

Town of South Windsor

Town Manager's Report June 2020

Michael Maniscalco
Town Manager



Online Permitting Update- To date all permits are done except for the building department permits. Staff are meeting Friday 5/29/2020 to resume and complete this project since it was put on hold during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Police Department Staffing- For the first time in approximately 7 years the Police Department is at full staffing. There are 46 officers in the department with 5 of those officers at various points of training and FTO.

Parks and Rec. Operations Update- With the implementation of Phase 1 and the updated guidance from the State the Town is currently in the process of implementing the following re-openings for Parks and Recreation:

- Tennis Courts have been re-opened;
- VMP Pool will remain closed per order of the State;
- Skate Park, Playgrounds and Athletic Fields-are planned to be reopened as a part of Phase 2;
- Bark Park will open June 1, 2020 with new guidelines ;
- All indoor facilities- remain closed.

In terms of camps for the summer we will be trying to run some small specialty camps for a week at a time with no more than 10 campers per group. Additionally, we are looking at running a daycare type camp for a longer

duration. In order to do so we would need a waiver from the OEC. If given the waiver we would only be allowed approximately 150 campers for the program. We would also attempt to put a lottery system in place that would favor those who are low income and those who work an essential function. There is much more to come on this topic.

FY19-20 Surplus Forecast- After continuing to run numbers we are currently looking at a \$900,000 surplus for the year. The plan is to put \$500,000 into the general fund, \$300,000 will offset Capital Projects and \$100,000 will go to a COVID-19 fund in the event we have a second wave in the fall. Please note that these numbers are not audited, and since we still have a month left in the fiscal year there is a possibility the numbers could change.

COVID 19 UPDATE- The Emergency Operations Center remains open in a virtual operations mode. Staff have continued with the distribution of PPE for the State of CT and in accordance with DPH staff are ramping up contact tracing efforts. Staff from multiple departments have been cross trained so that they can help with the contact tracing. Our long term recovery committee has met and has appointed Phil Crombie as Chairperson. I will have numbers and more information on the day of 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. 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. We had a very busy Memorial Day weekend but the "reopening" of local businesses has gone smoothly as of this writing. We will post May's numbers on Facebook June 1st, but April's numbers are below:

Total Computer Aided Dispatch Entries:	2607
9-1-1 Calls Received:	554
Routine Calls Received/Outgoing:	3644
Directed Patrol/Premise Checks:	1627
Motor Vehicle Stops:	43
Medical Assists/Emot.Dist. Persons:	95
Suspicious:	80
Alarms:	71
Motor Vehicle Accidents:	23
Welfare Check:	23
Assist Outside Agency:	26
Animal Problem:	17
Citizen Assist:	15
Miscellaneous Service:	29
Collision Reports:	5
BOLO:	3
Disabled Motor Vehicle:	6
Larceny:	15
Hazardous Conditions:	38
Pistol Permits:	0
Burglary:	15
Civil Matter:	6
911 Check:	4
Fraud:	10
Domestic Dispute:	14
Narcotics Violation:	0
Violation of Town Ordinance:	5
Youth Problem:	9
Sexual Assault:	0

New Hires and Recruiting Status:

The hyperlink below is to an interesting article about how police training has changed during the Covid-19 event. SWPD Officer Kaitlyn Pierpont is attending the New Britain Academy remotely. Our three officers who were attending the Connecticut Police Academy in Meriden returned to SWPD and are also attending classes remotely. All four officers report to work here at headquarters daily and attend classes or are out working with Field Training Officers. They are also using the Town fitness center for the physical training requirements supervised by our staff.

One unintended benefit of the Covid-19 event is that we have seen how these new officers are able to adapt to situations that change rapidly.

The four recruit officers, Officers Bianca Krzynowek, Linda Hernando, Tom DeFelice, and Kaitlyn Pierpont have demonstrated a great attitude and the ability to easily adapt to their new schedules.

Additionally, Officer Heather LaRock was hired and began work June 18th. She retired

Police Department

Scott P. Custer
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as a Lieutenant after a 20-year career in Orange, CT. She is already a Connecticut-certified police officer and she is in our Field Training program now.

