

Town of South Windsor

Town Manager's Report December 2022



Michael Maniscalco
Town Manager

Budget Policy Statement

Annually, the Town Council puts together a Budget Policy Statement that provides staff and myself with some guidance as we draft the next year's budget. I wanted to remind the Council that we will need this statement done by the end of December so that the staff can use it to inform decisions as the budget is being formulated.

Human Services Food Bank

The Food Bank did very well through the Thanksgiving Holiday due to the help of countless civic groups, businesses and residents that made donations. There are so many we might be here all night if I listed them all. With the holiday season still upon us, there are continued needs at the Food Bank. Cleaning products, paper products and toiletries are the most needed items right now. These are not covered by the SNAP program and they are expensive. To use the Food Bank, contact Human Services at 860-648-6361 ext. 3335 and a caseworker will schedule an appointment. Proof of residency and income is required.

State Economic Development Forum

I had the opportunity to attend the State Economic Development Forum. This event has been held over the last few years and has provided interesting insight into the economic development stance of the state. This year was all about breaking myths regarding business and the health of our state. The key take away is that we all have the power to make the message about our community and state based on the way we talk about them. There are a lot of business friendly things to celebrate in Connecticut. For example, during the forum it was shown that there was actually a population net increase in the state; and business taxes are average when compared to other states when comparing actual dollars. So in keeping with the message of the forum, I think it is important for us all to remind each other that South Windsor is a great place for business and is ready to welcome new and redevelopment projects.

Strategic Planning

It has been a bit difficult to get a quorum of this committee with the holidays but I wanted to let everyone know that the committee is working on a short survey that will be sent out to the community. The expectation is the survey should go out towards the end of December via email. Keep your eyes open and if someone from the public is interested in getting the survey please make sure they send their email into the Town Managers Office.

Michael Maniscalco, MPA
Town Manager



Police Department

Kristian R. Lindstrom
Chief of Police

Monthly Statistics October 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 impact by the public health crisis.

October's numbers are below:

Total Computer Aided Dispatch Entries:	2383
Routine Calls Received/Outgoing:	3712
Directed Patrol/Premise Checks:	985
Motor Vehicle Stops:	217
Emotionally Disturbed Persons:	11
Medical Assists:	178
Suspicious:	88
Alarms:	69
Motor Vehicle Accidents:	45
Welfare Check:	54
Assist Outside Agency:	20
Animal Problem:	26
Citizen Assist:	25
Miscellaneous Service:	16
Collision Reports:	20
BOLO:	15
Disabled Motor Vehicle:	23
Larceny - Motor Vehicle	1
Larceny:	31
Hazardous Conditions:	8
Pistol Permits:	5
Burglary	5
Burglary - Motor Vehicle	1
Civil Matter:	7
911 Check:	8
Fraud:	17
Domestic Dispute:	10
Violation of Town Ordinance:	3
Sexual Assault	1
Youth Problem:	11

Covid 19 Update (cont. from last month)

As has been the case for the past several months, the month of November 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. This month Officer Victoria Weiss graduated from the New Britain Police Academy. After more than 1300 hours of basic training, she is now here at the Police Department and has begun her 14 weeks of field training.

In the wake of the promotions that occurred over the last couple of months, multiple administrative assignments needed to be filled. Most notably, the promotions caused the need for a new



Police Department

Kristian R. Lindstrom
Chief of Police

Criminal Investigator and a Traffic Investigator. The competitive tests to fill these positions were held this month and Corporal Klein and Officer Dabrowski will fill those positions respectively. The challenge at this point will be finding a time to transfer these officers that will not disrupt the patrol schedule and staffing levels.

This month Officer Bill Eastwood informed Chief Lindstrom that there is a high likelihood that he will resign from his position to take a position with the State Capital Police Department. We do not have a date for his departure at this time, however it is expected in the next month or two.

