Town of South Windsor

Town Manager's Report April 2019

Matthew B. Galligan Town Manager



Public Hearing for Dog Ordinance

I have a resolution to the Town Council tonight to have a public hearing set for an ordinance that will require residents walking dogs, whether their dogs are on leash or loose, to stay away from certain areas designated as a wildlife preserve. This was a requirement Department of Energy the Environmental Protection (DEEP), as part of the effort to create a safe haven for birds under the environmental impact statement for the I-291 Corridor. We have done that and now need to have an ordinance to let residents know not to let their dogs run loose or even be on a leash in those particular areas. We have a deadline of July 1st to try and move some additional projects down by the I-291 Corridor, so time is of the essence to get this accomplished.

I-291 Corridor Development Zone

During the past couple of months we have been working with the DEEP and our State Representative Jeff Currey, State Representative Tom Delnicki, and now Senator Anwar, to talk about the I-291 Development Zone and the original environmental impact statement that was done.

After we did the Coca-Cola project, the DEEP had some concerns about wastewater discharge being released into the environment in other areas. We are all working together to

make this happen, and if we are able finish this by the July 1st deadline, we may see some very significant projects developing in the I-291 Corridor. I will keep the Town Council apprised as we go along.

Special Meeting of EDC

There will hopefully be a special meeting of the Economic Development Commission to look at a tax fixing agreement for two companies: one is Costco, which would be placed at the Evergreen Walk site, and the other is the daycare center at Pleasant Valley Road. The Before and After School Care Assessment Committee felt that there needed to be more daycare providers for before and after school care programs, to relieve the burden on the 4th R program. The location that was selected by the daycare center is a prime location on Pleasant Valley Road and Ellington Road, near Pleasant Valley School. That school had the largest waiting list for the 4th R program.

We are hoping that the EDC will see that not only will these projects provide more revenue to the Town, but the daycare center project will also help to relieve some of the need for before and after school programs. The reason for the special meeting for these two proposals is that I would like to get them finished by the end of April, and the next Town Council meeting is not until April 15th. A tax fixing agreement will give indication to

Costco, and to the daycare facility, that the Town Council is lending support in them coming to South Windsor.

New Town Manager

On Tuesday March 26th the new Town Manager was approved by the Town Council. I would like to congratulate the Town Council, the community, and the new Town Manager Michael Maniscalco. I think that he is a fine choice, and that he will be able to continue to move the strategic plan that South Windsor has adopted forward into the future.

I will make a commitment to the Town, and to that end, to Michael, that I stand ready to make him aware of some outstanding issues, as well as to introduce him to various groups in the community, so that he can see who are the movers and shakers in the Town who can keep things moving in the direction of the Town Council.

This Town has been wonderful to my family and myself, and I want to ensure a smooth transition so that it can be business as usual.

Budget Calendar

The Clerk of the Council has put together a new budget calendar. Town Staff are fully aware of the calendar and when they need to appear in case the Town Council has any questions.

I will be handling all of the information with the Town and introducing each department's budget, with the department heads in attendance in case there are more technical questions to be answered or items that I have not been able to give to the Town Council. I do feel that this process worked very well last year. In the beginning of this year's budget process I provided the Town Council with what the main drivers of the budget are, and what the fixed and variable costs are, and we will have those discussions with each department as we move forward on the budget.

Police Department

Scott P. Custer Chief of Police

Recent Article re: Salary & Pensions:

A local newspaper recently did a story on the "top 10" highest salaries in 18 area towns. Many of the top earners were school district administrators or police officers who worked copious amounts of overtime. The article also made some general assumptions about police pensions.

While South Windsor was not really mentioned, it's important to remind everyone that the majority of our officers are in a 401kstyle defined contribution plan, which has been the only option since 2006. The Police Union and the Town Manager agreed to the "pension" change during negotiations in 2005 to assure the town's financial health going forward. The officers who were hired prior to 2006 still have a defined benefit pension however; no overtime is calculated into the retirement benefit. Those employees receive a pension benefit based strictly on their years of service and a percentage of base pay.

