

Town of South Windsor

Town Manager's Report May 2020

*Michael Maniscalco
Town Manager*



Due to frequently changing information regarding COVID-19, the Town Manager's Report will be given verbally at the Town Council Meeting.

Police Department

Scott P. Custer
Chief of Police

Monthly Statistics April 2020 & the effects of Covid-19:

Each month we publish the totals of some of our more common calls for service. April's report is not available as this report was prepared prior to the end of April; but our activity levels are comparable to the March numbers. 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 we are doing far more directed patrols and receiving more suspicious activity calls. Alarms and traffic accidents are down, probably due to the fact more people are working from home. We thank you for your assistance as we all negotiate this Covid-19 event, it will get better soon - and we are still here for you!

Stay healthy, - Chief Scott Custer

New Hires and Recruiting Status:

Officer Kaitlyn Pierpont will begin training on Monday May 4th at headquarters. She will begin academy training at the New Britain Police academy in mid-May. We are finishing the background investigation on another 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 later in May. She will only need an 8-week training program because she is already certified. These two hires will bring us to full staffing until the anticipated retirement of Corporal Jim Nicoletta in early July.

National Law Enforcement Officer Memorial- Virtual Candlelight Vigil:

Each year the names of police officers killed in the line of duty are added to the memorial wall in Washington D.C. We are honored to have Sgt. Matthew Mainieri's death approved as being "in the line duty"; as he was killed trying to stop a fight while on vacation.

Unfortunately, the Covid-19 event has cancelled all Police Week activities in Washington but there will be a virtual candlelight ceremony and reading of the names of the fallen officers this year held online. The link is below.

<https://nleomf.org/programs-events/national-police-week/candlelight-vigil>

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

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Scott P. Custer
Chief of Police

car to take. Locking the car is the answer; none of the stolen cars had windows smashed or were jimmied open.

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

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.

We can eliminate the issue locally by "hardening the target"; if we all lock up our vehicles, they will move to other areas to find

easy targets. As always, we urge citizens to report suspicious activity immediately.

Never too early to prepare for an emergency:

The 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-ct.gov/police>. We encourage everyone to follow us and share information with friends and family.

Facebook: South Windsor Police Department
Twitter: @SWPD_PIO

Public Works Department

Michael J. Gantick
Director of Public Works

To the Residents and Town Council of South Windsor:

I would like to thank you for the opportunity to have served my hometown for these past 33 plus years. I have been blessed to have graduated from SWHS, raise my family here, and be the steward of the Public Works Department and the Town I love.

Over the years, the Public Works Department has been recognized on a National, New England, and State level as leaders and innovators in our profession. This has happened as the result of a team effort of dedicated and creative men and women. From the many hurricanes, floods, blizzards, wind storms, and infrastructure challenges, Public Works as First Responders have been there to ensure that the residents' health and safety were protected and that normalcy would be restored. We have always had a focus on the present but with a vision towards the future. I feel privileged to have had the opportunity to have guided Public Works to a place where we trust you feel good about all the services we provide.

I again want to thank all of you, my fellow – past and present coworkers, and the men and women of Public Works for a wonderful journey. I wish you all well in the years ahead.

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

Engineering Department

Local Road Paving and Miscellaneous Drainage

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.

We have also put out a bid for Miscellaneous Drainage work to complete some drainage repairs needed in Pleasant Valley Road by Nutmeg Road South and other areas in Town. The Connecticut Water Company plans to make some changes to their facilities in Wood Pond Road by Rustic Lane. Bids will be received in May 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

This project is substantially complete.

Sidewalk Repairs

Bids were received in April to replace more deteriorated concrete sidewalks in Town this year. We are in the process of awarding this contract and expect sidewalk work to begin in June. These repairs are supported by the 2018 Bond funds.

Nevers Road Reconstruction (Southern section from Sand Hill Road to the Community Center driveway). This project has received a permit from the Inland

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Wetlands Agency. A public information session was recorded in March and is available for viewing on the Town web site under G-Media. Preliminary design information has also been posted on the Town web site under the Engineering Department, Capital Projects. Final designs should be completed in May and we plan to bid this project for construction to begin this summer. This project is supported by the 2018 Bond funds.

