

Town of South Windsor

Town Manager's Report November 2022

Michael Maniscalco
Town Manager



Pleasant Valley Bridge Project The Public Works Department is in the process of planning the Pleasant Valley Bridge replacement. Through this process there are a few different ways this project can be done. As a result, we are going to be looking at doing a presentation/public information session on the project and requesting feedback from the Council as to the direction you feel would be best for the Town.

Purchasing Ordinance Discussion As you all know, we have been working on trying to find a solution to work within the charter while meeting the current financial challenges of 2022. Unfortunately, my original idea of having a purchasing ordinance will not work due to the restrictive nature of the Charter. That said, we are currently exploring the idea of having the Town Council pass a number of resolutions that will allow certain exemptions for a period of time. Those exemptions may be for when it is in the "best interest of the Town" and when using a regional purchasing agency. These resolutions can become an annual review and activity of the Council that would be done in conjunction with the budget.

Pickle Ball I am pleased to report the pickle ball courts are done and we held a very nice opening ceremony in the rain. It has been very impressive to see the amount of use the courts have received both rain and shine.

GFOA Award I am very pleased to report that the Finance Department has again received the GFOA award again for this year's budget. The award is given for "demonstrating a constructive spirit of full disclosure" to clearly communicate its financial story. This award is particularly significant this year since we changed our budget book to an online format this year. Congratulations to the Finance Department and the countless staff who continue to work to make this year's budget a success.

Town Hall/ Library Parking Lot- the major work on the parking lot is complete. The only pieces left to finish is the stripping and the hand

work to back fill in the sections around the lot. I would ask people to continue to use caution as they move through the lots since there will be people working periodically in different sections.

Splash Pad 8-24 Approval On October 25th, 2022 the Planning and Zoning Commission gave a favorable report on the splash pad project for Nevers Park. Slowly the project is continuing to move ahead with the expectation of it to be operational by Summer 2023.

Road Hazards Due to Debris in the Roads

I would like to remind the public of Town ordinances:

Sec. 86-91 (a) Requires residents to clear sidewalks of snow/ice (or treat sidewalks to mitigate snow/ice) within 24 hours of the end of the weather event.

Sec. 86-91 (c) Prohibits residents or business owners from moving snow onto the travelled portion of the road.

Sec. 50-32 Prohibits anyone from placing refuse or waste material in or upon any public property.

Please remember this is for everyone's safety. Debris in the road causes a hazard for everyone who is traveling on our road ways. Additionally, with leaf season upon us leaves can pose a particular hazard when it comes to fires, masking hazards and causing slippery conditions.

Collections Update-

October Tax Collection Rate	2020 Grand List	2021 Grand List
Overall	56.45%	56.48%
Real Estate	52.26%	52.18%
Personal Prop- erty	58.37%	59.23%
Motor Vehicle	94.79%	94.28%
MV Supple	n/a	n/a

Michael Maniscalco, MPA
Town Manager



Police Department

Kristian R. Lindstrom
Chief of Police

Monthly Statistics September 2022:

Each month we publish the totals of some of our more common calls for service. We continue to see some minor fluctuations in activity levels as school schedules change and Covid trends shift. Patrol staff continue to proactively check businesses and facilities whose schedules and business models have been impacted by the public health crisis.

September's numbers are below:

Total Computer Aided Dispatch Entries:	2445
Routine Calls Received/Outgoing:	3545
Directed Patrol/Premise Checks:	985
Motor Vehicle Stops:	258
Emotionally Disturbed Persons:	8
Medical Assists:	157
Suspicious:	108
Alarms:	75
Motor Vehicle Accidents:	31
Welfare Check:	38
Assist Outside Agency:	44
Animal Problem:	40
Citizen Assist:	37
Miscellaneous Service:	14
Collision Reports:	23
BOLO:	15
Disabled Motor Vehicle:	34
Larceny - Motor Vehicle	2
Larceny:	23
Hazardous Conditions:	10
Pistol Permits:	5
Burglary	7
Burglary - Motor Vehicle	1
Civil Matter:	15
911 Check:	10
Fraud:	19
Domestic Dispute:	13
Violation of Town Ordinance:	1
Sexual Assault	2
Youth Problem:	4

Covid 19 Update (cont. from last month)

As has been the case for the past several months, the month of October saw Covid numbers

remaining at a dull simmer. This was especially nice to see given the fact that school has been back in session for a couple of months. Community spread has remained manageable and those infected with the virus have, for the most part, recovered fully and quickly.

As we are now in the beginning of the third year of dealing with Covid, we have moved from a pandemic status to an endemic status. Covid is here to stay and it appears as though its potency is certainly weakening. That being said, the police department continues to be cognizant of the fact that for many the transition away from Covid will be welcomed with open arms and enthusiasm, while for many others it will bring increased levels of anxiety and concern. For these reasons, 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.

Department officials continue to work collaboratively with other local officials to continually monitor community health trends and needs.

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.

