

Town of South Windsor

Town Manager's Report April 2023



Michael Maniscalco
Town Manager

Reorganization: Accompanying my report is the reorganization of the Town Departments. The reorganization will allow for efficient and effective operations of the Town while taking a particular development friendly approach by grouping all of the Departments that work with businesses as they develop. Moreover, it is important for people to remember that departments and Staff work across the organization often taking a holistic and team approach to solving problems.

Continental Global Ventures Tax Abatement Application: The Town has received an application for a tax abatement associated with the housing development at Evergreen Walk. If you remember this development made it through Planning and Zoning with approximately 164 units. The application will be reviewed internally by staff and then sent to EDC for a recommendation. After the EDC recommendation it will come to the Council for the final approval.

1021 Main Street: I have had the opportunity to meet with an investor that would like to purchase this home and possibly restore it. The home is from 1694 and is in significant disrepair. The Town has a blight lien on the property in over the amount of \$280,000. This lien is holding back the investor from moving forward. At this time, Town Staff and I are working on an agreement to bring to the Council that would waive the lien in exchange for some clear benchmarks for the cleanup and restoration of the property.

Michael Maniscalco, MPA
Town Manager



Police Department

Kristian R. Lindstrom
Chief of Police

Monthly Statistics February 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.

February's numbers are below:

Total Computer Aided Dispatch Entries:	2109
Routine Calls Received/Outgoing:	3016
Directed Patrol/Premise Checks:	708
Motor Vehicle Stops:	333
Driving Under the Influence	6
Emotionally Disturbed Persons:	14
Medical Assists:	173
Suspicious:	74
Alarms:	80
Motor Vehicle Accidents:	38
Welfare Check:	37
Assist Outside Agency:	2
Animal Problem:	32
Citizen Assist:	19
Miscellaneous Service:	13
Collision Reports:	20
BOLO:	14
Disabled Motor Vehicle:	18
Larceny - Motor Vehicle	1
Larceny:	21
Hazardous Conditions:	12
Pistol Permits:	19
Burglary	6
Burglary - Motor Vehicle	0
Civil Matter:	6
911 Check:	13
Fraud:	18
Domestic Dispute:	10
Violation of Town Ordinance:	2
Sexual Assault	0
Arrests	30
Youth Problem:	11

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



Police Department

Kristian R. Lindstrom
Chief of Police

other agencies to hire the best of the low number of candidates who appear interested in law enforcement. Continuing from last month, we remain actively interviewing and vetting applicants who are in varying points within the hiring process.

Early in the month of March, employment was offered to Ofc. Tom LeVar Gary. Ofc. Gary will begin his career with the South Windsor Police Department on Monday March 27th. After completing a couple weeks of onboarding training, he will begin his basic training at the police academy in Meriden. The hiring of Ofc. Gary leaves us with two vacancies within our agency.

Officer Andre Rogers continues to attend the Connecticut Police Academy and is set to graduate in early April.

Officer Victoria Weiss recently completed her field training and, after almost a year of training (academy and FTO) she is functioning independently as a patrol officer assigned to the Evening Shift.

Nicholas Sarfo is progressing nicely through his field training and is expected to complete this final phase of his training in the coming weeks.

When the above additions and departures are calculated, we are working to fill two 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, his recruiting efforts are ongoing and 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.

Month End Sworn Personnel Summary:

With an authorized strength of 46 sworn members, we currently have 1 in the academy (Rogers), 1 onboarding (Gary), 1 out on medical leave (work related), 1 in field training, 1 officer working light duty (pregnancy), 2 officers out on family leave with new babies at home, and 2 vacancies within our sworn ranks. Of an

authorized 46, by month's end we will employ 44, with only 37 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 continues his hard 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.

Department personnel continue to try to engage the Community whenever they can particularly as we transition to warmer spring weather. Planning has already begun for several community based events that are expected in the coming months and all of those events offer opportunities for our staff to meet the people they serve.

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



Police Department

Kristian R. Lindstrom
Chief of Police

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.

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.

Early in March a new radio tower at VMP was put into service. This new tower being in operation created an immediate improvement in our routine and emergency communications in the southwestern area of town.

The men and women continue to investigate and enforce drunken and drugged driving incidents. Despite the prevalence of ride share services such as Uber and Lyft, we still see an alarming number of drunk driving incidents. Early in the month of March, patrol officers arrested an individual at 7:30 in the morning whose breath sample indicated that they were approximately two and one half times above the legal limit.

