

Town of South Windsor

Town Manager's Report January 2022

*Michael Maniscalco
Town Manager*



The Town Manager's Report will be given verbally
at the January 3, 2022 Town Council Meeting.



Police Department

Kristian R. Lindstrom
Chief of Police

Monthly Statistics November 2021:

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 intervene before matters escalate.

November's numbers are below:

Total Computer Aided Dispatch Entries:	2488
9-1-1 Calls Received:	946
Routine Calls Received/Outgoing:	4842
Directed Patrol/Premise Checks:	1059
Motor Vehicle Stops:	227
Emotionally Disturbed Persons:	12
Medical Assists:	163
Suspicious:	65
Alarms:	78
Motor Vehicle Accidents:	35
Welfare Check:	35
Assist Outside Agency:	40
Animal Problem:	33
Citizen Assist:	26
Miscellaneous Service:	5
Collision Reports:	28
BOLO:	17
Disabled Motor Vehicle:	33
Larceny - Motor Vehicle	2
Larceny:	30
Hazardous Conditions:	14
Pistol Permits:	14
Burglary	6
Burglary - Motor Vehicle	5
Civil Matter:	11
911 Check:	6
Fraud:	6
Domestic Dispute:	17
Violation of Town Ordinance:	0
Sexual Assault	0
Youth Problem:	15

COVID 19 Update

To date, the month of December has seen an aggressive resurgence of community spread of the

COVID 19 virus. The anecdotal conclusions to be drawn are that the unvaccinated members of the community and the police department seem to be more frequently affected, and more severely affected by the virus. Additionally, those individuals who have not received a booster dose of a vaccine also seem to be more susceptible to the virus. The community in particular seems to be on edge as the most recent spike comes just before the holidays.

Police Dispatchers 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. Our agency stands ready to deploy an emergency staffing schedule should the need arise.

Personnel and Recruiting Status

The strength of the South Windsor Police Department always has been, and continues to be, the staff who keep things moving day in and day out.

The most prominent development within the department's ranks this month was the retirement of Sgt. Elsie Diaz-Duchesne. Elsie retired after 26+ years of service with the South Windsor Police Department. Into retirement, she takes with her an immense amount of experience and institutional knowledge. Elsie was a superb employee and a better friend...she will be missed.

As one leaves, another arrives. Just before Christmas, employment as a police officer was offered to Ms. Victoria Weiss. Victoria is currently a dispatcher in a neighboring municipality.



Police Department

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Chief of Police

Victoria's start date will be determined in the near future and is contingent upon the availability of a seat at the police academy.

Our recruiting coordinator, Sgt. Mark Cleverdon, remains busy as we continue to fill our existing vacancies and plan for upcoming vacancies. We continue to accept new applications into our testing and selection 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 foreign deployment, 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. This number has fluctuated slightly with COVID quarantines.

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. As an agency we

continue to work to engage the public to build trust and legitimacy.

Last month's "Fuzzy for Fall" campaign allowed department members to grow beards in exchange for a small donation. At the end of the month we were able to make a donation of \$730 dollars to Smilow Cancer Center. Smilow is near and dear to our agency as it was that hospital that provided treatment and care to the late Lt. Richard Bond during his battle with cancer several years ago.

We all tend to enjoy the upcoming holiday season, however we at the police department recognize that the holiday season can be a struggle for many. Prior to her retirement, Sgt. Elsie Diaz continued her outreach initiatives such as the December 4th food drive that ultimately helps local families in need.

December 18th hosted a wreath laying ceremony at Veteran's Memorial Park as part of the national Wreaths Across America project. Chief Lindstrom attended this ceremony with approximately two hundred members of 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 efforts are paramount to our agency creating and maintaining our legitimacy with the community we serve.

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 Department

Kristian R. Lindstrom
Chief of Police

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.

For several months, Chief Lindstrom has worked with area chiefs and prosecutors for address regional concerns over human trafficking. Ultimately this collaborative work resulted in grant money being obtained for the formation of a regional human trafficking task force. Corporal Christopher Poehnert was been designated as SWPD's representative in this task force as it takes shape over the weeks and months to come.

This month a resolution was passed by the Town Council that would allow the police department to expand its existing body camera program without going through the competitive bid process. This resolution not only speeds up the deployment of these cameras, but it will allow for a seamless integration into the existing program.

Police staff monitored a Safestreeets CT presentation that took place at Wapping School. This event garnered socio-political attention regarding the juvenile justice system and current juvenile crime trends. Overall the event went smoothly, however 9-1-1 was called when tempers flared over colliding philosophical views. Ultimately, the meeting took place without incident of the need for police intervention.

