

# ***Town of South Windsor***

## **Town Manager's Report April 2020**

*Michael Maniscalco  
Town Manager*



The Town Manager's Report will be given verbally at the Town Council Meeting.

## Police Department

Scott P. Custer  
Chief of Police

### Monthly Statistics March 2020 & the effects of Covid-19:

Each month we publish the totals of some of our more common calls for service in March. The current Covid-19 event we are experiencing has shifted some of our activity levels, for instance, car stops are lower because there are fewer cars on the road, but

Total Computer Aided Dispatch Entries:	2229
9-1-1 Calls Received:	544
Routine Calls Received/Outgoing:	3563
Directed Patrol/Premise Checks:	1047
Motor Vehicle Stops:	217
Medical Assists/Emot.Dist. Persons:	128
Suspicious:	82
Alarms:	91
Motor Vehicle Accidents:	217
Welfare Check:	34
Assist Outside Agency:	21
Animal Problem:	29
Citizen Assist:	15
Miscellaneous Service:	12
Collision Reports:	17
BOLO:	9
Disabled Motor Vehicle:	23
Larceny:	18
Hazardous Conditions:	7
Pistol Permits:	3
Burglary:	26
Civil Matter:	2
911 Check:	7
Fraud:	6
Domestic Dispute:	10
Narcotics Violation:	4
Violation of Town Ordinance:	6
Youth Problem:	6
Sexual Assault:	1

we are doing more directed patrols and receiving more suspicious activity calls.

Our new phone system also gives us performance data. There were 544 9-1-1 calls received last month, 523 were answered within 10 seconds, the other 21 were answered between 10 and 20 seconds! Typically, the only delays occur when we receive a sudden influx of calls, like when there is a power outage, etc.

We thank you for your assistance as we all negotiate this Covid-19 event, it will get better - and we are still here for you!

Stay healthy, - Chief Scott Custer

### New Hires and Recruiting Status:

Officer Erika Kuzara and Officer Kyle Higgins are now getting close to the final phase of their 16-week field-training phase here in South Windsor. They will be working solo in the next few weeks.



The police academy shut down in mid-March so our three recruit officers (photo above), Bianca Krzynowek, Linda Hernando and

## Police Department

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Chief of Police

Thomas Defelice, are back here at headquarters. They are attending the academy via distance-learning. We have converted our lobby training room to their classroom and thanks to the I.T. staff; they have all the technology needed to be successful.

The Town Manager and Chief recently interviewed an officer candidate and extended her a job offer. Kaitlyn Pierpont will begin training on April 20th. We have also identified another excellent candidate who is already a certified officer elsewhere in Connecticut. She will meet with the Town Manager later this month and is expected to begin working in Mid-May. She will only need an 8-week training program.

These two hires will bring us to full staffing until the anticipated retirement of a Corporal in early July.

### **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 jimmed open.

The crimes are generally being committed by groups of juveniles who arrive in a neighborhood in a stolen car overnight, try door handles and enter unlocked cars. If an unlocked car is found they look for keys or key fobs to take the car, or steal valuables located inside the vehicle. The stolen cars are generally used to “joyride” and are frequently recovered in Hartford or nearby once they run out of gas.

The activity seems to be increasing due to several recent factors: All schools are out due to Covid-19, eliminating some structure for the youthful suspects, i.e., staying out all night searching unlocked cars is not a problem since they don't have to physically be at school in the morning. In addition, recent legislative changes aimed at not stigmatizing juveniles for crimes they have committed mean virtually no consequences if they are caught. Moreover, the law was changed prohibiting police from chasing cars except in extremely serious, physical injury crimes. These factors taken together embolden the would-be car thieves and they have very little, if any, concern about the consequences of being caught.

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Chief of Police

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.

family. Facebook: South Windsor Police Department. Twitter: @SWPD\_PIO

### **Never Too Early to Prepare for an Emergency:**

The message below has been a frequent post on Facebook and in this monthly report. As we look to recover from Covid-19 as a community and prepare for the “second wave” in the fall, I hope that our citizens will think about all-hazard preparations.

The Ready.gov webpage has great information pages on preparation for natural disasters, severe weather, and active shooters. Please share with friends and family that may rely on you in a severe weather event, or have questions about how to react to an active shooter event.