This month a variety of personnel movements occurred that impact the police department. After a competitive testing process, Chief Lindstrom was able to make several promotions that serve to both fill some existing vacancies within our rank structure and increase the breadth of our succession plan. Corporals Joseph



Police Department

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Futtner and Jacob Truebig were promoted to the rank of Sergeant, and Officers Geraci, Higgins, Klein, and Johnson were promoted to the rank of Corporal. These promotions will allow for the agency to staff a vacant supervisor position in the Traffic Unit as well as add a newly created position of Community Outreach Officer. The latter has been in the works since Chief Lindstrom took office as chief and our staffing levels have finally allowed it to come to fruition in the next couple months.

As Sgt. Cleverdon continues to recruit personnel to fill all of our vacancies for both sworn and civilian positions. During the month of October, with the help of members of our recruiting team, Sgt. Cleverdon visited ECSU and CCSU on multiple occasions to attend different recruiting events.

The job offers that were given in the month of September were accepted and all of those individuals have begun employment here at the PD. This makes it a busy time as we conduct on-boarding training for a new dispatcher, animal control officer, and part time kennel assistant.

On the sworn personnel side of things, we have three officers still attending the police academy (Weiss, Sarfo, and Rogers). All indications are that they are performing well and learning at a pace that is expected of them.

Although our new officers (Weiss, Sarfo, and Rogers) will not be fully operational for several months. When the above additions and departures are calculated, we are left with one vacancy at the moment. Sgt. Mark Cleverdon is overseeing our recruiting efforts and is actively working to fill this vacancy with the right candidate in a timely manner.

In speaking with colleagues in the Greater Hartford region, it appears as though we are not experiencing the same staffing and recruiting issues as many surrounding agencies. It is likely that the reputation of the Department and the Town combined with the support we have locally and from the Town Council and the citizens have

put us in a position of advantage relative to other area departments.

Sworn Personnel Summary: With an authorized strength of 46 sworn members, we currently have 3 in the academy (Weiss, Sarfo, and Rogers), 1 out on medical leave (non-work related), 1 out on medical leave (work related), and 1 vacancy within our sworn ranks. By month's end, 45 of our 46 authorized sworn personnel are employed at this agency and 40 are fully operational sworn FTE's.

Civilian Personnel Summary: Among our 14 civilian employees, we currently have zero vacancies.

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 through non-confrontational consensual encounters. It is our hope that these contacts and efforts will help to build trust and legitimacy with the community.

As was mentioned earlier, several recruiting events were held around the state in October.



Police Department

Kristian R. Lindstrom
Chief of Police

These events not only work to serve their primary purpose of recruiting, but they double as opportunities for our personnel to conduct outreach and community engagement.

In addition department personnel were able to get back to their community engagement ways at several events in town during the month of October. On October 28th, officers met with visitors at the Senior Center for Coffee with a Cop. This event allowed organic conversations to occur across a broad spectrum of topics. From the King Street Bridge Construction, to identify theft/scam protection, the conversations that took place were both informative and important.

October also brought with it an opportunity for officers to attend Trunk-or-Treat Halloween events. Allowing our community's youth to interact with our personnel at these events is invaluable in building good will and legitimacy within our town.

At the high school, the SRO Officer Korchari continues his positive rewards program as he distributes handwritten letters to students for good deeds and other acts of kindness. To date, he has issued over 300 of these letters over the last couple years.

On October 1st, department personnel attended the Apple Festival. The recruiting and outreach booth was another great way for our staff to have countless non-confrontational contacts with members of the community.

Every year October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month and this year was no different. For the second year in a row, for a small donation police personnel were allowed to wear pink uniform patches and/or pink t-shirts under their uniform shirts. At the end of the month, the donated money will be forwarded to the Connecticut Breast Health Initiative. This activity is intended to not only provide a monetary donation to this important cause, but the patches are a visible discussion piece in the community and hopefully an effective reminder to some to schedule their regular health/breast screenings.

Events like those described above are of particular importance as the local community emerges from its Covid quarantine and tries to re-establish some normalcy. 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.

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.

The month of October was unfortunately marked with two fatal motor vehicle accidents. Both incidents are still under investigation. Department personnel will not only work to determine causal factors, but will also rule out any flaws in the roadway design and engineering that may have contributed to the crashes.

As was the case last month, we are continuing to monitor traffic flow on Buckland Road and in Evergreen Walk as several development and paving projects continue. In addition, we are monitoring some complaints of traffic issues in several other areas in town such as the railroad crossing on Chapel Road near Route 5.

The reconstruction of the King Street bridge continues to move forward and is expected to wrap up this fall.

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.

Sadly, the month of October was dominated by the



Police Department

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Chief of Police

tragic murder of two Bristol Police Officers in the line of duty. Lt. Dustin Demonte and Sgt. Alex Hamzy were ambushed and killed while they were responding to a domestic disturbance. In the wake of this horrible event, South Windsor PD offered its assistance to their brothers and sisters at Bristol PD. We sent over dispatchers to help in their dispatch center, a cruiser for a status display at the wake, officers provided traffic control and the funerals, and officers also took part in the vehicle processions that transported the victim officers from hospitals to the Medical Examiner and then to the funeral homes. On October 21st, approximately 20 members of our department attended the funerals at Rentschler Field in East Hartford. In the wake of this tragedy, our Peer Support Team has been active among our own personnel as a resource to help process these deaths. On the evening of October 27th, many department members attended a Peer Support event at the Community Center that fostered communication and provided resources to, not only department members, but also their families.

