

Town of South Windsor

Town Manager's Report January 2016

Matthew B. Galligan
Town Manager



The Town Manager's Report will be presented verbally at the January 4th Town Council Meeting.

Matthew B. Galligan
Town Manager

Police Department

Timothy M. Edwards
Chief of Police

SWPD receives a \$13,000 donation for Body Cameras:

The Hartford-Evergreen Lodge #88 of Freemasons located on Main Street has given the South Windsor Police Department another donation of \$13,000.00 to purchase another 13 body-worn cameras. The lodge donated the initial \$13,000 in May 2015 to start up the body camera program with 12 cameras and upon hearing of that initial success; they donated another \$13,000 to equip every patrol officer with a camera. A press release will follow in the next few days.

Retirement:

Agent Michael J. Russotto is retiring this month after 30 years of service to the South Windsor Police Department. Mike was hired in 1985 by Chief William Ryan. He has served as a Patrol Officer, Field Training Officer, Traffic Reconstructionist, Criminal Investigator, Honor Guard member, and Patrol Supervisor. He is the recipient of both Chief's Awards and Lifesaving Awards. Agent Russotto worked his last shift on Christmas day so that other officers could have the day off with their families.

Metro Traffic Services- Commercial Vehicle Inspections:

On Monday, December 14th, officers assigned

to Metro Traffic Services conducted Commercial vehicle inspections on Route 5. Officers conducted 4 Inspections, initiated 4 Traffic Stops, took 1 truck out of service for defective brakes, and issued 3 Infractions and 1 motor vehicle summons.

Charity Event- "Stuff a Truck" Results:

A "Stuff a Truck" event was held on Saturday, Dec. 12th at both Geisslers and Stop and Shop. The South Windsor Police, Fire and ASM staff, along with other volunteers received 3500 food items, \$1900 cash and gift cards, and 1,000 toys and clothing items. This generosity will give so many South Windsor families a happy and joyous holiday season.

South Windsor Police Officer receives Award for High Academy Grades:

South Windsor Police Officer Jacob P. Truebig was awarded the Samuel J. Luciano Achievement Award on Thursday, Dec. 10th, at the winter meeting of the Connecticut Police Chiefs Association. The award is given annually to the police academy student having the highest grade point average in the recruit training class.

Officer Truebig earned a 97.1 grade point average at the academy, placing him first in his class of 49 officers. Officer Truebig graduated from the University of Connecticut

with a double major and is also an Emergency Medical Technician. SWPD Officer Jared Richards attended the same academy class and also did extremely well; he finished third out of 49 candidates.

SWPD Assists "One Warm Coat":

Each year we assist "One Warm Coat" which is a nationwide program based out of Boston. We work with local retailers such as Eddie Bauer, Brooks Brothers, and Carhartt in the Evergreen Walk shops. The South Windsor Police Department is proud to be a coordinating partner in this initiative. The stores begin to collect donated coats in November and give incentives such as 25 percent off a new coat with a donation of a coat. We have donated the clothing to The Cornerstone Foundation in Rockville. They are a homeless shelter and a clothing bank. So far this year we have collected 57 coats that will help our neighbors in need keep warm this winter.

Additional information is available at: <http://cornerstone-rockville.org/clothing-bank/>

Public Works Department

Michael J. Gantick
Director of Public Works

Administration

This fall Public Works Supervisor Ron Asselin retired after 32 plus year of service. Ron was instrumental in our state leading program on salt management practices; he coordinated the annual leaf harvest program and many other critical community service programs; and he spent countless hours over the years being on the front lines of many of South Windsor's worst natural emergency events. Ron's retirement is well deserved and he will be missed. Ron was our Town Garage "Meteorologist" --so we are hoping for a mild winter until we find someone with his weather predicting abilities.

The Public Works Department is pleased to announce that Vincent Stetson has been hired as Superintendent of Streets. Vincent comes to South Windsor with a wealth of construction/management experience. We look forward to Vincent leading our Street Service's team to next level of Public Works Excellence over the years to come.

