

Town of South Windsor

Town Manager's Report June 2023



Michael Maniscalco
Town Manager

Beelzebub Road

Road work is progressing well on Beelzebub Road and we are on track for the paving portion of the project to be completed around the middle of June. The side walk work will continue for a while longer.

Pleasant Valley Road

Road work funded through the referendum will begin on Pleasant Valley Road in the next couple of weeks. This project will continue through the summer with an expected completion date of November.

Splash Pad Construction We have finally received the equipment for the splash pad and the contractor is lined up to start construction within the week.

Town Hall Office Construction

Many of you may have noticed when entering the Town Hall this past week, that the office renovations for the Collector, Assessor and Town Clerk have been completed. These renovations were funded through ARPA and will allow the offices to be safer in the event of a pandemic while providing residents with services. While there are still some punch list items, the project is substantially complete. I would like to recognize the facilities and public works staff who led this work and brought this project in on time.

Collections Update As of May 31, our collection rate is 99.41%, exactly where we were on May 31, 2022.

May Tax Collection Rate	2020 Grand List	2021 Grand List
Overall	99.41%	99.41%
Real Estate	99.69%	99.69%
Personal Property	99.37%	99.21%
Motor Vehicle	97.81%	97.96%
MV Supple	92.99%	91.93%

Michael Maniscalco, MPA
Town Manager



Police Department

Kristian R. Lindstrom
Chief of Police

Monthly Statistics April 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.

April's numbers are below

Total Computer Aided Dispatch Entries:	2281
Routine Calls Received/Outgoing:	3667
Directed Patrol/Premise Checks:	784
Motor Vehicle Stops:	233
Driving Under the Influence	3
Emotionally Disturbed Persons:	12
Medical Assists:	184
Suspicious:	107
Alarms:	80
Motor Vehicle Accidents:	27
Welfare Check:	38
Assist Outside Agency:	32
Animal Problem:	29
Citizen Assist:	27
Miscellaneous Service:	14
Collision Reports:	16
BOLO:	16
Disabled Motor Vehicle:	24
Larceny - Motor Vehicle	4
Larceny:	20
Hazardous Conditions:	14
Pistol Permits:	4
Burglary	6
Burglary - Motor Vehicle	33
Civil Matter:	9
911 Check:	10
Fraud:	14
Domestic Dispute:	25
Violation of Town Ordinance:	3
Sexual Assault	2
Arrests	32
Youth Problem:	9

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.

The month of May saw Officer Andre Rogers continuing through his field training and Officer Levar Gary continues his training at the police academy. Early in the month of May April, officer Andre Rogers graduated from the Connecticut Police Academy 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.

In mid May the Town Manager and Chief Lindstrom offered Mr. Jeremiah Bravo a position as a police officer. He verbally accepted that offer and is scheduled to begin his employment with our agency in the latter half of June. He will attend the Connecticut Police Academy starting on July 7, 2023.



Police Department

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Chief of Police

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

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.

Month End Sworn Personnel Summary

With an authorized strength of 46 sworn members, by the end of May we will employ 43 with only 39 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, and 1 officer working light duty (pregnancy). Of the three vacancies, one is accounted for and two promising backgrounds are underway. At this time, barring any other attrition, it is a strong possibility that the agency will be fully staffed by the turn of the fiscal year.

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.

Since the last monthly report in April, the police department hosted a drug take back event at police headquarters. Over 100 cars came through that event and surrendered over 200 pounds of unwanted prescription medication and 7 five gallon buckets of needles. Events like this keep these medications and medical equipment from entering the wrong hands and having a detrimental affect on the community.

In the closing days of April, Central Connecticut State University hosted a pair of events for their criminal justice students. Both of these events were attended by South Windsor Police personnel to bolster our recruiting efforts and build good will with the community by putting into action the first tenet of the Department's Mission Statement-Crime Prevention Through Public Enlightenment.

On May 1st, Chief Lindstrom attended the dedication ceremony for the Town's Covid-19 memorial. This was a fitting ceremony as the community continues to recover from the pandemic and it was 10 days later that the federal government's announcement that the public health crisis is officially over.