On October 8th, the Hartford Marathon took place. Despite its name, approximately half of the marathon takes place in South Windsor. The race route predominantly takes place on Main Street, the secondary and tertiary impacts of this event cause traffic congestion and detours that reach well beyond the race route. This event is very labor intensive for the agency as it takes most of the department to work in a variety of roles to ensure a safe and fun environment for the participants and the spectators.

In the middle of the night on October 12th, police personnel responded to a structure fire on Amato Drive. The first police officers on the scene worked to evacuate the multi-residence structure and then assisted the fire department with traffic and crowd control.

On October 18th, department personnel and the Capital Region Emergency Services Team served a high risk search warrant for narcotics and illegal weapons. After extensive planning and preparation, the warrant was served in the pre-dawn hours. Due to the professionalism of the

involved officers, the narcotics and weapons were located with minimal uses of force and no injuries reported.

The expansion and update of the women's locker room facilities is well underway as our officers are working around and alongside a fully functioning construction zone. As has been explained previously, because we are not expanding the footprint of the building, this expansion within it will cause a ripple effect that will impact and subsequently update several rooms in the lower level of police headquarters. It is understood that our lower level may be in a state of disarray for several months, we are excited for the finished product anticipated near the end of this calendar year.

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

With warmer weather on the horizon, we will wait to see if car burglaries and catalytic converter thefts spike once again. For the time being the police department continues to monitor the trend in the region and deter crime with high visibility patrols. 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 in the coming months if the need arises.

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.



Police Department

Kristian R. Lindstrom
Chief of Police

<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 October 2022

Street Services and Parks department employees attended training on emergency management and data collection. We conducted an initial 2-hour virtual information session with our vendor Crisis Track, followed by a nearly all-day field exercise with the vendor on site. This training allowed employees to use the Crisis Track program to simulate identifying and cataloging road closures, wash outs, debris management and building damage. "If this had been an actual emergency...." crews now have an understanding of how to capture storm related issues and damages in real time sending valuable information to the Emergency Operation Center instantly. The data collected in Crisis Track also helps to expedite FEMA reimbursements for declared events. The town used Crisis Track for Hurricane Isaias to capture data but in a much more manual mode. But now with more knowledge base, crews will be able to help collect data as it is happening including hours worked and equipment used in the field.



Streets maintainers assisted with several events including the 29th running of the Hartford Marathon, installing no parking signs, delivering barricades and staffing a dump truck to help ensure the safety and integrity of the race course. In addition, crews spent significant time making sure the course was safe by pothole patching and sweeping the course in the days before the race.

Streets, Parks and Fleet staff met with supervision to discuss the plan for the leaf harvest and upcoming winter operations.

Our compost is flying off the site just in time for new leaves to arrive as part of the annual leaf

harvest. Crews are also prepping equipment and installing leaf boxes in trucks. Currently we intend to start the program on October 31st weather permitting. We will be testing all the equipment during the last week of October to ensure readiness.

Two maintainers conducted a presentation on salt spreader calibration for UCONN's Technology Transfer-Public Works Academy. These maintainers presented valuable information to students about the importance of knowing how much salt is being applied to their roads during winter storms.

On a related note, 5 of our newest maintainers attend Green Snow Pro, a program hosted by UCONN's T2 Center to instill the importance of properly applying salt to roadways, minimizing chlorides in the environment, maintenance of facilities and equipment and the importance of salt spreader calibration.

The department welcomed Benjamin Conway as our newest Maintainer I. We all look forward to working with you Ben. Welcome and good luck.

Streets crews wrapped up several drainage and miscellaneous road issues during the month as the construction season comes to a close. Maintainers will begin to winterize equipment and start the process of calibrating salt spreaders preparing them for the upcoming winter.

The department assisted the health department with the flu vaccination clinic at fire house #3.

The sign shop repaired or replaced 49 signs during the month including 3 additional 4'x8' signs for the Veteran's Day Ceremony.

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

Public Works Department

Vincent Stetson
Director of Public Works

Engineering Department

Beelzebub Road Reconstruction

The reconstruction of Beelzebub Road is progressing on schedule. Spazzarini Construction has completed installing new storm drainage pipes and structures at the eastern end of the road, from Avery Street to Norton Drive. They have excavated the old road pavement and base and installed new stone base and plan to pave and install bituminous curbs on this part of the road the first week in November. Eversource Gas and their contractor NPL have just about completed installing a new gas main west from Norton Drive to Foster Street. Frontier and Eversource are continuing their relocation of about 12 utility poles and overhead wires in coordination with this project. All this work is causing traffic delays during work days with only one lane of the road open to traffic through work zones. I received a signed Special use License from DEEP to work on their property on the south side of the road and I am working with them on finalizing the 2 easements needed on their property. Beelzebub Road reconstruction will continue into 2023.

