

Town of South Windsor

Town Manager's Report March 2022



Michael Maniscalco
Town Manager

COVID-19 Update: At this point we have moved all Town facilities to a masks recommendation but not required status. This is consistent with CDC requirements and the direction we seem to be seeing from the State of CT. We are moving to a more passive monitoring situation with COVID-19 moving forward. Lastly, the Town still has masks for public use if anyone businesses are interested they can reach out to Emergency Management or use the online portal.

Proposed Welcome Sign on Rte 5 and Sullivan: Through conversations with Mr. Shepherd he is requesting the input of the Town Council on the Rte 5 welcome sign. He and others from that area of Town are working on that project and if you remember, a design was sent to the Council a few months ago. They are looking for any feedback you may have so they can move ahead with their project.

Tax Collection Report: Below data is reflective of February 28, 2022 compared to February 28, 2021. Delinquent demand/intent to lien notices were mailed March 1st and must be complied with by March 31st at 4:30 p.m.. Liens will be placed on delinquent real estate accounts on or about April 1, 2022. UCC-1 liens for delinquent personal property accounts will be filed with the State of Connecticut on or about April 1, 2022. We are currently lining up to hit a 99% collection rate for the 4th consecutive year.

February Tax Collection Rate	2019 Grand List	2020 Grand List
Overall	97.64%	97.87%
Real Estate	97.81%	98.49%
Personal Property	98.06%	96.05%
Motor Vehicle	97.14%	96.67%
MV Supplemental	82.21%	82.82%

Regional Building Department: We have continued discussions with the Towns of Windsor and East Windsor in an effort to see if there are efficiencies and cost savings that can be recognized by regionalizing our Building Departments. Additionally, through this process we are continuing to provide mutual aide support to both Towns for their building departments. Both Towns are paying for that support and it is not costing the residents of South Windsor.

Budget: We are continuing to watch the process at the State to come up with the best revenue estimate we can for state funding. Staff are putting the final touches on the general government budget.

Michael Maniscalco, MPA
Town Manager



Police Department

Kristian R. Lindstrom
Chief of Police

Monthly Statistics January 2022:

Each month we publish the totals of some of our more common calls for service. These statistics historically fluctuate as they respond to several factors. From socio-political trends to weather trends, our activity levels are in a constant state of change. Patrol staff continue to proactively check businesses, town facilities, neighborhoods, and roadways in an effort to detect problems and

January's numbers are below:

Total Computer Aided Dispatch Entries:	2028
9-1-1 Calls Received:	736
Routine Calls Received/Outgoing:	4030
Directed Patrol/Premise Checks:	899
Motor Vehicle Stops:	67
Emotionally Disturbed Persons:	13
Medical Assists:	179
Suspicious:	54
Alarms:	76
Motor Vehicle Accidents:	48
Welfare Check:	40
Assist Outside Agency:	16
Animal Problem:	29
Citizen Assist:	24
Miscellaneous Service:	3
Collision Reports:	18
BOLO:	16
Disabled Motor Vehicle:	29
Larceny - Motor Vehicle	1
Larceny:	28
Hazardous Conditions:	15
Pistol Permits:	5
Burglary	2
Burglary - Motor Vehicle	3
Civil Matter:	10
911 Check:	9
Fraud:	13
Domestic Dispute:	3
Violation of Town Ordinance:	11
Sexual Assault	1
Youth Problem:	4

COVID 19 Update

The month of February saw a steady decline in both Covid cases and the apparent severity of those cases. As predicated, the Omicron variant hit the region aggressively with high positivity

rates and then seemed to leave just as aggressively. Luckily, it seems as though this variant brought with it few hospitalizations and deaths were rare.

By and large the Community seemed to handle this latest surge well, however the "pandemic fatigue" levels seems to be high. Next month would mark the beginning of a third year of constant Covid news, updates, trends, and numbers. I feel this is having a difficult to see, yet very real impact on our citizens. As the disease state seems to change for the better, hopefully the media will begin to release some of the grip that it has on the community and people can once again begin to seek the normalcy that they so desperately crave.

Barring any changes, the last day of the month will bring with it the removal of the local mask mandate that was put into effect on January 9th. For many this will come with a collective sigh of relief, but the police department is not naïve to the fact that for some it will cause heightened anxiety. We will continue to not only respond to the community's needs as a whole, but also respond to the individual needs of community members regardless of their position on the pandemic and the socio-political topics embedded within.

