

# Town of South Windsor

## Town Manager's Report July 2020

Michael Maniscalco  
Town Manager



### **Wapping Fair**

Town Staff have been reviewing guidelines for public gatherings and meeting with the organizers of the Fair. On July 1, 2020 the organizers made the difficult but smart decision to cancel the fair. I am certain we would all agree that we are looking forward to the 2021 Fair being better than ever.

### **FEMA**

The Town has made its first FEMA application. The total amount applied for is \$1,295,583.78. We will see what gets approved for reimbursement.

### **Beldon Drive**

The Town has been evaluating a drain on Beldon Drive and is planning to do some maintenance work replacing the headwall and rip rap to ensure that we do not have any additional erosion.

### **Laurel Street**

The Police Department is going to be moving the radar monitor to Laurel Street starting this week to monitor and record speeds. We will see what, if any, difference the side striping has made and make modifications according to the report.

### **COVID-19**

As all of you are aware, the infection rates in CT are way down. This is due to the diligence of our residents with wearing masks and

social distancing. Both of these acts are the most important thing that residents can continue to do to ensure we do not have a second wave. For almost 2 weeks we have not seen an increase in the infections for South Windsor. Additionally, we have not had any more fatalities.

Last week the Governor issued a travel advisory for 16 States. Residents and visitors traveling back to CT from any of these States are being advised to self-quarantine for 16 days. The Town has advised its staff that any staff traveling back from any of these locations or any other location added to the list will be required to quarantine. While having a number of close calls we still remain with only two staff members who have tested positive, and only one of those contracted COVID while at work due to the safety protocol and measures we have put in place.

## Police Department

Scott P. Custer  
Chief of Police

### Monthly Statistics May 2020 & the effects of Covid-19:

Total Computer Aided Dispatch Entries:	2459
9-1-1 Calls Received:	654
Routine Calls Received/Outgoing:	3989
Directed Patrol/Premise Checks:	1316
Motor Vehicle Stops:	88
Medical Assists/Emot. Dist. Persons:	107
Suspicious:	95
Alarms:	79
Motor Vehicle Accidents:	26
Welfare Check:	26
Assist Outside Agency:	21
Animal Problem:	33
Citizen Assist:	21
Miscellaneous Service:	75
Collision Reports:	10
BOLO:	13
Disabled Motor Vehicle:	16
Larceny:	13
Hazardous Conditions:	17
Pistol Permits:	3
Burglary:	10
Civil Matter:	6
911 Check:	7
Fraud:	7
Domestic Dispute:	16
Narcotics Violation:	4
Violation of Town Ordinance:	15
Youth Problem:	8
Sexual Assault:	0

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. Patrol staff continue to proactively check businesses and facilities that remain closed due to the public health crisis.

As the State of Connecticut continues to reopen in phases, the Police Chief has assisted by doing some inspections of eating establishments wishing to open for business. By and large, community members are compliant with the phases of the reopening and complaints regarding violations are minimal. We will post June's numbers on Facebook July 1st, but May's numbers are in the table included in this report.

### New Hires and Recruiting Status:

The agency's five newest officers continue to progress through their respective training schedules. Three of them (Officers Krzynowek, Hernando, and DeFelice) completed their academy training last week and have begun their 14 week field training program. Officer LaRock is progressing through her field training program. After spending several weeks as a member of New Britain Police Department's distance learning academy, Officer Kaitlyn Pierpont is now attending academy classes in person at New Britain Police Department.

The coming weeks will call for a tremendous effort by our training staff to get all of these officers field trained, but this step is necessary

## Police Department

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Chief of Police

to realize the full staffing that we have sought for several years.

After last week's retirement of Corporal Jim Nicoletta, the department has one remaining vacancy that will hopefully be filled in the near future. Currently there are approximately 500 applicants in contention for this one position. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, we restricted applicants from being able to enter police headquarters to continue the hiring process, but with the reopening in progress, we are optimistic that with proper precautions in place, we will be able to conduct oral board interviews sometime after the middle of August.

### **Local and National Protests and Social Movements:**

The South Windsor Police Department has taken a strong stance condemning the killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis on May 25, 2020. In the weeks that followed Floyd's death, we assisted with public safety at several community events, vigils, and protests.