Health Department

Heather Oatis
Environmental Health Officer

January is National Radon Month. It is a perfect time for you to protect your family by testing your home for radon. Radon is a colorless, odorless, tasteless gas, so testing is the only way to know if radon is present in your home or school. Test kits are available in home improvement centers, hardware stores and online. They cost approximately \$20. The kits are simple to use with easy testing and mailing instructions. Please visit www.radonmonth.org to learn more.

The South Windsor Health Department has been working with the Department of Environmental and Energy Protection (DEEP) to close out two Water Supply Consent Orders dating back to 1987. These orders were originally issued so that the town could apply for a potable water grant to ensure that all domestic wells identified would have a long-term supply of potable water. The Remediation Division of the Bureau of Water Protection and Land Reuse Department has reviewed all correspondence and analytical reports provided by the Town and both orders have been deemed to be in compliance based on the work the Town conducted.



Human Services Department

Adult & Senior Services

Andrea Cofrancesco, Director of Adult and Senior Services

Medicare Counseling

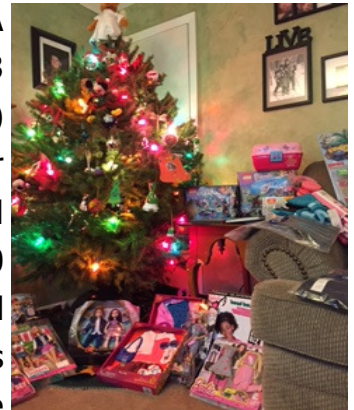
Caseworkers, who are trained CHOICES counselors, have helped a total of **118 people** with their Medicare choices during the annual open enrollment period. This is in addition to the countless number of people who are helped with the Medicare Savings Program, a financial assistance program that helps low income beneficiaries with their Part B and Part D premiums.

Holiday Programs

Thanksgiving Baskets: A total of **193 families serving 457 people** received Thanksgiving baskets, consisting of a turkey or gift card and all the fixings for a turkey dinner. Civic groups, churches, local businesses, scout groups and individuals made it possible to serve so many South Windsor families, including the elderly.



Adopt a Child: A total number of **203 children** (88 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!!

Food and Fuel Bank Donations Coming in!

The community continues to bring in monetary donations to the Food and Fuel Bank during this holiday season! Pictured on the next page are just two of many businesses and civic groups that have come through to help their neighbors this year!



Salvation Army Bell Ringers

Volunteers rang the bells at the SW Stop and Shop on the Saturday before Christmas. It was the coldest day of the year! A total of \$847 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: Mary Cofrancesco)



Like us on FACEBOOK!

Facebook.com/swseniorcenter

Youth & Family Services

Elizabeth Langevin, Director of Youth and Family Services



December 2015

Youth Counseling

We held a holiday card party for 3rd through 5th graders on December 9th, with **19 kids** attending! We decorated cards which were then brought to a local nursing home and shared with the seniors who may not receive holiday gifts.



Test Anxiety for High School Students and Parents will be held on **January 13th from 7 to 8 pm**. Come learn some ways to manage the anxiety of midterms and other exams. Parents will have a separate workshop and learn ways to support their teenagers during this stressful time. To register, call Eileen Adler at 860-648-6361 x324

The bereavement group at the high school wrapped up this month. Youth Counselor

and Director will begin a girls group at the high school in February.

Parent Education and Support



SWAN hosted a presentation by RAMAPO for Children for **21** parents on December 9. Parents and caregivers of children with learning challenges learned techniques for communicating by using visuals, and non-verbal cues. They also learned strategies for preventing and reducing difficult behaviors and ways of advocating effectively for their child's needs in school and the community.

School Outreach

SWHS SADD (Students Against Destructive Decisions) decorated bags for local liquor stores with messages about the importance of making good decisions concerning alcohol. Some messages included reminders about not giving alcohol to underage youth and to not drink and drive. Thank you to the local



liquor stores who agreed to participate in this important project.

