

# ***Town of South Windsor***

## **Town Manager's Report October 2018**

*Matthew B. Galligan*  
*Town Manager*



The Town Manager's Report will be given verbally at the Town Council Meeting.

## Police Department

Scott P. Custer  
Chief of Police

### October 2018

#### **Death of Sgt. Matthew Mainieri:**

We would like to thank all the Town staff and Town Council for your support following the death of Sgt. Matt Mainieri on Sunday, September 2nd. Sgt. Mainieri was killed off-duty while on vacation in South Carolina and was trying to break up a fight.

We also thank our partners in Vernon and Manchester. As you will recall, about a year ago the Council approved a mutual aid agreement with the Manchester and Vernon Police departments. The South Windsor, Manchester and Vernon Police Departments have always shared a great culture of cooperation; we are all cross-sworn in each other's communities. The Manchester Police PEER counselors/officers were here with our staff on the day of Matt's death and continued to support us and check in all week. The incredible staff of the Vernon Police Department insisted on covering the patrol and dispatch function on the day of Matthew's memorial service so that the entire South Windsor Police Department could be together. It has been a difficult month but your kind words, notes, and support have helped us through this tragic loss.

#### **Swearing In Ceremony for Chief and Deputy Chief:**

A Swearing In Ceremony for Chief Scott Custer and Deputy Chief Kristian Lindstrom will take place Monday, October 1st at 4:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers. Refreshments

will be served immediately after in the Friends Room at South Windsor Library. All are invited!

#### **Law Enforcement Recruiting Fair:**

We will be part of a multi-town recruiting fair on October 16th at Manchester Community College, from 3 to 7 p.m. We ran a similar program here in November 2016, which was very successful. We are collaborating again with the Manchester, Vernon and Glastonbury Police Departments to attract candidates to the region. These are the other three police agencies we work most closely with and we are all interested in having a diverse workforce in our respective towns.

#### **Retirement Party Rescheduled:**

Just a reminder that the retirement party for Chief Tim Edwards has been rescheduled to Friday, October 5th, 6-9 p.m. at Maneleys in the ballroom. If you purchased tickets they are good for the new date, and tickets remain available at headquarters.

#### **New Officer in Training:**

On Thursday, September 20th Officer Benjamin Lovett graduated from the Police Academy after completing six months of training. He is now beginning his 4-month Field Training program with veteran officers here. As of this writing, we are down 4 officers and are actively interviewing candidates. The vacancies are due to Chief Edwards' retirement, Sgt. Mainieri's death, and two candidates who failed the training program.

## Police Department

Scott P. Custer  
Chief of Police

While it is unfortunate to lose officers in training, we are not doing them or the community any favors by retaining officers who cannot meet our high standards.

### **Coffee with a Cop:**

We are hosting a "Coffee with a Cop" event on Wednesday, October 3, 2018 at Dunkin Donuts, 855 Sullivan Avenue, from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m.

This is an opportunity for citizens to drop-in and meet with South Windsor officers and share concerns or just ask questions. We participated in the event last fall and it was well received. We are committed to community policing and community outreach; we want our community to know us and feel comfortable bringing issues to us.

## Public Works Department

Michael J. Gantick  
Director of Public Works

### **Street Services September 2018**

Streets crews closely monitored the track of Hurricane Florence and began activating our hurricane preparedness plans. Once it was clear that the hurricane would miss CT, crews continued to exercise plans in a more virtual capacity. This process helped identify possible gaps in our preparedness measures.

Town crews cleaned up and swept up after the chip sealing process on several town roads this year. These new treatments should help sustain the life of these roads by several years. Our crews also installed temporary markings on these newly sealed roads until our contractor can put down permanent markings.

Streets crews executed a vegetation management plan at Avery Brook. This a very necessary process to ensure that woody growth does not interfere or restrict the flow of water in the channel. This is by no means an easy task. This is a laborious project that requires our workers to work on very even surfaces, and walk up and down the channel pulling debris to be removed from bridge accesses. Although equipment is deployed there is a lot of manual work in the process.

Public Works assisted with an ammonia training exercise, held at the firehouse and the Town Garage, in conjunction with the Fire Marshal and the Fire Department.

The widening of Nevers Road is complete. There were two sections of road that could not be properly completed during the initial project due to utility inference but town crews have worked to diligently to complete the project.

A long section of storm water drainage pipe was replaced on Pleasant Valley Rd. The underground pipe was deteriorating and causing the road to sinkhole in several places.