We have had our share of severe weather in Connecticut and now is a good time to review your plan to protect yourself and your family.  
<https://www.ready.gov/>

### **Follow us on Social Media:**

We continue to have a strong presence on Social Media and update our citizens on all kinds of activity. Our Facebook page and Twitter feed are also displayed on our webpage <https://www.southwindsor.org/police>. We encourage everyone to follow us and share information with friends and

## Public Works Department

Michael J. Gantick  
Director of Public Works

### UPDATES

The unfolding events continue to challenge us all. The positive for Public Works is that before COVID-19 had started to consume everyone's seemingly every thought and conversation, Public Works was well positioned relative to basic supplies and materials. We have continued to fall back on years of developing and planning for other natural emergency events. We have applied our Standard Operating Procedures along with Emergency Preparedness to adjust to some of the new protocols for health and safety. The challenge is what are the near and long term impacts to our supply chains. All divisions have remained in contact with their identified critical contractors and material suppliers relative to core functions. We are continuing our planning, design and implementation of current programs and projects while remaining flexible and adaptive to different ways to deliver services. I remain proud of the way the Public Works Team has risen to this challenge and remained committed to ensuring some form of normalcy of services to our residents.

Reflecting on some more positive news, below is a copy of an article published by The Training and Technical Assistance Center at UCONN about South Windsor's Local Road Safety Committee:

### **"Safety Matters: How One Connecticut Town Is Addressing Safety"**

Posted on February 11, 2020 by Connecticut

T2 Center



### ***South Windsor's Local Road Safety Committee***

After working with the Training and Technical Assistance Center (T2 Center) on Road Safety Audits (RSAs) and soliciting assistance from the Safety Circuit Rider program for other issues in town, South Windsor Director of Public Works Michael Gantick, PE, PWLF, saw a need for something more, in his words "a living road safety plan." South Windsor already had a Local Road Safety Plan (LRSP), developed years prior, and had accomplished the major goals on that plan.

In January 2015, the Town of South Windsor's Local Road Safety Committee (LRSC) was created with enthusiastic support from all involved parties. The committee is currently comprised of the Town Engineer, Director of Planning, Police Department Traffic Sergeant (LTA), Superintendent of Streets, Tree Warden, Street Supervisor, Director of Public Works, Fire Chief, and the Board of Education Building Facilities Director. They hold monthly meetings on a variety of topics to keep their LRSP plan current and in motion and to be timely and flexible in addressing immediate, short- and long-term road safety issues.

When asked to describe the committee, Director of Public Works Michael Gantick replied, "What is innovative about the LRSC is that it has cultivated another level of synergy

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and collaboration amongst the various road safety stakeholders while increasing the breadth of safety improvement opportunities in South Windsor, especially the high-easy type of improvements.”

There have been many positive outcomes as a result of the LRSC. Each meeting has resulted in either some small improvement, like discussing and improving the traffic patterns around the Town Hall “circle,” or broader topics, such as moving forward with developing a town wide “Neighborhood Traffic Calming Policy.” While the LRSC agenda has recurring/standing items, it also has afforded the group an opportunity to discuss issues in “real-time,” thus allowing almost immediate positive safety changes to be made where needed. Other topics covered in the LRSC meetings have included roadway signs, special events, town road projects, work zone safety, speed monitoring/surveys (including for truck traffic), Complete Streets, Road Safety Audits (RSAs) and the Community Connectivity Grant Program. The LRSC really has taken a broad overview of all town activities that use and impact road safety.

Some other examples of positive outcomes from LRSC meetings have been:

- Input on ADA Transition Plan
- Installation/coordination of RRFBS for a pedestrian crossing on a state road
- Review and input on state-funded projects

and programs

- Coordination of tree/road safety issues
- Development of Buckland Road traffic system coordination project
- Initiation and facilitation of two RSAs (Ellington/Pierce/Clark) for the Community Connectivity Program and (Graham/Nevers) general road safety improvements
- Communication, coordination and debriefing of local civic events/special events impacting local and state roads
- Sharing of training opportunities as they pertain to local roads
- Identification of areas of concern and requests for enforcement
- Sharing of data – Stealth Stat, crash history, traffic studies, construction projects as related to traffic safety and global effects on town infrastructure
- Coordination of work zone safety/enforcement

The formation of a committee such as South Windsor’s Local Road Safety Committee is something every municipality can do. It requires a multi-disciplinary effort and focus on local road safety, but it can be tailored to your town’s needs. Committees like this can take many forms – the important part is just getting one started. Thanks to South Windsor for setting a great example on how to get it done!



