Budget
I would like to clarify the issue that was discussed at the last meeting regarding the Town and Board of Education's proposed budgets. I know the Council had a hard time deciding upon a magic number, and I made the suggestion that the Superintendent and Town Manager will meet to review budgets and work collaboratively to reduce impact of the State budget for Fiscal Year 2017/2018. At the meeting, I said I would look at the $4.6 million proposed reduction and also look for fund balance and other revenues to counteract that reduction without devastating services to the community. The Superintendent and I are meeting with staff on Friday, March 31 to discuss our budgets.

I do not want doom and gloom right now, as I was at the State Capitol recently, and I heard that the pension issue will not fly. There will be some changes to the Governor's budget that will be more realistic. The State budget will come from the State Legislature on April 27, and then we will have a better idea of their negotiations.

I want to remind the Council that we are preparing for the worst. The situation may change as we move through this budget process, and the budget may not be as devastating to Connecticut municipalities as currently proposed.

The Superintendent and I both feel very strongly that we should present our budgets and reductions in a joint presentation to the Town Council and Board of Education. This will allow everyone to fully understand the impact to the community.

German American Business Forum
On Wednesday, March 29, I attended a German American Business Forum—Industry 4.0 which was an opportunity to hear some of the new challenges in manufacturing both locally and globally. This Forum was endorsed by CRCOG, and I found it to be very informative. I met some very interesting individuals who are looking to develop relationships between German businesses and the State of Connecticut. The Forum has given me an insight into some of the manufacturing companies we could bring into the Town of South Windsor.

460 Miller Road
Recently, a lawsuit was filed in the Town Clerk’s Office concerning the Town of South Windsor and 460 Miller Road. The lawsuit has been distributed to both CIRMA and the Town Attorney. I know some Councilors were listed to be served. My suggestion is that no
comment should be made on this lawsuit. All comments should be referred to me or the Town Attorney to handle regarding this litigation matter.

Matthew B. Galligan
Town Manager
Police Department

Penguin Plunge to benefit Connecticut Special Olympics:
The annual Ellington Plunge to benefit Connecticut Special Olympics was hosted by South Windsor PD on Saturday, March 25th. This was the 10th anniversary of the event and was held at Crystal Lake Beach in Ellington. The event raised over $25,000.00 for CT Special Olympics.

SWPD Participates in Community Conversation:
Officer Kevin Geraci was a panel member in the SW Community Conversation: Opioid and Heroin Addiction held at the library on Tuesday, March 28th. The police department was pleased to be a part of a very informative and frank discussion on Addiction in our area. Officer Geraci is one of a few trained Drug Recognition Experts in our area which enables him to detect and arrest drivers who are impaired by drugs. Unlike alcohol, drug impaired drivers are much harder to detect and successfully prosecute.
Human Services Department

Town Council members are invited to our annual Volunteer Recognition event scheduled for Wednesday, April 26 at 9:00 AM. Be on the lookout for your invitation.

Triad Celebrates 10 Years:
What is the South Windsor TRIAD for Senior Safety?
TRIAD is a national community policing initiative wherein law enforcement, seniors, and community groups partner to meet the crime-safety needs of seniors to prevent victimization of older adults. Each TRIAD is governed by a volunteer Board of Directors called a S.A.L.T. Council (Seniors And Law Enforcers working Together). The South Windsor Triad was created in May of 2007!

Triad Events Coming up:
• Tour of Safety Services: The tour includes Fire House Company 3 on West Road, the NEW Emergency Operations Center on Sullivan Ave and the final stop will be the Police Department. Scheduled for Thursday, April 13.
• Medication Disposal Day: Saturday, April 29 from 10 AM to 2 PM at the Police Station. Drop off all prescription and non-prescription medications including liquid (no needles).
• Anniversary luncheon: Friday, May 12 at 12 noon. Lunch will consist of pasta, meatballs, salad, bread and dessert. Be on the lookout for your invitation!

Property Tax Relief Ends May 15
Elderly and disabled homeowners who qualify can apply for reduced property taxes on their homes. Filing period ends May 15, 2017. This year’s income limits are $35,200 maximum for an individual and $42,900 for a couple. *Local option allows up to $4,000 higher income than regular program. For more information call 860-648-6361.

