

# Town of South Windsor

## Town Manager's Report October 2022



*Michael Maniscalco*  
Town Manager

**ICMA Conference and Credential-** This past week I attended the ICMA Digital conference. This is the easiest opportunity to renew my credential as a Town Manager. In order to do so, I needed 40 hours of classes and submit to a committee for review what I learned at those classes. To date, I have finished the classes and submitted the written portion to the committee for review. As I have provided in the past, the following is a list of titles for the classes taken: Strategic Foresight; From Sleepy to Chic- Make Main Street Cool; Mental Health Services and New Ways to Provide Public Safety Response; Taking Action on Public Health Data; Rethinking City Services During Crisis; Priority Base Budgeting: Is it for Everyone; Building Relationships, Creating Teams; Balancing Act of Being a Parent and CEO; Strategic Planning-Lessons Learned; Attracting and Retaining Talent; Creating a Pipeline for Leadership Development; Financial Assistance for Safety, Technology, and Economic Resilience; Extend the Life of Building Facilities through Proactive Management; The State of our Mental Health; Fostering Civility with Elected Officials; How to Fail: Fostering a Culture of Innovation; From Planning to Doing; Reimagining Fire and Paramedic Services; Top 3 Reasons Why Managers Fail; Flip the Script: How to Manage Older Generations; Responding to Mass Shootings; An Economic Shift through Partnership and Innovation; Flex Work Place Policies in Local Government; Discrimination Exists-How to Create a Community of Inclusion; Advancing a Discourse of Vocation for Local Government Managers; Planning for Greenspace & Environmental Mitigation in Cincinnati Area; Implicit Bias: Interrupting the Script; Effective Homelessness Crisis Response Systems; So Your IT has Progressed: How About Your Customer Success; Leverage Compensation Strategy to Attract and Retain Top Public Talent.

**Town Hall/ Library Parking Lot-** Work on repaving the Town Hall Parking lot has started. Many of the catch basins have been replaced and the sidewalk work is being completed. Our expectation is that the paving should start the first week of October. The public should be aware of

changing traffic patterns and parking locations as the work progresses.

**COVID-19 Memorial-** Work on the COVID-19 Memorial has started at the Major Michael Donnelly Preserve. While Home Depot did not only donate a significant amount of the materials they have also donated a good portion of the labor. At the time of this report we are expecting probably 2-3 more work days before it is complete.

**Strategic Planning Committee-** The Committee has voted to retain the services of UCONN to help with the Strategic Plan. They will be conducting a survey of residents, holding focus groups, a retreat with the Council and Committee and submitting a final report by July. We are in the very early stages of this project and I am certain there will be much more information to come so that every resident has an opportunity to have their say in the future of their community.

*Michael Maniscalco, MPA*  
Town Manager



## Police Department

Kristian R. Lindstrom  
Chief of Police

### Monthly Statistics August 2022:

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

### **August's numbers are below**

Total Computer Aided Dispatch Entries:	2468
Routine Calls Received/Outgoing:	4017
Directed Patrol/Premise Checks:	794
Motor Vehicle Stops:	307
Emotionally Disturbed Persons:	20
Medical Assists:	196
Suspicious:	120
Alarms:	90
Motor Vehicle Accidents:	27
Welfare Check:	33
Assist Outside Agency:	48
Animal Problem:	40
Citizen Assist:	38
Miscellaneous Service:	15
Collision Reports:	15
BOLO:	18
Disabled Motor Vehicle:	29
Larceny - Motor Vehicle	1
Larceny:	15
Hazardous Conditions:	26
Pistol Permits:	8
Burglary	2
Burglary - Motor Vehicle	2
Civil Matter:	6
911 Check:	23
Fraud:	37
Domestic Dispute:	13
Violation of Town Ordinance:	2
Sexual Assault	3
Youth Problem:	5

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

The months of September 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 almost a month. 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. Most notably, after 25 years of dedicated service to the Town of South Windsor, CSO Robin Bond retired on August 31, 2022. She takes with her years of experience and institutional knowledge and we wish her a long and healthy retirement.

As Sgt. Cleverdon continues to recruit personnel to fill all of our vacancies for both sworn and



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civilian positions.