## Public Works Department

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Director of Public Works

For more information and assistance with local road safety in your community, contact Melissa Evans, Safety Circuit Rider, at [melissa.evans@uconn.edu](mailto:melissa.evans@uconn.edu)

Wishing you and your families strength and health during these difficult times.

*Michael J. Gantick, P.E., P.W.L.F.*  
*Director of Public Works*

### **Engineering Department**

#### **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. Bids will be received in April and we plan to begin work 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.

#### **Buckland Road Sidewalks**

The contractor returned in mid March and completed the sidewalks, landscaping and cleaned up the staging area. Once grass grows and the new plants bloom in April, the project will be substantially complete.

#### **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 have received a permit from the Inland Wetlands Agency. A public information session was recorded in March and is available for viewing on the Town web site under G-Media. In addition, preliminary design information for both projects has been posted under the Engineering Department. Capital Projects. Designs for both roads should be completed this spring or 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.

#### **Sidewalk Repairs**

Bids from contractors are due April 9 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 Works Department

Michael J. Gantick  
Director of Public Works



## Public Buildings Division

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

### HVAC Upgrades Police Department and Community Center

A contract has been signed for the HVAC upgrades at the Police Department and the Community Center and the work has begun. A temporary electric hot water heater was installed so that the first two of five boilers could be removed making room for two new gas fired boilers to be installed. Boilers at the Police Department and Community Center will be up and running by the end of April.

### Town Hall Elevator Engineering/Design

Construction Documents were submitted to me for final review a couple of weeks ago. Shortly thereafter I submitted comments to the consultant, the ball is now in their hands to approve the comments, make changes to the plans and to complete the documents. Once funds are allocated for this project I will

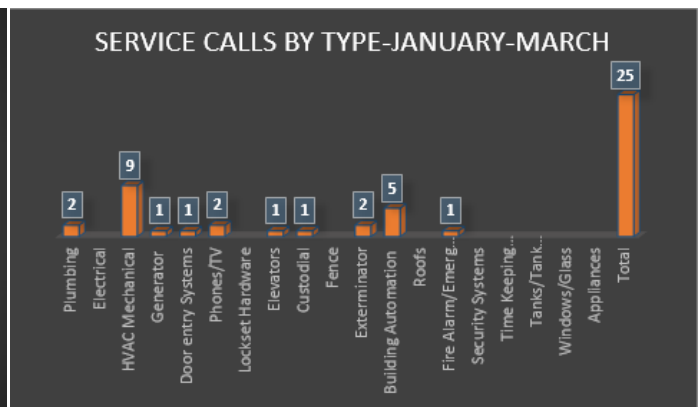
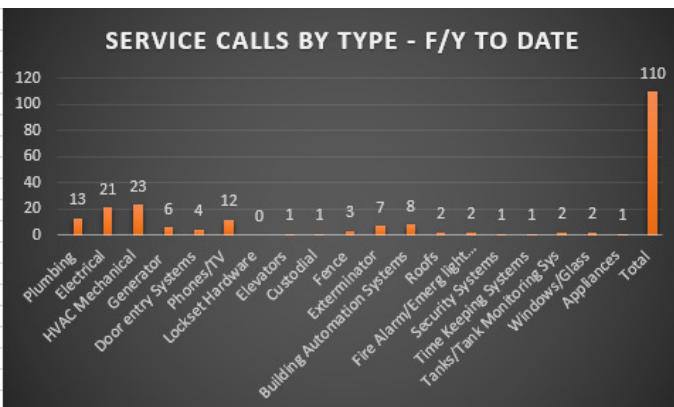
solicit bids to replace the elevator and get the project rolling. This, just like the Library elevator modernization project is also expected to take several months to complete. Project details and project timeline will be determined after the project kick off meeting is scheduled sometime in September.

### Library Roof Replacement

The roof replacement is loosely scheduled for this spring as soon as the weather permits application of the roofing membranes and adhesives.

### COVID-19

Cleaning and sanitizing of the public buildings and Fire Departments started approximately three weeks ago. Over that time period each of the buildings have been cleaned and sanitized several times. The cleaning crews have worked at night and on the weekends to keep up with the demand. In addition, my staff have been doing supplemental high touch cleaning throughout the buildings during the day.





