

Town of South Windsor

Town Manager's Report May 2024



Michael Maniscalco
Town Manager

Tax Collectors Update- While collections are down .06 from last year, we collected \$217,319 in revenue last month compared to \$179,949 in April 2023.

April Tax Collection Rate	2021 Grand List	2022 Grand List
Overall	99.28%	99.22%
Real Estate	99.61%	99.61%
Personal Property	99.10%	98.83%
Motor Vehicle	97.49%	96.81%
MV Supple	90.32%	91.23%

In addition to issuing alias tax warrants for personal property, motor vehicle and supplemental taxes for accounts who are delinquent, we sent letters to potential tax sale properties. Due to the first tax sale mailing, \$33,864.09 was recovered. This is a combination of real estate, personal property and motor vehicle taxes. Two accounts have paid in full and have been removed from the sale, 105 Wyndemere Court and 171 Woodland Drive.

Requests for Town Council Agendas- Several people have asked how to get the Town Council agenda emailed to them. With that being said, I want to provide some instruction on how to receive the agendas. To receive these notifications and to receive a link to view the agenda, please visit [Subscribe to News | southwindsorct \(southwindsor-ct.gov\)](https://southwindsorct.southwindsor-ct.gov). Using this link to subscribe, allows the option to sign up to receive specific commission information for all commissions such as; agendas and minutes, as well as news and announcements and Town Manager reports. Agendas are posted to the Town website no later than the Friday prior to the Town Council meeting. Notifications are received by subscribers within minutes of the agenda being posted.

Splash Pad Update- The Town, along with Aqua Turf of Ohio, installed the tough coat on the base of the splash pad. The sunshade foundations were poured and are ready for install. We are waiting for the fixtures fabrication to be completed by Aqua Turf. They have promised they will be onsite May 20th in time for our Memorial Day opening.



Police Department

Kristian R. Lindstrom
Chief of Police

Monthly Statistics March 2024:

Each month we publish the totals of some of our more common calls for service. Patrol, Investigative, and Administrative staff continue to work together to serve the community's public safety needs. From proactively checking businesses and facilities to traffic enforcement and responding to emergencies, the South Windsor Police Department is committed to providing the best public safety product in the region to those who live, work, and play, in the Town of South Windsor.

March's numbers are below:

Total Computer Aided Dispatch Entries:	2306
Routine Calls Received/Outgoing:	3802
911 Calls	599
Directed Patrol/Premise Checks:	735
Motor Vehicle Stop - Attempt	3
Motor Vehicle Stops:	303
Driving Under the Influence	8
Emotionally Disturbed Persons:	12
Medical Assists:	185
Suspicious:	65
Alarms:	76
Motor Vehicle Violation	28
Motor Vehicle Accidents:	28
Welfare Check:	36
Assist Outside Agency:	57
Animal Problem:	56
Citizen Assist:	33
Miscellaneous Service:	18
Collision Reports:	25
BOLO:	10
Disabled Motor Vehicle:	18
Larceny - Motor Vehicle	1
Larceny:	20
Hazardous Conditions:	17
Pistol Permits:	15
Burglary	2
Burglary - Motor Vehicle	2
Civil Matter:	12
911 Check:	4
Fraud:	18
Domestic Dispute:	11
Violation of Town Ordinance:	12
Sexual Assault	0
Arrests	43
Youth Problem:	18

Personnel and Recruiting Status:

The strength of the South Windsor Police Department always has been, and continues to be, the staff who keep things moving day in and day out. We remain proud that we are one of the only agencies in the area that is at full strength on the sworn side of the board.

Month End Sworn Personnel Summary:

With an authorized strength of 46 sworn members, we proudly employ 46. As is often the case, the fact that we have no vacancies does not negate the fact that only 42 are currently fully operational sworn FTEs. We currently have 1 in the academy (Martin), 2 officers in field training (Bravo, and Lamagna), and 1 out on light duty due to a work injury.

Civilian Personnel Summary:

Among our 15 civilian employees, we currently have the aforementioned vacancy in Dispatch. A candidate has been identified and vetted and we hope to hire her in the beginning of May to fill the dispatch vacancy. In addition, 1 civilian employee is out on medical leave (work related).

Local and National Social Justice Movements (cont. from last month):

The South Windsor Police Department remains strongly opposed to racism and biased policing. It continues to serve the public with the element of its mission to "Respect the Rights of Individuals" in mind. We continue to monitor the community for changes and trends in the social justice arena. As an agency, and as a profession, we continue to stand ready to engage in crucial conversations to make meaningful change that enhances the world that we live in.

Community Activities and Support from our Citizens:

The South Windsor Police Department continues to make efforts to engage the community through non-confrontational consensual encounters. It is our hope that these contacts and efforts will help to build trust and legitimacy with the community.

As the winter begins to fade and people begin to venture outdoors a bit more, so too increases the number of



Police Department

Kristian R. Lindstrom
Chief of Police

community activities and police department outreach events. During the month of April, Corporal McLain hosted a Car Seat Safety Clinic on April 10th and Sgt. Littell attended the annual South Windsor Fishing Derby on April 6th. The Police Department partnered with Human Services for run a clothing collection event during the month that is focused on gathering (new with tags) undergarments for men, women, and children that can be given to families in need.

On April 27th the Police Department hosted another medication disposal day. These events are free to town residents and provides them with a safe avenue by which they can get rid of any and all of their unwanted/unused prescription medications without having to exit their car...simply drive thru and drop off. The department continues to benefit from regular gestures of support from various members of the community.

