

Town of South Windsor

Town Manager's Report May 2023

*Michael Maniscalco
Town Manager*



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

*Michael Maniscalco, MPA
Town Manager*



Police Department

Kristian R. Lindstrom
Chief of Police

Monthly Statistics March 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.

March's numbers are below:

Total Computer Aided Dispatch Entries:	2231
Routine Calls Received/Outgoing:	3472
Directed Patrol/Premise Checks:	735
Motor Vehicle Stops:	313
Driving Under the Influence	4
Emotionally Disturbed Persons:	16
Medical Assists:	213
Suspicious:	63
Alarms:	63
Motor Vehicle Accidents:	26
Welfare Check:	42
Assist Outside Agency:	39
Animal Problem:	23
Citizen Assist:	33
Miscellaneous Service:	22
Collision Reports:	15
BOLO:	14
Disabled Motor Vehicle:	23
Larceny - Motor Vehicle	0
Larceny:	13
Hazardous Conditions:	8
Pistol Permits:	18
Burglary	2
Burglary - Motor Vehicle	0
Civil Matter:	14
911 Check:	4
Fraud:	18
Domestic Dispute:	17
Violation of Town Ordinance:	2
Sexual Assault	1
Arrests	38
Youth Problem:	17

Covid 19 Update (cont. from last month)

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.

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.

Effective and intentional recruiting remain a top priority. It appears as though the South Windsor Police Department is ahead of the recruiting and hiring curve when compared to other agencies within the capitol region. That being said, there is still a lot of work to be done and Sgt. Mark Cleverdon continues to work tirelessly to fill our ranks with the right people who will serve the community with distinction. 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 April, officer Andre Rogers graduated from the Connecticut Police Academy



Police Department

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Chief of Police

and began his 14 week field training program. As he was leaving the academy, Ofc. Gary started his academy training. The hiring of Ofc. Gary leaves us with two vacancies within our agency.

Unfortunately, during the month of April, the police department had one officer leave the agency via resignation.

At the moment, we have two promising background investigations underway for new police officers.

When the above additions and departures are calculated, we are working to fill three vacancies at the moment. We continually seek 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. One example of this innovative thinking is the development of a college internship program. After months of creating a policy and curriculum, we accepted applications and chose three current college students as our first interns. Two of them will intern this spring/summer, and one will intern during the fall semester. These individuals will spend time in our agency observing its different units and divisions in action as they continue to explore law enforcement as a potential career.

Month End Sworn Personnel Summary

With an authorized strength of 46 sworn members, by month's end we will employ 43 with only 36 being fully operational sworn FTE's. We currently have 1 in the academy (Gary), 1 out on medical leave (work related), 1 in field training, 1 officer working light duty (pregnancy), 3 officers out on family leave, and 3 vacancies within our sworn ranks.

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.

It was no joke when, on April Fool's Day, Sgt. Littell was present at the South Windsor Fishing Derby. Although the weather wasn't ideal, this event is a sure sign that spring is coming and Sgt. Littell had a great time supporting some of the Town's youngest anglers. His presence at this event and at various other events and locations around town are just a few of his most recent contributions as our new 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.

Annually, the month of April plays host to National Telecommunicator Week. This year, this week fell from April 9-15. The South Windsor Police Communications (Dispatch) Center is the only room in this municipality that is never empty. No matter the time of day, day of the week, the weather, or emergency, there is always a certified dispatcher in our Communications center who is ready to answer the phone to be the first link in a chain of assistance that our personnel provide to the community. From true life and death decisions, to simply giving directions, our dispatchers do it all and they do it with compassion and professionalism.



Police Department

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Chief of Police

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.

During the evening on April 18th, Chief Lindstrom attended a panel discussion at the University of Saint Joseph in West Hartford. The Chief was invited to this event by a community member and USJ alumnus to learn more about best practices for police departments working with embedded social workers. This presentation was informative and brought to light several issues that can be considered moving forward as the Chief and the police department's Command Staff continue to explore this emerging dimension of modern law enforcement. The South Windsor and Vernon police departments currently share an embedded social worker who is employed by our community mental health liaison Community Health Resources.

