

Town of South Windsor

Town Manager's Report January 2017

Matthew B. Galligan
Town Manager



Proposed Tax Abatements

Please find enclosed three tax incentive programs. One is for the expansion of Geissler's Supermarket. One is for Commercial Storefront which is a success story, as we provided an incentive program when the company first moved into their current building. The business now needs to expand as they have increased from 9 to 30 employees. The last incentive program is for a new distillery company that could be a tourist attraction for South Windsor.

I have discussed these three programs with the Economic Development Commission, and they approved all three. Hopefully the Council will also approve these programs in order to help local businesses expand.

Budget 2017/2018

There will be a discussion item on the upcoming budget as I would like to bring to your attention some concerns that I have with the State budget and some upcoming pitfalls. Mr. Gonsalves has mentioned that we should be having these discussions, and I agree with him. This is something that we should think about as this will be a very difficult year for me to present a budget without knowing what State revenues are. I am hoping to meet with our representatives

to strategize this budget session in order to keep revenues to local municipalities intact.

Studio Project

I am still working with PURA, Eversource, and the Mestek Corporation to see if we can get this project up and running through having the PPA fund some items. Our last meeting was Thursday, 12/22 at 3:30 p.m., and our testimony will be submitted to PURA. It has been a long road since last April, but we continue to move this project along, and hopefully PURA will make an appropriate decision to move the project forward. One item that is still in contention is the price of the PPA. I am hoping a decision will be made quickly and in our favor so the project can be worked on immediately.

Official Statement

The Town's financial statements should be ready soon. We have reviewed the preliminary draft report and made a few changes. I am looking forward to receiving the final statements. There will be bond and note bids in February 2017 to take care of our debt issues, and I think these statements will help the Town be in a better position to get favorable rates. Once the statements are in, I will send them out to the Town Council, and we can review the statements in more detail.

11 Acres on Nevers Road

I will be putting a discussion item on the agenda for the 11 acres on Nevers Road. I will review the proposal for that piece of property. We have done a superb job on the Barton property, and this proposal will be somewhat similar. There will area of open grass with a possible area for the Farmer's Market as it is growing considerably. Nevers Road is a good location, but it is becoming overcrowded.

One issue is that though people are supportive of buying open space, the open space in certain areas cannot be used by the public which is something that needs to be addressed. This issue came up when we bought the Foster Farm as there is no public access. The current proposal is strictly open fields.

There will be a discussion on the 11 acres on Nevers Road during the January 3 meeting, and I want a resolution approving that we move forward on working with our volunteers and residents in the area. I would also request that no project will be automatic as there may be proposed revisions to the open field concept. If there are any revisions, I would like to meet with the neighbors in that area and hold a meeting to discuss any proposed revisions.

Matthew B. Galligan
Town Manager

Police Department

Timothy M. Edwards
Chief of Police



New Officer Completes Academy Training:

Congratulations to our newest officer, Officer David Johnson #193 (center-wearing white gloves), on his graduation from the POSTC Academy. Officer Johnson graduated December 22nd and now begins a 16-week field training program with SWPD Field Training Officers.

(From left: FTO Coordinator Cpl. Mark Cleverdon, Chief Tim Edwards, Officer David Johnson, Lt. Glenn Buonanducci, FTO Officer Tim Hankard, and FTO Officer Joe Futtner).

Recruiting Efforts 2017:

We are currently accepting applications for both Police Officers and Emergency Telecommunicators. We had a very successful Open House hosted at Maneeleys' in November and we will host the Connecticut Police Chiefs Association exam in January for Dispatchers, Entry Level Police Officers, and Certified Police Officers. Oral board exams are scheduled for February and we expect to fill our 4 police vacancies and 1 dispatch vacancy as quickly as possible.

Police Lieutenant Completes Training:

Lt. Richard Watrous has graduated from the #266 Session of the FBI National Academy, an intensive 10 week training program for police leaders held in Quantico, Virginia. Lt. Watrous is the Support Services Commander in South Windsor and was part of the 230 person class made up of police leaders from 48 states and 20 foreign countries. The class graduated Friday, December 16th. Lt. Watrous successfully completed a rigorous class schedule on topics such as leadership, advanced investigation and communication, management and fitness.

