Town of South Windsor

Town Manager’s Report
February 2018

Matthew B. Galligan
Town Manager

Polling Location Review Committee
Please find enclosed a report from the Polling Location Review Committee. The Committee was created by the Town Council to review whether polling locations should be changed or kept in their current locations. The report speaks for itself, and if the Council wishes to discuss it at a future meeting, please let me know.

South Windsor Rating
I have enclosed for you a copy of the rating of South Windsor. Although I have already emailed this to you, I felt I should put it in my Town Manager’s Report so that the community can see that we are in a fiscally sound condition.

PPA Resolution
There is a Resolution to transfer the PPA to South Energy Investments, LLC. I have given you the fuel cell project and a list of the tasks that have been completed to date, those that are ongoing, and those that could be completed any day. As of today, I was told that South Energy Investments have paid the fee of $75,000 to do the interconnection study with Eversource. I have asked that the PPA be transferred at the time of closing and only if all of the financing is secure. The document will be held in escrow until all conditions are satisfied. We have to show the lender that South Energy Investments does have an interest in the PPA so that they can complete their financing and due diligence.

Discussion Items
There will be a brief discussion item on tax stabilization in case there are any last minute items that the Council would like to talk about. We are hoping that the Council will pass the resolution to set a Public Hearing for the tax stabilization plan. I am also working on a contingency budget stabilization fund and am researching more information before I present it to the Council. Once we pass the tax stabilization policy, I will bring the contingency budget stabilization fund forward.

There was also a discussion on bonding. I have talked to our independent bond counsel and have some additional information to bring to the Council regarding our bond premiums.

Coyote Presence
I have spoken to Representative Delnicki regarding coyote concerns in Town. He is meeting with the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection to see if a representative can hold a public informational forum. This way the residents of our
community can understand the different ways to handle coyote situations.

**Crumbling Foundations**
Representative Delnicki has submitted bills concerning crumbling foundations. I am looking to meet with the Crumbling Foundation Committee and inviting Representatives Currey and Delnicki, and Senator Larson if they wish to attend. The Committee will discuss the bills and review the language to see how we can support the program.

We are also meeting with Pamela Toohey, the Homeowner Advocate from the Department of Housing. We will be discussing crumbling foundations and how the Department of Housing will be able to help.

**Roundtable Discussion**
On January 29, I held a roundtable discussion with various boards and commissions. We had a good turnout. We received some pertinent information on some of the problems they were having with quorums, meeting agendas, and meeting minutes. Staff and I will address those issues and report back to the Council.

**Citizen Survey**
There are certain Committees that would like to add questions to the Citizen Survey, so I have extended the timeline for them to submit any changes. Once complete, the Survey will be reviewed by the Council. After Council review, the Survey will be sent to as many residents as possible, and the results will be analyzed for a report at a later date. I feel that this survey will be a good benchmark for our services and will provide valuable information on how our residents would like to see the Town move forward.

**Bond Sale**
I want the Council to know that on February 1, we will be selling bonds and notes for our road projects as well as Orchard Hill School. I will advise the Council verbally on Monday night regarding the sale outcome.

**State Task Force**
CCM has appointed me to serve on the Special Education Cost Model Task Force. We had our first meeting on January 29 to set parameters, bylaws, and appoint a chair. I have been asked to chair the Committee as I have had experience in captive insurance programs. This Committee is looking to make special education costs more predictable so that municipalities can budget appropriately.

**Renewable Energy Plant Tour**
I took a tour of the Quantum Biopower renewable energy plant in Southington. This plant is very innovative, as it is clean yet producing energy from food waste. We will continue to monitor this facility and research ways that South Windsor can benefit from this technology.

Matthew B. Galligan
Town Manager
Police Department

December 2017 Activity:
Thanks to our new CAD/RMS system it is easy to compile activity stats. We have been publishing them on our department Facebook page.

