

CHESTERFIELD TOWN HAPPENINGS

DECEMBER 2024

Board of Selectmen Notes

December 2024

A Note from the Trustees of Trust Funds

The Trustees would like to remind everyone that there are town donor trusts that can accept new donations, including the Chesterfield Scholars Fund, the Vocational Scholarship Fund, the Wares Grove Recreational Facilities Enhancement Fund, and the New Parks and Rec Building 2024 Donor Trust Fund. We encourage residents and businesses to consider tax deductible donations to any of these trusts. Our two educational scholarship funds in particular are in need of funding. Both were established many years ago but with funds insufficient to provide meaningful scholarships to today's students. If you are interested, please contact the Trustees or Board of Selectmen.

TOWN REPORT PICTURES

If you have pictures of Chesterfield you would like to share with the Selectmen's Office to potentially be used in this year's Annual Town Report, please email them to townadmin@nhchesterfield.com.

Looking for Employees and Volunteers

The Town of Chesterfield is in need of the following people:

Administrative Assistant for the Police Department

&

Police Officers

(see details below in the Police section)

Deputy Town Clerk

(see details below in the Town Clerk section)

Administrative Assistant to Zoning/Planning and Code Enforcement

(see the town website for details)

Planning Board - Alternate Members

Zoning Board of Adjustment - Regular & Alternate Members

TOWN OFFICE - HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

2024

The Town Offices will be closed on the following dates:

2024 HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

Wednesday, December 25, 2024 – Christmas Day

2025 HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

Wednesday, January 1, 2025 - New Years Day

Please note that the Transfer Station dates may be different and are listed below



Board and Commission Meetings

(Note: all meetings and updates to meetings can be found on the Town Website www.chesterfield.nh.gov)

Board of Selectmen

Wednesdays, December 11 & 18 **6:00 pm** **Town Office/Zoom**
(Every other Wednesday - Change due to Christmas Holiday)

Economic Development Committee

Thursday, December 5 & 19 **6:00 pm** **Town Office**
(2nd and 4th Thursdays - change due to holiday)

Planning Board

Mondays, December 2 & 16 **7:00 pm** **Town Office/Zoom**
(1st and 3rd Mondays)

Zoning Board of Adjustment

Thursday, December 19 **6:30 pm** **Town Office/Zoom**
(3rd Thursday - hearings begin no earlier than 6:45 pm)

Chesterfield Fire & Rescue Commissioners

Monday, December 30 **6:30 pm** **Center Fire Station**
(3rd Monday - exception this month)

Spofford Fire & Rescue Commissioners

Thursday, December 12 **6:00 pm** **Spofford Fire Station**
(3rd Thursday - exception this month)

Budget Committee

Tuesday, December 17 **7:00 pm** **OEM Room/Town Office**

Library Board of Trustees

Tuesday, December 17 **7:00 pm** **Chesterfield Library**
(3rd Tuesday)

Conservation Commission

Monday, December 2 **7:30 pm** **Town Office**
(4th Monday - exception this month)

Chesterfield Revitalization Group

Monday, December 9 **5:00 pm** **Town Office**
(2nd Monday)

Housing Working Group

Wednesdays, December 4 **6:30 pm** **Town Hall**



The Chesterfield Police Department is accepting applications for an Administrative Assistant and Full-Time Police Officers

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

The Town of Chesterfield NH is accepting applications for an Administrative Assistant position in its Police Department. This is a full-time, five days a week position. This position includes a benefit package set by the Town of Chesterfield. This is an administrative position under the direction of the Police Chief. The responsibilities include assisting with executive, administrative, and clerical activities, and assisting in the preparation of reports and data requests. Duties require considerable independent work judgment, discretion, and tact in public contacts and the processing of operational and administrative work. This position deals with access to sensitive and non-public police and personnel data and requires a high degree of confidentiality.

Minimum Qualifications: High school diploma or GED required. Three (3) years of experience in office management and administrative support is preferred.

Please send a cover letter, resume and application to Chief Lance Rouse at lrouse@pd.chesterfield.nh.gov.

For more specific job description information and to download an application, please contact the Chesterfield Police Department at (603) 363-4233.

Applications accepted until position is filled.

