

Town of South Windsor

Town Manager's Report April 2016

*Matthew B. Galligan
Town Manager*



LoCIP Funding

There is a Public Hearing for the second round of LoCIP funding that will be used for the Emergency Operations Center. We have approved the current LoCIP amount, but additional monies were added after the Governor's proposal on March 5th. I was hoping that the Council could pass the Resolution for this new funding amount so we can combine the funds and expedite the EOC process.

I want to thank the Council for your support of this project. Once the EOC is completed, it will be a facility that we can all be proud of and will readily protect the residents of South Windsor.

Crumbling Foundations Committee

The Town Council passed a Resolution to create a committee for the crumbling foundations. Ashley is currently setting that meeting for Monday, April 4 at 6:00 p.m. Councilor Anwar and Mayor Delnicki responded positively to this meeting. At this meeting, we will be selecting residents for the advisory portion of the committee. We will also establish the rules of how we operate, and once the committee is established on Monday, we can set dates in

the future to move this process along so we can help residents in this terrible situation.

Crumbling Foundations Issue

The Mayor and I both attended a meeting with the Lieutenant Governor to discuss the crumbling foundations issue. The Mayor will give an update on this meeting at both the Crumbling Foundations Committee meeting and the Council meeting. There are some interesting issues that were brought to our attention.

CREC Captive Insurance Program

This project is moving along well thanks to CREC and the sixteen municipalities that are participating in this process. We were notified that there are bidders for the stop loss provisions. We could have a flat rate which means no increase in insurance costs. The savings would go into the captive for the first year. We would be entitled to credits in the future as we build up the captive insurance fund.

The Underwriting Committee is looking to conduct interviews on March 29th from 1-4p.m. for investment managers. Hopefully we will be able to select a firm that will be able to reliably invest these funds. The last

item on the Committee agenda is to hire an audit firm. Another committee has created that RFP and is in the process of interviewing firms. By April 15th, we will be submitting our application to the State Insurance Department to get a license to run the captive. We are hoping this will be successful as we have had favorable correspondence between the Department of Insurance and the Captive Committee. We are hoping that by May we will have our license to start running this captive by July 1. This will be in line with our insurance.

I will keep you apprised as we move forward. I want to thank the Council for your support, as I feel there will be savings in the future that will help us with healthcare insurance costs.

Virtual Net Metering

At the last meeting, we discussed the virtual net metering program. I have spoken to John Ward from Vernon who has permission from Lodestar Energy to give us a copy of their contract. It is also my understanding that they hired an outside consultant from Baystate, John Shortsleeve, for this process. CCM has previously used John Shortsleeve for these types of programs. He gave his blessing to their contract and rate, and hopefully we will be able to obtain the same rate and a similar contract while trying to keep the costs of this process as low as possible. I am looking to arrange a meeting with Lodestar Energy, but I may have to

come back to the Council to waive competitive bidding. I am not sure if this will be a bid issue as it is more of a service than commodity.

Strategic Planning

We have hired Kenya Rutland to lead a strategic planning process for Street Services and Parks employees at the Town Garage. This was instituted by both management and the union to review the ways we do business, the needed resources, and to create a Labor Management Committee so that we can communicate better. This is an initiative for better communication between supervisors and maintainers, revising some job descriptions, reviewing employee skills in order to provide the necessary resources for those skills, and administrative planning of these departments with regard to the future as staff changes.

As you know, we restructured Public Works by separating Street Services and Parks a few years ago. Now, we are reconvening to see how this separation is working and to come up with some positive recommendations on how to improve our services to the community.

Matthew B. Galligan
Town Manager

Police Department

Timothy M. Edwards
Chief of Police

Hiring Process- Police Officers and Police Dispatchers:

The Police Department finds itself short-staffed due to retirements and resignations over the past 2 years. We have continued to have difficulty hiring qualified persons to fill our 4 vacant police officer positions and 1 vacant dispatch position. We recently joined the Connecticut Police Chief's Association in a multi-town police and dispatch test. As a result, we received 182 applications for Police Officer candidates and 56 applications from Dispatcher candidates.

