

Town of South Windsor

Town Manager's Report September 2023



Michael Maniscalco
Town Manager

Town Hall Window and HVAC Upgrade

Starting in September, we will begin to replace all the windows in the Town Hall. Many of the windows do not seal. They leak/rattle on windy days as well as all winter long. Additionally, we will be conducting an HVAC replacement in the building. With the building being constructed in 1968, the HVAC system is inefficient and certain components are reaching the end of their useful life. We may be forced to close the building for a day while the upgrades are completed but we are working to avoid that and will provide significant notice in the event that we do. All of these projects are being funded with Federal COVID funds and will help make our infrastructure and staff less vulnerable to the impacts of air borne illnesses.

years of binding that needs to be done to close out the project. I think it is important to recognize the Town regulatory staff in particular who have worked very hard to make sure the building meets code and is safe for some of our most important residents.

Michael Maniscalco, MPA
Town Manager

Economic Development Update

I have had the chance to meet with a number of business development professionals in the Town over the last month. In terms of the Promenade Shops at Evergreen Walk, Whole Foods construction is well underway and should be open in January 2024. Lens Crafters, the Goddard School and Nike are open. Sun Glass Hut, King Fu tea, Virtual Golf is under construction. Plans have been submitted for three restaurants for the site in between the old LA Fitness and where the new bank is located. The new commercial development being built at the corner of Rye Street and Sullivan is coming along and the developer has reported to me he has tenants for the entire phase 1 including State Farm, Pho and IV Lounge. He also has potential businesses lined up for phase 2 including some restaurant options.

Splash Pad

The engineer from Rain Drop flew out from Ohio to inspect the work being done by the sub contractor they hired. It was confirmed, as Town Staff had reported, that portions of the infrastructure were not being built correctly and some portions were being installed wrong. Rain Drop has hired a local engineering firm, DPI, to continue monitoring and inspecting the work as it is fixed and as the project moves forward. At the time of this report, I have a meeting set up with Rain Drop to discuss where things went wrong and what they plan to do to make it right. It is my hope that I will have more to report at the time of the Council meeting.

Pleasant Valley School Ribbon Cutting

The official Ribbon Cutting is scheduled for August 26th. While this officially opens the school, I wanted to remind the Council that the work is not done. There are punch list items, State audits and at least 1-2 more



Police Department

Kristian R. Lindstrom
Chief of Police

Monthly Statistics June & July 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.

June's numbers are below:

Total Computer Aided Dispatch Entries:	2165
Routine Calls Received/Outgoing:	3712
Directed Patrol/Premise Checks:	541
Motor Vehicle Stops:	247
Driving Under the Influence	4
Emotionally Disturbed Persons:	14
Medical Assists:	205
Suspicious:	98
Alarms:	79
Motor Vehicle Accidents:	19
Welfare Check:	51
Assist Outside Agency:	42
Animal Problem:	56
Citizen Assist:	38
Miscellaneous Service:	16
Collision Reports:	23
BOLO:	11
Disabled Motor Vehicle:	18
Larceny - Motor Vehicle	5
Larceny:	26
Hazardous Conditions:	17
Pistol Permits:	18
Burglary	11
Burglary - Motor Vehicle	21
Civil Matter:	10
911 Check:	14
Fraud:	43
Domestic Dispute:	13
Violation of Town Ordinance:	5
Sexual Assault	0
Arrests	30
Youth Problem:	8

July's numbers are below:

Total Computer Aided Dispatch Entries:	2143
Routine Calls Received/Outgoing:	3821
Directed Patrol/Premise Checks:	554
Motor Vehicle Stops:	176
Driving Under the Influence	6
Emotionally Disturbed Persons:	21
Medical Assists:	218
Suspicious:	73
Alarms:	84
Motor Vehicle Accidents:	37
Welfare Check:	64
Assist Outside Agency:	30
Animal Problem:	55
Citizen Assist:	31
Miscellaneous Service:	25
Collision Reports:	29
BOLO:	7
Disabled Motor Vehicle:	22
Larceny - Motor Vehicle	4
Larceny:	24
Hazardous Conditions:	25
Pistol Permits:	6
Burglary	1
Burglary - Motor Vehicle	12
Civil Matter:	15
911 Check:	8
Fraud:	113
Domestic Dispute:	10
Violation of Town Ordinance:	5
Sexual Assault	0
Arrests	29
Youth Problem:	13



Police Department

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Chief of Police

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.

For the first time in a very long time, the South Windsor Police Department is at its maximum authorized strength. We currently employ 46 sworn personnel and 15 civilian personnel. Being at full strength can change on a moments notice and if/when it does, the agency stands ready to immediately launch an active and focused recruiting campaign.

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), 1 officer on light duty with a work related injury, and 1 officer working light duty (pregnancy).

Civilian Personnel Summary

Among our 15 civilian employees, we currently have zero vacancies. Our newest dispatcher, Stephanie Grant, started working at the police department in early July when she was hired to fill a new "ninth dispatcher" position approved in the FY2024 budget. She is still in her field training and should be fully operational in the coming weeks.

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.

During the Council's summer break, the police department continued to be hard at work engaging the community.

