

Town of South Windsor

Town Manager's Report March 2020

Michael Maniscalco
Town Manager



Covid-19: The Town has been involved in multiple communications with the State of CT to gain information related to Covid-19. At this point many of the public agencies have enhanced their efforts from a quarantine scenario to include mitigation. It is important for residents to remember to:

- Wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.

It is important to note, there are no cases of Covid-19 in South Windsor and there is no one currently being monitored for exposure to Covid-19 in South Windsor. As additional information becomes available it will be shared with the public through social media and press releases. In the event that there is information of significant importance the Town will issue reverse 911 calls as well.

Sidewalk Plan: A number of Council members have asked about a sidewalk master plan. On the Town website there is a draft

plan from 2015. However, the plan that is currently being followed is the final plan from 2013, found on page 77 of the Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD). This plan will be updated with the revision of the POCD that will be due in 2023.

Viewpoint Cloud- Due to the timing of staff meetings I do not have an update at the time of this report, but will have one available at the time of the meeting.

1355 Ellington Rd- The Town now officially owns this property for open space. The Parks and Recreation Department is in the process of having the structures on the property tested for any hazardous material. Once tests are returned, plans for demolition of the house and out buildings will be put in place.

Police Department

Scott P. Custer
Chief of Police

Sgt. Matthew Mainieri to be Honored with Motorcycle Ride:

The South Windsor Police Department and the SWPD Union are collaborating on a charity motorcycle ride to honor Sgt. Mainieri. Sgt. Mainieri's name 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.

There will be a motorcycle ride to remember Matt on Sunday, June 4, 2020 that will begin at an Ellington Harley Davidson dealership, and drive through town past Police Headquarters and end at an Enfield restaurant. Sgt. Mainieri was an expert rider and master police motorcycle trainer, this ride will connect his friends and colleagues as we honor his sacrifice.

Coffee with a Cop-Community Outreach Safety Presentation:

On Tuesday, May 5, 2020 we are collaborating with Youth and Family Services to present another Cops, Coffee & Conversation event. This presentation will focus on home security and feature information about Crime Prevention from Officer Jeremy Weiss. Other department staff will be on hand to meet with residents and discuss their concerns.

Valentine's Day Car Seat Clinic:

Our annual Valentine's Day car seat clinic was

held Friday, Feb. 14th from 3 to 6 p.m. It was very busy and many parents and caregivers received proper instruction on how to safely transport child passengers. As a reminder, a free car seat clinic is held every Wednesday from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. at the Fire Headquarters building on Route 30.

First Responders Breakfast at Brookdale:

We were honored to be invited to the Brookdale assisted living center on Ellington Road on Feb. 14th. The staff and residents invited our officers for breakfast and about 15 officers were able to stop in. We spent time talking with residents and sharing stories about our backgrounds. It was a great way to start our morning, Thank you Brookdale!



New Hires and Recruiting Status:

You may notice a couple of 2-officer cars recently. These are the two officers who graduated from the Academy in January. Officer Erika Kuzara and Officer Kyle Higgins

Police Department

Scott P. Custer
Chief of Police

are now in their 16-week field-training phase. We also have 3 officers currently in the police academy at Meriden, Officers Bianca Krzynowek, Linda Hernando and Thomas Defelice. We have two current openings and an upcoming retirement in May. We have identified three excellent candidates to fill those positions and will look to be at full staff by late June.

Scam Warning- Police Impersonation:

Both the Vernon Police and Manchester Police have recently been notified by businesses that a male called impersonating a member of their Police Department. This male demanded money and threatened the person receiving the call with an arrest warrant. These calls are scams and the caller is not a member of any police department.

We are reminding people that a police officer will not call and demand money or payment to avoid arrest. If you receive a similar call, simply hang up. You can always contact your local police department to report suspicious calls and confirm there is no problem.

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

Police Department

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Chief of Police

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

Michael J. Gantick
Director of Public Works

Engineering Projects Update

Local Road Paving

Attached is a preliminary list of roads we plan to pave in 2020. The Streets Division is working on replacing catch basin tops on streets in the Bayberry Trail neighborhood and there are some drainage repairs needed in Pleasant Valley Road by Nutmeg Road South. The Connecticut Water Company also plans to make some improvements to their facilities in Wood Pond Road by Rustic Lane. We plan to bid milling and paving in March so work can begin later this spring, after all the drainage and utility work has been completed on these roads. This program is supported by the 2018 Bond funds.

