

# Town of South Windsor

## Town Manager's Report March 2023



*Michael Maniscalco*  
Town Manager

### **Collections Update**

I am excited to share that collections are going well. We are on target to reach our goal of 99%.

February Tax Collection Rate	2020 Grand List	2021 Grand List
<b>Overall</b>	97.87%	98.14%
<b>Real Estate</b>	98.49%	98.61%
<b>Personal Property</b>	96.05%	97.92%
<b>Motor Vehicle</b>	96.67%	96.20%
<b>MV Supple</b>	82.82%	81.33%

Representative Delnicki in their help to figure out what our State revenues are. While we still do not have final numbers, we have a general idea of where they are going and how to account for them effectively.

*Michael Maniscalco, MPA*  
Town Manager

### **East Windsor Trucks**

I am pleased to inform you that to date, Town staff are reporting a reduced number of truck traffic on Rye Street. I am very appreciative of the efforts of East Windsor to enforce their permit and the staff efforts that have been made to look for solutions that will minimize the impact on our residents. The Town will continue to monitor the situation.

### **Hartford Truck**

I wanted to make the Council aware that Hartford Truck has brought forward an expansion plan for a tax abatement. For those of you who follow Planning and Zoning, you have seen the proposed expansion to their current building and the addition of another building has been approved. They completed their abatement application and it has gone through an internal staff review and is currently with EDC for review and recommendation. I would expect this will be an agenda item for all of you to consider end of March early April.

### **Budget Update**

The Finance Department and I have been working very hard on getting the budget together. We are on track for our March 20<sup>th</sup> budget presentation. I wanted to specifically thank Senator Anwar and



## Police Department

Kristian R. Lindstrom  
Chief of Police

### Monthly Statistics January 2023:

Each month we publish the totals of some of our more common calls for service. Patrol, Investigative, and Administrative staff continue to work together to serve the community's public safety needs. From proactively checking businesses and facilities to traffic enforcement and responding to emergencies, the South Windsor Police Department is committed to providing the best public safety product in the region to those who live, work, and play, in the Town of South Windsor.

### **January's numbers are below**

Total Computer Aided Dispatch Entries:	2479
Routine Calls Received/Outgoing:	3261
Directed Patrol/Premise Checks:	923
Motor Vehicle Stops:	421
Emotionally Disturbed Persons:	13
Medical Assists:	207
Suspicious:	97
Alarms:	81
Motor Vehicle Accidents:	24
Welfare Check:	22
Assist Outside Agency:	30
Animal Problem:	26
Citizen Assist:	21
Miscellaneous Service:	15
Collision Reports:	20
BOLO:	18
Disabled Motor Vehicle:	17
Larceny - Motor Vehicle	2
Larceny:	28
Hazardous Conditions:	8
Pistol Permits:	3
Burglary	3
Burglary - Motor Vehicle	1
Civil Matter:	12
911 Check:	10
Fraud:	11
Domestic Dispute:	19
Violation of Town Ordinance:	2
Sexual Assault	0
Youth Problem:	9

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

This winter's Covid numbers seemed to somewhat mirror those of last winter although the overall disease state seems to be less impactful. This

seemed to be the trend last winter and perhaps this will be the annual trend moving forward.

As an agency and a 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.

The agency recruiting efforts are a top priority and remain in full swing as we compete with other agencies to hire the best of the low number of candidates who appear interested in law enforcement. Continuing from last month, we were actively conducting three backgrounds until



## Police Department

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Chief of Police

one of the candidates failed a polygraph exam and was removed from the process. The two remaining backgrounds are near completion and the Chief is optimistic that those individuals will be hired in the end of March. This will mark the beginning of a nearly year long training schedule that will culminate in them independently filling a vacancy within the agency.

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 March and early April.

When the above additions and departures are calculated, we are working to fill three vacancies at the moment. Our recruiting process is very active and Sgt. Mark Cleverdon is working diligently to bring our agency to full staff. In doing so, he 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. An example of these efforts is the launch of a new internship program for criminal justice undergraduates. We are currently accepting applications for this new program and hope to host our first official college intern this summer.

### **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)**

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.