During the month of April our animal shelter (TRACS) received a wonderful donation from Medical Risk Managers to keep our four-legged friends comfortable during their stay at TRACS.

The SWPD Honor Guard initiated a fundraising effort that would offset some of their annual expenses. Primarily, the money raised will help fund their trip to Washington, D.C. in the beginning of May for Police Memorial Week. The Community was very generous, and the Honor Guard met their fundraising goal due to that support.

During the month of April, Ofc. Peter Korchari provided internet and online safety presentations to dozens of elementary school students. His presentation was well received by students and staff. As our assigned investigator at the Center for Digital Investigations (CDI) he is our subject matter expert when it comes to the obstacles and pitfalls to safely riding the information super highway.

On April 26th, the Senior Center hosted an appreciation breakfast for 1st Responders and Public Works. Several members of the police department attended this event, and we all appreciate the ongoing support that we get from the Senior Center.

Traffic Safety:

Our Traffic Unit continues to exercise the "3 E's" of Engineering, Enforcement, and Education as we address complaints ranging from speed to Commercial Vehicle travel.

The agency continues to work with DOT and the Office of the State Traffic Authority (OSTA) to assess truck traffic in the area of Governor's Hgwy and Beldon Rd. OSTA has assigned an engineer to Chief Lindstrom's request for an investigation. The results of this investigation are pending.

In addition, we continue to work in partnership with the Office of the State Traffic Authority to address traffic proposals, and projects.

Police Activity and Significant Events:

The South Windsor Police Department remains active and dedicated to the traditional law enforcement function by responding to the public's needs.

On April 8th, patrol personnel responded to a shooting that occurred in the parking lot of the Amazon warehouse located on Ellington Road. The victim in this case received a non-life-threatening gunshot wound and is expected to make a full recovery. This incident is actively being investigated by the Police Department and the incident does not appear to be random, nor did the surrounding community appear to be at risk at any time.

As the spring season emerges, winter reminded us that it wasn't going to go away quietly. On April 4th, a quick drop in temperature turned wet roads into virtual skating rinks with some ice and snow in the area. Several crashes occurred in quick succession to interrupt the morning commute. Fortunately, no fatalities or serious injuries occurred.

Throughout the month of April, South Windsor police personnel conducted several joint training exercises with members of the East Windsor Police Department. In an actual active shooter or act of violence incident, our partners from surrounding towns will likely be the first to respond to a mutual aid request and it is important that we all train together from time to time to ensure there is some uniformity and standardization to our tactics and responses. These joint training scenarios work to achieve that goal and mark yet another step towards maximizing the community's safety.

On April 23rd, the public and the media took notice of an abandoned dog case where "Koby", a pit mix puppy was found tied to a tree in one of our passive recreation areas. Patrol and Animal Control personnel are working together to identify and hold accountable the person responsible for abandoning Koby. Once this active



Police Department

Kristian R. Lindstrom
Chief of Police

investigation is brought to a close, our animal control staff will see to it that Koby is in a safe and fun home.

Also on April 23rd, patrol personnel responded to a shoplifting complaint at Target. Upon arriving at the scene, officers realized that they were certainly outnumbered as approximately a half dozen suspects were encountered. These suspects were defiant, resisted, and even postured to engage the officers by surrounding them and giving some non-verbal pre-attack indicators. The officers relied on the training, professionalism, and communication skills and were able to resolve the situation with using physical force. The incident resulted in multiple arrests (one for a weapon violation) and multiple trespass warnings to the involved parties.

On April 24th, patrol personnel responded to a missing elderly person with a history of dementia. Multiple resources were dispatched to the area including, but not limited to, extra personnel, K-9 Mason and Ofc. Cosenza, and drones. As a canine track was underway, the missing person was found unharmed walking near the Mill on the River. The male was transported home to his family.

During the week of April 14th, we celebrated National Public Safety Telecommunicator's Week. Our nine Public Safety Dispatchers are our literal connection to the community. They proudly answer over 30,000 calls per year no matter the time or day. From the most benign circumstances to the most critical, they are the first link in our response chain, and they provide an invaluable service to the community.

April 24th was National Administrative Professionals Day. SWPD employs three administrative professionals. Elizabeth Hilton is our Chief's Office Administrator, and Jordan Hosey and Alexis Collins are our Police Records Specialists. They may not be in the spotlight of our agency's operations, but their dedication and professionalism are integral to the success of the agency's operations. The South Windsor Police Department would not be what it is without these hardworking individuals.

From April 15-17th, our agency underwent an onsite assessment for national accreditation. This assessment involved an out of state assessor conducting reviews of dozens of observable standards as well as interviews and ride-alongs. Although this assessor does not personally award the certificate of accreditation, he indicated that he was very impressed with all aspects of our agency. With his feedback, Chief Lindstrom is confident that the accreditation certificate will be

awarded at the national accreditation conference in July.

Unlocked Car Burglaries & Car Thefts (cont. from last month):

Hopefully as the colder weather settles in, the car burglars will choose to stay inside and pursue another pastime. Unfortunately, what seemed to be an issue that only impacted unlocked cars in previous years, now seems to have expanded to suspects breaking windows to gain entry to vehicles. There is little if any predictability or patterning as to when and where these incidents takes place, but when they do, they seem to occur in concentrated time frames and areas. For instance, one night there will be several burglaries concentrated in one neighborhood, and then a few weeks later, a similar spree will occur in a completely separate area. To combat this issue, the police department has received grant monies that allow us to put extra officers on overtime to focus on reducing car burglaries and thefts. The police department continues to explore other utilizing other tools that will maximize our effectiveness in reducing these crimes.

