

# Town of South Windsor

## Town Manager's Report June 2019

Matthew B. Galligan  
Town Manager



### **Bond Refunding**

After the Town Council approves the resolution for Bond refunding we will be trying to wrap the sale up by the end of the year. The estimated savings still stands at \$500,000.00 with a net present value savings of \$490,000.00. This savings will be spread over a 12 year period. First year savings will be \$75,000.00 and an average savings going forward of \$42,000.00.

### **Census 2020**

Town Planner Michele Lipe and I met with the Census representative to go over the steps we need to take for the 2020 count.

I have sent the Council an email of the presentation which outlines our responsibilities. The first step is to form a committee which will encompass a well-rounded mixture of individuals who represent the community.

The count will take place in the first three months of 2020 and a final report will be complete by April. Michele and I will put together a plan for South Windsor for your review.

### **Governor's Toll Proposal**

I would like to again inform the Town Council and especially the public that anyone who is interested in the Governor's toll road plan can go to the Town of South Windsor website

where there is a link to review the plan (under the News and Announcements page).

A discussion on seeking public input on the installation of tolls on State roads will be held at the meeting .

### **I-291 Corridor Redevelopment**

The application for the I-291 project has been submitted and will be accepted by the PZC at their next meeting. Staff has already had an internal meeting to review the application.

The Redevelopment Agency will soon start their process of amending the I-291 redevelopment plan to coincide with Planning and Zoning regulations, as this new development is a different use than originally proposed by the agency.

GEI is the environmental consultant for the developers of this project. GEI is working with DEEP and supplying their findings on a regular basis. I will keep our representatives up to date on our progress.

## Police Department

Scott P. Custer  
Chief of Police

### **Community Events:**

#### **Memorial Day Parade:**

On Monday, May 27th, the South Windsor Police Department participated in the Memorial Day Parade. Our officers controlled numerous intersections along the parade route, and participated in the parade. Our Honor Guard was also part of the ceremony and we are proud to be part of this great annual event to honor those who gave all for this country.

#### **Armed Forces Day:**

On Saturday, May 18th we had several officers assigned to Nevers Road Park and the adjacent streets for Armed Forces Day. Officers were there to manage the high traffic volume and a fireworks display. Now that the fireworks are shot from Collins Hill we must close Nevers Road between Collins Crossing and Sand Hill Road. We also have to close Sand Hill Road between Sandstone Drive and Sullivan Avenue in the interest of pedestrian safety.

All the feedback we received was very positive and it was a great event.

#### **Food Drive:**

On Saturday, June 1, 2019, the South Windsor Police Department will join members of the Hartford Evergreen Lodge #88 of Freemasons, South Windsor Fire Department, Ambulance Service of Manchester and the South Windsor Triad to host a Food Drive at both Geissler's Supermarket, (965 Sullivan

Avenue) and Stop and Shop (Ellington Road). The Masons and Emergency services personnel will be at the stores receiving food and cash donations from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The food bank is running low on items for families in need. This event benefits the South Windsor Food Bank and our local families.

Additional information is available from Corporal Jim Nicoletta at (860) 648-6256 or via email at:

[james.nicoletta@southwindsor.org](mailto:james.nicoletta@southwindsor.org).

### **Hirings & Departures:**

We will be hiring three new officers this month, all of whom will be starting at the Connecticut Police Academy in early July. We are pleased to have a more diverse candidate pool apply to South Windsor. These officers will fill existing vacancies, we will be hiring again in January to fill the newly created positions to keep pace with the increasing calls for service. We have two officers completing academy training soon, they will then begin our 16-week field-training program.

We also celebrated two early retirements in May. Officer Tina Mazzocchi opted not to return from maternity leave this spring; she leaves us after 13 years of service. Corporal Mark Halibozek also retired May 24th, after 12 years of service. He will be working for the State of Connecticut in a non-law enforcement capacity. Both of these employees were in our 401-type retirement plan, so the term

## Police Department

Scott P. Custer  
Chief of Police

“retirement” recognizes that they have completed 10 years of service. This is the standard necessary for them to be able to carry a weapon nationally as a “retiree” under the federal H.R. 218 provisions.

Both Tina and Mark were great officers and we wish them all the best!

### **National EMS Week:**

This year National EMS Week was observed from May 19-25th. We work closely with the Ambulance Service of Manchester (ASM) as we are the designated First Responder (R-1), and they are our transport service and paramedic level provider. We have a great working relationship with ASM. Each month they email their response time statistics and customer surveys to us. Every month they meet or exceed their response time goals and have great customer feedback. We are fortunate to have such a professional organization backing us up at the 200-plus medicals we respond to monthly.

### **First Responder Breakfast at Dunkin Donuts:**

The South Windsor Chamber of Commerce and dozens of sponsors held a First Responder Breakfast at the Sullivan Avenue Dunkin Donuts on Monday, May 21st. Every officer, firefighter or ambulance staff member received a free breakfast. We also received a proclamation from the Town Council and our legislative representatives. It was greatly appreciated by all of us here at SWPD.

### **Recognition Event for Hartford-Evergreen Masonic Lodge:**

On Tuesday, June 18, 2019, (Special Meeting date), the Town Council will be recognizing the local masonic lodge for their generous donation to our Community Outreach program. The lodge donated over \$10,000 so that we can purchase four new police mountain bikes and outfit the officers. We will have a bike at the meeting to display as the council offers a proclamation of thanks.