Sgt. Littell is hard at work in his new position as the Community Outreach officer. Several plans are in the works for programs and events (big and small) that will increase our presence and involvement in the community. Stay tuned in the coming months for updates.

On February 7, 2023, the South Windsor Volunteer Fire Department held their annual awards banquet. Deputy Chief Brian Eckblom was in attendance to represent the police department. We always enjoy attending this annual event to celebrate the good work that the fire department does and recognize the importance of the strong partnership between our two agencies.

The South Windsor Police Department is continuing its longstanding tradition of being a "go to" resource for Child Car Seat installation. The program schedule has changed slightly to be more efficient and maintains the goal of providing this invaluable service to the community. Protecting our community's smallest roadway users has been a priority of the SWPD for over twenty years. More information regarding this



## Police Department

Kristian R. Lindstrom  
Chief of Police

program and installation events can be found on our website and social media outlets.

On February 23, several department members attended the sentencing of Spencer Krauss at Rockville Superior Court. Krauss was the drunk driver who killed Officer Ben Lovett in a motor vehicle accident approximately a year and a half ago. The sentencing phase of this incident brought another level of much needed closure to our law enforcement family.

On February 16, Chief Lindstrom and Deputy Chief Eckblom attended the ribbon cutting and grand opening of the new Shake Shack restaurant at Evergreen Walk. This event is but another example of the ongoing growth and development of this community. Discussions held with plaza management at that event only reaffirmed the fact that more growth is on the horizon in the Buckland Corridor.

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 continues to be 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.

This month, significant attention was paid to the issue of truck traffic on Rye Street. Specifically, tri-axle dump trucks are frequently traveling both directions on Rye Street which is generating complaints from area residents. The police department Traffic Unit investigated the matter and found no violations. This traffic is the result of several trucks delivering fill from a quarry in East Windsor to a large development project in East Hartford. On February 14, 2023, Chief Lindstrom visited the quarry to observe truck operations in the area. He also spoke with the quarry owner who indicated that several steps were being taken to mitigate and reduce the truck traffic on Rye Street. Specifically, they reduced the truck fleet by almost 50% and they are having the trucks scatter to use different routes. He stated that within the next month there should be enough fill at the new location that the steady truck traffic will cease and only occasional trips will be made.

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.

On February 5<sup>th</sup>, police personnel investigated an after-hours robbery at a business on Nutmeg Road South. In this incident, the cleaning crew was targeted and robbed at gunpoint. Police personnel attempted to locate the suspect with a police canine but these attempts were unsuccessful. This case is under investigation.

On February 9<sup>th</sup>, the US Attorney in Hartford announced that suspects in a gun theft case at R&L Freight entered guilty pleas in court. This incident occurred in August of 2021 and was investigated by members of the South Windsor Police Department, East Hartford Police





## Police Department

Kristian R. Lindstrom  
Chief of Police

Department, the Internal Revenue Service, and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms. This case is another great example of the cooperative investigative efforts of various levels and jurisdictions within law enforcement.

On February 16<sup>th</sup>, Officer Cosenza and K-9 Mason assisted Manchester Police Department in apprehending a Domestic Violence Suspect who was hiding in an attic crawlspace. This type of circumstance creates an extremely dangerous situation for the officers in their attempts to take someone into custody. After announcing to the suspect that he should surrender of the dog will be released, Ofc. Cosenza gave Mason commands to start barking. Fortunately, the suspect gave up immediately and was heard saying, "No dog...no dog" as he surrendered. This was a very dangerous situation that was resolved with no injuries to officers or the suspect.

During the month of February, 20% of the department's sworn staff underwent their periodic wellness exams. These exams, born from the Police Accountability Act, consist of department members participating in an interview with a Psychologist to ensure that they are not suffering from mental health issues that might impair their ability to serve as police officers. These exams are required every five years so having 20% of the staff participate per year will put the agency on a five year schedule.

After months of noise, dust, temporary workspaces, etc, this month the women's locker room was completed and is in service. Over the next several weeks, the other affected spaces will be repurposed and updated to bring this large project to a close.

