

# Town of South Windsor

## Town Manager's Report December 2021



Michael Maniscalco  
Town Manager

### COVID-19 Update

I will have more up-to-date and accurate numbers and information for the Council the night of the meeting.

### Town Attorney RFP

The Town Attorney RFP committee met and decided to move forward with an RFP for the Town Attorney. The RFP was released through the State DAS website and was also noticed in the Hartford Courant.

### Tax Collection Update

Tax Collection Rate	2019 Grand List	2020 Grand List
	56.89%	56.99%
Real Estate	52.45%	52.85%
Personal Property	61.27%	58.48%
Motor Vehicle	95.61%	95.47%
MV Supple	n/a	n/a

Sewer Collection Rate	2020 Grand List	2021 Grand List	2022 Grand List
Commercial	99.17%	99.73%	n/a
Residential	92.33%	92.41%	92.59%

### Bond Rating and Issue

As you are all aware, the Town has been authorized to issue approximately \$95 million in bonds to pay for school projects, roads and other projects approved by the residents. Annually, we have been issuing bonds through a public bid offering in February. In preparation for the offering, we will be seeking another rating from S&P in January. Currently we are at a AA+ and have been working towards a AAA so that we can save money on the interest costs. Last year, we were very close to seeing a rating increase and with any luck, we will get an increase this year. Over the coming months, staff and I will be working on our presentation so that we can make our best effort toward getting an increase.

### Margaret Drive Tennis Courts

A question about reworking the Tennis Courts on Margaret Drive was brought up at the last meeting. This would be a capital project that would need to go through the Capital Projects Committee and would be approved based on priority. The Capital Projects Committee had its first meeting two weeks ago.

### Matching Mini Grant

The Wood Memorial Library has submitted a matching mini grant for some site work. We have sent it off and received approval from the Town Attorney consistent with the guidelines. I am currently reviewing it and would expect it to be in front of the Council for your next meeting.



## Police Department

Kristian R. Lindstrom  
Chief of Police

### **Monthly Statistics October 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.

October's numbers are below:

Total Computer Aided Dispatch Entries:	2,363
9-1-1 Calls Received:	768
Routine Calls Received/Outgoing:	4,842
Directed Patrol/Premise Checks:	979
Motor Vehicle Stops:	170
Emotionally Disturbed Persons:	16
Medical Assists:	161
Suspicious:	90
Alarms:	76
Motor Vehicle Accidents:	42
Welfare Check:	36
Assist Outside Agency:	34
Animal Problem:	26
Citizen Assist:	31
Miscellaneous Service:	3
Collision Reports:	29
BOLO:	14
Disabled Motor Vehicle:	20
Larceny - Motor Vehicle	1
Larceny:	27
Hazardous Conditions:	11
Pistol Permits:	7
Burglary	5
Burglary - Motor Vehicle	0
Civil Matter:	14
911 Check:	10
Fraud:	12
Domestic Dispute:	17
Violation of Town Ordinance:	5
Sexual Assault	0
Youth Problem:	5

### **COVID 19 Update**

To date, the month of November has seen some local fluctuations in community spread, however

none of those trends appear to be overly concerning. Recently expanded age group eligibility for vaccines and boosters should help to protect those who opt to receive the vaccine. The aforementioned fluctuations do not appear to have broken the trending plateau of the pandemic and the push for increased vaccinations is still important.

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.

### **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.

Our recruiting coordinator, Sgt. Mark Cleverdon, has been busy during the month of November as he continues to administer the department's hiring process. As new officers continue their academy training, Ofc. Spain and Kolcharno completed their field training and are now operating on their own in patrol. Our staffing levels remain steady at 44, only 2 shy of our authorized strength of 46. Of those 44, it is important to note that 2 members of our agency are currently still in the academy and one is on foreign deployment. A careful examination of our roster shows that "two vacancies", but this is somewhat deceiving as 3 FTE's are currently not operational.

As part of the department's efforts to employ a



## Police Department

Kristian R. Lindstrom  
Chief of Police

work force that resembles the community it serves, Chief Lindstrom attended, and presented at a Career Day at the middle school. While the attendees at this event are not eligible for employment yet, the department feels that it is never too early to try to make inroads with the young community members and discuss the opportunities within the field of law enforcement.