Upcoming South Windsor Engineering Projects

Consultants have been working on preliminary design for reconstruction of the northern section of Avery Street (between Talcott Ridge Road and Dart Hill Rd) and the southern section of Nevers Road (from Sand Hill Road to the Community Center driveway. Both these projects are before the Inland Wetlands Agency for permitting. A public information meeting will be held on these projects in March. Construction is scheduled for this summer.

Preliminary design work has also begin for the reconstruction of Beelzebub Road and construction of sidewalks along sections of Pleasant Valley Road and Clark Street. A study of needed drainage improvements to

Pleasant Valley Road is also in progress. These projects are funded from the 2018 Bond Referendum.

Buckland Road Sidewalks

This project has been temporarily shut down for the winter and work is expected to be completed this spring.

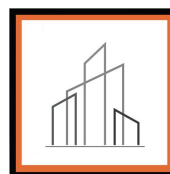
Sidewalk Repairs

We will be seeking bids from contractors to replace more deteriorated sidewalks in Town this spring and summer. These repairs are supported by the 2018 Bond funds.

Jeffrey Doolittle

Town Engineer

Assistant Director of Public Works



Public Buildings Division

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

HVAC Upgrades Police Department and Community Center

Plans and specifications were completed and submitted in late January for review by SWAN associates and Daikin Applied (both Omnia partners, a purchasing cooperative program). On February 17th, I received a detailed, itemized proposal for all of the HVAC work at both the Community Center and the Police Department. The proposal is currently under review and a contract is expected to be signed and awarded by the first week in March. Once

Public Works Department

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Director of Public Works

a contract is signed material submittals will be sent out for approval so that equipment and materials can be released. Heating systems at both locations will be replaced first as Eversource Gas is requiring that the gas meter be turned on and in use by the end of April.

Town Hall Elevator Replacement Design

Review sets of specifications and plans for this project were recently completed. Final review is underway and completed sets are expected in the next couple of weeks. Once funds are allocated we can schedule and solicit bids for this project.

Community Center Main Entry Sliding Doors

The new sliding doors are were finally installed during the week of the 9th, It seemed like it took forever to take delivery of the doors but now that they are in the wait was well worth it. The doors arrived via truck many in boxes, in fact, the work, completed by two factory trained technicians took two very long days to complete. The doors look and

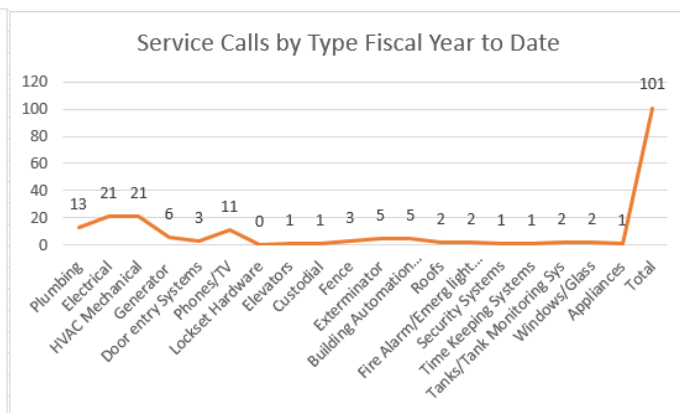
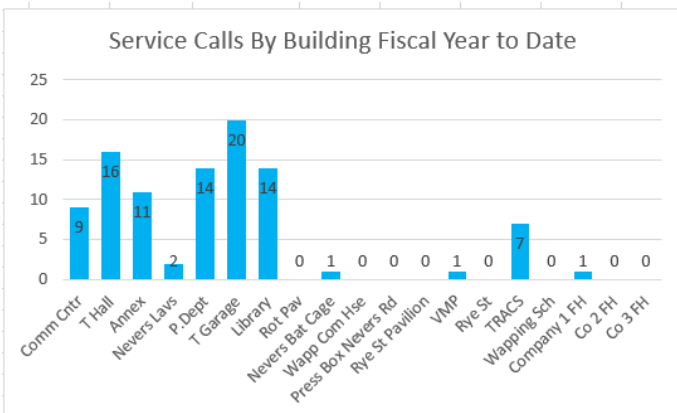
work beautifully. Installed along with the new doors came a new air curtain and card access reader for the front set of doors. The air curtain will help keep out the winter cold and summer heat when both doors are open at the same time. The card reader eliminates the need for a key to operate the doors and ensures that we never lose a key and compromise the security of the building.