Avery Street Reconstruction Phase 5 (Northern section, from Talcott Ridge Road to Dart Hill Rd). This project has 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. Preliminary design information has also been posted on the Town web site under the Engineering Department, Capital Projects. Final designs should be completed this summer and we plan to bid this project for construction later this fall with most of the work being completed in 2021. Construction of this project will be funded through the Connecticut DOT LOTCIP program.

Upcoming South Windsor Engineering Projects

Consultants have been working on the preliminary design for 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.

Jeffrey Doolittle
Town Engineer
Assistant Director of Public Works

Street Services

The department responded to several service calls during the windstorm of 4/13. Two roads were closed and several hazards were protected with barricades. The following day, crews worked to clean up the storm damage and picked up signs and barricades.

Our crews assisted the Parks Department in restoring the trails in town parks by cleaning up brush and repairing stone dust trails due to washouts. This was a concerted effort as the trails are heavily used lately due to the pandemic.

Maintainers worked to repair curb damage and lawn damage throughout town.

Our crews removed, cleaned and stored the salt spreaders and plows for the season. These crew members then began setting up trucks and equipment for the upcoming construction season.

Public Works hired a contractor to grade Vibert Road down to the boat launch. The unimproved section of this road had several large "potholes" making it difficult to traverse.

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The contractor restored the crown in the road to promote drainage and fabricated several leak off areas to allow water to drain off the surface. This was necessary and timely due to the early opening of the fishing season and the increased use of open spaces by our residents. Vibert Road is well travelled as the weather improves.

The annual street sweeping program is underway as an important part of the town's storm water permit.

Crews continued to repair catch basins on roads planned for resurfacing later this spring/summer. Using our talent to prepare and repair these basins provides significant cost savings to the town.

Streets services provided maintainers to the Parks department to assist with spring clean-ups at town facilities due to the pandemic manpower restructuring.

The sign shop repaired or replaced several signs damaged during the 4/13 storm. The shop also fabricated nearly a 100 signs in response to the pandemic. These included signs for closing the skate park, for social distancing, informational signs and signs of thank you to the community (our medical professionals, teachers, parents and first responders) for their efforts.

Residents are encouraged to use Connect South Windsor to report hazards. Visit

www.southwindsor-ct.gov/connect or look for the app for iPhones and Androids.

Fleet Services

Welcome to this month's inside scoop to the Town of South Windsor's Fleet Services Department. Due to the public health pandemic that is affecting much of the world we are in the same boat - running with a modified staff level. This puts a strain on the department as far as what we are able to get done within a certain timeframe. I am pleased to say that we are putting our best foot forward every day.

Even with the modified staff we are servicing the emergency equipment that is needed for our first responders, as a top priority, so they are able to complete the tasks and services that are needed by the community. We are also maintaining other equipment that performs its services to maintaining the towns valuable assets such as our streets and parks. We completed an engine replacement in one of our large park mowers. This engine replacement was a Cummins engine and computer update which will bring a much longer life span for this heavily used piece of equipment. The Fleet department is also working on our annual inspections and services of our street plow trucks. We do this every spring to ensure the trucks and equipment are safe and ready to work as they should for the next season. We have been performing seasonal maintenance on the equipment that we use to repair the roadways,

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basins and drainage. Some of this equipment includes loaders, combination backhoe-loaders and excavators. We also maintain other large equipment such as our large compost wind-row turner.

As for the parks side of things, we service a vast array of equipment as well such as large mowers, trim mowers and fertilizer spreaders just to name a few. At some point when we get back to our new normal, we can enjoy the benefits that the crew and equipment provides to make our community a better place. Even though we are a small part in the world, strive to be the best you can be and together we can make a large difference. Until next time STAY SAFE!