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

We work very hard to have a 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

## Public Works Department

Michael J. Gantick  
Director of Public Works

### UPDATES

The second annual Fill A Public Works Truck Food Drive was held Sunday May 19th from 9:00 am - 3:00 pm at both Geissler's Supermarket and Stop & Shop. The generosity of the South Windsor residents was in full force as two trailers full of food and \$1138.60 in cash donations were made in support of our SW Food and Fuel Bank!



I am also humbled to report that I have received the New England APWA 2019 John Kiley Member of the Year Award. While I have been singled out for this recognition, the Town of South Windsor and the Public Works Staff has encouraged my involvement in the greater good of our profession and how we can continue to improve our commitment to excellence to the residents, we serve. Thank you for the privilege to do so.

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



### Public Buildings Division

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

The South Windsor Public Works Ring Rescue made the New England Chapter Chatter Spring/Summer 2019 Magazine—a good story lives on!

On April 30th, the Public Buildings Division held its quarterly Facilities Maintenance/Management Roundtable discussion at the Edward F. Havens Sr., South Windsor Annex. The group typically consists of 15-20 Facilities Managers, Supervisors and Directors from around the state. The topic of discussion at this meeting focused on CRCOG's EZIQC procurement program. Our guest speakers were Jay Duhamel, Senior Account Manager and Sophia Jang, Director of Operations Northeast, both from the Gordian Group. Jay provided the group with a presentation on the potential cost and time saving benefits to municipalities utilizing the EZIQC program. Naek Construction, CRCOG's latest winning bidder for our region was also invited the

APWA New England Chapter

### Wedding Ring Rescue

#### Story from NBC Connecticut

When a man accidentally dropped his wedding ring down a storm drain in South Windsor, Connecticut, he thought he'd never see it again.

Married couple Kayla Mikkelsen and Jose Encarnacion said they were walking along Deming Street in South Windsor outside the daycare where they work last Friday, when all of a sudden Encarnacion's wedding ring slipped off his finger.

"His ring is too loose because I bought a size too big," Mikkelsen said. "I thought she was going to kill me," said Encarnacion.

It fell into a catch basin and they did what they could to pull it out on their own, but it was too tough.

"He tried to get it out with a stick and it went into the water," Mikkelsen said. "I was nervous because I was like—I could buy another ring, but it's not going to be the first ring."



They called police for help, who connected them to the town's Public Works Department. A crew came out right away.

"We shifted some guys around," said

Vincent Stetson, Superintendent, Street Services. "They brought some pumps out."

They used a special technique to suck out the water.

"We have a bunch of pumps here that could have very easily sucked everything up and broken the ring, but they used a little puddle pump and took their time," Stetson said.

After an hour and half, the drain was dry, and the ring was found.

A symbol of their love that was almost lost. Now it's one they said they'll cherish more than ever.





## Public Works Department

Michael J. Gantick  
Director of Public Works

meeting. As a first time participant in CRCOG's program the group had a unique opportunity to directly speak with the contractor and ask the hard questions relating to their construction practices, history and performance prior to committing to use them for construction projects. Our next meeting will take place in July.

### **Library Elevator Modernization**

The elevator modernization is still on schedule for later this fall. Engineering design is near completion and parts should be ordered sometime early in June.

### **Library Roof Replacement**

The roof engineering and specification proposals are still in progress. The roof replacement is still on schedule for sometime this fall.

### **Library Fire Alarm Installation**

To date I have received two proposals for a new fire alarm system, both were competitively bid. I anticipate the final bid by June 3rd and expect to have a proposal signed by the end of June.

### **Town Hall 2nd Floor Space Needs Study**

A kick off meeting was held with the contractor of choice and the management team last week. The meeting consisting of the contractor and select staff with offices being effected on the second floor. Each had an opportunity to express their space need concerns for their respective department(s).

The contractor will be returning to inventory fixtures, furniture and equipment to help determine the options for filing and space requirements prior to our next meeting.

### **Boiler Replacements for Police Department and Community Center**

This project will convert several original oil fired boilers and convert hot water heater burners with natural gas fired equipment at both locations. The Town recently entered into an agreement with Eversource Gas to bring gas service to each location this summer. Last week I solicited proposals from our three on-call MEP Engineering firms for the design of these systems. Proposals are due by the end of June. This project also includes the removal of the six-thousand gallon underground heating oil storage tank behind the Community Center.

### **Town Hall Elevator Design**

For Fiscal Year 19/20, funds were allocated for the design of a new elevator at the Town Hall. I have solicited proposals for the design from our on-call design professionals and expect to receive proposals July 1st. I will select a firm shortly thereafter and will begin the design process.

### **Town Wide Security Enhancements**

This is an ongoing project as it will eventually effect almost every town building. The Probate Court Office is currently undergoing various enhancements that will aid in securing their office space as well as the meeting rooms

## Public Works Department

Michael J. Gantick  
Director of Public Works

on the lower level that they use for Probate hearings. I am currently reviewing a proposal that will integrate our lockdown process with the Everbridge notification system. Once an agreement is signed we will move forward with the programming and testing of the long awaited lockdown procedure. The security enhancements also include replacing obsolete and outdated doors and door entry systems. The Community Center main entry sliding doors and interior swing doors will be replaced this summer. We have met with a couple of vendors to get options and pricing and are currently waiting for one more proposal before making a final decision.

### Tax Office Updates

Over the last few months the Tax Office has been making plans to upgrade their space and make better use of it especially during the busy months where the office sees heavy foot traffic. To date, we have replaced all of the carpet behind the front counter and relocated a demountable wall to give the cubicle area where the staff work more room to operate efficiently. The remaining carpet and paint will be completed next. A new front counter will also be installed, the counter will also be designed for full accessibility for those with disabilities.