Library Roof Replacement

No update since last report.

Generator Testing at the Library

Over the last month or so we started putting plans in place to conduct a test of the emergency electrical systems and circuits using a portable generator provided by the Treatment Plant. With assistance from the Treatment Plant staff and our electrical contractor we utilized a portable generator to connect to newly installed generator equipment to conduct the test. All of the systems and equipment connected to the generator functioned as planned. The set up time was minimal as it only took an hour or so



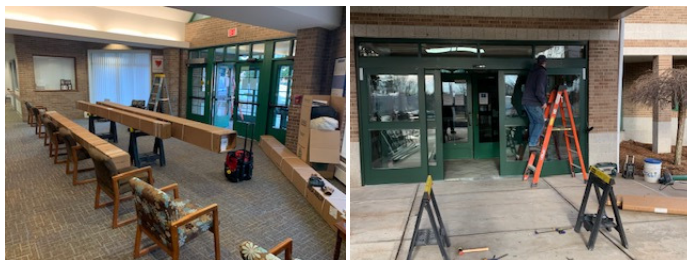
Public Works Department

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Director of Public Works

to make connections from the generator to the building. Unlike all other Town buildings, the Library has limited emergency circuits available. There is enough equipment on the emergency circuits to keep the building warm and power a few outlets in the event of an outage.

Clay Major
Facilities Manager
Public Buildings Division

Public Buildings Project Photos



New Sliding Doors at the Community Center



Generator Testing at the Library

Street Services February 2020

There were no weather related incidents during the month.

The department has engaged All Habitats Inc. to remove invasive phragmites, an aggressive perennial grass, in one detention basin in town. Phragmites displaces native plants and animals, and disrupts water flow. Should this treatment be successful, and we believe that it will, we intend to use this process in other areas of town to remove this invasive plant and restore natural riparian vegetation in these areas.

We have maintainers clearing sight line issues throughout town, clearing brush that obstructs intersections for driver safety. These crews are also working to clear brush around drainage culverts and drainage structures.

Town crews are assisting Water Pollution Control to replace a bio filter at the treatment plant. The filter is composed of organic matter and a wood chip mix. Crews have been blending materials and stockpiling at the treatment plant to facilitate the filter replacement next month. Having the department assist is a significant cost savings for the town.

Crews continue to battle with potholes as weather permits. Although the winter has not been too bad, potholes continue to be our nemesis.

Public Works Department

Michael J. Gantick
Director of Public Works

Maintainers have taken advantage of the warm weather and have begun to repair or replace several catch basin structures in preparation for repaving projects later this year. This work normally starts in the spring, but as the weather cooperates, we have crews getting a jump-start on this task.

The Department is also using the nicer weather to begin curb repairs from plow damage. Getting this work underway now will save us countless hours this spring.

The sign shop fabricated and installed 88 signs throughout town due to age or damage.

Residents are encouraged to use Connect South Windsor to report hazards. Visit www.southwindsor-ct.gov/connect or look for the app for iPhone and Android.

Scott Yeomans
Associate Manager, Street Services

Fleet Services

The Fleet Department is working on replacing the engine on the Parks Department 2011 Toro 5900, which is a triple deck front line mower. This will save the Town from having to purchase a new mower at a cost of \$90,000. This is the right direction to move forward in because we can get a few more years out of this piece of equipment, while keeping the budget increases to a minimum.

With the recent mild weather, the Fleet

Department has started spring servicing. This allows other departments to take advantage of the favorable weather sooner and have the opportunities to start spring tasks with the equipment they need. The shop repaired a lift cylinder for the sweeper hopper, as well as the floor being replaced for the elevator chain to bring the street debris up to the hopper. This piece is serviced and ready to go for the spring street sweeping program. As for the compost program, we repaired a weldment on the drum that holds the knives that turn the material. The shop also diagnosed an intermittent problem causing the engine to go into derate (low power) mode without the use of software. That happened to be a manufactures defect. The fleet team had a sizable project on their hands, with many pilot lines from the joystick controllers bleeding through on our rubber tire excavator. The shop had a plow retro fitted to truck 49 to help prevent a previously reoccurring problem. Even though we have had a mild winter, the truck was put through its paces a few times and has held up great. We have gotten great feedback from the crews, stating that the truck is much more versatile.

