

# ***Town of South Windsor***

## **Town Manager's Report January 2023**

*Michael Maniscalco  
Town Manager*



The Town Manager's Report will be given verbally  
at the Town Council meeting.

*Michael Maniscalco, MPA  
Town Manager*



## Police Department

Kristian R. Lindstrom  
Chief of Police

### Monthly Statistics November 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.

### **November's numbers are below:**

Total Computer Aided Dispatch Entries:	2407
Routine Calls Received/Outgoing:	3449
Directed Patrol/Premise Checks:	1028
Motor Vehicle Stops:	199
Emotionally Disturbed Persons:	5
Medical Assists:	187
Suspicious:	95
Alarms:	87
Motor Vehicle Accidents:	40
Welfare Check:	38
Assist Outside Agency:	35
Animal Problem:	20
Citizen Assist:	30
Miscellaneous Service:	20
Collision Reports:	22
BOLO:	9
Disabled Motor Vehicle:	28
Larceny - Motor Vehicle	2
Larceny:	16
Hazardous Conditions:	16
Pistol Permits:	9
Burglary	3
Burglary - Motor Vehicle	4
Civil Matter:	8
911 Check:	13
Fraud:	21
Domestic Dispute:	15
Violation of Town Ordinance:	4
Sexual Assault	2
Youth Problem:	13

### **Covid 19 Update (cont. from last month):**

As has been the case for the past several months, the month of December saw Covid numbers remaining at a dull simmer. 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 Nicholas Sarfo graduated from the Connecticut Police Academy. After more than 1300 hours of basic training, he is now here at the



## Police Department

Kristian R. Lindstrom  
Chief of Police

Police Department and has started his field training.

Officer Andre Rogers continues to attend the Connecticut Police Academy and is approximately halfway through that program.

This month Officer Bill Eastwood will retire from service with SWPD at the end of the month and begin start a new chapter at the State Capital Police Department.

Community Service Officer Kaley Curtis and Dispatcher Jake Dooley completed their field training and they are currently working independently in their respective roles within the agency.

When the above additions and departures are calculated, we are left with two vacancies at the moment. After a brief close, Sgt. Mark Cleverdon re-opened our recruiting process and we are in the process of identifying officers who will fill our vacancies. 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.

### **Month End Sworn Personnel Summary:**

With an authorized strength of 46 sworn members, we currently have 1 in the academy (Rogers), 2 out on medical leave (work related), 2 in field training, and 2 vacancies within our sworn ranks. By month's end, 44 of our 46 authorized sworn personnel will be 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):**

This month Chief Lindstrom attended the Town's first meeting of the Social Justice and Racial Equity Commission. This meeting largely focused on logistical and organizational issues within the commission.

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.

The month of December is always busy with holiday related events aimed at giving and sharing with those in need. To that end, this month department personnel participated in multiple food drives and shop with a cop events.

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.

After receiving last month's Aftermath grant for our K-9 program, December saw more good fortune for K-9 Mason when the Department received a sizable donation from the late Officer Benjamin Lovett's family. This money was donated specifically for use within the K-9 program and will help to increase the capability and strength of this important program.



## Police Department

Kristian R. Lindstrom  
Chief of Police

Although our waistlines do not appreciate it, our taste buds and our emotions appreciate the seemingly steady stream of treats donated to the agency from businesses and residents alike. December seems to always bring with it a table in the employee lounge that is covered with donations ranging from homemade cookies to small gift bags filled with tasty treats. These symbols of generosity and support mean so much to the men and women in blue to serve and protect South Windsor day in and day out.

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 December saw the re-opening of the King Street bridge. After months and months of construction, this opening finally allows free and efficient movement throughout the southwest most corner of town.

As this job came to completion, our Traffic Division is already involved in the planning for the replacement of the Pleasant Valley Road Bridge (just west of the entrance to Veteran's Memorial Park) expected next year. More news regarding this project is expected in the coming months.

With the snowy months upon us, residents are reminded to clear their sidewalks, not shovel or blow snow into the street. On the road, reducing speeds and increasing following distances will serve to reduce the number of car crashes that may occur.

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.

### **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.

This month we saw a variety of criminal and quality of life cases. 'Tis the season for shoplifting and other property crimes and the police department has responded in kind with multiple arrests and arrest warrant applications for these types of incidents.

We continue to see community members struggle through the opioid epidemic and the deployment of Narcan to save a life continues to be a, if not frequent, somewhat regular occurrence.

