

# Town of South Windsor

## Town Manager's Report April 2022



Michael Maniscalco  
Town Manager

**Rte 5 & South Satellite Sink Hole-** Town Staff and the State DOT are working to find a solution to a large sink hole and crushed drainage pipe on Rte 5. Thankfully, DOT is taking responsibility for the job and will begin construction at some point this summer.

**State Meeting Regarding Future of MSW-** The State convened a meeting of a number of communities to discuss alternatives for what to do with municipal solid waste (MSW). It sounds like as a result of this meeting, the State DEEP will release a request for information to developers for solutions to the State's waste problems. Additionally, they will be looking for municipalities to recommend locations within their communities that could potentially work for a MSW solution.

**One Buckland Rd Traffic Light-** I wanted to bring to the attention of the Council that construction has started at One Buckland Road for a new traffic light that will allow traffic coming to South Windsor to take a left into the plaza. This is an important project to ensure that the plaza remains economically viable. The cost of construction for the light is being born by the developer.

**Rye St Park Letter and Clean Up-** As I think many of you remember last year, the Town experienced a number of strong storms. One of those storms seriously damaged many of the trees in Rye St. Park. With spring upon us, the staff are working on clean up from the storms as well as from the winter. Additionally, they are going to implement some temporary fencing around the pond to ensure that youth sports will not have an issue. The resident that sent a letter to the Council has been communicated with related to this work.

### **Collectors Update-**

Below is data reflective of March 29, 2022 compared to March 31, 2021.

March Tax Collection Rate	2019 Grand List	2020 Grand List
Overall	98.89%	99.04%
Real Estate	99.08%	99.41%
Personal Property	99.14%	98.90%
Motor Vehicle	97.82%	97.27%
MV Supple	89.43%	88.17%

Michael Maniscalco, MPA  
Town Manager



## Police Department

Kristian R. Lindstrom  
Chief of Police

### Monthly Statistics January 2022:

Each month we publish the totals of some of our more common calls for service. These statistics historically fluctuate as they respond to several factors. From socio-political trends to weather trends, our activity levels are in a constant state of change. Patrol staff continue to proactively check businesses, town facilities, neighborhoods, and roadways in an effort to detect problems and

February's numbers are below:

Total Computer Aided Dispatch Entries:	2325
9-1-1 Calls Received:	507
Routine Calls Received/Outgoing:	3677
Directed Patrol/Premise Checks:	978
Motor Vehicle Stops:	193
Emotionally Disturbed Persons:	14
Medical Assists:	222
Suspicious:	63
Alarms:	82
Motor Vehicle Accidents:	44
Welfare Check:	36
Assist Outside Agency:	25
Animal Problem:	29
Citizen Assist:	25
Miscellaneous Service:	5
Collision Reports:	21
BOLO:	16
Disabled Motor Vehicle:	22
Larceny - Motor Vehicle	0
Larceny:	25
Hazardous Conditions:	20
Pistol Permits:	13
Burglary	4
Burglary - Motor Vehicle	2
Civil Matter:	7
911 Check:	10
Fraud:	9
Domestic Dispute:	12
Violation of Town Ordinance:	5
Sexual Assault	1
Youth Problem:	12

### Covid 19 Update:

The month of March marks the end of the second year of the Covid pandemic. Last month's Omicron variant hit the region aggressively and left just as aggressively. With numbers well below

those seen only a couple months ago, the community, state, and nation seem to have moved on from the bulk of the Covid precautions that had been in place for months. Masks are optional, testing has declined, and everyone seems to be emerging from a sense of pandemic induced hibernation with cautious optimism.

While it seems the Community is breathing a tentative sigh of relief and strong willingness to move forward, ample supplies of PPE and test kits remain on hand in the event Covid tries for another strangle hold on the community.

Under CDC direction, after nearly two full years of doing so, Police Dispatchers have discontinued the screening of calls regarding Covid risks prior to officers arriving at a scene or call for service. Police staff will continue to utilize personal protective equipment and practice social distancing when encountering heightened risk factors.

The police department is not blind to the fact that for many the transition away from Covid will be welcomed with open arms and enthusiasm, while for many others it will bring increased levels of anxiety and concern. For these reasons, we will continue to not only respond to the community's needs as a whole, but also respond to the individual needs of community members regardless of their position on the pandemic and the socio-political topics embedded within.