On March 7, 2023, SWPD personnel delivered over 600lbs of unused medication, narcotics and other evidence to be destroyed by our contracted

vendor.

March 9th saw a disruption to traffic on Sullivan Avenue during one of the busiest times of day. After a contractor's error, a utility pole was damaged and created a significant hazard to anyone passing by on the road, so officers were left with no choice but to close that area of the roadway until the situation could be rectified by the utility companies involved.

Another significant traffic disruption occurred when a section of southbound Rt 5 had to be closed during the morning rush hour due to a rollover motor vehicle accident. As expected, police, fire, and ambulance crews all responded to the area and worked seamlessly to minimize the disruption to the morning commute.

Police Department animal control staff continue to find homes for animals at TRACS who are looking for loving homes. Residents can follow the TRACS facebook page, the department website, or contact animal control for additional information.

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.



Police Department

Kristian R. Lindstrom
Chief of Police

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 March 2023

Public Works and Parks crews responded to 3 winter storms during the month. These were typical pesky spring storms; long duration with heavy wet snow. At this point, we are hoping winter is behind us. But April can be a cruel month when it comes to snowy weather.

Streets crews continue to address curb and lawn damaged from winter operations. Once again, getting ahead of things normally started in late April.

Four of our maintainers attended a comprehensive underground safety conference. This program talked to the dangers of working below grade, how cave-ins/collapses can occur, how to work safely in trenches using trench boxes and proper procedures as well as a presentation by someone trapped, near death, in a trench. All these maintainers shared lessons learned with all staff the following day.

Street Services, Parks, Fleet and WPCA participated in a noise level monitoring survey conducted by our hearing loss prevention service Industrial Hearing Testing. The survey consisted of ten volunteers wearing personal dosimeters and also targeted the testing of equipment and work areas we use daily. The data helps to understand our daily noise exposure and the need for hearing protection and prevention. All this in conjunction with our annual hearing testing program, also an OSHA requirement.

Crews are conducting various roadside surveys, including guiderail conditions, roadside trimming/mowing opportunities, and general roadside maintenance issues. We are always looking for things to improve the safety and general appearance of our roadsides.

Work on the refreshing of the bio filter at WPCA has been completed.

Drainage projects continued throughout the month. Several catch basins were repaired and a number of damaged catch basin tops were replaced.

The sign shop replaced or repaired 49 signs during the month. The sign shop also supported the PD, Recreation and the Fire Marshal with signage and nameplates.

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

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

Scott Yeomans
Associate Manager, Street Services

Engineering Department

Beelzebub Road Reconstruction

Spazzarini Construction began reconstruction of the western half of Beelzebub Road this week. They will install new storm drainage pipes and structures, excavate the old road pavement and base and install new stone base and 2 layers of Hot Mix Asphalt pavement, bituminous curbs and some concrete sidewalks on this part of the road. 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 easements needed from DEEP and a few other residents.

Pleasant Valley Road Reconstruction

WMC Consulting Engineers is finalizing design plans for the 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. We have met with the public and utilities and are working on addressing comments received on the preliminary plans. The IWA/CC approved a permit to work on the cross culverts.

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

Public Works Department

Vincent Stetson
Director of Public Works

replacement with the shortest construction schedule and the lowest cost. A public information meeting was held and this project has been approved by the local, state and federal permitting agencies. We are working with utility companies to finalize utility relocation plans, and are seeking easements needed for this project.

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 to Spazzarini Construction. Bids for drainage repairs were opened on February 23 and this contract has been awarded to VMS Construction. Bids for milling and paving two parking lots were opened this week and are being reviewed. The subsurface road condition investigations have been done for this years and next years roads. We are having a CCTV inspection done of the underground drainage pipes on those roads. We are finalizing the plans and bid specifications for milling and paving local roads using the subsurface and pipe inspection 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. An Archaeological Assessment and Survey needs to be done in the areas where these sidewalks are proposed. We will be contacting residents about easements needed for this project and addressing comments on the plans.

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.

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 and we are waiting for CT DOT final review and approval. Additional funding may be needed to complete this project.

Kennedy Road Reconstruction

The Town received notification that it has been selected for a CT STEAP grant in the amount of \$478,100 to fund the reconstruction of Kennedy Road. This will support the existing and future businesses that are on this road. We are waiting for the authorization from CTDOT to proceed with finalizing this design.