During the month of September we extended job offers to a new Dispatcher, Jake Dooley, who is already certified and transferring to us from Manchester Police Department. We also hired a new Animal Control/Community Service Officer, Kaley Curtis, who is already a certified Animal Control Officer and has a vast amount of experience particularly with large animal care. In addition, we hired a new part time Kennel Assistant, Melissa Getz. Melissa will help to bolster the part time staff who ensure that all of the animals housed at the Tyler Regional Animal Care Shelter (TRACS) are comfortable, clean, and well cared for. All three of these civilian employees will begin their employment with our agency in the next couple weeks.

In addition to these civilian positions, a new police officer was hired. Andre Rogers began employment with the police department in the middle of September and will begin his police academy training the last week of the month. Ofc. Rogers grew up in central Connecticut and comes to us after recently receiving his masters degree in Social Work. The hiring of Ofc. Rogers brings us to having only one vacancy within our sworn ranks.

Officers Sarfo and Weiss continue to progress well through their academy training and we anticipate that they will both graduate on schedule later this fall. This month Ofc. Grabowski completed his field training and after almost a full year of training he is now a fully functioning, independent, police officer.

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 two vacancies at the moment. Sgt. Mark Cleverdon is overseeing our recruiting efforts and is actively working to fill these gaps with the right candidate in a timely manner.

September 12<sup>th</sup> was National Policewoman's Day. On that day, we publicly recognized our 8 female sworn members of the agency. Those individuals

are: Officer Tina Roy, Officer Peggy Sue Clouser, Corporal Alexis McLain, Officer Erika Kuzara, Officer Bianca Krzynowek, Officer Linda Hernando, Officer Kaitlyn Pierpont, and Officer Victoria Weiss. These women account for almost 20% of our sworn staff.

**Sworn Personnel Summary:** With an authorized strength of 46 sworn members, we currently have 3 in the academy (Weiss, Sarfo, and Rogers), 1 on maternity leave, 1 out on medical leave (non-work related), 2 new dads on FMLA leave and 1 vacancy within our sworn ranks. By month's end, 44 of our 46 authorized sworn personnel are employed at this agency and 38 are fully operational sworn FTE's.

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

As we continue to change and grow as an agency, we remain mindful of the need to prepare personnel today to be able to supervise and lead into the future. In that vein, we conducted promotional testing for the ranks of Corporal and Sergeant during the latter half of the month and we hope to announce several promotions in the near future.

Over 41% of our personnel have been hired in the last 5 years and will be the future of the agency. It is important that we continue to enrich their work experience and motivate them so that they will continue the proud tradition of high quality police service well into the future.

### **Local and National Social Justice Movements:**

The South Windsor Police Department remains strongly opposed to racism and biased policing. It continues to serve the public with the element of its mission to "Respect the Rights of Individuals" in mind.

We continue to monitor the community for changes and trends in the social justice arena.

As an agency, and as a profession, we continue to



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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.

September 2<sup>nd</sup> marked the fourth anniversary of the death of Sgt. Matthew Mainieri who was killed while trying to break up a fight during a vacation in South Carolina. Several community members reached out to offer their fond remembrances of Matt and what he meant to the Town and this agency.

On September 7<sup>th</sup> several police department members attended a training session provided by the CT Council on American-Islamic Relations. Mr. Hassan Awwad is the Council's Director of Operations and provided a block of training on cultural awareness regarding the Muslim community and the Islamic faith. The candid and engaging training was very well received and Chief Lindstrom is in the process of arranging additional training sessions for department members who were not able to attend. This is yet another example of the Department's commitment to awareness, equity, and inclusion.

The police department staffed an outreach booth at this year's Wapping Fair. Police personnel were on hand for discussions and questions about everything from recruiting to car seat installation tips. For the duration of the fair, officers met and talked with hundreds of fair goers at this popular event.

The police department is making some changes to the weekly car seat installation clinics that have occurred on Wednesday mornings for the past several years. The times, location, and frequency of these events are being adjusted to better serve the community by offering increased flexibility and variability of this program.

The Indian Valley YMCA in Ellington invited police personnel to their Fall Health and Wellness event over the weekend of September 17&18. Officers attended this event along with officers from Ellington and the Connecticut State Police.