We hosted oral board interviews on March 23rd, 24th and 29th to fill the open positions. Part of the difficulty in training new officers is the lack of seats available at the Connecticut Police Academy in Meriden. They only offer classes 4 times a year and have a several month waiting list. For that reason we intend to explore one of the regional accredited "satellite" academies offered by New Britain, Hartford, New Haven or Milford so that we can get back to full staff as soon as possible. We are also open to hiring certified officers that have retired from other agencies if such candidates apply.

Police Accreditation Manager:

The Police Department has wanted to obtain

national accreditation via the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, (CALEA) for over two decades. The efforts were always stymied by funding or manpower issues however; we feel that the current public expectation is that police agencies will demonstrate a commitment to professional, bias-free policing. One way to assure the public that we are committed to following industry best-practices is to be independently evaluated by an outside organization such as CALEA. This is a time-consuming process that entails evaluating every policy and aspect of our agency and comparing it to current national standards. The benefits of national accreditation include: reduced risk and liability exposure, stronger defense against civil lawsuits, increased accountability within the agency and increased community advocacy.

We are in the process now of selecting an officer that will be assigned to guide the agency through the accreditation process so that we can become the 16th accredited agency in Connecticut.



Human Services Department

Adult & Senior Services

Andrea Cofrancesco, Director of Adult and Senior Services

Town Councilors are invited to our Annual Volunteer Recognition

Afternoon Tea on Tuesday, April 19 at 2:30
PM

South Windsor Human Services
150 Nevers Road

Please RSVP by 4/15/2016:
swseniors@southwindsor.org or
860-648-6361 ext. 335

UPDATE ON ENERGY PROGRAMS

Even with crazy weather this winter, caseworkers have assisted **388** households with energy assistance through the CEAP program so far, which ends May 1st for electric and gas customers. Through **Operation Fuel**, we have assisted 15 households totaling \$4,137 with the program ending June 14th. Our **private fuel account has given out \$19,565.81** to 59 families since July 1. We expect to be tapping into our private fuel funds more as residents are exhausting benefits through the CEAP and Operation Fuel programs. It's due to the generosity of South Windsor residents, businesses, civic and church groups, schools and town employees that we have funds available in our private fuel account to help

our neighbors in need!

DAIRY PRODUCTS AT THE FOOD BANK

Due to the generosity of the community, this month we have launched a new service to residents who utilize the food bank: we are offering eggs, cheese and milk. Working with Geissler's we are able to purchase the items in bulk at a reduced cost. We hope to add frozen vegetables and other items soon on a trial basis.

NEW SOCIAL GROUP FOR THOSE WITH DISABILITIES

The Adult and Senior Services Division is starting up a new group called The Nevers Social Group. This group is designed to meet the social and recreational needs of those under the age of 55 and on disability. The first group is meeting on Friday, April 15th at 10 AM at the Teen Center. For more information call Stephen Clapp at 860-648-6361 ext. 325.

TRIAD FOR SENIOR SAFETY PROGRAMS

- **Shredding Event Update:** Recall, the company that has donated their shredding services for the past five years, has been



bought out by a company that does not allow for donating their time. As of now, we are unable to find another company to donate their services, so we are hoping a local business can donate money towards the cause. If not, we will not be able to provide this service again this year. Over 150 people have come out for this event annually.

- **AARP Fraud Watch Seminar:** On **Monday, April 25 at 10:00 AM** Darlene Dunbar from the AARP Fraud Watch Network will present "The Con Artist Playbook", a look inside the mind of a criminal. This interactive program offers attendees with tools and tips to protect themselves against the scammers trying to take your hard earned money by showing you how they think. Hear from actual scam artists on video and audio while learning how to guard against ID Theft and other crimes.
- **Medication Disposal Day:** The Triad for Senior Safety is sponsoring a Medication Disposal Day on **Saturday, April 30** from 10 AM to 2 PM at the Police Station. Drop off all prescription and non-prescription medications including liquid (no needles). For more information, call Andrea at 860-648-6357 or Corporal Jim Nicoletta at the Police Dept. 860-648-6256.