Teen Center

December was full of fun, games and crafts at the Teen Center. High school attendance continued strong with a daily average of **31 students!** During regular drop in hours, high school students had the chance to decorate the teen center for the holidays, color mandalas and make holiday greeting cards for family and friends. One afternoon we filled up a large envelope of cards to send to eight year old Safyre Terry in Schenectady New York – as it was her Christmas Wish to receive cards from around the world after she lost her father and siblings and suffered severe burns from a house fire in 2013. After hearing her story, teens wrote some uplifting and kinds words to send her way.

Middle school students kept the holiday and winter spirit alive on Friday nights from playing holiday charades to participating in a "Buddy the Elf Trivia" challenge to playing in an air hockey tournament. We had **39 members** present for the air hockey tournament – so whether you were playing or not, the energy was high, positive and fantastic! Some Teen Center members also enjoyed a nature scavenger hunt and hike in Nevers Park during winter vacation.

SWHS students continue to show their care and commitment to helping others by volunteering their time and sharing their

many talents! The Teen Center Youth Council painted holiday ornaments to give to families at the Tri Town Shelter in Vernon and started organizing a fundraiser to collect canned goods, food and pillows for the residents. Three members braved the December cold to ring the bell at SW Stop & Shop to help raise money for the Salvation Army and give back to SW residents in need. Two other Teen Center members also shared their musical talents while playing the piano for SW Senior Citizens during their December Early Bird Dinner.



In January we look forward to expanding our Youth Council volunteer efforts by teaming up with the SW Adult & Senior Services Division again and working with the Tri Town

Shelter in Vernon and Manchester Area Conference of Churches (MACC) Charities. Middle school students can expect weekly events on Friday evenings in January, such as SW Trivia Night and Fruit Smoothies & Fitness. High school students can expand their awareness and test their knowledge with planned activities during National Drug & Alcohol Facts week (Jan 25-21 2016).

Check us out on Facebook and on the Town Website for upcoming events!



BLAST BABYSITTING CLASS

BLAST is EXCITING and INTERACTIVE, providing extensive training in pediatric first aid, household safety and the fundamentals of childcare.

THIS CLASS IS FOR 14 TO 17 year olds that are ready to get hired!

The BLAST program will help prepare you to interview for a babysitting job, select safe and suitable games and activities, prevent accidents, perform first-aid and begin

babysitting safely and competently.

This course was designed by the American Academy of Pediatrics

**Thursday, February 11th
10am to 2pm
Cost is \$30 (lunch provided)**

**To register:
liz.langevin@southwindsor.org or 860-
648-6361 x331
SPACE IS LIMITED!**

Please check out our Parent Talk Newsletter, available on the town website for more upcoming events!



Parks & Recreation Department

Raymond Favreau
Director of Parks & Recreation

John Caldwell, Jr.
Superintendent of Parks

"Discover the Benefits!"

MONTHLY REPORT - January 4, 2016

Ryan Kane
Asst. Director of Parks & Recreation

Park & Recreation Commission (PARC) –
The next PARC meeting is Wednesday, Jan. 13th at 7:30pm in the Sprenkel Room of the Town Hall, at which they will continue work on the master plan.

The South Windsor Walk & Wheel Ways (SWW&WW) sub-committee meets next on Wednesday, Jan. 6th at the Community Center, conference room 206 at 7pm. They are continuing their work on action plans for potential public access to the Eversource power line corridors for cross-town trails connecting the existing Jacques Lane trail to Pleasant Valley Road. They also began the laborious task of re-applying to the League of American Bicyclist to elevate their bicycle friendly community designation from bronze to silver. The application deadline is February 15, 2016.

The South Windsor FOOD Alliance (SWFA) The Winter market at the Church Hall of St. Margaret Mary's has closed for the season. Exciting plans for the summer 2016 market are already in progress. Go to www.swfood.org for more details.

SWHS Stadium – John Caldwell and I have been working with Matt Galligan and the neighbors on Mountain View Road to develop options and cost estimates to potentially provide a sound and visual barrier between the private properties and the high school stadium.

