# Town of South Windsor

Town Manager's Report February 2021

Michael Maniscalco Town Manager



#### **COVID-19 Update**

I will have additional numbers available for the Council on the night of the meeting. The Human Services Department has been hard at work helping the over-75 population register for vaccines. Some of the larger challenges include an over load of the systems, the requirement to have an email, and the general failure to make a user friendly system.

#### Trucks

Over the last few weeks, I have heard a few complaints related to truck traffic on public roads. I would like to make sure the Council is aware that, per the Constitution of the United States, everyone is guaranteed the opportunity to participate in commerce on the roads. What this means is that we cannot prohibit any type of vehicle on any Town roads. The Town sent a letter to all of the major distribution centers in Town, asking them to direct truck traffic toward major roads and keep them from residential areas. Additionally, we offered to make a sign that can be placed at the end of their driveway to direct truck traffic to the closest highway. We have had responses from multiple local area managers, and they have been very helpful with finding solutions.

#### **Road Project Overview**

I have heard a few questions related to what the proposed road projects would entail. So that it is clear, for Pleasant Valley the project would include:

- Drainage
- Road reconstruction, including changing the geometry of the road to make it safer, and...

• Sidewalks in some areas, as funds permit. The sidewalks will be standard width sidewalks in conformance with Town standards.

#### **Bond Sale**

The Town recently held a rating call with S&P to get another rating before we go out to bond additional funds to help pay for the Schools. While the Town's economic indicators are all very positive, and in many places impressed the rating analysts, the headwind caused by the COVID-19 economy held us back from a rating increase. We were again rated AA+ with a stable outlook. Notice went out on Wednesday 1/27 that we will be issuing \$27m and \$6m in short term notes. We have been told to expect long term interest rates around 1.8%, and short term rates around 0.5%.

#### Audit Committee Update

The Audit Committee held its annual meeting to review the Audit with the Town's Auditors. Overall the Audit had no findings, meaning the Town is meeting all of its financial controls and management requirements. Additionally, the Auditors pointed out that the Town has had strong general fund growth. This is directly related to the good fiscal stewardship of all of our departments, who have consistently found ways to do things more efficiently, adding to the Town's savings account.



#### Monthly Statistics December 2020:

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

#### **December Statistics**

Total Computer Aided Dispatch Entries:	2459
9-1-1 Calls Received:	719
Routine Calls Received/Outgoing:	4516
Directed Patrol/Premise Checks:	1172
Motor Vehicle Stops:	185
Medical Assists/Emot.Dist. Persons:	105
Suspicious:	85
Alarms:	89
Motor Vehicle Accidents:	44
Welfare Check:	47
Assist Outside Agency:	25
Animal Problem:	25
Citizen Assist:	25
Miscellaneous Service:	1
Collision Reports:	24
BOLO:	26
Disabled Motor Vehicle:	44
Larceny:	38
Hazardous Conditions:	24
Pistol Permits:	12
Burglary:	17
Civil Matter:	6
911 Check:	1
Fraud:	14
Domestic Dispute:	10
Narcotics Violation:	2
Violation of Town Ordinance:	9
Youth Problem:	4
Sexual Assault:	1

Kristian R. Lindstrom Chief of Police

#### **COVID-19 Update:**

COVID trends surged through December and January, however the vaccination program is well underway. The "second wave" of COVID brought numbers of cases higher than the first wave that was experienced in the Spring. "Pandemic fatigue", although an informal term, remains a very real concept for many as many people from all walks of life are starting to show signs of being worn down by not necessarily the virus itself, but the conditions brought about by the precautions put in place to try to mitigate the spread of the virus.

The Police Department continues to assist the Health Department by responding to mask and social distancing complaints. As has been the case in past months, police personnel have been largely successful in obtaining voluntary compliance from the public without having to issue fines. That being said, agency personnel have been briefed on the authority of Governor Lamont's executive order and how enforcement of that order through infractions can be utilized if need be. The name of the seems patience game to be and communicating simple effective messages to stakeholders.