Friends of the South Windsor Senior Center

The South Windsor Community Foundation has agreed to act as fiduciary for the new

"Friends of the South Windsor Senior Center!" FOSWSC has been 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. We will be embarking on FUNdraising efforts as well! We are excited about the possibilities! A big thank you to the SW Community Foundation!

Special Needs Fund Needs Funds!

The Human Services Special Needs Fund is designed to assist South Windsor residents in need of things that do not fall in any category....they are miscellaneous services that are necessary but are not typically funded by agencies. Caseworkers in the Adult and Senior Services division carefully screens clients and designate money in this fund to be used for needs when all other avenues have been exhausted. For those wishing to make a donation to the Special Needs Fund, please send donations to the Human Services Office with "Special Needs" in the memo or call Andrea at 860-648-6357 with questions.



Like us on FACEBOOK!
Facebook.com/swseniorcenter

Youth & Family Services

Elizabeth Langevin, Director of Youth and Family Services



S.W.A.N.
South Windsor
& Neighbors



Parent Education and Support

The Mother Daughter Circle ended this month. Our mother daughter couples learned some great skills which will serve them well in the coming years. Some of the things they learned; "how to have fun with my mom," "listening is important and choosing words wisely," "that my mom is always there for me."

In the Stepfamily session we talked about the challenges of stepfamily living and how they impact daily life. Parents discussed the difficulties of parenting in a stepfamily and the importance of open communication, patience, mutual respect and commitment.

Ginny facilitated a group for seniors on the "7 Habits of Happy People." The seniors engaged in a lively discussion on relationships, helping others, the importance of exercise, following a spiritual path, going with the "flow", cultivating gratitude and optimism, and recognizing and celebrating their own unique talents!

SWAN ended the month with a presentation on "Achieving Healthy Sleep for Infants and

Young Children." Liberty Mahon, a Certified Child Sleep Consultant, from Danbury, gave parents tips and strategies on building a healthy lifetime sleep foundation, ways to eliminate early wake-ups, inconsistent napping, waking up at night, trouble falling asleep and sleeping independently.

School Outreach

More than 60 South Windsor students participated in the Peers Are Wonderful Support (PAWS) conferences on March 23rd (TE) and 24th (High School). They learned a great deal about leadership, public speaking, activism and advocacy. The students enjoyed the experience and will be able to use the skills learned in their daily lives.

We now have 90 youth participating in the weekly Jumpstart tutoring program at TEMS. 45 SWHS students are matched up with the 45 TEMS students on a weekly basis for educational tutoring.

Teen Center

In March, high school youth had the opportunity to practice good deeds for others in recognition of the Unofficial, National "I Want You to Be Happy" Day. Teens were encouraged to take a moment to realize how making someone else feel good could also shift their mood, making the day a little

brighter. Several times a month, there are various themes during high school drop in hours to help raise awareness of various healthy living skills; and there are also some fun days, like testing your March Madness knowledge in a game of trivia and celebrating National Chip & Dip Day with a free afterschool snack!

The Teen Center Youth Council had the opportunity to attend the annual PAWS Conference (Peers Are Wonderful Supports) at Manchester Community College on March 24th. This conference was a peer lead training that focused on areas of youth leadership, public speaking and advocacy. Eight of our Youth Council members participated in this conference - some even getting up on stage to demonstrate the new skills they learned! Our Youth Council also played an important role this month in helping to run the Family Bingo Night on March 11th. The teens greeted guests, served food, gave out prizes and



encouraged family involvement in a fun night of bingo- and even some spontaneous line dancing!

The Teen Center is a great place to hang out with friends, but it is also a great place to learn and brush up social skills through planned or structured group activities. For example, next month we will be hosting a group for middle school students with the goal of working on teambuilding skills through various activities and games...and lunch!