“The cold and snow decreases some activities and raises others. We were fortunate to have very little issues with packages being stolen from porches this holiday, and we are extremely happy to report that we had NO fatal accidents this year. Here’s a partial list of our activities last month”:

Total Computer Aided Dispatch Entries 1963
9-1-1 Calls Received 646
Routine Calls Received 2200
Directed Patrol/Premise Checks 553
Motor Vehicle Stops 212
Medical Assists 223
Suspicious 111
Alarms 116
Motor Vehicle Accidents 61
Welfare Check 44
Assist Outside Agency 23
Animal Problem 29
Citizen Assist 35
Miscellaneous Service 22
Collision Reports 25
BOLO 16
Disabled Motor Vehicle 45
Larceny 20
Hazardous Conditions 15

Pistol Permits 13
Burglary 6
Civil Matter 8
911 Check 10
Fraud 12
Domestic Dispute 9
Narcotics Violation 2
Violation of Town Ordinance 6
Youth Problem 0
Sexual Assault 3

New Resource for those struggling with Addiction:
We received a link to a new webpage that tracks open beds in treatment centers in “real time”. When we speak with relatives of people who need access to addiction treatment services; the common problem seems to be locating open treatment programs. We have published this webpage on our Facebook page and it’s received over 6,800 views. As a reminder, our officers all carry Narcan, an opioid antagonist that can reverse the effects of heroin and fentanyl.

SWPD Officer Makes Significant Heroin Arrest:
Our midnight officers have been diligent about patrolling all parts of South Windsor. Officer Bill Eastwood made a simple traffic stop at 3 a.m. down by the river and seized 3
ounces of Heroin! A typical dose of heroin is 0.1 gram, so this seizure represents hundreds of doses taken off the street.

On Tuesday, January 16, 2018 at about 3:00 a.m. a South Windsor Police officer located a suspicious vehicle on Vibert Road near the Connecticut River. The vehicle was covered in mud and the operator admitted to driving on farmland near the river. The officer smelled the odor of marijuana coming from the vehicle. During a subsequent field interview and search officers found approximately 3 ounces of heroin, marijuana, and a large amount of money. The man acknowledged selling drugs to make money. Officers arrested the man, Luis Arriaga, age 37, of 93 Gold Street, New Britain, CT. He was charged with Simple Trespass, Possession of Drug Paraphernalia, Possession of Narcotics with Intent to Sell, Operation of a Drug Factory, Possession of Marijuana with Intent to Sell, and Possession of Marijuana Greater than ½ ounce. Arriaga was held on $150,000.00 surety bond and was later presented at Manchester Superior Court.

**Cold weather safety:**
In early January the town experienced extreme cold and wind-chill temps. Our officers and dispatchers work to make sure that anyone in need of shelter gets help. Despite the extreme cold we didn’t have to shelter any residents.

These are links to helpful websites from Ready.gov, Eversource and 2-1-1 Infoline.

As always, if you need assistance please contact us at 860-644-2551.

https://www.ready.gov/winter-weather...
https://uwc.211ct.org/extreme-cold-weather-click-here-for----/

**REPORT A POWER OUTAGE**
In case of an emergency, life threatening situation, downed line or if you are in imminent danger please call 911.

**Wild Animal Awareness:**
We generally post the following reminder a few times a year; we still have a lot of open space in town and have wildlife such as coyotes, fisher cats, fox, and bobcats. (in fact, a bobcat was struck on Route 5 January 18th). The information below and the D.E.E.P. link is posted on the Police Facebook page and the TRACS Facebook page. It’s always a good practice to be outside with small dogs (unless the yard is fenced) to prevent larger dogs from entering the yard or your dog wandering off:

The South Windsor Police Department
animal control division is experiencing an increased number of coyote sightings and complaints across town, but the heaviest activity is being reported from the area of Ellington Road (Rt. 74) through Foster Street, where three small dogs have been taken recently.

Residents are reminded that coyotes and other wild animals such as bobcats and fishers are native to South Windsor.

We cannot stress enough that your small pets should not be left outside unattended!! Cats should be brought in at night and dogs – especially your small senior animals- should be leashed and under very close supervision at all times while outside, but more so when the wild animals are most active during the hours between dusk and dawn.

Homeowners should eliminate any food sources such as pet food left outdoors, table scraps on compost piles, and fruit below trees. Secure trash cans and take in bird feeders.

If a coyote is sighted make the animal aware that it is unwelcome! From a safe distance shout, flap your arms, throw sticks, and behave aggressively. We encourage residents to use very loud noises to frighten the animals. Bang cooking pots together, or keep on hand party air horns. Install motion sensor lighting. Use items on your property that create noise and movement such as wind chimes or wind spinners. These items should be moved regularly so the wild animals do not become acclimated to them.