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

Even in the depths of winter, we continue to see the occasional car burglary and catalytic converter theft. As has historically been the case, the car burglaries are limited exclusively to unlocked vehicles. 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 4 winter storms during the month. Three of these were minor treat only events. The last one, just two days short of meteorological Spring, and also the first named storm of the New England season brought about 4" of plowable snow.

Street Services continues to take advantage of the unseasonable weather. Crews are taking inventory of supplies and materials, making repairs to temporary traffic control signs and barricades, making up and palletizing sand bags for emergency use, and working on overall general housekeeping.

Pothole patching continues throughout the winter season. The lack of deep freeze/thaw cycles are helping keep our most problematic areas somewhat in check. Of course, there is never a lack of spots that need our attention.

The tepid temperatures have allowed us to start cleaning of our sedimentation chambers. These large chambers collect sediment, debris and hydrocarbons that escapes the catch basins and captures them preventing release into a waterway. Streets maintainers inspected all the chambers (which thankfully were not buried under snow) and directed our contractor to vacuum out the ones needing cleaning. This certainly helps improve the water quality discharged to local waterways.

Crews continue 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 on-going. Although with the lack of deployment for winter events, maintainers are able to take vehicle maintenance to the next level, waxing the fleet. Yet another safeguard to help keep the fleet from premature rusting. We are usually pretty lucky to cycle the entire fleet for a wash between storms, but again we are taking advantage of conditions given to us.

Streets maintainers are assisting the WPCA crew with a refresh of the bio-filter at the treatment plant. We have done a couple other rehabs of the filter over the years so the crews are familiar and can knock it out in no time.

Crews were actually able to mill off some crumbling pavement areas and fill with hot asphalt mix. This helped eliminate a real troublesome area where a regular pothole patch wouldn't be effective.

Work has begun on drainage at the Community Center parking areas. Catch basins needed to be repaired and tops replaced. This is all in preparation for resurfacing later this year.

I was remiss in not sharing and welcoming two new Streets Maintainer I's in January. Karol Oldziej and Hector Rodriguez joined the team and hit the ground running. Welcome gentlemen!! We all look forward to working with you. Both men come with a background in the construction field. Good luck in your new positions.

The sign shop replaced or repaired 66 signs during the month. This included a variety of warning and regulatory signs as well as compliance signs for the Fire Marshal's Office.

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 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,

## Public Works Department

Vincent Stetson  
Director of Public Works

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 March, 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 advancing design plans for the drainage improvements and reconstruction of Pleasant Valley Road from Clark Street to just past Hilton Drive. This design includes improving the road geometry, new drainage pipes and structures, and sidewalks on one side of the road. A public information meeting was held early in February and we have met with utilities and are working on addressing comments received on the preliminary plans. An application to IWA/CC for the replacement and/or extension of a couple of cross culverts will be heard in March.

### **Pleasant Valley Road Bridge Replacement**

WMC Consulting Engineers is finalizing 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 this project was approved by the South Windsor IWA/CC in December 2022. The project was reviewed by CT DOT, CT DEEP and ACOE for permitting in February 2023. We have worked with utility companies to develop temporary utility relocation plans, and are seeking easements needed for this project.

### **Pleasant Valley Road/Clark Street Sidewalk Project**

Costa & Son LLC has completed all the new sidewalk sections on the eastern section of Pleasant Valley Road and the southern part of Clark Street, including a retaining wall and residents are using the new sidewalks.

### **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 were opened on February 2 and this contract has been awarded. Bids for drainage repairs were just opened this week and will be awarded soon. 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 are finalizing the plans and bid specifications for next year's road paving using the subsurface investigation results and 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 have received review comments from CRCOG. A public information meeting was held on these sidewalks this week. We will be contacting residents about easements needed for this project and addressing comments on the plans in the next month.

### **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 on a plan to implement the recommended improvements to alleviate the drainage problems on this road.

## Public Works Department

Vincent Stetson  
Director of Public Works

### **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 has responded to these comments. Additional funding may be needed to complete this project.

### **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.

### **LOTICIP Applications**

LOTICIP Applications were submitted to CRCOG this week for funding the reconstruction of part of Clark Street and the construction of sidewalks in and around the Town Center area to fill in gaps on Deming Street, Clark Street and Ellington Road.

