

Town of South Windsor

Town Manager's Report October 2020

*Michael Maniscalco
Town Manager*



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



Police Department

Kristian R. Lindstrom
Chief of Police

Monthly Statistics August 2020:

Each month we publish the totals of some of our more common calls for service. As has been the case for since the outset of the COVID-19 Pandemic, we continue to

experience a shift in some of our activity levels; for instance, car stops are lower because there are fewer cars on the road, but we are doing far more directed patrols and receiving more suspicious activity calls. Patrol staff continue to proactively check businesses and facilities that remain closed due to the public health crisis.

| | |
|--|------|
| Total Computer Aided Dispatch Entries: | 2402 |
| 9-1-1 Calls Received: | 899 |
| Routine Calls Received/Outgoing: | 4919 |
| Directed Patrol/Premise Checks: | 925 |
| Motor Vehicle Stops: | 208 |
| Medical Assists/Emot. Dist. Persons: | 139 |
| Suspicious: | 91 |
| Alarms: | 102 |
| Motor Vehicle Accidents: | 30 |
| Welfare Check: | 37 |
| Assist Outside Agency: | 35 |
| Animal Problem: | 27 |
| Citizen Assist: | 32 |
| Miscellaneous Service: | 5 |
| Collision Reports: | 16 |
| BOLO: | 24 |
| Disabled Motor Vehicle: | 21 |
| Larceny: | 31 |
| Hazardous Conditions: | 118 |
| Pistol Permits: | 27 |
| Burglary: | 25 |
| Civil Matter: | 12 |
| 911 Check: | 9 |
| Fraud: | 12 |
| Domestic Dispute: | 10 |
| Narcotics Violation: | 2 |
| Violation of Town Ordinance: | 7 |
| Youth Problem: | 1 |
| Sexual Assault: | 1 |

COVID-19 Update:

As the State of Connecticut continues to reopen in phases, community members remain generally compliant with the phases of the reopening and complaints regarding violations are minimal. With the recent authorization from the Governor's Office to law enforcement allowing the issuance of infractions for mask violations and social gathering violations, our patrol force stands ready to aid in the enforcement of these issues. Despite the aforementioned authorization, our goal is to achieve voluntary compliance to these issues through education and dialogue long before infractions are issued for violations.

Personnel and Recruiting Status:

The agency's field training staff continue to train three recent academy graduates who are progressing through the fourteen week training program. Officer Pierpont continues to attend the basic recruit training at New Britain's Police Academy. The coming weeks will call for a tremendous effort by our training staff to get all of these officers field trained, but this step is necessary to realize

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the full staffing that we have sought for several years.

The month of September saw the retirement of the Department's sixth police chief, Chief Scott Custer. Chief Custer retired after 30 full years of service to the department. We are continuing to try to fill the vacancy left by this retirement as well as the recent retirement of Cpl. Nicoletta. Currently there are approximately 500 applicants in contention for these positions. With COVID-19 precautions in place, we were able to conduct 30+ entry level interviews during mid September. The applicants who excelled in the oral board examination were given preliminary background packets and those will be screened prior to background investigations beginning.

In addition, the Department is moving forward to hire multiple part-time Kennel Assistants to assist with cleaning and maintenance at the Tyler Regional Animal Care Shelter (TRACS). Job postings have also been distributed for a Police Records Specialist position in anticipation of Ms. Peggy Malaney's announced retirement in November.

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.

During the month of September we saw two sizable demonstrations in South Windsor. These events occurred at the same time and location (The Four Corners intersection) on Saturday, September 18th. The two demonstrating groups (Power Up Manchester/Black Lives Matter and Back the Blue) took place peacefully and without incident. The Police Department assigned additional staff to the area of the demonstrations to ensure that the events were peaceful, that there was no conflict between the groups, and that the demonstrators' First Amendment rights were not infringed upon.

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. This limitation is proving to be specifically deleterious during this time of socio-political unrest.

We appreciate the continued support from the community members as we continue to navigate these uncharted and uncertain waters. We are hopeful that the upcoming reopening of schools will lay the groundwork for the continued emergence of normalcy from beneath the COVID-19 blanket that we have all been under for months. It is our hope that this normalcy will include our ability to participate in the community policing events

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that we have missed out on.