Pleasant Valley Road 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 have completed surveying, soils investigations and a preliminary layout. They are advancing the design including improving the road geometry, laying out new sidewalks on one side and new drainage pipes and structures that are needed. We expect to have design plans for public input and permitting in the next month.

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 have completed surveying, geotechnical investigations, a survey of the river for any endangered or listed species and a hydraulic analysis. A utility relocation meeting was held earlier in October. The Engineers are looking at options to expedite the bridge replacement and keep it within budget and will be

advancing the design plans for permitting and public input in the next month.

Pleasant Valley Road/Clark Street Sidewalk Project

Costa & Son LLC has completed most of the new sidewalk connections on the eastern section of Pleasant Valley Road and the southern part of Clark Street and residents are using the new sidewalks. They need to complete construction of a retaining wall and the last piece of sidewalk over Quarry Brook to finish this project.

Town Hall and Library Paving

Palmer Paving is repaving the Town Hall and Library parking lots as I write this. The line striping is scheduled to be done on November 11, Veterans Day. This work is funded by the 2018 Bond referendum.

Kennedy Road Reconstruction

The Town received notification that it has been selected for a CT STEAP grant in the amount of \$478,100 to fund the reconstruction of Kennedy Road. This will support the existing and future businesses that are on this road. We are waiting for further grant information from CTDOT.

Sidewalk Repairs

Sidewalk repair and replacement work is on-going and we continue to updated the list of sidewalks that need to be repaired. Atlas Concrete is raising concrete sidewalk slabs. Hathaway Landscaping is replacing concrete sidewalks throughout Town.

LOTICIP Sidewalk Project on Ayers Road, Nevers Road, Foster Street and Buckland Road

This project is to complete sidewalks and fill in gaps where they are missing on the above roads. We have hired WMC Engineers to complete design plans for these sidewalks.

Abbe Road Drainage Study

Weston & Sampson is 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

Public Works Department

Vincent Stetson
Director of Public Works

on this road. We are reviewing their draft report.

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. CT DOT has reviewed the final plans and contract documents and sent us comments to address in these plans. Our Consulting Engineer for this project is working on responding to these comments.

LOTICIP Application Submitted for the Reconstruction of Dart Hill Road

An application for funding the reconstruction of Dart Hill Road was submitted to CRCOG in January for consideration under the State LOTICIP program. This has been preliminarily selected for funding by CRCOG, along with other projects from communities in the Region. These project selections are being reviewed and finalized by CRCOG and then will be sent to CT DOT for review. After CT DOT has reviewed and approved the projects, they issue a Commitment to Fund letter. We are close to selecting a consulting engineer to finalize the design of this project.

Jeffrey Doolittle

Asst. Director of Public Works/Town Engineer

Water Pollution Control

Carrol Fletterick

On September 13, 2022 Carrol Fletterick submitted her resignation from the Water Pollution Control Authority, serving nearly 35 years from her original appointment on November 1, 1987. As part of the Authority, Carrol contributed to countless pump station upgrades and a major treatment plant upgrade which was completed in 2012. She was also an active participant of the WPCA's executive board serving as Secretary for many of her 35 years. Carrol's stewardship of the sanitary sewer system has played a large role in minimizing pollutants entering South Windsor's waterways. Her commitment and dedication to environmental sustainability and the Town of South Windsor will

be missed.

Covid-SARS Wastewater Surveillance

The Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH) is part of the National Waste Water Surveillance System (NWWSS), a sentinel system that gauges the spread of Covid-19, and possibly the early detection of other viruses such as polio, in our communities. Through a coordinated effort with DPH, the South Windsor Health Department, and the South Windsor Pollution Control Division we have partnered with Biobot Analytics who is a CDC contractor performing the testing of wastewater samples. The information will be entered into a database and shared with the public as part of the Hartford County Covid-19 metrics.

Sanitary Sewer Capital Improvement Projects

Pump Station Improvements: The 95% design deliverables to upgrade the Town's three largest pump stations; Clark Street, Benedict Drive, and Pleasant Valley Pump Stations, have been submitted to Town staff for final review and comment. Construction of this project is anticipated to begin in 2023.

Aeration Weir Gate Improvements

Improvements to four weir gates on the Aeration Tanks is underway. A consultant has been selected to design and bid the project for construction.

Phase IV Sewer System Improvements

The contractor is in the final stages of this \$1,000,000 sewer rehabilitation project which is funded with American Rescue Plan Act funds. The project includes lining 40 pipe segments and rehabilitating 28 manholes. Substantial completion is expected to be reached in mid-November.

UV Disinfection Upgrade

The upgrade to the wastewater treatment plant's 20 year old ultraviolet disinfection system is under design. The project is funded through ARPA and expected to be under construction next year.

