

Town of South Windsor

Town Manager's Report January 2021

Michael Maniscalco
Town Manager



COVID-19 Update- I will have updated numbers at the time of the Council meeting. The Health Department has been working with MDA 31 to distribute vaccines to the tier 1-A individuals. The State is still working out the 1-B designation. At this time, the State has only received approximately 116,000 doses of vaccine, and to date is reporting the distribution of about 1/3.

Town Staff are planning a testing event for the public on January 14th, from 9am to 2 pm at Fire Headquarters.

Economic Indicators- In November there were 876 claims for unemployment, equaling a 6% unemployment rate which can be compared to a Statewide unemployment rate of 7.7%. These numbers are up from October, when South Windsor had an unemployment rate of 4.5% with 644 claims. It should be noted that the State of CT Department of Labor numbers are not seasonally adjusted, so they do not account for individuals who work during warmer months and then collect unemployment in the colder months.

As of noon on December 30, 2020, our overall collection rate is 65.38%. Below is a table comparing to December 30, 2019.

	2018 Grand List	2019 Grand List
Real Estate	64.72%	62.72%
Personal Property	66.85%	64.47%
Motor Vehicle	95.48%	95.64%

Please note that due to the personal property audit, bills are continuously added as the audits are finalized. Our numbers are a bit lower compared to last year, but this should even itself out over the course of the year as we continue to use our collection tools.



Police Department

Kristian R. Lindstrom
Chief of Police

Monthly Statistics November 2020:

Each month we publish the totals of some of our more common calls for service. We have seen some minor fluctuations in activity levels as school schedules change and COVID-19 trends shift. Patrol staff continue to proactively check businesses and facilities that remain closed due to the public health crisis.

November's numbers are below:

November Statistics

Total Computer Aided Dispatch Entries:	2790
9-1-1 Calls Received:	686
Routine Calls Received/Outgoing:	4224
Directed Patrol/Premise Checks:	1323
Motor Vehicle Stops:	317
Medical Assists/Emot. Dist. Persons:	113
Suspicious:	115
Alarms:	89
Motor Vehicle Accidents:	27
Welfare Check:	49
Assist Outside Agency:	32
Animal Problem:	35
Citizen Assist:	20
Miscellaneous Service:	8
Collision Reports:	18
BOLO:	23
Disabled Motor Vehicle:	26
Larceny:	16
Hazardous Conditions:	37
Pistol Permits:	43
Burglary:	14
Civil Matter:	10
911 Check:	4
Fraud:	10
Domestic Dispute:	12
Narcotics Violation:	6
Violation of Town Ordinance:	12
Youth Problem:	6
Sexual Assault:	0

COVID-19 Update:

The last month saw a strong surge in local COVID 19 cases and discussion. Perhaps the influx was catalyzed by Thanksgiving gatherings, but regardless, numbers were on the increase. The "second wave" of COVID brought numbers of cases higher than the first wave that was experienced in the Spring. "Pandemic fatigue", although an informal term, seems very real as the list of people's needs lengthens while their patience and tempers shorten. The annual stress of the holidays only added to the many factors impacting the community's response to COVID. The Police Department continues to assist the Health Department by responding to mask and social distancing complaints. As has been the case in past months, police personnel have been largely successful in obtaining voluntary compliance from the public without having to issue fines. That being said, agency personnel have been briefed on the authority of Governor Lamont's executive order and how enforcement of that order through infractions can be utilized if need be. The name of the game seems to be patience and communicating simple effective messages to stakeholders.

The month of December saw several Police Department members needing to quarantine as family members became ill or they themselves felt symptomatic, however, to date, our staff has remained healthy.

December 2020 marked a milestone with COVID as the first vaccines were approved and Operation Warp Speed was initiated by the United States Army and Federal Government. Warp Speed laid out the logistics for wide scale vaccinations and police department staff began receiving the

Police Department

Kristian R. Lindstrom
Chief of Police

vaccine by December 21st and all of the personnel who want the vaccine should have it the first dose by the end of the first week of January.

Personnel and Recruiting Status:

The strength of the South Windsor Police Department always has been, and continues to be, the staff who keep things moving day in and day out. Officer Pierpont continues to advance through her field training program. Ofc. Kyle Kolcharno began his employment with our agency on Monday, December 28th and will start his police academy training virtually on January 8th.