*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**

Hearings for the Board of Assessment Appeals start March 6 and will continue thru mid-March 2023. These appeals are by appointment only and in order to be heard by the Board, an appeal form must have been received on or before February 20, 2023.

The elderly and totally disabled homeowner's program started February 1 and continues through May 15. A reminder letter to file was sent to all residents currently on the homeowner's program the first week of February 2023. Please note, the qualifying income has been updated for those applicants that may wish to file this year for the first time. If any resident is interested in applying for this program, they must meet the following requirements:

Must be at least 65 years of age by 12/31/2022.  
Must be the real property owner on 10/1/2022.  
Must reside in South Windsor.

If any resident qualifies for this program, and appointment must be made with Human Services to fill out the application. Please contact Lindsey Ravalese to set up your appointment: 860-648-6361 ext. 3319

Located at 150 Nevers Road, South Windsor. This information and more can be found on our webpage here: <https://www.southwindsor-ct.gov/assessor>

A reminder to residents that have sold or otherwise disposed of a vehicle; if the plates were not transferred to a new vehicle, please send the Assessor's Office a copy of the plate cancellation receipt along with any of the following: bill of sale, junked receipt, trade-in information, total loss letter from insurance company, gift receipt, etc. With this information provided to the Office an adjustment or proration may be obtained.

The income criteria for this program are as follows:

	<i>Income Range</i>	<i>Benefit</i>
<i>Single Persons</i>	\$0 - \$40,300	State & Local Match
	\$40,301 \$50,000	Local Option - \$195 tax credit
<i>Married Couples</i>	\$0 - \$49,100	State & Local Match
	\$49,101 - \$65,000	Local Option - \$195 tax credit

## Finance Department

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

### **Collector of Revenue**

Tax time is upon us! If you need 2022 tax information to complete your income tax return, information is available on line at <https://www.southwindsor-ct.gov/collector-revenue/pages/irs-tax-receipts-online> or send an email to [taxcollector@southwindsor-ct.gov](mailto:taxcollector@southwindsor-ct.gov). Please allow 24 business hours for a response. In order for our office to best assist, please provide the name(s) and what type of record you are requesting, motor vehicle, real estate and/or personal property tax. If your vehicle is leased, tax information is only available via email or in person. Please have the VIN number or Connecticut registration number available so we may assist. Tax information may be purchased from the office during normal business hours. The cost is fifty cents per page.

Demand/Intent to Lien Notices were mailed February 28, 2023. To avoid additional interest and fees, payment must be received by the close of business Friday, March 31, 2023. Liens will be placed on delinquent real estate accounts on or about April 3, 2023. UCC-1 liens will be filed with the State of Connecticut on or about April 3, 2023 for delinquent personal property accounts. The State of Connecticut Department of Motor Vehicles has been notified of accounts that are delinquent. Therefore, clearance will be required from the Collector of Revenue office to complete a renewal or new registration of a motor vehicle. Should DMV clearance be needed, all delinquent taxes in your name(s) must be paid with cash, money order or certified bank funds. Payment remitted online or with a check are subject to a ten-day business hold. Commercial sewer use bills will be mailed the last week of March and are due April 1, 2023. The last day to pay without penalty is May 1, 2023.

## Fire Department

Chief Kevin Cooney

The SWHS Hockey Team honored the Fire and Police Departments with a special First Responders night! Special Hockey shirts were designed with SWPD – SWFD and both worn and presented to Fire Chief Kevin Cooney and Police Chief Kristian Lindstrom. A joint FD/PD Honor Guard Presented the Colors before the game/ceremony.



The Fire Department continues to support the SW Police as host to their Car Seat Clinics at Fire Headquarters. Members of the SWPD and other local PD's do an exceptional job with this free program enhancing the safety of our youth.



Your Fire Chief has reengaged in a program that was halted during the COVID pandemic – Coffee with the Chief – A Fire Safety Chat held at the Assisted/Independent Living facilities. This is a great short program that re-enforces these residents of specific fire-related concerns for these facilities focused on 'defend in place' and explaining the building's many fire suppression systems.

The Department responded to a trash truck fire in which residential trash was picked up with unknown materials that caused a fire in the truck. The trash was dumped on the roadway to allow the SWFD to extinguish without damage to the truck. A reminder was sent via social media to remind all residence not to discard flammable or hazardous materials in their trash.