During the week of May 2nd, Corporal Alexis McLain hosted a car seat installation clinic at police headquarters. As an instructor trainer, Corporal McLain was able to certify police personnel from around the state as car seat technicians. This course culminated with a car seat clinic that allowed community members to come to police headquarters and have a child car seat correctly installed in their vehicle free of charge. These events go to great lengths in keeping the youngest and smallest users of our roads safe.

On May 4th, Deputy Chief Brian Eckblom represented the police department at Avery Street Church's national day of prayer ceremony. This was an excellent example of a less conspicuous, but strong gesture of support of this agency from the community.



Police Department

Kristian R. Lindstrom
Chief of Police

On May 9th, the Chamber of Commerce hosted a 1st Responder Appreciation Breakfast at the Sullivan Avenue Dunkin Donuts. Several department members attended and were able to have a coffee of breakfast treat as they met with various members of the Chamber.

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.

On May 7th, Traffic Unit and patrol personnel, responded to a fatal motor vehicle accident involving a tractor trailer and a motorcycle that occurred on Route 5 near its intersection with Chapel Road. The investigation that follows this type of accident will take weeks to conclude and will ultimately determine fault in the incident.

During the month of May, traffic unit and patrol personnel participated in a grant funded Click-it-or-Ticket program. This programs funds overtime costs for officers to provide traffic enforcement focused on increasing the use of safety belts in automobiles.

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.

The beginning of May saw several of April's cases come to a close as detectives were able to solve several church burglaries and an arson. These events were similar to others that occurred in the northeast corner of the state and South Windsor police personnel worked very closely with state and federal law enforcement officers to bring this case to a close. Arrest warrants have been applied for and an arrest is expected in the coming weeks.

The month of May also saw the long awaited placement and rollout of an embedded social worker at the police department. This individual is shared with the town of Vernon to provide social work support to community members in need. He is available to co-respond to incidents involving people in crisis who do not necessarily need "law enforcement" intervention. This program is still in its early stages, but this clinician is already hard at work providing support to the community.

On May 2nd, police personnel arrested the individual responsible for a bomb threat at South Windsor High School several days earlier. This incident involved the school being evacuated and school being cancelled for the remainder of the day. This arrest was made possible by the efficient work of our detectives, school resource officer, and digital investigator.

One man's trash is another man's traffic problem. This was the case on May 3rd when the contents of a trash truck caught on fire in the area of Graham Road and Hayes Road. As the truck searched for a safe place to off-load the burning trash, it was left with no choice but to dump the load on Nevers Road near its intersection with Mark Drive. The road was closed for several hours while the fire was extinguished and the debris was removed from the roadway.

On May 17th, Lt. Glenn Buonanducci ran a regional SWAT training day at the Connecticut Police Academy. This event hosted SWAT teams from around the state who listened to presentations and case reviews and also participated in multiple training scenarios. This event not only allowed



Police Department

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teams to network and share resources, but it also validated that the Capitol Region Emergency Services Team is a leader in the State and demonstrates nationally accepted best practices when dealing with some of the more complex and high liability incidents that law enforcement faces.

The police personnel who were present at the high school bomb threat near the end of April assembled on May 10th to conduct an After Action Review on the incident. Although the incident was handled well with no injuries or property damage, review sessions like this one allow police personnel to revisit an incident to determine how our response could be improved in the future.

The month of May also hosted National Police Week and National Emergency Medical Services Week. Both of these occasions recognize the hard work and dedication of men and women of the South Windsor Police Department as they continue to work day in and day out to maximize the safety of those people who live, work, and play in the 06074.

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 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.

Public Works Department

Vincent Stetson
Director of Public Works

Street Services Department

The week of May 21st thru May 27th was Public Works Week. The department celebrated by conducting a food drive at Stop and Shop collecting non-perishable food items and generous cash donations all benefiting the South Windsor Food and Fuel Bank. Several maintainers volunteered their time to help the management team make this a successful (and rewarding) event.

Also coupled with Public Works Week was the annual Touch A Truck event held at the Town Garage and Water Pollution Control. Each year 2nd grade students from an elementary school are invited to the garage and WPC to see equipment, view demonstrations and have a chance for Q and A. This year the Pleasant Valley School was our host school. Street Services and the Parks Department put together some great visuals and allowed the children to climb aboard some of the equipment. WPC also did an amazing job at educating the students on pollution control and clean water. All and all, it's rewarding for the kids as well as the staff.

