

Town of South Windsor

Town Manager's Report June 2022



Michael Maniscalco
Town Manager

Statewide Emergency Management Drill Town Staff participated in the Statewide Emergency Management table top drill on May 24, 2022. This drill is conducted annually by the State and consistent with previous years was based on a major weather event. Since the Town recently held our own table top drill for many of the department heads we set this drill up with mostly supervisors. This way we have a deeper bench of employees to pull from in event of an emergency. Over the coming weeks staff will review the responses from supervisors and we will conduct an after action meeting.

Strategic Planning Committee Update The Strategic Planning Committee met and discussed hiring a consultant and also the types of consultants they are looking for. To date, I have reached out to a number of local options with minimal responses. I have a couple of options that I am currently working on and am hopeful to have someone for the committee to speak with. In particular, the committee is looking for someone in Connecticut who will have a better understanding of the challenges that Connecticut communities face and to provide the community with an objective 3rd party to help with the formulation of the plan. There is an item on the agenda tonight to move some funds from contingency to the Capital fund so that those funds can carry forward from the fiscal year in order to allow us to take the time we need to get the best consultant possible.

Parks and Rec Facility Committee Update Colliers has been retained to conduct evaluations on 4 different sites in order to determine opportunities and challenges associated with each location. Once their study is complete the committee will make a recommendation and a final recommendation will be made to the Council.

Farmers Market Opening The farmers market is starting off the summer season on June 4th. The market will be open most Saturdays throughout the summer from 9am to noon. This year we have a wide variety of vendors, craftsmen and farmers signed up as well as entertainment for kids.

STEAP Grant Announcement On June 1, 2022 I attended a conference call with OPM launching the STEAP Grant applications. This year the State has approved \$30,000,000 to be made in \$500,000 grants to communities that are eligible. Staff are currently working to determine eligibility and an appropriate project to apply with. We will need to come to the Town

Council before the application is made in order to get an approved resolution authorizing me to sign all of the grant documents. Applications are due by August 15, 2022 and if any of the Council or public have any special projects they would like us to consider for the application please let me know.

Michael Maniscalco, MPA
Town Manager



Police Department

Kristian R. Lindstrom
Chief of Police

Monthly Statistics April 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.

April's numbers are below:

Total Computer Aided Dispatch Entries:	2532
Routine Calls Received/Outgoing:	3333
Directed Patrol/Premise Checks:	1254
Motor Vehicle Stops:	172
Emotionally Disturbed Persons:	26
Medical Assists:	163
Suspicious:	91
Alarms:	87
Motor Vehicle Accidents:	31
Welfare Check:	29
Assist Outside Agency:	27
Animal Problem:	31
Citizen Assist:	25
Miscellaneous Service:	5
Collision Reports:	11
BOLO:	16
Disabled Motor Vehicle:	18
Larceny - Motor Vehicle	2
Larceny:	29
Hazardous Conditions:	13
Pistol Permits:	11
Burglary	4
Burglary - Motor Vehicle	2
Civil Matter:	11
911 Check:	9
Fraud:	6
Domestic Dispute:	18
Violation of Town Ordinance:	2
Sexual Assault	0
Youth Problem:	9

Covid 19 Update:

The month of May saw a slight uptick in community spread. Even without masks and the extensive Covid protocols that had been in place throughout the pandemic, this uptick has had little no affect on the continuity of operations within the police department. 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 we are now in the beginning of the third year of dealing with Covid, we have moved from a pandemic status to an endemic status. Covid is here to stay and it appears as though its potency is certainly weakening. That being said, 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.

Annually, May plays host to National Police Week.



Police Department

Kristian R. Lindstrom
Chief of Police

This is a week that recognizes all law enforcement personnel, but specifically pays tribute to those officers who have been killed in the line of duty. At the beginning of this week available department personnel gathered in front of police headquarters for a brief moment of silence led by our department Chaplain, Doug Rowse. This moment of silence was intended to honor all officers who have died in the line of duty including our own Sgt. Matthew Mainieri whose death four short years ago was classified as a line of duty death.

In addition to police week, May also hosted national EMS (Emergency Medical Services) week. During this week, we celebrated our partnership with the Ambulance Service of Manchester and Manchester Memorial Hospital. These partnerships allow us to continue to bring rapid and competent emergency medical care to the everyone living, working, and visiting, in the Town of South Windsor.

