

Town of South Windsor

Town Manager's Report July 2022

*Michael Maniscalco
Town Manager*



*The Town Manager's report will given verbally at
the Town Council meeting.*

*Michael Maniscalco, MPA
Town Manager*



Police Department

Kristian R. Lindstrom
Chief of Police

Monthly Statistics May 2022:

Each month we publish the totals of some of our more common calls for service. These statistics historically fluctuate as they respond to several factors. From socio-political trends to weather trends, our activity levels are in a constant state of change. Patrol staff continue to proactively check businesses, town facilities, neighborhoods, and roadways in an effort to detect problems and intervene before matters escalate.

Total Computer Aided Dispatch Entries:	2539
Routine Calls Received/Outgoing:	3471
Directed Patrol/Premise Checks:	1031
Motor Vehicle Stops:	260
Emotionally Disturbed Persons:	22
Medical Assists:	158
Suspicious:	97
Alarms:	92
Motor Vehicle Accidents:	39
Welfare Check:	44
Assist Outside Agency:	23
Animal Problem:	47
Citizen Assist:	22
Miscellaneous Service:	10
Collision Reports:	20
BOLO:	15
Disabled Motor Vehicle:	20
Larceny - Motor Vehicle	1
Larceny:	47
Hazardous Conditions:	15
Pistol Permits:	8
Burglary	3
Burglary - Motor Vehicle	3
Civil Matter:	16
911 Check:	7
Fraud:	11
Domestic Dispute:	8
Violation of Town Ordinance:	2
Sexual Assault:	1
Youth Problem:	14

May's numbers are below:

Covid 19 Update (cont. from last month):

The month of May saw a slight uptick in community spread. Even without masks and the extensive Covid protocols that had been in place throughout the pandemic, this uptick has had little to no effect on the continuity of operations within the police department. The latest sub-variant appears to be having relatively little impact on the community as serious illness and deaths appear to be very rare.

As we are now in the beginning of the third year of dealing with Covid, we have moved from a pandemic status to an endemic status. Covid is here to stay and it appears as though its potency is certainly weakening. That being said, the police department continues to be cognizant of the fact that for many, the transition away from Covid will be welcomed with open arms and enthusiasm, while for many others, it will bring increased levels of anxiety and concern. For these reasons, we will continue to not only respond to the community's needs as a whole, but also respond to the individual needs of community members regardless of their position on the pandemic and the socio-political topics embedded within.

Department officials continue to work collaboratively with other local officials to continually monitor community health trends and needs.

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.

This month a variety of personnel movements occurred that impact the police department.



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As Sgt. Cleverdon continues to recruit candidates to fill our two sworn vacancies, the month of June also saw a need to expand our recruiting efforts to some of our civilian roles. Dispatcher Christine Meyerhans retired after 25 years of service and CSO Robin Bond announced her intent to retire at the beginning of September. The departures of these two individuals create vacancies in crucial areas of the building. These two women also take with them decades of institutional knowledge and experience. While we wish them well in their retirements, their presence here at SWPD will be missed. In addition, Ofc. Heather LaRock announced her resignation. She will be leaving our patrol division and has accepted a job as a Captain at Windsor Police Department. Her experience and presence will be greatly missed. The fact that she is leaving here to fill a Captain's vacancy on the other side of the river illustrates just how talented our personnel are.

As we are saddened by the aforementioned retirements and departures, we are equally excited about the new careers that are being launched. As predicted, Ofc. Sarfo began his academy training on June 3rd. Ofc. Victoria Weiss continues her academy training and Ofc's Myska and Grabowski are well into their Field Training and seem to be progressing well.

Although these new officers will not be fully operational for several months, when the above additions and departures are calculated, we are left with two vacancies. Sgt. Mark Cleverdon is overseeing our recruiting efforts and is actively working to fill these gaps with the right candidate in a timely manner.

Personnel Summary: With an authorized strength of 46 sworn members, we currently have 2 in the academy (Weiss, Sarfo), 2 in field training (Myska, Grabowski), 1 on light duty (Pregnancy), and two vacancies within our sworn ranks. By month's end, 44 of our 46 authorized sworn personnel are employed at this agency and 39 are fully operational sworn FTE's. Among our 14 civilian employees, we currently have one vacancy in Dispatch and one vacancy approaching (Robin

Bond's retirement is pending).

Over 41% of our personnel have been hired in the last 5 years and will be the future of the agency. It is important that we continue to enrich their work experience and motivate them so that they will continue the proud tradition of high quality police service well into the future.

This month brought with it an update regarding the judicial proceeding pursuant to the killing of Sgt. Matthew Mainieri in September of 2018. We were notified earlier this month, the individual who killed Matt will serve 90 days in jail followed by several years of probation. This news was somewhat difficult to hear as many of us wonder how 90 days could possibly pay for a human life, but we trust that the assigned prosecutor has done everything is his power to bring justice and closure to this tragic event 3 1/2 years after Matt was taken from us.

On an equally somber note, June 28th marks the first anniversary of the off-duty motorcycle crash that ultimately claimed the life of Officer Benjamin Lovett. As an agency, we are still grieving this loss and hope that justice is served against the intoxicated driver who killed him.

Local and National Social Justice Movements:

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.

Over the last several months, this country has been plagued by several high profile mass shootings. As each community reels from these incidents in their own way, the SWPD stands to support the community at this difficult time. To that end, on June 2nd, a group of high school students held a brief demonstration on the football field at the start of the school day in opposition to these acts of violence. Several police officers were present to assist SWHS staff in ensuring that the students were allowed to assemble peacefully and safely.