Several town roads were milled and repaved repairing many deteriorated asphalt areas and preparing for some upcoming chip seal.

Drainage work continues on several roads in preparation for upcoming paving. Some of these catch basins require significant work including totally rebuilding the structures.

Roadside mowing is well underway trying to keep up with the vibrant weather and rapid growth. This will be an ongoing project all summer long to keep our roadsides presentable.

The Community Center Variable Message Board continues to progress.

The roadside sweeping program continues. The crews are working their way through District 3 and are about 2/3 complete for the season.

Streets crew spent considerable time preparing

the Memorial Day parade route. This entails pothole patching, mowing along the roadsides, sweeping and delivering signage for the event.

The sign shop replaced or repaired several signs during the month, erected the Armed Forces Day and Memorial Day signs and worked on sign projects for both the Police Dept and Fire Dept.

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 has installed new storm drainage pipes and structures, excavated the old road pavement and base and is installing new stone base on the western part of Beelzebub Road. They will pave 2 layers of Hot Mix Asphalt pavement and install bituminous curbs in mid June. Then they will install concrete sidewalks, replace driveways and restore the roadside areas with topsoil and grass seed on this part of the road. This project is scheduled to be completed by 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 from DEEP and a couple of other residents.

Pleasant Valley Road Reconstruction Phase 1 & Bridge Replacement

Bids were opened for the reconstruction of Pleasant Valley Road Phase 1 from Ellington Road to just past Hilton Drive and replacement of the bridge over the Podunk River on May 10 and O&G Industries was the low bidder. The contract is being awarded and they plan to start construction in mid June. They will demolish the existing bridge after utilities have been moved away from it. This project includes improving the road geometry, new drainage pipes and structures, and sidewalks on one side of the road, as well as re-

Public Works Department

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placement of the existing Pleasant Valley Road Bridge over the Podunk River. We will notify the public before the bridge is closed and are following up with residents on easements for this work.

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 finalizing plans.

Town Road Paving, Sidewalks and Drainage Improvements

Concrete sidewalk repair and replacement is being done by Spazzarini Construction. They continue to work through areas planned for repairs.

Drainage repairs on Town roads are being done by VMS Construction and a Streets crew. Milling and paving the front parking lot and driveway at the Community Center and west driveway and back parking lot at the Police Station is scheduled to be done by B&W Paving & Landscaping in mid to late June.

Milling and paving Town roads has been awarded to Burns Construction and is scheduled to begin at the end of July and continue into August and September.

CCTV inspections of the drainage pipes on Town roads continues

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 has been done in some areas where these sidewalks are proposed. We are finalizing the plans and will be contacting residents about easements needed for this project.

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 plan to start to implement the recommended improvements to alleviate the drainage problems on this road this year.

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.

Reconstruction of Graham Road & Governors Highway

VHB is working on 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.

LOTICIP Application for Town Center Sidewalks

The completion of sidewalks around the Town

Public Works Department

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Director of Public Works

Center area to fill in gaps on Deming Street, Clark Street and Ellington Road was one of the projects recently selected by CRCOG to receive funding under the LOTCIP program. This application is being reviewed by CRCOG and will then be forwarded to CT DOT for their initial review.

Jeffrey Doolittle
Asst. Director of Public Works/Town Engineer

Public Buildings Division

Recreation/Building Maintenance Move into Old Orchard Hill School

I continue to solicit proposals from various vendors and contractors for work at the school. This month I've received proposals for a concrete slab repair, pest exterminator services, electrical work and flooring work. I am still waiting for the glass company to provide a proposal for window mods so we can install window a/c units for the pre-school rooms. I am also waiting for a proposal to replace a ductless split a/c unit for the conference room. Unfortunately I'm not having much luck getting proposals. Carpet and flooring in the pre-school rooms will begin on 6/1 and should be finished within a week or so. The backup pots lines for 911 are now installed, we have one more number to port at this time. The phones are all up and running now.