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.

This month the Traffic Unit responded to complaints of excessive speed on Sunset Terrace particularly during the school commute. After a brief period of gathering traffic data to identify the scope of the problem, we worked with the high school staff to educate the community's young

drivers about the complaint. After that, our traffic officers conducted traditional high visibility enforcement in the problem area in an effort to reduce the speed of traffic during the problem time(s) and increase the safety of the roadways and neighborhoods in question.

This month our Traffic Unit personnel, along with some patrol personnel, provided assistance to the Vernon Police Department who were investigating a fatal motor vehicle accident that involved a Vernon police cruiser.

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.

On April 9, an elderly woman went missing when she walked out of Church. The woman, who reportedly has dementia, was last scene in the area of Town Center. This investigation became the focus of the agency and several additional resources such as drones and a canine were deployed. More than three hours after she went missing, and after the police had already checked her residence in Hartford without any success, a subsequent check at her home brought good news as she was found there safe and sound.

Unlocked Car Burglaries & Car Thefts

On April 7, there was a rash of stolen cars around the State and South Windsor was no exception. These thefts were particularly brazen as the thieves in this particular spree stole cars from residential driveways and inside of garages during the middle of the day.

On approximately April 10, in addition to the



Police Department

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above thefts, we also saw multiple car burglaries. These burglaries were committed by breaking front door windows to access the interior of the vehicle, presumably to take items of value that were left in sight.

We hope that this series of events is not a harbinger of activity and trends that we will see continue into the summer. Residents are reminded not secure their valuables out of sight in their vehicles and do not leave your keys and key fobs in your vehicles in an unsecure garage.

On April 12, police personnel met with other agencies in the region to discuss the trend of "pop-up" car shows that occurred last summer and seems to be back on track for this summer. These gatherings often bring with them unwanted trespassing congestion in area parking lots. The cars themselves typically aren't engaged in serious misconduct, however some isolated incidents have included occurrences of violence (fights, etc). To date the most effective means to handle these gatherings deterring and displacing them with high visibility patrols. We will continue to monitor these events and work with our regional partners to keep the community and roadways safe.

During the late afternoon of April 12, police responded to a man with a gun call on Fitch Meadow Lane. The complainant reported that a resident at that address threatened others and himself with a firearm. Police responded and established a perimeter after ensuring the home had been evacuated. A short while later the male in question complied with police requests to exit the home. As he did so, he put down the gun that he had in his possession and he was taken into custody. The firearm in question was seized and was found to be a pellet gun with the orange safety tip having been removed. This case illustrates the patience, calm, and sound tactics that South Windsor officers regularly employ as they brought this case to a close without having to use physical force.

On April 18, police personnel assisted staff at South Windsor High School with a bomb threat

investigation. That morning, staff received a voicemail message indicating that a bomb was in the school. In consideration of additional details contained within the message, the school was evacuated and a criminal investigation commenced. Out of an abundance of caution, Dr. Carter sent the students home for the day at approximately 10am. A State Police explosives detection canine assisted South Windsor police personnel in searching and rendering the school safe. By day's end, SWPD investigators had developed a solid lead in the criminal investigation and are working towards arresting the suspect.

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 April 2023

With the arrival of spring, comes the change in operations. Our crews have been busy breaking down winter snow fighting equipment, washing/de-salting and preparing for storage. At the same time, trucks are being set up for the upcoming construction season which will soon be in full swing.

Streets crews added on to the snow plow storage pad paving up a 10'x90' area. This allows us to store plows and other equipment in an environmentally friendly manner on an impervious moisture free surface. This will help keep the equipment from premature rusting.

Street sweeping is underway with the first of two passes on town roads. Although town roads have been started, we spent nearly a week assisting the BOE sweeping all the schools during the school vacation.