Scott Yeomans
Associate Manager, Street Services

Health Department

Heather Oatis
Environmental Health Officer

COVID-19 Response

The South Windsor Health Department (SW HD) has been very busy with the COVID-19 response. SWHD is tracking all of this work using Crisis Track so forms will be ready for FEMA submission upon request. SW HD has been regularly participating in Department of Public Health (DPH) and Region 3 ESF 8 conference calls. The calls with DPH have been very helpful for staff to help decide how to handle the emergency locally concerning contact tracing, updated testing information, updated PPE guidelines, and lessons learned from other local health departments. The Region 3 calls have been more specifically devoted to the local distribution of PPE that is received from the state, Healthcare Coalition resources, and tracking time devoted to COVID-19 for future reimbursement.

SW HD has worked with the GIS staff to develop the new webpage, <https://coronavirus-response-south-windsor-ct-southwindsorct.hub.arcgis.com/> and continue to update the information available daily. This page has gotten a large amount of traffic over the last several weeks as people from our town are looking for the best local information available. SW HD has also worked with GIS to create a shared dashboard with Dispatch staff for tracking known positive cases to ensure EMS personnel are using appropriate PPE whenever needed.

SW HD has distributed PPE to Town staff for use when working with the public cannot be

avoided and for use on inspections that still need to be conducted. SW HD has given PPE to both the Police and Fire Departments to be used for calls going to known positive case addresses. SW HD is also distributing PPE to the local assisted living facilities, group homes, and other agencies who work with medically fragile or compromised individuals in town. These agencies are being canvassed weekly to determine their PPE needs so we can replenish their supplies as soon as additional resources are received from the state.

SW HD has been sending information to local Board of Education, food service, cosmetology, tattoo, and daycare establishments regularly as updates are available using Everbridge. SW HD is conducting re-opening inspections for any establishments that closed for any period in response to this emergency if it is a type of business that can be open. We are hoping to get more calls as businesses are allowed to open.

The new Emergency Management Coordinator, Christopher Wilcox, has been very helpful to SW HD staff in managing our PPE inventory, developing a case log template, participating in conference calls, fielding the South Windsor Infoline, and being an extra set of hands for PPE distribution.

Moving forward, we are working with our Mass Dispensing Area 31 contractor looking at

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Heather Oatis
Environmental Health Officer

our mass vaccination plan in hopes of a vaccine becoming available for the public in the future. We anticipate to start more comprehensive planning in the late summer and early fall as it is anticipated a vaccine will be available in that timeframe.

SW HD continues to answer calls received on the infoline and perform the routine required septic and well inspections, monitoring communicable disease reports, and following up on food service complaints.

Human Services Department

Andrea Cofrancesco
Director of Human Services

Human Services Covid 19 Resource Guide:

https://www.southwindsor-ct.gov/sites/southwindsorct/files/uploads/wellness_doc.pdf

Human Services Updates:

Adult and Senior Services Response to Covid-19

We are working hard to stay connected with our customers and to keep them engaged during the pandemic. We value their wellbeing and continue to reinforce that we are there thinking of them, and are there for them to provide food, supplies, or just a listening ear, and to connect them to helpful resources. Social isolation, anxiety, and depression may result from the stay at home orders and the uncertainty of the virus, so we want them to know that they are not alone.

- Staff and volunteers are doing wellness check-ins on everyone who attended the senior center in the past year, as well as to our “at risk” list. A total of over 1,000 people are being called more than once.
- Staff is delivering to 20 people daily to provide much needed meals on wheels to our most at risk residents. This totals 100 contacts per week.
- The number of people being served in the Food Bank since March 16 when we closed our doors (but remained serving people) through April 24 consists of 123 families with 265 people. This is compared to 50

families served (124 people) in February.

