

## **SIGNIFICANT AVTIVITY REPORT**

**FEBRUARY 21, 2023**

### **PARKS AND RECREATION**

- The Ledyard RedZone 5K was held on February 11<sup>th</sup> of Super Bowl Weekend. Nearly 100 runners/walkers finished the event held in Wilder Village. We want to thank the Hartford Department of Public Works for helping us with the course safety, Hartford Fire Department for attending the event in case of emergencies and the Hartford Police Department helping with Traffic Control. Several volunteers assisted with the course crossings. The Department also wishes to acknowledge the Hartford School District – DBS for facility access and use of the school.
- Staff attended the Quechee Balloon Festival Planning Meeting Wednesday, February 15<sup>th</sup>. The festival is scheduled for June 16<sup>th</sup> through the 18<sup>th</sup>. The Department will be coordinating the parking for the event with donations going to the Brian Hanson Scholarship Program.
- Parks & Recreation's Tatum Barnes participated with the Hartford Community Coalition in a Hartford Middle School Survey to obtain ideas for teen related programs, trips and community activities for this coming summer. Over 150 surveys were collected.
- Our Valentines Dance for Daughters and Sons took place on February 11<sup>th</sup> with 156 in attendance. DJ Live Mix Kings played music; a photo booth was available for pictures. We also provided a variety of finger foods and drink for the event.
- Our After School at Whaleback Skiing Program has two weeks left of the season. Hopeful the conditions allow for continued skiing.
- Our Adult Open Basketball and Indoor Ultimate Frisbee continues at Hartford High School. Noontime Hockey at WABA continues Fridays.
- Our Youth Basketball Program ends Saturday, February 18<sup>th</sup>. Several teams will continue as they participate in area tournaments.
- After School Programs such as our Lego Club and Board Game Club continues. Chess Club starts the first week of March.
- Department is planning for the February Break Vacation Camp scheduled for the 20<sup>th</sup> through the 24<sup>th</sup> with 32 enrolled. The program will be held out of the Middle School. Additionally, we have opened registration for the April Break and already have 20 enrolled.
- Unfortunately, the Hartford Parks & Recreation Department has decided to cancel this year's Youth Ice Fishing Derby, scheduled for February 18th. This decision was difficult to make, as we know many people look forward to this event each year. Due to concerns of the ice quality, surface conditions, and access conditions, we cannot with 100% certainty, feel as though all participants would be safe on the ice. In the interest of public safety, this year's derby was canceled.
- We continue planning for summer programs and offerings. Staff are working on program descriptions and the development of the Spring Summer Program Guide.

## **Department of Public Works**

### **Water Department:**

Prepped vehicles and buildings for cold weather for the weekend of 2/3 – 2/5/2023.  
Called out for frozen water line at 926 Sykes Mountain Ave and 78 Oak Street on 2/4/2023.  
Called out for Low chlorine alarm at Wilder Treatment Plant on 2/7/2023 and 2/8/2023.  
Fixed leak at C Street on 2/13/2023 with assistance from the Highway Department.  
Issued Boil Water Notice for C Street and took samples for bacteria.  
Installed new Chlorine Analyzer at Wilder Treatment Plant on 2/14/2023.  
Called in for Low pH level at Wilder Treatment Plant on 2/15/2023.  
Lifted Boil Water Notice for residence on C Street 2/15/2023.  
Visited buildings for Hartford Water Department for Fire Department Safety checks on 2/15/2023.

### **Highway:**

Potholes around town.  
Chipping trees from winter storm.  
Assisted water with a break on C Street.  
Moved barricades on gates street for coring.  
Maintenance on trucks and equipment.  
Pre planning for upcoming summer projects.  
Graded River road.

### **Quechee Wastewater:**

Update state report data.  
Submit State Reports (WR43 and Leach Field).  
Maintenance on two Kubota tractors.  
Assist Quechee lakes with locating services lines with TV and locator..  
Download and process monthly leach field flow data.  
Daily labs, monthly samples, lab equipment prep.  
Snow removal, sand and salt at stations.  
Main pump station telemetry tests - need new antenna.  
Work on Main Pump Station Generator.  
Repair leak on plow hydraulics.  
Check Main Pump Station gas sensor - order new Oxygen sensor.  
SBR # 2 Blower maintenance.  
Order proficiency tests.  
Received 4000 gallons SternPAC 70 - cleaned up mess after.  
Rebuild backflow preventer in water line.  
Jetter flushed out problem manholes - as regular maintenance.