The month of November also saw the last of a string of promotions when Mark Halibozek was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant. At his new rank, he will become the department's Operations Division Commander.

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.

This month's Rittenhouse trial in Wisconsin set the stage for possible protests and to date, none have materialized locally. 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**

As we cautiously carefully emerge from the COVID restrictions that have been present for the past eighteen months, as an agency we continue to work to engage the public to build trust and legitimacy.

Last month's "Pink Patch Project" project yielded over \$700 dollars in donations from police department members. This donation was sent to the Connecticut Breast Health Initiative to help with efforts in the areas of breast cancer research and education.

This month, police officers have participated in the department's annual "Fuzzy for Fall" campaign. For \$25.00 officers can grow facial hair that is usually restricted by policy. The proceeds from this fundraiser will be sent to the Smilow Cancer Center in New Haven.

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. For that reason, Sgt. Elsie Diaz has been hard at work with her outreach initiatives and this month participated in the Town's annual food drive.

Also in preparation for the holidays, South Windsor Police Department partnered with MADD CT to host a press conference launching MADD's "Tie One On For Safety Campaign." This initiative traditionally involved tying red ribbons to one's car antenna to signify the importance of identifying a designated driver as the holiday season begins. This cause is of particular significance to us as an agency as it was only four short months ago that Officer Ben Lovett succumbed to his injuries sustained when he was struck by an alleged drunk driver.

This year, November brought with it an election that determined Town Council membership. Several incumbents remained on the Council and welcome some new members. On Saturday, November 13th, the Town Council members attended a one day workshop that included a presentation from Chief Lindstrom about the police department as well as a presentation from him about dealing with angry or aggressive behavior at council meetings.

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



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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.

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.

During the month of November the department received approval for grant money that will be used to fund additional seatbelt enforcement programs. This grant has been received in the past and goes to great lengths to improve traffic occupant safety.

November also hosted a motor vehicle accident on Route 5 that broke a utility pole and knocked down wires and power in the area for the better part of the day. Injuries were minor in this incident, however the impact it had on traffic and power to the area was significant.

In November, we continue to monitor and address the troubling trend in drunk driving cases. Since July 1, 2021, we have made 111% more DUI arrests than we did in the first half of the calendar year. An increase in drunk driving is a troubling trend that puts the community at risk. With so many livery type services (Taxi, Uber, Lyft, etc) available it has arguably never been easier to avoid getting behind the wheel. SWPD personnel will continue to enforce DUI laws in the community and participate in DUI grant opportunities sponsored by the State DOT. Hopefully these combined efforts can help to reverse this trend before the holiday season is upon us.

### **Police Activity and Significant Events**

October marked the end of a test and evaluation

period for new body cameras that are required by the State's Police Accountability Act. For years most SWPD personnel have worn body cameras, but the Accountability Act calls for all police officers to wear them. The cameras that were selected have improved functionality and durability of the cameras currently in service. The new cameras will be purchased in the coming months and will be online well before the deadline called for by the Accountability Act.

Our efforts to provide uninterrupted, high level, service to the community did not come without its challenges this month. A recent arrestee took to social media to condemn the arrest and acquired some traction with a group of "followers" around the country. These individuals took it upon themselves to place consistent and frequent calls into our Dispatch Center and to members of the Command Staff to discuss the arrest and apparently try to dupe our personnel into a confrontation on the phone. While trying to dispatch officers to medicals, accidents, crimes in progress, and people in need, these individuals placed well over 400 phone calls into Dispatch at all hours of the day with no discernible or legitimate need for service from us. Fortunately we were able to continue to provide service to the community, but these calls certainly interfered with our ability to do so.

### **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



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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



## Human Services Department

Andrea Cofrancesco  
Director of Human Services

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

### Renew Active

#### Now accepted in our Fitness Center!

We are excited to be participating with Renew Active, the gold standard in Medicare fitness programs. This provides eligible members access to participate in our Fit for Life Fitness Center at no cost. ***Plan holders of an eligible Medicare Plan insured by UnitedHealthcare Insurance Company can use this program.*** We are hopeful that this will allow more people to benefit from our state of the art fitness center. To check out our Fitness Center, stop in for our open house on **Thursday, January 6 from 2:00-4:00 PM.** Learn all about our equipment, classes, volunteer opportunities, and program options. There will be healthy snacks and you will be entered to win a free raffle prize for attending the open house!