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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 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.

On June 11th, the annual Strawberry Festival was held in Nevers Road Park. This year, for the first time, the police department was invited to participate in the festival with a recruiting and outreach booth. Historically, this has not been the case as this event is a political fundraiser, but this year, with local bi-partisan support, the police department was present. With a steady stream of visitors young and old, Chief Lindstrom, Officer Kuzara, Officer Hernando, Dispatcher Cordeiro, and Dispatcher Patz met, chatted, and visited with countless members of the community. The new hybrid police cruiser that was on display provided a great opportunity for the public to get an up close look at a modern police officer's "office". This cruiser also provided a great backdrop for dozens and dozens of photo requests with our staff. This was a great community policing opportunity, and the police department appreciates the bi-partisan support of our participation.

On June 2nd, several South Windsor Police Department employees participated in the Special Olympics Torch Run. Every year this event brings awareness to, and helps celebrate, the start of the Special Olympics competition in Connecticut. Our staff love the support they get from community members and motorists as they carry the torch through our beautiful town.

On June 17th, I keen eye would have noticed a

couple of police cars with some extra cargo inside. On that day, several lucky local kids got a ride to school in a police cruiser (in the front seat of course). This experience was a raffle prize offered through a South Windsor Rotary Club event. Our officers enjoyed bringing these kids to school with plenty of flashing lights and siren sounds for their schoolmates to see and hear as they made a grand entrance!

The police department is continuing its social media activity and, in particular, its "Get to Know Your Department" program. This initiative will highlight a different officer each week. These posts will introduce the officer and identify, not only some of their professional attributes, but it aims to also humanize our staff and show the community what exists "behind the uniform." Based on likes and responses online, these profiles have been well received thus far.

Events like those described above are of particular importance as the local community emerges from its Covid quarantine and tries to re-establish some normalcy. As is stated above, community engagement and community policing efforts are paramount to our agency creating and maintaining our legitimacy with the community we serve.

The department continues to benefit from regular gestures of support from 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. We continue to work in partnership with the Office of the State Traffic Authority to address traffic proposals, and projects.

Traffic unit personnel continue to address several traffic issues in town such as truck congestion (particularly during the evening hours) during the arrival of tractor trailers at the Aldi's facility on Rye Street. This month Town officials and Aldi's officials met to discuss this issue in detail and work towards identifying what solutions are in the



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works to remedy this issue.

In addition, we are currently monitoring traffic flow on Buckland Road and in Evergreen Walk as several development projects continue. In addition, we are monitoring some complaints of traffic issues in several other areas in town such as the railroad crossing on Chapel Road near Route 5.

The reconstruction of the King Street bridge and the Main Street bridge are well underway and have created long term detours at the south end of Main Street. The detours are well marked and people moving through the area appear to have acclimated well to this change as there have been few, if any, complaints. These projects are two of many we are monitoring as development, upgrades, and improvement continue in the community.

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.

As has been the trend over the last several months, during the month of June the police department received, and is processing, several FOI requests. While these requests are not out of the ordinary, there seems to be a recent influx of these requests. In speaking with other area agencies, this does not seem to be a trend unique to South Windsor, however these requests are noteworthy as they can be very labor intensive to satisfy. Particularly when dealing with record redactions and video redactions, these requests can occupy dozens of labor hours a week.

Near the end of June, the police department took delivery of two variable message boards. These long overdue boards, will be used by the police department and several other town departments, to provide vital messaging to the community particularly during times of emergency. During large scale events and times of emergency, communication is always paramount and vital to successful outcomes. These boards will play an

important role in ensuring that communication is uniform, concise, and available. When not in use for events and emergencies, they can also be used for traffic calming measures where and when needed.

During the month of June, the police department held Use of Force and Firearms training. These training sessions allowed our officers to practice their responses to active threats of violence in a scenario based training environment. This is just one example of how this agency is equipped, trained, and prepared for situations that we hope we never encounter. This training was made particularly effective through the use of the old Orchard Hill Elementary School. Our good relationship and partnership with the school district is appreciated by the police department and works to maximize the safety of our children.

In mid-June, the expansion and update of the women's locker room facilities began. Because we are not expanding the footprint of the building, this expansion within it will cause a ripple effect that will impact and subsequently update several rooms in the lower level of police headquarters. It is understood that our lower level may be in a state of disarray for several months, we are excited for the finished product anticipated near the end of this calendar year.

On June 13th, the entire police department Command Staff had the opportunity to meet with investigators from the newly established Inspector General's office. This meeting was vital to understanding the IG's role and what is expected of this agency in the event two entities come together in a use of force case. Having these relationships and contacts will go a long way to ensure a smooth investigation in the event it ever happens.

In August of 2021, South Windsor Police officers began an investigation into the theft of approximately 50 firearms from a local shipping business. The case ultimately was prosecuted at the federal level and this June the arrested party pled guilty to federal firearms and other related charges.



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Not all crimes and police activity are happening in the view of the public. During the month of June, digital investigators were building a case involving the sending and receiving of child pornography. After weeks of investigation, probable cause was developed and a search warrant was served at a residence in town. This case is actively being investigated, but serves as a stark reminder that often times detectives are working these upsetting cases behind the scenes without much notoriety or fanfare.