### **White River Wastewater:**

Performed routine maintenance at all ten pump stations.  
Added coolant to the treatment plant generator.  
Unplugged pumps at Bridge Street pump station.  
Performed routine maintenance at the wastewater treatment plant.  
Unplugged roof drains at the treatment plant.  
Sewer call on 63 Wilder Street, checked sewer main.  
Alliance Mechanical working on proactive maintenance. (Heating system)

Roy's Refrigeration working on glycol problem. (Heating system)  
Dewatered 250,000 gallons of sludge.  
Dewatered 24,000 gallons of sludge brought in from Quechee treatment plant.  
Hauled all dewatered biosolids and grit to Lebanon land fill.  
Jetted 63 Wilder Street, sewer main line.  
Greased Influent pumps, process water pumps and decanter arms.  
Greased W-11 dump truck and the sander on the new truck.  
Received VFD's for disc pump and sludge blower. (Waiting on Champlain Company to install.)  
Met with BAU Hopkins about O2 meter in wet well. Getting quote for new O2 system.  
Alliance Mechanical getting quote for new motor for ventilation system in wet well.  
Getting quotes from Roy's Refrigeration and Alliance Mechanical on heating system. (Tempered water) Stearn's Septic jetted, cut roots and videoed sewer main on 63 Wilder Street. (Found a lot of roots in sewer main)

## **Planning and Development**

- TIF Program – Submitted final FY 2022 TIF District Annual Report to the state. Testified before the Senate Finance Committee on 2/8/23 regarding Town bill to extend the District's deadlines to incur debt and to collect tax increment.
- Town Plan Housing Chapter Update – The first of four community meetings for updating the Housing Chapter is scheduled for February 28<sup>th</sup>. This will be an interactive on-line community discussion about "Homes for Hartford" - exploring the availability, affordability and type of housing that exists and what is needed today and in the future.
- The Hartford Committee on Housing and Homelessness - Held its organizational meeting on February 17, 2023.
- Historic Preservation Grant Project- Research for the Hartford Performing Arts History project is completed and started oral history interviews. The first of two community meetings is scheduled for Wednesday, March 15<sup>th</sup>.
- Property Development Applications – New applications for Zoning Board of Adjustments and Planning Commission Public Hearings were submitted and under staff review. The department continued to assist applicants regarding general inquiries and submittal of Zoning/Building permit applications; reviewed/approved building/zoning and design review applications; and conducted inspections of completed projects for issuance of Certificates of Occupancy.
- Town Forest– The timber harvest was completed and logs removed. Once the ground has dried-out, the clean-up will be completed.
- Parking Survey – Staff completed the triannual winter parking survey in Downtown White River Junction. A summary report will be completed in March.

## **Assessor**

- Staff participated in classes from Vermont Property Valuation and Review
- The assessor testified with the Vermont House Ways and Means Committee on the current state of assessment in Vermont
- Processed building permits and property transfers
- Reviewed tax map changes
- Assisted public with general tax questions

## **Town Clerk**

1. Ballots arrived February 13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup>. The nearly 700 Early/Absentee ballots requested by voters by that date were mailed out the 15<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup>. A huge thank you to the BCA members who helped fold the ballots and prepare the ballot packets over three days and to Assistant Clerk, Sherry West, for staffing the office alone during this effort. Voters who wish to receive ballots by mail should contact the Clerk's Office as soon as possible to be sure there is adequate time to get it mailed out and returned to the Clerk's office prior to the election. The Town Clerk's Office WILL CLOSE AT NOON On Monday, March 6<sup>th</sup> to set-up the polling place and to prepare for the election. The Ballot Drop Box will remain open until 5:00pm on MONDAY, March 6<sup>th</sup>. After this time, the Ballot Box will be locked and voters or their designee will need to deliver ballots to the polls between the hours of 7am-7pm on Tuesday, March 7<sup>th</sup> to be counted (Hartford High School gym, 37 Highland Ave., White River Jct., VT 05001). Town Hall is CLOSED Tuesday, March 7<sup>th</sup>. SAMPLE TOWN & SCHOOL DISTRICT BALLOTS have been posted at the Clerk's Office, on the website [https://www.hartford-vt.org/services/town\\_clerk\\_s\\_office/election\\_information\\_results.php](https://www.hartford-vt.org/services/town_clerk_s_office/election_information_results.php), the listserv and various locations throughout the community.
2. The Assistant Clerk is working with businesses who hold liquor licenses to submit their renewal applications through the new Department of Liquor and Lottery licensing portal. There has been a huge learning curve and many glitches with the DLL's system impacting the flow of the process for licensees, Clerks and DLL. All are working together to try to get through the new process.
3. A REMINDER TO DOG OWNERS: All dogs, aged 6 months or older, are required by State Law to be licensed by April 1<sup>st</sup> each year. A current rabies certificate must be provided. The fees are \$9.00 for dogs spayed/neutered; \$13.00 for dogs who are not spayed/neutered.

