



Town of Glastonbury

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ITEM #7
07-11-2023 Meeting

Jonathan K. Luiz
Town Manager

July 7, 2023

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. **Grant Awards for Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure**

The State of Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection has awarded the Town of Glastonbury six grants under its Light Duty Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Program, which is funded from a legal settlement with Volkswagen. The grant awards, which total \$381,387.50, are for purchase and installation as follows:

- \$36,741.25 – 2 Single-port Level 2 Chargers at J.B. Williams Park
- \$11,235.25 – 1 Dual-port Level 2 charger at Glastonbury Love Garden
- \$33,072.65 – 2 Dual-port Level 2 chargers at the Riverfront Community Center North
- \$141,506.95 – 2 Single-port DC Fast Chargers at the Academy Building
- \$41,878.85 – 3 Dual-port Level 2 Chargers at the Library
- \$116,952.55 – 2 Single-port DC Fast Chargers at the Riverfront Community Center

Town staff is in the process of attempting to pair the six grant awards with financial incentives available from Eversource. Once that is complete, I will provide more information on what the Town of Glastonbury's financial contribution will be and when the work will be scheduled.

2. **Route 2 Eastbound Lane Modifications – Exits 6 – 8**

On May 30th, the Town Engineer and I met virtually with representatives of the Connecticut Department of Transportation for the purpose of learning about the DOT's plans to modify existing lane configurations on Route 2 Eastbound. The stated goals of the lane modifications are to reduce weaving traffic behavior and to provide a better flow of traffic between Exits 6 and 8. The projects plans are currently under review by various State Department Units. It is anticipated that a Virtual Public Information Meeting will be held after Labor Day and that construction would occur in April of 2025. The general public and the Town Council will be informed of the date and time of the Virtual Public Information Meeting.

3. **Donation of Old Hebron Road – Casella Property**

The Town has received a donation of approximately 28.5 acres of land courtesy of the Jean C. Casella Trust. The location of the land is 2451 Old Hebron Road. Per the legal terms of the donation, the land shall be used as a park to be named the "Alice Cavagnaro-Casella Park." I will work with the Parks & Recreation Director on signage, short and long-term plans for this new Town property.

4. **Quarterly Police Department Donations**

Attached is a summary of the second quarter donations made to the Glastonbury Police Department.

5. Police Boat

Glastonbury Police Chief Porter recently had the department's police boat inspected by a marine mechanic to ensure it was ready for the season. The report came back indicating that the decking, transom, and hull are seriously compromised by moisture to the point where the integrity and stability of the boat has been compromised. The mechanic indicated that the moisture could be caused by pinhole leaks or osmosis. Repairing the boat would not be economically feasible given the fact that it is a 1998 Champion that was donated by the Hartford Police Department 12-15 years ago. In response, Chief Porter has dry docked the police boat. The Police Department will be using a Fire Department boat for the remainder of the season.

6. Nye Road Grants – Meetings with CROG and Congressman Courtney's Office

I recently met separately with a representative from the Capital Region Council of Governments as well as Congressman Joe Courtney for the purpose of reviewing the Nye Road Project and requesting that news about possible grant opportunities be shared with the Town. Both CROG and the Congressman expressed a desire to share information with the Town.

7. Electricity Costs Associated with new Pickleball Court

The Town Engineer and I are investigating the purchase and installation of solar panels to be located near the pickleball court that is currently being constructed at the Riverfront Community Center. There *should be* enough money in the pickleball project capital account to fund solar panels. As the procurement for the panels moves forward, staff will be able to project how much energy produced by the panels would offset energy consumed by the lights illuminating the pickleball court.

8. Senior Center Supervisor

The Town has hired Ronda Guberman as its new Senior Center Supervisor. The position, which has been vacant for several months, was filled following a competitive process. Ronda has been the Senior Center Assistant Director in Plainville for 36 years. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Human Services from Keene State College as well as a Culinary Arts Certificate from Johnson & Wales University. On several occasions, Ronda was recognized by community groups in Plainville for her outstanding public service to that town. In Glastonbury, Ronda will be reporting to the Director of Parks and Recreation Lisa Zerio. Lisa and I are optimistic that Ronda's love of seniors and passion for public service will breathe new life into our Senior Center.

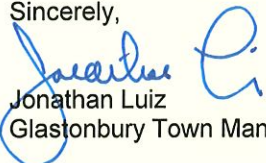
9. Expanded Hours at Skate Park

Effective July 1, the Skate Park will be unsupervised with open hours from dawn to dusk daily. With the new hours, the only times the park will be reserved is for skate lessons or skateboarding camp. The park will be unlocked and locked daily by the Parks and Recreation custodian assigned to Riverfront Park. There is a sign posted on the gate indicating to call the office during our regular business hours if the park is locked. Information will be sent out via Facebook, Town website and on MyRec.

10. Update on Motor Vehicle Thefts

Pursuant to a request from Councilor McChesney, please see the attached update from Police Chief Porter on the subject of motor vehicle thefts in Glastonbury.