We work diligently to control overtime expenditures but as the town's only paid 24/7 department, we have to assure minimum staffing in patrol and dispatch. I hope this clarification is helpful for those who may not know the history behind our pension plan(s).

Specialized Training for our Female Officers:

On Monday, March 25th all of our female officers attended specialized training in Massachusetts sponsored by Calibre Press and

the Massachusetts Association of Women in Law Enforcement. The full day of training covered:

- Battling bias and misperceptions
- Obstacles to tactical training and equipment issues
- Use of force: options and differences
- Physical and emotional health
- Current events and their cultural impact
- The history of women in police work
- Managing a male-dominated culture
- Discussing and examining female officer case studies
- The importance of leadership and mentoring among female officers

We feel these trainings are important as we seek to recruit, hire, retain and promote more women into law enforcement. The officers said the training was outstanding and worthwhile. We are also very excited to have an increasingly diverse applicant pool and a workforce that reflects our community.

Community Events:

On Thursday, April 25th Cpl. Ron Littell is helping present the annual "Pick a Pasta Night" at Maneeleys from 5pm to 8 pm. The charity event raises money for the Veteran's Base Camp and local first responders. It's always been a success and we're proud to be part of this event.

On Saturday, April 27th we will once again host a "Drug TakeBack Day" at Police Headquarters. This is a drive up event where

Police Department

Scott P. Custer Chief of Police

citizens bring any unneeded medications to us to be disposed of in an environmentally safe way.

Details and reminders for these events will be posted on our website and social media pages.

Follow us on Social Media:

We work very hard to have a 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 at https://www.southwindsor.org/police. We encourage everyone to follow us and share information with friends and family.

Facebook: South Windsor Police Department

Twitter: @SWPD PIO

Patrol Activity February 2019

2252
502
3815
777
454
174
67
83
37
32
32
25
16
15
12
20
42
13
35
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Public Works Department

Michael J. Gantick Director of Public Works

Updates

Back in December we noted that we had participated in the Connecticut Environmental Health Associations' Fall Chloride Workshop. Representatives from private and public water supply utilities, the Department of Health, Department Transportation, Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, local health districts and private sector professionals were in attendance. What is significant is that the issue of safe drinking water supplies (both public and private wells) is of growing concern both here in Connecticut and nationwide. At that meeting we recommended that a statewide group be formed to truly focus on solutions to mitigate the ongoing trends towards sodium/chloride contamination of our states surface and ground water drinking supplies.

I am happy to report that the state has in fact agreed to take the lead and start said group. South Windsor has been invited to participate in the group with the first meeting in June. Again, stay tuned as we work to protect this vital natural resource critical to all of us.

Street Services

The Streets and Parks Departments responded to four snow and ice events during the month. We are not ready to break down the winter snow operation just yet but are hopeful we have seen the last of old man winter.

The management team has been working to prepare and plan for the upcoming construction season by establishing road treatment contracts and purchasing supplies and equipment so when we do make the switch from winter to construction we are ready to go. Maintainers have also been servicing equipment so everything will be in place once the season starts.

Public Works continues with tree trimming along town roads and to clear branches from regulatory signage. Crews have also been working to clean out around detention basins to prevent growth from potentially causing a flood.

Maintainers have been turning the leaf compost piles in preparation of the annual compost auction.



The department took ownership of a new John Deere tractor that replaced our aged out unit. This new machine will function primarily as the roadside mower helping to keep invasives out of our well-traveled roads and improving site lines for the motoring public. The vendor came in to provide training to our

Public Works Department

Michael J. Gantick Director of Public Works

operators. This tractor will also be used to assist with turning the leaf compost.

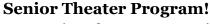
Crews are working on Strong Rd to repair an embankment that is eroding to prevent failure of the road edge and to stabilize the area to prevent sediment from getting into the Bancroft Brook.

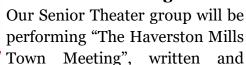
Potholes. Need I say more? We have a crew out daily when weather permits making repairs using cold patch. We are monitoring the local asphalt plant for their opening day so we will soon be using hot mix asphalt that will provide a much better patch. Cold patch is our only weapon in the winter months, and it works well, but is susceptible to the freeze thaw cycle. Once the hot mix is available, we will have a better handle on getting the potholes under control.