## **Environmental Sustainability Coordinator**

-The Energize UV energy fair being held on April 1<sup>st</sup> at Listen's 42 Maple St. in White River Junction is coming together. Hartford Energy Commission has been working with members of the Norwich Energy Committee, the Lebanon Energy Advisory Committee, and others to make this an informative and fund event. The event will host representatives from the solar industry, Green Saving Smart (which is a collaborative of community action agencies including SEVCA that offers financial and energy coaching), Efficiency Vermont, Vital Communities, and more. We hope the event will give people a chance to learn about energy efficiency opportunities and what incentive are available or will be available soon as a result of the Inflation Reduction Act.

- Window Dresser's organizing meetings will be starting soon, we will likely hold monthly meetings until November when the build occurs. Currently we are recruiting volunteers to help organize food for the build, measurers to visit homes and measure windows for the custom built inserts, and people to help with recruitment. Like last year we will partner with the Hartland Energy Committee and we have spoken with some other local Energy Committee's about joining our build. In organizing the event last year we found that many hands make light work and are working closely with other communities and Window Dressers Builds in the Upper Valley. If anyone is interested in helping organize this years build they should contact the Hartford Environmental Sustainability Coordinator.

- Members of the Hartford's Energy Commission took a tour of WABA recently and found it fascinating. The Director of Parks and Recreation took us through the facility and explained how

the building operates and the challenges of running an ice rink. Looking at the energy use of Town facilities and their other sources of Green House Gas emission in charts and reports can give you a lot of great information, but it doesn't tell the entire story of how the building operates and what it provides to the community, like the awesome hockey game going on during the tour.

### **Hartford Police Department Significant Activity**

February 6th the police department welcomed Chief Gregory Sheldon to the Town of Hartford. A reception was held at the PD on February 15th with a nice turn out.

We are in the midst of planning our awards ceremony with a tentative date of April 17th set.

Our Citizen Academy is just about ready to be launched! We will be advertising in the Valley News shortly and have a link on our Facebook page.

We are working with a law enforcement training company to host more training. We have ordered the Vitra simulator. Once that arrives we will extend an invitation to the selectboard to experience a training session with system.

Nature of Incident	Total Incidents
911 Hangup Call	7
Abandoned Vehicle	1
Agency Assistance	17
Animal Bite	2
Animal Problem	4
Assault	1
Background Investigation	1
Bleeding	1
Burglary	1
Burglary Alarm	18
Citizen Assist	14
Citizen Dispute	5
CPR	1
Traffic Accident with Damage	9
Traffic Accident with Injuries	3
Directed Patrol	149
Family Fight/Domestic	2
Foot Patrol	18
Found Property	4
Fraud	4
Harassment	2
Information Report	4
Juvenile Problem	5
Motor Vehicle Complaint	6
Noise Disturbance	2
Panic Alarm	1
Paperwork Service	4
Parking Problem	1

Possession Stolen Property	1	
Public Speaking	2	
Recovered Stolen Vehicle	1	
Search Warrant	1	
Seizure	1	
Unknown Medical Emergency		1
Social Media	1	
Special Detail	4	
Attempted Suicide	1	
Suspicious Person	9	
Suspicious Person/Circumstance		23
TESTING ONLY		2
Theft	2	
Threatening	3	
Traffic Hazard	3	
Traffic Violation	1	
Training	1	
Trespassing	13	
Unresponsive Person		3
Unlawful Mischief	2	
VIN Number Inspection		3
Wanted Person	1	
Welfare Check	7	
<b>Total Incidents:</b>		<b>373</b>