Watrous is a 23 year veteran of the South Windsor Police Department and has served the agency as an investigator with the regional narcotics unit as well as our detective division, and has served on the Special Enforcement

Unit, the regional tactical unit and regional dive team. He was promoted to Lieutenant in 2011 and has also supervised the Operations Division.

Generosity of our Residents:

We are touched by the outpouring of support by our residents and business community this holiday season. The Police Department has participated in several food drives; toy drives "Stuff A Cruiser" and volunteered to ring the Salvation Army kettle bell. All these collections stay in town for our neighbors in need.

Every event was well attended and people were incredibly generous donating cash, gift cards, food and toys. And at police headquarters- there is no shortage of food, coffee, cookies and gift cards as residents have been bringing goodies by for our staff. We appreciate the kind words and the thoughtfulness as we work to keep South Windsor safe and improve the lives of our residents needing assistance.

Best wishes to all for a Happy New Year!

Public Works Department

Michael J. Gantick
Director of Public Works

Engineering

Avery Heights Road and Drainage Improvements

Drainage work in Phase 2 of the Avery Heights roadway improvements is about 40% complete on the east side of Benedict Drive, Peach Tree Lane, Spruce Lane and Highview Road. The contractor has shut down work for the winter and will complete the drainage and roadway improvements in the spring and summer of 2017. We will be finalizing the design for Phase 3 road and drainage improvements over the winter and expect to bid this in the spring of 2017.

Avery Street Improvements 2 (Gray Road to Orchard Hill Road)

The Town has finalized plans and specifications for submission to CT DOT to reconstruct Avery Street between Gray Road and Orchard Hill Road. This project includes new storm water drainage, base, pavement, curb and sidewalks. The schedule is to get approval to bid this project in the winter of 2017. Reconstruction of this section of Avery Street will occur in 2017.

Local Roads Repaving 2017

We are working on a list of about 9-12 local roads to be milled and paved in 2017 and plan to finalize this list and bid this work in late winter, 2017.

Buckland Road Sidewalks

The Town and our consultants are working on final plans to construct sidewalks along the east side of Sullivan Avenue and the west side of Buckland Road from the Town Library to Deming Street. These sidewalks will connect the town buildings with the commercial businesses and residential units in the center of Town. The plans include traffic signal modifications at 3 intersections for pedestrian ramps, signals and crosswalks and an extension of the Plum Gulley Brook bridge. We are in the process of applying to CT DEEP and ACOE for permits for the plum gulley brook bridge extension, and will be discussing utility relocations with the affected utility companies and Rights of Way acquisition to finalize the design over the winter.

Sidewalk Repairs

The list of sidewalks in Town that need to be replaced or repaired has grown to over \$150,000 in estimated sidewalk repairs. Some residents have called multiple times to ask when sidewalks in front of their property will be repaired. This winter, we will be developing a plan to repair the worst and oldest sidewalk defects that have been reported using the \$20,000 recently appropriated by the Town Council. This work is expected to be bid and begin in the Spring of 2017. Additional capital funds are needed to repair all the sidewalks and keep them safe

pursuant to the Town ordinance. We will continue to mark the trip hazards on sidewalks where we have received complaints with bright pink paint to alert pedestrians of these hazards until there is sufficient funding to repair all the sidewalk defects.

CT DEEP MS4 Stormwater Permit

The Connecticut DEEP has issued a final version of the new MS4 Stormwater Permit. Town staff will be working on developing a Town wide Stormwater Management Plan to comply with the conditions of this permit over the Winter. South Windsor is required to register for this Permit by April 1, 2017 and the permit will be Effective on July 1, 2017.

Jeffrey Doolittle
Town Engineer

Street Services

Crews completed the annual leaf harvest. This year's leaf harvest netted 22, 232 cubic yards of leaves. This excluded the resident drop off which appears to be much greater than past years. This was an especially challenging year as the leaf drop was much later than usual. The exceptionally dry summer may have contributed to that, but the crews were able to get the program completed before the first snow fall.

