

Town of South Windsor

Town Manager's Report January 2020

Michael Maniscalco
Town Manager



460 Miller Road- After coming to a stipulated agreement, the home owner has until January 26, 2020 to remove the home and all debris on the property. In the event that this is not done, the Town has the authority to enter the property and finish the job.

Economic Development Cut Sheets- in an effort to be prepared for Senator Murphy's visit, as well as bulking up on our economic development, advertising staff have developed cut sheets for all of our current major economic development projects. These cut sheets are a great way to advertise all of the wonderful things happening in our community.

Online Permitting- I will have a more timely update to provide to the Council on the day of the Council meeting. Weekly work meetings are still occurring for staff to get this important project up and running.

December 30 Power Outage- I would like to take a moment to recognize the Town staff as they worked their way through the December 30 power outage. With over half of our community without power and many of our public facilities running off of generators staff did an excellent job answering public questions, communicating with Eversource and setting up scenarios for success. I would like to take the opportunity to remind the

public that when the power goes out they should report the outage to Eversource at: 800-286-2000

Water on Buckland Rd- Town staff have been meeting with CT Water and Costco to solve an issue related to the amount of water and refill rates for fire protection at the new Costco building. We are currently exploring multiple options including interconnections, water tanks and other sources. I will keep the Council informed as to the outcome.

Mass Gathering Ordinance- Staff have been working on a mass gathering ordinance that would require events of a certain size to obtain a permit from the Town. The purpose of this process would be to ensure that all of the appropriate agencies are notified of large gatherings in a timely manner so that they can ensure safety of both the event and the residents around the event. My expectation is that a draft ordinance with staff recommendation will be in front of the Council in a few months for review.

Police Department

Scott P. Custer
Chief of Police

Department Activity for November 2019:

We publish a monthly summary of our calls for service on social media. Our Facebook page can also be viewed via the department webpage (<https://www.southwindsor-ct.gov/police>). December's summary is not included this month because the report draft was due prior to January 1st.

| | |
|--|------|
| Total Computer Aided Dispatch Entries: | 2400 |
| 9-1-1 Calls Received: | 656 |
| Routine Calls Received/Outgoing: | 4110 |
| Directed Patrol/Premise Checks: | 762 |
| Motor Vehicle Stops: | 511 |
| Medical Assists/Emot. Dist. Persons: | 165 |
| Suspicious: | 75 |
| Alarms: | 95 |
| Motor Vehicle Accidents: | 36 |
| Welfare Check: | 31 |
| Assist Outside Agency: | 25 |
| Animal Problem: | 30 |
| Citizen Assist: | 26 |
| Miscellaneous Service: | 10 |
| Collision Reports: | 18 |
| BOLO: | 8 |
| Disabled Motor Vehicle: | 26 |
| Larceny: | 23 |
| Hazardous Conditions: | 32 |
| Pistol Permits: | 7 |
| Burglary: | 12 |
| Civil Matter: | 7 |
| 911 Check: | 12 |
| Fraud: | 11 |
| Domestic Dispute: | 12 |
| Narcotics Violation: | 2 |
| Violation of Town Ordinance: | 3 |
| Youth Problem: | 9 |
| Sexual Assault: | 2 |

Regional Support to the Manchester Police Retail Safety Plan:

For the past several years there have been large-scale youth disturbances at the Buckland Hills Mall on December 26th. Each year our officers respond under the Mutual Aid agreement to assist Manchester Police. In 2018 the mall was evacuated and the approximately 100 youths moved on to local businesses to create problems (shoplifting, knocking items off shelves, fighting, etc.). One of the arrested youths had a handgun in his possession. We had to ask Lowe's and Target to close temporarily to protect shoppers and deter the group from congregating in town that year.

This year we worked with Manchester Police, Buckland Hills Mall, Evergreen Walk, Target and Lowe's on a retail security plan. The mall instituted a curfew for youths under 18, Evergreen Walk hired officers on private duty, and we staffed our Evening Shift with extra officers. There were very few problems reported to us. There were disturbances at both WestFarms Mall and the CT Post Mall. We were pleased to have the extra staffing because our local SWAT team officers had to respond to Wethersfield for an armed, barricaded suspect and our Traffic Officers had to assist Manchester Police with a serious motor vehicle accident. We will revisit the Retail Security Plan again next year but we are glad that it resulted in a safe environment for our business owners and customers. As a reminder, there is a mutual aid

Police Department

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Chief of Police

agreement in place for South Windsor, Vernon, and Manchester that gives officers from all three towns' the authority and legal protection to work in partner towns.

Community Outreach:

Each year we continue to be amazed by the generosity of our citizens.

