

Town of South Windsor

Town Manager's Report February 2020

Michael Maniscalco
Town Manager



1355 Ellington Road- I am pleased to report to the Council that the Town has officially closed on 1355 Ellington Road and taken ownership of the property. As we move into spring, the Town will work on removing the existing home that is there and then work on the development for parking and public access to the open space behind it.

Online Permitting Update- I will have a written update for the Council regarding progress at your meeting. That said, I want the Council to know that management has been pushing very hard to get staff to work on and complete the online applications. I think, as you will see from the reports, we are beginning to see progress.

Property Sale RFP Update- I have been working on research for this project. The Town Charter requires a referendum be held for the sale of any property with a value of more than \$25,000. While I have heard rumor of a referendum for each of these, I have been working to verify each individual one.

Chamber of Commerce Application to Planning and Zoning- As was discussed at our last Council meeting, the Chamber of Commerce would like to rent space from the Town at the Wapping Community House. In order for them to do that, we will need a special exemption from Planning and Zoning

for this use in that location. I have filed the application with Planning and Zoning and have asked the Mayor to be present to represent the Town along with a representative of the Chamber at the February 11th Planning and Zoning meeting since I will not be available to due to a prior commitment.

Police Department

Scott P. Custer
Chief of Police

Department Activity for December 2019 and January 2020:

We publish a monthly summary of our calls for service on social media. Our Facebook page can also be viewed via the department webpage (<https://www.southwindsor-ct.gov/police>).

December 2019

Total Computer Aided Dispatch Entries:	2253
9-1-1 Calls Received:	634
Routine Calls Received/Outgoing:	4156
Directed Patrol/Premise Checks:	769
Motor Vehicle Stops:	319
Medical Assists/Emot. Dist. Persons:	180
Suspicious:	68
Alarms:	100
Motor Vehicle Accidents:	49
Welfare Check:	49
Assist Outside Agency:	36
Animal Problem:	19
Citizen Assist:	27
Miscellaneous Service:	15
Collision Reports:	22
BOLO:	14
Disabled Motor Vehicle:	28
Larceny:	33
Hazardous Conditions:	15
Pistol Permits:	8
Burglary:	14
Civil Matter:	7
911 Check:	5
Fraud:	6
Domestic Dispute:	14
Narcotics Violation:	2
Violation of Town Ordinance:	8
Youth Problem:	7
Sexual Assault:	0

January 2020

Total Computer Aided Dispatch Entries:	2379
9-1-1 Calls Received:	599
Routine Calls Received/Outgoing:	4132
Directed Patrol/Premise Checks:	705
Motor Vehicle Stops:	490
Medical Assists/Emot. Dist. Persons:	184
Suspicious:	90
Alarms:	113
Motor Vehicle Accidents:	33
Welfare Check:	38
Assist Outside Agency:	43
Animal Problem:	33
Citizen Assist:	26
Miscellaneous Service:	12
Collision Reports:	29
BOLO:	16
Disabled Motor Vehicle:	1
Larceny:	20
Hazardous Conditions:	18
Pistol Permits:	8
Burglary:	6
Civil Matter:	8
911 Check:	11
Fraud:	20
Domestic Dispute:	16
Narcotics Violation:	6
Violation of Town Ordinance:	1
Youth Problem:	4
Sexual Assault:	0

Police Department

Scott P. Custer
Chief of Police

Sgt. Matthew Mainieri to be honored on National Memorial Wall:

We at the SWPD are honored and humbled to announce that Sgt. Matthew Mainieri # 155 has been approved for inclusion on the National Law Enforcement Memorial Wall in Washington D.C. His name will be engraved on the memorial wall and formally dedicated during the Candlelight Vigil Ceremony on May 13th, 2020 in Washington D.C. Many department members will travel to Washington to witness this solemn ceremony.

Sgt. Mainieri was killed on September 2, 2018 while off duty. Sgt. Mainieri intervened in a volatile situation and was assaulted which resulted in his death.

The criteria for inclusion on the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial includes the term "killed in the line of duty" and means a law enforcement officer has died as a direct and proximate result of a personal injury sustained in the line of duty. This includes victim law enforcement officers who, while in an off-duty capacity, act in response to a law violation. It was the determination of this agency and the Memorial Fund Board Names Committee that Sgt. Mainieri's actions on September 2, 2018 met those criteria.

Sgt. Mainieri's name will be engraved on the memorial wall and will be formally dedicated during the Candlelight Vigil ceremony at the National Law Enforcement Memorial on May 13th, 2020, during National Police Week.

