

Town of South Windsor

Town Manager's Report July 2021

Michael Maniscalco
Town Manager



COVID-19 Update- I will have current numbers at the time of the meeting.

End of Year Tax Collections- I am happy to share that for fiscal year end our overall collection rate is **99.24%**. Below you will find a chart comparing to 06/30/2020 and a history of the collection rate since my appointment in June 2017.

| | 2018 Grand List | 2019 Grand List |
|------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Collection Rate | 99.31% | 99.24% |
| Real Estate | 99.53% | 99.36% |
| Personal Property | 99.24% | 99.16% |
| Motor Vehicle | 98.00% | 98.56% |
| MV Supple | 92.85% | 95.16% |

| Grand List Year | Collection Rate |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| 2016 | 98.93% |
| 2017 | 99.24% |
| 2018 | 99.31% |
| 2019 | 99.24% |
| | |

Process for Tax Collection- With the presentation of the suspense list there were some questions regarding the process the Tax Department takes to collect taxes. In your packet is a memo from the Tax Collector laying out the process and timeline used for collecting taxes.

Public Works Director Promotion- With changes in the new budget and after having the opportunity to watch the functionality of the department since the departure of the previous Director, I have made the decision to fill the position of Director of Public Works by promoting Vincent Stetson from Streets Superintendent to Director of Public Works. To make sure it is clear for everyone, Mr. Stetson will still maintain his previous duties as Superintendent and will assume the additional duties as Director.

Vincent grew up in South Windsor playing in Rye Street Park area. While in the private sector, Vincent has worked in a leadership capacity on many notable projects like the Pearl Harbor Memorial Bridge in New Haven (otherwise known as the Q bridge), and the National Grid Transmission Line upgrade in the State of Rhode Island. His specialties include deep foundation installation and design along with heavy highway civil bridge building experience. If you have ever driven in the States of Connecticut, Massachusetts or Rhode Island; chances are you have driven over one of Vincent's projects. I am certain the rest of the public will join me in welcoming and congratulating him on his new role.



Police Department

Kristian R. Lindstrom
Chief of Police

Monthly Statistics May 2021:

Each month we publish the totals of some of our more common calls for service. We continue to see some minor fluctuations in activity levels as school schedules change and Covid trends shift. Patrol staff continue to proactively check businesses and facilities whose schedules and business models have been impacted by the public health crisis.

May's numbers are below:

| | |
|----------------------------------|------|
| Total Computer Aided Dispatch | 2131 |
| 9-1-1 Calls Received: | 724 |
| Routine Calls Received/Outgoing: | 4859 |
| Directed Patrol/Premise Checks: | 724 |
| Motor Vehicle Stops: | 208 |
| Emotionally Disturbed Persons: | 9 |
| Medical Assists: | 174 |
| Suspicious: | 88 |
| Alarms: | 95 |
| Motor Vehicle Accidents: | 34 |
| Welfare Check: | 42 |
| Assist Outside Agency: | 30 |
| Animal Problem: | 40 |
| Citizen Assist: | 33 |
| Miscellaneous Service: | 9 |
| Collision Reports: | 16 |
| BOLO: | 26 |
| Disabled Motor Vehicle: | 21 |
| Larceny - Motor Vehicle | 9 |
| Larceny: | 33 |
| Hazardous Conditions: | 10 |
| Pistol Permits: | 10 |
| Burglary - Residential | 1 |
| Burglary - Motor Vehicle | 23 |
| Civil Matter: | 13 |
| 911 Check: | 8 |
| Fraud: | 9 |
| Domestic Dispute: | 13 |
| Violation of Town Ordinance: | 3 |
| Youth Problem: | 25 |

Covid 19 Update:

The month of June saw continued relief from the Covid-19 pandemic. Virus spread at the local and state level remain minimal and manageable as vaccinations increase. Covid restrictions on social distancing and mask usage continue to wane while illness numbers appear to stay in check. That being said, police personnel continue to exercise caution when dealing with members of the community.

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.

The month of June brought with it the unfortunate news of one of our officers being involved in a life threatening off duty accident. The department has rallied behind he and his family as we all wait and pray that he survives. Our own Peer Support Team, EAP Provider, Department Chaplain, and Manchester Police Department's Peer Support Team continue to have an active role in assisting our staff in dealing with this event.