As an analysis of the need for police reform continues nationwide, it has become apparent that the South Windsor Police Department appears ahead of the curve in the arena of fair and impartial policing. We are aware of our shortcomings and while we work to overcome them, we take pride in the work that we do and the steps we have already taken to improve police legitimacy and accountability. Officers continue to receive both regular

training and resources that are vital to them being able to carry out their oath of office in a fair and impartial manner to serve and protect all members of the community.

### **Community Activities and Support from our Citizens:**

This past month, the police department collaborated with the Superintendent and staff at SWHS to provide security and traffic control for a successful "drive thru" graduation. We are optimistic that as the reopening process continues, we will once again be able to participate in all of the community activities that are so important to us. We have participated in as many as we could through remote/online meetings, but being able to meet in person again will be a welcomed transition.

Through the public health crisis and the social unrest nationwide, we continue to receive extraordinary support from the community. Individuals and businesses continue to send complimentary emails and cards while also dropping off gift cards and food items. That being said, there is nothing we appreciate more than the simple "thank you" messages we receive and amicable conversations that we have as we move about the community. We also want to recognize the huge outpouring of support from the community.

### **Traffic Safety:**

As the State continues to navigate the reopening process, businesses, parks, and

## Police Department

Scott P. Custer  
Chief of Police

restaurants continue to reopen. People are slowly coming out of quarantine, returning to work, and starting to look towards returning to normal. It is no secret that this is something we all look forward to, however it also means that traffic is increasing and with that comes an increase in traffic accidents. In the month of June we saw a slight increase in motor vehicle accidents which is a stark reminder of the dangers posed by excessive speed and distracted driving. We plan to continue to conduct high visibility traffic enforcement particularly in areas surrounding our school campuses and bus stops when schools start to re-open in the fall.

### **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 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

## Police Department

Scott P. Custer  
Chief of Police

report suspicious activity immediately.

### **Never Too Early to Prepare For an Emergency:**

The message below has been a frequent post on Facebook and in this monthly report. As we look to recover from Covid-19 as a community and prepare for the “second wave” in the fall, I hope that our citizens will think about all-hazard preparations.

The Ready.gov webpage has great information pages on preparation for natural disasters, severe weather, and active shooters. Please share with friends and family that may rely on you in a severe weather event, or have questions about how to react to an active shooter event.

We have had our share of severe weather in Connecticut and now is a good time to review your plan to protect yourself and your family.

<https://www.ready.gov/>

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

We continue to have a strong presence on Social Media and update our citizens on all kinds of activity. Our Facebook page and Twitter feed are also displayed on our webpage <https://www.southwindsor-ct.gov/police>. We encourage everyone to follow us and share information with friends and family.

Facebook: South Windsor Police Department

Twitter: @SWPD\_PIO

## Public Works Department

### **Engineering Projects Update**

#### **Local Road Paving and Miscellaneous Drainage**

The Fire HQ side and rear lots have been regraded and repaved with new pavement. Our paving contractor, Ondrick Materials will be moving to Ridgefield Drive, Summerwind, Krawski Drive, Files Way, Bayberry Trail, Horizon Circle and Mohegan Trail next. Then they will mill and pave Pleasant Valley Road from Route 5 for 1900 feet east and finally Wood Pond Road, and Linda Lane. Drainage repairs will be completed on these roads soon. The Connecticut Water Company plans to work on their facilities in Wood Pond Road by Rustic Lane this summer. This program is supported by the 2018 Bond funds.

#### **Sidewalk Repairs**

The sidewalk replacement contract has been awarded to Hathaway Landscaping & Concrete and they began sidewalk work in June. Martin Laviero/CRC will raise concrete slabs to repair sidewalks and eliminate trip hazards where possible starting in July. 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 awarded to Spazzarini Construction and they started work this week. This project will be ongoing throughout the summer and residents should expect delays. Their schedule is to substantially complete this work by the

end of September. This project is supported by the 2018 Bond funds.

#### **Avery Street Reconstruction Phase 5**

(Northern section, from Talcott Ridge Road to Dart Hill Rd). 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 wrapping up. These projects are funded from the 2018 Bond Referendum.