Tony Manfre, Superintendent of Pollution Control

Finance Department

Patricia Perry, Director of Finance
Mary Huda, Assessor
Jennifer Hilinski-Shirley, Collector of Revenue

Assessor's Office

All Personal Property Declarations were mailed to business owners on September 20, 2022. Declarations must be returned to the Assessor's Office on or before November 1, 2022 to avoid a 25% penalty due to late or non-filing. The declaration can be submitted via email: personalproperty@southwindsor-ct.gov, or USPS mail. The Assessor's webpage contains all blank copies of Personal Property Declarations, it also includes helpful resources for first-time filers. Here is the link to the Personal Property section of our webpage: <https://www.southwindsor-ct.gov/assessor/pages/personal-property-declaration-information>

Additionally, we offer an online filing option! If business owners would rather file their declaration online, they can call or email the Assessor's Office to receive the individual, confidential, account-specific access code. Please do not ignore this form.

The Assessment Date in Connecticut is October 1st; with the 2022 Town-wide Revaluation values being finalized, residents can expect to receive assessment notices in mid-November 2022 with their updated real estate values. If property owners have questions regarding the new assessment, they have the option to meet with Vision Government Solutions during the informal hearing period to ask questions pertaining to the 2022 revaluation process and what steps were taken to arrive at the new value.

All details regarding scheduling an appointment will be contained in the letter and posted on the main page of the Assessor's website. New values will all be updated, for your reference, on the vgsi.com website when the value letters are sent.

Human Services Department

Andrea Cofrancesco
Director of Human Services

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

Our Savior Lutheran Church

A huge thank you to volunteers from Our Savior Lutheran Church, who came together to fix the floor of a resident at the trailer park. The volunteers, led by Kent Greenman, are super helpful as this is not the first time they have assisted one of our residents. They are kind, caring, efficient and generous and we are so thankful for their willingness to make a difference in the lives of people who need a little something extra done for them.



Renter's Rebate

Caseworkers in Adult and Senior Services have completed 195 applications for those 65+ and people with disabilities. This is a state program that provides a rebate from rent paid for those with limited income. Caseworkers do all applications so that residents can be screened for other programs that may benefit them.

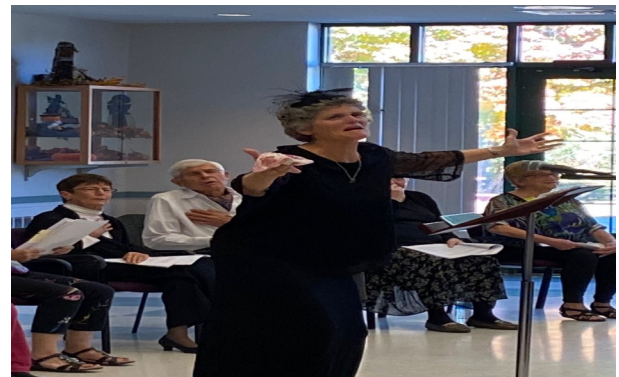
Art Show

The Senior Center recently showcased artwork of 15 seniors, primarily all done in classes held at the center. Some of those who participate in our art classes came with experience and others didn't, but they have all gained knowledge and it is very impressive what they have been able to accomplish!



Senior Theater: The Funeral of Mortimer Stiffler

Our cast of senior players were amazing! For 11 rehearsals at 3 hours each, they came together, formed relationships and got out of their comfort zone. Many never had any experience in acting before and some were in our play back in 2019 and wanted to be a part of this one too. We are so proud to be able to offer this outlet for people and hope to continue in the future.



Human Services Department

Andrea Cofrancesco
Director of Human Services

Health Fair

Our first Health and Safety Fair held since before Covid was a huge success! The Triad for Senior Safety volunteers were there to assist with the promotion of our programs and services and a total of 97 flu shots were administered. A variety of other services were offered including hearing tests, massages, blood pressure checks and healthy snacks. A huge thank you to CVS for filling in last minute to provide the flu shots when another pharmacy backed out last minute.



Pumpkins for Homebound

The Senior Center's Community Service Group was back at it again this year to spread Halloween joy to 31 older adults who are homebound. Thank you to Lots and More for their donation of pumpkins and to the decorators and the deliverers who continue to make a difference to residents throughout the year. Neighbors helping neighbors.



South Windsor Soccer Club Food Drive

Thanks to the South Windsor Soccer Club for coordinating a food drive at their recent Fall Classic resulting in more than 1500 items (two trucks worth!) to our Food Bank. Jennifer Johnson, Tournament Director and Mindy Pafumi, Treasurer (and coach of the winning food drive team!) are shown in the photo. Just another example of a great community we are honored to part of!



American Rescue Plan Act Funds

The Human Services staff is proud to be able to offer assistance to residents who are directly impacted financially by Covid-19. Funds can be used for a variety of needs based on the following criteria:

- ☐ Are you a South Windsor resident?
- ☐ Have you experienced a hardship due to COVID-19?
- ☐ Is your income less than \$54,950 (single) or \$62,800 (couple) (and more for larger families)?
- ☐ Please call Human Services for assistance. 860-648-6361 ext. 3335 (ask to speak to a caseworker)

Residents will be asked to provide proof of their income and assets as well as be able to demonstrate that their specific hardship is a result of loss of income or death due to COVID-19.

Human Services Department

Andrea Cofrancesco
Director of Human Services

These funds are part of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) provided to towns from the Federal Government. Call Adult and Senior Caseworkers at 860-648-6361 ext. 3335.

