

## CHESTERFIELD TOWN HAPPENINGS

### February 2024



#### Board of Selectmen Notes February 2024

##### **Community Power**

There will be a meeting at the Town Hall this Thursday, February 1st at 6:30 pm to discuss Chesterfield joining the Cheshire County Community Power Plan. Representatives from the County will be hand to answer questions.

##### **Town Elections**

This Friday, February 2nd is the last day to fill out a declaration of candidacy for town elected officials. The Town Clerk will be open from 3 to 5 pm on that day to receive last minute declarations.

##### **Meet the Candidates**

Town Elections are coming up on March 12, 2024. Your chance to "Meet the Candidates" will be at the Town Hall on February 25 at 4PM. All candidates for Town office will be invited to attend and this will be your chance to meet them and ask questions. There will also be discussion on proposed changes to the Zoning and Building Ordinances which will also be on the ballot in March.

##### **Watershed Committee**

The Watershed Committee has been working with the Planning Board on Town Ordinance changes to help protect the Lake Spofford Watershed. These proposed changes will be on the ballot at the Town Election on March 12, 2024. The proposed changes will be presented and discussed at the "Meet the Candidates" session on February 25 at 4PM in the Town Hall. Please plan on attending to learn all about it.

The Town Offices will be closed on the following dates:

## 2024 HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

Monday, February 19, 2024 – Presidents Day

Monday, May 27, 2024 – Memorial Day

Thursday, July 4, 2024 – Independence Day

Monday, September 2, 2024 – Labor Day

Monday, October 14, 2024 – Indigenous Peoples' Day

Monday, November 11, 2024 – Veterans Day

Thursday, November 28, 2024 – Thanksgiving Day

Wednesday, December 25, 2024 – Christmas Day

**\*\*Please note that the Transfer Station dates are different and listed below\*\***



## **Board and Commission Meetings**

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

<b>Board of Selectmen</b> Wednesdays, February 7 & 21 (Every other Wednesday)	6:00 pm	Town Office/Zoom
<b>Economic Development Committee</b> Thursday, February 22 (2nd and 4th Thursdays)	6:00 pm	Town Office
<b>Planning Board</b> Mondays, February 5 & 19 (1st and 3rd Mondays)	7:00 pm	Town Office/Zoom
<b>Zoning Board of Adjustment</b> Thursday, February 15 (3rd Thursday - hearings begin no earlier than 6:45 pm)	6:30 pm	Town Office/Zoom
<b>Chesterfield Fire &amp; Rescue Commissioners</b> Monday, February 19 (3rd Monday)	6:30 pm	Center Fire Station
<b>Spofford Fire &amp; Rescue Commissioners</b> Thursday, February 15 (3rd Thursday)	6:00 pm	Spofford Fire
<b>Station</b> (3rd Thursday)		
<b>Library Board of Trustees</b> Tuesday, February 20 (3rd Tuesday)	7:00 pm	Chesterfield Library
<b>Conservation Commission</b> Monday, February 26 (4th Monday)	7:30 pm	Town Office
<b>Chesterfield Revitalization Group</b> Monday, February 5 (2nd Monday)	5:00 pm	Town Office
<b>Watershed Committee</b> Thursday, February 15	9:30 am	Town Office



We are starting to see the winter weather and coupled with that are the various road conditions. By far, the majority of cars who are in accidents or driving off the road during inclement weather is improper tires. Please don't take the chance of hurting yourself or someone else, put on winter tires (studded tires are great too). You will be glad that you did.

I am receiving complaints of numerous cars being parked in the roadway at bus stops. I have been told that to get around these parents, you have to "weave back and forth." We all want to ensure that our children get on the bus safely. If you are unable to carpool your children to the bus stop, or don't have any areas that can

keep your care completely off the road, then speak with the other parents... Utilize one side of the road, check with neighbors to see if you can park in their driveways. We want to make sure our children are safe, but we also want to be considerate of the rest of the motoring public.

The Chesterfield Police Department is seeking Full Time Certified applicants to fill (3) Full-Time Police Officer Positions for the Town of Chesterfield NH.

Qualifications:

- An associate degree, or higher, from an accredited college or university, is preferred.
- A physical agility test, oral board interview, background investigation, psychological evaluation, medical evaluation, and polygraph examination are required.

The Town of Chesterfield does have a residency requirement. If you are not currently a resident of Chesterfield, you must live in New Hampshire within 30 miles of the Chesterfield Police Station which is located at 490 Route 63 Chesterfield NH.

Benefits:

We are offering a competitive benefits package and starting salary of \$58,000.00. and a \$10,000.00 sign on bonus for New Hampshire full-time certified officers and \$5,000.00 sign on bonus for non-certified officers.