Events like those described above are of particular importance as the local community emerges from its Covid quarantine and tries to re-establish some normalcy. As is stated above, community engagement and community policing efforts are paramount to our agency creating and maintaining our legitimacy with the community we serve.

The department continues to benefit from regular gestures of support from the community.

### **Traffic Safety:**

Our Traffic Unit continues to exercise the "3 E's" of Engineering, Enforcement, and Education as we address complaints ranging from speed to Commercial Vehicle travel. We continue to work in partnership with the Office of the State Traffic Authority to address traffic proposals, and projects.

The month of September kicked off with the continuation of the police department's back to school safe traffic initiative. This annual program serves to increase high visibility patrols and traffic enforcement in the town's school zones in preparation of an increase in motor vehicle, bicycle, and pedestrian traffic as a new school year begins. The intent of this initiative is to raise motorist awareness and educate drivers by way of public information and warnings prior to transitioning to a phase of traditional enforcement via infractions.

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





## Police Department

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Chief of Police

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

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

The South Windsor Police Department remains active and dedicated to the traditional law enforcement function by responding to the public's needs.

At the beginning of September, the police department was notified that Ford Motor Company would not be able to satisfy our order for four new police vehicles. When Ford cancelled these orders, they did the same thing to dozens of police department across the state. This unexpected move forced the Department to move quickly to find a suitable alternative that would be available as departments all over the state were doing the same thing. Police vehicles manufactured by Chevrolet were available to order and a fleet crisis was narrowly averted thanks to the alertness and quick action of the Department's Support Services staff.

As the school year began in early September, the School Resources Officers worked diligently to update the Department's response considerations to all of the schools in South Windsor. This labor intensive task ensures that all police personnel have readily available access to security information and considerations that may be used to augment our response to an emergency at any one of our town schools.

On September 16<sup>th</sup>, Chief Lindstrom received one of ten written invitations that were distributed to police executives statewide to become a member of the inaugural cohort of Executive Police Fellows at Central Connecticut State University's Criminology and Criminal Justice Department. Not only will this valuable position allow Chief Lindstrom to bring experientially based information to the staff and students at CCSU, but it will also allow him to bring back valuable information that may be of benefit to the Town of South Windsor.

As has been the trend over the last several months,

during the month of September the police department received, and is processing, several FOI requests. While these requests are not out of the ordinary, there seems to be a recent influx of these requests. In speaking with other area agencies, this does not seem to be a trend unique to South Windsor, however these requests are noteworthy as they can be very labor intensive to satisfy. Particularly when dealing with record redactions and video redactions, these requests can occupy dozens of labor hours a week.

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

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

With warmer weather on the horizon, we will wait to see if car burglaries and catalytic converter thefts spike once again. For the time being the police department continues to monitor the trend in the region and deter crime with high visibility patrols. We have temporarily stopped our public service messaging on social media in an effort to prevent it from becoming "white noise" and ignored. We will resume disseminating those messages in the coming months if the need arises.

### **Never too early to prepare for an emergency (cont. from last month):**

After experiencing some significant weather events through the summer, I hope that our citizens will think about all-hazard preparations especially with the potential of significant winter weather events on the horizon.

The Ready.gov webpage has great information pages on preparation for natural disasters, severe weather, and active shooters. Please share with



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Chief of Police

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 May 2022**

The Street Services Department has been working to prepare the Town Hall parking lot for resurfacing in October. Catch basins are being repaired, sidewalks are being re-aligned, a new sidewalk is being added, additional lighting is being installed and drainage improvements are taking place. Crews have been mindful that Town Hall is open for business and are trying to get the work completed with as little disruptions as possible. We thank you for your patience and understanding.

The department assisted the Parks dept covering the pools at VMP. This is a pretty much an all-hands project to get the pools ready for Winter.

Streets Services delivered fencing, fences posts, barricades and installed no parking signs in support of the Wapping Fair.

We pressed into service an Altoz mower for improving our ability to keep our roadsides looking crisp and helping to eliminate sightline issues for motorists. This piece of equipment can get into areas our traditional roadside mower cannot. Roadside maintenance not only improves the overall appearance of the town, it increases safety for motorists and pedestrians.

