

Town of South Windsor

Town Manager's Report February 2023



Michael Maniscalco
Town Manager

CIRMA Award I am very pleased to inform the Council that the Town has received recognition from our insurance carrier for innovative methods for managing risk. Over the last few years, the Town has implemented a camera and GPS system that monitors driver attention and activity. As a result, the Town is now able to monitor driving habits and address safety issues. This system is making both a safe work environment for staff and a safe community for our residents.

Bond Rating & Bond Sale As we have done for the last few years the Town is preparing to issue bonds in order to pay for the referendum approved school and road projects. This year we will be issuing \$28.5million in order to meet our cash flow needs. On January 24th the Town was notified by Standard and Poor that we have been reaffirmed as a AAA rated community and specifically they cited our “phenomenal” financial health. This rating will allow us to continue to receive the best interest rates possible.

At the time of this report the Town will be taking bids for the issued debt. I will report back to the Council the interest rates and other results from the bid at the time of the meeting.

Pleasant Valley School Tour It was a pleasure to tour the new Pleasant Valley School with some of you on January 30th. I think the most important take away from that tour is that the project is currently on time and under budget. This is a testament to the great work of contracts, staff and volunteers. I think we should all be very excited to see the substantial completion of the building in May.

Michael Maniscalco, MPA
Town Manager



Police Department

Kristian R. Lindstrom
Chief of Police

Monthly Statistics December 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.

December's numbers are below:

Total Computer Aided Dispatch Entries:	2627
Routine Calls Received/Outgoing:	3762
Directed Patrol/Premise Checks:	1045
Motor Vehicle Stops:	280
Emotionally Disturbed Persons:	18
Medical Assists:	215
Suspicious:	120
Alarms:	85
Motor Vehicle Accidents:	48
Welfare Check:	37
Assist Outside Agency:	43
Animal Problem:	26
Citizen Assist:	34
Miscellaneous Service:	23
Collision Reports:	20
BOLO:	8
Disabled Motor Vehicle:	36
Larceny - Motor Vehicle	3
Larceny:	27
Hazardous Conditions:	29
Pistol Permits:	6
Burglary	2
Burglary - Motor Vehicle	2
Civil Matter:	9
911 Check:	19
Fraud:	20
Domestic Dispute:	11
Violation of Town Ordinance:	6
Sexual Assault	1
Youth Problem:	7

Covid 19 Update (cont. from last month)

January's Covid activity closely resembled the numbers experienced last January. In fact, the resemblance was strong enough that one is left wondering if that will be the trend moving forward and December and January will see ebbing numbers before a February and late winter

flow. Luckily the infections that we have seen in the community appear to be increasingly similar to those of the flu with few deaths/hospitalizations and most people being able to treat themselves at home.

As an agency and community we continue transitioning 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.

At the very end of December, Officer Eastwood left the department and took a new position at the State Capitol Police Department. In addition, in the middle of January, Officer Krzynowek resigned from the department and took a new job at East Hartford Police Department. In response



Police Department

Kristian R. Lindstrom
Chief of Police

to these departures, the agency's recruiting efforts remain in full swing and we were actively conducting three backgrounds until one of the candidates failed a polygraph exam and was removed from the process. The two remaining backgrounds are in full swing with interviews and testing ongoing to find a candidate who might possibly fill the third vacancy that we currently have.

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

Officers Victoria Weiss and Nicholas Sarfo are progressing nicely through their respective field training programs and are expected to complete them in late March and early April.

When the above additions and departures are calculated, we are working to fill three 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), 1 out on medical leave (work related), 2 in field training, 1 officer working light duty (pregnancy), and 3 vacancies within our sworn ranks. Of an authorized 46, by month's end we will employ 43, with only 38 being 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 continues to attend the Town's first meeting of the Social Justice and Racial Equity Commission. This meeting began to explore the scope of the committee's work and set the stage to begin policy evaluations, and other work to ensure that South Windsor creates an environment that maximizes social justice and racial equity.

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 saw an important milestone as the police department filled a long awaited position internally that is dedicated to community outreach and engagement. Sgt. Ron Littell is already hard at work in this new position that will expand our presence and involvement in the community in a variety of ways.

