

Town of South Windsor

Town Manager's Report March 2024



Michael Maniscalco
Town Manager

Governors Highway OSTA Application:

After the last Town Council meeting, I met with the Chief of Police who also holds the responsibility for the Town of Legal Traffic Authority (LTA). After our conversation he has made an application to the Office of State Traffic Authority (OSTA) to ask them to review and possibly limit truck traffic on Governors Highway. It is not known how long OSTA will take to review this request but in other instances I have experienced 90-120 day wait times.

Route 5 Safety Tour: The Department of Public Works and Planning and Zoning took part in a Route 5 safety tour with the State DOT. Given the frequency of automobile crashes in the area staff are trying to work with the State to identify causes and solutions to make Rte. 5 safer.

Splash Pad Update: The Town is hopeful that the spray equipment for the Splash Pad will be delivered the first full week of March. Staff are also gearing up to start work again as soon as the weather breaks. The public can expect to see shade structures installed as well as a tough coat applied when temperatures allow.

Nevers Park Exercise Equipment: The Parks and Rec Department has installed a new exercise area in Nevers Park. This was funded in part through private donations and ARPA funds. The old exercise equipment was removed due to it exceeding its useful life and it is causing a hazard to residents using it. The plan is to complete the flooring of the exercise area and then install benches and stretching areas for residents throughout the trail.

Route 30 Railroad Crossing: The DPW Department has been hard at work to elicit the replacement of the railroad crossing at Route 30. I am pleased to report that finding from the railroad has officially been put in place and work on replacement is expected to start around the 3rd week of May. The State DOT has committed to the pavement of the area.



Police Department

Kristian R. Lindstrom
Chief of Police

Monthly Statistics January 2024

Each month we publish the totals of some of our more common calls for service. Patrol, Investigative, and Administrative staff continue to work together to serve the community's public safety needs. From proactively checking businesses and facilities to traffic enforcement and responding to emergencies, the South Windsor Police Department is committed to providing the best public safety product in the region to those who live, work, and play, in the Town of South Windsor.

January's numbers are below:

Total Computer Aided Dispatch Entries:	2163
Routine Calls Received/Outgoing:	3909
911 Calls	619
Directed Patrol/Premise Checks:	645
Motor Vehicle Stop - Attempt	6
Motor Vehicle Stops:	216
Driving Under the Influence	3
Emotionally Disturbed Persons:	10
Medical Assists:	223
Suspicious:	52
Alarms:	67
Motor Vehicle Violation	25
Motor Vehicle Accidents:	49
Welfare Check:	47
Assist Outside Agency:	41
Animal Problem:	25
Citizen Assist:	41
Miscellaneous Service:	17
Collision Reports:	20
BOLO:	12
Disabled Motor Vehicle:	22
Larceny - Motor Vehicle	0
Larceny:	20
Hazardous Conditions:	28
Pistol Permits:	7
Burglary	1
Burglary - Motor Vehicle	7
Civil Matter:	14
911 Check:	7
Fraud:	7
Domestic Dispute:	16
Violation of Town Ordinance:	30
Sexual Assault	0
Arrests	44
Youth Problem:	13

Personnel and Recruiting Status:

The strength of the South Windsor Police Department always has been, and continues to be, the staff who keep things moving day in and day out.

During the month of February, one of our newer Dispatchers resigned during the field training phase of his employment. This resignation creates the lone vacancy within our ranks and we are in the process of filling it as soon as possible. We remain proud that we are one of the only agencies (if not the only agency) in the area that is at full strength on the sworn side of the board.

Month End Sworn Personnel Summary:

With an authorized strength of 46 sworn members, we proudly employ 46. As is often the case, the fact that we have no vacancies does not negate the fact that only 40 are currently fully operational sworn FTE's. We currently have 1 in the academy, 2 officers in field training (Bravo, and Lamagna), and 3 out on medical leave (one work related and two non-work related).

Civilian Personnel Summary: Among our 15 civilian employees, we currently have the aforementioned vacancy in Dispatch. In addition, 1 civilian employee is out on medical leave (work related).

Local and National Social Justice Movements (cont. from last month):

The South Windsor Police Department remains strongly opposed to racism and biased policing. It continues to serve the public with the element of its mission to "Respect the Rights of Individuals" in mind.

Chief Lindstrom continues to participate in the Town's Social Justice Committee meetings and on February 24th, he and two other staff members attended a Social Justice Panel Discussion at the Town Library hosted and organized by the Social Justice Committee.

We continue to monitor the community for changes and trends in the social justice arena.

As an agency, and as a profession, we continue to stand



Police Department

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Chief of Police

ready to engage in crucial conversations to make meaningful change that enhances the world that we live in.

Community Activities and Support from our Citizens:

The South Windsor Police Department continues to make efforts to engage the community through non-confrontational consensual encounters. It is our hope that these contacts and efforts will help to build trust and legitimacy with the community.

Early in the month of February, Chief Lindstrom attended the Fire Department's annual banquet and awards ceremony. The police department's presence at this annual event is just a small illustration of the partnership that our two agencies enjoy and leverage to keep the community safe. Congratulations to all of the fire department personnel who were recognized at this year's banquet.

February 15th was National SRO Appreciation Day. On this day, our two full time School Resource Officers (SWHS: Ofc. Jeremy Weiss and TEMS: Ofc. Lawren Owens) were recognized for their dedicated work at two of our town's busiest buildings. In addition to our two full time SROs, we have six auxiliary SROs (Corporals Poehnert, Johnson, McLain and Officers Kuzara, Pierpont, and Kolcharno) who fill in whenever possible when one of the SROs is not able to be at the school.