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

By the end of January, all of the Tier 1a staff who desired the vaccine have received it and we have begun vaccinating Tier 1b staff. We anticipate that in the next month, all but 8 of our staff will have received the vaccine. The 8 people without have

Kristian R. Lindstrom Chief of Police

voluntarily chosen to forego the vaccine.

#### **Personnel and Recruiting Status:**

The strength of the South Windsor Police Department always has been, and continues to be, the staff who keep things moving day in and day out. Officer Pierpont continues to advance through her field training program. Officer Kyle Kolcharno began his police academy training in a virtual setting from police headquarters.

Police Records Specialist Alexis Collins was selected during a competitive process and has begun working in Records alongside Jordan Hosey. This position needed to be filled when Peggy Malaney retired last Fall. Alexis came to us from Holyoke PD in Massachusetts.

The hiring process for dispatchers is underway to fill the vacancy created by Dispatcher Bowman's resignation, and background investigations are nearing completion.

After a national search, Brian Eckblom was selected as the new Deputy Chief of Police and his promotion went into effect on January 24, 2021. He has been a member of the agency for over 16 years and brings a wealth of talent and experience to the Deputy Chief position.

# 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.

On January 6, 2021, a violent mob of extremists

attacked and raided the US Capitol Building. This group was quickly regarded as a group of domestic extremists. The Capitol was damaged and lives were lost on both sides of the protest. The responsible group, and those whose beliefs align with theirs, called for ongoing armed violent protests in all 50 of the nation's capitals up to and including the day of the Inauguration of President Biden. While these events didn't come to fruition locally, it prompted us as an agency to once again prepare ourselves to answer questions and address concerns from the community.

We continue to monitor intelligence briefings and open source intelligence to measure the likelihood of any similar protests or demonstrations in the area. In addition, after the incident at the US Capitol, we are reviewing our own protocols on building security and lockdown/evacuation plans. Despite the apparent reduction in events, the agency continues to monitor these events and will respond appropriately to ensure people's 1st Amendment rights can be celebrated and not infringed upon.

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

## Community Activities and Support from our Citizens:

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

Kristian R. Lindstrom Chief of Police

In the month January, Officer Kevin Geraci (currently assigned to the Center for Digital Investigations) conducted an internet safety presentation for parents of students at Pleasant Valley School. This presentation was held virtually and was very well received.

The holiday season brought numerous donations from the public. While our waistlines would beg to differ, the steady stream of sweets, pizzas, gift cards, snacks, etc. was very much appreciated by every member of our agency.

#### **Traffic Safety:**

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

#### **Police Activity and Significant Events:**

The South Windsor Police Department remains active and dedicated to the traditional law enforcement function by responding to the Public's Needs despite our staff having over 155 contacts with known COVID positive individuals.

In the month of January, the Police Department was able to upgrade its cellular communication system, giving officers better access in the field to many of the systems, databases, and resources that they need to effectively and safely serve the community.

During the month of January, the Police Department's FY21-22 budget request was submitted. In the coming weeks and months, Chief Lindstrom will work with the Town Manager to review the budget for presentation to the Town Council. The recently passed Police Accountability Act calls for several changes that are reflected in the requested budget.

The Police Department continues to explore the installation of a perimeter fence and exterior access control through money afforded through the Local Capital Improvements money that was allocated over the last two fiscal years. An RFP was distributed and bids were accepted during the month of January. Although no viable bids were received, police administrative staff will continue to pursue the goal of protecting the resources and infrastructure located on the police department property.

The Police Department is also in the process of renovating and expanding police headquarters through a local referendum, with a primary objective of addressing immediate space needs in the women's locker room.

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

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

Kristian R. Lindstrom Chief of Police

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 share with friends and family that may rely on you in a severe weather event, or have questions about how to react to an active shooter event. We have had our share of severe weather in Connecticut and now is a good time to review your plan to protect yourself and your family.

https://www.ready.gov/

#### Follow us on Social Media:

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

Facebook: South Windsor Police Department Twitter: @SWPD\_PIO

## **Public Works Department**

#### **Street Services**

Happy New Year! The department is looking forward to the challenges of 2021 with an ugly 2020 behind us.

