

Significant Activity Report

October 4, 2022

Town Clerk

General Election News: The State of Vermont is mailing Ballots to all Active Registered Voters for the upcoming 2022 General Election to be held on November 8, 2022. The Ballots are being mailed throughout the week of September 26-29, 2022. Hartford voters will begin receiving their ballots in the coming days. Hartford Voters who registered to vote after September 9, 2022, will be mailed a ballot directly from the Hartford Town Clerk's Office. **If you do NOT receive a ballot by October 10th, please stop by or contact the Hartford Town Clerk's Office: 802-295-2785 or by e-mail: lonel@hartford-vt.org.** The BALLOT DROP BOX, located outside the back entrance (facing Lyman Point Park) of Town Hall, is available until 5:00pm, Monday, November 7, 2022. After that time, voters must deliver ballots to the polling place on Election Day, Tuesday, November 8, 2022, between the hours of 7:00am-7:00pm (Polling Location is the Hartford High School Gymnasium, 37 Highland Avenue, White River Jct., VT 05001). **PLEASE NOTE:** The Town Clerk's Office will CLOSE at NOON on Monday, November 7, 2022, to prepare for Election Day. The Election Warning and Sample Ballots will be posted no later than October 9, 2022, as require by statute. Voters may verify registration or check early/absentee ballot status at <https://mvp.vermont.gov/>. Hartford Residents may register to vote at <https://olvr.vermont.gov/>.

Abatement Hearings: The Board of Abatement held three Abatement Hearings on Monday, September 26, 2022. Minutes are available draft minutes are posted to website.

VMCTA Conference: The Clerk attended the annual, two-day Vermont Municipal Clerk & Treasurer Association (VMCTA) Conference in Fairlee, VT September 20th & 21st. As always, the conference was packed full of quality sessions with valuable information related to the new Department of liquor and Lottery Licensing Portal; the upcoming election; document recording & retention and preservation; and, much more.

Public Works

Wastewater:

Assisted with wash out repairs on Murphy Rd.
Dug up outlet on septic tank on Greely Shunpike and added precast opening.
Emergency call out for generator repairs. Main pump station & Mill-run station.
Contracted with Alliance for maintenance on HVAC system.
Added hard pack to pump station access.
Assist with water leak/brake repairs Hartford Ave and Maple Street.
Picked up new truck.
Ford dump truck having repairs for inspection.
Contracted with Alliance for maintenance on HVAC system.
Seeded & mulch MH that was dug up for flushing.
Pulled pump at Bridge St & South End for removing blockages.

Water:

Major watermain break on Hartford Ave Approximately 5,500 gallon a minute.
Leak on Horseshoe Ave.
Two service line repair on Maple Street.
Kwame Banks started his water license class's.

Started our fall flushing of hydrants.
Final water bill inspections.

Highway:

Weeded trees down on South Main Street and added weed control and bark mulch.
Finished topcoat of pavement for 2022 paving.
Line striping is complete for 2022.
Assisted Water Department with multiple water breaks.
Graded River Road, Old River Road and Jericho area.
Cleaned out plugged culverts on Old Quechee Road and School Street.
Started our fall leaf blowing.
Preparing equipment for winter.

Assessor

Attended the abatement hearing
Organized permits for fall inspections
Finished FY 2024 Budget requests
Attended a US D.O.T SMART grant presentation
Continued entering permits and transfers

Environmental Sustainability Coordinator

-Members of UNH's Carbon Clinic that are doing an assessment of Hartford's carbon footprint and providing Hartford with a way to track our greenhouse gas emissions going forward presented to both the Hartford Energy Clinic and the Climate Action Steering Team on what this project will look like and what tools Hartford will have when their assessment is completed.
-Hartford Energy Commission's Window Dressers build is now signing up volunteers for shifts and meal donations for its build happening November 3rd-8th. If anyone would like to volunteer to work a couple of hours putting together window inserts that will help lower your neighbor's utility bills they can go to windowdressers.org/vermont-community-builds/ to sign up for a shift.
- Members of Hartford's Energy Commission and the Environmental Sustainability Coordinator met with staff and students from the Vermont Law School to discuss how a new VLS program to help communities move away from fossil fuels could benefit Hartford. Although this is an ongoing conversation, we discussed VLS possibly helping draft RFP's to encourage development in Hartford that is in line with the Climate Action Plan and Hartford getting technical assistance in putting together guidance on how the Town handles large solar field proposals.
- Mechanical systems at Town facilities are starting to get their fall cleanings and basic maintenance done in preparation for winter. WABA recently had their heating systems, hot water, and dehumidifiers cleaned and things like belts changed out. Town Hall, WABA, the Bugbee Center, and waste water plants have all started to have these services done to help ensure that systems are running as efficiently as possible.

Parks & Recreation

Program and Park Highlights

- Fall programs continue with youth sports and after school activities.
- Staff are working on programming out this school year No-School Fun Days.

- Planning has started on next summer’s Camp Ventures and the Counselor in Training Program.
- Department is pushing out through social media outlets upcoming programs: Halloween Movie Night, Trunk or Treat, Fly Fishing Clinic, Youth Basketball and the Shelburn Museum Trip.
- We are looking for a few instructors to teach our very popular Ice-Skating Lessons at the WABA Arena.
- The new Pickle Ball Lines that were installed at Maxfield. We now have 8 Pickleball Courts for our programs and for public use.
- Department is in the beginning stages of installing our ice sheet for the upcoming season at WABA. Over the past week we have brought the floor temperature down to 18 degrees. We have started to spray the floor with Real-Ice treated water. We will continue spraying and building up a base of about a quarter of an inch. The ice will be painted on October 3rd. After painting, logos will be installed, and we will begin flooding the sheet with an anticipated opening for skating on October 10th.
- As we transition into arena operations, our staffing levels to maintain public parks into November is limited. Incomplete Park projects will be pushed out to the spring so we can focus on mowing and park closings before the end of November.
- Interviews have started for our Park Laborer-Crew Lead opening in the Department. We are interviewing 5 candidates and hope to fill the position as soon as interviews are completed.
- The pool capital project is close to being closed out. There are still a few punch list items to complete and have been scheduled the first couple weeks of October. South Shore will be on site as well to install the winter pool cover that is due to ship this week and complete the winterization of the facility.

