



# Glastonbury Partners in Planting, Inc.

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Together we can help make Glastonbury a more beautiful, greener place to live.

## Route 17 Medians

The severe winter storms of 2015 did its damage to our 3 Median Gardens but even bigger damage was caused by rodents who seem to prefer roses for their winter meal along with forsythia, euonymus and spring bulbs. Passing by the gardens you may have noticed our roses are in a rebuilding phase. We've had to replant roses which are taking their time catching up with the established plants. We also added some new perennials: agastache and hot pink asters.

- Chairperson: Pat Lynch



A quick shower doesn't stop our extraordinary volunteers. A very special Thank You to the many volunteers who help GPIIP throughout the year!



In 2004, Glastonbury Partners in Planting identified the intersection of Route 17 and Main Street as one of the first sites to plant and improve. GPIIP's goal was to transform the grass and weed-covered medians into beautiful, welcoming garden spaces.

This has been GPIIP's most ambitious project to date. Over a 3 month period volunteers planted 3 separate beds on the Median's two islands. The



gardens were filled with more than 500 shrubs, roses and perennials along with 3,000 bulbs. These plants were chosen because most are drought resistant, native, and can withstand the road salt from winter plowing.

The Median gardens display beautiful bursts of color beginning in early spring. The bulb plantings welcome passer-bys to waves of spectacular blues and yellows. The early blooming sky blue scilla and the star-shaped blues of the chionodoxa accented the giant yellow trumpets of the daffodils. The blooming 'Gold Tide' Forsythia also adds to the color.

But it is late spring and all summer is when most of the plants in the Medians are in full bloom. In late May, the masses of spiky, soft blue blossoms on the gray-green foliage of Nepeta 'Walker's Low' (Catmint) bloom for more than a month. In June, 'Knockout' Roses on the South median and 'Home Run' Roses on the North median begin their summer-long show of brilliant reds and pinks. Also, Coreopsis 'Moonbeam' and the Hemerocallis 'Happy Returns' (daylily) provide the beautiful shades of yellow. By July, the purple Echinacea tennesseensis 'Rock Top' (cornflower) blossom, the Perovskia 'Russian Sage' starts turning purple and the golden Rudbeckia 'Goldsturm' (Black-eyed Susan) begins blooming with most of the tall, showy grasses.

In late August, Sedum 'Autumn Joy' turns pink and the day lilies and catmint show their colors again.



***We are most grateful to:***

- Bonnie Maguire who headed the planting effort and worked to secure approvals from 7 State and local agencies. She also oversaw the Medians through their first crucial year.
- Betty Payton, Deborah Kent and Bob Shipman for designing the gardens.
- Howard Horton, Bob Shipman and E.A. Quinn Landscape Contracting for donating equipment and labor to rototill, spread compost and mulch.
- The Glastonbury Exchange Club for their very generous \$2,000 donation.
- Mark Sellev's Prides Corner Farms for the hundreds of discounted plants.
- Stephen Shipman and Patrick Lynch for keeping the medians mowed.
- The many GPIP volunteers who participate in the spring and fall clean up, mulching and on-going weeding and deadheading.





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