On August 1st, for the first time, the Police Department participated in the "National Night Out" initiative. Mother Nature cooperated fully as the police department hosted a community event at the Rotary Pavilion at Nevers Road Park. This small festival included trucks and other static displays from various town departments and companies as well as other activities (bounce houses, food trucks, DJ and dancing, etc). Approximately one dozen police officers and civilian staff members were on hand to mingle and engage in the non-confrontational contacts that we so enjoy. This event was a wonderful success due to the hard work put in by our Community Outreach Officer, Sergeant Ronald Littell. Based on the feedback from attendees and PD personnel, this will be an event we participate in well into the future.

National Night Out was an institutional event, however our police officers always work on an individual level to engage the community. Ofc. Kyle Kolcharno was featured on the NBC30 news when he took time to meet with a teenager visiting from Japan. When he made his trip to the United States, one of this teenager's goals was to meet an American police officer and see an American police cruiser. Well, on August 21st, Ofc. Kolcharno made that happen when he visited with this teenager and gave him a tour of an "American police cruiser."

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.

We are monitoring the ongoing reconstruction of the Pleasant Valley Road bridge. That area of town is busy as we are also working with the Town, the Board of Ed, and the builder to make sure Ellington Road and Long Hill Road are both marked/signed appropriately and



Police Department

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Chief of Police

ready for the new Pleasant Valley School to open. Although the new campus has much more space than the old one, we will be monitoring traffic flow at drop off and dismissal time when the school year starts.

Speaking of the school year, with the first day of school rapidly approaching, we are once again conducting our annual "School Zone Enforcement" initiative. The various school zones in town will receive heightened traffic enforcement in the days leading up to the big day. This initiative is intended to maximize community safety, by reminding everyone to expect an increase in traffic, pedestrian, bus, and bicycle traffic on and around our school campuses.

In the last couple months we have received some inquiries regarding how the traffic lights on Buckland Road are functioning particularly in the overnight hours. We have looked into these inquiries and determined that, although there are some programming faults within this system, the lights are functioning as designed in order to minimize the chances for traffic accidents. This function may stop motorists at red lights during quiet hours of traffic, but this is how the system is designed to work. Buckland Road is unique in that all of the lights south of Four Corners are owned and maintained by the Town (as opposed to all of the other lights in town are owned and maintained by the State). Most of these town owned lights operate on an aging "loop system" and will continue to default into safe mode when they encounter a problem. At some point in time, provided the fiber infrastructure can support it, the town will need to consider investing money in the loop system lights in order to convert them to more modern video detection (not video recording) traffic management systems.

Police Activity and Significant Events

The South Windsor Police Department remains active and dedicated to the traditional law enforcement function by responding to the public's needs.

On July 13th, police personnel saw the second anniversary of the death of their friend and colleague, Ofc. Benjamin Lovett. Ben was killed two years ago when he was off duty and his motorcycle was hit by a drunk driver. Ben was a talented police officer and, more importantly, he was a great person. His death left a void in our agency that can still be felt today.

In July the police department's rear parking lot was replaced and expanded. This project was long overdue and caps off approximately a year of contractor and

vendor presence in and about our police headquarters.

Over the July 4th weekend, SWPD personnel arrested three drunk drivers. Despite the prevalence of ride/car services and public awareness campaigns, drunk driving remains a problem and frightening it seems to be on the rise.

On July 12th, SWPD personnel, with assistance from our regional Accident Reconstruction Team, investigated a single car fatal motor vehicle accident. This accident occurred after one of our patrol officers attempted to stop the vehicle for suspected drunk driving. The vehicle failed to stop for the officer who then followed state policy and did not pursue the motorist. The accident was discovered approximately 30 minutes later where the driver (and lone operator of the car) was found deceased.

During the middle of July, all of our dispatch certified personnel began the training and roll-out process for the new Priority Dispatch emergency medical dispatching program. The training and implementation of this program is as robust as the program itself, however in the end, it will provide a more streamlined response by our agency to calls for medical assistance.

On July 16th, the Town and region received an unusual amount of rain. This rain caused significant flooding down near the Connecticut River and other low lying areas. As always, the police department and public works responded safely and quickly to minimize any damage or losses.

In mid-July, there was an afternoon car accident on Route 5 from which the at fault driver was seen fleeing the area on foot. One of our officers gave chase and observed that the fleeing driver appeared to be covered in blood. When we lost visual contact with the driver, police personnel became concerned that perhaps he was in woods seriously injured. This prompted an extensive search of the area with K-9 Mason, drones, and additional personnel. A short while later, the driver was located by a patrol officer and was taken into custody where he was evaluated and treated for his injuries.

On July 20, during the overnight hours, Dispatch received a phone call from a concerned and frightened husband whose wife was unresponsive. Within minutes, patrol officers arrived and the home was determined that the 36 year old wife and mother was not breathing and had no pulse. Officers began life



Police Department

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Chief of Police

saving measures and by employing quality effective CPR and administering shocks with an external defibrillator. The patient was hospitalized for several days and is now home with her family with a great prognosis and her infant child still has a mother. The involved officers and dispatchers (Dispatchers Burnham and Covill, Sergeant Truebig, Corporal LaPorte, and Officer Hernando) were all recognized by ECHN for their lifesaving efforts and they will likely receive the police department's Life Saving Medal.