Coyotes are very intelligent and they are exhibiting bold behavior around people, however aggressive behavior toward people is very rare. If a coyote does not run off at noise, if the animal appears unable to maintain its balance, or if the animal appears otherwise sick or injured please contact the South Windsor Police Department at 860-644-2551. http://www.ct.gov/deep/cwp/view.asp?a=2723&q=32599

Daycare Facility Safety Training:
SWPD officers will be instructing daycare professionals in the best practices for events such as: lockdowns, medical emergencies, missing children and acts of violence, on January 30th. This training is being held in collaboration with Youth and Family Services and we have about two dozen students scheduled to attend.
Public Works Department

Michael J. Gantick
Director of Public Works

**Street Services**

Town crews have responded to six winter weather events to date during the month of January, all of which were quite manageable.

We have a crew working to clear an area of open space to facilitate access to Avery Pond. There is a large beaver dam which is disrupting the flow of water in Avery Channel. Opening the dam is but one step in the process; the actual perpetrators need to be dealt with as part of the process in order to eliminate the source of the back-up.

Beavers continue to be a problematic in several areas of town. The Town’s trapper is at work in these areas to help mitigate the problem.

As time and weather permit, we are turning the leaves on the compost site in preparation of screening the leaves in the spring.

Crews are working valiantly on potholes throughout town. In some areas, the freeze thaw cycle is having quite an impact on our already fragile roads. Although we are using a “hotbox” to warm the materials, which does provide a better patch, these patches are most often very temporary. We can visit the same potholes within a few weeks, or even as little as a few days. It is the first line of defense to keep our roads drivable during the winter until permanent repairs can be made.

We are beginning to facilitate repairs on our small equipment. One maintainer will be going through our back pack blowers, weed eaters, pumps, plate compactors, pavement rollers, etc. to prepare for action in the spring.

We have Maintainers constantly washing our fleet to remove salt, dirt and grime from the trucks. As in past years, when the equipment is washed they are treated with Salt-Away, a salt neutralizer to help increase the longevity of the equipment.

We have a pair of maintainers that are working to confirm the location, inspect and map out all of our storm water culverts throughout town. This is yet another piece of the MS4 compliance program. This is a significant undertaking and will allow us to better maintain our culverts through the use of GPS. By utilizing a tablet in the field, this crew can accurately locate the target and provide detailed information which will be put into a searchable database. The ultimate goal is to have an accurate database of all our storm water components so we can achieve and maintain compliance with the MS4 permit.
The sign shop assisted with numerous calls of illegal dumping issues and the usual dead animal pick-ups. The sign shop also took care of a few mailbox issues and moved trucks to a supplier to have anti-corrosion coatings spayed on the truck frames.

The Staff at the garage welcomed Kimberly DeMur to the organization as our new Administrative Assistant. Kim is a quick study and will have no problem getting up to speed. We look forward to a long working relationship with her.

Scott Yeomans
Associate Manager, Street Services
A thank you note from one of the families who receives services from our caseworkers (Lindsey Ravalese, Steve Clapp, Penny Shea):

To the “miracle workers” at the Community Center:
Thank you for all you’ve done for our family. When I call crying you have always helped pick up the pieces to my family’s life and put it all back together. Thanksgiving, Christmas, school year supplies, food and energy emergencies, all the love you’ve given...there can never be enough thank you’s but thank you for all you’ve done and all you continue to do every day. God Bless you and your own families. Happy 2018!

Adopt a Child Program
A total number of 197 children (89 families) were served this year in our Adopt a Child program. Over 72 donors provided children with clothes and toys for the holiday. Donors consisted of individuals, families, church groups, businesses, sporting groups, schools, civic organizations and the fire and police departments. South Windsor is extremely generous and we should all be proud of being part of this great community! Donors are genuinely excited to be part of this program to help their neighbors in need!!! A huge thanks to all!!

Community Center Enhancements
We are excited that several rooms of the community center are finished and being used every day. Additional activity rooms are painted and new chairs were purchased to better meet the needs of the senior population. We also have a new library, which was formerly used as counseling space by counselors in our Youth and Family Services division. Counseling is now being offered in an old Recreation Department office to better meet their needs. Coming soon: painting, new windows and sound panels in our gym; painting of hallways and new carpeting in the lobby and hallways.

