Laurel St Update- The consultant has received Town Staff comments on their draft report dated November 21, 2019. They are working on addressing comments and plan to get us a revised report by the end of the day on Wednesday, November 27, 2019. A public information meeting to go over the report has been scheduled for Wednesday December 11, 2019 at 7 pm.

Online Permitting Update- Currently, the Health Department just started offering online permitting and has already received an online application. Engineering, Fire Marshal, Planning and Zoning, and Building Department are all still in the process of designing their application forms. Lastly, a meeting still needs to be scheduled with the software vendor and the Finance Department in order to activate the online payment systems. For additional information please see your packet and the memo I have included from Assistant Town Manager Roberts regarding this subject.

Emergency Management Drill- On December 3, 2019 the State will be holding its annual emergency management drill. This year’s drill involves some type of cyber/ crime component combined with a weather event. The plan is to not have a traditional drill where staff open the EOC and manage the event from there but to set up a more real life scenario where staff are decentralized.

Clinton Town Manager Search- As was reported to the Council I have been asked to participate on a search panel for the new Town Manager of Clinton, CT. As a result, I will be out of the office participating in that process most of Tuesday, December 3, 2019.

MDC Update- MDC has reached out to set up a time to discuss with the Council their proposed budget and what they do. We are in the process of setting up a presentation for your next Town Council meeting. In the interim please see the attached information sheet on MDC and their budget. This information sheet was also emailed to the Council on November 21, 2019.
Police Department

Scott P. Custer
Chief of Police

Department Activity for November 2019:
We publish a monthly summary of our calls for service on social media. Our Facebook page can also be viewed via the department webpage (https://www.southwindsor-ct.gov/police). November’s summary is not included this month because the report draft was due prior to Thanksgiving.

New Public Information Officer:
Sgt. Mark Cleverdon has taken over the responsibility as the primary Public Information Officer at the Police Department. He is creating and publishing our daily press releases and social media updates. Sgt. Cleverdon takes over this primary contact role from Chief Custer, who had served as the P.I.O. since 2006.

Click it or Ticket Holiday Campaign:
The South Windsor Police Department and the Metro Traffic Services Regional Partnership will be participating in Connecticut’s Fall “Click It or Ticket” high visibility safety belt campaign. With the Thanksgiving Day Holiday season upon us, Connecticut’s law enforcement agencies intend to promote safe driving and increase the protection of all motorists. Law Enforcement Officers are out on Connecticut’s roads enforcing the State Occupant Protection laws and issuing citations to those who are unbuckled. Between Nov 25th and Dec 2nd, officers will be conducting safety checkpoints. Funding for this effort has been provided through the Connecticut Department of Transportation. Metro Traffic Services is a regional partnership for traffic safety, which includes South Windsor, Manchester, Coventry, Enfield, East Windsor, Vernon, Glastonbury, and Windsor Locks.

Regional Support to the Manchester Road Race:
If you ran or watched the Manchester Road Race on Thanksgiving morning, you may have seen some familiar SWPD officers. Each year we support the race with our mutual aid assistance. Our officers staff the regional mobile command post (which is housed and maintained here in South Windsor), and three of our officers on the regional SWAT team (CREST) provided event security. As a reminder, there is a mutual aid agreement in place for South Windsor, Vernon, and Manchester that gives officers from all three towns’ authority and protection to work in partner towns.

Community Outreach:
The November Food Drive was held on Saturday, November 23rd and Sunday November 24th at both Stop & Shop and Geissler’s, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. The event was very successful thanks to the generosity of our citizens.

Reminder: Our STUFF-A-TRUCK Food and Toy Drive is being held on Saturday December 14th; also at both Stop &Shop and Geissler’s, also from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Police Department

We will be assisting the Ellington YMCA with their Stuff A Cruiser event on December 6th to benefit local families. There are many South Windsor families that belong to the YMCA or are recipients of their services and we are happy to assist.

We are excited to partner with Target for the Shop with a Cop-Reach Foundation Event again this year. The event is on December 10th and our officers will be partnering with deserving children to have dinner and games at Dave & Busters, then taking part in the cruiser parade to Target where the children will have a chance to shop for their families, all paid for courtesy of the Reach Foundation. These events are a great opportunity for our staff to give back to the community and help our neighbors in need.

Coffee with a Cop & Veterans’ Coffee Hour:
On Thursday, December 19th we will co-host Coffee with Cop in cooperation with the Human Services department and the Veteran’s Coffee hour. The event will be held at the Community Center. This gives us an opportunity to speak with our citizens in a relaxed setting and answer questions about issues that are of concern to them. This event was re-scheduled from October when a storm cancelled school and our event.