Traffic Safety:

The start of the 2020/2021 school year occupied our focus on traffic safety during the month of September. Our patrol staff and Traffic Unit staff worked diligently to conduct "back to school" enforcement in the areas immediately adjacent to the town's schools. In addition, with schools returning to session for the first time since March, their modified schedule prompted collaboration between our Traffic Unit staff and the schools to modify traffic patterns as needed to ensure safe drop off and pick up (particularly at Pleasant Valley School).

Traffic complaints perpetually center around speed and we continued to measure the magnitude of speeding problems to validate them and deploy our resources and enforcement efforts accordingly. Conversations continue with Mr. Dave MacDonald regarding his traffic concerns on Laurel Street. This topic has been ongoing and will continue to be addressed. In addition, we continually meet with other Town officials in a collaborative approach to engineering safe roadways for our residents and visitors. The Buckland Corridor continues to be the focus of attention for traffic engineering concerns as development in the area continues.

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. During the last six weeks, patrol personnel prevented two opioid related overdoses by administering Narcan to save the life of two different individuals. During the same time frame, patrol personnel also successfully delivered a breech baby and arguably saved its life. The Police Department ensured the destruction of over 600lbs of unwanted prescription medication that had been turned in at police headquarters over the last several months.

The high school SRO started a new initiative aimed at recognizing and reinforcing the positive behaviors of students. This initiative was made possible through the generous donations and partnerships with several area businesses. Small gift cards, discounts, and free item coupons were donated by businesses and are being distributed by the SRO with personalized hand written notes.

On September 22, 2020, Dispatch received a report of a workplace shooting on Edwin Road. Patrol responded and arrived on scene within minutes and treated the two victims. They were able to broadcast suspect information to Dispatch who relayed the information to our mutual aid partners. Within approximately thirty minutes of the shooting, the suspect was in custody in Massachusetts. He has since been extradited to Connecticut and arraigned for several criminal charges. Both victims were treated for non-life threatening injuries. This case is a

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great example of the team work and professionalism that is expected of our staff.

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.

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

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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

Engineering Projects Update

Local Road Paving and Miscellaneous Drainage

Our paving contractor, Ondrick Materials has completed paving the Fire HQ, Ridgefield Drive, Summerwind, Krawski Drive, Files Way, Bayberry Trail, Horizon Circle, Mohegan Trail and Pleasant Valley Road from Route 5, 1900 feet to the east. They have milled and shimmed Wood Pond Road (from Nevers Road to Rustic Lane, Rustic Lane, Fox Hill Road, and Linda Lane and will finish paving these roads in the next week or two. Then they have to restore driveway aprons and lawn areas that have been disturbed. This program is supported by the 2018 Bond funds.

Sidewalk Repairs

Hathaway Landscaping & Concrete is replacing damaged sidewalk slabs in Town from our list of trip hazards. Martin Laviero/CRC has finished raising concrete slabs to eliminate trip hazards that were on our list this year. This sidewalk work is supported by the 2018 Bond funds.

Nevers Road Reconstruction

(Southern section from Sand Hill Road to the Community Center driveway). Spazzarini Construction has substantially completed their work on this project. There are still some utility wires that have to be moved by the utility companies and the expanded parking lot that was used as a construction staging area will be paved. This project is

supported by the 2018 Bond funds.

Avery Street Reconstruction Phase 5

(Northern section, from Talcott Ridge Road to Dart Hill Rd). Final designs have been completed and submitted to CRCOG and then ConnDOT for final review. We plan to bid this project for construction this winter with most of the work being completed in 2021. Construction of this project will be funded through the Connecticut DOT LOTCIP program.

Pleasant Valley Road and Clark Street Sidewalks

Preliminary plans have been completed, Inland Wetlands Agency approval obtained and a virtual public information meeting held on this project. Plans will be finalized this fall and submitted to ConnDOT for review and approval. We plan to bid this project this winter for construction in the spring and summer of 2021. Construction of this project will be funded with a grant from the Connecticut DOT Community Connectivity program.