Community Service Officer Kaley Curtis continues to progress through her field training and is acclimating well to her new position. On the sworn personnel side of things, Ofc. Weiss' aforementioned academy graduation leaves us with two officers still attending the police academy (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. In consult with Sgt. Mark Cleverdon, Chief Lindstrom decided to close the current hiring window. This decision was made based on the overall number and quality of applicants that was seen in the latest round of oral board examinations. The hiring window will re-open after the holidays at which time the new window will be advertised with a social and mainstream media blitz in an effort to draw new qualified applicants to the process. Sgt. Cleverdon continues to oversee our recruiting efforts and is actively working to identify new and innovative ways to streamline this process while maximizing its reach and impact so that we can find and hire the right candidate in a timely manner.

Unfortunately, this month our staffing levels were negatively impacted by factors such as injuries and family leave.

Sworn Personnel Summary: With an authorized strength of 46 sworn members, we currently have 2 in the academy (Sarfo and Rogers), 1 out on medical leave (non-work related), 2 out on medical leave (work related), 1 in field training, and 1 vacancy within our sworn ranks. By month's end, 45 of our 46 authorized sworn personnel are employed at this agency and 39 are fully operational sworn FTE's.

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

Local and National Social Justice Movements (cont. from last month)

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.

In addition department personnel were able to get back to their community engagement ways at several events in town during the month of November. The most notable of these events was at the CREC International Magnet School on November 9th. On this date, several department members attended a 1st Responder's Breakfast and then stayed at the school to meet with students for question and answer sessions with students as well as provide "tours" of cruisers and other



Police Department

Kristian R. Lindstrom
Chief of Police

department vehicles.

In partnership with the Fire Department and the Ambulance Service of Manchester, police personnel participated in the annual "Emergency of Hunger" holiday food drives at Geissler's and Stop & Shop.

This month the Department received a grant for its K-9 program. The grant is from Aftermath®, a private company that provides trauma cleanup and biohazard removal, and awards funding to K-9 programs based on community voting. This year, department and community members voted on social media and their support earned an award for K-9 Mason. This money will be put towards advancing the K-9 program to improve the service that our K-9 provides to the community.

This month, police personnel were thrilled to receive dozens of gift bags from high school and middle school students through the efforts of South Windsor Youth and Family Services.

On November 10th, Chief Lindstrom attended the ribbon cutting ceremony at the Cambria Hotel located near the Tempo Apartments behind Evergreen Walk.

In addition to the above events and support, behind the scenes the Department continues to provide car seat installations, and other non-enforcement related programs to the community.

The department continues to benefit from regular gestures of support from various members of 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 November saw no major

developments in the Traffic world. The department continued to urge community members to not put their leaf piles in the streets. Any effort that can be made to keep the roads as wide as possible and keep the storm drains clear is helpful as DPW crews move through town to collect these piles.

As the holidays approach, we are continuing to monitor traffic flow on Buckland Road and in Evergreen Walk. This time of year brings with it an increase in motor vehicle traffic in that section of town. Additional patrols in that area are expected and will serve to ensure traffic is moving safely.

The reconstruction of the King Street Bridge continues to move forward and is expected to wrap up very soon.

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.

On November 3rd, patrol officers responded to Route 5 to a report of a catalytic converter theft where the suspects fired a gun at a witness in the area. Luckily no one was injured, but his incident is a stark reminder of the dangers that lurk in the community.

This month, department Use of Force instructors completed department wide training of the new Use of Force curriculum that is being rolled out by the State. As of November 3rd, all department personnel have been trained in this new curriculum.

Many people may have noticed that the State Police Canine unit has been in South Windsor doing training over the last several weeks. As luck would have, this additional presence paid dividends when on November 8th, a State Trooper's lunch break was interrupted when he observed a larceny suspect fleeing Stop & Shop. The Trooper attempted to stop the suspect vehicle on Buckland Rd and the incident resulted in a foot



Police Department

Kristian R. Lindstrom
Chief of Police

pursuit and the suspect being arrested. The incident caused considerable commotion on Buckland Rd as the suspect vehicle was involved in multiple car accidents as it attempted to flee the area.

The expansion and update of the women's locker room facilities continues to progress. Our officers continue to work 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.

<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

With the leaves quickly falling The Streets Department, with the assistance of the Parks Department, has directed this month's focus on the annual leaf harvest. It has been a particularly heavy first pass. All leaves picked up are delivered to the Town Garage where they are windrowed, beginning the composting process. Streets is also taking in deliveries of The Town of Vernon's leaves utilizing 100 CY walking floor trailers.