The November Food Drive was held on Saturday, November 23rd and Sunday November 24th at both Stop & Shop and Geissler's. Our STUFF-A-TRUCK Food and Toy Drive was held on Saturday December 14th at both Stop & Shop and Geissler's. This year we partnered with the Ellington YMCA for their Stuff A Cruiser event on December 6th. All the collected toys went to South Windsor families. We also volunteered time to 'Ring the Bell' with the Salvation Army at Stop and Shop. That one-day event raised \$1200.00 for SW Human Services.

We happily partnered with Target for the Shop with a Cop-Reach Foundation Event again this year. The event was on December 10th, our officers were paired up with deserving children to have dinner and games at Dave & Busters, then took part in the cruiser parade to Target where the children were given \$100.00 to shop for their families, all paid for courtesy of the Reach Foundation.

These events were a great opportunity for our staff to give back to the community and help our neighbors in need. We greatly appreciate

the kind words and support we received during these events.

New Hires at South Windsor Police:

On Monday, December 23rd we hired three new officers to fill open positions. Officer Bianca Krzynowek, Officer Linda Hernando, and Officer Thomas Defelice will train with us for a few weeks before they head off to the Connecticut Police Academy in Meriden on Friday, January 10th. They will spend six months at the academy, then return to us for a four-month field training program. We anticipate hiring two additional officers in the second quarter of 2020. The academy will not hold another class until June and all departments are competing for the best candidates and to get academy seats to train them. We have at least one anticipated retirement in May 2020.

We have two officers graduating from the Academy this month, Officer Erica Kuzara and Officer Kyle Higgins graduate on January 23rd. They will then return to South Windsor for field training.

Pajama Day for the Kids Charity:

This December we participated in PJ Day for the Kids for the first time. (Since we can't wear PJ's to work, we all bought a pin to support this amazing event). PJ Day for the Kids is an opportunity for students and business partners across the state to show support for patients at Connecticut Children's Medical Center. Over the last 8 years,

Police Department

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hundreds of thousands of participants have worn PJ's in honor of children at the hospital who must wear their PJ's for extended periods of time while fighting cancer or other serious illnesses. Since 2011, more than \$637,000 has been raised for the Center for Cancer and Blood Disorders. We are proud that our donation works toward making a difference.

Unlocked Car Burglaries & Car Thefts:

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 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.

We can eliminate the issue locally by "hardening the target"; if we all lock up our vehicles, they will move to other areas to find easy targets. As always, we urge citizens to report suspicious activity immediately.

Never too early to prepare for an emergency:

The Ready.gov webpage has great information pages on preparation for natural disasters, severe weather, and active shooters. Please share with friends and family that may rely on you in a severe weather event, or have questions about how to react to an active shooter event. We have had our share of severe weather in Connecticut and now is a good time to review your plan to protect yourself and your family.

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

Follow us on Social Media:

We continue to have a strong presence on Social Media and update our citizens on all kinds of activity. Our Facebook page and Twitter feed are also displayed on our webpage <https://www.southwindsor.org/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

Michael J. Gantick
Director of Public Works



Public Buildings Division

*"Providing Quality, Value
Minded Services to the South
Windsor Community"*

Project Updates:

Library Roof Replacement

This project was originally slated to start in the fall of 2019 but due to the onset of the early cold weather it has been rescheduled until the Spring of 2020.

Boiler/Heat Pump Replacements Police Department and Community Center

The preliminary design process for both projects has been completed. The next step is to finalize the plans make any last minute adjustments or alterations and then deliver the plans to Daikin Applied. Daikin is an HVAC manufacturer who will be providing contract compliance for this project. Daikin will pull in their local representative to provide pricing for the HVAC contractor completing the work. A couple of weeks after that work is complete, the contractor will then provide us with a proposal to complete the work. If the proposal is accepted, material specifications will be sent out to me to approve and equipment and materials will be released shortly thereafter. These project timelines for completion have been laid out such as to eliminate any disruption in heating or cooling during the project installations.

Town Hall Elevator Replacement Design

The preliminary design process for this

project is also complete. Front and back end contract documents are currently being written and should be ready for review in the coming weeks.

Community Center Main Entry Sliding Doors

The new sliding doors (both sets) are scheduled to arrive in early February. The demolition of the existing doors and installation of the new doors will be done one at a time. There will be limited interruption as the work is being completed. Alternate routes of entry into and out of the building will be provided throughout the project which is expected to take about a week. Along with the new doors, a heated air curtain was specified. The air curtain is already installed but not yet wired. The curtain can be programmed to come on anytime the outside set of doors is opened and a minimum low or maximum high outdoor air temperature is met. The curtain will provide a buffer of heated air between the inside and outside keeping the warm air inside in the winter and keeping the cool air inside during the summer months.