### Emergency of Hunger Annual Food Drive

Thank you to the Rotary Club for spearheading this annual event and to the Police and Fire Departments and Ambulance Service of Manchester for their assistance. Thousands of food items and over \$8,000 in monetary donations was collected to benefit the Food and Fuel Bank to benefit South Windsor residents in need. South Windsor is a very generous community and we could not do it without the support of so many!



### Football Team Donates Turkeys

The South Windsor High School football team once again donated turkeys for the Human Services Thanksgiving basket program. 30 turkeys were donated along with \$1400 in monetary donations which was collected from family and friends of the football team as well as staff from the High School. Thank you!



### Thanksgiving Baskets

Staff in the Adult and Senior Services division of Human Services worked tirelessly to provide Thanksgiving baskets for South Windsor families and older adults. This could only be successful due to the generosity of the community: churches, civic groups, businesses, schools and individuals donated food and gift cards and made monetary donations to help the cause. Due to COVID, this



**Pictured: Lindsey Ravalese, Sue Grundstrom  
and Steve Clapp**

## Human Services Department

Andrea Cofrancesco  
Director of Human Services

was offered as a drive thru option to limit contact. A total of 109 families with 327 people received Thanksgiving baskets, which includes 24 deliveries to homebound seniors.



**Steve Clapp delivers to homebound seniors**

### 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.

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.

### Behavioral Health Services

South Windsor Human Services received funding from the American Rescue Plan Act to provide behavioral health services to residents 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 Human Services at 860-648-6361 and speak to a caseworker. We will work with getting you connected to Intercommunity. Services are confidential. It's okay to not be okay. Call Andrea with questions. 860-648-6357. Below are two programs being offered to start the conversation with Alexander Pepe, who will be providing these services at the center.

### Grief

Grief is something that impacts us all and rarely do we have all the answers to cope. Let's have a discussion together on it and find out what grief really is and what it looks and feels like. Who might be experiencing grief? What are some myths and facts about grief? What is the grieving process, and most importantly, how can we cope with it? Join Alexander Pepe from Intercommunity Health Care at the Senior Center on **Friday, December 3 at 11:00 AM**. Free, call to register.

### Holidays

The holiday season can be a joyous time spent with friends, family and loved ones. It can also be a difficult one. Stress of holiday shopping, decorating, and travel; missing loved ones. Join us for an open discussion on navigating the holidays



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Director of Human Services

in which we will explore the emotions associated with this time of year, as well as ways to cope. Alexander Pepe from Intercommunity Health Care will be at the Senior Center on **Monday, December 13 at 1:00 PM**. Free, call to register.

### Adventure Club

Our Adventure Club is growing due to the consistent hikes and other opportunities that we offer. We are seeing new people join us, which is exciting! Below are our offerings for December:

- **Guided Winter Tree Identification Hike: Friday, December 10**
- **Belding Wildlife and Valley Falls Hike: Wednesday, December 15**
- **Penwood State Park: Monday, December 20**
- **Wapping Park Stroll: Wednesday, December 29 at 10:00 AM.**



### Teen Center

Over the last month, the Teen Center has seen an increase in participation during our drop-in hours. We are very excited to see new faces and welcome more students! Staff has continued to advertise

and promote to community members, and throughout the schools to share what the Teen Center is and what we have to offer.

Our Youth Council volunteers have stayed busy with donation drives and fundraisers, and continue to seek out additional opportunities during downtime. At the beginning of November, volunteers worked together to clear out the Food Bank Garden and harvest the vegetables before it begins to get too cold outside. Recently, our volunteers organized a successful Canned Good & Coat Drive where we were able to donate almost 10 bags full of coats, and gave any non-perishables to the Food & Fuel Bank. To thank those who donated, our volunteers handed out hot chocolate or cider to go! They had a great time and as always are energetic and hardworking.