While these more prominent events are occurring, the men and women of the police department continue to respond to calls for assistance and engage in more traditional law enforcement activities. Police personnel continue to respond to motor vehicle crashes, medicals, crimes, and suspicious activities.

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

With warmer weather on the horizon, we will wait to see if car burglaries and catalytic converter thefts spike once again. For the time being the police department continues to monitor the trend in the region and deter crime with high visibility patrols. We have temporarily stopped our public service messaging on social media in an effort to prevent it from becoming "white noise" and ignored. We will resume disseminating those messages in the coming months if the need arises.

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

After experiencing some significant weather events through the summer, I hope that our citizens will think about all-hazard preparations especially with the potential of significant winter weather events on the horizon.

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

Public Works Department

Vincent Stetson
Director of Public Works

Street Services May 2022

The Street Services Department worked with our contractor to mill off some of the worst pavement sections on several roads in town. These areas were deteriorated to a point that no other treatment option was viable. The streets crews then followed up soon after to repave these sections giving motorists a much better driving surface. Most of these road sections will be chip sealed next month to finish the restoration process.

Our maintainers also assisted with roadside guiderail spraying to help keep invasive plants from obstructing motorists sight lines and keep the roadsides looking presentable.

Two of our maintainers conducted a presentation at UCONN's T2 Public Works Academy on the virtues of calibrating sand/salt spreaders for winter operations. These two men did a classroom discussion as well as a practical demonstration. Three of our newest maintainer I's were in this final class of the 6-week academy and successfully completed the program.

Crews set up and took down no parking signs and barricades for the Strawberry Fest. One of our maintainers worked the event to assist with trash and setting up and securing the show mobile.

Several tree removals were conducted over the month for trees in decline and a danger to the public. Streets maintainers provided traffic control support to facilitate this work.

The Vibert Road boat launch was cleaned out as the water level was low offering an opportunity to make a difference.

We have a persistent beaver issue in the Avery Channel. Crews have been breaking the dam in an effort to persuade this critter to move to more suitable area. Often, breaking of the dams will cause the beaver to look for another location

The department hired a contractor to re-stripe the Buckland Hills Dr. intersection with Buckland Rd

as the lines and arrows were faded and vehicles were making dangerous turns. We took this small project on as a matter of necessity to prevent an accident from occurring.

Roadside mowing continues throughout town as well as weed whacking of problem areas.

The sign shop repaired or replaced 24 regulatory and warning signs during the period. The shop also fabricated several temporary signs requested by the PD for the Strawberry Fest and installed signs as requested by the Tax Collector's Department.

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

Engineering Projects Update

Main Street Bridge over the Podunk River

Dayton Construction has installed the new bridge structure including 20 steel piles, 2 concrete abutments 4 precast, prestressed concrete beams 2 concrete back walls, 2 concrete approach slabs and 2 concrete parapet walls for the new bridge ahead of schedule, as shown in the photo below looking north on Main Street. The concrete parapet walls were formed with a stone wall pattern and these will be stained to look like the South Windsor stone walls in the center of Town. The wall staining and waterproofing of the bridge deck and paved is scheduled to be done by the end of July. Main Street is closed at the bridge and signs are up for a detour route around the bridge site using Chapel Rd to Route 5 to Burnham Street. This project is on track to be completed ahead of schedule, later this summer.

Public Works Department

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Director of Public Works



Beelzebub Road

The design plans for the reconstruction of Beelzebub Road including new storm water drainage pipes and structures, new road base, bituminous pavement, curb and a sidewalk on one side are complete and bids were opened this week and are being evaluated. Eversource Gas and their contractor NPL are installing a new gas main in Beelzebub Road. Frontier and Eversource are moving about 12 utility poles and wires in coordination with this project. These utility relocations will continue through the summer and the road may be closed to through traffic during work days. The Town has cleared trees as needed for this project. I am following up on the outstanding 15 temporary easements and sidewalk easements and 2 easements needed on DEEP property on the south side of the road. This project is scheduled for road reconstruction to begin later this summer and construction will continue into 2023.

Buckland Road Repaving

Palmer Paving was the low bidder for this project. This work will be scheduled for this summer, after Buckland Road improvements have been

completed for One Buckland Center and the new Whole Foods at Evergreen Walk.

Pleasant Valley Reconstruction

WMC Consulting Engineers is working on developing plans for the drainage improvements and reconstruction of Pleasant Valley Road from Clark Street to just past Hilton Drive. They have begun surveying and soils investigations, and expect to have a preliminary design in the summer of 2022.

Pleasant Valley Road Bridge Replacement

WMC Consulting Engineers is also working on developing plans for the replacement of the Pleasant Valley Road bridge over the Podunk River. They have begun surveying and geotechnical investigations, and expect to have a preliminary design in the summer of 2022.

LOTICIP Sidewalk project for 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. We have received approval and a commitment to fund letter for the construction of this project from ConnDOT. The Town is responsible for the Design plans for these sidewalks and we will be seeking proposals from our on-call Engineers to work on this project.

Engineering Staffing

We welcomed Taylor Rodrigue who started this week as a new Project Engineer. Consultants are still being used to keep the Town Engineering projects moving forward.

Pleasant Valley/Clark Street Sidewalk Project

Costa & Son LLC has completed most of the new sidewalk connections on the eastern section of Pleasant Valley road and the southern part of Clark Street and residents are using the new sidewalks. Construction is expected to be finished this summer.