For an update on the leaf harvest, residents are encouraged to contact the leaf hotline at 860-648-6371. The hotline is updated each afternoon with a message indicating a projection of where the crews will be picking up the following day.

In addition to the leaf harvest the Streets crews have also installed and backfilled curb at our Miller Road drainage repair location, and performed a catch basin repair within town. We also continued backfilling the recently paved curbing at the Town Hall and Library, and set up signage for our recent election.

Residents are encouraged to use Connect South Windsor to report hazards.:

WWW.SOUTHWINDSOR.ORG/CONNECT
or look for the app for iPhones and Androids.

Fleet Services

With Winter quickly approaching, The Fleet Department has been diligently readying vehicles for the snow plowing season. In between all the breakdown repairs of leaf season and the day-to-day maintenance of the Town's vast fleet, the mechanics have been prioritizing equipment preservation with some minor rust scaling and painting, followed by an application of a rust inhibiting protective film. This process is imperative to counteract the corrosion effects of road salt giving us more longevity for our equipment.

A new vehicle for Engineering arrived, requiring Fleet to outfit it with strobe lighting, a camera, and other necessary equipment.

Marco Mucciacciaro

Superintendent of Street Services

Engineering

Beelzebub Road Reconstruction

The reconstruction of the eastern half of Beelzebub Road from Avery Street to about Norton Drive is substantially complete. Spazzarini Construction has installed new storm drainage pipes and structures, excavated the old road pavement and base and installed new stone base and 2 layers of Hot Mix Asphalt pavement, bituminous curbs and some concrete sidewalks on this part of the road. They will shut down for the winter in December and reconstruction of the western half of Beelzebub Road reconstruction will begin in early April, 2023 and is scheduled to be completed in the Fall of 2023. Eversource Gas and their contractor NPL have 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. We received a signed Special use License from CT DEEP to work on their property on the south side of the road and are waiting for the final 2 easements needed from DEEP.

Pleasant Valley Road Reconstruction

WMC Consulting Engineers is working on preliminary 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 improved drainage pipes and structures. We expect to have preliminary design plans for public input and permitting in December.

Pleasant Valley Road Bridge Replacement

WMC Consulting Engineers has developed preliminary plans for the replacement of the Pleasant Valley Road Bridge over the Podunk River. These plans will allow for this bridge replacement with both the shortest construction schedule and close to the lowest cost, and will be used for permitting and public input in December.

Public Works Department

Vincent Stetson
Director of Public Works

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 has completed repaving the Town Hall and Library parking lots

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 the grant agreement and instructions from CTDOT to proceed with finalizing this design.

Town Road Paving, Sidewalks and Drainage Improvements

With the support of the Town residents approving the 2022 Bond Referendum for Town Road Paving, Sidewalks and Drainage improvements, we have issued two RFP's for consultants to help with existing subsurface conditions investigations and surveys for designs of these projects in the next couple of years. We are preparing the list of roads and other improvements to be done each year (including updating cost estimates) with these bond funds and will be working on bid specifications and plans this winter so this work can begin in the spring of 2023.

Sidewalk Repairs

Sidewalk repair and replacement work is wrapping up for the year and we continue to update 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. WMC Engineers has developed preliminary design plans for these sidewalks that we have reviewed and sent them comments on. A public information meeting will be held on these sidewalks this winter.

Abbe Road Drainage Study

Weston & Sampson has investigated the drainage problems that have occurred on Abbe Road in past years and have verified where the existing drainage system is insufficient and needs to be improved. We are working with them to finalize recommended improvements to alleviate the drainage problems on this road.

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. Additional funding may be needed to complete this project.

LOTICIP Application Submitted for the Reconstruction of Dart Hill Road

An application for funding the reconstruction of Dart Hill Road has been selected for the State LOTICIP program by CROCOG. This project has been sent to CT DOT for review and approval. After CT DOT has reviewed and approved the project, they will issue a Commitment to Fund letter and we can engage our selected consultant with the design of this project.