Wood Memorial Library HVAC Upgrades

The revised plans have been reviewed by all parties. I have a conference call next week to hammer out project scheduling details. The Wood Library will have to shut down for a week or two while construction of phase one is ongoing. The project will be out to bid on June 14th, bid opening is July 5th.

PD Locker Room Renovations

Final payment has been made for this project. Building automation graphics will be completed next week. Aside from a couple signs needed for interior doors, the project is now complete.

PD Exterior Door Replacement

Currently waiting for the door to arrive.

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

I've gone back out to bid with this project. I've called several local landscaping companies to let them know that the project is out on the street. A few have shown interest already. Bid opening is on June 20th.

VMP Epoxy Flooring Repairs- Main Shower Building

Contractor was onsite on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday of this week to refinish the floors in the men's and women's restrooms in the Filter Building. Floors look great, we'll see how they hold up this season.

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

New furniture delivered this month, the install is scheduled for June.

ARPA Project- Fire House/Town Hall HVAC Engineering

Submittals for the Fire House have all been submitted and approved. Parts are now on order. The engineer is still waiting on submittals from the Contractor. Both projects are still weeks from starting.

ARPA Project-Town Hall Windows/Renovations 1st Floor

No update on windows. Renovations are 90% complete. Tax and Assessors are moving back into their newly renovated offices on Tuesday May 30th. Office windows and doors are still on back order. Lobby kiosks are installed and wired. The IT Department will be installing PC's for the residents to use in the next couple of weeks.

Duct Cleaning Police Department

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

Community Center Electronic Message Board

Public Works crews have nearly finished the sign base. The electrician is scheduled back out next week to stub his conduit into the sign base for the

Public Works Department

Vincent Stetson
Director of Public Works

data and power. The work inside the building and connections to the sign will be completed once the sign is in place.

Town Hall LED Lighting Upgrades.

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

Card Access/Rekey Interior Doors PD

Waiting for parts to arrive.

TRACS ADA Work at the Entrance of the Building

Work on the entrance of the TRACS building and sidewalk is scheduled to start on Wednesday the 31st. The work consists of removing the recessed entryway and non-compliant sidewalk. The new entryway will be flush with the exterior walls and the sidewalk will be made into a ramp for proper accessibility. The work is expected to take about two weeks.

Clay Major
Director of Facilities

Finance Department

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

Assessor and Collector of Revenue

The 2022 Grand List covering October 1, 2022 through September 30, 2023, had its mill rate set Monday, May 15, 2023, by the Town Council. For Real Estate and Personal Property, the mill rate is 33.14. In compliance with legislation HB-5506 the Motor Vehicle mill rate for the 2022 Grand List remains 32.46.

Tax bills are scheduled to be mailed June 23, 2023, payment is due July 1, 2023, and the last day to pay without penalty is August 1, 2023. Per CGS 12-130 Failure to receive a tax bill shall not invalidate the tax or penalties added. If you feel you are missing a bill please contact us. Our office available to assist by email, taxcollector@southwindsor-ct.gov or 860-644-2511 ext. 2321.

Payment may be remitted online using an ACH check, credit or debit card, fees apply. Secure drop boxes are located at the front entrance of Town Hall, one is mounted on the building, the second is a drive up drop box. Both boxes are monitored by video and emptied twice daily by staff, check or money order only. Payment of check or money order may be mailed in the envelope provided. During office hours payment may be remitted with cash, check or money order. Please anticipate long lines during July. If you would like a receipt, please

include a self-addressed stamp envelope along with your entire bill.

Current and prior year tax information is available online.

The time to file for the Homeowner's Program has ended. The timeframe to file was February 1, 2023 – May 15, 2023. If a resident was under a doctor's care during this period and needs an extension to file, the Extension Request Form can be provided upon request. This form must be completed and sent to the State of Connecticut to the Office of Policy and Management for approval. Any questions on this process feel free to email: Assessor@southwindsor-ct.gov.