On February 15th, the department hosted another car seat clinic that was free to the public. This event, coordinated by Corporal McLain, continues to be a great resource to area residents who carry the responsibility of transporting young children and infants in their vehicles.

February hosted Random Acts of Kindness Day and one young citizen chose to include the police department in her celebration. On this day, "Victoria" chose to use the money she had collected in her piggy bank to purchase coffee and donuts to drop off at the police department. Gestures like this are frequent and go to great lengths to remind our staff that they are appreciated and supported.

The department continues to benefit from regular gestures of support from various members of the community.

Traffic Safety:

Our Traffic Unit continues to exercise the "3 E's" of

Engineering, Enforcement, and Education as we address complaints ranging from speed to Commercial Vehicle travel.

This month the Traffic Unit was occupied with a significant snow storm that narrowed the roadways, and the snow/ice made travel a bit difficult for a short while. In addition, the traffic unit is also in the process of evaluating the traffic conditions in and around some of the Town's school zones to make sure that the flow of traffic in these areas is orderly and safe.

We continue to work in partnership with the Office of the State Traffic Authority to address traffic proposals, and projects.

Police Activity and Significant Events:

The South Windsor Police Department remains active and dedicated to the traditional law enforcement function by responding to the public's needs.

The month began with an investigation into a suspicious circumstance that was discovered on social media. The complaint came to us from the FBI who discovered a threatening message on TikTok that necessitated an immediate investigation at the local level. The involved juvenile was located, the matter was investigated and an arrest resulted without any use of force or harm done within the community. This was an excellent example of interagency cooperation at the Federal, State, and Local levels.

On February 5th, the patrol and traffic unit personnel responded to a motor vehicle accident in the parking lot at Costco. The accident involved a pedestrian being struck and seriously injured while walking through the lot. The accident remains under investigation and reminds us (as drivers and pedestrians) that we have to remain vigilant even when we move within the relative comfort of the confines of a parking lot.

Mid-February saw the most significant snowfall of the season so far. Forecasting proved difficult as predictions fluctuated from a minor to fairly significant accumulation amounts. When it finally arrived, the snowfall was heavy and practically brought local traffic to a crawl. Despite the snowfall, the police department responded to every call for service that came in and the town kept moving forward. A couple of days after the snow storm, high winds and cold temperatures brought down some power lines that forced the closure of a significant portion of Sullivan Avenue for several hours during the day. The roads are now clear and we are ready for the



Police Department

Kristian R. Lindstrom
Chief of Police

next weather event.

On February 21st, police personnel responded to a reported motor vehicle accident on John Fitch Blvd near Fitch Meadow Lane. Upon arriving, they discovered that one of the involved vehicles had possibly rolled over and down an embankment adjacent to the roadway. This created a precarious environment in which rescuers (PD, FD, and ASM) had to access, extricate, and treat the motorist. A portion of Route 5 was closed during this investigation and rescue operation.

In the latter half of February department personnel were sent to firearms and use of force training. On the heels of last month's de-escalation training, this training was timely and allowed officers to re-qualify and re-certify as required by law and policy. Thanks to the generosity of the Connecticut Department of Corrections, officers were able to train at an indoor range. This venue not only allowed the officers to stay warm and dry, it also is conducive to creating low light and other simulated circumstances.

Unlocked Car Burglaries & Car Thefts (cont. from last month):

Hopefully as the colder weather settles in, the car burglars will choose to stay inside and pursue another pastime. Unfortunately, what seemed to be an issue that only impacted unlocked cars in previous years, now seems to have expanded to suspects breaking windows to gain entry to vehicles. There is little if any predictability or patterning as to when and where these incidents takes place, but when they do, they seem to occur in concentrated time frames and areas. For instance, one night there will be several burglaries concentrated in one neighborhood, and then a few weeks later, a similar spree will occur in a completely separate area. To combat this issue, the police department has received grant monies that allow us to put extra officers on overtime to focus on reducing car burglaries and thefts. The police department continues to explore other utilizing other tools that will maximize our effectiveness in reducing these crimes.

Residents and visitors in South Windsor are encouraged to lock their vehicles when leaving them unattended, try to leave them in a well-lit area, and to make sure their valuables, at a minimum, are hidden from view.

Never too early to prepare for an emergency (cont. from last month):

I hope that our citizens will continue to be mindful of

the risks that significant weather events can present at this time of year.

The Ready.gov webpage has great information pages on preparation for natural disasters, severe weather, and active shooters. Please share with friends and family that may rely on you in a severe weather event, or have questions about how to react to an active shooter event. We have had our share of severe weather in Connecticut and now is a good time to review your plan to protect yourself and your family.

<https://www.ready.gov/>

Follow us on Social Media:

We continue to have a strong presence on Social Media and update our citizens on all kinds of activity. Our Facebook page and Twitter feed are also displayed on our webpage <https://www.southwindsor.org/police>. We encourage everyone to follow us and share information with friends and family.

Facebook: South Windsor Police Department

Twitter: @SWPD_PIO

Facilities Maintenance

Clay Major
Director of Facilities

Recreation and Facilities Building Work

Venture Communications was onsite to install the last three card access controls for three exterior doors. With exception to the front door, these additional controls will allow the building to be secured at all times especially during the summer months when hundreds of children will be at the facility for summer camp activities. I am still waiting for two proposals; one to replace a broken A/C unit and one to install a window unit in one of the management offices.

The Public Buildings Commission is currently working on soliciting proposals for a full building facility condition assessment.

PD Carpet Replacement Lower Level

The carpeting was installed without a glitch. I want to thank the Police Department staff for working around the install during normal working hours.

Town Wide ADA Upgrades

Annex: Concrete work at the entrance is complete, waiting for handrails to be manufactured, completion expected next week, install to follow shortly thereafter.