Promotions at South Windsor Police:
We introduced newly promoted Sergeant Bowes at the November 18th council meeting.

Sgt. Littell was unable to attend due to his mandatory E.M.T. test taking place that evening. Here are some details on both sergeants and the need for these promotions:

As part of our strategic planning and succession planning goals, the Police Department has to promote first line supervisors to meet our current and future operational needs. We are very pleased to announce the promotions of both Corporal Charles Bowes and Corporal Ron Littell to the rank of Sergeant.

Sergeant Bowes is a 15-year veteran of the South Windsor Police Department and is currently assigned to our professional standards and accreditation project (C.A.L.E.A.). He has served as a School Resource Officer for 5 years at the high school, and serves as a Field Training Officer. He is currently reviewing all department policies against the 480 CALEA standards to ensure we are following best practices. We are seeking to become the 19th town in Connecticut with CALEA accreditation and will make application next year. Corporal Bowes has excellent communication skills and has always shown strong leadership ability. He has always shown great energy and attention to detail in his work and is a valued member of our team.

Sergeant Littell is a 21-year veteran of the South Windsor Police Department and is currently assigned to the midnight shift. Ron
Police Department

has worked tirelessly to serve South Windsor and has received numerous awards for his fundraising efforts that benefit the Special Olympics, Veteran’s Base Camp, the S.W. Community Foundation and others. He has served as a K-9 officer and has worked on our regional drug task force (E.C.N.). He also was part of our former special investigations unit, the Special Enforcement Unit. He is trained as a police mountain bike officer, scuba driver and drone pilot. Ron has great communication skills and has shown great ability as a leader.

Sergeant Bowes and Sergeant Littell have served South Windsor and our agency proudly and we wish them success in these new roles.

Unlocked Car Burglaries & Car Thefts:
The Hartford County region continues to experience car burglaries and car thefts, as do other parts of the state. The towns of Glastonbury and Enfield have been the latest target for these groups of car burglars. This is not a new problem; however with the increase in “push button start” cars, people have a tendency to leave the fob in the car. This makes it very easy for the youths to find a car to take. Locking the car is the answer; none of the stolen cars had windows smashed or were jimmed open. The crimes are generally being committed by groups of juveniles who arrive in a neighborhood in a stolen car overnight, try door handles and enter unlocked cars. If an unlocked car is found they look for keys or key fobs to take the car, or steal valuables located inside the vehicle. The stolen cars are generally used to “joyride” and are frequently recovered in Hartford or nearby once they run out of gas. We can eliminate the issue locally by “hardening the target”; if we all lock up our vehicles, they will move to other areas to find easy targets. As always, we urge citizens to report suspicious activity immediately.

Never too early to prepare for an emergency:
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.southwindson.org/police. We encourage everyone to follow us and share information with friends and family.
Facebook: South Windsor Police Department Twitter: @SWPDPIO
Public Works Department

Michael J. Gantick
Director of Public Works

Street Services
Street maintainers worked through the early morning hours of November 1st clearing roads of downed trees due to the windstorm. In all, the town fared pretty well. There were four roads totally blocked and eight roads with one lane blocked. Fortunately, none of these events involved wires and roads were opened up quickly.

The 2019 Annual Leaf Harvest began October 28th. Crews have been making great progress and the weather has been in our favor. Although crews were shut down at noon on October 31st due to the persistent rain. We can pick up leaves in light to moderate rain, but heavier rain clogs up the machines and reduces our cycle time considerably. At that point, it is more effective to shut the crews down.

The department added WeatherWorks to our arsenal of atmospheric prognostication. We use whatever resources are available to make the most informed decisions to combat weather situations. We use weather sites, local weather forecasts, traffic cameras, LUFFT weather, and web cams to track storm progress. With addition of WeatherWorks, we now have a detailed custom-made weather report which comes into us daily (emailed) and is further updated during storm events.

Brine route maps have been fine-tuned for the upcoming winter season. With the addition of a second brine truck we can increase coverage by over 70% as travel time to primary roads will be reduced considerably. Taking advantage of route optimization, we should have a very efficient brine program this year. Brine works to help make roads safer during certain atmospheric events like frost or frozen dew. It also works to help keep snow from bonding to road surfaces. Brine is not a replacement for traditional salt treatment but augments those salt applications.