Helpful Online Links

Sign up for Enotifications [Subscribe to News | southwindsorct \(southwindsor-ct.gov\)](https://www.southwindsor-ct.gov/subscribe-to-news)

Tax Information <https://www.mytaxbill.org/inet/bill/home.do?town=southwindsor>

Motor Vehicle Adjustments <https://www.southwindsor-ct.gov/assessor/webforms/motor-vehicle-bill-adjustment>

Make a payment [Online Payments | southwindsorct \(southwindsor-ct.gov\)](https://www.southwindsor-ct.gov/collector-revenue/pages/real-estate-calculation-form)

Real Estate Calculation Form <https://www.southwindsor-ct.gov/collector-revenue/pages/real-estate-calculation-form>

Motor Vehicle Calculation Form <https://www.southwindsor-ct.gov/collector-revenue/pages/motor-vehicle-tax-calculation-form>

Fire Department

Kevin E. Cooney, Fire Chief
Brian Peck, Assistant Fire Chief

In April, the SWFD hosted our 3rd Annual RESCUE WEEKEND. We had four different training organizations and a number of well-known/respected Instructors provide 3 days of exceptional training. This training took place at a few locations throughout the weekend; Stations 1 and 3, VMP, and Public Works. In all, we had 255 students from 67 different Fd's and over a dozen of SWFD members attend. This was another huge success. The in-house Committee lead by Deputy Chief Tim Papp and his crew of Captain Jared Pelletier, Captain Matt Falletti, Captain Tia Cortese/Olson, Lt. Matt Smith, and Firefighter Jay Murtha did an outstanding job in putting this event together. Not to be overlooked as part of the success was the support and dedication of many others; SW Parks and Rec., ESI, Jay's Landscaping, Cambria Hotel, and numerous Town staff members.

Chief Cooney concluded his participation in a national search for a new CEO for the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation. This project started in March and much of April involved in-person meetings and interviews in Washington, DC. This great opportunity was due to my membership as part of the Board of Directors for the NFFF. There was no cost to the Town of SW, but notwithstanding a great deal of local credit.

In May, related, but separate within the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation, Chief Cooney and eight (8) members of the SWFD Honor Guard attended the NFFF Annual Memorial Service in Emmitsburg, Maryland honoring 144 Fallen Firefighters from across our Nation. Each of the SWFD member served in key roles throughout the weekend's events. I could not be more proud in how these members represented SWFD.

In addition to the nearly daily responses, out members as well as SWPD and ASM responded to a fatal motor cycle crash. Our members were the first to arrive and performed highly skilled life-saving efforts. Unfortunately, the person did not survive, but I am confident that he had every possible opportunity based on the care he received.

Kevin E. Cooney
Fire Chief

Human Services Department

Andrea Cofrancesco
Director of Human Services

May 2023
Andrea Cofrancesco, Director of Human Services

Case Management Updates

Lindsey Ravalese, Assistant Director of Adult and Senior Services and Susan Grundstrom, Caseworker, have been busy with several programs at once: Renters Rebate, Energy Assistance and Property Tax Relief. 148 Property Tax Relief applications (deadline was 5/15) were submitted and countless calls have been taken by residents inquiring about the program. Statistics on energy assistance will be provided in next month's report.

We are hopeful we can fill the caseworker position that has been vacant since mid-January to relieve the pressure on Lindsey and Susan, who have been working non-stop to serve South Windsor residents. We appreciate the support of the Town Manager and Town Council in making the part time position full time beginning 7/1/2023.

Food Bank Needs

The shelves are looking a little bare in our food bank. We can use tuna and canned chicken, kid snacks such as granola bars and crackers, peanut butter and jelly, canned fruit, laundry detergent and dish soap. Items can be dropped off at the center Monday through Friday 8-4:30 and Sundays 8-12.

Legislative and Covid-19 Updates

Senator Anwar came out to give updates on what is happening in the legislature as well as give information on the state of the Covid-19 pandemic. Always a popular speaker, he had a full house!

Senior Prom Early Bird Dinner

What a great time! Our monthly Early Bird Dinner was a "Senior Prom" theme this month with many people dressing to impress! Some have never gone to a prom so this was a first! Couples danced together, singles mingled and friendships were born! Everyone is already talking about next year!



