

Town of South Windsor

Town Manager's Report April 2024



Michael Maniscalco
Town Manager

Collins Crossing: Comer Contracting milled off their failing chip stone surface on Collins Crossing on Monday, March 25th. Weather permitting, we plan to pave the finish surface of Collins Crossing on April 5th.

Pavement for Progress Update: Our Paving for Progress contractor for this year's paving program is Ondrick. They intend to start work the week of March 25th in Brook Street, Farmstead Drive, and Overlook Drive neighborhoods. This will be followed by the Hillside, Steep, Aroda, High and Skyline neighborhoods in the beginning of May. The balance of this year's streets will then commence following those two phases. Edgewood Drive, Elizabeth, Nancy, and Dawn areas can anticipate their roads to start sometime around the beginning of June. All residents that have work being performed in front of their homes have received a letter in the mail from the Public Works Department in regards to the project.

Summer Camp: Summer camp registration opened on March 27th. As has happened in previous years, the in-house camps are sold out completely. I would like to recognize the Parks & Recreation staff for their great work in making sure the many South Windsor parents have opportunities for their kids over the summer.

Nevers Park Workout Facility: The Parks Department has secured a purchase order with the "Pour in Place" contractor to pour the base for the work out area. It is expected that this work shall be completed within the first two weeks of April.



Police Department

Kristian R. Lindstrom
Chief of Police

Monthly Statistics February 2024:

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.

February's numbers are below:

Total Computer Aided Dispatch Entries:	2094
Routine Calls Received/Outgoing:	3672
911 Calls	592
Directed Patrol/Premise Checks:	660
Motor Vehicle Stop - Attempt	5
Motor Vehicle Stops:	274
Driving Under the Influence	6
Emotionally Disturbed Persons:	9
Medical Assists:	231
Suspicious:	41
Alarms:	78
Motor Vehicle Violation	14
Motor Vehicle Accidents:	25
Welfare Check:	32
Assist Outside Agency:	37
Animal Problem:	35
Citizen Assist:	35
Miscellaneous Service:	20
Collision Reports:	14
BOLO:	12
Disabled Motor Vehicle:	36
Larceny - Motor Vehicle	3
Larceny:	13
Hazardous Conditions:	21
Pistol Permits:	16
Burglary	3
Burglary - Motor Vehicle	3
Civil Matter:	11
911 Check:	12
Fraud:	12
Domestic Dispute:	15
Violation of Town Ordinance:	42
Sexual Assault	0
Arrests	32
Youth Problem:	15

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.

During the month of February, one of our newer Dispatchers resigned during the field training phase of his employment. Last month's resignation of a new dispatcher set the hiring wheels in motion and on March 19th we conducted a full day of oral board examinations as the next step in identifying and selecting the best candidate for the position. We remain proud that we are one of the only agencies (if not the only agency) in the area that is at full strength on the sworn side of the board.

Month End Sworn Personnel Summary:

With an authorized strength of 46 sworn members, we proudly employ 46. As is often the case, the fact that we have no vacancies does not negate the fact that only 42 are currently fully operational sworn FTE's. We currently have 1 in the academy (Martin), 2 officers in field training (Bravo, and Lamagna), and 1 out on light duty due to a work injury.

Civilian Personnel Summary: Among our 15 civilian employees, we currently have the aforementioned vacancy in Dispatch. In addition, 1 civilian employee is out on medical leave (work related).

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.



Police Department

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Chief of Police

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.

Everyone was Irish at the annual St. Patrick's Day parade in Hartford and SWPD Corporal Mike Thompson participated as South Windsor's Parade Marshal. Corporal Thompson has been working at SWPD for 35 years and always does his part to put the Department first and be a mentor to our newer staff.

Canine Mason celebrated his 4th Birthday on March 2nd. He and his handler, Ofc. Zachary Cosenza, continue to provide an invaluable resource to the agency and play a significant role in keeping the community safe.

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.

The agency continues to work with DOT and the Office of the State Traffic Authority (OSTA) to assess truck traffic in the area of Governor's Hgwy and Beldon Rd. OSTA has assigned an engineer to Chief Lindstrom's request for an investigation. The results of this investigation are pending.

In addition, we continue to work in partnership with the Office of the State Traffic Authority to address traffic proposals and projects.

Police Activity and Significant Events:

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

The most notable event of the month occurred at 8:00am on Monday, March 18th when three armed individuals robbed the 7-Eleven store on Ellington Road. No one was injured during the incident and the suspects fled the area immediately following the incident. The police department's Criminal Investigations Unit is overseeing this active investigation.