Scott Yeomans Associate Manager, Street Services

Andrea Cofrancesco Director of Human Services

Adult and Senior Services Division:





directed by Steve Henderson an award-winning playwright whose been practicing his craft for 60 years, and directing for 16! The Townspeople are a mixed lot of characters some are eccentric, one or two are normal, and some are just plain wacky characters. Our Senior Theater members have been working hard at no less than 9 rehearsals and are looking forward to entertaining you on Thursday, May 2 for the matinee show at 1:00pm, or Friday, May 3 for the evening performance at 6:30pm. All Town Council members are welcome to attend our event as our guest. Please come and reward their hard work by your attendance!

Fitness Center

Our Fit for Life Fitness Center is once again up and running after the damages sustained when a car drove into the building. We are thankful for Clay Major and building maintenance staff for their work in getting us re-opened as quickly as possible. The members are thankful as well!

Power of Peace

Power of Peace (POP), a group of young kids with a big goal to eradicate hunger and help scores of underprivileged children who are denied basic needs and an opportunity to succeed in life, recently donated \$1250 to the

Food and Fuel Bank. We applaud the work of our youth in serving others!



About POP: Since 2013, Power of Peace (POP) has been working hard to provide education and boarding of many orphans, supporting numerous organizations that are trying to provide for food to homeless and poor people in CT. In 2013, 5 young children (10-13 year old) came together to start a platform, which over the years inspired many young children and their families to join their mission with donations and voluntary services. Today they are a 21 member team, and have inspired creation of similar organizations in two other states. For several years, locally they have supported The Hole in the Wall Gang Camp, FoodShare, CCMC, multiple food pantries in CT, and an orphanage called Atma Vidya Ashram in India. They have raised and distributed over \$130,000 over the past 6 years to support their projects and commitments.

Fuel Assistance

Caseworkers have been continuing to help residents with their heating and utility costs.

Andrea Cofrancesco Director of Human Services

Operation Fuel funds have been exhausted. A total of 16 households serving 53 people were assisted with deliverable fuels, electric shutoff notices and payment arrangements totaling \$7,000. Residents can still access the CEAP program or access our private fuel bank by contacting caseworkers in our Adult and Senior Services Division.

Resource Guide

Athena Savvides, a South Windsor High School student, recently completed her Girl Scout Gold Award. Athena has been working for more than a year on an extensive Resource Guide for Seniors which lists businesses and services in and around South Windsor. The document will be printed off and put in a binder for both the Senior Center and the Public Library. Congratulations to Athena on her hard work in achieving this goal!



Made to Order Mondays

Our goal one day is to eventually open a Senior Café as an alternative to our daily lunch program. We had a practice run on two Mondays in March and over 50 people were served!



It was so successful they want us to offer it again. We served soup by JEMS and offered "made to order" sandwiches including homemade chicken

salad, grilled cheese, ham, turkey and cheese.



Teen Center



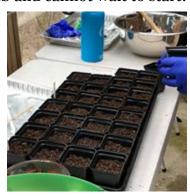
During the months of February and March, the Teen Center was filled with sticky notes around the room with positive messages and inspiring words. Our Teen Center Youth Council members created them as a way to spread "positive vibes" in hoping to cheer someone up or give someone a smile they were not expecting that day. Thank you to our Teen Center staff person, Ciera, for sharing this great idea!



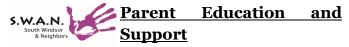
The Teen Center wrapped up the second round of Tuesday Afternoons at the Teen Center with middle school youth this school year. This group of 12 students came every week for 6 weeks and participated in games,

Andrea Cofrancesco Director of Human Services

art activities, baking and more! Due to the ongoing success of the program, a third round was added for the first time! This program starting in April will also have a special focus on self esteem and highlighting personal strengths. We are grateful for the partnership with TEMS and cannot wait to start!



This month a few high school students from our Youth Council began planning for the gardens at the Community Center. Students participated in a seed starting workshop to begin the delicate, yet rewarding process of growing vegetables right here in our very own garden space! We are looking forward to warmer weather and working with volunteers from the Senior Center again!