Streets crews completed a drainage project at Rye Street Park. This damaged pipe caused the entry driveway to begin to fail. The area will be paved in the spring.

Our maintainers have been working on the leaf compost, taking temperature readings, turning the windrows and adding leaves to the piles to maximize our compost output for the upcoming spring.

Crews have been working along the roadsides to trim trees over the roads and alongside the roadways to help facilitate our roadside mowing program. Additionally, we are looking for opportunities to expand the roadside mowing program in several areas. All this work will lead to pleasing optics for motorists traveling through town and will improve line of sight issues for drivers.

As weather permits, maintainers are assigned to pothole patching to minimize road damage or damage to vehicles. We have been fortunate this season as the freeze/thaw cycle has been working with us and the crews have been able to stay ahead of significant road issues.

Maintainers have been working to set up the recently created "heated bay" at the Town Garage, which will allow us to perform maintenance work throughout the winter and to be able to store equipment and supplies subject to freezing temperatures. This area will greatly improve the output of our maintenance activities.

Crews have been re-calibrating salt spreaders to optimize our salt output. This is an ongoing process as reports indicate that a truck may be out of spec. We aim to ensure that we are applying salt responsibly to protect the environment and not waste the product unnecessarily.

Our maintainers have been disposing of spoils such as catch basin grit, street sweepings and scrap metal as well as organizing and inventorying our stockpiles of concrete products in preparation for the start of the construction season.

There were several tree removal projects during the month, and our crews have been assisting the Parks Department with several tree projects as well.

Crews have been cycled through FOI/Ethics, Bloodborne Pathogens, and Implicit Bias Mix trainings using the pods created for COVID separation.

We assisted with the COVID testing conducted at Fire House 1, setting up traffic lanes to facilitate a smooth event.

Neil Roback, formerly a Maintainer I, successfully completed the Maintainer II testing process and was promoted during the month. Congratulations, Neil!

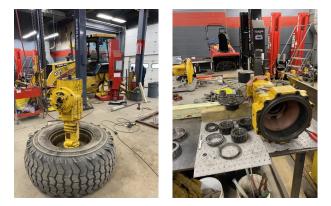
The sign shop replaced several signs during the month, and has also been supporting many Town departments with sign needs. The shop lettered the newest Human Services bus to get it ready to enter service.

## **Public Works Department**

#### Fleet Services

Fleet Services removed an obsolete vehicle lift and filled in the lift pit in the floor, with the assistance of Streets Services, to create more usable space for vehicle repairs.

Our mechanics performed extensive work on one of the Streets backhoes. This required taking apart the entire rear end of the machine to replace a leaking seal. All friction discs and seals were inspected and replaced as necessary. This was no small feat but our mechanics are always up to a challenge.



The department prepped a new Human Services bus for entry into the fleet, testing equipment and ensuring it was ready for service. They also facilitated the installation of the two-way radio.

Police cruiser safety checks and services were performed during the month as well as routine services for other Town-owned equipment and vehicles.

Fleet mechanics fabricated heavy duty racks for the Streets heated bay area to maximize storage in the space.

Residents are encouraged to use Connect South

Windsor to report hazards. Visit the website at <u>www.southwindsor-ct.gov/connect</u> or look for the app for iPhone and Android.

Scott Yeomans Associate Manager, Street Services

## **Health Department**

The South Windsor Health Department (SW HD) continues to be very busy with the COVID-19 response. The SW HD is working with the Windsor Health Department through our Mass Dispensing Area 31 agreement to continue vaccinating Tier 1A personnel and starting to vaccinate those that are over 75 years old in our area. Clinics continue to be held weekly in Windsor on Tuesday and in South Windsor on Thursday. SW Human Services has been helping get the 75+ residents registered for their vaccines and filling empty vaccine time slots due to no-shows with eligible seniors to eliminate vaccine waste.

All three of the new staff hired under the Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity (ELC) Enhancing Detection Cooperative Agreement are diligently working on contact tracing and compliance monitoring at local businesses.

