



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 – December 2023
DATE: December 12, 2023

Parks and Recreation Offerings

Annual Tree Lighting

Thank you to everyone who helped organize and all who came out to enjoy the Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony on December 3rd. Special thank you to Therapeutic and Special Event Coordinator Barb Costello along with John Gawlak, Elizabeth Mayne and the entire staff for all of their hard work. The soggy weather moved the event inside the Youth Center this year, but there were still many people in attendance enjoying caroling, cookies, festive games, a special reading by Town Crier Ron Gagliard, and of course Santa arriving by CFD firetruck. Thank you to the Town Council, CFD, CPD, DPW, the Lions Club, the Cheshire Jr. Women's club, Mazzone Brothers Productions, and so many others.

Winter Parks and Rec Brochure

Visit the Cheshire MyRec webpage to view the entire Winter Program Brochure:
<https://cheshirect.myrec.com/info/default.aspx>

Cheshire Public Library Report

Please see the attached monthly report from the Cheshire Public Library. Of particular note are the 2022-2023 statistics collected and reported to the CT State Library:

- Annual visits up 29% (140,318 vs 108,583)
- Public computer use up 68% (10,800 vs 6,446)
- Wi-Fi use up 76% (37,862 vs 21, 538)
- Reference questions up 9% (10,686 vs 9,759)
- One-on-One Tech Help = 6,941 sessions (new category this year)
- Programs are up 41% (868 vs 612)
- Program attendance is up 59% (11,743 vs 7,385)

Cheshire Fire Department Toy, Food & Gift Card Drive

CFD will be holding its annual Toys, Food & Gift Card Drive this Saturday, December 16th from 8:00AM – 2:00PM. As of today, plans are being finalized to move the collection from the Stop & Shop plaza to the Church Green. Keep an eye out for updated signage and flyers.

Town of Cheshire Volunteer Holiday Reception

The annual holiday reception for Cheshire volunteer officials is scheduled for 4:00pm-7:00pm at Viron Rondo Osteria. The deadline to RSVP to the committee or commission's staff liaison is today, Tuesday, December 12th.

Yellow House Winterfest – Saturday December 16th, 6:00PM-8:30PM



Monthly Economic Development Update/Report

The month of November has continued to see major announcements and economic development within the Town. We were pleased that Hanwha Aerospace, a leading aircraft engine and advanced machinery manufacturer, announced plans to establish its headquarters of the International Engines Business in Cheshire. The 300,000SF facility set on 40 acres on Knotter Drive will serve as a hub for global operations, enabling Hanwha to better engage with its customers, stakeholders, and partners. The decision speaks to Cheshire's ideal location, strong workforce and economic vitality. The move will see Hanwha's International Engines Division executive leadership relocating to the Cheshire facility, major renovations and ultimate spin off economic growth at local businesses and housing.

Please see the full monthly Economic Development report as attached in the Council packet.

Revaluation Notices

Notices of preliminary values for the 2023 state-mandated revaluation were mailed earlier this month. More information on the process of revaluation and frequently asked questions are available on our website at: <https://www.cheshirect.org/spotlight/revaluation>. As the letter indicates, informal hearings to review the assessment value can be scheduled with eQuality by visiting Cheshire.equalitycama.com or by calling 475-405-6505 before December 17, 2023.

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 and Subcommittee Meetings:

Town Council Special Meeting

Tuesday, January 9, 2024 at 7:00pm, Council Chambers, Town Hall

Town Council Regular Meeting

Tuesday, January 16, 2024 at 7:00pm, Council Chambers, Town Hall

Note: Additional Council committee meetings are currently being scheduled for January.

Library Report – 12/1/23

- I submitted the **2022-2023 Annual State Report** to the Connecticut State Library on October 25th. Of note:
 - Annual visits up 29% (140,318 vs 108,583)
 - Public computer use up 68% (10,800 vs 6,446)
 - Wi-Fi use up 76% (37,862 vs 21, 538)
 - Reference questions up 9% (10,686 vs 9,759)
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Building

- The alarm system upgrade has been completed.
- The system that monitors the building's HVAC system is in the process of being upgraded to a more accurate system including the installation of onsite thermostats that staff will be able to adjust a couple of degrees up or down.

Personnel

- Rachel Bogan started as a new Library Clerk on November 14th and as such we are now fully staffed.

Policies

- The Collection Development Policy was accepted and approved by the Connecticut State Library so we will be receiving a grant for \$1,200 sometime in the winter. The new policy is up on the Library website.
- We are reviewing the current Code of Conduct Policy which needs an update so that will be brought to the Board in the next month or so.

Programs and Services

- Saturday Concerts are returning on December 9th with Entwined Early Music's performance 'Twas in the Moon of Wintertime. Concerts will continue through the winter. This concert is fully booked with 140 reservations.
- During the holiday break, Youth Services staff will be holding a Life-Sized Candyland Game and Adult Services staff will be hosting a Jigsaw Puzzle Competition.