Applications with cover letter and resume' should be mailed to P.O. Box 231 Chesterfield, NH. 03443 or dropped off at the police department; Attention: Chief Duane Chickering.

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## HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

**Update -- Mud season has been known to appear in February so be prepared. Also please do not leave any vehicles unattended in the road during a snow storm.**

**Reminder: The town has enacted a winter parking ban effective November 15 through April 15, each year. This ban prohibits parking in or on the Town's roads or rights-of-way. The Town has the right to tow or ticket violators.**

**The purpose of this ban is to allow winter maintenance crews unobstructed snow removal and ice control routes and, as much as possible, to maintain the maximum effectiveness of their efforts.**

**All cars found abandoned in the traveled portion of roads within the Town of Chesterfield between November 15<sup>th</sup> and April 15<sup>th</sup> hampering highway operations will be towed at the owner's expense.**

**Please be advised that there is no winter maintenance on the North Hinsdale Road between the Towns of Chesterfield and Hinsdale; this portion of the road has been closed for the winter months.**

**As per Town policy, the Town of Chesterfield plow truck drivers are not obligated to plow to mailboxes. However, the Town holds no financial responsibility for anything placed within Town right-of-ways that may be damaged by snow removal or normal road maintenance.**

**Sand Piles will continue to be located on Cady Lane, Pond Brook Road, Chamberlain Way and the intersection of Route 63 and Stage Road.**



The Town of Chesterfield is now able to issue portable Transfer Station permits to property owners of short-term rentals for their renters. These permits will be affixed to plastic to be hung on a vehicle's rear view mirror. To apply for a permit, please see a Transfer Station attendant or the Town Administrator for an application. The form is also available on the town website ([chesterfield.nh.gov](http://chesterfield.nh.gov)).

#### TRANSFER STATION HOLIDAY SCHEDULE - 2024

The Transfer Station will be CLOSED on the following dates:

##### 2024 HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

Tuesday, February 20, 2024 – Presidents Day

Tuesday, May 28, 2024 – Memorial Day

Friday, July 5, 2024 – Independence Day

Tuesday, September 3, 2024 – Labor Day

Tuesday, October 15, 2024 – Indigenous Peoples' Day

Tuesday, November 12, 2024 – Veterans Day

Friday, November 29, 2024 – Thanksgiving Day

Wednesday, December 25, 2024 – Christmas Day

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

## Chesterfield Town Clerk Dog Photo Contest

All dogs licensed by April 30, 2024 for  
2024-25 are eligible to Enter

Residents can message images to the official TC  
Facebook page or send image directly to the  
Town Clerk starting in February

Prizes - #1 Dog License & basket of prizes + being  
the official mascot of the TC office for 1-year!

Voting will take place in June

TOWN CLERK NEWS - FEBRUARY 2024

For those of you looking to renew dog licenses - you can do so now for 2024-2025! The licenses aren't due until April 30th, 2024 but if you want to renew early - tags are here. Stop by our office during window hours or renew online!

Think your doggie has what it takes to be the Town Clerk's Mascot? See above for the rules. Pictures can be emailed to [townclerk@nhchesterfield.com](mailto:townclerk@nhchesterfield.com).

Need a reminder to register your vehicles? Let us know your email. We send e-reminders at the beginning of each month. Don't get pulled over because you forgot to register your vehicle - call or email us today to have your email added to your registration information!

We also send out dog licensing e-reminders, share your email with us to get

reminders starting in February to register your dog for the upcoming year.

Mary Ewell  
Chesterfield Town Clerk  
490 Rt 63  
PO Box 64  
Chesterfield, NH 03443  
603-363-8071, X 11  
603-363-8049  
townclerk@nhchesterfield.com

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#### CHESTERFIELD CEMETERY COMMISSION NEWS

##### Sexton's Position - Town of Chesterfield

The Cemetery Commission is seeking to fill the Sexton's position. The Sexton is responsible for maintenance and upkeep of twenty-four (24) cemeteries in the Town of Chesterfield, as well as mowing grounds of various town-owned properties. Performs skilled labor in the operation of all types of mowing equipment, as well as the operation and use of vehicles, trailers and related equipment to transport same. Duties are varied, and include light equipment operation and manual labor assignments with lifting up to 75 pounds.

Minimum qualifications required include high school diploma or equivalent plus experience in the operation and maintenance of various types of mowing equipment. Possession of a valid driver's license. Willingness to be on call and ability to work outdoors under extreme weather conditions at certain times when necessary.

Send your resume to: The Chesterfield Cemetery Commission, Post Office Box 175, Chesterfield, NH 03443-0175.



Chesterfield Public Library

#### February 2024 Events

##### Children/Youth

**Big Games Week**, Tuesday, February 20 – Thursday, February 24 Come to the Library during school vacation week and play oversized games like Jenga and Connect 4!

