

Town of South Windsor

Town Manager's Report March 2021

*Michael Maniscalco
Town Manager*



The Town Manager's Report will be delivered to the Town Council via email and at the Town Council meeting.



Police Department

Kristian R. Lindstrom
Chief of Police

Monthly Statistics January 2021:

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. January's numbers are below:

Total Computer Aided Dispatch Entries:	2404
9-1-1 Calls Received:	607
Routine Calls Received/Outgoing:	4071
Directed Patrol/Premise Checks:	1183
Motor Vehicle Stops:	249
Medical Assists/Emot.Dist. Persons:	107
Suspicious:	89
Alarms:	51
Motor Vehicle Accidents:	19
Welfare Check:	38
Assist Outside Agency:	22
Animal Problem:	13
Citizen Assist:	24
Miscellaneous Service:	3
Collision Reports:	9
BOLO:	11
Disabled Motor Vehicle:	21
Larceny - Motor Vehicle:	2
Larceny:	22
Hazardous Conditions:	11
Pistol Permits:	18
Burglary - Residential:	2
Burglary - Motor Vehicle:	17
Civil Matter:	5
911 Check:	1
Fraud:	8
Domestic Dispute:	7
Narcotics Violation:	2
Violation of Town Ordinance:	6
Youth Problem:	5

COVID 19 Update:

We can cautiously view February's COVID trend as seemingly having reached a plateau. Second tier vaccinations have been administered and only a handful of employees have opted out of being vaccinated. Police personnel continue to respond to occasional complaints of various businesses being non-compliant with COVID precautions, however by enlarge it appears as though the vast majority of the public are complying with the Governor's directives.

The month of February only a couple of police department members needed to quarantine after exposures at work or at home. We saw our first, and to date only, COVID positive case among our ranks and that employee has returned to work without restrictions.

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 has entered her final phase of field training and is expected to matriculate from that program early in March. Officer Kyle Kolcharno continues his police academy training in a virtual setting from police headquarters.

After a competitive hiring process, the police department hired Mr. Ryan Fraley as an Emergency Telecommunicator. His first day of work will be on March 1st, when he will begin training. He was hired to fill a vacancy that was created when Dispatcher Tracy Bowman resigned in the Fall of 2020.

The police department currently has one vacancy for a sworn officer position and we will begin

Police Department

Kristian R. Lindstrom
Chief of Police

accepting applications in the Spring. We are in the process of updating and changing our recruiting approach in such a manner as to recruit for a more diverse workforce. We hope to employ various new recruiting methods and technologies to accomplish this objective.

On the heels of Deputy Chief Eckblom's promotion in January, we have announced upcoming promotions. Memoranda of interest were obtained from those personnel interested in promotions to the ranks of Lieutenant, Sergeant, and Corporal and we expect the testing and selection process to take place during the last half of March.

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.

We continue to monitor intelligence briefings and open source intelligence to measure the likelihood of any 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.

The police department stands ready to respond appropriately to protests and demonstrations 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 re-engage the public.

In 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 so well received that additional presentations have been requested by other schools within South Windsor.

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. Our Traffic Unit continues to exercise the "3 E's" of Engineering, Enforcement, and Education as we address complaints ranging from speed to Commercial Vehicle travel. We continue to work in partnership with the Office of the State Traffic Authority to address traffic proposals, and projects.

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

Police Department

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Chief of Police

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 last month, the police department put in place several new initiatives. Based on some feedback received from a recent personnel matter, the agency has selected and begun using a web based system for officers to request training opportunities. This system formalizes and centralizes the manner in which these requests are not only submitted, but also the reason(s) for the approval or denial.

In addition to the same personnel matter, a new Officer Mentor Program has been developed and will be rolled out in the very near future. The intent of this program is to provide new officers with a mentor for the three years of the career that immediately follow their completion of field training. This program will provide mutually beneficial relationships where experienced, skilled, and trusted veteran police members provide insight, guidance, and opportunities to newer members in order to bridge any gaps between new and veteran employees. These relationships should be utilized by the mentee to address professional questions, concerns, doubts, and uncertainties, along with questions related to organizational practices and policies. In addition, the mentor officer can help the mentee begin to

identify steps that can be taken to pursue career paths based on their occupational interests.

In February, after years of dormancy, the Police Department reinstated its Police Canine Program. This was made possible by a donation from the Hartford-Evergreen Masonic Lodge. Officer Zachary Cosenza was selected as the next canine handler and in February we acquired K-9 "Mason." Mason is a 13 month old German Shepard from Slovakia. He and Officer Cosenza will begin their canine training with the State Police on March 15th.