Local Road Paving

The contractor has punch list items to complete

Public Works Department

Vincent Stetson
Director of Public Works

for this project. They plan to finish paving Ident Road and the Police Department rear parking lot this summer. We have designed the new drainage and road reconstruction needed for Ident Road. This work is funded by the 2018 Bond referendum.

Sidewalk Repair

Sidewalk repair and replacement work will continue in the spring and summer of 2022 and we have updated the list of sidewalks that need to be repaired. Atlas Concrete is raising concrete sidewalk slabs. Hathaway Landscaping will be replacing Concrete Sidewalks later this summer and fall.

Abbe Road Drainage Study

Weston & Sampson is investigating the drainage problems that have occurred on and around Abbe Road in past years. They will verify the cause(s) of the drainage problems and recommend improvements to alleviate the drainage problems on this road. We expect to have their report in the spring of 2022

Eli Terry Safe Routes to School Project

This project includes replacement of the pedestrian bridge that connects this school to the Brook Street neighborhood, and other pedestrian improvements on roads around the school. ConnDOT has reviewed the final plans and contract documents and sent us comments to address in these plans.

LOTICIP Application Submitted for the Reconstruction of Dart Hill Road

An application for funding the reconstruction of Dart Hill Road was submitted to CRCOG in January for consideration under the State LOTICIP program. This has been preliminarily selected for funding by CRCOG, along with other projects from communities in the Region. These project selections will be finalized by CRCOG and then will be sent to CT DOT for review. After CT DOT has reviewed and approved the projects they issue a Commitment to Fund letter.

Utility Work

The Connecticut Water Company contractor is mostly finished installing a new water main on Deming Street (from Buckland Road to Summit Drive). The remaining work on Summit Drive will be completed soon. A new water main is also being installed in the Farnham Estates neighborhood on Farnham and McGrath Roads. This contractor will continue to install a new water main in other roads in this neighborhood in the summer of 2022.

Jeffrey Doolittle

Town Engineer/Assistant Director of Public Works

Water Pollution Control

Odor Control Study: In May 2021, Tighe & Bond was hired to perform an odor control study to identify odor sources at the treatment plant and surrounding area in response to odor complaints from neighboring properties. The study included an evaluation of the performance of the treatment plant's odor control system and offered recommendations to minimize any existing odors.

Sixteen samples were taken from the facility in June and July to analyze odor intensity, concentration, and character. Additionally, six off site odor surveys were conducted within a one-mile radius during the months of June, July, and August. Tighe & Bond presented the study results to the Water Pollution Control Authority and area residents at the June 7th Regular Meeting of the WPCA.

The staff continues to monitor hydrogen sulfide levels at various points within the odor control system and have made adjustments to significantly reduce levels in the most concentrated tanks. The WPCA and WPC staff are working on short term solutions to minimize the hydrogen sulfide levels that will tie in with our long term goals.

Public Works Department

Vincent Stetson
Director of Public Works

Sanitary Sewer Capital Improvement Project

Pump Station Improvements: The design process of the rehabilitation of the Town's three largest pump stations; Clark Street Pump Station, Benedict Drive Pump Station, and Pleasant Valley Pump Station is underway. Preliminary designs have been submitted for staff review.

Aeration Weir Gate Improvements: Last November the aeration weir gates were evaluated due to the increasing concern of their poor operation. It was determined that failing welds were allowing the metal to bow. The inspection report noted the discovery of other failing components and advised to limit the gate operation as much as possible. The gates serve an important role in our treatment process by controlling flow to the secondary clarifiers. We are in the process of evaluating the most cost-efficient options. The estimated replacement cost for the gates is \$750,000.

Phase IV Sewer System Improvements: This scope of this project is to reline 40 sewer pipe segments ranging in 8" to 30" diameter and rehabilitate 28 manholes that are in various stages of degradation. Phase IV is the final phase of improvements recommended by a 2012 sewer evaluation. The WPCA assigned \$1,100,000 in ARPA funds to complete the work this year. Green Mountain Pipe began pipe cleaning and pre-CCTV pipe inspection in May and has begun lining smaller diameter pipe.

UV Disinfection Upgrade: The WPCA has budgeted \$1,180,000 in ARPA funds for the upgrade of the Treatment Plant's 20-year-old system. Disinfection is the last process required by our National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit and disinfects treated wastewater before it is discharged to the Connecticut River. The upgrade will provide improved performance and is expected to save \$12,000 per year in electrical costs.

-Tony Manfre, Superintendent of Pollution Control

Finance Department

Patricia Perry
Director of Finance

Assessor

All Real Estate, Personal Property and Motor Vehicle tax bill files were sent to the vendor on 6/13/2022 and are expected to be received by property owners on or before July 1, 2022.

The Connecticut State Legislature passed Bill# HB-5506 with a Mill Rate cap of 32.46 mills for the 2021 Motor Vehicle Grand List. The Town of South Windsor Town Council adopted the 32.46 Mill Rate Cap on Motor Vehicles on May 9, 2022. While the motor vehicle mill rate has decreased, the value of used cars continues to rise due to the global COVID-19 pandemic impacting the sales of new vehicles. As a result, the motor vehicle tax bills may not decrease.

Remember, if a registered vehicle has been disposed of, please be sure to notify our office. Submission of the proper paperwork (bill of sale, cancelled plate receipt, junked receipt, trade-in information, etc.) is accepted a few different ways!