UPDATE ON ENERGY PROGRAMS
Even with crazy weather this winter, caseworkers have assisted 324 households with energy assistance through the CEAP program so far, which ends May 1st for electric and gas customers. Through Operation Fuel, we have assisted 11 households totalling $4,280 with the program ending June 14th. Our private fuel account has given out $16,897.21 to 64 families since July 1. We expect to be tapping into our private fuel funds more as residents are exhausting benefits through the CEAP and Operation...
Fuel programs. It’s due to the generosity of South Windsor residents, businesses, civic and church groups, schools and town employees that we have funds available in our private fuel account to help our neighbors in need!

**DAIRY PRODUCTS AT THE FOOD BANK**

Since we started offering dairy products at our food bank one year ago, we have given out **282 gallons of milk, 269 dozens of eggs and 372 bars of cheese.** This is only possible due to the generosity of the South Windsor community. It’s a great addition to the non-perishable food items available in our food bank.

**Needed: Clothing, Shoes, Household Goods, and more!**

Friends of the SW Senior Center is looking for the following items: clothing, accessories, shoes, linens, books, toys and household items. All items must be clean and in good working order. Items can be dropped off at the Community Center on **Saturday, April 29 from 9 AM to 2 PM in the upper lot.** All items will be weighed and donated to Savers and money will be used to go toward our goal of raising money for building enhancements.

**Celebrate March Madness with Spirit Week!**

The Senior Center's FIRST ever Spirit Week to support UConn Huskies got started off to a great start with our tie dye event and our Hawaiian day! Those who participate are entered to win a gift certificate to the senior center.

Like us on FACEBOOK!
Facebook.com/swseniorcenter
On Tuesday, March 28th, Youth & Family Services and SWAFF (South Windsor Alliance for Families) hosted a community forum on Opioid & Heroin Addiction. Our featured speaker was John Lally, an Ellington resident who lost his son, Tim, to an accidental overdose in January of 2016. John spoke of Tim’s struggle with mental health and addiction. John and his wife Laura founded Today I Matter (TIM) in memory of their son. They are sharing their story at forums across the state. Our panelists included South Windsor Police Officer & Drug Recognition Expert, Kevin Geraci, Manchester Chief of Police, Marc Montminy along with intern and co-founder of the CT Hope Initiative, Sarah Howroyd. We has a representative from Narcotics Anonymous share their story of recovery and Donna Camerota of Community Health Resources (CHR) to speak about how they are playing in active role in treatment and family support. There were resources available for those that attended. We had some great questions from those who attended after the panel. Special thanks to Len Besthoff of NBC CT news for moderating, Mayor Carolyn Mirek for welcoming everyone, Senator Tim Larson and Representative Tom Delnicki for sharing what is being done on a legislative level to combat this crisis.

Teen Center
South Windsor Youth have been enjoying the fun at the Teen Center this March! Our Youth Council/Teen Center Volunteers enjoyed helping SW Youth & Family Services with host their second annual Family Bingo Night! We were excited to raise $200.00, which will go towards our Youth Council’s efforts and help our group to get their very own t-shirts!

We also wrapped up our Tuesday Afternoon Middle School Program with a celebration and a survey to find out more about what aspects of the Teen Center are the most fun and meaningful to them. Our Teen Center Youth Council Group, which consists of more than ten dedicated high schools students, also made use of surveys by
polling the high school population who frequent the drop in center afterschool three days a week. It was surprising and heartwarming to hear how our teens feel about a space we are so fortunate to have in our community! Here are a few of the comments we received about why high school youth come to the teen center and/or what they find most meaningful: “I come here to see my friends and hang out and relax, [For] basketball and friends, to meet new people, to eat, it brings up my mood when I am upset, to relax, [people here] are like my family, I love the community and people here, having people to talk to, knowing that there are people who care makes me feel loved”. We are proud that more youth have been finding the benefits of being involved at the Teen Center – and the numbers show this! Our attendance on Friday night ranges from an average of 26 to sometimes more than 50 middle school students and our high school afterschool drop in hours had a daily average of 34 visits in March! Hats off to our part time staff and interns who all help to make our Teen Center great!

Parent Education and Support

Parenting Apart For Fathers, this group was for fathers who are divorced or separated to give them strategies and tools for co-parenting with the other parent. This group assisted fathers in understanding how their divorce or separation affects their children. This presentation educated fathers on the developmental needs of their children and how children experience separation through different developmental stages.