Police and the school community also took note of a TikTok trend that identified December 17th as National School Violence Day. This social wave encouraged and promulgated school violence nationwide. When this story was picked up by mainstream media, it took on a life of its own and became a significant cause for concern for local students, parents, school staff and the community at large. The police department worked to have a highly visibly yet non-intrusive presence at all of the schools throughout the day. One juvenile criminal arrest was made in the lead up to this event when a local student posted a threatening message online.

An increase in activity is everywhere during the holidays especially at our various package distribution centers (FedEx, Amazon, R&L, etc.). This month we saw a disturbing uptick in calls for service at FedEx. These calls resulted in several criminal arrests of FedEx employees for various crimes. In retrospect, it appears as though FedEx may have rushed through vetting the additional employees needed during the holidays. This may have resulted in several employees being hired who were not fit for that particular employment and disruptions to their operations ensued.

During the month, patrol officers handled several cases that highlight the looming dangers in law enforcement. Officer Linda Hernando interrupted and stopped a commercial burglary at Sudden Service during the midnight shift. When she attempted to stop the suspect vehicle as it fled the scene, the vehicle failed to stop and a pursuit was terminated before it took shape. The same vehicle and suspects, were located by police in the region later in the shift and they were found to be armed. In addition, Ofc. Lopez and several other members of the Day Shift, responded to a call involving an emotionally disturbed person who was armed with a knife. This individual slashed the hand of a family member with the knife and attempted to slash his own throat. Ofc. Lopez arrived and was able to secure the individual without the use of force. The individual was sent to the hospital for evaluation. In another incident involving an emotionally disturbed person, Dispatch received a phone call from a local psychiatrist whose client was high on drugs and threatening suicide. The client fled prior to police arrival. Several resources were deployed in an effort to locate the individual. Within a short period of time, the subject was located by the combined efforts of a drone equipped with a thermal imaging camera and canine Mason (and Ofc. Cosenza). It was determined that the subject was under the influence of Ketamine, a powerful dissociative anesthetic commonly used by veterinarians to treat large animals.

These cases offer a stark reminder that dangerous situations and dangerous people (often in crisis) are among us and our police officers have to be



Police Department

Kristian R. Lindstrom
Chief of Police

ready to deal with them at any given time. It is important to note, that no one was injured by the police in any of these dangerous incidents.

The department continues to pursue CALEA accreditation as it also remains aware of several other changes brought about by the Police Accountability Act. A new Use of Force curriculum, new body cameras, and several other policies are constantly being evaluated and implemented throughout this time of unprecedented change.

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

Over the last several months, the department has vigorously pursued the "9pm Routine" initiative as a public awareness campaign aimed at reducing motor vehicle thefts and burglaries. This campaign appears to be having a significant impact on the numbers of thefts/burglaries we are seeing locally. This campaign includes a series of public service announcements and sign postings intended to instill consistent reminders to the citizenry until these practices are habit.

Following October's lone stolen vehicle which appeared to be unrelated to the juvenile car thefts that are plaguing the region, November also saw only one incident resulting in a motor vehicle theft and this incident appears to differ significantly from the residential incidents we have seen previously and in the region.

Locally the police department will continue with its social media and sign campaign coupled with high visibility patrols that hopefully deter and displace potential criminals.

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

Engineering

Local Road Paving

We are working with the contractor on closing out punch list items for this project. Ident Road needs more extensive drainage and road reconstruction work than expected and has been delayed until next year. This work is funded by the 2018 Bond funds.

Sidewalk Repair

Sidewalk repair and replacement work has ended for this year with the colder weather. This work will continue in the spring and summer of 2022 with an updated list of sidewalks that need to be repaired. The sidewalk repair and replacement work is funded by the 2018 Bond funds.

Main Street Bridge over the Podunk River

The reconstruction of the Main Street Bridge over the Podunk River has been awarded to Dayton Construction. Utility relocations will occur this winter. Bridge reconstruction is planned to begin in the spring of 2022 and be completed by the end of September, 2022. Main Street will be closed at the bridge once construction begins and a detour route will be established.

Pleasant Valley/Clark Street Sidewalk Project

The Pleasant Valley/Clark Street sidewalk connections has been awarded to Costa & Son LLC. Construction is expected to start this winter and proceed as long as weather allows. Construction will resume in the spring 2022 and should be finished by early summer.

