

# Town of South Windsor

## Town Manager's Report May 2022



*Michael Maniscalco*  
*Town Manager*

**Metro Hartford Alliance Meeting** I was asked to meet with the Metro Hartford Alliance to discuss the impact of the warehouse and distribution moratorium. They have heard from many developers who are interested in South Windsor and as a result of the moratorium they have either decided to hold on their projects or not move forward. Both Metro Hartford Alliance and AdvanceCT have offered their services to Planning and Zoning to ensure that they conduct a data driven review of the regulations and make their decisions moving forward based on regional and national standards and facts.

**ESI Tour** I had the opportunity to tour ESI this last week. I was very impressed with the breadth and depth of knowledge and ability this business not only brings South Windsor but the State and the Region. I am very appreciative of the time they took to show me around and the partnership that we have with many of our Town departments.

**Strategic Planning Committee** I have been working with the Strategic Planning Committee over the last couple of months. We are going to be looking for consultants to help us provide a framework to not only capture public input but also synthesize it into a usable format. The Committee will be looking to the Council for funding and I will recommend that the Council transfer the funds from contingency.

**State Budget** At the time of this report the Democrats and the Governor have reached a deal on the State budget. We are currently trying to evaluate how this will impact the Town revenues. Most important of the entire thing is the car tax cap which seems like it has been moved from 29 mills to 32.46 mills. It is unclear at this time if there is a municipal reimbursement tied to this. If there is no reimbursement the Council will be required to increase the mill rate on property taxes.

*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 intervene before matters escalate.

March's numbers are below:

Total Computer Aided Dispatch Entries:	2609
9-1-1 Calls Received:	N/A
Routine Calls Received/Outgoing:	3191
Directed Patrol/Premise Checks:	1087
Motor Vehicle Stops:	320
Emotionally Disturbed Persons:	18
Medical Assists:	164
Suspicious:	97
Alarms:	77
Motor Vehicle Accidents:	50
Welfare Check:	38
Assist Outside Agency:	21
Animal Problem:	35
Citizen Assist:	30
Miscellaneous Service:	5
Collision Reports:	18
BOLO:	7
Disabled Motor Vehicle:	27
Larceny - Motor Vehicle	1
Larceny:	37
Hazardous Conditions:	11
Pistol Permits:	12
Burglary	1
Burglary - Motor Vehicle	1
Civil Matter:	13
911 Check:	13
Fraud:	12
Domestic Dispute:	13
Violation of Town Ordinance:	2
Sexual Assault	1
Youth Problem:	11

### Covid 19 Update:

The month of April saw the stability that so many have yearned for over the last two years of dealing with Covid. Without masks and other extensive protocols, community spread of Covid remained

very low. In fact, in late April several media outlets reported that there were more cases of the flu in Connecticut than there were of Covid. The latest sub-variant appears to be having relatively little impact on the community as serious illness and deaths appear to be very rare.

As has been the case for a couple of months, it seems the Community continues to breathe a sigh of relief and a strong willingness to move forward, ample supplies of PPE and test kits remain on hand in the event members of the Town's work force or the community need them.

The police department continues to be cognizant of 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.

Department officials continue to work collaboratively with other local officials to continually monitor community health 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 out.

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

April hosts National Public Safety Dispatcher week. These dedicated employees are often the



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first point of contact when someone calls for help during an emergency. Their composure under stress and their dedication to their craft are evident every time they answer the phone. Even though they are not on the "front lines" they contribute immensely towards this agency's success and the safety of this community.

Officer Victoria Weiss began her employment as a South Windsor Police Officer on April 11<sup>th</sup>. She came to us after several years as a Dispatcher at Vernon Police Department. She completed two weeks of on-boarding training and orientation and began attending her basic training at the New Britain Police Academy on April 22.

On April 21<sup>st</sup>, Mr. Nicholas Sarfo was offered (and accepted) a job offer as a police officer. He is slated to begin his employment with us in mid May and will attend the Connecticut Police Academy beginning in early June.

Although these two new officers will not be fully operational for several months, their employment with us leaves us with only one vacancy at the moment.

On the 5<sup>th</sup> of April, Officer Chris Myska graduated from the police academy and began his FTO training. In addition, after a modified training period, Officer Ed Klein has returned to full duty status after his deployment.