On Monday May 23rd, Officer Nicholas Sarfo began his employment with the South Windsor Police Department. After approximately two weeks of on-boarding training, he will begin his academy training on Friday, June 3rd.

On May 5th, Officer Jared Grabowski graduated from the New Britain Police Academy. He has begun his 14 week field training program. Officer Victoria Weiss is continuing her basic training at the New Britain Police Academy and Officer Christopher Myska is advancing smoothly through his field training.

Although these new officers will not be fully operational for several months, their employment with us leaves us with only one vacancy at the moment. Sgt. Mark Cleverdon is overseeing our recruiting efforts and is actively working to fill our last vacancy.

With an authorized strength of 46 sworn members, we currently have 2 in the academy or (pre-academy) training (Weiss, Sarfo), 2 in field training (Myska, Grabowski), 1 on light duty (Pregnancy), and one vacancy. At the moment, 44

of our 46 authorized sworn personnel are employed at this agency and 40 are fully operational sworn FTE's.

In the month of May, Officers Kuzara and Pierpont were selected to be Auxiliary School Resource Officers (SROs). This ancillary assignment provides support to our two SROs. This support may exist in the role of coverage during an SROs absence or at large school functions that call for additional police presence (e.g. graduations, athletic events, etc.)

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.



Police Department

Kristian R. Lindstrom
Chief of Police

In the first few days of May, police personnel delivered over 200 lbs of unwanted medications to an area vendor for destruction. These medications were collected at a drug takeback day on the last day of April and aim to keep medications out of circulation and away from unintended users. These continued efforts do their part to reduce the risks of drug abuse within the community.

On May 21, 2022, police personnel provided traffic and crowd control at the Town's Armed Forces Day festivities. Earlier that same day, the Police Department's Animal Control staff help to run a Low Cost Rabies Clinic that will help keep our pets and households safe.

During the month of May, Officers Geraci and Johnson participated in a "College Prep Day" for high school seniors. This program is just one example of our agency's outreach efforts to engage the community's young people in a non-confrontational context. Our outreach efforts do not solely serve the town's young people. In the month of May, Sgt. Hoover visited with some of the Town's Senior Citizens and presented on a variety of different safety topics.

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. This month Town officials and Aldi's officials met to discuss this issue in detail and work towards identifying what solutions are in the works to remedy this issue.

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.

During the month of May the police department received, and is processing, several FOI requests. While these requests are not out of the ordinary, there seems to be a recent influx of these requests. In speaking with other area agencies, this does not seem to be a trend unique to South Windsor, however these requests are noteworthy as they can be very labor intensive to satisfy. Particularly when dealing with record redactions and video redactions, these requests can occupy dozens of labor hours a week.

Over the last month, the police department took delivery of our most recent order of body worn cameras. With new hardware and new policy in



Police Department

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the mix, department personnel are in the process of receiving training with regards to the updates and our officers will all be wearing these cameras in the coming weeks.

As the end of May nears, police personnel are postured to participate in, and provide security/crowd/traffic control for the Town's Memorial Day celebration. This popular event includes a parade and ceremony at Veteran's Memorial Park.

Police personnel met with town officials and contractors during May to finalize plans to start the downstairs renovation of police headquarters. The construction for this project was slated to begin on May 16th and its focal point is to expand and update the women's locker room facilities. Because we are not expanding the footprint of the building, this expansion within it will cause a ripple effect that will impact and subsequently update several rooms in the lower level of police headquarters. It is understood that our lower level may be in a state of disarray for several months, we are excited for the finished product anticipated near the end of this calendar year.

While these largescale events are occurring, the men and women of the police department continue to respond to calls for assistance and engage in more traditional law enforcement activities. Police personnel continue to respond to motor vehicle crashes, medicals, crimes, and suspicious activities.

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 May 2022

The Street Services Department, along with Fleet Services, the Parks Department, Engineering, Building Maintenance, and Water Pollution Control celebrated National Public Works Week (May 15 - May 22). As part of the celebration, we hosted nearly 115 students from the 2nd grade at the Orchard Hill School. The children were given a tour of the town garage, got to see demonstrations and left with a swag bag full of fun and informational goodies. They also toured the Water Pollution Control Facility and learned how wastewater travels under the roads and how the water is treated before being discharged. Overall, it was fun and educational for all of us.