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



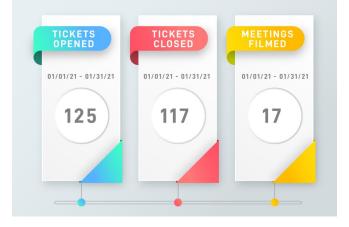
## **Information Technology**

The Information Technology department has been working tirelessly to provide continuity of operations for staff, as well as boards and commissions, throughout the pandemic. On average, the IT Department has been facilitating between 26 - 30 virtual meetings each month. In addition, we continue to configure, distribute, and maintain remote access for an ever-shifting number of employees.

IT played a large part in the preparation, configuration and setup of the equipment utilized during the COVID-19 vaccination event that was held in town. Staff worked to configure the laptops, create instructions for use, and assisted with the setup of the technology at the site on the day of the event.

In addition to actively supporting the COVID -19 response, IT continues to support all of the Town departments. We closed 117 ithelpdesk tickets during the month of January.

#### Scott Roberts Assistant Town Manager/CIO/EM



Andrea Cofrancesco Director of Human Services

# Adult and Senior Services Responds to COVID Vaccines

Since Phase 1B of the Governor's plan to administer vaccines opened up for those 75 and older, we have been inundated with calls from people needing help. The system, originally designed for employers to register their employees (first responders and front line workers), is not user friendly. In addition, so many older adults simply do not have computer knowledge to navigate the system or have a computer at all. The Department of Public Health advertised a phone number for those who do not have computers or an email address, and were immediately flooded with calls they simply could not handle. Adult and Senior Services staff has been assisting with making appointments for those who have an email, or creating gmail accounts and monitoring those accounts so an appointment can be scheduled.

Additionally, staff will be assisting United Way (the agency handling the phone line for DPH), by getting trained so we can meet the needs of South Windsor residents. By this, we will be returning phones calls to all those living in South Windsor who are asking for an appointment, or by receiving phone calls directly from residents.

Transportation is also being offered to clinic locations for those who do not drive. Weekly (and sometimes more) emails are being sent out with instructions on how and when to register for the vaccine, with almost 200 people requesting to be added to the email distribution list in a one week period. Anxiety about getting a vaccine is high; staff is responding to this anxiety by assisting in any way possible.

#### Happy New Year!

The Senior Center hosted a New Year's Eve Party, drive-thru style, where 200 people came! Three stops were on the "party" with pizza, chips, party hats, dessert and Avery's custom label soda. Following the drive-thru, almost 50 people joined us for our New Year's Eve Zoom Party where Victoria Hellberg, program coordinator, created a slide show of photos from the past several months. To view the slideshow, please click on the link. <u>https://www.youtube.com/watch?</u>

<u>v=ckpL6WwVIjY</u>



#### **Drive-Thru Events**

Since we started drive thru events in August, we have provided 41 opportunities for people to get out of the house, to have something to look forward to, and as one senior said "it gives us a reason to get dressed" with 6,038 people (duplicated) benefiting. This also gives us an opportunity to pass out Files of Life, masks, calendars, hand sanitizers and more. Brookdale South Windsor has been our biggest sponsor, providing \$4,000 worth of ingredients and

supplies which allows us to prepare a variety of foods including soup (made by Susan Gouin, one of our program coordinators), salad, sandwiches, and of course sweet treats. We simply would not have been able to offer these programs without their support. Other Assisted Living Communities and Homecare Agencies are now offering to sponsor our drive thru events, which provides them with publicity for their business.



#### Hallway Display

When our doors were closed to the public in March, our bulletin boards were not utilized by the public to post their notices of upcoming events and services they offer. Liz O'Brien, clerical assistant, added new life to them for color and to highlight the great staff in Human Services! Human Services staff has been knocking it out of the park with no break in serving the public...from



Andrea Cofrancesco Director of Human Services

youth counseling via telehealth appointments or in person as allowed, to caseworkers meeting with people in person, in driveways and many, many calls over the phone; assisting with people who are coming to use the food bank, and the many Zoom calls and drive thru events offered to ease the loneliness and long days.