## Public Works Department

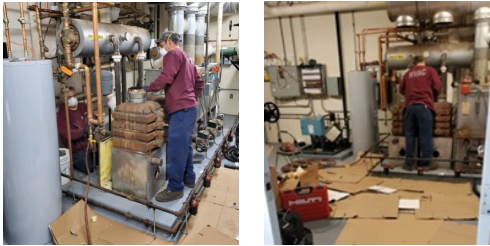
Michael J. Gantick  
Director of Public Works

### Other Notable Projects

Building Maintenance Staff designed a new counter and cabinet combination for the training room at the Police Department. The work consisted of removing the old upper cabinetry and electrical circuits, purchasing, assembling and installing new cabinetry and new electrical circuits. This completes the Training Room project which also included new carpeting and a fresh coat of paint on the walls.

*Clay Major*  
*Facilities Manager*  
*Public Buildings Division*

### Project Photos



*Temporary Hot Water Heater at the Community Center*



*New Counters/Cabinets in the PD Training Room*

### Street Services

There were no weather related incidents during the month.

The department assisted Water Pollution Control in replacing a bio-filter at the Treatment Plant. This involved removing approximately 375 yards of material and replacing with fresh media. The bio-filter controls odors from the plant's operations. The project was anticipated to take a week to a week and a half but was completed in just 4 days. Getting this filter back in operation as quickly as possible was a critical aspect of this project. This collaborative process saved the Town in excess of \$50,000 allowing WPCA to use these funds for other projects within their infrastructure.



Crews have continued to make repairs to drainage in preparation for upcoming paving

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this spring/summer.

Maintainers continued to trim and cut back brush and vegetation from culverts and waterways.

The department facilitated the PVR School referendum, installing signage, temporary accessible parking spaces and operating portable lighting.

The compost continues to be monitored closely for temperature and has been turned as required to prevent excessive heat and to introduce oxygen.

The department hosted UCONN's Facilities and Maintenance Team to share how our department manages yard waste and also an in depth look at our composting operations.

One maintainer has been working on small equipment for the upcoming construction season.

### **Covid 19 Response**

The Town Garage developed comprehensive continuing operations and contingency plans in response to the pandemic. We are careful to ensure that the latest information is shared with our teams as we collectively work to keep our employees and residents safe.

Despite the outbreak of Covid 19, the department is continuing to be hopeful and prepared to get back to business as usual.

Planning and preparation over all is being carried out so that we will be at the ready once things are back to normal. The management team at the Town Garage is very proud of the commitment, cooperation and the efforts put forth by our staff as we all try to work through and cope with deadly pandemic.

Residents are encouraged to use Connect South Windsor to report hazards. [WWW.SOUTHWINDSOR.ORG/CONNECT](http://WWW.SOUTHWINDSOR.ORG/CONNECT) or look for the app for iPhones and Androids.

*Scott Yeomans*  
*Associate Manager, Street Services*

### **Refuse & Recycling**

COVID-19 has dominated the last 4 weeks and some of the services that we were planning to provide have been suspended or cancelled. We have had to cancel the Household Hazardous Waste collection on April 4th, the electronic recycling event on May 2nd, and postpone the second backyard composter sale that was planned for the end of May. Simple Recycling has suspended their curbside collection of textiles (pink bags). The scheduled collection of refuse, single stream recycling, metal and bulky waste remain unchanged.

We are in the midst of negotiating disposal rates for refuse and recycling with All American Waste as our current disposal contract expires June 30, 2020. The collection contract with AAW is in effect until June 30,

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2024. We have received tip fee proposals for various lengths of time. As we progress through our negotiation process it is important to consider the rehabilitation negotiations and availability of the Materials Innovation and Recycling Authority (MIRA) in Hartford. A benefit that AAW offers is their geographical diversity and the ability to utilize 16 transfer stations across Connecticut and Massachusetts.

### **Water Pollution Control**

Over the last several weeks our attention has shifted from “business as usual,” to protecting our employees from the current global pandemic and planning for any foreseeable impacts COVID-19 may present. The Town Manager has implemented several measures to minimize exposure of the virus to employees including closing town buildings to the public and requiring departments to divide their staff into two groups with alternating work weeks. Our department has been evaluating our vulnerabilities and putting plans in place for worst case scenarios. Areas of concern include staff becoming unavailable, supply chain for goods and services and managing our solids. We have maintained communication with our vendor and contractors to ensure the availability of services.