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 have been submitted to CRCOG 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. CRCOG received applications from 22 towns in the region for much more funding than is expected to be available, and is reviewing those applications.

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.

Jeffrey Doolittle
Asst. Director of Public Works/Town Engineer

Public Works Department

Vincent Stetson
Director of Public Works

Facilities Maintenance 2023

Recreation/Building Maintenance Move into Old Orchard Hill School

Over the last several months we've been working diligently to complete repairs and modifications to the building in preparation of the Building Maintenance and Recreation Department moves. I am currently working with the IT Department to prepare for the move of the Recreation Administrative Staff into the building in late April. Much of the IT networks have been installed and tested. The Building Maintenance Department is now fully moved into and working out of the building. We are still working on converting the building automation system, card access system for a couple of doors and fire alarm systems over to the Town. There are still a few other projects that need to be completed. Window A/C units need to be purchased and windows modified to accept the units and the concrete slab at the front entrance needs to be raised to meet ADA requirements. The lighting in the building is dated and a lot of lamps are either out or will be soon be out. Earlier this month I met with the Eversources' approved electrical contractor to conduct an audit of all the buildings' lighting. The contractor will be providing a proposal to update the lighting to LED in the next few weeks. In the meantime the Building Maintenance Department will replace the lamps that are currently out. The phones are scheduled to be cut over during the week of April 23rd.

Wood Memorial Library HVAC Upgrades

During the last council meeting a resolution was passed to allocate an additional \$75k to the Wood Memorial Library HVAC project. The design team from Silver Petrucelli & Associates is now working providing a proposal for the minor changes to the plan and specification needed to solicit proposals for a full HVAC system for the building. We intend to get this project out to bid as soon as the revised drawings and bid specification are completed.

ADA Self Evaluation and Transition Plan

The plan for town buildings has been completed for a few months now. With limited funding

remaining I've been able to complete a few small projects. The first is the new accessible sidewalk in the upper lot of the Town Hall which was completed last fall just prior to the paving project. The ADA considers access to and from public buildings priority #1. The other project I am currently working on is a minor renovation to the TRACS front entrance door. The door is currently recessed into the entrance and is not accessible as it sits today. The door needed to be replaced as it was in a tough shape to begin with so the easy decision was made to complete this project now and not duplicate our efforts down the road. The concrete step at the front entrance will be replaced by a concrete accessible ramp. This project should be completed this summer sometime.

T-Mobile Cell Service

To date I've cut over about 50 iPads and cell phones to T-Mobile. I have about 8 more to go to complete this project.

PD Locker Room Renovations

The project is nearing substantial completion which means primarily that the project is 95% complete. It also means that workmanship, equipment and materials warranties start. The Town receives a one year warranty on these items. A couple of major items are still outstanding. First, repainting of the Men's Locker Room Locker doors and second the automation tie in from the new HVAC equipment to our system. The painting contractor didn't prep the inside of the doors properly before painting, therefore they need to be repainted. We are hoping that the lockers will be repainted and cured within the next seven days or so. Once cured, the paint will be tested for adhesion to the lockers. If that passes the men can move into the Locker Room. Without the automation points and graphics being on our system I have no control of how the system operates. Right now the systems are running on a default program that cannot be changed until the system is integrated with ours. I expect that the integration will happen next week sometime.

Public Works Department

Vincent Stetson
Director of Public Works

ARPA Projects- Library/Town Hall/Community Center Paver Replacement Project

Plans and specification for these projects are now complete. I will have this project out to bid early next week. The Town Hall project consists of removing the pavers between the Library and Town Hall and replacing them with tri colored brick pavers laid down in a herringbone pattern with a two brick perpendicular border. The Town Hall/Library has three alternates. The base project includes the area between the Library and Town Hall. Alternate # 1 includes the bituminous sidewalk just outside the side door of Town Hall. The 2nd alternate includes removing the concrete and stamped concrete on the "patio" at the front entrance of Town Hall and the 3rd alternate is the area of pavers under the canopy at the front entrance of the Library. The Community Center is looking to install a 20' x 60' paver patio on the north side of the building for outdoor activities this includes a 50' x 5' sidewalk that will be used to transition from the existing patio to the new one. One alternate for this project will reduce the width by 5'. I'm hoping that these projects will start sometime late spring early summer.