In the agency's pursuit of accreditation, it underwent an online assessment of our policies from March 1-9. This process involved a web-based review of over 150 different standards required for accreditation as well as multiple interviews of department staff. This was a large step in the accreditation process, and we were notified that we passed with flying colors. The next step will be an onsite assessment that will take place over a couple of days in mid-April.

On March 5th and 28th, Sgt. Cleverdon attended career fairs at the University of Hartford and Eastern Connecticut State University respectively. We have realized great success in attending these events and marketing this agency as a desirable place to work.

On March 6th, Officer Erika Kuzara served as a panelist at a Women in Policing Symposium at Central Connecticut State University. Our participation in events like this serve to attract women applicants to our profession and department and highlight our commitment to achieving a balanced work force.

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

Hopefully as the colder weather settles in, the car burglars will choose to stay inside and pursue another pastime. 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 take 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. The police department continues to explore other utilizing other tools that will maximize our effectiveness in reducing these crimes.

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

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

I hope that our citizens will continue to be mindful of



Police Department

Kristian R. Lindstrom
Chief of Police

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

Facilities Maintenance

Clay Major
Director of Facilities

Recreation and Facilities Building Work

N.E. Masonry was onsite to provide a proposal to cut an opening in an exterior wall for the installation of a window A/C unit for one of the Management offices. I also received a proposal to replace the non-functioning mini split system for the Conference Room. Neither of these have been scheduled at this point but I am trying to get the opening in the wall done prior to the end of Spring.

Town Wide ADA Upgrades

Annex: Handrails for entrance are now installed.

Town Hall: ADA upgrades in the men's room are complete with exception to replacing the door and closer. The bathroom is now a single use unisex bathroom. I received the final design for the Probate office service window and am now trying to get that work scheduled. The Lunch Room modifications have been solidified and a purchase order has been cut. I am working on finding an alternate place to set up the Lunch Room while the work is being completed. This will be a quick renovation/modification, most of the materials like countertops and cabinetry will be made in advance and installed once onsite.

VMP: No update on this work. I am currently soliciting proposals from Civil Engineers to provide design and bidding services for accessible routes from the upper and lower parking lots at the park. I am hopeful that the designs will be completed so the construction can begin after the 2024 season is over.

Police Department: I am working on having new compliant signage made for the interior offices.

Seasonal Sites: ADA compliant water fountain/bottle fillers have arrived. The contractor is finalizing the costs for install now and we hope to have them installed in the coming weeks.

Public Works 2nd Floor Security Enhancements

I've received and reviewed the latest floor plan for the 2nd floor. The staff from the Building, Planning, Engineering, Pollution Control and Public Works have also reviewed the plan and gave me authorization to have the Architect proceed with the final set of drawings. The final drawings and bid documents should be ready to go out to bid in early May.

Police Department Elevator Modernization

I've been working with an Elevator Consultant (free of charge) who has provided me with some very useful information regarding modernizing the elevator. Among other things he will be providing me with a list of elevator companies that do this type of work and based on the type of elevator we currently have, which might be the best solution for our needs. I expect more information from the consultant in the coming weeks.

Wood Memorial Library HVAC Upgrades

The sign that the State requires us have made and installed on the property has been completed but not yet installed. Interior work consisting of laying out exact locations of the equipment has begun but no other major work has started. Once the sign is in place the contractor will be able to start installing equipment.

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

The paver replacement project between Town Hall main entrance and the Library side entrance kicked off earlier this month. Thus far they have made good progress. About half of the concrete pavers have been removed and replaced with the new brick pavers. The work should be completed in another two to three weeks as long as the rain holds off.

I have a meeting with the Superintendent of Parks, the Parks Manager as well as the Director of Human Services to review the Teen Center Outdoor Space paver project later this month.

VMP Epoxy Flooring Repairs- Filter Building

I have been in contact with the contractor who will be completing this work. We hope to be able to get this last part of the bathroom floor finished well before the seasonal opening.

ARPA Project-Fire House/Town Hall HVAC Upgrades

After the install of a new VFD, motor and bearings on the return fan the Town Hall HVAC system was balanced. The system will still require a few minor tweaks over the next couple of weeks in order to comfortably say that its substantially complete. A final walkthrough will be done, and a punch list created to address any items that may need to be addressed before final payment is made. The Fire House HVAC system was also balanced however the contractor tells me that the manufacturer has yet to supply a couple of parts for the new condensing unit, the parts are expected in the coming weeks. The Fire House project is approximately ninety-five complete at this point. The system will be turned over to the Fire Department staff to manage as soon as all work has been completed and training has been completed.