For the time being, Department officials continue to work collaboratively with other local officials to continually monitor community trends and needs.

### Personnel and Recruiting Status

The strength of the South Windsor Police Department always has been, and continues to be, the staff who keep things moving day in and day



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Chief of Police

out.

This month a variety of personnel movements occurred that impact the police department.

March 8<sup>th</sup> was designated as International Women's Day. On this day we recognized all of the women (sworn and civilian) who do their part to make this agency the great agency that it is.

Officer Daniel Cain was promoted to the rank of Corporal. Corporal Cain is a fifteen year veteran of the department and is currently assigned to the department's detective unit. This promotion was just one step in the Chief's efforts to improve the balance of supervisors in the building and staff it in such a manner to ensure the continuity of supervision now and well into the future.

Ofc. Ed Klein's return to duty after being deployed with the military in the horn of Africa. His experience and energy were missed during his absence. We are happy to have him home and we are thankful for his service

This month we felt the absence of Sgt. Cleverdon who is out on extended leave but we hope he will return to duty in the beginning of April.

During the month of March, the police department held a testing and selection process to fill our vacant position on the East Central Narcotics (ECN) Task Force. This position has been vacant since ECN Officer Ben Lovett's untimely and tragic death last summer. After performing extremely well in both written and oral exercises, the officer was selected and will enter into his new undercover role in mid-April.

Victoria Weiss is still scheduled to be hired as our next police officer. We are confident that she will attend New Britain's police academy which starts on April 22, 2022. If by chance that academy class does not take shape, we have confirmed seats at the State's municipal training academy class set to begin on May 12, 2022. Our plan is to hire Victoria as soon as possible. In addition to Victoria, we have another potential hire whose background investigation is well under way. It is

possible that this individual will be hired in time for the May 12 class, however we will not take any shortcuts in vetting this person prior to will being hired.

Officers Grabowski and Myska continue to progress nicely through their respective academy programs. With an authorized strength of 46 sworn members, we currently have 2 in the academy, 1 on light duty (Pregnancy), 2 on extended FMLA (non-work related surgery) and 1 pending (Weiss, V start date TBD). At the moment, we have 40 operational FTE's.

Over 41% of our personnel have been hired in the last 5 years and will be the future of the agency. It is important that we continue to enrich their work experience and motivate them so that they will continue the proud tradition of high quality police service well into the future.

### **Local and National Social Justice Movements**

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.

This month two officers, Officer Erika Kuzara and David Johnson, were trained and are now certified, as RAD instructors. RAD (Rape



## Police Department

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Aggression Defense) is a nationally recognized program to increase the safety of women. The program does teach some simple self-defense techniques, however it also teaches several non-physical skills intended to empower women to make decisions, take action, and report incidents that are dangerous to them. Our hope is to role this program out in the near future and make the 9 hour training program available to women in the community.

Followers of the department's social media channels may have noticed that this month the police department began a "Get to Know Your Department" program. This initiative will highlight a different officer each week. These posts will introduce the officer and identify, not only some of their professional attributes, but it aims to also humanize our staff and show the community what exists "behind the uniform." Based on likes and responses online, these profiles have been well received thus far.

During the month of March, the "Stop the Bleed" program was taught by Lt. Glenn Buonanducci and provided to several security, administrative, and support staff within the Board of Education. This program teaches life saving skills that can be deployed at a moment's notice by Good Samaritans and staff members who find themselves in the undesired position of being the first on the scene to a life-threatening trauma.

On March 15<sup>th</sup>, police personnel provided extra attention and a degree of overwatch at a vigil held at Town Hall that recognized the conflict going on in Ukraine.

Events like those described above are of particular importance as the local community continues to operate under the increasing stress of the Covid pandemic and the "pandemic fatigue" that people are feeling is very real. As is stated above, community engagement and community policing efforts are paramount to our agency creating and maintaining our legitimacy with the community we serve.

The department continues to benefit from regular gestures of support from 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.

Traffic unit personnel continue to address several traffic issues in town such as truck congestion (particularly during the evening hours) during the arrival of tractor trailers at the Aldi's facility on Rye Street.

High visibility patrols and traffic enforcement prove beneficial, particularly in the Greater Buckland area as holiday traffic builds during the month of December.