*Jeffrey Doolittle*  
*Town Engineer*



#### **Public Buildings Division**

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

#### **HVAC Upgrades Police Department and Community Center**

Work is progressing nicely on the replacement of 16 heat pumps, 5 boilers, and a cooling



## Public Works Department

tower at the Community Center. Ten heat pumps and one boiler have been replaced to date. Precision Mechanical, the contractor awarded this project is doing a great job coordinating and scheduling the equipment and materials so as not to have any delays with the installation schedule. Workers have been able to replace one heat pump unit a week with little to no interruption to the Community Center staff. The cooling tower is on order and is expected to take 4-6 weeks to arrive. Once all of the heat pumps and boilers are replaced at the Community Center the contractor will move to the Police Department to start the boiler replacements and then finally the cooling tower will be replaced last. The last phase of this project consists of removing the six-thousand gallon underground heating oil storage tank at the Community Center. Removal is expected to take place sometime in July.

### **Town Hall Elevator Engineering/Design**

Construction Documents were submitted to me for final review a couple of weeks ago. Shortly thereafter I submitted comments to the architect, including the potential locations for the handicapped ramp at the front of the building. The ball is now in their court to approve the comments, make changes to the plans and to complete the final construction documents. Once funds are available for this project I will solicit bids to replace the elevator and get the project rolling. This, just like the Library elevator modernization

project, is also expected to take several months to complete. Project details and construction timeline will be determined after the project kick off meeting is scheduled in the coming months.

### **Library Roof Replacement**

The roofing work began right after the Memorial Day holiday. A crew of four men set up the worksite by installing roof barriers for worker safety, bringing materials to the roof and laying out the sections of the roof where the work would begin. Prep work for applying the two-part liquid applied roofing system consisted of power washing the roof and laying out the roof areas in a grid pattern to ensure the proper amount of product is applied to every square foot of the roof. The project is now completed, it took a total of four weeks to complete.

### **Sidewalk Repairs at the Police Department**

Several slabs of concrete sidewalk were repaired and or removed altogether at the Police Department. Several areas of the sidewalk were deteriorated beyond simple repairs and had to be replaced while other areas were deemed no longer necessary and were removed, backfilled with loam and seeded. New integral curbs were also installed as part of this project. The work took about two weeks to complete.

### **Concrete Work at Town Hall**

The stamped concrete at the front of the town

## Public Works Department

hall was also repaired. A few sections of the concrete had deteriorated due to age and the salt applied to it as a safety precaution during the winter months. The slate will also be power washed, cleaned and color matched to blend the new patches with the old. Lastly, a sealant will be applied to prolong the life of the stamped concrete.

### Town Garage Bay Modifications

Over the last couple of months I have been working with an engineer and architect on a design to make alterations and modifications to two unheated bays at the Town Garage. The two bays will be turned into a heated workshop so that both the Streets and Parks Divisions have a place to store materials as well as a place to complete work that they would normally have to do outside during the winter months. On May 22nd the project went out to bid, two bids were received and subsequently one has been chosen as the lowest most qualified bidder. The construction work began about a week after the signing of the contract. Thus far the floor has been marked out for the mezzanine footings and the floor has been cut and concrete removed in order to pour the concrete.

### Other

Some notable tasks completed by the Building Maintenance Crew:

- Roof and drain cleaning
- Toilet replacement

- Furniture moving
- Paper deliveries
- Responded to running toilets
- Assemble storage sheds
- Install mail drop boxes
- Modified desks for computer cabling
- Raise and lower flags
- Hang Pride flag
- Respond to automatic doors not functioning
- De-winterized Rotary Pavilion and VMP
- Install wireless access points
- Respond to generator alarms
- Replaced burnt out lamps and ballasts
- Office painting
- Monthly above ground tank inspections
- Fence Painting
- Relocated phone lines

*Clay Major*

*Facilities Manager, Public Buildings Division*

### Project Photos



Community Center Heat Pump Replacements



## Public Works Department



Library Roof Project Photos



Police Department Sidewalk Replacements



Town Hall Main Entry Stamped Concrete Repairs

### **Street Services**

Our crews finished catch basin repairs on Bayberry Trail, Horizon Circle, Linda Lane and Brookfield St as resurfacing these roads will begin soon. They moved to Wood Pond to do more basin repairs for the upcoming

resurfacing of that road. Crews also repaired a large sinkhole on Wendy Drive at June Drive and a utility patch on Oak Street. The department also repaired a failing drainage headwall on Pleasant Valley Road.

Crack sealing and catch basin cleaning programs were completed during the month.

