

# ***Town of South Windsor***

## **Town Manager's Report December 2017**

*Matthew B. Galligan  
Town Manager*



Due to the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities Annual Meeting this week, the Town Manager's Report will be given verbally at the Town Council meeting on December 4.

*Matthew B. Galligan  
Town Manager*

## Police Department

Timothy M. Edwards  
Chief of Police

### **SWPD in Social Media:**

The South Windsor Police and other volunteers will work together again this year to host the 2017 Stuff-A-Truck event on Saturday, December 9th. The event locations will be both Stop & Shop, 1739 Ellington Road, and Geissler's Supermarket, 965 Sullivan Avenue. South Windsor Police, Fire, A.S.M. medical staff and volunteers from Evergreen Lodge of Freemasons will be at both locations from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. We are asking for donations of new unwrapped toys, new children's clothing, food items, cash and gift cards. This event is put on through the cooperative efforts of the South Windsor Police Department, South Windsor Fire Department, Ambulance Service of Manchester and Evergreen Lodge of Freemasons.

### **Emergency of Hunger Food Drive Results:**

We owe a huge thank you to all the donors and volunteers who came out for the Emergency of Hunger Food Drive the weekend before Thanksgiving. The event collected 125 turkeys, 259 boxes of food (which totaled 8000 items), and \$5,046 dollars. Thank you for making the holiday season a little easier for our neighbors in need.

### **9-1-1 Phone System Outage on November 22nd:**

There was an area-wide 911 system outage affecting dozens of towns on November 22<sup>nd</sup> at about 1 p.m. The State and AT&T worked to fix the system and we did media email blasts and social media posts to remind people that our routine number was working and that it's always a good idea to have the routine phone number for your local police department in your cellphone. The issue was resolved in about an hour and was caused by an I.T. contractor making an adjustment that took down the system. We received a spreadsheet of all the "missed calls" we should have gotten and checked every one to assure no one lacked assistance.

As a reminder, the Town of South Windsor completed implementation of the new Next Generation 911 phone system in late September. Our PSAP (Public Safety Answering Point) is located in Police Headquarters. Our dispatchers answer all 911 calls routed to town and dispatch Police, Fire and Medical staff as the situation requires. The actual phone system hardware is maintained by the State of Connecticut in partnership with AT&T.

### **Retirement of Sgt. Peter F. Alix and Exec. Secretary Merlyn Guild:**

On November 22<sup>nd</sup> we congratulated Sergeant

Peter Alix who retired after 28 years of service. Sgt. Alix has been heavily involved in police training during his career and has instructed at both the Connecticut Police Academy and Hartford Police Academy. He served as a police canine handler and as our Training Sergeant. Sgt. Alix is also a U.S. Army veteran, serving both active duty and in the reserves, retiring as a Lieutenant Colonel. Sgt. Alix is using up his remaining leave time through January 2018 and a retirement party is being planned for mid-January.

We have identified a certified officer who we intend to hire in the coming weeks. Because this candidate already holds Connecticut certification we save the expense of Police Academy tuition and he only needs to complete an abbreviated Field Training Program. This saves the department from the salary costs associated with the 6 month academy and 4 month field training program that a non-certified candidate would need to attend.

On November 14<sup>th</sup> we sent our best wishes for a happy retirement to our Executive Secretary Merlyn Guild who retired after 24 years of service to South Windsor. We hosted a luncheon for staff and were joined by Merlyn's family and some of our retirees. She received many lovely gifts and a Proclamation from Mayor Anwar and the Town Council.

We are very happy to have Elizabeth Hilton, formerly from Public Works, taking over Merlyn's role as our Office Administrator.

### **Clothing Drive with Hartford Bags of Love:**

We have partnered up with a remarkable young man and his family via the local non-profit charity "Hartford Bags of Love" to collect coats and warm clothing for those in need. Corporal Nicoletta and the Cabot family have secured donation bin locations at the Community Center, Geissler's and Stop & Shop.

We are collecting gently used coats, gloves, hats, scarves, and sleeping bags.  
[www.hartfordbagsoflove.com](http://www.hartfordbagsoflove.com)

### **Traffic Safety:**

This month we are participating in the national "Click It or Ticket" campaign to boost highway safety during the holiday season. Additionally, Traffic Unit officers taught at the "It Takes One" program at South Windsor High School November 16<sup>th</sup>.