We have introduced an addition to the Parks Department, a Chevrolet 5500 with a switch and go body. This is a very valuable piece of equipment, allowing us to switch bodies in a matter of minutes. With that being said, the options that we have for this medium truck is almost endless. It has the capability to be a dump truck, a chipper body truck, a flat bed

Public Works Department

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Director of Public Works

and so much more. With all the different options this vehicle provides, it proves this is a great value to the Town of South Windsor.

The Street Department has also introduced a new pick up, equipped with a bi-fold lift gate. This is a great addition as well because it allows heavy loads to be put into the bed while helping to prevent the workforce from being injured. A few weeks back our safety barrier wall that protects our walkway to our shop floor, was finished being installed. A big thank you goes out to the Street and Parks Departments for making this wall turn out so nicely. The Fleet Department appreciates all the work they put into making it look clean and professional. As we continue to prep vehicles and equipment for spring, we will continue to provide quality work and unparalleled value to our customers.

Chuck Marshall
Fleet Manager

Human Services Department

Andrea Cofrancesco
Director of Human Services

Human Services Updates:

“We Love Them!”

After almost 30 years of walking into one set of sliding doors, to have to pull open the second set we now have both sets of doors as sliders! Amazing! People in walkers and wheelchairs, folks pushing baby carriages or for people simply with their hands full, will have a much easier time getting into the community center! “We love the new doors!” was a common phrase we have been hearing for over a week since the doors were installed. Thank you to Clay in Facilities Management for making it happen!



Elderly and Disabled Property Tax Relief

Elderly and disabled homeowners who qualify can apply for reduced property taxes on their homes until May 15, 2020. People apply every other year, and this year is the year more folks need to reapply. This year's income limits are \$37,000 maximum for an individual and \$45,100*for a couple. All gross income is counted including Social Security benefits. Documents you will need to bring: Signed 1040 Federal Tax form (if you file); Social Security Statement (SSA-1099); Pension

Statement; Bank Interest Statement; Any other Income. For more info or to schedule an appointment, call 860-648-6361. **Town of South Windsor has an expanded local option which allows up to \$50,000 a year for a single homeowner and \$65,000/married couple.*



Valentine Cheer

The Senior Center's Community Service Group delivered homemade Valentine pops, balloons and handcrafted Valentines to 27 homebound seniors and people with disabilities for Valentine's Day. Dedicated volunteers spread a little holiday cheer!

Parks Crew Lends a Hand

Each year over the holidays, Human Services gets a lot of food donations, as it is the season of giving. Due to the space limitations at the community center, a local church stores the food for us and when we need to replenish the shelves, we enlist the help of the Parks Crew in bringing over the food. In the past, we would use community service volunteers to



Human Services Department

Andrea Cofrancesco
Director of Human Services

bring over 3-4 boxes of food at a time, an inefficient and tedious process. For the past several years, the Parks Crew has helped and it is so truly appreciated! They are always willing and able and they have a good time, knowing they are helping for the greater good. Thank you to all!!

Teen Art

We are excited to showcase artwork by South Windsor High School students for the hallway near the Teen Center! This artwork will be changed periodically throughout the year. What talent! We invite you to take a walk down the hall to check it out!



40th Anniversary Celebration

We will be celebrating the Senior Center's 40th anniversary all year! The year-long celebration was kicked off with an Early Bird dinner on February 27 sponsored by the Ivy at Ellington. The March anniversary event is a breakfast sponsored by Brookdale South Windsor. We are fortunate to have the support and sponsorship of local businesses

and are excited to offer this breakfast as a continuation of celebrating the Senior Center's special year!



Youth & Family Services

South Windsor Youth & Family Services and South Windsor Alliance for Families (SWAFF) applied for and received a \$5,000 SOR grant to tackle the Opioid Crisis. As you know, a big part of what we do here is substance use prevention and community education. This grant will allow us to expand what we can provide, one is offer an additional Narcan & QPR training for the community, and a Narcan training for town employees.