ARPA Project-Town Hall Windows/Renovations 1st Floor

All of the blinds have now been installed. A number of window handles also had to be replaced because the cam in the handle was faulty. Those too have now been

Facilities Maintenance

Clay Major
Director of Facilities

replaced. The window project is substantially complete.

Library Phone System Upgrade

No Update; Due to staff reassignments within AT&T the process to get the main phone number port started was delayed. I finally received communication from the new Account Manager who provided me with the documentation needed to start this process. Frontier ultimately drives the timeline for this process so it would still be a few weeks before the numbers are ported to AT&T.

Public Works Private Cube Office

No Update- The private cubicle office is mostly complete. It is in place, but the very top panels of the office wall still did not fit as expected. I'm working with the contractor to come up with a solution to rectify the issue.

Library Window Glass Replacements

Commercial Storefront Services was onsite earlier this month to install the two pieces of glass that failed due to age. There are about ten more pieces of glass that also have to be replaced, those will be addressed as funds become available.

Community Center Dry Sprinkler System

The contractor completed the installation of the systems components earlier this month. The attic dry sprinkler system has to be flushed and treated with a special chemical to kill the microbes that are eating the piping, that can't be done until the outdoor temperatures are consistently above freezing.

Town Garage Exterior Bay Sheathing Replacement.

W.J. Mountford, a local contractor started this project earlier in the month. They've removed the rusted sheathing on the end of the east and west bays constructed forms and poured the concrete bases that the flashing will sit on top of. While opening up the sheathing they found that a couple of I Beam support columns were also in very poor shape. The contractor was able to get his welder to cut and fabricate the steel needed to make the repairs prior to closing up the siding.

Clay Major
Director of Facilities

Public Works Department

Vincent Stetson, Director of Public Works

Engineering Department

Pleasant Valley Road Reconstruction Phase 1 & Bridge Replacement

O&G Industries has substantially completed the reconstruction of Pleasant Valley Road Phase 1, from Ellington Road to Pepin Place and has substantially finished replacing the Pleasant Valley Rd bridge over the Podunk River. This bridge and road were reopened to traffic on December 1, 2023 and remaining punch list items will be completed in the spring of 2024 including turf establishment, paving the lower VMP parking lot and staining the bridge concrete that looks like stone. The necessary utility relocations are almost complete.

Pleasant Valley Road Reconstruction Phase 2

Phase 2 of the reconstruction of Pleasant Valley Road from Long Hill Road to Clark Street has been awarded to Baltazar Construction. This design includes improving the road geometry, new drainage pipes and structures, new road base, pavement and curbing and sidewalks on at least one side of the road. Construction is scheduled to start in April 2024 and go through the fall.

Town Road Paving

Ondrick Materials and Recycling has been awarded the contract to mill and repave Aroda Drive, High Street, Hillside Drive, Skyline Drive, Steep Road, Brook Street, Farmstead Drive, Overlook Road, Dawn Drive, Nancy Drive, Edgewood Drive and Elizabeth Street. They will start this work in April 2024 and go into the summer.

Town Sidewalk Repairs

William M. Laydon Construction has been awarded the contract to replace concrete sidewalks in Town. This work will begin May 2024 and proceed through the summer.

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 design plans for these sidewalks and has responded to review comments from CRCOG. We have contacted utilities about relocations needed and are reaching out to residents about easements needed for this project. Once the easements have been completed, we will submit final plans to CRCOG. This project is scheduled to be constructed in the fall of 2024.

Eli Terry Safe Routes to School Project

This project has been advertised and bids are due on April 3, 2024. It includes replacing the pedestrian bridge

and bituminous paths that connects this school to the Brook Street neighborhood, and other pedestrian improvements on roads around the school. We expect construction to be done in the summer and fall of 2024.

Kennedy Road Reconstruction

The Town received a Notice to Proceed with a CT STEAP grant that was awarded in the amount of \$478,100 for the reconstruction of Kennedy Road. This will support the existing and future businesses that are on this road. The current schedule is to finalize plans and bid this project in the fall of 2024.

Dart Hill Road Reconstruction

The reconstruction of Dart Hill Road from Neiderwerfer Road to the Vernon Town Line is being funded by the CT DOT LOTCIP and new sidewalks on this section are funded by ARPA. WMC Engineers is working on finalizing the design and notifying utilities of proposed improvements that will affect their lines, and we will then resubmit to CRCOG for another review. The project schedule is to finalize the design and bid this project for construction in the summer of 2024.