- Through our easy-to-use web form which can be found under the "**Motor Vehicle Bill Adjustment**" tab to the left of the screen or click here: <https://www.southwindsor-ct.gov/assessor/webforms/motor-vehicle-bill-adjustment>
- Email to Assessor@southwindsor-ct.gov.
- If no computer access is available, mail to: 1540 Sullivan Ave, South Windsor CT 06074, Attention: Assessor's Office

The Town's 2022 Revaluation project is well underway and there are currently three appraisers from Vision Government Solutions working with the Assessor's Office in South Windsor to verify data on residential and commercial properties. Their information is on file with the Assessor's Office and South Windsor Police Department. Any resident with questions regarding the contracted personnel is encouraged to call the Assessor's Office at ext. 2312 for verification, after regular town hall business hours please contact the South Windsor Police.

Each month the Assessor's Office will be highlighting different areas of the revaluation process. This month we will be highlighting what happens to the value of your home, even if no one has inspected the inside during revaluation:

The Assessor's Office maintains a complete record for each parcel of property in South Windsor. This information is kept current through building permit inspections, sales inspections, periodic re-inspections, and exterior reviews. These records are available for your review online and is used to develop the new assessments.

As property values change in the marketplace (sales), those changes will eventually be reflected on the assessment. General economic conditions such as interest rates, inflation rates, and changes in the tax laws will influence the value of real estate, regardless of if improvements have been made to the property. If there are no reasonably comparable sales of your home, we will then consider all other factors that may affect the market value of your property. The cost to replace your building(s), less any depreciation, plus the value of the land could be used to estimate market value. For income producing properties, the income and expenses would be considered.

Collector of Revenue

The Collector of Revenue would like to remind taxpayers that the first installment of real estate and personal property taxes along with motor vehicle taxes are due July 1, 2022. The last day to pay without penalty is Monday, August 1, 2022. Tax bills were mailed Friday, June 24, 2022 and are available on line <https://www.southwindsor-ct.gov/collector-revenue/pages/online-payments>. A cost effective way to pay on line is with an e-check, for a 95 cent fee you will avoid lines and be provided a receipt via email for your payment. Payment can be made on line using a debit card, Visa, Mastercard, American Express or Discover a 2.95% fee is added by the vendor, a receipt will be provided via email. Save time and avoid long lines by remitting payment by mail in the envelope provided or by

Finance Department

Patricia Perry
Director of Finance

using a secure drop box at Town. Pay with check or money order from the convenience of your car, a drive up drop box is located in the front drive way of Town Hall. For your convenience we have a walk up drop box mounted to the outside of the front entrance of Town Hall. Please note that the boxes are emptied twice daily and monitored by video, please do not remit cash in the drop box or by mail. If you would like a receipt please include a self-addressed stamped envelope along with your entire bill. Should you want to pay in person our office Hours are Monday 8:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m., Tuesday thru Thursday 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. We accept cash, money order or check, a limited number of tax payers will be permitted in the office at one time. Town Hall will be closed Monday, July 4 in observance of Independence Day.

If you have not received a tax bill and believe you should have, please contact the office immediately. CGS Sec. 12-130 states that failure to receive a bill shall not invalidate the tax or interest. Do you have a question about a missing bill, due date or payment plan? Contact Collector of Revenue staff, 860-644-2511 extension 2321 or email taxcollector@southwindsor-ct.gov. Did you receive a bill for a vehicle you no longer own or have questions regarding an assessment? Reach out to the Assessor, assessor@southwindsor-ct.gov or 860-644-2511 ext. 2312.

Please visit the Collector of Revenue website for additional information regarding the collection of taxes <https://www.southwindsor-ct.gov/collector-revenue> or to sign up for E-notifications <https://www.southwindsor-ct.gov/subscribe>

Human Services Department

Andrea Cofrancesco
Director of Human Services

**Town Manager's Report ~
June 2022
Andrea Cofrancesco, Director of Human
Services**



Human Services Staff

This month we are highlighting Amy Patterson, CARES Coordinator in the Adult and Senior Services Division. The "CARES" group provides Center Activity, Recreation, Exercise and Socialization for residents over sixty, which meets Monday through Friday, 9:30-12:30 at the Center. CARES offers a variety of activities including music, crafts, games, reminiscence, current events, exercise, and holiday celebrations. CARES is not just to provide socialization and stimulation to older adults, but it also a respite for caregivers. If you know of someone who has imitations or disabilities, but does not need medical or self-care assistance while in the group, please call Lindsey at 860-648-6358. Cost is \$3/day and \$3 donation for lunch.



Dignity Grows

The Food and Fuel Bank is now partnering with Dignity Grows, which is a nonprofit agency that

provides a tote containing a monthly supply of sanitary pads and liners, toothpaste and toothbrush, soap, deodorant, shampoo and handwipes to food banks to distribute to their residents in need. The Food Bank can get a supply of these bags monthly. Pictured is Jennifer Schwartzman from Dignity Grows and Susan Grundstrom from Human Services.

Midwest Food Bank

Since partnering with Midwest Food Bank in February, staff has picked up over 4,000 pounds of food to benefit South Windsor residents who have low income. The estimated value is \$12,800. Items vary each month and are a great addition to items donated from the community. Midwest Food Bank is extremely easy to work with and very accommodating. We are fortunate to be able to benefit from these additional items!