The Building Maintenance staff completed three-hundred and twenty nine work orders between 3/1 and 5/25. Some of the highlights of their work are included:

- Updated the Men's Room at the Rotary

Pavilion (photos below)

- Painted offices at the Town Garage
- Pressure washed the outside of the Community Center
- Installed Wifi Antennas at the Town Garage
- Mounted and wired a new TV for the Fitness Center at the Community Center.
- Repaired electric cord reels in the truck bays at the Town Garage
- Removed old tube TV from the Senior Lounge
- Sealed slate and concrete sidewalks at Town Buildings

### Tax Office Photos



*Before*



*After*



*Before*



*After*



*Community Center power washing- before and after*

## Public Works Department

Michael J. Gantick  
Director of Public Works

### *Rotary Pavilion Men's Restroom Updates*



### **Rotary Pavilion Men's Restroom Updates**

The Building Maintenance Staff primed and painted all of the walls and installed a new drop ceiling. All of the stall partitions were sanded, primed and repainted. New mirrors, hand dryer, toilet and soap dispensers were installed. A new exhaust fan and LED lights were also installed. Commercial grade epoxy paint was applied to the floor and all of the doors were sanded down to the bare metal, primed and repainted. Last year the staff completed updates to the Women's restroom. The staff started this project a few weeks before the opening season and worked diligently to make sure it would be ready before the first rental!



*Building Maintenance vehicle and equipment on display at the Town Garage during Public Work Week Demonstration*

This year Gary Palmberg from the Building Maintenance Department received the Richard Boudreault Employee Award for his outstanding contributions to the Town. Gary was recognized for his professionalism, enthusiasm and service delivery that he brings to work each and every day! Congratulations Gary!



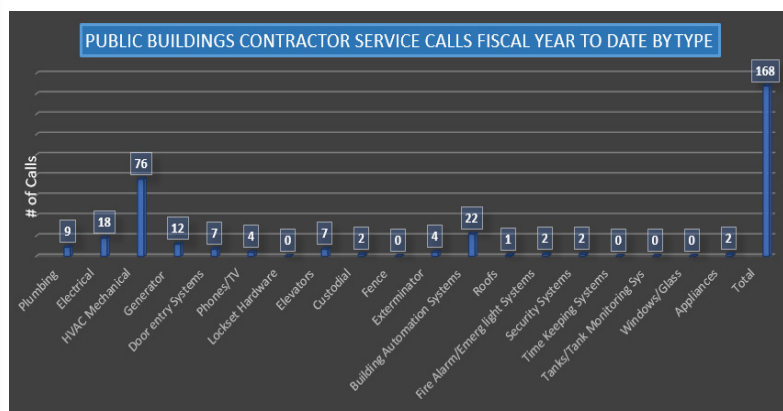
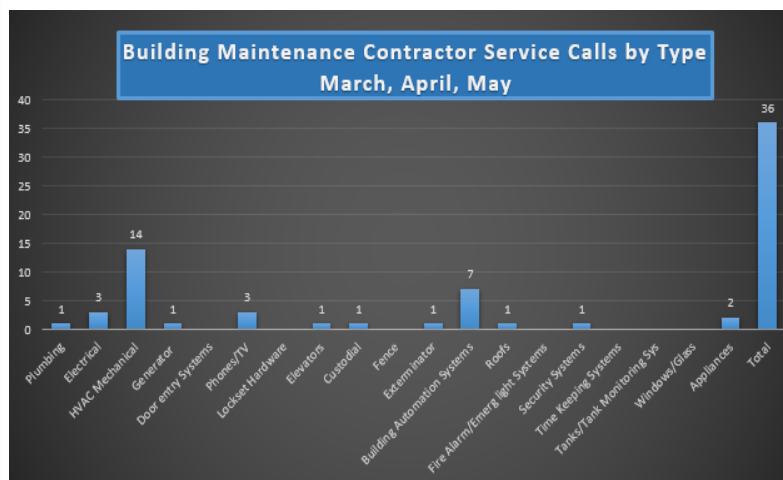
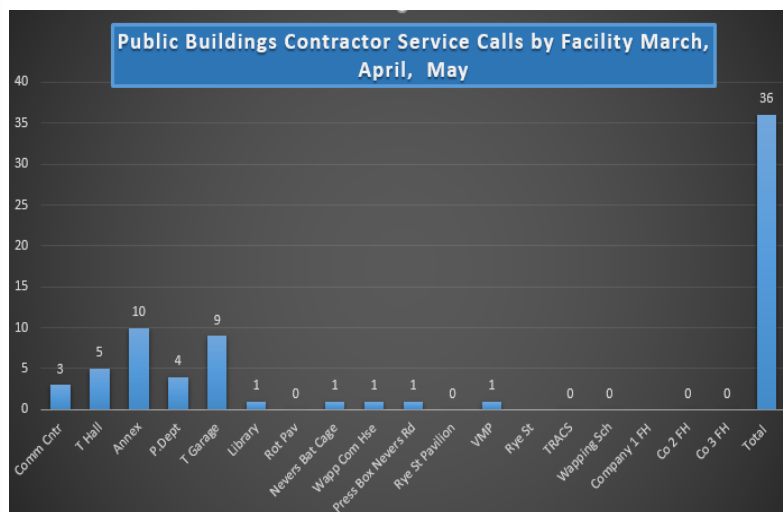
*Clay Major  
Facilities Manager, Public Buildings Division*