Educational Advocate Presentation

On March 28th Joanne Prague-Doyle from Northeast Education Advocacy was invited to speak to parents and caregivers in the community about their questions and concerns around school issues. An educational advocate works with families to answer their questions such as: What are my legal rights? Whom in the school system do you contact? What is the process for requesting services? What are the differences between 504 services and special education services? How will my child be evaluated? What is an IEP? (Individualized Education Plan) What is a PPT (Planning and Placement Team) and who attends these meetings?

Dads Dinner and Playgroup

On March 7th we had our monthly, Dads Dinner and Playgroup. It was a fun evening for dads, grandfathers and positive male role models. Caregivers and their children enjoyed a pizza dinner and fun filled evening of play with their children. Caregivers and their children created a squishy snowman craft





Andrea Cofrancesco Director of Human Services

activity using Ziploc baggies and shaving cream. What a great manipulative toy! All ages love this! It is also a great sensory activity and helps to keep little hands busy!

Monday Morning Playgroup

Half of new parents say they feel lonely after having children, and feel isolated from their friends. They feel as though their friends don't understand the struggles of juggling a new family and their old life. That's where mom and dad friends come to the rescue. And what better place to meet them than at Monday Morning playgroup. One mom says, "So many lifelong parent friends have been made at playgroup." This month we had close to 100 caregivers and children join us during our Monday Playgroup!

School Outreach & Prevention

March is "Healthy Living Month" at TEMS. Kids have been working on smoking prevention posters in health classes, creating "Positive Living" bulletin boards and learning about all the ways that they can choose to live a healthy life. A "Healthy Living Fest" was held for 6th graders one afternoon after



school. Students had the chance learn about healthy ways to de-stress, while having fun with friends. A wide variety of activities were offered including playing games with S.W. police officers, learning yoga, playing trivia games, trying zentangles and making slime. It was a wonderful afternoon.





Counseling & Support

Both of our part time youth counselors are currently at capacity. We are on a waitlist for our counseling services at this time.

Andrea Cofrancesco Director of Human Services

Programs coming in April...

- Eating Disorders 101
- JUST BE YOU...new group for TEMS students at the Teen Center
- Middle School AND High School drop in hours at the Teen Center
- An Evening with SRO Tina Roy and her TOP 10 list for parents
- Home Alone Safety Course for youth ages 8 to 13
- Dads Dinner and Playgroup
- Monday Morning Playgroup
- Wellness in the Winter
- Questions about Children and School Issues (for parents)
- Relatives Raising Children
- Caring for Loved Ones with Special Needs
- Keeping Kids Safe Parent program
- Taking Care of Ourselves
- Pinwheel Garden for Child Abuse Awareness month

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

Liz Langevin, LMSW



Parks & Recreation Department

Raymond Favreau
Director of Parks & Recreation

"Discover the Benefits!"

John Caldwell, Jr. Superintendent of Parks

MONTHLY REPORT - April 1, 2019

Keri Apt Asst. Director of Parks & Recreation

Park & Recreation Commission (PARC)

- The next PARC meeting is Wednesday, April 10th at 7:30pm now in their new location in Room 14 at Wapping School, 91 Ayers Road. Work continues on the master plan revision.

The South Windsor Walk & Wheel Ways (SWW&WW) sub-committee meets next on Wed., April 3rd at Wapping. Efforts over the next year will be the design of the proposed cross-town trail through the Eversource power corridor including a massive outreach campaign to educate the public about the project.

The South Windsor FOOD Alliance (SWFA) – The summer Farmer's Market will once again run every Saturday from June 22 to September 28 at the Community/Senior Center front lawn with new hours – 9am to 12pm (previously the hours were 10am to 1pm). Go to www.swfood.org for more details.

2019 Legislative Session – On Feb. 28th I attended the annual CCM Legislative Priorities Meeting in Wethersfield and on March 7th I spent the entire day and half the night (7:30am to 10pm) waiting my turn to testify in opposition to the three proposed bills to increase the minimum wage by nearly 50% to \$15/hour from the current \$10.10/

hour. I was representing the CT Recreation & Association as their legislative committee chair. Please be fore-warned, that to comply with this increase which has passed through the Labor Committee and has very, very strong support from both the House and the Senate, we will experience an increase of over \$400,000 in added labor cost to deliver our current level of services and programs. We will also see an increase in the cost of products and services we need to purchase to support these programs. As a result our residents can expect to see unusually substantial incremental increases in program fees and probable reductions in services.

