

Town of South Windsor

Town Manager's Report June 2021



Michael Maniscalco
Town Manager

COVID-19 Update- I will have more current information to update the Council with at the time of the meeting.

New Building Official Introduction- I am pleased to introduce our new Building Official, Ken Rich. Prior to starting with the Town of South Windsor, Ken worked for the Town of Glastonbury as the Assistant Building Official. Additionally, Ken has worked in the construction field and will bring firsthand knowledge from the other side of the fence. Please join me in welcoming Mr. Rich to the Town of South Windsor.

While on the subject of the Building Department I would like to recognize Walter Summers, our Fire Marshal, for stepping in as the provisional Building Official to help with keeping the department running.

Wapping Mews renovations- This last week I had the opportunity to walk through the newly renovated Wapping Mews. This project was funded through a \$800,000 CDBG Small Cities Grant that was applied for from the Town in conjunction with the Housing Authority. We are starting to have conversations regarding the next grant.



Police Department

Kristian R. Lindstrom
Chief of Police

Monthly Statistics April 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 Entries:	2290
9-1-1 Calls Received:	622
Routine Calls Received/Outgoing:	4313
Directed Patrol/Premise Checks:	748
Motor Vehicle Stops:	375
Medical Assists/Emot. Dist. Persons:	143
Suspicious:	77
Alarms:	62
Motor Vehicle Accidents:	25
Welfare Check:	48
Assist Outside Agency:	27
Animal Problem:	37
Citizen Assist:	31
Miscellaneous Service:	9
Collision Reports:	18
BOLO:	22
Disabled Motor Vehicle:	20
Larceny - Motor Vehicle	2
Larceny:	25
Hazardous Conditions:	16
Pistol Permits:	24
Burglary - Residential	1
Burglary - Motor Vehicle	5
Civil Matter:	6
911 Check:	14
Fraud:	10
Domestic Dispute:	8
Narcotics Violation:	2
Violation of Town Ordinance:	6
Youth Problem:	9

Covid 19 Update:

The month of May brought with it a significant milestone in the State's management of the Covid-19 pandemic. May 19 saw the "re-opening" of many buildings and businesses in addition to a more relaxed standard for mask wearing. Community spread of the virus continues to be manageable as vaccinations continue to increase in the community to a larger number of age brackets. Vaccine supply seems to be ample and citizens no longer require an appointment to get the vaccine. Different members of the community have different levels of apparent concern and, as an agency, we have seen a reduction in "complaints" from the community, however we will continue to respond as needed to complaints that are received.

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. Ofc. Kyle Kolcharno's basic training continues at the Academy facility in Meriden and Dispatcher Ryan Fraley is well into his field training program and is progressing nicely. Officer Cosenza and K-9 Mason continue to report daily to the State Police K-9 training program.

In anticipation of future retirements and new hires, we are in the process of trying to bolster the number of field training officers (FTOs) within our ranks. Addressing this issue now will hopefully keep us from falling behind the power curve in the next year or two.

Sgt. Cleverdon and the recruiting team continue to recruit for our entry level vacancies and have done so with racial and ethnic diversity in mind. As an agency we have added several recruiting mechanisms to our inventory of existing channels in an effort to attract a racially and ethnically diverse pool of applicants. Reports from other agencies in the region indicate that effective recruiting has been hard to come by as the current socio-political climate is one that does not attract as many people to the profession of law enforcement as we would like. After several more weeks of recruiting we will be hosting oral board

Police Department

Kristian R. Lindstrom
Chief of Police

examinations for the highest scorers on the written test.

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.

The month of May brought with it the first anniversary of George Floyd's death.

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 has been the case in previous months, the public health crisis continues to impact our ability to host and be involved in various community policing events. Despite this impact, we continue to seek out ways to engage the community both in person and virtually.

National Police Week took place this year from May 9-15. The police department appreciated the support from the community during this week in particular as we remember those men and women who have given their lives in the line of duty. Police officers were reminded of the community support when they drove through four corners and saw the Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Flag being flown from the Town's flag station. At the end of the week, several South Windsor officers gathered at police headquarters for a brief wreath laying ceremony to honor and remember our own Sergeant Matthew Mainieri whose death almost three years ago was deemed a line of duty death. He will not be forgotten.