After almost 8 years of dormancy, we are proud to have a K-9 Team within our ranks. Ofc. Cosenza and K-9 Mason graduated from the Connecticut State Police Canine Academy this month. They were quickly put to work on their first night on duty together they responded to Windsor to search for a domestic violence suspect who had fled the scene of a violent domestic. After tracking for the suspect for approximately 1/2 mile, K-9 Mason located the suspect hiding in a dumpster and he was taken into custody without incident. Approximately 5 days later, Mason and Ofc. Cosenza saved a life by finding an individual in a thick wooded area to find an overdose victim. After multiple doses of Narcan, the victim regained consciousness and was evacuated from the woods.

At a recent Capitol Region Chiefs of Police Association (CRCOPA) meeting, Chief Lindstrom became the Vice President of the association and

Police Department

Kristian R. Lindstrom
Chief of Police

will serve on the Executive Board with Chiefs from Glastonbury and Simsbury. In addition, Chief Lindstrom is serving on a committee to address Human Trafficking in Greater Hartford and a committee to address training and equipment needs for Civil Disobedience called for by the Police Accountability Act.

During the month of June, we continued our recruiting and hiring efforts as we held oral board examinations for entry level police officers. Our hope is to find qualified personnel to fill our two existing vacancies.

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.

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:

As we cautiously emerge from beneath a blanket of Covid restrictions, our focus is now on re-engaging the public to build trust and legitimacy.

Police Officers from South Windsor and other area towns including the State Police participated in the Special Olympics Torch Run on June 17th. This event drew attention from community and their support provided energy to the participants of this important cause.

Even though school is out, our School Resource Officers are still hard at work. They have partnered with Youth and Family Services to participate in programs throughout the summer that will increase the number of non-confrontational contacts that we have with the community, specifically local youth. 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.

During the month of June, Chief Lindstrom addressed the Town Council regarding ongoing attention to the Laurel Street area and complaints of speeding cars.

In addition, both the South Windsor and East Hartford Police Departments worked to reduce the amount of truck traffic on Chapel Road. New signs, contacts with local businesses, and adjustments to Google Maps' driving directions are just a couple examples of steps that were taken that appear to have curtailed some of the truck traffic. This information was passed along to State Representative Jeff Currey who had attended previous meetings on this subject. The police department will continue to work with local businesses and neighboring jurisdictions to monitor this problem and mitigate it where possible.

Members of the Department's Traffic Unit have been working overtime under a CT DOT grant to enforce drunk driving violations. This initiative is an appropriate segue from last month's efforts to combat distracted driving.

Distracted driving and driving under the influence continue to be issues that put the motoring public at risk. We continue to employ the belief that high visibility patrols and frequent motor vehicle stops serve to encourage safe and legal motor vehicle practices. Agency personnel remain busy trying to enforce motor vehicle laws while the police department works with Town Highway and Engineering to make sure the roads are well designed, appropriately marked, and optimal for motorist safety.

Police Department

Kristian R. Lindstrom
Chief of Police

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.

After last month's high publicity investigation into the death of Jessica Edwards, June was an opportune time to debrief that investigation in the form of an After Action Review. This event allowed us to reflect on the investigation and identify our successes and failures so that our efforts can be improved upon in the future. Investigators continue to work with prosecutorial officials to further investigate some of the details of this tragic case.

The month of June also saw landmark legislation passed that legalizes the recreational use of marijuana. The first of a series of changes under this law go into effect on July 1st and it represents a massive paradigm shift for our profession. We continue to sift through the 300 page bit of legislation and receive updates and guidance from the State on policing through this time of unprecedented change.

Chief Lindstrom and Deputy Chief Eckblom continue to work with other town officials as several large projects continue to move forward here at police headquarters. Parking lot, solar arrays, lower level remodeling and renovation, fence construction, and parking lot resurfacing are all in process to some degree.

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

We have seen a troubling shift in the trend of burglarized and stolen cars over the last month or so. Historically these incidents were somewhat contained to overnight hours where actors could operate under the cloak of darkness, however recently we have received several reports of daytime burglaries and thefts. For this reason, it is prudent for citizens to keep their cars locked at all times when the vehicles are parked outside at home.

This has become a constant reminder over the

past couple years, everyone needs to lock their cars. Despite what you may read on social media, these are not "break-ins" or "hotwired" cars. Historically, the frequency of these incidents increases as the weather improves. In most cases these cars are left unlocked with a key or key fob in it. Often people forget that new cars come with a spare key/keyfob and leave it in the glove compartment.