This month the selection process took place for a new Records Specialist and Alexis Collins has accepted employment with our agency. She will begin work here after the new year.

The hiring process for dispatchers is underway to fill the vacancy created by Dispatcher Bowman's resignation.

Additionally, the selection process for the position of Deputy Chief began during December and a new Deputy Chief should be selected shortly after the New Year starts.

Local and National Protests and Social Movements:

The South Windsor Police Department remains strongly opposed to racism and biased policing. It continues to serve the public with the element of its mission to "Respect the Rights of Individuals" in mind.

December was similar to the months of October and November where we saw a noticeable reduction in public demonstrations in South

Windsor. Despite this reduction in events, the agency continues to monitor these events and will respond appropriately to ensure people's 1st Amendment rights can be celebrated and not infringed upon.

As an agency, and as a profession, we continue to stand ready to engage in crucial conversations to make meaningful change that enhances the world that we live in.

Community Activities and Support from our Citizens:

As has been the case in previous months, the public health crisis continues to impact our ability to host and be involved in various community policing events. Despite this impact, we have been able to modify our practices and begin to re-engage the public.

In the month of December, we conducted two toy drives (spearheaded by Sgt. Elsie Diaz) that collected toys for local families in need during the Holiday season. These events were held locally with COVID precautions in place to maximize the safety of event organizers and participants.

The police department started a YouTube channel that will be used to broadcast information to the public. New initiatives, programs, events, and advisories can all be disseminated through this channel. While there is no substitute for in person gatherings and communication, this channel will hopefully do its part to engage the community in a time when such contact is so critical yet also difficult due to the pandemic.

The holiday season brought numerous donations from the public. While our waistlines would beg to

Police Department

Kristian R. Lindstrom
Chief of Police

differ, the steady stream of sweets, pizzas, gift cards, snacks, etc. was very much appreciated by every member of our agency.

Traffic Safety:

As the COVID environment has reduced the number of daily travelers, we continue to see some high risk behaviors from the motoring public. Distracted driving and driving under the influence continue to be issues that put the motoring public at risk. Add to that the slippery road conditions that can be found this time of year and the importance of motorist safety remains high. Agency personnel remain busy trying to enforce motor vehicle laws while the police department works with Town Highway and Engineering to make sure the roads are well designed, appropriately marked, and optimal for motorist safety.

Police Activity and Significant Events:

The South Windsor Police Department remains active and dedicated to the traditional law enforcement function by responding to the Public's Needs despite our staff having over 100 contacts with known COVID positive individuals.

In the month of December, the police department ordered new police cruisers including its first hybrid vehicle. The hybrid will be used as a dedicated canine vehicle and the hybrid technology is expected to compliment the frequent idling expected from a vehicle that houses a canine.

The months of October and November were busy with a variety of incidents. The investigations unit was able to solve a string of residential burglaries that occurred over the summer. The suspect was

identified using DNA analysis and arrest warrants were obtained for six felony burglary cases.

Officers investigated a sexual assault that was reported on Ident Road. Investigators worked with the State's Attorney's Office to bring that case to a close. Two lives were saved last month when officers administered Narcan to prevent fatal overdoses. The department also worked through the first significant snow storm of the year the week before Christmas when approximately 15" of snow fell in a twenty-four hour period. Sadly, agency personnel have experienced a noticeable uptick in calls for people experiencing emotional distress and disturbances. Noticing this trend, we made sure that our local mental health provider (Community Health Resources) was engaged and called to assist whenever possible and reasonable. In addition, we were sure to maintain contact with our local Human Services Department.

It was a busy couple of months and we will continue to deliver the highest quality public safety product to the Town of South Windsor.

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

This has become a constant reminder over the past couple years, everyone needs to lock their cars. Despite what you may read on social media, these are not "break-ins" or "hotwired" cars. Every car was left unlocked with a key or key fob in it. Often people forget that new cars come with a spare key/keyfob and leave it in the glove compartment.

Most of Connecticut continues to experience car burglaries and car thefts. The towns of Vernon, Tolland and Stafford have been the latest target

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Chief of Police

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 jimmied 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.