Crews painted the curbs of several traffic islands to make them more visible to the motoring public. This will especially help motorists during nighttime driving.

Streets maintainers tended to several washouts due to the significant rains which came after a very long dry spell. Water is a wonder and a powerful force of nature

Our maintainers completed the final installation of the Vibert Rd/Linear Park gate. Signs were fabricated and installed to provide warning to the presence of the new gate.

Streets and Parks maintainers attended a custom Trenching and Shoring Safety Program put on by UCONN's Technology Transfer Center. With several new maintainers aboard and some

relatively new equipment operators now in place, it was time to refresh our knowledge on the subject. In the US in the first 6 months of 2022, 22 workers died in trench incidents surpassing 15 fatalities in all of 2021! Understanding how and when to use trench shields, and understanding soil conditions helps protect workers.



Traffic line painting is underway which is being done by Safety Markings out of Bridgeport. Some roads are still in need of painting but weather has altered the scheduled. All roads should be completed by the end of the month. Additionally, other markings such as stop bars, crosswalks and railroad crossing are scheduled to be re-painted as well.

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*

## Finance Department

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

### Assessor

Personal Property Declaration forms have been mailed to all business owners in South Windsor on Tuesday, September 20, 2022. The declarations must be completed and returned to the South Windsor Assessor's Office on or before November 1, 2022 to avoid a 25% penalty due to late or non-filing. The Assessor's webpage has copies of all blank forms, if needed as well as additional resources to assist you with the filing of the form. Additionally, the option to file your declaration online is available. If you, or your CPA are interested in checking out the online portal, please contact the Assessor's Office by phone or email and we will provide you with your account-specific online access code for this year.

The Town's 2022 Revaluation project is in the final stages of analyzing sales and determining appraised values for all parcels in South Windsor using mass appraisal methodology. The assessment date in Connecticut is October 1<sup>st</sup> and notices regarding new value will be mailed to all property owners in early to mid-November 2022. Each property owner has the opportunity to meet during the "informal" hearing period to ask questions regarding their value and to gain education on the process used to determine value during a revaluation.

A reminder to residents that for motor vehicles stolen, sold, destroyed, and if the registration was not transferred to another vehicle, you may be eligible for a motor vehicle prorate. To obtain a credit, you must furnish proof as required by the Assessor. These forms of proof may be emailed to: [Assessor@southwindsor-ct.gov](mailto:Assessor@southwindsor-ct.gov), or submitted through our webpage: <https://www.southwindsor-ct.gov/assessor>.

### Collector of Revenue

Delinquent motor vehicle accounts have been reported to Connecticut Department of Motor Vehicles. Therefore, clearance will be required from our office to complete a renewal or new registration of a motor vehicle. **Payment of cash, money order or certified bank funds will allow for immediate DMV clearance.** Payment remitted on line or with uncertified funds is subject to a ten-day business hold.

Residential sewer use bills were mailed Friday, September 23, 2022, payment is due October 1, 2022 and the last day to pay without penalty is Monday, October 31, 2022. Listed below are options available for remitting payment:

On line using the link <https://www.mytaxbill.org/inet/bill/home.do?town=southwindsor&search=2>.

The fee assessed by the vendor for an e-check (ach check) is 95 cents while payment of Visa, Mastercard, Discover and American Express is assessed a fee of \$6.95 per transaction, with a limit of \$600.00.

In person with cash, money order or check during business hours.

Drop box, there are two drop boxes at Town Hall, a drive up and a walk-up drop box. Payment of check or money order may be remitted, no cash please. The boxes are monitored by video and emptied twice daily.

By mail in the envelope provided, if you are mailing close to the due date the envelope should be hand postmarked by the Postmaster to avoid additional interest.

Many resources are available on line from the Collector of Revenue including the option to receive enotifications of mailings/due dates, the ability to view or print tax bills and/or payment receipts, Frequently Asked Questions and much more. The link is <https://www.southwindsor-ct.gov/collector-revenue>.

If you have questions please contact the office via email [taxcollector@southwindsor-ct.gov](mailto:taxcollector@southwindsor-ct.gov) or 860-644-2511 extension 2321.