- United Way COVID19 relief fund provided direct financial relief to 10 households totaling \$2,000 for 29 residents directly affected by the virus. A second phase will also be available to these families.
- Caseworkers estimated they received 187 phone calls in a 6 week period regarding Covid19 related concerns. This consists of calls from people with anxiety and depression, need for food, masks and other things as a result of social isolating.
- “Driveway Visits” vs. “Homevisits” exceeded 25, not including those receiving meals on wheels. People are lonely and suffering.
- Transportation is available to the grocery store, pharmacy, and to medical appointments for those 60+ or on Social Security Disability. A total of 10-15 people per week are being transported by our drivers one by one, with wiping down seats after each rider.
- “Grab and go” meals (5 frozen each week) to residents 60+ are being provided to almost 40 people, with 18 of them being delivered
- Activity kits with word games and coloring pages are sent with meals, and are available to anyone else interested. Books and puzzles are also available to anyone interested.

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Andrea Cofrancesco
Director of Human Services

- An abundance of homemade masks have been donated to us to give to seniors, with over 250 distributed.
- Weekly email blasts are going out to over 600 people with updates and resources, including a large list of online activities they can do, such as exercise videos, virtual tours of museums, watching live cams of animals, online learning opportunities, and more.
- We are posting resources and information on our Facebook page multiple times a day.
- We are continuing to create a monthly newsletter (18 pages, copied in house) and sent to 2,000 people via USPS and over 600 via email.
- We have offered a “scavenger hunt” and BINGO game that they can complete by doing various tasks and a Craft at Home contest.
- We are currently utilizing Zoom to continue programming, including several exercise programs a week with our existing instructors. A total of over 60 people are “zooming” in for exercise classes with our instructors!
- We are also promoting special programs such as pet show and tell, “Wellness Wednesdays”, Jukebox BINGO, Family Feud, Cinco de Mayo Fiesta, entertainment, educational programs, support groups and more, all via ZOOM!

Our Ukulele Group has met on Zoom with great success!

Sharing a message that was recently posted on the Facebook pages within Human Services and shared almost 20 times with over 6300 people reached:

“The silver lining in this current pandemic is the good that people do for others.

The Human Services Department has received donations of masks from a variety of people including Karen, who has made hundreds for the community. Iniyah, a ninth grade student at the high school has made over 100 masks.

Sarah, another student in town made ‘wellness bags’ for men, women and children to be passed out to those in need. Beautiful pansies were delivered from Friendship Tours to brighten our day. Volunteers are calling seniors on a regular basis and providing grocery shopping services. Teens are penpals with seniors and local scouting troops are doing food drives. Monetary donations are being made to both our food and fuel bank and our special needs fund from individuals and families, businesses, Town employees and



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Andrea Cofrancesco
Director of Human Services

the Police Union. Individuals, churches and civic groups are donating gift cards to local grocery stores for people struggling during this crisis, and we are receiving donations of food and paper goods daily. 71 people donated to The South Windsor Jaycee's fundraising effort raising over \$6000 that the Jaycees will match, to benefit the food and fuel bank and special needs funds to help their neighbors. Thank you all, we are feeling the love.

I would be remiss if I didn't give a shout out to the staff of the South Windsor Human Services Department for their hard work, caring and dedication to serving South Windsor people of all ages. Working with a skeleton crew every week, delivering meals on Wheels, providing grab and go lunches and transportation for residents 60 and over, keeping people engaged with creative programming using technology, providing puzzles and reading materials. Continuing counseling services for youth using a video conferencing app, parent education resources and YouTube videos and making phone calls to almost 1000 older adults in the past month. It's a privilege and an honor working with this amazing staff in a town where the community is so supportive. Thank you.

Stay safe. Stay home. Be well."

Andrea Cofrancesco
Director of Human Services



Handicapped Push Buttons for Bathrooms

Thanks to money raised from Friends of the South Windsor Senior Center, we were able to install a handicapped push button for two bathrooms at the community center (one women's and one men's). This will be incredibly helpful for people using walkers and wheelchairs! For a video, check out the Facebook page @swseniorcenter.

Elderly and Disabled Property Tax Relief

People who are applying for the first time are required to apply by the original deadline of May 15 unless they file for an extension. Caseworkers are assisting people as needed. All others who are due to apply this year and didn't, will be given the same benefit as they received two years ago. The next time they will need to apply is in two years.