Work on the last variable message board has begun at the Community Center. This will be very similar to the ones located at Fire Headquarters and the Town Hall Annex.

The department assisted UCONN's Technology Transfer Center (T2 Center) with the distribution of speed feedback signs for local communities. South Windsor was a central location for the distribution process and the T2 Center reached out to us for some assistance.

Streets crews also assisted the BOE with some temporary parking lot improvements at Pleasant Valley School.

Vibert Road was regraded just in time for the 2023 fishing and boating season. The boat launch area was also cleaned up. The unimproved section of Strong Rd from Main St toward the CT river was given some needed attention as well.

Greg Bassell and George Langevin joined the Streets team as Maintainer I's and are progressing along quite well. Welcome gentlemen!! We all look forward to working with you. Good luck in your new positions.

The sign shop replaced or repaired 26 signs during the month and installed vehicle graphics on town vehicles. The sign shop has also begun to fabricate wooden plaques for the upcoming Public Works awards.

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 in March and continues to work on drainage installation. 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 Phase 1 & Bridge Replacement

WMC Consulting Engineers finalized design plans for the reconstruction of Pleasant Valley Road from Ellington Road to just past Hilton Drive and replacement of the bridge over the Podunk River. This design includes improving the road geometry, new drainage pipes and structures, and sidewalks on one side of the road, as well as replacement of the existing Pleasant Valley Road Bridge over the Podunk River. The contract has been advertised for bid with a scheduled bid opening of May 10, 2023. We continue to seek necessary easements for this work.

Public Works Department

Vincent Stetson
Director of Public Works

Pleasant Valley Road Reconstruction Phase 2

WMC Consulting Engineers is finalizing design plans for the reconstruction of Pleasant Valley Road from Clark Street to Long Hill Road. 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.

Town Road Paving, Sidewalks and Drainage Improvements

Bids for concrete sidewalk repair and replacement were opened on February 2nd and the contract has been awarded to Spazzarini Construction. They started work on April 10th and will continue to work through areas planned for repairs. Bids for drainage repairs were opened on February 23rd and this contract has been awarded to VMS Construction. Bids for milling and paving two parking lots were opened on March 21st and the contract awarded to B&W Paving & Landscaping. The subsurface road condition investigations have been completed for 2023 and 2024 roads. We are having ongoing CCTV inspections of the drainage pipes on those roads. Bids for milling and paving local roads were advertised April 11th.

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 has completed review of applications. Project list for funding is anticipated to be published next week.

Pleasant Valley Road/Clark Street Sidewalk Project

Costa & Son LLC has completed all the new

Public Works Department

Vincent Stetson
Director of Public Works

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.

Reconstruction of Graham Road & Governors Highway

We have selected VHB as our consultant to assist in the design for reconstruction of both Graham Road and Governors Highway. Both contracts will include improvements to the road geometry, new drainage pipes and structures, as well as new road base and pavement.

Jeffrey Doolittle

Asst. Director of Public Works/Town Engineer

Facilities Maintenance

Recreation/Building Maintenance Move into Old Orchard Hill School

We continue to work on the building to make it ready for the Recreation Department move in during the week of 4/23. The phone system number port is scheduled for Monday the 24th. With any luck the main line will ring at the main office at Orchard Hill by noon. I've met with several contractors to get pricing on the items that are outstanding. Next week the concrete slab in the front of the building will be raised to meet the entrance door threshold. Electrical outlets continue to be installed for window units which have yet to be installed. The Building Maintenance Staff continue to do work inside the building like replacing lamps and painting.

Wood Memorial Library HVAC Upgrades

The Architect is currently working on revised drawings for the HVAC system. We hope to be able to go out to bid in the next few weeks.

ADA Construction Work

The only project that is in the works right now is the renovation to the TRACS front entrance and sidewalk replacement. As stated in last month's report the entrance door does not meet DA compliance nor does the concrete sidewalk and stoop at the entrance. The designs have been

approved via internal change order to the Director of Planning and the parts are currently on order.