For the time being, Police Dispatchers will continue to screen calls regarding Covid risks prior to officers arriving at a scene or call for service and police staff continue to utilize personal protective equipment and practice social distancing when possible. Department officials continue to work collaboratively with other local officials to address community trends and needs.

Personnel and Recruiting Status

The strength of the South Windsor Police Department always has been, and continues to be,



Police Department

Kristian R. Lindstrom
Chief of Police

the staff who keep things moving day in and day out.

The month of February saw little movement in the arena of personnel. Victoria Weiss will be the next officer hired and her start date has been contingent upon us receiving an academy seat. This month we were notified that we will be able to send her to New Britain Police Department's next academy class. This class is tentatively scheduled to begin in second half of April. In an attempt to keep her engaged and excited to begin a new rewarding career, we are staying in regular contact with her and have invited her to participate in several ride alongs.

At the moment, we have two vacancies that are not spoken for. Our recruiting coordinator, Sgt. Mark Cleverdon, remains busy as we continue to fill our existing vacancies and plan for upcoming vacancies. This month Sgt. Cleverdon administered oral board examinations for almost 40 applicants. This process resulted in several viable candidates who will be screened to advance to the background investigation phase of the hiring process.

Officers Grabowski and Myska continue to progress nicely through their respective academy programs. With an authorized strength of 46 sworn members, we currently have 2 in the academy, 1 on military orders, 1 on light duty (Pregnancy), 1 on extended FMLA (non-work related surgery) and 1 pending (Weiss, V start date TBD). At the moment, we have 40 operational FTE's.

Over 41% of our personnel have been hired in the last 5 years and will be the future of the agency. It is important that we continue to enrich their work experience and motivate them so that they will continue the proud tradition of high quality police service well into the future.

Local and National Social Justice Movements

The South Windsor Police Department remains strongly opposed to racism and biased policing. It continues to serve the public with the element of

its mission to "Respect the Rights of Individuals" in mind.

We continue to monitor the community for changes and trends in the social justice arena.

As an agency, and as a profession, we continue to stand ready to engage in crucial conversations to make meaningful change that enhances the world that we live in.

Community Activities and Support from our Citizens

The South Windsor Police Department continues to make efforts to engage the community despite the isolating effects of Covid and the winter weather. As an agency we continue to work to engage the public to build trust and legitimacy.

In mid-February, Chief Lindstrom had the opportunity to speak to a group of criminal justice students at Tunxis Community College. These students were inquisitive and engaged during this speaking engagement and it exemplifies the "non-confrontational" contacts that are of vital importance to modern policing.

The SWHS School Resource Officer, Officer Peter Korchari, continues his positive rewards program at the high school. His good work recently surfaced on the social media page of a proud and thankful parent of a high school student who received a hand written note of appreciation from Ofc. Korchari and a coupon for a free treat at Dairy Queen.

As the weather slowly begins to warm in the coming months, hopefully there will be increased opportunity for all of our staff to seek out these non-confrontational engagements within the community.

Events like those described above are of particular importance as the local community continues to operate under the increasing stress of the Covid pandemic and the "pandemic fatigue" that people are feeling is very real. As is stated above, community engagement and community policing



Police Department

Kristian R. Lindstrom
Chief of Police

efforts are paramount to our agency creating and maintaining our legitimacy with the community we serve.

The department continues to benefit from regular gestures of support from the community.

Traffic Safety

Our Traffic Unit continues to exercise the "3 E's" of Engineering, Enforcement, and Education as we address complaints ranging from speed to Commercial Vehicle travel. We continue to work in partnership with the Office of the State Traffic Authority to address traffic proposals, and projects.

High visibility patrols and traffic enforcement prove beneficial, particularly in the Greater Buckland area as holiday traffic builds during the month of December.

Police Activity and Significant Events

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

Forecasters are telling us that February will go out with a bang. After a couple unseasonably warm days in the last week of the month, we are expecting a sizable snow event on the 25th. Police command staff members are planning our response and ensuring that we have adequate, fuel, vehicles, and personnel for this event. As is always the case, we will work closely with DPW to make sure residents can move about town when they decide to do so.