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



## Police Department

Kristian R. Lindstrom  
Chief of Police

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

The first full week of December brought us the first snowfall of the season. Crews quickly broke down the leaf harvesting equipment to deal with this event. Following this event, crews put some leaf equipment back together to deal with a few remaining leaf piles still out there.

The leaf harvest was a success once again this year. Weather worked in our favor with the exception of the aforementioned snow storm. Our leaf equipment was well prepared and performed well thanks to the work of the Fleet Services team. Our crews did a fantastic job as usual working through some of the coldest days of the season.

A special thank you to the Parks Department for assisting us once again with the leaf harvest. We know there is lots for the Parks crews to deal with getting fields and recreation equipment ready for winter. But again, thank you for the help. We appreciate it.

As manpower permitted, crews were able to backfill the curbs at the town hall after the completion of the new parking lot. We also stayed on top of pothole patching through to the close of the hot mix asphalt plant. Hot mix will hopefully be available mid-January, one day per week, for the remainder of the winter providing us with better patches through the season.

As winter is just around the corner, even though it has already snowed, maintainers are finishing calibration of the salt spreaders. This important process helps us to understand exactly how much salt is being applied and will also let us know if a truck has gone out of calibration or if there is a problem with the truck. Excessive use of salt is financially wasteful but also a detriment to the environment. We consider ourselves stewards of the environment and take the responsibility seriously.

As the leaf season came to a close, crews got busy washing the equipment and preparing for the snow season. There is much to do to get switched from leaf collection to snow removal. Leaf boxes need to be removed and stored, plows need to be

serviced and put into position. The garage itself needs to be re-organized to accommodate the snow removal equipment.

From all of us at the garage, we wish you a safe and happy (snow storm free) holiday season.

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

*Scott Yeomans*  
*Associate Manager, 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 have shut down for the winter and will resume reconstruction of the western half of Beelzebub Road in April, 2023. This project is scheduled to be completed in the Fall of 2023. 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 completing preliminary plans for the drainage improvements and reconstruction of Pleasant Valley Road from Clark Street to just past Hilton Drive. This preliminary design includes improving the road geometry, new drainage pipes and structures, and sidewalks on one side of the road. We have reviewed the layout and plan to have preliminary plans available for a public information meeting in January or February.

## Public Works Department

Vincent Stetson  
Director of Public Works

### **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 include a temporary closure of Pleasant Valley Bridge and road to allow for this bridge replacement with the shortest construction schedule and the lowest cost. A public information meeting was held on December 20, 2022 and an application for this project will be heard by the South Windsor IWA/CC and CT DOT and CT DEEP in early January. We are working with the utility companies on temporary relocation of utilities needed for this project.

### **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.

### **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**

We have selected a consultant to conduct subsurface conditions investigations and surveys for designs of these road 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.

### **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 sent to CRCOG for review. A public information meeting will be held on these sidewalks in January.

### **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 CRCOG. 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**

The Assessor's Office is currently working diligently to finalize and sign the 2022 Grand List by the end of January 2023, which is required by Statute and also ensures an early state to the Town's annual budget process. All business personal property owners and real estate owners will be receiving assessment notices the first week of February 2023. The 2022 Revaluation process is in the final stages and the Assessor's department is looking forward to presenting the Town Manager and Town Council with the finalized grand list. Vision Government Solutions has conducted and completed informal hearings via telephone calls as of December 2, 2022. If residents still have lingering questions regarding the revaluation information and procedures, there are resources on the Assessor's website that may aid in answering those questions. The link to the Assessor's 2022 Revaluation page is here: <https://www.southwindsor-ct.gov/assessor/pages/2022-revaluation> and as always, if residents have further questions or concerns, they may always call the office at 860-644-2511 ext. 2312 or email to [assessor@southwindsor-ct.gov](mailto:assessor@southwindsor-ct.gov).

The purpose for a revaluation is to It is to create an equitable distribution of the tax burden as determined by the annual Town budget based on current fair market value. If property owners believe that their new 2022 Assessment does not reflect market value as of October 1, 2022, they may appeal to the Board of Assessment Appeals. The Board requires an appeal form be filed by February 20<sup>th</sup>, 2023, by end of day to have the opportunity to be heard during the appeal schedule in March 2023. Appeal forms are available in the Assessor's office and as well as online on the Town's website under the Assessors department and on the Board of Assessment Appeals page here: <https://www.southwindsor-ct.gov/board-assessment-appeals/pages/appeal-applications>. In May 2023 the Town Council will set the mill rate based on the levy amount to be raised by taxes to operate Town Government and the school system for the 2023-24 fiscal year. This new mill rate will determine the July 2023 tax bills issued by the Town.