I am extremely proud of our entire staff and how well they have adapted to the constantly changing situations we are working under.

http://www.newbritainherald.com/NBH-New+Britain+News/372449/new-britain-police-recruit-academy-first-to-move-to-virtual-platform?fbclid=IwAR3_VrAXlWeFD8MLSKelS9o78EOvPfwMF_DGznTj9-J3SRslZm1gY2pON7E

Retirement of Corporal Jim Nicoletta:

After 31 years of service, Corporal Jim Nicoletta # 132 is retiring from the South Windsor Police Department. We hosted a drive-by Retirement Party for him on Friday, May 8th, to wish him well on his next adventure. It was very well attended and was greatly appreciated by Jim and his family.

Jim was well known as our Community Outreach Officer and Elderly Services Officer. He also organized our participation in food drives, clothing drives, drug-takeback days and other community events.

We hope to have a retirement dinner for him before he moves to Florida in July. We thank Jim for 31 years of dedicated service to the Town of South Windsor.

National Law Enforcement Officer Memorial- Virtual Candlelight Vigil:

In 1962, President Kennedy proclaimed May 15 as National Peace Officers Memorial Day and the calendar week in which May 15 falls, as National Police Week. Established by a joint resolution of Congress in 1962, National Police Week pays special recognition to those law enforcement officers who have lost their lives in the line of duty for the safety and protection of others.

This year, the names of 307 officers killed in the line of duty have been added to the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial in Washington, DC. These 307 officers include 135 officers who were killed during 2019 plus 172 officers who died in previous years but whose stories of sacrifice had been lost to history until now.

Among the 307 names, South Windsor Police Sergeant Matthew Mainieri #155 was engraved in the Memorial Wall.

Unfortunately, the Covid-19 event cancelled all Police Week activities in Washington but there was a touching virtual candlelight ceremony and reading of the names of the fallen officers this year held online.

Additionally, our Honor Guard held a brief wreath-laying ceremony on May 15th at headquarters where Sgt. Mainieri is forever remembered with a memorial stone. The ceremony was broadcast on Facebook Live for

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Scott P. Custer
Chief of Police

Matt's friends and family members who are all over the United States.

<https://www.facebook.com/SouthWindsorPoliceDepartment/videos/246298216437622/>

Community Activities and Support from our Citizens:

The South Windsor Police Department takes great pride in our community involvement. We were disappointed to have so many events cancelled and have schools close, but it was necessary to keep the community healthy. One way we got to stay connected and brighten the lives of local children (and some veterans), was the drive-by birthday parade.

The parades became extremely popular and we coordinated with the Fire Department to participate whenever we could. It got to the point we were attending 3 or 4 a shift. Now that the state is moving towards its structured phase re-opening we have made the decision to stop doing birthday parades after May 23rd.

We also want to recognize the huge outpouring of support from the community. We frequently had lunch and dinner delivered to the police department. We were also given gift cards to Dunkin and Giuseppina's Bakery and received cookies, cakes and many cards and letters. Our entire staff thanks all the citizens who have thought of us as we navigate this Covid-19 event.

Unlocked Car Burglaries & Car Thefts:

This has become a constant reminder over the past couple years, everyone needs to lock their cars. Despite what you may read on social media, these are not "break-ins" or "hotwired" cars. Every car was left unlocked with a key or key fob in it. Often people forget that new cars come with a spare key/keyfob and leave it in the glove compartment.

Most of Connecticut continues to experience car burglaries and car thefts. The towns of Vernon, Tolland and Stafford have been the latest target for these groups of car burglars. This is not a new problem; however, with the increase in "push button start" cars, people have a tendency to leave the fob in the car. This makes it very easy for the youths to find a car to take. Locking the car is the answer; none of the stolen cars had windows smashed or were 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

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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 at:

<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

Engineering Department

Local Road Paving and Miscellaneous Drainage

The local roads we plan to pave in 2020 include Pleasant Valley Road from Route 5 for 1900 feet east, the Fire HQ side and rear lots, Bayberry Trail, Files Way, Horizon Circle, Krawski Drive, Mohegan Trail, Ridgefield Drive, Summerwind, Wood Pond Road, and Linda Lane. We have received bids for paving and for miscellaneous drainage work to complete some drainage repairs needed in Pleasant Valley Road by Nutmeg Road South and other roads in Town. The Connecticut Water Company plans to work on their facilities in Wood Pond Road by Rustic Lane. We are in the process of awarding both of these contracts so work can begin in June. This program is supported by the 2018 Bond funds.

