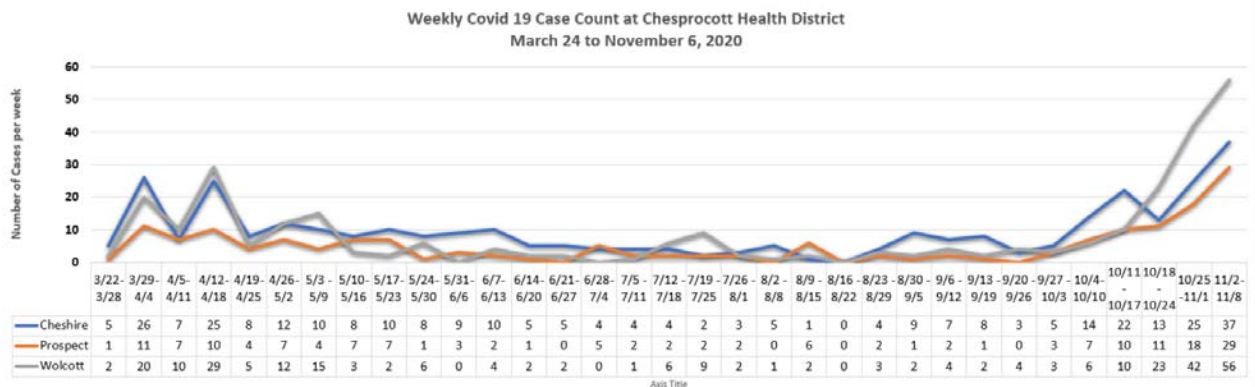


**MEMORANDUM**  
**TOWN OF CHESHIRE**  
 84 SOUTH MAIN STREET, CHESHIRE, CONNECTICUT 06410  
 Telephone (203) 271-6660 FAX (203) 271-6639

**TO:** Town Council  
**FROM:** Sean M. Kimball, Town Manager  
**SUBJECT:** Town Manager’s Report – November 2020  
**DATE:** November 10, 2020







**COVID-19 Pandemic**

In recent weeks we have experienced a dramatic surge in local positive cases. 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, businesses and sports/activities as open and “normal” as possible. However, we are seeing weekly case counts that are significantly exceeding those experienced in the early months of the pandemic last spring.



Cheshire has been designated an “Orange” alert level community with a case rate of 14.7 daily cases per 100,000 residents. Based on the known cases added in the past week we will be passing the 15 daily case threshold that will result in a “Red” alert status when updated this Thursday.

The State of Connecticut reverted to a [Phase 2.1 Reopening](#) with reduced capacity for certain businesses and further restrictions as established by sector rules. DPH has also established a Municipal Response Framework with recommended actions and further restrictions based on individual town alert levels. Please see the chart on the next page for additional information related to general response requirements at the various alert levels.

	<b>Yellow</b> 5-9 cases per 100k per day	<b>Orange</b> 10-14 cases per 100k per day	<b>Red</b> 15+ cases per 100k per day
 DPH Response	Outreach to Local Health Department	<b>ENCOURAGE TESTING FOR ASYMPTOMATIC RESIDENTS</b> Weekly calls with Local Officials	Issue Public Health Alert
 Individuals	Masks, distancing, extra precautions for high risk	<b>HIGH-RISK INDIVIDUALS SHOULD STAY HOME, STAY SAFE</b> Avoid larger events, limit time with non-family members	Limit trips outside home, avoid gatherings with non-family members
 Communities	Scale up public awareness, social media	Scale back public events	Cancel public events and limit community gathering points; Reverse 9-1-1
 Organized Group Activities	Move activities outdoors where possible	Limit group sizes; Postpone indoor activities where mask wearing or social distancing cannot be maintained	Postpone all indoor activities; Postpone outdoor activities where mask wearing or social distancing cannot be maintained
 Pre K-12 Schools	Re-Enforce and monitor safety measures with staff, students and families	Maximize spacing, mask wearing, ventilation and hygiene to support in-person learning	In collaboration with Local Health Department and Superintendent, consider more distance learning above 25
 Business & Sector Rules	<b>REMINDE STAFF TO ASSESS THEIR SYMPTOMS DAILY AND NOT REPORT TO WORK IF THEY ARE ILL</b> Phase 3 with enhanced enforcement	Phase 3 with enhanced enforcement	Municipal option to revert to Phase 2

We are continuing to stress to our residents and employees that it is imperative that we rethink our daily activities and consider shrinking social circles and avoiding 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.