Fitness Center Updates

As we celebrate FIVE years in June, we are excited to announce that we are increasing our hours to include evenings by popular demand! Hours will be Monday through Friday 8 AM to 7:30 PM and Saturdays from 8 AM to 12 Noon beginning in June. Funding is made possible by revenue brought in by the rental of the banquet hall. In addition, we have a new piece of equipment called the SciFit Upper Body machine, which works your arms and upper body. Funding for this piece of equipment came from Fitness Center membership fees. And finally, Silver SNEAKERS will be accepted in addition to the existing Renew Active, where people with certain insurance can attend the Fitness Center at no cost, as the insurance company pays a per visit fee to us for their members.



Human Services Department

Andrea Cofrancesco
Director of Human Services



Food Bank Garden

Barbara Konicki, Senior Center Program Coordinator, is spearheading our Food Bank Garden this year. With the help of volunteers, it is looking great and we are hopeful that our efforts will yield a lot of fresh produce for our residents who use the Food Bank!

Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast

We were able to honor 80 volunteers at a breakfast to celebrate and thank them for all the wonderful things they do to assist our department and residents of South Windsor. Meals on Wheels delivery, telephone reassurance volunteers, greeters, pickleball leaders, fitness center monitors, friendly shoppers, community service group members and so many more! We could not do what we do without the dedication of so many!



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 Friday 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

Human Services Department

Andrea Cofrancesco
Director of Human Services

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.

CARES recently went to the Roaring Acres Alpaca Farm in Suffield for a fun outing on a great day!



Human Services Department

Andrea Cofrancesco
Director of Human Services



May 2023

April 26th was "Youth Service Bureau Day" at the state capitol! We spend the day with two SWHS Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD) leaders and over 100 other YSB connected youth and professionals. There were group discussions, a panel with legislators and time for us to visit with Senator Anwar virtually and with Representative Delnicki in the building. It was a great opportunity for our student leaders to share their concerns as well as educate the legislators on issues that are important to them that are addressed through the SADD club at SWHS.



Teen Center

The Teen Center had a fun month of May and enjoyed the warmer weather. Our drop-in hours has continued to be busy for both middle school and high school days. Students participated in Arts & Crafts and our Baking Club, which has been popular for students! Our Dungeons and Dragons club has continued on the first and third Saturday of the month, our participants have learned a lot and are very creative.

Freshman students enrolled in the bobcat seminar came to tour the Teen Center during their class this month. The students were able to see what the center has to offer, meet our Coordinator, and play games!

We added an additional session to our Rising Stars Summer program for a total five sessions this summer! All five sessions are FULL! We are busy planning our community volunteer projects for each session. We love the summer here at the Teen Center!

We are excited to share that Danielle, our Teen Center Program Coordinator has recently graduated from Arizona State University with her Master's Degree in Social Work~ We are so proud of her!

School Outreach & Prevention

Spring is always a busy time of year for School Outreach. Here are just some of the highlights from the month of May.

The Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD) Club worked on making favors for the Junior Prom reminding their peers to make good decisions. They also made 24 stress relief bags to be donated to teen patients getting assistance with their mental health through Hartford Healthcare. They wanted to show kindness and caring to kids their age going through a difficult time. The club also ran the senior graduation lawn sign fundraiser once again. Each year signs are available for purchase and 100% of the proceeds go to the SADD Scholarship Fund. We are proud to say that this year we hit a milestone by reaching

Human Services Department

Andrea Cofrancesco
Director of Human Services

10 years of the program. In that time over \$12,000 in scholarships have been given to deserving seniors who have made a difference during their high school careers.

Also, this spring Youth and Family Services created a new grant program called the Make A Change (MAC) Grant. We came to the realization that traditionally grants are offered for adults to plan and facilitate. We wanted to give youth a chance to have a say in what they thought was important and how they wanted to help others, so the MAC grant was born. We are excited to say that we had 4 winners in our first round of awards.