Sidewalk Repairs

The sidewalk replacement contract has been awarded to Hathaway Landscaping & Concrete and they plan to begin sidewalk work in June. Martin Laviero CRC will continue to do slab raising to repair sidewalks where possible this summer. This sidewalk work is supported by the 2018 Bond funds.

Nevers Road Reconstruction (Southern section from Sand Hill Road to the Community Center driveway). This project has been advertised and bids are due on June 11. We plan to award this contract by the end of the month so construction can 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 Road). 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

Our crews assisted the Parks Department in restoring the Bark Park ground cover using a certified mulch product. Parks took advantage of the Bark Park being closed to remove the old wood chips which have essentially turned to compost. Crews on both the A and B teams have continued to work with the Parks

Public Works Department

Michael J. Gantick
Director of Public Works

Department with regular lawn maintenance and spring clean ups.

Maintainers worked to repair curb damage and lawn damage as well as drainage projects throughout town.

Our maintainers continued to prepare trucks and equipment for the upcoming construction season.

The Town's catch basin cleaning contractor began the annual cleaning program. As part of the Town's storm water permit, basins are cleaned of grit and debris preventing pollution from entering our rivers and streams and keeps the system working properly.

Crews repaired several sinkholes which seems to be popping up lately. The staff also conducted a couple of investigations of road issues. The first, a significant depression on Nevers Road was determined to be caused by inadequate compaction of the sub soils. This area is quite large and is being scheduled to be repaired by town crews. The other issue was a surface water problem on Pine Knob Drive at Avery Street. This was determined to be a water main break which was repaired by the CT Water Company.

The department engaged our crack sealing contractor to seal nearly 15 road miles. The process consists of blowing out debris from cracks in the road and filling those cracks with a hot applied asphalt based sealant. This is

one of the most cost effective treatments to preserve a road, which will inevitably crack. Using this type of treatment helps prevent water from infiltrating the pavement leading to larger cracks. The process will also extend the life of a road considerably versus taking no action.

Line painting was conducted on several roads including the installation of new lines as part of the Laurel Street traffic calming project.

The sign shop continues to fabricate informational signs for the pandemic. The shop also is working with the Local Traffic Authority (LTA) to install traffic speed feedback signs in some areas. One sign was installed on Neiderwerfer Rd just south of the town line to help reduce speed in that area. Other signs will be installed at the direction of the LTA. The shop also replaced several damaged signs throughout the month.

Residents are encouraged to use Connect South Windsor to report hazards. Visit <https://www.southwindsor-ct.gov/connect> or look for the app for iPhones and Androids.

Scott Yeomans
Associate Manager, Street Services

Fleet Services

Welcome to this month's inside scoop of the Town of South Windsor's Fleet Department. With the warm weather, there brings hope that things will be changing from this crazy

Public Works Department

Michael J. Gantick
Director of Public Works

time we are in. As for the Fleet Department, we are seeing the diverse rotation in equipment being used, which is a sign of the seasons changing yet again.

We have been seeing a steady flow of summertime equipment coming in the shop to ensure things are running at the optimal performance. Mowers, backhoes, and excavators are some of the equipment that has been rolling through the yard as of lately. The paving equipment has been taken out of hibernation for the winter and is in the process of being looked over to make sure it is ready for the season. This equipment includes a paving box, pavement rollers, road saws and the special trailers that haul these pieces of equipment.

Also in production is all of the equipment to repair the road basins and drainage. We have special trailers that supply the water and mixers for the concrete repairs that need to be made. Compactors are another piece of summertime equipment that we need in order to repair the roadways, which have been serviced in the Fleet Department. The Fleet Department also has the responsibility to maintain the day to day vehicles that are in operation that keeps the public safe, such as Police and Fire Department equipment.