## Human Services Department

Andrea Cofrancesco  
Director of Human Services

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

### **Opioid Committee**

The Town of South Windsor is getting funds from the National Opioid Settlement totaling \$11,598.34 and the Human Services Department is being tasked with spending it. We are in the process of forming a committee of stakeholders to discuss how best to use the funds. More information will be reported in the coming months.

### **Back to School Program**

We received donations from a variety of sources this year for our Back to School program. Items received were backpacks, lunch boxes and other school supplies, in addition to gift cards to Target to purchase shoes and clothes for children. Thank you to the Fire Department, Police Department, Birdhouse Coffee, St Peter's Episcopal Church, Senior Center's Community Service Group and others, for donating to the cause or providing an opportunity to donate to the cause.  
52 kids in 26 families were served.



### **Housing Alternatives Fair**

Adult and Senior Services recently held a Housing Alternatives Fair with 14 vendors providing

information about housing options. This is an opportunity for residents to see what is available for when they may decide to downsize or if they need additional services. Approximately 75 people attended.



### **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

## Human Services Department

Andrea Cofrancesco  
Director of Human Services

Act (ARPA) provided to towns from the Federal Government. Call Adult and Senior Caseworkers at 860-648-6361 ext. 3335.

### **The Effects of a Pandemic and War on our Mental Health**

It's been a rough couple of years as we have navigated through a global pandemic: social isolation, anxiety and finding a new normal. And now we are dealing with a war. And inflation. How are we dealing with it? Join Alexander Pepe, LCSW, from Intercommunity Healthcare for a conversation on living through tough times: ways to cope and deal with the additional stress in our lives. **Monday, October 17 at 4:00 PM.** Free, call to register. These funds are part of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) provided to towns from the Federal Government. Call Adult and Senior Caseworkers at 860-648-6361 ext. 3335. American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds are used for this program.

### **Bereavement Support**

If you are grieving the loss of a loved one and would like to find support from others, please come to our group. A licensed therapist from Intercommunity Health Care will be **at the center on the 1st and 3rd Fridays of each month at 3 PM: October 7 and 21.** Everyone deals with loss differently. Let's come together and talk and get tips on how to cope. Free. Please join us! 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.

### **Health & Safety Fair and Flu Shot Clinic**

Get your **FLU** shot at our annual Health and Safety Fair on **Friday, October 14 from 10:00 AM to 12 Noon** at the Community Center! Both high dose and regular dose flu vaccine will be available. Most insurances accepted. A variety of other services will also be provided including blood pressure checks, arm chair massages, lower extremity evaluation for vein disease, hearing tests and healthy snacks. Learn about fire safety, the Yellow Dot Program and **more! All services FREE!** No need to register!

### **Outreach at Housing Sites**

Caseworkers and Program Coordinators have begun reaching out to residents at all five senior housing complexes in town to provide information on programs and services that are available. These include financial assistance programs, transportation, nutrition, wellness, social and so much more.





## Human Services Department

Andrea Cofrancesco  
Director of Human Services



September 2022  
Teen Center

The Teen Center had an amazing month in September, kicking off back to school. We held our first Youth Council meetings with the middle school and high school students and have around 30 volunteers in each! Our volunteers helped at the Parks & Rec. Mud Run, which was a great first event to participate in and get them excited about future events. We have more participation since the pandemic began and we are happy to say we have more middle school and high school participants attending our drop in hours. Next week our Human Service bus will begin to provide transportation from the middle school to the teen center, which will increase participation since transportation can be a barrier. We went to the middle school and high school open houses to provide information on what the Teen Center offers, and have received a lot of great feedback and participation from these events. In the upcoming months we have a lot of great activities planned so stay tuned!



### **School Outreach & Prevention**

September brings renewed excitement to the schools. Students and staff are ready to jump into a more traditional year and the staff at Youth and Family Services are ready to support them along the way. We were present for the TEMS and SWHS Open Houses this year. It was a great opportunity to speak with families about all that we have to offer!



The Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD) Club is back! We already have quite a bit of interest from High School students wanting to join the club or return for another year. Leaders have been chosen and they are busy preparing for fall activities highlighting driving safety, community outreach and positive school climate

## Human Services Department

Andrea Cofrancesco  
Director of Human Services

initiatives. We look forward to adding some new programs this year to increase awareness and encourage positive choices.