Upcoming South Windsor Engineering Projects

Consultants are finishing the preliminary design for reconstruction of Beelzebub Road. Design is underway to replace the Main Street Bridge over the Podunk River. A study of needed drainage improvements to Pleasant Valley Road is wrapping up. These projects are funded from the 2018 Bond

Public Works Department

Referendum and Capital Projects Budget.

Jeffrey Doolittle

Town Engineer/Assistant Director of Public Works

Street Services

Streets crews completed a large cut and patch project on Miller Rd at Barber Hill Rd. This area was severely deteriorated making for a rough ride.

Town crews performed several drainage repairs during the month.

Road salt was delivered to the salt barn in preparation for this winter. Fingers crossed we are not going to use any, but we don't think that will be the case.

The department undertook a significant drainage project to the rear of a home on Hilton Dr using local contractors. The existing headwall was in an advanced state of deterioration requiring a new structure to be lowered into place using a crane.

Maintainers have been working to restore storm water detention basins throughout town. Overgrowth can lead to the basins inability to function correctly and create a flood potential.

Streets crews assisted the BOE by expanding the parking lot at Pleasant Valley School.

Our maintainers assisted the Parks Department in covering the pools at VMP.

Maintainers removed a damaged section of concrete at the Community Center, which proved to be a significant tripping hazard.

Crews spent significant time picking up litter and debris from illegal dumping from several areas in town including the Town Garage.

Maintainers continue to line stripe various town parking lots/facilities including fire headquarters, fire house 2, fire house 3, Community Center, Duprey parking lot, and the little league parking lot.

The sign shop is working to create news signs for the November election, for Veterans Day, for the Fire Marshals and the Parks Department. There were 45 new or replacement regulatory and warning signs installed during the month.

Residents are encouraged to use Connect South Windsor to report hazards. WWW.SOUTHWINDSOR.ORG/CONNECT or look for the app for iPhones and Androids

Scott Yeomans

Associate Manager, Street Services

Finance Department

Mary Huda
Assessor

Patricia Perry
Director of Finance

Jennifer Hilinski-Shirley
Collector of Revenue

Assessor

Personal Property Declarations were mailed out to all business owners on Monday, September 21, 2020. They are due back to the Assessor's Office on or before November 2, 2020 to avoid 25% penalty. There are online filing capabilities to ensure contactless and virtual filing.

You can visit the Assessor's department webpage <https://www.southwindsor-ct.gov/assessor/pages/personal-property-declaration-information> for FAQ information and further filing assistance. Alternatively, you may email personalproperty@southwindsor-ct.gov with any additional questions.

Collector of Revenue

The Collector of Revenue would like to remind taxpayers that residential sewer use bills were due October 1, 2020 and the last day to pay without penalty is Monday, November 2, 2020. ACH Fees will be waived for those paying on-line by November 2, 2020.

Sewer assessment bills will be mailed the last week of October and due November 1, 2020. The last day to pay without penalty is Tuesday, December 1, 2020.

Our office encourages social distancing through 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 by calling 860-644-2511 extension 321 or emailing taxcollector@southwindsor-ct.gov

Human Services Department

Andrea Cofrancesco
Director of Human Services

Adult & Senior Services

Renter's Rebate

Caseworkers in Adult and Senior Services have so far completed 191 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.

Back to School Program

Adult and Senior Services served 10 families in our back to school program which is down considerably this year due to distance learning as a result of COVID-19. Backpacks and gift cards to a local store for a pair of shoes were provided.

Energy Assistance

Applications for the 2020-21 energy assistance program are underway for deliverable fuels only. Electric and Gas customers can apply beginning November 1. Gross monthly income cannot exceed \$35,116/year (single) and \$45,920 (couples). Assets cannot exceed \$12,000 (renter) and \$15,000 (homeowner). If assets exceed the limit and income is low people may still qualify. For an appointment or more info call 860-648-6361.

Fresh Produce for the Food Bank!

A huge thank you to Futtner Farm for donating produce for older adults and people who use the foodbank. Bill Marshall, of the

SW Food Alliance and Jim Futtner, of Futtner Farm harvested fresh produce weekly for two months. 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 residents!