In the first week of February, while the community was dealing with decade record setting freezing temperatures, the SWFD was out responding to dozens of broken pipe and related type calls. The calls were slip between residential and commercial properties.

The Department responded to one residential house fire. The fire itself was minor in nature and confined to a bedroom. However, there was a significant smoke condition throughout the home. Members of the Department performing a search located and removed the family dog!!!





## Fire Department

Chief Kevin Cooney



The Chief, Officers, and a few engaged members are continuing to draft the Department's Strategic Plan for next 3-5 years. A full SWOT analysis has been completed even as the plan is being developed, many areas are being addressed immediately.

With more of the 'behind the scene' efforts, the Chief and Staff Officers drafted the FY 23-24 budget for submission to the Board of Fire Commissioners. The Board worked with the Chief and made adjustments before final approval and submission to the Town Manager.

Efforts are underway to sell the former Heavy Rescue truck. As you know, the Chief and Town Manager drafted a resolution to have the Town Council approve the sale of the truck. Work is in progress.



The Department continues to respond to an average of 1-2 incidents per day – many of which are motor vehicle crashes and alarms. We continue to support our neighbors with mutual aid responses to their communities.

While we had a member retire from service after over 25 years of dedication, we continue to gain new members – even a former member returned!



As a volunteer membership based Department, in addition to all the required efforts as members, we also support non-departmental events. Many members enjoyed attending the marriage of one of our Captains – we wish Jared and Amanda all the best. Additionally, members and their families attended the annual Wolf Pack Game in support of the Scholarship programs in honor of a dear friend to many and former SWPD Sgt. Matthew Mainieri #155.

*Kevin Cooney*  
*Fire Chief*

## Human Services Department

Andrea Cofrancesco  
Director of Human Services

**February 2023**  
**Andrea Cofrancesco, Director of Human Services**

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

### **Saturday Kickoff Open House**

We will open Saturday's starting March 4 from 8:00 AM—12:00 PM. To kick off our new hours we will hold an open house Saturday, March 4! Please join us!

#### **Schedule of Events:**

8:00-12:00: Tours of Our Center  
8:00-12:00: Fitness Center Open  
8-10:00: Meet & Greet Breakfast station (toast, pastries, coffee/tea)  
8-10:00: Pickleball Open Gym\*  
9-10:00: Gentle Yoga\*  
10-12:00: Pickleball Lessons\*  
10-11:30: Samba Lessons (card game)\*  
10-11:00: Chair Volleyball with Town Officials\*  
10-12:00: Fitness Center Open House

\*Sign up Required

### **Overnight Trips Offered by the Center**

People are ready to travel, so we are offering up a variety of options! It's great to be a South Windsor Senior!

### **Washington D.C. Featuring the Cherry Blossom Festival**

Head down to our Nation's Capitol, Washington, D.C. April 14-16, 2023 with Tours of Distinction. You will spend 3 days and 2 nights seeing all D.C. has to offer. You will be staying in the Holiday Inn Capitol, located in the center of the city within walking distance of the Smithsonian Museum and only blocks from the White House, National Mall, and metro. Cost is \$1,090pp double, \$1,430pp single. This includes motor coach transportation, accommodations, tram tour of Arlington National Cemetery, Mount Vernon, Cherry Blossom Parade Grandstand tickets, 5 meals, Guided Illumination Tour, Washington Monuments, baggage handling, tour director and gratuities for the tour director, bus driver and local guide. Travel insurance is included in the price of the trip. \$200 deposit is due at time of registration. For more information or to see a detailed flyer, call 860-648-6399.

### **Canyon Country**

Spend 8 days experiencing America's canyons and venture through a world of colorful vistas and the neon-lit spectacle of Las Vegas with Collette Tours. Your tour will begin in Scottsdale, Arizona where you will travel to the Grand Canyon area of Sedona, Lake Powell, Horseshoe Bend, Bryce Canyon National Park, Zion National Park and Las Vegas. This trip is at a low activity level. You should be able to handle at least one flight of stairs, board a coach and walk for 15-30 minutes at time with little difficulty. Friday, September 8—Friday, September 15, 2023. Cost is: \$3,749.00 pp double. This includes land and air transportation, transportation to and from airport, 10 meals and accommodations. \$1,047 is due upon registration and is fully refundable until March 1, 2023. Final payment is due July 9.