The South Windsor Alliance For Families (SWAFF) will have their first meeting in September. We will be planning for some events this fall to support the mission to support local families. The group works together to share information about the prevention of drugs and alcohol. We are excited that there are some additional youth on the committee this year so that they will have a stronger voice.

Pinwheels were displayed in front of TEMS on International Day of Peace, September 21, 2022. This is a day to celebrate "whirled" peace and to encourage our school community, as well as our South Windsor community, to continue to strive for peace, love and kindness. Students took time to create pinwheels sharing their ideas on what peace means to them. It is a beautiful symbol of the power of community.



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

YFS counselors jumped right back in to counseling at the schools as soon as school was in session! Counselors remain busy with 72 active cases of youth seen for mental health counseling! We are thrilled to have Paula Berson join our team as an additional Youth Counselor. Paula's position is through the ARPA funds. She will be here up to 12 hours per week. In addition, Paula has taken on 5 hours to support our Juvenile Review Board. These hours are covered by a grant through DCF.

Robin and Liz attended two meetings at the Board of Education this month, one was the Elementary School Principals meeting and the other was the Pupil Services meeting with all of the school social workers and school psychologists. It was a great opportunity to talk about the services that our department provides.

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.

September Classes include:

- In the Trenches: Navigate Challenging CoParenting Relationships
  - Positive Discipline for Toddlers and Preschoolers
  - School Success
  - Conversations That Build Self Esteem for your Child with Autism
- Help My Young Child Feel Safe and Secure

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

**Park & Recreation Commission (PARC):** The Commission will be meeting at Town Hall on Wednesday, October 12 at 7:30pm

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

**Farmers Market** The September Farmers' Market was a busy one! We had our “Dog Days” event, welcoming a host of local pet vendors, groomers, and rescue organizations. The humane society was also on-site collecting blankets and towels for their shelters. The market also had its last POP (Power of Produce) activity of the summer season. The kids were welcomed to “tie dye” using all-natural dyes from farm fresh produces donated by our market farmers! It was a fun lesson and the kids were excited to take home their creation! And most recently we welcomed the South Windsor High School Band to perform at the market. 144 high school students under the direction of Michael Verrastro performed for our market patrons! It was truly an incredible September

**Community Band** On Thursday September 15<sup>th</sup> the South Windsor Community Band played a concert at Evergreen Walk. Approximately 65 concert goers enjoyed beautiful weather and enjoyed a wide variety of hits from rag-time to R&B and soul. This event is in partnership with Evergreen Walk. The Parks and Recreation staff spoke with community members about upcoming programs and events and handed out some fun giveaways.

**4th R** The 4th “R” Program is up and running for its 16th year! Across all four schools, there are about 230 unique children enrolled in before and/or after school spots. Participants have enjoyed so many fun recreational activities to start the year, including new gym games such as

Stoplight and Rob the Nest, group games, crafts such as magic water color painting and Lego Masters competitions, and theme days, such as Superhero day!

**Preschool** Preschool Session A began on 09/12! 3-5 year old classes AND our parent/child classes are full at 100%! In our 2 year old classes, 52/60 spots are filled, representing nearly 87%! Preschool aged children have enjoyed coming to class for songs, stories, art-projects, playground time, sensory activities, and of course plenty of learning and fun with friends! Our new parent/child class in the gymnasium has been very well received, as it is a chance for our youngest friends to run, play and development their gross motor skills!

**My First Mud Run** Rye Street Park was the host site of our My First Mud Run was hosted at on Sunday, September 18. Families, sports grounds, siblings, couples and singles all challenged themselves on the 2-mile course that included 10 obstacles. It was a perfect day for some outdoor adventure!

**Jukido** Jukido is a Japanese jujitsu system made safe to practice. Although there is a sporting element, Jukido is a self-defense system with an emphasis on doing one's best. Participants learn countermeasures against aggression, fight prevention and bully management.