On January 3rd, the Department received the grant check from the Aftermath K-9 Grant that was awarded in December. This money was awarded specifically for use within the K-9 program and will help to increase the capability and strength of this important program.

In the first half of January, Officer Chris Myska provided a CPR Training Course for the staff and



Police Department

Kristian R. Lindstrom
Chief of Police

residents at Evergreen Crossing. Prior to working in South Windsor as a police officer, Chris was a paramedic and Emergency Medical Services Instructor with the Ambulance Service of Manchester. Ofc. Myska has maintained those certifications which are proving to be an invaluable resource for our agency and community.

This month also saw the inaugural Rape Aggression Defense (RAD) course taught in South Windsor. Corporal David Johnson and Officer Erika Kuzara team taught this class at no charge to a group of approximately twelve local women. This class is for women only and covers such topics as situational awareness, self-empowerment and advocacy, as well as physical self-defense skills. We hope to offer additional sessions in the near future.

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.

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 and they continue to work with town engineering and planning departments to offer traffic related input on a variety of development projects in various states of planning and completion.

A new traffic light located at 1 Buckland Road (near the Manchester town line) is fully

functioning and will allow easier access to that plaza for northbound (coming from Manchester) traffic.

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.

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.

After months of planning and development, this month saw the formal launch of the new Regional Human Trafficking Reduction Task Force. This regional initiative is the first of its kind in Connecticut and we are thrilled to be part of it. Corporal Chris Poehnert is our detective who is assigned on an as needed basis to this important task force.

During three days in late January, several police department members attended National Incident Management Training. This training was offered in town and by completing the training, our department's entire Command Staff and several other supervisors are now trained and certified in several levels of the National Incident Command System. This experience and certifications will bolster the Department's capability to staff the Emergency Operations Center during prolonged incidents if/when they occur.

After months of research and planning, this month the Department issued an RFP for Emergency Medical Dispatch software. The money for this project was approved in this year's operating budget and on January 6th the lone bid was opened in accordance with Town policy. The bid was within budget and the agency is moving forward to implement this exciting and important software that will go to great measures to increase efficiency in Dispatch and get vital information and care to patients before police and ambulance



Police Department

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Chief of Police

arrival.

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 and the completion of this large project is in sight. 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 January 2023

Public Works and Parks crews responded to 5 winter events. Fortunately, they were for the most part very minor, treat only events and with only one requiring plowing operations.

Street Services pressed into service a new skid steer mounted cold planer. This piece of equipment will allow us to mill off sections of deteriorating asphalt and re-pave, saving us from the more intensive and costlier cut and patch method which in some cases may not be necessary. We will now be able to quickly and efficiently restore failing sections of our roadways.

Pothole patching continues throughout the winter season. We are able to get hot mix asphalt once a week which helps us keep the really big potholes in check. Our cold patch is the usual go-to in the winter time, but are taking full advantage of the hot mix asphalt.

With the weather cooperating, we were able to continue cleaning and inspecting drainage culverts and retention ponds. These are key assets for our drainage infrastructure. Keeping these areas free of overgrowth and debris minimizes our chance for flooding issues.

Crews have also been surveying and trimming low hanging branches along plow routes. This annual maintenance helps prevent damage not only to our plow trucks but also large trucks travelling on our roadways.

Washing the fleet is a never-ending battle. Our maintainers cycle the fleet through the wash bay as temperatures permit, ridding the vehicles of road salt. These trucks are also treated with a salt neutralizing solution to help thwart premature rusting.

Compost is coming along nicely. The rows are being turned as needed to prevent overheating and to allow oxygen into the piles to stimulate the microbes to break the leaves down.

Street Services supervisors attended an intensive 3

-day Intermediate Incident Command System training. This training provided us with an insight and operational awareness of working within a rapidly growing major incident. As first responders much like police and fire, DPW's are very much at the forefront of emergency incidents. This program helped us understand how complex incidents can become and how we can effectively work within a unified command system.