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.

Department members continue to work with relevant stakeholders to address traffic related complaints throughout town specifically on Laurel Street and Chapel Road. During the month of May, Chief Lindstrom met with State Representative Jeff Currey to discuss the truck traffic that has been a concern to residents on Chapel and Long Hill Roads for some time. The police department continues to work with local businesses and neighboring jurisdictions to try to mitigate the truck traffic.

Members of the Department's Traffic Unit have been working overtime under a CT DOT grant to enforce distracted driving violations. This initiative will continue until it dovetails with similar grants aimed at combatting seat belt compliance and other problem driving behaviors.

Police command staff members continue to work with school officials to address traffic congestion issues at Pleasant Valley School (PVS) during student arrival and dismissal. In May, members of the Command Staff and Traffic Unit met with the PVS Principal, Superintendent, and Director of Security to discuss options for the coming school year.

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 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. In early May the Town Council approved the Town's budget inclusive of that of the police department. The money allocated to the police department budget will ensure the continuity of

Police Department

Kristian R. Lindstrom
Chief of Police

high level police service in the coming fiscal cycle.

During the month of May, the Criminal Investigations Unit investigated a missing person complaint at Cinnamon Springs condominiums. On May 10, 2021, family members of Jessica Edwards missing. The complex investigation that ensued culminated eleven days later with the tragic discovery of Jessica's body in East Hartford. Within approximately twelve hours of the discovery of her body, police personnel arrested Jessica's husband for her death. This investigation was the sole focus of the Criminal Investigations Unit and most of the agency and it was a success in part due to the partnership we have with our state and federal partners.

Contemporaneous to this investigation, police personnel also investigated an unrelated emotionally disturbed person case resulting in the service of a Firearms Risk Warrant and seizure of several guns from an emotionally disturbed convicted felon. Also occurring the same week as the Edwards investigation was a Back the Blue pro-police rally that resulted in a small counter rally and one arrest. The arrested party returned to police headquarters with several associates during the height of the Edwards investigation and tested the limits of their first amendment rights. These individuals are well known to police departments around Connecticut and consistently operate in such a manner as to attempt to elicit negative reactions from the police. Several of the actors also threatened to go to the private homes of several police employees which put not only the employee on edge, but also created an unsettled feeling with their respective families. This incident was both alarming and a distraction to our police operations and our search for Jessica Edwards.

In addition, Chief Lindstrom continues to meet with area Chiefs and the State's Attorney for the Hartford Judicial District regarding the formation of a Human Trafficking task force. Draft policies have been developed and funding sources are being explored.

Deputy Chief Eckblom met with representatives from our local mental health provider, Community

Health Resources (CHR), regarding their grant application seeking to assign a clinician to assist in calls for service involving mental health emergencies.

The Chief and Deputy Chief continue to plan for significant site improvements to the police department campus. A temporary perimeter fence was erected after the aforementioned incident at police headquarters as the permanent fence purchase orders have been completed and that project is slated to begin in the coming months. The renovation the bottom floor of headquarters to accommodate an expansion to the women's locker room is also approved and proposed designs are expected in the near future.

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 jimmied open. The crimes are generally being committed by groups of juveniles who arrive in a

Police Department

Kristian R. Lindstrom
Chief of Police

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 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>.

information with friends and family.

Facebook: South Windsor Police Department

Twitter: @SWPD_PIO

We encourage everyone to follow us and share

Public Works Department

Street Services

Public Works, including Street Services, Fleet Services, Engineering, Building Maintenance and Water Pollution Control, along with the Parks Department, held a virtual tour of our facilities and services in concert with National Public Works Week. This annual tradition, usually an in-person tour, hosted students from the 2nd grade at Phillip R. Smith School. Although virtual, the program was a huge success with students having the opportunity to ask questions about what they learned following several vignettes. Each student also received a swag bag containing useful information and tools that can be shared with their families.