SWALPAC – On behalf of the Park & Recreation Commission, John and I had the opportunity to attend the March 19th meeting to discuss mutual interests in a number of town-owned properties including the Priest property, Nelson property, Linear Park, and the Fairgrounds (formerly Barton property). Very cordial and productive dialogue elicited the agreement to continue regular intercommission communication.

CRCOG – On Wed., March 20th I attended a Regional Bike Share Kick-off meeting in Hartford along with Ken Sek from SW Walk & Wheel Ways. About two dozen representatives

from most of the greater Hartford communities attended to hear about CRCOG's efforts to develop a regional bike share program. We will assess the feasibility for South Windsor and re-group at the next meeting scheduled for April 25th.

Special Invitation to Councilors – SAVE THE DATES: (1) Our 35th Annual Fishing Derby is on Sat., April 13 from 9am to 1pm at the Town Pond on Barber Hill Road. This free event co-sponsored by the Super Sixties Club and is intended for youth anglers accompanied by an adult. (2) Our 48th Annual Egg Hunt is Fri., April 19 from 9am to 12pm at the high school stadium. Hunt schedule is as follows: 9-9:30am sensory friendly for children with differing abilities, 10am Age 2, 10:15am Age 3, 10:30am Age 4, 10:45am Age 5 and Kindergarten, 11am Grade 1, and 11:15am Grade 2. The SW Community Women's Club will once again run their "Kids Fair" inside the high school from 10am to 1pm to round out the day.

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 -

April enrollment: 157 before school participants, 264 students after school participants and 37 in the for Early Release Wednesday program in support of the BOE professional development initiative. The 4th "R" sites are hosting Family Nights this

month! The 4th "R" at PRS hosted a parents vs. kids dodgeball tournament on March 14. After several rounds, kids were declared the overall winner! The 4th "R" at Orchard Hill hosted a carnival, complete with a fortune teller, close-up magician, games, prizes and more! The 4th "R" at Pleasant Valley will host a night full of fun on March 26 where families will decorate a unique fabric square to help create a 4th "R" quilt and the 4th "R" at Eli Terry will host a Cupcake Wars competition where families will work together to create cupcake masterpieces! Shelby Kosa will be attending the annual Job Fair at MCC on March 29th to continue her on-going diligent efforts to recruit potential employees for this highly popular program.

Wapping Re-Purposing – The Cafeteria remodeling project has been on hold the majority of the month of March due to unexpected building code issues. A local professional architect has been hired to resolve the issues and we anticipate resuming renovations within the week.

Team Building & Leadership Center Ropes Course – John Lazareth from
Northeast Adventure conducted our annual
inspection of the facility on March 5th and
made necessary repairs to open the course for
use later this spring.

Mom-Son Dodgeball Night – 101 registered Moms and sons engaged in friendly dodgeball battles at our Wapping facility on Friday March 22 from 7-9pm. Co-Ed Teams of 25 played three 10 minute matches on a rotating basis before ending the night with the highly anticipated Moms versus son matches that are always guaranteed to please and

provide life-time memories and laughter! Another great job Cheryl Gerber!

2019 Spring/Summer Parks & **Rec. Magazine** – Our latest catalog loaded with new program opportunities will hit all local residential and business mailboxes and PO boxes the week of March 25-30. Registration for residents only begins April 4th at 8am.

PARKS DIVISION

"Caring for South Windsor's Growing Needs"

March Activity Highlights:

Athletic Fields & Grounds:

- As a result of a very stubborn and uncooperative Mother Nature, we finally had the opportunity to begin work on athletic field preparation for the spring sports season. Unfortunately, as is the case more often than not, we are weeks behind on getting facilities ready and safe for play. That being said we will throw all available resources at this over the next month with first priority being facilities that serve the high school interscholastic program. We ask all local sports organizations for their patience and cooperation in refraining from using any fields until they are safely playable.
- Groomed the synthetic turf field at the high school stadium to provide at least one usable area for their team try-outs and preseason practices that started March 16th until natural turf fields are ready.
- While waiting for grounds to thaw and dry substantial fence repairs were made to a number of our facilities including the tennis courts at Wapping and a number of athletic fields.