After a significant absence, Sgt. Cleverdon has also returned to full duty status.

Officer Grabowski is almost done with his basic training and will graduate from New Britain's police academy in early May. With an authorized strength of 46 sworn members, we currently have 2 in the academy (Weiss, Grabowski), 1 in field training (Myska), 1 on light duty (Pregnancy), 1 on extended FMLA (non-work related surgery) 1 pending (Sarfo start date TBD), and one vacancy. At the moment, 44 of our 46 authorized sworn personnel are employed at this agency and 39 are fully operational sworn FTE's.

In early April, one of our most tenured Dispatchers, Christine Meyerhans, announced her intent to retire in the coming weeks. We have not received a formal retirement date as of yet, but her departure is anticipated.

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.

In early April, Chief Lindstrom had the pleasure of attending the South Windsor Volunteer Fire Department Annual Award Banquet. These event was well attended and the fire department's invitation to the Chief is a small illustration of the partnership that these two agencies share. They work well together and always have the Community's best interest in mind.

On April 16<sup>th</sup>, Lt. Buonanducci and Officer Cosenza and K-9 Mason, attended a promotion type ceremony at the Hartford-Evergreen Lodge of Freemasons. Police personnel were invited to this



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“semi-public” reception and we thought it was fitting to have Mason attend. Our relationship and partnership with the Lodge is just another example of the symbiotic relationship that we share with so many civic and community groups.

The police department is continuing its social media activity and, in particular, its “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.

Events like those described above are of particular importance as the local community emerges from its Covid quarantine and tries to re-establish some normalcy. 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. Town officials and Aldi’s officials will soon meet to discuss this issue and identify solutions.

Additionally, the reconstruction of the King Street bridge and the Main Street bridge have created long term detours at the south end of Main Street.

The detours are well marked and people moving through the area appear to have acclimated well to this change as there have been few, if any, complaints. These projects are two of many we are monitoring as development, upgrades, and improvement continue in the community.

### **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 April 5<sup>th</sup>, the entire police department Command Staff participated in a emergency management tabletop training exercise. The exercise was proctored by staff from Texas A&M and highlighted the many strengths (and only a few weaknesses) of the Town’s response to a large scale emergency.

Physical evidence...large and small. The month of April brought forward some interesting pieces of evidence for police personnel to manage. The first of these occurred on April 6<sup>th</sup> when detectives investigated the theft of an excavator. Within 24 hours of the incident being reported, investigators located the excavator and obtained a search and seizure warrant that authorized them to seize the piece of equipment. This excavator is likely the largest piece of evidence ever seized by our agency. At 78,000lbs, 10 feet tall, 11 feet wide, and over 13 feet long, this piece of evidence obviously needed unique storage consideration. In consultation and partnership with Public Works, investigators were able to find a location where the machine could be stored securely and not impede the operations of town business.

A couple of weeks later, police personnel shifted from extra large evidence to a much smaller piece of evidence. On April 18<sup>th</sup>, police personnel responded to a home on Troy Road where the homeowner located what he believed was a hand grenade buried in his front yard. Upon police arrival, they determined that the item was, in fact, a grenade. This discovery begged the obvious question, “Is it live or inert?” Out of an abundance of caution, the road was closed and the





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homeowner was instructed to shelter in place in his home which was outside of the grenade's deadly blast radius. With the help of Hartford Police Department's Bomb Squad and their portable x-ray machine, we were still unable to verify if the grenade was live. At that point, HPD Bomb Squad personnel seized, stored, and transported the device out of South Windsor using highly specialized equipment.

In the latter stages of April, Chief Lindstrom had the privilege of issuing several awards and letters of commendation to several members of the police department and multiple citizens. The Covid pandemic somewhat hampered our ability to gather and hold award ceremonies, so the landscape of the distribution of these awards has changed for the moment, but we hope to return to the more traditional award ceremonies in the near future. Among other actions that were worthy of commendations, these awards are a reminder of the 11 human lives that were saved by police personnel over approximately the last year. As a result of CPR, or Narcan, or emergency tourniquet use, these are fathers, sons, brothers, wives, sisters, and mothers who are alive today because of the actions of the men and women of the South Windsor Police Department.