Reconstruction of Graham Road & Governors Highway

VHB is working on the design for reconstruction of both Governors Highway and Graham Road. Both contracts will include improvements to the road geometry, new drainage pipes and structures, as well as new road base and pavement. We plan to complete plans for the reconstruction of Governors Highway between Main Street and Route 5 and bid this project this spring for construction later in the summer and fall. We are gathering more traffic data and looking at options for traffic calming on Governors Highway between Talbot Lane and Ellington Road. Plans for improvements to Graham Road are being revised based on public input and advanced to include drainage improvements and sidewalks.

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 approved by CT DOT to receive funding under LOTCIP. We are in the process of awarding the Survey and Design of this project.

Sidewalks on Birch Hill Drive and Ellington Road

Survey and design of new sidewalks on Birch Hill Drive and Ellington Road between Pleasant Valley Road and Chapel Road has begun. The sidewalks on Ellington Road would connect to existing sidewalks in front of the

Public Works Department

Vincent Stetson
Director of Public Works

new Pleasant Valley Elementary School.

Other Projects

The Engineering Department recently submitted two project applications to CROG for future LOTCIP funding. One is for pavement rehabilitation on Buckland Road between Ellington Road and Deming Street and the other is for reconstruction of Pierce Road.

The Town Stormwater 2023 Draft Annual Report was posted to the Town web site for public comment on February 15, 2024, in accordance with our DEEP MS4 permit. This report can be found on the South Windsor CT website under Departments > Engineering > Stormwater Management Program. Public comments on this draft report will be received by Engineering through the end of March, 2024.

Street Services

The Streets Department put the finishing touches on the culvert structure removal on Troy Rd and Rye St. returning the riparian habitat to the area. This project was outside our comfort zone, but not outside our capabilities. All our maintainers stepped up and stepped in to get this project to the finish line with terrific results and not to mention, but we will, at a significant cost savings to the town. Great job men.

The department assisted Water Pollution Control with the refresh of the biofilter at the treatment plant. This biofilter helps eliminate odors from emanating from the plant. We removed the existing media and replaced it with a fresh organic mixture.

Maintainers are finishing up removing/disposing of spoils at the garage from construction projects in preparation for the upcoming construction season. At the same time, we are hauling back in new materials needed for jobs on the horizon.

Curb and lawn damage repairs from plowing operations are well underway due to the favorable weather. Now don't get too excited, this doesn't mean we are done with winter. We have had snow events that visited us in the first few days of May. But we are cautiously optimistic.

We assisted the Boy Scouts loaning them safety vests and work zone signage so they could conduct a project. This Eagle Scout project emblazoned small plaques on catch basins in a residential area letting everyone know that the water that goes into the catch basin flows to a

river or stream.

Crews are taking full advantage of the nice weather to begin drainage projects ahead of the upcoming construction season. We are staying ahead of the Paving for Progress program by repairing catch basins prior to resurfacing. Keeping these repairs in-house saves thousands of dollars vs having a contractor perform the work.

The sign shop installed or replaced 15 regulatory signs. The shop made notification signs for the Pleasant Valley Rd Phase II Paving for Progress project and also installed 23 retroreflective sign post strips for increased visibility for some existing signs.

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

Board of Assessment Appeals hearings on the 2023 Grand List (2022 Supplemental Motor Vehicle) were conducted and finalized in March 2024. There were a total of 36 appeals, 23 residential properties, 2 commercial properties, 7 personal property, and 4 supplemental motor vehicle appeals. All appellants have been notified of the Board's decisions.

The Elderly/ Totally Disabled Homeowner's Program for income qualified residents started on February 1 continuing through May 15, 2024. A reminder letter to file was mailed to all residents currently on the Homeowner's Program in the beginning of February 2024. Please note the qualifying income limits have been updated on our website here: <https://www.southwindsor-ct.gov/assessor/pages/elderly-homeowners-totally-disabled-persons-renters-tax-relief-programs>

Applications are being taken at Human Services/ Senior Center located at 150 Nevers Road. To file, an appointment must be made with Human Services.

The State's Renters Rebate application period began April 1, 2023. Applications for income qualified individuals are taken at Human Services at 150 Nevers Road, please contact: 860-644-6369 x. 3319.