### School Outreach & Prevention

The Emerald Community Club at Timothy Edwards Middle School organized a Thanksgiving Food drive in November. They collected enough donations to make 25 complete family baskets, along with lots of grocery store gift cards, which were donated to the Department of Human Services. The kids were excited to help the South Windsor community!

The Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD) Club organized an all club event one day after school. The student leaders planned an afternoon of learning, connection and community service. Everyone enjoyed the opportunity to get to know each other better and have some fun! The leaders stepped up to create a positive environment, so that all members of the club feel



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Director of Human Services

welcome and involved.

South Windsor Alliance for Families (SWAFF) met during the month of November. We started to brainstorm the issues that the youth in our community are dealing with at this time. We began the process of figuring out how this Prevention Council can provide support for kids and families in South Windsor. We look forward to meeting again in January to narrow down our options and start to work on plans for a community event.

### **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. The transition back to full time in person school has exacerbated the anxiety for many teens. Counselors are working hard to accommodate this demand for services. We are thankful to have Sarah Soboleski, our current Part Time Youth Counselor take on an additional 5 hours per week to meet the needs. This was made possible by the ARPA funds. Despite having Sarah take on these additional hours, we are still have a waitlist for counseling services. Our new contract with Intercommunity that Andrea mentioned will help with this need.

Our Teen Center Coordinator, Danielle, continues with her MSW internship with us. In addition to her 30 work hours, she is now dedicated 16 additional hours to the clinical aspect of our division. She has taken on her own caseload. We are excited to support her on the journey of becoming a professional Social Worker. Danielle and Robin are now facilitating two anxiety reduction groups at the middle school.

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! I will send you all the flyer for September & October classes as soon as I receive it. Spread the word!

***“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)

- **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

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Director of Human Services

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](mailto:Solutions@PeaceAtHomeParenting.com)** or call 860-775-5109.

*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 - December 2021

Jennifer Filer  
Asst. Director of Parks &  
Recreation

**Park & Recreation Commission (PARC):** The Commission held a meeting on Wednesday, November 11 at the Town Hall. We will be meeting at the Town hall on Wednesday, December 8 at 7:30pm.



**The South Windsor Walk & Wheel Ways (SWW&WW):** SWW&WW celebrated their 14<sup>th</sup>

anniversary on November 3, 2021. This winter the group will be hosting a few moonlight walks and will be focusing mainly on updating their master plan. They will be meeting again at the Parks and Recreation office on Wednesday, October 6 2021 at 7pm.

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

**Farmers Market:** Our Farmers Market began its winter pop-up market at the parks and recreation facility on Saturday, November 13. We have over 25 vendors each week that offer a variety of local foods and gifts for the holiday season. We have seen a few hundred in attendance for the first few weeks and are hoping to see an increase of community members attending as we get closer to the holiday season. We will be offering the market on Saturdays from 9-1pm at the parks and recreation facility through December 11. Check Facebook for more details and remember to support local this season!

In cooperation with the Patriotic Commission, the Veterans Day Ceremony at Veterans' Memorial Park's Eagle Patio on 11/11/21 went well with over 100 in attendance.

**Preschool:** We are happy to be starting our second session of preschool! Our classes are back in full swing with registration being almost full for many of our popular classes.

**4<sup>th</sup> R:** We are having fun playing outside, making new friends, and getting creative at 4<sup>th</sup> R.

**Athletic programs-** Our basketball program started the week of November 22! We offered a coach's seminar on November 6 to chat about the importance of the role coaches play with youth along with going over the logistics of the program. We are excited to be back to offering basketball to individuals of all ages and skill levels. Our Mighty Mites program is close to full and we are still looking for a few coaches. Our beginning boys' basketball has eight teams, the girl's beginner has four teams, and our high school basketball program is still waiting on team assignments post high school try outs. Our men's league has eight teams and they began their season on November 14.

**Turkey Trot** was held at the high school track on November 14 and we had 68 participants. The Turkey trot was a special event created a few years back to give youth the opportunity to do a 100 -yard dash for prizes. We asked that participants bring canned goods to this event for the food pantry. Thank you, Shop Rite of Manchester, and Bex and Bails Bakery for your prize donations!