Also as part of Public Works Week, we held our annual food drive at Geissler's Supermarket on May 21st to benefit the South Windsor Food and Fuel Bank. Donations were plentiful and we thank those who donated, including \$145.00 in cash contributions. Additionally, a GoFundMe page for South Windsor Public Works Fill-A-Truck has been set up to facilitate donations as well. The account will remain open for two more weeks. Here's the link - [Gofund.me/ffeccea](https://gofund.me/ffeccea)

Several catch basin repairs were undertaken during the month focusing on those that we did not have time to complete last fall.

Crews have begun to tackle storm water detention areas, trimming back overgrowth to ensure these detention basins will work as designed.

Roadside mowing is underway to help keep our roadsides presentable and to eliminate sightline issues for the travelling public.

Street sweeping continues on schedule thanks to the weather cooperating. We have not experienced too many lost days with the program this year.

Catch basin cleaning was completed during the month as part of the town's Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan. Nearly 1500 storm water basins were cleaned out this season. Additionally, more than 60 basins were cleaned on Buckland Rd in

preparation for upcoming basin repairs.

The Kelly Road island was beautified making the gateway from the East crisp for those coming into town from Vernon.

Curb repairs are wrapping up but pothole complaints continue. Crews spent time on Buckland Rd patching some of the worst areas until the roadwork begins later this year.

Cut and patch work is being conducted on Windsorville Rd to remove/eliminate rough road surfaces. This will "pave the way" for upcoming chip seal work later this year.

Maintainers set up no parking signs, delivered barricades, road closed signs, and lighting equipment in support of Armed Forces Day. Two maintainers worked the event, emptying trash, setting up chairs for the South Windsor Community Band and assisting the event organizers as necessary.

The sign shop repaired or replaced 18 regulatory and warning signs during the period. This included three new turtle crossing signs on Deming St and Clark St. For more information about turtle and roadways, go to the DEEP website <https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP/News-Releases/News-Releases---2018/May/Turtles-and-Roads-Are-a-Deadly-Combination>



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

Public Works Department

Vincent Stetson
Director of Public Works

Engineering Projects Update

Main Street Bridge over the Podunk River

Dayton Construction has installed 20 steel piles, 2 new concrete abutments and placed 4 precast, prestressed concrete beams for the new bridge ahead of schedule, as shown in the photo below looking south on Main Street. The concrete end walls, parapet walls and approaches are scheduled to be constructed in June and July. 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 by 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 complete and the project is being advertised for bids. Eversource Gas and their contractor NPL has begun to install a new gas main in Beelzebub Road. Frontier and Eversource will be moving about 10 utility poles and wires in coordination with this project. These utility relocations will continue through the summer. The Town has cleared trees as needed for this project. I have 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 for road reconstruction to begin in the summer of 2022 and construction will likely continue into 2023.

Buckland Road Repaving

Palmer Paving was the low bidder for this project. 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 summer 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 summer 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

The open Project Engineer position has been offered to a qualified candidate who plans to start in the second half of June. Consultants are being used to keep the Town Engineering projects moving forward.

Public Works Department

Vincent Stetson
Director of Public Works

Pleasant Valley/Clark Street Sidewalk Project

Costa & Son LLC has completed most of the new sidewalk connections on the eastern section of Pleasant Valley road and the southern part of Clark Street and residents are using the new sidewalks. Construction is expected to be finished in the early summer.

Local Road Paving

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 have designed 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. Atlas Concrete will be raising concrete sidewalk slabs. We are working to get a contractor to replace Concrete Sidewalks.

Abbe Road Drainage Study

Weston & Sampson is 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.

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.

Utility Work

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 and Collector of Revenue Information

The Mill Rate for the 2021 Grand List, covering October 1, 2021 - September 30, 2022, was set on May 9, 2022 by the Town Council. For Real Estate and Personal Property, the mill rate is 38.77. The legislature passed HB-5506 with a Mill Rate cap of 32.46 mills for the 2021 Motor Vehicle Grand List. A Motor Vehicle mill rate of 32.46 was adopted by Town Council on May 9, 2022.

While the motor vehicle mill rate has decreased, the value of used cars continues to rise due to the global COVID-19 pandemic impacting the sales of new vehicles. As a result, the motor vehicle tax bills may not decrease on the upcoming July 2022 tax bills.