SWCF Greater Together Grant with Hartford Foundation

We are excited to report that the Adult and Senior Services Division of Human Services was recently awarded \$3600 from the Hartford Greater Together Community Fund at the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving. These funds will be used to offer a music therapy program for older adults. Types of activities would include Drumming (increases cellular activity that helps the body fight against neurological and endocrinological disorders); Singing (listening to songs or singing along with them helps in repairing damaged brain tissues); Vibro-Acoustic Therapy, which combines low-frequency vibrations with the resonations of slow-paced music (helps in circulating positive energy throughout the body and calms the mind and body). Studies have shown that participating in music therapy can alleviate pain, help people manage stress, promote wellness, enhance memory, improve communications, aide physical rehabilitation, and give people a way to express their feelings. This will be a great addition to our programming, especially for people who are isolated and at risk.

Human Services Department

Andrea Cofrancesco
Director of Human Services

United Way

Human Services was generously awarded in two separate phases by the United Way: a \$1,500 grant and a \$4,500 grant to help South Windsor residents who may be having a difficult time paying their rent or mortgage. A total of \$6,000 will be used to help both residents in financial need due to COVID-19 or those struggling with the high costs of rent and other living expenses. There is a screening process that includes proof of residency as well as income. Anyone interested in applying for funding can call Human Services at 860-648-6361 x3319 and speak to Lindsey.

Annual Shredding Event

Our Triad for Senior Safety, which is celebrating 15 years, held their annual shredding event which brought in a total of 144 cars. This is a highly sought-after event, as it is offered free and gets personal papers safely and efficiently shredded.



United Community Party

Thank you to the United Community Party for hosting a food drive at Stop and Shop to benefit the Food and Fuel Bank. A total of \$1,002 was collected and countless food items thanks to the generosity of residents. The United Community Party also recently cleaned up the yards of two low income residents.



June 2022 Teen Center

The Teen Center had a busy month in June! Our staff has been preparing for the Rising Stars Summer Program that begins on June 27th and ends August 18th. We look forward to working in the South Windsor Community and collaborating with Parks & Recreation for more opportunities.

Our middle school students have been extremely competitive with their video games, so we held a Super Smash Bros Tournament during one of our Friday night drop-in hours. The winner took home the trophy and now has their picture on the wall in the Teen Center.

Incoming 6th-grade students were invited to an Open House at the Teen Center. Students and their families had the opportunity to see all the Teen Center has to offer and get acquainted with staff. Students played games, participated in crafts, enjoyed lots of food, and registered for programming. This was a great event and we cannot wait to welcome new participants in the next school year.

To celebrate the end of school, the Teen Center hosted a Summer Kickoff Celebration for the middle school students. We had 30 students in attendance who joined us and were very enthusiastic about the end of the year. The students enjoyed pizza and ice cream, played outdoor games and crafts indoors.

Danielle, the Teen Center Coordinator and Kathy Reed, the School Outreach Specialist took students to the Future Prevention Leaders Youth Conference on June 23rd. Students had the opportunity to attend workshops, connect with peers across Connecticut, and have conversations on Mental Health and Wellness, Substance

Human Services Department

Andrea Cofrancesco
Director of Human Services

Misuse, Leadership Development, and more.

School Outreach & Prevention

The school year wrapped up in June with a variety of events celebrating all of the people who made the year special.

The SADD Club held a before school breakfast to recognize all of the members of the club and to highlight the 24 seniors who contributed so much over their 4 years. This group was dedicated, kind and hard working. They created many new programs, while also keeping a variety of traditional SADD activities. They definitely made an impact at SWHS. We look forward to starting back up in the fall with the next group of students who are excited and ready to make a difference at the school and in our community.

We also had a final meeting with the Emerald Community Service Club. This group of 6th graders met once a week all year to plan activities and share random acts of kindness. They organized a successful food drive during Thanksgiving, made treats and thank you notes for TEMS staff and bus drivers, volunteered with the POP program, made new friends in the medically fragile room and had fun! We look forward to continuing on with another group next school year.

Finally, we acknowledged and thanked all of the mentors who volunteered their time to spend an hour each week with a middle school student to create lasting memories. The mentor/student pairs formed strong bonds and navigated this challenging school year together. We are so appreciative of the adults who take the time to get to know a young person in our community. The connections that are made are incredibly beneficial to both the students and the mentors. We look forward to starting back up in the fall!

Kathy Reed, Our School Outreach Specialist collaborated with South Windsor Public Schools this school year in the following ways:

Organized all aspects of the Jump Start Tutoring

program. There was a condensed program this year due to covid, but many kids still participated in the program.

Recruited, trained and supervised 40 High school students to volunteer tutor 23 TEMS students during the spring.

Collaborated with Trish Lakomy, TEMS School Counselor, to provide leadership activities for her WIN period groups.

Support the S.W. Mentoring Program at TEMS. This is a partnership between the schools and Y & F Services. 10 students and 10 mentors participated in weekly sessions to play games, chat and have fun! Kathy organized an end of the year picnic for both mentors and mentees.

Collaborated and organized with the S.W. Police Department and the S.W. Public Schools, we provided, and paid for, a professional guest speaker, Dr. Alecia Farrell. We held a virtual evening program for parents on Tuesday, January 25, 2022. Dr. Farrell presented "Parenting around Technology and Unhealthy Substances in this Mixed-Up World" We had 46 parents take part in this important discussion.

Planned the "Pinwheels for Peace" initiative was organized for all students at TEMS. Each student made a pinwheel showing what peace means to them. The pinwheels were then planted in front of the school on "International Peace Day" in September.

