# Town of South Windsor

Town Manager's Report March 2017

Matthew B. Galligan Town Manager



#### **Crumbling Foundation Legislation**

On February 28, I testified on the crumbling foundation bills during the joint public hearing at the Capitol. I thought everything went well as the joint public hearing allowed people to testify all at once. Senator Larson was the panel chair, Representative Delnicki was a panel member, and Representative Currey joined us in support at the press conference before the public hearing.

There was a rally at 9:30 a.m., a press conference at 9:40 a.m., and the public hearing at 10:00 a.m. The public hearing lasted for a while as there were many residents who participated in the hearing. Steve Werbner, Town Manager of Tolland, and Lisa Pellegrini, First Selectwoman of Somers, both did a superb job of highlighting the different issues that the region is facing. CRCOG will continue to watch these bills carefully as they move through the State Legislature.

#### **Truck Traffic on State Routes**

I have enclosed for you an email memorandum from the Deputy Chief concerning truck traffic on Sullivan Avenue as well as the original email that was sent in November 2015. At this point, the Town has done everything we can to work with the businesses to lessen the impact. I would suggest that if the individual is still having issues with truck traffic that they should contact the Deputy Chief directly so we can determine what other avenues to take.

#### **Budget Schedule**

The Council Clerk recently sent out a draft budget schedule to you. Unfortunately, some meetings may need to be changed as we become more involved with the Governor's proposed budget. There is very little direction regarding revenues from the State. It is our indication from our representatives that there will be some changes in the State budget. This makes it difficult to maintain an appropriate schedule for both the Board of Education and the Town Council for budget approval. I will be meeting with the Superintendent, the Board of Education Chair, and the Mayor to determine what the best schedule will be as we move forward in this process.

#### **Board and Commission Reports**

There is a proposed discussion item regarding our Boards and Commissions. I am finding that many Boards and Commissions are not reporting to the Council as often as they should. I think there should be a discussion regarding implementing policies for Boards and Commissions to report on a more frequent basis to the Town Council. This will ensure the Council is more informed about activities and proposals from the Boards. If the Board and Commission liaisons were to report back to the Council when appropriate, then both the Council and public will benefit.

#### **Proposed Agenda Revisions**

The Clerk of the Council and I have made some revisions to the general order of Council agendas. The next steps would be to discuss these proposed changes with the Council and then have a resolution approving the proposed changes at the March 20 meeting if the Council agrees.

#### Studio Project

As of March 1, we have filed the final Power Purchase Agreement document with PURA. This will allow the Town of South Windsor to acquire the PPA from dck or Connecticut Energy. Hopefully Eversource will sign off on it. The new milestones are also included in that document. If everything goes well, then we can move forward on the studio project.

#### **Emergency Operations Procedures**

I have met with Town staff at the EOC, and we have revised our South Windsor Emergency Operations Center Manual. We have a draft dated February 17, and this draft shows how each department will operate during an emergency and what is available to them at the EOC. We will be finalizing this document in the near future.

This document is confidential and will be shared only on a limited basis with department heads. We are also creating training programs for staff from department heads to secretaries as some staff who were originally deemed nonessential may be essential for finance, data collection, etc.

We are also in the midst of reviewing our emergency operations manuals in each department. These are updated every year and are submitted to the State. These will be finalized soon.

#### **Community Events**

I have met with the Chairs of the Democratic and Republican Town Committees to review procedures on providing events that can positively impact the South Windsor community. We discussed the real reasons why an event was recently cancelled. Some of this discussion will be part of your agenda item on Board and Commissions liaisons and reports.

We will have a few more meetings to discuss programs that we should bring forward to our residents. We have a great community here, and we would like ensure that there will always be respect and civility in the Town of South Windsor. We want to create a program that residents can be proud of and that will reflect well on the Town of South Windsor.

#### **Addiction Community Conversation**

Andrea Cofrancesco from Human Services will be at the Council meeting to discuss the upcoming Opioid and Heroin Addiction program on Tuesday, March 28.

