

Town of South Windsor

Town Manager's Report November 2021



Michael Maniscalco
Town Manager

COVID-19 Update

I will have more accurate numbers for the day of the Council meeting. The Health Department has changed its focus to holding vaccine clinics for new vaccinations and soon to provide booster shots.

Wapping School We have heard that there may be a need for the Board of Education to take back Wapping School within the next few years. At the time of this report I am trying to verify that. With that said, I would recommend that the Council work to get a planning/ building committee together to evaluate options and develop a final housing solution for the Parks & Recreation programs and department.

Strategic Planning During the last Council meeting, a resolution was passed to create a Strategic Planning Committee so that we can get effective Community input into the direction for the community. The council needs to seat the members for that Committee so the Strategic Planning Process can get underway.

COSTCO Construction Costco is slated to officially open on November 16th. Town staff in the building department, Planning Department, and Fire Marshal's Office have worked an extremely intense schedule for the last month in order to get the building built. This project is an example of the great work South Windsor can accomplish and should be a great addition to the Evergreen Walk Development.

ICSC Conference I will be attending the ICSC Economic Development Conference. This event is focused on connecting municipalities with potential new development and retail opportunities. Over the coming weeks we will be using the retail matches identified through Buxton to set up meetings for the conference to speak with them about the great opportunities South Windsor has to offer to them. The conference is scheduled for December 4th- 7th.

Town Attorney RFP The Town Attorney is appointed for a two year term consistent with the Town Council. If the Council would like I have an RFP prepared to issue for a Town Attorney search.



Police Department

Kristian R. Lindstrom
Chief of Police

Monthly Statistics October 2021:

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.

October's numbers are below:

Total Computer Aided Dispatch Entries:	2452
9-1-1 Calls Received:	711
Routine Calls Received/Outgoing:	4661
Directed Patrol/Premise Checks:	961
Motor Vehicle Stops:	236
Emotionally Disturbed Persons:	6
Medical Assists:	182
Suspicious:	88
Alarms:	78
Motor Vehicle Accidents:	35
Welfare Check:	47
Assist Outside Agency:	33
Animal Problem:	47
Citizen Assist:	23
Miscellaneous Service:	9
Collision Reports:	23
BOLO:	11
Disabled Motor Vehicle:	29
Larceny - Motor Vehicle	1
Larceny:	42
Hazardous Conditions:	22
Pistol Permits:	7
Burglary	2
Burglary - Motor Vehicle	4
Civil Matter:	19
911 Check:	5
Fraud:	16
Domestic Dispute:	17
Violation of Town Ordinance:	10
Sexual Assault	0
Youth Problem:	17

Covid 19 Update

The month of October saw some stabilization of community spread of the Covid 19 virus. The mask mandate that was in place since the beginning of August seemed to come to a socio-political head and debate around this topic grew to be very polarizing. During this process, community spread and Covid numbers stabilized to a point where the mask mandate could be lifted. While the pandemic seems to currently be at a plateau, the push for increased vaccinations is still important. First responders are among those who are now eligible for a vaccine booster and some of the SWPD personnel have received this elective dose. With a pediatric (age 5-11) vaccine being imminent, we continue to be cautiously optimistic that we are over the hump of this pandemic and any critical levels of spread are behind us.

Police Dispatchers continue to screen calls regarding Covid risks prior to officers arriving at a scene or call for service and police staff continue to utilize personal protective equipment and practice social distancing when possible. Department officials continue to work collaboratively with other local officials to address community 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.

During the month of October, Officer Jared Grabowski began employment with the police department and began the State's basic training and field training requirements required for police certification. These training periods will take the better part of one year before Officer Grabowski is patrolling on his own. As Officer Grabowski



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arrived this month, we saw the resignation of Officer Joseph Fagnoli. Officer Fagnoli came to South Windsor approximately five years ago and left to work for the State Division of Criminal Justice. With Grabowski's arrival and Fagnoli's departure, the Department currently has two vacancies and currently employs 44 of its 46 authorized sworn members. Of those 44, it is important to note that 4 members of our agency are currently still in the academy or field training and one is on foreign deployment. A careful examination of our roster shows that "two vacancies" may seem minimal, based on the above circumstances, just over 15% of our staff is not operationally available.