Jeffrey Doolittle
Asst. Director of Public Works/Town Engineer

Finance Department

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

Assessor's Office

The 2022 Town-wide Revaluation current market values and assessments have now been completed. The revaluation assessment notices were mailed to all property owners on November 7, 2022. Vision Government Solutions offers an informal hearing to any property owner who has questions regarding their new assessment value or the mass appraisal methodology used to arrive at the value. These hearings are to be scheduled with Vision directly online here: www.vgsi.com/schedules. If a taxpayer does not have computer access, they may call the number listed in the paragraph below to schedule an informal meeting via phone.

In order to schedule an appointment, property owners must have the Parcel ID number (PID#), located at the top of the letter. If there are multiple properties to discuss, please set up your appointment by calling Vision Government Solutions at: 1-888-844-4300 between the hours of 9:00AM and 4:00PM Monday through Friday. Please do not call the Assessor's Office to set up an appointment with Vision as we do not have access to the entire schedule.

There are many answers to Frequently Asked Questions regarding the revaluation process on the Town's webpage, please go to the Assessor's department to access this document and other resources, including a GIS map of qualified sales utilized to create the residential mass appraisal model. Please be aware that the goal of a revaluation, as mandated by State Statute, is to uniformly value all real property to ensure the fair and equitable distribution of the Town's property tax burden. The mill rate set by the Town Council in May 2023 will determine the taxes that will be payable in July 2023 and is based on several data components or factors that are not yet available to the Town. The overall net taxable grand list figure, the amount of State aid or funding that will be received from the biannual budget and the budgeted or projected cost of providing Town services.

Any business that has previously requested and been granted an extension of time to file their 2022 Personal Property Declarations, must do so by

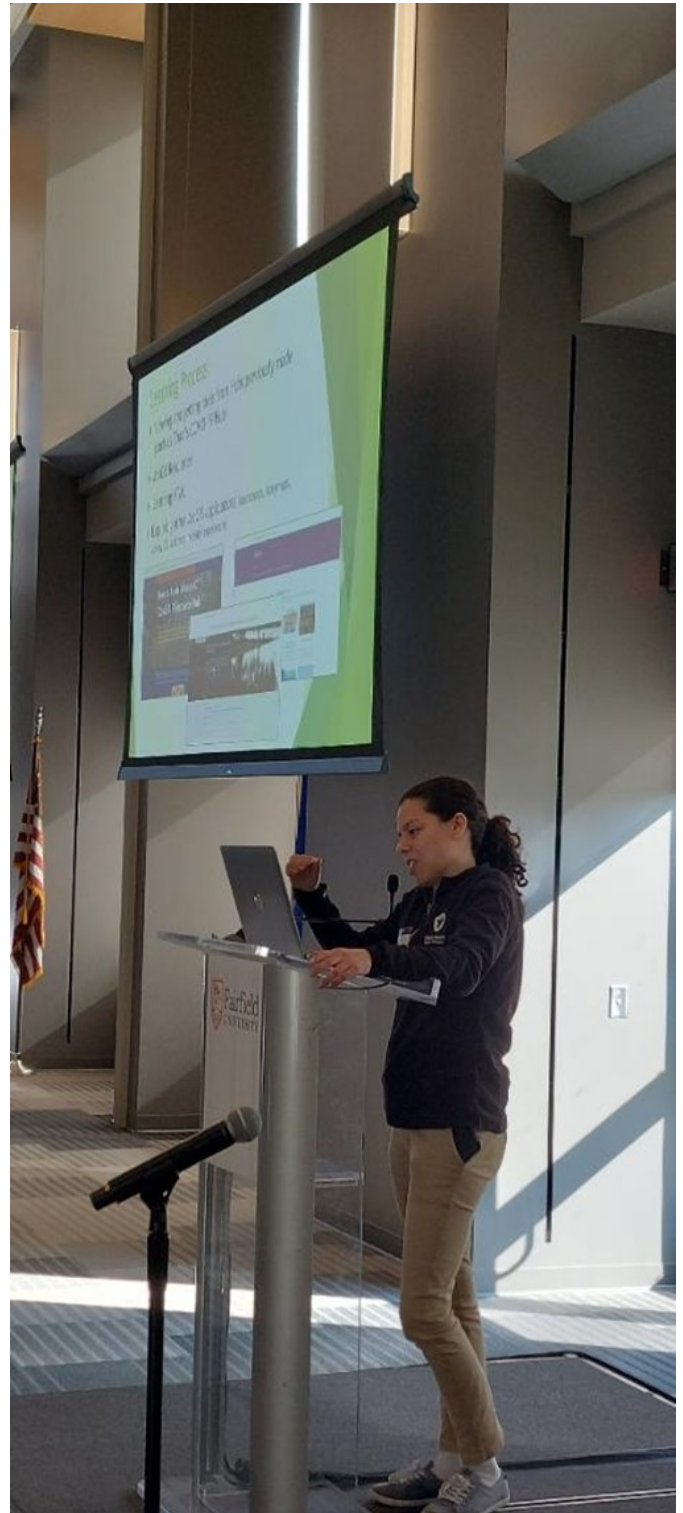
December 15, 2022, to avoid a 25% penalty for late filing.