Matthew B. Galligan Town Manager

# **Police Department**

#### **New Dispatcher Hired:**

On Monday, February 27, 2017 Edward Patz training began as an Emergency Telecommunicator. Ed lives in Newington and has over 25 years of police dispatch experience. Ed initially worked with the Wethersfield Police Department and eventually retired from the Newington Police Department after having served 20 years. He is well versed in our current CAD/RMS system which Newington Police used until their recent transition to NexGen.

This brings us to full staff in dispatch until May; when Krista Jeski is planning to retire. We are continuing to interview candidates to fill that position later this year. We also have several background investigations started for Police Officer candidates as we work to fill the four vacant positions.

# SWPD to Participate in Opioid and Heroin Addiction Forum:

South Windsor Police Officer Kevin Geraci will join Manchester Police Chief Marc Montminy and others on March 28th at the South Windsor Community Conversation on addiction. Ofc. Geraci is one of the few certified Drug Recognition Experts in Connecticut that can be called upon to test vehicle operators who appear to be under the influence of drugs. The standard field tests for testing operators impaired by alcohol are Timothy M. Edwards Chief of Police

## not as effective for identifying the operator who is under the influence of various drugs. He will also discuss our ability to administer Narcan to reverse the effects of Opioid overdose.

# SWPD recognized as Top Fundraiser for Special Olympics Connecticut:

Thanks to the generosity of South Windsor businesses, citizens and volunteers the South Windsor Police department was once again recognized as the top fundraiser by Special Olympics Connecticut at their February conference.

SWPD Corporal Ron Littell and his volunteers once again raised over \$50,000 in 2016 for this great organization. This marks the SWPD being the top fundraiser for 5 consecutive years. Thank you to all who support our efforts to assist Special Olympics!

# **Public Works Department**

Michael J. Gantick Director of Public Works

#### **Administration**

It is with mixed emotions that we announce that two long tenured Public Works employees have decided to retire effective in April. Mark Owens, Street Manager and C. Fred Shaw, Superintendent of Pollution Control.

Mark began his career with the Town on August 7, 1989 as a Maintainer I in the Streets Division rising to the position of Street Manager in December 2006. Mark also served as the Town's Tree warden since 2012. Mark was involved in countless snow and weather driven emergencies during his career working to restore normalcy to the community. Mark has left an invaluable impact on the Town's Pavement Management Program and was instrumental in developing a coordinated tree safety trimming program after the October 2011 Snow storm.

Fred began his career on June 9, 1976 as the Laboratory Technician at the Water Pollution Control Facilities. In October 1977 Fred was appointed Superintendent of Pollution Control. In the early 1980's Fred also took over management of the Refuse and Recycling Division of Public Works. Under Fred's leadership, the Water Pollution Control operations are considered one of the best run and most cost effective in the State of Connecticut. The same can be said about the Refuse and Recycling operations, whereby South Windsor has consistently had the best recycling rate in the Capital Region and residents enjoy great refuse and recycling collection services. Fred has set the bar extremely high on the professionalism and dedication in serving the residents of South Windsor.

Collectively both gentlemen have provide almost 70 years of service to the Town! Their institutional knowledge will be missed and very difficult to replace.

#### **Fleet Services Division**

The Fleet Services Division of Public Works continues to support town departments by maintaining their vehicles and equipment. Departments such as Street Services, Park and Recreation, Building Department, Department, Engineering Building Human Services, Maintenance, Police Services, Town Hall motor pool vehicles, Pollution Control and Fire Department. Fleet Services continue to strive to keep vehicles safe and to prolong longevity by providing routine services and road service when necessary.

Fleet Services has begun servicing equipment for spring season for street and parks dept. Made repairs to vehicles and plows from February's blizzard. We also are continuing our renovation for parts storage area and shop area.

Scheduled Maintenance or Repairs 25 Unscheduled repairs Road calls

6

4

Leon Clough Fleet Manager

#### **Street Services**

February proved to be a challenging month with 3 major snow and icing events including what turned out to be a blizzard. Following the storms, crews were sent out to clear issues throughout town. sightline The department activated our new Sno-Go, a pay loader mounted snow thrower. This proved to be very useful in clearing dormant areas such as our parks where heavy snow accumulated but needed to be removed for emergency access.