This month the police department entered into a memorandum of understanding with its community mental health provider, Community Health Resources, to have a social worker embedded at the police department to aid in our response to calls involving individuals suffering from a mental health problem. The final details are still being ironed out, but the clinician has been interviewed and selected and we hope she will begin her work here in the next few weeks.

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

With warmer weather on the horizon, we will wait to see if car burglaries and catalytic converter thefts spike once again. For the time being the police department continues to monitor the trend in the region and deter crime with high visibility patrols. 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 in the coming months if the need arises.

### **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 March 2022**

Now that the weather is starting to work with us, crews have begun to make curb and lawn damage repairs from our winter operations. Additionally, our maintainers are working to preserve and store plows, spreaders and other winter equipment as we transition to the construction season.

Street sweeping is well underway and progressing slightly ahead of schedule. As always, we supported the Board of Education ensuring that all their lots were swept during the spring recess. We will conduct two passes on all town roads as usual this season.

Pothole patching continues throughout town. With the asphalt plants in full operation, we will now be able to get some of the more critical areas covered with substantially better patches.

The town's tree contractor, Distinctive Tree, worked with town crews to remove several trees along Beelzebub Rd as part of the first phase of preparing for the reconstruction of the roadway. Not surprisingly, several of these trees showed significant damage which would have showed themselves in due time. In fact, with one tree (pictured), we were able to put a measuring tape over 5 feet into the remaining stump. Feedback from the residents on Beelzebub Rd has been very positive and many if not all are pleased with their new vistas.



The Vibert Rd boat launch was cleaned out prior to the start of the 2022-fishing season. Vibert Rd itself was regraded and compacted with new materials to fill the potholes. The unimproved section of Strong Rd from Main St west was also tended to by town crews.

Also with the nicer weather brings support from

our Adopt-A-Road partners. This month, Boy Scout Troop 62 picked up trash along Main St and the South Windsor Walk and Wheel Ways Committee took on Chapel Rd. Thank you to both organizations for helping keep South Windsor beautiful.

The sign shop repaired or replaced 62 regulatory signs during the period. The shop is also preparing signs for the upcoming Armed Forces Day and Memorial Day events.

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*

### **Public Works-Engineering Projects Update**

#### **Main Street Bridge over the Podunk River**

Dayton Construction has installed 20 steel piles and has completed the two new concrete abutments for the new bridge ahead of schedule as shown in the photo below, looking south on Main Street. The precast concrete beams are scheduled to be delivered and installed the first week in May. Main Street is closed at the bridge and signs are up for a detour route around the bridge site using Chapel Rd to Route 5 to Burnham Street. This project is scheduled to be completed before the end of September, 2022.

#### **Beelzebub Road**

The design plans for the reconstruction of Beelzebub Road including new stormwater drainage pipes and structures, new road base, bituminous pavement, curb and a sidewalk on one side are about 95% complete and are being finalized. Eversource Gas will be installing a new gas main in Beelzebub Road, and Frontier and Eversource will be moving about 10 utility poles and wires in coordination with this project. These utility relocations should begin this spring but I do not have a schedule from the utilities. The Town has cleared trees as needed for this project. I have

## Public Works Department

Vincent Stetson  
Director of Public Works

received signed temporary construction easements from the owners of 31 residential properties and have met with many other property owners to discuss the temporary easements needed for construction and easements for a new sidewalk. I am following up on the remaining 15 temporary easements and sidewalk easements needed. Draft maps of 2 easements needed on the DEEP property on the south side of the road have been sent to DEEP for their review. This project is scheduled to be bid late this spring for road reconstruction to begin in the summer of 2022.

### **Buckland Road Repaving**

The plans and specifications for this project have been advertised for bids to be received on May 4. This work will be scheduled for this summer, after Buckland Road improvements have been completed for One Buckland Center and the new Whole Foods at Evergreen Walk.

### **Pleasant Valley Reconstruction**

WMC Consulting Engineers is working on developing plans for the drainage improvements and reconstruction of Pleasant Valley Road from Clark Street to just past Hilton Drive. They have begun surveying and soils investigations, and expect to have a preliminary design in the late spring of 2022.

### **Pleasant Valley Road Bridge Replacement**

WMC Consulting Engineers is also working on developing plans for the replacement of the Pleasant Valley Road bridge over the Podunk River. They have begun surveying and geotechnical investigations, and expect to have a preliminary design in the spring of 2022.