The crews switched from the leaf harvest program into snow preparedness seamlessly. There is a lot of work to get the trucks into readiness for snow storms which includes calibrating salt spreaders, removing leaf boxes, retrofitting some trucks, mounting and

testing plow operation, preparing snow blowers and other equipment used at town facilities.

Almost as soon as the equipment was readied, we had to deal with a few small snow and icing events.

The sign shop continues to reduce the number of signs that are rated poor as well as installing new signs, replacing damaged signs and install delineators to protect certain pieces of infrastructure.

Scott Yeomans
Associate Manager



Human Services Department

Adult & Senior Services

Andrea Cofrancesco, Director of Adult and Senior Services

Medicare Counseling

Caseworkers, who are trained CHOICES counselors, have helped a total of **96 people** with their Medicare choices during the annual open enrollment period. This is in addition to the countless number of people who are helped with the Medicare Savings Program, a financial assistance program that helps low income beneficiaries with their Part B and Part D premiums.

Food Bank Donations Coming in!



The South Windsor community continues donating for their neighbors in need! An annual holiday party organized by Kim Gassett-Tenenbaum resulted in a large donation of food and other non perishable items to the food bank. Coldwell Banker, Cusson Automotive, Oxford Performance Materials, The Masons, South Windsor Education Association, SW Mom's Club, Police Department and too many other businesses and organizations to name, have donated to the SW Food and Fuel Bank in the past few weeks.

Adopt a Child Program

A total number of **194 children** (91 families) were served this year in our Adopt a Child program. Over 80 donors provided children with clothes and toys for the holiday. Donors consisted of individuals, families, church groups, businesses, sporting groups, schools, civic organizations and the fire and police departments. South Windsor is extremely



generous and we should all be proud of being part of this great community! Pictured are donations before they came to us: donors are genuinely excited to be part of this program to help their neighbors in need!!! A huge thanks to all!!

Salvation Army Bell Ringers

Volunteers and town employees rang the bells at the SW Stop and Shop and the Sullivan Avenue Dunkin Donuts this year to help those in need. A total of \$1072 was collected, with 90% of that coming directly to the Human Services Department to help residents with basic needs. We simply could not do what we do without the help of so many volunteers for ALL of our programs! (pictured: Layla Ravalese and Kelly Kulas)



Discount Cards Available

Over 300 have been sold! For just \$5, your savings will happen all year! Get discounts and freebies at over 15 South Windsor

businesses including: Between Rounds, Guiseppina's Italian Bakery, Alexia's, Broadbrook Gardens, Emerald's Eatery, Red Onion, Ben & Jerry's, Mexicali, Dunkin Donuts, The Red Cabin, Willowbrook Golf Course, Subway, Teddy's Pizza, Floral Expressions and more! 100% of the money from the sale of the discount cards goes towards Friends of the SW Senior Center. Anyone can purchase the card, no need to be a "senior!" Cards are available in the Human Services office now. Don't delay, start saving today! beginning Sunday, December 11 at the Craft Show.

South Windsor Hosted Statewide Senior Center Conference

The Connecticut Association of Senior Center Personnel (CASCP) recently held their fall conference at the South Windsor Senior Center. Over 30 senior centers were represented and heard a speaker on Mindfulness and Ways to Avoid Burnout, followed by a Beat the Buzzer game with questions about the various senior centers present. This was a fun and interactive way to learn about what other centers are doing, a great opportunity to network and a way to showcase the South Windsor Senior Center!