**NED2 Robotic Arm Coding**, Thursdays & Saturdays in February by appointment only This month, kids can explore scratch coding with a NED2 Robotic Arm at the Library. Registration is required at least 24 hours in advance. Only 2 participants may sign up for each time slot. Please sign up at [chesterfieldlibrary.org/NED2](http://chesterfieldlibrary.org/NED2)

**Monday Storytime**, Mondays at 11:00am Join us for stories, songs, and crafts aimed at the preschool age group.

**Middle Grade Book Club**, Wednesday, February 28 at 3:00pm This month we are reading the novel Dogtown by Katherine Applegate. Join us for a book discussion—snacks are provided! This event is open to Middle Grade readers. Sign up for the program and pick up a copy at the front desk.

**Teen Book Club**, Thursday, February 29 at 4:00pm Open to ALL teens, 8th-12th Grade! Hang out and join our discussion—snacks are provided! This month we will read The Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes by Suzanne Collins. Pick up a copy at the front desk!

##### Adult

**Astrophotography and the Science Behind the Pretty Pictures**, Saturday, February 10 at 12:00 pm Most of us at some point in our lives have paused for a

moment to take in the vastness of the cosmos by simply looking up on a clear night.

Many have even looked at a handful of celestial objects through a telescope.

However, it was not until the advent and then ubiquitousness of digital imaging sensors that the universe was revealed to all in such awe-inspiring detail. In addition to being aesthetically beautiful, these images also contain a staggering amount of scientific data that is a vital means to better understand our universe. Using astrophotos created by high school students at the nearby Perkin Observatory, you will learn how these images are acquired by telescopes, processed by computer software, and what can be learned from them. Along the way we will tour the cosmos from the birth and death of solar systems to the evolution of distant galaxies with stops at clouds of ionized gas and the search for extrasolar planets along the way.

This event is hosted by physics and astronomy educator, Erik Schmitt.

**Makers Meeting**, Tuesday, February 6 at 11:00am Come talk to other creators in our community. Bring your lunch!

**Chesterfield Quilting Guild**, Monday, February 12 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.

**Library Book Club**, Tuesday, February 13 at 5:30 pm The Library's adult book club will discuss the novel Killers of the Flower Moon by David Grann. Stop by the library to sign up or email the [frontdesk@chesterfieldlibrary.org](mailto:frontdesk@chesterfieldlibrary.org) and pick up a copy of the book.

**The Knit Chicks**, Tuesday, February 6 and Tuesday, February 20 at 1:00-3:00pm The Knit Chicks meet on the first and third Tuesday of each month to craft gear for people in the Monadnock region. Crocheters welcome!

**Spice Club**, Monday, February 12 at 6:00 pm This month we will feature Saffron and there will be something for you to taste. Join our group to receive a sample and learn new recipes.

**Tech Drop-In**, Wednesdays at 4pm 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, February 6 at 5:30pm Join the Friends of the Chesterfield Public 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](mailto:FrontDesk@ChesterfieldLibrary.org)

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## CHESTERFIELD CONSERVATION COMMISSION NEWS

### Greetings from the CCC,

As many of you [if not all!] are aware, Chesterfield and West Chesterfield are fortunate to be bordered on the west by the beautiful Connecticut River. Much of our town's focus is on Spofford Lake, as well it should be, but the Connecticut is deserving and in need of our attention as well. On February 6th, from 6-8 PM, staff from the Connecticut River Joint Commissions [CRJC], the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services [NHDES] and the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources [VANR] will be presenting a Zoom on the care and oversight of the River and its surrounding watershed. The event is open to all who are interested in this great natural resource. If you can't make the Zoom, it will be recorded and made available to you if you register for the event. Perhaps some of you folks out there will be inspired to become "River Stewards", learning about and caring for the health and well being of the Connecticut for generations to come. The River will thank you!

### Special virtual training session

*Tuesday February 6th, 6:00-8:00 PM. – [REGISTER](#)*

Come hear from long standing members, CRJC staff, and State representatives with NHDES and VTANR about the who, what, how, and why of CRJC. What are the main jobs of member to safeguard the Connecticut River? What have members learned over the years on how to be the local eyes and ears and voice for the watershed?

The event is for you, current and interested members from 53 Riverfront towns in New Hampshire and Vermont, whether you've joined recently, years ago, or are interested to join.

Do you have a question in advance? Just email Olivia at [info@crjc.org](mailto:info@crjc.org)



Happy 2024 Everyone, Looking forward to having an awesome fun year. We had a great turnout for Family Bingo Night, admission was a non-perishable item for Joan's Pantry, I was very happy to bring 3 big boxes full of food items and a check to the Pantry on Saturday Morning. The kids and Parents were all very happy with the fun prizes they won. We will be hosting another Paint N Sip Night on Friday,

February 16<sup>th</sup> from 6-8 at the Town Hall.