All of us in Streets Services, the Parks Department and Fleet Services bade a fond farewell and happy retirement to Daniel E. "Dan, Danny, Danno" Jacobsen. Dan served the town selflessly for nearly 39 years as a Maintainer II. Danny had many accomplishments but he was most proudly noted as the "Pothole King". He took road maintenance seriously and helped train many new maintainers. Dan loved to serve the town residents, especially those on his Main St plow route. Good luck, Dan!

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

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

Scott Yeomans
Associate Manager, Street Services

Engineering Department

Beelzebub Road Reconstruction

The reconstruction of the eastern half of Beelzebub Road from Avery Street to about Norton Lane 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.

Public Works Department

Vincent Stetson
Director of Public Works

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 on February 1, 2023.

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 and an application for this project was approved by the South Windsor IWA/CC in December 2022. The project will be reviewed by CT DOT, CT DEEP and ACOE for permitting in February 2023. We are working with the utility companies on temporary relocation of utilities 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 recently completed construction of a retaining wall and are working on 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 authorization from CTDOT to proceed with finalizing this design.

Town Road Paving, Sidewalks and Drainage Improvements

Bids for concrete sidewalk repair and replacement are due on February 2. Bids for drainage repairs will be received in mid February. We have selected a consultant to conduct subsurface conditions investigations and surveys for design of road projects in the next couple of years. We are also having a CCTV inspection done of the underground drainage pipes on those roads. We will finalize the plans and bid specifications for next years road paving after we receive the results of the subsurface investigations. We plan to begin this work 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 and we have received review comments from CRCOG. A public information meeting will be held on these sidewalks in February.

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.

Public Works Department

Vincent Stetson
Director of Public Works

LOTICIP Application Submitted for the Reconstruction of Dart Hill Road

The CT DOT has issued a Commitment to Fund letter for the reconstruction of Dart Hill Road and our selected consultant is proceeding 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 Report

The Assessor has signed the 2022 Grand List on January 31, 2023 with an increase of 23.5% in net taxable assessed value from the 2021 Grand List. All real estate property owners have received notification of their new 2022 Grand List assessment. If any property owner participated in the informal hearing sessions, a second notification letter was sent to those owners on December 28, 2022 showing the results of their informal hearing.

All personal property accounts were mailed an annual assessment notice during the last week in January 2023. Please reach out to the office by email to assessor@southwindsor-ct.gov if you have any questions regarding your 2022 personal property assessed value.

If any taxpayer disagrees with the assessment of their personal property, real estate, or supplemental motor vehicle they can file an application to go to the Board of Assessment Appeals. The Board will meet in March 2023. All applications must be received by the Assessor's Office on or before February 20, 2023. Applications can be found on our website here: <https://www.southwindsor-ct.gov/assessor/pages/forms-and-documents>

The filing period for the Elderly Homeowner's Benefit program for low-income residents over the age of 65 as of December 31, 2022 or persons who are totally disabled started February 1 and will remain open through May 15, 2023. If homeowners are already on this program a reminder letter to file was sent to all residents whose year it is to re-apply for the program in early February. Residents can check the new income limits on our website here to see if they qualify: <https://www.southwindsor-ct.gov/assessor/pages/elderly-homeowners-totally-disabled-persons-renters-tax-relief-programs>

All appointments and applications are being handled by the Human Services Department located at 150 Nevers Rd. To set an appointment to file please call: 860-648-6361.

Fire Department

Chief Kevin Cooney

The South Windsor Fire Department is coming off a busy month of December with numerous responses to our mutual aid partners in Manchester, Vernon, East Windsor (both Warehouse Point and Broad Brook Fire Departments). Not only did our dedicated members provide a valuable service to these communities, but I have also received calls/e-mails from those Chief's expressing gratitude for their efforts, professionalism, and support.

In early January, the Department received a donation from the B.C Lovett Memorial Fund, specifically, \$500.00 to our Explorer Program and \$1,000 toward the operations to support items that were not funded. We are grateful to receive the donation as this was very heartfelt for many members that knew, worked with, and were friends of Police Officer Ben Lovett.