Other Notable Project Completions (see photos on next page)

- A new secondary containment tank was fabricated and installed for the above ground heating oil tank at the Public Works Facility
- Updated Office Spaces at the Police Department (new paint and flooring)

Public Works Department

Michael J. Gantick
Director of Public Works

- Replacement of the ceiling tiles and diffusers in the Madden Room
- Installed electronic white board in the Madden Room (large TV looking thingy!)
- New carpet in the elevator and stairwell landing to the roof at the Library



Before and After Office Updates at the Police Department



New Containment Tank Being Lifted and Set into Place



Replacement of Ceiling Tiles and Installation of Electronic White Board in Madden Room



Air Curtain at the Entry Doors of the Community Center

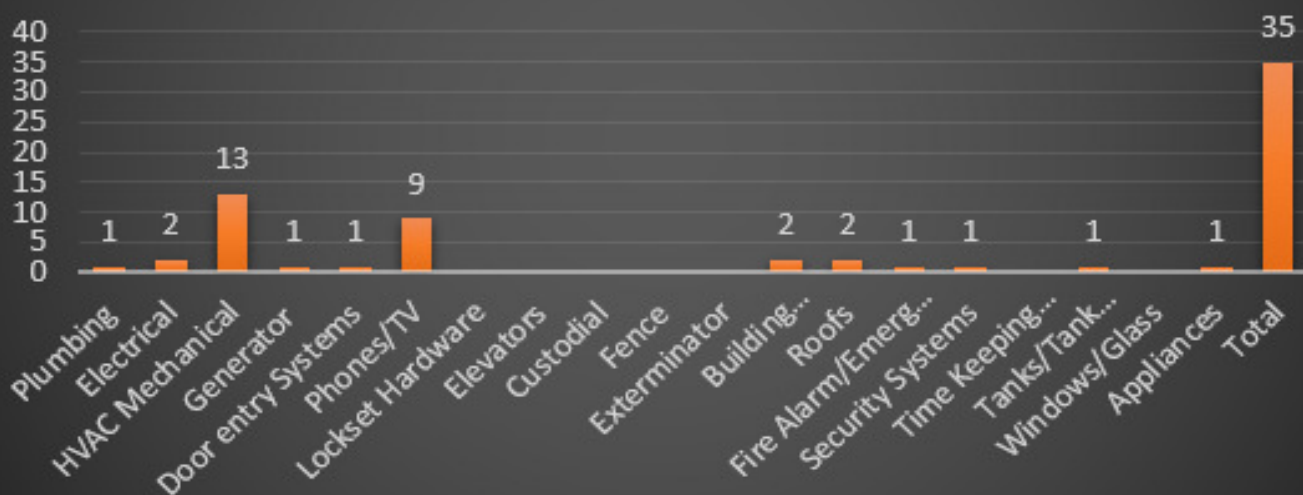


New carpet in the elevator and stairwell entry at the Library

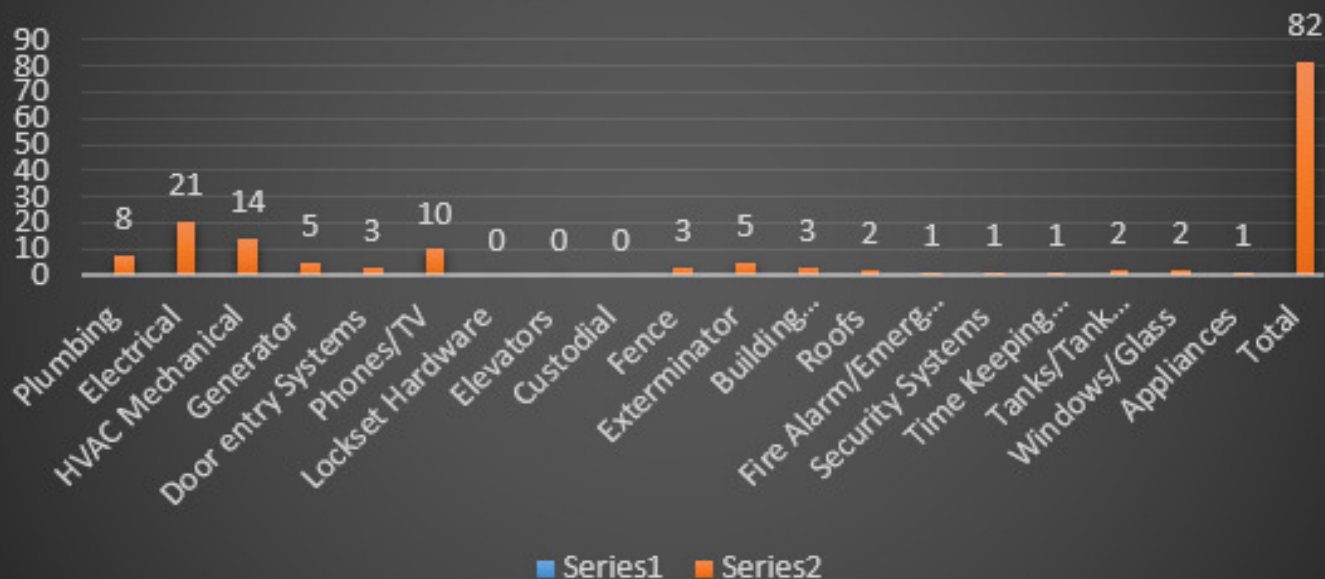
Public Works Department

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Public Buildings Emergency Service Calls by Type - October, November, December



Public Buildings Emergency Service Calls By Type- Fiscal Year to Date



Public Works Department

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Director of Public Works

Refuse and Recycling

As we close out 2019 and reflect on our accomplishments over the last 12 months we're proud of the progress that has been made. In April we increased the amount of textiles that are diverted from the waste stream by offering curbside textile pick up. Since adding this service we are now more than doubling the total monthly tons diverted. Town residents are continuing to take advantage of the electronic recycling events by diverting an average of over 12 tons of material per event.

This past year we've made strides to educate the public on proper recycling techniques through several public outreach events. Beginning in April a presentation was given to 65 second graders at Phillip R. Smith, in May 480 reusable grocery bags were given out with recycling information during a food collection event to celebrate Public Works week. We also took advantage of the Government Booth at the South Windsor Farmers Market and were able to reach over 100 more people with recycling information. In October the Girl Scouts helped promote our recycling programs at two local events, a presentation was given at the library and we offered a composting seminar as well.

Lastly, this past May we were able to negotiate a favorable 5 year contract extension with All American Waste for the collection of the town's refuse and recycling. As part of the contract we maintained a \$5/ton rebate on