### **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.

This month saw one of those landmark incidents that impact so many in the community. On March 4<sup>th</sup>, our Dispatch center received a 911 call regarding an adult male who appeared to be in the midst of a life threatening cardiac emergency. Within short order, our agency learned that this individual was well known and a friend to all us. Several police officers responded along with fire and EMS personnel and continued the CPR that was already in progress. Several shocks were delivered to the patient and prior to leaving the scene a pulse and spontaneous respirations had been restored. This male was hospitalized, treated, and released from the hospital a few days later. At a personal level, we at the police department were all relieved when we heard of this outcome. At a professional level, this incident clearly illustrated that the "system" works. The 911 system, pre-arrival instructions, early effective CPR and defibrillation, EMS response and



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partnership, and simple teamwork between different departments, all worked and saved a life. As is always the case, we have reviewed the case and will both recognize those individuals who deserve the recognition and evaluate what we can do differently to improve "the system."

As the police department continues through the budget approval process in continues to seek fiscal efficiencies anywhere it can. In that vein, Chief Lindstrom recently applied for, and received, a grant through the Department of Justice that will be used to purchase protective equipment for its tactical officers and equipment to be used at events of civil disobedience. The latter is tangential to the police accountability act as the Capital Region Chiefs of Police Association moves forward to address the region's readiness to respond to a large incident of civil disobedience.

As the police department continues to navigate the various implications of the police accountability act, we are continuing to partner with our mental health partner CHR (Community Health Resources) to satisfy the needs of the community. One project that is underway is to acquire a social worker who is embedded in the police department. Through our partnership with CHR, Manchester Police Department, and Vernon Police Department, a grant was received that would place a clinician at SWPD on a part-time basis. The agreement between CHR and SWPD is being drafted and expected to be completed in the near future.

### **Unlocked Car Burglaries & Car Thefts (cont. from last month)**

With spring weather on the horizon, we will wait to see if car burglaries and catalytic converter thefts spike once again. As was reported last month, the Covid surge in the last 6-8 weeks, it has taken over the headlines and political front page and conversely, the community attention towards car burglaries and car thefts have taken a backseat. It is probable that the winter weather has also worked to help curb this problem that had plagued the region. We will have to wait until Spring to see if the problem re-surfaces. For the time being the police department continues to

monitor the trend in the region and deter crime with high visibility patrols. For the time being, we have temporarily stopped our public service messaging on social media in an effort to prevent it from becoming "white noise" and ignored. We will resume disseminating those messages as the Spring approaches if the problem persists

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

After experiencing some significant weather events through the summer, I hope that our citizens will think about all-hazard preparations especially with the potential of significant winter weather events on the horizon.

The Ready.gov webpage has great information pages on preparation for natural disasters, severe weather, and active shooters. Please share with friends and family that may rely on you in a severe weather event, or have questions about how to react to an active shooter event.

We have had our share of severe weather in Connecticut and now is a good time to review your plan to protect yourself and your family.

<https://www.ready.gov/>

### **Follow us on Social Media:**

We continue to have a strong presence on Social Media and update our citizens on all kinds of activity. Our Facebook page and Twitter feed are also displayed on our webpage <https://www.southwindsor.org/police>. We encourage everyone to follow us and share information with friends and family.

Facebook: South Windsor Police Department

Twitter: @SWPD\_PIO

## Public Works Department

Vincent Stetson  
Director of Public Works

### **Street Services February 2022**

Streets and Parks crews responded to 2 winter weather events during the month. We are holding out hope that these will be the last ones for the winter season as Spring has officially arrived. However, Mother Nature doesn't always pay attention to the Gregorian calendar.

We are taking a systematic and very calculated shift from winter preparedness to our construction season. This will allow us to complete road repair work with minimal effort needed to switch back to winter mode. With that said, crews have taken advantage of the mild weather getting a jump on much needed catch basin repairs.

Maintainers have been testing equipment for the construction season and taking inventory of tools in need of replacement.

Tree trimming along our roadways and pothole patching continues throughout town.

One streets maintainer and one parks maintainer represented our departments at a public works line-of-duty death in Milford. Over 40 towns paid tribute to this fallen worker and his family.

The sign shop repaired or replaced 87 signs during the period. The shop also assisted the Parks Department with the design and fabrication of a new sign for Porter's Hill on Nevers Road.