Town Hall: ADA upgrades in the men's room have begun. Toilet, sink, urinal have all been removed. Piping has been capped and drains relocated. As I type this report the floor is being installed and painting will commence sometime next week. Dispensers are on order and expected to arrive next week. Modifications to the door and lockset will be done last. I expect this project to be finished mid-March. I am waiting for a final draft for the new service counter in Probate and pricing to make the modifications to the lunchroom.

VMP: No update on this work. I am currently soliciting proposals from Civil Engineers to provide design and bidding services for accessible routes from the upper and lower parking lots at the park. I am hopeful that the designs will be completed so the construction can begin after the 2024 season is over.

Police Department: I am working on having new compliant signage made for the interior offices.

Public Works 2nd Floor Security Enhancements

I met with Michelle Miller from Silver Petrucelli earlier in the month to discuss the 2nd floor renovations we're looking to have completed. We reviewed a marked up floor plan provided by the Department Heads on the second floor. I've subsequently cut and issued a purchase order number for their design and bid services. I will be meeting with the Architect again next week to revisit the second floor and confirm area dimensions.

Police Department Elevator Modernization

No Update-After consulting with the Finance Department regarding current and future LoCIP funding disbursements to the Town, we've decided to wait for the next round of funding (expected in early March) before bringing the project forward to the Town Council for discussion.

Wood Memorial Library HVAC Upgrades

All of the equipment has arrived. The contractor is required to make and install a 4'x8' construction project sign which is now being made. The sign has to be installed in the front lawn prior to any work being done. The sign should be completed next week sometime, and a revised project schedule will be provided shortly thereafter.

ARPA Projects- Library/Town Hall/Community Center Paver Replacement Project

No update since last report- The contractor has completed ninety-five of the Library entrance paver replacements. There is still some work to be done but the remaining work at the Library and the entire upper courtyard between the Town Hall and the Library won't be started until Spring 2024. The Community Center Paver Patio project will be completed by the Public Works Department, that will begin sometime in the Spring of 2024

VMP Epoxy Flooring Repairs- Filter Building

No update since last report-The remaining work on the Filter Building floors will now have to wait until Spring as the floor temps are too low to add the anti-slip grit to them.

ARPA Project- Fire House/Town Hall HVAC Upgrades

Most of the work since the last report has been completed at the Fire House although some has been done at Town Hall as well. At the Town Hall, all of the outdoor duct work has been installed, the fence to conceal the ductwork is now on order. Some work on the return fan was completed but more has to yet to be done. The VAV boxes need to be balanced before the thermostats can be fully commissioned and made live. That work should happen in the next two weeks or so. At the Fire Department, new radiation piping was installed in the main offices, all of the new VAV boxes are now installed. Next week the electrician will be cutting power to a couple of the power panels to make room for additional breakers needed for the new equipment. Temperature controls work is still ongoing, all the vav's are wired but more wiring is needed between Air handling units, thermostats, and pumps.

Facilities Maintenance

Clay Major
Director of Facilities

ARPA Project-Town Hall Windows/Renovations 1st Floor

All of the blinds have been installed with the exception of three of them. Those three were ordered wrong, will need to be re-ordered and reinstalled upon arrival.

Library Phone System Upgrade

Due to staff reassignments within AT&T the process to get the main phone number port started was delayed. I finally received communication from the new Account Manager who provided me with the documentation needed to start this process. Frontier ultimately drives the timeline for this process so it would still be a few weeks before the numbers are ported to AT&T.

Additional Library Parking Lot Lighting

The four new lights in the rear parking lot of the library were installed tested and put online this month. These lights operate just as all the other recently replaced lighting fixtures do. They use occupancy sensing and have a dual dimming feature which provides adequate lighting for parking lot security at the low dimming level and a upon sensing occupancy the fixture automatically ramps up to full brightness.

Public Works Private Cube Office

No Update- The private cubicle office is mostly complete. It is in place, but the very top panels of the office wall still did not fit as expected. I'm working with the contractor to come up with a solution to rectify the issue.

Library Window Glass Replacements

The replacement glass for three windows is now in. I am now waiting for an install schedule from the contractor, we think we can install the glass in the next week or so as long as its not terribly cold outside.

Community Center Dry Sprinkler System

All of the parts for this project are now in. The contractor will be dropping the parts off in the next two weeks and setting them in place inside the sprinkler room. Once the outside temperatures are consistently above freezing, he will start the cleaning and flushing process and replace one of the sections that has a pin hole leak in it.

Town Garage Exterior Bay Sheathing Replacement.

The contractor ended up delivering a connex box to store all of the items that were planned to be moved during the Spring so we could store them outside now and get a jump on this project. The truck bay areas are now clear, I expect this project to get started in the next

week or so.

Rye St DSL Upgrade

Frontier completed this project ahead of schedule. Miracles do happen!

Clay Major
Director of Facilities

Public Works Department

Vincent Stetson, Director of Public Works

Engineering Department

Pleasant Valley Road Reconstruction Phase 1 & Bridge Replacement

O&G Industries has substantially completed the reconstruction of Pleasant Valley Road Phase 1, from Ellington Road to Pepin Place and has substantially finished replacing the Pleasant Valley Rd bridge over the Podunk River. This bridge and road were reopened to traffic on December 1, 2023 and remaining punch list items will be completed in the spring of 2024 including turf establishment, paving the lower VMP parking lot and staining the bridge concrete that looks like stone. The necessary utility relocations are ongoing.