As we face these challenging times together, the various departments that make up the Town of South Windsor have been exceptional in the way we have come together and created

one large team. I can say that we have had a lot of people step up and help out to make it possible to complete our tasks. Until next time stay safe and try to enjoy this warm weather!

Chuck Marshall
Manager, Fleet Services

Refuse & Recycling

Curbside refuse and single stream recycling collection services have continued uninterrupted throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. Many of our other recycling programs have been cancelled or postponed until further notice. We are following all State and Health Department guidelines for the protection of the employees and public. As soon as we can safely resume programs such as the electronics recycling and household hazardous waste collections we will do so. Curbside collection of textiles was temporarily suspended but operations recently started back up. The textile collection containers at the Community Center, Recreation Department and schools continue to be serviced and are open for collection.

Water Pollution Control

The week of May 17th marked Public Works Week. Each year the South Windsor Public Works Department recognizes an employee, business partner and a citizen or citizen group who have help forge a positive and creative work environment for the employees of the Town, have helped improve the quality of life and/or the service delivery level of the citizens

Public Works Department

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of South Windsor and have demonstrated professionalism, enthusiasm and improved the image of South Windsor through the delivery of their service.



This year Sera Marcous received the Citizen Award for her efforts in making and supplying masks to the community. Metal Industries was recognized with the Business Partner

Award for their service and support in metal fabrication for the WPCF. **Michael Wood, WPC Operator III, (pictured above) received the Richard Boudreault Award.** This award recognizes an employee(s) who demonstrates one or more of Richard Boudreault's qualities as the former Facilities Manager/Assistant to the Director of Public Works:

1. Be enthusiastic,
2. Be dedicated,
3. Show creativity and innovation in the approach to his/her or their job,
4. Be cost conscious,
5. Be willing to help others out,
6. Have a smile on their face,
7. Have fun while working hard.

We continue to operate at 50% staffing levels. We are maintaining the core operation and maintenance requirements at the treatment plant and pump stations and are meeting the

NPDES permit, however, deferred maintenance continues to be backlogged. Our staff is maintaining a positive attitude and prioritizing essential operational functions.

Looking forward, we have three projects on the horizon. In June Environmental Services, Inc. will be making a sewer line repair on Griffin Road. This project is expected to take 3 days. We are also preparing to reline approximately 6,000' of sewer pipe by the end of the year utilizing cured-in-place pipe (CIPP) which is a trenchless technology. This is a much more cost effective method than digging and replacing the pipe. The third project is a force main extension on Ellington Road to serve the properties in the I-291 Corridor. We will be using the remaining STEAP Grant funds to pay for the project. Currently the project is being reviewed by the Department of Economic Community Development. Once we receive approval we will be able to bid the project and move forward.

Lastly on May 5, 2020 the WPCA approved the sewer user rate of \$415. This rate reflects a zero dollar increase over last year's rate and is in direct recognition of the significant economic impact COVID-19 will have on the South Windsor residents and business community.

Tony Manfre
Superintendent of Pollution Control

Human Services Department

Andrea Cofrancesco
Director of Human Services

Looking for ways to help?

Check out this guide from Human Services/MDA 31

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

Human Services Updates

Renters Rebate

Caseworkers are starting to meet with people *outside*, to complete applications for Renter's Rebate beginning June 1. People eligible are those who rented an apartment in 2019, are 65 or older or are on Social Security Disability, and their income does not exceed \$37,000 for an individual, \$45,100 for a couple. Please note: the building is currently closed to the public. No walk-ins are available.

Community Responds to Covid-19

The South Windsor Jaycees recently challenged the community to donate to the Food and Fuel Bank and agreed to match up to \$5,000. The generous residents of South Windsor exceeded that amount and the Jaycees kept matching! \$6300 was raised, so the Jaycees delivered a check worth \$12,600! WOW! Thank you to all!!!!



South Windsor Strong

Thanks to this newly formed group, Human Services was able to identify families to be the first recipients of meals, which were made by Maneeley's. A win-win-win: supporting local restaurants, treating residents who are low income, and giving residents and businesses a way to do something in these troubling times. We were honored to be the first place to receive such meals! Thank you to the community and to all who made this possible!