On July 29, an arrestee who was in custody at the police department tried to take his own life. The job of the on duty Dispatchers is to monitor the arrestee via CCTV and on this occasion they did their job very well. They detected his abnormal behavior and call the patrol officers to assist. The party was treated on scene by police and ambulance personnel who transported to the hospital for observation.

On July 31, a car show at CT Valley Brewing got slightly out of hand when several car enthusiasts left the show in a reckless manner. Their burnouts and reckless departures, caused ample concern and generated multiple 911 calls. Police responded to the area to ensure that the event did not escalate to a street takeover type incident. One of the departing vehicles crashed off of the road and after that incident was investigated, the area cleared without further incident. In the wake of his incident, police supervisors and command staff members met with the business owners and event planners to discuss how to avoid similar situations in the future.

As the calendar turned to August, police activity continued at a strong pace. On August 1, patrol personnel responded to a robbery on Mill Pond Drive. The victim reported that he had just been robbed at gun point when he went to an arranged online transaction with plans to sell his cell phone. One week later on Aug 8, a similar incident with a different victim occurred at the same location. Both of these incidents were investigated and searches were conducted with police canines and drones. A few hours after the Aug 8 robbery, the suspect struck again and committed a third armed robbery. Again, there was a significant police response with patrol officers, detectives, and administrative personnel to augment the search for the suspect. Within approximately an hour of this third robbery, the suspect was located in the basement of a Mill Pond condominium, identified, and taken into custody without any physical force or injuries to anyone involved.

On Aug 9, the drunk driving problem resurfaced when a two car accident occurred shortly after 1:00am. This accident was somewhat unique as investigating officers determined that the operators of both vehicles were intoxicated and crashed into each other. Both operators were arrested and will be prosecuted. This is yet another example of the dangers to lurk on our roadways.

On Aug 13, midnight shift officers arrested an individual for two separate counts of Burglary and Violation of a Protective Order. This incident involved the arrestee trying to gain entry to his former significant other's home overnight while she slept inside. Officers responded to the first incident and were unable to locate the individual in question. They proactively checked the area again a few hours later and located the same suspect trying again to enter the home despite a protective order being in place that prohibited him from having any contact of any kind with the victim.

In the month of August, patrol personnel responded to multiple cases of missing elderly individuals. Both parties, one of whom suffers from significant dementia, were located safe and sound after exhaustive searches.

Unlocked Car Burglaries & Car Thefts

As predicted, the summer months saw an increase in car burglaries and thefts. Unfortunately, what seemed to be an issue that only impacted unlocked cars in previous years, now seems to have expanded to suspects breaking windows to gain entry to vehicles. There is little if any predictability or patterning as to when and where these incidents takes place, but when they do, they seem to occur in concentrated time frames and areas. For instance, one night there will be several burglaries concentrated in one neighborhood, and then a few weeks later, a similar spree will occur in a completely separate area. To combat this issue, the police department has received grant monies that allow us to put extra officers on overtime to focus on reducing car burglaries and thefts, however these efforts are difficult with such little predictability as to where and when they might occur.

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



Police Department

Kristian R. Lindstrom
Chief of Police

(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 substantially completed this project. The couple of unfinished sidewalk sections, clean-up and punch list items (including completing roadside turf restoration) will be completed this fall. We received a signed Special Use License from CT DEEP to work on their property south 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. 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. Most of the utilities by the bridge have been temporarily relocated and the existing bridge has been demolished and removed. Most new steel piles have been driven and O&G is working on forming and pouring the new concrete bridge abutments and approach walls. They are also installing new storm drainage pipes and structures in this section of road and have begun to remove the old asphalt and road base west of the bridge. Additional utility poles need to be relocated for the new road and drainage work. Once the storm drainage is installed, O&G will install new road base and grade the road for paving, starting west of the bridge. The road will remain closed to through traffic until the bridge has been rebuilt. Residents are able to get to their properties along and off of this section of Pleasant Valley Road and VMP is open. There will be delays and residents are advised to plan for extra time when traveling in this area.

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. Test pits are being dug to locate underground utilities and help WMC to 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 was completed by B&W Paving & Landscaping in July.

Milling and paving Town roads has been awarded to Burns Construction and is now scheduled to begin in early September and be done at the end of October.

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. Final plans will be sent to CRCOG for another review and we 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 have started 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

Public Works Department

Vincent Stetson
Director of Public Works

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

Public Buildings Division

Recreation/Building Maintenance Move into Old Orchard Hill School

Contracted work to relocate and add ethernet cabling and power outlets to the main offices was completed. Two offices and one conference room still need A/C units installed; however, we were able to make accommodations while other high priority work was being completed. All the outside doors have now been re-keyed and adjusted and operate as they should. Proposals for adding card access to three remaining doors is expected in the next week or so. This Summer the building saw heavy use especially with summer camp in session. I will be meeting with the Recreation Staff in the coming weeks to review the building operations and security, recreation needs and building maintenance support moving forward.

Code Assessment-Old Orchard Hill

Town Manager signed proposal to complete an ADA, building and fire code assessment for the building. A kickoff meeting is scheduled for early September.