Assessor Information

The Town's 2022 Revaluation project is well underway and there are currently three appraisers from Vision Government Solutions working with the Assessor's Office in South Windsor to verify data on residential and commercial properties. Their information is on file with the Assessor's Office and South Windsor Police Department. Any resident with questions regarding the contracted personnel is encouraged to call the Assessor's Office at ext. 2312 for verification, after regular town all business hours, please contact the South Windsor Police.

Each month the Assessor's Office will be highlighting different areas of the revaluation process. This month we will be highlighting the market, market value, and comparable sales: In a revaluation, the value of your property is based on an analysis of the sales within your market area for a specified period of time (usually a one or two year period). This study of recent property sales allows the appraisers to establish valuation parameters (construction rates, land rates, market adjustments, etc.). Once these valuation parameters are applied to the properties that sold, the result is an appraised value that is very close to the sales price. The revaluation appraisers test the newly developed parameters then apply these same valuation parameters to all of the "non-sale" properties in town. In doing so, they are approximating the market value of each property

using the information derived from all sales in Town. Therefore, no one particular sale or group of sales was used to determine the value of your property. This is because ALL of the recent sales were included in the analysis that set the parameters used in the revaluation of South Windsor.

The market can generally be defined as you, the person who sold the property to you, and the person willing to buy it from you. It is the appraiser's job to research and analyze the values in any particular area or neighborhood. The appraiser has specific guidelines to follow during their research. Some factors that are examined for each property are: location, size, quality of construction, age of improvements, topography, etc. Market value may increase for some neighborhoods and property types but not for others. Depending upon the market, some neighborhoods and property types may decrease in value whereas others may remain the same. One purpose of a revaluation is to make sure that the assessed values reflect the changes that have recently occurred in the real estate market. The overall goal of a revaluation is fair and equitable distribution of tax burden.

The time to file for the Homeowner's Program has ended. The timeframe to file was February 1, 2022 – May 15, 2022. If a resident was under a doctor's care during this period and needs an extension to file, the Extension Request Form can be provided upon request. This form must be completed and sent to the State of Connecticut to the Office of Policy and Management for approval. Any questions on this process feel free to email: Assessor@southwindsor-ct.gov.

Collector of Revenue information

Tax bills will be mailed the week of June 24, 2022, payment is due July 1, 2022 and the last day to pay without penalty is August 1, 2022. Payment may be remitted on line using an ACH check, credit or debit card, fees apply. Secure drop boxes are located at the front entrance of Town Hall, one is mounted to the building, the second is a convenient drive up drop box. Both boxes are monitored by video and emptied twice daily by staff. Payment of check or money order may be

Finance Department

Patricia Perry
Director of Finance

mailed in the envelope provided. Payment of cash, check or money order is accepted during normal office hours. Please anticipate long lines during July.

Current and prior year tax information is available online <https://www.southwindsor-ct.gov/collector-revenue/pages/online-payments>. Please contact our office for information regarding leased vehicles, to best assist have your VIN or registration available.

Per CGS 12-130 Failure to receive a tax bill shall not invalidate the tax or penalties added. If you feel you are missing a bill please contact us. Our office is available to assist by calling 860-644-2511 extension 2321 or emailing: taxcollector@southwindsor-ct.gov.

Mary Huda
Assessor

Jennifer Hilinski
Collector

Human Services Department

Andrea Cofrancesco
Director of Human Services

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

Human Services Staff

This month we are highlighting our drivers in our Transportation Program in Adult and Senior Services.

Our drivers and years of service to the town are: Diana Roy (23), Fran Lerz (16), Mike Hayes (9), Don Padegimas (8), Paul Bernstein and Romanda Elkey (8 months), and our car drivers Laura Gordon and Marie Krupa (8 months). Our drivers are dedicated, bringing many older adults and those with disabilities to a variety of places including medical appointments, grocery stores, hair appointments, the post office, library, senior center and more. Often this is the only way people are able to get out which allows them to remain independent. Our 4 buses which are mostly grant funded, are all wheelchair lift equipped. Thank you drivers, for making a difference!



Elderly and Disabled Property Tax Relief

Caseworkers (Lindsey Ravalese, Steve Clapp and Sue Grundstrom) processed a total of 174 Property Tax Relief applications this season. In addition to completing this form with residents 65+ or those who are on Social Security Disability, staff is able to see if they qualify for other financial assistance programs including energy assistance, SNAP, Medicare Savings Program and more.