recycling disposal and saw a 3% increase in our refuse disposal cost bring it to \$73/ton for fiscal year 2019/2020. The remaining four years of disposal costs will be negotiated in the coming months. Unfortunately these rates will not be sustainable and are expected to drastically increase. We are already beginning to see sharp increases in both refuse and recycling disposal rates with surrounding communities. Our neighboring towns are beginning to pay over \$90/ton for refuse disposal and it is becoming a normalcy to pay for the disposal of recycling. The driving factor for the rise in refuse disposal is the failing infrastructure of the material recovery facilities. Components are failing which require the plants to shutdown, which in turn, forces the material to be hauled out of state at rates of upwards of \$150/ton. Further complicating the matter is that renovations to the facility in Hartford were last projected to cost \$330 million dollars.

Tony Manfre
Superintendent of Pollution Control

Street Services

The department responded to 6 winter weather events during the month. These storms have been a bit tricky as the events have had significant icing. To date, we have used about 41% of our salt allocation or about 1148 tons. We have also spent 38% of our winter overtime projection budget. All of these costs occurred before "winter" even officially started. Several of these events were

Public Works Department

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Director of Public Works

long duration storms with icing/freezing rain requiring more attention and more product to combat the conditions.

The winter events derailed the completion of the leaf harvest. As soon as the snow melted, we regrouped and got the leaf harvest back in motion. As stated previously, there is a lot of effort involved switching from snow mode to leaf mode but our intent is to complete the 2019 leaf harvest before the end of the year. Fortunately, there are just a few traffic roads left to complete. Crews have been using loaders to pick up leaves and, when applicable, using the vacuums. Our dedicated staff has been working diligently, in less than favorable conditions, to ensure the project is seen to completion.

Streets crews have been hauling away spoils (old asphalt, concrete, etc.) from our summer projects, as time permits. This is part of the process to ready our site for next year's road projects.

Truck washing is ongoing between winter events to minimize salt build up and corrosion on the fleet. Except in extreme cold conditions, the fleet is cycled through during the winter in an effort to increase the longevity of our equipment. Obviously, these trucks work in a very harsh environment so it is critical to wash them and apply a salt neutralizer as often as practical.

Pothole patching is another ongoing process

to maintain our roads during the winter. We are using cold patch but have discovered that our hot asphalt supplier intends to provide hot patch every Wednesday during the winter when weather conditions allow. This is the first time anyone here can recall our supplier keeping the plant open in the winter. Hopefully it works out, as hot patch is a much better product for road repairs. Cold patch is more permeable and more susceptible to the freeze/thaw cycles.

The sign shop fabricated and applied graphics to the new Parks trucks and the Recreation department's new van. The sign shop also replaced 37 signs, 4 warning signs and 33 regulatory signs that were in poor condition as the shop continues to whittle away at signs in the poor category.