Youth & Family Counseling

On Thursday March 24th 35 parents and children joined us for a glow in the dark yoga night. Everyone loved this fun event where they were able to relax, play and have fun with their families.

South Windsor Alliance for Families (SWAFF) is South Windsor's Local Prevention Council. Our mission is to encourage positive development of South Windsor's youth and families through assessing needs, developing





<http://www.southwindsor.org/youth-family-services>

solutions to those needs, and coordinating programs and activities that promote a healthy, substance-free life style. We are parents, police, youth & family staff, parks & recreation staff, SW schools staff and other concerned citizens.

We are in the midst of a six week lawn sign campaign. Here is the first sign that people may have seen around town.



Please check out our Parent Talk Newsletter, available on the town website for upcoming events.



Parks & Recreation Department

Raymond Favreau
Director of Parks & Recreation

John Caldwell, Jr.
Superintendent of Parks

"Discover the Benefits!"

MONTHLY REPORT - April 4, 2016

Ryan Kane
Asst. Director of Parks & Recreation

Park & Recreation Commission (PARC) –

The next PARC meeting is Wednesday, April 13th at 7:30pm in the Sprekel Room of the Town Hall, at which they will continue work on the master plan.

The South Windsor Walk & Wheel Ways

(**SWW&WW**) sub-committee meets next on Wednesday, April 6th at the Community Center, conference room 206 at 7pm. They are continuing their work on action plans for potential public access to the Eversource power line corridors for cross-town trails connecting the existing Jacques Lane trail to Pleasant Valley Road.

The South Windsor FOOD Alliance (SWFA) sub-committee is busy planning for their 2016 Summer Farmer's market beginning Sat., June 18. Go to www.swfood.org for more details.

Like us on Facebook - The number keeps growing - we are now "liked" by 1,265 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 SWPRD06074!!

Rotary Club Auction – was held on Saturday, April 2 to benefit the construction of a Rotary Pavilion II at Veterans Memorial Park.

A Park & Recreation Commission pledge of \$70,000 appears in the capital projects budget for FY 2016-2017.

Special Invitation to Councilors – SAVE THE DATE: Friday, April 22 at 3:30pm

Ayers Road Softball Field – Ribbon Cutting ceremony prior to the South Windsor High School girls varsity game versus Hartford Public. As always, we offer all members of the Town Council an open invitation to visit any of our 350+ 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 is at 340, with 47 additions in after care on Early Release Wednesdays in support the BOE professional development program.

Veterans Memorial Park – A message worth repeating - In advance of our budget discussion we felt it important to notify you of some upcoming changes we are proposing for operation of the pools at VMP for the 2016 summer season. (1) We will prohibit water guns as they tend to create behaviors that annoy patrons. (2) Until such time as we can create a dedicated "grilling zone" (which is a project on the drawing board) we will curtail the use of charcoal and gas grills on park grounds. (3) Weekend daily admission rates for non-residents will increase from \$9 to \$12 for adults and from \$6 to \$8 for children. (4) Group visit discounts have been eliminated to reduce overcrowding, especially on weekends.

45th Annual Egg Hunt – The new turf facility at the high school was tremendous for our egg hunt last Friday! The field handled a rainy day like a charm! We did have to bring in additional P/A on the field in order for participants to hear announcements. For the first time we did use a DJ to provide background music and P/A for announcements and it definitely made the event more festive. We also added the new scoreboard to the mix counting down the start of each hunt which was a huge hit as well. Despite the foul weather we estimated 2,000 kids collected 28,000 plastic eggs in two hours! Counting all the family members that accompanied the "hunters" we figure well over 4,000 people visited with us that morning. The event was once again proudly

sponsored by Imperial Oil & Plumbing. The South Windsor Community Women's Club continued its' generous practice of running their "Kids Fair" from 10am to 1pm inside the high school.

Fishing Derby – join us on Saturday, April 23rd for some "angling anxiety" from 9am to 1pm at "our" pond on Barber Hill Road (formerly Dzen Tree Farm).

