

Town of South Windsor

Town Manager's Report June 2016

*Matthew B. Galligan
Town Manager*



June 6th Public Hearings

I will be on vacation and will miss the June 6th Town Council meeting. There are three items on the Agenda for public hearings. I think the Council has agreed to move forward these items during the last budget process.

The first item is the public hearing for the revaluation which will be handled by our Assessor Mary Huda. She will be available for any questions and comments that the Council may have. This revaluation is a two-year program that will cost \$134,000 for the first year. On June 1, the RFP submissions will be reviewed. I do not know the total cost, but the range has been \$200,000 to \$250,000.

The next item is the sound barrier fence at the South Windsor High School. When the field was remodeled last year, there were concerns about the noise from the School District's new sound system. This will be the last criteria promised by the Council. A sound barrier fence will be put along the property line in order to give the residents some relief from the events that will be held at the High School.

The last item is for furniture and fixtures, which was in the original budget for next year. We were looking to use the Capital Stabilization fund to put a bid out for those items at the EOC.

All three items were in the original budget for Fiscal Year 2016-2017. In order to keep taxes at a minimum, we have decided to take these items out of the Capital Stabilization Fund.

As I have stated to the Council before, this fund consists of monies from floated bond premiums that are paid to the Town. This money cannot be put into the General Fund. Instead, it is put into a Capital Stabilization Fund for future expenditures such as the items that are being heard during the public hearings on June 6th.

Memorandums

Please find enclosed two memorandums: one on the Barber Hill Substation and the other on crumbling foundations. I attended a meeting at the Barber Hill Substation on Tuesday, May 24th, and I attended a CRCOG meeting on Wednesday, May 25th that discussed the concrete issue. These memorandums are recaps of those meetings.

MRSA Payments

The Town is currently due \$1,338,190. That amount was approved at the May 27th meeting of the State Bond Commission. There is still the process of bonding this money, so whether we will receive this by the end of the year remains to be seen. We may be able to set up a receivable for this money which will then affect the financials of the current Fiscal Year. The MRSA payment has been included in Fiscal Year 2016-2017 as a revenue item.

Voting in Schools

I have met with Superintendent Carter, Deputy Chief Custer, and Registrars Burnham and Larsen to discuss the issue on voting in schools. It seems to me that if we are going to make any changes, the process will be quite long. You will not see any changes this November or for any referendum, as we need to meet certain criteria under the State Elections laws. I have instructed the Registrars to research different ways of redistricting so that we can change polling locations from the schools. We do not want this to be a political issue. It is strictly a security issue. The Chief and I have raised some concerns about some of the schools, and the Registrars agreed with those concerns.

Currently, our proposal is to give you a list of recommendations ranging from no changes to significant changes. The Town Council will make the ultimate decision. As a Committee,

we have to do our due diligence to research the existing conditions and the pros and cons for any suggested changes, whether moderate or major. The Registrars will start their work on this issue, and the Police Chief has been directed to research security issues. Sometime by the end of the year, we will have a final report to the Town Council regarding the different recommended scenarios. We want to look at all aspects of this situation and come up with solutions that both the Council and citizens can be comfortable with.

Although this task is not difficult, the legal process will take some time. We need to ensure the Council has all of the information to make an intelligent decision. I do not feel this issue needs to have a decision made now, but a full professional report will be given to the Town Council which will consider the concerns expressed by the residents and Councilors, and will include recommendations to address those concerns.

Crumbling Foundations

Twenty-one individual homeowners have applied for assessment changes based upon their crumbling foundations. The Assessor, Board of Assessment Appeals, Town Attorney, and I came up with a fair approach to these assessments. Although this approach is not a huge amount of financial support, the Town has been trying very hard to work with the affected residents of crumbling foundations.

I recommend that we offer building permits without charge to residents who have taken the initiative to repair their crumbling foundations. I would like the Council to pass a resolution to waive these building permit fees as this is another way to support those residents. This recommendation comes from both the Building Official and me. I would hope the Council will support such a resolution, and I thank you in advance.