Prior to COVID-19, with the help of the Streets Department our team was able to complete the odor control biofilter. We anticipated the reconstruction of the media to take a full work week and cost \$60,000, our

staff was able complete the project in less than four days at a cost of \$12,000.

Due to the abundant use of sanitizing wipes in the last month we began to experience an increased amount of pump blockages. On March 17th we had blockages at 4 of our 11 pump stations. Our crews took pictures of the clogged pumps which were then posted to the South Windsor Public Works Facebook page. The post reached 3.2 million people. Our staff was interviewed by the Hartford Courant, Journal Inquirer, WFSB Channel 3 and Fox 61 News. Since this outreach effort we have not experienced any blockages.

Despite limited staff availability, under the current circumstances, our maintenance crew has been able to perform annual preventative maintenance measures on multiple clarifiers in addition to performing routine preventative maintenance around the treatment plant. Our laboratory staff has diligently performed their duties to meet our discharge requirements and our process team continues to make their seasonal adjustments and prepare the UV disinfection process. We have been utilizing available technologies, such as Facetime, to communicate among the divided teams. I am proud of how our team has responded to the changing work climate to perform their required duties and take advantage of any opportunity to complete alternative projects.

*Tony Manfre*  
*Superintendent of Pollution Control*

## Human Services Department

Andrea Cofrancesco  
Director of Human Services

### Human Services Updates:

#### **Human Services Response to Covid-19**

- We are providing food to those with low income or those who are struggling as a result of this crisis. We are not turning anyone away who has indicated a need. We have ordered toilet paper, paper towels, frozen veggies, cheese, milk and eggs to add to our regular food bank offerings. We also have some limited produce provided to us by the school. We are asking them what they would like and putting together a bag of items for them, and they are picking up outside so we can remain the appropriate distance away. We also have a limited number of gift cards to local grocery stores.
- We are responding to the community's generosity and accepting food, gift cards and monetary donations.
- If there are any issues specific to children, any domestic issues that arise as a result of kids being home way too long with their parents, please know that our youth counselors are responding to those in need via video chat and phone calls.
- We also have volunteers who can get older adults groceries so that we can keep them out of the stores and away from exposure. We would provide them with other information on how to get groceries as well, which does include us providing transportation to people 60+ or younger people who are on social security disability if that is what their need is.
- We are also offering "grab and go" meals now. These are delivered on Tuesday and include 5 meals to people over 60 years old (federal guidelines sets the age). We are delivering meals to those who do not drive and asking others who drive to pick up. We have up to 50 people we can serve a week. We will be getting shelf stable meals for 50 residents as well, totaling 14 meals per person. These will be delivered to folks with the idea that if CRT (the agency that provides the grab and go lunches) can no longer provide those meals, that they have something available to them in their homes.
- We are making calls to those on our At Risk list, our regular case load, as well as contacting those residents who have attended at least one of our programs in the past year (almost 1,000 people are on just this alone). We are asking them if they would like to have a member of our CERT team make contact with them regularly.
- We have reached out to the housing authority to let them know of the services available.



#### **Senior Center's 40th Anniversary Kick Off Event**

Our Early Bird Dinner at the end of February was the kickoff event for the Senior Center's 40th anniversary celebration. With a packed



## Human Services Department

Andrea Cofrancesco  
Director of Human Services

room of 140 people, the committee handed out favors, played games and provided a raffle ticket for everyone to try their hand at winning one of the many prizes local businesses donated. Post Road Stages and Tours of Distinction each donated big ticket items, along with baskets of gift cards from local assisted living communities.



### New Veterans Corner

The American Legion Post 133 will be creating a Veterans Corner in one of the cases in the lobby of the community center. This will be an opportunity to showcase some of their medals and flags, but also provide information on a variety of programs available to veterans. As a result of this new opportunity, Human Services contracted with an electrician to provide lighting to both cases in the lobby. The other case showcases memorabilia and photos of Charles N. Enes, for whom the building is named.