Scott Yeomans

Associate Manager, Street Services

Water Pollution Control

The staff at the treatment plant work diligently to maintain our 11 pump stations to provide reliable, uninterrupted service to South Windsor sewer users. Most of the preventative maintenance that occurs goes unnoticed. Often times the work takes place in confined spaces that contain pipes, pumps, motors and motor control equipment which leave little room for a person to work and maneuver in. The environment is damp, slippery and uncomfortable for the operators. This past month the operations team

Public Works Department

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successfully replaced a discharge valve at the Pleasant Valley Pump Station located on Pleasant Valley Road. The significance of the valve is when pump maintenance needs to be performed, the discharge valve needs to be closed to prevent wastewater in the force main from flowing back to the pump. During maintenance to one of the pumps it was discovered that the discharge valve was not properly seating, allowing wastewater to flow back through to the pump preventing the maintenance from being done.

In order to replace the valve the team had to by-pass the pump station using a portable pump, drain the force main, perform a confined space entry and complete the work in a space that is 23' below the surface. This was all completed without disruption to service and highlights the efficiency of our staff as well as the need for continued preventative maintenance.

Looking forward to this January, Dayton Construction will be re-armoring the treatment plants' outfall structure located at the end of Vibert Road. After the wastewater is cleaned and treated at the facility, the water is conveyed to the Connecticut River through what is known as the outfall pipe. At the end of the outfall pipe is a cement structure which is designed to allow us access to the pipe. This structure was once located on the bank of the river. Over time the river bank has eroded to the point where the structure is nearly in the river preventing us access to the pipe. Re-

armoring the river bank and outfall structure with large stones and rip rap will help prevent damage to the structure, prevent damage to the pipe and allow the staff access to the pipe for maintenance.

Tony Manfre
Superintendent of Pollution Control



Treatment plant operators replacing the Pleasant Valley Pump Station discharge valve.



New discharge valve in place.

Human Services Department

Andrea Cofrancesco
Director of Human Services

Human Services Updates: **Thanksgiving Baskets**

Staff in the Adult and Senior Services division of Human Services worked tirelessly to provide Thanksgiving baskets for South Windsor families and older adults. This could only be successful due to the generosity of the community: churches, civic groups, businesses, schools and individuals donated food and gift cards and made monetary donations to help the cause. A total of 182 families with 401 people received Thanksgiving baskets, which includes 21 deliveries to homebound seniors.

Holiday Adopt a Child Program

A total of 141 children in 65 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. 58 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.

Stuff a Truck

Thanks to Corporal Jim Nicoletta for his coordination of this annual event! The Stuff a

Truck program brought in over \$3,000 and a truckful of toys for South Windsor families during this holiday season! Thanks to the Police Department for their support, as well as the Fire Department, Ambulance Service of Manchester, the Masons Evergreen Lodge, Power of Peace Youth Group, Triad for Senior Safety for their commitment to this important project, and a huge thanks to this generous community for their donations!



Human Services Department

Andrea Cofrancesco
Director of Human Services

Girl Scouts Help the Cause!

Girls Scouts in Troop 10928 collected donations from the local schools for the food bank and helped shelve the items. In addition, they straightened up the food bank shelves! These 5th graders were very eager and super helpful!



Bell Ringers

The Human Services Department is so grateful to the volunteers (including Chief Custer and Deputy Chief Lindstrom) for ringing the bells for the Salvation Army. Because this was coordinated by staff in our office, we were able to keep 90% of the money collected to help families in need. The primary use of these funds is for rental assistance, but it can be used for whatever staff deems necessary based on the need. Over \$1200 was raised!



7th Annual Craft Show

Over 700 people came out and supported our 7th annual Craft and Specialty Foods Show! Almost 50 vendors were selling their handcrafted items. A very popular bake sale sold out and an amazing raffle table, together with vendor fees, brought in \$4500 for the Community Service Group. This is a group of adults who work on a variety of projects to assist people and groups of all ages in town and surrounding communities by being involved, raising funds and giving of their time to enhance the lives of others! NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS

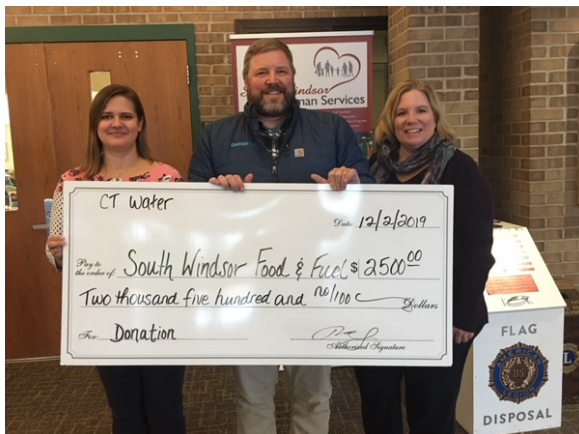


Human Services Department

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Director of Human Services

Generous Donors!