Many of our Staff Officers continued work on the preparations for the FY 23-24 budget. More behind the scenes work continued as the Chief, Staff, and many Company Officers continue to work on 3-5 year Strategic Plan for the Department. Additionally, the Chief and Administration are supporting our local accountants in the annual tax preparations.

Our Fire Headquarters received a few face lift items with additional replacement of carpet (funded in the FY 22-23 budget) and the new replacement roof funded by Capital Projects. We are excited to continue work at HQ with the new HVAC system that should begin work soon.

After an email/server issue, we are pleased to report all system have been repaired and upgraded. We also started meetings/conversations with the Fire Department's IT Division with the Town's IT Division with a goal to support each other better with possible financial savings in the future.

Our new rescue truck was placed in service in December and is serving us extremely well. In the very near future, the Chief will be submitting a request for a Town Council resolution to sell the former rescue truck. With the new rescue, the Department took this opportunity to expand our Special Rescue Operations and have made changes

in equipment and policies to take an engine/pumper (E2) and turn that truck into a 'squad' which simply means adding additional rescue related equipment to that truck as it still can operate as an engine/pumper.

We look for to our annual banquet to be held on February 7th and look forward in seeing many Town Councilors there.

Kevin Cooney
Fire Chief

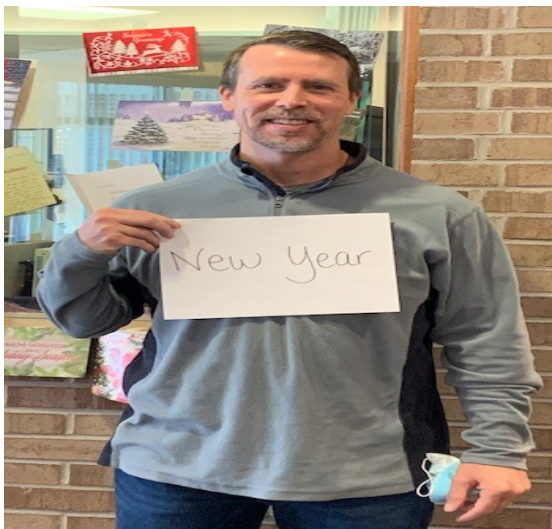
Human Services Department

Andrea Cofrancesco
Director of Human Services

**Town Manager's Report ~
January 2023
Andrea Cofrancesco, Director of Human
Services**

Farewell to Steve

It is with great sadness that we announce that Stephen Clapp, Caseworker for the past 8 years in the Adult and Senior Services Division of Human Services, has gone on to another town in the same position. Steve worked tirelessly for South Windsor residents and made a huge impact on the lives of those he served. He was a good sport and would do anything necessary to get the job done. He will be greatly missed.



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. This was once again offered as a drive thru event; a total of 138 families with 282 people received Thanksgiving baskets, which includes 29 deliveries to homebound seniors.

Elderly and Disabled Property Tax Relief

Elderly and disabled homeowners who qualify can apply for reduced property taxes on their homes between Feb.1st through May 15, 2023. If you are currently on the program the Assessor's Office will send you a letter if it is your year to reapply. This year's income limits are \$40,300 maximum for an individual and \$49,100*for a couple. All gross income is counted including Social Security benefits. Documents you will need to bring: Signed 1040 Federal Tax form (if you file); Social Security Statement (SSA-1099); Pension Statement; Bank Interest Statement; Any other Income. For more info or to schedule an appointment, call 860-648-6361 ext. 3335.

****Town of South Windsor has an expanded local option which allows up to \$50,000 a year for a single homeowner and \$65,000/ married couple.***

Senior Center is Opening on Saturdays!

We will be opening the Senior Center on Saturday's starting March 4 from 8:00 AM—12:00 noon. To kick off our new hours we will be holding an open house that day. More info to come!

TikTok

The Senior Center's most viewed TikTok is below. (10,300 views so far!)

Click the link to check it out!

<https://www.tiktok.com/t/ZTRs6TTMM/>

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

Human Services Department

Andrea Cofrancesco
Director of Human Services

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.

