



Town of Glastonbury

2155 MAIN STREET • P.O. BOX 6523 • GLASTONBURY, CT 06033-6523 • (860) 652-7500
FAX (860) 652-7505

Richard J. Johnson
Town Manager

ITEM #7
02-26-2019 Meeting

February 22, 2019

The Glastonbury Town Council
2155 Main Street
Glastonbury, CT 06033

Re: Town Manager's Report

Dear Council Members:

The following will keep you up to date on various topics.

1. **Historic Terminal Piping and Dock Removal Project**

The design and bidding process is complete for removal of the former dock at the Riverfront Park. This is the dock serving the former Field Holstein Operation for offloading of petroleum products. The dock structure is deteriorated and in need of removal. I would expect work to proceed over coming weeks. DEEP has confirmed removal or leaving the structure in place will have no impact on an application for a new structure.

2. **Chestnut Hill Road**

This involves testing of wells within a quarter mile radius of the former berry farm located off Chestnut Hill Road. This testing results from high levels of uranium detected in well water along with the agricultural pesticide 1,2-dichloropropane. The Glastonbury Public Health Department is working in cooperation with State DPH and DEEP. I've attached a letter by Glastonbury Health Director Wendy Mis to property owners in the testing area.

3. **Livable Landscapes**

The attached flyer summarizes a program scheduled for Wednesday, March 20th at the RCC.

4. **Multi-Use Trail**

All approvals are in place for the multi-use trail extending between Western Boulevard and House Street. A 15-acre conservation area on Town owned land between Western Boulevard and Nye Road/House Street was originally contemplated. This was outlined to Council in August of 2018. Final approval by The Army Corps expanded the original 15 acres, however, since this area is not suitable for development, a larger conservation area is not problematic.

5. **Connecticut Magazine**

I thought you would be interested in the recent article in Connecticut Magazine concerning Glastonbury.

Sincerely,

Richard J. Johnson
Town Manager

RJJ/sal
Attachments



Town of Glastonbury

Health Department

February 20, 2019

Dear Homeowner:

Glastonbury Health Department has been notified of elevated levels of naturally occurring uranium and radon in a private well in your Chestnut Hill Road neighborhood. The levels detected exceed the EPA maximum contaminant level of 30 micrograms per liter ($\mu\text{g/l}$) for uranium and 5,000 picocuries per liter (pCi/l) for radon. Uranium and radon occur naturally in some Connecticut bedrock ground water, and can enter drinking water wells. The amount of uranium and radon in bedrock and well water can vary greatly from one property to another. Individual well testing is the only way to know if a well is contaminated. Exposure to uranium and radon at high levels for extended periods of time is linked to certain health problems.

Also detected in your neighborhood was 1,2-dichloropropane, a soil fumigant with former widespread use on berry farms. The concentration of 1,2-dichloropropane detected was less than, but approaching the state drinking water action level. Glastonbury Health Department is testing homes in proximity to the farm to determine levels of this chemical in well water.

Glastonbury Health Department is offering water testing for uranium, radon, and 1-2-dichloropropane free of charge to private well owners in the area. Testing will be conducted at the State of Connecticut laboratory in Rocky Hill. Your well water test results will be provided to you, with guidance on water treatment, if necessary.

If you would like the Health Department to test your water free of charge for uranium, radon, and 1,2-dichloropropane, we will be in your neighborhood on Monday, February 25, to collect samples. Samples will be collected between 9 am and 1 pm, and between 3 pm and 6 pm. We will need access to your kitchen sink and basement, so someone will need to provide us access into your home. Please call the Health Department at 860-652-7534 to arrange for sample collection. Feel free to leave a brief message with your name, address, and phone number if you call after regular business hours.

We will be conducting several additional rounds of testing in the area, so if you are interested in having your well tested, but are not available on the 25th, please call the Glastonbury Health Department office, and we will notify you of the next round of testing. Information about uranium, radon, and 1,2-dichloropropane is available on the town website under the Health Department webpage at www.glastonbury-ct.gov.

Thank you,

Wendy S. Mis, MPH, RS
Director of Health

The Land Heritage Coalition
of Glastonbury, Inc. presents

*Free and open
to the public,
good-will offerings
accepted.*

Livable
Landscapes

LIVABLE LANDSCAPES

*A movie exploring how growth
and sprawl affect the quality
of life in New England*

By examining the history of land use and the changes that have hit working forests, farms, village centers, and urban downtowns, the video looks at how communities have tried to preserve the qualities that make them unique.

"This marvelous and unique film shows that we can create the future even if we can't predict it very well, and tells how." John Gordon, Professor Emeritus of Forestry & Environmental Studies, Yale University

**Wednesday,
March 20, 2019**

**Glastonbury Riverfront
Community Center**
300 Welles St, Glastonbury, CT

www.lhcglastonbury.org

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About-town

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http://www.connecticutmag.com/travel/about-town/glastonbury-is-a-happy-marriage-of-old-and-new/article_636a3cdc-0308-11e9-937b-9fcb0577a182.html

Glastonbury is a Happy Marriage of Old and New

Erik Ofgang Feb 20, 2019



Daybreak Coffee Roasters in Glastonbury

Kim Tyler

The Rocky Hill-Glastonbury ferry has been carrying people across the Connecticut River since 1655 and is the oldest continuously operated ferry in the U.S. It is also just one of many points of history-related pride in Glastonbury, which was incorporated in 1693 and is one of Connecticut's oldest municipalities.