Matthew B. Galligan
Town Manager

Police Department

Timothy M. Edwards
Chief of Police

New Sign for Police Headquarters:

On Thursday, May 26th a sign was installed on the front of police headquarters. (A picture appears on our Facebook page). The sign reads "South Windsor Police" in silver letters against the brick background. For some reason the headquarters building never had a sign affixed in the 32 years it's been in use. We felt that the only curbside sign was not adequate and could be missed by those driving westbound. Since Nevers Park and the playing fields are used by so many out of town guests we wanted it to be clear that this is a government building that people can come to for assistance.

The sign was created and installed by the former Ultimate Sign Company on Pleasant Valley Road that has now merged with an East Longmeadow company.

Click It or Ticket Checkpoint with Metro Traffic Services:

We continue to host grant-funded traffic checkpoints in conjunction with the regional traffic unit, Metro Traffic Services. The South Windsor Police Department and the Metro Traffic Services Regional Partnership hosted a Click It or Ticket checkpoint on Friday morning, May 27, 2016 on Sullivan Avenue in front of the animal shelter. The event was

held to raise awareness of traffic safety at the beginning of the busy Memorial Day weekend. Funding for this effort has been provided through the Department of Transportation.

Metro Traffic Services is a regional partnership for traffic safety which includes South Windsor, Manchester, Coventry, Windsor, Enfield, East Windsor, Vernon, Glastonbury, Windsor Locks, and Bloomfield.

Moose on the Loose:

On Memorial Day, despite the rain, a large moose was spotted on Chapel Road near JMJ Construction. Officers checked the area and it had moved on, and it was later seen in Tolland and Coventry. Last summer we had our first bear sightings in town. We report these unusual sightings to D.E.P. however we only monitor the animals and won't intervene unless they become particularly aggressive.

Police Department to seek National Accreditation:

The Police Department is actively working toward receiving national accreditation via CALEA, the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies. It is the primary method for an agency to demonstrate a commitment to excellence in law enforcement. It is the national standard for

agencies to demonstrate they have developed and adhere to comprehensive directives, goals and policies. There are over 400 benchmarks that must be proven in order to receive this recognition and they will be verified on site by independent assessors and a public participation meeting. We are very excited to take part in this comprehensive process and ensure we are following industry "best practices".



Human Services Department

Adult & Senior Services

Andrea Cofrancesco, Director of Adult and Senior Services

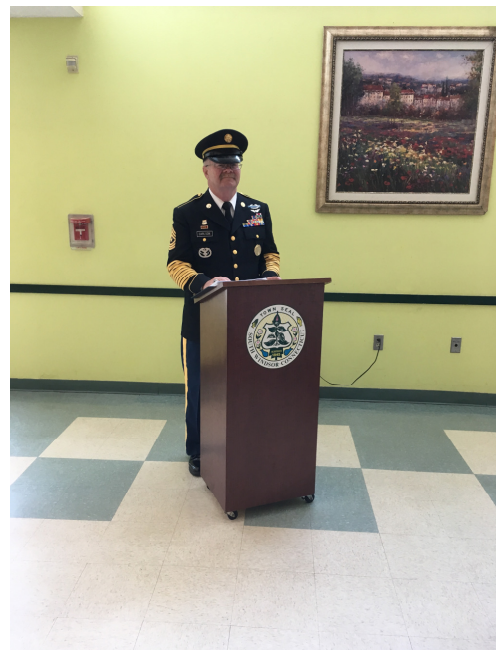
Telephone Reassurance Program Saves a Life

The Telephone Reassurance Program is designed to match a volunteer with a senior citizen or a person with disabilities to check in on them daily at the same time every day to be sure they are okay. Recently, one of our dedicated volunteers in the program did not get an answer when phoning her senior and after going through the steps she was trained to go through, she phoned the SW Police Department. The woman was having a diabetic emergency and her doctor told her that if she had waited just one more hour, she would have died. This is the second time this program has saved a life since its inception about two years ago.