Streets maintainers responded to 11 calls for illegal dumping and littering on Town property including at the Garage. Items include mattresses, brush, leaves, carpet and many other assorted items. There is a cost to the taxpayers for us to send maintainers out to retrieve these items. Many of these items can be disposed of free through Refuse and Recycling and local vendors that take brush. A mattress and box spring can be put out for bulky waste pick up, or if buying a new set, the retailer may take it for free as an incentive to buy or charge a nominal fee usually less than \$50.00. If a mattress and box spring are in good condition, there are several charities that may take them. Leaves can always be brought to the Town Garage Monday through Friday 7:00 am- 3:00 pm.

Our maintainers deployed signs for the High School graduation to assist with traffic control. Our congratulations to all of the graduating seniors! Good luck to you all!

Crews cleared up several complaints of low hanging branches over sidewalks throughout town.

## Public Works Department

Public Works, through our contractor Comer, chip sealed Brookfield St, Alexander Place and Barber Hill Rd. These roads will be swept several times before we call in our line-painting contractor to restripe Brookfield Street and Barber Hill Road.

Streets crews assisted the Parks Department in the revitalization of the Buckland Rd islands and the removal of the pool covers at VMP.

Several hundred yards of compost was sold to local contractors and moved off the leaf sites. There has been a great demand for this sought after commodity.

Representatives of the department met with State DOT officials regarding the repair/replacement of the Sullivan Avenue railroad crossing.

The sign shop continues to fabricate informational signs for Phase II reopening. This work has been very dynamic but the shop has been able to turn signs out in short order. The sign shop continues to be a valuable asset with this ever-changing environment. The shop continues to work with the Local Traffic Authority (LTA) to install traffic speed feedback signs in some areas. One sign was recently installed on Pleasant Valley Rd due to resident complaints of excessive speed. The sign shop maintainer also met with the LTA regarding new requirements from the Office of the

State Traffic Administration (OSTA) for school zones. The shop also replaced several damaged signs throughout the month.

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

*Scott Yeomans*

*Associate Manager, Street Services*



### **Water Pollution Control**

Two projects were completed this past June. In October of 2019 during a routine inspection of a sewer line on Griffin Road we found a collapsing sewer pipe. This matter was deemed to be urgent but not an emergency which allowed us to explore several repair options, however, after gaining the opinion of several consultants the best repair option was to dig up the 50 foot section of 8" pipe and replace it at a cost of \$62,000. The road was required to be closed for several days but the work was able to be completed without any disruption to sewer service. The pipe material in this area of town is known as truss pipe and was installed in the mid-1970's. We have 20+ miles of truss pipe throughout the collection system with some areas showing early signs of failure. As part of the Water Pollution Control Authority's capital improvement

## Public Works Department

plan, we intend to use cured-in-place pipe which is a much more cost effective and less disruptive technology to rehabilitate sewer pipe. In 2017 we relined 3,500 feet of 30" for \$205/foot and did not need to close the road. This particular project cost \$1,250/foot and required a road closure for several days. Emergency maintenance costs are estimated to be 10-12 times the cost of preventative maintenance. Our asset management program is the backbone to the WPCA's long-term capital improvement plan and responsible sewer fund expenditures.

We also completed re-armoring the treatment plants' effluent outfall with rip rap and grout. The project cost was \$117,000, which was \$5,000 under the WPCA's allocated budget of \$122,000. The outfall is located along the Connecticut River next to the boat ramp at the end of Vibert Road. Over the years the river bank has eroded, exposing the discharge pipe and access structure, increasing the potential for water to undermine and damage the infrastructure. Re-armoring the pipe and structure will protect the assets from damage against flood stage river levels.



### Refuse and Recycling

As the State begins to ease restrictions and open back up our recycling programs are doing the same. After cancelling the last electronic recycling event in May we are happy to keep the scheduled July 11th event on course. The event will take place in the rear parking lot of Town Hall from 8 am to 1 pm. The vendor will have staff available to remove the electronics from cars providing a contactless exchange.

The curbside textile pickup program has resumed after a short hiatus due to COVID-19 concerns. Simple Recycling has trucks following the single stream recycling routes and is picking up pink bags of unwanted clothing, linens, and footwear. The white Bay State Textile bins located at each school, the Community Center and Recreation Department have remained open throughout the pandemic.