Residents and visitors in South Windsor are encouraged to lock their vehicles when leaving them unattended, try to leave them in a well-lit area, and to make sure their valuables, at a minimum, are hidden from view.

Never too early to prepare for an emergency (cont. from last month):

I hope that our citizens will continue to be mindful of the risks that significant weather events can present at this time of year. 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 family.

Facebook: South Windsor Police Department

Twitter: @SWPD_PIO

Facilities Maintenance

Clay Major
Director of Facilities

Recreation and Facilities Building Work

N.E. Masonry was onsite to make an opening in the outside wall for a window A/C unit for one of the management offices. We have since purchased a new window unit and are now just waiting for the A/C unit sleeve to arrive so we can install the unit.

Town Wide ADA Upgrades

Town Hall: ADA upgrades in the men's room are complete with exception to replacing the door and closer, both are due to arrive in the next few weeks. The Probate Office service window has been modified and a new lowered counter has been installed making it accessible. The lower section of glass that was to be installed on the lowered counter came in too large and had to be reordered. That glass should be received in about a week or so. The Lunchroom work will begin on Wednesday May 8th and only take a couple of days at most. While the work is being completed, we will move the lunch table and chairs into the rear of the Madden Room. This will be a quick renovation/modification, most of the materials like countertops and cabinetry are already made so turnaround will be quick.

VMP: No update on this work. I am currently soliciting proposals from Civil Engineers to provide design and bidding services for accessible routes from the upper and lower parking lots at the park. I am hopeful that the designs will be completed so the construction can begin after the 2024 season is over.

Police Department: I am working on having new compliant signage made for the interior offices. I am also working on a schematic design that I can provide to local and or on-call contractors to remove some of the concrete slabs at the front entrance of the Police Department to install the required level landing at the entrance. This may require handrails as well but I won't know until the grades are figured out.

Seasonal Sites: ADA compliant water fountain/bottle fillers have arrived. The contractor has provided a proposal to install them, a purchase order has been issued for the work. The work will take a few weeks to complete, no start date has been given yet. At Rye St. Park an accessible route will be installed in front of the existing accessible parking spaces. The route will lead directly to the building. Accessible routes to each of the ballfields needs to be made as well, those will be addressed in the coming months.

Public Works 2nd Floor Security Enhancements

The Engineers and Architects are now working on the final construction bid set (drawings and specifications) for this project. Once received I'll set up one last meeting with the effected Department These are expected to be ready in early May.

Police Department Elevator Modernization

Utilizing free elevator consultant services, I've reached out to three elevator companies that can complete the modernization of the elevator. Thus far only one has responded but that is not uncommon these days. I will continue to reach out and get the proposals needed in order to present this project for funding to the Town Council.

Wood Memorial Library HVAC Upgrades

Work has been progressing nicely since the last report. A crew from Action Air has been onsite since late March installing the HVAC equipment. They are currently 75% complete, they hope to be completed by the end of May.

ARPA Projects- Library/Town Hall/Community Center Paver Replacement Project

The paver replacement project has moved along nicely since they started. If not for all the rain they would already be completed. Six crewmen were onsite removing the old pavers, leveling the base material and installing the new brick pavers and edging material. They started their work at the side entry door of the Library and worked their way around the island to the main entrance of the Town Hall. They are about ninety percent complete at this stage. The last section to be replaced is the bituminous concrete walkway from the Town Hall side door to the Town Hall main entryway. I expect that they will finish all of this work in the next two weeks or so.

VMP Epoxy Flooring Repairs- Filter Building

I have been in contact with the contractor who will be completing this work. We hope to be able to get this last part of the bathroom floor finished well before the seasonal opening.

ARPA Project- Fire House/Town Hall HVAC Upgrades

The Town Hall HVAC project is now substantially complete. There are a few bugs in the system graphics which makes controlling indoor conditions a little more difficult, however I expect those bugs to be worked out very quickly. A meeting with the project engineer will be scheduled shortly, during this meeting we will conduct a walkthrough and identify any outstanding issues with the HVAC system and installation. All issues will be addressed and corrected prior to final payment being made to the contractor.

The Fire House project is also substantially complete. The walkthrough with the engineer is scheduled for this Friday at 10 am. Prior to project closeout the contractor will provide all the necessary building automation sys-

Facilities Maintenance

Clay Major
Director of Facilities

tem training to the Fire Department staff so they can troubleshoot issues when they arise as well as control and adjust the temperatures as needed.

Library Phone System Upgrade

I received an email from AT&T's Order Specialist on 4/25 regarding the telephone number port date. They haven't provided a specific date just yet, but they are now working with Frontier to schedule the date. I'm hopeful that this will be completed in the next 3-4 weeks.

Public Works Private Cube Office

No Update- The private cubicle office is mostly complete. It is in place, but the very top panels of the office wall still did not fit as expected. I'm working with the contractor to come up with a solution to rectify the issue.

Community Center Dry Sprinkler System-Chemical Treatment System

The contractor completed the installation of the systems components earlier this month. The attic dry sprinkler system must be flushed and treated with a special chemical to kill the microbes that are eating the piping, that can't be done until the outdoor temperatures are consistently above freezing.