Sgt. Mainieri died trying to break up a fight and prevent harm to the involved persons. He didn't have to intervene, but that's who Matt was; someone who always helped those who needed help, anytime and any way that he could. Matt lost his life honoring his oath of service, even off-duty, and we are forever grateful that our brother is being recognized for his sacrifice.

<https://nleomf.org/memorial>

Community Outreach- House of Worship Safety Presentation:

On Tuesday, January 21st we hosted a safety presentation for religious leaders and staff in cooperation with Youth and Family Services. Over 100 participants attended the meeting led by Lt. Brian Eckblom and Officer Jeremy Weiss. We will continue to work with the individual religious institutions to formulate security plans.

New Academy Graduates at South Windsor Police:



From left: Lt. Buonanducci, Chief Custer, Officer Kyle Higgins, Officer Erika Kuzara, Deputy Chief Lindstrom

Police Department

Scott P. Custer
Chief of Police

We had two officers graduating from the Academy in January 2020. Officer Erika Kuzara and Officer Kyle Higgins graduated on January 23rd. They were both in the top 10 in their class and now return to South Windsor for field training.

Unlocked Car Burglaries & Car Thefts:

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

Most of Connecticut continues to experience car burglaries and car thefts. The towns of Vernon, Tolland and Stafford have been the latest target for these groups of car burglars.

This is not a new problem; however with the increase in “push button start” cars, people have a tendency to leave the fob in the car. This makes it very easy for the youths to find a car to take. Locking the car is the answer; none of the stolen cars had windows smashed or were jimmied open.

The crimes are generally being committed by groups of juveniles who arrive in a neighborhood in a stolen car overnight, try door handles and enter unlocked cars. If an unlocked car is found they look for keys or key fobs to take the car, or steal valuables located

inside the vehicle. The stolen cars are generally used to “joyride” and are frequently recovered in Hartford or nearby once they run out of gas.

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

Never Too Early to Prepare for an Emergency:

The Ready.gov webpage has great information pages on preparation for natural disasters, severe weather, and active shooters. Please share with friends and family that may rely on you in a severe weather event, or have questions about how to react to an active shooter event.

We have had our share of severe weather in Connecticut and now is a good time to review your plan to protect yourself and your family.
<https://www.ready.gov/>

Follow us on Social Media:

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

Public Works Department

Michael J. Gantick
Director of Public Works

Administrative Updates

As you may have heard, I will be retiring effective May 1st. I want to thank the Town Council for the opportunity to have served my hometown for the past 33 plus years. I have been blessed to have graduated from SWHS and raise my family here and be a steward of Public Works Department and the Town I love. Over the years, the Public Works Department has been recognized on a National, New England, and State level as leaders and innovators in our profession. This has happened as the result of a team effort of dedicated and creative men and women over the years. From the many hurricanes, floods, blizzards, and infrastructure challenges, First Responders-Public Works have been there to ensure that the resident's health and safety were protected and that normalcy would be restored. We have always had a focus on the present but with a vision towards the future. I feel privileged to have had the opportunity to have guided Public Works to a place where the residents feel good about all the services we provide. I again want to thank all of you, the residents and my fellow –past and present coworkers and the men and women of Public Works for a wonderful journey.

On another note Vincent Stetson, Superintendent of Streets has been asked to present another South Windsor initiative, Vegetation Management, at the Spring New England American Public Works Association Conference. Additionally, Clay Major was featured in the January T2 Center UCONN

newsletter for his statewide Facilities Roundtable initiative. Congratulations to both gentlemen for again demonstrating why South Windsor Public Works is a leader in our profession.

Street Services

The department has been working on roadside tree trimming to eliminate low hanging branches and clear vegetation that obscures traffic signs.

Pothole patching remains a top priority during the winter and crews have been at it every day weather permits. It is an ongoing battle with the temperature fluctuations we have been experiencing this year. We are testing a new product, Aquaphalt, on some of our more pervasive areas. We will be monitoring performance throughout the winter. The department is always looking for new and innovative products and techniques to make these temporary patches more permanent.

Crews are conducting surveys of drainage structures throughout town to prepare for permanent repairs in the spring. Weather permitting, some of this work may begin during the winter if temperatures continue to be mild.

Maintainers have been working the leaf compost, turning the windrows and monitoring temperatures to ensure proper composting is taking place. Excessive

Public Works Department

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temperatures can kill off bacteria necessary for decomposition to take place. Turning the windrows cools the piles and introduces oxygen for these important organisms.

