

Town of South Windsor

Town Manager's Report July 2023



Michael Maniscalco
Town Manager

PV Road & Bridge Construction:

The project is moving along on Schedule I want to make sure the Council and public is aware that the road will be closed at the bridge starting Wednesday.

Police Department & Community Center Parking Lot Paving:

The community Center and PD parking lots are scheduled to be paved this coming week. Please allot additional time if you will be going to either of these locations to account for the construction.

CTCMA Annual Meeting:

I attended the Annual Town Managers Association meeting last week. This year's topic was on the challenges associated with hiring municipal employees. Many of the other Towns are reporting similar challenges to what South Windsor has faced with the recruitment of licensed or certified employees. As a result, CRCOG is looking into opportunities for sharing positions and training. It was agreed amongst many of the participants that the State and other licensing associations have limited the applicant pool significantly causing a shortage amongst Towns.

Michael Maniscalco, MPA
Town Manager



Police Department

Kristian R. Lindstrom
Chief of Police

Monthly Statistics June 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.

May's numbers are below:

Total Computer Aided Dispatch En-	2336
Routine Calls Received/Outgoing:	3669
Directed Patrol/Premise Checks:	681
Motor Vehicle Stops:	380
Driving Under the Influence	5
Emotionally Disturbed Persons:	22
Medical Assists:	191
Suspicious:	87
Alarms:	72
Motor Vehicle Accidents:	37
Welfare Check:	46
Assist Outside Agency:	38
Animal Problem:	54
Citizen Assist:	25
Miscellaneous Service:	4
Collision Reports:	15
BOLO:	11
Disabled Motor Vehicle:	23
Larceny - Motor Vehicle	0
Larceny:	24
Hazardous Conditions:	16
Pistol Permits:	8
Burglary	3
Burglary - Motor Vehicle	6
Civil Matter:	7
911 Check:	20
Fraud:	25
Domestic Dispute:	21
Violation of Town Ordinance:	3
Sexual Assault	1
Arrests	27
Youth Problem:	12

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.

Officer Andre Rogers continues to progress nicely through his field training. In late June, the department welcomed three new police officers. After almost two weeks of onboarding, Officers Jeremiah Bravo and Madison Lamagna will begin their basic training at the Connecticut Police Academy on July 7th and Officer Devon LaBreck, who is already a certified police officer, will begin his field training without having to go to the academy.

This month we reached a significant milestone in our recruiting. As law enforcement agencies around the nation continue to wade through a massive recruiting crisis, we at the South Windsor Police Department have modified our hiring practices to be more efficient without compromising on our very high hiring standards. This practice coupled with intensive recruitment saw, on June 26, 2023, our department arrive at its full authorized strength of sworn personnel for the first time in years. Our hope is to ride the "full strength wave" as long as possible and get these new hires trained and on patrol before there are any other retirements or resignations. The realization of this goal is due in large part to Sgt. Cleverdon's tenacity and focus as well as the assistance of many other members of the agency who helped along the way with testing, ride alongs, and background investigations.



Police Department

Kristian R. Lindstrom
Chief of Police

Month End Sworn Personnel Summary:

With an authorized strength of 46 sworn members, by the end of June we will employ a full compliment of 46. That being said, it is important to remember that only 39 being fully operational sworn FTE's. We currently have 3 in the academy (Gary, Bravo, and Lamagna), 1 out on medical leave (work related), 2 in field training (Rogers and LaBreck), and 1 officer working light duty (pregnancy). 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.

On June 1st, the South Windsor Police Department participated in the annual Special Olympics Torch Run event as the torch made its way through South Windsor. Whether they were running and carrying the torch, or providing the escort and traffic control, several department members participated in this important event that stretches from the town line on Deming Street all the way to police headquarters on Sand Hill Road.

With extensive support and votes from the Community, on June 7th, K-9 Mason was awarded the Aftermath K9 Grant. This improves upon his runner-up award last year and the department will receive \$2500 dollars

towards its K-9 program. We appreciate everyone's support and their votes for Mason.

On June 10th, several police department members staffed an Outreach and Recruiting booth at the annual Strawberry Festival. It was a beautiful day and our staff capitalized on the opportunity to meet and visit with hundreds of community members.

As the school year came to a close this month, SWHS SRO Ofc. Peter Korchari had some time to reflect on his Positive Rewards Program at SWHS. He developed this program a couple years ago and continues to try to reward students for their positive behavior and good deeds which results on positive, non-confrontational, interactions with the community's youth. During this past school year, Ofc. Korchari has hand wrote 134 letters of recognition to students. To date this important program alone has created over 510 positive interactions between Ofc. Korchari and the students he serves at SWHS.