Baby Steps is an ongoing support group for mothers and their babies. Mother are able to connect with other mothers and learn valuable information to make the transition into parenthood as smooth as possible. Topics very month to month. This month we discussed the importance of play and babies brain development.

Eating Disorder Support Workshop In recognition of National Eating Disorder Awareness Week, Youth and Family Services with Walden Behavioral Care invited communities to join the panel discussion to learn more about the different manifestations of eating disorders and end the stigma! Parents learned ways to support their child who has an Eating Disorder.

Mother/Daughter Circle, back by popular demand! This is a 6 week group for girls in 4th and 5th grade and their mothers, designed to strengthen the mother/daughter bond. The goal of this group is to help promote girls healthy and safe passage into young womanhood. We use creative and expressive activities to teach skills each week, such as, healthy communication, communicating under stress, building and deepening trust, and meeting expectations and needs are a few of the themes. (picture from our first group below)

Relatives Raising Children, this is an ongoing support group for any relative raising a child. This group offers support and
education. This month we discussed Autism in the teen years, what to expect and how to help.

Youth Counseling
Thirteen kiddos enjoyed the new Kidding Around Yoga class taught by Eileen Adler, youth counselor. It was successful and Eileen plans on offering again this summer.

Eileen and Director, Liz has begun a support group for girls at the high school, which will run for six weeks. The focus of the group is self-care, growth and healthy relationships. Healthy relationships are the core element to a healthy individual, family and society.

In March, we hosted a Red Cross Safety Class called, When I am in Charge. The class is designed for youth ages 9 to 12 who may spend time alone at home. It was taught by a Red Cross certified instructor. We had 20 kids participate and plan to offer it again.

Please check out our Facebook
https://www.facebook.com/SWYouthFamily

or call Liz at 860-648-6361 x331 for more information on any above program.
Parks & Recreation Department

Raymond Favreau
Director of Parks & Recreation

“Discover the Benefits!”
MONTHLY REPORT - April 3, 2017

John Caldwell, Jr.
Superintendent of Parks

Parks & Recreation Commission (PARC) – The next PARC meeting is Wednesday, April 12th at 7:30pm in the Sprenkel Room of the Town Hall.

The South Windsor Walk & Wheel Ways (SWW&WW) sub-committee meets next on April 5th at 7pm at the community center. Director of Planning, Michele Lipe will be their invited guest to speak about the Town’s sidewalk plan.

The South Windsor FOOD Alliance (SWFA) is busy finalizing details for the 2017 outdoor Farmer’s Market starting June 24th! Go to www.swfood.org for more details.

Like us on Facebook - The number keeps growing - we are now “liked” by 1,639 people! Won’t you like us too at south windsor parks & recreation and check out the awesome videos posted? Also, please follow us on Instagram too at SWPRD06074!!

Special Invitation to Councilors – SAVE THE DATES: Fri., April 14th – Join us for our 46th Annual Egg Hunt at the high school stadium proudly sponsored by Imperial Oil & Plumbing. The seasonal fun kicks off at 9am with an “eggsclusive” egg hunt geared for youngters with special needs followed by age group hunts every 15 minutes starting at 10am. Then on Sat., April 22nd visit the 33rd Annual Fishing Derby at the newest Town-owned property on Barber Hill Road (formerly the Dzen Tree Farm Pond). The event co-sponsored by the Super Sixties Sportsmen Club runs from 9am to 1pm and is for kids age 16 and under and Sr. Citizens who will enjoy trout fishing and plenty of burgers and dogs off the grill. 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!”

Before & After School Program – April enrollment across the five elementary schools is static at 334, with 43 students participating in the Early Release program to support the BOE professional development program. As part of our year-long 10th Anniversary
celebration of the program – each 4th “R” site hosted their families for an extra night of family fun! Pleasant Valley 4th “R” had a life-sized game night, Wapping 4th “R” had a ceramic decorating night, Orchard Hill had a paint night, PRS is holding a “Day-In-The Life of 4th “R” night, and Eli Terry is holding a luau. Over 250 4th “R” children and their family members had so much fun participating in the games and activities at their 4th “R” site!

**Wapping Re-Purposing** – We are still in the process of finalizing what it will take to be functional at a minimal level for parks & recreation use, and look forward to meeting with the Town Manager and Superintendent of Schools to discuss plans in these difficult budgetary times.

**Parks & Recreation Magazine** – Our Spring/Summer 2017 issue, our largest ever with numerous improvements and new program offerings has successfully hit mailboxes thanks to the leadership of Keri Apt! Registration for residents only begins on Fri., March 31st.