The sign shop fabricated and installed 46 signs throughout town due to age and damage.

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

Scott Yeomans
Associate Manager, Street Services

Human Services Department

Andrea Cofrancesco
Director of Human Services

Human Services Updates: **Medicare Open Enrollment**

Open Enrollment for Medicare resulted in a total of 134 people being served by our certified CHOICES counselors (Steve Clapp, Andrea Cofrancesco, Lindsey Ravalese and Penny Shea) in the Adult and Senior Services Division. CHOICES counselors provide unbiased information on insurance options to those eligible for Medicare including information on supplemental plans, Medicare Advantage plans and Medicare Part D (prescription drugs).

Thank You

Adult and Senior Services staff takes pride in providing quality programs and services to enrich the lives of our residents. This note from one of our residents is a direct result of the hard work and dedication of Lindsey Ravalese, Steve Clapp and Penny Shea:

"Happy New Year 2020, to staff of South Windsor Senior Center: Just a moment to sincerely thank you for all of your excellent services to me and Steve, my son. My other family members are also reassured. Thank you for the holiday presents, especially the grocery store gift cards. I so appreciate everything. Also, due to not feeling well, I did not express my appreciation for the Thanksgiving Basket! Delicious for sure! Blessings to one and all in 2020. With appreciation. Peace, Barbara C."



CARES Group Annual Family Social

The C.A.R.E.S. Group, led by Amy Patterson, hosted their annual holiday social with family and caregivers of C.A.R.E.S. members in attendance.

Refreshments and music were provided for all to enjoy. The C.A.R.E.S. group activities are designed to promote wellness for those seniors who are in need of enhancement and maintenance of productivity in socialization, mobility, cognition and quality of life. The group meets Monday through Friday from 9:30 AM to 12:30 PM. This program also benefits caregivers, who tirelessly provide care to their loved ones, to get a respite for a few hours a day. There is space in CARES, please spread the word to those residents who may benefit.



Celebrating Chinese New Year

With a sold out crowd of 125 people, Lorelei Chang, who has been teaching yoga at the Senior Center for 17 years, performed a Chinese dance in celebration of Chinese New Year: the year of the rat. Lorelei is owner of DanceEnlight and most recently performed at the Olympics. Her finale

Human Services Department

Andrea Cofrancesco
Director of Human Services

dance ended in her doing calligraphy on a board while dancing that spelled out "Dreams Come True." Truly spectacular! Her husband, BC, spoke about the Chinese Astrology signs as well as the meaning of the Chinese New Year, which is about making your dreams come true.



Continued Generosity

Thank you to the East of the River Chamber of Commerce which includes the South Windsor Chamber for their annual Warming Hands Warming Hearts Campaign that resulted in several boxes of brand new clothing, jackets, boots, hats and mittens for low income families.



Food Bank Donations

Thank you also to MP Partners Real Estate and the SW MOMS Club for their donations to the Food and Fuel Bank. The giving spirit continues to help residents in need!



Youth & Family Services:

The Teen Center Youth Council along with the SWHS Interact Club were recognized by the SW Food Alliance for their effort and time volunteering at the SW Farmers Market. Youth volunteers and their caregivers were invited to attend the event.

Human Services Department

Andrea Cofrancesco
Director of Human Services

The significance of community involvement and teamwork was highlighted, along with hearing stories about “favorite moments” from the market.



Teen Center Program Coordinator, Liane, is taking registration for a 8 session Mindfulness Based Stress Reduction for Teens (MBSR-T) that teaches mindfulness skills in a supportive space to help members cope with stress and anxiety. First session is on 02/5 at 6 PM. Parents/guardians or teens can contact Liane for more info or to register at 860-648-6360

The drop in aspect of the Teen Center is going strong. We are open Monday, Wednesday and Thursday for high school students to drop in. We are open Friday evenings for middle school students. Liane is currently running an after school program for middle school students on Tuesdays.



In January of 2020, we will be offering parenting webinars through Peace At Home Parenting Solutions. Through our annual DCF Enhancement Grant, we are able to offer this

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

Chris Garrahan, who is the Parent Educator and one of our Youth Counselors is facilitating a monthly group for Relatives Raising Children. Next meeting is on Tuesday, February 25th at 10:30 AM. Chris is also running a bi-weekly group for the students that attend the Alternative High School Program. The focus on the group is general support and life skills. He is maintaining a caseload of 1:1 youth clients as well as parents/guardians in need of support.