The Effects of a Pandemic and War on our Mental Health

It's been a rough couple of years as we have navigated through a global pandemic: social isolation, anxiety and finding a new normal. And now we are dealing with a war. And inflation. How are we dealing with it? Join Alexander Pepe, LCSW, from Intercommunity Healthcare for a conversation on living through tough times: ways to cope and deal with the additional stress in our lives. **Monday, November 14 at 4:00 PM.** Free, call to register. These funds are part of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) provided to towns from the Federal Government. Call Human Services at 860-648-6361 ext. 3335 to register or for questions. American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds are used for this program.

Bereavement Support

If you are grieving the loss of a loved one and would like to find support from others, please come to our group. A licensed therapist from Intercommunity Health Care will be **at the center on the 1st and 3rd Fridays of each month at 3 PM.** Everyone deals with loss differently. Let's come together and talk and get tips on how to cope. Free. American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds are used for this program.

CARES Program—*Space is Available*

Center Activity Recreation Exercise Socialization

The "CARES" group is for residents over sixty and meets five days a week from 9:30-12:30 PM. The charge is \$3 per day and is billed monthly. Lunch is a \$3 donation daily. CARES offers a variety of activities including music, crafts, games, reminiscence, current events, exercise, and holiday celebrations. If you have limitations or disabilities, but do not need medical or self-care assistance while in the group, you may qualify to attend. Call Lindsey at 860-648-6361 ext. 3319 for more information.

Human Services Department

Andrea Cofrancesco
Director of Human Services



October 2022

Youth and Family Staff and Intern attended the 50th Annual Connecticut Youth Services Association Conference. This year, the theme was “Reconnect, Refocus & Reimagine.” It was the first time since 2019 that the conference was in person. It was a wonderful day filled with education and connection to each other and the larger Youth Service Bureau network that we are so lucky to have in Connecticut! Did you know there are 103 Youth Service Bureau’s in Connecticut?! We all look a little different but we all work hard to support the youth and families in our communities.



The Teen Center has had a huge increase in middle school participation on our Tuesday evening and Friday night drop-in hours. We have been seeing anywhere from 20-70 students join the Teen Center at a time!

Now being able to provide transportation from the middle school to the teen center on Tuesday’s has

provided more students with the opportunity to attend after school!

We held a paint night in the beginning of the month for both middle school and high school students who wanted to channel their inner artist and create a fall themed picture. We had 18 talented participants for this event who gave a lot of positive feedback so we definitely plan to do more in the future.

Over 40 middle school students joined us for a movie night to watch Hocus Pocus 2 to get in the Halloween spirit.

One of our high school Youth Council members took the lead to start a Halloween Costume donation drive for youth and families who are in need of them. There were decorated boxes placed at the middle school and high school as well as the teen center. We received so many donations so this was a huge success!

Our middle school youth council students participated in some of the senior center bingo events on Monday’s to get to know the seniors, call numbers, and have a little fun.

The high school youth council students participated in the Monday night social club playing games and getting to know their program participants.

We helped at the Parks & Recreation Halloween Hullabaloo by decorating doors and passing out candy to children and their families. It was fun to see the costumes and creativity of the doors.

For Red Ribbon Week to promote awareness and prevent drug use in youth, our youth council members had students pledge to be drug free on their way into school that week. Each person that pledged got a takeaway item.

Our Halloween dance had 85 students registered. We had a DJ, a costume contest, tons of food and fun!

Human Services Department

Andrea Cofrancesco
Director of Human Services



School Outreach & Prevention

October was a busy month for the Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD) Club. Almost 70 students signed up to be a part of the group and 14 leaders have been chosen. They all attended an afternoon leadership workshop to learn new skills and also brainstorm ideas for the year. It was a great start to the year! The club was able to bring back the traditional seat belt and phone check this fall as well. Almost 30 students participated in awarding more than 300 "Smartfood" popcorn to those drivers who had seatbelts on and phones away. The drivers who were not as safe were given pretzels and were reminded that we don't want to see them twisted in wreck. The message was to wear a seat belt and don't drive distracted. It is always a favorite activity for the club. Finally, they handed out treats for Unity Day while reminding staff and students to make kindness and acceptance a priority. They are also working on a Unity Puzzle, which will be displayed at the high school.

Timothy Edwards also celebrated Unity Day. Each team at the school was supplied a blank puzzle to decorate showing how their team is unique and diverse. We look forward to seeing their amazing artwork. Also, Danielle Bifolck and Kathy Reed will be collaborating with the new school family engagement specialist at TE to offer Girls Circle programs for 6th graders. The groups will start in October and run for 6 weeks. We look forward to getting to know more students, while building self-confidence and connections.

The last week of October is Red Ribbon Week. So much of what we do here at Youth & Family Services is focused on promoting health & wellness of all our young people and their families in town. Red Ribbon Week is an annual drug & alcohol prevention campaign. The staff rocked their "We Wear Red" shirts. Our Teen Center Coordinator, Danielle and our School Outreach Specialist, Kathy were at TEMS this week asking for students to pledge to be drug free and discussing the significance of Red Ribbon Week.