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 June 6th and 7th, members of the Traffic Unit and other staff provided traffic control for the wake and funeral services of Mr. Ed Havens. Doing so, allowed dozens upon dozens of friends and family members to pay their respects to the Havens family.

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.



Police Department

Kristian R. Lindstrom
Chief of Police

During the second week of June, a "magnet fisherman" down at the Connecticut River caught the surprise of a life time. After casting his magnet into the river, he reeled in his catch only to discover that it was an unexploded hand grenade. Officers responded and saw that the pin was still in place in the device. The area was cordoned off and the State Police Bomb Squad was called to dispose of this item.

Police department personnel continue to cooperate with State and regional partners to monitor the ongoing issue of unauthorized "street takeover" events that have been occurring in the area. Tolland, East Windsor, and Vernon have all experienced these nuisance events and on June 10th SWPD patrol staff responded to one of these gatherings in a parking lot at the southwest end of Ellington Road. Upon arriving in the area, police personnel got the group to disperse and they left the area without incident, injury, or property damage.

On June 19th and 20th, several South Windsor officers and assets were deployed to assist Windsor PD in their search of a missing elderly man who was believed to have dementia. SWPD staff searched areas north of I-291 and east of the CT River. Searches were conducted by foot, air, and off-road vehicle without any success. On June 20th, when a second day of searching commenced, the man was found unharmed on Windsor's side of the river.

On June 18th, at approximately 0130, a patrol officer observed a motorist travelling south on Rt 5 in the northbound lanes. This officer was able to stop this vehicle and was assisted by other personnel to control traffic until the roadway could be reopened. The wrong way driver was arrested for Operating Under the Influence.

On June 15th, at approximately 2:30pm, undercover narcotics agents arrested a man in the parking lot of Target on Buckland Hills Drive. This man was arrested as he was selling crack cocaine and on multiple arrest warrants for other violations of the same offense. In addition to the arrest and seizing crack cocaine, officers also seized a loaded pistol from the suspect.

Unlocked Car Burglaries & Car Thefts:

Now that summer is here, we will see if car burglaries and catalytic converter thefts spike once again. For the time being the police department continues to monitor the trend in the region and deter crime with high visibility patrols.

Residents and visitors in South Windsor are encouraged to lock their vehicles when leaving them unattended and to make sure their valuables, at a minimum, are hidden from view.

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

I hope that our citizens will continue to be mindful of the risks that significant weather events can present at this time of year.

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

Engineering Department

Beelzebub Road Reconstruction:

Spazzarini Construction has installed new storm drainage pipes and structures, and paved the first layer of hot mix asphalt and bituminous curbs on the western portion of Beelzebub Road. They are installing concrete sidewalks and will be replacing driveway aprons and restoring the roadside areas with topsoil and grass seed on this part of the road. This project will be completed this Fall. 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.

Pleasant Valley Road Reconstruction Phase 1 & Bridge Replacement:

O&G Industries has started 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. They are working with the MDC, and Eversource Gas and Electric to temporarily relocate utilities away from the existing bridge and will demolish the bridge as soon as the utilities have been moved in July. The road will be closed to through traffic on or about July 5 so the bridge can be demolished and rebuilt. A detour route will be established around the area using Ellington Road, Chapel Road and John Fitch Boulevard. Residents will be able to get to their properties along and off of this section of Pleasant Valley Road and VMP will be open and accessible. There will be delays and residents are advised to plan for extra time when traveling in this area. This project 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. We 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 early July.

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 pedestri-

Public Works Department

Vincent Stetson
Director of Public Works

an 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 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 LOTICIP 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

Finance Department

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

Assessor

All Real Estate, Personal Property and Motor Vehicle tax bill files were sent to the vendor for printing and tax bills are expected to be received by property owners on or about Monday, June 26, 2023.

The Town Council has set the mill rate for 2022 Grand List Real Estate and Personal Property accounts at 33.14. The Motor Vehicle mill rate remains at the State cap of 32.46, unchanged from last year.

Just a Reminder:

If a registered vehicle has been disposed of, please be sure to notify our office. In order to adjust a current year or prior year bill, there are two forms of proof to submit to the Assessor's office. The first is a canceled plate receipt from CT DMV, along with a secondary form of proof (bill of sale, junked receipt, gifted receipt, etc.). There are a few ways this can be submitted to our office:

- Through our easy-to-use webform which can be found under the "**Motor Vehicle Bill Adjustment**" tab to the left of the screen or click here: <https://www.southwindsor-ct.gov/assessor/webforms/motor-vehicle-bill-adjustment>
- Email to Assessor@southwindsor-ct.gov.
- If no computer access is available, mail to: 1540 Sullivan Ave, South Windsor CT 06074, Attention: Assessor's Office

The Assessor's Office has begun adding new Personal Property accounts for the 2023 Grand List. Once a new business has been added, an introductory letter and brochure are sent to the business owner. If you are a recipient of this letter and do not believe the business should be assessed for October 1, 2023, please be sure to email us immediately upon receipt of letter.