Update on Medicare Savings Program
Medicare Savings Program (MSP) helps low income Medicare beneficiaries with paying their Medicare premiums and deductibles and automatically qualifies individuals for the low income subsidy (LIS) which reduces prescription drug costs. The state legislature has held a special session and extended this program until July 1st. They need to reconvene for a short session to implement more permanent funding. We are hopeful! Any changes will be mentioned in the senior newsletter or we can be reached at 860-648-6361.
New Year’s Eve Party A Success!
A record number of people attended our annual New Year’s Eve dinner dance! 125 people enjoyed the food, friends, and music of Jose Paulo!
South Windsor Youth & Family Services/South Windsor Alliance for Families (SWAFF) is one of 14 Local Prevention Councils that has been awarded the **Connecticut Targeted Response to the Opioid Crisis** mini grant. SWAFF is busy working on plans for how to best use this grant. We will be hosting a Narcan information session and training here at the Community Center of March 27th. More details to follow!

**Teen Center**
During the month of January, one of our programs for middle school students, “Tuesday Afternoons at the Teen Center”, resumed. Students sign up through the TEAM Matinee Program and take the bus from TEMS to the Teen Center for a six week afterschool program. This small group allows students to socialize, make new friends and participate in activities such as teambuilding, arts and crafts, game tournaments and more. We were thrilled to see many returning students as well as a few new faces!

High School Students continue to utilize the Teen Center Drop In Hours regularly after-school as a place to unwind, have a snack, hang out with friends or join in some of the activities we offer such as basketball, arts and crafts or other prosocial activities. This month, teens also had the opportunity to join a conversation on drug abuse and test their knowledge about the harmful effects of drugs and alcohol use by taking a “Drug & Alcohol IQ test”. This test is put out yearly by the National Institute on Drug Abuse and includes information on current trends and research findings.

**Parent Education and Support**

S.W.A.N. **1st Annual Early Childhood Resource Fair** was a success! On Saturday, January 6th an estimated 150 families ventured out into the cold to learn about what services and supports are available in the South Windsor community and surrounding towns for young children. Over 35 vendors participated in the fair! The event included story times, raffle prizes, entertainment, hands on activities, and free vision and
hearing screenings. The South Windsor Lion’s Club Kidsight program screened over 30 children and identified 4 children as needing a referral for follow-up. Because of the event the Kidsight program connected with several childcare centers in town and will begin doing yearly screens in the childcare centers. The South Windsor Fire Department provided fire safety tips and demonstrations to children on how to Stop, Drop and Roll!

S.W.A.N. Parent/Child Playgroup
Over 60 families attended the Monday morning playgroups in January. Families have shared how much they look forward to the playgroup. Many parents have reported they have made friends with other parents and are
meeting up with each other outside of the playgroup. One mother reported she had just moved to South Windsor from Florida and enjoyed getting to meet other parents in town. Healthy snacks are provided for children and coffee for the parents.

**School Outreach**

On January 10th we celebrated National Mentoring Month with a program at TEMS. Students and their mentors gathered after school to share some laughs and have some fun. We played a variety of cooperative games, enjoyed some delicious food and took some time to get to know each other better. We are very thankful to the Mentors and the students for being involved in this wonderful program. SADD (Students Against Destructive Decisions) is busy planning some upcoming events. For Superbowl Sunday, we have made and placed stickers on pizza boxes that will be distributed on Super Bowl Sunday. The stickers message is to remind people to make smart decisions and not drink/use drugs and drive. February is Teen Dating Violence Awareness month, SADD is working hard on a project for that as well.

**Youth Counseling**

Both Counselors, Robin Lagasse and Nikki Lengyel are actively providing counseling services at the community center and South Windsor schools. They are both currently facilitating groups for youth as well.

Some great upcoming programs and events, please check out our Facebook page!