We had several staff members graduate various programs at UCONN’s T2 Technology Transfer Center. Jeffrey Parent, Douglas Parent, and Marco Mucciacciario all graduated from the Road Master program. Mark Hilton and Marco Mucciacciario graduated from the Road Scholar program. Neil Roback graduated from the Public Works Academy. Congratulations to you all.

Marco Mucciacciario was bestowed the distinct honor of serving as the valedictorian for the graduation ceremony for both the Road Master and Road Scholar programs. It is quite humbling to be asked to perform this service on behalf of all the graduates but also a testament to the respect the Public Works community has for him. Congratulations Marco!

The sign shop repaired or replaced 14 traffic signs throughout town. In addition, the sign shop also fabricated 45 signs for the upcoming job fair.
Public Works Department

Scott Yeomans
Associate Manager, Street Services

Water Pollution Control
During a routine inspection of a sewer pipe in Griffin Road our staff discovered a section that was partially collapsed and in need of repair. Beginning the week of December 2nd a contractor will be on site to make the repair to the pipe. This particular pipe has been in service since 1973 and highlights the need to continue our preventative maintenance practices and sewer inspection program.

Photo: These images were taken by the WPC staff using a CCTV inspection camera on Griffin Rd. The sewer pipe is failing and beginning to collapse.

During the week of December 9th we are expecting to begin work on re-armoring the treatment plants outfall structure that is located on the bank of the Connecticut River at the end of Vibert Road. Over the years the erosion of the embankment has exposed the structure and is now beginning to erode the soils behind it making it inaccessible to the WPC team and creating a potential hazard to boaters and the public. The project will require stone of various sizes to be trucked in and place around the structure to recreate a river bank and protect the outfall structure. The work is expected to take less than two weeks and access to the boat launch will be unimpeded.

Tony Manfre
Superintendent of Pollution Control
Human Services Department

Andrea Cofrancesco
Director of Human Services

Human Services Updates:

GENEROUS community! The photos below are just a few that we are highlighting: South Windsor High School Football team, Berkshire Bank, Rotary Club, ASM, Police and Fire Departments and Timothy Edwards Field Hockey team.

Thankful for Human Services Staff
The staff in the Department of Human Services, in both the Adult and Senior Services and the Youth and Family Services Divisions are a group of dedicated, caring and professional staff. They work tirelessly with compassion to serve South Windsor residents of all ages. Thank you, Team, for all that you do, every day!
- Andrea

Inservices at Police Department
We recently met with all shifts at the Police Department to inform the officers about our services. The officers typically make referrals on a regular basis, but this was serving as a reminder and to inform new officers what the Human Services Department offers in both Adult and Senior and Youth and Family Services Divisions.

Adult and Senior Services Update
The Season of Giving is here and the staff in the Adult and Senior Services Division is proud to be part of this EXTREMELY
Human Services Department

Andrea Cofrancesco
Director of Human Services

Volunteers in Action!
Human Services has over 250 volunteers in a variety of programs including meals on wheels, kitchen helpers, friendly shoppers, the fitness center, newsletter collating, the Thanksgiving Basket program, and so much more! We could not do it without their time and dedication!

Shredding Event
The Triad for Senior Safety’s annual shredding event was a HUGE hit with a record number of people dropping off their items to be shred. 191 cars drove up, starting 30 minutes early and lining the street prior to the 10 AM start time!

Diabetic Support Group
This new group is off to a great start! At the first meeting almost 15 people attended, which is a great number for any support group! Meetings are held the first Friday of each month at 10:30 AM.

Youth & Family Services
Teen Center
The Teen Center recognized National Stress Awareness Day on November 6. Simple messages were left around the room as reminders of how the Teen Center can be a safe, healthy & fun place to de-stress with friends after school! Painting, video games and modeling clay were definitely some of the favorite activities.
Human Services Department

Andrea Cofrancesco
Director of Human Services

Friday nights have been very popular with middle school students, with an average of 49 visits each night! Part time staff coverage has been increased to ensure more supervision and more opportunities for games and fun!

This month the Teen Center celebrated Thanksgiving with the 5th Annual Giving Thanks Meal afterschool. This event was open to high school students and, this year, focused on a theme of celebrating friendships!

S.W.A.N. Parent Education and Support
As of November 5th, we have a new Youth Counselor/Parent Educator. He has jumped right in, setting up intake appointments for counseling. He will start the Relatives Raising Grandchildren group back up late this month.