The anti-distracted driving program is presented to juniors, seniors and parents at the school. The program includes a retreat sleepover at school and speakers who discuss how distracted driving has affected their lives. Kudos to SWHS students and staff for addressing the issue and working towards prevention of injury.

## Public Works Department

Michael J. Gantick  
Director of Public Works

### Fleet Services

Within the confines of the Public Works Fleet Division we continue to strive to find new and creative ways to bring top of the line quality and value to the towns' rolling stock fleet. This cannot be more demonstrated than the recent refurbishment of one of our 2004 Sterling Dump Body plow trucks. This truck is nearly 14 years old with 54,000 miles on it. Every winter season this truck is exposed to about a dozen tons of salt, which wreaks havoc on the metal parts of the truck. Refurbishment isn't always a feasible process but in certain situations, this is a fiscally responsible option to a full replacement.

This particular truck was showing signs of needing replacement in the not too distant future, not only evident through the amount of frame rust-but also the scheduled replacement time through our amortization schedule-due for replacement in 2020 at a cost of almost \$180,000.

Through our highly skilled mechanics and an outside contractor the truck frame was sandblasted, repainted, new fenders installed, the plow controls switched from an old breakdown prone cable system; to a more ergonomically driver friendly air system. The engine was revamped with a new air compressor and turbo. New brakes and bearings were installed on all the wheels and

the rotted heated body removed. This truck should last the town another 10 years as long as it is continually washed after storms. In fact, Fleet Services designed, fabricated and tested a unique under carriage washing system that is utilized after each storm. Trucks were reviewed after the under carriage washing and compared to trucks washed using conventional methods. It was determined that this new washing system removed far more salt from areas of the trucks than a conventional washing. Just another example of the department trying desperately to extend the life of our equipment, utilizing value added processes and ingenuity leading to sound fiscal responsibility. All in all these repairs cost an estimated \$35,000 and will continue to provide value to the town for years to come.

Beyond this the department serviced several other fleet vehicles, up to but not limited to, police vehicles, health and human services busses, parks and recreation vehicles, several small leaf machine issues that came to light, and even some in-house housekeeping issues. The department has slowly been revamping their storage system not only through the previously reported fluids handlers, but all of the hard fasteners, spare parts and pieces, belts and such. This process has taken quite a bit of time due to the shop having very little to no "down time" but has been chipped away at



over the past year. It is our hope to have this process completed by summer.

The department also had a pseudo wall put in around the work area via a slotted fence. The purpose of this fence is to reduce exposure to workplace injuries and town liability, much like any other shop you would bring your vehicle to, the department is trying to prevent unauthorized access and therefore injuries.

*Leon Clough*  
*Fleet Services Manager*

### **Street Services**

Here at the Public Works Street Services Division we have been ramping up for and kicking off the leaf season. This year proves again to be unique with many of the leaves still in the trees nearly half way through November. What makes this peculiar this year is the major wind event experienced at the end of October.



***Tree Across Birch***

On the evening of Sunday, October 29th the town endured a fairly severe storm where wind gusts hit 70 miles an hour, on par with Hurricane Irene of 2011. This wind coupled with the heavy amounts of rain earlier in the week which saturated the soil created the potential for lots of trees to tip over at the root ball. The town's residents endured some lengthy power outages while Eversource attempted to clean up the downed lines and trees. The Department of Public Works Street Services role in events like these are expansive. There were streets to be closed and detoured around, downed trees that weren't involved with wires in the street to be removed, and various flooding issues around town. As per usual, our crews rose to the occasion with expert class and keen efficiency. Needless to say, the town residents' wood pile coffers are flush.

Beyond the tree issues the deluge of rain has brought to light quite a few sinkholes in the past week. The department has been trying to keep pace with these issues and complete them prior to the winter frost taking hold of the ground.

The sign department within the Streets Services Division saw a marked increase in inquiries for the "Birthplace of Jonathan Edwards" historic sign on Main Street. Come to find out it is quite the tourist attraction with calls coming in almost daily inquiring as to the whereabouts of the sign while its base was being repaired. One gentleman in particular, a Pastor from Virginia traveled all the way up here to visit South Windsor and

cherish its rich history and significance and, “walk the trail” of Jonathan Edwards. Fortunately for him, the sign was reinstalled the day before he left town and was able to view it with his own two eyes.