Town Garage Exterior Bay Sheathing Replacement.

The sheathing replacement was completed this week. In addition, the contractor also removed sheathing around the truck wash bay. In this instance they installed prefabricated concrete panels in lieu of pouring a concrete base but looking at it you wouldn't be able to tell the panels are prefabricated.

Contracted Calls for Service April

This month so far we've made seventeen calls for service, please see the graph below with details.

Clay Major
Director of Facilities



Public Works Department

Vincent Stetson, Director of Public Works

Engineering Department

Pleasant Valley Road Reconstruction Phase 1 & Bridge Replacement

O&G Industries is finishing punch list items for the reconstruction of Pleasant Valley Road Phase 1, from Ellington Road to Pepin Place and the replacement of the Pleasant Valley Road bridge over the Podunk River. They have finished the concrete sidewalks and are redoing some driveway aprons and curb, and are grading and paving the lower VMP parking lot this week and next. They will then finish adding topsoil and grass seed where needed and will stain the bridge concrete so it looks like natural stone.

Pleasant Valley Road Reconstruction Phase 2

Baltazar Construction has begun Phase 2 of the reconstruction of Pleasant Valley Road from Long Hill Road to Clark Street. This includes improving the road geometry, new drainage pipes and structures, new road base, pavement, curbing and sidewalks. Tree clearing is done and road work will start in May 2024 and go through the fall.

Town Road Paving

Ondrick Materials and Recycling has begun to mill and repave Brook Street, Farmstead Drive and Overlook Road. Once this area is done in May they will move to Aroda Drive, High Street, Hillside Drive, Skyline Drive and Steep Road. Dawn Drive, Nancy Drive, Edgewood Drive and Elizabeth Street will be milled and repaved later this summer.

Town Sidewalk Repairs

William M. Laydon Construction has been awarded the contract to replace concrete sidewalks in Town. This work will begin May 2024 and proceed through the summer.

LOTICIP Sidewalk Project on Ayers Road, Nevers Road, Foster Street, and Buckland Road

This project is to complete sidewalks and fill in gaps where they are missing on the above roads. We are talking to residents about easements needed for this project. Once the easements have been completed, we will submit final plans to CRCOG. This project is scheduled to be constructed in the fall of 2024.

Eli Terry Safe Routes to School Project

We received 4 bids for this project on April 3, 2024. It includes replacing the pedestrian bridge and bituminous paths that connect this school to the Brook Street neighborhood, and other pedestrian improvements on roads around the school. All bids are higher than the consult-

ing engineers estimate. We have sent a bid analysis and information from the low bidder to CT DOT for their review and approval to award this project. We are hopeful that this project will be done in the summer and fall of 2024.

Kennedy Road Reconstruction

The Town received a Notice to Proceed with a CT STEAP grant that was awarded in the amount of \$478,100 for the reconstruction of Kennedy Road. This will support the existing and future businesses that are on this road. The current schedule is to finalize plans and bid this project in the fall of 2024.

Dart Hill Road Reconstruction

The reconstruction of Dart Hill Road from Neiderwerfer Road to the Vernon Town Line is being funded by the CT DOT LOTCIP and new sidewalks on this section are funded by ARPA. The final design has been submitted to CRCOG for their review. Once CRCOG has completed their review there will likely be additional comments to address and then the plans will go to CT DOT for their review and approval to bid. The schedule is to bid this project for construction in the summer or fall of 2024.

Reconstruction of Governors Highway

VHB is working on the design for reconstruction of Governors Highway. This project will include improvements to the road geometry, new drainage pipes and structures, as well as new road base and pavement. Plans to reconstruct the west end of Governors Highway between Main Street and Route 5 are complete and this project will be bid in early May for construction later in the summer and fall. We are gathering more traffic data and looking at options for traffic calming on Governors Highway between Talbot Lane and Ellington Road.

Reconstruction of Graham Road

VHB is also working on the design for reconstruction of Graham Road. This project will include improvements to the road geometry, new drainage pipes and structures, as well as new road base and pavement and possibly sidewalks. Plans for improvements to Graham Road are being revised based on public input and advanced to include drainage improvements and sidewalks.

LOTICIP Application for Town Center Sidewalks

The completion of sidewalks around the Town Center area to fill in gaps on Deming Street, Clark Street and Ellington Road was approved by CT DOT to receive funding under LOTCIP. The Survey and Design of this project will begin soon.

Public Works Department

Vincent Stetson
Director of Public Works

Sidewalks on Birch Hill Drive and Ellington Road

Survey and design of new sidewalks on Birch Hill Drive and Ellington Road between Pleasant Valley Road and the new Pleasant Valley Elementary School is in progress.

2024 LOTCIP Projects

The Engineering Department was notified by CRCOG that both new projects submitted for funding have been selected under LOTCIP. One is for pavement rehabilitation on Buckland Road between Ellington Road and Deming Street and the second is for reconstruction of Pierce Road.

Stormwater

The Town Stormwater 2023 Draft Annual Report was posted to the Town web site for public comment on February 15, 2024, in accordance with our DEEP MS4 permit. This report can be found on the South Windsor CT website under Departments > Engineering > Stormwater Management Program.

Street Services

Streets sweeping is well underway. Crews will be conducting two passes throughout town in compliance with our municipal storm water permit. Town buildings are being swept and all town schools were swept during the spring break.