Streets and Parks maintainers attended to a resident who took ill in the parking lot in front of the town garage. These men realized quickly that the gentleman was seriously ill. They took the man out of his truck and made an assessment, determining that CPR was necessary. Our AED was used on the victim along with continued CPR until emergency services arrived. The victim had a pulse when he was loaded into the ambulance. It was later reported to us that he was doing well and was actually home less than a week later. Great success story and amazing actions by our maintainers turned miracle workers.

Residents are encouraged to use Connect South Windsor to report hazards. [WWW.SOUTHWINDSOR.ORG/CONNECT](http://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

### Collector of Revenue

Commercial sewer use bills were mailed the week of March 25th and are due April 1, 2022. The last day to pay without interest is Monday, May 2, 2022.

Tax time is upon us if you need 2021 tax information to complete your income tax return information is available on line <https://www.mytaxbill.org/inet/bill/home.do?town=southwindsor> or send an email to [taxcollector@southwindsor-ct.gov](mailto:taxcollector@southwindsor-ct.gov), please allow 24 business hours for a response. In order for our office to best assist please provide the name(s) and what type of record you are requesting, motor vehicle, real estate and/or personal property tax. If your vehicle is leased tax information is only available via email or in person, please have the VIN number or Connecticut registration number available so we may assist.

Tax information may be purchased from the office during normal business hours, the cost is fifty cents per page.

*Jennifer Hilinski*  
*Collector of Revenue*

### Assessor

The Town's 2022 Revaluation project has begun and there are currently four appraisers from Vision Government Solutions, working in concert with the Assessor's Office, in South Windsor to verify data on residential and commercial properties. Their vehicle information is on file with the Assessor's Office and South Windsor Police Department. Any resident with questions regarding these contracted personnel is encouraged to call the Assessor's office at x2312 for verification, after regular town hall business hours please contact the South Windsor Police.

Reminder for residents that have sold, or otherwise disposed of a vehicle – If you didn't transfer your plates onto another vehicle please send a copy of the Plate Cancellation Receipt, Bill of Sale, Junked Receipt, Trade-In Information,

Out of State Registration or Total Loss Letter from insurance company, to the Assessor's Office. If you provide this information, the tax bills that come out in July 2022 will be adjusted for only the time you owned the vehicle.

Due to supply and demand during the pandemic motor vehicle values statewide have risen on average 26.4% across the State.

The Elderly / Totally Disabled Homeowner's Program for low-income residents started February 1, 2022 continuing through May 15, 2022. A reminder letter to file was sent to all residents currently on the Homeowner's Program in the beginning of February 2022.

Please note the qualifying income below has been updated for those applicants filing this year for the first time and can be found online. Filing Period is between February 1st and May 15th. Applications are being taken at Human Services/ Senior Center at 150 Nevers Road.

The State's Renters Rebate program begins April 1, 2022. All applications for income qualified individuals are taken at the Human Services at 150 Nevers Road, please call 860-648-6361 for more information.

*Mary Huda*  
*Assessor*

## Human Services Department

Andrea Cofrancesco  
Director of Human Services

**Town Manager's Report ~  
March 2022  
Andrea Cofrancesco, Director of Human  
Services**

### **Human Services Staff**

This month we are highlighting our Café Coordinator, Sharon Bosco. Sharon has been in her position for 7 years and goes above and beyond to make people feel welcome when coming for lunch. She is also works directly within our meals on wheels program and is known to send a little something extra to those on the meals on wheels routes who need it. Our lunch program has grown over the years due to Sharon's ability to make people feel welcome. Our dedicated and caring staff are here for you!



### **The Senior Center is on TikTok**

In an effort to showcase active, vibrant aging, the Senior Center has launched a campaign to eliminate the stigma about aging. Older adults are active, engaging, and provide so much to our community!

<https://vm.tiktok.com/ZTd5KkeA8/>



### **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.

### **Fuel Bank Assistance....Did You Know?**

Since January 2021 through March 2022, a total of 58 families consisting of 137 people was served in our private Fuel Bank, with caseworkers providing \$24,612.30 in assistance. We expect this amount to rise with the cost of fuel and the number of people requesting assistance. We simply could not do this without the support and generosity of the community! The number of people served within the CEAP Energy Assistance Program and Operation Fuel will be reported next month.