Energy Assistance - Extended to June 30

Applications for the 2021-22 energy assistance program have been extended to June 30. Gross monthly income cannot exceed \$39,027/year (single) and \$51,035 (couples). **There is no asset limit this year due to COVID-19.** Documentation needed: last four weeks of income, bank statements, proof of rent or mortgage and utility bills. For an appointment call 860-648-6361 ext. 3335 to speak to a caseworker in the Adult and Senior Services Division of Human Services.

Food and Fuel Bank

Thank you to Ethan, Cub Scout Pack 390 for putting together and donating 17 "birthday bags" to benefit residents who use our Food Bank. Ethan is a 3rd grader at Pleasant Valley School and he

Human Services Department

Andrea Cofrancesco
Director of Human Services

collected items from family, friends and other scout families. Thank you Ethan and to all who made this possible!



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! Here are a couple of our latest tiktoks. Follow us @swniorcenter

<https://www.tiktok.com/t/ZTdGsBtGN/?k=1>
<https://www.tiktok.com/t/ZTdGskXNK/?k=1>

Adventure Club

Our Adventure Club is having a great time! With weekly hikes to a variety of different locations in CT and other activities such as horseback riding, kayaking and more, there is a little something for everyone here at the South Windsor Senior Center!



May 2022 Teen Center

The month of May was all about preparing for the last few weeks of school and getting ready for our summer programming!

Students who registered for the TEMS Matinee Program attended the Teen Center after school on Mondays to play games and do crafts. We played a lot of air hockey and pool, they got extremely competitive over Uno, and the kids pulled out all of their skills when playing Wii games.

Students from the Teen Center Youth Council group and the high school Interact Club have been helping in the Food Bank Garden on Wednesday afternoons. They helped to prepare the beds by digging out the weeds and began planting. So far our volunteers have planted lettuce, turnips, carrots, radishes, kale, peas, okra, and a few more!

Students in 8th grade entering their freshman year came to the Teen Center as part of their tour of the high school. They had pizza, played games, and got familiar with the space. Students were able to find out about the Teen Center hours and events, and got to hear about Youth Council to build their volunteer experience.

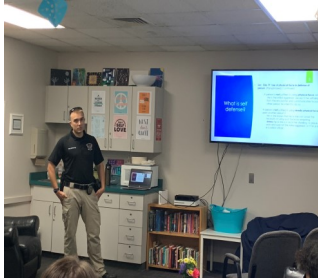
On the 20th we had a movie night for middle school students. There were almost 40 students in attendance! Everyone brought blankets, wore pajamas, enjoyed popcorn and ate candy!

School Outreach & Prevention

We offered a "Thrive" college prep program for South Windsor High School seniors in May and it was a success! Students had the opportunity to learn from a panel of former SADD Club members, who are currently in college. They shared valuable advice about adjusting to college and balancing all that comes with it. Then SW Police Officer Kevin Geraci talked to the students about situational awareness and safety in dorms and on campus. SW Officer Dave Johnson spoke about protecting oneself and showed them some self-defense moves. Liz Langevin spoke with the students about mental health and how to ask for help for themselves or a friend. Overall, it was a wonderful afternoon and everyone learned some important information to help create a smooth transition to college.

Human Services Department

Andrea Cofrancesco
Director of Human Services



The Mentor picnic was held on a beautiful spring day at the Rotary Pavilion. The students and mentors enjoyed a special lunch and then played some cooperative games together. The day offers a chance to celebrate both the mentors and the students. It gives us the chance to show appreciation for them participating in this very important program.



The S. W. High School SADD Club held the "Be The Light" 5k on Sunday, May 22, 2022. The club wanted to do something positive for the community. They also wanted to highlight mental health so the funds were split between the club and the Purple Light Project, which helps Hartford healthcare patients after they are discharged from mental health services. It was a hot morning, but the mood was positive and encouraging. The students also made cards and small pillows for the organization. Overall, it was a wonderful to see our students and our community giving back in a meaningful way.

Youth Counseling, Parent Education and Support

YFS counselors remain busy with 82 active cases of youth seen for mental health counseling! Referrals to counseling services are continuing to

rise. 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 as well which makes it difficult. We will be using ARPA grant funds to hire a part time counselor so we can continue to meet the needs of our community. 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.