Appeal applications may be submitted via email, [assessor@southwindsor-ct.gov](mailto:assessor@southwindsor-ct.gov), hand delivered, or put in the Drop Box affixed to the side of the building. If the application is not submitted on or

before February 20, 2023, the appeal *cannot* be heard for the 2022 Grand List.

In May 2023 the Town Council will set the mill rate, this will be the determining factor of what July 2023 and January 2024 tax bills will generate.

2021 Supplemental Motor Vehicle bills have been mailed as of December 19, 2022. To pay your bill see Tax Office information included here, however, if you have disposed, sold, junked, gifted, or totaled a vehicle, please submit your two forms of proof via our webform which can be accessed here: <https://www.southwindsor-ct.gov/assessor/webforms/motor-vehicle-bill-adjustment> or by email to [assessor@southwindsor-ct.gov](mailto:assessor@southwindsor-ct.gov).

### **Collector of Revenue**

The Collector of Revenue would like to remind taxpayers that the second installment of real estate and personal property taxes along with supplemental motor vehicle taxes are due January 1, 2023. The last day to pay without penalty is Wednesday, February 1, 2023. Tax bills were mailed Monday, December 19, 2022 and are available on line <https://www.southwindsor-ct.gov/collector-revenue/pages/online-payments>. A cost-effective way to pay on line is with an e-check, for a 95-cent fee you will avoid lines and be provided a receipt via email for your payment. Payment can be made on line using a debit card, Visa, Mastercard, American Express or Discover a 2.95% fee is added by the vendor, a receipt will be provided via email. Save time and avoid long lines by remitting payment by mail in the envelope provided or by using a secure drop box at Town. Pay with check or money order from the convenience of your car, a drive up drop box is located in the front drive way of Town Hall. For your convenience we have a walk up drop box mounted to the outside of the front entrance of Town Hall. Please note that the boxes are emptied twice daily and monitored by video, please do not remit cash in the drop box or by mail. If you would like a receipt please include a self-addressed stamped envelope along with your entire bill. Should you want to pay in person our office Hours are Monday 8:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m., Tuesday thru Friday 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. We accept cash, money order or check, a limited number of tax payers will be permitted in the office at one time. Town Hall will be closed Monday, January 16,



## Finance Department

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

2023.

If you have not received a tax bill and believe you should have please contact the office immediately. CGS Sec. 12-130 states that failure to receive a bill shall not invalidate the tax or interest. Do you have a question about a missing bill, due date or payment plan? Contact Collector of Revenue staff, 860-644-2511 extension 2321 or email [taxcollector@southwindsor-ct.gov](mailto:taxcollector@southwindsor-ct.gov). Did you receive a bill for a vehicle you no longer own or have questions regarding an assessment? Contact the Assessor, [assessor@southwindsor-ct.gov](mailto:assessor@southwindsor-ct.gov) or 860-644-2511 ext. 2312.

Please visit the Collector of Revenue website for additional information regarding the collection of taxes <https://www.southwindsor-ct.gov/collector-revenue> or to sign up for E-notifications <https://www.southwindsor-ct.gov/subscribe>

## Human Services Department

Andrea Cofrancesco  
Director of Human Services

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

### Medicare Counseling

The Adult and Senior Services Division of Human Services has four Choices counselors who assist people with their Medicare options. During the annual open enrollment for Medicare, a total of 128 people were helped which included two presentations on Medicare. CHOICES counselors provide free and unbiased insurance information.

### Adopt a Child

Steve Clapp and Cindy Malone, who manage the Adopt a Child program, worked tirelessly with donors to provide toys, clothing and gift cards to 153 children in 74 families. This program starts in October and goes through Christmas, with last minute requests accommodated. The community once again came together to provide for their neighbors in need. We could not do it without them!



*Steve and Cindy*



*Steve with a donor*

### Stuff a Truck

Thank you to Sgt. Steve Hoover and the Police Department for another successful Stuff a Truck event! Also thanks to the Fire Department and Ambulance Service of Manchester for their assistance! It is so greatly appreciated! Almost \$2,000 in monetary donations was collected in addition to over 500 food items and 560 toys!