**Wellness programs-** Our yoga classes are continuing in the hybrid model as it has been a popular model for our community. This month we have a total of 40 participants among the two groups. Classes are held every Tuesday morning, Tuesday evening and Wednesday evenings. Creative Cardio is also continuing to offer both the virtual and in person classes in the Wapping activity room. This month we have about 20 participants among the two classes. We are excited to see these classes grow over the next couple of months!

**Jukido** is running on both Sunday evenings and Wednesday evenings. Participation in both nights has steadily increased since we've added a second time option. Over the last month we had 15 students which has been double what we've had



previously.

**CPR-** This past month, we have started to work on furthering our relationship with CPR training professionals to add additional training opportunities. They will now host classes for our community and for all of our contractors and offer additional first aid, CPR, medical professional courses along with babysitting and home safety courses for our youth.

**Youth Programs-** Learn to Skate in November was a success as we continue our partnership with the South Windsor Arena! For the first time since COVID, we had a full registration for the program. We had a total of 66 people registered! We are so happy to partner with the SW Arena to make this program happen. We look forward to another round of participants beginning in December.

**Food Explorers** has continued throughout November and has made some awesome recipes. We had a total of five participants over the last three weeks. They have made Greek grain bowls, ricotta gnocchi and black bean burgers. We can't wait to see what new skills they continue to learn as they cook more recipes in December.

We have a lot of awesome programs and events going on this holiday season. Check out our brochure and Facebook page for more information!

#### **PARKS DEPARTMENT**

##### ***"Caring for South Windsor's Growing Needs"***

##### **Athletic Fields & Grounds:**

- We finished up line painting and field maintenance for the season after fall sports ended early November. We are now continuing to mow all fields and grounds and we are winterizing sport fields and painting equipment.
- We have been overseeding, aerating, and integrating new varieties of grass to maintain turf and our fields.

##### **Parks & Open Space:**

- The crew has been busy partnering with public works for the leaf season. They have been doing the clean-up for most of the month.
- We continued over seeding and mowing all parks and open space.
- The Bark park had a fall clean up at the end of the month to ensure a high quality and clean space for all of South Windsor's dogs!

##### **Projects:**

- We did maintenance of the Buckland Islands this month.
- The crew put up our giant Christmas tree on Tuesday, November 23 along with our letters to Santa mailbox in the park. Thank you to ESI for sponsoring the Christmas tree this year.
- We have started the rest of our holiday decoration set-up by putting six Christmas trees in front of the Parks and Recreation department for their Dec the Rec event.
- We worked with Aquiline Drones, a company that specializes in drone solutions to get a drone mapping of the Scantic river to see what the obstructions currently are in the river so we can gauge the cleaning cost of the river.



***The crew is helping to set-up our holiday decorations around town!***



Recreation Photos



*Veteran's day event held at VMP*



*Shop local this season from over 20 vendors at the South Windsor Farmers Market*





**Recreation Photos:**



*We love playing outside and exploring!*



*We love arts and crafts time!*





## Recreation Photos:



*4th R having fun  
outside before  
winter!*



*Learn to skate is a great example of winter recreational  
opportunities!*



## Recreation Photos:



***Our Annual South Windsor Youth Turkey trot held on November 14!***



***Some of our Turkey trot winners! Wow, they are fast!***



**Parks Photos**



*Seeding of the athletic fields post fall sports*



*Routine maintenance of the Buckland islands*



## Parks Photos



*Thank you, Aquiline Drones, for taking photos of the Scantic River!*



*Annual fall leaf clean-up in partnership with Public Works*

## ***December 2021 Town Council Meetings and Events***

### ***Meetings***

**Monday, December 6, 2021**

**7:00 pm Regular Meeting**

*Council Chambers*

**Monday, December 20, 2021**

**7:00 pm Regular Meeting**

*Council Chambers*

### ***Holidays***

**Christmas Day**

**December 24, 2021**

**Town Offices Closed**

**New Year's Day**

**December 31, 2021**

**Town Offices Closed**

*Layout by Katherine Senerth, Executive Assistant*