Like us on Facebook - The number keeps growing - we are now "liked" by 1,114 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., Jan. 15 (evening), Sat., Jan. 16 (all day) & Sun., Jan. 17 (all day) stop by the Timothy Edwards Middle School Gym to see great local hoop action at our Annual Fred Hammick Memorial Basketball Tournament for Boys. As always, we offer all members of the Town Council an open invitation to visit any of our 350+ 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 is at yet another all-time high of 336! Our now "famous" 06074 T-shirts made quite an impression on a mom of a 4th R participant who made and shared reasonable facsimile cookies with everyone at the site right before the holiday – how cool is that?! (see photo).

Skate with Santa – The annual event held on Sat., Dec 12 from 6 to 7:30pm at the South Windsor Arena drew nearly 300 skating dare-devils donating 147 new unwrapped toys to benefit "Toys for Tots"!

Letters to Santa – This new opportunity was well received with 67 letters collected and forwarded to Santa for response. The dedicated mail box was positioned beside the

"Giving Tree" at the gazebo at Nevers Park. St. Nick wrote personal messages back to all the children and he in turn received a number of "thank you" notes from some of the "young believers"!! The "super-sized elf" has asked us to repeat this helpful service to him next year!!

Veterans Memorial Park – We were ecstatic with the fantastic turn out for the annual Wreaths Across America Ceremony on Sat., December 12th at 12pm presented by the South Windsor Patriotic Commission with over 400 people attending on a unseasonably warm and beautiful day!!

Youth Basketball Leagues – A total of 938 youth in 13 different divisions are playing basketball every Saturday across most gymnasiums in town practically all day and often into the evening hours! Divisional breakdown is as follows:

DIVISION	GENDER	GRADE	# OF PLAYERS
Challenger	Co-Ed	Special Needs	7
Mighty Mites	Co-Ed	K & 1	161
More Mighty Mites	CO-Ed	2 & 3	76
Beginner Boys	Male	3 & 4	100
Beginner Girls	Female	3 & 4	59
Junior Girls	Female	5 & 6	60
Junior Boys	Male	5 & 6	88
Intermediate Boys	Male	7 & 8	89
Intermediate Girls	Female	7 & 8	0
Advanced Boys	Male	9 & 10	91
Advanced Girls	Female	Combined w/ Sr. Div.	0
Senior Boys	Male	11 & 12	86
Senior Girls	Female	9, 10, 11 & 12	40
Travel	Male	5,6,7 & 8	42
Travel	Female	5,6,7 & 8	39
Rec Plus	Male	5 & 6	11 (included with Jr. Boys)
Rec Plus	Male	7 & 8	20 (included with Inter. Boys)
TOTAL			938

PARKS DIVISION***"Caring for South Windsor's
Growing Needs"***

December Activity Highlights:

- Athletic Fields & Grounds:
 - o Experimented with our first-ever top-dressing application of a sand/loam/compost blended material at the all-purpose fields at the high school and the field hockey field at Timothy Edwards to level the playing surface and fortify the turf. This was then followed up with broadcast seeding and dragging the entire playing surfaces to hopefully get a leg up on spring growth.
 - o Removed all netting from athletic fields' goals & batting cages for the winter.
- Parks & Open Space:
 - o Completed final rough cut mowing at open space properties on Frazier Fir, Deming Street, Avery Street, Collins sledding hill and Wildlife sanctuary as well as sidewalks at open space properties.
 - o We were finally able to get to edging sidewalks along open spaces and Nevers Park.
 - o Low areas and sections of trail with exposed tree roots received a dose of wood chips to improve the walking surface for our users of the wonderful trail system at the Donnelley Preserve.
- Projects:
 - o As another experiment we installed an insulated rain barrel at the Bark Park to hopefully provide drinking water for the dogs throughout the winter when the water fountains on site are unavailable.
 - o Memorial Wall Project at VMP. Granite was delivered Dec. 14th and excavation began Dec. 17th. The goal is to have the project complete in time for a Memorial Day ceremony & dedication. The Parks Division will assist numerous local contractors who are providing hours and hours of in-kind contributions.
 - o Thanks to the generous donation by Rob Mannarino of Mannarino Builders staff from the parks and recreation divisions teamed up to cut and deliver 25 Christmas trees to deserving families in town diligently identified and referred through the Human Services Dept. This random act of kindness caught the attention of WFSB Channel 3 who did a terrific spot during the evening newscast on Dec. 3. The video can be seen at the following link: <http://www.wfsb.com/story/30661043/south-windsor-park-and-rec-department-deliver-christmas-trees-to-those-in-need> . Nicely done Mike, Steve, Dave T., Brian, Lauren, Cheryl & John!!!
 - o Ayers Road Softball Field – repaired two panels of sidewalk along Ayers