CT Water (photo shown) was just one of many businesses and organizations that made donations to our Food and Fuel Bank this season! The South Windsor Education Association also donated over \$2,000, the Senior Center's Pickleball Players donated \$1,000, Coldwell Banker Realtors and so many more, too many to list made generous donations! We are so grateful to work in this wonderful town and be able to help people because of the generosity of so many!



Youth & Family Services:

The Human Relations Commission, the High School Sexuality and Gender Alliance (SAGA), True Colors and Youth & Family Services hosted Sexuality and Gender: A Community Conversation. The adults involved may have had the idea and set the date and the place, but it really was the teens involved in the high school SAGA club that shaped the event in to an eye opening, informative evening for all. Moderated by Mel Cordner from True Colors, teens who identify as

LGBTQ+ or an ally sat on a panel and discussed their experiences as well as gave suggestions on how to be inclusive to all. We want ALL of our youth to feel safe and included in this community.



Teen Center

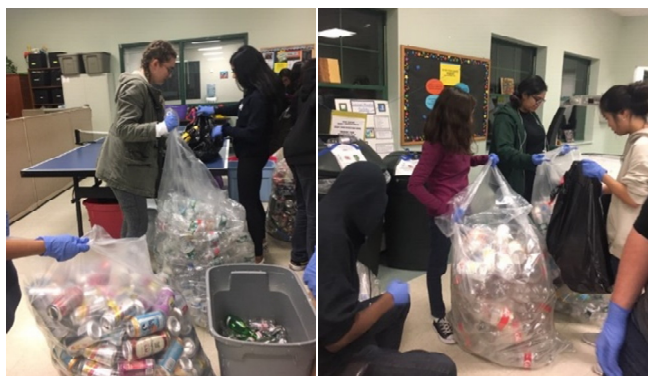
The Teen Center does a year round fundraiser by collecting empty cans and bottles. The money collected from the 5 cent deposits goes back to the teen center and towards a charity selected by the Youth Council. The Youth Council group is responsible for sorting the cans and is very appreciative of the collaboration with the SW Project Worth Transition Academy – as their group helps out tremendously by bringing the bags to the



Human Services Department

Andrea Cofrancesco
Director of Human Services

redemption center. This month, the group raised over \$100! Residents can drop off their empty cans and bottles at the teen center anytime throughout the year.



Some of the teens that come in regularly for the high school drop in program wanted to continue tradition by having a winter themed art contest where participants and staff could vote on their favorite piece! This year the top three winners got a prize – a tough call, as there was so much talent! High school students celebrated the holidays together with a pizza party and grab bag gift game – where all were included in the fun and festivities!



Parent Education and Support

Our new Youth Counselor/Parent Educator, Chris Garrahan has jumped in full force. He will restart the long standing Relatives Raising Children Support group in January. He will begin a twice monthly group for students enrolled in the Alternative Education program with the high school. He is also maintaining his own caseload of individual clients.

In January of 2020, we will be offering parenting webinars through Peace At Home Parenting Solutions. Through our annual DCF Enhancement Grant, we are able to offer this service for FREE to all South Windsor residents, educators and town employees. It has become increasingly difficult to get parents to come out in the evening for parenting programs. Now parents will be able to access parent education from the comfort of their own homes. The majority of the live seminars are in the evening after bed time. If you can't make the live webinar, you can still access it through a recording! From Taming Tantrums to Parenting Teens, these webinars cover topics pertaining to all ages and stages! The January, February & March Schedule will be in our newsletter and on our website.

School Outreach & Prevention

The Students Against Destructive Decisions Club organized "SADD Makes You Happy Day" at SWHS. About 40 members of the club handed out candy canes (some students shown in attached photo), hid gift cards, made

Human Services Department

Andrea Cofrancesco
Director of Human Services

treats for all teachers, gave flowers to Cafeteria staff, shared candy treat bags with all bus drivers and posted positive message sticky notes around the school. The day was created by the students as a way to honor the community of Sandy Hook. Each December we take a day to show kindness to others. The SADD Club puts a lot of effort into showing gratitude to others on this special day. It is a beautiful way to honor the Newtown community.



Youth and Family Services partners with the Counseling Department at TEMS to provide the "Business Lunch" program. Once a month a speaker from the community visits TE and chats with a small group of 8th grade students about their profession. Speakers with a wide variety of jobs participate so that students can start to learn more about what may interest them in the future. So far this year our fabulous guests have been Maura Fitzgerald, Sr. Vice President at McDowell Jewett Communications and Dr. Kelley Sturrock, ObGyn. We will continue to host these events throughout the school year.