Beelzebub Road

The design plans for the reconstruction of Beelzebub Road include new stormwater drainage pipes and structures, new road base, bituminous pavement, curb and a sidewalk on one side. The design plans are about 90% complete and are being finalized. We have received approval from the IWA/CC for a Wetlands permit for this project. We are coordinating the utility relocations needed for this project. Easements for the new sidewalk will be needed on about 9 properties and temporary rights to grade will be needed on many others and these will be sought

this winter. This project is scheduled to be bid this winter for road reconstruction to begin in the spring of 2022.

Eli Terry Safe Routes to School Project

This project includes replacement of the pedestrian bridge that connects this school to the Brook Street neighborhood, and other pedestrian improvements on roads around the school. ConnDOT is reviewing the final plans and contract documents.

Pleasant Valley Reconstruction

[WMC Consulting Engineers is working on developing plans for the drainage improvements and reconstruction of Pleasant Valley Road from Clark Street to just past Hilton Drive. They will begin surveying and soils investigations in January and expect to have a preliminary design in the late spring of 2022.](#)

Pleasant Valley Road Bridge Replacement

WMC Consulting Engineers is also working on developing plans for the replacement of the Pleasant Valley Road bridge over the Podunk River. They will begin surveying and soils investigations in January and expect to have a preliminary design in the spring of 2022.

Buckland Road Repaving

Weston & Sampson is working on the plans and specifications for this project. They will be investigating the existing asphalt pavement and base in early January and we expect to have preliminary plans and specifications in late January for review so the plans and specifications can be finalized this winter.

Abbe Road Drainage Study

Weston & Sampson is also investigating the drainage problems that have occurred on and around Abbe Road in past years. They will verify the cause(s) of the drainage problems and recommend improvements to alleviate the drainage problems on this road. We expect to have their report in the spring of 2022

Public Works Department

Vincent Stetson
Director of Public Works

Other Engineering Projects

Communications Tower at VMP

The concrete foundation for the new Town Communications Tower at VMP has been poured and backfilled. The Tower is expected to arrive and be installed in mid to late January 2022.

Solar Canopy at the SWPD

Greenskies Clean Energy was successful in their bid for ZREC credits for the solar canopy behind the Police Station and have received approval of this system from IWA/CC and PZC approval. They are finalizing permit plans for the solar canopies and expect to begin construction in the spring of 2022. The rear lot will be paved after the footings and conduit for the solar canopy have been installed.

Utility Work The Connecticut Water Company contractor is mostly finished installing a new water main on Deming Street (from Buckland Road to Summit Drive). The remaining work on Summit Drive will be completed in the spring of 2022. A new water main is also being installed in the Farnham Estates neighborhood on Farnham and McGrath Roads. This contractor will continue to install a new water main in other roads in this neighborhood in 2022.

Jeffrey Doolittle
*Assistant Director of Public Works/
Town Engineer*

Street Services

The annual leaf harvest concluded on 12/21/2021 well before any significant snowfall. Our crews, consisting of Street Services, the Parks Department, Fleet Services and Water Pollution Control, did a great job without the assistance of outside contractors normally hired for the program. A special thanks to the Parks Department, Fleet Services and Water Pollution Control for their assistance with the program this year. Without the cooperation of John Caldwell, Dave Turkington, Jeff Lemay, Chuck Marshall and their collective staff, there is no way we could have completed the program. We are aware that this

put some of their programs on temporary hold and are very grateful for their help. Thanks everyone! Our Town, Our Future!!

Streets crews responded to four winter weather events during the month. Thankfully no major snowfall but mostly icing events, which can often be a bigger challenge to mitigate.

Two speed feedback signs were installed mid-block on Laurel St to augment other traffic calming measures on that stretch of roadway. An additional speed feedback sign was installed on Governor's Highway as a temporary traffic calming measure.

The department assisted with a pediatric vaccination clinic at the request of the health department setting up a traffic pattern to control vehicle flow and tents for the protection of the vaccinators.

The Street Services Department wishes everyone a happy, healthy and safe 2022.

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

Scott Yeomans
Associate Manager, Street Services

Health Department

Heather Oatis
Director of Health

The South Windsor Health Department (SW HD) continues to be very busy with the COVID-19 response as new variants are spreading within the population. The SW HD is working with the Windsor Health Department through our Mass Dispensing Area 31 agreement to continue vaccinating and offering booster shots to all interested adults. Clinics continue to be held weekly. Now that children are eligible to receive vaccines, we are working with the Connecticut Department of Public Health (CT DPH), Griffin Hospital, and 4Elements Direct Primary Care to host pediatric vaccination clinics. To date, we have assisted with the administration of nearly 8,000 vaccines. We are also working with InterCommunity and other health care institutions to increase COVID testing options within South Windsor.