Two civic groups, First Church and the South Windsor Lions Club performed their semi-annual Adopt-A Road litter pick up on town roads. This is a vital and much appreciated service to the town to help keep our roadsides clean and litter free. We look forward to our other civic groups taking their turn as the weather continues to improve. Our Adopt-A Road program has been very successful and we are always willing to add more groups to the program. Interested civic groups need only to contact the town garage for more information.

Streets crews have been working to complete the installation of conduit for the new communications tower at VMP.

Pothole patching continues throughout town as weather permits.

Roadside mowing is in full swing. At times, we have two mowers working the roadsides. Our main roadside mower cuts back heavy growth and in some areas we utilize a different type of mower to get a better overall cut. This helps to decrease line of sight issues and gives our roadsides a much better appearance.

Streets maintainers completed a significant road repair at the Strong Rd railroad crossing at Route 5. This required planning and coordination with

Engineering, the State of Connecticut and the Genesee and Wyoming Railroad to ensure this project would be completed in one day. The sign shop was required to make several signs in support of this project to ensure traffic flow would be minimally impacted as the road needed to be closed while crews were at work. Detours were set up as well as advanced warning that the project was going to impact the area so drivers could plan alternate routes.

Drainage work continues on Quarry Brook Dr and Sycamore Rd in preparation for the upcoming resurfacing work.

The department is performing cut and patch work on Peterson Way in preparation of upcoming chip sealing.

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

Finance Department

Mary Huda
Assessor

Patricia Perry
Director of Finance

Jennifer Hilinski-Shirley
Collector of Revenue

Collector of Revenue

Tax bills will be mailed on June 25, 2021, payment is due July 1, 2021 and the last day to pay without penalty is August 2, 2021. Payment may be remitted on line using an ACH check, fees will be waived June 25, 2021 thru August 2, 2021. The link is <https://www.southwindsor-ct.gov/collector-revenue/pages/online-payments>.

Expect long lines if you choose to pay in person as only one tax payer will be permitted into the office at a time. Masks must be properly worn. Our office encourages social distancing thru the use of secure drop boxes which are located in the front drive way of Town Hall and mounted to the outside of the front entrance of Town Hall. Please note that the boxes are emptied twice daily by staff and monitored by video. Save time by mailing in the envelope provided.

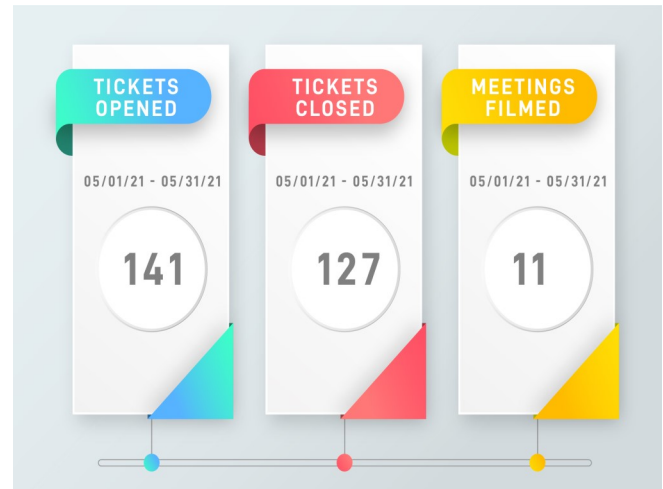
Our office is available to answer questions by calling 860-644-2511 extension 321 or by emailing taxcollector@southwindsor-ct.gov

Information Technology

Scott Roberts
Assistant Town Manager/CIO/EM

In an effort to ensure continuity of operations throughout the pandemic, the Information Technology Department moved numerous employees workstations as well as setting up new workstations for department staff to separate into different buildings. With South Windsor following the Governor's reopening plan, IT worked very hard to ensure Town staff had a smooth transition back to their normal offices. This also required IT to clean up and re-inventory equipment as well as reconfiguring the spaces back to their initial state. This was especially critical in the Emergency Operations Command Center in the event of a potential activation.