Our crews set up traffic control and crowd protection for the Festival of Lights as well as two other functions in town.

We assisted the Fire Marshal by removing an old fire hydrant that was no longer needed. By doing this work in-house we saved several thousand dollars.

Our crews removed several trees in town as well as trimmed around regulatory signs.

The sign shop created several signs for the Festival of Lights as well as making several new signs for upcoming events. The sign shop also continued to repair/replace regulatory signs throughout town.

Two of our members attended the funeral of a Melrose, MA public works employee, John Doherty, who died in the line of duty. Our members joined hundreds of other public works employees to offer a proud send off for this dedicated public servant.

## Public Works Department

Michael J. Gantick  
Director of Public Works

Several of our employees assisted Vernon police who were covering during the funeral of Sgt. Matthew Mainieri. Our people proudly supported these officers by providing assistance with directions to emergency calls throughout the day to help expedite services to those in need.

*-Scott Yeomans  
Associate Manager, Street Services*

### **Engineering Update**

#### **Buckland Road Sidewalks**

Trademark Contractors has begun to construct sidewalks along the west side of Buckland Road working from Deming Street to Ellington Road and Sullivan Ave. They have also cleared around both ends of the Plum Gulley Culverts that are under Buckland Road in advance of extending these culverts to the west. The traffic signals at 3 intersections will be modified for pedestrian ramps, signals and crosswalks. The contractor will get as much work done this fall as possible but will probably not complete everything before winter and any remaining work will be completed next spring and summer.

#### **Avery Street Reconstruction 3 (Orchard Hill Road to Manchester Town Line)**

Phase 3 of the reconstruction of Avery Street is well underway. Red Technologies has installed new storm water drainage pipes and structures, and is excavating to install new gravel road base. They plan to pave the binder

course and curb on this section of Avery Street in early October. Concrete sidewalks will be installed on the west side of Avery Street and will go all the way down the hill to meet the existing sidewalks by the corner of Deming Street. Most if not all of the work should be completed this fall.

#### **Sidewalk Repairs**

CRC of Connecticut is raising sidewalk slabs that have settled a couple of inches throughout Town. In October, Martin Laviero Contractors will begin to replace damaged sidewalk slabs in many places in Town. These contractors will work to repair and replace the worst sidewalk problems we have recorded in Town through the fall and continuing into next year if necessary.

*-Jeffrey Doolittle  
Town Engineer*

## Human Services Department

Andrea Cofrancesco  
Director of Human Services

### **Fresh Produce for the Food Bank!**

Members of the Senior Center and Teen Center were proud to come together with Bill Marshall, of the SW Food Alliance and Jim Futtner, of Futtner Farm to harvest over 1000 pounds of produce for the SW Food Bank this month! We are grateful for Jim Futtner and his family for making this extremely generous donation to the residents of South Windsor and helping to bring locally grown, fresh food to the food bank! Volunteers, Lorraine, Kathy, Joshua, Jace and Marcus, a Youth & Family Services Intern, wasted no time (or smiles!) while spending a Monday morning on the farm.



### **The Human Services Department invites you to a timely and important program:**

“Breaking the Silence: It Takes a Community”  
Topic: Mental Health Awareness & Suicide Prevention

Date: Thursday, October 25th 2018 6:30pm to 8:00pm

Where: SW High School Auditorium

Kevin Briggs is a former California highway patrol (CHP) officer and spent most of his career patrolling San Francisco's Golden Gate Bridge. Kevin completed the FBI's Crisis Negotiation course and trained new CHP officers as well as Golden Gate Bridge staff on crisis interventions, specifically involving mental health and suicide. He has used his experience of his encounters with people on the bridge as well as his own life experiences to improve mental health awareness across the world. He is a renowned public speaker and author and has been featured in a Ted Talks presentation regarding Suicide Prevention. This presentation is open to the entire South Windsor community. Come and hear from Kevin about his life experiences as well as how we can support people around us.

### **Adult and Senior Services Division:**

#### **Aging Master Program coming to South Windsor!**

The Adult and Senior Services Division of Human Services has been selected to participate in the Getting CT AMP®ed Project, to be implemented in the Spring and Fall of 2019 and Spring 2020.