Crews continued throughout the month cleaning and neutralizing salt from all our trucks and equipment. This seemingly endless task is necessary to preserve the fleet and

protect against premature rust and corrosion.

Our crews, with the assistance of our Parks personnel, repaired mailboxes which were an unfortunate by-product of our plowing operations with the magnitude of snow. Most, if not all, mailbox damage is caused by the weight of the snow, not direct contact with a mailbox. Drivers do their very best to avoid causing any kind of damage, but heavy snow falls create a tremendous challenge. Snow plowing is not as easy as it may seem. Not only do drivers need to keep the current event to their forefront, but they have to review and anticipate the days ahead. Will the weather be warm or will we go into a deep freeze? Will there be more events on the near horizon? Tomorrow? Tonight? Or is the forecast clear for several days? All of these factors as are taken into consideration on a case by case basis and drives the operation differently depending on conditions.

We welcome anyone over the age of 18 to ride along with us to see the operation firsthand. Contact the Public Works Town Garage for more information. 860-648-6366.



The department was notified of a catch basin in the town library parking lot that was failing. A crew was sent out to do an emergency excavation to remedy the situation. In fact,

due to the nice weather, a second basin in the area was also replaced.

When time permitted, crews continued with trimming along plow routes to eliminate low hanging branches which have the ability to damage high profile vehicles.

Scott Yeomans Associate Manager



# **Human Services Department**

## Adult & Senior Services

Andrea Cofrancesco, Director of Adult and Senior Services

### Triad Celebrates 10 Years: What is the South Windsor TRIAD for Senior Safety?



TRIAD is a national community policing initiative wherein law enforcement, seniors, and community groups partner to meet

the crime-safety needs of seniors to prevent victimization of older adults. Each TRIAD is governed by a volunteer Board of Directors called a S.A.L.T. Council (Seniors And Law Enforcers working Together). **The South Windsor Triad was created in May of 2007!** Some of the events the Triad has hosted include: Annual Health and Safety Fair, Shredding Day, Medication Disposal Days, Fraud and Scam Talks and Tour of Safety Services. The Triad offers the Yellow Dot Program, an emergency file for the glove box in your car.

#### **Tour of Safety Services**

The Triad is sponsoring a Tour of Safety Services for those interested in seeing how things operate. The tour includes Fire House Company 3 on West Road, the NEW Emergency Operations Center on Sullivan Ave and the final stop will be the Police Department. Scheduled for Thursday, April 13. Be on the lookout for future programs and events in celebration of the Triad's 10th Anniversary: Shredding event, Medication Disposal Day, Anniversary luncheon in May and more!

#### **Property Tax Relief**

Elderly and disabled homeowners who qualify can apply for reduced property taxes on their homes between *Feb.1-May 15, 2017*. This year's income limits are \$35,200 maximum for an individual and \$42,900\*for a couple. \*Local option allows up to \$4,000 higher income than regular program. For more information call 860-648-6361.

## Letter to the Editor The following is a copy of the letter that was sent to the papers to thank the community:

Once again, the South Windsor community has come through for their neighbors! A huge thank you to all the individuals, businesses, churches, civic groups, sporting groups, schools and town employees for their generosity this past holiday and winter season in support of the many programs the South Windsor Human Services Department runs. Food came in for the Thanksgiving Basket program, toys and much needed clothing arrived for the Holiday Adopt a Child Program, and monetary donations were received to support the Food and Fuel Bank. It's truly amazing and heartwarming to experience the generosity of so many people in order to continue to provide these services to South Windsor residents in need. We simply could not have done it without the response from the community. Thank you! Andrea Cofrancesco

# Exercise for People with Parkinson's Disease

*Parkinson's Today* is an exercise program that will improve the quality of life of people with Parkinson's by performing exercises that are functional to everyday living. Classes consist of Boxing and Functional Interval exercises. Every workout is scalable to each individual within the group class. The classes will encourage brain stimulation, challenge balance and stability—and teach proper technique and form—all in an encouraging group setting. **Friday's, March 3 to April 28 (no class 4/14) at 3:00 PM. Cost: \$20 Residents, \$40 non-residents**. Please help spread the word!