As part of the reopening plan, the IT department developed and implemented a hybrid solution for holding public meetings. This allows for a combination of in-person and remote participants to join in the same meeting while IT staff simultaneously broadcasts the meeting to the public as well as recording it for future use. The solution was used for the last Planning and Zoning meeting and was successful.



Building Maintenance

Clay Major
Facilities Manager



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

Project Updates

Town Hall Elevator Replacement

The general contractor worked mostly on the outside of the building over the last couple of months. They concentrated on completing the new concrete ramp, reinstalling the walkway lighting, installing a new vinyl fence to conceal the A/C unit for the Machine Room and reinstalling the paver stones between the Town Hall and Library. The electrician was also onsite during this period and completed the lighting for the concrete ramp and walkway lights and also worked inside the Machine Room installing the electrical piping and disconnects for the elevator and A/C unit. The A/C unit should be installed and commissioned in the coming weeks and the elevator components are scheduled to arrive August 5th, installation is expected to start shortly thereafter and is scheduled to take 4 to 6 six weeks to complete.

Town Hall Phone System

The new fiber optic circuit from Frontier is slated to arrive on June 23rd. Once the new router for the circuit arrives, AT&T will test and provision the circuit and schedule the porting of the phone numbers with Frontier. It is unknown at this time how long the porting process will take but as things have gone thus far, I would expect it to take about 30 days.

Public Works Garage Bay Modifications

This project was completed just about a month ago. The HVAC systems are working great and the space was set up by the Streets Division crews and it looks very well organized and efficient.

Public Works Garage Card Access Installation

This project was just recently completed. All of the garage employees fobs have been programmed and are working as they should. I am now working with Vulcan Locksmiths to rekey the outside doors of the that and all other buildings.

Fire Alarm Replacements Fire Company 1&2

Five proposals were received for this project on April

23rd. We expect to award this project in the next week or so and schedule a project kick-off meeting soon thereafter. Installation should take a couple of months depending on the number of technicians the contractor assigns to these projects.

Generator Replacement Company 3

Six proposals were received for this project on March 19th. Reviewing proposals and checking references took a bit longer than expected. We are now waiting for final approval of the lease documents before cutting a purchase order. Submittals have already been received so once the purchase order is approved and given to the contractor the order for the materials will be released. Assuming normal lead times for equipment and parts, the project is expected to take 2-3 months.

Wood Memorial Library HVAC Upgrades

After reviewing all proposals, Silver/Petrucelli Inc. was awarded the design and engineering for this project. A kick off meeting was held on March 6th, the team consisting of representatives from SHPO, Silver/Petrucelli, Aztec Engineering, the Wood Library and James Vance and Associates Architects met for about two hours discussing the building envelope and its makeup, interior esthetics as well as the existing heating system and temperature control measure requirements for the space. The project is currently in the schematic design phase. Preliminary drawings will be presented for review as they become available.

Community Center Roof replacement

Garland Inc. through Omnia Partners solicited three proposals for this project. Three proposals were received on March 31st. A preconstruction meeting was held on May 5th where a starting date of June 1st was confirmed. Roofing materials were dropped off at the site yesterday. The roof work is expected to take two weeks and combined with the fascia, soffit and gutter replacements the total project completion time should be about a month. The project proposal came in slightly under budget which leaves just enough for contingency if needed.

Building Maintenance

Clay Major
Facilities Manager

Public Works Garage Roof Replacement

Garland Inc. through Omnia Partners solicited three proposals for this project as well. Proposals were received on April 30th. No start date has been set as yet. Most larger roofing companies schedule school roof replacements months in advance and due to the size and scope of this project it will need to be scheduled sometime after school is back in session. The project kick off meeting is slated for next week sometime. This project came in \$90,000 under budget which leaves plenty of room for contingency if needed.

Police Department Locker Room Renovations

Two proposals were received from our three on-call design engineering firms. Silver Petrucelli was low proposer for this project. A purchase order was approved and sent to them this week. A project lead was assigned to this project today so I expect to have a meet and greet followed by a project kick off meeting with representatives from the Police Department in the coming weeks.