Medicare Open Enrollment

Open Enrollment for Medicare begins October 15 and ends December 7 with changes effective January 1. Four staff in the Adult and Senior Services If you are looking to switch your Medicare Advantage plan or drug plan, call us at 860-648-6361 and ask to speak to a CHOICES counselor. All sessions are by appointment and will be done over the phone, virtually, or in person based on your needs. A list of your medications will be needed. CHOICES counselors provide free and unbiased insurance information.

Senior Programming Survey

A survey was sent out in July about senior's thoughts on returning to the center. Interesting findings! 110 people responded.

Members would participate in the in-person

Human Services Department

Andrea Cofrancesco
Director of Human Services

programs when the Center reopens...

47/110 senior bus day trips (43%)

46/110 movie (42%)

33/110 motorcoach day trips (30%)

30/110 fitness center (27%)

57/110 exercise and wellness classes (52%)

56/110 entertainment (51%)

46/110 educational programs (42%)

32/110 BINGO (29%)

Comments we received on the survey:

~Great job!

~Miss you

*~Can't wait to get back to "normal".
Meanwhile, I'll continue to seriously practice
"social distancing" especially after my knee
replacement.*

*~I would like to come and play pool as soon
as possible*

*~I've sure missed coming in anytime I
needed to, thank all of you for keeping in
touch with all of us.*

*~I am so very impressed with your
engagement during these trying times.*

*~Thank you for being there for all of us, I
miss being there.*

*~I enjoyed coming to the Center so much
and being involved with the many varied
activities. I really miss being there.*

*~I miss all my senior buddies. It's not the
same staying in touch by phone.*

~I miss you guys

*~You have been wonderful in calling all of us
seniors. Thank you very much!*

Drive thru Events a HUGE Success!

In September, a total of 1,181 came over 9 separate days to pick up a treat of some kind whether it be cheese pizza, Italian ice, peanut butter and jelly, or coffee and a muffin (and more!). To make this more of an "event", seniors made two stops in line with the second stop being a beverage, trinket or games to keep their mind sharp. As many as 160 people came through at each event!



October Drive thru events:

Walking Tacos: Wednesday, October 7

An Apple (Cider) A Day: Friday, October 9

Lazy Man Pierogis: Wednesday, October 14

Cheesecake: Friday, October 16

Pumpkin Day: Wednesday, October 21

Human Services Department

Andrea Cofrancesco
Director of Human Services

National Pasta Day: Friday, October 23
Hot Diggity Dog: Wednesday, October 28
from 12 to 1 PM:

Painted Rocks

30 Homebound seniors are getting a hand painted rock from members of the Senior Center's Community Service Group, along with a Beanie Baby holding an inspirational saying. Spreading a little cheer during these tough times. Neighbors helping neighbors.



Upcoming Events Sponsored by Political Parties

Drive thru Halloween Party

Friday, October 30 beginning at 1 PM. This drive thru party will offer a variety of stations which will include games, prizes, candy and FUN! It can't get better than that! Wear a costume and get a prize! Sponsored by the South Windsor Democrats. Call to register! Based on the number of people interested, we may assign you a more specific time slot.

Parking Lot BINGO!

Sponsored by the SW Republicans
We know how much you miss your favorite Senior Center activity! Join us for the fun on

Monday, November 2 at 1 PM. Each person will get 1 BINGO card, a favor, and a beverage. Prizes will be awarded to winners!



Youth and Family Services

We had a blast at Back to School Big Chill Event! So great to see so many familiar faces and meet some new ones. We were happy to spread a little love while providing information about our programs and substance prevention.



This month, we held two "When I am in Charge Home Alone Safety" classes. Both classes were full with a total of 30 South Windsor youth attending. They all left for home with skills and confidence to work with their families on how to be safe when home alone.

We are in the process of hiring a new Teen Center Program Coordinator and we can't wait to share that news with you soon!

Human Services Department

Andrea Cofrancesco
Director of Human Services

S.W.A.N. Parent Education and Support

We are offering FREE parenting webinar classes through Peace At Home Parenting for all of 2020! Topics range from toilet training toddlers to talking to your teens!