The activity seems to be increasing due to several recent factors:

- All schools are out due to COVID-19, eliminating some structure for the youthful suspects, i.e., staying out all night searching unlocked cars is not a problem since they don't have to physically be at school in the morning.
- In addition, recent legislative changes aimed at not stigmatizing juveniles for crimes they have committed mean virtually no consequences if they are caught.
- Moreover, the law was changed prohibiting police from chasing cars except in extremely serious, physical injury crimes.

These factors taken together embolden the would-be car thieves and they have very little, if any, concern about the consequences of being caught.

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 message below has been a frequent post on Facebook and in this monthly report. As we look to recover from COVID-19 as a community and prepare for the “second wave” in the fall, I hope that our citizens will think about all-hazard preparations.

The Ready.gov webpage has great information pages on preparation for natural disasters, severe weather, and active shooters. Please share with friends and family that may rely on you in a severe weather event, or have questions about how to react to an active shooter event.

We have had our share of severe weather in Connecticut and now is a good time to review your plan to protect yourself and your family.

<https://www.ready.gov/>

Follow us on Social Media:

We continue to have a strong presence on Social Media and update our citizens on all kinds of activity. Our Facebook page and Twitter feed are also displayed on our webpage <https://www.southwindsor-ct.gov/police>. We encourage everyone to follow us and share information with friends and family.

Facebook: South Windsor Police Department
Twitter: @SWPD_PIO

Public Works Department

Street Services

Streets and Parks crews wrapped up a challenging leaf harvest for the season. Despite manpower issues, the crews stepped up and made it happen. We were able to complete the program without the use of temporary laborers or traffic services. This was a pretty significant feat, but when faced with challenges, our crews always make it happen and it was completed before the first major snowfall.

Both Streets and Parks crews responded to 4 snow events during the month, one being a major storm with snow totals near one foot.

Streets maintainers removed leaf boxes, cleaned leaf equipment and prepared them for storage.

Now that the leaves are on the hill, maintainers are turning them and adding to the piles to even out the rows and make the best use of the windrow turner.

Crews continued calibrating salt spreaders for the upcoming winter season. Contractor trucks were also brought in and calibrated. Calibrating the equipment is a critical step in our winter operations planning. As good stewards of the environment, we need to closely monitor our salt output to minimize pollution in our waterways.

Streets crews have been busy trimming trees on plow routes to eliminate low hanging branches. Snow plow route drivers also had an opportunity to mark hazards on their routes and familiarize themselves with their districts as some drivers made a switch into new areas.

Our new employees, in both departments, were given instruction on plowing operations in the

parking lots to help maximize their efficiency. Plowing is not just a matter of pushing snow around. There are techniques drivers need to know so they can plow effectively and not create hazards later in the storm such as plowing snow up hill which can lead to refreeze during a thaw/freezing cycle.

The department made several mailbox repairs during the month and are fabricating new mailbox posts and barricades.

The sign shop replaced several signs for an ongoing project with the police department for speed zones in several areas. The shop is also working on signs for the upcoming vaccination clinic. Due to the leaf harvest and the snow events, the sign shop had limited capabilities during the month.

Residents are encouraged to use Connect South Windsor to report hazards.

Visit www.southwindsor-ct.gov/connect or look for the app for iPhones and Androids.

Scott Yeomans
Associate Manager, Street Services

Health Department

Heather Oatis
Environmental Health Officer

The South Windsor Health Department (SW HD) continues to be very busy with the COVID-19 response. The SW HD is working with the Windsor Health Department through our Mass Dispensing Area 31 agreement to start vaccinating Tier 1A personnel in our area. Clinics have been set up in both towns and will be operational as long as there is vaccine to be administered. Moving forward, clinics will be held weekly in Windsor on Tuesday and in South Windsor on Thursday. The SW HD is also hosting more COVID-19 testing events, the next of which is scheduled for January 14, 2021 at Fire Headquarters on Ellington Road from 9am to 2pm.

All three of the new staff hired under the Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity (ELC) Enhancing Detection Cooperative Agreement have started working on contact tracing and compliance monitoring at local businesses. We look forward to their continued support in the COVID-19 response as activities shift towards vaccinations.