The next household hazardous waste event is scheduled for August 22nd. The last three events have been cancelled. We remain cautiously optimistic to keep this event on schedule.

*Tony Manfre*  
*Superintendent of Pollution Control*

## Health Department

Heather Oatis  
Environmental Health Officer

The South Windsor Health Department (SW HD) continues to be very busy with the COVID-19 response. SW HD has been regularly participating in Department of Public Health (DPH) and Region 3 ESF 8 conference calls. The calls with DPH have been very informative as the case definition of COVID-19 changes, self-quarantine guidance is updated, new resources become available, and the contact tracing protocol is rolled out using the ContaCT system.

SW HD has distributed PPE to Town staff for use when working with the public cannot be avoided and for use on inspections that still need to be conducted. SW HD has distributed over 17,000 pieces of PPE from the Strategic National Stockpile to local assisted living facilities, group homes, dental offices, primary care offices, and other agencies who work with medically fragile or compromised individuals in town. This is expected to continue until August.

SW HD has been working with the local Board of Education Health and Safety Committee to advise on the reopening of schools in the fall. Additionally, the SW HD has been advising the local food service, cosmetology, tattoo, and daycare establishments on specific questions they have for reopening to ensure consistent protocols are in place. SW HD is conducting re-opening inspections for establishments that closed for any period of time in response to this emergency if it is a type of business that can be open.

The SW HD is currently coordinating contact tracing efforts in anticipation of a second wave of COVID-19 this fall. DPH has made a state-wide system available for use at local health departments called ContaCT. With this system, the SW HD is able to enter the close contacts of positive cases that may reside in other towns, which automatically pops up in the respective towns for them to complete contact tracing with these individuals. Similarly, if someone from SW is identified as being a contact of a positive case in another town, the SW HD is able to follow up with those people using the system.

The SW HD continues to work closely with the Emergency Management Coordinator, Christopher Wilcox, for PPE acquisition, management, and distribution. Mr. Wilcox was able to work with the South Windsor's Mass Dispensing Area 31 contractor to update the stockpile inventory list and determine what the long-term needs are for vaccination planning and implementation. We are starting more comprehensive planning in anticipation of a vaccine becoming available sooner than later.

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



## Human Services Department

Andrea Cofrancesco  
Director of Human Services

### Adult & Senior Services

The Human Services Department is here for residents of all ages! From delivery of meals for older adults to youth counseling and everything in between, we are committed to helping!



### **New Drop Box**

Thank you to Building Maintenance for installing our new drop box at the main entrance of the community center! In the week that it has been installed, it has seen a lot of use! We continue to meet with people out in front of our building and in driveways, all while social distancing.

### **Renters Rebate**

Caseworkers are continuing to meet with people outside, to complete applications for Renter's Rebate. With the new drop box installed and in person meetings in the front of our building, it is working out good. 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.

### **Transportation Survey**

We recently sent a transportation survey out to 125 people who use our bus. Results will be shared in the next report!

### **Senior Center Parade**

Staff and seniors alike enjoyed this parade! It was so moving to see the seniors out with their handmade signs. To see people's faces, to hear their cheers moved staff to tears. Truly. We miss everyone so much and cannot wait to get back to "normal!"



### **Ukulele Concert on Zoom**

50 people attended our "sing a long" on Zoom with our instructor Sue Hill and the students who have been working hard at learning to play the ukulele since March when in-person lessons were cancelled. What a great turnout!!! People are really enjoying

## Human Services Department

Andrea Cofrancesco  
Director of Human Services

the different options being offered through technology!

### Senior Center's Ice Cream Truck!

July is National Ice Cream Month and what better way to celebrate than turning our senior bus into an ice cream truck?! We will be visiting several locations throughout the latter part of July....trying to be creative in connecting with our seniors!

- ♦ 7/22: Eagle Run, Rustic, Miller, Abbe Ext, Devonshire, Foster, Palmer, Summer Hill
- ♦ 7/24: Misty Meadow, Porter Green, Kebalo, Smith, Arthur, Garden, Cinnamon Springs, Pleasant Valley, Northview, Riverview, Hilton, Mill Pond, Pierce
- ♦ 7/28: Watson Farm, Shares
- ♦ 7/29: Bailey, Wyndemere, Collins Crossing, Hunter, Sunrise, Strawberry
- ♦ 7/30: Hillcrest, Diane, Avery, Orchard Hill
- ♦ 7/31: Berry Patch

All dates, the bus is scheduled to leave the center at 1:00 PM. For your safety: wear a mask, remain 6 feet apart, and pick up your ice cream one at a time. We can't wait to see you! FREE!