School Outreach & Prevention

On Wednesday, January 15 we celebrated National Mentoring Month by hosting an after school event at Timothy Edwards Middle School. Students and their mentors came together to share some treats and have fun playing games together. They engaged in cooperative activities and worked on some group challenges as well. It was a great

Human Services Department

Andrea Cofrancesco
Director of Human Services

afternoon filled with friendship and laughter. We are so thankful for the mentors and all that they do to support our children!

Counseling & Support

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

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

Youth Counselor, Sarah Soboleski, who is a professional organizer, presented her program "Organizing: A Plan of Attack for Any Space" at the senior center with over 30 people in attendance! She will be back again in future months for topics pertaining to getting organized.

Some great upcoming programs and events, please check out our Facebook page!
<https://www.facebook.com/SWYouthFamily>
or call Liz at 860-648-6361 x331 for more information

Liz Langevin, LCSW



Parks & Recreation Department

Raymond Favreau
Director of Parks & Recreation

“Discover the Benefits!”

John Caldwell, Jr.
Superintendent of Parks

MONTHLY REPORT - February 3, 2020

Keri Apt
Asst. Director of Parks & Recreation

Park & Recreation Commission (PARC)

The next PARC meeting is Wednesday, March 11, as their regular meeting of Feb. 12 is cancelled due to Town office closure in honor of Lincoln's Birthday. Work continues on the master plan revision.

The South Windsor Walk & Wheel Ways (SWW&WW) sub-committee meets next on Wed., Feb. 5th at Wapping at 7pm. Efforts over the next year will be the design of the proposed cross-town trail through the Eversource power corridor and re-applying for “silver” Bicycle Friendly Community designation with the League of American Bicyclists. They had a record number 60 participants at their Moonlight Walk on Friday, Jan. 10th!!

Connecticut Recreation and Parks Association (CRPA) – On Wed., Jan. 29, 2020 we hosted the CRPA Winter Quarterly Education Sessions at Wapping in the newly renovated banquet hall accommodating 94 park & recreation professionals from across the state.

Registration and Networking began at 9:30am. The first of two sessions from 10am to 12pm focused on a roundtable discussing strategies for complying with the new state

mandated incremental increase in the minimum wage over the next 40 months. Yours truly joined fellow panelist Val Stolfi-Collins, CRPA Executive Director and Mike Rell, CRPA professional lobbyist in facilitating this productive discussion and brainstorming. After a sponsored lunch by Lena's on Rt. 5 the afternoon session ran from 1-3pm and featured our very own Director of Planning, Michele Lipe who presented on how she chaired a local committee to go through the Sustainable CT certification process and how the Parks & Recreation Department was a critical part of the initiative. Following Michele, Abe Stellorio from Sustainable CT explained their new Matching Funds Grant program, gave examples of projects, types of eligible projects and provided answers to FAQ about the fund. CRPA thanks Michele Lipe for volunteering and for an insightful presentation!

Special Invitation to Councilors – SAVE THE DATES:

- (1) Our third annual Father/Daughter Valentines Dance is Friday, Feb. 7th from 7-9pm complete with DJ, fully decorated gymnasium and light refreshments. This special night for Dads and their “little girls” has become quite popular with capacity enrollment.

(2) Drop by Porter's Hill on Sat., Feb 29th from 1-3pm for our first-ever FREE Winter Fest! Participants will enjoy sledding, snowman building, winter games, hot cocoas and more! As always, we offer all members of the Town Council an open invitation to visit any of our 400+ recreation programs or park facilities throughout the year. Please give us a call and we will even escort you!

RECREATION DIVISION

"Feel great – recreate!"

4th R Before & After School Program – February 2020 enrollment. AM Participants: 137 Participants. PM Participants: 226 Participants.

On January 30, all 4th "R" staff members participated in a mid-year training as part of our on-going commitment to staff professional development and providing them the necessary tools and support to run a fun, safe, high-quality before and after school program. Topics included: a question/answer panel with previous 4th "R" employees to see how skills learned at 4th "R" transcend the program and are widely used in future employment and daily life, parent communication, and a SWOT analysis of each 4th "R" site with feedback and idea-sharing amongst all staff members. A 4th R family bus trip to the UConn men's basketball game at Gampel Pavilion is planned for Feb. 23rd.