Despite its history, Glastonbury is not a quaint community that lives in the past. Instead, the town on the banks of the Connecticut River feels thoroughly modern with a sleek mix of local shops, national retail chains and a restaurant scene that is similar in quality to that of nearby West Hartford.

Just 7 miles from Hartford and bordering several towns including Rocky Hill, Manchester and East Hartford, Glastonbury has a population of 34,584 and a median household income of \$108,600, according to U.S. Census Bureau data from 2016. The town includes the South Glastonbury historic district and has plenty to offer for visitors and residents alike.



Bricco Trattoria in Glastonbury

Kim Tyler

Food & Drink

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Several Hartford-area restaurant groups maintain a strong foothold in Glastonbury, including the elegant Italian-American spot **Billy Grant's Bricco Trattoria** (860-659-0220, billygrant.com/trattoria) and Max Restaurant Group's **Max Amore** (860-659-2819) and **Max Fish** (860-652-3474, maxrestaurantgroup.com). Other beloved spots in town include the popular Mexican restaurant **Sayulita** (860-430-9941, cantinasayulita.com) and Midwestern-style steakhouse **J. Gilbert's** (860-659-0409, jgilberts.com). Glastonbury also has a wealth of specialty beverage destinations. **The Crystal Ridge Winery** (860-657-1004, crystalridgewinery.com) has a beautiful vineyard and a tasting room with views of Hartford. **Liquid Nirvana** (860-430-9255, liquid-nirvana.com) offers smoothies and other drinks. There are several coffeehouses in town with their own fan bases; one favorite is **Daybreak Coffee Roasters** (800-882-5282, daybreakcoffee.com). The coffeehouse is also home to an onsite roastery and visitors are greeted with the warm smell of fresh roasts when they walk inside.



Pinwheels Toys & Games in Glastonbury

Kim Tyler

Shopping

The town's independent bookstore, **River Bend Bookshop** (860-430-6608, riverbend

bookshop.com), specializes in children's literature but offers a compelling mix of fiction for adults as well, with an emphasis on local authors as well as staff picks. During our visit, we were excited to find a handcrafted wooden placeholder for books. The store was opened in November by Glastonbury resident Meghan Hayden, who told us that after a few weeks the place had already developed regulars. "Book people have a way of finding bookstores," she says. The Glastonbury resident says she decided to open a shop here because "we have the best town." Nearby, the **Sow's Ear** (860-633-0311, sowsearct.com) specializes in repurposed antiques, while **Pinwheels Toys & Games** (860-430-2954, pinwheelstoys.com) offers many interactive and science-inspired products for kids. The town is also home to the **Shops at Somerset Square** (212-608-5108, theshopsatsomersetsquare.com), an outdoor shopping center that is home to Victoria's Secret, Lux Bond & Green, a Francesca's women's boutique and much more.



Cotton Hollow Preserve in Glastonbury

Kim Tyler

The Great Outdoors

Driving around Glastonbury, one sees many sweeping farm vistas and it's clear there remains a strong agricultural element to the area. One of several working farms in town is **Killam & Bassette Farmstead** (860-833-0095, kbfarmstead.com; opening Memorial Day weekend), which raises pork

and chicken. The meat is free of nitrates, growth hormones, steroids or artificial ingredients. But gazing over wide farmlands (and/or chowing down on farm-fresh products) is only one of many ways to enjoy being outside here. Other options include walking at the Glastonbury Ferry Landing (524 Ferry Lane). This is home to the previously mentioned Rocky Hill-Glastonbury ferry. The historic ferry only operates seasonally (it opens April 1), but there is a hiking trail with great views of the water. Other popular town hiking spots include the portion of the **East Coast Greenway** which runs through town, the **Buckingham Reservoir Trail** and **Cotton Hollow Nature Preserve** (493 Hopewell Road).

Living here

Micki Gebhardt, a Glastonbury agent with William Raveis Real Estate, says residents are attracted to the town for its highly rated schools, lively town center, and community spirit. It also is within commuting distance to Hartford (15 minutes), New Haven (45 minutes) and Massachusetts (40 minutes).

Real Estate

What you can get...

For \$259,000: A 1,456-square-foot restored Colonial farmhouse on a third of an acre with three bedrooms and one bathroom.

For \$359,000: A 2,176-square-foot home on 1½ acres next to a nature preserve with three bedrooms and two baths.

For \$639,900: A 5,309-square-foot modern Colonial on a little under an acre with four beds, four full bathrooms and one half-bath.

Schools

The school system received an A+ rating from niche.com and is currently ranked by the same site as the seventh-best district in the state, and the best in the state outside of Fairfield or New Haven counties. Six of the town's eight public schools, including Glastonbury High School, are rated 8 or 9 (out of 10) by Great Schools.

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This article appeared in the March 2019 issue of Connecticut Magazine. You can subscribe here, or find the current issue on sale here. Got a question or comment? Email editor@connecticutmag.com, or contact us on Facebook [@connecticutmagazine](https://www.facebook.com/connecticutmagazine) or Twitter [@connecticutmag](https://twitter.com/connecticutmag).

Erik Ofgang

The senior writer at Connecticut Magazine, Erik is the co-author of Penguin Random House's "The Good Vices" and author of "Buzzed" and "Gillette Castle." He is also an adjunct professor at WCSU's MFA Program and Quinnipiac University



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