#### Valentine Cheer

The Senior Center's Community Service Group delivered homemade Valentine pops, balloons and handcrafted Valentines to 30



homebound seniors and people with disabilities for Valentine's Day. Dedicated volunteers bundled up and spread a little holiday cheer despite the snow banks from the storm the day before!

### Friends of the South Windsor Senior Center Updates

Due to the generosity of so many, "Friends of the South Windsor Senior Center" is making steady gains on raising \$20,000! Upcoming fundraisers are a pancake breakfast, early bird dinners, trips to the casino and more! This is in addition to our Discount Card and Unfundraiser! FOSWSC was created to allow people to make a 100% tax deductible contribution specific to improvements and enhancements to the current community center that will directly benefit South Windsor seniors. This fund will also allow us to access grant funding and solicit donations from local businesses and the community.

#### Happy and Warm!

Nancy Peck's ECHO class from Pleasant Valley School recently made placemats for people receiving meals on wheels with smiling and happy emojis as the theme! In addition they made no-sew fleece blankets for the laps of homebound elderly.

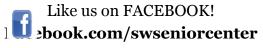


### Food Bank Delivery a TEAM Effort!

Parks and Recreation staff brought over food the Adult and Senior Services Division of Human Services is storing at Avery Street Church. Holiday time is when the majority of the food is donated to the Food Bank, so every month we take a shipment over to restock the shelves. The food has historically gotten us through April or May, when we will be asking for donations again. *A HUGE thanks to the Parks crew for their help!* 







#### Youth & Family Services Elizabeth Langevin, Director of Youth and Family Services



#### Teen Center

During the month of February, the Teen Center hosted its fourth round of "Tuesday Afternoons at the Teen Center" as part of the TEMS Afterschool Matinee Program. This program has been a success at allowing a small group of middle school students to experience the teen center and have the opportunity to meet new friends, participate in team building components, and other activities such as arts and crafts, games and baking.

The Teen Center Youth Council recognized National Random Acts of Kindness Week by spending an afternoon during school vacation at the Teen Center and creating crafts with uplifting messages to share with family and friends. Teens also enjoyed delivering "random" gifts to people and staff in the Community Center.

#### **School Outreach**

The SWHS Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD) Club has been staying busy this winter. They created a display at the high school letting students know that February is National Teen Dating Violence Prevention Month. They wrote messages reminding their peers what a respectful relationship looks like, how to be in a healthy relationship and what to do if someone they knew needed help. The club has also been working on the Relieve the Stress Fest, which will be held on Wednesday, March 15<sup>th</sup>. They hope that lots of SWHS students will join the fun!

The Jump Start Tutoring Program is also in full swing. Each Thursday, students from the high school come down to Timothy Edwards to tutor a student by helping them with their homework, working on projects and studying for tests. It is a program that is beneficial for both the tutor and the middle school student. I am accepting applications from high school students for the spring session of Jump Start which will begin on March 30, 2017. Below are the Winter session high school students that tutor.

Please contact Kathy Reed at 860-5030, ext. 2209 or at

Kathy.reed@southwindsor.org for more information.



### **Parent Education and Support**

On February 7<sup>th</sup> Parent Educator, Kelly McKenney was able to attend the Parent Support Night at South Windsor High School to discuss with parents the supports and



services that Youth and Family Services can provide to parents' and their

children in the community.

Also, on February 16, parents joined our Parent Educator for a presentation on positive discipline strategies to use with their children. Parents learned strategies from the award winning book 1-2-3 Magic Tips and Tricks For Children Ages 2-12 Years Old, on issues such as getting up and out in the morning, homework, bedtime and nighttime waking, cleaning rooms and eating. One parent stated they were struggling with getting their 2 1/2 year old to sleep alone at night. The parents stated bedtime would take up to two hours at times. The Parent Educator worked with this family after the training and was able to assist the family with a plan to help the parents learn strategies to get their child to sleep on her own. Both parents reported they were grateful for the training and getting this help before "Baby #2" arrives in March.