Resolution Run – A record 700 runners registered for our second annual 5K in partnership with the Hartford Marathon Foundation that stepped off at 10am on Sun., Jan. 12th on West Road. The race started and ended at CT Valley Brewing. That location and

the unbelievable 65 degree sunny weather certainly was a perfect recipe for success! Many thanks to SWPD for all their help and to Steve and Lori at CT Valley Brewing CO.! Planning for next year has already begun.

Recreation Basketball – All divisions, both youth and adult, are in full swing! The march to March Madness is on! Check out practically all school gyms on Saturday, especially morning and afternoon, to see over 800 youth hoopsters in action!

Parks & Rec Magazine – Our Spring/Summer 2020 edition is headed to our designer to begin the next lay-out. Our goal is to have it distributed by direct saturation bulk mail to nearly 12,000 mailboxes in early March.

Annual Review – Our annual review with the Recreation Division takes place on Friday, Feb. 21. This off-site traditional one-day "retreat" has proven to be a most effective way to discover ways to improve and determine goals for the year. The exercises and brainstorming that occurs always generates numerous new programs, increased efficiencies and fosters tremendous teamwork.

PARKS DIVISION

"Caring for South Windsor's Growing Needs"

January Activity Highlights:

Athletic Fields & Grounds:

- Closed for the winter. We are meeting with the local sports groups on Feb. 4th to prepare for the 2020 Spring sports season.

Parks & Open Space:

- Dismantled, labeled, transported and stored

our new 'mega giving tree' at Nevers Park.

- Serious tree work, including stump removal and grinding has been an on-going efforts at Lawrence Road Park, the Priest Property, Town Garage, Deming Street, Town Hall, Niederwerfer Wildlife Sanctuary & Philip R. Smith School site.
- Crew is fabricating a few more "dog bone" benches for deployment to the Bark Park in the Spring.
- Parks crew took advantage of the recent mild winter conditions to install a new privacy fence along the private property line of a close abutting neighbor to Veterans Memorial Park. The old wood stockade fence had rotted and is being replaced with a 6 foot high chain link fence with privacy slats.

Projects:

- Wapping tennis courts grant project is well underway. All old fence fabric was removed and recycled as scrap by our parks crew. Then Durham Fence Co. arrived to hang all new fabric and repair any and all piping and gates. Electrical Contractors, Inc. will be on site soon to replace all the lighting with new LED fixtures and adding a few fixtures to

illuminate the recently renovated adjacent basketball court. All work should be complete in time for the spring season. We will fund the work thanks to a \$50,000 grant from the State of CT.

- As requested by the Town Council created South Windsor Agriculture, Arts and Nature Committee, we have begun a more aggressive approach to clearing the town-owned property around the homestead at the old Priest farm. This will include removing all debris, demolishing all the dilapidated out-buildings once cleared for HazMat, re-grading and seeding to beautify the site and make it safer and easier to maintain moving forward.
- Sturdy wood guard rail type fencing has been installed at Lawrence Road Park to provide better control of vehicle access.
- Additional paths are being created in-house to enhance the experience at the mountain bike Trail system at Rye Street Park.

Other:

- Prepared and dismantled logistical set up for the Jan. 12th Resolution Run including roping off and marking parking, signage,



The vast majority of the 700 registered runners line up on West Road for the start of the 2nd annual Resolution Run on Sun. Jan. 12.

and installing hand rails on the footbridge by the fire house.

- Final interviews are complete for our vacant Groundskeeper position and we have hired Robert Link who replaces Dave Davis who had recently retired. Robert will begin his part time work on Feb.10.



Park crew member Mike Hanrahan in the process of creating "by hand" an additional mountain biking path at Rye Street Park.



Thanks to Fire Chief Cooney the SWFD's Tower Truck came in handy dismantling the "Giving Tree" at Nevers Park



Parks crew takes advantage of the recent mild winter conditions to install a new privacy fence along the private property line of a close abutting neighbor to Veterans Memorial Park. The old wood stockade fence had rotted and is being replaced with a 6 foot high chain link fence with privacy slats.



February 2020 Town Council Meetings and Events

Meetings

Monday, February 3, 2020

7:00 pm Regular Meeting

Council Chambers

Tuesday, February 18, 2020

7:00 pm Regular Meeting

Council Chambers

Holidays

Wednesday, February 12, 2020

Town Offices Will Be Closed in Observance of Lincoln's Birthday

Monday, February 17, 2020

Town Offices Will Be Closed in Observance of Washington's Birthday

Layout by Samara Haddock, Confidential Secretary