Birthday Boy Donates to Food and Fuel Bank

Drew B., a 3rd grader at Eli Terry, wanted to give back for his 9th birthday. So he asked for donations of food for the local food bank! A trunk full of food, along with monetary donations were dropped off to Human Services! Thank you Drew, for making a difference!



Human Services Department

Andrea Cofrancesco
Director of Human Services

Anniversary Trip Cancelled; Food and Fuel Bank Benefits

Thank you to Ritu and Vijay, who are celebrating 25 years of marriage this year! Instead of their planned trip, they matched donations from family and friends instead! The Food and Fuel Bank received \$3000! Thank you! Congratulations on your silver wedding anniversary!



More Support from the Community

Claudia Bernstein donated \$300 from the proceeds of her small business "Sophie's Serenity" to the Food and Fuel Bank. And more....simply too many to mention, we are able to assist South Windsor families in need thanks to the generosity of the community. Thank you all. It is truly heartwarming.



Spreading Cheer

A huge thanks to Ellie for showing up at our window to say "thanks"....made our day!

Grab and Go Meals for Residents 60+

Each week, Community Renewal Team (CRT) provides grab and go meals to those 60+. Instead of our regular lunch program held in-house, they are providing 5 frozen meals each week. A total of 70 people are receiving meals weekly, with a total of 1876 meals given out since March 16. Staff in Adult and Senior Services put the bags together for a drive up/pick up process in addition to several deliveries for those who do not drive. This has been a great way for to keep our most at risk people out of the grocery stores.



Youth & Family Services

The Youth and Family staff continue to work hard and do what is best for the residents of South Windsor. The staff are in daily contact with their supervisor and we meet weekly through Zoom. The staff are creative, supportive and adaptive.

Human Services Department

Andrea Cofrancesco
Director of Human Services

On May 7th, we hosted a virtual QPR Suicide Prevention training. John Lally, APRN facilitated the training. The training filled quickly. All participants received a certificate and a QPR booklet.

We hosted a Zoom Narcan training on May 21st. It was the first of its kind in our area. We were able to teach participants stats on opioids and how to administer Narcan. They came to the community center the following day to pick up their Narcan kit.

We have created a YouTube channel, with 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/UCvDYfgyqvTwBUfEqwusSLJg>

Teen Center

During the month of May, 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.

Human Services Department

Andrea Cofrancesco
Director of Human Services

Liane Lussier Smith, who has been our Teen Center Program Coordinator for the last five years, will be leaving her position at the beginning of June. We are so sad to see her go but we know that she will be excellent in her new role!



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/>

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.

As an annual project for Students Against Destructive Decisions, Kathy Reed has designed and coordinated the distribution of lawn signs for the graduating class. This has

been a light for those that are graduating this year! A small way to celebrate a big milestone in the students' lives.

Counseling & Support

Robin and Sarah have continued to maintain their caseload, with 39 active cases between the two of them who work part time. They are providing 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 - June 1, 2020

Keri Montague
Asst. Director of Parks &
Recreation

Park & Recreation Commission (PARC)

Since we haven't met in months due to the COVID-19 situation we are going to schedule a zoom meeting in early June to re-group and prepare information requested by Council.

The South Windsor Walk & Wheel Ways (SWW&WW)

– 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!”

- The 4th “R” staff spent afternoon of Tuesday, May 26th “zoom-ing” with 4th “R” families! Each 4th “R” site was given the opportunity to sign up for a specific time slot in which they would be able to video chat with the 4th “R” staff. Nearly 50 4th “R” families and over 30 staff took part in these calls. Both the staff and the kids really enjoyed connecting and catching up virtually!
- The Preschool Teachers put together a

video tribute for their preschool families! They shared hellos and heart-felt wishes to all of their 150+ preschoolers! The video was very well received by families, who reported that their children were so happy to “see” their teachers! It can be viewed on our Departments Facebook Page, @SWPRD

COVID-19 Update:

- Our weekly Zoom meetings with the recreation division administrative staff has generated a new approach to the 06074 summer 2020 activities in cooperation with Heather Oatis from our local Health Department and in compliance with the required public health and safety guidelines. We anticipate public release of all the exciting details over the next couple weeks – stay tuned! Our goal remains the same - we will do our best to do whatever we can, whenever we can, however we can!
- At this time estimated loss revenue as a result of being inoperative stands at \$699,523.
- We will continue to keep our constituents informed via website, Facebook and mass email blasts as the situation warrants.