### Elderly and Disabled Tax Relief Program Extended Past May 15

It is proposed to extend this program past the deadline of May 15. In the meantime, letters are going out to the approximately 80 people who still have to file. They will be given the information needed and they will be able to mail or drop off their application to the Human Services drop box at the community center.

Elderly and disabled homeowners who qualify can apply for reduced property taxes on their homes between 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.

### Annual Volunteer Recognition Event

Our annual volunteer breakfast, normally held in April (National Volunteer Month), will be postponed to a later date. Thank you to all who volunteer and make the Town of South Windsor so great!

## Human Services Department

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Director of Human Services



### Hartford Federal Credit Union

The Food and Fuel Bank recently received a \$2,000 donation from Hartford Federal Credit Union as part of their Thousand Champions Against Hunger campaign.

Their goal was to raise \$10,000 to fight hunger and they met that goal thanks to their customers, partners and board members. They divided the money evenly with the communities in which their branches are located.

### Food Bank Garden Signage is Up!

Thanks to Gary in Building Maintenance and Gary in Public Works, the food bank gardens at the community center has great signage! This will be a good opportunity for the community to know what these gardens are for and to know that Human Services is providing this healthy option to low income families in town.



### Youth & Family Services

On March 5th, Youth and Family Services hosted a Behavioral Health Provider meet and greet. This is the second annual event of its kind.

We had over 20 mental health professionals join us to learn more about what a Youth Service Bureau is, what we do in South Windsor and how building connections to other mental health professionals will help us in our mission to support our families the best way that we can. Even with three part time youth counselors, we keep a small waitlist for services, so we are looking to expand our list of professionals that we are able to refer families to.

On Wednesday, March 11th, we hosted the popular Home Alone Safety Class. The class was full with a waitlist. Children between the ages of 9 to 13 spent two hours with the instructor learning about ways to be safe if they were left home for any period of time. The parents joined for the last ten minutes of class to go over what was discussed.

### Teen Center

The month of March 2020 began as business as usual at the Teen Center, with an average of 31 high school students coming in daily during our high school drop in hours and over 30 participants attending our middle school nights on Fridays. Our Youth Council, the high school volunteer group, was gearing up for several fundraisers and events for the end of the month and for April... and then the Coronavirus suddenly changed almost all aspects of our daily lives. For our youth participants, it changed the normal flow of positive social interactions – whether it be joining our programs, having time with their



## Human Services Department

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Director of Human Services

peers during drop in hours or spending time with some of the supportive adults in their lives that they are used to seeing daily or weekly.



In effort to keep contact and stay connected with our teen center members, we have been active on our Facebook page, making phone calls, checking in via email and most recently, working to set up meetings on Zoom. Our goal of using technology is to keep our youth connected with the option of accessing the supportive services around them – whether it be connecting with a small group on Zoom, gaining access to educational tips for self-care, mental health and well-being or being connected with one of our YFS counselors. We will also be working on ways to have our Youth Council participate in remote community service opportunities - or ways to help others - from within the safety of our their homes. During these times of change, we want to stay connected with our AWESOME Teen Center members and help keep our youth connected to positive, prosocial activities in any way we can!

and one of our Youth Counselors is facilitating a monthly group for Relatives Raising Children.

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! There are several webinars that are COVID-19 related:

- Monday 3/30/20 8:15 PM Live Webinar COVID-19: Working from Home: How Can I Help My Young Child Play More on His Own?
- Tuesday 3/31/20 12 noon Live Webinar COVID-19: Navigate the New Normal as a Family
- Tuesday 3/31/20 8:15 PM Live Webinar How To Take the Stress Out of Parenting
- Wednesday 4/1/20 8:15PM Live Webinar Build Extraordinary Relationships with Your Child through Daily Conversation
- Thursday 4/2/20 12 noon Live Webinar COVID-19: Work With Your Family so You Can Work at Home

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

**S.W.A.N.**  **Parent Education and Support**  
South Windsor & Neighbors

Chris Garrahan, who is the Parent Educator

## Human Services Department

Andrea Cofrancesco  
Director of Human Services

### School Outreach & Prevention

On Wednesday, March 4th, the 6th Grade Healthy Living Fest was held at TEMS. Students from the SWHS SADD Club organized the event to encourage 6th graders to make good and healthy decisions. The students were able to paint kindness rocks, play prevention jeopardy, build and play giant Jenga, do yoga, play corn hole with SW Police Officers, make slime, learn Spikeball and lots more! The program ended with a group drumming circle, which energized everyone. It was a great way for 6th graders to have fun and learn ways to reduce their stress in positive ways. Thanks to the SADD Club for volunteering at this event!