The Town of Chesterfield is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Job Type: Full-time

Pay: Determined on experience

Schedule:

- 8-hour shift
- Day shift
- Monday to Friday

POLICE OFFICER

If you are looking for an exciting and rewarding career, come work for the Chesterfield Police Department! We offer competitive benefits, personally assigned cruisers, and a sign on bonus.

We are looking for one full time patrol officer and will be accepting applications and resumes to fill this vacancy. Part-time positions are also available. Come join our team today! For more information, contact Chief Lance A. Rouse at lrouse@pd.chesterfield.nh.gov or by phone (603) 363-4233.

MORE THAN A JOB - A CALLING!

**CHESTERFIELD POLICE NOW
HIRING**

\$28.67hr Starting Pay (Uncertified)

Come work for the Chesterfield Police Department,
a Town you can call home!

- Salary Range: \$59,633-\$76,814
- \$10,000 Sign on Bonus (Certified) \$5,000 (Uncertified)
- Personally Assigned Police Cruiser
- Outer Carrier Vests
- Detail Rate: \$54.65
- 11 Paid Holidays
- Health and Dental Plans
- NHRS
- Vacation, Sick and PTO
- Town Beach Pass



CHESTERFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT - For more information contact:
Lieutenant Lance Rouse 603-363-4233/lrouse@pd.chesterfield.nh.gov



TRANSFER STATION HOLIDAY SCHEDULE - 2024

The Transfer Station will be CLOSED on the following dates:

2024 HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

Wednesday, December 25, 2024 – Christmas Day

2025 HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

Wednesday, January 1, 2024 - New Years Day

Please note that the Town Office dates are different and listed above

TOWN CLERK NEWS

Looking for a Part-Time job? The town clerk's office is seeking a Chesterfield resident to be our new deputy clerk. We are seeking someone that enjoys working in a front facing office and comfortable with computers as well as someone committed to providing the best service possible.

Working Hours: T/W 9am-1pm and 4-7pm, Th 9am-1pm. Please see the full announcement under open positions on the town website. Interested parties please email: townclerk@nhchesterfield.com.

Holiday hours for the Town Clerk Office:

Tuesday, December 24th limited hours: 9am-1pm (1 clerk)

Wednesday, December 25th Closed

Thursday December 26th Closed

Tuesday, December 31st regular hours

Wednesday January 1st Closed

Wishing you a warm and comforting Holiday Season!

TAX COLLECTOR NEWS

The December Property Tax bill will be sent out during the week after Thanksgiving. As we are waiting for the State of NH to set our tax rate, we cannot tell which day next week, but because it will be after December 1, 2024 the due date for payment of this bill will be January 6, 2025. As in the past, we will be open for in-person payments on Mondays during the tax season from 2:00 pm until 6:00 pm. We will also accept cash for tax payment provided it is exact change. We do not have the ability to make change. Also, no loose or rolled coin will be accepted. Payment can also be made online through the town's website -chesterfieldnh.gov. There is a small fee for using your checking account (ACH Payment) and you may use your credit card but there is a bank fee of 2.99% added on to the taxes. Payment may also be mailed in to the town and we will credit payment postmarked on the due date as received on time.

If you have any questions regarding your property tax bill, please contact the office at 603-363-4624 ex 14.

Ken Cook



Chesterfield Public Library December 2024 Events

Notices: the library will close early on December 24 and December 31 at 1:00 pm.

The library will be closed all day on December 25, December 26, and January 1.

The library has received COVID test kits from the state of NH. Individuals may receive up to two boxes each while supplies last.

Everyone

Winter Open House, Thursday, December 19, 10:00 – 8:00 pm Visit the library to celebrate the upcoming Winter Solstice with refreshments and crafts! Children/Youth

Holiday Card Making, all month while supplies last. Craft a cheerful card for someone you care about using our supplies!

Storytime, Mondays at 11:00 am Join us for stories, songs/rhymes, and a craft!

This program is designed to support early literacy skills in preschool children.

Siblings are welcome! 12/2 - Cats 12/9 - Winter 12/16 - Gingerbread 12/23 - Winter Holidays 12/30 - Snow

Saturday Songs and Stories, Pizza Book Club, and Teen Library Club will resume in January!