Coming up for October we have:

- Anxious Children: What really helps?
- Navigating Challenges in Co-Parenting
- Teens in Love: Navigating romantic relationship conversations with your teen
- Support your Child with Special Needs

There is a COVID-19 Parent Tool Box- filled with classes on supporting parents during this time. From helping your child feel safe to how to work from home and support your children.

<http://www.peaceathomeparenting.com/south-windsor-login/>

School Outreach & Prevention

The Students Against Destructive Decisions Club (SADD) at SWHS is preparing for a "Virtual" club this year. The upperclassmen leaders are brainstorming ways to keep the club fun and engaging, while also helping our community in a variety of ways. We look forward to being creative and thinking of new ways to connect students and staff.

Pinwheels for Peace is an art project that celebrates the International Day of Peace. Students and staff at TEMS were invited to create a pinwheel showing their feelings

about peace and harmony. They could draw a picture or simply write what peace means to them. The pinwheels were then displayed out in the front of the school as a reminder that peace and kindness can be found everywhere.



Counseling & Support

Robin and Sarah have continued to maintain their caseload, They are providing crisis support to high risk youth, assessed families in need and connecting them to the caseworkers in Adult & Senior services for food, work with the schools on identifying at risk families in need of support and have created spaces in their homes to ethically continue to provide therapy.

We have one part time Youth Counselor position open right now that we hope to fill soon.

Sarah will be starting a NEW support group for parents called, Parenting in a Pandemic. It will be a closed group that will run for six weeks.

Each week a different topic will be covered: Talking about Coronavirus, Stress versus Trauma, Self-Care, Social Media Use, Scheduling & Routine & Finding Meaning

Human Services Department

Andrea Cofrancesco
Director of Human Services

Sarah will act as facilitator for the group. The group format will be collaborative, relaxed, and judgment-free. This will be a virtual space to ask questions, come up with answers, and feel safe and supported.

Lots of GREAT things happening this month and beyond, take a look!

Special Events

These are free DRIVE THRU events at the S.W. Community Center parking lot. Just pull up any time between 4-5pm to get some treats and a smile! You must PRE-REGISTER at Eventbrite (search South Windsor Youth and Family)



Wednesday, September 30, 2020



Sugar Pumpkin and Apple Cider



Wednesday, November 4, 2020



Thanksgiving Family Craft/Color your own
Placemats & Munchkins



Wednesday, December 2, 2020



Winter Snowflake Craft and Cookies

Additional Services and Events

Youth and Family Counseling

If you or your child are in need of support, please reach out to Robin Lagasse, LMSW, and S.W. Youth & Family Counseling Coordinator at:

robin.lagasse@southwindsor.org or at 860-648-6361 ext. 3324.

Eat Dinner with your Family

Wednesday, October 28th ~ Drive thru pick up between 3:30-5:00 pm at the S.W.

Community Center

One simple way to spend quality time with your kids is to remove the stress of making dinner. Let us help you! For \$15 you can purchase a family meal, consisting of a 1/2 tray of pasta with marinara sauce, salad and bread (4-6 people). The National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University consistently finds that the more often children eat dinner with their families, the less likely they are to smoke, drink or use illegal drugs. Eating dinner with your family makes a difference!

You must register and pay by October 23rd at Eventbrite -search South Windsor Youth and Family.

Drug Take Back Day

Saturday, October 24th, 10am-2pm ~ Drive thru at S.W. Police Dept., 151 Sand Hill Road

Help us prevent drug misuse by getting your expired and unused medication out of your house. Come by the S.W. Police Department between 10am-2pm for a drive thru drop off. Please note that all prescription and nonprescription medications, including liquid, are accepted.

This event is sponsored by the Triad for Senior Safety, S.W. Human Services and the S.W. Police Dept.

Human Services Department

Andrea Cofrancesco
Director of Human Services

Drive BOO! Halloween Fun!

Sunday, October 25th from 12-3pm ~ Free

Enjoy a "Trick or Treating" drive thru event from the safety of your own car! Kids of all ages will enjoy collecting treats at decorated stations on the route! Costumes are optional. Registration begins October 5th at 8am. More details will be on the SW Youth and Family Facebook page, and the Recreation Facebook page and website as well.

This event is sponsored with the S.W. Recreation Department and Imperial Plumbing & Oil

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



Parks & Recreation Department

Raymond Favreau
Director of Parks & Recreation

“Discover the Benefits!”