Sincerely,


Jonathan Luiz
Glastonbury Town Manager

JL/sal
Attachments

QUARTERLY POLICE DEPARTMENT DONATIONS
2023 2nd Quarter

Date	Donor	Amount	Purpose	1	2	3	4	5
4/3/2023	Linda Depamphilis	\$ 10.00	Police Equipment & Special Gifts	Yes	No	No	No	No
4/20/2023	Paddy's Spirit Shoppe	\$ 2,100.00	K9	Yes	No	No	No	No
5/3/2023	Linda Depamphilis	\$ 10.00	Police Equipment & Special Gifts	Yes	No	No	No	No
5/19/2023	Glastonbury Nails	\$ 100.00	K9	Yes	No	No	No	No
6/5/2023	Linda Depamphilis	\$ 10.00	Police Equipment & Special Gifts	Yes	No	No	No	No

#1 - Align with Town Policies, programs, goals and objectives?

#2 - Create a conflict of interest, or have the potential to negatively influence Town operations or reputation?

#3 - Require an ongoing level of operating and maintenance expenses making it unduly burdensome or cost prohibitive?

#4 - Result in added operating or capital costs for which funding is not available or appropriated?

#5 - Pose a burdensome level of additional potential liability and insurance requirements or legal obligations?

GLASTONBURY POLICE DEPARTMENT

TO: JONATHAN LUIZ, TOWN MANAGER
FROM: MARSHALL S. PORTER, CHIEF OF POLICE
SUBJECT: M/V THEFT UPDATE
DATE: JUNE 26, 2023



Mr. Luiz, during the 6/13/2023 Town Council meeting, Councilman McChesney requested an update on motor vehicle thefts and related crimes. Mr. McChesney mentioned hearing that there has been a recent increase in activity.

Like many communities across the state, in 2020, Glastonbury experienced a significant increase in motor vehicle thefts and related crimes (e.g., theft from motor vehicles and burglaries). To combat this, in July 2021 we formed a local Auto Theft Team and assigned two full-time officers. Their responsibilities included investigations, surveillance, and community outreach related to motor vehicle thefts.

In October 2021, the Greater Hartford Regional Auto Theft Task Force (GHRATTF) was established and we assigned our Team's officers full-time. The GHRATTF is hosted by Hartford Police. It remains active, with 20± municipalities participating, including one officer from Glastonbury who shares his time between the task force and our Investigations Unit.

Since its inception, the GHRATTF has recovered 345 stolen motor vehicles and 42 illegal firearms. They have made 110 arrests for motor vehicle theft and have assisted in the investigation and arrest of numerous violent felons. Auto thefts in Glastonbury were reduced by 71% compared to the year before the establishment of the GHRATTFⁱ.

Table 1 visualizes the number of stolen cars in Glastonbury over the prior five calendar years.

Table 1	
Year	# Stolen
2023 to date	33
2022	32
2021	44
2020	82
2019	23

As you can see, the number of motor vehicle thefts to date in 2023 is greater than the total number of vehicles stolen in 2022. Many communities in the region are experiencing a similar increase. Our task force is aware and they are investigating.

We know that these thefts are most often committed by several individuals working in cooperation. The suspects typically travel in groups, targeting multiple vehicles and communities each night. As they continue to commit these crimes, our officers gather and share information and are eventually able to identify and arrest some of those responsible. Once the arrest of a suspect(s) is made, there is often a period of inactivity until suspects from

other towns expand their range, or the prior offenders are released from custody (either juvenile or adult detention facilities). Our investigators have identified several suspects who have participated in many of the 2023 thefts and are working with our partners to arrest them.

Automated License Plate Readers (ALPR) play an important role in these investigations. A few of ours (4 in total) were installed and became operational on/about June 20th. Within the first two days of being operational, one of the ALPRs provided valuable investigatory information regarding a vehicle stolen in Glastonbury a few minutes prior to the plate read. Our detectives and task force officer are using that information to actively investigate and track down the offenders. I anticipate the remaining ALPRs will be installed and operational within the next 2-3 weeks.

Some of the uptick in stolen vehicles this year is due to Kia and Hyundai thefts. This phenomenon is the result of a TikTok social media trend that has gained popularity, particularly among juvenile suspects. Arrests made by GHRATTF officers during saturation details revealed these suspects are sometimes as young as 12 years old, and oftentimes have been arrested multiple times within a span of a few months for said thefts. Our task force and community outreach officers are aware and have been conducting neighborhood notifications and we are providing steering wheel locks free of charge to Kia and Hyundai owners.

The continuing challenge in proactively addressing these crimes in town is there is no predictability in when or where they will occur. Our greatest strengths are technology and partnerships. We have received another \$35,000 grant to cover overtime costs associated with these investigations in collaboration with the task force.

ⁱ HPD End of Year GHRATTF report. Period covered 10/4/2021 through 9/30/2022