In addition to all the activities for COVID-19 response, the SWHD also performed the routine septic inspections required, followed up on many complaints and other requests for service, continued re-licensure of food service establishments for 2021, licensed food trucks for small temporary events, and has assisted with other Emergency Management tasks as needed.

Finance Department

Mary Huda
Assessor

Patricia Perry
Director of Finance

Jennifer Hilinski-Shirley
Collector of Revenue

Collector of Revenue

The Collector of Revenue would like to remind taxpayers that the second installment of real estate and personal property taxes along with supplemental motor vehicle taxes are due January 1, 2021 and the last day to pay without penalty is Monday, February 1, 2021. Supplemental motor vehicle bills were mailed December 28, 2020. To encourage social distancing ACH Fees will be waived for those paying on-line by February 1, 2021.

In compliance with Executive Order 9R the Town of South Windsor continues to offer the Deferment Program that was approved by Resolution on April 20, 2020. The program is an extended grace period program for the taxes due on January 1, 2021 only. What is "deferred" is not a tax but rather the last day to pay without interest. Application Deadline is Wednesday, January 13, 2021, eligibility requirements and the application are available at:

<https://www.southwindsor-ct.gov/home/news/notice-collector-revenue-0>

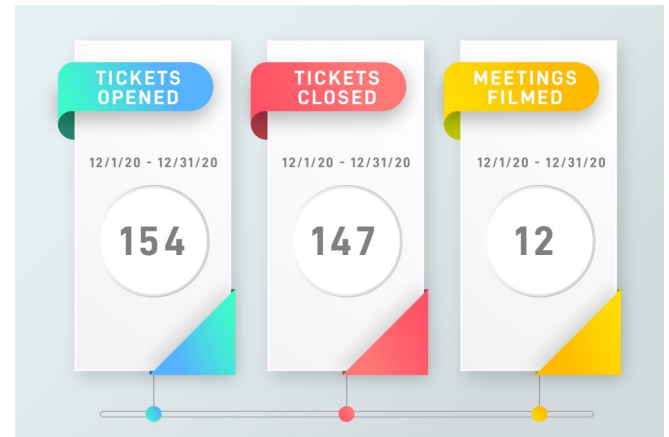
Our office encourages social distancing thru the use of secure drop boxes which are located in the front drive way of Town Hall and mounted to the outside of the front entrance of Town Hall. Please note that the boxes are secure, emptied twice daily by staff and monitored by video. Our office is available to answer questions or schedule an appointment at Town Hall by calling 860-644-2511 extension 321 or emailing taxcollector@southwindsor-ct.gov

Information Technology

Scott Roberts
Assistant Town Manager/CIO/EM

The IT department continues to support other Town departments with their various Covid-19 challenges. This includes the continual cycle of configuring, distributing, receiving, sanitizing, reconfiguring and redistributing remote devices. Post-distribution, supporting and troubleshooting remote access issues with those devices has frequently been required. Additionally, we continue to facilitate, run, and broadcast over 20 virtual meetings for the Town's Boards and Commission meetings.

We also worked with the Town Manager's office and CGI Communications to begin creating and publishing a series of professional videos about the Town of South Windsor that are being posted on our website. The first video in the series is available by clicking on the Community Videos button or Town Spotlight link on our homepage.



Human Services Department

Andrea Cofrancesco
Director of Human Services

Adult & Senior Services

Holiday Adopt a Child Program

A total of 141 children in 68 families were provided with toys, clothing and other items for the holidays in our annual Adopt a Child program, coordinated by Stephen Clapp and assisted by Cindy Malone. Over 60 donors consisting of individuals, civic and school groups, churches and businesses generously donated to neighbors in need so that their children can have a magical Christmas during a not so magical year of COVID. Thank you to all!

Stuff a Truck

Thanks to Sgt. Elsie Diaz for her coordination of this annual event! The Stuff a Truck program brought in over \$1,300 and a truckful of toys for South Windsor families during this holiday season! Thanks to the Police Department for their support, as well as Ambulance Service of Manchester! The residents continue to be so extremely generous. Thank you all!