### Donations

Our department continues to have the honor of accepting donations from the community to help South Windsor families in need. The struggle continues for so many and with the generous individuals, businesses, churches and groups we are able to assist them! Pictured are a few donations from Coldwell Banker, South Windsor Education Association and Reps from the Chamber of Commerce Warm Hands, Warm Hearts program. In addition, a \$5,000 donation was received from the Max Cares Foundation, to be used specifically for food items. Milk, eggs, cheese and hams were bought for people so far using these funds.

### 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)?

## Human Services Department

Andrea Cofrancesco  
Director of Human Services

- ☐ 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 Teen Center had an exciting month of December. Our staff and students love the holiday season and had fun decorating the Teen Center to make it winter themed. We planned various activities to get in the holiday spirit- like a Home Alone movie night and winter craft decorating during our drop-in hours.

Our middle school and high school Youth Council volunteers held a four-day Toy Drive to support the Human Services Department and their Holiday Assistance Program. As a thank you for their donations, our volunteers handed out hot chocolate as a treat. We received many donations and are very thankful to those who have continuously supported our Youth Council members and those in need.



Our Youth Council members also volunteered at a couple of the Parks & Recreation events such as Grinchmas and Skate with Santa.

During Winter Break, the Teen Center held a painting workshop where students registered to participate in creating a northern lights themed painting. We had 15 students participate who made beautiful masterpieces!

Students hosted a Bake Sale to raise money for Teen Center supplies, events, and activities. Our



students sold cookies, brownies, and more goodies at the Senior Center New Year's Eve Party!

We participated in Trivia against the Senior Center participants, which was a great time.

Students joined us at the Teen Center for our New Year's Eve Celebration to make memories and celebrate the New Year.

### **School Outreach & Prevention**

Youth and Family Services teamed up with the new school Family Engagement Specialist at TEMS to provide a Girls Circle program for 6th graders. We got together for 6 weeks and had fun getting to know each other better, while making meaningful connections. We had discussions and did activities around the following topics - self esteem, friendships, social media influences, equity and connections. We followed the nationally recognized Girls Circle model, a structured support group that is designed to increase positive connection, personal and collective strengths, and competence in girls. We had a great response to the program and we look forward to expanding to 7th graders at the start of the year.

The Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD) Club worked hard to create the 9th annual SADD Makes You Happy Day. This day was originally developed by former students a year after the Sandy Hook tragedy. The students understood that on such a dark day, the families and the community wanted others to find ways to spread kindness and love. With that in mind, the SADD students at the time came up with the day

## Human Services Department

Andrea Cofrancesco  
Director of Human Services

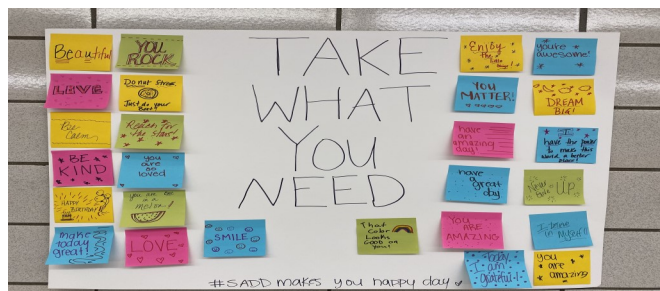
of kindness to be held each December 14th, or close to that date. This year the students made goody bags for every adult in the building, put together bags with hand warmers and hot cocoa for the bus drivers, gave flowers to the cafeteria staff, handed out candy to students, posted uplifting sticky notes and hid gift cards around the school. The day gave them an opportunity to give to others in simple, but powerful ways.



The SADD Club also collected 170 pairs of socks that were donated to the organization "Hands on Hartford". This collection helps in their goal to also support our local community. We are proud of the students and their dedication to making the world a better place. We do this in memory of Mike Bombara, SWHS Guidance Counselor and SADD co-facilitator that passed away in 2020.

### **Youth Counseling, Parent Education and Support**

Counselors remain busy with **85** open and active cases of youth seen for mental health counseling,



which is an increase of 10 cases from last month and the most open cases we have ever had. We received 17 new referrals for counseling this

month, coming from South Windsor schools, police and parents/guardians. All of the spots for counseling with Alexander Pepe from Intercommunity are filled. Our two part time counselors 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.

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.

December Classes Include:

- Taming Tantrums – Recognize Triggers and Plan Ahead with Toddlers and Preschoolers
  - Stress and Your Reaction: Make Personal Changes for More Peace at Home
  - Help Your Child Make Friends: When to Lean In and When to Let Go
- Help Your Child Stay Calm During the Excitement of the Holiday Season

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 December 2022**

**Park & Recreation Commission (PARC):** The Commission met on Wednesday, December 14, at 7:30pm. During this meeting we discussed department updates

and created a sub-committee to compile potential survey questions to send out to the community to assess parks and recreation needs. The next meeting will be at Town Hall on Wednesday, January 11, at 7:30 pm.