PD Locker Room Renovations

The project has met the substantial completion date. This means that there are very few (minor) things to correct or complete and that the warranty period of one year starts on 3/31/2023. I want to thank Lt. Chris Duchesne and all of his staff for their assistance and patience during this project. Lt. Duchesne was instrumental in assisting with the officer moves to and from their temporary and permanent Locker Room locations as well as relocating furniture and equipment during the project.

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

Bid opening date is 4/26 at noon in the Town Hall Council Chambers.

VMP Epoxy Flooring Repairs- Main Shower Building

Contractor will be onsite in the next two weeks to refinish the floors in the Filter Building.

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

No further update at this time.

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

The contractor has been onsite to complete field measurements for the new variable air volume boxes throughout all of Town Hall. He was also at the company one on Ellington Rd to field measure for new ductwork and an air handling unit. Once complete they will send submittals to the engineer for approval. We are still a few weeks from

Public Works Department

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starting either project.

ARPA Project-Town Hall Windows/Renovations 1st Floor

On Monday the 17th the Clerk, Assessor and Tax office staff were moved into their new temporary locations in Town Hall. The IT Department was instrumental in disconnecting and reconnecting computers, printers and accessories in a timely fashion. The Town Clerk and Assessors staff were back up and running by 9:30 and the Tax Office was up and running later the same day. The contractor has begun work in the Clerks and Tax Offices. The Clerks Office ceiling, walls and electrical have been removed. Some of the concrete block wall behind the sheetrock has also been removed in preparation for cutting into the brick in the hallway. The security counter in the Tax Office is being disassembled for relocation into the Clerks office. Albeit early in the project, we are on track to finish by the end of May. The same contractor was onsite a couple weeks ago to field measure for all the windows and doors. The windows and doors are scheduled to be completed about 100 days from the finish of the office renovations.

Duct Cleaning Police Department

I will start this project sometime in July or August based on the contractors schedule.

Community Center Electronic Message Board

The electrician trenched and pulled all of this wiring from the Community Center to the new sign. The work inside the building and connections to the sign will be completed once the Public Works staff finishes building the new brick base for the sign.

Town Hall and Community Center LED Lighting Upgrades.

No update at this time. The Town Hall project is on hold until parts arrive.

Card Access/Rekey Interior Doors PD

Lt. Duchesne and I met with the locksmith to review their needs for rekeying the interior doors in the building. I received a proposal from the

locksmith last week, I will be cutting a purchase order next week so the work can get started.

Exterior Steel Door replacements East and West Bays Town Garage

Both doors and frames were replaced, all card access components were reinstalled and are working as they should

Clay Major
Director of Facilities

Water Pollution Control

The WPC has several capital improvement projects in various stages:

Pump Station Improvements

A comprehensive rehabilitation is under design for the Town's three largest pump stations; Clark Street, Benedict Drive, and Pleasant Valley Pump Stations. Our design engineer is finalizing the design of the Pleasant Valley Pump Station. The initial design was revised due to the elevation requirements of the Pleasant Valley Road bridge design. Upon completion of the pump station design, the drawings will be sent to CT DEEP for review and approval to proceed with the bidding process. The approval is a condition to receive Clean Water Funding.

Aeration Weir Gate Improvements

Improvements to four weir gates on the Aeration Tanks is underway. The project was awarded to C.H. Nickerson for their bid of \$552,345 to complete the project. Nickerson is expected to mobilize their equipment and be on site by May 1st.

UV Disinfection Upgrade

The upgrade to the wastewater treatment plant's 20-year-old ultraviolet disinfection system is in the final design phase and expected to be bid in early May. The project is funded through ARPA and expected to be under construction by the end of year.

The WPCA is holding a Public Hearing to receive input on the Fiscal Year 2023/2024 budget on May 2, 2023. Next year's budget includes a

Public Works Department

Vincent Stetson
Director of Public Works

continuation of odor control improvements and large-scale sanitary sewer evaluation survey including a flow study of the Clark Street sewer shed area. Surveying these pipes will expose vulnerabilities within the existing system and help identify areas of ground water infiltration that contribute higher flows and treatment costs.