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, May 11, at Town Hall. We went over the progress of the Parks and Recreation Facility Planning and Implementation Committee and provided updates on our spring and summer programming. The next

meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 8, at the Town Hall at 7:30pm.

The South Windsor Walk & Wheel Ways

(SWW&WW) SWW&WW conducted their second 4th grade bike program at Eli Terry the week of May 23. The weather was beautiful, and the kids had a blast learning new bike skills. SWW&WW has a lot of community events coming up, such as Thursday evening bike rides, Bike maintenance workshop, Womens bike skills 101 and CT trail day.

RECREATION DIVISION “Feel great – recreate!”

Preschool Preschool has been having so much fun as session D flies by. We have been super busy playing outside with bubbles, chalk, and parachutes! We did activities like water “painting” the sidewalk, using spray bottles to make group murals, and sensory activities like digging in the sand and splashing in water bins. We have been practicing recognizing and writing our letters and lots of art projects, songs, and stories! We also celebrated our moms & special people for Mothers’ Day!

4th R 4th “R” averaged approximately 200 unique participants across all four schools in May. We completed the 4th “R” pre-registration with a 98% return rate and we also hosted the annual 4th “R” lottery on Saturday, May 14. We were able to open up the program back to full capacity for the upcoming school year. 4th “R” has lots of recreation-based fun each day with activities such as gym games (highlights include Bench Ball, Capture the Flag, and Spongebob), enjoying the spring-like weather outside with games, picnic snack-time, and playground fun, and doing special activities such as creating our own stores/markets, rock-paper-scissors race, Slamwich relays, snail crafts, and Pokemon fuse bead creations!

Youth Badminton We have started our badminton program for ages 5-18, and we have about 15 athletes per month signed up, and it has been going really well! This program runs April through August.

Youth Cricket League We ran the first Youth Cricket Clinic on Saturday, May 14, at the John J. Mitchell fairgrounds. This program was free to gauge the community interest, and we had over 20 youth participate in the program. We will be hosting one more clinic this summer.

Adult Softball Our adult softball league started the second week of May at Rye street park. We have nine teams participating in the league this year, and the league will run through August.

Youth Programs Food Explorers Baking Workshop was held on Monday, May 16. We had eight participants registered for the program. They all had a blast learning how to make banana pancake pops and strawberry shortcake.

Wellness Programs Yoga has continued hosting hybrid classes for all of their participants. Classes are being held on Tuesday mornings, Tuesday evenings and Wednesday evenings. In total we had 48 participants in the program this month! We’re looking forward to Joga beginning in June. Joga is a yoga class held at the Rotary Pavilion with a social hour after including coffee and bagels.

Jukido This month, Jukido had their testing day where participants had the chance to move onto the next belt! The season has come to an end, but they will continue to run classes throughout the summer to prepare everyone for next year. This past month we had 28 participants in the Wednesday and Sunday evening classes. Classes grew so much this month that we had to move the program to the gym for ample practice space!

Track Club This twice a week fun-filled program of running, sprinting, hurdling, trail running, and field events was a hit this spring with 69 participants. We look forward to offering it again for our youth next year!

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 Veterans Memorial Park Pool will open for the season on Saturday, May 28 at 11 am. We're so excited to be opening for the season and our staff have been working around the clock to make it possible! We began our summer season training on Saturday, May 21 and will continue until Friday, May 28. We also ran our first lifeguarding class the weekend of May 21, that certified ten people in lifeguarding. Luckily for us, most of them are working at VMP this summer. We're preparing for a busy season full of lane rentals, private groups, swim lessons and events!

Water Safety Program We will be launching our new water safety program at VMP! Our first event is our free swim lesson evaluation night which will take place on Tuesday, June 7 from 3-6pm.

Summer Camps We are getting ready for a fun summer at camp! Our wide variety of summer camp options have already over 2,000 enrollments! The staff will be coming back for training the weekend of June 10, and we are excited to welcome more youth this summer!

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

Parks Department Update"I have now been with the Town of South Windsor now for 22 years, and spring is by far the most challenging season. As spring fever kicks in, we ensure that all of our athletic fields and parks are open for the season along with any spring projects to provide the best quality outdoor spaces for our residents. The Parks Department has grown tremendously since our merge with recreation twelve years ago, and it's all due to the departments dedication and willingness to take on new projects. This month's message, we don't want to only highlight what we have been working on but also mention the crew that makes us proud of what we do and what we can do." - John Caldwell, Superintendent of Park.