### 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.

Robin Lagasse, LCSW has continued to maintain a case load of 25, with 3 new cases

opened this month. She has provided emergency support to students in crisis at the high school in conjunction with their school counselor. She's counseled high school students around substance abuse education and prevention due to violation of school's drug and alcohol policy. Robin helped to select and organize a group of middle school students designated as having leadership qualities to attend a peer support conference.

Sarah Soboleski, LCSW has continued to maintain a caseload of 12. Sarah is very part time with only 15 hours a week. She continues to be flexible about meeting youth and their families at times that work best for them. While majority of her caseload is seen during the day at school, she has several evening appointments.

Since we are closed to the public during Covid-19, we are now conducting teletherapy with our clients through a HIPAA approved website.

We look forward to resuming our programs and events! Please check out our Facebook page at:

<https://www.facebook.com/SWYouthFamily>  
or call Liz at 860-648-6361 x331 for more information

*Liz Langevin, LCSW*



## Parks & Recreation Department

Raymond Favreau  
Director of Parks & Recreation

### “Discover the Benefits!”

John Caldwell, Jr.  
Parks Superintendent

#### MONTHLY REPORT - April 6, 2020

Keri Montague  
Asst. Director of Parks &  
Recreation

#### **Park & Recreation Commission (PARC)**

As a precautionary measure due to the COVID-19 situation PARC meetings normally scheduled for the second Wednesday each month have been cancelled until further notice.

**The South Windsor Walk & Wheel Ways (SWW&WW)** – Likewise as a precautionary measure due to the COVID-19 situation SWW&WW meetings normally scheduled for the first Wednesday each month have been cancelled until further notice. We will remotely work on revision of the SWW&WW Master Plan and bid specifications for the Design work for the Cross-Town Trail funded by the DEEP Recreation Trails grant.

#### **Recreation Division**

*“Feel great—recreate!”*

#### **COVID-19 Update:**

- At 9:00am Wed., 3/25 we successfully held our first recreation division administrative staff meeting via Zoom with the much appreciated help of Scott Roberts. We are planning on repeating this weekly practice until things “return to normal”. I felt it was critical to stay connected as a full team in light of the A/B group separation, and to assure everyone

is on the same page.

- Not to minimize our parks crew who have been out there daily expertly performing parks and grounds preparations for spring, our administrative staff has been spectacular, and they will continue to do so in these challenging times. We have fully or prorated refunds of \$83,500 to participants for cancelled programs and placed a temporary halt to automatic payment plans for programs like the 4th R. We are likewise calculating the loss revenue impact of being inoperative which at the moment stands at \$99,864 (includes the aforementioned refunds).
- We will continue to keep our constituents informed via website, Facebook and mass email blasts as the situation warrants.
- We are currently working on plans B, C and D for programming moving forward dependent on school closures, state and local decisions that will directly impact our operations.
- Although we are unable to offer our traditional recreation programs and events at this time and truly believing that “In the middle of difficulty lies opportunity” we have brainstormed, are busy planning and are proud to announce our newest program – “Recreation Inspiration”! Each

week we will offer free fun activities that can be done at home to keep families safe, active and engaged during this unprecedented stay-at-home, social distancing phenomenon. We will also post on-line resources of things to do to keep families engaged, as there are many wonderful opportunities offered by other organizations, museums, etc. The mental and physical state of our residents are also at stake and we plan to do what we can to help mitigate this difficult and stressful time. So make sure to check our Facebook page, as we will post a new activity at 10:00 each Thursday morning.