We are hoping to do an Ice Skating Party with Camp Spofford if the weather cooperates this year, Unfortunately, we had to cancel it last year due to the weather being so warm, so fingers crossed for this year.

Once again we will be looking for Volunteer Basketball coaches for our program for grades 2-3 and 4-5. Sign-ups will be held in February - watch for them on the Chesterfield Parks and Recreation Facebook Page.

We should also be having an informational meeting soon about our New Rec Building. Once the plans are finished, we will be looking for volunteers to help with this project to save some money.

Enjoy the snow,  
Darlene Smith  
Parks and Recreation Director

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

The Chesterfield Revitalization Group will have a presentation and discussion about the former Electrosonics Building on Route 9A in Spofford on Saturday, February 10th from 10:30 am to Noon. This will take place at the old Town Hall.

The Chesterfield Economic Development Committee will be hosting the Business Expo on Saturday, April 6, 2024 from 9 am - 2 pm at the Old Town Hall. It is a free event for participants. We hope this event serves to build your business and help the community feel better connected and aware of the talent of our local businesses.

Please note, spots are limited and prioritized for businesses based in Chesterfield or owned or operated by Chesterfield residents. Unless otherwise specified, each vendor will share an 8' table with another non-conflicting business. Tables are available on a first come first served basis. (If there is a question about eligibility or to reserve a table, contact [EDC@nhchesterfield.com](mailto:EDC@nhchesterfield.com).)

## Chesterfield Office of Emergency Management (OEM) Report – February, 2024

### Chesterfield OEM leads regional support effort

As our community is looking for local towns to share in information resources, we have reached out to HSEM and other agencies for information and guidance. In addition, we are in process of contacting many local communities to share information about what resources that we each can contribute for one another if there is an event. Former OEM Director, John Zannotti, will be assisting in this effort as we have worked with John's contacts in other towns for assistance.

Follow Chesterfield Social Media Sites to Get the Latest Safety News! Our Police Department has an active "Chesterfield NH Police Department Facebook Page" and our town has a very, very active "Chesterfield NH Facebook Page" – check them out!!

Chesterfield OEM is working diligently to support our community! As our local government prepares for everyday emergencies, the number and scope of incidents can overwhelm conventional emergency

services. We always can use new volunteers!

The Flooding May Have Impacted Your Wells – Have it tested with this link! According to WMUR, the recent heavy rains may have affected your wells. Test them here: <https://www.dhhs.nh.gov/programs-services/environmental-health-and-you/water-testing>

Chesterfield OEM attends HSEM Regional Training event at Keene St. College In Q4, members of our OEM team attended the HSEM Integrated Preparedness Planning Workshop where we met with OEM teams from Gilsum, Stoddard, Swanzey and others. This matched up well with our OEM team's goal of making connections NOW to support one another's towns in the event of any area disasters. It was led by the HSEM and also included Jack Wozmak, Cheshire County Commissioner, who welcomed Chesterfield's enthusiasm.

Chesterfield OEM attends Vermont Animal Safety Planning session As we live so far away from HSEM HQ support for animals, our own Cheryl Maibusch made the connection for us with the VDART team to collaborate on solutions to assist one another if there is an event where animals need to be protected/transported. It is up to each resident to help to ensure the safety of their own pets – and this is an OEM initiative to assist in 2024.

OEM Emergency Operations Centers (EOC) provide power & shelter for you OEM is creating a THIRD OEM site to be at the Old Town Hall to complement the primary EOC at that OEM office and the secondary EOC at the Spofford Fire Station to serve our town. \*\*\* For info about "your" OEM Office – Please contact us at OEM@NHChesterfield.com \*\*\*

Submitted by Ralph Petti, Director – Office of Emergency Management – Cell: 908.310.6381

## News from Chesterfield School - February 2024

Friday, February 9th - Middle School Dance, 6:30 - 8:00 pm

Monday, February 12th - School Board Meeting, 5 pm in the School Library

February 19th through 25th - School Vacation

Chesterfield School will be starting kindergarten registration soon. If you know anyone who has a young child who will soon be ready for school, please contact the school office.

## Community Events

**Chesterfield Lions Club Annual Pancake Breakfast**  
**Sunday, February 11th - 7:30 am to 10:30 am**  
Chesterfield School  
\$7.00 per person, Kids under 5 are free

**Senior Lunch is on break for the months of January and February.**  
Our next meal will be on Wednesday, March 13 at 12:30 pm.  
Hope to see you then!

**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](mailto:jwscott924@gmail.com) with the subject line "Happenings".

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