Behavioral Health Services

South Windsor Human Services received funding from the American Rescue Plan Act to provide behavioral health services to residents of all ages who can benefit from counseling. Social isolation, the inability to see family during the pandemic and general concerns about the state of the world has brought on anxiety, depression and loneliness for many people. We are partnering with Intercommunity Health Care to provide both individual and group therapy at the Senior Center to support those in need and provide strategies to cope. If you find yourself struggling with getting back into the swing of things or if you want someone to talk to, please contact Liz Langevin in Human Services at 860-648-5050. Liz will work with getting you connected to Intercommunity. Services are confidential. It's okay to not be okay.

Community Service Group Supports Dignity Grows

Human dignity should not be considered a luxury, yet nearly 30% of menstruators in the U.S. suffer from period poverty, lacking the financial

resources to purchase basic menstrual hygiene necessities. The Senior Center's Community Service Group recently donated \$300 to make 30 bags of feminine hygiene products to donate to The Bridge. An additional 30 were made for Dignity Grows to distribute directly.

CARES Program

Space is Available

Center	Activity	Recreation	Exercise
<u>Socialization</u>			

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 a great start to the year with a successful month of January!

Our drop-in hours stayed consistently busy with our middle school students on Tuesday afternoons and Friday evenings.

We have increased our high school participation on Monday, Wednesdays, and Thursday afternoons and are happy to welcome new students.

We held a movie night for students where they watched Iron Man, while enjoying popcorn and candy!

Our BINGO nights for middle school students have been a huge hit and have gotten very competitive!



Our students participated in a Shark Tank event for Kid Inventor's Day. Students registered individually or as a group, and presented their ideas to our judges. We had some pretty creative inventions our middle school students came up with and were amazed at their resourcefulness.

We look forward to what the upcoming months bring- more movie nights, bingo, paint workshops, intergenerational programs, and more!



School Outreach & Prevention

On Wednesday, January 11th, we celebrated National Mentoring Month by hosting an event for mentors and their mentees. Students and their mentors came together at Timothy Edwards Middle School to share some treats and have fun playing games together. Mr. Clifton, TEMS Associate Principal, joined us as our host for the game Family Feud. We all had a great time trying to figure out the top answers to some very funny questions. We are so thankful for the mentors and all that they do for our school community.

We are working with South Windsor's Opioid Response Team and have coordinated Narcan trainings for the security officers in the schools. We plan to offer a Narcan training to town staff as well as a community Narcan training in the coming months.

Danielle Bifolck and Kathy Reed are enjoying getting to know the new 7th graders that are participating in our Girls Circle groups. We meet once a week to encourage connections, talk about important topics and have fun! A variety of topics will be discussed, including self-esteem, communication skills, inclusion, friendships and much more. The groups have given us the opportunity to see kids in a different way and to create meaningful relationships.

Human Services Department

Andrea Cofrancesco
Director of Human Services



evidence-based strategies that solve parenting challenges and increase connection and cooperation with your kids.

To sign up for a class- South Windsor – Peace At Home Parenting Solutions

Free with Code: SWindsorPeace

Liz Langevin, LCSW
Youth and Family Services

Youth Counseling, Parent Education and Support

Counselors remain busy with 87 open and active cases of youth seen for mental health counseling, which is an increase from last month and the most open cases we have ever had. We continue to receive new referrals for counseling this month, coming from South Windsor schools, police and parents/guardians. The referrals for services don't seem to be slowing down. 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



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 January 2022

**PARKS
“Caring
Windsor’s
Needs”**

**DEPARTMENT
for
South
Growing**

Park & Recreation Commission (PARC)

The Commission met on Wednesday, January 11 at 7:30pm. During this meeting we discussed the direction the sub-committee would like to go with gaining public input through meetings and forums to form a survey to send out to residents. The next meeting will be at Town Hall on Wednesday, February 8, at 7:30 pm.

South Windsor Walk and Wheel Ways (SWW&WW)

The committee has been busy working on gaining letters of support for further funding of the cross-town trail construction. They will be hosting an informational meeting at the Parks and Recreation department on February 1, at 7pm.

RECREATION DIVISION “Feel great – recreate!”