### **LOTICIP Sidewalk project for 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. We have received approval and a commitment to fund letter for the construction of this project from ConnDOT. The Town is responsible for the Design plans for these sidewalks and we will be seeking proposals from our on-call Engineers to work on this project.

### **Engineering Staffing**

There is one Project Engineer position still open. We interviewed 3 candidates for this position and hope to have another engineer on board soon. Consultants are being used to keep the Town Engineering projects moving forward.

### **Pleasant Valley/Clark Street Sidewalk**

The Pleasant Valley/Clark Street sidewalk connections has been awarded to Costa & Son LLC. Construction is expected to start the week of April 25 and should be finished in the early summer.

### **Local Road Paving** (nothing new to report)

The contractor has punch list items to complete for this project in the spring. They plan to finish paving Ident Road and the Police Department rear parking lot. We are designing the new drainage and road reconstruction needed for Ident Road. This work is funded by the 2018 Bond referendum.

### **Sidewalk Repair**

Sidewalk repair and replacement work will continue in the spring and summer of 2022 and we have updated the list of sidewalks that need to be repaired. This work was advertised and Atlas Concrete was the only bidder for concrete slab raising. However, No bids were received on time for Concrete Sidewalk Replacement.

**Abbe Road Drainage Study** (nothing new to report) Weston & Sampson is also investigating the drainage problems that have occurred on and around Abbe Road in past years. They will verify the cause(s) of the drainage problems and recommend improvements to alleviate the drainage problems on this road. We expect to have their report in the spring of 2022

### **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. ConnDOT has reviewed the final plans and contract documents and sent us comments to address in these plans.

## Public Works Department

Vincent Stetson  
Director of Public Works

### **LOTICIP Application Submitted for the Reconstruction of Dart Hill Road**

An application for funding the reconstruction of Dart Hill Road was submitted to CRCOG in January for consideration under the State LOTICIP program. This has been preliminarily selected for funding by CRCOG, along with other projects from communities in the Region. These project selections will be finalized by CRCOG and then will be sent to CT DOT for review. After CT DOT has reviewed and approved the projects they issue a Commitment to Fund letter.



### **Communications Tower at VMP** (nothing new to report)

The concrete foundation for the new Town Communications Tower at VMP has been poured and backfilled. The Tower is expected to arrive and be installed in the spring of 2022.

### **Solar Canopy at the SWPD** (nothing new to report)

Greenskies Clean Energy is finalizing the design plans for the solar canopies behind the Police Station and expect to begin construction in the summer of 2022. The rear lot will be paved after the footings and conduit for the solar canopy have been installed.

### **Utility Work** (nothing new to report)

The Connecticut Water Company contractor is mostly finished installing a new water main on Deming Street (from Buckland Road to Summit Drive). The remaining work on Summit Drive will be completed in the spring of 2022. A new water main is also being installed in the Farnham Estates neighborhood on Farnham and McGrath Roads. This contractor will continue to install a new water main in other roads in this neighborhood in 2022.

*Jeffrey Doolittle*  
*Town Engineer/Assistant Director of Public Works*



## Finance Department

Patricia Perry  
Director of Finance

### Assessor

The Elderly/Totally Disabled Homeowner's Program for low-income residents started February 1, 2022 continuing through May 15, 2022. A second reminder letter to file for the tax credit on the upcoming July real estate bill was sent to all residents currently on the Homeowner's Program on April 13, 2022.

The qualifying income has been updated for those applicants filing for the first time and can be found online here: <https://www.southwindsor-ct.gov/assessor/pages/elderly-homeowners-totally-disabled-persons-renters-tax-relief-programs>. Applications are being taken by Human Services/Senior Center at 150 Nevers Road, please call 860-648-6361 for more information.

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. To submit motor vehicle proof, click here: <https://www.southwindsor-ct.gov/assessor/webforms/motor-vehicle-proof-submission>

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

The Town's 2022 Revaluation project is well underway and there are currently four appraisers from Vision Government Solutions working 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 contracted personnel is encouraged to call the Assessor's office at 860-644-2511 extension 2312 for verification, after regular town hall business hours, please contact the South

Windsor Police.