Health Department

Heather Oatis, Director of Health
Melissa Peirce, Environmental Officer

With the Enhanced Laboratory Capacity (ELC) grant funding from the Department of Public Health, the COVID-19 Contact Tracers/Compliance Monitors have diligently been working on a Community Health Needs Assessment. They facilitated a comprehensive online and paper-copy survey earlier this year and have put together a comprehensive report available on the Health Department's website. This needs assessment will continue over the winter in the form of focus groups to drill down into further detail about the needs of the Town. Upon completion, the goal is to implement future Health Department programming specific to the needs of the residents of South Windsor.

The same staff went even further, in cooperation with the GIS Department, to put together a Community Health Hub. This hub is also available for the public on the Health Department's website. The Community Health Hub is a very unique asset to the town. It incorporates countless data sources to provide a one-stop shop for the health needs of the Town. This hub is so unique that the main creator, Idelys Amador, was asked to present at the Connecticut State GIS Day Event at Fairfield University. We are very proud of the work that has been accomplished with the ELC grant to promote the community health of South Windsor.



Human Services Department

Andrea Cofrancesco
Director of Human Services

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

Reading in the Schools

The Senior Advisory Council's Reading in the Schools Program is once again up and running for the first time since before Covid! We were so excited to be able to read to the children at PR Smith School. This program, which has been in existence since 2011, allows our senior readers to go into every classroom to all four elementary schools once throughout the school year. Books were donated from The South Windsor Community Foundation and the Lions Club.



Season of Giving

The Human Services Department was feeling the love from the community again this year! The donations have been coming in from a variety of sources including churches, schools, civic groups, businesses and individuals. We could not do what we do without the generosity of so many!

Scouting for Food brought in over \$3,000 in gift cards and money, plus **many** boxes of food; The High School Football Players delivered a total value of \$2400 which includes gift cards and turkeys; Wapping Community Church donated \$600 in gift cards with more to come; the Jaycees

put together Thanksgiving baskets for 125 people AND food for an additional 125 families; The Rotary Club Food Drive, with the help of the Police and Fire Departments and Ambulance Service of Manchester yielded \$6,000 and a bunch of food!



Human Services Department

Andrea Cofrancesco
Director of Human Services



Handmade Bears

The Sew Stuffed Ladies once again delivered handmade bears, which will be given out as part of our Adopt a Child Program. We “sew” appreciate the love they put into these!

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.

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



The month of November flew by at the Teen Center. We started off the month with a game night fundraiser to benefit the Teen Center and future events and programs. Middle school students registered for the game night to participate in fun competition with peers and staff. On Election Day, we held a yoga event to relax and de-stress on the students day off from school. Our Youth Council students participated in a volunteer opportunity where we put together kindness bags filled with candy and positive messages to deliver to the Police Department in honor of Kindness Day to thank them for their hard work.



Our Youth Council members held a Thanksgiving Donation Drive the week before Thanksgiving to accept food donations for the S.W. Food & Fuel Bank. We volunteered at the Parks & Recreation Turkey Trot collecting non-perishable food donations and selling donuts and pastries to raise money for the Food Bank to support them during the holiday season.

A few days before Thanksgiving, students from the Teen Center got together for a Friendsgiving Potluck where we enjoyed dinner together, played games, and shared what we are thankful for. This has been a great month, and has given us a lot to be thankful for.