Teen Center

During the month of February, some of the Teen Center Youth Council Members came together over their school vacation to participate in Random Acts of Kindness Week. High School students created small gift bags to hand out in the community- places like the Public Library, Police and Fire Departments. The teens also got creative and left some bags of quarters on washing machines and dryers at a local laundromat for a "wash or dry on us".



Human Services Department

Andrea Cofrancesco
Director of Human Services

The Teen Center Youth Council is a group of high school students who help lead and participate in volunteer opportunities as well as help to plan and take part in various teen center programs or events. The group meets monthly during the school year and focuses on helping out with the SW Farmers Market during the summer months. This month alone, three new members joined the group, bringing membership up to over twenty participants! New members are always welcome to join at any time throughout the year.

The Teen Center continues to be a popular place for middle school students as well. The Friday Night Drop-in program draws about 50 participants each week! The Tuesday "Afternoon at the Teen Center" program, organized in collaboration with Timothy Edwards Afterschool Matinee Program, has been both fun and successful. Students take the bus from TE to the Teen Center once a week for a 6 week program that focuses on prosocial activities. Some students are returning members, but many are new to the teen center – what better way to make new friends!



Parent Education and Support

Chris Garrahan, who is the Parent Educator and one of our Youth Counselors, is facilitating a monthly group for Relatives Raising Children. The next meeting is on Tuesday, February 25th at 10:30am.

He is 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.

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

Quarter Two flyer for April, May and June classes will come out next week! To check out the webinars, visit:

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

School Outreach & Prevention

Youth and Family Services works in partnership with TEMS to bring the "Business Lunch" program to 8th grade students. Once a month, a community member is invited into the school to share lunch with a group of students to talk about their career. The students enjoy learning about the many job opportunities that may interest them in the future. In February, Officer Tina Roy discussed her service in the United States Air Force and her job as a Boom Operator. They enjoyed her excitement about her experience and learned a lot about the military. Next month our guest will be Mike Cavanaugh, Head Coach for the UConn Men's Hockey Team.

Human Services Department

Andrea Cofrancesco
Director of Human Services

Next month will feature lots of activities celebrating Healthy Living Month. Youth and Family Services will collaborate with the S.W. Police Department, TEMS and SWHS to offer a variety of programs to encourage everyone to make healthy and safe choices.

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, social worker and professional organizer, will present her talk: Finding Your Organizing Groove: How to Gain SPACE and Develop Tidy Habits. Participants will learn proven steps for tackling any home organizing challenge, explore the pros and cons of the Konmari Method, and will undergo an assessment of their organizing habits. Sarah will share before and after pictures of her own projects with clients and will talk about the process of working with a professional organizer.

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

Coming Up in March-

- Healthy Living Fest at TEMS
- Behavioral Health Provider Meet and Greet on March 5th
- Home Alone Safety Course on March 11th
- Relieve the Stress Fest at SWHS on March 19th
- Lunch and Learn on Opioids with Intercommunity on March 24th



Parks & Recreation Department

Raymond Favreau
Director of Parks & Recreation

“Discover the Benefits!”

John Caldwell, Jr.
Parks Superintendent

MONTHLY REPORT - March 2, 2020

Keri Apt
Asst. Director of Parks & Recreation

Park & Recreation Commission (PARC)

The next PARC meeting is Wednesday, March 11, at 7:30pm in the Council Chambers. Council Chambers.

The South Windsor Walk & Wheel Ways (SWW&WW)

sub-committee meets next on Wed., March 4th at Wapping at 7pm. Efforts over the next year will be the design of the proposed cross-town trail through the Eversource power corridor thanks to a DEEP Recreational Trails Grant. They also successfully submitted their application for renewal of the Bicycle Friendly Community designation with the League of American Bicyclist in plenty of time for the Feb. 5th deadline in hopes to improve their rating from the Bronze to a Silver level. Good luck to this extremely hard-working group of volunteers!!

Connecticut Recreation and Parks Association (CRPA)

– As chair of the Legislative committee for our professional organization I have been very busy during this short session working with our Executive Director and lobbyist working on supporting a few and opposing a number of committee raised proposed bills that could impact the parks & recreation industry if passed into law. A few of concern are: predictive work scheduling, banning the current pesticide

preemption, banning glysohate, a moratorium on the use of recycled rubber tire material for safety fall surfacing on playgrounds, expansion of concussion protocol for youth athletes, free swim lessons through DEEP, mandatory shade area at public playgrounds, a number of bicycle safety proposals, recreational marijuana, increasing the threshold for prevailing wage for rehabilitation projects, and maintaining municipal recreation immunity. These proposals move rapidly in a short legislative session starting and ending a month earlier than usual.