Tony Manfre
Superintendent of Pollution Control

Finance Department

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

Assessor's Report

The Elderly/ Totally Disabled Homeowner's Program for low-income residents started February 1, 2023 continuing through May 15, 2023. A second reminder letter to file for the tax credit on the upcoming July real estate bill was sent to all residents currently on the Homeowner's Program on April 17, 2023.

The state qualifying income has been updated for those applicants filing for the first time and can be found online here: <https://www.southwindsor-ct.gov/assessor/pages/elderly-homeowners-totally-disabled-persons-renters-tax-relief-programs>

Applications are being taken by Human Services at the Senior Center located at 150 Nevers Road, please call 860-648-6361 for more information and to set your appointment.

A reminder to residents who have sold or otherwise disposed of their vehicle: if the plates were cancelled, please send the Assessor's Office a copy of the canceled DMV receipt along with a secondary form showing the sale or disposal of the vehicle. These may be submitted online through our web form which can be found here: <https://www.southwindsor-ct.gov/assessor/webforms/motor-vehicle-bill-adjustment>

Human Services Department

Andrea Cofrancesco
Director of Human Services

April 2023
Andrea Cofrancesco, Director of Human Services

Tax Aide Program

Volunteers with our AARP Tax Aid Program processed 238 returns this year for South Windsor residents. We are thrilled that this service continues to be available for low to middle income tax payers. Phil Medeiros, dedicated volunteer, has been spearheading this program for 20+ years.



May is Older American's Month And The Senior Center will be celebrating all month long!

This year's theme is Aging Unbound, where we can explore an array of aging experiences without being boxed in by expectations and stereotypes. We strive for this here at the SW Senior Center where we have fun at any age and age is truly just a number! People would say "Senior Center's are for old people" and we would like to think that we have contributed to showing people that that is not true! From the Fitness Center, Pickleball, Chair Volleyball, a ton of exercise and wellness programs, by joining in, you all play a part in helping to combat ageism. Positive and vibrant aging is happening here so come on down and check us out! Andrea Cofrancesco, Director

Older American's Month Bash!

Join us for a fun afternoon of music, humor and stories, "Rat Pack" style! A CRT lunch consisting

of hot dog and beans will be served at 12:00 PM. Following lunch, entertainer Jack Lynn will be doing a tribute to Dean Martin and pals following lunch on **Tuesday, May 16 at 1:00 PM**. After the entertainment we will serve up a delicious special dessert! Sign up for lunch (\$3 donation) by noon the day before and stay to enjoy the entertainment afterward.

Adventure Awaits

Our hikers are back in full swing and enjoying being active and outdoors! Upcoming events include kayaking, miniature golf, zip lining and more!



Reading in the Schools

Our volunteer readers had a great time at Pleasant Valley School this month! This program, which has been in existence for over 10 years, is a joy for both seniors and students alike.



Human Services Department

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.1-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.***

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. Beginning in June this group will be meeting once a month only, on the 1st Friday of the month.** 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 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



After a four-year hiatus, we were once again able to bring back the popular Grandparent and Grandchild Pancake Breakfast & Bingo this month during April Vacation week. We had 90 participants here for a delicious breakfast prepared by the staff followed by bingo with lots of fun prizes. This is one of our most favorite events during the year!



Teen Center

We began our first Dungeons & Dragons club that meets on the first and third Saturday of the month from 3-5pm and currently have seven energetic and imaginative middle school participants that joined the club.

Our Teen Center Youth Council members volunteered at the Parks & Recreation Egg Hunt selling pastries. The funds that we raised selling

pastries will go back to the Teen Center and be used for future programming. We also collected non-perishables for the South Windsor Food & Fuel Bank. The weather was beautiful and our volunteers had a great time participating in this event.