Pleasant Valley Road Reconstruction Phase 2

Phase 2 of the reconstruction of Pleasant Valley Road from Long Hill Road to Clark Street has been bid and awarded to Baltazar Construction. This design includes improving the road geometry, new drainage pipes and structures, new road base, pavement and curbing and sidewalks on at least one side of the road. We have notified utilities of the necessary relocations and have been contacting property owners about easements. We expect construction to start in the spring of 2024 and go through the fall of 2024.

Town Road Paving

Ondrick Materials and Recycling has been awarded the contract to mill and repave Aroda Drive, High Street, Hillside Drive, Skyline Drive, Steep Road, Brook Street, Farmstead Drive, Overlook Road, Dawn Drive, Nancy Drive, Edgewood Drive and Elizabeth Street. This work is expected to be done in the summer 2024.

Town Sidewalk Repairs

William M. Laydon Construction has been awarded the contract to replace concrete sidewalks in Town. This work is expected to be done in the spring and summer 2024.

LOTICIP Sidewalk Project on Ayers Road, Nevers Road, Foster Street, and Buckland Road

This project is to complete sidewalks and fill in gaps where they are missing on the above roads. WMC Engineers has developed design plans for these sidewalks and is responding to review comments from CRCOG. We have contacted utilities about relocations needed and are reaching out to residents about easements needed for this project. Once the easements have been completed, we will submit final plans to CRCOG. This project is scheduled to be constructed in the summer or fall of 2024.

Eli Terry Safe Routes to School Project

CT DOT has approved the project design and funding to replace the pedestrian bridge that connects this school to the Brook Street neighborhood, and other pedestrian improvements on roads around the school. We will advertise this project for bids in the next few weeks and expect construction to be done in the summer and fall of 2024.

Kennedy Road Reconstruction

The Town received a Notice to Proceed with a CT STEAP grant that was awarded in the amount of \$478,100 for the reconstruction of Kennedy Road. This will support the existing and future businesses that are on this road. The current schedule is to finalize plans and bid this project in the summer or fall 2024.

Dart Hill Road Reconstruction

The reconstruction of Dart Hill Road from Neiderwerfer Road to the Vernon Town Line is being funded by the CT DOT LOTCIP and new sidewalks on this section are funded by ARPA. WMC Engineers is working on finalizing the design and notifying utilities of proposed improvements that will affect their lines, and we will then resubmit to CRCOG for another review. The project schedule is to finalize the design and bid this project for construction in the summer of 2024.

Reconstruction of Graham Road & Governors Highway

VHB is working on the design for reconstruction of both Governors Highway and Graham Road Both contracts will include improvements to the road geometry, new drainage pipes and structures, as well as new road base and pavement. A public information meeting for Graham Road improvements will be held on February 28, 2024 at the Town Hall at 7 pm.

LOTICIP Application for Town Center Sidewalks

The completion of sidewalks around the Town Center area to fill in gaps on Deming Street, Clark Street and Ellington Road was approved by CT DOT to receive funding under LOTCIP. We are requesting proposals for the Survey and Design of this project.

Sidewalks on Birch Hill Drive and Ellington Road

Survey and design of new sidewalks on Birch Hill Drive and Ellington Road between Pleasant Valley Road and Chapel Road has begun. The sidewalks on Ellington Road would connect to existing sidewalks in front of the new Pleasant Valley Elementary School.

Public Works Department

Vincent Stetson
Director of Public Works

Other Projects

The Engineering Department recently submitted two project applications to CRCOG for future LOTCIP funding.

The Town Stormwater 2023 Draft Annual Report was posted to the Town web site for public comment on February 15, 2024, in accordance with our DEEP MS4 permit. This report can be found on the South Windsor CT website under Departments > Engineering > Stormwater Management Program. Public comments on this draft report will be received by Engineering through the end of March, 2024.

Street Services

The Streets Department, with the support of the Parks and Fleet Departments, responded to 3 winter storm events. These storms ranged anywhere from a coating to over 9.5" of plowable snow. Crews also had to be called back in due to drifting from winds that followed the largest storm.

Pothole patching continues throughout the winter as the freeze thaw cycles wreak havoc on some of our older roadways. Fortunately, we have been able to get hot mix asphalt weekly to tend to our more troublesome areas. This allows us to make a more permanent repair.

Compost is a main focus for us right now. We have been monitoring temperatures to ensure the leaves are breaking down, then turning the rows to cool them some and allow oxygen in. The process is working well and we are on target for a finished product later this spring.

Streets maintainers continue trimming along the roadsides to eliminate low hanging branches that could hit high profile vehicles including our roadside mower and plow truck as well as trimming any vegetation that impedes traffic signs.

Streets crews have taken on a relatively major drainage project at the corner of Troy Rd and Rye St. Crews are working to remove an old culvert structure and associated pipes. This was in place from a time where Troy Road turned to the east from a point south of the current T intersection. The plan is to remove the structure, regrade the area and return this section of Dry Brook to a natural flowing stream.

With the assistance of Water Pollution Control, Street maintainers cleared a clogged drainage pipe on Clark St

which was not only a drainage issue but caused water to flow over the roadway creating a safety hazard for motorists. A mill and fill road repair was necessary due to damage from the water flowing over the roadway.

The sign shop assisted Water Pollution Control installing new vehicle graphics on their newly acquired vac truck. Five regulatory and warning signs were also installed.

Residents are encouraged to use Connect South Windsor to report hazards.
WWW.SOUTHWINDSOR.ORG/CONNECT or look for the app for iPhones and Androids.