School Outreach & Prevention

The Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD) Club was busy during the month of November. They organized their annual "Sock It To The Cold" sock drive to assist local shelters. They hope to support our community by helping to supply a little warmth of feet, and more importantly, of hearts.

The SADD Club also held a leadership meeting one afternoon after school. About 45 students came together to make connections, work on projects and learn about prevention in their every day life. They decorated liquor store bags with messages reminding people to make safe choices this holiday season. This project is a simple way to show the adults in their lives that their actions also make a difference. The club Presidents made a great Jeopardy game that all of the students got to play as well. The questions were about alcohol and drug prevention, safe driving and healthy relationships. It was a fun afternoon filled with teamwork and connection!

Human Services Department

Andrea Cofrancesco
Director of Human Services



The Girls Circle programs are being run 2 days a week at Timothy Edwards Middle School. We have been having great conversations about important topics, including friendship and self esteem. During one session, they made beautiful bracelets with each color representing a word that describes a strong friendship. The groups have been a great way to get to know students a bit better and take the time to celebrate each other.



Youth Counseling, Parent Education and Support

Counselors remain busy with 75 active cases of youth seen for mental health counseling! All of the spots for counseling with Alexander Pepe from Intercommunity are filled. Our two part time counselor's are filled as well and thankfully they were both willing to take on additional hours. We are thankful that we have ARPA funds to support our youth and families that need mental health services. We are concerned that the funding is

temporary but the mental health needs will likely continue to grow.

Our Director and Clinical Coordinator were invited to join a staff meeting at Orchard Hill School this month. It was a great opportunity to discuss our entire department and services that we provide. We got some great questions from teachers.

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.

November Classes Include:

- Positive Discipline for Peace at Home
- LGBTQ+ What to Say to Your Child and How to Communicate it with Love and Acceptance
- Infant Toddler Brain Development
- Dad, Lets Talk. Giving your child the playful attention they crave

School Success: Inspire Motivation

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 November 2022

Park & Recreation Commission (PARC)

The Commission did not meet the month of November. The next meeting will be at Town Hall on Wednesday, December

14, at 7:30 pm.

South Windsor Walk and Wheel Ways (SWW&WW)

The committee met with Kevin Grindle from Barton & Loguidice to review the overall Crosstown Trail design plan. They also held a moonlight hike on Saturday, November 5, and over 70 participants attended. Their next meeting will be at the Parks and Recreation Facility on Wednesday, December 7, at 7 pm.

RECREATION DIVISION "Feel great – recreate!"

Farmers Market

We kicked off our Winter Farmers and Craft Market on Saturday, November 26, at the Parks and Recreation Facility. We had a special guest swing by the market this weekend! Kids who came to the market got to say Hi and take a picture with Santa! Our winter market features over 25 local vendors each Saturday through December 17. Shop local this season at our market!

4th R Program

4th "R" participants enjoyed an abundance of recreation activities this month, with highlights such as a Disney theme day, "Noodle Tag," a life-size, physical game of Wordle, and creating masterpieces out of air-dry clay! We hosted the second installation of the Color Wars Staff Bonding night. Staff at each 4th "R" site came together to compete in fun challenges such as a group ski dash, a game of "Silhouette Sleuth" and a couple of action

-packed rounds of "Round Up!" The standings are very close, with only a couple of points separating all four teams!

Preschool

Preschool session A wrapped up, and Session B began on 11/15! All ten classes for our 3-5-year old's and all three classes for parent/child are full. Five of our nine 2-year-old classes are full, with the other four classes at 75%. All of our preschool participants are enjoying coming to class for songs, stories, art projects, sensory activities, fun with friends, and learning through play! Some highlights include exploring a cut-open pumpkin, painting with feathers, and turning ourselves into scarecrows!

Adult Volleyball

The season has been running smoothly for our 38 adult volleyball teams!

Men's Basketball

Our first games of the Men's Basketball League started November 13, at South Windsor High School. We have 10 teams between our A & B Divisions.

Jukido

We have 20 participants of all ages in our program this month.

Learn to Skate

We have 36 youth participating in our learn to skate program at the South Windsor Arena this month.