Police Department Permanent Perimeter Fence project.

Venture Communications and Security (our current security vendor) and Arrow Fence were selected to complete this project. The project consists of installing approximately 900 linear feet of 6' tall black vinyl coated chain link fence with a 12' wide double swing gate, two power operated slide gates, parking lot loop detectors, safety photo cells, 2-4k color cameras, drive up card reader stations, radio tags and a host of associated parts too many to list. Several departments have been working closely on this project and I want to thank them for their support and help thus far. A purchase order has been issued to the vendor and I am currently waiting to hear back from them with a tentative install date.

Fire Alarm Replacements Community Center and Police Department

Proposals were received for replacing both of these systems on May 6th. These systems, like the Library Fire Alarm System that was replaced last year will be the same manufactured brand. These systems were chosen for their ease of use,

reliability, readily available parts and service contractors that can work on them. A purchase order has been issued to the vendor and parts are currently on order. These systems should be installed and ready for commissioning sometime late in August.

ADA Self Evaluation and Transition Plan RFP

Next week I will be soliciting proposals for a self-evaluation and transition plan assistance. The selected firm will be evaluating all existing physical barriers to accessibility into and around our Public Buildings. This project has two components to it. The first phase will be the engineering evaluation and transition process followed by a construction phase process where by all of the barriers will be engineered and corrected. These two phases can be lengthy and are also ongoing beyond the initial scope of each phase. As buildings age and regulations change the plan will have to be updated regularly so future alterations can be made. While this project has taken me more time than I anticipated to get off the ground, I am happy to be part of process to eliminate barriers for the disabled.

Wapping Community House Sign Replacement

Due to its age and condition the Wapping Community House sign is being replaced. In addition to the new sign for the building, the new sign will be accompanied by two smaller signs as you can see below. The sign should be ready in the next couple of weeks. Building Maintenance staff will be installing new 4x4 posts with PVC sleeves and decorative caps we will also be installing the signs.

Public Works Week Events

I want to take a minute to recognize and thank all of the hardworking Public Works employees who, in part, keep this Town operating like a well-oiled machine. The employees of Public Works Department deserve all of the recognition they received last week. Vincent Stetson, Tony Manfre, Jeff Doolittle and Ashlee Pascarelli as well as many other administrative personnel organized the events of Public Works week.

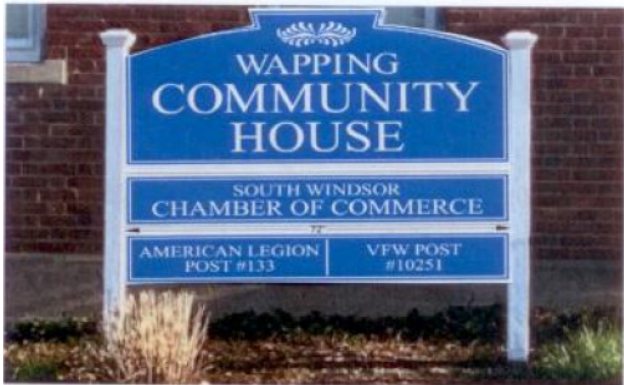
Building Maintenance

Clay Major
Facilities Manager

Wapping Community House Old Sign



New Sign Rendering



Community Center Roof Replacement



New Accessible Ramp Front of Town Hall



Human Services Department

Andrea Cofrancesco
Director of Human Services



Teen Center

Our Teen Center staff have been busy preparing for our Rising Stars Summer Program for South Windsor middle school and high school students. We have many volunteer opportunities lined up and are excited to help out around the community. Participants will be volunteering at the Wood Memorial Library, assisting with the Parks Department, helping to serve meals at the Cornerstone shelter, keeping animals company at a rescue shelter, and helping at the Ticket Network Animal Sanctuary.

Our Youth Council members volunteered at the Farmer's Market on opening weekend. It was a hot day but our volunteers kept high energy, with big smiles, and enjoyed being able to help with setting up and cleaning after the market ended. They will be volunteering throughout the summer, so if you see them make sure to say hi!