Pursuant to the Police Accountability Act enacted by the State Legislature last summer, we have begun conducting the mandated periodic mental health evaluations as well as mandatory drug/steroid screenings. Employees will be cycled through these two programs based on the Bill's requirements.

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 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

Police Department

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Chief of Police

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, 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-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



Public Buildings Division

"Providing Quality, Value Minded Services to the South Windsor Community"

HVAC Upgrades Police Department and Community Center

All of the work at both the Police Department and Community Center has been completed. As to be expected there were some bugs to be worked out of both systems over the last couple of months but the boilers and associated systems and controls are now operating as designed.

Town Hall Elevator Replacement

Since the last update several parts of this project have been completed, although there is quite a way to go yet. On the outside of the building, the concrete for the ramp, the patio and side walls have been poured and the handrails have been ordered. The electrician was onsite before the walls were poured to run conduit for the ramp lighting. On the inside of the building the old elevator, elevator shaft and hydraulics have been removed. The elevator pit floor has been removed as well as part of the old footing to make room for the new pit floor and walls. At this point we are waiting for the engineer to approve the elevator shop drawings. Assuming no revisions to the drawings, the engineer should have them approved within a couple of weeks. That approval will also set into motion the manufacturing process for the elevator itself. The manufacturing process is expected to take two to three months to complete assuming no delays in the manufacturing process. Once the contractor receives approved drawings he will start laying out where the doors, electrical components and associated equipment inside

the elevator shaft will live. The mason will then be able to start forming the elevator shaft walls. With any luck and a break in the weather the mason will be able to start the brick work on both sides of the ramp walls. Once done, the hand railing can be installed, brick pavers be put back in place and the temporary ramp removed assuming inspection approval by the Building Department.

As part of this project we are also installing automatic door operators with push buttons on the inside and outside of the building. The door operators will, along with the accessible ramp, assist those with disabilities to easily access the building. The operators are currently on order, an install schedule will follow shortly after the parts arrive.

Town Hall Phone System

Where to start? Delay after delay with this project. Suffice to say that we should be much further along in the process if not completed by now but due to delays on AT&T's part as well as Frontier's part we are nowhere near completion. The most recent delay is associated having new circuits installed at the Town Hall and Police Department. The new circuits are a requirement for the added call volume for the Town Hall. More updates as they become available.

Public Works Garage Bay Modifications

Progress has been made on the punch list. The contractor has a couple of small items to take care of and the project will be completed. The heated bay has been a valuable asset to both the Parks and Streets Divisions. The crews are currently setting up the work so that it can be used in an efficient manner to service small

Public Works Department

engine equipment, build, repair and paint park benches, repair and replace mailboxes and posts as well as a host of other projects that they typically schedule during the winter months.

Public Works Garage Card Access Installation

Over the last couple of months our security systems vendor Venture Communications and Security Inc. has been working on installing a card access system for the interior and exterior doors at the facility. The work consisted of running communications cabling throughout, installing new door strikes and door contacts in all door frames as well as programming and testing the system. Just yesterday our locksmith Whitford Locksmiths installed new lockset cylinders on all of the same doors. The combination of these two systems along with other recent security enhancements recommended by Officer Jeremy Weiss, who conducted a Crime Assessment Report for the facility, addresses many of the security concerns at the facility. Those concerns include the ability to monitor who has entered the building and when they entered, the ability of criminals to “pick” or manipulate the standard door locking system, prevention of lost or stolen keys and the ability to instantaneously revoke someone’s credentials in the event they are lost. The card access system, just like those installed at other Town facilities in the recent past, are all controllable via web portal and remotely from any PC, tablet or phone in the event remote control of the systems is required.

Fire Headquarters Generator Replacement

I am currently working with Walter Summers

and Brian Peck of the Fire Department to replace the old generator at Fire Headquarters on Ellington Rd. After soliciting proposals for the design work we ultimately chose Salamone & Associates P.C. to provide construction drawings and specifications for the replacement of the generator. The drawing and specifications were completed today. The legal notice for the RFP will be in the Hartford Courant on March 1st and the proposals are due to the Town Managers Office on March 19th. Once the project is awarded and contract documents signed it is expected that the project will take about four months to complete.