Smith Street experienced a pipe collapse/sink hole issue where the crews were able to install vent pipes and bulk heads and employ a flowable fill style repair procedure. This approach doesn't work in all applications but when possible saves a lot of time in energy. In essence the pipe gets filled with a flowable concrete (think quicksand) which then cures and eliminates any void space underground. The benefits of this allow the crew to not have to chase after the pipe, or digging down to remove it and then recompacting the area and repaving a large swath of road. Fortunately

there were redundant pipes so that one pipe could be filed and abandoned. While the crews were out there they removed a large amount of invasive species and relined the swale with trap rock, installed curbing to carry the water to the proper outlets and revamped the guardrail.

*Scott Yeomans*  
*Associate Manager*



## Human Services Department

### **Adult & Senior Services**

**Andrea Cofrancesco, Director of Adult and Senior Services**

#### **Medicare Open Enrollment**

Open Enrollment for Medicare 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.

#### **5th Annual Craft & Specialty Foods Show Sunday, December 10**

**9:00 AM—3:00 PM**

Get your holiday shopping done at the Senior Center! In addition to a new variety of unique, quality, handmade crafts, we will have our popular "Grandma's Holiday Cupboard", a room filled with specialty foods just in time for holiday gift giving! This is a fundraiser for our Community Service Group to support various service projects within our community! **Bake sale and raffles too! FREE admission!**

#### **Cuts to Medicare Savings Program**

Medicare Savings Program (MSP) helps low income Medicare beneficiaries with paying their Medicare premiums and deductibles and automatically qualifies individuals for the low income subsidy (LIS) which reduces

prescription drug costs. The income limits have been cut almost in half as of January 1st and will result in loss of coverage for 488 South Windsor residents. Anyone currently on the program whose income exceeds the new amounts will no longer be eligible for the program. Loss of MSP coverage will increase out of pocket costs by a minimum of \$1600 per year. It also means increased medical costs for those who are on the highest benefit of the program which acts as a supplemental insurance. This program automatically makes people eligible for help with their prescription drug costs. We have invited State Reps Delnicki and Currey and State Senator Tim Larson for a meeting in January to meet with staff and seniors so they can hear firsthand the impact these changes will have on the lives of low income seniors.

#### **Renter's Rebate**

Caseworkers processed 218 applications totaling \$90,976.75 in rebates to South Windsor residents. Checks will be mailed out to recipients by mid-December.

#### **The Season of Giving**

The Season of Giving is here and the staff in the Adult and Senior Services Division is proud to be part of this EXTREMELY GENEROUS community! The photos below

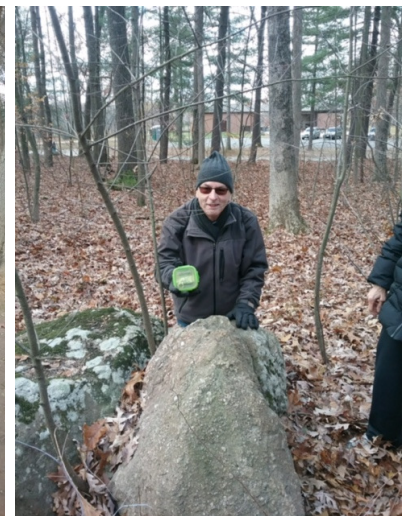


are just a few that we are highlighting: Custodians and Maintainers through Board of Education, Brownies in Troop 10903; Rotary Club, ASM, Police Department, Fire Department. The Rotary Club food drive resulted in \$5,046 in monetary donations, over 10,000 food items and 125 turkeys.



### Adventure Club Activities

Our Adventure club continues to go on adventures: geocaching, hiking, Indian Rock oh my!