**South Windsor Walk and Wheel Ways (SWW&WW):** The next moonlight walk will be held on Friday, January 6, at 6:45pm at Nevers Park.

RECREATION DIVISION “*Feel great – recreate!*”

**Farmers Market:** Our Winter Market ended for the season on Saturday, December 17. We featured over 25 vendors, and during the market on December 10, we held a toy drive for the South Windsor adopt a child program. We are fortunate to have the community support our local vendors each week, and we are excited for another market season in the summer of 2023!

**4th R:** 4th “R” participants have been having lots of recreation-based fun again this month! Highlights included making their own life-size gingerbread houses, letter snowmen, and slime, as well as playing fun games such as “Defend your Castle,” “Jingle bell Shake” and life-size “Hungry, Hungry Hippos! All the sites are having a fun spirit week full of theme days and fun activities to lead up to our winter break!

**Preschool:** Preschool session B is in full swing! 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 from the past month include a hot chocolate sensory station, finger-print holiday light crafts, creating a maze to run through in the gymnasium, and making hand-print holiday wreaths.

SWPRD preschoolers and teachers participated in “PJ Day For the Kids” to raise awareness for those children fighting childhood cancer at Connecticut Children’s. All week kids and teachers wore their jammies to school in honor of these brave children. We also collected optional donations from families, 100% of which were donated directly to the Connecticut Children’s Hospital. SWPRD preschool raised \$271 this year!

**Men’s Basketball:** This season has started off on the competitive side. Teams have played really well, and there have been some close games. Players have given a lot of praise to our officiating crew this season.

**Adult Open Gym:** For December, South Windsor Parks & Recreation offered the following open adult gym opportunities: Pickleball, Volleyball, and Women’s Throwball. The 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. We have had a great turnout with an average of 25 people. The beginning of December brought one of our largest groups to Family Open Gym.

**Youth Basketball:** Our first youth basketball practices took place the week of December 14, with the first games starting on December 17. Teams showed up in their new jerseys and got a glimpse of what to expect for the rest of the season when they return from the holiday break. Games for our Beginner Divisions provided learning opportunities with coaches managing the games, allowing them to

be on the court to help coach their team and even the teams they were playing against. Our Junior through Senior Divisions had some great, down to the wire games to kick off the season with excitement for the return from the holiday break.

**Grinchmas:** On Friday, December 2, over 400 children and parents attended our 4th annual "Grinchmas" event! Children played Grinch-y games and activities, and of course they had a chance to meet the Grinch himself! Every child even left with a candy cane treat - Grinch-y green, of course!

**Letters to Santa:** Throughout the month of December, children from South Windsor and surrounding towns dropped off their letters to Santa in his special North Pole mailbox, located right here in Nevers Park! Santa (with the help of his SWPRD elves) made sure to hand-write personalized responses to all 559 children that wrote in! Letters were mailed from the North Pole directly to each resident's home!

**Skate with Santa:** SWPRD hosted our annual Skate with Santa event at the South Windsor Arena. Santa along with our mascots, were joined out on the ice with approximately 160 guests. This is a free event to the public with a suggested toy donation to the South Windsor Adopt-a-child Program through the Human Services Department; this year we were able to collect over 65 toys. The SW Teen Center along with the SWHS Boys Hockey team played an important part of this year's success! We hope to partner with each group in the future.

**Sensory Santa Visit:** Santa visited the Wapping Recreational Facility on December 10 for our Sensory Santa event. This event is for children with disabilities. We were able to serve nine families this year with an extended hour to accommodate more.

**Merry and Bright:** 25 participants entered their festively decorated homes into our annual competition! SWPRD staff submitted votes, and three winners were crowned for the following categories: "Buddy the Elf" (for the house with the most holiday spirit), "Rudolph's Shiny Nose" (for the brightest house), and "Clark Griswold" (for the over the top festive display!). We also created a map of all entered homes and shared that map with the public via our Facebook page (to over 4,200 followers) and website. We ensured all of 06074 could participate in a self-guided tour of the homes for a festive, fun holiday outing! To date, the map has received 103 "likes" on Facebook and has been shared over 42 times!