The Teen Center welcomed 8th graders at the during their tour of the high school to have the opportunity to check out the Teen Center as well. Students were able to see what the Teen Center will be like during high school hours, hear about Youth Council opportunities, and get comfortable with the space.

Our students participated in our Arts & Crafts Workshop as well as our Baking Club. Those who joined us for the baking club helped to prepare for the Autism Awareness Bake Sale the following day. Students baked and sold cookies, chocolate covered pretzels, and cupcakes to raise money for the Focus Center for Autism in Connecticut. Students provided resources on Autism and appreciate all of the generous donations received.

We hosted a Family Paint Workshop during April Break, which was a success! There are amazing artists in town!

Human Services Department

Andrea Cofrancesco
Director of Human Services



Youth Council volunteers hosted Monday morning BINGO for the Senior Center. Our brave students did an amazing job calling the numbers and handing out prizes. Students also had the chance to play a couple matches of Chair Volleyball and Whiffle Ball against the Senior Center.



Our Youth Council volunteers also participated in the Youth & Family Services. Grandparent/Grandchild Pancakes and BINGO breakfast. Our students helped set up, assist with preparing food and passing them out, assisting with registration, and passing out prizes.

We are looking forward to May and our upcoming events at the Teen Center.



School Outreach & Prevention

The Mentor Family Breakfast was held on April 4th and fun was had by all! The mentor program connects students at TEMS with a trusted adult from our community. This long-standing program is valued by all. This is an opportunity for mentors, mentees and their families to get together, share breakfast and get to know each other. It is a wonderful way for the families to meet the mentors and spent time together. A few of the middle school students also spoke in front of the whole group to share just how much their mentor means to them. It is very touching to hear about the connections that are made and just how important the relationships are to the students.

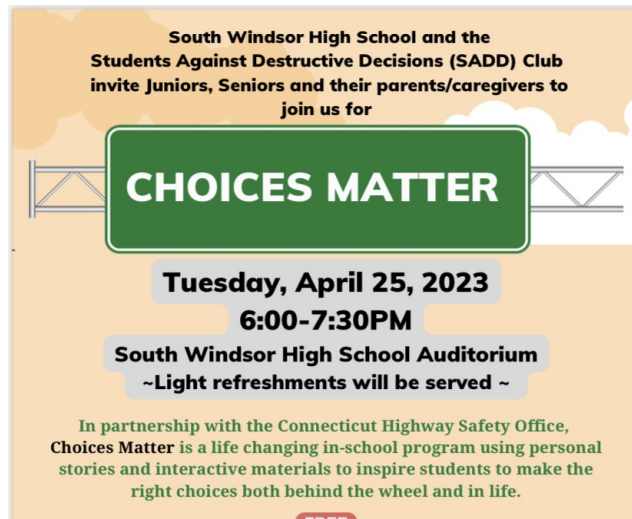


SWHS and the SADD Club are sponsoring an evening program for students and their parents/caregivers on Tuesday, April 25th from 6-7:30pm. The "Choices Matter" program is offered in partnership with the CT Highway Safety Office. The program is a life changing program using

Human Services Department

Andrea Cofrancesco
Director of Human Services

personal stories and interactive activities to inspire students to make good choices both behind the wheel and in life.



Youth Counseling, Parent Education and Support

Counselors remain busy with **83** open and active cases of youth seen for mental health counseling. We continue to receive new referrals for counseling this month, 17 new referrals in April and the month isn't even over yet. Our referrals are coming from South Windsor schools, police and parents/guardians. The referrals for services do not seem to be slowing down. We currently have 9 on our waitlist. Our full time Youth Counselor, Virna Powell has resigned after two years in the position. We have already posted and are in the process of hiring for that. 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.

We are currently working on plans for summer programs to help with our waitlist. We plan to offer groups this summer as a way to provide services to many as we are not able to take them all on as individual clients at this time.

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 April 2023

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

During the meeting, the commission noted several events and community engagement opportunities that they plan to participate in throughout the summer.