Capital Needs Assessment

The Capital Projects Committee requested that an updated Capital Needs Assessment be completed for both the Town and Board of Education facilities. Darrell

Crowley and I will be evaluating proposals for this work in the coming weeks

Wood Memorial Library HVAC Upgrades

HVAC plans were updated to reflect a new more affordable design through the change order process. The Engineer is currently waiting for approval from SHPO on the design before reaching out to contractor to get a revised proposal.

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

I am in the process of ordering the brick pavers for this project. The base project consists of replacing all the concrete pavers at the main entrance between the Town Hall and Library. This project should kick off this fall.

VMP Epoxy Flooring Repairs- Filter Building

Repairs on the latest flooring application were put on hold while the VMP season was in progress. Now that the season has ended repairs will resume. Unfortunately the flooring issues and repeat repairs have been ongoing for a sometime. The good news here is that the contractor has stood behind his work and has albeit slowly, continued to try solutions that work on the floors at no additional cost to the Town.

ARPA Project- Fire House/Town Hall HVAC Upgrades

Parts for these projects are still on order but are expected shortly.

ARPA Project-Town Hall Windows Renovations 1st Floor

Speaking with the general contractor, we learned that the office doors for the Clerk, Assessor and Tax Collector are shipping earlier than previously thought. They will now be onsite the first week of September and will be installed shortly thereafter. Windows are still expected to arrive later in September.

Duct Cleaning Police Department

Duct cleaning was completed on schedule. While cleaning the ducts, the contractor identified some areas of concern including loose fitting ductwork, wet insulation and mildew. The wet insulation has been replaced and the loose-fitting ductwork is scheduled to be repaired. After much investigation on the mildew issue, I've come to learn that it is not that uncommon especially with the extremely wet and humid summer we have experienced. The duct work can be sealed to help prevent any further issues. I am currently investigating the duct sealing process and will be selecting someone to

Public Works Department

Vincent Stetson
Director of Public Works

complete that work as soon as possible.

Town Hall LED Lighting Upgrades

We are currently working with the state library to upgrade the lights in the vault. I am also working with the lighting contractor to install dimmable LED pendant lights in the Council Chambers to eliminate the dimly lit area where the public sits.

Rekey Interior Doors PD

The parts have arrived and are expected to be installed early September

Library Phone System

Ethernet wiring for the new phones has been completed. Fiber from the Town Hall to the Library has also been installed. Some phone system parts from AT&T have arrived however we are still waiting for more to arrive. AT&T will start building the system in the coming weeks, during that process we will determine which phone numbers to port to AT&T, schedule end user training and work out any other details before the cut-over.

Town Hall /Library Lockdown Project

I have a meeting scheduled with our security vendor (Venture Communications and Security) and the IT Department next week to discuss next steps toward installing the equipment necessary to initiate a lockdown for both buildings. The install of the equipment including the network software will take a couple months, not including testing and commissioning. We will conduct our first drill once completed.

Annex Retaining Wall Repairs

I've received a proposal to make repairs to the retaining wall at the front of the Annex. The capstones and stucco are deteriorating and need to be reset and replaced. This is a fairly large project as it entails carving out old stucco, removing, repairing and replacing the capstones and repainting the wall. The work will begin in the next few weeks and take a couple weeks to complete.

Salt Shed Burgess Rd Repairs/Repainting

I've met with two contractors to look at what it will take to replace the rotted wood and trim on the shed. This shed is huge. I plan on repairing and repainting in 3 or 4 phases due to the cost. I've asked one contractor to rent a 30' boom lift to evaluate once side of the building (the worst side) to determine how much of the lumber and trim needs to be replaced and which can be repaired prior to staining.

Old Orchard Hill Lighting Upgrades

I met with our Eversource approved lighting contractor last month to evaluate the lighting, emergency lights and exit signs in the building. Most of the lighting is fluorescent and is due to be upgraded. Most of the emergency lighting systems are also very old and need to be replaced. I expect a proposal for all of the upgrades in the next month.

Library Parking Lot Lighting

I received a new proposal for the lot lighting. The proposal will shave a few thousand dollars off the original proposal price due to a new way of powering the lights. I have submitted and received approval from the Planning Department to install the new lights. I will have the Town Manager sign the proposal and will then order the poles and light fixtures for this project.

Clay Major
Director of Facilities

Street Services

Street crews continue making catch basin repairs in the Homestead Dr, Clearview Dr, Kent Lane area in preparation of the upcoming resurfacing of roads in this area. Many of the surrounding street have already been completed ahead of the paving plan.

Comer Contracting, the town's chip seal contractor, chip sealed Collins Crossing, Hillsdale Dr, Mountain View Rd and a part of Foster St. This treatment preserves roads that are in fair condition, lengthening the service life of the road. Street Services ensured these roads were prepped ahead of the chip sealing helping make this a successful application.

The department took on a significant pavement milling and repaving on areas of Dawn Dr. These areas were failing rapidly and needed immediate attention.

Crews continue to trim back sightline issues and around regulatory signs helping make our roads safer for the motoring public.

Several trees were trimmed or removed by the town's contractor, Distinctive Tree. Our maintainers assisted with traffic control on several roads.

Work continues on detention basins throughout town. These basins are an important and vital piece of the town's drainage system. Periodic cutting back overgrowth is necessary to keep these functioning properly.