John Caldwell, Jr.
Parks Superintendent

MONTHLY REPORT - October 5, 2020

Keri Montague
Asst. Director of Parks &
Recreation

Park & Recreation Commission (PARC) – We will begin meeting virtually on Wed., Oct. 14th at 7:30pm via WebEx and thereafter every other month until further notice. If all goes well, we still hope to complete the master plan revision under this new arrangement.

The South Windsor Walk & Wheel Ways (SWW&WW) – We are hoping to meet virtually in late October or early November to re-start work on the cross-town trail project and work on the revision of the SWW&WW Master Plan. They will be offering a free 20 mile East Coast Greenway Bike Ride on Sat., Oct. 10th departing from One Church, 855 Chapel Road at 9:00am. Their semi-annual adopt-a-road clean-up commitment on Chapel Road was successfully held on Sat., Sept. 26th and Sun., the 27th.



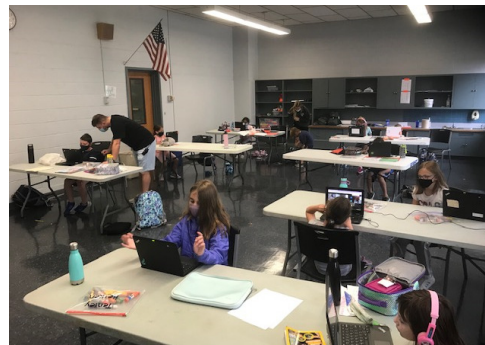
Orchard Hill 4th “R” crafty indoors and drafty outdoors!

Being One of the Best! – By now you have probably heard that on September 23rd Money Magazine publicized 2020’s list of the top 50 “Best Places to Live in the U.S.” and South Windsor ranked an amazing 12th in the country!! Selection criteria was based on communities “that aren’t just doing well now, but show great promise and stability for the next five to ten years.” Additionally, the magazine touted our historic district, availability of farm fresh produce, proximity to large stable employers, a steady economy and...our parks!! We couldn’t be more proud of the recognition, and I couldn’t be more proud of our terrific staff that works so hard to get that well-deserved attention!

Recreation Division

“Feel great—recreate!”

4th “R” kicked off year fourteen this



Cohort “A” 4th “R” diligent in their supervised distant learning at Wapping

month! We've adapted to the hybrid school schedule, and offered AM and PM 4th "R" for participants at their schools on their in-person days. We also offered a full day program, held at the Wapping Parks and Recreation Facility, for those families that needed full day coverage on their children's distance learning days. It's been so great to see our friends back at 4th "R," and we've had lots of fun so far to start the school year, including theme days, lots of outside exploration, and even a dance competition across all four sites! Beginning Monday, October 5th the elementary schools will resume in-person learning for all students five days a week, and as such we will resume 4th "R" for our participants five days a week as well!

"Parks & Rec October Happenings"

Please see attached mini brochure for details, but here are a few highlights - You are cordially invited to our newest Halloween Fun events:

1. Free Friday Flicks Drive-In Style Oct. 16th at 7:00pm for a seasonal showing of the hilarious and entertaining "Hocus Pocus" in the student parking lot at the high school.
2. Fall Yard Decorating Contest for residents who wish to register their

Fall-themed decorated yard for bragging rights and prizes! Judging by SWPRD staff will occur between Oct. 19th and 23rd.

3. Drive BOO! Where families can enjoy a "trick or treating" drive-thru from the safety of their own car! Kids of all ages will enjoy collecting treats at decorated stations on the route! Sunday, October 25 beginning at 12:00 PM. Pre-registration for a specific time slot is required.
4. Egg-Tober will get families ready to celebrate Halloween safely with a private "Halloween Egg Hunt"! Sign up now for a package of three dozen Halloween colored plastic eggs filled with candies, small toys, dollar bills and a \$5 gift card to use towards any SWPRD program delivered right to your door between Oct. 26th and 29th !

We are excited to announce the launching of our second annual **"Kindness is Contagious"** campaign! Catch someone performing an act of kindness and nominate them to our department via email at rec@southwindsor-ct.gov, or by phone at 860-648-6355 and we'll recognize them with a custom "caught



Colorful Philip R. Smith 4th "R" in their new home!