Each month the Assessor's Office will be highlighting different areas throughout the revaluation process. This month we will be highlighting how residential values are derived:

Qualified sales of vacant and improved properties are the primary source of data. Land values are set using all qualified, available land sales within the Town of South Windsor. Analysis of new construction is done to establish construction costs, including builder's profit. Analysis of older homes establishes the amount of depreciation indicated by the current market. Costs of outbuildings from building permits and advertised prices are used to indicate outbuilding values.

*Mary Huda*  
Assessor

## Information Technology

Scott Roberts  
Assistant Town Manager/CIO/EM

In conjunction with South Windsor Emergency Management, the Information Technology department hosted a tabletop exercise developed and facilitated by TEEX – Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service. Representatives from numerous Town departments came together and were thrust into a (simulated) real-life, emergency scenario that required the activation of the South Windsor Emergency Operations Center. Participants were given multiple injects throughout the day, forcing them to quickly react and adjust their approach to the situation. It was a very successful exercise and we believe it will help improve our response to an actual activation.

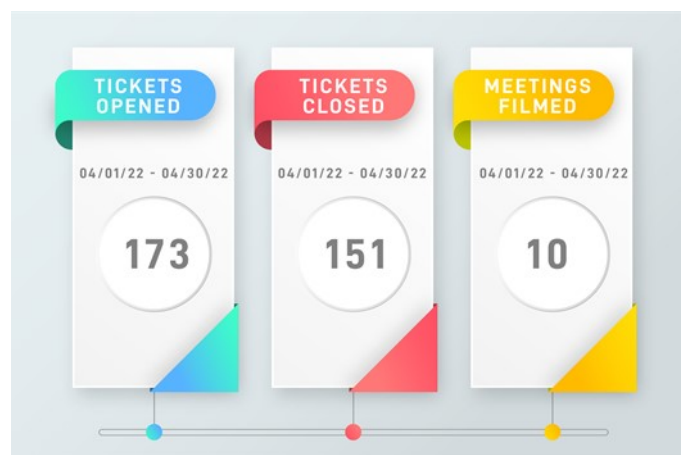
- 3 months of planning with a team comprised of TEEX staff and key SW Department Heads
- Lead by Scott Roberts, Walter Summers, and Heather Oatis
- Tested all aspects of EOC technology – video wall, wifi, virtual desktops, radios, streaming tools
- Successful outcome with detailed After Action Report (AAR) findings
- Future training planned based on AAR findings
- Helped with SWPD CALEA accreditation documentation

The IT department is in the final stages of migrating the Town's email from an onsite solution to web-based Microsoft 365. The project required months of planning and preparation and numerous after-hours and weekend processes to bring to a close. The migration provides numerous benefits to Town systems and staff, such as increased security and additional storage. Email was just the beginning. In the future, we will be implementing more of the tools and features that M365 has to offer, providing even more efficiencies and applications to assist staff with their duties.

- Minimum issues encountered
- Completed ahead of MS phase-out of exchange, avoiding imposed deadlines/increased costs/potential down time

- Provides 24/7/365 monitoring of email in MS cloud

More Efficiencies = online collaboration tools, MS teams, and SharePoint spaces



## Human Services Department

Andrea Cofrancesco  
Director of Human Services

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

### **Human Services Staff**

This month we are highlighting our Casework Staff in Adult and Senior Services. Pictured is Stephen Clapp, Susan Grundstrom and Lindsey Ravalese. Lindsey supervises this area which is the behind the scenes work that is not out on Facebook showing fun activities and programs. They are making a difference by phone, home visits and in person office visits providing people with information so they can stay in their homes longer. This includes financial assistance programs such as SNAP, Energy Assistance, Property Tax Relief, Renters Rebate and more. They also manage the Food and Fuel Bank, assist people with Medicare and their insurance options, and do all intakes for the meals on wheels program. They coordinate programs and services for homebound residents (Friendly Shoppers, Friendly Visitors, Telephone Reassurance) and coordinate the Thanksgiving Basket and Adopt a Child programs. The connections they are making with and for people are priceless.