**Anniversary Celebrations** – We are busy working on plans for a number of milestone celebrations: The 10th Anniversary of My Friend’s Place playground scheduled for Sat., June 24th, the 30th Anniversary of our Summer Concert Series, and the 10th Anniversary of the Tyler Memorial Bark Park in November. We are also in the midst of implementing monthly special activities within our 4th R Before & After School program in recognition of our 10th year of operation! Again, we couldn’t be more proud of these traditions.

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

March Activity Highlights:

♦ **Athletic Fields & Grounds:**
  - With late severe winter weather we have found it necessary to post all athletic fields closed until further notice. As of this writing we have not been able to prepare a single field for the spring schedule! We have, and will remain in close contact with all sports organizations in town that are anxious to start their season, and will open fields are soon as they are ready for safe play.
  - Cleared snow off the Wapping tennis courts with snow blowers in preparation for high school tennis.

♦ **Parks & Open Space:**
  - New Rotary Pavilion II at VMP – Now with our approved building permit carpenters from Mannarino Builders will receive delivery of lumber and begin frame work before the end of the week. Drawings for the utilities connections from the filter building to the new pavilion are nearing completion by local resident Jim Senatro from Consulting Engineering Services in Middletown.
  - Continued work on repairs to park signage. A refurbished entrance sign to
the Rotary Pavilion at Nevers Park off Chief Ryan Way was beautifully done by Gary Schacht & Mike Hanrahan and will be re-installed soon.

- Continued brush clearing at Lawrence Road Park.
- Completed the clearing of brush and deadwood beyond left field fence of Rotary baseball field and the western agricultural parcel at Nevers Park. Stump removal and general clean-up of the disturbed site still remains.
- Continued picnic table restorations.
- Began the removal of invasives, overgrowth and deadwood on the front lawn of the farm house at the Priest Property

♦ Projects:

- Kevin’s Kourt – This inclusive basketball feature soon to be added to My friend’s Place playground continues to move forward at record pace! Parts are in, site plans are finished compliments of Design Professionals, Inc in town with construction drawings courtesy of Jim Galey from Fuss & O’Neill. Our parks crew is proud to assist with the site work and installation with construction to begin May 1st. The anticipated dedication with Coach Kevin Ollie, head coach of the UConn Men’s Basketball team is Friday, June 16th at 3pm.
- Completed servicing all spring/summer maintenance equipment – roto-tillers, over-seeders, aerators, mowers, etc.
- Continued preliminary planning and work on the rehabilitation of My Friend’s Place playground in preparation of the 10th anniversary celebration in June.
- Finished reorganizing back room at garage for more efficient storage including design and construction of new shelving.
- Built and delivered one artisan park bench to Orchard Hill School for an art project.
- Began restoration of our Bobcat and trim mower trailers.

♦ Other

- Continue to assist DPW with leaf composting operation
- Responded to the severe blizzard-like winter storm on March 13-15 alongside the folks from Public Works.

*Crew clears snow off Wapping tennis courts in preparation for high school tennis season*
Cheryl, Lauren, Shelby & Sarah represent us, and New England, well attending the NRPA Revenue Management School. Shelby & Sarah completed year one of two.

Lauren & Cheryl are happy successful graduates of the two-year certification that provides them with the latest tools and strategies for operating self-sustaining recreation programs critical to the success of our Special Revenue Fund.

2017 Youth Basketball “March Madness” comes to a successful conclusion.
4th “R” Family Nights Photo Collage
April 2017
Town Council Meetings and Events

Meetings

Monday, April 3, 2017
7:00 p.m. Regular Meeting
Council Chambers

Monday, April 17, 2017
7:00 p.m. Regular Meeting
Council Chambers

Monday, April 24, 2017 (Tentative)
7:00 p.m. Public Hearing for General Government Budget
Council Chambers

Wednesday, April 26, 2017 (Tentative)
7:00 p.m. Public Hearing for Board of Education Budget
TE Middle School—Rm Alt 6

Thursday, April 27, 2017 (Tentative)
6:00 p.m. Joint Work Session with Board of Education
TE Middle School—Rm Alt 6

Holidays

Friday, April 14, 2017
Town Offices Will Be Closed in Observance of Good Friday

Layout by Ashley Booth, Executive Secretary to the Town Manager