Special Invitation to Councilors – SAVE THE DATES:

- (1) Back by popular demand stop by our **Kids Night Out** on Fri., March 6th from 6:30-9:30pm at Wapping where kids get to choose activities (supervised by competent and creative 4th R staff!) and parents get a night out too!
- (2) Join our very own SW Walk & Wheel Ways for a **Moonlight Walk** on Sat., March 7th at 7pm, starting and ending at the Rotary Pavilion at Nevers Park.
- (3) Visit our third annual **MAX Challenge Day of Giving Healthy Habits Family Fair** on Sat., March 21 from 10am to 3pm at the Wapping Parks & Recreation Facility for

health and wellness activities, vendors, demos, displays, food and fun! (Snow date is Sun., March 22).

- (4) Catch the action as Moms and their sons compete in our third annual **Dodgeball Throw Down** on Fri., March 27 from 7-9pm at Timothy Edwards gymnasium, relocated from Wapping in order to expand the program due to demand!

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 – March enrollment: 134 AM Participants and 249 PM Participants. On Sunday, February 23, 4th "R" staff and families attended a UCONN Men's Basketball Game at Gampel Pavilion! Between staff and families, 187 4th "R" basketball enthusiasts cheered on the Huskies to victory!

Our third annual **Father/Daughter Valentines Dance** on Friday, Feb. 7th from 7-9pm was another huge success with! The evening was complete with DJ, fully decorated gymnasium, free dance lessons provided by Arthur Murray Dance Studio and light refreshments. This special night for Dad's and their "little girl(s)" has become quite popular with capacity enrollment of 200 and a wait list of 25.

Our first-ever **FREE Winter Fest** was unfortunately and sadly cancelled due to incredibly unseasonal and muddy weather

conditions. This new event was originally scheduled for Sat., Feb. 29th from 1-3pm at Porter's Hill at Nevers Park. We will try again next year and hope that Mother Nature will cooperate so participants can enjoy sledding, snowman building, winter games, hot cocoa and more!

Recreation Basketball – 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 nearing completion. We will work diligently with our designer and Allied Printing to make our goal to distribute by direct saturation bulk mail to nearly 12,000 mailboxes in mid-March.

Annual Review – Our annual review with the Recreation Division was successfully held on Friday, Feb. 21. This off-site traditional one-day "retreat" this year allowed us to focus on team building with nearly 50% of our administrative staff recent new hires. The exercises and brainstorming that occurred generated goals for the coming year, numerous new program ideas, increased efficiencies and fostered tremendous teamwork so necessary to deliver the quality programs and services our residents have come to expect and enjoy!

Parks Division

"Caring for South Windsor's Growing Needs"

February Activity Highlights:

Athletic Fields & Grounds:

- Closed for the winter. We met with the local sports groups on Feb. 4th and the High

School and Timothy Edwards Athletic Directors on Feb. 10th to prepare for the 2020 Spring sports season.

Parks & Open Space:

- Serious tree work, including stump removal and grinding continued to be an on-going efforts at multiple public grounds, parks and open space sites.
- Crew completed fabrication in the shop and deployed 4 more brightly colored “dog bone” benches to the Bark Park. They also refurbished and relocated the “poop” bag dispensers to hug the fence-lines while adding additional color to the park.
- Parks crew took further advantage of the recent mild winter conditions to clear the overgrown area (approximately two acres) of invasives, woody growth and unhealthy trees west of the bark park down to the trail outside the left field corner of the Rotary baseball field at Nevers Park. We were able to salvage some healthy trees and will rough grade and seed the area for ease in future maintenance. The old tobacco barn previously hidden and often an attractive site for questionable behavior is now completely visible. We will begin discussion regarding the fate of this barn.
- Where conditions permitted we began early rough cut mowing at detention basins on town properties, and over-seeding heavily worn areas on athletic fields to try to get ahead of spring efforts.
- Removed excess woody growth and invasives along Plum Gulley Brook at Porter's Hill.
- Installed new split rail fencing at the West Road entrance and parking lot at Donnelley Preserve.