Wood Memorial Library HVAC Upgrades

The Wood Memorial Library recently received a grant totaling \$149,000 for HVAC upgrades for the Library. I am working closely with Jessica Glass, President of the Library Association, the Department of Economic and Community Development and the State Historic Preservation Office to coordinate the administrative paperwork associated with this project. To date, Jessica has written a project narrative explaining how the funds are going to be used along with a tentative project budget. Those documents are currently under review by the DECD.

Meanwhile, I have solicited proposals from three of our on-call design professionals to create a design and specifications so that this project can go out to bid. I have received two of the three proposals thus far and expect the third any time now. The design is expected to take four to six weeks and once completed it will need approval from the SHPO prior to going out to bid. The approval process should only take a couple of weeks. The construction work is expected to take

Public Works Department

four to eight weeks depending on the number and type of systems being installed.

Clay Major

Facilities Manager, Public Buildings Division

Project Photos:



Ramp Walls Erected



*Patio Concrete Section
Poured*



*Concrete Ramp
Poured*



Elevator Shaft Demo

Street Services Division

Streets and Parks crews dealt with 9 snow events with an excess of 20" of snow/ice and freezing rain. Some of these storms were long duration events taxing the crews, but all were taken care of without incident. Some of the turnaround times for the crews were fairly short, but they were able to get through it as they always do. These men never fail to come together and make it happen. We are all fortunate for their dedication and sense of duty.

With snow comes snowy sidewalks. The Streets crews assisted the Parks crews with the clearing of approximately 6.9 miles of town owned sidewalks, not including buildings. Some of these walks need to be cleared immediately following each storm before the crews can go home, nearly 1.7 miles worth, the balance needing to be cleared the following day which is about 5.2 miles. In total, that is the equivalent of shoveling one side of Main St from the East Hartford line to the north end in South Windsor, then turning around and shoveling almost all the way back to Pleasant Valley Rd.

The pothole crew was busy during the month keeping the roads safe and helping keep small potholes small. We have had the crew out every day that storm events would allow. This task is a never ending but critical component to keep our infrastructure intact.

Equipment preservation is another important function for both Streets and Parks. Vehicles have been cycled through the wash bay in between storms, a seemingly perpetual task with all the events we have been experiencing, especially this month. Once again, a critical function to help keep the fleet functioning and corrosion free.

Work on clearing detention basins continues. Despite the weather, several detention basins were cleared of overgrowth to ensure these basins function as designed.

General maintenance and preparation activities are underway in anticipation of the upcoming construction season. This includes preventative maintenance of small equipment, organizing and

Public Works Department

inventorying supplies and disposing of old concrete and asphalt products.

Managing the leaf compost continues to be a high priority for the department in anticipation of a busy run on the product this Spring. Temperature needs to be monitored closely to ensure the optimum time to turn the compost. It is coming along quickly with adequate moisture to keep the little microbes happy.



The sign shop continues to be busy with mailbox repairs, vehicle lettering, and emergency replacement of various signs throughout town. The shop is also working with the LTA once again to mitigate parking issues on local roads.

Residents are encouraged to use Connect South Windsor to report hazards. Visit the website at www.southwindsor-ct.gov/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

Collector of Revenue

The Collector of Revenue will be mailing Delinquent/Intent to Lien Notices to all taxpayers the week of March 1, 2021. The notice must be complied with by March 31, 2021 to avoid additional interest, lien fees and/or collection fees.

Tax time is upon us. If you need 2020 tax information to complete your income tax return, please visit the website at the following link: <https://www.mytaxbill.org/inet/bill/home.do?town=southwindsor> or send an email to taxcollector@southwindsor-ct.gov. Please allow 48 business hours for a response. To schedule an appointment to purchase receipts at the cost of fifty cents per page, call 860-644-2511 ext. 321.

Our office encourages social distancing thru 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 or schedule an appointment at Town Hall by calling 860-644-2511 extension 321 or by emailing us at taxcollector@southwindsor-ct.gov

Assessor's Office

Homeowner's Program for the Elderly and Totally Disabled

The Governor's office, by Executive Order 10, effective February 4, 2021 has waived the re-filing requirement for anyone receiving tax credits or exemption benefits through the Elderly homeowners or Additional Veteran's State and local option programs due to the COVID 19 pandemic. Your tax bill in July 2021 will reflect the same level of benefit as you had in July 2019

without any application being completed during this regular filing period of February 1 – May 15, 2021. Stay home and be safe!

Please note the qualifying income below has been updated for those applicants that may wish to file this year for the first time to receive tax relief benefits if qualified.

Filing Period is between February 1st and May 15th for NEW applicants only.