K-9 Officer Zachary Cosenza and canine Mason successfully completed that State Police's Narcotics Detection Training program. This six week program certified the K-9 team to be able to conduct on command searches for Cocaine, Crack Cocaine, Heroin, Methamphetamine, and MDMA (aka Ecstasy, Molly). Notice that Mason has not been trained to alert to the presence of Marijuana. As was stated in last month's report, Mason will be among a handful of dogs trained in this specialty since the legalization of marijuana last year.

Because Mason is not imprinted to the scent of marijuana, he will be a valuable asset to the town and the surrounding area as dogs who were previously trained and imprinted with marijuana are now essentially useless in the world of narcotics detection. Mason and Ofc. Cosenza continue to be a wonderful asset to department and the community.

During the month of February, damage was caused to one of the new security gates at police headquarters. It is believed that the driver of this vehicle was experiencing some kind of a mental health emergency. While the collision resulted in more than \$16,000 in damages, the gate did its job. The gate stopped the vehicle and prevented any possible additional damage to important infrastructure in the rear of the police department facility. No one was injured as a result of this incident. It is yet another example of some of the cases involving mental health crises that seem to be on the rise in the region.

Department staff continue to work collaboratively with other Town departments. This month, police staff were present in several pre-construction meetings as various projects begin to take shape for spring start up. Of note, the bridge on Main Street (south of King Street and north of the I-291 overpass) will be rebuilt/replaced this spring. This will cause a long duration road closure and detour in the area. In addition, a State project to repair/replace large drainage pipes under King Street is also slated to begin. The sequencing of these two projects was important to ensure access to all residents in that southwest corner of town.

Police patrol personnel and an off-duty Sergeant responded to a large fight in the stands of the high school during a basketball game. Estimates are between 30-50 student spectators were involved. The fast police response helped to minimize injuries to the combatants. There were no serious injuries reported and the case is still under active investigation.

Day shift patrol units responded to a condominium fire of off Pepin Way. Initial reports indicated that this was a large structure



Police Department

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fire. The obvious concern with any apartment/condo fire is the spread of the fire to other units. Due to the quick response and collaborative efforts between Fire, EMS, and Police personnel, the fire was knocked down relatively quickly and damage was contained and localized without significant spread.

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

With spring weather on the horizon, we will wait to see if car burglaries and catalytic converter thefts spike once again. As was reported last month, the Covid surge in the last 6-8 weeks, it has taken over the headlines and political front page and conversely, the community attention towards car burglaries and car thefts have taken a backseat. It is probable that the winter weather has also worked to help curb this problem that had plagued the region. We will have to wait until Spring to see if the problem re-surfaces. For the time being the police department continues to monitor the trend in the region and deter crime with high visibility patrols. For the time being, we have temporarily stopped our public service messaging on social media in an effort to prevent it from becoming "white noise" and ignored. We will resume disseminating those messages as the Spring approaches if the problem persists.

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

After experiencing some significant weather events through the summer, I hope that our citizens will think about all-hazard preparations especially with the potential of significant winter weather events on the horizon.

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

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

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

Follow us on Social Media:

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

Facebook: South Windsor Police Department

Twitter: @SWPD_PIO

Public Works Department

Vincent Stetson
Director of Public Works

Street Services February 2022

Streets and Parks crews responded to 5 winter weather events during the month. The last one being particularly difficult to manage with the gamut of precipitation. Wasn't anything in that one that we missed; rain, snow, sleet, freezing rain and wind.

Crews finished the conduit and electrical vault installation for the communications tower at VMP. This paves the way for other contractors to install power and communication lines to the site.

Streets crews spent the day cleaning up a large tree that fell on Avery St. Dave Turkington and two parks maintainers took care of the initial incident working with Eversource to clear the road so Eversource could restore power quickly.

Tree trimming of low hanging branches along plow routes continued throughout the month. This not only benefits our fleet but other like vehicles that move about town.

Salt deliveries continue to come in, helping to keep the salt supply at the ready. Although we use salt with environmental responsibility in mind, our winter storm events over the last few years have seemed to shift to more and more icing events. These types of events make it ever challenging to keep roadways safe all the while being mindful of cost and the environment.

Potholes continue to be our nemesis. We have crews out there every day weather will allow. Fortunately, we have been having great success in getting hot asphalt on Wednesdays. This allows us to patch some of the more pervasive potholes with a better end result.