With the help of the Enhanced Detection Cooperative Agreement Funding from CT DPH, we will be able to increase the hours that our contact tracers and compliance monitors are working. We will be receiving a second grant that begins March 1, 2022 and will help fund these positions into 2023.

In addition to all the activities for COVID-19 response, the SWHD also performed the routine septic inspections required, followed up on many complaints and other requests for service, started relicensure of food service establishments and cosmetology establishments for 2022, and licensed food trucks for small temporary events.

Finance Department

Patricia Perry
Director of Finance

Assessor's Office

The October 1, 2021 Grand List will be finalized by the end of January 2022. This will be the basis of the revenue generated from taxes for the Town funding starting July 1, 2022.

All business personal property owners and real estate owners that have an increase in value from the 2020 grand list will be receiving assessment notices during the first week of February. If you disagree with the assessed value of your personal property, real estate, or supplemental motor vehicle, you can file an application to be heard by the Board of Assessment Appeals. Please contact the Assessor's office to discuss the issue and obtain an application, or you can download from the Town's website: <https://www.southwindsor-ct.gov/assessor/pages/forms-and-documents>

The deadline to submit the Board of Assessment Appeals application is February 20, 2022. These applications can be USPS mailed (Assessor's Office, 1540 Sullivan Ave. South Windsor, CT 06074); faxed (860-648-6389); emailed (assessor@southwindsor-ct.gov); or hand-delivered. If you are planning on hand delivering the application, it must be by Friday, February 18, 2022 by end of day. If the application is not received by February 20, 2022, the appeal *cannot* be heard.

2020 Supplemental Motor Vehicle bills (any vehicle registered after October 1, 2020) have been mailed to registered owners from the Tax office at the end of December. If you have disposed, sold, junked, or totaled a vehicle please submit your forms of proof via our website web-form found here: <https://www.southwindsor-ct.gov/assessor/webforms/motor-vehicle-proof-submission> .

The 2022 Town wide Revaluation process has begun. Every five years the town goes through a revaluation process to ensure all properties are being valued fairly and equitably. We are in the initial steps of the sales verification process to jump-start this project.

Mary Huda
Assessor

Collector of Revenue's Office

The Collector of Revenue would like to remind taxpayers that the second installment of real estate and personal property taxes along with supplemental motor vehicle taxes are due January 1, 2022. The last day to pay without penalty is Tuesday, February 1, 2022. Supplemental tax bills were mailed Monday, December 20, 2021 and are available on line <https://www.mytaxbill.org/inet/bill/home.do?town=southwindsor>. Fees apply, for on line credit or debit transactions. Save time and avoid long lines by remitting payment in the envelope provided or by using a secure drop box at Town. One is located in the front drive way of Town Hall and one is mounted to the outside of the front entrance of Town Hall. Please note that the boxes are emptied twice daily and monitored by video. Office staff is available to assist at 860-644-2511 extension 2321 or emailing taxcollector@southwindsor-ct.gov . Please allow twenty four business hours for a reply during a collection cycle.

Jennifer Hilinski-Shirley
Collector of Revenue

Human Services Department

Andrea Cofrancesco
Director of Human Services

Town Manager's Report ~ December 2021 Andrea Cofrancesco, Director of Human Services

The Season of Giving: Holiday Adopt a Child Program

A total of 130 children in 61 families were provided with toys, clothing and other items for the holidays in our annual Adopt a Child program, coordinated by Stephen Clapp and assisted by Cindy Malone. Over 60 donors consisting of individuals, civic and school groups, churches and businesses generously donated to neighbors in need so that their children can have a magical Christmas. Thank you to all!

It is truly a heartwarming time of year in the Human Services Department. We are able to help South Windsor families because of the generosity of so many people. Pictured is Emma, a 10-year-old student from Pleasant Valley School, who came to drop off a toy for the holidays.



Donations Cricket Club Donation

The South Windsor Cricket Club hopes to make an annual donation to the Human Services Assistance Funds. Their first year resulted in a \$4,000 donation, wow! Thank you for your support!



Realtor Donation:

For several years in a row, McConnell Poehner Real Estate Partners have donated to the Food and Fuel Bank.