The first grant was given to a 4th grade classroom at PRS School. Together the students came up with a plan to all read a book and then create and perform skits for the 3rd grade classes to share what they had learned. The book is told in 7 different perspectives, so it highlights keeping an open mind and understanding that there is more than one way to look at a situation. (Class photo)



The second grant was given to a high school student, who submitted a grant on behalf of the Bobcat Prowl. The Prowl showcases journalists at the school and shares stories and info to the high school community. They will be adding a booster to their software to increase interest and the reach of their award-winning writing. (Group photo at HS)



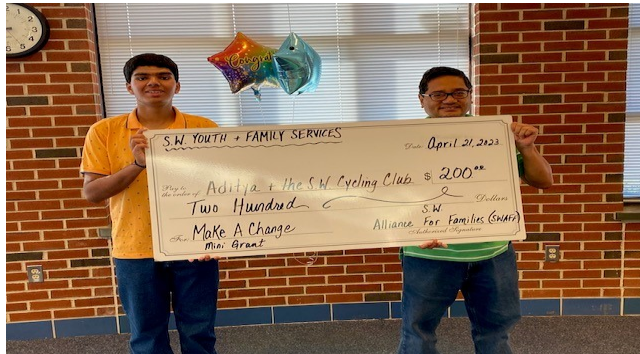
The third grant went to two 4th grade students from Eli Terry School. These thoughtful and kind students were concerned about their peers on the playground. They explained that basketball is a very popular activity, but that it is not always safe for their friends with disabilities. They wanted everyone to have equal opportunities to have fun, so they requested funds to purchase a smaller portable hoop. This will allow all kids to play together. (Photo of 2 students and Principal, Mike Kenyon)



The final grant went to a high school student who was creating a cycling club for both high school and middle school students. He realized that there was not already an opportunity for older kids to learn about bike riding and take part in this healthy form of recreation. The grant will help them buy t-shirts, helmets and safety supplies for the club so that more students can get involved.

Human Services Department

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Director of Human Services



We are so proud of all of the winners, and we are excited to support kids making a difference in our community!

Youth Counseling, Parent Education and Support

Counselors remain busy with 64 open and active cases of youth seen for mental health counseling. We continue to receive new referrals for counseling this month, 14 new referrals in May 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 10 on our waitlist. We are thrilled to announce that we have Paula Berson stepping in to the full time Youth Counselor position with us in August. Paula has been working with us for the last year through the ARPA mental health funds. 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 have a new program for this summer! This will be an effective way to support some of the elementary aged students that we currently have on our waitlist.

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

SUMMER SOCIAL SQUAD

We invite students entering 3rd-5th grade to join us this summer!
Join Mrs. Berson & Mrs. Reed as we play cooperative games, enjoy the outdoors, create crafts, have a snack, improve life skills, make new friends & have some fun!
The program will be held at the S.W. Community Center, 150 Nevers Road

**LEARN HOW
TO MANAGE
BIG
FEELINGS**



**BUILD SELF
ESTEEM
AND
CONFIDENCE**



**NAVIGATE
MAKING
NEW
FRIENDS**



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 May 2023

Park & Recreation Commission (PARC)

The Park and Recreation Commission met on Wednesday, May 10, at 7:30 pm in the Town Council Chambers and will be

meeting next on Wednesday, June 14. Our commission will be at many of our upcoming events in Town and would like to hear our communities' input on what they would like to see in Parks and Recreation.

South Windsor Walk and Wheel Ways (SWW&WW): Walk and Wheel Ways conducted a learn-to-ride and another session of the 4th Grade Bike Program. They are looking for volunteers to help with the 4th Grade Bike Program for the upcoming school year.

RECREATION DIVISION *“Feel great – recreate!”*

Covid Memorial Ribbon Cutting

We hosted an opening for the COVID Memorial located at the Major Michael Donnelly property on Monday, May 1st. The Town Manager's Office, Department Heads, Major Donors for the project; Home Depot D'Agata-Perry, News Outlets, and community members were in attendance.

New Location

Parks and Recreation moved to our new location, 350 Foster Street at the end of April. All of our programs and operations will be operating at this location by the end of June. Stop by our main office for any of your recreational needs!

4th R

4th “R” had plenty of recreation-based fun again this month! We enjoyed activities such as creating our own volcanoes, decorating spring flower pots,

creating safety containers for an egg drop, playing parachute games, and earning the chance to “pie” a counselor. We also had lots of fun playing fan-favorite games such as four square, spud, and soccer. We even created a new group game called “SMEAKA” at one school, and are sharing it across all the 4th “R” sites! We also conducted our public registration for new families at the beginning of the month. This process is held via a lottery, and we had 8 families attend for Eli Terry, 17 families attend for Orchard Hill, 20 families attend for PRS, and 15 families attend for Pleasant Valley.