Vibert Rd was re-graded to provide easy and smooth access to the boat launch as the time is here for the fishing season to begin in earnest. There were times during the month the river was making its way to the east due to the seasonal effects of snow melt from the north and heavy periods of rain in our area. As a result, the road was closed for a few days due to the flood waters.

Streets crews did several cut and patches on Collins Crossing in preparation of re-paving. This road was also crack sealed prior to the paving operations ensuring that we will get longevity out of this wear surface. The road came out very nice.

Our maintainers performed several drainage repairs during the month. Some of these drainage issues require a full re-build of the structure. This is all, once again, in preparation for the Pave for Progress Program. We have been working diligently with the Engineering Department to ensure we are making timely repairs to keep this program moving forward without a hitch.

Crews continue to make the switch from winter operations to the construction season. It takes a concerted

effort to make the switchover. But as we approach the end of April, the risk for winter weather continues to diminish so we are ramping up the process. One major component of the switchover is that all the vehicles and equipment are given a final washing. This is critical to maintain our equipment in full working order. Salt gets tucked away over the months despite periodic cleaning during the season. It is imperative that we make sure these trucks are given a focused washing at the end of the season. Part of that washing process includes rinsing with a salt neutralizer.

The Kelly Rd island has been beautified. Crews trimmed down the sawgrass, planted new flowers and mulched the area as this is one of our gateways from the east.

Maintainers placed rip rap to fortify the banks of a tributary which runs through Rye St Park and joins Dry Brook at Troy Rd. Dry Brook continues northwest and joins the Scantic River which ultimately leads into the Connecticut River. This fortification will help minimize erosion that would negatively affect water quality in this waterway. Another great example of the department focusing on being stewards of the environment.

Annual catch basin cleaning is in full swing. Catch basins are cleaned out and inspected by our contractor. We will be cleaning about 1800 basins this year. This is also a requirement of our municipal storm water permit. It is important to note that water that goes into catch basins ultimately make it to Long Island Sound. In the process of getting there, water may travel the Podunk River, Dry Brook, Avery Brook, Stoughton's Brook, Plum Gully Brook (just to name a few) on its way to the Connecticut River. Nothing but water should go into a catch basin. Dog waste, motor oil, trash, and stale gasoline must never be dumped into a catch basin. This water goes DIRECTLY into the environment. It's not sent to a treatment plant. The treatment plant for this water is mother nature. Help her out and do your part to keep our environment clean.

The sign shop repaired or replaced 19 signs during the month and fabricated signs at the request of the Parks Department. The shop also assisted the Registrars of Voters with the Presidential Preference Primaries.

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

Scott Yeomans
Associate Manager, Street Services

Finance Department

Patricia Perry, Director of Finance
Mary Huda, Assessor
Jennifer Hilinski-Shirley, Collector of Revenue

Assessor

Applications for the Elderly/ Totally Disabled Homeowner's Program for income-qualified homeowners started February 1, 2024 continuing through May 15, 2024. A second reminder letter to file for the tax credit on the upcoming July real estate bill was sent to all residents currently on the Homeowner's Program on April 12, 2024.

As of Friday 4/12/2024, there are still 62 households currently on the program who need to re-file to retain their tax credits. Please check your mail to see if it's your year to file prior to May 15th!

The state qualifying income has been updated for those applicants filing for the first time and can be found online here: <https://www.southwindsor-ct.gov/assessor/pages/elderly-homeowners-totally-disabled-persons-renters-tax-relief-programs> Applications are being taken by Human Services at the Senior Center located at 150 Nevers Road, please call 860-648-6361 x6361 for more information and to set your appointment.

A reminder to residents who have sold or otherwise disposed of their vehicle: If the plates were cancelled since 10/1/2023, please send the Assessor's Office a copy of the canceled DMV receipt along with a secondary form showing the date of sale or disposal of the vehicle. These may be submitted online through our webform which can be found here:

<https://www.southwindsor-ct.gov/assessor/webforms/motor-vehicle-bill-adjustment>

Submitting proof now will result in the tax bill for the vehicle being pro-rated so when you pay in July it is the correct/ adjusted amount instead of the full year.

Building Department

Marc Melanson, Chief Building Official
Adam Chrostowski, Asst. Building Official
Valerie Muszynski, Asst. Building Official
Morgan Middleton, Building Dept. Administrator

March 2024

Number of Permits Issued:	182
Number of Inspections Done:	451
Value of Work Done:	\$5,140,167.10
Amount of Revenue Collected:	\$58,388.30

Large Projects

The Promenade Shops at Evergreen Walk

The following work is in progress at the shops:
My Salon Suite – active inspections

100 Cedar Ave

Active inspections for ‘Club Studio Fitness’ (Interior fit-out of old ‘L.A Fitness’ building)

11 Cedar Ave

Permit issued for new ‘Chipotle’ restaurant – Inspections active

19 Cedar Ave

Construction begins for ‘Starbucks’ Restaurant

150 Sullivan Avenue - New Commercial Building

Active inspections for new multi-unit commercial building

1014 Sullivan Ave

Final inspections wrapping up for the new commercial retail building

1540 Sullivan Ave

Town Hall 2nd floor bathroom completed to meet ADA requirements

1751 Ellington Road - Town Center Office Building Interior Renovations

Permit approved for interior renovations for offices, conference room, bathroom, closets and kitchen area

Dalene Flooring

Inspections begin for Dalene Flooring showroom renovations and expansion of offices

Swimming Pool Permits/Safety Inspections

The building department has been mailing out letters to residents with open swimming pools permits to notify them to call the office to schedule final/safety inspections to close them out before pool season starts.