Smiling Pleasant Valley 4th "R" – can't you tell?!?

being kind" lawn sign!

We will continue conversations with the BOE for potential increased facility access as Fall 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 or provided 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"

September Activity Highlights:

- Athletic Fields & Grounds:
 - As of Sept. 4th all local Fall sports organizations were allowed to fully reopen their Fall season competition under DECD Sports Sector Rules. We were able to hustle and get enough fields marked-out, painted and goals put in place for all groups to start.



Nothing like Pop-Up Ice Cream in the Parks on a sunny Saturday at My Friends Place!



- Over seeding and fertilizing of athletic fields and public building grounds began and will continue through early October.
- We spent the beginning of the month working on cleaning up the schools and preparing for opening day, including moving benches and bleachers, relocating dedicated rocks and planters to the memorial garden area in the back of the new Philip R. Smith School.
- We also worked with the BOE installing three of our large tents and a couple new tents that they had purchased to provide open air education stations at each school in town as part of the COVID mitigation plan for education.

• Parks & Open Space:

- We spent a week at the VMP draining, adding chemicals, scrubbing the floors and covering the pools for the winter.
- Serviced Buckland Road islands
- Drought conditions continue to raise havoc with trees and grass areas without irrigation. The up-side is



Eli Terry 4th "R" enjoying the brand new playground!

that mosquito breeding areas (stagnant pools of water) are practically non-existent so the population is very nominal which minimizes the chances of another EEE threat. DEEP has released a similar assessment.

- Installed new post and rail fence along the path that connects Andreis Trail and Carriage Drive.
- Still chasing tree work not only at town properties, but at dozens of residencies where open space trees had impacted private property, much of it remnants from the August 4th storm. Removed or ground numerous tree stumps.
- Mowing of the flood control structures by Avery Street
- Prepared VMP for our annual “Doggie Dip” on Tues., Sept. 1st from 4-7:30pm.
- Projects:
 - Nearing in-house completion of the re-construction of the Pepin Baseball Field at the Little League Complex.



Lazer grading the Pepin
Little League field

Irrigation system was installed and turf areas were Brillion seeded in multiple directions topped with hydro-seed – and the grass is popping very nicely! Stumps along the private property line were removed and will be replaced with a row of 25 8-10 foot high arborvitae to re-establish a privacy buffer for the neighbor to the west. Installation of permanent new chain link fencing is the last remaining item. Field should be ready for next Spring! This is the forth athletic field we have re-constructed primarily in-house in the past 8 years. The other were: the Ayers Road Softball field. The TEMS Baseball field and the SWHS multiple purpose field.

- We will be working on creation and installation of the new flag pole “garden” by the Wapping Community House at the corner of Sullivan Ave. and Ellington Road in the coming weeks.
- By the time you read this report the Nevers Park entrance roadway off Chief Ryan Way and the associated



Distributing irrigation piping for
installation at the Pepin field

interior parking lots should be completely re-constructed. The old surfacing was reclaimed and used to supplement new base material, areas were graded, compacted and then paved. This was one of the approved projects in the 2020-2021 C.I.P. budget.

- As part of the final phase of the Nevers Road Reconstruction project the contractor was given a substantial area at Nevers Park adjacent to the existing parking lot by the soccer/lacrosse fields for a staging area. In return they had to leave the staging area prepared for permanent future parking. It has been based out with storm drainage, graded, and compacted. We are now negotiating paving. This effort will increase the size of the existing parking by 60% adding 30 spaces to the existing 50 which is desperately needed.
- Other:
 - Please welcome Charles Shafer to our Parks Division as our new Parks Maintainer 1! His first day on the job was Monday, Sept. 28th.

October 2020 Town Council Meetings and Events

Meetings

Monday, October 5, 2020

7:00 pm Special Meeting

Virtual Meeting

Monday, October 19, 2020

7:00 pm Regular Meeting

Virtual Meeting

Holidays

Monday, October 12, 2020

Town Offices will be closed in observance of Columbus Day.

Layout by Samara Haddock, Confidential Secretary