Most of Connecticut continues to experience car burglaries and car thefts. This is not a new problem; however with the increase in "push button start" cars, people have a tendency to leave the fob in the car. This makes it very easy for the youths to find a car to take. Locking the car is the answer; none of the stolen cars had windows smashed or were jimmed open. The crimes are generally being committed by groups of juveniles who arrive in a neighborhood in a stolen car overnight, try door handles and enter unlocked cars. If an unlocked car is found they look for keys or key fobs to take the car, or steal valuables located inside the vehicle. The stolen cars are generally used to "joyride" and are frequently recovered in Hartford or nearby once they run out of gas. The activity seems to be increasing due to several recent factors: Current legislation aimed at not stigmatizing juveniles for crimes they have committed offers few, if any, consequences if they are caught. Moreover, the law was changed prohibiting police from chasing cars except in extremely serious, physical injury crimes. These factors taken together embolden the would-be car thieves and they have very little, if any, concern about the consequences of being caught.

We can eliminate the issue locally by "hardening the target"; if we all lock up our vehicles, they will move to other areas to find easy targets. As always, we urge citizens to report suspicious activity immediately.

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

The message below has been a frequent post on Facebook and in this monthly report. As we look to recover from Covid-19 as a community and prepare for the "second wave" in the fall, I hope

Police Department

Kristian R. Lindstrom
Chief of Police

that our citizens will think about all-hazard preparations.

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

Water Pollution Control

Sewer User Fee and WPCA Budget Approval

On June 1st the Water Pollution Control Authority approved a \$415 sewer user rate for the third consecutive year. The sewer user fee provides the necessary funding for the operation and maintenance of the wastewater treatment facilities, capital improvement projects, and debt service budgets. The WPCA approved \$800,000 in capital improvements that will include sewer pipe and manhole rehabilitation. Reinvesting in our existing infrastructure will reduce the likelihood of pipe failures and continue the reliable, uninterrupted utility service expected from our customers.

Sewer Infrastructure Improvements – Chapel Road

One of the most effective ways to rehabilitate sewer pipe is with cured-in-place pipe (CIPP) which is a trenchless technology that costs a fraction of the price of the conventional method of digging and replacing pipe segments. Insituform Technologies is one of the industry leaders of CIPP installations. In 2017 Insituform relined 3,700 feet of 24"-36" deteriorated pipe in Chapel Road. This year Insituform was contracted to reline another 4,000 feet of pipe in the same area. The Chapel Road sewer conveys a large portion of South Windsor's business community's wastewater; rehabilitating this critical truck line will keep the pipe structurally sound for another 50-75 years.

Sullivan Avenue Sewer Maintenance

Pollution Control personnel and hired contractors have been methodically performing sewer cleaning and inspection work along with raising manholes that have been paved over or located below grade on Sullivan Avenue. Inspections have shown that the large majority of the sewer pipe is in good condition with some sections showing early signs of deterioration. The pipes were cleaned removing grit and grease build up on the pipe walls. Once the cleaning and inspections were finished a contractor was hired to raise subsurface manholes to grade.

-Tony Manfre, Superintendent of Pollution Control



Public Works Department

Engineering Project Updates

Avery Street Reconstruction Phase 5

The reconstruction of the northern section of Avery Street (from Talcott Ridge Road to Dart Hill Rd) will start the week of July 5. Spazzarini Construction has been awarded this project and they plan to completed it this fall. Construction of this project is funded through the Connecticut DOT LOTCIP program.

Local Road Paving

This project has been awarded to Palmer Paving Corp and they plan to start milling and paving on or about July 8, 2021 on the eastern part of Wood Pond Rd, Tallwood Rd and Wild Rose. Drainage repairs are being made to these roads in advance of milling and paving by Town crews and ESI. The second set of roads to be repaved includes Nutmeg Rd South from Governors Highway to South Satellite, South Satellite Rd and ident Rd. The last set of roads includes Quarry Brook Dr, Evergreen La, Sycamore Rd, Beechnut La. This work is supported by the 2018 Bond funds.

Sidewalk Repair

CRC began raising concrete slabs to eliminate trip hazards that are on our list and will be continuing in July. Hathaway Landscaping & Concrete will also be replacing more damaged sidewalk slabs in Town from our list of trip hazards this year. The sidewalk repair and replacement work is supported by the 2018 Bond funds.