## **Youth & Family Services**

Elizabeth Langevin, LMSW, Director of Youth and Family Services



### **November**

South Windsor Youth & Family Services, along with Vernon, East Hartford and Coventry Youth Services, honored those who have made an impact on our community and the work that we do with youth. This Friends of Youth Award is held every two years through the Eastern Chapter of Connecticut Youth Services. This year, we awarded Dr. Richard Fu for his work with our Rising Stars summer program and Teen Center Youth Council. Dr. Richard Fu is the president of Agrivolution, LLC, a "CT based company developing innovative sustainable farming solutions in Controlled Environment Agriculture (CEA)". The South Windsor Teen Center Youth Council and Rising STARS Summer Program were fortunate enough to

meet with Dr. Fu through connections with the town's Food Alliance Committee and joined in to participate in one of their many projects, which includes setting up grow racks in a local warehouse office space to help educate and eventually train local residents and community groups about the benefits and economic potential of farming indoors. The other recipient, is School Resource Officer, Tina Roy, for her collaborations with us over the years, which include Cops, Coffee & Conversation and the Juvenile Review Board. She has developed a social media safety presentation for parents that has now been offered at the annual Connecticut Youth Service Conference as well as the statewide Juvenile Review Board conference. Families know that they can trust her and ask for her





guidance because she cares for kids and families so deeply. She is an amazing person who is an asset to our school, our police department and our community. We were happy to honor Dr. Fu and Tina Roy.

### Teen Center

The Teen Center held its 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual ***Giving Thanks Meal*** at the Teen Center with over 40 high school participants coming together to share a meal afterschool. High school drop in hours have been very popular this fall, with some days having over 50 students stop in for snacks, activities or to hang out with friends. The "Lego Lunch" Middle School Group met for a final time this month and completed the Marvel set! Although a small group, participants were dedicated to problem solving, socializing and creativity –it was a



pleasure to be witness to their skills and friendship. We are very grateful for the SW family who so thoughtfully donated this amazing Lego set to our Teen Center!

Our High School Youth Council Volunteer Group continues to stay busy with over 15 volunteers so far this school year! Students regularly lend helping hands at the SW Farmers Market, the Teen Center, and various events in the community or surrounding towns. This month some of our volunteers helped serve over 300 guests at the annual Soup Fest in Rockville, which raises funds to directly benefit Cornerstone Foundation and

its ministries, such as the Soup Kitchen, Clothing Bank and Shelters – to just name a few.

### Parent Education and Support

**S.W.A.N.**  
South Windsor  
& Neighbors



The SWAN parent/child playgroup has grown from about 3 families to almost 40

families! The children look forward to coming to play with their friends on Monday mornings and riding on the roller coaster. The



parents reported they are so thankful to have a big space to allow their children to burn off some energy as the November weather has been very chilly! Children and their parents can make a craft together and play with developmentally appropriate toys in a safe and welcoming environment.

The **Relatives Raising Children** Ongoing support group met on November 21<sup>st</sup>. We discussed STRESS: The Good, The Bad and The Healthy. With the holidays upon us we can't help but start to feel stressed! Too little stress makes us bored and listless, whereas too much stress can lead to burnout and exhaustion. The grandparents discussed their unique stress of parenting a grandchild.

**Early Childhood Resource Fair** will be Saturday, January 6<sup>th</sup> 2018 Youth and Family Services will host their 1<sup>st</sup> Early Childhood Resource Fair. Early Childhood education is vital to our community. Children need a strong early learning foundation to succeed in school, and go on to succeed in life. Currently the Committee is working hard to plan this wonderful event. The committee is made up of childcare providers, law enforcement, fire department, pediatricians, nutritionist, South Windsor childrens librarian and many other community providers that provide support and services to parents and young children.

### **School Outreach**

The Mentoring Program is up and running with more than 20 matches currently meeting once a week. Mentors and their students enjoy time during the school day sharing lunch, playing games, making crafts or just catching up. They build positive relationships with each other and look forward to getting together each week.

SADD students collected over 200 pairs of socks during the "Sock it to the Cold" sock drive. They will be donated to a local shelter

so that people in our state can enjoy warm feet this winter!

**Please check out our Facebook**  
[https://www.facebook.com/  
SWYouthFamily](https://www.facebook.com/SWYouthFamily)  
**or call Liz at 860-648-6361 x331 for  
more information on any above  
program.**





## Parks & Recreation Department

Raymond Favreau  
Director of Parks & Recreation

### “Discover the Benefits!”

John Caldwell, Jr.  
Superintendent of Parks

**MONTHLY REPORT - December 4, 2017**

Keri Apt  
Asst. Director of Parks &  
Recreation

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

– The next PARC meeting is Wednesday, Dec. 13th at 7:30pm in the Sprenkel Room of the Town Hall. Beginning Jan. 10<sup>th</sup> the PARC will change its meeting location to Wapping School.