The individuals who were promoted last month completed their required training and are transitioning to their new roles. The promotion and advancement of our staff is of the utmost importance to the Command Staff to ensure that we have planned for the future.

Sergeant Mark Cleverdon is currently administering the department's hiring process as we look to not only fill our existing vacancies, but plan for some anticipated vacancies in the coming months. 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.

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 carefully emerge from the Covid restrictions that have been present for the past eighteen months, as an agency we continue to work to engage the public to build trust and legitimacy.

During the month of October the South Windsor Police Department participated for the first time in the "Pink Patch Project." This initiative allowed officers to purchase pink-tone patches to affix on their uniform during the October which is historically Breast Cancer Awareness month. Staff members were also allowed to wear pink t-shirts under their uniform shirts. The proceeds from this initiative were then donated to the Connecticut Breast Health Initiative at the end of the month.

Early in October, several officers including the Chief of Police, spoke at a "Coffee with a Cop" event at the Senior Center. With about 30 seniors in attendance, the police personnel were able to engage in a substantial question and answer session on topics driven by the audience. This gave our staff a great opportunity to engage with the seniors on a variety of topics that are important to them.

As the cold weather months approach, Sgt. Elsie Diaz saw the month as an opportune time to engage the community by hosting a coat drive. This drive collected over sixty winter coats that will be distributed to families and children in need in South Windsor and the greater Hartford area.

October also played host to another national Drug Take Back day and SWPD chose to participate. This initiative exists to combat prescription drug abuse and the opioid epidemic by providing citizens an easy way to dispose of unwanted/unused medications that might be in their homes. Our Drug Take Back day in South Windsor, organized and coordinated by Sgt. Diaz, yielded over 430 lbs of unwanted medication that will be destroyed and will no longer pose a threat to the community.

Police Department

Kristian R. Lindstrom
Chief of Police

Events like those described above are of particular importance as the local community continues to operate under the increasing stress of the Covid pandemic and the “pandemic fatigue” that people are feeling is very real. 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.

During the month of October the traffic unit personnel and patrol personnel remained busy with traditional high visibility patrols. These patrols continue to have a impact reducing motor vehicle accidents and violations, but they also play a significant role deterring other crimes. Abnormal users of the system are less likely to pursue their criminal endeavors in South Windsor when they regularly observe law enforcement on patrol or with vehicles pulled over. As school zone traffic plateaus now that school is fully in session, there is a fair amount of traffic work that goes on behind the scenes as our traffic unit staff work with other local departments such as engineering and planning and zoning.

The month of October brought with it a troubling trend in drunk driving cases. Since July 1, 2021, we have made 111% more DUI arrests than we did in the first half of the calendar year. An increase in drunk driving is a troubling trend that puts the community at risk. With so many livery type services (Taxi, Uber, Lyft, etc) available it has arguably never been easier to avoid getting behind the wheel. SWPD personnel will continue to enforce DUI laws in the community and participate in DUI grant opportunities sponsored

by the State DOT. Hopefully these combined efforts can help to reverse this trend before the holiday season is upon us.

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 October, police personnel continue to investigate the theft of 50 firearms from a local freight carrier. To date, several leads have been developed and multiple guns have been recovered.

Earlier in the month, the police department investigated a missing person case involving a woman with dementia who left the secure wing of a local assisted living facility. Many resources were deployed to locate her including officers on foot, drones equipped with infrared cameras, and canines. While we looked for her, we also quickly notified neighboring agencies and municipalities that she was missing. A short while later, she was located in Tolland (the town of her former residence) by the State Police and returned unharmed to the assisted living facility.

In addition to that case, another woman was reported missing by her family. This woman had no direct connection to South Windsor and had last visited several months prior. Because her family lives in South Windsor she was reported missing here. At the outset of this investigation it was believed that she had travelled out of state (perhaps down the eastern seaboard). The patrol officer investigating the case followed several leads and with the assistance of the Metropolitan Police Department in Washington, D.C. the woman was located in D.C. safe and unhurt.

