

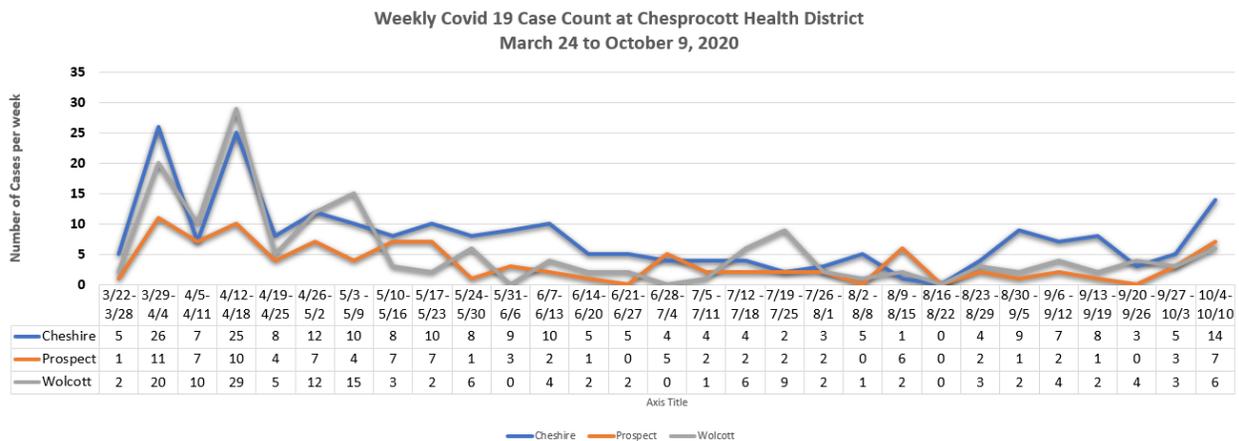


MEMORANDUM
TOWN OF CHESHIRE
 84 SOUTH MAIN STREET, CHESHIRE, CONNECTICUT 06410
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TO: Town Council
FROM: Sean M. Kimball, Town Manager
SUBJECT: Town Manager’s Report – October 2020
DATE: October 13, 2020

COVID-19 Pandemic

We continue to work very closely with our partners at the Chesprocott Health District to make local decisions to best protect the health and welfare of Cheshire residents while balancing the need to keep our schools, businesses and sports/activities as open and “normal” as possible. Over the past few days we have seen a significant local increase in positive cases and we want to remind everyone to remain vigilant with mask-wearing, hand-washing and social distancing. The following chart from Chesprocott shows the local uptick, and a number of additional cases were added over the weekend since this chart was created.



Some residents have inquired about Halloween activities. We are not “cancelling” Halloween here in Cheshire, however we strongly encourage everyone to follow the CT DPH guidelines released a few weeks ago. These guidelines recommend avoiding indoor parties and traditional door to door trick-or-treating. Residents are encouraged to get creative with candy placed on a table or other means of contactless distribution. Kids and parents should wear masks, keep their distance and limit contact with non-family members. Full CT DPH guidance can be found here: <https://portal.ct.gov/DPH/Communications/Guidance/Connecticut-Halloween-Guidance>

Recreations Department Offerings

- “Get Pumpk’d” Halloween Event – Families can register to have staff deliver and hide small pumpkins and decorating supplies in your front yard. Delivery will be October 20th before the school day is over, registration available online.
- Halloween Rec Bags are also available for purchase online with a variety of supplies for Halloween activities, treats and crafts.

Community Pool

We are closely monitoring the Community Pool operations, revenues and expenditures in this uncertain time of COVID capacity restrictions. Through the first quarter, revenues totaled approximately \$88,500 which is about \$80,000 less than in recent years. If this trend were to continue we could see a revenue shortfall of over \$200,000 when compared to budget. While expenditures are projecting slight favorability, the staffing requirements remain similar despite decreased capacity. As such I do not expect significant expenditure savings to make up the deficit. We also experienced damage to the pool’s UV sterilization system due to power failure during the August Tropical Storm. Fortunately, this unit was covered by insurance and we are submitting the deductible amount for potential FEMA reimbursement. We are reviewing a variety of operational options but I wanted the Council to be aware of this issue as we strategize on the best way to move forward.

Deputy Chief Fred Jortner Promotion

Last Thursday, Lt. Fred Jortner was officially promoted to the position of Deputy Chief of the Cheshire Police Department. Fred is a 17-year veteran of the department and he holds a Masters Degree in Management and Organizational Leadership. He also graduated from both the FBI National Academy in Quantico, VA and the command Officers Development Course at the Southern Police Institute in Louisville, KY. Congratulations to Deputy Chief Jortner and I thank him for stepping into this important leadership role.