South Windsor Education Association Donation:

This annual \$2100 donation is so greatly appreciated from the South Windsor Education Association!



Eli Terry Students Donation



Human Services Department

Andrea Cofrancesco
Director of Human Services

To boost moral and have a little fun, Mrs. Margnelli started Spirit Days in November and they were so popular they continued into December! All money raised is going to help South Windsor families in need for food, holiday programs and clothing.

Stuff-a-Truck

Thanks to Sgt. Elsie Diaz for her coordination of this annual event! The Stuff a Truck program brought in over \$2,000 and 667 toys for South Windsor families during this holiday season! Thanks to the Police Department for their support, as well as Ambulance Service of Manchester! The residents continue to be so extremely generous. Thank you all!



Donation to Riverside HealthCare Center

The Senior Center's Community Service Group recently donated \$2300 to Riverside HealthCare Center in East Hartford to benefit the Resident Council. This nursing and rehab facility houses a lot of people on the state Medicaid program and the monthly stipend provided to them is minimum, so the money used will be for gifts for the



holidays and birthdays throughout the year. \$300 was donated from the fundraisers the group does and \$2,000 was donated by a member of the group who wanted to remain anonymous. In addition to the monetary donation, several bags of personal care items and gifts were donated. Pictured is Terri Sessions who coordinated the project with Scott Ginter, Recreation and Alzheimer Program Manager.

Salvation Army

Ring the bells for the Salvation Army has become an annual event, with 90% of the funds that are collected benefiting South Windsor families in need. This year a total of \$401.22 was raised thanks to the volunteers and town employees who assisted, and the generosity of the customers who stopped and donated.

Craft Show

The Community Service Group's annual Craft Show returned this year after a year off due to COVID-19. This popular event had over 800 people come through and the vendors were very happy! The bake sale made a record \$1,000! This is a fundraiser for the Community Service Group, which is a group of adults committed to volunteerism. Neighbors helping neighbors.

Medicare Open Enrollment

Open Enrollment for Medicare resulted in a total of 121 people being served by our certified CHOICES counselors (Steve Clapp, Andrea Cofrancesco, Lindsey Ravalese and Sue Grundstrom) in the Adult and Senior Services Division. CHOICES counselors provide unbiased information on insurance options to those eligible for Medicare including information on supplemental plans, Medicare Advantage plans and Medicare Part D (prescription drugs).

Art Classes

Our art class offerings are very popular! We now offer a day time and an evening session and they fill up! Elaine Smith has been a regular in our art classes since they were first offered several years ago and each year she creates her Christmas card picture from one of her paintings. This year's card

Human Services Department

Andrea Cofrancesco
Director of Human Services

she named "The Right Tree." Elaine has always been very supportive of our programming and has said our offerings "enrich her life." We are honored and thrilled to be able to offer meaningful and worthwhile programs to our older adult residents.



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 and speak to a caseworker. We will work with getting you connected to Intercommunity. Services are confidential. It's okay to not be okay.



December 2021

Teen Center

The Teen Center has had a busy month of December. We've seen an increase in our middle school drop-in hours and are happy to welcome so many new faces!

Teen Center staff hosted a Holiday Bonanza for our middle school students to partake in. Students who registered were able to join us at the Teen Center to participate in a Gingerbread House Competition, Cookie Decorating, and Holiday movies, along with other winter crafts and games! It was a successful turn out with around 40 students in attendance. What a great way to get in the holiday spirit!

Our Teen Center Youth Council group met for our monthly meeting to brainstorm future events and activities. Members were able to determine fundraising opportunities for the New Year and identified additional ways to contribute to the community and surrounding towns. Youth Council has begun collaborating with the S.W.H.S. Interact Club to volunteer and coordinate events together. During the first two weeks of December, both groups came together to complete a successful toy drive to support the Human Services Department and their Holiday Assistance Program!

We are looking forward to the New Year and can't wait for upcoming events and activities!



Human Services Department

Andrea Cofrancesco
Director of Human Services

School Outreach & Prevention

The SWHS SADD Club has been busy this month. They organized a "Sock It To The Cold" Sock Drive and were able to collect 376 pairs of socks - an event record! Half of the socks were given to Officer Barrett from the Hartford Police Department. He is an advocate for the homeless and was excited to receive the donation. Cornerstone in Vernon received the other half of the socks to share with clients at the food bank and shelter. The SADD students understand that simple acts of giving can truly help others.