Like us on FACEBOOK!
Facebook.com/swseniorcenter

Youth & Family Services

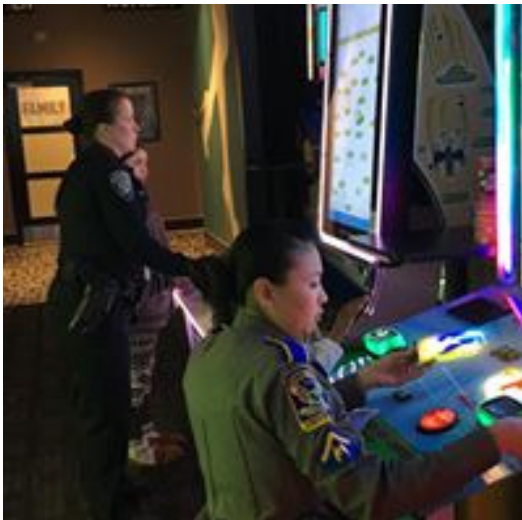
Elizabeth Langevin, Director of Youth and Family Services



December 2016



This month Youth & Family Services had the privilege of teaming up with some staff from our schools to help identify 10 youth to participate in the annual Shop With A Cop event sponsored by The Reach Foundation. It was a fun filled and heart warming night to watch the glow in children's eyes as they teamed up with local law enforcement, played some games at Dave & Busters and then



paraded over to Target- with lights & sirens!- to shop together for the child's family or for a family in need from their own community.

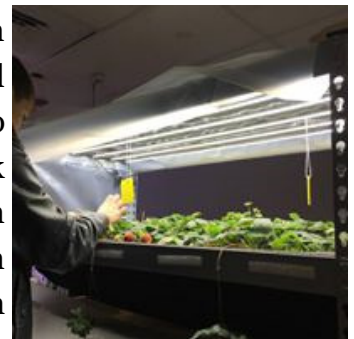
Teen Center

The Teen Center was filled with fun and games during the month of December! Both middle school and high school drop in hours provided times for creativity



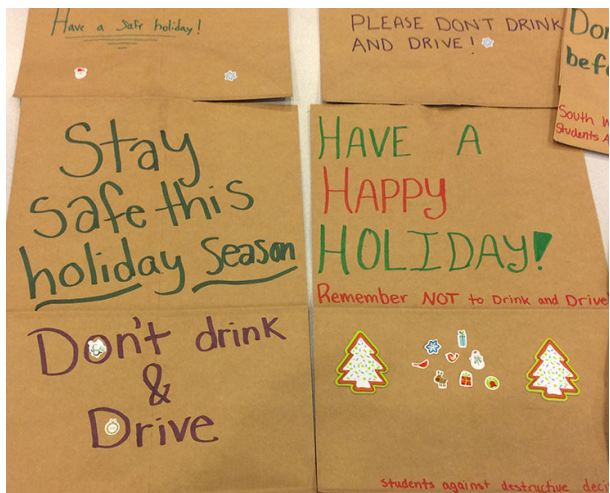
and crafts – like making gingerbread houses, holiday games – like the “tree wrap” contest and other “Minute to Win It” holiday inspired

challenges! Our high school Youth Council Group continued to volunteer every week at the Indoor Garden and have been learning a lot from our guide, Dr. Richard Fu of Agrivolution, LLC.



School Outreach

The SWHS Students Against Destructive Decisions Club worked on a Liquor Store



Project at the start of December. The students contacted local liquor stores to request their participation in the project. Five stores agreed to let them decorate some of their bags with safe holiday and safe driving messages. The students wanted to remind our community to not drink and drive and to never give alcohol to minors. It was a powerful reminder that our choices make a difference.

Parent Education and Support



Our Parent Educator has been busy planning some new and exciting programs for SWAN in 2017! A Meet and Greet is scheduled for January 12, 2017 at the Community Center from 6:30-7:30pm. Families are invited to stop in and learn more about programs and services being offered.

Starting in January, there will be a New Parent Support Group to target new parents. The goal is to provide support and an outlet for parents who may be experiencing isolation as a new parent. The group will help

new moms and dads connect by discussing issues and challenges related to being a new parent. This group will provide an open forum to acquire information, share ideas, and reflect on the process of adjusting to being a new parent.

Also, be on the look out for Father's Talk, another new group in the works, which will be a support group for father's raising their children.

Youth Counseling



To encourage thinking mindfully about food and healthy eating, Eileen Adler, Youth Counselor, hosted a Healthy Holiday Treats Program for families with guest presenter Linda Byam, Certified Food For Life Instructor and Health Coach. Families participated in fun, interactive demonstrations and discussion to learn more about the benefits of making healthy snack choices.