Dave Turkington - Parks Manager
Rob Hunt -Maintainer III
Jake Burnham -Maintainer III
Steve Linton- Maintainer II
Mike Driscoll -Maintainer II
Mike Hanrahan -Maintainer II
Brian Sullivan -Maintainer II
Mike Samsel-Maintainer II
Mark Hilton – Maintainer II
Brian McTeague Maintainer I
Matt Gwozdz- Maintainer I
Rich Palmer Maintainer -I

Parks Photos:



New lot paved for Wapping park located at 1355 Ellington Road



Mike Samsel and Ben Bedard built a new flag retirement burn pit at VMP for the Patriotic Commission.



New garden kiosks were made in-house from oak trees that fell in last year's storms. We had the oak trees saved and milled by a local company, and the kiosks were designed and built by park employees. We captured a photo of a mother and daughter duo enjoying some quality time planting at the Deming gardens.



The Little League field, Craig Pepin, ready to go for opening day which had over 1,000 attendees.

Parks Photos:



After a large storm took most of the Cotton wood trees on the Norman Priest property, we cleaned up all the damaged trees and invasive. We teamed up with the Environmental Club and the High School for earth day and planted a variety of twelve trees.



We worked on a portion of Rye St Park near the pond. We cleaned up the fallen trees and debris and regraded an enlarged area and are adding a wooden rail fence.

Parks Photos:



VMP right after pool cover was removed in early May. The pool looked good this year because of proactively adding chlorine to the pool throughout the winter months. Deterioration of the 21-year-old pool cover caused the pool to grow more algae that should allow. Two of our maintainers, Rob and Matt loved the cold temperatures and frigid water to get VMP ready for all the patrons.

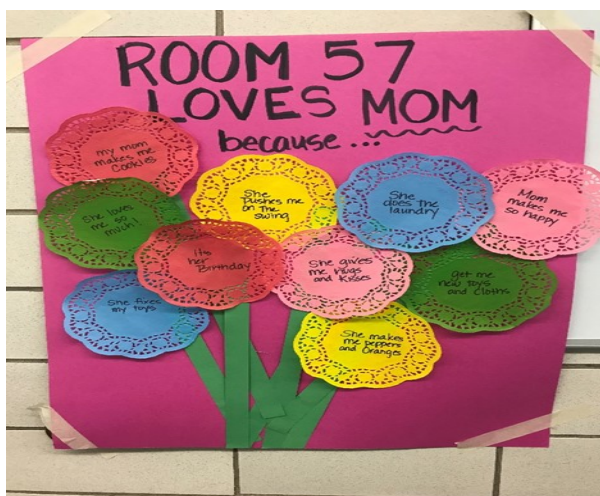


Old Farm Road after removing 60-foot pines that were in decline, new grass, and six new trees planted around the detention pond that was also cleaned up to be aesthetically pleasing.

Recreation Photos:



Sensory activities are a fun way to learn new skills!



Our Preschoolers made some sweet Mother's Day presents!



Our preschool friends enjoying the spring weather!

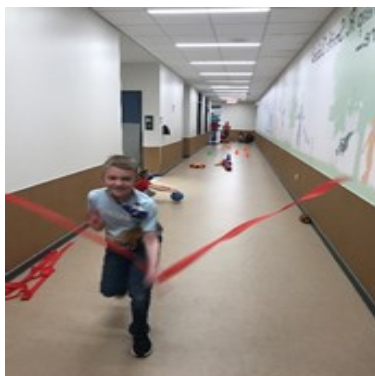


Enjoying Fun and Games after school!

Recreation Photos



May the 4th be with you!



Enjoying fun and games afterschool!



Slamwich Relay!



Track Club participants having fun learning to jump hurdles!



VMP Staff participating in teambuilding games such as Hungry Hippo!



VMP Staff training to get ready for the summer 2022 season!

June 2022 Town Council Meetings and Events

Meetings

Monday, June 6, 2022

7:00 pm Regular Meeting

Council Chambers

Monday, June 27, 2022

7:00 pm Special Town Council Meeting

Council Chambers

Holidays

June 14, 2022

Flag Day

June 19, 2022

Juneteenth

June 19, 2022

Father's Day

June 21, 2022

First Day of Summer

Layout by Katherine Senerth, Executive Assistant