Other Engineering Projects

I am working with Parks, Streets and Building Maintenance to construct a new walk on the west side of the Town Hall between the lower and upper parking lots that will use pervious

pavement. This walk has been prepped with a stone base for the pervious pavement material. Hathaway Concrete will form the walkway after July 5th and the pervious pavement is scheduled to be installed by the Parks Department the week of July 12. Water percolates through the pervious pavement so ice does not form on the surface in winter and it needs less maintenance to keep clear and safe.

Connecticut Water Company has hired contractors to install new water mains on Beelzebub Road, Deming Street (from Buckland Road to Summit Drive), Foster Street (from Bayaberry to Orchard Hill Drive) and on McGrath Road, Farnham Road, Apple Orchard Lane and Cherry Blossom Lane.

Jeff Doolittle, Asst. Director of Public Works/
Town Engineer

Public Works Department

Street Services

Street crews have been working diligently pouring footings and the base for the new changeable message board outside of the Town Hall Annex. Keeping this work in-house not only provided a challenge to our crews but also saved the town considerably money versus using an outside contractor.

Street Services hired Comer Contracting to chip seal several roads in town. This treatment helps extend the life of certain roads under certain conditions. Although not always a favorite of the residents, it is a treatment that helps to preserve our roads and stretch our budgetary funding. A lot of prep work was done prior to these treatments to ensure these roads will stand up for many years.

The department supported the Strawberry Fest installing no parking signs and ropes to help with crowd control and to ensure a safe event.

Our streets maintainers did a presentation on salt spreader calibration for UCONN's T2 Center Public Works Academy. This bi-annual program teaches other public works departments the proper techniques to calibrate their spreaders to ensure that salt is being applied in a conciseness manner to help protect the environment.

Street sweeping is back on track now that the sweeper has been repaired. Weather has worked with us to get this project accomplished on time despite the short set back.

The Town's tree contractor, in a cost sharing partnership with Eversource, successfully removed several large pines that were in decline

on Pleasant Valley Rd.

An unexpected storm brought crews in to remove a tree across Foster St. The following day, our maintainers cleaned up several tree limbs throughout town.

The sign shop replaced or repaired 46 signs during the month. In addition, the shop lettered new vehicles, stripped off lettering on retired vehicles, and made changes to decals and lettering on pool vehicles

Compost is available free to town residents at the compost pile on Burgess Rd. The area is accessible 24/7. This is a self-loading/self-service commodity. Please bring a shovel, buckets, pick-up trucks, trailers, but no powered loading equipment please.

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



Public Buildings Division
*"Providing Quality, Value
Minded Services to the South
Windsor Community"*

Project Updates

Town Hall Elevator Replacement

We are currently in a holding pattern until the elevator equipment arrives in August. There are a few minor things that should be completed before the elevator equipment arrives like installing the last blue stone cap for the ramp wall and light electrical work in the Machine Room.

Town Hall Phone System

The new fiber optic circuit from Frontier was installed at the Annex this month just about three weeks early. We are now waiting for a router from AT&T that was expected to be here last week, AT&T is currently looking for it. Once it arrives and is installed the circuit can be tested and turned up. Porting phone numbers from Frontier to AT&T should happen soon thereafter.

Fire Alarm Replacements Fire Company 1&2

ADT Commercial LLC., out of North Haven was selected as the company to install the fire alarm systems at the two fire stations. Checking references did take quite a bit longer than expected but the references were all good. Based on tentative material delivery dates the work should begin at Fire Headquarters on Monday July 19th. Once completed and tested they will move onto company two.

Generator Replacement Company 3

R&C Electric LLC out of Bristol was selected for

this project. The proposals came in under budget. We will be installing a 100 kW natural gas powered generator. The construction is set to start on Monday August 16th when equipment will be mobilized to the site. Completion at this point is slated for the week of December 6th but that will depend largely on materials arriving on time.

Wood Memorial Library HVAC Upgrades

The project is still in the schematic design phase. The engineer has provided two examples of the type of equipment and operational benefits they think will fit within the budget. Next steps include making recommendations as to which system to have designed, provide that to the DECD and SHPO for approval and then have the engineer complete the schematic drawings for the teams to review.

Community Center Roof Replacement

The roof replacement was completed on Friday the 25th. A walkthrough and final inspection will be conducted next week sometime. The roof, gutters and fascia trim really look good. The roofers did a fantastic job. This was one of the quickest roofing jobs I've been part of. The contractors were clean, neat and accommodated our requests when needed. This roof will last just as long as the original, about thirty years.