A reminder for residents who have sold or otherwise disposed of a vehicle – if the plates were not transferred onto another vehicle please send the Assessor's Office a copy of the DMV Plate Cancellation Receipt along with one of the following: Bill of Sale, Junked Receipt, Trade-In Information, Out of State Registration, or a Total Loss Letter, in order to receive a refund or pro-ratio to take effect. These forms of proof can be emailed to: assessor@southwindsor-ct.gov or submitted through our online webform here: <https://www.southwindsor-ct.gov/assessor/webforms/motor-vehicle-bill-adjustment>

Building Department

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

February 2024

Number of Permits Issued:	226
Number of Inspections Done:	348
Value of Work Done:	\$5,497,256
Amount of Revenue Collected:	\$101,574.63

Large Projects

The Promenade Shops at Evergreen Walk

The following work is in progress at the shops:
My Salon Suite – active inspections

100 Cedar Ave

Active inspections for ‘Club Studio Fitness’ (Interior fit-out of old ‘L.A Fitness’ building)

158 Sullivan Avenue – Tenant Fit-Outs

Certificate of Occupancy issued for ‘Dazzling Pho & Drinks’ – Suite 4
Certificate of Occupancy issued for ‘Jamaican Kitchen’ – Suite 3

150 Sullivan Avenue - New Commercial Building

Active inspections for new multi-unit commercial building

1014 Sullivan Ave

Active inspections for the new commercial retail building

1540 Sullivan Ave

Permit issued to remodel Town Hall 2nd floor bathroom to meet ADA requirements

11 Cedar Ave

Construction plans approved & permit issued for new ‘Chipotle’ restaurant – Inspections scheduled

19 Cedar Ave

Construction plans approved & permit issued for ‘Starbucks’ restaurant & drive-thru

25 Buckland Rd, Unit D

Certificate of Occupancy issued for ‘Orthopedic Associates of Hartford Physical Rehab’ interior fit-out of existing building

Respectfully Submitted
Marc Melanson
Chief Building Official

Human Services Department

Andrea Cofrancesco

Director of Human Services

Liz Langevin

Director of Youth and Family Services

Human Services

The town has received settlement funds from Opioid manufacturers, distributors, and retailers as restitution for their role in the overdose epidemic. With the funds so far, we have been able to host several Narcan trainings, distribute lockboxes, develop resource pads for SW Police Department officers and the community and purchase Detera medication disposal pouches.

We are now rolling out financial assistance for South Windsor residents that are in treatment/recovery or that want to/plan to get treatment/recovery services. We don't want finances to be a barrier for our residents to access the services they need. This is for youth and for adults and will help with deductibles, copays and out of pocket expenses to help people get the services they need. We cannot pay or reimburse individuals receiving services, payment would be directly to providers.

Adult and Senior Services

New! Food Bank Adopt-a-Shelf Program

Food Banks help with so much more than food! We are launching a new opportunity for individuals, families, scout troops, businesses and neighborhoods to come together and support South Windsor families in need. Our "**Adopt-a-Shelf**" program will assist with the items that are not usually donated and that programs like SNAP (food stamps) do not cover. We ask that each donor, or group of donors, pledge to donate 30 (or more!) items from their chosen category each month and deliver them to Human Services on a day that is convenient for them. For more information or if you are interested in adopting a shelf, please contact Sue in South Windsor Human Services at 860-648-6359 or via email at

susan.grundstrom@southwindsor-ct.gov.

Thank you for supporting Our Community!!

Community Service Rock Project

The Senior Center's Community Service Group recently started a Painted Rock Project where we paint rocks with sayings and images to spread joy throughout South Windsor. These are hand painted with love and are delivered by dedicated volunteers to celebrate birthdays and anniversaries, to spread joy for those who need a little pick-me-up, or to thank someone for doing something extra special or for just being. So far we have delivered 13 rocks and the response has been amazing for both the recipients and deliverers. Letting people know they are thought of and remembered is priceless.



Easter Basket Project

The Senior Center's Community Service Group recently made and donated 22 Easter baskets for families that utilize our Food Bank. The Community Service Group is a group of adults committed to volunteerism. #Neighbors Helping Neighbors



ELDERLY AND DISABLED PROPERTY TAX RELIEF

Elderly and disabled homeowners who qualify can apply for reduced property taxes on their homes **until May 15, 2024.** If you are currently on the program the Assessor's Office will send you a letter if it is your year to reapply. **This year's income limits are \$43,800 maximum for an individual and \$53,400* for a couple.** All gross income is counted including Social Security benefits. Documents you will need: Signed 2023 1040 Federal Tax form (if you file); 2023 Social Security Statement (SSA-1099); 2023 Pension Statement(1099); 2023 Bank Interest Statement(1099); Any other 2023 Income 1099. For more info or to schedule an

Human Services Department

Andrea Cofrancesco

Director of Human Services

Liz Langevin

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appointment, call 860-648-6361 ext. 3335. ****Town of S.Windsor has an expanded local option which allows up to \$50,000/single homeowner and \$65,000/married couple, for a benefit of \$195.00 tax credit.***

Medicare Advantage Plan Open Enrollment

Medicare Advantage Open Enrollment Period

(MA OEP) occurs each year from **January 1 through March 31**. During this time, you can switch from your Medicare Advantage Plan to another Medicare Advantage Plan, **or** switch back to Original Medicare, with or without a stand-alone Prescription Drug Plan. Changes made during this period take effect the first of the month following the month you enroll, and you can only make one change.