The SADD Club also held "SADD Makes You Happy Day" in December. This day was created many years ago as a way to honor the Sandy Hook community. That community wanted others to remember that "Love Always Wins" and so each December we organize a day of giving to share kindness. The club handed out candy canes to staff and students, gave flowers to the cafeteria and office employees, wrote sticky notes with positive messages, gave a treat bag to ALL 260 staff/bus drivers, decorated lawn signs with messages of gratitude, hid gift cards around the school and took the time to spread the message of kindness and caring to others. More than 40 kids got to school very early to make sure that the entire school community was appreciated in some way.

Youth Counseling, Parent Education and Support

YFS counselors remain busy with 59 active cases of youth seen for mental health counseling. Referrals to counseling services are continuing to rise. We have had **18 new referrals** within the last month. All of the spots are filled with Alexander Pepe from Intercommunity and the additional hours our part time youth counselor is working, both using ARPA funds. The wait list is currently at 10. Robin Lagasse, Clinical Coordinator, is in the process of referring them to providers in the community. All counselors currently have a full case load which totals 62 families being served by Youth and Family Services. Robin and Danielle Bifolk, our student intern/Teen Center Coordinator, continue to offer a "managing your anxiety group" at the Middle School. Robin has an

active Teen Talk group with HS students weekly.

Although we no longer have a Parent Educator, thanks to DCF Enhancement grant funds, we have contracted services with Peace At Home Parenting, Inc.

Our new Peace At Home webpage is now live. Parents/caregivers only have to sign up once with the code now which is much easier!

"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 partnered 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.

Your **Peace At Home Parenting Solutions Center** delivers evidence-based digital strategies and support through live and recorded classes and conversation, at no cost (Free). Your Solutions Center has a new look, making it easier to find the support you need. Here's what you'll find:

- **Our Solution Series** are developed around a specific parenting challenge. Each Series includes a collection of hand-picked, easily digestible (15 min+/-) videos which unlock a key piece of the parenting puzzle. Each class includes a video, handouts, and information about our Experts. Series are grouped by Age and by Topic. **South Windsor's Solutions Series include:**
 - ◇ Little Kids, Big Feelings (Toddlers & Preschoolers)
 - ◇ Positive Discipline, Peaceful Home (School Age)
 - ◇ Help you Tweens & Teens Thrive, Even When They Think You are Ridiculous
 - ◇ Parenting Essentials – Let's Talk About You (All Ages)

Human Services Department

Andrea Cofrancesco
Director of Human Services

- **Live Classes** – something for every age group, weekly classes open to all Peace At Home parents where you can connect with teachers and other parents while you get answers on the spot. You'll find these added to the **Live Class Schedule** calendar link. Every live class is recorded and includes helpful handouts that help you apply strategies and share with your partner or others. These recordings and handouts can be found in **your Course Catalog**, along with your Solution Series recordings.
- **Peace At Home's Community & Support anchors your parenting center**, with quick access to our **Monthly Q&A sessions** and our **private, monitored Facebook group**, where you can ask questions and get support from our experts and your peers. When you need a bit of 1:1, you can rely on our experts to provide guidance with **individualized Coaching**.

We invite you to visit the Parenting Center at

<https://www.peaceathomeparenting.com/south-windsor-login/>. You'll need to create an account, using the code **SWindsorPeace**. Once you've registered, you'll be able to login and access your content. Your personal account will keep track of the classes you've taken, those added to your schedule and provide a customized video library of your classes. If you are unsure where to start or have questions, contact us at **Solutions@PeaceAtHomeParenting.com** or call 860-775-5109.



Parks & Recreation Department

Molly Keays
Director of Parks & Recreation

“Discover the Benefits!”

John Caldwell, Jr.
Parks Superintendent

MONTHLY REPORT - January 2022

Jennifer Filer
Asst. Director of Parks & Recreation

Park & Recreation Commission (PARC): The Commission did not hold a meeting in December. Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, January 5 at 7:30pm.



The South Windsor Walk & Wheel Ways (SWW&WW): SWW&WW applied the CDC Active Transportation Project grant for funding to receive five new U' racks on rails bike racks for our town. They will be distributed to locations that currently don't offer bike racks.

RECREATION DIVISION ***“Feel great – recreate!”***

Farmers Market: Our winter Farmers Market ended for the season on Saturday, December 11, with over three hundred attendees and twenty-five vendors that offered a variety of local foods and gifts for the holiday season. The last few weeks of the market, we held a special raffle in which we asked for unwrapped toys that went to the Human Services adopt a family program. For every toy that was donated, community members were entered in a raffle to win one of Burke Farms beautiful wreaths. We look forward to kicking off our second year of the market in May 2022!