Counseling & Support

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

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

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

Youth Counselor, Sarah Soboleski, who is a professional organizer, will be presenting her talk: "Organizing: A Plan of Attack for Any Space" at the senior center in January. Participants will learn proven steps for tackling any of life's organizing challenges.

Some great upcoming 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.
Superintendent of Parks

MONTHLY REPORT - January 6, 2020

Keri Apt
Asst. Director of Parks & Recreation

Park & Recreation Commission (PARC)

The next PARC meeting is Wednesday, Jan. 8. Work continues on the master plan revision.

The South Windsor Walk & Wheel Ways (SWW&WW) sub-committee meets

next on Wed., Feb. 5th at Wapping at 7pm. Efforts over the next year will be the design of the proposed cross-town trail through the Eversource power corridor and re-applying for “silver” Bicycle Friendly Community designation with the League of American Bicyclist.

Special Invitation to Councilors – SAVE THE DATES:

- (1) Enjoy the sounds of the season at the SW Community Band annual Winter Concert on Fri., Jan. 3 at 7pm at the TEMS auditorium.
- (2) Want some outdoor exercise? Join the SW Walk & Wheel Ways folks on a Moonlight Walk at Nevers Park on Fri., Jan. 10th at 7pm. Walk will start and end at the fire pit by the Rotary Pavilion.
- (3) Our second annual Resolution Run 5K in partnership with the Hartford Marathon Foundation will step off at 10am on Sun., Jan. 12th on West Road. Race will start and end at CT Valley Brewing.

As always, we offer all members of the Town Council an open invitation to visit any of our 400+ recreation programs or park facilities throughout the year. Please give us a call and we will even escort you!

RECREATION DIVISION

“Feel great – recreate!”

- **4th R Before & After School Program**
January 2020 enrollment: AM Participants: 139 and PM Participants: 227.
- **Staff** – We had 29 applicants for the vacant Recreation Supervisor position and we interviewed a short list of five candidates for first round interviews on Nov. 20th. Two finalist were interviewed on Dec. 5th and the position was offered to Nancy Glynn and accepted! This position will be responsible for the aquatics operation at VMP in the summer and health, fitness & wellness programs throughout the year. We are excited to announce that Nancy will start on Monday, Dec. 30th!!
- Over 300 people attended our third annual **Grinchmas** celebration Friday, December 6 from 6:30-8:00 PM at the Wapping Parks & Recreation Facility! Children participated in Grinchy games and activities, met the Grinch himself, and

watched a special screening of the classic cartoon version! Many thanks to PM Pediatrics Urgent Care for sponsoring Grinchmas!!

- **Letters to Santa** – The final count of letters received and responded to was 289! From Dec. 2 to 18 kids placed their letters in Santa's mailbox located at Nevers Park at the corner of Nevers and Sand Hill Roads and they received a personalized response from the jolly ole fellow! 89 non-perishable food items were also collected for the SW Food Bank at our larger-than-life "giving tree" at the same site.
- Our first-ever **Sensory Friendly visit with Santa** on Sat., Dec. 7 from 10am to 12pm at Wapping for youngsters with special needs truly appealed to those who may be intimidated by throngs of Santa admirers at the Mall.
- Our **Annual Skate with Santa** event was held at the South Windsor Arena on Sat., Dec. 7 from 4-5:30pm. 130 folks enjoyed free admission and donated 80 a new unwrapped toys for distribution to needy families by Human Services. Thank you to Dzen Realty & Dzen Commercial Roofing!
- **Merry and Bright Holiday Lights Home Decorating Contest** – our third annual event drew 16 participants! Winners in each category were each awarded \$100 (see photos)! Parks and Recreation judges enjoyed viewing all the spectacular displays, with transportation provided by Lindsey Limousine Company on Thursday, December 12 from 6:30 to 9pm.
- Once again, we assisted American Legion Post 133 with the annual **Wreaths Across America** ceremony at 12pm on Sat., Dec. 14 at Veterans Memorial Park. A

crowd of nearly 300 braved unfavorable weather.

- **Youth Basketball** – Placement day was December 7th and league has begun! Enrollment numbers are static compared to last year. Our senior girls division has less players than previous years. However, our beginner girls division numbers increased by 21 participants. We received 18 total sponsors for our youth basketball season, which is the same amount as last year. A couple new sponsors are Foster Farm and Battiston's Cleaners.

PARKS DIVISION

"Caring for South Windsor's Growing Needs"

December Activity Highlights:

Athletic Fields & Grounds:

- Closed for the winter.