#### **In Other News:**

- The renovation of the cafeteria at Wapping is finally complete and ready for use!! You will hardly recognize it! New walls, new ceiling, new LED lighting, new floor, new electrical, new energy efficient air conditioning where none existed before, new window shades and treatments, new house P/A, new multi-media electronics, and new furniture will undoubtedly bring new life to the much needed community hall space!
- We have a brand new website successfully launched on Feb. 28th! Please visit us at [recreation.southwindsor-ct.gov](http://recreation.southwindsor-ct.gov) for a cleaner user-friendly easy to navigate on-line experience! But, I do ask you to please bear with us as the site is still somewhat under construction with a few minor punch list items to finalize. Let us know what you think!
- To coincide with the new website we also have a new email address! Contact us now at [rec@southwindsor-ct.gov](mailto:rec@southwindsor-ct.gov).
- With warm weather just around the corner

many of you will be happy to see, and see better, with the brand new LED lighting recently installed at the Wapping tennis courts replacing the decades old insufficient mercury vapor fixtures. While doing this we also added a couple LED lamps to illuminate the recently renovated basketball court adjacent to the tennis courts to provide evening hoop game opportunities for the very first time! Ah, hot summer nights are coming!

#### **Parks Division**

*"Caring for South Windsor's Growing Needs"*

#### **March Activity Highlights:**

##### **♦ Athletic Fields & Grounds:**

- Spring Sports Season is closed indefinitely due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Crews have all athletic fields and courts ready to re-open once we get the greenlight. We just aren't sure when that will be.
- The Synthetic Field at the high school was groomed, Enviro-fil infill was top-dressed by broadcast spreader, broomed level and all seams were checked. A number of seams will need repair by contractor as it is still under warranty.



*Top dressing the in-fill at the high school stadium turf field*



#### ◆ Parks & Open Space:

- Serious tree work, including stump removal and grinding continued to be an on-going effort at multiple public grounds, parks and open space sites
- The area west of the bark park down to the trail outside the left field corner of the Rotary baseball field at Nevers Park recently cleared of overgrowth was graded and ready for seeding.
- Where conditions permitted we continued early rough cut mowing of open spaces and detention basins on town properties, and over-seeding heavily worn areas on athletic fields
- Delivered bike trailer to bike shop for annual servicing in support of SW Walk & Wheel Ways 4th grade bike education program.
- Equipment adjustments and repairs were done at My Friend's Place Playground
- Fire Pit at Nevers Park was opened and tested
- Stone dust paths at Little League Complex and trails at Nevers Park received much needed attention.



*Parks crew installs the SWW&WW bike repair station on new concrete pad at the new restroom facility at Nevers Park*

- Avery and Deming Community Gardens are being prepared for spring planting by resident gardeners.

#### ◆ Projects:

- Due to a concerning rise in canine fecal “gifts” being left along the trail system, or tossed in the woods at Nevers Park you will see a number of new signs posted to remind dog owners to be respectful of other park users and clean up after their pets per Ordinance Sec.74-67 (8).
- Lab results for hazardous materials sampling have confirmed some minor abatement will be needed at both the Priest Farm outbuildings and all structures at the newly acquired 1355 Ellington Rd property. On March 5th the Demolition Delay Committee approved proceeding with demolition after following the required posting for public input and permits pulled from the Building Department. We reiterate - the homestead and silo at the Priest Farm will remain.
- 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



*Southern fence line at SWHS before recent clearing*



*Southern fence line at SWHS after recent clearing*

homestead at the old Priest farm. This will include removing all debris, York-raking the grounds, demolishing all the dilapidated out-buildings once HazMat mitigation is complete, re-grading and seeding to beautify the site and make it safer and easier to maintain moving forward. Abatement quotes are being solicited for both the Priest and Ellington Road projects.

◆ **Other:**

- Six crew members attended the annual Rhode Island Turf Grass Trade Show & Seminars on March 5th.



*Walk and Wheel Ways had over 80 participants for their Moonlight Walk on Saturday, March 7. Pictured are the dedicated few who braved the cold temp hovered around the fire pit with hot chocolate following the hike!*



## ***April 2020***

### ***Town Council Meetings and Events***

#### ***Meetings***

##### **Wednesday, April 1, 2020**

**7:00 pm Special Budget Work Session**

*Virtual Meeting*

##### **Thursday, April 2, 2020**

**7:00 pm Special Budget Work Session**

*Virtual Meeting*

##### **Monday, April 6, 2020**

**7:00 pm Regular Meeting**

*Virtual Meeting*

##### **Tuesday, April 7, 2020**

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

*Virtual Meeting*

##### **Monday, April 20, 2020**

**7:00 pm Regular Meeting**

*Virtual Meeting*

#### ***Holidays***

##### **Friday, April 10, 2020**

Town Offices will be closed in observance of Good Friday.

*Layout by Samara Haddock, Confidential Secretary*