VMP Epoxy Flooring Repairs- Main Shower Building

I've been working with a local contractor for more than a year to repair the concrete floors in the bathrooms of the Filter Building at VMP. Last year a new coating system was installed but it didn't last. They are now trying a modified system of the original. If the outdoor temperatures continue to rise they should get to this work in the next two weeks. If the system holds up over time, I'll consider doing the same process on the main shower building floors.

Generator Installations Housing Authority

Over the last few months the Fire Marshal and I have been working on a project to design and install generators at the Towns two Housing Authorities. We have reached out to our State Representatives to see if there might be grant funding available for these two projects. At this time we are waiting to hear back from the representatives. With the limited funding we had

available we were able to have designs and specification made up for this project.

Back Up Dispatch Office at the Edward F. Havens SR. Annex

The Fire Marshal and I are also working on renovating the Dispatch Office at the Annex and outfitting it with equipment that mirrors what the dispatcher at the PD are currently using. A purchase order has been cut for the equipment but like everything else today there is a moderate lead time for equipment arrival. My staff will be removing the existing furniture from the room and repainting where necessary.

ARPA Project- Fire House/Town Hall HVAC Engineering

Bids have been received, contractors vetted and a contracts signed for both projects. The Town Hall project consists of installing a new main air handling system, and new Variable air Volume (VAV) units, new thermostats, new motor drives and dampers. The contractor is trying to find another source for the air handling unit as it has a very long lead time (40 weeks). The contractor will be submitting equipment submittals on other HVAC equipment in the meantime. Submittals to the engineer will be approved before any work can begin. The fire house project will see a new automation system, a new air handling unit and new VAV's with thermostats. At this time there is no tentative start or end date for these projects.

ARPA Project-Town Hall Windows/Renovations 1st Floor

We received one bid for the renovations and window replacements. We've accepted the bid, signed a contract and received bonds and insurance. The local contractor doing the renovations has done work for us in the past and they are known for doing very good work. They have been onsite many times to verify conditions and to make some last minute suggestions. The window/door and blinds contractors have also been onsite to field verify measurements for the window and door replacements. The contract calls for the renovations to be completed before June 1st. At this point the contractor believes he can make that deadline. In the meantime, I've

Public Works Department

Vincent Stetson
Director of Public Works

been working with the IT Department to make sure that when we shuffle the Tax, Assessors and Clerks office staff to their temporary locations during the renovations and that they have their computers, printers and peripherals set up and ready to go when needed. I do not have a starting date as yet but the contractor will be giving us two weeks' notice prior to starting so we can make any last minute adjustments before construction starts. Signage on the outside and inside of the building will be in place to direct the public to the temporary office locations. The windows should be completed about 100 days after the renovations are complete. The Balcony and employee entrance doors are also being replaced. These will be done when the windows are being replaced.

Duct Cleaning Police Department

I received proposals from two Duct Cleaning companies to clean all of the ducts, vents and grills at the Police Department. This work will start next fiscal year. All buildings are on a 7 year rotating schedule as recommended by ASHRAE.

Community Center Electronic Message Board

I'm working with the Streets Division on the install of the electronic message board for the Community Center. I've solicited proposal for the electrical work and provided them to the Streets Superintendent. The work is expected to start in the next week or so. .

Town Hall and Community Center LED Lighting Upgrades.

The Community Center project was completed over the last month. All interior and exterior lighting was replaced. The Town Hall project is on hold until parts arrive.

Card Access/Rekey Interior Doors PD

As I have for a few other buildings recently, I will be rekeying the interior doors at the PD. Lt. Chris Duchesne and I will be meeting with the locksmith on April 4th to review the needs and get a proposal for the work. I am also working on replacing one steel exterior door on the north side of the building.

Exterior Steel Door replacements East and West Bays Town Garage.

Two steel exit doors at the Town Garage need to be replaced. Until recently the doors were rarely used but with the garage space getting tighter and tighter the doors are now being used as a safer exit from the bays. Doors have been ordered and should arrive in the next couple of weeks. Card Access components will be installed as well as new hardware.