Please note: If you have chosen Original Medicare and a Part D plan for January 1, 2024, you **cannot** change your Part D plan during this time. For more info, please give us a call at 860-648-6361 ext.3335 and ask to speak with a CHOICES counselor or call 1-800-MEDICARE.

Support Groups at the Community Center

Bereavement Support Group: Meetings are the **1st Friday of the month at 3:00 PM**. Facilitated by Intercommunity Health Care. Funded by ARPA

Depression and Anxiety: Meetings are the **3rd Tuesday of the month at 10:30 AM**. Facilitated by Intercommunity Health Care. Funded by ARPA

Caregivers Support Group: Facilitated by Susan Grundstrom, Caseworker in Adult and Senior Services. Meetings are typically the **2nd Friday of the month at 10:00 AM**.

Parkinson's Support Group: Facilitated by a volunteer with the Parkinson's Association. Meetings are held the **2nd Thursday of the month at 1:00 PM**.

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?
- ☐ Please call Human Services for assistance. 860-648-6361 ext. 3335 (ask to speak to a caseworker)

Residents will be asked to provide proof of their income and assets as well as be able to demonstrate that their

specific hardship is a result of loss of income or death due to COVID-19.

These funds are part of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) provided to towns from the Federal Government. Call Adult and Senior Caseworkers at 860-648-6361 ext. 3335.

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

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Director of Human Services

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Youth and Family Services

Teen Center

March has been a great month. We had our second Youth Council Meeting. It was a small group of five, many of the Middle Schoolers are working on their production of Finding Nemo Jr. Even though it was small we talked about upcoming event ideas and volunteer opportunities. Our biggest event this month will be the Egg Hunt March 29th. We will sell donuts, water, juice and collect toothbrushes, toothpaste, deodorant, and shampoo. Our sales and donations will be given to our town Food Shelter and Fuel Bank.

This month we collected more makeup/socks for the upcoming prom. These will be donated to Cornerstone in Rockville to help students who are attending prom and need a little extra help getting ready. Cornerstone collected shoes, dresses, and jewelry. We are hoping to set up a time with Cornerstone during Rising Star Sessions where we can volunteer in the kitchen and dining area.



Bottle Returns

Thanks to all who drop off bottles. This is a nice help for those who are looking for some volunteer hours. We have them organize all the cans, glass and plastic. Devin and Jay have been returning them twice a month. The money has been useful when we need to order pizza for larger groups.

Relieve The Stress Fest at South Windsor High School

Teens Teas was a great hit.

Who knew that students would love hot herbal tea as

much as they did? They also liked our boxes we made filled with chocolates, teen center phone frogs, a bracelet reminding them to be brave and post its with our Youth and Family Logo. Both High School and Middle School students put together the boxes, which turned into a nice time to talk and get to know each other better. It was nice to have so many who attend the Teen Center stop by and hang out with us, they really seemed comfortable and happy to see Jay and I outside of the center. Looking forward to next year.



School Outreach and Prevention

5 SWHS students, who are a part of the Student's Against Destructive Decisions (SADD) Club, were honored with the opportunity to give public testimony on Bill 5249 at the CT Legislative Office Building. These students have been working on the Deterra safe disposal project and were asked by the CT Governor's Prevention Partnership to speak in support of a bill that would essentially mandate that pharmacies give out a free Deterra pouch with every opioid prescription filled to help reduce those medications getting into the wrong hands. The initiative would be fully funded so it would

Human Services Department

Andrea Cofrancesco
Director of Human Services
Liz Langevin
Director of Youth and Family Services

not create a financial burden on pharmacies. These 5 students represented SWHS and our community with poise and confidence. They made an impact on the Realtor and Insurance Committee, which was the group that was hearing the proposed legislation. The students who spoke were Catherine Downes, Finn Jennings, Klaudia Panek, Morgan Reed and Elise Suffish.