South Windsor Walk and Wheel Ways (SWW&WW): Walk and Wheel ways had their monthly meeting on Wednesday, April 1. During the month, they had an Earth Day Cleanup, a Moonlight Walk and held a bike safety course for the new and well attended Teen Cycle Club.

RECREATION DIVISION “*Feel great – recreate!*”

Spring and Summer Registration Thanks to our hard-working team in recreation, our sought-after brochure was delivered to our South Windsor residents in late March. The team has worked diligently since December to offer a great mix of new and favorite offerings for our community to enjoy. We hosted our spring and summer registration on Wednesday, April 5 for our South Windsor residents and we received over 4,000 registration on this day, which is record-breaking!

4th R 4th “R” had plenty of recreation-based fun again this month! We enjoyed the first week of April leading up to April break with lots of game, crafts, projects, and activities. Some highlights include: eggs hunts, tic-tac-toe basketball relay, planting our own seeds to grow flowers, and of course lots of fun outside in the spring sunshine! We also had our spring staff color wars competition night! Staff have been competing together all school year long in fun

games, challenges and activities to earn points for their team. This month’s activities included a balloon-stomp game, a pixelated picture challenge, and a balloon cup stacking race!

Vacation Day Our April vacation day program was back for a full week of fun! Participants enjoy a variety of activities to keep their April break exciting and engaging! Highlights include: an Olympic themed morning (complete with Opening Ceremonies and a parade of Countries!), an obstacle course relay, Gaga Ball, Color Sort Challenge, Cheerio Portraits, Slamwich Relay, Making our own pizza for lunch, a Moon Bounce, a pirate themed morning, a walk to Nevers Parks and a nature scavenger hunt, a magic show, water play games, and a field trip to the Connecticut Science Center! It was a fun-filled time for all!

Preschool Our last preschool session of the school year has kicked off this April! All of our class offerings are completely full, including our parent/child classes, 2-3 year old classes, and 3-5 year old classes. We are looking forward to lots of learning-through-play fun again this spring!

Open Gym We extended our offering for free open gym opportunities for our residents to play Pickleball, Volleyball, and Throwball through the month of April. These opportunities are at a level that is competitive and fun while getting residents to stay active during the winter months.

Badminton Back by popular demand, our youth and adult badminton programs have started again for the spring! The department is excited to be able to offer this program again. This program allows kids and adults to learn and play badminton indoors! We run badminton lessons and open play from April until the end of August.

Pickleball Lessons

We started our Intro to Pickleball lessons this month.

Get started in the fastest growing sport in the US – pickleball! In this introduction to the game, you will learn how to play pickleball, including safety, proper grip, positioning, ground strokes, serves, returns, lobs, dinking, scoring and game strategy. This course is geared to beginners to the sport.

Monday Night Social Club MNSC is a social program that brings youth, young adults and adults within the inclusion community together. The last 4 sessions have included a Birthday party, Easter Cards, cookie decorating and a cornhole tournament with prizes.

Fishing Derby We hosted our 38th Annual Fishing Derby at the pond on Barber Hill Road on Saturday, April 1st. This event was sponsored by the Wapping Fair and the SW Jaycees. There were prizes for largest, smallest and first fish caught for the event. Cameron, 7 y/o, winner of smallest fish stated "I wait all year to come fishing with my dad and sister."

Egg Hunt We had an EGG-cellent time this year for our 50th annual Egg Hunt! It was hosted at the South Windsor High School Stadium and over 3,000 were in attendance. We also had special visits from the Spring Bunny, Bennie and Betty as we welcomed spring the South Windsor way. This year's event was sponsored by Imperial Oil, Plumbing & Heating. Breaking the event into various age groups and a sensory time allows for more children to be served.