### **Stop and Shop Collection Bin**

Since January 2021 the money collection bin at Stop and Shop, provided by the South Windsor Rotary Club, has generated a total of \$2860. This is just a small wooden box that people drop off loose change, dollar bills and as much as \$20! It all adds up! WOW!

## Human Services Department

Andrea Cofrancesco  
Director of Human Services

### **Renew Active**

Since we started offering Renew Active in our Fitness Center, we have over 20 people signed up using this insurance benefit! The Center receives \$3 per visit from Renew Active, which allows members to pay nothing to the Center. Money generated from the Fitness Center is used to maintain the equipment and will be used to replace any necessary equipment in the future. The Fitness Center opened in 2018 using funds from the South Windsor Community Foundation and the MAX Challenge, with only \$1400 in tax dollars used for this \$42,000 fitness center.



### **Renter's Rebate Starts April 1, 2022**

Residents who are 65 or older, or who are under 65 and on Social Security Disability can apply for renters' rebate. They must have rented an apartment in South Windsor in 2021 and their income can't exceed \$38,100 for an individual or \$46,400 for a couple. Documentation needed includes all income for 2021 and proof of rent and utilities paid. Call 860-648-6361 ext. 3335 to schedule an appointment.

## Human Services Department

Andrea Cofrancesco  
Director of Human Services



March 2022

### Teen Center

March has been a busy but exciting month at the Teen Center! We have implemented new programs and have been able to offer many activities for the middle school and high school students.

On the first and third Wednesday of the month, Liz and Danielle have their "Strides for Positive Vibes" walking group with the middle school students. Our participants have great energy, love being outdoors, and are able to build positive relationships with our high school volunteers who join us.

We have had therapy dogs come to the Teen Center on a few different dates to give students the opportunity to de-stress, relax, and spend some time with the pups! This has been a huge success and the students absolutely love it.

We are sad to announce that the Senior Center won the Chair Volleyball game against the students. The senior's put us to shame so we're looking forward to claiming the winning title at our rematch in April.

Our 8-week Skills for Success group has been successful thus far. We have a smaller group of middle school students participating, which offers the opportunity to become comfortable with one another, leading them to share open and honestly. The small group also has the ability for more 1:1 attention when focusing on certain topics that may be more difficult to discuss in a larger setting. We discuss healthy vs. unhealthy relationships, boundaries, mindsets & goals, communication

skills, leadership building, self-care, etc.

We have seen an increase in participation during our drop-in hours and always welcome more students to join! Spread the word!

Our Youth Council has been collaborating with the S.W.H.S. Interact Club to do volunteer opportunities together and brainstorm future events and activities. It is great to expand and build more connections!



### School Outreach & Prevention

The Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD) Club at SWHS offered some free, virtual events during the month of March. The leaders

## Human Services Department

Andrea Cofrancesco  
Director of Human Services

understand that their peers are often feeling stressed and anxious and thought that kids would enjoy some opportunities to relax and learn something new. These programs, open to all high school students, encouraged students to engage in healthy ways to relieve stress. They offered an art program, a Kahoot trivia night and a smoothie making event.

The Mentoring Program is up and running at TEMS. Adults from the community visit TE students once week to chat, play games and make connections. The volunteer mentors are amazing community members who share their time and talents with the students. The bonds that form help kids know that they have an additional adult in their corner to offer support and encouragement. We are so thankful for the mentors and for the students who help make this program a success!

### **Youth Counseling, Parent Education and Support**

YFS counselors remain busy with 65 active cases of youth seen for mental health counseling. Referrals to counseling services are continuing to rise. We have had 35 new referrals within the last month. At this time, there are no openings for counseling services and Robin Lagasse, Clinical Coordinator, is referring them to providers in the community but many are on a waitlist as well which makes it difficult. We will be using ARPA grant funds to hire a part time counselor so we can continue to meet the needs of our community. Danielle and Robin are wrapping up their Managing Anxiety Groups that they have been facilitating at Timothy Edwards Middle School. 30 sixth graders have benefitted from the group. Kathy and Robin are working with TEMS and SWHS to plan a summer program to address the issue of school avoidance and truancy, as we have seen a rise this school year.

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.