The SADD Club also hosted the "Relieve the Stress Fest" at SWHS after school on March 7, 2024. About 250 students participated in an afternoon of activities to promote healthy choices when dealing with stress. A variety of high school clubs participated by offering a wide range of activities to the students, including bracelet making, trivia games, painting, jumbo games, music, treats, corn hole, ping pong, science experiments, a tea station and so much more. Sound therapy was a big hit with both students and staff, as well as the 2 pet therapy dogs in attendance. Each attendee also got a free Kona Ice. Everyone had a wonderful time connecting with friends and relaxing together. We look forward to offering this program for years to come!


The "Magnificent Monday" Club at Eli Terry has been an exciting addition to our programs. Once a week we are meeting with a small group of 2nd and 3rd graders to work on social skills, learn about feelings, build confidence and have fun! We are enjoying our time getting to know these wonderful students.

Counseling and Parent Education

Counselors remain busy with 75 open and active cases of youth seen for mental health counseling. We have 5 youth on our waitlist, which has gone down since last

month due to hiring two additional ARPA funded counselors. Our Clinical Coordinator, Robin Lagasse assesses each referral so that we can get kids and families connected to the right resources. Our referrals are coming from South Windsor schools, police and parents/guardians. We are thankful that we have ARPA funds to support our youth and families that need mental health services. We are concerned that the funding is temporary but the mental health needs will likely continue to grow.

We are now hosting a monthly parenting group at the community center. Each month we will discuss a different topic.

**SOUTH WINDSOR
YOUTH AND FAMILY SERVICES
INVITES YOU TO JOIN US**

Do you ever feel...
Overwhelmed by the responsibilities of parenting?

Unsure if the choices you are making are right for your child?

Worried about your teen?

Alone and wanting to connect with other parents?

Parenting Support
The first Wednesday of the month
6:30-7:30pm

In person at the Community center
150 Nevers Rd. AND via Zoom (March meeting only)

Groups will be facilitated by a Y&FS Counselor
Topics will be discussed, resources will be shared and time will be set aside for Q & A

This is a drop in program. You are welcome to join any or all dates.

Child Care and Light Refreshments will be available

RSVP if you need child care or to attend the March meeting on Zoom
liz.langevin@southwindsor-ct.gov

Topics to be Discussed

February 7th:
Mental Health Check-ins: the what and how

March 6th: ONLY VIRTUAL ON ZOOM
Dealing with Parental Burnout

April 3rd:
Setting Limits: From toddler to teen
All kids need boundaries

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

Human Services Department

Andrea Cofrancesco
Director of Human Services
Liz Langevin
Director of Youth and Family Services

“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-

[Login – Peace At Home Parenting Solutions](#)

Free with Code: SWindsorPeace



Parks & Recreation Department

Molly Keays
Director of Parks & Recreation

“Discover the Benefits!”

John Caldwell, Jr.
Parks Superintendent

Jennifer Filer
Asst. Director of Parks & Recreation



Park & Recreation Commission (PARC): The Park and Recreation Commission will meet on Wednesday, April 3, at 7:30 pm in the Town Council Chambers.

South Windsor Walk and Wheel Ways (SWW&WW): The committee hosted their first Bike

Maintenance Event at the Parks and Recreation Facility on Saturday, March 16. This event offered the opportunity to learn how to make basic repairs to a bicycle.

RECREATION DIVISION “*Feel great – recreate!*”

Youth Basketball: Our Jim Snow basketball league allows players to participate in a basketball environment that promotes good sportsmanship and the respect of others. The beginner division for the league concluded on March 16th while the Intermediate and Senior divisions playoffs concluded on March 24.

Mighty Mites: We have 160 Kindergarten through first grade participants in our co-ed introductory basketball program. The purpose of this program is to teach youth the fundamentals of the game in a fun environment. This program concluded on March 2nd.

More Mighty Mites: This program is a co-ed opportunity to be introduced to basketball in a instructional format that incorporates scrimmages and games in a non-competitive environment. This season, we had 109 youth participate in the program and had our final day of the program on March 2nd.

Youth Wrestling: Due to popular demand, we expanded our wrestling program to run a session in the spring! We have 12 youth in the program with the ability for additional youth to drop in to the program each week.

Creative Cardio: Our year-round traditional aerobics class continues to be popular this month with 32 participants joining the weekly class in-person and on Zoom.

Kripalu Yoga: Our year-round yoga program had 40 participants attend our in-person and Zoom classes this month.

Jukido Jujitsu: We had 30 participants of all ages in the program this month practicing their skills each week.

Self Defense is Karate: Our program had 12 participants over the age of 16 participate in weekly classes. This opportunity provides our community another form of recreation that sets itself aside from standard athletic

movements and practices.