Parks & Open Space:

- Continued monitoring beaver activity at the ponds at Nevers Park including tracking & documenting tree damage and removing hazards created by our furry visitors. With the pond frozen activity was very minimal.
- Weather permitting we continued work on a fifth new trail loop, "Sneaky Pete", to be added to the mountain biking trail system at Rye Street Park.
- The new sign for Porter's Hill will be scheduled for installation once the ground thaws. The sign location has been shifted to a more visible site across from the parking lot on Nevers and adjacent to the path to the foot bridge where the heaviest public access to the property occurs.
- Began lowering the water levels at the pools at VMP in preparation for the facility start up process in the coming month.
- Re-deployed refurbished picnic tables throughout the parks system.
- Began a cooperative effort with Thad Dymkowski, GIS Analyst to plot all trails within the park system with GPS to create accurate digital more and mapping hand-drawn replacing the existing documents. These will then be incorporated in site specific park brochures for the public. We are super excited to work with Thad as he brings an amazing level of expertise and passion to the project!
- Began marking out the details for the longover-due renovation of the sand volleyball court at the Rotary Pavilion at Nevers Park.
- Cleared all ice and snow from Rotary pavilion at Nevers and primed the fire pit in time for the Walk & Wheel Ways Moon Light Walk on Friday, March 8th.
- Substantial tree work, removal of invasives, and site work continued at the Priest

- property, Wapping Park and Donnelley Preserve trails.
- Built and deployed a heavy-duty park bench for the Linear Park on the CT River at the end of Vibert Road.

Projects:

- Construction of the Nevers Park restroom project in partnership with the SW Rotary club continues to move along quite nicely, albeit slowly at times due to weather interruptions. Interior plumbing and steel roofing has begun. As the weather improves we will begin a more aggressive approach to completion.
- Thanks to the efforts of Roy Normen, we have been approved for a \$5,000 grant from CT Water to bring water to the Nelson property for irrigation of new community gardens planned for that site and that we will be providing for the first time this spring to accommodate the growing (no pun intended!) wait list at our current Avery Gardens. We will team up with Public Works to provide the in-house partnership with CT Water necessary to get the project complete.

Other

- Responded to winter weather incident on March 4th & 5th along-side Street Services Division of Public Works.
- Rotated winter equipment with spring/ summer equipment at our storage facility on Edwin Road and prepared appropriate items for field and park maintenance.
- Crew attended a day-long chain saw safety and maintenance class on March 1st.

Photos:



The public enjoys Porter's Hill!



New heavy-duty park bench built inhouse and deployed to the Linear Park on the CT River at the end of Vibert Road



Kids are victorious at the recent Philip R Smith 4th R Parents vs Kids Dodgeball tournament!









Moms and their sons just couldn't get enough dodgeball last Friday evening at Wapping! Who is that UConn fan in the bottom photo?







Smiles a-plenty at the recent Orchard Hill 4th R Family Night Carnival

April 2019 Town Council Meetings and Events

Meetings

Monday, April 1, 2019
7:00 pm Regular Meeting
Council Chambers

Tuesday, April 2, 2019
Town Council & Board of Education Meeting
7:00 pm Public Hearing
TE Middle School—Rm. Alt. 6

Wednesday, April 10
7:00 pm Special Budget Work Session
Council Chambers

Monday, April 15, 2019
7:00 pm Regular Meeting
Council Chambers

Wednesday, April 17
7:00 pm Special Budget Work Session
Council Chambers

Monday, April 22 7:00 pm Public Hearing General Government Budget Council Chambers

Holidays

Friday, April 19, 2019

 $Town\ of fices\ will\ be\ closed\ in\ observance\ of\ Good\ Friday.$

Layout by Samara Haddock, Confidential Secretary