- Road accidentally damaged during loaming and seeding operation.
- o Barton Property Project - The initial phase of tree clearing, stump removal and rough grading is nearing completion. Phase two, which is for a gravel ring road, and phase three for finish grading and seeding will go out to bid this winter for projected work in Spring 2016.
- o As a result of productive discussion at our annual review crew members began acting on their idea planning for, marking out and clearing a trail for mountain biking and walking through the wooded area between the railroad tracks and the athletic fields at Rye Street Park. Designed by crew member Mike Hanrahan, who is an avid veteran mountain biker, the nearly two mile trail incorporates a variety of elements that appeal to beginners and challenges more experienced bikers and hikers. Three bridges, that will be constructed and installed in-house, will be necessary to cross the River Dry Brook and gullies. We are excited that this will be the first mountain biking trail within our park system and we hope to have it ready for public use this spring. It will also add value to the South Windsor Walk & Wheel Ways effort to attain silver designation as a Bicycle Friendly Community through the League of American Bicyclist.
- Other:
 - o Drum roll please.....27,0875+ cubic yards of leaves were picked up during the leaf harvesting program. That's 6,000 more than last year. Great team effort by Street & Fleet Services of DPW and Parks crews!!
 - o Had the bed on trucks 74 & 72 refurbished as a cost-saving measure versus replacing the entire vehicle.
 - o Winterized all summer small equipment and stowed for the winter.
 - o Serviced and tested all small snow removal equipment in preparation for eventual winter storms.
 - o Transported bike fleet trailer to and from the Bike Shop at Town Center for annual servicing there.
 - o Finished up with final leaf collection at all public parks & grounds as well as some curb-side residential.
 - o On Friday, Dec. 11th we successfully conduct our annual review with the entire Parks Division staff to evaluate how things went over the past year, celebrate our successes, devise corrective measures where identified and determine our goals for the coming year.
 - o Transported portable adjustable basketball goals from storage to Eli terry and Philip R. Smith Schools for use by our Mighty Mite Hoop participants.



147 toys collected at Skate with Santa donated to "Toys for Tots"!!



Really cool 06074 T-shirt cookies for the holidays!!!



67 Letters to Santa and bags full of non-perishable food items were collected at the Giving Tree gazebo at Nevers Park this holiday season.



Over 400 attended annual Wreaths Across America ceremony on Sat., Dec. 12 at VMP!



Left: Computer generated rendition of the Memorial Wall coming soon to VMP thanks to S.W. Patriotic Commission!



Truck 74 with refurbished bed



Free Christmas trees were presented to 25 deserving families. Mike Hanrahan poses with one such grateful resident.



Steve Linton delivers a tree - service with a smile!



Left: Each of the trees was tastefully tagged. Designed by our own Lauren Bent!



Santa bringing out "holiday emotions" at SW Arena!



Nearly 300 folks participated in our annual Skate with Santa event on Sat., Dec. 12th at the S.W. Arena.

January 2016 Town Council Meetings and Events

Meetings

Monday, January 4, 2016
7:00 p.m. Regular Meeting
Council Chambers

Tuesday, January 19, 2016
7:00 p.m. Regular Meeting
Council Chambers

Holidays

Monday, January 18, 2016
Town Offices Will Be Closed in Observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Layout by Ashley Summers, Executive Secretary to the Town Manager