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.

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Director of Human Services

*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.

Congratulations to Corporal Nicoletta

The Triad for Senior Safety and the Senior Advisory Council recently held a Zoom Retirement party for Corporal Jim Nicoletta. Jim has been instrumental in keeping important functions going to benefit older adults including shredding days, drug take back days, health and safety fair, food drives and more! We wish him all the best in his retirement and thank him for his over 30+ years of service!



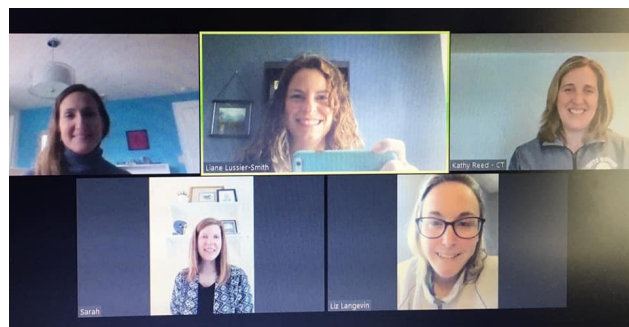
Birthday Party to Benefit the Food Bank

A huge thanks to Audrey Manning and her family and friends for contributing a truck full of food and \$365 to benefit the South Windsor Food and Fuel Bank! Instead of a parade, friends and family were asked to stop by, write a birthday greeting on the driveway and donate to South Windsor families in need. Thank you and Happy 15th Birthday, Audrey!



Youth & Family Services

The Youth and Family staff continue to work hard and do what is best for the residents of South Windsor. In March and first week of April, Youth and Family staff continued to come in to the office. Now that they have received permission to work from home, they are in daily contact with their supervisor and meet weekly through Zoom. The staff are creative, supportive and adaptive.



On May 7th, we will be hosting a virtual QPR Suicide Prevention training. Dr. John Lally will be presenting. The training has "sold out" and we are looking at planning an additional QPR in the coming weeks. We are also looking into a Zoom Narcan training with a distribution to follow.

We have created a YouTube channel, with

Human Services Department

Andrea Cofrancesco
Director of Human Services

videos that can be watched at any time. Staff lead mindful moments, meditations and give tips on how to have a smooth home school day. To watch the videos and to subscribe: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCvDYfgyqvTwBUfE9wusSLJg>

Teen Center

During the month of April, as the Teen Center has remained closed, time has been spent working on new ways to keep some programs running (virtually) and to keep connections with our members and families. This has been an opportunity to learn new ways of using technology and creative resources! Meeting with fellow YFS staff via Zoom to brainstorm and problem solve new ways to work with youth and families, along with participating in online trainings to learn how to meet the changing needs in our communities, has all been useful and important work during this time.

Our Youth Council group has been “meeting” via Zoom and members are working on volunteer activities remotely. For example, teens are involved in a pen pal project with the Senior Center, where they are paired up with a member of the Senior Center to exchange letters via email. Some Youth Council members have also been working on spreading gratitude and positivity by sharing helpful ways they are coping (to share with other teens, families, etc. via Teen Center's Facebook page) and by creating thank you cards for frontline workers – first responders,

health care workers and grocery store staff. These activities have helped to keep our youth council members connected with their community, while at the same time, allowing their leadership skills and compassion for others to shine.

Lastly, and perhaps quite fitting with the time, there is opportunity for high school aged youth to participate in a Youth Anxiety Survey, to help identify triggers and needs for youth today who are experiencing anxiety and/or stress. The Teen Center has been working with Amplify, LLC along with other Youth Service Bureaus in the Hartford region to gather information from youth and key informants to help educate adults, providers and others about the impact of anxiety on our youth today. For more information or to participate in the survey, please contact liane.lussiersmith@southwindsor.org.

S.W.A.N. South Windsor & Neighbors Parent Education and 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 is a COVID-19 Parent Tool Box- filled with classes on supporting parents during this time. From helping your child feel safe to how to work from home and support your children.