Collector of Revenue

The Collector of Revenue would like to remind taxpayers that the first installment of real estate and personal property taxes along with motor vehicle taxes are due July 1, 2023. The last day to

pay without penalty is Tuesday, August 1, 2023. Tax bills were mailed Friday, June 23, 2023, and are available online <https://www.southwindsor-ct.gov/collector-revenue/pages/online-payments>. A cost-effective way to pay online is with an e-check, for a 95-cent fee you will avoid lines and be provided a receipt via email for your payment. Payment can be made online using a debit card, Visa, Mastercard, American Express, Discover or PayPal a 2.99% fee is added by the vendor, a receipt will be provided via email. Save time and avoid long lines by remitting payment by mail in the envelope provided or by using a secure drop box at Town Hall. Pay with check or money order from the convenience of your car, a drive up drop box is in the front driveway of Town Hall. For your convenience we have a walk up drop box mounted to the outside of the front entrance of Town Hall. Please note that the boxes are emptied twice daily and monitored by video, please do not remit cash in the drop box or by mail. If you would like a receipt, please include a self-addressed stamped envelope along with your entire bill. Should you want to pay in person our office hours are Monday 8:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m., Tuesday thru Thursday 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. and Friday 8:00 a.m. thru 1:00 p.m. We accept cash, money order or check. Town Hall will be closed Tuesday, July 4 in observance of Independence Day.

If you have not received a tax bill and believe you should have, please contact the office immediately. CGS Sec. 12-130 states that failure to receive a bill shall not invalidate the tax or interest. Do you have a question about a missing bill, due date, or payment plan? Contact Collector of Revenue staff, 860-644-2511 extension 2321 or email taxcollector@southwindsor-ct.gov. Did you receive a bill for a vehicle you no longer own or have questions regarding an assessment? Reach out to the Assessor, assessor@southwindsor-ct.gov or 860-644-2511 ext. 2312.

Please visit the Collector of Revenue website for additional information regarding the collection of taxes <https://www.southwindsor-ct.gov/collector-revenue> or to sign up for E-notifications <https://www.southwindsor-ct.gov/subscribe>

Human Services Department

Andrea Cofrancesco
Director of Human Services

June 2023
Andrea Cofrancesco, Director of Human Services

Day of Giving:

THE MAX Challenge of South Windsor, in partnership with South Windsor Parks and Recreation, and South Windsor Community Foundation was another huge success! This annual MAX Day of Giving (MDOG) event kicked the season off with a Family Fun Fair in March and continued to raise money with in-studio MAX Challenge member activities, raffles, and charity classes through May. \$2750 will go toward the South Windsor Human Services Wellness Fund, providing Wellness Bags/Kits to spread cheer to homebound seniors, or those with little family as well as caregivers. A variety of things can be done to support mental health with your generous contributions.



Food Bank Garden:

Barbara Konicki, Senior Center Program Coordinator, and her team of volunteers have done an amazing job in the garden this year with the first batch of lettuce having been harvested. More goodies to come, to benefit the people who use our food bank.



Neighbors Helping Neighbors:

Kent Greenman from Our Savior Lutheran Church recently assisted a resident with building a ramp in addition to replacing a floor in the bathroom. Kent has assisted several residents of South Windsor who are known to Human Services over the years. His willingness, expertise and generosity are greatly appreciated.



New Terrain Vehicle:

We are so excited to have a new vehicle in Human Services! This terrain vehicle will be easier for older adults to get in and out of and it replaces a crown vic that our department had inherited from the Police Department a long time ago.



Food Bank Needs:

The shelves are looking a little bare in our food bank. We can use tuna and canned chicken, kid

Human Services Department

Andrea Cofrancesco
Director of Human Services

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.

Personal Trainer Available in Fitness Center:

In addition to expanded hours, we are now offering a personal trainer at no charge on Mondays from 8 AM to 11:00 AM and Tuesday evenings from 4:30 to 7:30 PM in our Fitness Center. Funding is made possible by revenue brought in by the rental of the banquet hall.

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 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



June 2023

Early in June, the team spent a morning with 50 Youth Service professionals from our region of Connecticut Youth Service Bureaus. Thanks to Coventry Human Services for hosting us! It was an event for all staff. An opportunity to get to know other YSB staff that do similar jobs, to share ideas on programming and time for some self-care.