Fire Department- Significant Activities Report

09/30/2022

Incident Log:

Calls for Service 09/16/22-9/29/22	110		
Incident Type Categories			
Fires	1		
Overpressure Rupture/Explosion	0		
Rescue/Medical	71		
Hazardous Conditions	7		
Service Calls	13		
Good Intent	11		
False Alarm	7		
Weather Emergency	0		

Special Incident/Other	0		
------------------------	---	--	--

The department welcomes probationary firefighters Aaron Dotter of Strafford, VT and William Heighes of Claremont, NH to the department. They will start their recruit training with the department on October 10th. In July the department had 7 vacancies, these last two hires will bring the department to full staff. The training for our 7 new probationary firefighters will continue through December with the goal of having them all fully operational by January which will relieve the increased workload on the current staff.

The Fire Marshal completed inspections/investigations during this period. The department continues to advertise for the vacant Deputy Fire Marshal.

Chief Cooney toured all the new radio simulcast tower locations last week. The vendor is scheduled to begin the install over the next two weeks with testing beginning shortly thereafter.

On October 13th Chief Cooney be attending the State of Vermont 2022 Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (THIRA) Workshop in Killington. Representing our Local Emergency Management District. This Federal process is used to set funding priorities for Emergency Management and Homeland Security training activities and grant funding.

Hartford Police Department

A suspicious package was reported at the state office complex on Prospect St. VSP bomb squad was contacted, and it was determined that the package was not a threat.

The cause of the explosion on Route 14 on September 10th has been determined. The case is still under investigation.

Patrol is currently investigating the theft of a motor vehicle (2009 gold Toyota Highlander) from Quechee that occurred on September 23rd. The vehicle still has not been located.

Patrol investigated two separate reports of runaway juveniles. The first juvenile was reported as last being seen the day prior. Officers were able to determine the location of the juvenile and the juvenile was detained until turned over to a guardian. The second juvenile, separate case, was missing for approximately 3 days. Through investigation the juvenile was located in northern Vermont and returned home.

Patrol continues to investigate catalytic converter thefts in the area. There have been numerous thefts between Hartford and Lebanon areas.

Nature of Incident	Total Incidents
-----	-----
911 Hangup Call	13
Abandoned Vehicle	2
Agency Assistance	16
Animal Bite	2
Animal Noise	1
Animal Problem	7
Assault	1
Burglary	1
Burglary Alarm	16
Car Fire	1
Citizen Assist	21

Citizen Dispute	14
Condition of Release Violation	3
Traffic Accident with Damage	5
Traffic Accident with Injuries	2
Untimely	1
Death Message	1
Diabetic Emergency	1
Directed Patrol	92
Driving - License Suspended	1
Controlled Substance Problem	1
DUI Alcohol or Drugs	1
Family Fight/Domestic	4
Foot Patrol	8
Found Property	3
Fraud	6
Harassment	1
Dumping	1
Information Report	4
Intoxicated Person	7
Juvenile Problem	7
Lock Down Drill	2
Mental Health Emergency	3
Miscellaneous CAD Call Record	22
Missing Person	1
Motor Vehicle Complaint	14
Noise Disturbance	2
Overdose	3
Paperwork Service	5
Parking Problem	4
Phone Problem /Harrassment	2
Power Line Down	1
Runaway Juvenile	1
Sex Offender Registry	1
Sexual Assault	1
Special Detail	1
Attempted Suicide	1
Suspicious Package	1
Suspicious Person	9
Suspicious Person/Circumstance	37
Theft	7
Theft of Motor Vehicle	2
Traffic Hazard	6
Traffic Violation	3
Training	1
Trespassing	4
Unlawful Mischief	1
Unlawful Mischief	2
VIN Number Inspection	5
Wanted Person	3
Welfare Check	12

Total Incidents for This Report: 401

Department of Planning and Development Highlights

- Property Development Applications – This continues to be a very busy year reviewing applications and preparing comprehensive reports for Planning Commission and Zoning Board of Adjustment public hearings. Since January of this year, the Zoning Board has received 18 applications; the total heard in 2021 was 12. The Planning Commission received 26 applications to date compared to 15 heard in 2021. Possibly 4-6 new public hearing application will be submitted in October/November. We also continued to assist applicants regarding general inquiries and submittal of Zoning/Building permit applications; reviewed/approved new applications; and conducted inspections of completed projects for issuance of Certificates of Occupancy.
- Historic Preservation Performing Arts History Project - Completed selection process to hire a consultant to work with the Town. The project is partially funded with a \$9,021 State grant.
- Safe Routes to School Grant - Working with the school district and DPW on a possible grant submission to increase safety along the routes to the Dothan Brook School which participates in the State's Safe Routes to School Program.
- Department Administrative Assistant Position Vacancy– Completed interview process and hired person based on successful completion of standard conditions.
- Seven Days News – Interviewed for upcoming article on Hartford's past and current initiatives to increase housing development through Town Bylaw changes and Town and State programs/projects.