In March they offered:

- Co Parenting & Single Parenting
- Meal Time Struggles
- Infant Toddler Brain Development
- Positive Discipline for Toddlers
- Approaching the Admissions process

In April, the following live classes will be available:

- Help Your Child with ADHD
- Perfectionism, Finding the Joy in Letting Go
- Keep Calm and Get Cooperation through Playfulness
- School Refusal: What's Important to Know and What to Do
- LGBTQ+ What to Say to Your Child and How to Say It to Communicate Love and Acceptance
- Family Wellness for Parents on the Run

To sign up for a class- [South Windsor – Peace At Home Parenting Solutions](#)

Free with Code: SWindsorPeace

*Liz Langevin, LCSW  
Youth and Family Services*



## Parks & Recreation Department

**Molly Keays**  
Director of Parks & Recreation

### “Discover the Benefits!”

John Caldwell, Jr.  
Parks Superintendent

#### MONTHLY REPORT

Jennifer Filer  
Asst. Director of Parks & Recreation



#### MONTHLY REPORT April 4, 2022

##### Park & Recreation Commission (PARC):

The Commission held a meeting on Wednesday, March 9, at Town Hall. We discussed our upcoming capital projects that align with

the Park and Recreation Master plan, and we discussed department updates. Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, April 13, at 7:30 pm.

##### The South Windsor Walk & Wheel Ways (SWW&WW):

SWW&WW is preparing for their spring 4th-grade bike program that will be held at Orchard Hill the first week in April and at Eli Terry the third week of May.

##### The Parks and Recreation Facility Planning and Implementation Committee:

Our first meeting for this temporary committee formed by the Town Council, met on Thursday, March 10, and Thursday, March 24. This committee is in the process of reviewing department and town needs for space along with potential locations and open space parcels in the town. They will be touring other Connecticut town recreation facilities this spring.

##### **RECREATION DIVISION “Feel great – recreate!”**

**Spring and Summer Updates:** We are excited to mail out our brochure to South Windsor residents for the first time since the pandemic started. The brochure encompasses a variety of over 100 spring and summer offerings for the Town. We hope that everyone comes out to experience one of our opportunities to recreate! Whether you join one of our sports leagues, attend summer camp, attend one of our signature concerts at Evergreen Walk, cool off at Veteran's Memorial Park Pool, or shop local at our Farmers Market, there's something for everyone! Residents may register online or in-

person for all programs on Wednesday, April 6, and non-resident registration will begin on Wednesday, April 13.

##### Preschool-

Our preschool participants had lots of fun this month! Highlights include playing "red light, green light" in the gymnasium, using instruments to sing along during circle time, putting on puppet shows for our friends, and doing many different crafts and projects each day. During St. Patrick's Day, participants enjoyed celebrating with green-themed activities and

projects, and several classes even went on a hunt for gold coins left by the leprechaun! Preschool has also been enjoying the spring-like weather outside on our playground!

**4th R:** 4th "R" had 200 participants this month, and we are actively offering spots off of our waitlist. Our participants had lots of recreation-based fun each day with activities such as gym games (highlights include "Pinguard," "SpongeBob" and "Whiffle Ball"), group games (highlights include scavenger hunts, obstacle course challenges, and sensory projects such as slime and fake snow). 4th "R" also enjoyed many St. Patrick's Day-themed activities, including setting leprechaun traps! Participants have been enjoying some spring-like weather, and we've been spending plenty of time outside when we can!

**Athletic Programs:** Our Youth Basketball league is still going strong. We were fortunate to have no weather cancellations month. The season will be wrapping up on April 3 for most of our league, but the beginner and intertown divisions will be wrapping up the last week of March.

**Adult Leagues:** Men's Basketball wrapped up on Sunday with the champions being the Square Peg Pizzeria. There were 8 total teams in the league this season and we are hoping to increase numbers for next year. Our Adult Volleyball league will have

playoffs in the last week of March and will be wrapping up by early April. We are excited to begin our adult softball and cornhole league this summer.

**Pickleball:** The interest in this sport is continuing to grow! We are seeing a steady number of over 60 participants each week. We are working with some avid members of our pickleball community to create potential lessons and leagues this fall.

**Open Gym:** We are opening the gym at Wapping for open gym hours starting the first week of April! We will offer adult open gym (18+) on Fridays from 6-8 pm and Saturdays 10:30-1:30 pm, Family open gym on Saturdays from 8-10 am, and teen open gym on Wednesdays from 2-3:30 pm.