Planned the "It Starts With Hello" initiative which was celebrated during the week of October 4th-October 8th. Students created a chalk walk and made kindness posters. Also, on Monday of that week EVERYONE in the building wore a nametag for the day, so that we could greet each other by name and make connections. This was in collaboration with the Guidance Department at TEMS.

- Organized "Unity Day", which celebrates acceptance, inclusion and kindness and is

Human Services Department

Andrea Cofrancesco
Director of Human Services

celebrated in October each year with posters and anti bullying supplies for teachers. .
Teamed up with Ali Jennings, School Counselor, to run an Emerald Team Community Group. They focused on doing things for others and creating positive change. They made thank you bags for bus drivers, made kindness posters, volunteered with the POP preschoolers, spent time with friends in the medically fragile classroom and much more.

Organized a modified "Healthy Living" program this year. All students were encouraged to submit a poster, which focused on alcohol, smoking, drug or vaping prevention. Winners were given gift cards.

Co-advisor for the Sexuality and Gender Acceptance (SAGA) Club at TEMS.

Robin Lagasse and Kathy Reed created a "Take 10" video to share tips on how to talk with family members about mental health in the home. This will be part of a series of videos for SW families.

Lead Advisor for the Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD) Club at the high school. The club has created many positive school climate activities that they run throughout the year. The majority of the money for this club is provided by a Youth and Family Services State Grant. The activities include:

Youth Counseling, Parent Education and Support

We are thrilled to welcome Paula Berson as our new part time Youth Counselor! Paula will be working 8-12 hours per week for the duration of the ARPA Funds grant. YFS counselors remain busy with 82 active cases of youth seen for mental health counseling! All of the spots for counseling with Alexander Pepe from Intercommunity are filled and all of Sarah's additional ARPA fund hours are filled. Kathy and Robin are working with TEMS and SWHS to plan a summer program to address the issue of school avoidance and truancy, as we have seen a rise this school year.

Youth and Family counseling services in the South Windsor Public Schools has been a needed support for South Windsor youth. This is what we were able to accomplish this year:

Elementary Schools:

- 15 students were provided individual counseling sessions with a Youth and Family Social Worker.
- 12 referrals were made to outside agencies for counseling services.

Timothy Edwards Middle School:

- 42 students provided individual counseling sessions with a Y & F Social Worker. 5 counselors from our department provided this vital service to help kids and families receive counseling by removing barriers.
- Over 30 individual counseling sessions were provided each WEEK at TEMS.
- 12 referrals were made to outside agencies for counseling services.
- 64- 6th and 7th grade students participated in an Anxiety Group. The group was held one session a week for 6 weeks with 2 Y & F Counselors.

South Windsor High School

- 27 students were provided individual counseling sessions with a Youth and Family Social Worker.
 - On average, 16 students received individual counseling sessions at SWHS each WEEK.
 - 15 referrals were made to outside agencies for counseling services.
 - Robin Lagasse, Social Worker, met with 9 student athletes, who were in need of counseling due to a violation of the alcohol and/or drug policy.
- Y & F funded the Vaping Cessation Program at SWHS.

Liz Langevin, LCSW
Youth and Family Services



Parks & Recreation Department

Molly Keays
Director of Parks & Recreation

“Discover the Benefits!”

John Caldwell, Jr.
Parks Superintendent

MONTHLY REPORT

Jennifer Filer
Asst. Director of Parks & Recreation



MONTHLY REPORT

Park & Recreation Commission (PARC): The Commission held a meeting on Wednesday, June 8, at Town Hall. We went over the update for our capital projects, ARPA funding projects, our summer programs and the progress of the

Parks and Recreation Facility Planning and Implementation Committee. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, July 13, at the Town Hall at 7:30pm.

RECREATION DIVISION “Feel great – recreate!”

Preschool: We had a busy end of the year at preschool! At the start of the month, we hosted a pool party at VMP for our preschool families. Over 60 participants enjoyed swimming in the sunshine, playing with their friends and teachers, and eating an ice cream treat. In the classroom, preschool participants did hands on activities such as painting with frozen paint, painting footprints to make our own "flip flops," stomping on bubble wrap, scooping up sundaes in our very own "ice cream shop," and creating boxes into "row boats" to go on a fishing adventure! We wrapped up our school year at the end of the month and we celebrated 22 of our friends who are heading off to Kindergarten this fall.

4th R: 4th "R" celebrated our last month of school with tons of fun special activities! At the beginning of the month, we held a pool party for all of our 4th "r" families at VMP. Over 350 people enjoyed a night of swimming, dancing to music and eating pizza! At the 4th "R" sites, we held many theme days including Disney Day, Carnival Day, Sports Day, Hawaiian/Beach Day, Twin Day, and Fort Building Day! All the sites also held Water Day where they

enjoyed a fun afternoon of water games and activities! We ended the year with a final celebration that included a Bounce House, Cotton Candy Maker, Face Painting, Jumping Double Dutch, Tie-Dying, Giant Lawn Games, and Making Our Own Ice cream. We hope everyone has a safe and fun summer!

Veteran's Memorial Park Pool: Veterans Memorial Park Pool opened for the season on Saturday, May 28th and operated under our preseason hours until June 20. During the preseason time we had a ton of patrons visit our park. In addition, we had the privilege of hosting the 4th "R" Family night, the end of the year preschool party, Eli Terry's 5th grade trip, Orchard Hill's 5th grade trip and PRS 5th grade trip. On top of that, we hosted five Boy Scout swim testing evenings for troops to get approved to participate in the Boy Scout camps. During this time, we have also offered a water safety instructor course which allowed us to certify 11 instructors and two lifeguarding classes that passed 20 lifeguards, most of which are working for VMP.