If you are interested in applying for this program, you must meet the following requirements:

- Must be 65 years old (or older) by 12/31/2020
- Must have owned your home on 10/1/2020
- Must reside in your South Windsor home
- Must meet the following gross income requirements, which includes social security:

	Income Range	Benefit
Single Persons	\$0-\$37,600	State & Local Option Match
	\$37,601 - \$41,600	Local option 1 - \$195 tax credit
	\$41,601 - \$50,000	Local Option 2 - \$195 tax credit
Married Couples	\$0- \$45,800	State & Local Option Match
	\$45,801 - \$49,800	Local Option 1 - \$195 tax credit
	\$49,801 - \$65,000	Local Option 2 - \$195 tax credit

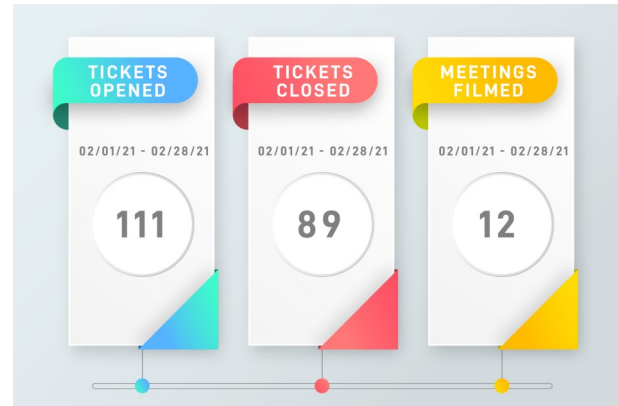
- An appointment must be made with Human Services to fill out your application(s):
 - Please contact Lindsey Ravalese: 860-648-6361 ext. 3319
 - 150 Nevers Road, South Windsor, 06074

Information Technology

Scott Roberts
Assistant Town Manager/CIO/EM

One of the primary functions of the Information Technology department is ensuring the security and reliability of the Town's data and technological infrastructure. This requires a great deal of researching, purchasing, configuring, operating and troubleshooting of countless applications and pieces of equipment to improve South Windsor's cybersecurity posture. Even with such a strong focus on security, the potential for a breach still exists.

Recognizing this potential and understanding that many municipalities struggle to implement solid cybersecurity systems, CIRMA decreased dramatically and will eventually eliminate the umbrella group cybersecurity coverage. IT has worked very closely and diligently with the Finance department to research and purchase a much more affordable cybersecurity insurance policy to better protect ourselves from the costs associated with potential fallout from a breach.



Human Services Department

Andrea Cofrancesco
Director of Human Services

Property Tax Relief

Per Governor Lamont, people on the Property Tax Relief program DO NOT have to reapply for benefits this year due to COVID-19. No existing filers need to reapply. The exemption for each person's property will stay the same. Only those who have never applied before need to apply this year and are encouraged to call Adult and Senior Services Caseworkers for more information and to schedule an appointment. 860-648-6361 ext. 3325 for an appointment. The deadline to apply is 5/15/2021.

Veterans Corner

The American Legion has created a "Veteran's Corner" in the main lobby of the community center. This will be an opportunity to display their memorabilia but also provide information about programs and services available to veterans. It will be updated by members of the legion.



Vaccine Appointment Assistance

Staff has been fielding many, many phone calls from older adults and their adult family members looking for assistance in trying to navigate appointments on the website, as well as meeting the needs of those who do not have computer

knowledge. We have created gmail accounts for people, made phone calls, rescheduled appointments as needed, providing some relief to those who are experiencing a high level of stress and anxiety about getting access to the vaccine. We also work closely with the health department in finding people for extra doses available at Wapping as they have cancellations or no-shows. Our senior bus has provided transportation to many people for their first and second doses, with no more than 2 people on the bus at once. Staff finds this work extremely rewarding and meaningful as we are faced with people who are hoping this pandemic comes to an end and they can be with their families again.

Ceiling Tiles

We have made enhancements to our building while people have not been here, and the latest is the ceiling tiles that have been painted by staff and seniors. Elaine Smith (senior) and Diana Roy, one of our bus drivers and Liz O'Brien, our clerical assistant, have all lent their talent and made beautiful art work to enhance our hallways! We can't wait for people to come back!!



Human Services Department

Andrea Cofrancesco
Director of Human Services

CARES Act Funds

We recently received a grant from the CARES Act fund, administered through the State Unit on Aging in the amount of \$2500. These funds will be used to purchase drive-through giveaway items to engage those who are socially isolated such as puzzles, games, craft kits, easy to fill birdfeeders, and Kindness Kits (a craft or small favor) for older adults to pass along to those who have helped them during COVID. We also plan to pay for designing, printing and mailing postcards to 5,000+ older residents with resources on financial, health, food and mental health services.