Public Works Department

Community Center Roof Replacement



Public Works Garage Roof Replacement

Garland Inc. solicited four proposals for the roof replacement. Silktown Roofing Inc. was chosen for this project. Their proposal came in a little less than \$100,000 from what was budgeted. This

leaves a significant contingency balance if needed. The structural analysis of the roof came back as expected with no issues. The materials are set to be delivered to the site some time mid-July and the work is tentatively scheduled for early September.

Police Department Locker Room Renovations

A kick off meeting was held on July 9th. Major topics discussed were having the design team come up with three preliminary floor plan variations so the PD staff can determine which best fits their needs, staging of the project demolition and timeline for receiving the designs. We hope to have preliminary designs within the next couple of weeks.

Police Department Permanent Perimeter Fence Project.

On June 7th I reached out to Venture Communications to check on the arrival of the materials for the project. At that time I was told that most of the parts would be arriving by the end of the month but that the gates for the two entrances would be 8-10 weeks out. I will be following up with them again next week.

Fire Alarm Replacements Community Center and Police Department

The Police Department Fire Alarm system was started on June 8th and finished on the 11th. The Fire Marshal completed his inspection shortly thereafter and the system was put back in service. As part of the inspection it was determined that the access doors to the dumb waiter on each floor need to be permanently closed in as it was taken out of service many years ago. Building Maintenance will be doing that work.

Public Works Department

ADA Self Evaluation and Transition Plan RFP

Of the on-call contractors that we have under contract only one of them is submitting a proposal for this work. I held a pre proposal conference on June 23rd to provide additional instructions, take questions regarding the proposal and conduct a tour of the town facilities. Proposals are due on July 16th.

Wapping Community House Sign Replacement

The new sign arrived last week and it looks fantastic. I expect that we'll have installed next week.

Clay Major, Facilities Manager



Old Sign



New Sign Rendering

Finance Department

Mary Huda
Assessor

Patricia Perry
Director of Finance

Jennifer Hilinski-Shirley
Collector of Revenue

Collector of Revenue

The Collector of Revenue would like to remind taxpayers that the first installment of real estate and personal property taxes along with motor vehicle taxes are due July 1, 2021. The last day to pay without penalty is Monday, August 2, 2021. Tax bills were mailed Friday, June 25, 2021 and are available on line <https://www.southwindsor-ct.gov/collector-revenue/pages/online-payments>

To encourage social distancing ACH/EFT Check Fees will be waived for those paying on-line thru August 2, 2021. Fees apply, for on line credit or debit transactions. Save time and avoid long lines by remitting payment in the envelope provided or by using a secure drop box at Town. One is located in the front drive way of Town Hall and one is mounted to the outside of the front entrance of Town Hall. Please note that the boxes are emptied twice daily and monitored by video.

Office staff is available to assist at 860-644-2511 extension 321 or emailing us at: taxcollector@southwindsor-ct.gov. Please allow twenty four business hours for a reply during the month of July.

Assessor

All owners of real and personal property, including motor vehicles should be in receipt of their annual tax bills. Please see information below specific to a motor vehicle that you no longer own, but had registered with Connecticut DMV on October 1, 2020.

The motor vehicle tax bills were mailed to owners

of record based on DMV information. These bills cover the period of ownership from October 1, 2020 through September 30, 2021.

- ◆ If you received a bill for a vehicle that was sold, stolen, totally destroyed, and the registration was not transferred to another vehicle, or if you have moved out of state, you may be eligible for a tax credit.
- ◆ If a vehicle was replaced after 10/1/2020 and your registration was transferred to another vehicle, this bill is still due. You will receive a credit for this vehicle on a supplemental bill in January 2022.

In order for staff to adjust a motor vehicle tax bill due to sale, theft, total loss, etc. the owner or taxpayer must provide documentation to the Assessor's Office (typically this is a bill of sale and cancellation of plate receipt from DMV).

Information can be submitted online here: <https://www.southwindsor-ct.gov/assessor/webforms/motor-vehicle-proof-submission> or by e-mail to assessor@southwindsor-ct.gov.

Please see the Assessors website for additional information on this process and other Frequently Asked Questions during the month of July.



Parks & Recreation Department

Molly Keays
Director of Parks & Recreation

“Discover the Benefits!”