Respectfully Submitted
Marc Melanson
Chief Building Official

Human Services Department

Andrea Cofrancesco

Director of Human Services

Liz Langevin

Director of Youth and Family Services

Adult and Senior Services

HIKES

Our Adventure Awaits Group is enjoying a variety of hikes and walks. Coming up we have kayaking, white water rafting, boat rides and more! To inquire about our Adventures, please contact Barbara Konicki at 860-648-6398 or barbara.konicki@southwindsor-ct.gov



New! Food Bank Sponsor-a-Shelf Program

We are excited to report that we have received such a tremendous amount of support from the community in sponsoring a shelf in our food bank. Our **"Sponsor-a-Shelf"** program will assist with the items that are not usually donated and that programs like SNAP (food stamps) do not cover. We ask that each donor, or group of donors, pledge to donate 30 (or more!) items from their chosen category each month and deliver them to Human Services on a day that is convenient for them. So far we have the following who have committed to "Sponsor-a-Shelf": Matt and Ashley Wood, Matt Binkowski, Barbara Barbour, The Duclos Family, Stan Grabowski, The Gentle Love Diaper Pantry, The SW Senior Center Community Service Group, The South Windsor Community Women's Club. We will update this list as we get more sponsors! For more information or if you are interested in becoming a sponsor, please contact Sue in South Windsor Human Services at 860-648-6359 or susan.grundstrom@southwindsor-ct.gov. Thank you for supporting Our Community!!



Tax Aide Program

Volunteers with our AARP Tax Aid Program processed 292 returns this year for South Windsor residents. That is a 23% increase over last year's number of 238. A total of 2,835 returns have been processed at our location in the past 12 years. Dedicated volunteers make this happen! We are thrilled that this service continues to be available for low to middle income tax payers.

Honoring Public Works, Parks and the Police

The Senior Center's Community Service Group hosted the 2nd annual "Breakfast Sandwich" Day for staff in Public Works, Pollution Control, Parks and the Police Department to thank them for their work. These departments were chosen specifically for the type of physical work they do, in all weather and on holidays. They are a great group and we appreciate them



ELDERLY AND DISABLED PROPERTY TAX RELIEF

Elderly and disabled homeowners who qualify can apply for reduced property taxes on their homes **until May 15, 2024.** If you are currently on the program the Assessor's Office will send you a letter if it is your year to reapply. **This year's income limits are \$43,800 maximum for an individual and \$53,400*for a couple.** All gross income is counted including Social Security benefits. Documents you will need: Signed 2023 1040 Federal Tax form (if you file); 2023 Social Security Statement (SSA-1099); 2023 Pension Statement (1099); 2023 Bank Interest Statement(1099); Any other 2023 Income 1099. For more info or to schedule an appointment, call 860-648-6361 ext. 3335. ****Town of S.Windsor has an expanded local option which allows up to \$50,000/single homeowner and \$65,000/married couple, for a benefit of \$195.00 tax credit.***

Human Services Department

Andrea Cofrancesco

Director of Human Services

Liz Langevin

Director of Youth and Family Services

Support Groups at the Community Center

Bereavement Support Group: Meetings are the **1st Friday of the month at 3:00 PM.** Facilitated by Intercommunity Health Care. Funded by ARPA

Depression and Anxiety: Meetings are the **3rd Tuesday of the month at 10:30 AM.** Facilitated by Intercommunity Health Care. Funded by ARPA

Caregivers Support Group: Facilitated by Susan Grundstrom, Caseworker in Adult and Senior Services. Meetings are typically the **2nd Friday of the month at 10:00 AM.**

Parkinson's Support Group: Facilitated by a volunteer with the Parkinson's Association. Meetings are held the **2nd Thursday of the month at 1:00 PM.**

American Rescue Plan Act Funds

The Human Services staff is proud to be able to offer assistance to residents who are directly impacted financially by Covid-19. Funds can be used for a variety of needs based on the following criteria:

- ☐ Are you a South Windsor resident?
- ☐ Have you experienced a hardship due to COVID-19?
- ☐ Please call Human Services for assistance. 860-648-6361 ext. 3335 (ask to speak to a caseworker)

Residents will be asked to provide proof of their income and assets as well as be able to demonstrate that their specific hardship is a result of loss of income or death due to COVID-19.

These funds are part of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) provided to towns from the Federal Government. Call Adult and Senior Caseworkers at 860-648-6361 ext. 3335.

Behavioral Health Services

South Windsor Human Services received funding from the American Rescue Plan Act to provide behavioral health services to residents of all ages who can benefit from counseling. Social isolation, the inability to see family during the pandemic and general concerns about the state of the world has brought on anxiety, depression and loneliness for many people. We are partnering with Intercommunity Health Care to provide both individual and group therapy **at the Senior Center** to support those in need and provide strategies to cope. If you find yourself struggling with getting back into the swing of things or if you want someone to talk to, please contact Liz Langevin in Human Services at 860-648-5050. Liz will work with getting you connected to Intercommunity. Services are

confidential. It's okay to not be okay.

CARES Program

Space is Available

Center Activity Recreation Exercise Socialization

The "CARES" group is for residents over sixty and meets five days a week from 9:30-12:30 PM. The charge is \$3 per day and is billed monthly. Lunch is a \$3 donation daily. CARES offers a variety of activities including music, crafts, games, reminiscence, current events, exercise, and holiday celebrations. If you have limitations or disabilities, but do not need medical or self-care assistance while in the group, you may qualify to attend. Call Lindsey at 860-648-6361 ext. 3319 for more information.