**Learn to Skate** September's program hosted 60 individuals whom were interested in Learning to Skate! South Windsor Arena's skating 101 program through the South Windsor Rec Department is a beginning Ice Skating program that's fun and rewarding. Participation enable beginner skaters of all ages (3 years old and up) & ability levels to learn the fundamentals of skating, while teaching them skills necessary for further advancement.

**Futsal** Futsal is the perfect recreational skills program getting your little one involved in street

soccer skills. Futsal and Street Soccer aim to increase the player's personal skills. It allows players to touch the ball up to 600% more than the traditional soccer thereby increasing the player's decision-making skills and comfort with the ball. We are excited to be offering a fall programs for ages 2-6.

**Food Explorers** Our ever-popular Food Explorers has returned for their fall session with Chocolate Crazy! Each week you will make a sweet and delicious chocolate treat: milk chocolate, dark chocolate, mini tarts, truffles, chocolate lasagna and more!

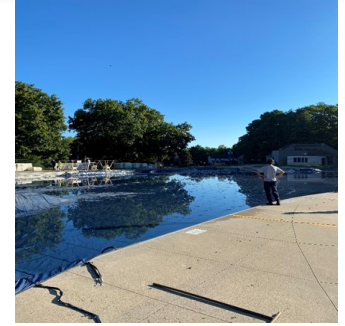
### **PARKS DEPARTMENT “Caring for South Windsor’s Growing Needs”**

Our very talented parks crew has had another busy and successful month working on many special projects, assisting with special events, and managing many fields and open spaces. The Wapping Fair, Football Jamboree, Pickleball courts at Rye St are just a few of the projects they assisted with this month. We are also happy to have a new parking lot on Ellington Rd, granting access to our Wapping Park. Balancing these special projects on top of their regular maintenance to secure safe and clean spaces (such as regular mowing & weed-whacking of athletic fields, Town & BOE facilities, open space properties, weekly line painting & stone dust trails) is a skill the parks crew has been very successful at. As they strive to provide exceptional space for our residents to enjoy.

As the seasons change from summer to fall the Parks Crew, along with Public Works, closed the pools at VMP. With the change of season will also switch gears for the crew and they will start an aggressive over seeding program to help keep weed pressures down on our athletic fields and grounds this helps to reduce the use of any pesticides. Parks will join forces with Public Works in the fall and winter for the leaf harvest and snow removal on the roads and lots.

The Parks Crew are going join forces with Home Depot and D’Agata-Perry Granite on Tuesday 9-27-22 and start the Covid Memorial @ Major Michael Donnelly Land Preserve for their kind donation and to Erica Evans and the Town Council for the idea.

South Windsor Parks & Recreation hosted a pool wrap up roundtable discussion. Over 25 people were in attendance representing surrounding towns including; Bloomfield, Manchester, Newington, Glastonbury, East Hartford and Wethersfield. During this meeting we discussed several topics on aquatics regarding maintenance of the pool, current trends



Parks & Public Works crew Close VMP for the 2022 season.  
See you in the spring.

and shortage of lifeguards. This dialogue allowed the surrounding towns to share ideas on how each town operates their aquatics facilities. The information was well received on how to better serve our communities needs while being fiscally responsible.



Getting close to opening. Waiting on some, fencing & Parks crew will add parking and ADA accessible areas along with heavy-duty wood guardrails.



## Parks Photos:



Parks crew plants another Memorial Tree at Nevers Parks for the Doyle family as seen in the right photo.



We spend Aprox \$3,000 a year in material alone to maintain stone dust trails in SW because of heavy rains that cause wash outs.  
After a heavy rain it takes two mainatiners all day to repair them



Recreation Photos:





## Recreation Photos



Community Band performing by fire light at  
Evergreen Walk



Be sure to continue to support our Farmers  
Market! Weekly new vendors and experiences  
for all



A little mud never hurt anyone! My First Mud Run hosted at Rye Street was a huge feat!

## **October 2022**

### ***Town Council Meetings and Events***

#### ***Meetings***

##### **Monday, October 3, 2022**

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

##### **Monday, October 17, 2022**

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

#### ***Holidays***

##### **Monday, October 10, 2022**

**Indigenous People's Day**  
*Town Offices closed*

*Layout by Katherine Senerth, Executive Assistant*