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

Human Services Department

Andrea Cofrancesco
Director of Human Services

School Outreach & Prevention

The School Outreach Specialist, Kathy Reed, has been staying busy checking in with the students involved in the Jump Start Tutoring and Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD) programs. The SADD Club has launched the 2020 Graduate Lawn Sign fundraiser and also chosen the winners of the SADD Club Scholarships for this year.

Kathy has been able to work on Kidtrax state reporting database and program reports as well. She has completed online training including "Teens & Distracted Driving", "Teens & Alcohol Prevention" and "Virtual Connection Activities". Finally, she is working on grant funded projects for the upcoming months.

Our Youth & Family Counselors have been tapping into their reserve of super powers since the shutdown. Conducting telehealth sessions with students and caregivers has been keeping us on our toes!

- We have super sensitive hearing which is adept at drowning out the background noise of barking dogs, video game music, and the muffled sounds of snacking while conducting phone sessions with our hungry teens.
- We have laser vision skills as we hone in on various aspects of our students' homes during video therapy sessions - colors of bedroom walls, collections on shelves, and pop culture posters give us better insight

into who our clients are and how to relate to them.

- We have strong empathy and the ability to hold safe spaces for our families as week after week we have tearful phone check-ins with parents and caretakers about their worry, anxiety and fear of the unknown.
- We have multi-tasking ninja skills as we help our students and parents navigate the how-to's of Google classroom using screen shots and IMs all while taking on the role of our own kids' homes-school teachers and educators.
- We have lightning fast reflexes as we drop off food and t.p. to our families who need it as we maneuver around unfriendly dogs, hoist things through open windows to maintain social distancing, and dodge weird stares from the neighbors.
- We have superior time management skills as we help students organize their days to avoid sleeping until noon and going to bed at 2 all while fitting in our own staff Zoom meetings, entering therapy notes, and MAYBE one trip to the bathroom.
- We have amazing reserves of positivity and humor as we keep it real with one another knowing that each day brings something different with a new gift to uncover and it's okay if we're doing all of this in PJ pants from the waist down!

Robin and Sarah have continued to maintain

Human Services Department

Andrea Cofrancesco
Director of Human Services

their caseload, provide crisis support to high risk youth, assessed families in need and connecting them to the caseworkers in Adult & Senior services for food, work with the schools on identifying at risk families in need of support and have created spaces in their homes to ethically continue to provide therapy.

We look forward to resuming our 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, LCSW



Parks & Recreation Department

Raymond Favreau
Director of Parks & Recreation

“Discover the Benefits!”

John Caldwell, Jr.
Parks Superintendent

MONTHLY REPORT - May 4, 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:

- Since 3/25 I have been meeting weekly every Wednesday at 9am via Zoom with the recreation division administrative staff and will continue this weekly practice until things “return to normal”. I felt it was critical to stay connected as a full team in light of work-from-home isolation and separation, and to assure everyone is on

the same page. I am blessed to have such a great staff who is truly alone together.

- Our administrative staff continues to work and perform spectacularly from their homes, and they will continue to do so in these challenging times. We have fully or prorated refunds of \$129,297 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 \$143,007 (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. Day Camp and pool operations at VMP will be a challenge. Summer 2020 will have a very different look and we will do our best to do whatever we can whenever we can! We will follow guidelines provided by Governor Executive Orders, emergency memos from the Office of Early Childhood (OEC), American Camp Association

Contingency Planning, State of CT Dept. of Public Health and our local Health Dept.