Youth and Family Services

Teen Center



We had a fantastic group of over 20 students who came out to volunteer at the Annual Egg Hunt. They moved equipment to get the field ready, spread eggs, kept the crowd moving, collected cans for the food bank and sold Dunkin Donuts. It was cold and dreary outside, but the event was an overall success.

During April break, we had friends join us for a day of painting and pizza. We offered the option of following a video or exploring our own creativity. We chose to forget the video and just go for it. Everyone was happy with their results.



Human Services Department

Andrea Cofrancesco

Director of Human Services

Liz Langevin

Director of Youth and Family Services



This month, we also enjoyed volunteering at the Grandparent Pancake Bingo Breakfast. It was so heartwarming to witness many second time winners share their prizes with others. Breakfast was delicious and no one went home empty handed.

support youth in our state. This group of leaders is facilitated by the CT Governor's Prevention Partnership, so their staff runs monthly meetings getting input from the students on a wide variety of programs and topics. We are proud of these students for stepping up and excelling in this leadership role.

April 24th was Youth Service Bureau (YSB) Day at the State Capitol. We joined many other YSB from across the state at this event. We had four SWHS student join us for a morning conversation about Youth Voices and how we can empower youth to get involved in their community.

Bottle Returns

Those bottles keep coming! Any amount adds up when we put them all together. Thanks for all the help.



Rising Stars Summer Community Service Program

The enrollment information has been put on social media and each session is starting to fill up. Working on a daily schedule, inventory and excited for the summer.

School Outreach and Prevention

We held the Mentor Breakfast celebration on April 17th at Timothy Edwards Middle School. Mentors, mentees and their families get together to spend some time chatting while enjoying a special breakfast. It is always a wonderful morning of connections and smiles. The 7th grade "Mood Booster" group has started at TEMS. Kathy Reed and Kathy Mills, from TEMS, run this program to help students learn about their emotions, learn new ways to reduce stress and have some fun with new friends.

We have 2 students who are a part of the SWHS Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD) Club who have been serving on the Start of CT Youth Advisory Board for this school year. They are 2 juniors, Elise Suffish and Klaudia Panek, who have been dedicated to sharing their ideas and their voices to



Counseling and Parent Education

Counselors remain busy with 77 open and active cases of youth seen for mental health counseling. We received 19 new referrals and have 6 youth on our waitlist. Our Clinical Coordinator, Robin Lagasse assesses each referral so that we can get kids and families connected to the right resources. Our referrals are coming from South Windsor schools, police and parents/guardians. We are thankful that we have ARPA funds to support our youth and families that need mental health services. The ARPA funding has helped us increase one staff member's hours and hire three part time contractual therapist as well. We are concerned that the funding is temporary but the mental health needs will likely continue to grow.

Human Services Department

Andrea Cofrancesco
Director of Human Services
Liz Langevin
Director of Youth and Family Services

Our new intern Johanna Kilmer has been a valuable asset to the team. Her years of experience have allowed her to jump right into providing direct care.


We are offering a monthly parent support group. May and June dates and topics are below:

Although we no longer have a Parent Educator, thanks to DCF Enhancement grant funds, we have contracted services with Peace At Home Parenting, Inc.

To sign up for a class- [Login – Peace At Home Parenting Solutions](#)

Free with Code: SWindsorPeace

“Connection, Cooperation, Joy – let Peace At Home Parenting Solutions help you define your relationship with your child. We start by teaching from the heart.”



SOUTH WINDSOR YOUTH AND FAMILY SERVICES INVITES YOU TO JOIN US

Do you ever feel...
Overwhelmed by the responsibilities of parenting?
Unsure if the choices you are making are right for your child?
Worried about your teen?
Alone and wanting to connect with other parents?

Parenting Support
The first Wednesday of the month
6:30-7:30pm
In person at the Community center 150 Nevers Rd. AND via Zoom (May meeting)

Groups will be facilitated by a Y&FS Counselor
Topics will be discussed, resources will be shared and time will be set aside for Q & A
This is a drop in program. You are welcome to join any or all dates.
May meeting will be held on zoom
Meeting code is: 238 040 8029

Topics to be Discussed
May 1st:
Grief and Death: How to talk to your Children with Molly Sexton Read from Mary's Place.
ONLY VIRTUAL ON ZOOM
June 5th:
Summer Survival Strategies with Clinical Coordinator, Robin Lagasse, LCSW

South Windsor Youth & Family Services has collaborated with Peace At Home Parenting Solutions to bring you expert guidance and evidence-based strategies that solve parenting challenges and increase connection and cooperation with your kids.



Parks & Recreation Department

Molly Keays

Director of Parks & Recreation

“Discover the Benefits!”

John Caldwell, Jr.
Parks Superintendent

Jennifer Filer
Asst. Director of Parks &
Recreation



Park & Recreation Commission (PARC): The Park and Recreation Commission will meet on Wednesday, May 1, at 7:30 pm at the Park and Recreation Facility.

South Windsor Walk and Wheel Ways (SWW&WW):

The group had a busy month full of events and programs! They began the month by walking the proposed Phase Two of the Crosstown Trail with the Director of Parks and Recreation, as well as engineers from Barton and Loguidice. They then held a successful Adopt-a-Road clean-up, a guided walk for Earth Day at Rye Street Park, and hosted two sessions of the fourth-grade bike program. We appreciate all that they do for our community."