**Monday Night Social Club:** Our annual holiday party was held on Monday; December 19, and we had a surprise visit from Santa's helpers on a festive fire truck!

**Wreaths across America:** The SW Patriotic Commission hosted the American Legion with this year's Wreaths Across America ceremony at VMP. The weather was absolutely perfect bringing in the nearly 200 residents and community members together to honor those we have lost. Over 1200 wreaths were donated for placement, including the recognized \$800+ fundraiser Eli Terry did for the event. SWPRD provided the backdrop and ceremony setup for the event - this included facility cleanup, around 100 chairs, PA system and support during the event.

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

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

- We have wrapped up all our fall cleanup in the Parks and finished working alongside the Public Works department for the leaf program.
- As winter begins we started to change over to "Snow Mode". The Mowers were put away, and the snow blowers and salting equipment came out to be serviced by Parks employees.
- The crew changed out perennials and decorated Buckland Islands with decorated trees that have solar lights.
- Our 35-foot-tall Christmas tree was put up in Nevers park on November 28. The tree will be on display until after the holidays. We are testing and hiring for a Parks Maintainer I position this month.

### **Projects:**

- We will be adding a shed donated by Environmental Services, to the John J. Mitchell Fair Grounds.
- We are preparing to break ground soon for the new Outdoor Fitness Center space. The COVID memorial is complete at the Major Michael Donnelly property.

## Parks Photos:



*The South Windsor Parks Crew put up our 35-foot-tall Christmas tree in Nevers Park for the community to enjoy.*



*Park Crew weeds and cuts back tall grasses to prepare for the winter.*



*Two new Signs have been installed at the Fishing Derby pond off Frazier Fir Road.*



*Mike & Gary working on the new redesigned Nevers Park sign.*



*A Special Thanks to Steve Galuski and his team from Home Depot for materials and labor, D'Agata- Perry & Bronze; for the donation and installation of the Granite Ruler and 3' X 6' Granite slab, and Erica Evans and our parks crew.*



## Recreation Photos:



*There was plenty of holiday fun at 4th "R" this month!*



*Our Preschooler's participating in the PJ Day for Kids program to raise awareness and donations for the CT Children's Hospital.*



*First weekend of games for our youth basketball program!*



*A big Thank you to Dzen Tree farm for sponsoring this year's Grinchmas!*



*Monday Night Social Club had their annual holiday party with a surprise visit from a festive fire truck with Santa's helpers.*



Recreation Photos



The Wreaths Across America event was held at VMP on Saturday, December 17.



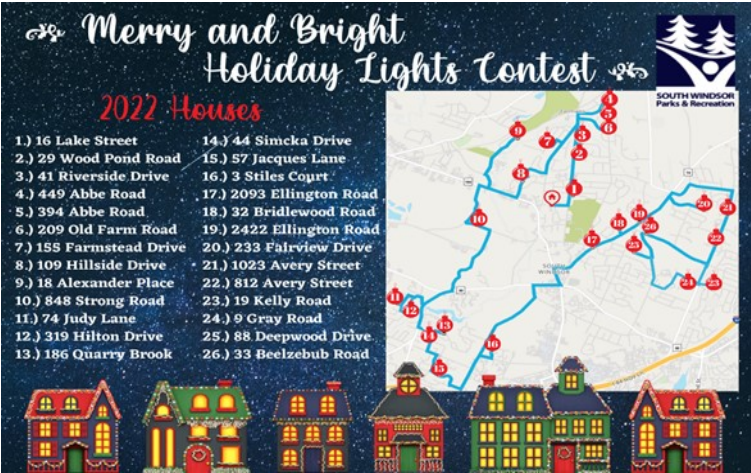
We had such a great turn out for Skate with Santa! Thank you everyone who attended and donated a toy.



Santa's big red mailbox was up all December for our South Windsor youth to send Santa a letter.



Santa got to hang with some of his friends on December 10 at the Parks and Rec facility.



Merry and Bright Map!



## ***January 2023 Town Council Meetings and Events***

### ***Meetings***

**Tuesday, January 3, 2023**

**7:00 pm Town Council Regular Meeting**

*Council Chambers*

**Tuesday, January 17, 2023**

**7:00 pm Town Council Regular Meeting**

*Council Chambers*

### ***Holidays***

**Sunday, January 1, 2023**

**New Year's Day (Town offices closed on Monday, January 2, 2023)**

**Monday, January 16, 2023**

**Martin Luther King Jr. Day**

*Layout by Katherine Senerth, Executive Assistant*