John Caldwell, Jr.
Parks Superintendent

MONTHLY REPORT - June 2021

TBD
Asst. Director of Parks & Recreation

MONTHLY REPORT July 1, 2021

Park & Recreation Commission (PARC) – The Commission had its first in-person meeting in over a year on June 9, 2021. We will meet next Wednesday, July 14, at 7:30 pm.

The South Windsor Walk & Wheel Ways (SWW&WW) – SWW&WW has done several community events this past month. They participated in CT Trail day by leading walks at Major Donnelly, they conducted a few learn to ride events, and they started their weekly Thursday evening rides. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, July 7 at 7:00 pm at Wapping. During this meeting, Kevin Grindle will be providing updates on the design of the Crosstown Trail.

RECREATION DIVISION *“Feel great – recreate!”*

Summer Concert Series- The Parks and Recreation department along with Evergreen walk were excited to return to hosting our live concert series at Evergreen walk. Our summer concert series kicked off on Thursday, June 24 with the Savage Brothers, and there were around 1,000 people who attended! We will be hosting concerts from 7-9 pm every Thursday through August 19, 2021.

Farmers' Market- Our Farmers' Market has been growing steadily this summer! Each week, we have had over 700 people attend the market to enjoy the local vendors, food, and live music! The market started the season with over 20 vendors, and now we have reached over thirty vendors every week. We received a generous donation from the South Windsor Mom's club to help support youth education programs and activities. We will begin our youth Power of Produce (POP) program at the July 3rd market.

Summer Camp- Camp has started for the season! Currently, we have around 425 different campers

scheduled to come this summer and over 40 staff members. With the change in regulations, we can officially offer a one-week camp for teens in August.

Preschool Programs – Our last day before summer vacation for our SWPRD preschool classes was on Monday, June 14! From hands-on art projects to ice cream shop sensory play and enjoying yummy popsicles! We had so much fun celebrating the end of the school year! We are excited to see our friends in the fall!

4th “R”- 4th “R” had a great time celebrating the end of the school year on Wednesday, June 16! The last month of school, they had fun participating in water games, hands-on art projects, and fun theme days such as superhero day! We look forward to seeing everyone in the fall!

Athletic Specialty Camps- Our Skyhawks Camps and Tennis Program began Monday, June 21. Skyhawks camps and tennis are seeing great numbers. Currently, five Skyhawks camps this summer are full and have a waitlist. Tennis has several sessions that are full, and we are still receiving registrations. Next week we have our Chris Corkum Baseball Camp at the Little League Complex. This camp is also full. I have been working closely with the Parks crew to make sure all fields and courts are prepared.

Veteran's Memorial Pool- We're officially open with our summer pool hours as of Monday, June 21! The attendance has been great so far this season, and on Sunday, June 20, we had a Father's Day celebration which involved free snacks, water balloon tosses, and some family-friendly activities. This summer we have already certified fifteen new lifeguards and four Water Safety Instructors. We have another lifeguarding class beginning on June 28, which has six participants enrolled. We are happy to announce that VMP is running at full capacity with no restrictions and fully staffed this season even though we're facing a nationwide

lifeguard shortage.

Swim Lessons-The first session of swim lessons began on Monday, June 21, and we currently have about 150 participants enrolled in all of our lessons. We run lessons from 9:30-12 pm and 12-7 pm Monday – Thursday. Our next session numbers are looking great and will begin on Tuesday, July 6.

Seals Swim Team-The swim team has begun their summer season and is sponsored by the South Windsor Jaycees. We have about 80 participants on our team this season. They're scheduled to compete against Windsor, Enfield, and Simsbury, three of six meets will be held at VMP on Monday evenings in July.

Wellness programs-Yoga is continuing to offer a virtual option for participants but has returned to in-person classes on Tuesday mornings and Tuesday evenings in the banquet hall at Wapping. We currently have 45 participants in the program.

Creative cardio is back in person on Tuesday and Thursday evenings after a year of classes being on hold! Twenty-seven participants get together in person and virtually for a total body workout.

Our youth & adult Jukido program has also resumed after a year of classes being on hold. Every Sunday evening in June, we have had 15 participants get together to practice their self-defense system martial arts skills.