October marked the end of a test and evaluation period for new body cameras that are required by the State’s Police Accountability Act. For years most SWPD personnel have worn body cameras, but the Accountability Act calls for all police officers to wear them. The cameras that were selected have improved functionality and

Police Department

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Chief of Police

durability of the cameras currently in service. The new cameras will be purchased in the coming months and will be online well before the deadline called for by the Accountability Act.

Our efforts to provide uninterrupted, high level, service to the community did not come without its challenges this month. A recent arrestee took to social media to condemn the arrest and acquired some traction with a group of "followers" around the country. These individuals took it upon themselves to place consistent and frequent calls into our Dispatch Center and to members of the Command Staff to discuss the arrest and apparently try to dupe our personnel into a confrontation on the phone. While trying to dispatch officers to medicals, accidents, crimes in progress, and people in need, these individuals placed well over 400 phone calls into Dispatch at all hours of the day with no discernible or legitimate need for service from us. Fortunately we were able to continue to provide service to the community, but these calls certainly interfered with our ability to do so.

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.

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.

Over the summer the police department began an educational social media campaign encouraging citizens to make locking their cars and homes part

of their end of the day routine. Coined the "9pm Routine" this series of public service announcements and sign postings is intended to instill consistent reminders to the citizenry until these practices are habit.

In continuation from September, we continue to see declining numbers of cars thefts and car burglaries. During the month of October we had only one theft of a vehicle reported. This theft was of a motorcycle from within a locked shed and seems to be far enough removed from the juvenile car theft trend that it is reasonable to conclude that it is unrelated. That being said, it appears that the 9pm Routine continues to pay significant dividends to the community.

Locally the police department will continue with its social media and sign campaign coupled with high visibility patrols that hopefully deter and displace potential criminals.

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 Update October 2021

The new variable message board at the Edward F. Havens South Windsor Annex is up and running. Our maintainers stepped up and out of their comfort zones to build the pedestal and install the sign from ground breaking to powering up. This is a great new addition to the town's communication capability. Important timely messages are already appearing.

Our maintainers have been working to ready equipment for the upcoming leaf harvest. All equipment has been tested for the intended start date of November 1st, weather and leaf drop dependent. Please call the hotline for daily updates as to the approximate location of the following days pick up. That number is 860-648-6371. Due to manpower issues, the leaf harvest may take a slightly different track this year as we may not be able to run 5 crews at all times. We will, as always, do two passes in each district.

Streets crews have been working diligently to close up projects in preparation for the upcoming leaf harvest and impending winter. Several drainage projects were wrapped up as well as the conduit project for the new communications tower at VMP.

The department assisted the health and emergency management departments with a drive thru flu vaccination clinic at firehouse # 3.

We also assisted the Board of Education delivering light towers to the Nevers Rd lower football field for the Homecoming Dance for juniors and seniors.

Street Services installed several temporary advanced warning signs for the Hartford Marathon, provided barricades, installed temporary no parking signs and staged a dump truck at the event to prevent unauthorized vehicle traffic from entering the racecourse.

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

Building Maintenance Project Updates

Town Hall Elevator Replacement

Elevator construction is ticking along albeit slower than we would like. The contractor is now working on the last bits of wiring for the control panel and wiring on the top of the elevator car. An inspection by the state will be scheduled once this work is completed. All other aspects of the elevator construction are complete. My hope at this point is that the elevator contractor can wrap the wiring and have the inspection scheduled before the end of November.

Town Hall Phone System

All of the phone system servers, routers, phones and associated equipment have been deployed and tested. We now have tentative port (cutover) date for the main numbers at the Fire Marshals Office, Town Hall and Edward F. Havens Sr., S.W. Annex. Employee training will happen the same day as the cutover. The technology and redundancy built

Public Works Department

Vincent Stetson
Director of Public Works

into this scalable phone system is truly remarkable. The Information Technology Department was able to use our existing the Fiber Wide Area Network in conjunction with AT&T's managed network to create multiple layers of redundancy in the event one of the two circuit paths from AT&T goes down for some reason.

