

Granby, CT March 2024 – Granby Takes a Life-Saving Step Forward

The Town of Granby, in conjunction with the Oates Family, proudly announces the installation of eight Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) at numerous indoor and outdoors locations throughout town. These heated and secured outdoor AED cabinets are located at Ahrens Park, Salmon Brook Park at the Pond House, Holcomb Farm, and the Granby Memorial High School Dennis Lobo Track. A fifth AED will be placed in Salmon Brook Park at the Rovers Soccer Fields in the near future. Indoor AED cabinets have been added to the Granby Public Library's main branch, the Town Hall, and the Department of Public Works facility.

The new AEDs are strategically positioned to serve as a crucial resource for cardiac emergencies. An AED is a life-saving device designed to deliver a controlled electrical shock to individuals experiencing Sudden Cardiac Arrest, potentially restoring a normal heart rhythm and significantly increasing the chances of survival before professional medical help arrives.

All AEDs are state-of-the-art Stryker CR2 models capable of treating both adult and pediatric cardiac arrest victims with one set of ready to use defibrillation pads. Each AED is also outfitted with a helpful CPR toolkit that includes a pocket mask for trained individuals, gloves, scissors, a safety razor, and a sanitizing hand wipe. This initiative represents a significant milestone in enhancing public safety for our Town, and provides critical emergency support to community members and visitors in times of need.

The large yellow outdoor cabinets are highly visible and require a keycode to access the AED. Instructions to "Call 911" for access are prominently displayed on the front. When a suspected cardiac arrest is reported via 911 to the Granby Dispatch Center, within the Granby Police Department, the telecommunicator will check for nearby AED units and provide the caller with instructions to find and access emergency equipment while simultaneously dispatching first responders to the location.

Mark Fiorentino, Granby's First Selectman, expresses his enthusiasm: "The AED project is a typical example of what a great community we have in Granby. This project would not have been possible without the hard work, generosity, and cooperation of a number of individuals and groups. On behalf of our entire community, I thank everyone involved."

The AED installation project was made possible through the collaborative efforts of the Town of Granby, Granby Ambulance Association, and Granby Department of Public Works, and a generous donation from the Oates Family together made this endeavor a reality.

Furthermore, Granby Ambulance Association remains committed to providing CPR and AED training sessions, ensuring that community members feel confident and capable when utilizing

this life-saving device effectively when necessary. Interested parties can contact GAA via training@granbyambulance.org for educational opportunities.

As we inaugurate this critical addition to our community, Granby remains committed to fostering a safer and more prepared environment for all. We encourage everyone to familiarize themselves with the AED locations and take part in the forthcoming training sessions to equip themselves with life-saving skills.

For more information on the AED installation or upcoming training sessions, please contact Mark Fiorentino, First Selectman, mfiorentino@granby-ct.gov.