Please check out our website, for all upcoming events.

<http://www.southwindsor.org/youth-family-services>



Parks & Recreation Department

Raymond Favreau
Director of Parks & Recreation

“Discover the Benefits!”

John Caldwell, Jr.
Superintendent of Parks

MONTHLY REPORT - January 3, 2017

Keri Apt
Asst. Director of Parks &
Recreation



From, South Windsor Parks & Recreation



Park & Recreation Commission (PARC)

– The next PARC meeting is Wednesday, Jan. 11th at 7:30pm in the Sprenkel Room of the Town Hall.

The South Windsor Walk & Wheel Ways

(SWW&WW) sub-committee meets next on Wed., Jan. 4th. Members are wrapping up the application for the next round of CT Recreational Trails grants from DEEP was successfully submitted on Dec. 9th, six days prior to the deadline and the very first one received by DEEP. The grant is for potential public access to the Eversource power line corridors for cross-town trails specifically connecting the existing Jacques Lane trail to

Pleasant Valley Road, and Clark Street. DEEP will short list projects from the initial submission sometime in February for a second round application process for awarding in May, 2017. There is only \$650,000 available for trail grants in the state of CT so competition will be fierce. They will host their first winter Full Moon Hike on Friday, Jan. 13th at Nevers Park. All interested should meet at the Rotary Pavilion at 7:15pm. The 1.5 mile hike will begin at 7:30pm with or without snow and ends with hot chocolate by the gas fire pit!

The South Windsor FOOD Alliance (SWFA)

The 2016 Winter Indoor Farmer's Market ended on Dec. 17th. Watch for details on the 2017 outdoor market starting in mid-June! Go to www.swfood.org for more details.

Like us on Facebook - The number keeps growing - we are now “liked” by 1,591 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 SWPRDo6074!!

Special Invitation to Councilors – SAVE THE DATE: 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 – January enrollment across the five elementary schools is at a historical high of 341 up 11 registrants from December! Our previous high of 340 occurred last March. (The Early Release program to support the BOE professional development program is on break until late March). The entire 4th “R” program staff adopted 2 children for the holidays! This was done through the Human Services Department Adopt-A-Child program. Together the 4th “R” staff members generously donated a total of \$271, and we were able to purchase both needed and wished for items for a 5 year old boy and a 7 year old girl in the South Windsor community who would not have received any presents otherwise. We are very proud of this dedicated and caring staff! We will be meeting with all of the elementary building principals on Jan. 23rd to discuss the 2017-2018 academic year and plans to transition from five to four sites with the closing of Wapping School and the need to expand the program to accommodate a rapidly growing wait list.

Wreaths Across America – Approximately 70 dedicated people braved winter's first snow storm to attend this annual ceremony sponsored by American Legion Post 133 and the SW Patriotic Commission. The event was once again held at the eagle patio and new memorial wall at Veterans Memorial Park on Saturday, Dec. 17 at 12pm. Parks and Rec. staff did an outstanding job keeping the site open and safe for this event despite an uncooperative Mother Nature.



***Wreaths Across America 2016 at VMP,
Sat., Dec. 17th.***



Skate with Santa – 250 residents enjoyed an evening of ice skating, visiting with Santa and hot chocolate on Saturday, 12/10, from 6:00-7:30pm at the South Windsor Arena. A whopping 165 toys were collected to donate to Toys for Tots which staff successfully delivered on Monday, Dec. 19th in plenty of

time for distribution to needy children in the Hartford area.

Letters to Santa – Local youth obviously loved this holiday attraction as 105 letters were received and personally responded to! The letters to Santa mailbox was located under the gazebo at Nevers Park (at the corner of Nevers and Sand Hill Roads) from Dec. 5 through the 23rd. All those that included a return address received a special response from Santa (with a little help from Parks & Rec. staff)! Please see sample at the end of the report for just a taste of the season.