**The South Windsor Walk & Wheel Ways (SWW&WW)** sub-committee meets next on Wed., Dec. 6 at Wapping, Room 54.

**The South Windsor FOOD Alliance (SWFA)** - The alliance will be taking a break for the winter and not running the abbreviated indoor version as had been done in the past. They will stay busy planning ahead for the 2018 outdoor Farmer's Market season that will begin in late June. Go to [www.swfood.org](http://www.swfood.org) for more details.

**Like us on Facebook** - The number keeps growing - we are now “liked” by 1,984 people! Only 16 shy of the 2,000 mark! To let our folks know that WE like them too once we reach 2,000 all individuals who like our page will be entered into a raffle to win a \$100 SWPRD gift card good towards any parks & recreation program or service! Won't you like

us too at south windsor parks & recreation and **check out the awesome videos posted?** Also, please follow us on Instagram too at SWPRD06074!!

#### **Special Invitation to Councilors – SAVE**

**THE DATES:** That's correct, I said dates as we have a very active winter coming your way! 'Tis the season for giving and we will do just that delivering the following FREE events for our residents! New for this holiday season we are excited to present “**Grinchmas**” on **Friday, Dec. 1<sup>st</sup>** from 7-9pm at Wapping in celebration of National Grinch Day! This free family event will offer participants Grinchy crafts and games culminating with a showing of the now-classic made for TV Grinch cartoon highlighted with a visit from a special green guest! Between **Dec. 4<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>** children can drop off their **Letters to Santa** in a special mailbox under the Nevers Park gazebo at the corner of Nevers & Sand Hill Roads for a personalized response from Santa! On **Sat., Dec. 9<sup>th</sup>** from 4:00 to 5:30pm join us for our annual **Skate w/ Santa** at the South Windsor Arena. We ask that participants bring a new unwrapped toy to be donated to Toys for Tots and a camera for that

memorable shot with Santa himself! Thank you to Dzen Realty for their generous sponsorship of this event! Then, get into the holiday spirit and enter a friendly, festive and free competition with the return of the **Merry & Bright Holiday Lights Contest!** Residents are invited to decorate the exterior of your home, pre-register either on-line or at the parks & recreation office by Dec. 12<sup>th</sup> and the Parks & Recreation staff will be touring the town judging on Thurs., Dec 14<sup>th</sup> from 7-11pm. \$100 cash prizes will be awarded to the winners in each of the following categories: Most Original, Most Holiday Spirit, Brightest, Best Overall and the Dazzling Display (in honor of the annual festive display at 130 Felt Road, who will not be entering the contest this year. Complimentary transportation for the judges proudly provided by Lindsey Limousine! And of course, on **SATURDAY, Jan. 20** (snow date 1/21) visit our rescheduled bigger & better **Open House** to celebrate our new home at **Wapping School** between 10am and 2pm. There will be plenty of activities, games, door prizes (including the "swim for life" grand prize of a lifetime individual pool pass to VMP!), refreshments, inflatables, entertainment and a special community build LEGO "Mystery Mural"! 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!"***

**4<sup>th</sup> R Before & After School Program** – December enrollment across the four elementary schools is at 146 morning participants and 246 afternoon participants, with 39 students participating in the Early Release program to support the BOE professional development program. On Thurs. Oct. 19 the 4<sup>th</sup> "R" hosted its annual Fall Family Night at Foster Farms Corn Maze here in South Windsor. We had 305 children and their family members attend the evening to enjoy the corn maze, fall games, cookies and apple cider, and even a haunted house, put together by our 4<sup>th</sup> "R" staff! On Nov. 28<sup>th</sup> from 6:30 to 8:00pm the 4<sup>th</sup> "R" Staff enjoyed their second teambuilding event of the year in the Wapping gym: a site vs. site competition of a popular 4<sup>th</sup> "R" gym game, Battleship! The teams worked together to compete in multiple rounds of the game, and the 4<sup>th</sup> "R" Staff at Eli Terry secured the victory!