Clay Major
Director of Facilities

Finance Department

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

Assessor's Report

Board of Assessment Appeals hearings on the 2022 Grand List were conducted and finalized in March 2023. There were a total of 114 appeals, 65 residential properties, 42 commercial properties, 6 personal property, and one supplemental motor vehicle appeal. All appellants will be notified of the Board's decisions via USPS mail prior to March 31, 2023.

The Elderly/ Totally Disabled Homeowner's Program for income qualified residents started on February 1 continuing through May 15, 2023. A reminder letter to file was mailed to all residents currently on the Homeowner's Program in the beginning of February 2023. Please note the qualifying income limits have been updated on our website here: <https://www.southwindsor-ct.gov/assessor/pages/elderly-homeowners-totally-disabled-persons-renters-tax-relief-programs>

Applications are being taken at Human Services/ Senior Center located at 150 Nevers Road. In order to file, an appointment must be set with Human Services, please call: 860-644-6369 to schedule.

The State's Renters Rebate application period began April 1, 2023. Applications for income qualified individuals are also taken at Human Services at 150 Nevers Road.

A reminder for residents who have sold or otherwise disposed of a vehicle – if the plates were not transferred onto another vehicle please send the Assessor's Office a copy of the DMV Plate Cancellation Receipt along with one of the following: Bill of Sale, Junked Receipt, Trade-In Information, Out of State Registration, or a Total Loss Letter, in order to receive a refund or pro-ration to take effect. These forms of proof can be emailed to: assessor@southwindsor-ct.gov or submitted through our online webform here: <https://www.southwindsor-ct.gov/assessor/webforms/motor-vehicle-bill-adjustment>

Human Services Department

Andrea Cofrancesco
Director of Human Services

March 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 South 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!!! NEW DATE

We are open Saturday's **from 8:00 AM—12:00 PM.** To kick off our new hours we will hold an open house **Saturday, April 1st.**

Schedule of Events:

8:00-12:00: Tours of Our Center
8:00-12:00: Fitness Center Open Hours
8-10:00: Meet & Greet Breakfast station
8-10:00: Pickleball Open Gym*
9-10:00: Gentle Yoga*
10-12:00: Pickleball Lessons*
10-11:30: Setback lessons (card game)*
10-11:00: Chair Volleyball with Town Officials*
10-12:00: Fitness Center Open House
*Sign up Required

Avery Street Church Food

We have brought all food stored at Avery Street Church from holiday drives over. The Parks Crew is always so helpful!



Hartford Federal Credit Union Donates

"Hartford Federal Credit Union Gives 2023" campaign resulted in the South Windsor Food and Fuel Bank receiving \$10,000! Ed Danek, President & CEO of Hartford Federal Credit Union (center) and Lt. Governor Susan Bysiewicz (right) are pictured holding check with Lindsey Ravalese, Assistant Director of Adult and Senior Services.



Hams for Easter

Using donated funds for the Food Bank, we will be providing 50 families with hams for Easter again this year.

Dairy

With the increased SNAP benefits people received due to Covid-19 ending, we have re-started giving out dairy products including milk, eggs, cheese, yogurt and butter. We are able to do this thanks to the generosity of donations received from the community.

Senior Center Receives Grant For LGBTQ Moveable Senior Center

The CT Healthy Living Collective's LGBTQ+

Human Services Department

Andrea Cofrancesco
Director of Human Services

Moveable Senior Center initiative provides Senior Center personnel with LGBTQ+ inclusivity training, peer collaboration, and programming support to foster an LGBTQ+ inclusive Senior Center environment and improve access, engagement, and connection of LGBTQ+ community members to Senior Center resources. Participating Senior Centers will be designated as a CT LGBTQ+ Moveable Senior Center of the CT Healthy Living Collective and eligible to seek the SAGECare Credentialing.

Community Service Group Makes Blankets

The Community Service Group is once again making blankets to benefit a variety of groups. In the past, donations of blankets have gone to DCF, The Linus Project and Bridgeport Hospital Burn Unit. Pictured are just a few of our dedicated volunteers.



Caregiver Support Group

Please join us as we discuss Veteran's benefits with our local VA contact, Ken Lewis. Ken will be answering questions and providing resources on **Friday, April 14 at 10:00 AM** in the Teen Center Lounge. If you are interested in joining us or would like to be added to our email distribution list, please contact Sue at 860-648-6359 or via email at susan.grundstrom@southwindsor.org. Hope to see you there!

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.

Human Services Department

Andrea Cofrancesco
Director of Human Services

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.