### South Windsor Strong and Pasta Vita

The Food and Fuel Bank received a donation of 128 meals (that serves 2 people each)! Thanks to Mayor Paterna and Genevieve

Coursey for coordinating this donation, the recipients of the meals were truly grateful!



### New Flooring in Senior Lounge!

A new vinyl floor has replaced the old, stained carpet in the senior lounge. This was fully funded by Friends of the South Windsor Senior Center, a campaign that raised funds for building enhancements. Now we just need our seniors back to enjoy it!



### Zero Waste South Windsor

Zero Waste South Windsor recently donated over \$1000 to the Food and Fuel Bank. They made and sold masks to the community to raise the funds!





## Human Services Department

Andrea Cofrancesco  
Director of Human 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 meet weekly through Zoom. The staff are creative, supportive and adaptive.

This summer, we have created a new program called Lucky Stars, which begins July 6th. It is four, one week sessions of leadership, confidence and communication for middle school and high school students. This program will be facilitated by Robin Lagasse and Kathy Reed.

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. The most recent one was created by our Youth Counselor, Sarah Sobololeski. She teaches us how to WOOP it up to achieve our goals. Check it out!

To watch the videos and to subscribe:  
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCvDYfgyqvTwBUfEqwusSLJg>

We currently have two very important positions open right now. Teen Center Program Coordinator as well as a Youth Counselor position. We are actively hiring for

both and we hope to get two great people in to these positions in August.

We are thrilled to announce that our current part time Youth Counselor, Robin Lagasse, will be moving in to a full time Clinical Coordinator position in August. Robin will continue to maintain a small caseload and will focus her efforts on strengthening our referral, intake and assessment process for counseling.

As of July 1st 2020, Juvenile Courts will no longer be handling any Family With Service Needs (FWSN) cases for out of control behavior or runaways. Parents and guardians who would typically file a FWSN with court will now be referred to their local Youth Service Bureau, that's us!

All of our staff have been actively seeking out training this month. We have participated in: Assessing and Treating Trauma, Mindfulness Based Stress Reduction for Teens, Ending Racism, Governor's Partnership for Prevention Series on Mentoring, Voices of LGBTQ+ Youth, Serving Those Who Serve (working with military families) and Racial Justice and Trauma (How Therapists Can Respond).

### Teen Center

We had to say our goodbyes to Teen Center Program Coordinator, Liane Lussier Smith at the beginning of this month. Liane has made a huge impact on our programming, our

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Andrea Cofrancesco  
Director of Human Services

teens and our community. She will be missed. We are currently in the process of hiring for this position and will resume teen center hours when school resumes in late summer.

We continue to work with high school aged youth in their participation with 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.



### **Parent Education and Support**

We are offering FREE parenting webinar classes through Peace At Home Parenting for all of 2020! Topics range from toilet training toddlers to talking to your teens!

Coming up for July we have:

- ◆ Positive Discipline for Children with Special Needs
- ◆ Help Your Child Feel Safe in an Unpredictable World
- ◆ Infant/Toddler Brain Development
- ◆ Set the Stage for a Happy Healthy Summer

- ◆ Inspire Independence and a Sustained Love of Learning

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 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.

Kathy used her skills and creativity to create the postcard on the following page. It was mailed to families in town. We used grant funds from DHMAS to get out this important message.

## Human Services Department

Andrea Cofrancesco  
Director of Human Services

### 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 at:

<https://www.facebook.com/SWYouthFamily>

or call Liz at 860-648-6361 x331 for more information

*Liz Langevin, LCSW*

### South Windsor Youth & Family Services CARES about YOU and your FAMILY!

*We know that your lives have changed a lot these last few months and we are here to support you. Here are some ways to keep alcohol & drug prevention a part of your family conversation, and tips on how to decrease stress and stay healthy.*

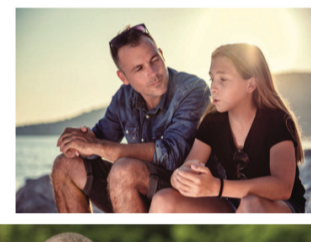
#### Start the Conversation

Now is a great time to **talk with your kids, your family & friends about preventing drug and alcohol addiction.**