Teen Center:

The Teen Center had an amazing year with many events and activities for our participants. We are very proud to share how much our participation has increased and continues to grow. The month of June was spent wrapping up our drop-in hours for middle school and high school students as the school year has come to an end. The Teen Center will now transition into our Rising Stars Summer Program for middle school and high school youth in need of positive youth development. Participants will partake in teambuilding activities, leadership building, and volunteering around the community. We are happy to continue our connections with the Parks Department and Senior Center, and are looking forward to working with both again. Things look a little different this year as we are only offering one high school session due to the large interest in participation from middle school students. There are about 20 students participating in each session beginning

on June 26th until August 17th. Each session is Monday-Thursday from 9-2pm and some sessions lasting two weeks. We are offering on session for incoming sixth grade students to give them an opportunity to see what the Teen Center offers and get to know other incoming students.

Our Teen Center Coordinator will soon be leaving us as she just finished her Masters in Social Work and has accepted a position for the upcoming school year. Danielle has loved working in Teen Center and has made amazing connections with our students.

School Outreach & Prevention:

In June we celebrated the SADD Club with a light breakfast. We took time to acknowledge all that the graduating seniors had done for the club and for the community. It was a wonderful year of kids offering peer to peer education, support and programming!

This year we were able to award seven graduating seniors a SADD scholarship for their involvement in the club during their high school years. These funds are collected through our lawn sign fundraiser and our 5K event.



Five students from the SADD Club participated in a statewide Prevention Leadership Conference, offered by the Governors' Prevention Partnership. It gave the up-and-coming leaders in the club the chance to network, learn new things and have fun. The day focused on drug/alcohol prevention, gambling awareness and empowerment. We look forward to these students taking on additional leadership roles in the upcoming year.

Human Services Department

Andrea Cofrancesco
Director of Human Services



Youth Counseling, Parent Education and Support:

Counselors remain busy with **69** open and active cases of youth seen for mental health counseling. We continue to receive new referrals for counseling this month, 19 new referrals in June and the month isn't even over yet. That is an increase from last month, We currently have four on our waitlist. Our referrals are coming from South Windsor schools, police and parents/guardians. 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 June 2023

Park & Recreation Commission (PARC):

The Park and Recreation Commission met on Wednesday, June 14, at 7:30 pm in the Town Council Chambers and will be meeting next on Wednesday, July

12. 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 hosted two Teen Cycle Club rides with over fifteen participants. We are excited to offer this new program for teens.

RECREATION DIVISION “Feel great – recreate!”

4th R: 4th “R” had plenty of recreation-based fun to close out of school year! We took advantage of some warmer days and had lots of outdoor fun including water games, tie-dye creations, “pie” a counselor, parachute games, and a 4th “R” field day. We also had fun concocting slime, creating nature terrariums, and planting seeds to grow flowers. We had many theme days; such as Disney Day, Dress-A-Counselor Day, and Reptile Day (complete with a visit from Riverside Reptiles!) At the beginning of the month, 4th “R” celebrated a happy and successful year with over 350 of our 4th “R” at a pool party at Veteran’s Memorial Park! We also hosted the very last 4th “R” staff color wars for this school year. It was a close race all year long, but the winning school (bragging rights and a fun color wars prize included!) went to the 4th “R” staff at Pleasant Valley! We hope that everyone has a safe and fun summer, and we will see you in the fall!

Preschool: We wrapped up our last preschool session for this school year at the beginning of the month! Throughout the session, we had lots of fun learning, exploring, growing, and sharing with our friends. Some highlight activities this month included: blow-painting to make coral ocean scenes, creating our own “I-Spy” bottles, creating class memory books, learning how to

play new group games outside, and setting up our very own ice cream shop in our classroom! This year, we had 25 participants who graduated from our program and will be attending kindergarten in the fall!

We also celebrated a fun and successful preschool year with a pool party at Veteran’s Memorial Park! Nearly 100 preschool friends and their parents/guardians joined us for swimming, sunshine, and a sweet ice cream treat!

Badminton: We run Badminton lessons and open play from April until the end of November with roughly 45 participants. We are working on potentially extending the program if there is enough gym space this winter.

Softball: This program has been going on for a month now and has 12 teams that have team members that are 18 years old to 60 years old. It is a great sport to watch as everyone is always so excited. The games are played at a high pace and with so much energy.

Pickleball League: This program is a great new addition to the Town! We have fifty participants that love the opportunity to play in a league. Overall, this league has a huge impact on the community as it allows for all ages to stay active. We look forward to hosting additional leagues, lessons, and tournaments next year.