Youth & Family Services Teen Center

The Teen Center has been keeping busy planning and implementing new programs, and preparing for upcoming events.

During the month of February, our Youth Council members completed their month long Dignity Grows fundraiser to support those in need. Our students raised \$2,000, which will provide 200 bags full of hygiene products to individuals who may not be able to afford these necessities.

For Random Acts of Kindness Day our Youth Council volunteers assisted with our drive-thru event that provided the items needed to make Kindness Jars, in order to promote selfless acts in and around our community.

Our staff has been working hard to make design changes to the Teen Center; we have created a new layout that is comfortable, open, and truly a space where the students can enjoy spending their free time.

Since the beginning of February, our Teen Center

Program Coordinator Danielle has participated in the Timothy Edwards Middle School Matinee Program. Each Thursday, Danielle virtually meets with the middle school students for her "Game On!" program focused on playing fun and engaging interactive games.

We are open for both high school and middle school students. The middle school days are popular and we are at capacity. We have a smaller group for high school hours.

Youth Counseling, Parent Education and Support

Our counseling 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.

We have had 9 new referrals this month so far.

We have 47 active cases with weekly or bi-weekly sessions. Counselors are working with their clients on a variety of struggles including: youth that are impacted by parental substance use, impacted by trauma, struggling with anxiety, struggling with emotion regulation, struggling with the impact of divorce, struggling with the death or serious illness of a parent.

Our Clinical Coordinator attended a training on recognizing the symptoms of eating disorders, participated in presentation with school resource officer and our own School Outreach Specialist around helping your middle schooler stay engaged, facilitated Teen Talk group weekly for

Human Services Department

Andrea Cofrancesco
Director of Human Services

High school girls, has done multiple home visits to students who are not engaging in distance learning.

The biggest challenge facing YFS counseling staff is navigating the “new normal” of distance learning days in place of snow days. Our students want to continue to meet with their counselors, as is their routine. It has meant a lot of juggling and re-arranging schedules.

School Outreach & Prevention

S.W. Youth and Family Services and the S.W. Police Department will team up to provide a "Let's Taco Bout' It" Webinar on Wednesday, 2/24 for parents of middle school students. Lawren Owens, TEMS School Resource Officer, Robin Lagasse, Counseling Coordinator, and Kathy Reed, School Outreach, will share tips on how to keep kids engaged and connected during these difficult times. It will be a great opportunity for families to get to know Officer Owens and learn about what he does at TEMS. Robin and Kathy will talk about specific ways to keep kids healthy and ways for families to talk with their kids about the pandemic. All participants will also receive a taco dinner kit, so that they can share a stress free dinner together.

The Students against Destructive Decisions (SADD) Club created a Kindness Bingo Challenge during the month of February. During "Random Acts of Kindness" Week, they were encouraged to share kindness with the world. They completed a Bingo card so that they could share all of the positive acts that they did during the week. It was a simple reminder that we can all take a few minutes to brighten someone's day.

Our School Outreach Specialist, Kathy Reed is

running a middle school group called “Be the Change.” The group is working on ways that middle school students can make a positive change in this world.

We have a lot of great events and programs coming next month! Check out our newly designed newsletter here:

https://www.southwindsor-ct.gov/sites/g/files/vyhlif3831/f/uploads/march-april_newsletter_yfs.pdf



Parks & Recreation Department

Molly Keays
Director of Parks & Recreation

“Discover the Benefits!”

John Caldwell, Jr.
Parks Superintendent

MONTHLY REPORT - March 2021

TBD
Asst. Director of Parks &
Recreation

Park & Recreation Commission (PARC) – Commission will meet next on Wed., March 10th at 7:30pm virtually via WebEx.

The South Windsor Walk & Wheel Ways (SWW&WW) – We are hoping to meet soon to re-start 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!”



New Parks and Recreation Director – My name is Molly Keays, and I am joining the department as the new Director of Parks and Recreation! I am excited to be a part of our 06074 community and to utilize my

passion, talents, and experience to help the department continue to provide quality parks and recreation programs and experiences for our residents.

4th “R” - Despite the cold and snow this month, we’ve still been having lots of FUN at 4th “R!” From Thursday theme days, to creative crafts, to whole-group games, we’ve had a fantastic month!