- ♥ When having a conversation, remember to **keep an open mind** & ask open-ended questions.
- ♥ Kids say that when it comes to drugs and alcohol, their **families are the most important influence**. So keep talking... and listening! Be clear and honest about your expectations. If you have a family history, talk to them about it.
- ♥ The human brain does not fully develop until about age 25. **Experimenting with drugs or alcohol during this time is risky to developing brains.** Studies show that people who start drinking before the age of 15 are 50% more likely to become alcohol dependent as adults.
- ♥ Be clear that they are **not allowed to use alcohol and drugs** and then explain WHY... because you love them, because these substances can be dangerous and addictive and because it is illegal.
- ♥ **For resources and talking points:** Go to [www.drugfree.org](http://www.drugfree.org), [portal.ct.gov/dmhas](http://portal.ct.gov/dmhas), or [www.kidshealth.org](http://www.kidshealth.org)

#### Some simple things that you can do to help your family & friends.

- ♥ **Get unnecessary medication out of your house.** A medication drop off box is in the lobby of the S.W. Police Department, 150 Nevers Road. Drop off with no questions asked.
- ♥ **Reach out for services.** Getting a family member connected to counseling can help tremendously.
- ♥ In CT, it is against the law to knowingly permit any minor to possess alcohol. **It is not safe to let your teen and their friends drink in your house**, so make very clear rules. Communicate with your teen about the dangers and the consequences





## Parks & Recreation Department

Raymond Favreau  
Director of Parks & Recreation

### “Discover the Benefits!”

John Caldwell, Jr.  
Parks Superintendent

#### MONTHLY REPORT - July 6, 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 scheduled and conducted a meeting on June 10th to begin preparing master plan information requested by Council. We will meet again on July 15th and then visit with the Town Council on Mon., July 20th.

**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. On June 10, 2020, the League of American Bicyclists officially announced that they have designated The Town of South Windsor a Bicycle Friendly Community at the Bronze Level! Congratulations to all you who worked on the application and for all your efforts in creating a bicycle friendly community!! Prior to the League’s announcement, our community will receive a digital copy of the BFC award certificate, along with the local survey results for our community and a preview of our BFC report card. The Report Card will also be published on the Awards Database Map following the announcement. In the coming weeks we will also receive a printed award letter and certificate in the

mail. The committee 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. They are planning to re-open some of their activities including the Thursday night bike hikes and sunset walk on July 10th.

#### Recreation Division

*“Feel great – recreate!”*

**Drive-Through Reverse Parade** on Tues., June 9th from 3:15-4pm drew nearly 50 family vehicles that were greeted by three dozen Parks & Recreation staff physically distanced and spread out through the parking lot at Wapping and then winding down the driveway at the high school next door. Lots of waving, cheering and smiling from afar between the staff and participants from our preschool, camp and 4th R programs!

Please refer to the six page update report recently distributed back on June 22nd for more details.

#### **COVID-19 Update:**

- ◆ At this time estimated loss revenue as a result of being inoperative stands at \$758,098 (includes \$187,871 in refunds).

- ◆ We will continue to keep our constituents informed via website, Facebook and mass email blasts as the situation warrants.
- ◆ We wrapped up our virtual Recreation Inspiration program this month with plenty of fun activities!
  - Part-time and full time staff showed off their lip sync skills and we created a department lip sync video to the popular and appropriately-themed Fleetwood Mac hit, “Don’t Stop (Thinking About Tomorrow)!”
  - We hosted a “Best In Show” Pet Contest – boy, people sure do love their pets! We have a lot of adorable 06074 pets!
  - We also hosted a “reverse parade” drive through on Tuesday, June 9. Over 50 full and part-time staff lined the “route” from the Wapping Parks and Recreation Facility parking lot down through the high school driveway, and families could drive through, wave hi, and connect (social distance style!) with their favorite 4th “R” counselors, Preschool teachers, camp counselors, and SWPRD staff! Nearly 50 families attended the drive through, and many more watched our video re-cap of it later that week!
  - We finished our Recreation Inspiration in true SWPRD-style: with a logo scavenger hunt! Participants could share a picture of where they have our logo in their home, and they were entered into a raffle to win a gift card to a local South Windsor establishment, Flatbread Co.! A huge thank you to our

Recreation Inspiration “production manager”, Shelby Kosa!! I truly believe this virtual initiative did as much to keep our staff connected and motivated as it did to benefit our public!