Wreaths Across America: On Saturday December 18, the patriotic commission hosted the annual Wreaths Across America event at VMP Eagle patio. Several hundred residents were in attendance to pay remembrance to those who serve and have served our country. The Patriotic commission had over 1,400 wreaths donated in town.

Dec the Rec: For the second year in a row, our Parks Crew provided us with a half dozen trees “planted” on the island in front of the parks and recreation facility. Community members were able to come decorate the trees with their own

ornaments and festive trappings. If community members did not have an ornament, they could come by our office and pick up a free SWPRD ornament and hang it on the trees. All community members that came to our facility were able to share in the festive holiday spirit brought by the decorations.

Holiday Hello: On Sunday, December 12, nearly two hundred and fifty residents stopped by the parks and recreation facility to say hello to some festive characters! The Grinch, Cindy Lou Who, SWPRD mascots Ben E. and Betty, and the South Windsor Fire department “elves” were on hand to share holiday cheer and wishes! Every participant also received a special treat from our full-time staff. Thanks to our sponsor, Dzen Tree Farm, for sponsoring the treats for the event and donating their sleigh for Santa. We also would like to thank the South Windsor Fire department for their help and support for the event.

Merry and Bright: Eighteen festively decorated houses entered this year's competition! SWPRD staff submitted votes and three winners were crowned for the following categories: "Buddy The Elf" (for the house with the most holiday spirit), "Rudolph's Shiny Nose" (for the brightest house), and "Clark Griswold" (for the over the top festive display!). SWPRD also created a "map" of all entered homes and shared that map with our public via our Facebook page and website so that all of the 06074 could participate in a self-guided tour of the homes for a festive, fun holiday outing!

Monday Night Social Club:

Letters to Santa: Our program responded to five hundred and eleven youth this year. This is the second highest year since the program began in 2015.

Skate with Santa: We had over one hundred and twenty attendees this year and we collected

eighty-eight unwrapped toys and delivered them to Human Services adopt a family program.

Preschool and 4th R: Both of our programs participated in the Connecticut Children's Medical Center PJ day for the kids to benefit the CT Children's foundation. The youth and staff wore their PJ's and brought in monetary donations towards the cause. Between the two programs, SWPRD raised \$502.

Youth Basketball: Our basketball program started the week of November 22! We are excited to bring back our youth basketball program this season. We currently have over 500 Kindergarten through 12th grade youth enrolled in basketball. This season would not have been possible without all of the guardian and parent volunteers. This year we received over sixty volunteer coach applications. We are ready for a safe and fun season!

Inclusion Programs: We had a lot of fun programs this month. We hosted the high school unified basketball game at our facility. This was a fun way to kick-off basketball season! Our department also hosted the South Windsor high School Project Worth holiday party with participants from two other towns. We also had Santa and his helpers come to our annual Monday night social club holiday party!

Men's Basketball: Our men's league started back up in November with eight teams. We have our league games on Sunday's at the high school

Adult Volleyball: Our adult volleyball league continues to be popular as we have eighteen teams for both the women and men's divisions. We utilize Timothy Edwards gym on Tuesday and Thursday evenings for this program.

Wellness programs- Due to the increase in cases and ongoing roof construction, yoga has been moved back to a fully virtual program. The class is held every Tuesday and Thursday on zoom. Although we are hoping to bring this program back in person, the numbers have stayed consistent with over thirty participants this past month. Creative cardio has continued to offer hybrid classes for all participants. Each week, over thirty participants learned a new total body workout to energetic music. This class has been growing steadily each month.

Jukido: We had over twenty participants this month between Wednesday and Sunday evenings. On Sunday, December 12th, Jukido had their testing day and it was exciting as most of the participants

received new belts.

Learn to Skate: We had another successful month with Learn to Skate as we had a total of fifty-eight participants. Every Friday, our participants go over to the South Windsor Arena where their instructors work on teaching youth the basics of skating. This program would not be possible without our partnership with the South Windsor Arena.

PARKS DEPARTMENT

"Caring for South Windsor's Growing Needs"

Athletic Fields & Grounds:

All of our fields are officially closed for the season. We were able to put winter dormant seeding on most of the fields, which will give us a head start on prepping them during our busy spring season. We also finished our fall clean-up at all of our facilities including the schools.

Parks Department:

- We continued to assist Street Services with the leaf program and started getting ready for the winter season by servicing our snow blowers, small sidewalk equipment trucks, and plows.