Scott Yeomans
Associate Manager, Street Services

Finance Department

Patricia Perry, Director of Finance
Mary Huda, Assessor
Jennifer Hilinski-Shirley, Collector of Revenue

Assessor

The elderly and totally disabled homeowner's program started February 1 and continues through May 15, 2024. A reminder letter to file was sent to all residents currently on the homeowner's program the first week of February 2024. Please note the qualifying income has been updated for those applicants that may wish to file this year for the first time. If any resident is interested in applying for this program, they must meet the following requirements:

- Must be at least 65 years of age by 12/31/2023.
- Must be the real estate property owner on 10/1/2023.
- Must reside in South Windsor.

If any resident qualifies for this program, an appointment must be made with Human Services to fill out the application. Please contact Human Services to set up your appointment: 860-648-6361. Located at 50 Nevers Road, South Windsor. This information and more can be found on our webpage here:

<https://www.southwindsor-ct.gov/assessor>

Assessment appeals will be held during March 2024. These appeals are by appointment only and in order to be heard by the Board an appeal form must have been submitted by February 20, 2024

A reminder to residents that have sold or otherwise disposed of a vehicle; if the plates were not transferred to a new vehicle, please send the Assessor's Office a copy of the plate cancellation receipt along with any of the following: bill of sale, junked receipt, trade-in information, total loss letter from insurance company, gift receipt, etc. With this information provided to the Office an adjustment or proration may be obtained.

Elderly and Totally Disabled Homeowner's Program

The income criteria for this program are as follows:

	<i>Income Range</i>	<i>Benefit</i>
<i>Single Persons</i>	\$0 - \$43,800	State & Local Match
	\$43,801 - \$50,000	Local Option - \$195 tax credit
<i>Married Couples</i>	\$0 - \$53,400	State & Local Match
	\$53,401 - \$65,000	Local Option - \$195 tax credit

Building Department

Marc Melanson, Chief Building Official
Adam Chrostowski, Asst. Building Official
Valerie Muszynski, Asst. Building Official
Morgan Middleton, Building Dept. Administrator

January 2024

Number of Permits Issued:	186
Number of Inspections Done:	501
Value of Work Done:	\$4,831,765
Amount of Revenue Collected:	\$95,614.61

Large Projects

The Promenade Shops at Evergreen Walk

The following work is in progress at the shops:
My Salon Suite – active inspections

Whole Foods

Certificate of Occupancy issued on January 12th, 2024 –
Open for business

Golf Lounge 18

Certificate of Occupancy issued on January 29th, 2024 –
Open for business

Blue Mercury

Certificate of Occupancy issued on January 29th, 2024 –
Open for business

Club Studio Fitness

Active inspections for Club Studio Fitness

158 Sullivan Avenue – Tenant Fit-Outs

Certificate of Occupancy issued for Unit 8 on January 4th,
2024 (Amanda’s Hair Salon)
Certificate of Occupancy issued for Unit 5 on January
29th, 2024 (Ageless Chiropractic)

150 Sullivan Avenue - New Commercial Building

Active inspections for new multi-unit commercial
building

2400 Tamarack Ave – Farmington Valley

Dermatology

Certificate of Completion issued on January 8th, 2024 –
Open for business

1014 Sullivan Ave

Active inspections for the new commercial retail building

Respectfully Submitted
Marc Melanson
Chief Building Official

Human Services Department

Andrea Cofrancesco
Director of Human Services

ADULT & SENIOR SERVICES Andrea Cofrancesco, Director of Human Services

The Senior Center has seen a huge increase in people joining our center! Since September, a total of 317 residents joined with a total of 219 nonresidents. The word continues to get out about the variety and quality of our programs. We are thankful that people find our programs meaningful and helpful to their quality of life. Our Pickleball program, which is in its 13th year, has seen a huge influx of players since it has become more prevalent in the United States.



ELDERLY AND DISABLED PROPERTY TAX RELIEF

Elderly and disabled homeowners who qualify can apply for reduced property taxes on their homes until **May 15, 2024**. If you are currently on the program the Assessor's Office will send you a letter if it is your



year to reapply. This year's income limits are \$43,800 maximum for an individual and \$53,400*for a couple. All gross income is counted including Social Security benefits. Documents you will need: Signed 2023 1040 Federal Tax form (if you file); 2023 Social Security Statement (SSA-1099); 2023 Pension Statement (1099); 2023 Bank Interest Statement(1099); Any other 2023 Income 1099. For more info or to schedule an appointment, call 860-648-6361 ext. 3335. ****Town of S.Windsor has an expanded local option which allows up to \$50,000/single homeowner and \$65,000/married couple, for a benefit of \$195.00 tax credit.***

Medicare Advantage Plan Open Enrollment
Medicare Advantage Open Enrollment Period (MA OEP) occurs each year from ***January 1 through March 31***. During this time, you can switch from your Medicare Advantage Plan to another Medicare Advantage Plan, **or** switch back to Original Medicare, with or without a stand-alone Prescription Drug Plan. Changes made during this period take effect the first of the month following the month you enroll, and you can only make one change. **Please note:** If you have chosen Original Medicare and a Part D plan for January 1, 2024, you ***cannot*** change your Part D plan during this time. For more info, please give us a call at 860-648-6361 ext.3335 and ask to speak with a CHOICES counselor or call 1-800-MEDICARE.

Support Groups at the Community Center
Bereavement Support Group: Meetings are the **1st Friday of the month at 3:00 PM**. Facilitated by Intercommunity Health Care. Funded by ARPA

Human Services Department

Andrea Cofrancesco
Director of Human Services

Depression and Anxiety: Meetings are the **3rd Tuesday of the month at 10:30 AM**. Facilitated by Intercommunity Health Care. Funded by ARPA

Caregivers Support Group: Facilitated by Susan Grundstrom, Caseworker in Adult and Senior Services. Meetings are typically the 2nd Friday of the month at 10:00 AM.