Memorial Day Celebration

Over 70 people enjoyed a Memorial Day Program at the senior center last week. Sergeant Major Kent Carlson (retired) spoke, honoring all the fallen soldiers and Veterans who have died in all wars while protecting our freedom.



Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive

The Letter Carriers from the South Windsor Post Office once again collected food from resident's homes and the South Windsor Food Bank benefited by receiving 64 bins of food! Ms. Porter's 6th Grade CCD class from St. Margaret Mary Church assisted with sorting and stocking the shelves in the food bank.



Property Tax Relief Program Ends

147 applications were processed for the Property Tax Relief Program, which ended May 15. Caseworkers assist with these applications in order to determine if there are other programs residents can qualify for. If a person can benefit from additional financial assistance programs, caseworkers either complete the applications for them or refer them to where they can apply.

Energy Assistance Program Ends

Over 400 applications for the CEAP Energy Assistance Program were taken for this winter season. Operation Fuel is accepting applications until the end of June. Residents can also access our private fuel account.

New this summer: Early Morning Exercise Classes!

New this summer, we will be offering early morning exercise classes to get you up and moving in the morning and to beat the heat! **Light Aerobics** with Linda Hull will be held all Fridays in July at 8:00 AM (cost is \$2, drop in!). **Strength Training** with Dolores will be held on Tuesdays at 8:00 AM, beginning 7/12 to 8/30 (cost \$40). **Country Line Dance** with Nikki will be held on Fridays at 10:00 AM July 8 to Aug 26 (cost \$40).

Tropical Costa Rica

April 24 - May 2, 2017

9 Days * 13 Meals

Book NOW & Save \$100*

Highlights: San Jose, Coffee Plantations, Guanacaste, Monteverde Cloud Forest, Hanging Bridges Tour, Arenal Volcano, Lake Arenal Cruise, Cooking Demonstration, Cano Negro Refuge, Zarcero, National Theatre and more! For more information, see trip brochure or go to this website:

<https://gateway.gocollette.com/link/759751>

You're invited to a special Collette travel presentation on **Tuesday, June 21 at 1:00 PM** those who attend will be able to submit a **deposit of \$530.** to secure their place on this exciting trip!

Cost: Double \$2,929*Single \$3,429* price good until Oct. 24. If any questions, call Tracy Ext. 340. Only 38 spots available—register now to avoid the wait list!

Friends of the South Windsor Senior Center Receives First Donation!

The Human Services Community Service Group recently donated \$500 to the newly created "Friends of the South Windsor Senior Center." FOSWSC was created through the South Windsor Community Foundation to allow people and businesses to make a 100% tax deductible contribution specific to improvements and enhancements to the current community center that will directly benefit South Windsor seniors. A big thank you to our volunteer Community Service Group for their generous donation!

Special Needs Fund Needs Funds!

The Human Services Special Needs Fund is designed to assist South Windsor residents in need of things that do not fall in any category....they are miscellaneous services that are necessary but are not typically funded by agencies. Caseworkers in the Adult and Senior Services division carefully screens clients and designate money in this fund to be used for needs when all other avenues have been exhausted. For those wishing to make a donation to the Special Needs Fund, please send donations to the Human Services Office with "Special Needs" in the memo or call Andrea at 860-648-6357 with questions.



Like us on FACEBOOK!

[Facebook.com/swseniorcenter](https://www.facebook.com/swseniorcenter)

Youth & Family Services

Elizabeth Langevin, Director of Youth and Family Services



May 2016

On May 25th, several South Windsor representatives (School, Police & Youth & Family staff) met Eastern region representatives at Tolland High to begin planning a multi town drug & alcohol prevention & education event. The hope is to make this a yearly event that will rotate from town to town. Stay tuned for details!