### **Deadline to register is May 15**

#### **Elderly and Disabled Property Tax Relief**

Elderly (65+) and disabled homeowners who qualify can apply for reduced property taxes on their homes between **Feb.1-May 15, 2022.** If you were on the program in the past, call to speak with a caseworker to see if you need to re-apply this year. **This year's income limits are \$38,100 maximum for an individual and \$46,400\*for a couple.** All gross income is counted including Social Security benefits. Documents you will need to bring: Signed 1040 Federal Tax form (if you file); Social Security Statement (SSA-1099); Pension Statement; Bank Interest Statement; Any other Income. For more info or to schedule an appointment, call 860-648-6361 ext. 3335. ***\*Town of South Windsor has an expanded local option which allows up to \$50,000 a year for a single homeowner and \$65,000/ married couple.***

### **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/TTPdXSeLyx/>

### **AARP Tax Assistance Service 10 Year Breakdown**

In the past 10 years, volunteers in the Tax Aide program through AARP have provided an invaluable service to South Windsor residents. A total of 2305 tax returns have been done for free. If each one was a cost of \$50 (which is a low estimate), that would be a savings of \$115,250. WOW!

## Human Services Department

Andrea Cofrancesco  
Director of Human Services



April 2022

### Teen Center

The Teen Center has become busier with the nicer weather outside! We have been offering additional activities that are intriguing and will engage the students.

Our Friday night drop-in hours have been especially full with our middle school students. One afternoon we had Therapy Dogs at the Teen Center for students to join, relax and de-stress. With over 40 students in attendance, we would say this event was a success! We hosted a BINGO & Pizza night for middle school students, which was so much fun and a great turn out. In honor of National Pretzel Day, the Teen Center and Senior Center collaborated to host "Eat a Pretzel, Be a Pretzel" with yoga and pretzels for participants to enjoy. The Teen Center began the 8 week TEMS Matinee program on Monday afternoons where students can sign up to do crafts and games at the Teen Center. Our Skills for Success group is coming to an end. We've had the opportunity to discuss self-esteem and self-care, healthy relationships, bullying, communication skills, etc. The six students who participated did an amazing job, were receptive and contributed to the discussions. Also, we are sad to announce that we lost the Chair Volleyball Rematch game against the Senior Center. Maybe third times a charm?

Our Youth Council keeps growing and are always accepting new members. We have begun to prepare the beds in the Food Bank Garden so we can begin growing produce for families or individuals in need of fresh vegetables. We have continued to team up with the S.W.H.S. Interact Club to coordinate and do volunteering events together. Our Youth Council members volunteered

at the Parks & Recreation Easter Egg Hunt selling drinks and snacks, collecting donations for the Food Bank, and helped disperse the eggs around the field.

We are looking forward to teaming up with businesses in the community to expand programming and offer more for our students.

### School Outreach & Prevention

Youth and Family Services sponsored a "Healthy Living" poster contest at TEMS during the month of April. Students were asked to create a poster focused on one of 4 areas of prevention: Alcohol, Marijuana, Vaping and Smoking. The students really stepped up and created beautiful posters with important information about these important topics. A group of 7 judges choose the three top winners and 6 additional honorable mentions. They all received a gift card and a drawstring bag.

The SADD Club is busy preparing for their Prom Promise activity at SWHS. They will ask participating Juniors to sign a contract to encourage them to make good choices during prom events - and each and every day. The club is also organizing the second annual "Be The Light" Fun Run/Walk, which will be held on Sunday, May 22, 2022 at Nevers Road Park. It will be in conjunction with the Recreation Department's "Trails for Charities" Day. It will not be a timed event. All proceeds will be shared between the SADD Club and the Purple Light Project, which brings attention and support to mental healthy patients throughout Hartford Healthcare.





## Human Services Department

Andrea Cofrancesco  
Director of Human Services

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

YFS counselors remain busy with 82 active cases of youth seen for mental health counseling. That is an increase of 17 cases in the last month! Referrals to counseling services are continuing to rise. We have had 20 new referrals in April. All of the spots for counseling with Alexander Pepe from Intercommunity are filled and all of Sarah's additional hours are filled. Robin is in the process of referring them to providers in the community but many are on a waitlist at 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.. 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 April, they offered:

- 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

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

The Commission held a meeting on Wednesday, April 13, at Town Hall. We went over the progress of the Parks and Recreation Facility Planning and

Implementation Committee and discussed ways for the commission to support the committee. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 11 at the Town Hall at 7:30pm.