And in the same vain as potholes, our crews performed several large cut and patches on Avery St just north of Pine Knob Dr. The asphalt in this area had deteriorated to a point that typical temporary patches would have been ineffective. This is not a normal process during the winter, but all the necessary moving parts, including the

weather, all came together to be able to make this happen.

Streets crews continue washing the fleet between snow events. Nearly every other storm event, V-jet spreaders are removed to adequately clean the trucks as salt can build up inside the truck beds. This is somewhat labor intensive but necessary for equipment preservation.

The compost is progressing nicely. The windrows are showing significant signs of the leaf material breaking down allowing us to continue to add more leaf matter to the windrows. The piles are being monitored and rows are being turned as necessary to allow the piles to cool and introduce oxygen.

Maintainers have been tending to mailbox issues from storm events and are working to prepare equipment for the upcoming construction season including the fabrication and repair of barricades.

The sign shop continues to repair or replace signs damaged as a result of vehicle crashes and wind damage. Several signs throughout town came down with the significant wind events this month. The sign shop also assisted the Parks Department with the design and fabrication of new signs for the Avery St Community Gardens and the John J Mitchell Fairgrounds.

The department welcomes three new maintainers hired over the last couple of months. Sean Richards, Nicolas Vendetta and Andrew Marioski have all joined the Street Services team. All three have hit the ground running or was it shoveling and snow plowing? Welcome aboard gentlemen. We all look forward to working with you! The department also welcomes Janet Huot, our Administrative Secretary/Contract Compliance Administrator. Janet comes to us with a diverse background and we look forward to working with her and watching her succeed. A warm welcome to you as well Janet.

For those interested, a weather station has been installed at the town garage. You can access it at <https://www.wunderground.com/dashboard/>

Public Works Department

Vincent Stetson
Director of Public Works

pws/KCTSOUTH409. This station provides lots of interesting weather data and the ability to look back at previous weather events.

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

Scott Yeomans
Associate Manager, Street Services

Backyard Composter Sale

Our third sale of backyard compost bins will be kicking off next week. Our vendor, Brand Builders, has updated the online store and added additional products for residents to purchase. Purchases need to be made by April 28th and picked up at Town Hall on April 30th.

Tony Manfre
Superintendent of Pollution Control

Water Pollution Control

DEEP Class IV Wastewater Operator Certification

On February 4, 2022 Jacob Plona who is the Lead Operator of our Collection System passed the Class IV Wastewater examination. Historically the Class IV exam has less than a 20% pass rate distinguishing Jacob as a leader in the wastewater field. Jacob started his wastewater career in 2013 at the South Windsor facility. Over the last nine years he has demonstrated a strong interest in GIS mapping, pipe inspection and scoring, and managing our facilities pipes/manhole assets. He has been instrumental in building our asset management plan of the collection system which consists of 11 pump stations and 130 miles of sewer pipe.

ARPA Funded Projects

The Water Pollution Control Authority has allocated \$2.5 million of ARPA Funding to three projects that will provide continued rehabilitation to our sanitary sewer infrastructure across town and upgrade the treatment plant's wastewater disinfection system. The construction phase of the rehabilitation projects is set to begin in April and the design phase of the disinfection system will be starting shortly thereafter.

Refuse and Recycling

Electronic Recycling

The second electronic recycling event will be held on March 5th in the rear parking lot of Town Hall.

Finance Department

Patricia Perry
Director of Finance

Assessor's Office

Revaluation

The Town's 2022 Revaluation project has begun and there are currently four appraisers from Vision Government Solutions, working in concert with the Assessor's Office, in South Windsor to verify data on residential and commercial properties. Their vehicle information is on file with the Assessor's Office and South Windsor Police Department. Any resident with questions regarding these contracted personnel is encouraged to call the Assessor's office at x2312 for verification, after regular town hall business hours please contact the South Windsor Police.

Vision has sent out letters for verification, from property owners, of the current data in our appraisal system. Please do your best to return the mailer within 15 days of receipt. This is one of the initial steps in the revaluation mass appraisal process and will lead to more accurate appraisal values for individual properties as of October 1, 2022. Property owners with specific questions regarding the revaluation process are asked to email the Assessor's office assessor@southwindsor-ct.gov. Updated property values will not be available until late Fall 2022 as all sales up to October 1st are used to create the new market model on which all South Windsor valuations will be based.

2022 Grand List Motor Vehicle Values

Motor vehicle values statewide due to supply and demand during the pandemic have risen on average 26.4% across the State.