### **Water Pollution Control**

The Water Pollution Control Department hired Wright Pierce Engineering in November to undertake a pump station asset management study to help prioritize and estimate the costs of future infrastructure projects. The study looked at all 11 pump

## Public Works Department

Michael J. Gantick  
Director of Public Works



stations. Wright Pierce performed an evaluation of the mechanical systems, HVAC/plumbing, electrical, instrumentation, building structures, and civil site work and has provided recommended improvements over a 15 year period totaling over \$19 million. Wright Pierce will be presenting their report to the Water Pollution Control Authority at the June Water Pollution Control Authority meeting. The WPCA remains committed to its responsibility of maintaining the Town's \$220 million in infrastructure assets, ensuring a reliable sewer service while reducing the impact to sewer user rates. We are currently evaluating different strategies to accomplish these goals.

This past month the Water Pollution Control staff continued its public outreach conducting facility tours to two different groups. The first event was sponsored by New England Water Environment Association Young Professionals Committee. The South Windsor Water Pollution Control Facility was chosen to host the tour which brought 55 industry operators, engineers and professionals to our facility.

The second event was part of Public Works Week where we hosted approximately 64 second graders from the CREC International Magnet School for Global Citizenship. The WPC team also



## Public Works Department

Michael J. Gantick  
Director of Public Works

helped with the Fill a Public Works Truck food drive to support the South Windsor food bank. Staff from the WPC and Street Services department took time out of their weekend to collect food and donations at Stop & Shop and Geissler's.

Water Pollution Control Authority on the Town of South Windsor's website at [www.southwindsor.org](http://www.southwindsor.org).

*Tony Manfre*  
*Pollution Control Superintendent*

You can find more information about the Water Pollution Control Facility and the



### Refuse & Recycling

The Pollution Control Department has negotiated a favorable contract extension with All American Waste who has proven to be a true partner of South Windsor's. As part of the contract extension AAW will be replacing all of the refuse containers, tipping fees will increase to \$73/ton beginning July 1, 2019 and we will maintain our \$5/ton rebate on single stream recycling disposal. To help reduce the Town's refuse waste we have expanded our textile recycling collection opportunities by offering curbside collection

## A Guide to Recycling

All items should be **empty, rinsed, clean and open**. Do **not** shred, box, bag or bundle.

What's IN?

What's OUT?

PAPER		GLASS	METAL		PLASTIC	
Cardboard & boxboard	Magazines & newspaper inserts	Beverage bottles & jars	Aerosol containers (food grade only)	Foil containers	Plastic bottles (with or without caps attached)	Plastic one-use cups (no lids, no straws)
Food & beverage cartons	Newsprint	Food bottles & jars	Aluminum foil	Metal lids from cans & bottles	Plastic containers, tubs & lids	
Junk mail	Office paper		Cans & bottles			
	Pizza boxes					
Gift wrap & gift bags	Shredded paper	Ceramic mugs & plates	Aerosol containers (cleaners, pesticides, etc.)	Pots & pans	Loose bottle caps	Prescription bottles
Ice cream containers	Take-out food containers	Drinking glasses	Foil tops from yogurt containers	Small pieces of scrap metal	Plastic bags & wrap	Single-use coffee containers
Paper cups (hot & cold)	Tissue paper		Paint cans	Spiral wound containers	Plastic plates, bowls & utensils	Styrofoam cups & containers
						Water filters

To learn more, go to [RecycleCT.com](http://RecycleCT.com)

© 2017 RecycleCT Foundation

## Public Works Department

Michael J. Gantick  
Director of Public Works

in addition to the collection containers throughout town. Simple Recycling is the vendor tasked with the curbside collection of the pink bags while we maintain our relationship with Bay State Textiles who is responsible for the containers. In the month of April we were able to divert 5.64 tons of textiles from the waste stream which is a \$397.60 savings in tip fees. Both companies pay the Town a rebate per ton of textiles collected; the total rebate paid to the Town in April was \$260.84. By offering these recycling opportunities the Town has grossed \$658.44 for the month of April. We are hopeful that this trend continues.

As part of our continued public outreach to help educate the residents on recycling a presentation was given to 65 second graders at Phillip R. Smith. As part of the presentation goodie bags were made for each student that included a "What's In? What's Out?" magnet and other educational material on recycling to bring home. We also took the opportunity hand out recycling brochures, "What's In? What's Out?" along with reusable grocery bags during the Public Works Week Fill a Public Works Truck food drive at Geissler's and Stop & Shop.

The 2019 electronics recycling event schedule has been released. The events will be held July 13th, September 7th, and November 2nd from 8-1 pm at Town Hall in the rear parking lot. This year we have already collected over 52 tons of electronic waste which has been

diverted from the waste stream. This program is free of charge and the event staff will unload the electronics from your vehicle. Acceptable items include telephones, computers, laptops, printers, stereos, televisions microwaves, DVD players, etc.

Information on our refuse and recycling programs including a full list of acceptable items for each program please visit the Town of South Windsor's website at [www.southwindsor.org](http://www.southwindsor.org).

*Tony Manfre*  
*Pollution Control Superintendent*

### **Street Services**

The Streets and Parks Departments hosted an open house for the CREC International School for Global Citizenship 2nd graders at the town garage during Public Works Week to explain what they two departments do for the Town. The 64 students were very engaged, asked many great questions, explored equipment and just had a good time. They were a delight to have at the garage.