Teen Center

The Teen Center spent March preparing for the Spring and Summer months ahead but were also excited for new programs introduced this month.

The Teen Center is open for high school students on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday from 2-4:30pm, and offer middle school drop-in hours on Tuesday from 3-5:30pm and Friday from 6-9pm. We also have added additional hours for middle school on the first and third Saturday of the month from 2-5pm.



Students had the opportunity to participate in our Arts & Crafts workshop on the first Tuesday of the month from 5:30-6:30pm.

This month our participants decorated their own mini bird houses!

On the second Tuesday of the month our participants joined our Baking Club from 6-7:30pm.

Our BINGO on the first Friday always gets competitive and the middle school students take it very seriously!

The Teen Center's intergenerational program "Bridging the Years" with the senior center has been a success and ended in March. The teens and seniors spent time getting to know each other, playing games, painting, had a few rounds of chair volleyball of course, and more! Our participants made amazing connections and have learned a lot about one another. We hope to continue this program in the future, as it was so heartwarming to be a part of!

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Human Services Department

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The Teen Center hosted a BINGO Fundraiser for World Down Syndrome Day along with the Monday Night Social Club. Proceeds were donated to the Down Syndrome Association of Connecticut. The event was a success! Our guests enjoyed pizza, candy, and prizes!

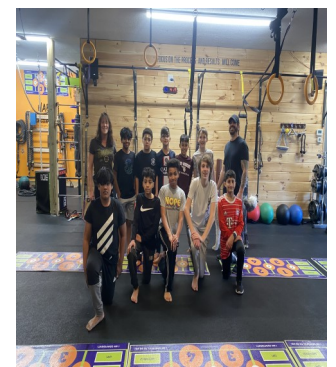


We began a "Train Your Brain" activity where students had the opportunity to challenge themselves with brainteasers, wordles, puzzles, and more!

We ended our TEMS Matinee program with Synergy on Sullivan Ave. that was a 6-week long program on Mondays. This collaboration was a huge hit! Students participated in exercises and

teambuilding to increase their self-esteem and confidence, and learned ways to get moving!

Rising Stars registration began and within a few days our sessions are almost filled! We have great things in store and can't wait for this summer. We look forward to the upcoming months!



School Outreach & Prevention

Youth and Family Services, along with the SADD Club at S.W. High School, organized a "Relieve The Stress Fest". This fabulous event finally made a comeback and it was welcomed by students and staff alike. The event was held to promote the many healthy ways to relieve stress that everyone feels at some point of another. Many student clubs participated, which helped connect a wide variety of students to the event. Students were able to decorate journals, make slime and stress balls, color, play bocce and corn hole, try relaxation using healing sounds, have an icy treat, meet some pet therapy dogs and take time to relax with friends. About 180 people participated in this fun event!



Human Services Department

Andrea Cofrancesco
Director of Human Services

Services are confidential. It's okay to not be okay.

Youth Counseling, Parent Education and Support

Counselors remain busy with **85** open and active cases of youth seen for mental health counseling. We continue to receive new referrals for counseling this month, 19 new referrals this month alone, coming from South Windsor schools, police and parents/guardians. The referrals for services do not seem to be slowing down. We currently have 8 on our waitlist. Our two part time counselors are filled 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 March 2023

Park & Recreation Commission (PARC): The Park and Recreation Commission will be meeting on Wednesday, April 12 at 7:30 pm in the Town Council Chambers.

South Windsor Walk and Wheel Ways (SWW&WW): Walk and Wheel ways is preparing for a spring and summer full of programs and events including Moonlight walks, Earth day clean up, Learn to Ride, and the 4th Grade Bicycle Safety program. They will be meeting on Wednesday, April 1, at 7 pm in the Park and Recreation Facility.

RECREATION DIVISION *“Feel great – recreate!”*

4th R: 4th “R” had plenty of recreation-based fun again this month! We wrapped up February with a snow day, and the return of the 4th “R” snow day program, which had been on hiatus since 2020! We had 33 4th “R” participants take advantage of this full-day program held at the Wapping Parks and Recreation Facility. The day included fun activities such as making marshmallow snowflakes, salt painting, playing nuke’em and medic dodgeball, and playing outside in the snow! March included games such as Human Guess Who and Defend Your Castle, and activities such as fluffy painting, cereal box creations, and dual-perspective pictures. This month included many St. Patrick’s Day green-themed crafts and games! This month we served 205 youth in our schools.