Reminder for residents that have sold, or otherwise disposed of a vehicle – If you didn't transfer your plates onto another vehicle please send a copy of the Plate Cancellation Receipt, Bill of Sale, Junked Receipt, Trade-In Information, or Total Loss Letter from insurance company. If you provide this information, the tax bills that come out in July 2022 will be adjusted so you can pay for only the time you owned the vehicle.

Elderly Homeowners State and Local Tax Credit program filing period now open

The Elderly Homeowner's Program application filing period started February 1st and will continue

through May 15, 2022. Below is the qualifying income for those applicants that may wish to file this year for the first time to determine qualification to receive tax relief benefits. If you are interested in applying for this program, you must meet the following requirements:

- Must be 65 years old (or older) by 12/31/2021
- Must have owned your home on 10/1/2021
- Must reside in your South Windsor home
- Must meet the following gross income requirements, including social security:

Single Person	\$0 - \$38,100	State & Local Option Match
	\$38,101 - \$42,100	Local Option 1 - \$195 tax credit
	\$42,101 - \$50,000	Local Option 2 - \$195 tax credit
Married Couples	\$0 - \$46,400	State & Local Option Match
	\$46,401 - \$50,400	Local Option 1 - \$195 tax credit
	\$50,401 - \$65,000	Local Option 2 - \$195 tax credit

Please schedule an appointment with Human Services to fill out your application(s): Contact Lindsey Ravalese: 860-648-6361 ext. 3319
150 Nevers Road, South Windsor, 06074

Mary Huda
Assessor

Finance Department

Patricia Perry
Director of Finance

Collector of Revenue

Demand/Intent to Lien notices were mailed Monday, February 28, 2022. To avoid additional interest and fees payment must be received by the close of business Thursday, March 31, 2022.

Liens will be placed on delinquent real estate accounts on or about April 1, 2022. UCC-1 liens for delinquent personal property accounts will be filed with the State of Connecticut on or about April 1, 2022. The State of Connecticut Department of Motor Vehicles has been notified of accounts that are delinquent. Therefore clearance will be required from the Collector of Revenue office to complete a renewal or new registration of a motor vehicle. Should DMV clearance be needed all delinquent taxes in your name(s) must be paid with cash, money order or certified bank funds. Payment remitted on line or with a check are subject to a ten day business hold.

The redemption period for properties sold at the August 27, 2021 tax sale expired Monday, February 28, 2022. Tax Collector Deed's were filed with the Town Clerk, Tuesday, March 1, 2022.

Information regarding the tax sale is available <https://www.southwindsor-ct.gov/collector-revenue/news/tax-sale-results-august-27-2021>

Commercial sewer use bills will be mailed the last week of March and are due April 1, 2022. The last day to pay without interest is Monday, May 2, 2022.

Jennifer Hilinski
Collector of Revenue

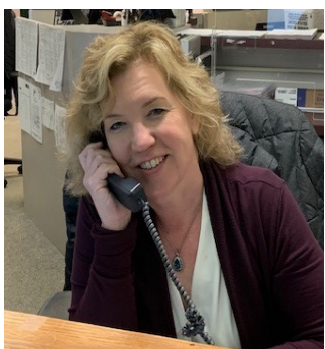
Human Services Department

Andrea Cofrancesco
Director of Human Services

**Town Manager's Report ~
February 2022
Andrea Cofrancesco, Director of Human
Services**

Human Services Staff

This month we are highlighting our front desk staff in the Human Services Department. Cindy Malone has been with the town for 15 years and manages all aspects of our senior transportation, finances and front desk duties. Liz O'Brien has been in our office for 4.5 years and assists customers with registering for programs, answering phones and scheduling meals on wheels volunteers. Both Cindy and Liz are the first people you see when you enter the community center. They are busy all day answering phones and providing amazing customer service to all who call or enter. Our dedicated and caring staff are here for you!



Behavioral Health Services

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

with getting you connected to Intercommunity. Services are confidential. It's okay to not be okay.

Midwest Food Bank Partnership

In November, the South Windsor Food Bank became a partner agency with the Midwest Food Bank, a newly formed agency that opened in Manchester. We had an opportunity to "shop" (for free) for items such as meat and dairy which are items we don't typically have access to! Residents who utilize our food bank will benefit greatly from this additional resource!