Earth Day The department hosted our first Earth Day event highlighting the Town's efforts to making a greener and better tomorrow. This year we held our event the Deming Community Gardens which was a great backdrop to some wonderful projects the town has focused on. Thanks to the Kerala Association of CT (KACT) for their donation, we were able to purchase seedlings for South Windsor Residents to plant two varieties of native trees in our Town, Northern Red Oak and the Pin Oak. We are hopeful to gain traction for this event and grow it for next year. We partnered with two town departments, GIS and Pollution Control, 2 town groups SW Walk and Wheel Ways and Energy Committee, 2 High School Groups Environmental Science Club and Inter-act Club and our donor group (KACT).

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

Athletic Fields & Grounds

The spring renovations for all baseball fields have officially been completed. Crews worked hard to

ensure the playing surface safe and functional. The Parks Crews have also re-installed the batting cage nets at the field facilities for the season and those areas have been opened for play. The Baseball, Lacrosse, and Soccer are prepped, lined, and are ready to go! The smell of fresh-cut grass is in the air, and spring sports are in full swing. We continued our aggressive over seeding and fertilizing program. First initial application of fertilizer went down a few weeks ago.

Parks & Open Space

Our Parks crew continues to make our Town Parks, open space, athletic fields, and grounds looking fantastic! They have worked hard to complete the annual spring clean-ups on all public building grounds and parks. The stone dust paths at Little League Complex and trails at Nevers Park received much-needed attention. Tree work on the interior of Nevers park trail system has been completed by Distinctive Tree Care. This included the removal of dead and hazardous trees that had the potential risks. The crew also added 140 yards of new certified chips for both sides of the Bark Park!

Water is back on at all of the parks, including the dog fountains at the Bark Park. Coordination with the Building maintenance Dept. on turning on water at Rye Concession Stand and Rotary Pavilion has also been completed.

Avery and Deming Community Gardens are ready for spring planting! Crews prepped the gardens by cleaning up debris left over from the previous season and rototilling the plots. Where conditions permitted, we continued early rough-cut mowing of open spaces and detention basins.

The Parks Crew also assisted in preparing the Barber Hill Road property for the 38th annual Fishing Derby that was held at the beginning of the month.

We continue to monitor the water conditions at VMP while keeping the water circulating via submersible pumps in preparation of re-opening. A tentative date to uncover the pool is April 25

Projects

It may not sound like a lot but transitioning to spring and summer operations is a huge task. Crews spent a few days moving plow trucks and plows out of the bays and moving mowing equipment in. This included washing winter equipment and prepping summer equipment for use.

The continued efforts at the new site for Recreation has been ongoing. Some of the tasks include the back railing going out to the playground has been replaced and all interior painting of the pre-school rooms has been completed.

Parks Photos:

The 140 yards of new certified chips for both sides of the Bark Park looks paws-itively amazing!



Parks Crew getting the field spring sports ready!

Before and after photo as Mike brush hogs the wood line at Little League Complex



Ball field renovations at Pepin and Major B



Parks crew installs replacement railing behind Old Orchard Hill and spread new wood chips at play-grounds at the all the Elementary Schools.

Recreation Photos:



4th "R" enjoying time outdoors with friends!



Pre-school has many ways of learning through play- from box cars to art!



Vacation Day program was a full week of fun!

Recreation Photos:



Monday Night Social Club enjoying time together making cards and decorating cookies!



Well it's oh-fish-al, our 38th Fishing Derby was a success!



What an Egg-Cellent time at our 50th annual Egg Hunt!

Recreation Photos:



***South Windsor Parks & Recreation wants to
wish everyone a Hoppy Spring!***

May 2023 Town Council Meetings and Events

Meetings

Monday, May 1, 2023

7:00 pm Town Council Regular Meeting
Council Chambers

Monday, May 15, 2023

7:00 pm Town Council Regular Meeting
Council Chambers

Holidays

Monday, May 29, 2023

Memorial Day
Town Offices Closed

Sunday, May 14, 2023

Mother's Day

Saturday, May 20, 2023

Armed Forces Day

Layout by Katherine Senerth, Executive Assistant