The Aging Mastery Program® (AMP) is an evidence-based program developed by the National Council on Aging (NCOA). AMP® is a fun and engaging education and behavior change incentive program for aging well. Central to the AMP® philosophy is the belief that modest lifestyle changes can produce big results and that people can be empowered to

cultivate health and longevity. Equally important, the program encourages mastery—developing sustainable behaviors across many dimensions that will lead to improved health, stronger financial security, and overall well-being. Each level of mastery is based on consistency and duration, allowing participants to set individual goals. Another key element of the program is the reward system, designed to both motivate and encourage ongoing participation. The 10-week core curriculum combines evidence-informed knowledge delivered by community experts, goal-setting, daily practice and small rewards.

### **Food Bank Donations**

Mihika Joshi, a 5th grader at PR Smith Elementary School, organized an ice cream stall at the Festival of Lights on 09/15 to raise money for the South Windsor Food & Fuel Bank. She attended our Pasta Dinner on a SNAP Budget and decided she wanted to do something to help families in need!



### **Medicare Open Enrollment**

Open Enrollment for Medicare begins October 15 and ends December 7 with changes effective January 1. Medicare beneficiaries can get unbiased insurance information from four certified CHOICES counselors (Steve Clapp, Andrea Cofrancesco, Lindsey Ravalese and Penny Shea) in the Adult and Senior Services Division of Human Services. 860-648-6361.

### **Back to School Program a Success!**

Adult and Senior Services had another successful back to school program in which we served 43 families with 78 children with new back packs, Payless shoe gift cards and supplies. Through the generous donations of The Senior Center's Community Service group, the Salvation Army, Imperial Oil, and The Residence at South Windsor Farms, we were able to ensure these children had the supplies necessary to start the school year.



Pictured: Steve Clapp, caseworker in Adult and Senior Services and Michael Sanzo, from Imperial Oil.

### **Energy Assistance Begins Again**

Adult and Senior Services caseworkers are accepting applications for the 2018-2019 heating season. Currently we are taking deliverable fuel applications from South Windsor households that qualify. A single person household can make gross \$35,116 a year and a couple \$45,920. The asset limit is \$15,000 for a homeowner and \$12,000 for a renter. Anyone that believes they are eligible should call 860-648-6361 to schedule an appointment.



### **Teen Center**

September brings new and returning members to the Teen Center!

With the start of the school year, we were excited to open our doors and welcome both new and returning members to the Teen Center! So far this month, we are averaging close to 30 or more for our daily drop in attendance during middle school and high school programs. Students can look forward to various activities and games, prevention and awareness programs as well as support and smiling faces from our Teen Center Staff!



Our high school volunteer group, the Teen Center Youth Council, has also started up its monthly meetings and welcomed over 5 new volunteers this month! We look forward to our continued growth as we take on new projects as well as continuing to help with some of the favorites this fall, like the SW Farmers Market, Red Ribbon Week at the Teen Center and maintaining community gardens.



### **Parent Education and Support**

Recently a Dads Dinner and Playgroup was started for fathers, grandfathers and any positive male role model in a child's life. This is a free, monthly play group that is offered to all positive male role models in both South Windsor and surrounding towns.

On Thursday, September 20th fathers came to the Community Center to enjoy dinner and playtime with their children. The children delighted in playing with rainbow spaghetti in our sensory table. Sensory play is so important to a child's development, when your child is allowed to use multiple senses to accomplish a task, they will learn more from the experience and retain more information. This ideal does not change as you get older, even adults retain more information when multiple senses are engaged! I'm not sure who had more fun playing with the spaghetti, the dads or the children!

We also had four playgroups this month and now that the weather is cooling down the families shared with me they are thankful to have a place to come and interact with other adults with young children and allow their kids to play in a safe and fun environment. One mother shared with me her thoughts about the Dad's Dinner and Playgroup. She shared that she is a stay at home mom and brings her child to the Monday Morning playgroup but that her husband has never been able to participate because of his long hours at work. She informed me that she was thrilled to see that a playgroup was being offered for male role models, especially because it was being held in the evening to accommodate working parents. She told me

that she packed a diaper bag for her husband and told him she signed him up for the Dad's Dinner and Playgroup. She said at first his reaction was, "you want me to take care of both kids!" She said her husband relies on her to take care of the kids and play with them because she is a stay at home mom and that he rarely gets involved with the parenting of their two young children. She said he had so much fun at the playgroup on Thursday evening and can't wait to come back next month. She stated, "It's good for him to practice being a dad without me hovering over his shoulder." This mom reported she was so thankful for having a night to herself to relax!



On September 25th we met for the monthly Relatives Raising Children support group. We welcomed a new member to the group and are planning to bring in speakers for the next meeting to talk with families about the Adoption Assistance Program in Connecticut and the Husky insurance program for children.