Residents Continue to Support the Food Bank

Twins Michael and Adam (age 8) and their siblings, twins David and Nora (age 6) played a reverse Advent Game to collect food for the Food Bank. They were a little late in delivering due to illness but they were assured that the food would go to a South Windsor family in need.



Human Services Department

Andrea Cofrancesco
Director of Human Services

Parks Crew Delivers!

During the holidays, our Food Bank is overloaded with donations, as it is the season of giving! We have had a partnership with Avery Street Church for approximately 10 years where we are able to store our overflow food. When we need to replenish our shelves, we utilize the Parks Crew in assisting with getting the food to the community center. It is such a big help!!! We are fortunate to be supported by not just the generous community, but also our fellow town staff! Thank you!



Vietnam Veterans Donate Coats

The Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 120, recently donated 45 children's coats for the Human Services staff to distribute to those in need. This is an annual project, and it is so greatly appreciated!



Spreading a Little Love

The Senior Center's Community Service Group delivered a balloon, cookies (donated by Geisslers and Subway) to 41 homebound residents to spread a little love for Valentine's Day. The Community Service Group does a variety of projects throughout the year to benefit South Windsor residents and surrounding communities. This is the 7th year they delivered goodies for Valentine's Day. "Neighbors Helping Neighbors"



Human Services Department

Andrea Cofrancesco
Director of Human Services



Teen Center

During the month of February, Danielle Bifolck, our Teen Center Coordinator has stayed busy planning events and preparing for our spring and summer programs.

We had an instructor led paint night that was open for middle school and high school students one evening during February. Our participants did an amazing job creating their artwork and making it their own.



An Open Mic Night and Coffee House event for high school students to perform a song, play an instrument, do stand-up comedy, or read a poem was also scheduled.

The Teen Center drop-in hours has had a consistent amount of middle school and high school students who have been participating.



March is the beginning of our busier months and we are excited to start our Strides for Positive Vibes. The program encourages middle school participants to spend time outdoors while engaging in mindfulness activities, ditching the technology, and getting to know other peers. The program was a success last year so we are excited to continue again.

We are excited to have therapy dogs join us for a few afternoons in March during drop-in hours!

The Teen Center would like to share our upcoming events:

In March we are continuing with the Skills for Success program for the second year. The program will run for 8 weeks for middle school students to participate in. Teen Center staff will discuss topics such as healthy relationships, communication skills, self-awareness, and more!

On March 15th the Teen Center and Senior Center have put on Intergenerational Chair Volleyball for the middle school students to participate in with the Seniors. We are looking forward to hosting this event together and cannot wait to see the turn out!

School Outreach & Prevention

The month of February will bring the return of the Jump Start Tutoring Program, which has been on

Human Services Department

Andrea Cofrancesco
Director of Human Services

hold since February 2020. We are excited to be back in action! S.W. High School students will visit T.E. Middle School each Wednesday afternoon to work with students on completing their homework, preparing for tests and finishing projects. The high school tutors volunteer their time each week to give back to the community and make a connection with a younger student. It is a long standing program that has helped many students through the years gain confidence and improve grades.

The Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD) Club has been busy during this month. They created a bulletin board with information highlighting Teen Dating Violence Prevention Month, which is held each February. They shared important tips on what relationships should and should not look like, so that students can improve their knowledge and awareness. They are also working on 3 free virtual programs to be offered during the month of March to encourage healthy forms of stress relief. The group looks forward to hosting these events for all SWHS students to enjoy.

Youth Counseling, Parent Education and Support

YFS counselors remain busy with 61 active cases of youth seen for mental health counseling. Referrals to counseling services are continuing to rise. We have had 13 new referrals within the last month. All of the spots are filled with Alexander Pepe from Intercommunity and all of Sarah Soboleski's additional hours are filled. The wait list is currently at 12. Robin Lagasse, Clinical Coordinator, is in the process of referring them to providers in the community but many are on a waitlist as well which makes it difficult. Kathy Reed and Robin Lagasse are working on a "Take 10 min" video which is part 1 of a 3-part series on How to talk about Mental Health. Danielle and Robin have started a new round of the Managing Anxiety Group that was very successful in the fall. We have 30 sixth graders signed up for this skills base group.

Although we no longer have a Parent Educator,

thanks to DCF Enhancement grant funds, we have contracted services with Peace At Home Parenting, Inc.