Swim lesson evaluation night was our first water safety event and it was a success! We were able to swim test 25 participants and appropriately place them in the correct swim levels this summer. Our group and private lessons are now filled for the upcoming season and lessons began on Monday, June 27. We are excited for all of the awesome water safety activities we have planned for the summer to help educate the community on being safe in the water. Our VMP staff team has been working hard to provide educational opportunities to promote water safety and kicked off National water safety month by creating a water safety video that we shared on our social media page. Please see the link below to watch the video.

<https://www.facebook.com/SWPRD/videos/967076580651373>

Yoga: The program has wrapped up for the year and will be taking a break throughout the summer months. We we're able to have 45 participants attend both in person and virtually classes and we look forward to having them back this Fall! This summer, we have a Joga program that runs on Tuesday mornings at Nevers Park.

Jukido and Self Defense: Jukido & Self Defense have also wrapped up their "year" although classes will continue throughout the summer. This past month we held a testing night which allowed participants the opportunity to test up to a new belt/level. This is such an exciting night and helps grow our program further!

Adult Softball: We have nine teams registered for the league and the season has been successful thus far. We will be hosting playoffs for softball in August.

Badminton: Our monthly program has been an increase in participants. Our 5-11-year-old program is full and our 12- 18-year-old program is 70% full. We have also been opening open gym time for the sport and the gym has been full every week.

Cornhole: The inaugural cornhole season has been going well! We have ten teams registered and the teams have enjoyed the atmosphere and we are happy to be offering a program geared towards our adult community in town. We look forward to expanding this program next year.

Farmers Market: We kicked off the market season on Saturday, June 4 with over 25 vendors, live music, a ton of kid's activities and games. On opening day, we had over 1250 attendees and each week, we have continued to have over 1200 attendees. This season we have increased our vendors, made improvements to the market space, and will be offering some fun themes for the community. The market will be held every Saturday from 9-12pm until October 8.

Summer Camps: Our camp staff kicked off the summer with a fun weekend of training on June 10! We have a great group of enthusiastic staff who are ready to welcome campers back to the building this summer. We held pre-camp from June 21-24 that provided care for 35 kids and we welcomed over 230 kids between the ages of 3-15 to our first full week of camp on June 27! The campers and staff are looking forward to going on more field trips this summer and creating memories!

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

John E Caldwell Dave Turkington

Rob Hunt
Jake Burnham
Steve Linton
Mike Driscoll
Mike Hanrahan-
Brian Sullivan-
Mike Samsel
Mark Hilton
Brian McTeague
Matt Gwozdz
Rich Palmer
Janmastami Hayton

Superintendent of Parks Parks Manager

Maintainer III
Maintainer III
Maintainer II
Maintainer II
Maintainer II
Maintainer II
Maintainer II
Maintainer I
Maintainer I
PT –Grounds Keeper

Parks updates: We are excited to welcome our new part-time grounds keeper, Jam Hayton to the team! This month, we were able to catch up on a few big projects because of the hard work and dedication of the Parks Crew. We completed the Farmers Market area with new permanent poles to create a parking space and a new market sign, we installed 350 feet of new wood rail fencing at 559 Avery Street, finished the site work and grading at the future pickleball site, and installed new flag poles at the center of town.

The crew also worked hard on keeping up with our regular scheduled work such as mowing, baseball, soccer, and lacrosse fields. Now that sports are wrapping up for the season, we will be working on repairing and restoring some of the fields. We are also completing work on the Buckland Island. They will feature a new design that includes new plant variations, cobble stones and new self-watering planters at the end of each island.



Dave Turkington Park Manager receiving a check from World Malayalee . The funding will go toward green initiatives and tree planting at Nevers Parks.

Parks Photos:



Welcome Jam to our team!

A \$50,000 savings in site work for the Rye street Pickleball courts since we have a talented parks crew who can complete the work in house. The site prep included tree clearing, site work, a new base and grading. We are now ready for the contractor to come start on the post tension concrete.



Parks Photos:



We built 350 feet of new wood railing for the farm lease on 559 Avery Street.



We used cobblestones to complete the Flag pole area in the center of Town



Farmers Market site is ready to go for the year with a new parking area to separate cars from patrons & vendors and a beautiful new sign.

Recreation Photos:



We love our theme days to end the school year!



Our preschoolers have so much fun with their awesome teachers!

Recreation Photos



Our preschool families enjoyed hanging by the pool to celebrate the end of the school year!



We held our first ever swim evaluation night to place youth in the appropriate level of swim lessons.



Our inaugural corn hole league has been a hit so far this year!



We are so excited for another busy summer at VMP!

Recreation Photos



Thank you to Max Challenge Day of Giving for donating \$10,000 towards the outdoor fitness space at Nevers Park! We appreciate the community support.



Our Farmers market kick-off was so much fun! Our staff look forward to welcoming the community all summer



4th "R" held their end of the year pool party at VMP this June! We had a lot of fun hanging with the families.

July 2022 Town Council Meetings and Events

Meetings

Tuesday, July, 5 2022

7:00 pm Town Council Regular Meeting

Council Chambers

Monday, July 18 2022

7:00 pm Town Council Regular Meeting

Council Chambers

Holidays

July 4, 2022

Independence Day

Town Offices closed July 5th in observance

Layout by Katherine Senerth, Executive Assistant