The Parent Educator presented a training on February 23<sup>rd</sup>, The Early Childhood Origins of Mean Behavior and Bullying. Both Early Childcare providers and parents attended the training. We looked at what is bullying and when does it begin? We looked at the research and how attachment, parent behaviors and characteristics, early care and education environments can play a role in future mean behavior and bullying behavior. And most importantly looked at promising practices and strategies for early childhood care and education setting. Both individuals who work at a licensed childcare setting here in South Windsor reported they are not currently using an evidenced-based practice to prevent or address bullying. Some of the feedback from the individuals who attended were, "I found the information organized and informative. The power point presentation was a very helpful resource providing evidenced based interventions and books to use with children." "The material was presented in a way that was easy to understand. Can we have a piggyback training with further prevention strategies?"

Also, on February 28<sup>th</sup> the support group for Relatives Raising Grandchildren met. This group is an ongoing open group for any relative that is raising a child. The group provides support as well as information and referrals to resources in the community to support the unique challenges that relatives face raising a child.

#### **Youth Counseling**

Thirteen kiddos are enjoying the new *Kidding Around Yoga* class taught by Eileen Adler, youth counselor. One mom wrote that her daughter "loves' the new class and she can't wait until the next one, another mom said her son never participates in any programs but she was amazed and excited that he was joining in and participating in this one. Namaste!

*Upcoming events in March:* Mother/Daughter Circle with Kelly & Eileen Family Bingo & Pizza Fundraiser for

**Teen Center Youth Council Opioid & Heroin Addiction: A Community Conversation Relieve the Stress Fest at SWHS Peers Are Wonderful Support** Conference When I'm In Charge: A Safety **Program Girls Circle Parenting Apart: A Discussion for Fathers Eating Disorder Awareness & The Family Role Relatives Raising Children Support** Group **Moms Group** How to Talk to Children About **Adoption** Lego Lunch At The Teen Center

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



# **Parks & Recreation Department**

Raymond Favreau Director of Parks & Recreation

## "Discover the Benefits!"

John Caldwell, Jr. Superintendent of Parks

MONTHLY REPORT - March 6, 2017

Keri Apt Asst. Director of Parks & Recreation

**Park & Recreation Commission (PARC)** – The next PARC meeting is Wednesday, March 8th at 7:30pm in the Sprenkel Room of the Town Hall.

The South Windsor Walk & Wheel Ways (SWW&WW) sub-committee last met on Wed., March 1st. Their next meeting will be April 5<sup>th</sup>. Their second winter Full Moon Hike on Friday, March 10<sup>th</sup> at Nevers Park. All interested folks should meet at the Rotary Pavilion at 7:15pm. The 1.5 mile hike will begin at 7:30pm with or without snow and ends with hot chocolate by the gas fire pit!

**The South Windsor FOOD Alliance** (SWFA) Watch for details on the 2017 outdoor Farmer's Market starting June 24th! Go to <u>www.swfood.org</u> for more details.

**Like us on Facebook -** The number keeps growing - we are now "liked" by 1,624 people! Won't you like us too at south windsor parks & recreation and check out the awesome videos posted? Also, please follow us on Instagram too at SWPRDo6074!! **Special Invitation to Councilors – SAVE THE DATE: Sat., March 11<sup>th</sup> – Beginner Division Basketball Extravaganza, 6pm at TEMS!** 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!"

**Before & After School Program** – March enrollment across the five elementary schools is static at 338, with 42 students participating in the Early Release program to support the BOE professional development program. As part of our year-long 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration of the program – the 4th "R was so excited to host its first-ever 4th "R" family hockey night at a Hartford Wolf Pack game! 320 4th "R" children and family members along with 23 4th "R" staff members cheered on the Pack to victory on Friday, February 3. As you can see from the photos, they all had a great time!

Wapping Re-Purposing – We are still in the process of finalizing what it will take to be functional at a minimal level for parks & recreation use, and have submitted to the Town Manager a "bare bones" budget to do so. Administrative staff did another walkthrough of the building on Feb. 17th to identify potential furnishings and equipment that might be usable should the BOE not need them. This "keeper" list will be shared with the Superintendent of Schools for consideration as they plan their move out of the building this summer.

**Parks & Recreation Magazine** – We have received the first iteration of our Spring/ Summer 2017 issue from our designer and we are in the midst of arduous task of proofing and editing. We will spend the next few weeks tweaking and proofing a number of iteration before distributing the final version to the public in mid-March. We are excited that this issue is shaping up to be one of our largest ever with numerous improvements and new program offerings.