**Tech Help** 

Since November, almost 40 in person appointments were held and many more over the phone, to help older adults with their smartphones, tablets, kindles, and

more. This has been a huge help to those we serve so they can stay connected in a way they never knew they could, or needed to. Shown is Victoria Hellberg, program coordinator, as she assists a senior with her technology needs.



#### Youth & Family Services

This month, we welcomed Virna Powell, LMSW as our first full time Youth Counselor! Virna has experience working with youth and their families from her time at East

Hartford Youth Services and Intercommunity. She has jumped right in and has started to take on clients which helps reduce the waitlist that we have for services.

#### **Teen Center**

Throughout the month of January, the Teen Center has been busy with our drop-in hours each week. Specifically, with the middle school students who attend regularly- we have enjoyed building those important relationships with each of them in a smaller setting. Due to the school system adjusting their hours, we are now open for high

school students on Monday & Thursday from 1-3pm; and Tuesday & Friday 2-4pm for the middle school students. Over the last few weeks we have ordered new games and have tried new, and exciting crafts to keep the students engaged, which has been a huge hit!

The Skills for Success Program has recently ended. This 6-week, virtual program was designed for our South Windsor Middle School students, to promote and teach interpersonal skills and the important life skills that they will need to be successful going forward. The students have participated and contributed to the dialogues, and have been learning about various topics. We have discussed how to build and maintain positive self-management relationships, and socialawareness skills, and more! We are currently planning new groups and programs to implement in the upcoming months that we are excited to share with you once finalized.

Our Youth Council fundraiser for Dignity Grows has been extremely successful thus far and we thank those of you who have been supportive of our efforts, and were so generous to donate. We have raised \$1,000 that will give us 100 bags; these totes will be full of a month's supply of hygiene products that we will give to community members in need. The fundraiser ends on February 1st, so if you are interested in donating we have about a week left!

In January, the Teen Center Youth Council teamed up with our School Outreach Specialist, Kathy Reed for a drive thru event honoring Dr. Martin Luther King Jr and the upcoming Black History month. Each family that participated received supplies to create a "Shades of People" Andrea Cofrancesco Director of Human Services

wreath and an activity packet on Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

# Youth Counseling, Parent Education and Support

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

At this point, all clinical team members are doing a mix of in person and telehealth.

Our Clinical Coordinator, Robin Lagasse is leading an ongoing group for high school girls. Sarah Soboleski just wrapped up a support group for parenting through covid-19.

We are thrilled to have Virna Powell join us in this department. We saw a need and are thankful that the Town Managers and Town Council heard our concerns and supported us on creating this position. Virna has already built up a caseload and will be working on taking on the Juvenile Review Board cases as they come in.

#### **School Outreach & Prevention**

The SWHS Students Against Decisions Club held a poster contest during December. The theme was to create a poster reminding adults over 21 to refrain from buying or providing alcohol to teens. The winning poster was sent to local liquor stores with a request to display them in their store. The students wanted to encourage parents and young adults to understand that it is illegal and dangerous to let underage kids drink alcohol.

Andrea Cofrancesco Director of Human Services

An afterschool matinee program has been organized by the staff at TEMS. Students can sign up for a wide variety of free virtual activities, which will be held after school in February and March. Youth and Family Services is pleased to be collaborating with the school to be a part of the program. We will offer "Game On", which will encourage kids to connect while playing virtual games like Jeopardy and Charades. The "Be The Change" Club will be offered for students interested in making a positive change in today's world. Finally, we will team up with Sea Tea Improv to offer a "Leadership through Laughter" program to help develop communication, build confidence and just have fun! We are excited to work together to provide positive engagement activities so that kids can make connections, relieve some stress and have fun with friends.

We have some great programs coming up. Please check out our Facebook page!

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

Liz Langevin, LCSW

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### **Parks & Recreation Department**

Raymond Favreau Director of Parks & Recreation

### "Discover the Benefits!"

John Caldwell, Jr. Parks Superintendent

#### <u>MONTHLY REPORT -</u> <u>February 2021</u>

Keri Montague Asst. Director of Parks & Recreation

**Park & Recreation Commission (PARC)** – Commission will meet next on Wed., Feb. 10th at 7:30pm virtually via WebEx to continue work on the master plan revision.