On June 6th, Youth & Family staff and both SRO's will attend the first annual Juvenile Review Board conference, organized by the Connecticut Youth Services Association. SRO Tina Roy will be presenting, *Social Media Trends Taking Over Our Teens & Tips to Regain Control*, what she designed for our collaboration program, Cops, Coffee & Conversation. South Windsor has had a Juvenile Review Board since 1993. The purpose of a JRB is to provide community based diversion for appropriate juvenile cases, with the hope to keep youth out of the juvenile justice system while providing an opportunity to learn and grow from their choices.

Youth & Family Services staff will be supporting Operation Graduation and will be in attendance for the evening event at Nomads on Wednesday, June 15th.

Parent Education and Support



On May 11, SWAN had a program for parents who are raising children with executive function challenges. The focus was on parents and their well-being. We talked about the stresses and challenges, and ways for parents to take care of themselves. We did some breathing techniques and a guided imagery session to promote relaxation.

SWAN partnered with ASRC to offer a 4 week Saturday program on transition planning for young adults on the autism spectrum. The group is meeting at the Community Center for two Saturdays in May and two in June. We are also holding a networking group on May 25 for parents with teens and young adults on the autism spectrum.

The Grandparents Raising Grandchildren group will meet in May to plan a luncheon for our last meeting on June 28.

SWAN has some exciting and relevant programming coming up for the summer. Please check out the SWAN website for more info:

<http://www.southwindsor.org/swan>

School Outreach

Students involved in Students Against Destructive Decisions asked their peers to take the Prom Promise. They asked members of the Junior Class to sign a pledge promising to make safe choices during the prom weekend and to encourage their friends to do the same.

The Mentoring Program enjoyed a fabulous end of the year picnic on May 19th at the Rotary Pavilion. Students and their mentors enjoyed lunch together and then shared some laughs while playing "Minute To Win It" games. It was a beautiful day to celebrate the amazing mentors and the relationships that have formed with their incredible students. (Photo below)



Teen Center

During the month of May our Teen Center Youth Council continued to be active with a new project each week! From participating in discussions and spreading awareness about the dangers of drug use for National Prevention week... to walking in support of

the Alzheimer's Association during the Charities Walk on May 22 at Nevers Park. We are proud to have ten active members on our Youth Council –all high school students who volunteer their time, participate in various projects and learn how both big *and* small acts can make a difference in a community.

Drop-in hours at the Teen Center continue to be filled with fun, as well as some education, with various themes we offered this month such as Anger Management Awareness, Board Game Challenges and Mindfulness Activities. Teens can also participate in groups outside of our drop in hours, such as joining the Youth Council or attending our monthly Teen Talks Group – a group for 8th-12th graders, focused on learning positive decision making skills and problem solving various topics and typical situations teens may experience.



Rising Stars Summer Community Service Program will begin on Monday, June 20th and has gone from four days a week to five! This program will run for 8 weeks. We are excited

to say that **all** slots are filled for this summer! We have added some prevention education and some extra skill building to the program. We are also happy to have all Youth & Family Services staff involved in some capacity this summer.

Youth & Family Counseling

Our Youth & Family Counselor, Eileen Adler just wrapped up a six week long group, called Friendship Circle where 8 children participated. The 3rd through 5th graders enjoyed making new friends while developing their social skills.



Eileen and our School Outreach Specialist, Kathy Reed will be offering a group called Moving On Up this summer for students entering the middle school this fall. For more info and dates/times please go to the website below for flyer and more info!

Eileen will begin a fun & creative summer program for youth ages 7 to 11 on July 7th and will be offered 10 sessions. Youth can come for one or all! For more info, please

visit News & Announcements on our website.

Please check out our Parent Talk Newsletter, available on the town website for upcoming events.

<http://www.southwindsor.org/youth-family-services>



Parks & Recreation Department

Raymond Favreau
Director of Parks & Recreation

John Caldwell, Jr.
Superintendent of Parks

"Discover the Benefits!"

MONTHLY REPORT - June 6, 2016

Keri Apt
Asst. Director of Parks & Recreation

Park & Recreation Commission (PARC) –

The next PARC meeting is Wednesday, June 8th at 7:30pm in the Sprekel Room of the Town Hall, at which they will continue work on the master plan.

growing - we are now "liked" by 1,330 people! Won't you like us too at south windsor parks & recreation and check out the awesome videos posted? Also, please follow us on Instagram too at SWPRD06074!!