Adult

Creative Writing Group, Thursday, December 12, 6:00 – 7:30 pm Have you ever wanted to write, play with words, and share your writing with others? Please join us at the library on the second Thursday of each month for our new writing group for people of all writing backgrounds and experiences. We all have stories to tell; sharing them will build community, compassion, and understanding. All are welcome to join.

Spice Club, Monday, December 9 at 6:00 pm Join the Friends for an informal and fun hour presenting spices and recipes. This month the Spice Club will hold a Cookie Exchange! Bring 4 dozen of your favorite cookies, a container to take home, and the recipe to exchange!

Library Book Club, Tuesday, December 10 at 5:30 pm The Library's adult book club will discuss the novel The Frozen River by Ariel Lawhon. Stop by the library to sign up and pick up a copy of the book.

Knit Chix, Tuesdays, December 3 and 17 at 1:00 pm The Knit Chix meet on the first and third Tuesday of each month to craft gear for people in the Monadnock region. Crocheters welcome!

Quilting Guild, Monday, December 16 at 1:00 pm Our quilting group meets once a month to work on projects and discuss their work. All levels are welcome! Join us to learn from the best.

Tech Drop-In, Wednesdays at 4:00 pm Do you have technology questions or need help with using the internet and online resources such as Libby? Stop by the library during our drop-in hour and let us assist you.

Friends of the Chesterfield Public Library Meeting, Tuesday, December 3 at 5:30 pm Join the Friends of the Chesterfield Public Library to help work on special projects. The Friends of the Chesterfield Public Library are instrumental in providing support to the library.

Inquire at the Front Desk for more information on any event. Reach us by phone at (603) 363-4621 or email FrontDesk@ChesterfieldLibrary.org



CHESTERFIELD CONSERVATION COMMISSION NEWS

It was with a sigh of relief that I listened to a steady rain falling last week. We are cautioned that we are still in the midst of a drought, but glad to say, more rain, or perhaps snow, is on its way. Hopefully a shift is happening and we will return to a more normal level of rainfall. What such a long stretch of dry weather has made very clear, is not just the struggling plants, but also the challenge for our native wildlife to find fresh water, and with that, the importance of filling our bird baths on a regular basis. We first introduced bird baths to our yard years ago when we had the unfortunate incident of a skunk taking up residence under our kitchen floor. Perhaps this would have gone unnoticed until the day I was standing in the kitchen and a loud screech let out from under my feet, followed by the strong sent of skunk. I had to vacate the kitchen, the smell was so strong. Obviously the skunk could not stay there. In my search to find someone to help remove the skunk, I came across an animal tracker who uses humane means of removing animals. After he slowly wandered around our yard, he told me he would put out a have-a-heart to collect the skunk and that I had two options to keep future animals from settling in. One was to sink 3 feet of chicken wire around the entire foundation of our house, the other, remove our bird feeders. He informed me that the bird food dropping on the ground was a major calling card for numerous critters. He also told me that feeders can be a means of transmitting disease, and, if you don't clean them every two weeks, can expose the birds to bacteria in the decaying bird seed and bird droppings. The birds are also more susceptible to predators, too often neighborhood cats, when they gather on a regular basis. What he suggested, was to plant native bird food on the property and provide a regular source of water. And so our planting began. Chokeberry, snowberry and serviceberry, also known as shadbush, were added to the sumac and goldenrod that were already flourishing. We have also increased the trees and shrubs, both deciduous and evergreen, in our yard, which provide the perfect spot to secure bird baths. Leaves on the ground are another source for providing food due to the insects living there. And we leave garden plants to over-winter, which provide both food and shelter. Between native foods, safe nesting places and clean water we have continued to enjoy plenty of winged visitors to our yard. For more information, check out: feed-or-not-feed-wild-birds, u.s. fish and wildlife services. I found it to be yet another site in helping us to create a bird friendly yard.



Parks & Recreation News

Santa is coming to Chesterfield on Saturday, December 7th! Come have breakfast with Santa and Mrs.Claus from 9:00-11:00 am. Sponsored by the Chesterfield Lions Club.

Yoga is every Tuesday at 10:00 at the Chesterfield Town Hall

Cardio Drumming is every Monday at the Chesterfield Town Hall

Paint night was a great success, a big thank you to Melanie Fedorowicz for a great event and donating some of her profits to our new Parks and Rec Building. If you could not make this event, we will be doing another paint or craft night in January. We will also be offering a Child/Parent craft Saturday in January stay tuned for details.