- Every Thursday is “Recreation Inspiration” with SWPRD! Our newest program is a virtual way to connect with the community and provide them with fun, innovative recreation ideas each week. Last month we inspired others to create their own Rube Goldberg, partnered with our Spring Bunny to host a virtual egg hunt, provided a “behind the scenes” look at the Parks side of our department, and saw some really interesting cloud-creations up in the sky. All of our videos are available on our Facebook Page (@SWPRD) and on our website at:
<https://southwindsor.recdesk.com/Community/Page?pageId=24651>
Be sure to check back each Thursday at 10:00 AM for our latest Recreation Inspiration!
- Additionally, as part of our Recreation Inspiration initiative, we have created a resource guide that provides our participants with various virtual opportunities that they can enjoy from the comfort and safety of their own home. There are so many online resources, and we’ve compiled them all into a “one-stop-shop” for our customers! Some such options include streaming arts and music, educational resources for children, fitness opportunities, adult and child games and activities, virtual tours, and live webcams connected to zoos and aquariums. Be sure to check out all the options available to you free of charge at:
<https://southwindsor.recdesk.com/Community/Page?pageId=24650>
- All eight preschool teachers hand-wrote

letters to 48 different preschool students that had opted “in” to hear from their teachers. Letters included notes of well wishes, coloring pages, stickers, and special messages specific to each child. The teachers will continue to write letters to any preschool family that sends in a request!

Parks Division

“Caring for South Windsor’s Growing Needs”

April Activity Highlights:

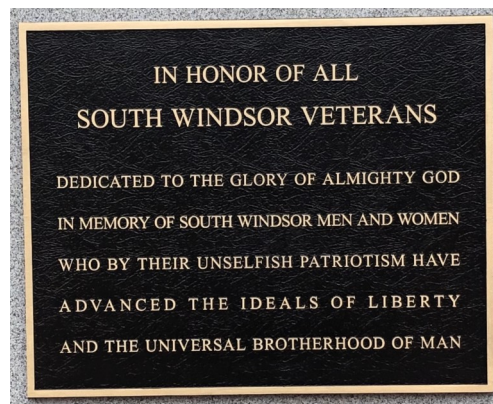
- Athletic Fields & Grounds:
 - Spring Sports Season is closed indefinitely due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Crews have all athletic fields and courts ready to re-open once we get the greenlight, and they are receiving basic care to maintain the major renovations completed earlier this spring.
- Parks & Open Space:
 - We have plowed and wheel harrowed the property at the new Deming gardens and we plan to amend the soil with some of our compost, till the soil, improve the access roadway and stake out the plots. The request for the garden plots is growing, especially since folks are seeking things to do to break up the monotony of staying-at-home.
 - Serious tree work, including stump removal and grinding continued to be an on-going effort at multiple public grounds, parks and open space sites.
 - Spring clean-up is in progress
 - 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

- Mowing has begun and reduced crew sizes will do their best to stay on top of this.
- Our spring over-seeding and fertilizing program has also begun.
- Stone dust trails at received much needed attention after a number of rainy days.
- Avery and Deming Community Gardens are being prepared for spring planting by resident gardeners.
- Monitoring water conditions and keeping the water circulating via submersible pumps at VMP in hopes of re-opening.
- Other: see photos below



Preparation of new community gardens at Deming Street to be ready for gardeners for the very first time in early May!



Repaired monument at VMP Memorial



Clearing and beautification at Lawrence Road Park is a continuing work-in-progress



New signage placed at Nevers Park in response to continuous disregard to canine courtesy



Giving thanks to our local COVID-19 heroes with our "giving tree" at Nevers Park.





Recreation Inspiration #1 – April 2 –
DIY Rube Goldberg Challenge!



Recreation Inspiration #2 – April 9 –
Virtual Egg Hunt with our Spring Bunny!



Recreation Inspiration #3 – April 16 –
Behind the Scenes Look at our Parks Division!



Recreation Inspiration #4 – April 23 -
Cloud Gazing Creations!

May 2020 Town Council Meetings and Events

Meetings

Monday, May 4, 2020

7:00 pm Regular Meeting

Virtual Meeting

Monday, May 11, 2020

7:00 pm Special Budget Meeting

Virtual Meeting

Monday, May 18, 2020

7:00 pm Regular Meeting

Virtual Meeting

Holidays

Monday, May 25, 2020

Town Offices will be closed in observance of Memorial Day.

Layout by Samara Haddock, Confidential Secretary