Projects:

- The parks department is starting work for our pickleball and Dek hockey project at Rye street park by removing trees and stumps, many of which were damaged during our summer and fall storms. This project allowed for us to make space for the grading and new base of the courts.
- We are going to join forces with **Arrow Crane**, who graciously donated their services to have the 100,000-pound concrete lacrosse wall moved approximately one hundred- and thirty-feet North to the grass area above its current location.
- We are installing a new heavy-duty wood guide rail fence on the West roadside of the Major Michael Donnelley Land Preserve.
- Taller fence will be installed at Major B baseball field to help keep the spectators safe. The materials will be paid for by the Little league and labor will be the Parks department.

Recreation Photos:



The Wreaths across America event was held on Saturday, December 18 at the VMP Eagle Patio.



Some of our awesome decorated ornaments that were hung on the trees for Dec the rec!



Santa came to hang an ornament on one of our Christmas trees outside of the Parks and Recreation building!



A big thank you to all of our festive characters who volunteered their time for this event!



Community members driving by to say hello to Santa and special holiday characters!

Recreation Photos:



Buddy the Elf house award winner.

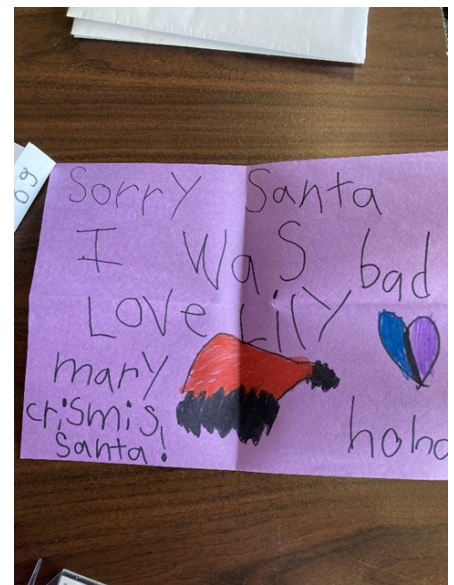


The Clark Griswold House award winner.



Rudolph's Shiny Nose House award winner. Wow, is that bright!

Our letters to Santa program continues to be a special way for our community to spread holiday cheer.



Our annual Skate with Santa event was so much fun! Participants skated around with Santa and our department mascots!



Our Monday Night Social Club had a special festive visitor come to their holiday party on December 20!

Parks Photos



Parks also maintains the grounds at the old Clapp house on the corner of Sullivan Ave.

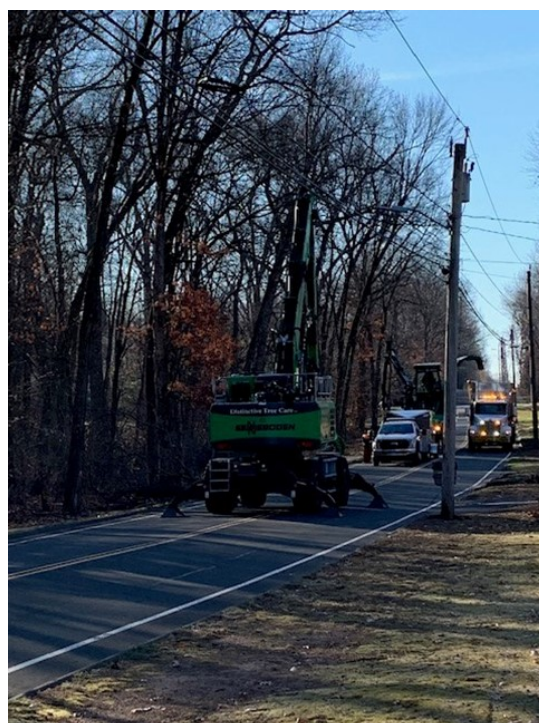


We mow many of our large open space areas only once a year in early winter, this allows the bees to continue to pollinate as long as they need, as they are a very an important part of our world.

Parks Photos



The Parks department getting the site ready for the Rye street Pickleball / Dek hockey project by doing stump removal and site work.



Tree work with distinctive Tree company on Nevers Road open space sidewalk.

January 2022 Town Council Meetings and Events

Meetings

Monday, January 3, 2022

7:00 pm Regular Meeting

Council Chambers

Tuesday, January 18, 2022

7:00 pm Regular Meeting

Council Chambers

Holidays

Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Monday, January 17, 2022

Town Offices Closed

Layout by Katherine Senerth, Executive Assistant