The South Windsor Walk & Wheel Ways

(SWW&WW) sub-committee last met on Wednesday, June 1st at the Community Center, conference room 206 at 7pm. They meet next on Wed., July 6th. Their brave attempt to raise the Town's Bicycle Friendly Community designation from Bronze to Silver came up on the short end. We will remain at the bronze level through 2020 unless we re-apply in between. They are continuing their work on action plans for potential public access to the Eversource power line corridors for cross-town trails connecting the existing Jacques Lane trail to Pleasant Valley Road.

Special Invitation to Councilors – SAVE THE DATE: First concert of the 2016 series, Tuesday, June 23 featuring the ever-popular Savage Brothers Band! All shows run 7-9pm and held at the Evergreen Walk Park every Thursday evening from June 23 to August 18. As

always, we offer all members of the Town Council an open invitation to visit any of our 350+ recreation programs or park facilities throughout the year. Please give us a call and we will even escort you!

RECREATION DIVISION

"Feel great – recreate!"

The South Windsor FOOD Alliance (SWFA) sub-committee is busy planning for their 2016 Summer Farmer's market beginning Sat., June 18. Go to www.swfood.org for more details.

Before & After School Program – June enrollment is at 322, with 45 additions in after care on Early Release Wednesdays in support the BOE professional development program.

Like us on Facebook - The number keeps

Veterans Memorial Park – We are extremely busy preparing for opening day Sat., May 28th and wanted to post a final reminder of some upcoming changes we are proposing for operation of the pools at VMP for the 2016 summer season. (1) We will prohibit water guns as they tend to create behaviors that annoy patrons. (2) Until such time as we can create a dedicated “grilling zone” (which is a project on the drawing board) we will curtail the use of charcoal and gas grills on park grounds. (3) Weekend daily admission rates for non-residents will increase from \$9 to \$12 for adults and from \$6 to \$8 for children. (4) Group visit discounts have been eliminated to reduce overcrowding, especially on weekends.

May the Fourth Be With You - Inclement weather didn't deter 30 local Star Wars fans from attending this whimsical special event originally slated for My Friend's Place playground, but moved indoors on Wed., May 4th from 6:30-8pm. Costumed Star Wars characters mingled with all visitors, posed for photos and enjoyed the music and prizes!



Star Wars fans attend the "May the Fourth Be With You" event on 5/4.

Paws in the Park – the 12th annual event catered to our four-legged friends will happen at the Rotary Pavilion at Nevers Park from 9:30am to 3pm on Sat., May 7th drew hundreds of dogs and their owners despite less than ideal weather. The event included contests, kids activities, food, and more than 80 vendors and sponsored and presented by the SW Jaycees to benefit Fidelco Guide Dog Foundation, the Gary Tyler Memorial Bark Park and the Tyler Regional Animal Care Shelter.

Color Me Grad – This untimed early evening “color run” through the trails at Nevers Park drew a smaller crowd than usual attracting 20 runners. All proceeds benefit South Windsor Operation Graduation.



Trails for Charities Day, Walk for Pulmonary Fibrosis

“Walk 4 Good, Our Trails, Your Cause” – Our first-ever Trails for Charities Day on Sun., May 22 on the trails at Nevers Park was an unexpected success accommodating over 140 participants, volunteers and spectators! The event was developed to accommodate the

growing demand for charitable use of our trails without adversely impacting the general public's use of the park and to deliver it efficiently and frugally. Instead of expending resources singularly every time a group requested exclusive use of the trails we rolled it all into one shared day. Five different organizations were scheduled on the hour as follows: 9:00am—Journey Fund, Manchester (timed 5K run); 10:00am—Pulmonary Fibrosis (walk-a-thon); 11:00am—Alzheimer's (walk-a-thon); 12:00pm—Wapping School PTO (walk-a-thon); 1:00pm—Wapping Community Church (walkers will choose where their collected donations will go to any of ten charities that the church supports). Logistics, staff, signage and entertainment was provided by Parks & Recreation.