### **School Outreach & Prevention**

Youth and Family Services collaborated with Timothy Edwards Middle School to promote

the "Start With Hello" program, which is a youth violence prevention program created by the Sandy Hook Promise. On Monday, September 24th, ALL students and ALL staff wore a name tag for the day. Everyone was encouraged to greet people by name, to reach out to those who are alone and to make connections with someone new... because it all Starts With Hello!

Our School Outreach Specialist, Kathy Reed was busy this month preparing for the Mentoring program at TEMS, where matched adult mentors in the community to TEMS students. They meet weekly for the school year. The hope is that this match will continue throughout their time at TEMS. Some even continue once they've reached high school. Kathy is also working to build the JumpStart tutoring program for the school year which includes recruiting and training SWHS students to tutor TEMS students once a week. Students against Destructive Decisions starts the last week in September with a seat belt check already scheduled.

### **Counseling & Support**

This month, we welcomed a new Youth Counselor, Sarah Soboleski. Sarah is available for behavioral health counseling up to 15 hours a week. Despite only being here for two weeks, we are already back on a waitlist for services. Robin Lagasse, who is 30 hours part time is also at a maximum caseload right now.

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, LMSW*



## Parks & Recreation Department

Raymond Favreau  
Director of Parks & Recreation

### “Discover the Benefits!”

John Caldwell, Jr.  
Superintendent of Parks

Keri Apt  
Asst. Director of Parks &  
Recreation

#### MONTHLY REPORT - October 1, 2018

Please welcome our newest staff member, Kerry Macchi who started with us on Sept. 4th as our Administrative Secretary.

#### **Park & Recreation Commission (PARC)**

The next PARC meeting is Wednesday, Oct. 10th at 7:30pm now in their new location in Room 14 at Wapping School, 91 Ayers Road. Work continues on the master plan revision.

**The South Windsor Walk & Wheel Ways (SWW&WW)** sub-committee meets next on Wed., Oct. 3rd at Wapping. Local engineering firm Design Professionals Inc. has agreed to provide their services pro-bono to help us estimate what we might be looking at for design costs to develop the north-south cross-town trail through the Eversource power corridor. Armed with this critical information we will be able to apply for future grants like the CT Recreation Trails program. This grant application form is also a current work-in-progress.

**The South Windsor FOOD Alliance (SWFA)** – The final annual summer Farmer's Market will close for the season on Sept. 29th.

Go to [www.swfood.org](http://www.swfood.org) for more details.

#### **Special Invitation to Councilors – SAVE THE DATES:**

(1) Stop by our first annual Trailblazer Poker Ryed at Rye Street Park on Sat. Sept. 29th (rain date Sept. 30) from 9-11am to watch registered mountain bikers tackle the 4 miles of new mountain bike trails recently built by our parks crew! Along the ride bikers will stop at check points and draw a playing card – the highest random poker hand wins a cash prize! This is not a competition, just pure family fun proudly co-sponsored by The Bike Shop, CT Valley Brewing Co., and SW Walk & Wheel Ways!

(2) Calling all adults to the first-ever “Porters on Porter Pumpkin Roll” on the new Porter's Hill, Friday, Oct. 19th from 5-8pm for an evening of Fall fun – pumpkin decorating contest, pumpkin rolling competition, porter beer, food trucks and music!

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!”*

The second annual Festival of Lights at Nevers Park on Sat., Sept. 15th from 4 to 9pm was

again a smashing success!. This year was bigger and better with more quality performances and additional food vendors. The highlight of the evening was a 30 minute performance by Javier Colon, singer-songwriter and winner of the 2011 season of NBC's "The Voice" and now professional recording artist followed by a grand finale fireworks display by Atlas Pyrovision from New Hampshire. An estimated 3,000+ people celebrated South Windsor's diversity thanks to our sponsors Mitchell Fuel, Nomad's Adventure Quest, Bloomfield Electric, Evergreen Walk, Pete's RV Center and the South Windsor Community Foundation and the cooperative efforts from the SW Fire Dept., SW Police, Fire Marshal Walter Summers, the Health Dept. and DPW.

**VMP** closed for the season on Aug. 27th following another successful "Pooch Plunge"! The process of securing the facility for the winter should be wrapped up by the first week of October. Request for Quotes have gone out to a half dozen vendors for much needed renovations to the pool walls, floors and gutters which are showing serious signs of wear and aging. Request for funding will be submitted to the Capital Projects Committee in the coming months.