Streets crews set up Nevers Park for the annual Armed Forces Day event. We also had two maintainers at the event to monitor and dump trash, work the light towers and assist with clean up after the event.

Catch basin repairs continue in the Mountain Dr, Crestwood Dr., Griffin Rd and Mascolo Rd areas as we prepare for road resurfacing.

## Public Works Department

Michael J. Gantick  
Director of Public Works

There was also cut and patch work done on Broadleaf Dr to prepare for milling and paving.

Roadside mowing has begun for the season to help keep invasive plants away from our roadways and improve site lines for motorists.

Streets maintainers worked to ensure that the Memorial Day Parade route was pothole patched and swept clean prior to the event. This also included mowing areas along the parade route to make certain that route was presentable for this important day.

Superintendent Vincent Stetson and Associate Manager Marco Mucciacciaro were honored with the Richard Boudreault Public Works Award presented by the Director of Public Works for dedication and enthusiasm in their work. They were recognized by the Town Council the Monday of Public Works Week. Congratulations goes out to those two.

New Maintainer I Neil Roback began a 6-week Public Works Academy conducted by UCONN's CT Training and Technical Assistance Center in Storrs. This program teaches new and seasoned maintainers many facets of the profession including drainage, pavement maintenance, chain saw operations and managing snow events to name a few.

The South Windsor Invasive Plant Working Group continued their stewardship of the Town Hall property removing yards of

knotweed. This group, headed up by Bill Marshall has made significant progress in this area. This is a dedicated group that volunteers their time to help the town. Hopefully soon, some new volunteers will be in the ranks. The group intends to employ Bovidae or as we know them, goats, to assist in the removal of the invasive weeds on the site as an environmentally friendly way of tackle the task at hand.....or hoof.

The Streets Department lost 13-year veteran employee Timothy Cronin to South Windsor Water Pollution Control. Tim worked incredibly hard on his own time to earn his certificate as a Class I Operator in Training to prepare himself for this position. We will miss him here but wish him success in this new endeavor. Good luck Tim and congratulations!



Tree Warden Stetson has been working continuously to remove ash trees impacted by the emerald ash borer. Once effected, they trees quickly succumb and become a serious safety hazard and must be removed. Along with the town tree contractor, Distinctive Tree, the town successfully removed 42 ash trees in a single day using a joint effort with DPW staff. This was a concerted effort that provided a cost effective remedy to this terrible situation. There will be more events such as this to remove more of these dying or already

## Public Works Department

Michael J. Gantick  
Director of Public Works

deceased trees.

A new guiderail was installed on King St to protect from road departures. This new guiderail replaces an existing post and cable system that exceeded its useful life.

Crack sealing continues throughout town to preserve roads for the future.

Potholes are still problematic. However, we are working diligently on them as manpower and weather permits.

Street sweeping continues. The rainy weather has curtailed operations from time to time pushing the schedule a little off center, but soon all roads will be completed for the season.

The management team is working on contracts for the leaf harvest, snow operations and salt purchases in preparation for these upcoming seasons.

Fleet Services continues to service vehicles and will soon be preparing equipment for the leaf harvest and snow operations.

Street Services conducted a demo of a windrow turner for our composting operations. Komptech brought in their X63 turner for review and consideration. There will be several more demos taking place so the department can make an informed decision on what unit would best serve our needs.

The sign shop installed 14 signs during the month replacing damaged signs and signs that have exceeded their useful life. During this period, the sign shop also installed signs for the Armed Forces Day event and the Memorial Day parade and handled many other complaints.

The leaf site has closed for the season but can be accessed by retrieving a key from the Town Garage office. Please remember that only leaf waste can be dumped here. We do not yet accept grass clipping or brush at the garage.

Just a reminder, free leaf compost and wood chips are always available to town residents at the Town Garage on Burgess Rd.

*Scott Yeomans*  
*Associate Manager, Street Services*



## Human Services Department

Andrea Cofrancesco  
Director of Human Services

### Human Services Update:

Congratulations to Liz Langevin, Youth and Family Services Director, for passing the state test to become a Licensed Clinical Social Worker. Liz passed it on the first try which is not very common!

### HUGE Success: Senior Center Theater!

Our first ever senior theater program was a huge success with a combined total of almost 300 people seeing both the matinee and evening shows! All 17 cast members worked extremely hard, rehearsing for hours, with most of them not having had any prior theater experience. The youngest was 72 years old, and the oldest cast member was 85! What a show! Thank you to Mayor Andrew Paterna and Councilor Jan Snyder for coming out to support the cast!



From two cast members, following the performances:

*"Dear Andrea,*

*First I want to thank you profusely for your hard work and support of our Senior Theatre. I already miss it and am depressed about not being able to perform it tonight. Anyway, I just want to thank you again for making it possible to have such a fun experience. (One of the best of my life). If funds permit please continue this program and COUNT ME IN!*

*Best regards,  
Bill M."*

From Elaine S.: *"You have created a wonderful program where we can continue to grow and thrive. Thank you so much."*

### Property Tax Relief

Assistant Director of Adult and Senior Services Lindsey Ravalese and caseworkers Steve Clapp and Penny Shea worked hard to finalize 124 property tax relief applications for older adults and persons with disabilities. They contacted people by phone towards the end of the application period to be sure no one missed the opportunity to receive a reduction on their property taxes. This program is a two year program that helps people on fixed incomes. South Windsor residents are fortunate to have such caring and dedicated staff available to help meet their needs.