Parkinson's Support Group: Facilitated by a volunteer with the Parkinson's Association. Meetings are held the 2nd Thursday of the month at 1:00 PM.

American Rescue Plan Act Funds

The Human Services staff is proud to be able to offer assistance to residents who are directly impacted financially by Covid-19. Funds can be used for a variety of needs based on the following criteria:

- ☐ Are you a South Windsor resident?
- ☐ Have you experienced a hardship due to COVID-19?
- ☐ Please call Human Services for assistance. 860-648-6361 ext. 3335 (ask to speak to a caseworker)

Residents will be asked to provide proof of their income and assets as well as be able to demonstrate that their specific hardship is a result of loss of income or death due to COVID-19.

These funds are part of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) provided to towns from the Federal Government. Call Adult and Senior Caseworkers at 860-648-6361 ext. 3335.

Behavioral Health Services

South Windsor Human Services received funding from the American Rescue Plan Act to provide behavioral health services to residents of all ages who can benefit from counseling. Social isolation, the inability to see family during the pandemic and general concerns about the state of the world has brought on anxiety, depression and loneliness for many people. We are partnering with Intercommunity Health Care to provide both individual and group therapy **at the Senior Center** to support those in need and provide strategies to cope. If you find yourself struggling with getting back into the swing of things or if you want someone to talk to, please contact Liz Langevin in Human Services at 860-648-5050. Liz will work with getting you connected to Intercommunity. Services are confidential. It's okay to not be okay.

CARES Program

Space is Available

Center Activity Recreation Exercise Socialization

The "CARES" group is for residents over sixty and meets five days a week from 9:30-12:30 PM. The charge is \$3 per day and is billed monthly. Lunch is a \$3 donation daily. CARES offers a variety of activities including music, crafts, games, reminiscence, current events, exercise, and holiday celebrations. If you have limitations or disabilities, but do not need medical or self-care assistance while in the group, you may qualify to attend. Call Lindsey at 860-648-6361 ext. 3319 for more information.

Park & Recreation Commission (PARC): The

Human Services Department

Andrea Cofrancesco
Director of Human Services



February has been a very busy month. We kicked off the month with our first 2024 Youth Council Meeting. TEMS/SWHS Students participated here at the Teen Center. We talked about upcoming events where we need volunteers and asked them to think about future events they would like to plan. Next meeting is scheduled March 8th.



Our theme this month was Games. It was nice to see students who typically don't sit together sit down and have great conversations.



We also volunteered with Parks & Rec for Family Game night. This helps us continue a relationship where we can collaborate. We have been emailing to discuss volunteer opportunities for the next several months.

Bushnell, Bingo, Bake Sale, Breakfast and a BSA Events this month. We had the best time at The Bushnell and all of us kept saying how much we hope to do this again. Bake Sale was a good experience, and we made some money. BSA event on 2/21 went well. It was very organized, and we were happy to donate snack for this event.

This month we are also collecting Make up and men's black socks. We have partnered up with Cornerstone in Rockville who will collect dresses, shoes, jewelry and suits. They will set up a prom store area and include our socks and make-up for some exciting shopping. Cornerstone has also offered to host an open house. We will pick a Saturday and invite those who are looking for volunteer hours to join us, they may also bring their family. Our goal together is to have one South Windsor night a month where we would volunteer.

It has been a great month really getting to know all the Teens and work with them. March is almost here and we are ready!

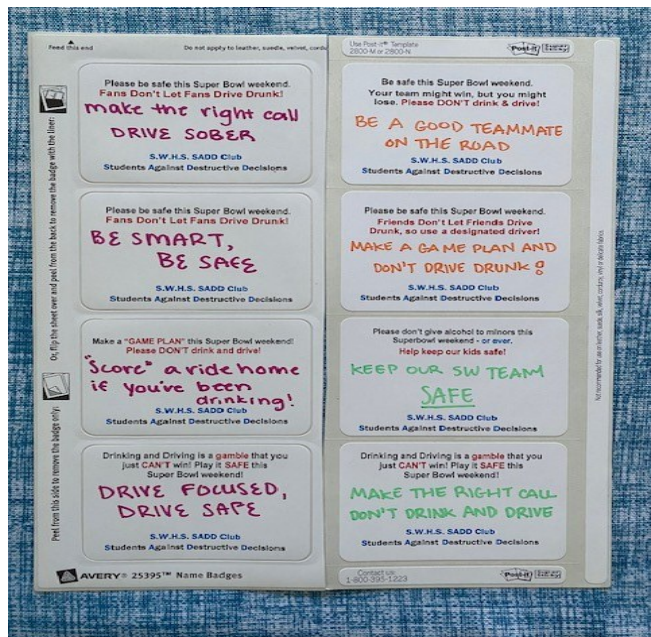
School Outreach & Prevention

February has been jam packed with exciting prevention programs. Kathy, along with a TEMS staff member, have been running 2 "Mood Boosters" groups for 6th graders at Timothy Edwards. Each week we discuss something new and then we do a related activity or craft. Topics include understanding your feelings, managing stress, growth mindset and strengthening friendships. We have enjoyed getting to know these kids and having fun together!

The Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD) Club have been involved in a variety of programs and new projects. They continued the tradition of making personalized stickers, which were put on the boxes at Oakland Pizza over the Super Bowl weekend. They hope that these simple messages remind all members of our community to make safe choices.

Human Services Department

Andrea Cofrancesco
Director of Human Services



For the first time in the SADD Club's history, 2 members were asked to participate on the statewide Youth Advisory Board for the CT Governor's Prevention Partnership. The students, Klaudia Panek and Elise Suffish, recently helped to plan an in-person program for youth around the state. We traveled to New Britain on a Sunday afternoon in February for a chance to connect and learn from each other.