[https://www.facebook.com/SWYouthFamily](https://www.facebook.com/SWYouthFamily)

or call Liz at 860-648-6361 x331 for more information
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Parks & Recreation Department
Raymond Favreau
Director of Parks & Recreation

John Caldwell, Jr.
Superintendent of Parks

“Discover the Benefits!”
MONTHLY REPORT - February 5, 2018

Keri Apt
Asst. Director of Parks & Recreation

Park & Recreation Commission (PARC) – The next PARC meeting is Wednesday, Feb. 14th at 7:30pm now in their new location in Room 14 at Wapping School, 91 Ayers Road.

The South Windsor Walk & Wheel Ways (SWW&WW) sub-committee meets next on Wed., Feb. 7th at Wapping, Room 54. The next Full Moon Walk is scheduled for Fri., Feb. 2 starting at 7:15pm. Meet at the Rotary Pavilion at Nevers Park and end the night with hot chocolate by the fire pit! They successfully hosted a regional meeting of Ride CT on Jan. 24th from 6:30-8:30pm at Wapping. Forty people representing 13 CT communities attended to learn about our 4th grade bicycle education program. The bike fleet trailer was on display following the formal program. SWW&WW in partnership with the BOE Phys. Ed. Dept. should be proud of their accomplishments and honored that so many municipalities wish to mimic our bike program! The committee also submitted an application for a grant from the Doppelt Fund for planning and design work for the proposed cross-town trail running along the Eversource power corridor.

The South Windsor FOOD Alliance (SWFA) – No report at this time. Go to www.swfood.org for more details.

Like us on Facebook - We reached the 2,057“likes” and followed by 2,087!

Special Invitation to Councilors – SAVE THE DATES: We are super excited to announce our first-ever “Father-Daughter Dance” to be held Friday, Feb. 9th from 7-9pm in the Wapping gymnasium turned dance hall! DJ Ben Ockert from Jamin Productions will spin the tunes for Daddy and his little girl! Dancing, light snacks and a photo-booth are sure to make lifetime memories. At the time of this writing we had 97 enrolled!! The Annual Ann Masi Memorial Childrens’ program featuring the magic of Scott Jameson will kick off the February School Recess on Thurs., Feb. 15th at 10am at the SW High School Auditorium, As always, we offer all members of the Town Council an open invitation to visit any of our 400+ recreation programs or park facilities throughout the year. Please give us a call and we will even escort you!
RECREATION DIVISION
“Feel great – recreate!”

4th R Before & After School Program – February enrollment across the four elementary schools is at 142 morning participants and 249 afternoon participants. The Early Release Wednesday program to support the BOE professional development program does not operate in the winter and will re-start March 21. Did you know that socks are one of the most requested items needed at homeless shelters? To help solve this problem, the 4th “R” held a “Sock Drive” to collect new socks to donate! Between all 4th “R” sites, we collected 477 pairs of socks and donated them to the South Park Inn Homeless Shelter in Hartford, CT.

Open House - Our rescheduled bigger & better Open House on Sat., Jan. 20th was an unbelievably huge success with 1,003 residents enjoying the celebration of our new home at Wapping School between 10am and 2pm. Following a brief welcoming ceremony including a proclamation from the State of CT General Assembly presented by State Representative Tom Delnicki and remarks by Mayor Anwar and Councilor Glickman, there truly was a plethora of pleasurable participation for all ages! We had games galore, mechanical life-size animal rides, customized photo booth, magic shows, live animal demos, an escape room, Rube Goldberg contraptions building, bicycle safety sessions, face painting, balloon sculpting, door prizes (including the “swim for life” grand prize of a lifetime individual pool pass to VMP – the lucky winner being Heidi Hiesel), refreshments (provided by Mannelley’s and the SWHS Culinary Arts Class), inflatables, entertainment and a special community build LEGO “Mystery Mural” (which when completed transforms into a 5ft x 4ft department logo that will be displayed in the lobby soon! I could not be more proud of our staff that truly put their hearts and souls into one of the department’s biggest day in its 49 year history. King-size kudos krew!!!

Learn to Skate – we hit record enrollment for this program with 43 individuals enjoying the ice at the SW Arena on Friday nights in February from 5:40 to 6:40pm.

Kids Night Out – Our first-ever special event designed to provide 4 hours of blissful supervised fun for the kids and 4 hours of “kid-less” time for parents to enjoy dining out, catching a movie, shopping or simply relaxing attracted 24 kids (and 48 parents)! Activities of choice for the kids included inflatable bounce houses, cupcake baking & decorating, active games, board games, Wii, crafts and watching the movie “Hercules” while munching on popcorn. Moms and Dads loved it as much (if not more) than the kids! Looks like a repeater for next year.