A few months ago our Youth Council members held a fundraiser for Dignity Grows, raising \$2,000. Just \$10 provides a month's supply of hygiene products to those in need, and we were able to provide 200 totes! Our students came in one afternoon for a packing party and helped put the totes together. It was a great turnout, and we are happy to be able to provide these products to those who cannot afford them. If anyone is interested in keeping a few totes to give to those in need, please contact Danielle!

Our middle school students from the Teen Center participated in the Older American's Month event with the Senior Center. There were refreshments, a pizza truck, and entertainment! The students helped to pass out drinks and food and had a great time dancing with the seniors.

Our Youth Council members have a wide variety of volunteer opportunities that they've been able to participate in and will start within the next couple of months. We have begun to clean up the Food Bank Garden to prepare the beds for planting vegetables and other items, and are excited to see the turnout!



Youth Counseling, Parent Education and Support

Youth and Family received 12 new referrals for services this month. Virna Powell, Sarah Soboleski and Robin Lagasse are providing mental health counseling for 53 youth and their families. The key issues remain depression, anxiety and truancy. Liz Langevin, in addition to her responsibilities as director is carrying a caseload of four, in an effort to keep the wait list down. Despite our best efforts to serve everyone, there are five families waiting for services. In response to demand, YFS is offering an additional summer camp. Lucky Stars is shorter in length than the existing Rising Stars

Human Services Department

Andrea Cofrancesco
Director of Human Services

camp and has more of a skill building focus. It is a great way for students to stay connected to peers over the summer and prepare for all in person model at school in the fall.

School Outreach & Prevention

The School Outreach Specialist, Kathy Reed, worked in collaboration with TEMS administration to help organize and facilitate a "Leadership Conference" for a group of students at TEMS in early May. The day was filled with thoughtful conversation, engaging activities and lots of fun. We were able to learn from each other and dive deeper into thinking about what it means to be a successful leader.

The SWPS "Equity Council" had its last meeting of the school year. It was a great opportunity to talk about what we have learned during the past year and to brainstorm our next steps. As a group, we will continue to work towards equity and inclusion in all aspects of South Windsor Public Schools. Youth and Family Services was proud to have a seat at the table and collaborate with the schools in this meaningful way.

Through grant funds, we were able to offer a Narcan training this month. Seven people joined us for virtual training on Opioids and how an overdose can be reversed with this life saving drug.

Join South Windsor Youth & Family Services, South Windsor Alliance for Families (SWAFF) and Dr. Chad McDonald from Intercommunity Health Care for a lunch time discussion via zoom on how to make your home as safe as possible so that you can do what is in your power to prevent medication misuse or overdose. If you have children/teens living in your home and/or grandchildren that come visit at your house, this program is for you! We will discuss warning signs of addiction and how all members of the community can help prevent medication misuse and its associated addictions.

All that attend will receive a medication lock box that can be picked up at the community center.

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/lunch-learn-is-your-home-safe-opioid-and-prescription-drug-safety-tickets-156715411013>

Reopening Plans Continue

Senior programming restarted one month ago with both hybrid and in person programming. We have been full in most of our in-person programs! People have been ready to get back to "normal!" In June, we will be restarting in-person cards and games, with prior registration so we can continue to contact trace. Our popular drive-thru events are continuing in June, with an eventual phase out for July as the majority of our programs are back. Grab and Go lunches will continue until the agency that provides the food (CRT) decides to go back to in-person meals, but that will be when the majority of senior centers in the area are fully open.

CARES Group Center Activity Recreation Exercise Socialization

The CARES group had a successful re-start in May with meeting twice a week. Beginning in June, CARES will be back to five days per week for 2.5 hours per day. The "CARES" group is for residents over sixty and offers a variety of activities including music, crafts, games, reminiscence, current events, exercise, and holiday celebrations. If you have limitations or disabilities, but do not need medical or self-care assistance while in the group, you may qualify to attend. Call Lindsey at 860-648-6361 ext. 3319 for more information.