Preschool programs – Our winter preschool session is in full swing here at the Wapping Parks and Recreation Facility! This session we are running 8 separate classes, nearly all of which are full! We have 48 unique little 06074 residents (representing

91 slots) joining us this session. This is an increase from 31 friends representing 55 slots in our fall session! We are spending our mornings singing songs, listening to stories, engaging in art projects, enjoying gross motor play in the newly cleaned and painted activity room, and of course having lots and lots of fun!

“Parks & Rec February Happenings” - This past month, we have brought new and exciting art programs virtually for all ages! Abrakadoodle has offered various new classes such as family paint nights and music inspired art classes. (see pictures below!)

“Parks & Rec March Happenings” – please stay tuned for our next mini-brochure for details on some novel ideas to keep families active and healthy in the month of March!

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”
February Activity Highlights:

• **Athletic Fields & Grounds:**

- All athletic fields are closed for the winter but spring is just around the corner. People are as excited about that as I am!

• **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. There has also been much needed detention basin tree work, also performed by the Parks crew.

• **Projects:**

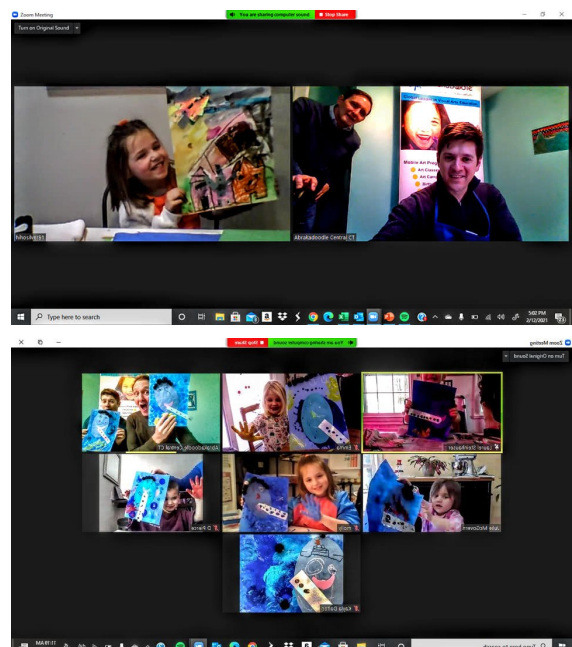
- Snow has put a little damper on the fence installation, but the re-construction projects at the Pepin Baseball Field and Field "C" at the Little League Complex are nearly complete.
 - Demolition Delay, along with the Building Department, gave us the go ahead for the removal of the house at 1355 Ellington Road. That is now complete and has made way for a new parking lot and access to enter Wapping Park from Ellington Road.
 - We cleaned and repainted the pea green walls in Activity Room # 37 at the Wapping Parks and Rec Facility to a nice and refreshing light gray.
 - We are excited to begin using a completely new technique to fabricate new signs for some of the Town's Parks. Keep your eyes peeled for them.
- **Other:**
- The Parks crew, alongside Public Works, has responded to 7 snow events in February! Plowing roads, Town owned parking lots and walks. Each time the Parks crew has to clear snow off the walks, it equals about 36,000 feet! Multiply that by 5 snow events, and they have cleared 180,000 feet, which is about 34 miles just this month.



Lots of fun at 4th "R"!



Tons of fun in Preschool!!!



Participants joined in a virtual paint night over Zoom.



*Before Photos: Demolition of the home at
1355 Ellington Road*



*After photos: Getting the area ready for a new parking lot
with access to Wapping Park*



*The Parks Dept. clears the detention
basin on Old Farm Road.*



*Lots of snowy weather provided perfect
conditions for many busy sledding days
at Porters Hill!*



*Mike, Alec and Rob from the Parks
Dept. repaint room # 37 at the
Wapping Parks and Rec Facility*

March 2021 Town Council Meetings and Events

Meetings

Monday, March 1, 2021

7:00 pm Regular Meeting

Virtual Meeting

Monday, March 15, 2021

7:00 pm Regular Meeting

Virtual Meeting

Monday, March 22, 2021

7:00 pm Special Meeting

Virtual Meeting

Thursday, March 25, 2021

7:00 pm Town Council & Board of Education Joint Work Session

8:00 pm Board of Education Budget Public Hearing

Virtual Meeting

Monday, March 29, 2021

7:00 pm Special Budget Work Session (if needed)

Virtual Meeting

Layout by Samara Haddock, Confidential Secretary