Renter's Rebate

Caseworkers in Adult and Senior Services have completed 198 applications for those 65+ and people with disabilities. This is a state program that provides a rebate from rent paid for those with limited income. Caseworkers do all applications so that residents can be screened for other programs that may benefit them.

Medicare Open Enrollment

Open Enrollment for Medicare resulted in a total of 103 people being served by our certified CHOICES counselors (Steve Clapp, Andrea Cofrancesco, Lindsey Ravalese and Sue Grundstrom) in the Adult and Senior Services Division. CHOICES counselors provide unbiased information on insurance options to those eligible for Medicare including information on supplemental plans, Medicare Advantage plans and Medicare Part D (prescription drugs).



Merry and Bright Food Bank Donation

The Recreation Department's Merry and Bright contest awarded \$100 to the winner and 8 year old Corbyn's family won! He in turn wanted to donate the winnings to the Food and Fuel Bank! Shown here with his mom, who wanted to bring him to personally hand over the money, because it was his idea! Thank you Corbyn!



Slime for a Cause

Sisters Izzy (age 12) and Olivia (age 10) are young entrepreneurs! They started their slime making business to benefit others! Dubbed "ForeverSistersSlime" they make 4 oz. containers and sell them, and proceeds benefit the Food and Fuel Bank! Check out their Instagram account at "foreeversistersslime." Thank you Izzy and Olivia for thinking of others!



Human Services Department

Andrea Cofrancesco
Director of Human Services

Resources for Food in South Windsor

The following link is a video made by members of Girl Scout Troop 10928 on Food Resources in South Windsor. This was as project the girls worked on as part of their Bronze Award! Great job girls, and THANK you!!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WeKwqsHq6JA&feature=youtu.be>



Interact Club Spreads Holiday Cheer

Thank you to the Interact Club for making cards to bring a little holiday cheer during this tough time! There were so many cards that we were able to distribute them to those receiving meals on wheels, to people who picked up grab and go meals and for those who came to our drive thru events! So thoughtful and creative!



Annual Coat Donation

The CT Chapter of Vietnam Veterans Chapter #120 donated 34 coats for kids again this year. This is something they have been doing for more than 10 years! We appreciate their support!



Drive-Through Events Continue for Older Adults!

- Spaghetti Day: Drive by for a warm serving of spaghetti and meatballs with marinara sauce. Thank you Brookdale! Wednesday, January 6.
- Bag of Baked Goods: Pick up a reusable tote with a baked good in it! Sponsored by Evergreen Crossings. Wednesday, January 13.
- Bagels n Cream Cheese: Friday, January 15. Sponsored by Brookdale
- Corn Chowder Day: Wednesday, January 20. Sponsored by Brookdale!
- Soup n Sandwich: Creamy Tomato soup with a side of tuna fish salad on a croissant. Wednesday, January 27. Sponsored by Brookdale!

Due to the popularity of these events, times are assigned alphabetically according to last name. Registration required.



Youth & Family Services Teen Center

During the end of November and throughout December, the Teen Center has been staying busy with our middle school drop-in hours on Tuesday and Friday afternoons from 1:30-4pm. The students have been participating in a variety

Human Services Department

Andrea Cofrancesco
Director of Human Services

of activities- such as crafts, cookie decorating, and board games while positively engaging with their peers and staff. We continue to encourage the high school students to attend the Teen Center on Monday and Thursday's from 12:30-3pm. The Teen Center continues to follow the same cohort as the school system, and are accepting up to six students at a time. Due to having limited space we are currently running a session for the next two months, giving students the opportunity to reserve a spot in advance.



Our Youth Council members have been busy with new volunteer opportunities. The members recently organized and completed a Donation Drive to support the South Windsor Food & Fuel Bank. Although it was a chilly day, the high school students kept a positive attitude with big smiles, lots of laughs, and were enthusiastic about the successful turnout of their event. To our Youth Council members, you should feel very proud and accomplished! We received countless donations consisting of toiletries, cleaning supplies, and canned goods, along with \$1,000 in cash/check donations. Thank you to those of you who kindly donated, it is greatly appreciated and makes a huge difference especially during the holiday season.