## Human Services Department

Andrea Cofrancesco  
Director of Human Services

### Food and Fuel Bank Support

The Food and Fuel Bank has seen a great deal of support from town staff and departments as well as the community over the past month. Read below to see how low income families in town are getting fed.



Allie Scott, a student at PR Smith, recently celebrated her 8th birthday. Instead of asking for gifts, she asked for food to donate to those in town who are in need. Allie and her mom delivered the items to the Human Services office and

she made her mom very proud! Thank you, Allie, for helping your neighbors!

**Parks Crew:** Thanks again to the Parks Crew, who hauled a trailer packed with food from a local church, to the food bank. They are always super helpful, willing to lend a hand and happy! Thank you!



**Fill a Truck Event:** Thank you to the Public Works Department for hosting their 2nd annual Fill a Truck with food event to benefit

the South Windsor Food and Fuel Bank. They gave up a Sunday, time away from their families (not all are pictured here) to help those in need. In addition to a truck and a trailer full of food, the food bank received almost \$1200 in monetary donations! Thank you!



**Fire Department Paid it Forward:** The Fire Department, which worked on a smoke detector project for Stop and Shop, received \$500 in Stop and Shop gift cards for their help. They in turn donated those gift cards to the food bank, along with \$75 they received in monetary donations from a 2nd grade class at PR Smith. Students learned about the fire department and the equipment needed to do their work. The students decided to do chores at home to earn money to give to the fire



## Human Services Department

Andrea Cofrancesco  
Director of Human Services

fighters to help defray the cost of the equipment.

### Stamp Out Hunger

The food bank once again received donations from the Post Office's annual Stamp Out Hunger event. 42 buckets, which is over 1,000 pounds of food, was donated to the food bank the weekend of Mother's Day.

### Fit for Life Fitness Center Celebrates ONE Year!!

Special events are planned for the over 75 fitness center members for the summer time to encourage regular participation! Each day members work out, they will receive a raffle ticket for a chance to win a \$50 gift card to a local restaurant of their choice. Drawing will take place at the end of June, July and August for three chances to win!

- "Get Movin' Mondays": Enjoy a nutritious protein snack after working out.
- "Talk to the Trainer Tuesdays": Susan will be available to answer questions about their fitness program on Tuesdays from 10AM to 11AM.
- "Water Wednesdays": Our volunteers will be giving out regular or flavored water to members who work out on Wednesdays.
- "Three Times Thursdays": Workout on Thursdays and get 3 raffle tickets!
- "Bring a Friend Fridays": Bring a friend on a guest pass and they can work out with members (they need to sign a waiver).

Our Summer Special is just \$20 for June through August! Call Susan for a tour!

### Adventure Club

The senior center continues to offer a variety of programming for adventurers. Hiking is offered twice a month and recently, folks went on the FastTrac bus to New Britain, for a guided walking tour of the Hardware City. Next up: a schooner trip, scavenger hunt and dragon boating!



### Teen Center

The Teen Center Youth Council participated in many activities this month, including serving at the HAT SNAP DINNER on May 8, hosting an end of the year mentor party for SWHS



## Human Services Department

Andrea Cofrancesco  
Director of Human Services

students, and planning an event to recognize the Teen Center turning 30! The Youth Council planned a “birthday party” to celebrate the 30 years the Teen Center has been serving SW youth.



Teen volunteers also worked together with adult volunteers from the Senior Center to get the Community Center garden beds ready for growing season! Volunteers helped to weed, till and plant seedling plants and seeds. We look forward to continuing the project by growing fresh produce for the SW Food Bank.



**Parent Education and Support**

### Dads Dinner and Playgroup

We had our monthly playgroup and Dads, Uncles and Grandfathers got creative with their toddlers through art and play! Playing

can be an enriching experience for both caregiver and child—as well as a lot of fun! Art activities help promote language, social, motor, and intellectual development. Art also teaches children about their world and how to interpret it. Fine motor skills are a child’s ability to manipulate their fingers and hands to do things such as holding a pencil, cutting with scissors, and tying shoelaces. Between 1 and 2 years old, toddlers are able to make scribbles and hold crayons and markers with their fists. Information was giving to caregivers on fine and gross motor skills by age and ways to engage with the arts locally. Caregivers and their children enjoyed making fingerprint mugs as a special Mother’s Day craft for the special person in their lives!



### Monday Morning Playgroup and Morning Tea Time

Every Monday babies and children up to 5 years old can join us free play, art and sensory activities. ALL families are welcome. The diversity of families participating in the playgroup strengthens opportunities for caregivers to learn from each other. Services build on protective factors that research shows can reduce child abuse and maltreatment. These factors include parental resilience, social connections, knowledge of



## Human Services Department

Andrea Cofrancesco  
Director of Human Services

parenting and child development, concrete support in time of need, and social and emotional competence in children. We have about 80 caregivers and children participate every month. This month we had a special Morning Tea Celebration to celebrate Mothers!



### **Relatives Raising Children Monthly Support Group**

During our monthly meeting, we discussed the latest article from Child Trends and the share of children in foster care living with relatives is growing. The percentage of children living in a relative foster home has risen by 16 percent since 2007. The opioid crisis is likely a common factor influencing rates. One of our Grandparents shared information on her experience attending the annual Grandparent Raising Grandchildren conference that she attended and shared resources. We also, are planning our annual picnic for Relatives and their Children.

### **School Outreach & Prevention**

May was a busy month for School Outreach. We celebrated the Mentor program with a Picnic at the Rotary Pavilion on May 23th. Students and their mentors enjoyed an afternoon of activities and a shared lunch. We

are truly thankful for all of our amazing mentors!

**Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD)** held their annual "Prom Promise Challenge". During lunch waves, they asked Juniors to sign a pledge encouraging them to make good choices during the prom weekend... and each and every day. Students who took the pledge and signed the banner were entered into a raffle for 2 free prom tickets! Additionally, they created a prom giveaway to remind their peers to make "Bright Decisions". SADD students also sold and distributed graduation lawn signs as our main fundraiser. 100% of the proceeds are given back to the scholarship fund. Each year SADD awards scholarships to a number of seniors who have demonstrated leadership and commitment to the club throughout their high school career.

### **Counseling & Support**

Both of our part time youth counselors are currently at capacity. We are on a waitlist for our counseling services at this time. Both counselors are facilitating one therapeutic group each as well.

Some great upcoming 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, LMSW*



## Parks & Recreation Department

Raymond Favreau  
Director of Parks & Recreation

### “Discover the Benefits!”

John Caldwell, Jr.  
Superintendent of Parks

#### MONTHLY REPORT - June 3, 2019

Keri Apt  
Asst. Director of Parks &  
Recreation

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

The next PARC meeting is Wednesday, June 12th at 7:30pm now in their new location in Room 14 at Wapping School, 91 Ayers Road. Work continues on the master plan revision.

**The South Windsor Walk & Wheel Ways (SWW&WW)** sub-committee meets next on Wed., June 5th at Wapping. Efforts over the next year will be the design of the proposed cross-town trail through the Eversource power corridor including a massive outreach campaign to educate the public about the project. Members ran a “bike-to-work” day on May 17 and they will host CT Trails Day at Wapping Park on Sunday, June 2 from 1-4pm.

**The South Windsor FOOD Alliance (SWFA)** – The summer Farmer’s Market opens for the season on June 22 and will once again run every Saturday through September 28 at the Community/Senior Center front lawn with new hours – 9am to 12pm (previously the hours were 10am to 1pm). Go to [www.swfood.org](http://www.swfood.org) for more details.

**2019 Legislative Session** – A proposed bill to increase the minimum wage by nearly 50% to \$15/hour from the current \$10.10/hour over the next five years was passed by the

General Assembly on May 17, and signed into law by the Governor on May 28. Phase-in: (1) October 1, 2019: \$11.00, (2) September 1, 2020: \$12.00, (3) August 1, 2021: \$13.00, (4) July 1, 2022: \$14.00, (5) June 1, 2023: \$15.00, then establish indexing thereafter beginning October 15, 2023 and every October 15th thereafter the Commissioner of Labor is to announce minimum wage effective January of 2024 and every January thereafter. I reiterate that to comply with this increase we will experience an increase of over \$400,000 in added labor cost to deliver our current level of services and programs. We will also see an increase in the cost of products and services we need to purchase to support these programs. As a result our residents can expect to see unusually substantial incremental increases in program fees and probable reductions in services. We are keeping a keen eye on the Governor’s budget item #877 requiring sales tax on recreational instructional athletic programs like swim lessons, sports camps, youth basketball, etc. Sales tax on these items will add yet another \$190,000 to operational cost to be passed onto our customers.

**MAX Challenge Day of Giving** – Kim Lachapelle, owner of the local MAX Challenge at Town Center, conducted their second

annual "Day of Giving" on April 13th at Ellsworth with all proceeds going to the SW Community Foundation to support a new joint initiative with parks & recreation called "Healthy Habits". \$10,000 was raised via a 5K road race and health fair!! The SW Food Bank will receive \$2,500 and we will utilize funding to offer free seminars and programs on healthy snacks & lunches for children, clean eating, exercise, etc. Our sincere gratitude goes out to Kim and her crew!!

### **Special Invitation to Councilors – SAVE THE DATES:**

- (1) Celebrate CT Trails Day with SW Walk & Wheel Ways Sun., June 2 from 1-4pm at Wapping Park.
- (2) Join us for Father's Day celebration at VMP, Sun., 6/16.
- (3) Stop by Porter's Hill on Wed., June 19th between 5 and 8pm to enjoy our Kite Nite Picnic. Folks bring their own picnic and we'll supply the music, lawn games and kites.
- (4) The Savage Brothers Band will once again kick off our outdoor concert series on Thur., 6/20 at 7pm at Evergreen Walk.

As always, we offer all members of the Town Council an open invitation to visit any of our 400+ recreation programs or park facilities throughout the year. Please give us a call and we will even escort you!

### **RECREATION DIVISION**

*"Feel great – recreate!"*

**4th R Before & After School Program -** On Sat., May 4th we successfully conducted a separate public registration at Wapping. As openings are very limited, registration for

available spots and inevitable wait list positions were determined by lottery by school on the hour as follows: 9am – Eli Terry; 10am – Orchard Hill; 11am – Philip R. Smith; 12pm – Pleasant Valley. Families, although at times disappointed, were very satisfied with the transparent live lottery approach that didn't require long "overnight" waiting lines or compete with summer camp registration.

**Wapping Re-Purposing** – The Cafeteria remodeling project has finally kicked into high gear now that the building code issues have been resolved. We anticipate completion in mid-June.

**Paws in the Park** - sponsored by the SW Jaycees on Sat., May 4th from 9:30am to 3pm was still a huge success drawing thousands of canine fans despite the necessary move to Rye Street Park as the Fairgrounds on Brookfield Street were flooded from the 19 days of April showers!