Fleet Services completed a permanent undercarriage

Public Works Department

Vincent Stetson
Director of Public Works

wash system for the wash bay. The department built, capturing the design by Fleet Manager Chuck Marshall, an award-winning prototype (2018 Connecticut Creative Solutions Award) several years ago and it has been tested vigorously with successful results. The design is a drive-over system providing high waterflow at low pressure with water streams directed at different angles to ensure water reaches all areas of the underbody. Special thanks to Mechanic Billy Pitcher for his expert craftsmanship in fabricating this as a permanent fixture and helping prolong the life of our fleet.

The department welcomed our newest Maintainer I, Alan Corthouts. Alan came in energized and ready to learn. We look forward to watching him grow in his new career. Good luck Alan!

The sign shop replaced or repaired several signs during the month as well assisted the BOE with last minute sign requests for the new Pleasant Valley School.

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

Finance Department

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

Assessor

In mid-September the Assessor's Office will be mailing the 2023 Personal Property Declarations to all businesses and owners of personal property in Town.

The Assessor's Office has many online resources available regarding Personal Property information such as a step-by-step PowerPoint guide to filing the declaration, a Frequently Asked Questions pamphlet along with other forms and tools to aid in filing the annual declaration. The link to our webpage is here: <https://www.southwindsor-ct.gov/assessor/pages/personal-property-declaration-information>.

Below is an important schedule reminder for those who file Personal Property Declarations.

Please note the following schedule:

Declarations Mailed: September 2023
Declarations Must be Filed: November 1, 2023
Notice of New Assessment: January 2024

The Board of Assessment Appeals will be meeting September 18 and 19, 2023 to hear Motor Vehicle appeals by appointment. Applications must be filed with the Assessor's Office on or before September 1, 2023 in order to be heard by the Board.

Collector of Revenue

Residential sewer use bills will be mailed September 22, 2023, payment is due October 1, 2023, and the last day to pay without penalty is October 31, 2023. Payment may be remitted during office hours with cash or check, fees apply for payment remitted online, [Online Payments | southwindsorct \(southwindsor-ct.gov\)](https://www.southwindsor-ct.gov/online-payments), check or money order by mail or by using one of the two secure drop boxes outside of Town Hall.

Delinquent/demand notices were mailed August 31, 2023. To avoid additional interest and fees payment must be received by the close of business Friday, September 29, 2023.

DMV has been notified of accounts that are delinquent. Therefore, clearance will be required to complete a renewal or new registration of a motor vehicle. To obtain immediate clearance payment in full must be remitted with cash, money order or certified bank funds. Personal checks and online payments require a ten-day business hold.

Many resources are available online from the Collector of Revenue including the option to receive notifications of mailings/due dates, the ability to view or print tax bills and/or payment receipts, Frequently Asked Questions and much more, <https://www.southwindsor-ct.gov/collector-revenue>.

If you have questions please email taxcollector@southwindsor-ct.gov or call 860-644-2511 extension 2321.

Building Department

Marc Melanson, Chief Building Official
Adam Chrostowski, Asst. Building Official
Valerie Musyzynski, Asst. Building Official
Morgan Middleton, Building Dept. Administrator

Building Department Monthly Report

Number of Permits Issued:	190
Number of Inspections Done:	462
Value of Work Done:	\$8,303,321
Amount of Revenue Collected:	\$228,602

Update of Large Projects

Pleasant Valley School

Working on closing up the ceilings in the classrooms to prepare for the teachers to come in and set up their rooms. Looking to get the Certificate of Occupancy by August 23rd.

Philip R. Smith Elementary School

Portable classrooms are in place and working on the connector.

Club Studio Fitness Center

Doing plan reviews for interior renovations for the old LA Fitness.

Hartford Truck

Steel is being erected for a 45,000 square foot storage building.

The Promenade Shops at Evergreen Walk

The following work is in progress:

Whole Foods
Kung-Fu Tea
Massage Envy
Sunglass Hut
Golf Lounge 18

Amazon Distribution Facility

Amazon is currently installing conveyors and material-handling equipment in the facility.

Marc Melanson
Chief Building Official

Human Services Department

Andrea Cofrancesco
Director of Human Services

July & August 2023
Andrea Cofrancesco, Director of Human Services

Back to School Program



New Balance South Windsor donated 10 backpacks to our Back to School Program. Michael Disibio, owner of New Balance and Steve Grigorian, volunteer in the Senior Center's Community Service Group, are pictured. We appreciate the support!

Parking Lot

We love our new parking lot but we had the most fun on the golf cart loaned to us by the Board of Ed, to help us get older adults from the upper lot and grass, to the front of the building. Seniors want a permanent golf cart since our parking lot is always full! We appreciate the staff of Public Works who helped make this happen with no issues in a friendly and helpful way.



Senior Center Trips

Our Trip offerings are booming! From a variety of cruises, Iceland and France, to shorter overnight trips such as Saratoga and Pennsylvania, to day trips, we have a large variety of offerings to meet the needs and desires of South Windsor residents 55+ who want to travel! Photo below is a day trip to Mystic. Friendships are born here at the Senior Center and social engagement helps improve mental and physical well-being.

Welcome Ryan!

Ryan Schieding has joined our team as a caseworker in our Adult and Senior Services Division of Human Services. Ryan comes to us with experience in substance abuse and mental health issues and homelessness. He also enjoys working with veterans. Please welcome Ryan to the Town of South Windsor! Ryan can be reached at 860-648-6361 ext. 3325. We are excited to have him on board!