Trails for Charities Day, the Memory Walk for Alzheimer's

PARKS DIVISION

"Caring for South Windsor's Growing Needs"

May Activity Highlights:

- Athletic Fields & Grounds:
 - Continued with the extremely busy spring schedule preparing and renovating fields for the high school interscholastic program and local youth sports group needs,
 - Tree plantings at Pleasant Valley School and Town Hall.
- Parks & Open Space:
 - Ramped up preparations at VMP – removed 70% of old fence in preparation for installation of new 6 foot high chain link, removed a series of diseased and lightning damaged trees, and refurbished the lower parking lot capping the paved roadway with fresh asphalt and replenishing the gravel parking areas with crushed stone topped with rolled stone dust to create a safer, level, and more customer friendly parking facility.
 - All irrigation systems checked and repaired as needed.
 - Seasonal maintenance of stone dust trails at Nevers Park completed.
- Projects:
 - Memorial Wall Project at VMP – parks crew went into an "all hands on deck" mode to assist the Patriotic Commission and local contractors with this project and the fast approaching May 30th deadline. They erected the granite wall with the help of Kevin Foley and loaner equipment from Bobcat CT, they installed drainage behind the granite wall, they installed paver bricks in the newly created

space between the existing monuments/Eagle patio and the new granite wall, they rebuilt the brick planters around the flag poles, they pulled stumps and leveled the front admission gate hill and they finished grading and seeding of the disturbed area all in time for the Memorial Day dedication.

- o Barton Property Project – The sides of the berm were scarified and seeded with a wild flower mix. Tree and shrub planting on the top is planned for the fall. We are working with Jeff Folger and Jeff Doolittle on bid specs for Phase II for finish grading and seeding. The Wapping Fair will be hosted at the Evergreen Walk site for Sept., 2016 with plans to relocate that to Barton in 2017.
- o Eagle Scout Austin Gore completed beautification of Jacob's View at My Friend's Place playground on Sat., April 23rd.
- o Finishing touches to the new mountain bike trail at Rye Street Park in preparation for its official opening on CT Trails Day, Sun., June 5th, 1-4pm.
- o Deming Community Gardens - Neighbor friendly site plan modifications are a work-in-progress through our engineering department and should be ready to go to PZC for final approval in June. Once approved we will re-apply for the \$20,000 grant with the state of CT Dept. of

Agriculture Farmland Restoration Program. The goal is to have it ready for planting Spring, 2017.

- Other:
 - o Transported SW Walk & Wheel Ways bike trailer to Orchard Hill and Pleasant Valley schools.
 - o Participated in National Public Works Day along-side the divisions of Public Works on 5/16.
 - o Jake Burnham, Mike Samsel & Alec Arnold received CDL training thanks to Fleet Service Manager Leon Clough!
 - o Helped Street Services set up for annual Armed Forces Day Evening in the Park event 5/21.



Jake Burnham hovers a soccer ball with one of our leaf blowers at Public Works Day



Camp Staff accept the "Sweaty Award" award from TV celebrity/silver screen actor Patrick Dempsey on 5-13-16 in Boston in recognition of their charitable contributions to the Hole in the Wall Gang Camp over the past few years!



Trails for Charities Day, Journey Found 5K.



Granite panel installation at Memorial Wall @ VMP



Sign identifying the location of the soon to be built Rotary Pavilion II at VMP. Thank you Gary Schacht!!



A beautiful Memorial Wall ready for Memorial Day ceremony!



Granite panel installation at Memorial Wall @ VMP

June 2016 Town Council Meetings and Events

Meetings

Monday, June 6, 2016

7:00 p.m. Regular Meeting
Council Chambers

Monday, June 20, 2016

7:00 p.m. Regular Meeting
Council Chambers

Layout by Ashley Summers, Executive Secretary to the Town Manager