Finally, members of the SADD Club have been working on a new initiative that they hope will spread awareness

about prescription drug misuse. They created a presentation filled with important information about this topic and they are sharing this message with a variety of groups in town. They have teamed up with the Governor's' Prevention Partnership, along with the Deterra Company, to provide a disposal pouch for everyone who hears their message about safe disposal of medication. Their first presentation was to all staff at Timothy Edwards, and the students and the information were well received. We look forward to seeing tangible change from this creative, new initiative.



Youth Counseling, Parent Education and Support

Counselors remain busy with **66** open and active cases of youth seen for mental health counseling. We have 11 youth on our waitlist. Our Clinical Coordinator, Robin Lagasse assesses each referral so that we can get kids and families connected to the right resources. Our referrals are coming from South Windsor schools, police and parents/guardians. We are thankful that we have ARPA funds to support our youth and families that need mental health services. The ARPA funding has helped us increase one staff member's hours and hire a part time contractual therapist as well. We are concerned that the funding is temporary but the mental health needs will likely continue to grow.

Kathy Reed, our Prevention Coordinator and Robin Lagasse, Our Clinical Coordinator is starting a group at a SW elementary school soon. The group focus is on friendship and identifying/handling emotions.

We are now hosting a monthly parenting group at the

Human Services Department

Andrea Cofrancesco
Director of Human Services



**SOUTH WINDSOR
YOUTH AND FAMILY SERVICES
INVITES YOU TO JOIN US**

Do you ever feel...
Overwhelmed by the responsibilities of parenting?

Unsure if the choices you are making are right for your child?

Worried about your teen?

Alone and wanting to connect with other parents?

Groups will be facilitated by a Y&F Counselor

Topics will be discussed, resources will be shared and time will be set aside for Q & A.

This is a drop in program. You are welcome to join any or all dates.

Child Care and Light Refreshments will be available

RSVP if you need child care or to attend the March meeting on Zoom
liz.langevin@southwindsor-ct.gov

Parenting Support

The first Wednesday of the month
6:30-7:30pm

In person at the Community center
150 Nevers Rd. AND via Zoom (March meeting only)

Topics to be Discussed

February 7th:
Mental Health Check-ins:
the what and how

March 6th: ONLY VIRTUAL ON ZOOM
Dealing with Parental Burnout

April 3rd:
Setting Limits:
From toddler to teen
All kids need boundaries

To sign up for a class- [Login – Peace At Home Parenting Solutions](#)

Free with Code: SWindsorPeace

Liz Langevin, LCSW
Youth and Family Services

community center. Each month we will discuss a different topic.

Although we no longer have a Parent Educator, thanks to DCF Enhancement grant funds, we have contracted services with Peace At Home Parenting, Inc.

“Connection, Cooperation, Joy – let Peace At Home Parenting Solutions help you define your relationship with your child. We start by teaching from the heart.”

South Windsor Youth & Family Services has collaborated with Peace At Home Parenting Solutions to bring you expert guidance and evidence-based strategies that solve parenting challenges and increase connection and cooperation with your kids.



Parks & Recreation Department

Molly Keays

Director of Parks & Recreation

“Discover the Benefits!”

John Caldwell, Jr.
Parks Superintendent

Jennifer Filer
Asst. Director of Parks & Recreation



Park & Recreation Commission (PARC): Park and Recreation Commission will meet on Wednesday, March 6, at 7:30 pm in the Town Council Chambers.

South Windsor Walk and Wheel Ways (SWW&WW): The Committee is continuing to work

with the Parks and Recreation Director to make progress on phase 1 of the Crosstown Trail. They are also preparing for their upcoming Bicycle safety event along with their 4th grade bike program.

RECREATION DIVISION “*Feel great – recreate!*”

Youth Basketball: Our Jim Snow basketball league allows players to participate in a basketball environment that promotes good sportsmanship and the respect of others. We are halfway through the season and will host play offs in March.

Mighty Mites: We have 160 Kindergarten through first grade participants in our co-ed introductory basketball program. The purpose of this program is to teach youth the fundamentals of the game in a fun environment.

More Mighty Mites: This program is a co-ed opportunity to be introduced to basketball in a instructional format that incorporates scrimmages and games in a non-competitive environment. This season, we had 109 youth participate in the program and we end at the start of the month.

Youth Wrestling: Our youth wrestling program has 21 boy and girl participants this year and we are excited to expand the season to offer them more practice. They had a wrestling tournament on February 4, and the team took home three gold, one silver and two bronze medals!

Challenger Basketball: Challenger Basketball is an inclusive basketball program tailored for children in grades 1 through 8 with diverse disabilities. It's crafted to establish a safe environment catering to children who require extra time, attention, or even fewer participants compared to our standard basketball program. We had 9 participants join the program this year and it wraps up for the season at the end of February.

Creative Cardio: Our year-round traditional aerobics class continues to be popular this month with 32 participants joining the weekly class in-person and on Zoom.

Kripalu Yoga: Our year-round yoga program had 40 participants attend our in-person and Zoom classes this month.

Jukido Jujitsu: We had 30 participants of all ages in the program this month practicing their skills each week.

Self Defense is Karate: Our program had 12 participants over the age of 16 participate in weekly classes. This opportunity provides our community another form of recreation that sets itself aside from standard athletic movements and practices.

Learn to Skate: South Windsor Arena's skating 101 program through the South Windsor Parks and Recreation Department is a beginning Ice Skating program that's fun and rewarding. Participation enable beginner skaters of all ages (3 years old and up) & ability levels to learn the fundamentals of skating, while teaching them skills necessary for further advancement. We had 65 participants in the program with a large waitlist. We are hoping to continue to have steady numbers through March.