## **PARKS DIVISION**

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

### **June Activity Highlights:**

#### **◆ Athletic Fields & Grounds:**

- We have re-opened a number of baseball and softball fields in line with the Governor’s Reopening Plan, Phase II on June 20. The Little League complex, Wapping field, Duprey, Nevers and Rotary baseball fields are up and running along with the Ayers Road softball field. The Orchard Hill softball field, TEMS Baseball field and PV little league field are scheduled for completion and opening the week of June 29-July 3.
- A number of unexpected irrigation system failures occurred while reopening fields and facilities requiring immediate repairs.

#### **◆ Parks & Open Space:**

- We were excited to take delivery of two badly needed brand new Toro gang mowers under a lease/purchase arrangement to add to our aging fleet of big mowers to maintain 100’s of acres of grass throughout the Town.
- Mowing, mowing, and more mowing has monopolized our crew for most of the month of June with the exception of the last few days of the month with nearing drought conditions.
- Now that the State Dept. of Public Health



has released rules & guidelines for reopening public pools, our major focus and efforts have been put into preparing the pools and facilities at VMP for reopening on July 6th. The park is really looking good and ready to greet our first visitors of the long-awaited swim season!

◆ **Projects:**

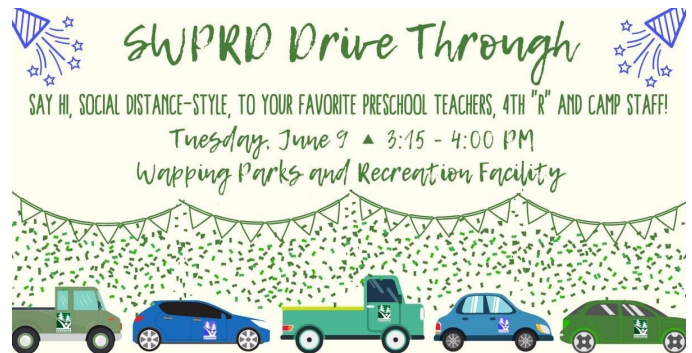
- In an effort to help our SW High School graduating class of 2020 we pitched two of our large star tents on the school grounds to provide rain shelter for a series of socially distancing events organized and scheduled by the high school staff to close out their high school careers in a modified celebratory fashion! Landscape beds were cleaned, mulch replenished, shrubs trimmed and trees pruned in time for graduation.
- After dismantling the tents at the high school they were immediately transported and set up at Wapping and old Orchard Hill for department day camp operations starting on June 29th.

◆ **Other:** see photos below

- Thanks to Street Services for all their help in May & June when we were on a reduced staff schedule due to COVID.



The first of nine concerts kicked off on Thursday, June 25th with an electrifying performance by the Coyote River Band streamed live from the TELEFUNKEN sound stage on Pleasant Valley Road. Shows are also taped for replay on our Facebook page and YouTube for those who missed it the night of the show. A wonderful solution to the tribulations of COVID.



Recent Drive-Through Reverse Parade on Tues., June 9th from 3:15-4pm drew nearly 50 family vehicles that were greeted by SWPRD staff!





Practicing social distancing and still getting the job done, members of the SWPRD camp supervisory staff participate in COVID training webinars in preparation for day one of camp on June 29!



Our skate park, closed for months due to COVID, gets a thorough cleaning and removal of sand placed there to prevent use and mass gathering there during the height of the pandemic. Skaters are now back in business!



Ken Sek from SW Walk & Wheel Ways assists with harvesting the invasive water chestnuts at the Mill Pond



Recently refreshed wood chip surface at the Tyler Memorial Bark Park, along with some friendly COVID reminders.



## ***July 2020 Town Council Meetings and Events***

### ***Meetings***

**Monday, July 6, 2020**

**7:00 pm Regular Meeting**

*Virtual Meeting*

**Monday, July 20, 2020**

**7:00 pm Regular Meeting**

*Virtual Meeting*

### ***Holidays***

**Friday, July 3, 2020**

Town Offices will be closed in observance of Independence Day.

*Layout by Samara Haddock, Confidential Secretary*