**The South Windsor Walk & Wheel Ways (SWW&WW):** SWW&WW had a successful week of the 4<sup>th</sup> grade bike program at Old Orchard Hill. They will be conducting a second 4<sup>th</sup> grade bike program at Eli Terry the third week of May.

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

The committee has met three times over the last few months to begin the process of reviewing potential locations and plans for the future location of the Parks and Recreation Department along with touring other town's facilities. Our plan is to create a needs assessment survey to the community and start meeting with local groups to get insight of what the town needs from recreation. The next meeting for this committee will be on Thursday, May 12 at 5:30pm in the Madden room.

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

**Spring and Summer Updates:** Our resident registration was on Wednesday, April 6 and our non-resident registration opened on April 13. We have had over 3,500 registrations so far for our upcoming spring and summer programs.

**Max Challenge:** On March 26th the Family Fun Fair was held at Wapping Parks and Recreation

in partnership with the Max Challenge. All of the proceeds from this event go directly to programs that support their healthy habit movement along with the Food and Fuel Bank. The event had 50 vendors, family friendly activities and more. This was a fun event and brought a large crowd to Wapping to kick off our Spring and Summer programming.

**Fishing Derby:** Our 37<sup>th</sup> annual Fishing Derby was held on Saturday, April 9 and was a huge success! Despite the unpredictable weather, we had over 200 residents of all ages enjoy their time fishing for trout in the freshly stocked pond. The Parks Department's newly added bridge at the Fishing Derby Pond allowed access to the back side was a perfect addition to the event.

This free event was sponsored by the Jaycees and Wapping Fair.

**Egg Hunt:** SWPRD's 49th Annual Egg hunt was back this year after a two-year Covid-related hiatus! 30,000 eggs were distributed amongst seven different groups (split up based on age/grade, all the way from under 2 years old up to second grade). Over 2,500 people came out to "hunt" for eggs with us! We also hosted a sensory-friendly egg hunt at the beginning of the day for those friends that may find the egg hunt experience overwhelming. Approximately 10 children and their families attended this hunt! Thank you to Imperial Oil for your continued support for this signature event. And thank you to our partners, The SW Community Women's Club for running the Kids Fair, and to the SWHS National Honor Society, SW Teen Center and the Interact Club for volunteering their time to make our event such a huge success!

**April Vacation Camp:** For two days during the schools' April Vacation, we hosted full-day camps that were full of fun! We had so much fun on the vacation days! We created masterpieces out of cardboard boxes, jumped in SWPRD's Moon

Bounce, played World Cup Soccer, made our own playdough, competed in Minute To Win-It challenges, walked to Nevers Park Playground, had an egg hunt, participated in an egg toss, played a variety of giant yard games, decorated their own ceramic plates/bowls to take home, and many other fun activities and games with friends!

**Preschool:** Preschool Session D began on 4/18! 3-5 year old classes and our parent/child classes are full at 100%! In our 2 year old classes, 66/70 spots are filled, representing nearly 95%! Preschool Session C wrapped up at the end of March, with only one-make up class in April. The program took a hiatus for spring break (in conjunction with South Windsor Public Schools Spring break). We are happy to be back for Session D!

**4th R:** 4th "R" has lots of recreation based fun each day with activities such as gym games (highlights include "Get Your Trash Out Of My Backyard," "Battleship," Football, and relay races), and special group activities such as making their own schools playdough, celebrating "burrito" day with paper burrito creations, egg hunts, giant slime bubbles, building 4th "R's longest beaded chain, an "Under the Sea" theme day, and making their own ice cream in a bag! Pre-registration is being conducted this month for the 2022/2023 school year for all currently-enrolled 4th "R" participants and our public registration lottery will take place on May 14.

**Youth Athletics:** Our Youth Basketball program concluded on April 3 with our 4 championship games. Overall it was a very successful season and we were thrilled to offer the program this year! We had another successful month with our learn to skate program which was at capacity for enrollment at 65 participants.

**Adult Athletics:** Men's Basketball wrapped up in April with the champions being the Square Peg Pizzeria. Our Adult Volleyball league wrapped up after another long successful season. We had max capacity in both our men's and women's leagues. Adult Cricket at Wapping concluded in April, and we were happy to have been able to offer space for a growing sport! We are excited to begin our adult softball and cornhole league this summer.