Public Works Updates

- Townwide Brush Collection from the August tropical storm was completed as of today. A report will be forthcoming but less overtime was used compared to estimates and the overall cost was substantially less than originally budgeted.
- Leaf Collection will begin November 2nd and go through December 11th.
- West Johnson Bridge superstructure replacement was completed on schedule.
- Paving has been completed for the year – recent round included Oregon Rd, northern portion of Cheshire St., and parts of Brentwood Dr. and Ridgecrest Dr. Crack-sealing is ongoing for a number of roads to preserve the pavement.
- The Jarvis St. sidewalk connection has been completed and is open.
- Free Electronics Recycling event – 11/7/2020 from 9am-1pm at Town Hall
- Free Mattress Collection event – 11/14/2020 from 9am-1pm at Town Hall

Tax Collections

This year in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Cheshire Town Council approved property tax deadline deferment which moved the last day to pay without penalty to October 1st. Approximately 30% of taxpayers utilized the deferment for at least one tax bill. Following the new deadline, our tax collection rate currently stands at 56.88% or 0.62% less than at the same time last year (57.50%).

Budget Books & GFOA Submission

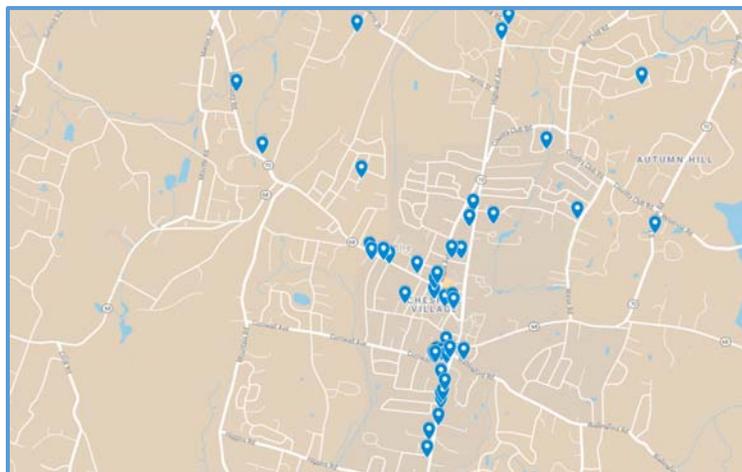
The FY21 Adopted Operating and Capital Budget book has been completed and distributed. A copy and application has been submitted to GFOA for an annual review and consideration for the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award.

WWII Parade

Thank you to all who participated and assisted with planning the parade last Friday honoring three Cheshire WWII veterans who all turned 100 years old this month. The honorees are Naval Chief Petty Officer Ralph Rowland, Staff Sergeant Irv Daubert, 1st Lieutenant Florence Bryant. It was an incredible event led by 17-year-old Hayley Falk and her Because of the Brave organization. Special thank you to the Bozzuto's Hometown Foundation, Hines Hardware, Powerstation Events, the Cheshire Police Department and many others who helped with the event and parade.

Scarecrow Contest

The first annual Cheshire Scarecrow Contest has been quite a success and thank you to all of the participants including many local businesses for their creative submissions. Thank you to the organizers: the Cheshire Chamber of Commerce, ArtsPlace, Cheshire Library and our Recreation Department. If you haven't had a chance to drive around to see them I would encourage you to, there is a updated Google Map with locations available [HERE](#):



Library COVID Expansion of Services Plan

The Cheshire Public Library has expanded patron access to the Library for evenings and Saturdays. The popular Grab and Go curbside service is continuing with reduced hours.

Hours for Building Access: Monday and Wednesday: 1:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday: 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Saturday: 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Grab 'n Go Contactless Pickup Hours: Monday through Friday: 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

The number of visitors will still be limited to ensure social distancing. Face coverings that cover the mouth and nose are required, and no food or drink is allowed.

The necessary accommodations that have been made for the safety of patrons and staff are working well. Patrons have been cooperative and understanding, and many have expressed how happy they are to be able to return to the Library in person. Restrooms and several other areas remain closed to the public, and on-site programming and meetings are still restricted. Other successful virtual programs and services developed by the Library in response to the pandemic are still being provided.

Budget Referendum Reminder – Tuesday, November 3rd

As a reminder, the ballot for the upcoming (and ongoing) election scheduled for November 3rd includes three referendum questions for Town of Cheshire capital projects being sent to the voters for approval. The projects are:

- 1) \$1,400,000 for HVAC and Locker Room Improvements at the Police Station
- 2) \$1,600,000 for the Road Improvement Program
- 3) \$620,000 for the Road Reconstruction of Industrial Ave.

The explanatory text can be found on our website at:

<https://www.chshirect.org/media/181756/explanatorytext-11-3-2020.pdf>

Upcoming Town Council & Sub-Committee Meetings

Town Council Planning Committee

October 20, 2020 – 7:00 pm (virtual)

Town Council Budget Committee

November 10, 2020 – 6:30 pm (virtual to the public)

Town Council Regular Meeting

November 10, 2020 – 7:00 pm (virtual to the public)

School Modernization Communications

Subcommittee

October 15, 2020 - 6:30 pm (virtual)

School Modernization Committee

October 21, 2020 – 7:00 pm (virtual to the public)

School Modernization Committee

November 2, 2020 – 7:00 pm (virtual to the public)