The South Windsor Walk & Wheel Ways (SWW&WW) – We are hoping to meet soon to restart work on the cross-town trail project with the hired engineering firm ANCHOR, John Caldwell and Jeff Doolittle, and continue work on the revision of the SWW&WW Master Plan.

#### **RECREATION DIVISION**

#### "Feel great – recreate!"

**4th "R"** is getting back into the swing of things following the expanded holiday break and we are looking forward to an exciting winter season!

**Preschool programs** – We are ready to kick off a modified eight-week session for our little residents that will run from Feb.4 to March 30! We are committed to the health and safety of all participants, and as such is following all appropriate guidelines in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic, including mask wearing, curb-side drop-off and pick-up, health screening, hand-washing and FUN! See accompanying mini-brochure for details.

**"Parks & Rec January Happenings"** COVIDfriendly success stories are best described in the photos below.

**"Parks & Rec February Happenings"** – please see the attached brochure for details on some novel ideas to keep families active and healthy! Once again, we will continue conversations with the BOE for potential increased facility access as winter progresses and gradually expand programming as safely permitted. In the meantime we will continue to develop, promote and deliver safe alternative activities and programs that can be held outdoors following current health protocol and favorable weather, on a limited basis indoors at Wapping or provide them virtually. We will continue to keep our constituents informed via website, Facebook and mass email blasts as the situation warrants.

#### PARKS DIVISION

*"Caring for South Windsor's Growing Needs"* January Activity Highlights:

- Athletic Fields & Grounds:
  - All athletic fields are closed for the winter.
- Parks & Open Space:
  - Extensive tree work has been performed at a number of open spaces where town-owned trees were potential hazard to abutting residents.
- Projects:
  - New chain link fence installation is nearly complete at the re-construction projects at the Pepin Baseball Field and Field "C" at the Little League Complex.
  - The new flag pole "garden" by the Wapping Community House at the corner of Sullivan Ave. and Ellington Road is now complete.
  - Demolition of the identified out-buildings was completed in-house at the Priest Property and the new property at 1355

Ellington Road property soon to become a second public access point to Wapping Park.

- Other:
  - The crew, in conjunction with Public Works, responded to the second winter event on January 26 and 27.



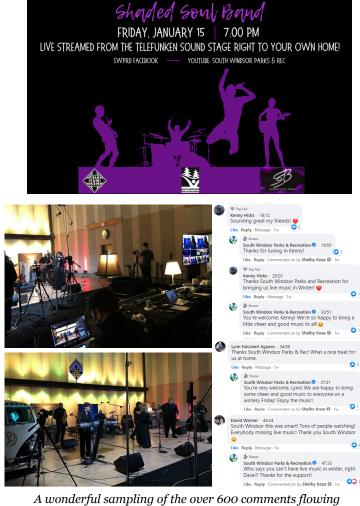
This month, we kicked off our monthly "Caption This!" Facebook contest! Each month, we will post a new Parks and Recreation picture to our Facebook page, and residents can submit their clever, silly, witty or funny caption to go along with it! SWPRD staff will award a prize to the winning caption. Pictured here is the winning caption for January's photo!

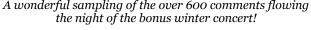


Successful demolition of out-buildings at Priest Property accomplished in-house



Crew performing tree work at our parks and open spaces







Fence installation underway at the Little League Complex by our talented parks crew!

### February 2021 Town Council Meetings and Events

### Meetings

Monday, February 1, 2021 7:00 pm Regular Meeting Virtual Meeting

**Tuesday, February 16, 2021 7:00 pm Regular Meeting** *Virtual Meeting* 

### Holidays

<u>Friday, February 12, 2021</u> Town Offices will be closed in observance of Lincoln's Birthday.

#### Monday, February 15, 2021

Town Offices will be closed in observance of Washington's Birthday.

Layout by Samara Haddock, Confidential Secretary