The Youth Council members have planned an upcoming fundraiser that will be taking place through the entire month of January to support a nonprofit called Dignity Grows. This organization provides individuals in need with essential personal hygiene products so they can participate in community life without interruption. We are asking for donations from the community to help the Youth Council purchase these supplies. For as little as \$10, you can help a neighbor in need by providing a month's supply of hygiene products, helping them to be more productive while safeguarding their dignity. Donations can be dropped off or mailed (Attn: Danielle Bifolck) to the Community Center, at 150 Nevers Road in South Windsor from January 1st- February 1st.

Lastly, our Skills for Success program has been a big hit! This 6-week, virtual program was designed for our South Windsor Middle School students, to promote and teach interpersonal skills and the important life skills that they will need to be successful going forward. The students have participated and contributed to the dialogues, and have been learning about various topics. We have discussed how to build and maintain positive relationships, self-management and social-awareness skills, and more! There are only three more dates left for this program- 1/6, 1/13, and 1/20. Call or email Danielle for more information.

Human Services Department

Andrea Cofrancesco
Director of Human Services

S.W.A.N. **Youth Counseling, Parent Education and Support**

We have received nine new referrals for counseling in the month of December. Of the nine, assessments were completed by our Clinical Coordinator on seven. The other two will be assessed this week or next. Of the seven assessments; three were referred out to providers in the community, three were taken on by one of our counselors and one is waiting for services either in the community or by a YFS member. There is currently a wait list from last month of four youth who were deemed not appropriate for a community provider. They are waiting for new full time Youth Counselor to start their position.

YF staff has been able to continue to provide mental health services seamlessly despite the large number of students who have been quarantined and the school's transition to full time distance learning. This seamless transition is due to the flexibility of our staff i.e. sessions in the community and via telehealth.

School Outreach & Prevention

We held our last family drive thru event for 2020 on a sunny December afternoon. 150 people drove thru to pick up family snowflake crafts and holiday cookies. It was fun to check in with local families and see their smiling faces!

The Student Against Destructive Decisions (SADD) Club had a very busy December. They had a virtual meeting with the Director of Cornerstone in Vernon and learned more about the homeless population in our area. They held a sock drive and collected 153 pairs of socks, which will be donated to Cornerstone and the Hartford Police Department's Community Outreach Program.



The club also created a modified "SADD Makes You Happy Day", which is held every December. They created inspirational lawn signs and sidewalk chalk at the high school. They wanted to remind their peers to show kindness to each other and they also wanted to thank school staff for all that they are doing each and every day.

We look forward to resuming our programs and events!

Please check out our Facebook page!

<https://www.facebook.com/SWYouthFamily>
or call Liz at 860-648-6361 x331 for more information

Liz Langevin, LCSW



Parks & Recreation Department

Raymond Favreau
Director of Parks & Recreation

“Discover the Benefits!”

John Caldwell, Jr.
Parks Superintendent

MONTHLY REPORT - January 2021

Keri Montague
Asst. Director of Parks &
Recreation

Park & Recreation Commission (PARC) – Commission will meet next on Wed., Jan. 13th at 7:30pm virtually via WebEx to continue work on the master plan revision.

The South Windsor Walk & Wheel Ways (SWW&WW) – We are hoping to meet soon to re-start work on the cross-town trail project and work on the revision of the SWW&WW Master Plan. The bid for the design of the cross-town trail will be awarded to ANCHOR, an engineering firm out of Glastonbury, CT who has extensive experience working with Eversource on a number of other trail projects.

RECREATION DIVISION

“Feel great – recreate!”

4th “R” – Students participated in PJ Day for the Connecticut Children’s Medical Center. In total, they raised \$346.60 in donations for CCMC!! South Windsor Public Schools is making a temporary move to distance-learning for all students beginning Monday, 12/21 and continuing for one week after the winter break from 1/4-1/8. They will return to in-person schooling on 1/11. 4th “R” is following suit with this, and is also taking a temporary pause for next week, no winter break programming, and for the week of 1/4. We will also return to 4th “R” on 1/11. Families will be provided a pro-rated refund for the time missed in December, and will be charged a pro-rated total for the month of January. All 4th “R” families and staff have been notified of these changes.