## **STEAP Grant Award**

The Town was recently notified that the grant funding request from the CT Small Town Economic Assistance Program (STEAP) for \$128,205 for the renovation and replacement of sidewalks at Curve Hill Road and Highland Avenue was approved. The Town is planning matching funds of \$121,750 to complete the project. Acceptance and appropriation of the grant award will be scheduled for the next Town Council meeting.

## **GFOA Award for Excellence in Financial Reporting**

Congratulations to Finance Director/Treasurer, James Jaskot and the entire Finance Department on receiving the Government Finance Officers' Association (GFOA) Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for the FY19 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report. This Certificate of Achievement is the highest form of recognition in governmental accounting and financial reporting, and its attainment represents a significant accomplishment by a government and its management. This is the 24<sup>th</sup> consecutive year that the Finance Department has been so recognized and it demonstrates their continuing commitment to excellence in financial reporting to maintain this impressive streak.

## **Recreations Department Updates/Offerings**

- The Turkey Hunt:
  - The 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Park & Rec Turkey Hunt will be next Thursday, November 19<sup>th</sup> beginning at 6:00pm. Participants must pre-register for this free program that will have you following clues to 6 locations around Cheshire. Participants will be emailed their clues at the start of the event, or you can request a printed copy to pick up at the Youth Center, if you prefer. The clues will lead to 5 cardboard turkeys and 1 chicken that are set up at parks and landmarks around town. If you find a cutout, bring it to the Youth Center where you can trade it in for a gift basket, courtesy of Chick-fil-A in Wallingford.
- Skate Park Upgrades:
  - The Skate Park at Bartlem Park was recently refurbished following a warranty inspection requested by Director John Gawlak to ensure safety and structural integrity. In addition to some included warranty replacements, work was performed to enhance the condition of the ramps, upgrade riding surface paint, and replace rusted railings with galvanized guard rails.
- Ice Rink:
  - Unfortunately, due to the ongoing concerns with public gatherings during the COVID-19 pandemic we will not be setting up the ice rink at Bartlem Park this year. We will also be looking for alternative locations for the rink next year as the lack of shade coupled with limited sustained cold weather last year meant the rink was only usable for two weekends last winter.
- Bartlem South/Chapman Property Master Plan:
  - Later this evening we will be releasing an updated Bartlem South Concept Document as modified by our Weston and Sampson consultants that includes more

clarity around phasing and project costs for average taxpayers in response to the Council’s feedback at our last meeting. The first public engagement session to receive public feedback will be held during the week of November 30<sup>th</sup>-December 4<sup>th</sup> and more details will be forthcoming.

**Public Works Updates**

- Leaf Collection has begun for the season and will go through December 11<sup>th</sup>.
- Free Mattress Collection Event – This Saturday, Nov. 14<sup>th</sup>, from 9am-1pm at Town Hall

**Capital Budget Referendum Results – Tuesday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>**

<b><u>Referendum Question</u></b>	<b><u>Yes</u></b>	<b><u>No</u></b>
1. Police Station HVAC and Locker Rooms - \$1,400,000	9,664	7,213
2. Road Improvement Program - \$1,600,000	12,908	3,671
3. Road Reconstruction - Industrial Ave. - \$620,000	10,066	6,557

**Upcoming Town Council & Sub-Committee Meetings**

**Town Council Special Meeting**  
November 24, 2020 – 6:00 pm (Tentative)

**Town Council Budget Committee**  
December 8, 2020 – 6:30 pm

**Town Council Regular Meeting**  
December 8, 2020 – 7:00 pm

**School Modernization Options Subcommittee**  
November 11, 2020 – 4:00 pm

**School Modernization Options Subcommittee**  
November 18, 2020 – 4:00 pm

**School Modernization Committee**  
November 18, 2020 – 7:00 pm

**School Modernization Communications Subcommittee**  
November 23, 2020 – 6:30 pm

**School Modernization Options Subcommittee**  
November 25, 2020 – 4:00 pm

**School Modernization Options Subcommittee**  
December 2, 2020 – 4:00 pm