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

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

In February, they hosted live classes on the following topics:

- Parenting Teens
- Take the Stress Out of Parenting
- Let's Talk about Sex (conversation with teens)
- Healthy Birth Tool Kit
- LGBTQ+ What to say to your child and how to say it to communicate love and acceptance
- ABC's of Potty Training

Coming Up in March:

- Co Parenting & Single Parenting
- Meal Time Struggles
- Infant Toddler Brain Development
- Positive Discipline for Toddlers
- Approaching the Admissions process

To sign up for a class- [South Windsor – Peace At Home Parenting Solutions](#)
Free with Code: SWindsorPeace

Liz Langevin, LCSW
Youth and Family Services



Parks & Recreation Department

Molly Keays
Director of Parks & Recreation

“Discover the Benefits!”

John Caldwell, Jr.
Parks Superintendent

MONTHLY REPORT

Jennifer Filer
Asst. Director of Parks & Recreation



MONTHLY REPORT March 7, 2022

Park & Recreation Commission (PARC): The Commission held a meeting on Wednesday, February 9 via WebEx. We discussed our upcoming capital projects that align with the Park and Recreation Master plan, and we discussed the updates

for the Parks and Recreation Facility Planning committee. We will be meeting on Wednesday, April 9 at 7:30pm.

The South Windsor Walk & Wheel Ways (SWW&WW): SWW&WW has been actively working on updating their master plan to accurately reflect where the group currently is and what their priorities, goals and objectives are over the next several of years. Their next meeting will be on Wednesday, March 3 at 7:00pm.
RECREATION DIVISION “Feel great – recreate!”



Walk and Wheel ways enjoying a moonlight walk at Nevers Park!

Preschool- Session C has officially begun! All of our 3-5-year-old classes and our parent/child classes are full at 100%. In our two 2-year-old classes, 51/60 spots are filled, representing an 85% enrollment. Our preschool participants had lots of fun this month with different art projects (for example painting with different mediums, gluing and sticking, and coloring), going “ice fishing” in the classroom, practicing fine motor skills by lining up object’s “snowflakes” on the floor, playing on the outdoor playground, and even bringing trucks and other push toys to the gymnasium! Preschool also enjoyed many fun

Valentine-themed activities and exchanging Valentines with friends!

4th R: 4th “R” averaged approximately 200 unique participants this month. 4th “R” participants had lots of



recreation-based fun each day with activities such as gym games (highlights include “Four Corners Dodgeball,” “Soccer,” “Pacman Tag” and “Hockey”) group games (highlights include “Pin the heart on the counselor” and a pinata), crafts (highlights include painting, mandala coloring, and pipe cleaner creations). 4th “R” also enjoyed many Valentine-themed celebrations, activities, and games!

Athletic Programs: Our Basketball program is in mid-season currently! Our ages for basketball range from 5-18 years old, and we have a variety of skill levels. In our girl's intermediate, we even had an intertown league this year due. We partnered with Bishop photo to have a picture day for the basketball program, which was a big hit with families!

Adult Leagues: Our adult men's league and adult volleyball league has been running successfully this season with an increase in participation over the last few months. We are offering adult drop-in volleyball, which has been a positive addition to our current offerings.



Pickleball: We are offering drop-in pickleball at our facility. We offer this program on Monday and Wednesday evenings from 6-8:30 pm and Sundays from 10-12:30 pm. Our participant numbers continue to grow weekly, but we have served over 65 adults so far.

Challenger Basketball: Challenger Basketball finished up on 2/12. Participants enjoyed basketball skill instruction, socializing, and structure.



Food Explorers: The program held a winter cooking held a class over their mini February break. They baked banana bread cake pops and broccoli cheese quesadillas. This class was filled with 10 excited participants!

Jukido: Jukido had 20 participants in the program this past month. We had multiple participants move up to a new belt! We're excited to see how many more participants can move up next month.

Wellness programs: Despite the uprise in cases and new town mandates, we were able to offer wellness options for our community in both hybrid and virtual-only formats. Our yoga program went fully virtual and had 50 active participants, while our Creative Cardio program went hybrid and had 30 participants.

Ski Club: SWHS & TEMS Ski and Snowboard Club have wrapped up for the season. There was a total of 140 participants between the two programs. These programs

were a blast, and our participants are already counting down the days until we can bring it back in 2023!