Preschool programs have successfully finished their COVID-modified fall session. Our little ones also participated in PJ Day for the Connecticut Children’s Medical Center contributing to the \$346.60 in donations mentioned above. Plans are in the works for a hopeful winter session.

“Parks & Rec December Happenings” COVID-friendly success stories:

- 1) Over 350 people in 122 vehicles attended our first-ever **“Holiday Hello!”** Children were delighted to drive through the Wapping Parks and Recreation Facility parking lot and wave hi to some of their favorite holiday heroes: Santa, The Grinch, and Cindy Lou Who! The kids also received a special treat: a candy-filled candy cane AND some extra holiday festiveness and cheer! Thanks to Dzen Tree Farm for sponsoring this event, and for the South Windsor Fire Department for their collaboration and support!
- 2) **“Guess That Gift”** FaceBook contest – Over 75 facebook guesses were submitted for a fun interactive program for our residents. Every Friday before Christmas a wrapped gift was revealed on our Facebook page. Three clues were listed with each gift. A *New CLUE Alert* was provided randomly, if it wasn’t guessed by the following Monday. The person who guessed the gift first wins what is inside.
- 3) **“Dec the Rec”** Residents of the 06074 community helped us trim several trees outside of the Wapping Parks and Recreation

Facility! Residents were able to pick up a free, one-of-a kind SWPRD wooden ornament to decorate or dedicate to someone special, and then hang it on our tree. 28 residents took advantage of our ornaments, and even more stopped by with decorations or special festive trappings from home to add to our trees! The result was a truly beautiful community collaboration that provided some holiday spirit to all who drove by!

- 4) Our annual **Merry and Bright Holiday Lights Contest** drew 17 participants. Residents registered their festively decorated houses on our website, by Wednesday, December 9 to be entered to win a \$100 cash prize in each of THREE categories! The “Rudolph’s Shiny Nose” Award (for the brightest house, the “Buddy the Elf” Award (for the house with the most holiday spirit) and new this year, the People’s Choice Award – voted on by the 06074 community! On Thurs. evening, 12/17 a secret department “elf” took photos of all the entries for judging by elf colleagues.
- 5) **“Hope for the Holiday”** luminaria event with SW Community Women’s Club on Porter’s Hill
- 6) **Letters to Santa** – The unbelievable results are in!! 608 letters were received and personally responded to by the North Pole!
- 7) **“Christmas Story with Santa”** a live reading of the classic Twas the Night Before Christmas by the jolly ole elf himself on our FaceBook

“Parks & Rec January Happenings” – please see attached mini-brochure for details on some novel ideas to keep families active and healthy to start the New Year!

Once again, we will continue conversations with the BOE for potential increased facility access as winter progresses and gradually expand programming as safely permitted. In the meantime we will continue to develop, promote

and deliver safe alternative activities and programs that can be held outdoors following current health protocol and favorable weather, on a limited basis indoors at Wapping or provide them virtually. We will continue to keep our constituents informed via website, Facebook and mass email blasts as the situation warrants.

PARKS DIVISION

“Caring for South Windsor’s Growing Needs”

December Activity Highlights:

- **Athletic Fields & Grounds:**

- All athletic fields are closed for the winter

- **Projects:**

- New chain link fence installation is all that remains with the re-construction projects at the Pepin Baseball Field and Field “C” at the Little League Complex.
- We will continue working on installation of the new flag pole “garden” by the Wapping Community House at the corner of Sullivan Ave. and Ellington Road now that electricity installation is complete.
- HazMat abatement at both the Priest Farm outbuildings and the house at 1355 Ellington Road is now complete. We will look to do the demolition of the targeted buildings in-house now that leaf harvesting is terminated. The 1355 property will eventually become a second public access point to Wapping Park with signage, a gravel parking lot and connector path.
- Staff will begin designing and fabrication a number of park signs over the winter. The “to-do” list on the drawing board (weather permitting) includes signage for the “John J. Mitchell Fairgrounds at Rye Street Park”, “Alan C. Larson Swim Lanes” at VMP, “Barber Hill Open Space”, and “King Street Open Space”.
- The crew recently assembled and installed solar powered crosswalk signals at Nevers

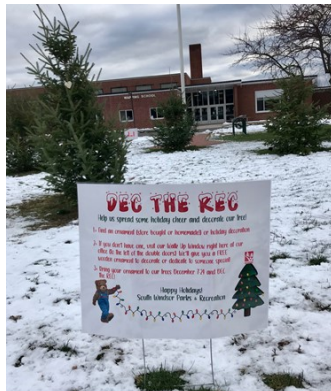
Park to provide much safer pedestrian crossing between the parking lot on the east side of Nevers Road and Porter's Hill to the west side. See photo.