**Learn to Skate:** We had another successful month with our learn to skate program, which was at capacity for enrollment at 65 participants. We are looking at the possibility of increasing the number of participants for the fall sessions.

**Jukido:** Program numbers have remained in the '20s since we have added a second class for participants. We are hoping to offer competitions with other towns like we did before COVID.

**Wellness programs:** Yoga has returned in person since the building's mask mandate was lifted. We currently have 43 participants registered between the three classes and are offering a virtual offering for those who don't feel comfortable being in the building.

**Veteran's Memorial Pool:** We are currently getting ready for summer 2022! We are hiring Lifeguards, Water Safety Instructors, maintainers, and gatekeepers. In March, we offered a VMP Pool pass sale for families to receive \$10 off their season pass.

**Summer Camp:** We are currently hiring camp staff to join our team and make a difference in the lives of our youth! Summer Camp registration will begin on Wednesday, April 6.

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

### **Athletic Fields & Grounds:**

- Spring renovation for baseball has officially kicked off. We are currently on the fields fixing issues to make the playing surface safe and functional.
- Crews have re-installed the batting cage nets at

the field facilities for the season and have opened those areas for play.

- Marking of lacrosse and soccer fields will take place within the last week of March. Soccer nets have also been re-installed on the goals and will be put out on the fields once they are painted at the end of March.

### **Parks & Open Space:**

- Tree work, including stump removal and grinding continued to be an on-going effort at multiple public grounds, parks and open space sites this month.
- Distinctive Tree Care has ground stumps on Old Farms open space and the Priest Property in efforts to reclaim these sites from invasive plants. These sites will be replanted with new native trees.
- In effort to minimize breakdowns at the pools, the park crew replaced deteriorating chlorine lines. The newly constructed John J. Mitchell sign was installed at the fairgrounds at Rye St. Park. An unveiling ceremony occurred on Tuesday, March 29.

### **Projects:**

- We have continued in house work at the Rye St. Pickleball courts. We removed the lacrosse wall and cleaned up debris so we now have a clean slate to start construction of the courts.
- Replacement of "Multi-Pondo" at the Boundless Playground was completed. The "Multi-Pondo" is one of the many playground structures that gets heavy use. The parks crew also performed a visual inspection of playground equipment and have replaced worn out hardware.
- A Farmers Market sign has been designed and is currently being constructed. The sign will be installed on site prior to opening of the 2022 Farmers Market which will help residents find the location of the market. completed in the house will save us 1/3 of the cost of a new one.

### **Parks & Public Works:**

Over the past month, the parks crew has worked with Public Works on four snow and ice events. We are hoping winter weather is done so we can transition to spring and summer operations.

## Parks Photos:



Newly fabricated John J. Mitchell sign installed on March 15th



Spring renovation of baseball fields in preparation for the season.

## Parks Photos:



Site work was completed at the Rye St Pickleball court.

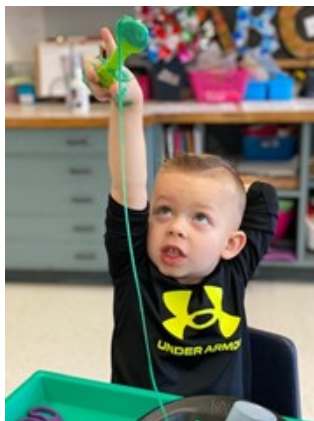


Installation of guardrail fencing and the deployment of newly constructed picnic tables at Wapping Park.

## Recreation



Making some fun crafts for St. Patrick's Day!



Celebrating St. Patrick's Day with our awesome 4<sup>th</sup> "R" staff!

Recreation Photos



We love to play and have fun at 4<sup>th</sup> "R"



Spring is finally here! Our preschoolers are happy to be back on the playground.



## ***April 2022 Town Council Meetings and Events***

### ***Meetings***

**Monday, April 4, 2022**

**7:00 pm Regular Meeting**

*Council Chambers*

**Thursday, April 7, 2022**

**7:00 pm Special Budget Work Session**

*Council Chambers*

**Monday, April 18, 2022**

**7:00 pm Regular Meeting**

*Council Chambers*

### ***Holidays***

**Friday, April 15, 2022**

**Good Friday– Town Offices Closed**

**Sunday, April 17, 2022**

**Easter Sunday**

*Layout by Katherine Senerth, Executive Assistant*