**Annual Picnic in the Park** celebration of Armed Forces Day presented by the SW Patriotic Commission on Sat., May 18th from 4:30pm to dark at Nevers Park also drew thousands of visitors who enjoyed entertainment, food trucks and a dazzling fireworks display.

**Memorial Day** – was blessed with phenomenal weather for the parade at 10am followed by the solemn ceremony at 11am at Veterans Memorial Park on Mon., May 27th. The ceremony attracted the largest crowd in recent memory thanks to great delivery by the SW Patriotic Commission, great weather and a beautifully manicured park.

**Trails for Charities** – Our Trails, Your Cause was held on Sun., May 19th from 9am to 2pm at Nevers Park. Four organizations conducted fund raising walks/runs and one organization, CHR, displayed their services. Results are pretty impressive:

- (1) Journey Found—112 participants, \$11,000 raised;
- (2) Starfish Foundation—40 participants, \$2,000 raised;
- (3) Run4Robin—103 participants, \$7,300 raised;
- (4) AHC—50 participants, \$1,400 raised.

A total of 305 participants raised a total of \$21,700!! It is quite gratifying to see we are helping facilitate charitable causes! Kudos to Cheryl Gerber, Recreation Supervisor for coordinating and managing this annual event that is growing each year.

**Veterans Memorial Park** successfully opened for the 2019 season on Sat., May 25th at noon. Despite picture perfect weather conditions all Memorial Day weekend long attendance was sparse.

## **PARKS DIVISION**

*“Caring for South Windsor’s Growing Needs”*

May Activity Highlights:

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

- Installed dugout tarps at the Ayers Road softball field and will look into a more

permanent replacement in the near future.

- Completed replenishment of mulch at all panting beds and islands at all public building grounds and parks.
- Purchased, assembled and deployed new player benches at the Wapping tennis courts.
- Daily and weekly preparation of 30 athletic fields (12 baseball/softball and 18 for soccer and lacrosse) is in full swing servicing the SWHS interscholastic athletic program, youth soccer, boys and girls youth lacrosse, Little League and adult softball.

### **Parks & Open Space:**

- Continued work on the flooding situation at the Fairgrounds (formerly Barton property). To date we have pumped nearly 2 million gallons of water from the low spot. Once dry, we will re-grade to better control the water flow.
- Completed work on a fifth new trail loop, “Sneaky Pete”, to be added to the mountain biking trail system at Rye Street Park, and posted warnings signs as a result of recent unauthorized dirt bike activity that is damaging the trails.
- Again, repaired stone dust trails after numerous heavy rain showers.
- Final deep cleaning and preparations at VMP facilities and grounds was completed in time for opening day Sat., May 25th. The eagle patio was also groomed for the annual

<b>Parks &amp; Rec. run ACA Day Camp</b>	<b>New Campers 2019</b>	<b>Returning Campers</b>	<b>Total Unique Campers 2019</b>	<b>Total Registrations 5/23/2019</b>
Adventure Unit	8	90	98	337
Junior Adventurers	20	105	125	489
Camp Discovery	62	166	228	913
Trailblazers	34	95	129	463
Little Explorers	45	28	73	218
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>169</b>	<b>484</b>	<b>653</b>	<b>2420</b>



Memorial Day ceremony.

- Re-supplied wood chips at the Bark Park.
- Prepared Rye St. Park for Paws in the Park event on May 4th moved from the flooded Fairgrounds.
- Installed the brand new sign at Porter's Hill.
- Began repairs to the stone wall at the corner of Dart Hill Rd. and Avery St. which sustained damage due to a recent motor vehicle accident.
- Started repairing lawn damage at Rye St. Park caused by the heavy traffic generated at Paws in the Park.
- Roto-tilled compost into the soil at the Avery Community Gardens preparing for the growing season.
- De-winterized and repaired water fountains at Rye St. Park and the Bark Park.

### **Projects:**

- Construction of the Nevers Park restroom project in partnership with the SW Rotary club is nearing completion. The only outstanding items are the electronic access system, surveillance camera hook-ups, epoxy flooring and some touch-up work.

### **Other:**

- After a drenching and waterlogged month of April, we found it necessary to rely on a number of extended workdays and Saturday mornings on OT for the crew in order to get caught up on urgent spring facility needs.
- Transported our bike trailer to and from PV and ET schools in support of the SW Walk & Wheel Ways 4th grade bike education program in conjunction with the BOE physical education department.
- SW Police Dept. scuba divers, Ron Littel and

Mike Dobler assisted with the re-installation of the pool floor drain covers in the diving well of the main pool prior to opening on May 25th. Many, many thanks to Ron and Mike – couldn't have done it without you.

### **Photos**



*SW Police Dept. scuba divers  
Ron Littel and Mike Dobler*



*Nevers Park trails in colorful bloom!*





*Officially designated new park property receives official identification with new sign designed, fabricated and installed in-house.*



*SW Walk & Wheel Ways on Bike-to-Work day, Friday May 17th starting in South Windsor and ending at the old state house in Hartford.*



*Parks crew refurbishing the center island in the rear parking lot at Town Hall.*



*Trails for Charities – miles for smiles – raising money to help others!*



## ***June 2019 Town Council Meetings and Events***

### ***Meetings***

**Monday, June 3, 2019**

**7:00 pm Regular Meeting**

*Council Chambers*

**Tuesday, June 18, 2019**

**7:00 pm Special Meeting**

*Council Chambers*

*Layout by Samara Haddock, Confidential Secretary*