School Outreach & Prevention
The high school students involved in the S.A.D.D. Club have been busy. They are currently organizing a sock drive to help those in our community who are in need. Socks are the most requested items at shelters, so they wanted to support others to help keep everyone warm this winter.

The Club has also been working on their Liquor Store Safety Campaign. The students asked local liquor store owners to provide them with their brown bags so that the bags could be decorated with important safety reminders. They wrote messages including asking customers to never drink and drive, never provide alcohol to minors and to never let friends and family make poor choices. The students enjoy reminding others that safety is important for adults, as well as for kids.

SADD members took a field trip to Saint Francis Hospital to participate in the “Let’s Not Meet by Accident” program. Let’s Not Meet By Accident is a comprehensive Community Outreach educational program that encourages adolescents to make “healthy choices in risky situations”. This is an interactive, hands-on program, which starts at the Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center helipad. The participants move into the Emergency Department Trauma Resuscitation Room to observe a “mock” trauma lead by a trauma surgeon or nurse. This visual experience is followed by a speaker whose life has been directly affected by injuries or fatalities suffered due to a traumatic injury. The students are then debriefed, and participate in exercises that provide tools for them to make healthier
choices. The program is concluded with a question and answer period with hands on exercises so that all are able to reflect their experience.

**Counseling & Support**
The demands for counseling services continue. With the addition of a third part time counselor, our waitlist has gone down but it does continue.

The Orchard Hill/TE Connection program is in full swing. We meet weekly during lunch and recess. Fourth grade OH students are paired with Seventh grade TE students and Fifth grade OH students are paired with eight grade OH students. Trish Lakomy, TE guidance counselor and Robin Lagasse, one of our Youth Counselors run this program together

Robin Lagasse and Kathy Reed are starting a Conflict Resolution Skills Group at TEMS this month. It is a 5-week skill based group for eight grade girls that meets weekly to help with peer relationships.

*Liz Langevin, LCSW*
Park & Recreation Commission (PARC)
The next PARC meeting is Wednesday, Dec. 11th. Work continues on the master plan revision.

The South Windsor Walk & Wheel Ways (SWW&WW) sub-committee meets next on Wed., Dec. 4th at Wapping at 7pm. Efforts over the next year will be the design of the proposed cross-town trail through the Eversource power corridor and re-applying for “silver” Bicycle Friendly Community designation with the League of American Bicyclists. The application deadline is February 5, 2020.

Special Invitation to Councilors – SAVE THE DATES: Once again we have a jam-packed December and we hope you find time to drop in to any one or all of them!!

(1) The third annual “Grinchmas!” event is Friday, December 6 from 6:30-8:00 PM at the Wapping Parks & Recreation Facility. Join us for all things “Grinch-y,” a special screening of Dr. Seuss’ “How the Grinch Stole Christmas” and even a chance to meet the Grinch himself! Won’t you join the who-bilation!

(2) The return of our overwhelmingly popular Letters to Santa runs from Dec. 2 to 18. Kids can put their letters in Santa’s mailbox located at Nevers Park at the corner of Nevers and Sand Hill Roads and they will receive a personalized response from the jolly ole fellow!

(3) Ribbon cutting ceremony for phase II of the Skate Park at Nevers Park on Sat., Dec. 7 at 10am.

(4) Our first-ever Sensory Friendly visit with Santa for youngsters with special needs who may be intimidated by throngs of Santa admirers will be on Sat., Dec. 7 from 10am to 12pm at Wapping.

(5) Our Annual Skate with Santa event will be held once at the South Windsor Arena on Sat., Dec. 7 from 4-5:30pm. Admission is free and we ask each participant to donate a new unwrapped toy for Toys for Tots.

(6) It’s almost that time of year again for our Merry and Bright Holiday Lights home decorating contest! Residents can enter their festive, brightly lit homes into the contest for a chance to win a cash prize! Judging will take place on Thursday, December 12!

(7) We will assist American Legion Post 133 as they once again conduct the Wreaths Across America ceremony at 12pm on Sat., Dec. 14 at Veterans Memorial Park.
The annual holiday party for our Monday Night Social Club participants will be on Mon., Dec. 16 from 6-9pm at the Teen Center. As always, we offer all members of the Town Council an open invitation to visit any of our 400+ recreation programs or park facilities throughout the year. Please give us a call and we will even escort you!

**RECREATION DIVISION**

*“Feel great – recreate!”*

**4th R Before & After School Program** – December enroll is static. Participants at each 4th “R” site created several Gingerbread masterpieces to be displayed in the Wood Memorial Library Gingerbread Festival!