PARKS DEPARTMENT

“Caring for South Windsor’s Growing Needs”

June Activity Highlights:

Athletic Fields & Grounds:

Most spring sports including soccer and lacrosse have ended. Baseball is still going strong with Legion and LL playing holding tournaments and games. We, unfortunately, had to close the fields on a couple of occasions due to excessive amounts of rain. The crew did a tremendous job during this period with prepping fields after all the rain we received.

Now that most sports have ended summer; field maintenance annual maintenance has started. Summer maintenance is not ideal, however; it is the only time when sport play is not on them. Parks crew will be filling low spots and fixing worn areas with sod.

We continued our aggressive over-seeding program because a good stand of grass helps to keep weed pressure down on our fields.

Parks & Open Space:

A memorial bench was purchased by Deborah Hay and placed at the base of Porters Hill in memory of her parents Porter and Cathy Collins. Parks crew dug out, based, and poured a cement pad in preparation for the bench installed. The bench is a great addition to the park and will be used by many!

Efforts to keep up with the growing grass have been challenging with all the rain and humidity. Some athletic fields require us to mow them 2-3 times a week to maintain proper height for play.

Storms earlier in the month created tree issues. Most of the tree issues were concentrated in the Nevers road area. We lost several trees at the high school and in nearby open spaces. The crew completed all trees in the house.

Spring landscape works on Buckland Islands have been completed with the addition of 300 new perennials, 100 annuals, and fresh mulch.

Our Part-time grounds keeper continues to spruce up multiple locations with mulch and new plants. He has recently had the opportunity to work with the Rising S.T.A.R.S program; a teen center program that provides community service. They worked together on some planting beds at Major Michael Donnelly, which look great! Thank you!

Our Parks crew continues to make our Town Parks, open space, athletic fields, and grounds looking fantastic.

Projects:

355 Ellington Parking Lot is finally underway! The site is currently being graded and gravel being placed for the base of the parking lot. Wood guard rail fence will outline the perimeter of the parking area, and a new trail to access Wapping Park will follow.

Flag poles at the community house have been in place for several months, and the gravel around them has had a chance to settle. We will be looking to install a Belgium block around the flag poles for aesthetics and practicality.

Parks Photos:



Installed a new memorial bench on Porters hill in memory of Porter and Cathy Collins



Construction of the new parking lot 1355 Ellington Road.

Parks Photos:



Removed several trees and limbs that fell in town after a heavy storm



Our parks crew set-up the tents outside of Wapping for our summer camp!

Parks Photos:



We had over 120 tomato plants donated from Prides' corner. Our community garden participants, summer camp kids, and senior center members all loved receiving these plants.

Families are enjoying the yummy treats at our farmers' market!



We love to see the positive impact that the Farmers' market is having on our local vendors! Remember to shop local and support our small businesses.

Recreation Photos



Pretend play with some friends



Sensory play ice cream shop



Ivy Farinella

It was a fabulous night, everyone was full of smiles & dancing! Great band, better than good!

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Our residents enjoyed a night of dancing and funky live music at our summer concert series!



Our summer concert series kick-off on Thursday, June 24 with the Savage Brothers.

Recreation Photos

Hello!

Just some quick feedback!

Thanks to all for making pre-K possible this bizarre year! My son had such a blast. Having a semi normal routine has really helped him to feel more like a kid again. I can't thank the staff enough. He was pretty bummed that today was the last day!

And I must say-the VMP vouchers were over the top. Wow! Thanks so much.

We look forward to all of the summer programs!

Thanks for all of the creative ideas and programs and events that have been held this past year....it has truly kept my kids connected with being, well, kids!

:)

Preschool parent feedback



Ocean themed arts and crafts

Recreation Photos



Enjoying the warm weather with some water games!



Superhero Theme day!



4th "R" friends having fun making some puffy paint slime!



Celebrating all of our 4th "R" friends'

Recreation Photos



Our lifeguarding class conducting essential lifesaving drills. This summer we have already certified fifteen new lifeguards and four Water Safety Instructors. We have another lifeguarding class beginning on Monday, June 28, which has six participants enrolled.



The Seals swim team has eighty participants this season! Thank you to the South Windsor Jaycees for being our sponsor this season.

Recreation Photos



We are excited to see people back at VMP!

July 2021 ***Town Council Meetings and Events***

Meetings

Monday, July 6 2021

7:00 pm Regular Meeting

Hybrid Meeting

Monday, July 19 2021

7:00 pm Regular Meeting

Hybrid Meeting

Holidays

Layout by Katherine Senerth, Executive Assistant