Parks & Recreation Magazine – Our 2016 Spring/Summer edition has hit the streets!!. The catalog includes 24 brand new program offerings as well as our traditional recreational opportunities like day camp, swimming at VMP and our very popular outdoor concert series at Evergreen Walk kicking off on Thursday, June 23rd at 7pm with the Savage Brothers Band.

PARKS DIVISION

"Caring for South Windsor's Growing Needs"

March Activity Highlights:

- Athletic Fields & Grounds:
 - o Began the busy spring schedule preparing and renovating fields for the high school interscholastic program and local youth sports group needs.
 - o All tennis and batting cage nets successfully installed.
 - o Irrigation systems repaired and prepared for anticipated use.

- o Spruced up landscaping at Fire House 3.
- Parks & Open Space:
 - o Gates and fences inspected for needed repairs
 - o Began preparations at the pools at VMP – dropping water levels and working with Pollution Control staff.
 - o Spring clean up of winter debris.
 - o Substantial repairs made to My Friend's Place playground at Nevers Park.
 - o Repairs made to shade structures at Bark Park.
 - o Installed gates at King Street open Space property.
- Projects:
 - o Memorial Wall Project at VMP – staff has assisted the patriotic Commission and local contractors with the re-start to this project now that the weather is cooperating. A retaining wall to stabilize the slope behind the monuments is next in line followed by some electrical work, erecting the granite wall, repairs to the Eagle patio, fence replacement and finish grading and seeding of the disturbed area to be ready for the Memorial Day dedication.
 - o Barton Property Project – Phase I – clearing trees, removing stumps and rough grading is complete. The unexpected chore of constructing a berm buffer is near complete thanks to Billy Mitchell's generosity and an in-house team effort by members of the Street Services Division of Public Works and our Parks crew. We are working with Jeff Folger and Jeff Doolittle on bid specs for Phase II – finish grading and seeding, and Phase III – gravel ring road. That should be going out very soon.
- o Completed last of three bridges at the new mountain bike trail at Rye Street Park.
- o Began working with Eagle Scout Austin Gore on beautification of Jacob's View at My Friend's Place playground.
- o Ayers Road Softball Field –new bleachers and player benches assembled and delivered. ADA stone dust paths installed through a partnership with Jay's Landscaping.
- o Deming Community Gardens - Neighbor friendly site plan modifications are a work-in-progress through our engineering department and should be ready to go to PZC for final approval for their April 26th meeting. Once approved we will re-apply for the \$20,000 grant with the state of CT Dept. of Agriculture Farmland Restoration Program. The goal is to have it ready for planting Spring, 2017.
- Other:
 - o Finished preparing small equipment used for spring and summer maintenance and rotated out with snow removal equipment.



Our summer camp counselors were nominated for an award through The Hole in the Wall Gang Camp for Run4Camp! Last year, our donation was matched with an organization called Positive Tracks. Positive Tracks holds an annual award ceremony, "The Sweatys", where 13 charitable partners (The Hole in the Wall Gang Camp being one of them) nominate one of their notable donators. They picked us! The ceremony is in May 6th at Fenway Park and 2 out of the 13 nominees will receive an award! Good luck SW P&R camps!!



45th Annual Egg Hunt at its best!!



Volunteers make it (45th annual egg hunt) happen!!!!



Left: New softball field on Ayers Road is ready for play!!

Below: Barton property berm under construction



Fire House 3 gets some TLC



Soccer fields at Rye Street Park ready for youth little kickers

April 2016

Town Council Meetings and Events

Meetings

Monday, April 4, 2016

7:00 p.m. Regular Meeting
Council Chambers

Monday, April 11, 2016

7:00 p.m. Special Meeting
Council Chambers

Monday, April 18, 2016

7:00 p.m. Regular Meeting
Council Chambers

Monday, April 25, 2016

7:00 p.m. Special Meeting
8:00 p.m. Public Hearing
Council Chambers

Layout by Ashley Summers, Executive Secretary to the Town Manager