Property Tax Relief

Due to an Executive Order by Governor Lamont existing Property Tax filers did not have to refile due to the risk of COVID-19. Human Services did process 37 new applications for Property Tax Relief.

Financial Assistance for Residents

Through generous donations from South Windsor residents we have been able to help people when they are most vulnerable. We had emergency

Human Services Department

Andrea Cofrancesco
Director of Human Services

housing situations where through our Special Needs Funds we have been able to find safe temporary shelter for our residents. South Windsor Human Services was able to fund a car repair for a disabled resident who requires her car for weekly doctor appointments. We recently funded an application so an elderly resident could receive hearing aids that she normally could not afford on a fixed income. We were also able to help a senior citizen with her medications for one month because she was in a situation where she would have had to choose eating or taking her medicines that month. We also have United Way Funding that has helped residents in Emergency situations with rent or mortgage. Thus far, we have expended \$2,850 in United Way assistance. We also have received \$1,335.50 from the Salvation Army for general assistance needs as a result of our Kettle Campaign in December.

Shredding Event a Huge Success

The amount of people attending the shredding event certainly caused a lot of back up on the local roads! Police assistance was required to get things moving again, including to let the shred truck get through! Over 150 cars came through! This event was sponsored by the Triad for Senior Safety. It has historically been an annual event but due to covid last year, we were not able to offer it.





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 June 1, 2021

Park & Recreation Commission (PARC) – Commission met on May 12, at 7:30 pm virtually, via WebEx. The commission chair, Toby Lewis, presented the Parks and Recreation Master plan to the town council on Monday, May 17. The commission will meet next, on Wednesday, June 9, at 7:30 pm for our first in-person meeting in over a year.

The South Windsor Walk & Wheel Ways (SWW&WW) – On Monday, May 5, 2021, SWW&WW met in person for the first official in-person meeting in over a year. They discussed topics such as the Crosstown trail, the adopt a sign program, and summer community events. On Wednesday, May 19, we met with Kevin from Anchor to walk the first half of the crosstown trail beginning at Clark Street and ending at the Priest farm on Sullivan Ave.

RECREATION DIVISION

“Feel great – recreate!”

Farmers’ Market- Our first Farmers’ Market for Summer 2021 kicked off on Saturday, May 22, and was attended by nearly 800 people! The crowd enjoyed the new spacious location, Latin Jazz music by the Goza Duo, Balloon Twisting by Tony the Magic Man, and Magic by Elac, and goods from over 20 different local vendors! The Farmers’ Market will run every Saturday through September 11 (no Market on Saturday, June 12) from 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM at our new location, 220 Nevers Road. The Market kick-off was well received by both vendors and the public alike! Below are some quotes from vendors and residents after our opening day.

“First off, thank you for all your hard work, the first market was awesome. It was great to see the returning vendors and great to meet the new vendors as well. And all of the volunteers did a super awesome job too. The market yesterday was

so good, my mom ran out of 2 or 3 types of pickles, and has to try and get some more made, but even they wouldn't be ready for this weekend. If there is anything else you need from me, please let me know, but I think you did a really awesome job at the first market, it went really well!” – Farmers’ Market 2021 Vendor

“I just wanted to thank you for Saturday! I got many compliments, that is nice to hear, it was fun playing the market for sure.” – Farmers’ Market 2021 Entertainment

“I’m excited about Sweet Pea Cheese! Last week I bought some tasty baked goods from Bloom Bakeshop and wonderful garlic merlot vinegar. Always fun to see what’s there” – Farmers’ Market 2021 Customer

Preschool Programs – It’s all smiles and sunshine in our SWPRD preschool classes! From hands-on art projects to indoor picnics, and letter matching to nature scavenger hunts, we’re having so much fun each day!

4th “R”- 4th “R” has been having so much fun with friends, including an Olympic theme day, creating our very own “restaurant” right at 4th “R,” and some good old-fashioned fun with bubbles!

Adult Softball- We are a month into our adult softball league with only a few rain days thus far! We are excited to see all the games this season.