**Wellness Programs:** Yoga has returned in person and we currently have 43 participants registered between the three classes. Virtual classes are still being held for those who are unable to meet in person and wish to continue from home. Creative Cardio, Self Defense is Karate and Jukido are also

being offered at our Wapping Parks & Recreation Facility.

**Farmers Market:** We are ramping up for the Farmers Market season! We will be kicking off the market on Saturday, June 4 from 9-12pm. We are excited to welcome over 35 vendors, local breweries, food trucks, and live music!

**Veteran's Memorial Pool:** Join us this summer for the launch of our new water safety program! We plan to spend the summer educating our community on the importance of being safe around the water. Financial assistance is available today for lessons! More information is available on our website under Department info- Financial assistance. Give your children the confidence, and yourself the peace of mind, that comes with proper swim lesson instruction.

**Summer Camps:** We are currently hiring camp staff to join our team and make a difference in the lives of our youth! Our wide variety of summer camp options have already over 2,000 enrollments! We are excited to be welcoming more youth back this summer.

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

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

- As a result of continual extreme weather, the Parks Crew finally had the opportunity to begin work on athletic field preparation for the spring sports season. Even though the crew was ready to prep the facilities, due to circumstances out of our control with the weather patterns, the facilities were not ready and safe for play until later than desired. This also resulted in an unfortunate situation where the fields were not ready for the opening day varsity game. Our goal is to always provide safe and quality fields for all our athletes. That being said the crew came through once again addressing a couple of drainage issue on two fields we are ready for the spring season to begin.
- Groomed the synthetic turf field at the high school stadium to provide at least one usable area for their team try-outs and pre-season practices that started March 16<sup>th</sup> until natural turf fields are ready.
- While waiting for grounds to thaw and dry we worked on some other projects such as A Memorial Bench at Nevers, clearing some tress and invasive plants at various properties around

town.

- We are lucky to have our Parks employees able to service most of our small equipment in house such as mowers, trimmers, blowers and chain saws. Which has sure come in handy with all the work we have done! Thanks Crew!

**Parks & Open Space:**

- We are always working hard to maintain the hundreds of acres of open space that abut property owners and some of the detention basins around town that have become overgrown and no longer function as they were design to.
- We have started aggressive stump removal at Rye Street Park and the Priest Property to ensure our properties are esthetically pleasing.
- Added approximately 60 tons of lime to Avery and Deming Gardens to offer a successful growing season for our community gardeners.

**Projects:**

John J Mitchell Fair Grounds  
Avery Gardens  
Deming Gardens  
Farmers Market  
Redesign Porters Hill  
Deming /Avery Garden Kiosk  
Parking lot @ 1355 Ellington Rd Wapping park  
Pickle ball & Dek Hockey @ Rye Street



## Parks Photos:



The Parks Crew has been working hard on many spring ballfield renovations



In order to provide proper PH levels for our community gardeners, lime was added to both of our community garden sites



## Parks Photos:



Unavailing of the new John J Mitchell Fair Grounds @ Rye St with the Mitchell family



New memorial bench in memory of Brian Moran. "Relax", perfect new bench to enjoy the visa at Nevers Park.



## Parks Photos:



The new bridge at the South Windsor Fishing Derby pond off Frazier Fir offered access to the entire pond for participants of the Fishing Derby



After removing 16 stumps from Rye St Park. Now the area will be regraded and seeded for a new lawn area. Because of the growing demand for Cricket a second pitch was added to the John J Mitchell fair grounds.



## Recreation Photos:



Fishing Derby was a “reel” good time!





Recreation Photos



*Making friends and  
getting creative with  
our Preschool  
classes*





## Recreation Photos



Our Egg Hunt was a huge success and enjoyed by many!  
Thank you to all that help make this event possible!



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

### ***Meetings***

**Monday, May 2, 2022**

**7:00 pm Regular Meeting**

*Council Chambers*

**Thursday, May 9, 2022**

**7:00 pm Special Town Council Meeting**

*Council Chambers*

**Monday, May 16, 2022**

**7:00 pm Regular Meeting**

*Council Chambers*

### ***Holidays***

**Sunday, May 8, 2022**

**Mother's Day**

**Monday, May 30, 2022**

**Memorial Day– Town Offices Closed**

*Layout by Katherine Senerth, Executive Assistant*