- We continued to provide more Recreation Inspiration for our 06074 community each Thursday! This month we engaged our customers in custom-made “Spot The Difference” scenes, SWPRD-specific virtual jigsaw puzzles, and a “pick ‘em poll” in which we heard from residents about what THEY would like to see from “Recreation Inspiration” and in turn they were entered into a “pick ‘em” raffle. Check out our Facebook Page each Thursday at 10:00 AM for a new “Recreation Inspiration” each week! Don’t forget about the associated 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! Be sure to check out all the options available to you free of charge at:

<https://southwindsor.recdesk.com/Community/Page?pageId=24650>

Parks Division

“Caring for South Windsor’s Growing Needs”

May Activity Highlights:

- **Athletic Fields & Grounds:**

- We hope to re-open fields in line with the Governor’s Reopening Plan, Phase II on June 20. We are waiting for the release of guidelines from the state before doing so. We anticipate the news to be selective, limited and with major modifications due to the COVID-19 pandemic situation. We will attempt to keep the fields as ready for play as possible in the meantime.

- **Parks & Open Space:**

- Community gardens are up and running! The 61 plots Avery gardens are fully subscribed and 36 brand new plots have been reserved at the Deming gardens! Crew did a great job enhancing the water supply, creating level walking paths between rows and installing a roadway and small parking lot re-purposing free reclaimed material. (See photos below)
- Tree work, including stump removal and grinding continued to be an on-going effort at multiple public grounds, parks and open space sites.
- Prepared the Eagle patio for the annual Memorial Day Ceremony, dwarfed in size due to the COVID-19 situation. Video replay can be seen on our website and Facebook page as well as the Town’s website. We are working on posting to public access TV as well.
- Mowing, mowing, and more mowing has monopolized our reduced crew and staying ahead of the game is no longer possible.
- Seeding and fertilizing continues when we can.
- We continue monitoring water conditions and keeping the water circulating via submersible pumps at VMP in hopes of re-opening. That decision from State Dept. of Public Health should be forthcoming on June 20.
- **Projects:**
 - Thanks to generous donations from the South Windsor Jaycees we over-hauled the Tyler Memorial Bark Park taking

advantage of the COVID closure to limit any additional impact to users. All the old deteriorating wood chips were completely removed and will get used as compost and broadcast over the recently cleared area between the Bark Park and old tobacco barn prior to seeding. The naked Bark Park ground was leveled after adding some sand and then 1,100 cubic yards of certified wood mulch was distributed throughout the 1.2 acres to provide a brand new safer surface for the dogs. The new material will degrade slower, is easier to rake and much softer on our four-legged friends' paws.

- In an effort to help our SW High School graduating class of 2020 we pitched two of our large star tents on the school grounds to provide rain shelter for a series of socially distancing events organized and scheduled by the high school staff to close out their high school careers in a modified celebratory fashion!
- Other: see photos below



Practicing social distancing and still getting the job done, members of the SW Walk & Wheel Ways (and yours truly) kept their "Adopt-A-Road" promise to pick up trash along Chapel Road on Sat., May 2nd.



Summer Concerts series will go virtual thanks to a cooperative partnership with local business TELEFUNKEN who will live stream and videotape all of our concerts on schedule as posted for safe viewing from home!



Deming Community Gardens looking good!



#1



#2



#3



#4



#5

Recent Bark Park renovations thanks to generous donations from the SW Jaycees! (Photos # 1-5)

June 2020 Town Council Meetings and Events

Meetings

Monday, June 1, 2020

7:00 pm Regular Meeting

Virtual Meeting

Monday, June 15, 2020

7:00 pm Regular Meeting

Virtual Meeting

Layout by Samara Haddock, Confidential Secretary