Specialty Camps- Our athletic Summer camp registration is going well. Five out of our nine Skyhawks Camps are full, along with our popular Ron Pires Basketball Camp.

Veteran’s Memorial Pool- Veterans Memorial Park Pool opened for the season on Saturday, May 29. Although the weather wasn’t on our side, our

staff and patrons were happy to be back! Our staff attended two weeks of training to get ready for this season. We're looking forward to another successful summer at VMP!

Wellness programs- Our virtual yoga class this month was successful with 40 participants. They're looking forward to being back in person starting on Tuesday, June 8! We will continue to offer a zoom option for those who wish to stay virtual.

- The track club had a successful month of practice every Monday and Wednesday evening. Unfortunately, they weren't able to compete against other towns due to COVID. Our participants are having a blast and are getting better each week.

Youth programs- Abakadoodle Artsplash programs have been a blast for participants ages 3-12 years old. Every Tuesday, we have twelve participants join Abakadoodle on zoom with other local towns to complete a new art project each week.

Summer Camp- Camp registrations are going well for our 2021 camp season. We have staff training the first week of June, and we are looking forward to welcoming our campers to Wapping at the end of June.

PARKS DEPARTMENT

"Caring for South Windsor's Growing Needs"

May Activity Highlights:

Athletic Fields & Grounds:

- Once again, the Parks crew has done a fantastic job getting all the fields, grounds, and facilities including the two newest elementary Schools Eli Terry and Phillip R. Smith ready.

- Now with life getting back to some type of normalcy, the fields have all received plenty of use, and we are thrilled to see all the kids out and playing together.

After the heavy rains we received on the memorial weekend, we will have to do extensive work to our heavily used stone dust trails.

Parks & Open Space:

- Avery and Deming Community Gardens are ready in full swing! Most of the garden plots are

taken, and many gardeners are already planting for the season.

- We have had to deal with some open space violations, but residents have been very cooperative so far when we address the violations.

- We will continue to work in some of our larger open space areas to make sure they don't go unattended. When they are left unattended for too long, they get out of hand in terms of maintenance. We have planted two flowering crab trees in the open field just west of the Bark Park.

Projects:

- The crew has finished the new road to the Farmers Market, and now we are working on the berm to complete the new market location.

- We have planted a pumpkin patch that is a little over an acre on the Northside of the roadway into the new Farmers' market.

- We have almost completed the new road from Troy Road into the John J. Mitchell Fairgrounds.

- We are going to start construction for a new parking lot to Wapping park at 1355 Ellington Road. We will continue to work on the Buckland Islands, so please be patient when you see the parks crew working out there.

Parks Photos:



Jake Burnham, our newest Maintainer III, building the entrance from Troy Road to John J. Mitchell Fairgrounds at Rye Street.



The Parks crew constructing the new road and berm at 220 Nevers road for the new Farmers market location.

Parks Photos:



*New Deming Gardens sign
that was made by the Parks
crew.*



*White and pink flowering
Crab Apple Trees at Nevers
Park to the west of Bark
Park*



Say hello to your South Windsor Parks crew!

Recreation Photos



The ribbon-cutting ceremony for the South Windsor Parks and Recreation farmers' market opening day on Saturday, May 22! Thank you to Mayor Paterna, Town Manager Michael Maniscalco, Assistant Town Manager Vanessa Perry, town council members Erica Evans and Janice Snyder, and our Parks and Recreation staff for making this day a success! We look forward to a wonderful season.



Our farmers' market kick-off on Saturday, May 22, featured over twenty local vendors along with some Latin jazz music by the Goza Duo.



Recreation Photos



Superhero art fun at our preschool!



Our preschool friends exploring the outside with a nature scavenger hunt.

June 2021 ***Town Council Meetings and Events***

Meetings

Monday, June 7, 2021

7:00 pm Regular Meeting

Hybrid Meeting

Monday, June 21, 2021

7:00 pm Regular Meeting

Hybrid Meeting

Holidays

Layout by Katherine Senerth, Executive Assistant