**Wapping Re-Purposing** – Phase I which addressed renovations to the entrance, lobby, offices, rooms 53 to 60 and installation diaper changing stations in each restroom is for the most part complete. Phase II which includes Cafeteria remodeling to a Banquet facility, converting room 37 to fitness class room and expanding parking is a work-in-progress. Phase III, will incorporate renovating rooms 12, 14, 33, 36 for multi-purpose uses.

**TEMS Ski & Snowboard Club** – We are

excited to announce that enrollment increased 32% over last year, growing from 70 participants to 104!

**PARKS DIVISION**  
***“Caring for South Windsor’s  
Growing Needs”***

October/November Activity Highlights:

- Athletic Fields & Grounds:
  - ◇ All irrigation systems winterized.
  - ◇ Formed and poured concrete pads under the bleachers at the new softball field at the Little League complex.
  - ◇ Fence lines at various sites continued to receive some needed attention and invasive clearing.
  - ◇ Began clearing overgrowth and dead trees along the Plum Gulley Brook on the high school campus.
- Parks & Open Space:
  - ◇ Prepped the eagle patio at VMP for the annual Veterans Day ceremony.
  - ◇ Responded to multiple tree issues at Debbie Drive, Natsisky Rd., Country View, Scott Drive, Evergreen, Kelly Road and Tumblebrook.
  - ◇ Rough cut mowed all open spaces in need throughout town.
  - ◇ Began clearing invasive materials and dead trees from the newly acquired Collins Hill.
  - ◇ Along-side staff from the Treatment Plant we completed final closing processes for the pools at VMP.
  - ◇ Flood control structures were successfully inspected by the DEEP.
- Projects:
  - ◇ We have been aggressively over-seeding, fertilizing and top-dressing all premiere athletic fields to get a head start on turf refurbishing for the Spring sports season.
  - ◇ Improvements and renovations performed in-house at Wapping included a new road-side permanent sign (thank you Gary Schacht from the sign shop at DPW!); concrete pad, assembly and installation of the “Soofa” solar powered smart device charging station; formed and poured concrete step/landing at emergency exit for cafeteria; removed two truck-loads of unwanted or damaged metal items to recycling; constructed and installed a wall-mounted peg-board for use as a key rack within the main office secured closet; designed and constructed portable easel for the Lego mystery mural for our Open House; installed two counter tops; and gutted room 37 in preparations for transition to a small group fitness class room.
  - ◇ Designed, fabricated, delivered and installed new features at the Bark Park in time for the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration – dog bone bench, climbing bridge and tire maze.
- Other
  - ◇ Participated in the annual Haunted Torch Walk with a “haunted bus display”



- ◇ Transported the bike trailer to and from Pleasant Valley School for the 4<sup>th</sup> grade bike education program.
- ◇ Worked with the girl scouts through our "Pride in OUR Parks" community service program at the bark park.
- ◇ Joined forces with Street Services from DPW for annual Leaf Harvesting program.
- ◇ Assisted the high school with stadium preparations for the anticipated large crowd for the Southington game.



***New custom built cabinetry for the 4th R program at the new Orchard Hill School site***



***4th "R" Annual Fall Family Night at Foster Farms***



***10th Anniversary of the Bark Park was celebrated on Sun. Nov. 19th highlighted by the addition of new features like this dog bone bench and climbing obstacle designed, built and installed by our talented parks crew!***







*Fall Fest 2017*



*Above: New solar-powered smart device  
charging station at Wapping!*







***Left: Pleasant Valley 4th R Staff***



***Right: Orchard Hill 4th R Staff***



***Left: Eli Terry  
4th R Staff***



***Right: Philip R.  
Smith 4th R Staff***

## ***December 2017 Town Council Meetings and Events***

### ***Meetings***

**Monday, December 4, 2017**  
**7:00 p.m. Regular Meeting**  
*Council Chambers*

**Monday, December 18, 2017**  
**7:00 p.m. Regular Meeting**  
*Council Chambers*

### ***Holidays***

**Monday, December 25, 2017**  
*Town Offices Will Be Closed in Observance of Christmas Day*

*Layout by Ashley Booth, Executive Secretary to the Town Manager*