### **Iceland & The Northern Lights**

Travel with Collette Tours to the magical country of Iceland November 2—8, 2023. At a glance you will spend 7 days with 11 included meals, spend time in Reykjavik, Iceland's capital city, go on a Northern Lights Cruise, Search for the Northern Lights, travel to the Golden Circle to experience renowned natural wonders, Thingvellir National



## Human Services Department

Andrea Cofrancesco  
Director of Human Services

Park, Gullfoss, Lava Exhibition Center, Vik, Seljalandsfoss—one of Iceland's most famous and unique waterfalls, Skogar Museum, Skogafoss—another spectacular waterfall, Jokulsarlon Glacial Lagoon, Skaftafell National Park and Vatnajokull Glacier and Blue Lagoon. Cost is \$3,449 pp double, & 3,949 pp single for bookings made before May 3. A deposit of \$1,147 is due at time of registration. Here is a link to view more information and detailed itinerary online or stop in and grab a flyer! <https://gateway.gocollette.com/link/1146747>

### **American Rescue Plan Act Funds**

The Human Services staff is proud to be able to offer assistance to residents who are directly impacted financially by Covid-19. Funds can be used for a variety of needs based on the following criteria:

- ☐ Are you a South Windsor resident?
- ☐ Have you experienced a hardship due to COVID-19?
- ☐ Is your income less than \$54,950 (single) or \$62,800 (couple) (and more for larger families)?
- ☐ Please call Human Services for assistance. 860-648-6361 ext. 3335 (ask to speak to a caseworker)

Residents will be asked to provide proof of their income and assets as well as be able to demonstrate that their specific hardship is a result of loss of income or death due to COVID-19.

These funds are part of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) provided to towns from the Federal Government. Call Adult and Senior Caseworkers at 860-648-6361 ext. 3335.

### **Bereavement Support**

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

Free. American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds are used for this program.

### **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.

### **CARES Program**

#### **Space is Available**

Center	Activity	Recreation	Exercise
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**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 was busy during this short month of February. Our staff were very excited for the new programs that began this month. We welcomed a new intern this month, Gillian, joining us from University of Hartford.

The Teen Center is now offering drop-in hours on the first and third Saturday of the month from 2-5pm for middle school students. We began our Arts & Crafts workshop on the first Tuesday of the month from 5:30-6:30pm where students can join us and complete different projects each month.

Students joined us for our Baking Club on the second Tuesday of the month from 6-7:30pm. We had a blast making apple pie crescent rolls and enjoyed them while they were warm with some ice cream!



The Teen Center continued to work with TEMS for their Matinee program. We collaborated with Synergy in town where students are able to register and participate in exercises, teambuilding, and getting out of their comfort zone.



We held a Valentine's Day Paint Workshop for students who want to channel their inner artist. We began our Support group for students looking to discuss current challenges, gain advice from peers, and find support.

We had our monthly bingo and movie nights, which are always a hit.

We had a valentine's day bake sale where the students made cookies, chocolate covered oreos, pretzels, and strawberries.





## Human Services Department

Andrea Cofrancesco  
Director of Human Services

The Teen Center began our Intergenerational Bridging the Years program where teens are paired with a senior and spent 8 weeks together completing crafts, games, cooking breakfast, painting, getting to know you, and more! We had a busy month and look forward to future programs and events!

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. It is hard to believe but we are already planning for our Rising Stars summer community service program! A full eight weeks of summer programming for teens in town interested in community service.



### **School Outreach & Prevention**

The Students Against Destructive Decisions SADD Club worked on a Super Bowl project to encouraging the community to make safe choices during the Super Bowl weekend. They decorated stickers that were put on pizza boxes at a local restaurant over the course of that weekend. The students often share information with their peers about good decisions making, but they know that it is important to remind adults as well that they

should take safety seriously.