4th R

4th “R” participants have been having lots of recreation-based fun again this month! Highlights included crazy hat day, tinfoil-print art projects, making and decorating our own place-mats, and games such as “ABC Conversation,” “Three Changes,” “Frog Sleeper,” and Handball!

Preschool

Preschool Session B wrapped up this month with fun learning through play activities such as splatter paint, exploring indoor “snow” and “What Time Is It Mr. Fox!” Registration for sessions C & D took place mid-January, and all of our preschool class offerings for these sessions are now full at 100%!

We are looking forward to seeing familiar faces and meeting new friends in these sessions!

Men’s Basketball

We are half way into the season, the teams are excited for the opportunity to play basketball each weekend and happy with the improvements we have made to the league over the last year.

Adult Open Gym

For the month of January, South Windsor Parks & Recreation offered the following open adult gym opportunities’: Basketball, Pickleball, Volleyball, and Women’s Throwball. These open gym opportunities are all free to South Windsor residents.

Youth Basketball

With our Jim Snow Basketball program, it has been amazing to see each of our participants progress as the season continues. We are happy to see that the participants are learning and enjoying playing basketball. The South Windsor Parks and Recreation department is very lucky to have such dedicated volunteer coaches. Thank you to all who helped make this season possible.

Mighty Mites

This program is geared towards youth 5-8 years old and its such a special group to work with as these youth are the future of our programs! I would love to shoutout all my staff that are coaching these age groups as We have heard great feedback from parents and the participants are all enjoying their time each week.

Dodgeball Throw Down

What was once the mother-son dodgeball tournament is now a family-style dodgeball tournament open to all combinations of children and their adults. This year’s event took place at the Wapping Recreational Facility on Friday, January 20, from 7:00 – 9:00 pm. We had 117 children and parents from grades K-2, and 3-5 participate! Plus,

we had an additional crowd of spectators cheering them on. This year each registered player received a t-shirt, and the winning teams won a medal with the department's logo and the year of the event. We provided easy snacks of chips, pretzels, granola bars, and gummy snacks. The vibe of the evening was fun, memory-filled and fast!

PARKS DEPARTMENT “*Caring for South Windsor’s Growing Needs*”

Projects:

- The Recreation division of our department is moving to Old Orchard Hill, so our talented Parks Crew is working on updating the space in a cost-effective manner to ensure the space is usable for recreation in the spring.
- Our crew has been making upgrades to the Little League Complex by adding new fencing along the right field line of field B and adding outdoor batting nets.
- We have taken advantage of the mild winter and have been continuing to cut back invasive and overgrowth within our trail systems throughout Town.
- We brought about 100 yards of milling's to Rye Street Park and covered the old uneven lot over by the basketball courts. This project has created some nice improvements to that lot at no cost in materials to the Town.
- Our crew redesigned and repaired the fence to the outlet of Desmond's Duck Pond.
- We continue to make improvements to our Mountain Bike trail at Rye Street park during this mild winter as we built a 40-foot Bridge within the trail.

Parks Photos:



Work began this winter at Old Orchard Hill to prepare for the Recreation team to move to the facility in the spring.



New 40' bridge for a new trail at Rye St. Park



Desmonds Duck Pond fence and outlet repairs



Improvements to the Rye Street Park basketball court lot by resurfacing the space with 100 yards of millings.



Long overdue upgrades to Little League complex fencing on the right field line of Major B.

Recreation Photos:



4th R participants had lots of fun with snowmen activities this month.



4th R hosted a variety of theme days including crazy hat day and jersey day!



Our preschoolers are super creative!



Dodgeball throw down was a fun time for all!

February 2023 Town Council Meetings and Events

Meetings

Monday, February 6, 2023

7:00 pm Town Council Regular Meeting

Council Chambers

Tuesday, February 21, 2023

7:00 pm Town Council Regular Meeting

Council Chambers

Holidays

Monday, February 13, 2023

Lincoln's Birthday (Town Offices Closed)

Tuesday, February 14, 2023

Valentine's Day

Monday, February 20, 2023

Presidents' Day (Town Offices Closed)

Layout by Katherine Senerth, Executive Assistant