Youth Basketball – Enrollment numbers for the 2016-2017 season holding strong with an unexpected dip in the girls divisions:

Challenger	(Still Enrolling)	12
Mighty Mites	(Still Enrolling)	113
More Mighty Mites	(Still Enrolling)	84
Beginner Boys		70
Beginner Girls		40
Junior Girls		58
Junior Boys		84
Intermediate Boys		80
Intermediate Girls		0
Advanced Boys		74
Advanced Girls		0
Senior Boys		103
Senior Girls		40
Travel Boys		43
Travel Girls		40
Rec Performance Plus Boys		12
(Still enrolling)		
Rec Performance Plus Girls		2
(Still enrolling)		
Total		855

Wapping Re-Purposing – Contractor Silver/Petrucelli has completed their assessment of the building and delivered their final report and cost estimates. Town staff has reviewed the final report by contractor Silver/Petrucelli and presented findings and preliminary options for moving forward to the Town Manager. Additional work is needed to re-group and develop an affordable plan. Town staff is going back to the drawing board and the new goal is to have something concrete in the next few months.

PARKS DIVISION

“Caring for South Windsor’s Growing Needs”

December Activity Highlights:

- **Athletic Fields & Grounds:**
 - o Completed some last minute final over-seeding and fertilization at Rye Street Park and the new open space at the Barton Property to provide a stronger boost to the Spring germination.
 - o Removed all batting cage netting, dugout tarps and tennis nets for the winter.
- **Parks & Open Space:**
 - o We continue to work on a fourth trail loop geared for beginner mountain biking at Rye Street Park. It was incorrectly reported as completed in last month’s report – our apologies.
 - o New Rotary Pavilion II at VMP – We anticipate receiving the architectural drawings and details for the kitchen and restroom very soon and will then pull the building permit so

construction can begin and continue weather permitting through the winter.

- o Replenished wood chip beds beneath and around ropes course elements at Nevers Park.
- Projects:
 - o Kevin's Kourt – This inclusive basketball feature soon to be added to My friend's Place received a very generous donation of \$14,000 from residents Vincent & Diane Prestilio. They were the grand prize winners of the Chamber of Commerce 2016 Business Expo raffle (\$14,000 in cash) and felt compelled to give back to the community to which they have been a part for over 40 years! We thank the Town Council for agreeing to contribute \$10,000 towards this worthwhile project. We are very close to raising all of the necessary funds to complete this project this Spring! The next committee meeting is scheduled for mid-January.
- Other:
 - o Helped Street Services complete the final pass of the annual leaf harvesting program.
 - o Winterized and stowed all turf equipment until Spring.
 - o Prepared all winter equipment for anticipated snow and ice treatment.
 - o We once again delivered free Christmas trees to needy households in town identified by Human Services. With only 6 deliveries needed this year (last year we had 24) we are hopeful that this is a good sign that hardship

cases are on the decline and things are looking brighter for those less fortunate!

- o Completed re-building the used Holder snow removal equipment and it is now ready to put into operation for winter use.
- o Responded to winters' first major storm the weekend of Fri., 12/16-Sun., 12/18.



Parks crew members Mike Samsel & Jake Burnham deliver free Christmas trees to those in need.



06074 taken to the next level – a replica T-shirt Christmas tree ornament created by a parent of a 4th R participant – Awesome!



Girls' Beginner Basketball (Grades 3 & 4) at Wapping School

***4th R gets a surprise visit from
Hartford Wolf Pack mascot "Sonar"***



Seasons Greetings from the 4th R

DeAR SANTA

How Are you? How do

you make presents

so fast?

Callie N. my brother. Would

like Frank.

I would like an

easel.

how Do reindeer

fly?

Love

Allie Scott

age 5

January 2017 Town Council Meetings and Events

Meetings

Tuesday, January 3, 2017

7:00 p.m. Regular Meeting

Council Chambers

Tuesday, January 17, 2017

7:00 p.m. Regular Meeting

Council Chambers

Holidays

Monday, January 2, 2017

Town Offices Will Be Closed in Observance of New Year's Day

Monday, January 16, 2017

Town Offices Will Be Closed in Observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

Layout by Ashley Booth, Executive Secretary to the Town Manager