Adult Open Gym

For November, South Windsor Parks & Recreation offered the following open adult gym opportunities: Pickleball, Volleyball, and Women's Throwball. These open gym opportunities are free to South Windsor residents.

Family Open Gym

Family Open Gym is hosted on Wednesdays from 5:00 pm - 6:30 pm through December 21, with a

break for the Thanksgiving Holiday. The three sessions that have taken place since November 2 and have had an average attendance of 25 with some new faces each week!

Basketball Evaluation Days

We hosted two evaluation days for our Junior, Intermediate, Advanced, and Senior division players on Saturday, November 5 and 12. We enjoyed meeting all the players and coaches, and we are excited to start the season!

Coaches Clinic

We held a coaching clinic run by Wins for Life for our basketball coaches on Sunday, November 20. We had 35 coaches in attendance for this clinic. They are ready to coach our youth this season!

Turkey Trot

The third annual Turkey trot was attended by 200, with 60 children ages 3-10 competing for a Thanksgiving Turkey. The SW food and fuel bank were on site collecting non-perishable donations and selling baked good. SWPRD started each heat with fun Thanksgiving themed games and stretches before being broken into different heats. The top two of each heat competed in the final heat for the Thanksgiving prizes.

Veterans Day Ceremony

In coordination with the South Windsor Patriotic Committee, SWPRD set-up for the Veteran's Day Ceremony at Veterans Memorial Park (VMP). The ceremony was attended by approximately 86 members of the Community and by Town Officials. The Police department provided a three-round volley, and community members sang and provided taps. This was a wonderful event for to honor our Veterans.

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

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

This month began our annual Leaf program, where we work beside Public Works to attend to the leaves around South Windsor. Below are other projects and maintenance we completed.

- We winterized 14 Irrigation systems, including the bark park and our two community gardens.
- The Avery and Beelzebub Dams, which are flood control structures, were mowed and successfully inspected by DEEP.
- As the garden season came to an end, we picked

up garden debris and mowed gardens at Avery and Deming Gardens to close the spaces for the winter.

- Two new memorial benches were installed at Nevers Park along the trail system, and we continued our work on the COVID memorial patio as we installed stone along with a six-foot piece of granite to represent social distancing.
- This month we mowed approximately 125 Acres of open space once the frost began so we would not disturb the pollinators.
- The crew cut back perennials and decorated Buckland Islands to start our decorating for the Holiday Season.
- We had volunteers from the South Windsor High Schools environmental club come to help plant a Red Oak tree and learn proper planting techniques with Parks Manager, David Turkington. We installed two new powder-coated metal logo signs for the Rotary club and Parks & Recreation department on the Nevers park Bathroom building.

Parks Photos:



Park Department working hard on the leaf program



Environmental Club Planting new trees at Nevers Park. Thank you to the World Malayalee Council for their donation.



Installed new benches at the Rotary pavilion just in time for the November Moon light walk. We had over 70 community members attend the event.



Parks installed new metal logo signs that were laser cut and layered so that they are dimensional. The signs are located at the Rotary bathrooms at Nevers Park.



We mowed our open space field after frost so the pollinators are not disturbed.

Recreation Photos:



4th R participants creating seasonal crafts



Our hardworking 4th R staff enjoying the color war team building night!



Our friends had so much fun playing and making crafts!



Family open gym scrimmages! We love seeing community members of all ages recreating together!



Our first Men's league game of the season on November 13!

Recreation Photos



Our runners competing for fun Thanksgiving prizes at our annual Turkey Trot.



Our Veteran's day event hosted at VMP to honor all those who served.

December 2022 Town Council Meetings and Events

Meetings

Monday, December 5, 2022

7:00 pm Town Council Regular Meeting
Council Chambers

Monday, December 19, 2022

7:00 pm Town Council Regular Meeting
Council Chambers

Holidays

Sunday, December 18, 2022

Hanukkah, Begins at Sunset

Wednesday, December 21, 2022

First Day of Winter

Sunday, December 25, 2022

Christmas Day

Town Offices closed on Monday, December 26th

Monday, December 26, 2022

Kwanzaa Begins

Saturday, December 31, 2022

New Year's Eve

Layout by Katherine Senerth, Executive Assistant