- Annual maintenance of the Tiger Beetle mitigation area at the Fairgrounds was completed in-house via York-rake.
- Avery Community Gardens were mowed and tilled in preparation for spring planting by resident gardeners.

Projects:

- Wapping tennis courts grant project is nearing completion. Remaining fund balance will be used for some basic repairs at other public tennis courts in town.
- Testing for hazardous materials is complete for all structures at the newly acquired 1355 Ellington Rd property and all the out buildings at the Priest Farm. As soon as we receive the lab results and run this by the Demolition Delay Committee on March 5th we will proceed with demolition as required and needed. The homestead and silo at the Priest Farm will remain. In the meantime we have removed and disposed of all left-over contents in the house at 1355 Ellington Road in preparation for eventual demolition.
- As requested by the Town Council created South Windsor Agriculture, Arts and Nature Committee, we continued a more aggressive approach to clearing the town-owned property around the homestead at the old Priest farm. This will include removing all debris, York-raking the grounds, 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.
- Crew removed the aging foot bridge at Porter's Hill and with their exemplary carpentry skills built and replaced it with a

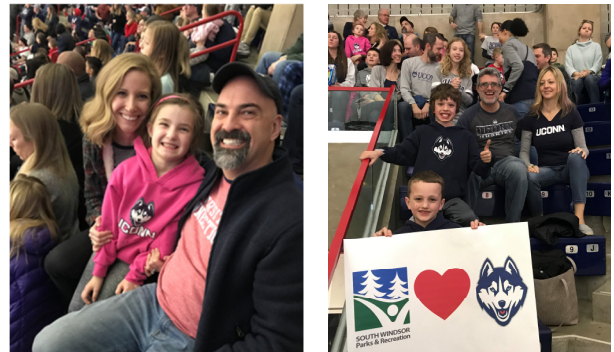
brand new one slightly wider than the original for crossing Plum Gully Brook.

- Began servicing and repairing all small equipment (sod cutters, scarifiers, mowers, chain saws, etc) in preparation for spring tasks.
- Crew began installing wooden skids on the bottoms of bleachers to ease their movement when mowing.
- Refurbished the flatbed and frame of truck 75.
- Fabricated protective plexi-glass covers for the big “5” and “0” photo collages from our 50th anniversary celebration and hung them in the hall for display at Wapping.

Other:

- With unusually fair winter weather and lack of storms we have taken advantage of the opportunity to have veteran staff spend time training our new Maintainers on equipment operation and skill development.

Photos



Happy spectators at our 4th R Family Day at UConn's Gampel Pavilion for a men's basketball game on Feb. 23.



I am super proud to say that a good number of our spectacular 4th R staff attended the UConn game as unpaid volunteers to support the families they serve daily at each of the elementary schools. Kudos for such dedication to the program!!!



Not sure how much of the game this member of a 4th R “family got to see?!



More happy Husky fans from the 4th R



New footbridge at Porter's Hill thanks to the exceptional carpentry skills of our parks crew!



Overgrown area behind the Bark Park at Nevers – Before clearing efforts



During clearing efforts....



Custom designed and fabricated "Bone Bench" for our Tyler Memorial Bark Park!



...and after!



Daddies and their "little girls" dressed to the nines and dancing their feet off at our annual Valentines Dance on Feb. 7th at Wapping. How adorable is that!!



This winter SWPRD hosted two SWHS Unified Basketball Games at Wapping Parks & Recreation Facility



Over 100 participants and staff from surrounding towns enjoyed lunch and dancing at the SWHS Project Worth Young Adult Transition Academy Valentine Dance hosted by SWPRD at Wapping Recreation Facility -

March 2020 Town Council Meetings and Events

Meetings

Monday, March 2, 2020

7:00 pm Regular Meeting
Council Chambers

Monday, March 16, 2020

7:00 pm Regular Meeting
Council Chambers

Wednesday, March 18, 2020

7:00 pm Town Council & BOE Joint Work Session
8:00 pm Public Hearing - Board of Education Budget
TE Middle School, Rm. Alt 6

Monday, March 23, 2020

7:00 pm Special Meeting - Presentation of General Government Budget
Council Chambers

Monday, March 30, 2020

7:00 pm Special Work Session
Council Chambers

Tuesday, March 31, 2020

7:00 pm Special Work Session
Council Chambers

Layout by Samara Haddock, Confidential Secretary

