. This information will then available to the fire department and first responders in real time. Additionally, the kitchens in 43 units will be renovated to include the installation of new cabinets and countertops, vented exhaust fans, sinks, faucets, LED lights, and new flooring throughout. The site work and safety measures include replacing sidewalks that have become hazardous to the residents and guests. An additional 15 parking spaces will be created to accommodate the residents, staff and visitors. Currently, there are only 40 parking spaces for 48 units and 52 residents.

Upcoming Town Council & Sub-Committee Meetings

Town Council Special Meeting
December 15, 2020 – 6:00 pm

Town Council Ordinance Committee
December 17, 2020 – 5:30 pm

Town Council Regular Meeting
January 12, 2021 – 7:00 pm

School Modernization Options Subcommittee
December 9, 2020 – 5:30 pm

School Modernization Communications Subcommittee
December 14, 2020 – 6:30 pm

School Modernization Committee
December 16, 2020 – 7:00 pm