Youth Counseling, Parent Education and Support

Counselors remain busy with 73 active cases of youth seen for mental health counseling! All of the spots for counseling with Alexander Pepe from Intercommunity are filled and all of Sarah's additional hours are filled. Paula Berson's hours are now filled as well. We are looking in to using additional ARPA funds to increase our part time counselors hours. The need is there as we have had an increase of referrals and received 7 just this week alone!

Virna Powell, one of our Youth Counselors facilitated a Suicide Prevention training for South Windsor Schools Social Workers and Psychologists this month. She will be facilitating two additional trainings for school staff in the coming months.

We also assisted South Windsor schools in getting all of their school nurses training in Narcan. They all received narcan kits. We will be hosting similar training in coming months for the school security officers.

Human Services Department

Andrea Cofrancesco
Director of Human Services

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.

October classes included:

- Mental Health Essentials for Parents: Knowledge and Skills to Support Your Child
- Routines the Work For Families with Young Children
- Picky Eating: Make Mealtimes Enjoyable
- Kids in Therapy: What is My Role as a Parent?
- Let's Talk to Kids About Drugs and Alcohol
Anxious Children: What Really Helps?

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 October 2022

Park & Recreation Commission (PARC): The Commission met at the Town hall on Wednesday, October 12 at 7:30pm. The commission

discussed updating the Master Plan to ensure we are listening and engaging with our community for further recreation opportunities. The next meeting will be at Town Hall on Wednesday, November 9 at 7:30pm.

RECREATION DIVISION “Feel great – recreate!”

Farmers Market We ended our outdoor market season on Saturday, October 8! Thank you to all of our community members for coming out each week to support our vendors. We will be hosting an indoor winter market at the Parks and Recreation facility on Saturday's from November 26 through December 17.

4th R Our youth had fun this month participating in recreational activities such as a fall wreath making craft, a "dress the skeleton" game, Emoji projects, and a baseball theme day to kick off MLB playoff season! Our 4th “R” staff participated in a color wars staff bonding night! Staff from each site competed together in fun challenges such as "Make A Deal Dash," "Name That Tune," and "Ping Pong Relay" to win points for their team. Additional Color Wars games will be held throughout the year, and at the end of the school year the staff with the most points wins a special prize!

On October 20, 4th “R” hosted a fall family night at Foster Farm. Over 320 Participants and their families attended and spent the evening with 4th “R” counselors and friends while having fun participating in a variety of hands on games and activities and of course Foster Farms' corn maze! Thank you to all the participants and families for

joining us!

Preschool Our youngest preschool friends had lots of fun learning through play this month! They enjoyed sensory activities such as corn kernel trays, foam, and water beads. Art projects included painting with broccoli to make spooky trees and using shapes to make jack-o-lanterns. Gross motor activities included running and climbing on the playground, crawling through tunnels, and practicing stilt walking. Our preschools also had fun "roasting marshmallows" over our "campfire" and searching the room for pumpkins on a pumpkin hunt.

Adult Volleyball Our league is off to a great start! There are 20 Women's teams (12 A Division and 8 B Division) and 18 Men's (9 A Division and 10 B Division) running from October 4th - March 16.

Tennis This fall, we have 96 participants in our tennis program! We have received positive feedback on the program and are excited to run it again next spring.

Jukido We had thirty active participants this month! Due to the increase in popularity, our instructor has decided to offer a second level of Jukido to continue the growth of the program.

Badminton The badminton program has grown over the last seven months, filling both the beginner and intermediate age groups. We look forward to offering in November and then again in April when we have adequate gym space.

Learn to Skate The October program hosted 35 individuals whom were interested in Learning to Skate! South Windsor Arena's skating 101 program through the South Windsor Rec Department is a beginning Ice Skating program that's fun and rewarding!

Food Explorers This program has continued

to be popular! Our theme for the fall was Chocolate Crazy. Each week participants made a sweet and delicious chocolate treat! We start our next session of Food Explorers in February. If you are interested in having youth learn new cooking skills, sign up for this program!

Yoga The Yoga program brings a great approach to creative exercise to all residents of South Windsor in person or through zoom classes! We have twenty participants this month, with numbers expecting to increase over the next few months.

Outdoor Fall Movie SWPRD and the Promenade Shops at Evergreen Walk co-hosted a showing the hit classic movie *Hocus Pocus* on Friday, October 7, 2022 to approximately 150 attendees. We started the evening off with *Hocus Pocus* trivia led by SWPRD staff. Which 10 lucky winners, thanks to Promenade Shops of Evergreen Walk, received a \$10 gift card to Ben and Jerry's Ice Cream. Evergreen Walk also provided a balloon artist and a face painter, which were well received. The evening was clear, crisp and seasonal.

Monday Night Social Club Halloween Dance SWPRD hosted our annual MNS club dance on Saturday, October 22, from 6:00pm-9:00pm at the Community Center. There were approximately 55 that enjoyed the DJ, costumes, refreshments from Buckland Pizza and the laugh from fellow friends.