Happy Holidays,
Darlene Smith
Parks and Recreation Director



OEM/Office of Emergency Management: December 2024 Report

As always, our thanks to our Selectmen, Town Admin & volunteer members of the OEM team for their support. Here is a sampling of OEM activities underway in Chesterfield:

1. Solar Power for Town Hall for an Emergency Operations Center (EOC)? – OEM supports this effort to see if Chesterfield will be eligible for a Grant to add a solar installation behind the old Town Hall. This is in the very early stages.
2. Fire Warnings during the Drought – OEM thanks our Fire Departments for their efforts to minimize incidents. There were some fires but, as we understand it, they were minor. Please be careful as we are a good 6" behind in annual rainfall.
3. Animal Safety for Evacuation with Families – When disaster strikes (fires, floods, power outages, etc.) residents will want to relocate with their pets and other animals. We need anyone with farm animals to reach out to OEM (contact below)
4. Route 9 Accidents – Please make sure you drive safely on Rt. 9 and other roads in our community. We had several accidents and the police are to be thanked for their efforts. Please tell your out-of-town visitors of the need to do so. Thanks!
5. Grants - We are assessing whether our OEM priorities might be eligible. We may to hear about available Grants from other communities – soon to be underway.
6. Mailing lists – We need to find ways to educate residents about OEM support. May we ask the School and Library to have a discussion with OEM about this?
7. Special assistance – analyzing needs for residents to relocate during disasters.
8. Mutual Aid - Check in w/Spofford and West Chesterfield Firehouses for support.
9. Training – Ralph & John are registered for more ICS/Incident Command Center training as sponsored by the Massachusetts Emergency Mgmt Agency (MEMA).
10. HSEM/Maine/Vermont partnering – John attended an Emergency Mgmt session in Concord this month and we are also adding to our "local towns" contact lists.

Submitted by Ralph Petti, Director, OEM • John Keppler, Deputy Director, OEM Cell: 908.310.6381
ralphpetti1@gmail.com Cell: 802.579.7940 jpkep@myfairpoint.net

As always, stay safe and please let OEM know of any needs or ideas! HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

CHESTERFIELD SCHOOL NEWS

Chesterfield School Events Calendar -

December 2 - Outdoor Education Committee Meeting - 2:30 pm

December 9 - Chesterfield School Board Meeting - 5:00 p.m.

December 12 - All School Gathering at 8 a.m., EARLY RELEASE - all students dismissed at 11:55 am.

December 13 - Parent Teacher Conferences - NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS

December 23 - January 1 NO SCHOOL - Winter vacation.

Community Events

SENIOR LUNCHEON

*Wednesday, December 11 - 12:30 pm
At the Chesterfield Town Hall*

*Menu -Roast Beef, Mashed Potatoes, Gravy, Vegetable,
Rolls, Christmas Cookies & Ice Cream*

*Please call (603) 363-9319 by 5 pm on
Monday, December 9th to make a reservation*

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA -

*Sponsored by the
Chesterfield Lions Club
with Crafts by the
Friends of Chesterfield Library*

*Saturday, December 7
9 - 11 am at the Chesterfield Town Hall*

If you would like to add to the Community Happenings next month, please see the guidelines below!

Anyone can post an event so long as it is of broad public interest, is open to all Chesterfield residents and is not meant solely to enrich the individual or organization. The following criteria also apply:

No tag sales;

No "help wanted" or "for sale" ads;

No politics or religion (Churches may list suppers or bazaars so long as they are open to the general public and have no overt religious function;)

No business advertising (Businesses may list events of community interest, i.e. grand openings, blood drives, food drives, but not any event that requires a purchase or is for the financial gain of the business itself.)

All submissions must include the name, address and phone number of the person submitting the item.

Each entry is limited to a maximum of 25 words.

The coordinator and Town reserve the right to reject any submission. Items may be rejected because of incomplete information, lack of clarity, or for going beyond the word limit. Neither the coordinator nor the Town will contact the submitter for corrections. Deadline for submissions: the 22nd of the month preceding. Email to jwscott924@gmail.com with the subject line "Happenings".

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