Wood Memorial Library HVAC Upgrades

The project is moving forward as planned and is on schedule at this time. The Engineer is currently working on construction bid documents, that work is expected to take a few weeks to complete. Project management documents required for this grant were recently sent to the Town Attorney along with other documents required by the DECD. These documents need final formal approval prior to full award of the project funds. The project is still on track for July 2022 substantial completion.

Public Works Garage Roof Replacement

The project is 90% complete at this time. Over the last three months all of the old roofing was removed and the new roofing was installed. A crew of between 10-15 men were consistently onsite up until about three weeks ago. There is now a much smaller crew working on installing the metal fascia, gutters and downspouts. As long as the weather cooperates the work should be completed by the end of the month. The new roofing system should easily last 20 plus years without any issues.

Police Department Locker Room Renovations

We recently met with the Architect and approved furniture, fixtures and equipment (FF&E) for the soon to be renovated Storage Area, Locker Rooms and Office Space on the lower level. Construction drawings and bid documents are in the works now and are expected to be completed anytime now. Once reviewed and approved by the Police Department staff and myself, we can start the process of soliciting proposals for this work. The process of soliciting proposals usually takes a little more than a month from the time the legal ad is published to the time proposals are reviewed,

references checked and contracts executed.

Police Department Perimeter Security Fence Project.

With the exception of three small items that need to be completed the project is all but completed. The system was fully commissioned and the contractor has completed training on the use of the system. The outstanding items are; two 8'x4' concrete pads to be installed around the pass gates on each side of the building, locking hardware for the pass gates and an additional virtual button to hold the gates open when necessary. Three separate contractors are completing these projects, they should all be completed by the end of the month. I would like to thank Sgt. Charlie Bowes and Mike Kowalczyk for all of their assistance with this project.

ADA Self Evaluation and Transition Plan

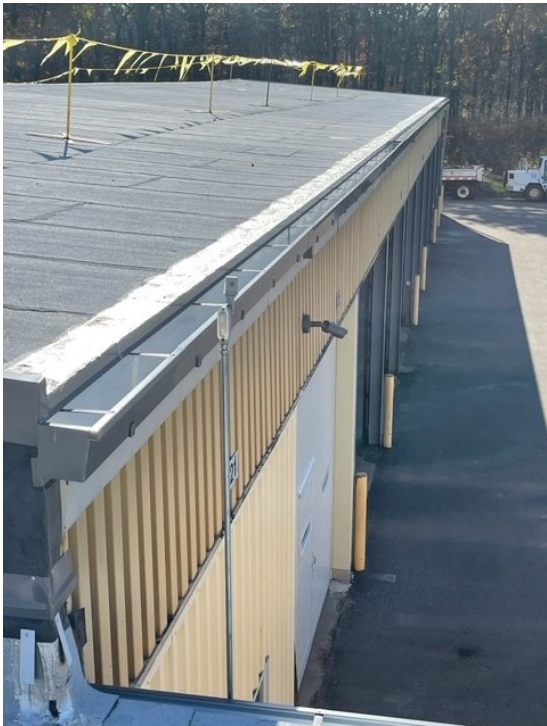
Over the last month I've met with the Architect to audit several buildings including the Town Hall, Police Department, the Edward F. Havens Sr., South Windsor Annex and Fire Company #2. So far, each of those buildings has something that needs to be addressed to make them fully accessible. Once the audits are completed the Architect will provide documentation indicating what is currently out of compliance, provide recommendations specific to each building to rectify those items and lastly, provide a budget for the updates and a timetable for construction based upon the available funds to do the work. Audits are expected to continue through December.

Clay Major
Director of Facilities, Public Buildings Division

Public Works Department

Vincent Stetson
Director of Public Works

Public Works Garage Roof Replacement Photos



Public Works Department

Vincent Stetson
Director of Public Works

Water Pollution Control Update

American Recovery Plan Act Project Approval

The Town of South Windsor has been allocated \$7.7 million in ARPA funding, of which \$2.5 million has been earmarked for sewer capital improvement projects. On September 27, 2021 the Water Pollution Control Authority held a Special Meeting to review a project priority list and appropriate funding to complete the most critical projects. The WPCA approved \$1,300,000 to upgrade the UV Disinfection System at the treatment plant; \$1,100,000 for Phase IV Part 2 which consists of relining 8"-30" sewer pipe and rehabilitating manholes primarily in the southeastern portion of town; and \$100,000 to install a line stop on the Clark Street pump station force main which will be critical for station maintenance and emergency bypass'. The projects chosen to be funded are in line with the WPCA's 10 year capital improvement plan and will help minimize future sewer user fee increases.