Preschool

Our last preschool session of the school year is in full swing! We have been having lots of fun learning, exploring, growing, and sharing with our friends. Some highlight activities this month included: going on a color hunt, using shapes to create our own bugs, making our own playdough in class, experimenting with watercolors, and practicing our scissor skills by cutting old paper, magazines, and even flowers! We've also been enjoying the beautiful spring weather with some picnic lunches outside!

Badminton

We had 45 youth and adult participants this month for open play and lessons. We run these programs from April until August.

Softball

Our league is off to a great start, with 12 teams enjoying the opportunity to play in a fun but competitive league. This season we have new LED lights at our field, which has been a welcomed addition for the night games.

Pickleball Lessons

We have been offering small group lessons all spring and it has allowed people to learn the sport in a supportive environment! In this session, we had 16 participants, and we plan to offer more lessons this summer.

Pickleball League

Our first-ever Pickleball league started on Tuesday, May 23, and will run through July. We have 48 participants across our A and B divisions and they are all excited to participate in a local league.

Meet Me at the Park

We hosted our second pop-up on Tuesday, May 23rd at Nevers Park. We had Volleyball, Cornhole, and Horseshoes available to play! The Meet Me at the Park Initiative was created as a way to bring community members together in a healthy and productive way and connect the gap between Parks and Recreation and other town entities by offering outreach together.

Track Club

Each spring we run a track club that is geared for youth K-8th grade. This program meets twice a week and allows youth to have fun in an active way while learning the basics of track and field. This year, we have 70 participants in the program.

VMP

We are preparing for another fun summer at Veteran's Memorial Park Pool! We hosted our VMP staff training May 20-21 to acclimate the 2023 pool staff and prepare them for their seasonal positions. The staff covered various safety protocols and policies for the facility, and they had opportunities to learn how to work together through a variety of team-building exercises. They will have several more in-service trainings at the pool throughout the next few weeks and will be excited to welcome the community back to the pool on June 3rd!

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

Athletic Fields & Grounds

- The crew prepared all the fields in town to ensure all our youth have high-quality fields to compete on. Our yearly spring tasks have kept us busy from laying out all fields and line painting; to fertilizing, over-seeding, and mowing the hundreds of acres that we maintain. Each spring, we also put new plantings and annuals to add color to our town buildings.

Projects

- Our Splash Pad parts and features have finally arrived, and the contractor is ready to get started on the much-anticipated project.
- The light-duty aluminum fence that was vandalized over the years at Kevin Court, has been replaced by the Parks crew with HD black vinyl-coated fence.

The Parks Crew worked as a well-oiled machine to remove the pool cover from both the main pool and lap pool at Veteran's Memorial Park to begin preparing VMP for another exciting summer for the South Windsor Community! During this time, we also spruced up the memorial site on the property to honor those that have served.

Parks Photos:



We installed new fencing at Kevin's Court this month to replace an older vandalized fence.



The South Windsor Environmental Club worked with our Parks Manager, Dave and a few of our crew members to plant new trees at Rye.



Buckland Islands were cleaned up for the summer with fresh mulch and plantings.

Parks Photos:



Spring cleanup at all of our buildings included mulch and some new flowers.



The Parks Crew along with crew members of Public Works, uncovered the pool facility at the end of April.

Recreation Photos:



This month was filled with messy and fun science experiments and plenty of outside time at 4th R.



Our preschool friends enjoyed exploring, playing and making new creations with friends this month!



VMP Staff spent the weekend learning all about the operations of Veteran's Memorial Park Pool.

June 2023 Town Council Meetings and Events

Meetings

Monday, June 5, 2023

7:00 pm Town Council Regular Meeting
Council Chambers

Tuesday, June 20, 2023

7:00 pm Town Council Regular Meeting
Council Chambers

Holidays

Wednesday, June 14, 2023

Flag Day

Sunday, June 18, 2023

Father's Day

Monday, June 19th

Juneteenth

Town Offices Closed

Wednesday, June 21, 2023

Summer Begins

Layout by Katherine Senerth, Executive Assistant