The SADD Club also hosted a guest speaker from the Interval House on Thursday, February 23<sup>rd</sup> at South Windsor High School. This evening presentation was a chance for SADD Club members to get together, learn about this important topic and share a meal. The Interval House is the largest agency in the state of Connecticut dedicated to ending domestic violence. Kay, an outreach worker, spoke with the students about a variety of topics, including teen domestic violence prevention, how to get help for themselves or someone that they care about, and also the characteristics of a healthy relationship. We appreciate the 2 student leaders, Megan and Julia, who worked hard to put this presentation together and organize this important event.

Kathy Reed, Our School Outreach Specialist and Danielle Bifolck, our Teen Center Coordinator are facilitating a Girls Circle Group together at Timothy Edwards Middle School. 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

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

Counselors remain busy with 79 open and active cases of youth seen for mental health counseling. We continue to receive new referrals for counseling this month, 27 this month alone, 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 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*



## 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 February 2023**

**PARKS  
“Caring  
Windsor’s  
Needs”**

**DEPARTMENT  
for South  
Growing**

#### **Park & Recreation Commission (PARC)**

The Commission met on Wednesday, February 8, at 7:30pm. During this meeting we discussed updates on the sub-committee, including dates selected for public input and the timeline for sending out a survey to the community. The next meeting will be at Town Hall on Wednesday, March 8, at 7:30 pm.

#### **South Windsor Walk and Wheel Ways (SWW&WW)**

The committee hosted a successful meeting for abutters to the cross-town trail on February 1, and they continued to make progress this month by sending out and receiving letters of support for the trail. This upcoming month, SWW&WW will submit another grant application for additional money to fund the construction of the trail. For residents interested in attending these meetings, the next meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 1, at 7pm in the Parks and Recreation facility.

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

##### **4th R**

4th “R” had lots of recreation-based fun again this month! Highlights included trying new gym games such as Imposter and Dr. Frisbee, celebrating National Pizza Day by creating our very own pizza masterpieces, fostering friendships through a “sweet connections” game on Valentine’s Day, and attempting to break the 4th “R” records for the tallest tower, fastest cup stacking, and biggest house of cards! We also hosted two vacation day programs during the February vacation!

##### **Preschool**

Preschool Session C is in full swing! We’ve been enjoying learning through play with fun activities such as dot-to-dot color-matching games, exploring Ooblek, and sharing Valentine’s exchanges with our friends!

##### **Youth Wrestling**

Our youth wrestling program hosted a tournament on Sunday, February 5, at the South Windsor High School. There were 360 athletes from 28 different clubs from MA and CT.

##### **Men’s Basketball**

As the season is coming to an end, we are starting playoffs at the end of February with the playoffs concluding for Sunday, March 5, and everyone is very passionate about seeing who the champions will be for their respective divisions. Due to the popularity of the league this season, we are looking to expand into a spring league so that there are more opportunities to stay active.

##### **Jim Snow Youth Basketball**

Playoffs are around the corner, and our participants are getting very excited as they will have the chance to play at the high school. Our intermediate girls will be playing in a jamboree that includes other towns, so they get to see new competition and have a chance to be in the postseason at the high school.

##### **Mighty Mites**

Over the last month, this age group of 5 - 8 years old has shown improvement in their basketball skills and also enjoyed the social component of the program. All the participants have smiles on their faces as they walk in and enjoy coming to every practice. The coaches have done an outstanding job at coaching the youth on the basics of the sport and building the participant’s confidence.

##### **Challenger Basketball**

We held our final practice on Saturday, February 11. Athletes received a medal and a certificate of



participation for their 6-week commitment to the season. Throughout the season, Coach Blackwood focused on providing a safe space for all the athletes to practice at their own pace along with basketball skills like dribbling, passing, and shooting. Our goal is to provide another session of this program next year to accommodate the needs of the community.

### **Monday Night Social Club**

Starting our 2023 season with a little snow, MNSC is now up and moving this year! With a new staff starting in March, the excitement is there for the participants to continue to be involved. We have a steady 18-25 that join us each week with our various themes and activities, and we are excited to bring some additional offerings this upcoming year.