Pickleball Courts Grand Opening Ceremony SWPRD, Town Hall, and members from the community gathered together in celebration of the Pickleball Courts being officially open and playable on October 24, 2022! With the rain from the morning showers past Rye Street Park, Molly Keays – Director of Parks and Recreation and Councilor Andrew Paterna addressed the audience of approximately 75 of the exciting opportunity that these courts will bring to the Town and Pickleball community. SWPRD raffled away a Joola Pickleball Paddle, Joola set-of-4 Pickleball Balls, and sold 06074 "That's Where I Pickle" T-shirts.

Pumpkin Roll On Friday, October 14, over 350 residents came out to Porter's Hill for our third annual Pumpkin Roll! Participants could bring their own pumpkin or purchase one on site, and they rolled their pumpkin down Porter's Hill in multiple heats to compete to roll their pumpkin the farthest! The person who rolled the pumpkin the farthest in each heat won a special prize (a giftcard to one of several local establishments). Rolls ranged from 279 feet to the furthest overall roll at 307 feet!

Halloween Hullabaloo: Our annual indoor trick-or-treating event, Halloween Hullabaloo, was held on Saturday, October 22! Over 800 children and parents came through the Wapping Parks and Recreation Facility to treat-or-treat at 27 doors throughout the building. The doors were staffed and decorated by parks and recreation groups (such as 4th "R" staff, Preschool Staff, Camp Staff, and VMP staff), as well as community groups that volunteered their time (such as Walk and Wheel Ways, members of The United Community Party, the Teen Center, the Community Women's Club, SWHS National Honor Society, members of the Republican Town Committee, SW Youth Hockey, SWHS FCCLA Club, and SWHS Interact Club). Decorations included themes such as Halloween, pumpkins, LEGO bricks, Hocus Pocus, Batman, Toy Story, Shrek, Pacman, and a circus (complete with the world's smallest lion!)

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

Activity Highlights: Athletic Fields & Grounds/ Parks & Open Space projects

We finished up the pickleball courts at Rye St. Park by conducting final site work and prepared for the opening ceremony that was held on Monday, October 24.

The crew continued daily and weekly preparation of athletic fields servicing high school football, soccer & field hockey, youth soccer, youth football and youth baseball. We also overseeded the worn and bare spaces of the athletic fields.

We prepared the fields and Rye Street park for South Windsor's Soccer Target Cup tournament held Friday, October 21-23. There were 1700 registered players and an estimated 5000 people attended this two-day event.

As the seasons change, we winterized all irrigation systems and parks structures in conjunction with Building Maintenance staff.

The crew worked on garden and landscape beds with weeding, cutting back tall grasses and removing unwanted fallen leaves.

Our grounds keeper "Jam" Decorated Town Buildings with hay bales, mums, pumpkins, gourds and corn stalks to get into the fall spirit.

At the beginning of the month, the parks crew worked with volunteers for Home Depot warehouse to install the Covid Memorial at Major Michael

Donnelly. Home Depot graciously donated the majority of the materials needed and D'Agata-Perry Granite donated the granite portion of the project.

We prepared the Eagle Patio at VMP for the annual Veterans Day Ceremony.

There were several hours of repairs to the John J. Michel Fairgrounds after Wapping Fair and Apple Fest to ensure the space remained in good condition for Cricket and other users.

This month we began preparations to bring electricity in began at the John J. Mitchell Fairgrounds. The preparations consisted of cutting down trees, pulling stumps and building a pad for an electrical shed.



Our Parks and Recreation team were thrilled to open up our new Pickleball Courts for the Community!

Despite the weather, we had 75 residents come out to our Pickleball ribbon cutting event!

Parks Photos:



This month our crew worked alongside Home Depot volunteers to create the Covid Memorial at Major Michael Donnelly. Thank you, Home Depot and D'Agata-Perry Granite, for the generous donations to make this project possible.



Our parks crew worked along side the recreation staff to set up and run our annual pumpkin roll!

Installing Drainage and guardrails at the Pickleball courts

Recreation Photos:



Our 4th R friends participating in a variety of fall activities



Our awesome
4th "r" staff
in
action!



Recreation Photos



Our friends enjoyed a campfire story time with their preschool teacher!



Our friends
having fun
while learning!



Recreation Photos



Community members of all ages had fun rolling pumpkins down Porter Hill at our annual pumpkin Roll event.



Our staff did a great job at coming up with creative themes for their doors!



We loved seeing all of the costumes and Halloween spirit!

November 2022 Town Council Meetings and Events

Meetings

Monday, November 7, 2022

7:00 pm Town Council Regular Meeting

Council Chambers

Monday, November 21, 2022

7:00 pm Town Council Regular Meeting

Council Chambers

Holidays

Friday, November 11, 2022

Veterans Day

Town Offices closed

Thursday, November 24, 2022

Thanksgiving Day

Town Offices closed

Friday, November 25, 2022

Thanksgiving Holiday

Town Offices closed

Dates of Importance

Tuesday, November 8, 2022

Election Day

Layout by Katherine Senerth, Executive Assistant