Parks & Open Space:

- Transported and assembled our new 'mega giving tree' at Nevers Park. The former holiday tree most of you had seen before at the center of the Evergreen Walk promenade was donated to us by the kind folks there!
- Assembled and installed a larger mailbox at Nevers Park for the Letters to Santa program.
- Prepared the Eagle Patio at Veterans Memorial Park for the annual Wreaths Across America ceremony on Sat., Dec. 14 at 12pm. A crowd of nearly 300 braved the less than favorable weather. Well done Mr. Art Sladyk!
- Paved the walkway from Nevers Road to the footbridge at Porter's Hill to improve the trek to the sledding slope.

Projects:

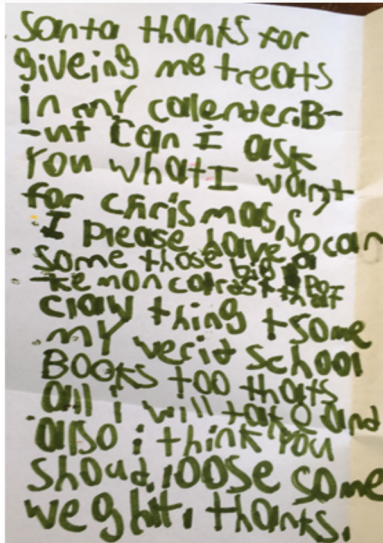
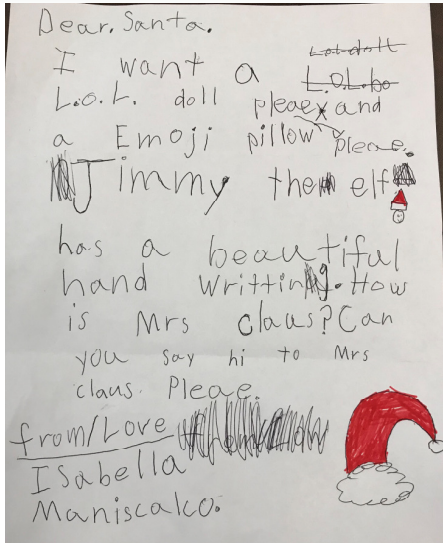
- Serviced and transported to storage all landscaping equipment for the winter, in exchange for all of winter snow removal equipment.
- Sealed bids for repairs to fencing and lights at the Wapping tennis courts were opened on Thurs., Dec. 12th. Durham Fence Co. and Electrical Contractors, Inc. will be doing the work over the winter months to have the facility ready for the spring season. We will fund the work thanks to a \$50,000 grant from the State of CT.

Other:

- Responded to winter weather events on Dec. 2, Dec. 3 and then back-to-back-to-back winter events on Dec. 16, 17 & 18 along -side the Streets division of Public Works.
- We held our annual review with the members of the parks crew on Dec. 20th to evaluate our progress and performance over the past year and set our goals for the coming year.



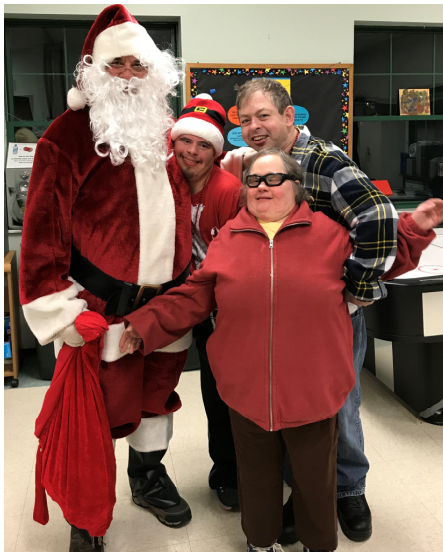
Our very own Monday Night Social Club was the proud recipient of the 2019 Adaptive Program of Merit award at the CT Recreation & Parks Association Annual Conference on Nov.26th



Just two of the 289 amazing and adorable letters to Santa!!



Skate with Santa is always a crowd pleaser!!



Loads of smiles at the annual Christmas Party for Monday Night Social Club for Young Adults with Special Needs on Dec.16.



Our first-ever Sensory Friendly Santa appeals to even the most bashful



Parks crew members Mike, Ben & Jake assemble our new mega "giving tree" at Nevers Park. The borrowed crawler lift was donated by Distinctive Trees.





Merry & Bright Winner—Most Original



Merry & Bright Winner—Best Overall



Merry & Bright Winner—Dazzling Display



Merry & Bright Winner—Brightest



Merry & Bright Winner—Most Holiday Spirit

January 2020 Town Council Meetings and Events

Meetings

Monday, January 6, 2020

7:00 pm Regular Meeting

Council Chambers

Tuesday, January 21, 2020

7:00 pm Regular Meeting

Council Chambers

Holidays

Wednesday, January 1, 2020

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

Monday, January 20, 2020

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

Layout by Samara Haddock, Confidential Secretary