Cornhole: Our second year of the cornhole league is off to a great start! We have ten teams that play two games every Thursday evening.

Memorial Day: On May 29, 2023, we worked with the Patriotic Commission to host a parade and ceremony to honor those that served in our country. We had about 250 community members come out and support the event and showed their respect to those who have lost their lives in service.

Meet Me at the Park: We held an ice cream social at Nevers Park during the first day of summer on June 21! Dairy Queen generously sponsored this event and we were able to hand out over 175 ice creams to families. We look forward to working with Dairy Queen again during national ice cream day in July.

Monday Night Social Club: Monday Night Social Club went to the ballpark! We celebrated the summer solstice and watched our favorite local baseball team, the Yard Goats, during their themed night “Power of Ability”

celebrating everyone regardless of their differences. It was a great night full of laughter and foul balls!

Farmers Market: We kicked off our third Farmers Market season on Saturday, June 3. We are excited to welcome over 35 vendors each week with live music and entertainment. The Farmers Market will run every Saturday 9-12 pm through October 7. We hope you will come out and support local businesses this season.

Water Safety Event: We hosted our first Water Safety event at VMP on June 8. The event included a demonstration of safety equipment and visuals highlighting safe water practices and swimsuit visibility images. We unfortunately only had 35 participants attend as the event was held during swim evaluation night and it was negatively affected by the Canadian Wildfires. Nate and his team will host at least one more of these events during the 2023 summer season to highlight and emphasize the importance of safe water practices.

VMP: VMP opened for preseason on Saturday, June 3! As the weather is getting warmer, we have had a steady increase in residents coming to the pool for the summer! We are excited to open for the regular season and begin swim lessons starting Monday, June 26.

Lifeguard and WSI Training: Prior to the pool opening, we hosted a Lifeguard Training Course and a Water Safety Instructor training course. We had five participants in the lifeguard course and eight in the WSI that we were able to certify and employ at the pool.

Camp: The camp staff had training week of June 3 and were excited to welcome youth back to summer camp starting Monday, June 19, for the pre-camp week! The regular camp season runs from June 26-August 18.

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

Athletic Fields & Grounds:

- The crew had a very busy month getting things prepared for a variety of events and programs in Town. Some of these events and programs include the Lacrosse Tournament, Farmers Market opening day, and summer camp!
- Our Groundskeeper did an awesome job giving both the Rotary Pavilion at Nevers and the new Recreation facility a complete gardening facelift. We added new plantings that include day Lilies, Daisy Maranda’s, Russian Sage, and fresh Mulch We also edged out the walkway with Belgium Blocks.
- We made another enhancement to the Farmers Market site and installed a new permanent pavilion.
- We continued to work at 350 Foster Street to move and prep the facility for camp and other upcoming programs.
- We relocated the rear driveway and paved a new entrance to allow us to construct a new play area for the preschool at 350 Foster Street.

- We started working at Lawrence Road Park on the removal of poison ivy and other invasive plants.
- The crew continued with our regular maintenance of the park trails and fields to keep them safe and open.

Recreation Photos:



4th R friends enjoyed a variety of fun activities and theme days to end the school year!



Our awesome 4th R staff celebrating the end of the school year with the final color wars event and the pool party!



Recreation Photos:



We had over 250 community members attend the Memorial Day parade and Ceremony at VMP and we had 35 participants attend the Monday Night Social Club's trip to the Hartford Yard Goats!



The Farmers Market officially opened for the season on Saturday, June 3! Come support local every Saturday through October. Our recreation staff and our wonderful sponsors, Dairy Queen, ready to hand out ice cream!



Our Recreation Supervisor, Nathan Foley, emphasizing the importance of Water Safety practices during our first Water Safety event.

Parks Photos:



The crew has been diligently working on moving stuff from Wapping school and renovating outside spaces at 350 Foster Street to make the space functional for our programs.



We have a beautiful new pavilion at the Farmers Market field that was built on a concrete pad.



We continue to make vital improvements to our parks and trail systems to ensure the safety of our residents.



Our crew has done a variety of improvements around town including a new sign for the Historical society and giving the Nevers Park Rotary pavilion a spring facelift.

July 2023 Town Council Meetings and Events

Meetings

Monday, July 3, 2023

7:00 pm Town Council Regular Meeting
Council Chambers

Monday, July 17, 2023

7:00 pm Town Council Regular Meeting
Council Chambers

Holidays

Tuesday, July 4, 2023

Fourth of July
(Town offices Closed)

Layout by Katherine Senerth, Executive Assistant