Learn to Skate: South Windsor Arena's skating 101 program through the South Windsor Parks and Recreation Department is a beginning Ice Skating program that's fun and rewarding. Participation enable beginner skaters of all ages (3 years old and up) & ability levels to learn the fundamentals of skating, while teaching them skills necessary for further advancement. We had 65 participants in the program with a large waitlist. We end the program in April.

4TH R: March brought forth a plethora of recreational activities, adding more excitement to our calendar! Among the notable events were a spring-themed scavenger hunt, crafting personalized lanterns, lively festivities for St. Patrick's Day featuring charming leprechaun hats, and the introduction of engaging games like “Ring Around The Mat Ball.” Additionally, half-day Wednesdays started back up, which brought with them the revival of our beloved “special interest groups.”

Furthermore, the mischievous 4th “R” leprechaun paid a surprise visit to one of our sites, adorning the cafeteria with cascading green streamers, spreading joy and cheer!

Preschool: We are concluding Session C with an abundance of enjoyable learning-through-play experiences! Some of our cherished activities encompassed a basketball-themed March Madness day (where we honed our basket-making skills!), engaging in a color-themed bunny-hop around our classroom, and commemorating St. Patrick's Day with various shamrock crafts and sensory stations. Moreover, we delighted in a sing-along concert led by our preschool teacher, Mr. Will, showcasing his guitar skills and lead vocals!

Max Challenge Day of Giving: The third annual Max Challenge Family Fun Fair was held on Saturday, March 16! We appreciate the continued support from the Max Challenge as they contribute to a variety of recreational projects within our community.

The Egg Hunt: We hosted our annual Egg Hunt on Friday, March 29 at the High School! There were over 30,000 eggs distributed for youth under two all the way through second grade! Thank you to Imperial Oil for their continued sponsorship as this allows us to make it a free event for the community.

Summer Camp Registration: In order to offer our residents an earlier camp registration and to efficiently streamline our registration process, this year we had camp registration on Wednesday, March 27. The remainder of our summer programs have resident registration on April 3 and non-resident registration on

Parks & Recreation Department

Molly Keays
Director of Parks & Recreation

April 10.

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

Athletic Fields & Grounds: Spring arrived on March 19th, bringing temperatures in the 40s. Thanks to our dedicated team of Parks employees, we've completed servicing all small equipment necessary for spring and summer operations, including mowers, trimmers, blowers, sod cutters, and various other pieces of equipment. With favorable weather on our side, our crew has made significant progress in ballfield renovation and has begun painting all High School and Middle School sports fields. Our sports teams will be starting practices and games by early April.

Parks & Open Space: In Parks & Open Space, tree work continues along with the clearance of overgrown bushes and mowing of encroaching vegetation. At Major Michael Donnelly Park, replacement boardwalks and trail enhancements have been finished, and old bridge sections have been dismantled and transported to the landfill. To ensure the walkway's stability, filter fabric and stone have been laid down as a solid foundation for bridge construction. Additionally, corrugated pipes supporting the bridge sections were repurposed, with wooden sections placed on top.

Projects: In terms of projects, amidst storms, the crew has been focused on cleaning up and organizing items around the town garage. Progress at the outdoor fitness center is nearly complete, with only the pouring of the rubber floor pending, awaiting warmer weather.



More Mighty Mites end of season Team photos



St. Patrick's Day leprechaun hats and four leaf clover projects!

Parks & Recreation Department PHOTOS



Boys' basketball playoffs ran from March 15-March 24.



Girls' Basketball Clinic
coached by Alex Goslin-
Top of Form



Renovations were made to the Little League Complex along with the TE and Orchard Hill Fields to prep for early practices.



Some projects this month included replacement bridges at Major Michael Donnelly and concrete curbing at the outdoor fitness space.

April 2024 Town Council Meetings and Events

Meetings

Monday, April 1, 2024

7:00 pm Town Council Regular Meeting

8:00 pm Public Hearing— Proposed FY 24/25 Board of Education Budget

Council Chambers

Tuesday, April 9, 2024

7:00 pm Town Council Special Budget Work Session

Council Chambers

Thursday, April 11, 2024

7:00 pm Town Council Special Budget Work Session

Council Chambers

Monday, April 15, 2024

7:00 pm Town Council Regular Meeting

8:00 pm Public Hearing— Proposed FY 24/25 General Government Budget

Council Chambers

Holidays

Monday, April 22, 2024

Earth Day

Wednesday, April 24, 2024

Administrative Professionals Day

Layout by Nicole Kowalik, Administrative Secretary