RECREATION DIVISION “Feel great – recreate!”

Adult Softball: Our Adult Softball Program is a great opportunity for adults looking to play slow pitch softball from Spring through Summer. We are offering two divisions, our A Division which is for those that are more skilled and are looking for more competitive gameplay, and our B Division which is more recreational. The end of the season will include double elimination playoffs for all teams. The season began the week of April 15 and will run through the end of July.

Veteran’s Memorial Park: Spring is in the air which means summer is just around the corner! We have been actively hiring for our seasonal VMP staff and preparing for another fun summer at the pool. We will be taking off the pool covers and beginning seasonal maintenance on Tuesday, April 30.

4TH R: "The April Vacation Program participants enjoyed five full days of fun at our Parks and Recreation Facility! Highlights included sensory activities like making playdough and slime and exploring shaving cream, decorating flowerpots and planting flowers (some of which are already blooming), tie-dying keepsake drawstring bags, and enjoying an ice cream treat outside for afternoon snack. The week concluded with a carnival-themed day, featuring a clown craft, bounce house, and magic show! Participants also used their special eclipse glasses to view the partial solar eclipse on April 8.

This year, we partnered with the Board of Education to include students from their CHOICE program. A total of 14 students from this program attended throughout the week.

Preschool: Session D began this month, and all of our classes for 2-3-year-olds, 3-5-year-olds, and parent/child classes are 100% full! So far this session, we have celebrated Earth Day with an Earth-in-a-Jar craft and earth-themed sensory bins, picked dandelions for our flowerpot craft, and learned the names of our new friends!

Fishing Derby: The 39th Annual Fishing Derby was held at the pond on Barber Hill Road on Saturday, April 6. Parks and Recreation provided prizes for the largest, smallest, and first fish caught at the event. Despite the cold weather, around 125 participants attended the event.

Meet Me at the Park: We hosted a joint Meet Me at the Park event with the library on April 9. This event allowed us to connect with some residents while playing games. More of these events will take place this summer.

Earth Day: We hosted the second annual Earth Day event at Rye Street Park on Saturday, April 20. This event highlights various groups connected to the town and their efforts to create a greener and better tomorrow. This year, we added story time with the library, a guided walk led by SWW&WW through our bike trails, and some additional vendors."

Top of Form

PARKS DEPARTMENT “Caring for South Windsor’s Growing Needs”

Athletic Fields & Grounds:

- All spring sports have officially begun! Over the past month, the parks crew has been busy preparing athletic fields and grounds. Spring clean-up of all athletic fields included thatching and vacuuming dead grass and debris. Spring renovations of baseball fields have been completed, including addressing the edges of baselines, adding material, and ensuring the bases are correctly placed. In total, 33 fields have been painted this spring, including fields for soccer, cricket, and lacrosse.

- On April 20, 2024, Rye St. Park hosted the 13th Annual Robin Klemba Memorial Bobcat Blast. The crew transformed the multi-use park into all lacrosse fields for the event. Lacrosse players, parents, and vendors from across the Northeast attended.

- The first cut of the newly renovated soccer field at Nevers Park has been completed. To allow the young grass to grow, the parks crew managed to keep the space free and temporarily shifted field use to Ellsworth School.

Parks & Recreation Department

Molly Keays
Director of Parks & Recreation

Park and Open Space:

- The parks crew has addressed several tree issues and fixed ruts in the trail system multiple times due to strong winds and rain.
- Cultural practices of turf grass maintenance, such as fertilizing and seeding athletic fields and grounds, have resumed. The grass is greening up, which is a positive sign for the parks.
- With assistance from the Street Services department, the parks crew has addressed plow damage at various buildings by topsoiling and seeding affected areas.

Projects:

- The fitness center at Nevers Park is nearly complete! The crew completed preparations for the poured-in-place flooring, which was then installed by Creative Recreation. The project results are very pleasing. The final touch will be seeding, scheduled for the week of April 22.
- New chain-link fencing has been installed around the dugouts of Little League A Baseball. The old fencing had started to separate, causing safety concerns. Before the field was used, the old fencing was removed, additional support was added, and new fencing was installed.
- Work on the splash pad has resumed. Log benches have been installed, and preparations for other site furnishings have begun. The next task is the installation of shade structures. All work at the splash pad is on track to be completed in time for Memorial Day.
- The Parks crew assisted the Recreation division with the Fishing Derby.



All smiles and excitement in preschool this session



Lilly, 7 y/o, winner of Biggest fish "I can't believe I caught a fish this big."



Our vacation camp kiddos viewing the Solar Eclipse

Parks & Recreation Department PHOTOS



Our crew assisting in unloading the Fish for our derby!



Renovations at Little League and field prep before the start of the season



Final touches on the Outdoor Fitness space



Setting and installing log benches at the splash pad

May 2024 Town Council Meetings and Events

Meetings

Monday, May 6, 2024

7:00 pm Town Council Regular Meeting
Council Chambers

Monday, May 20, 2024

7:00 pm Town Council Regular Meeting
Council Chambers

Holidays

Sunday, May 12, 2024

Mother's Day

Saturday, May 18, 2024

Armed Forces Day

Monday, May 27, 2024

Memorial Day

Town Offices Closed

Layout by Nicole Kowalik, Administrative Secretary