New Group! Depression and Anxiety

Mental Health is something that impacts us all and rarely do we have all the answers to cope. Let's have a discussion together on it and find out what depression and anxiety really is and what it looks and feels like. What are some myths and facts about mental health? Sarah Hornberger, Clinical Social Worker from Intercommunity Health Care will be our facilitator for this newly formed group focused on education and providing the tools and resources to cope. Meetings will be the **3rd Tuesday of each month at 10:30 AM beginning September 19** at the Community Center. Free. American Rescue Plan Act funds are making this group possible.

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.

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.

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.

Human Services Department

Andrea Cofrancesco
Director of Human Services

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.

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



August 2023

The Teen Center staff had an eventful summer with the **eight-week** program we facilitate called Rising Stars. This summer program is for middle school and high school students. There aren't many summer camps offered to this age group, but they still need guidance and support throughout the summer. We build our program around team building; take healthy risks, community service and fun! We had 68 teens attend our program this year! Thank you to the Parks Division for working with our teens on a weekly basis this summer! Thank you to the SWPD for providing tours and the SW Senior Center for teaming up with us on some activities. It was an all-hands-on deck program with all Youth and Family staff interacting with the Rising Stars groups!

We are currently hiring for the Teen Center Program Coordinator position. We hope to hire someone soon so that we can bring back the Friday night drop in hours here at the Teen Center.



School Outreach & Prevention

Paula Berson, Robin Lagasse and Kathy Reed ran the new Summer Social Squad program, and it was a wonderful new addition to programs offered by Youth and Family Services. We invited kids in grades 3-5 to join us for some fun and learning. We played cooperative games, enjoyed time outside, made crafts, worked on life skills and encouraged new friendships.



Our department also organizes the "Moving On Up" transition program, which was offered to incoming 6th graders at TEMS. This program, which runs during the month of August, has been happening for years and it just

keeps expanding. This summer Robin, Kathy and Paula welcomed 153 students over the course of 10 sessions. 2 High School students also volunteered their time to help out with the program. We played cooperative games, got to know each other, answered questions about TEMS, went on a tour and practiced opening lockers. We are confident that this opportunity helps ease the nerves of both students and their families prior to the start of school. We receive positive feedback from the kids that they feel better once they have completed the "Moving On Up" program.

Youth Counseling, Parent Education and Support

Counselors remain busy with **62** open and active cases of youth seen for mental health counseling. We continue to receive new referrals for counseling this month, 10 new referrals in July and August. We currently have 10 on our waitlist. Our referrals are coming from South Windsor schools, police, and parents/guardians. We are thrilled to announce that Paula Berson has joined us full time as of August 22nd. This will help with our waitlist, but we are still looking for someone for the part time ARPA funded position. Paula has been working with us for the last year through the ARPA mental health funds. Our one part time counselor is at capacity and has been a big help over the last few months with taking on as many cases as she was able to. 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 wonderful partnership with the schools and have additional dedicated space at the High School and Middle school for counseling and programming. We are also thrilled to have additional space at the Recreation building on

Human Services Department

Andrea Cofrancesco
Director of Human Services

Foster Street. We will use that space for counseling, the Juvenile Review Board and office space.

Although we no longer have a Parent Educator, thanks to DCF Enhancement grant funds, we have contracted services with Peace At Home Parenting, Inc.

“Connection, Cooperation, Joy – let Peace At Home Parenting Solutions help you define your relationship with your child. We start by teaching from the heart.”

South Windsor Youth & Family Services has collaborated with Peace At Home Parenting Solutions to bring you expert guidance and evidence-based strategies that solve parenting challenges and increase connection and cooperation with your kids.

To sign up for a class- South Windsor – Peace At Home Parenting Solutions

Free with Code: SWindsorPeace

*Liz Langevin, LCSW
Youth and Family Services*





Parks & Recreation Department

Molly Keays
Director of Parks & Recreation

“Discover the Benefits!”

John Caldwell, Jr.
Parks Superintendent

MONTHLY REPORT

Jennifer Filer
Asst. Director of Parks & Recreation



MONTHLY REPORT August 2023

Park & Recreation Commission (PARC): The Park and Recreation Commission will meet on Wednesday, September 13 at 7:30 pm in the Town Council Chambers.

South Windsor Walk and Wheel Ways (SWW&WW): Walk and Wheel Ways hosted a variety of Teen Cycle club rides and Thursday evening bike rides this summer. They are preparing for their fall 4th grade bike programs at both Phillip R. Smith and Orchard Hill.

RECREATION DIVISION “Feel great – recreate!”

ABCD Awards

On August 17, we hosted our annual Parks and Recreation ABCD awards. The ABCD award, also known as the above and beyond the call of duty award, was an initiative created within our department back in 2009. We realized we are very fortunate in South Windsor to have many individuals who exemplify our mission and strive for excellence to make a positive impact on our department and community. Each year, we give these awards out to part-time staff, volunteers, community groups, and local businesses that truly go beyond their duties, display passion and dedication to parks and recreation, and most importantly, make a positive impact on our programs, department, and the community. During the awards, we recognized six ABCD winners. Our ABCD award recipients are; Braden Goodale, Bob Benson, Sarah Mulcahy, Danielle Bifolck, Kat Adamo, and Jeff Keopper/Allied Printing Services, Inc.