Preschool: Our preschool participants had lots of fun learning through play this month! Activity highlights included mess-free feet painting, going on a treasure hunt for gold coins, creating an obstacle course in the gym, painting ice, rolling hula-hoops, and playing shape and color-matching

games! This session, we are serving 175 youth.

Men’s Basketball: Our season concluded mid-March. The teams were very happy with the playoffs and how the championship games went! They also loved the trophies that were given. A lot of them are already asking when is the next season going to start or if we can offer a summer league, so we are looking into offering additional opportunities. This program contained ten teams with a total of 80 players. The league brings adults together to play a sport they love at a competitive level.

Youth Basketball: Playoffs were electric! All the kids loved being able to play in the playoffs for a chance to win the championship and enjoyed the opportunity to play at the high school. This season the girls did a jamboree at TEMS with the towns of Somers and Ellington as our numbers were lower for participation, but they enjoyed the opportunity to play! This season our league served 450 youth. We want to say thank you to all of our volunteer coaches for their dedication this season as they provided the opportunity for our youth to learn the sport of basketball.

Mighty Mites: Our program served 150 youth between the ages of 5-8, and it allowed them to learn the sport of basketball while doing small drills and games that are high energy and lots of fun!

Open Gym: We offer free open gym opportunities for our residents to play Pickleball, Volleyball, and Throwball at a level that is competitive and fun while getting residents to stay active during the winter months.

Monday Night Social Club: Monday Night Social Club and the SW Youth and Family Services’ Teen Center hosted a special fundraiser BINGO event for the Down Syndrome Association of Connecticut on 3/20/2023 in honor of World Down Syndrome day on March 21, 2023. We had 35

participants and raised \$81 for DSACT to use toward their future outreach programs.

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

Projects:

The Crew continues to work on the Old Orchard Hill site to ensure that the Parks and Recreation department shines when we open our doors. They have been doing a lot of cleaning and painting inside and removing and replacing rotten Texture walls on the old portables.

The Splash Pad passed both Planning & Zoning & the WPCA this month. We are working with the contractor to move forward and we are hoping to break ground by the first week of April.

As spring sports swing into full speed, we have begun the tedious job of marking out and line painting the athletic fields at Rye Street Park and Nevers. We have also begun prepping the baseball and softball fields so they can begin games in April.

The crew repurposed some benches that were donated by Evergreen Walk and we plan to utilize them around Town.

We removed multiple trees and stumps from Rye St Park and will be planting Eastern Redbud trees in the park this spring.

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Parks Photos:



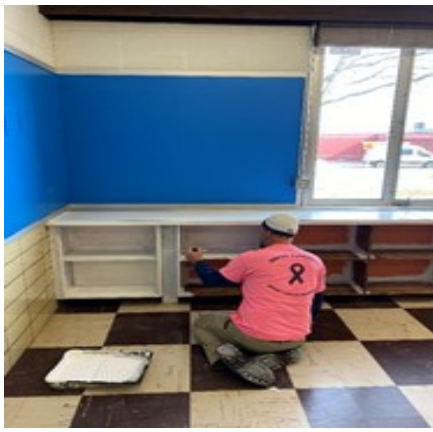
Parks Crew removed old rotten T-111 walls from the Old Orchard Hill School portables and replaced it



Renovation at the Rotary Baseball Field.



Splash Pad get its final approval for Nevers Park! Donated benches get refurbished for Park & Buildings.



Crew continues improvements at Old Orchard Hill by priming and painting walls, ceilings and cubbies.

Recreation Photos:



4th R friends enjoyed a variety of activities this month!



April 2023 Town Council Meetings and Events

Meetings

Monday, April 3, 2023

7:00 pm Town Council Regular Meeting
Council Chambers

Thursday, April 13, 2023

7:0 pm Special Budget Work Session
Council Chambers

Monday, April 17, 2023

7:00 pm Town Council Regular Meeting
Council Chambers

Thursday, April 18, 2023

7:0 pm Special Budget Work Session
Council Chambers

Holidays

Friday, April 7 2023

Good Friday
Town Offices Closed

Sunday, April 9, 2023

Easter

Other Important Dates:

Saturday, April 22, 2023

Earth Day

Layout by Katherine Senerth, Executive Assistant