#### **4th R Before & After School Program -**

The 4th "R" staff participated in their first team building, staff bonding, color wars competition! They competed in 4 silly, fun and exciting competitions, and points were kept throughout. The leaderboard will be updated throughout the school year as we participate in different competitions, and the overall winner at the end of the year will earn bragging rights and a special prize! Currently

the Eli Terry 4th "R" staff are in the lead!

The program has 320 unique individuals participating in the program this month. Additionally, 36 of our AM Only students also participate in our Early Release Wednesday program.

**Our Preschool Program** has started another successful school year with 25 different class options full with 258 participants!

**Wapping Re-Purposing** – Architectural plans, A/C specs and a second structural engineering review to confirm the weight bearing capacity of the roof are in the hands of the BOE for review and final approval for remodeling the Cafeteria to a Banquet facility. We still hope to get this anticipated 6-8 week project approved and started as soon as possible so we can begin booking functions for the Fall. We are still looking at expanding parking at some point in the near future.

**Longest Dinner Table fund raiser** for the SW Community Foundation is set for Sat., Sept. 29th from 5-10pm at Evergreen Walk. We are once again serving as judges!

#### **PARKS DIVISION**

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

#### **September Activity Highlights:**

##### **Athletic Fields & Grounds:**

- The key words for the month – MOWING, MOWING, and more MOWING! The extremely hot and moist summer created one of the most challenging turf seasons we have ever seen. Grass demanded far more frequent mowing than usual and weed and

fungus infestation required special attention to gain control. This effort required a number of over-time hours on Saturday mornings and took its toll on the mowers and crew. Our large Tor 580 gang mowers are fast approaching the end of their useful life-cycle and will need replacement soon. The units spent an exorbitant amount of time in the shop for repairs.

- Tree work, landscaping and beautification efforts were completed at the Town Hall, Police Dept. and Porters Hill.
- Prepped the Fairgrounds for the Wapping Fair – mowing and line painting parking areas.
- Weekly athletic field preparations fully supported youth soccer, youth football, adult softball and high school interscholastic sports.

#### **Parks & Open Space:**

- Prepared the mountain bike trails at Rye St. Park for our first-ever Trailblazer Poker Ryed.
- Began the restoration of the turf at the Fairgrounds (formerly Barton Property) including aeration, fertilization and overseeding following a very successful Wapping Fair.
- Special preparations were made at the VMP pavilion (horseshoe pits, corn toss, gas grill and extra trash receptacles) for the reservation that was relocated from the Rotary Pavilion at Nevers Park for the Festival of Lights.
- Numerous stone dust trail restorations were required following the unusual number of extremely heavy rain showers that created substantial wash-outs.
- Prepared, set up, administered, broke down and cleaned up the annual Festival of Lights

event at Nevers Park on Sat., Sept. 15th, requiring forty-eight over time man hours.

#### **Projects:**

- Assisted Bloomfield Electric with the installation of power supply at the base of the pavilion hill to support the Festival of Lights. This included trenching, back-filling and site restoration.

#### **Other:**

- We hosted a turf grass maintenance workshop at Wapping presented by UCONN College of Agriculture, Health & Natural Resources. 80% of our parks crew was able to attend the half-day professional development opportunity. Thanks go out to John Caldwell for orchestrating this meaningful & beneficial session.
- Conducted a tree inventory at the new Orchard Hill School to determine those that did not survive construction and need replacement.
- Assisted with the Town Employee annual picnic on Sept. 14th.
- Transported the bike trailer to and from new Orchard Hill in support of the SW Walk & Wheel Ways/BOE 4th grade bike safety education program.



*Kerry Macchi,  
Administrative Secretary  
joined our team on Sept. 4th*



*4th R Staff participates in some fun teambuilding exercises  
to better prepare them for the before & after school challenges!*





*Our first-ever Cricket field located at the Fairgrounds on Brookfield Street created in-house.  
-Photo by Al Whitken-*



*Two more window art submissions for the Priest Farm House!!*

## ***October 2018 Town Council Meetings and Events***

### ***Meetings***

**Monday, October 1, 2018**  
**7:00 pm Regular Meeting**  
*Council Chambers*

**Monday, October 15, 2018**  
**7:00 pm Regular Meeting**  
*Council Chambers*

### ***Holidays***

**Monday, October 8, 2018**  
*Town Offices Will Be Closed in Observance of Columbus Day*

*Layout by Samara Haddock, Confidential Secretary*