Summer Day Camps

What an amazing summer at SWPRD Summer Day Camps! For the summer of 2023, we invited campers ages 2-15 to join in one of our four camp programs held at South Windsor Parks & Recreation Facility at 350 Foster Street. Our incredible summer staff provided a fun, unique, and memorable summer camp experience for over 2,000 campers! Some of the favorite activities at camp included: “Are you Smarter than a Camp Counselor?”, Pool days, Camp Dance Off, and Camp Carnival Day! Thank you to all who joined us in the fun

this summer. we look forward to seeing you again next year!! Below are some quotes from camp families.

“Next week is our daughter's last week. This was her first summer camp. The camp counselors are amazing! Everything they do each day to make it a fun summer is incredible. Our daughter went from not wanting to go to becoming upset that camp was over. Thank you for all the work, planning, and positive vibes this team brings every week! We are so appreciative!”

“Just wanted to say THANK YOU for another amazing camp year. You guys are the best crew. Have a great day and rest of the summer. See you next year”

Camp Family Night

Camp Family Night was hosted at Veterans Memorial Park on Wednesday, August 2. The night was for all families that registered for one of our four summer day camps this summer. Campers and their families enjoyed arts & crafts, swimming, pizza, and hanging out with their counselors! It was a great night for the campers to enjoy a few of their favorite things about camp: swimming at VMP and spending time with their amazing counselors!! Thank you to all who attended!

Basketball Camps

We ran two basketball-specific camps this summer for both boys' and girls' basketball players in Town. We had 107 participants and over half played in our league throughout the winter season.

Celebrate Veteran's Event

On July 23, we hosted our annual Veteran's celebration at VMP. During this event, we gave free entry to the 62 Veterans and their families who attended and provided light refreshments, games, music, and local resources for our Veterans.

Cornhole

Our second annual Cornhole league finished at the end of August. We had 10 teams participate in the league each Thursday this summer, and it truly was a social program that allowed adults to socialize and recreate. We will be hosting a fall cornhole league.

Cougar Sports Camps

We had 126 youth in our five Cougar camps this summer. These camps are offered to our middle school-aged youth

as a way to engage them in physical activity and allow them to further develop their skills within their specified sport. We offered Soccer, Field Hockey, Speed and Agility, Volleyball, and Softball camps, and we look forward to continuing these camps next summer.

Creative Cardio

This is a year-round program that allows interested 16+ years old an opportunity to participate and socialize in a traditional, but challenging full-body workout class. We offered this class in person and virtually and had 32 participants. By offering this class via Zoom and in person, participants can enjoy the socialization aspect of in-person or can choose to get involved on Zoom from the comfort of their own homes!

Dive in Movie

We tried our first movie night at VMP on July 19! We had 58 families come to enjoy the Pirates of the Caribbean and swim after hours.

Empower Yoga

10 participants enjoyed the morning and evening yoga sessions at the beautiful Nevers Park!

Free Friday Flicks

On August 18, we hosted a Free Friday Flick at Evergreen Walk and featured the Rise of Gru! We had 67 families come to enjoy the movie under the stars.

Farmers Market

Our weekly Market has had a great variety of local farms, vendors, and food trucks each week. The Market will continue to run every Saturday from 9-12 p.m. until October 7.

Food Explorers

40 2nd-8th grade youth participated in our summer Food Explorer camps this summer! We had three themed weeks including Chocolate baking, Tapas & Tacos, and Chopped: Cookout edition. Participants learned independence in the kitchen and the basics of healthy habits while having fun.

Meet Me at the Park

On July 11, we hosted our pop-up event at Nevers Park in Partnership with the Police Department. The PD provided insight into what it looks like to train and obtain proper education and flying regulations for drones in the area and then had participants fly the drones. Please look out on our social media for more Meet Me at the Park days!

Monday Night Social Club

MNSC is a social program that brings youth, young adults, and adults within the inclusion community together. The last 8 sessions have included summer water games, crafts, make-your-own grinders, a birthday party, and a cornhole tournament with prizes. On August 9, the Rotary Club hosted its annual picnic for the MNSC! They enjoyed the cookout, yard games, and dunk tank! Overall, we had 112 participants join us this summer, and we are excited about

our fall activities.

Pickleball League

Pickleball is a popular sport in our community! We finished our first league of 25 players, and we have many residents eager to participate in our fall lessons and tournament!

Skyhawks Camps

We offered a variety of sports camps through Skyhawks this summer that allowed 170 youth to learn the rules and essentials of each sport through skill-based games and scrimmages. We offered Flag Football, Golf, STEM Basketball, Mini-Hawk, Multisport, and Basketball camps. These programs are a great alternative for our youth who rather play sports than participate in our traditional day camp.

Softball

Our annual Softball league ran from May to August this year with 145 adults playing games weekly at Rye Street Park. Check out our social media to see the winners of our A and B divisions!

Summer Concert Series

We wrapped up our eight-week summer concert series at Evergreen Walk on Thursday, August 17. We had a list of incredible bands throughout the summer that kept our community dancing every Thursday night. Thank you to Evergreen Walk, our Headline Sponsor Charles Schwab, and our other community sponsors for their support. We have a fall concert featuring the Savage Brothers on Thursday, September 14, at our Farmers Market field. Check out our social media for more information.