**Caught Being Kind** – Since we launched the new “caught being kind” initiative to focus on good deeds and acts of kindness two months ago we have deployed 203 heart signs for 203 good deeds done! This first-ever program ended Nov. 22, but due to the overwhelming popularity my guess is we’ll be back!

**Staff** – We had 29 applicants for the vacant Recreation Supervisor position and interviewed a short list of five candidates for first round interviews on Nov. 20th. Two finalists will be interviewed on Dec. 5th. This position will be responsible for the aquatics operation at VMP in the summer and health, fitness & wellness programs throughout the year. After re-visiting finalists from the last search and selection process completed just eight weeks ago that introduced new hire Ben Bedard to the parks crew we have hired Matt Silvia to replace Tom Kuehlewind, and who was temporarily filling in for our part time groundskeeper. As such we have posted that part time position. It has been a very busy six months of personnel changes!

**Monday Night Social Club** – Can’t help but repeat this, but we are so proud to announce that our very own Monday Night Social Club for young adults with special needs is the 2019 CT Recreation & Parks Association Award winner in the Inclusion or Adaptive Program of Merit category that was recognized at the annual state conference on Nov. 26th!! Thirty-six folks from the program – participants, family members and program volunteers attended the awards ceremony to receive their recognition! This strong and popular program, which began in 1990, retains all of the charter members that still live in the area!

**Wapping Update** – the only remaining tasks for the cafeteria remodeling project are window treatments and wall art. All furniture is in, cable TV installed and technology center operational. We will plan promotional public push over the next couple months to start reserving for the New Year.

**PARKS DIVISION**

*“Caring for South Windsor’s Growing Needs”*

**November Activity Highlights:**

**Athletic Fields & Grounds:**

- Final weekly preparation of athletic fields servicing high school football, soccer & field hockey; boys & girl youth soccer; youth football and youth baseball.
- Final irrigations systems were winterized.
- Groomed synthetic turf at high school
stadium.

- Memorial bench assembled and installed Nevers Park (see photo on next page).

**Parks & Open Space:**

- Responded to numerous calls from residents regarding tree issues impacting them from town-owned open space properties.
- Rough cut mowing of all open space properties was accomplished.
- Prepared the Eagle Patio at Veterans Memorial Park for the annual Veterans Day Ceremony on Mon., Nov. 11th at 11am.
- Final hazardous trees were removed and we planted nine new replacement Crimson King Maples at Rye Street Park

**Projects:**

- Sealed bids for repairs to fencing and lights at the Wapping tennis courts will be opened on Thurs., Dec. 12th. We will fund the work thanks to a $50,000 grant from the State of CT. We hope to start immediately and be finished by March 6, 2020.
- Skate Park Phase II is opened to the delight of dozens of skaters!! Numerous loads of clean fill were trucked in from the garage by the parks crew to back-fill a number of concrete features and for re-grading. Construction fencing was removed and site stabilization was completed in-house and final restoration will be done in the Spring, also in-house. A brief ribbon cutting ceremony will take place on Sat., Dec. 7th at 10am. A grand opening event will be organized sometime in the spring.
- Completed hauling material and site work (grading, raking & seeding) at the Police Dept. in preparation for the new perimeter fence installation by others.

**Other:**

- 70% of our parks crew joins forces with DPW Street Services for the month-long leaf harvesting program. The remaining three or four crew members finish caring for final Fall athletic field needs and leaf collection throughout the park system and public building grounds.
- To beat the upcoming holiday traffic, in tandem with some Street Service staff the Buckland Road islands received a much needed Fall clean-up on Sat., Nov.23.

**Photos:**

Participants at each 4th “R” site created several Gingerbread masterpieces to be displayed in the Wood Memorial Library Gingerbread Festival!
Keri, Shelby & Cheryl presented fun teambuilding activities for all the 8th grade students at TEMS that were unable to attend the annual trip to Washington, DC.
Left photo – “Hills & Valleys”. Right photo – whipped cream pie eating!

Left – Fall clean-up of the islands on Buckland Road
Center – Open Space rough cut mowing
Right – memorial bench installed at Nevers Park

Skate Park Phase II is complete!
December 2019
Town Council Meetings and Events

Meetings
Monday, December 2, 2019
7:00 pm Regular Meeting
Council Chambers

Monday, December 16, 2019
7:00 pm Regular Meeting
Council Chambers

Holidays
Wednesday, December 25, 2019
Town Offices Will Be Closed in Observance of Christmas Day