Ski Club: The South Windsor Ski and Snowboard Club is a social club providing opportunities for students to have fun and practice skills on the slope with six weeks of lessons and practice. The program had a total of 168 Middle and High school students participating in the program this year. We had our last night of the program on February 21!

4TH R: Throughout this month, we've had a lot of thematic fun, including celebrating Groundhog's Day, The Superbowl, and Valentine's Day! Our activities ranged from exploring reverse image painting to creating our own “foam” fingers to cheer on our favorite team. We also tried out a new game called “Catch Me If You Can.” Additionally, we enjoyed Valentine exchanges and celebrations with our 4th “R” friends!

Furthermore, we conducted our annual mid-year all-staff training at the beginning of the month. During this session, we came together to share learning experiences on various topics such as staff expectations, communication, positive reinforcement, and teamwork. We also took the opportunity to express what 4th “R” means to each of us as staff members.

Preschool: We are off to a fantastic start in session C! Thus far, we've been immersed in playful learning with a variety of enjoyable activities. These include using ice to create paint, crafting indoor snow, making dino-tracks,

Parks & Recreation Department

Molly Keays
Director of Parks & Recreation

and exploring various types of sand. We joyfully celebrated Groundhog's Day and his forecast of an early spring, relishing the fresh outdoor air as we completed a winter-themed scavenger hunt. Additionally, we shared abundant love this month with Valentine-themed sensory bins, art projects, fine-motor games, and heartwarming Valentine exchanges with our friends!

Family Game Night: This year marked the inaugural Family Game Night, organized to provide a winter program for families in our newly acquainted building. In collaboration with Youth and Family's Teen Center, we ensured an evening filled with support and entertainment. Classic board games initiated the event, followed by Rec. Supervisor Nate hosting minute-to-win-it style games for families to engage in friendly competition. The victorious family earned a day pass for 5 to the VMP pool, while all other participants were granted the opportunity to choose a prize from our prize box. Snacks and lemonade were provided for both families and volunteers to enjoy throughout the event. Thank you to the 16 participants and 5 volunteers for attending!

PARKS DEPARTMENT "Caring for South Windsor's Growing Needs"

Athletic Fields & Grounds: The athletic fields remain closed for the winter. As we eagerly await the arrival of spring, we are currently servicing all small equipment utilized for spring and summer operations. These items include mowers, trimmers, blowers, sod cutters, and various other pieces of equipment.

Parks & Open Space: Tree work in parks and open spaces will remain a significant focus throughout the winter, weather permitting. Several days have been dedicated to pruning trees at the Route 5 Welcome to South Windsor Entranceway. This endeavor also involved clearing overgrown bushes and mowing encroaching vegetation.

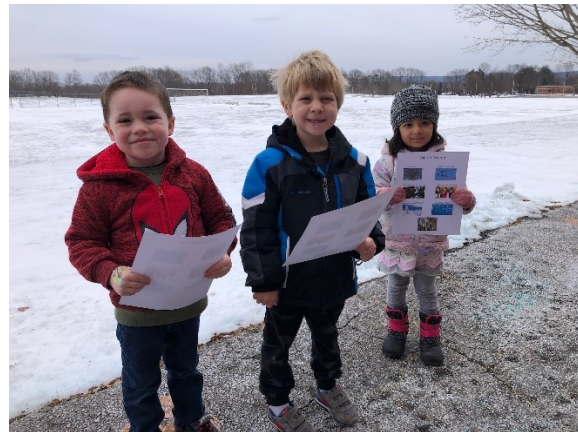
At Major Michael Donnelly, replacement boardwalks and trail enhancements are underway. Old bridge sections have been dismantled and transported to the landfill. To prevent the walkway from sinking, filter fabric and stone have been laid down, providing a solid foundation for bridge construction. The corrugated pipes supporting the bridge sections were reused, with wooden sections placed on top.

Projects: Between storms and projects, the crew has been cleaning up and organizing items around the town garage. One item that has been sitting around for years was an old shed that was previously used as a freezer to house dead animals. Instead of discarding the shed, the crew removed the rot and repainted it. The shed was then placed at the recreation area for use during summer camp.

The dumpster at Fire House II has recently been exposed due to the removal of trees by the neighbor on the east side. To help conceal the dumpster, a heavy-duty fence is being constructed that should last for decades.

A replacement "Little Free Library" was constructed and installed at the Boundless Playground. The old unit that housed dozens of children's books was in disrepair. The new library is constructed of PVC and will last a very long time.

Other: Since the previous monthly report, the park crew, in collaboration with public works, has responded to six additional weather events this year. While not all of these weather events were significant in scale, they all required a substantial amount of time and effort.



**Winter Scavenger hunt fun at our preschool!
Valentine exchanges at 4th R.**

Parks & Recreation Department PHOTOS



Minute to win it challenges at our Family



Steve Linton works on a new bench for PV. The crew installed a new fence for the dumpster at fire-house 2.



The Parks Crew made improvements to replace old bridges and walkways at the Donnelly property.

March 2024 Town Council Meetings and Events

Meetings

Monday, March 4, 2024

7:00 pm Town Council Regular Meeting
Council Chambers

Monday, March 18, 2024

7:00 pm Town Council Regular Meeting
Council Chambers

Holidays

Sunday, March 10, 2024

Daylight Saving Time

Sunday, March 17, 2024

St. Patrick's Day

Tuesday, March 19, 2024

Spring Begins

Friday, March 29, 2024 (Town Offices Closed)

Good Friday

Sunday, March 31, 2024

Easter Sunday

Layout by Nicole Kowalik, Administrative Secretary