### **Family Sweetheart Dance**

On February 10, we hosted our family sweetheart dance at Wapping. This event was once the Father-Daughter dance, and we have since changed it to a family dance, allowing all family members to get dressed up and enjoy a night out with us! This year we decked the Wapping Recreational Facility out, replacing single-usage balloons with tulle fabric which now can be used several times for various events. We had 144 registered parents and children that attended the evening's festivities! The event included a DJ, dancing in the gym, valentine card making, coloring sheets, and a station of sweet treats in the banquet hall.

## **PARKS DEPARTMENT**

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

With the Recreation division of our department moving to Old Orchard Hill in the spring, our talented Parks Crew continues to update the space cost-effectively to ensure the space is usable for the community.

We have continued to take advantage of the mild winter by spending time making improvements to the trail systems which include cutting back invasive and overgrowth within our trail system and cleaning up fallen deadwood around town.

The warm weather and ground temperature allowed us to spend a few days this month beginning our spring ball field preparation.

The crew Installed a new LED scoreboard on the lighted field at Rye Street park. This sign was purchased by the South Windsor Panthers Youth

Football.

The Board of Education requested some help at the Main Street office with the removal of trees along the parking lot, so Parks and Streets removed several hazardous and dead trees in that space.

We worked with the South Windsor Police Department to assist them in the preparation of a monument bench in memory of Officer, Brain Lovett.

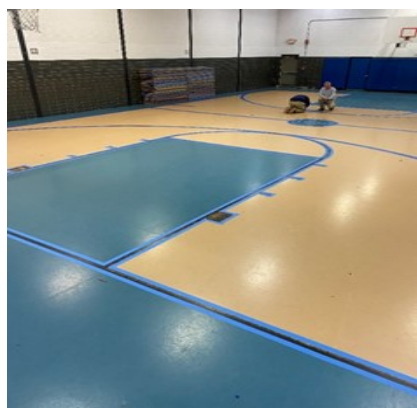
## Parks Photos:



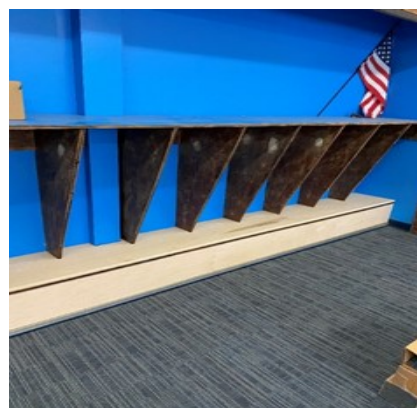
The Parks crew installed a new score board at Rye Street Park for Panthers Football.



Due to the mild winter, we did some preseason work on ballfields at Orchard Hill Baseball field and ADA path work at Ayers Softball field



The crew continues to renovate OOH for recreation. Some work includes repainting the gym lines and building modified cubbies in the preschool.



New Nevers Parks Sign designed, built and installed. Main Street tree work for BOE.



Main Street tree work for BOE.



The Parks Crew continues tree work to remove damaged and decaying trees at Rye Street.



## Recreation Photos:



Staying active at 4<sup>th</sup> "R" with a variety of gym games after school!



All smiles while making fun projects at 4<sup>th</sup> "R".



A lot of smiling faces from our youth wrestling athletes after they hosted a home meet in February!



Our mid-year 4<sup>th</sup> "R" staff training was held in February! Topics included Behavior Management, communication and Energy/Engagement to beat the winter blues.



Our Preschoolers enjoying playing with fun and messy creations!



Challenger basketball finished another fun season on February 11.



Our MNSC participants making Valentine's Day cards!



Our families enjoyed dancing the night away at our family sweetheart dance held at Wapping Parks and Recreation facility on February 10.

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

### **Meetings**

#### **Monday, March 6, 2023**

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

*Council Chambers*

#### **Monday, March 20, 2023**

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

*Council Chambers*

#### **Wednesday, March 22, 2023**

**7:00 pm Town Council/Board of Education Joint Work Session**

*Council Chambers*

### **Holidays**

#### **Monday, March 17, 2023**

**St. Patrick's Day**

### **Other Important Dates**

#### **Monday, March 12, 2023**

**Daylight Savings Time begins!**

#### **Monday, March 20, 2023**

**First Day of Spring**

*Layout by Katherine Senerth, Executive Assistant*