Anniversary Celebrations – We are busy working on plans for a number of milestone celebrations: The 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of My Friend's Place playground scheduled for Sat., June 24<sup>th</sup>, the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of our Summer Concert Series, and the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Tyler Memorial Bark Park in November. We are also in the midst of implementing monthly special activities within our 4<sup>th</sup> R Before & After School program in recognition of our 10<sup>th</sup> year of operation! Again, we couldn't be more proud of these traditions.

### PARKS DIVISION "Caring for South Windsor's Growing Needs"

February Activity Highlights:

- Athletic Fields & Grounds:
  - Completed replacement of old collapsing fencing between tennis courts 1-2 and 3-4 by the practice walls at Wapping, and began replacement of the divider fence between courts 3-4 and 5-6.
  - Inventoried all materials and supplies needed for baseball fields, softball fields and field marking.
- Parks & Open Space:
  - Completed the fourth violet trail loop geared for beginner mountain biking at Rye Street Park, including small bridge construction and installation. We now have 4 miles of mountain bike trails there.
  - New Rotary Pavilion II at VMP Architectural drawings and details for the kitchen and restrooms are expected to arrive by Friday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>. Drawings for the utilities connections from the filter building to the new pavilion are a work-in-progress by local resident Jim Senatro from Consulting Engineering Services in Middletown.
  - ◊ Continued work on repairs to park signage.
  - Continued brush clearing at Lawrence Road Park.

- Cleared brush and deadwood between left field fence of Rotary baseball field and stone dust trail.
- $\diamond$  ~ Continued picnic table restorations.

### • Projects:

- Kourt This Kevin's \_ inclusive  $\Diamond$ basketball feature soon to be added to My friend's Place playground continues to move forward at record pace! We are 90% funded! Parts have been delivered, site plans are being developed courtesy of Design Professionals, Inc. in town with construction drawings courtesy of Jim Galey from Fuss & O'Neill. Our parks crew is proud to assist with the site work and installation in the Spring. The anticipated dedication with Coach Kevin Ollie, head coach of the UConn Men's Basketball team is Friday, June 16<sup>th</sup> at 2pm.
- Began servicing all spring/summer maintenance equipment – roto-tillers, over-seeders, aerators, mowers, etc.
- Continued preliminary planning and work on the rehabilitation of My Friend's Place playground in preparation of the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration in June.
- Began reorganizing back room at garage for more efficient storage including design and construction of new shelving.
- Built and delivered one artisan park bench to Philip R. Smith School for an art project.
- Began refurbishing the bed on truck #71.

- Other
  - Continue to assist DPW with leaf composting operation
  - Responded to winter storms on February 7, 9, 12 & 14.
  - Transported a truckload of boxes filled with donated non-perishable food items from local churches to the Food Bank at the community center for Human Services.



Gulley bridge at new violet beginner mountain bike trail at Rye St. Park



Mt. Bike trail designer/builder & parks crew member Mike Hanrahan conducts a guided tour of the trails at Rye St. Park to the Recreation Division



Parks crew members Mike Driscoll, Steve Linton and Allen Livingston replacing the decapitated chain link fencing at the Wapping tennis courts



Cartoon Character Ice Cream Social at TEMS on Thursday, Feb. 16th keeps local youngsters busy during school vacation



Recreation Supervisor Lauren Bent conducts a yoga class for a very receptive Unified Sports Team at SW High School. Unified Sports pairs a disabled student with a typical student in athletic and fitness activities.





4th R Family Night at the Hartford Wolf Pack on Friday, Feb. 3rd









# March 2017 Town Council Meetings and Events

# **Meetings**

Monday, March 6, 2017 7:00 p.m. Regular Meeting Council Chambers

Monday, March 20, 2017 7:00 p.m. Regular Meeting Council Chambers

Monday, March 27, 2017 6:00 p.m. Joint Work Session with Board of Education *TE Middle School-Rm Alt 6* 

Layout by Ashley Booth, Executive Secretary to the Town Manager