Snow-Person Building Contest: At the end of last month, SPWRD ran a snow-building contest on Facebook! Our community was encouraged to use the snow from the most recent storm and create something fun and creative out of snow! The snow that arrived was not the most ideal for building, but we still had 6 participants post their creations to our Facebook page. The post was well-received by the public, and we hope to run a similar contest again if the weather cooperates!

Veteran's Memorial Pool: We are currently getting ready for summer 2022! We are hiring Lifeguards, Water Safety Instructors, maintainers, and gatekeepers.

Summer Camp: We are in the process of obtaining our re-accreditation through the American Camping Association while planning for summer. We are currently hiring camp staff to join our team and make a difference in the lives of our youth.

PARKS DEPARTMENT *"Caring for South Windsor's Growing Needs"*

Athletic Fields & Grounds:

We are eagerly waiting for spring to show up. We are in the process of servicing all of the small equipment that we use in the spring. Some of these items include mowers, trimmers, blowers, sod cutters, and various other pieces of equipment.

Parks & Open Space:

We continue to play catch up on some areas in town that have been neglected for over 23 years. We are also cleaning up some open space and detention areas that are completely overgrown with unwanted trees over drainage pipes and invasive plants.

We continue to check our detention basins and some spillways that we care for along with town-owned dams.

Projects:

We are upgrading some parks signs and creating new ones in town. We are in the process of trying to make all of the parks sign somewhat consistent, which has been a large task. To have cost savings for the town, we had a few very talented staff work on the signs.

Due to many of our picnic tables being over 20 years old, they are in dire need of replacement. The commercial-style picnic tables have become costly, so we purchased lumber and started constructing them ourselves. Having the project completed in the house will save us 1/3 of the cost of a new one.

Parks & Public Works:

As fall goes onto winter the Parks Department joins forces with Public Works to pick up leaves and plow the roads, sidewalks, and parking town-owned lots.

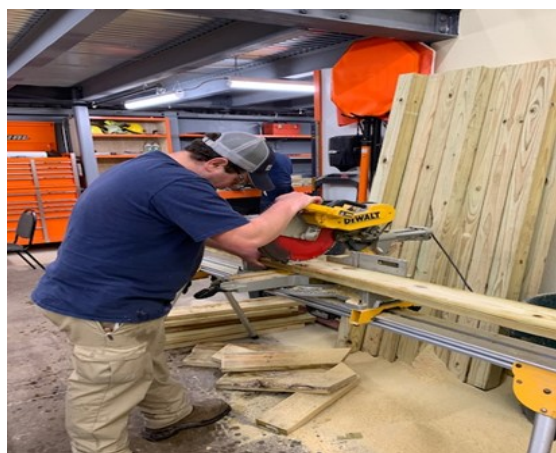
Parks Photos:



Our talented Mike Hanrahan sandblasts sign foam to create depth and etch letters. He then paints the newly constructed sign. This process is a tedious task and takes a steady hand.



The finished "John J. Mitchell Fairgrounds" sign ready to be installed this spring.



Mike Samsel our "Master Carpenter" along with Bryan McTeague are hard at constructing new picnic tables. This year, we will be able to add ten new tables to our parks and facilities and retire some old table that are in disrepair.

Parks Photos:



Last winter we started clearing Old Farms Rd. detention basin from overgrown trees. With some down time in between storms, we have successfully cleared the basin to operate fully. Detention basins serve to slow down runoff from roadways into a river or stream by releasing the water more slowly.

Recreation Photos:



We had plenty of fun valentines' activities this month at 4th r and preschool!



Recreation Photos



Our preschool kids enjoying time playing in the gym.



We love our preschool teachers!

March 2022 Town Council Meetings and Events

Meetings

Monday, March 7, 2022

7:00 pm Regular Meeting

Council Chambers

Monday, March 15, 2022

7:00 pm Regular Meeting

Council Chambers

Monday, March 21, 2022

7:00 pm Regular Meeting

Council Chambers

Thursday, March 23, 2022

7:00 pm Town Council & Board of Education Joint Work Session

Council Chambers

Tuesday, March 29, 2022

7:00 pm Special Budget Work Session

Council Chambers

Thursday, March 31, 2022

7:00 pm Special Budget Work Session

Council Chambers

Holidays

Layout by Katherine Senerth, Executive Assistant