VMP

We have had a fun time with our residents at the pool this summer! We have had a busy season full of events, lessons, and fun in the sun. Our last day of the season is Monday, September 4, and then we have our annual Doggy Dips event on September 6 to close out the summer.

Adaptive Swim Lessons

This season we started the adaptive lessons and had nine participants. These lessons are ideal for people looking to have one-on-one instruction in a comforting and modified environment designed to best fit the needs of participants of all ages.

Aqua Zumba

Aqua Zumba offers various benefits for individuals of all ages and ability levels! This class is a low-impact water-based program that we offered on Tuesday evenings this summer. We had a total of ten participants per session and they all loved the dance exercises and our high-energy instructor.

Seals Swim Team

We had 125 swimmers participating in our seasonal swim team this summer. We have three age group divisions including 8 & under, 9-12-year olds, and 13-18-year old.

Swim Lessons

We had approximately 800 youth and adults participate in our four, two-week private and group swim lesson sessions. Instructors spend the two weeks working with each swimmer to assist in building confidence in and around the water and work on methods of improvement on their swim abilities. The South Windsor Seals is a great way for our young swimmers to challenge themselves and compete in a friendly and casually competitive league during the summer season. This league offers an opportunity for both novice and skilled swimmers to compete against their individual times as well as against swimmers from other CT towns that participate in the Central CT Swim League.

Tennis Lessons

100 youth and adults participated in our six tennis lesson offerings this summer. These lessons allow our community to learn the sport and grow their skills through a variety of drills and activities each day.

4TH R

4th "R" Training for the 2023-2024 school year is complete! Our 30 staff members participated in a three-day long Super Mario-themed training (totaling 24 hours) to prepare for the school year. In addition to getting to know one another and engaging in fun teambuilding activities, important training topics covered included; Policies and Procedures, Positive Reinforcement, Behavior Management, Parent Communication, Staff Communication, Child Communication, Tone, Perception and image, Inclusion, Staff Engagement, Group Management, Problem Solving, Effective Transitions, Snow & Vacation Day Programs, Sexual Harassment, Site Paperwork, Emergency Action Plan, OSHA & BBP, Mandated Reporter, Creative Planning, and how to create a meaningful and engaging experience for each participant. All staff have also been trained in CPR and First Aid, and on-site director and assistant director staff have been trained in medication administration and epi-pen administration.

Preschool

Registration for the Fall and Winter Preschool Sessions A & B opened this month! The Fall Session A classes are 84% full, and the Late Fall/Early Winter Session B classes are already 78% full! There are still spots available in our 2-3-year-old classes, 3-5-year-old classes, and parent/child classes for both residents and non-residents, so we encourage anyone who is interested to enroll today!

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

Athletic Fields & Grounds

- July and August, we have been working on catching up on projects throughout town including work at the ball fields, trails, open space and irrigation.
- We had a busy summer assisting recreation with preparation for various events and updates at recreation.
- We have done heavy clearing and maintenance in areas such as the duck pond and Firehouse 1.
- We have spent additional time on mowing this season due to the cooler temperatures and rain causing our grass and weeds to grow exponentially.
- We are prepping and painting all the recreation and BOE athletic fields as the fall sport season commences.
- We have a vacancy in the Parks Division as Jake Burnham has left the town to become a full-time Firefighter.

Recreation Photos:



We had so much fun this summer at camp making new friends, going on adventurous trips and dressing up for theme days!



Swim lesson theme days are so fun with our awesome instructors!



Over 800 youth and adults participated in swim lessons at VMP this summer.



Our 125 participants among the three divisions celebrating their successful season at our end of summer banquet!



Summer Concert Series at Evergreen Walk.

Recreation Photos:



Whether its Pickleball or Cornhole, we had plenty of ways for our adults to recreate this summer!



Our Cornhole League winners proudly displaying their trophies.



ABCD Award Winners: Braden Goodale, Bob Benson, Sarah Mulcahy, Danielle Bifolck, Kat Adamo, and Jeff Keopper/Allied Printing Services, Inc. (not pictured)



4th R staff training! The staff are excited to welcome the kids back.



We added Belgian blocks at the entrance to Receptions new home at 350 Foster Street.

Parks Photos:



Continued tree work and maintenance of open space this summer.



New stone dust to our spectator and player areas at our Rye Street fields.



Parks Crew added a new backflow preventer at the Nevers Park soccer field.



Rob is completing yearly maintenance of the Firehouse and Duck Pond.

September 2023 Town Council Meetings and Events

Meetings

Tuesday, September 4, 2023

7:00 pm Town Council Regular Meeting
Council Chambers

Monday, September 18, 2023

7:00 pm Town Council Regular Meeting
Council Chambers

Holidays

Monday, September 4, 2023

Labor Day—Town Offices Closed

Monday, September 11, 2023

Patriot Day

Friday, September 15, 2023

Rosh Hashanah begins at sundown

Saturday, September 21, 2023

Autumn begins

Sunday, September 24, 2023

Yom Kippur begins at sundown

Layout by Katherine Senerth, Executive Assistant