- Other: The crew, in conjunction with Public Works, responded to the first major winter weather event on December 16 and 17 and successfully battled the Nor'easter.

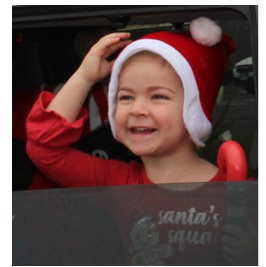
Photos



New solar-powered crosswalk signals at Nevers Park



Residents helped "Dec the Rec" for the holidays!



The man in red gets a HUGE smile from an adoring little visitor to Holiday Hello on Sat., Dec.12th!!



Santa had lots of help from the Grinch, Cindy Lou Who and festively decked out SW Firemen greeting the hundreds of visitors a "Holiday Hello"



Dear Santa,

How are you? What a year we have had! Is the Sleigh Packed and Ready to go? For Christmas I would like a elf on the shelf, a barbie doll with new cloths and Shoes. Also I would like headbands.



With love
Meredith

P.S.
Do you know
frosty?



Caroline Rohrsetzer Kania I know I say this every year but once more we are blown away with the amazing letter our kids received from Santa! It keeps the magic alive in our house, the kids were surprised Santa knew all about 4th R and Olivia even said this is the proof he is real 🤩🤩 thank you so much!

Love · Reply · 14h





"One precious 06074 resident sent us in a special request: a picture of Rudolph – Santa was happy to oblige and mailed her a picture of his red-nosed reindeer!"



Orchard Hill 4th R PJ Day



PRS 4th R PJ Day



Preschool PJ Day



Pleasant Valley 4th R PJ Day



Eli Terry 4th R PJ Day

A recent email received by a very satisfied customer!

Hello.

I wasn't sure who to direct my email to!! So tag...you're it!!! :) I have been delighted with all of the things the Rec Department has been offering! From the Halloween drive thru to the egg-tober, to the Christmas tree decorating, to the Santa drive thru...it's been amazing for my kids!

The most memorable moment has been receiving letters from Santa-in response to their Christmas lists! Ingenious!!! The smiles were ear to ear while reading the letters aloud! I was blown away & impressed with the level of detail!! I cannot thank you enough for all you (the dept) is doing to help families participate in some way this entire year. The Rec Department has gone the extra mile-and that is so appreciated on so many levels. Thank you.

Stay safe!
Jan Soares & family



Winner of the "People's Choice" Award



Winner of the "Rudolph's Nose" Award



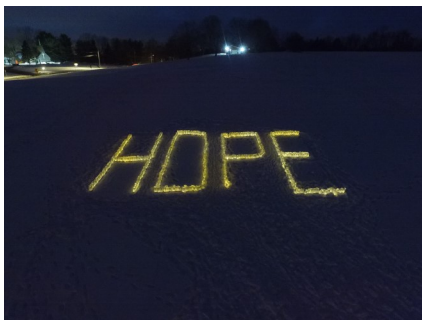
Winner of the "Buddy the Elf" Award



Santa Claus took time out of his very busy schedule to read his favorite story "Twas the Night Before Christmas" to our 06074 community on our Facebook page.



Giving and guessing is our favorite.



Together with the SW Community Women's Club we lit up Porter's Hill with luminaries to spread HOPE for the community.

January 2021 Town Council Meetings and Events

Meetings

Monday, January 4, 2021

7:00 pm Regular Meeting

Virtual Meeting

Tuesday, January 19, 2021

7:00 pm Regular Meeting

Virtual Meeting

Holidays

Friday, January 1, 2021

Town Offices will be closed in observance of New Year's Day.

Monday, January 18, 2021

Town Offices will be closed in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

Layout by Samara Haddock, Confidential Secretary