Wapping Re-Purposing – While waiting on quotes, materials and timelines for Phase II (which includes Cafeteria remodeling to a Banquet facility, converting room 33 to party room and expanding parking is a work-in-progress), we continue to work on Phase III,
which incorporates renovating rooms 12, 14, and 36 for multi-purpose uses.

**PARKS DIVISION**

“Caring for South Windsor’s Growing Needs”

January Activity Highlights:

- **Athletic Fields & Grounds:**
  - Broadcast straight blue grass seed prior to installing turf blankets on heavily worn areas such as goal mouths.
  - Fence lines at various sites continued to receive some needed attention and invasive clearing.
  - Continued clearing overgrowth and dead trees along the Plum Gulley Brook on the high school campus.

- **Parks & Open Space:**
  - Prepared the newly dredged pond at Rye Street Park for ice skating for the first time in years!
  - Continued clearing invasive materials and dead trees from the newly acquired Collins Hill.
  - Continued work on some improvements to the Mountain Bike trails at Rye Street Park in preparation for a planned special event there next Spring.
  - Repairs made to high tunnels at Avery Gardens.
  - Began annual tree inspection and tree work at ropes course at Nevers Park.
  - Returned to Priest property to continue clearing all overgrowth, sparing a handful of healthy unique trees.

- **Projects:**
  - Improvements and renovations performed in-house at Wapping included a complete renovation of room 37 into a small group fitness class room. This included gutting the room of all its millwork and cabinetry; building one new wall; repairing walls, ceiling, electrical outlets and window frames and three coats of paint. Only the installation of the rubber fitness flooring was contracted to Hales Flooring from South Windsor.
  - Re-organized/remodeled parks division workshop at Town Garage.

- **Other**
  - Dismantled all holiday decorations and lighting.
  - Installed fluorescent light fixtures on ceiling of bike fleet trailer for increased visibility and safety at night.
  - Dominating the majority of this month’s accomplishments, along-side staff from Street Services we responded to numerous winter weather events, including digging out fire hydrants along parks and open space sidewalks.
  - Assisted with building and grounds preparations for our Open House Jan. 20.
  - We are preparing to install a clay cricket pitch at the Barton property this Spring in partnership with the new local cricket team New England United Cricket Club (NEUCC).
Above: Parks crew members continue to clear deadwood, invasives, hazardous and diseased trees at Lawrence Road Park in between snow storms.

Parks crew renovating room 37 into a fitness class room at Wapping. Lower photo is Hales Flooring installing rubber floor.
Top and below left: Parks & Rec. was proud to host the SWHS Unified Basketball team at Wapping gym for their latest game versus Rockville High

Right: 30 volunteer coaches from our youth basketball leagues participated in our first-ever drop-in basketball at Wapping on Wed., Jan 24 from 6-9pm. All 30 of them left the gym happy, sweaty and sore!
Above: Magic shows captivated young audiences all day!

Right: Safari Rides staff guides Lucy the life-size mechanical polar bear through the halls of Wapping

The Parks & Recreation Administrative team poses with State Representative Tom Delnicki, Mayor Anwar and Councilors Glickman, Hockenberry, Paterna & Riley at the “opening of the doors” ceremony for the Open House on Jan 20.

Staff from “Critter Caravan” provided hands on engagement with a variety of animals from guinea pigs to snakes!
All smiles on Kids Night Out (sans parental units) on Friday January 26th

Kid-made, home-made cupcakes at Kids Night Out

Bounce House is a big “pre-cupcake” hit at Kids Night Out
February 2018
Town Council Meetings and Events

Meetings

**Monday, February 5, 2018**
7:00 p.m. Regular Meeting
Council Chambers

**Tuesday, February 20, 2018**
7:00 p.m. Regular Meeting
Council Chambers

Holidays

**Monday, February 12, 2018**
Town Offices Will Be Closed in Observance of Lincoln’s Birthday

**Monday, February 19, 2018**
Town Offices Will Be Closed in Observance of Washington’s Birthday

Layout by Ashley Booth, Executive Assistant