Miscellaneous Industrial User General Permit (MIU GP)

In April, the WPCA created a Miscellaneous Industrial User Subcommittee to draft a policy to meet the needs of the WPCA, Water Pollution Control Facility, and the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP). DEEP formerly maintained the MIU database but has recently over-turned the MIU GP administration responsibility to the publicly owned treatment works. The draft policy was presented to the WPCA in September for comment and is expected to be implemented in January 2022.

Residential Sewer User Billing

The residential billing list has been reviewed and bills have been sent out the last week of September with an October 1st due date. The sewer user rate remains a \$415 for the third consecutive year and remains well below the state average rate of \$520.

Tony Manfre, Superintendent of Pollution Control

Engineering Update

Avery Street Reconstruction Phase 5

Avery Street reconstruction is complete from Dart Hill Road south to about 300 feet north of Talcott Ridge Road. This project includes new storm water drainage, new stone base, bituminous pavement and curbs, repaired and extended concrete sidewalks with new ramps. Construction of this project is funded through the Connecticut DOT LOTCIP program.

Local Road Paving

Drainage repairs and milling and paving and restoration have been completed on Nutmeg Rd South from Governors Highway to South Satellite, on South Satellite Rd, on Quarry Brook Dr, Evergreen La, Sycamore Rd, Beechnut La. Tallwood Dr., Wild Rose Dr and the east half of Wood Pond Rd. Ident Road needs more extensive drainage and road reconstruction work than expected and that has been delayed until next year. This work is supported by the 2018 Bond funds.

Sidewalk Repair

CRC keeps raising concrete slabs to eliminate trip hazards on our list. Hathaway Landscaping & Concrete is replacing damaged sidewalk slabs in Town from our list of trip hazards. The sidewalk repair and replacement work is supported by the 2018 Bond funds.

Main Street Bridge over the Podunk River

This design of this project is complete and has been submitted to ConnDOT. 6 bids for this project were received on October 28, 2021. We have reviewed the bids and have recommended to ConnDOT that this project be awarded to the low bid contractor. Construction is planned to start late this fall and go through the winter (weather permitting) into next year and be completed by the end of September, 2022.

Pleasant Valley/Clark Street Sidewalk Project

3 Bids were received on October

Public Works Department

Vincent Stetson
Director of Public Works

14 for the construction of this project and we have reviewed these bids and ConnDOT has approved our recommend award to the low bid contractor. We have issued a notice of award and expect construction to start as soon as the contractor is ready with the necessary forms, schedule, materials and labor.

Beelzebub Road

The new water main has been completed on Beelzebub Road for the Connecticut Water Company and their contractor milled and overlaid the rough pavement patch over the water main last week. The design plans for the reconstruction of Beelzebub Road include new stormwater drainage pipes and structures, new road base, bituminous pavement, curb and a sidewalk on one side. The design plans are about 85% complete and are being finalized. We have received approval from the IWA/CC for a Wetlands permit for this project. We will also be coordinating any utility relocations needed for this project. Easements for the new sidewalk will be needed on about 9 properties and temporary rights to grade will be needed on many others and these will be sought this fall. This project is scheduled to be bid this winter for road reconstruction to begin 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. Our consultant has finalizing plans and contract documents for this project and submitted them to ConnDOT for final review and approval.

Other Engineering Projects

Greenskies Clean Energy was successful in their bid for ZREC credits for the solar canopy behind the Police Station and are working on the design of this system which they expect to complete this fall for construction in the spring of 2022. The rear lot will be paved after the footings and conduit for the solar canopy have been installed.

Connecticut Water Company contractors have finished installing a new water main on Beelzebub

Road and on Foster Street (from Bayberry to Orchard Hill Drive). They are mostly finished on Deming Street (from Buckland Road to Summit Drive) and expect to mill and overlay their trench on Deming Street by the end of November. A new water main is being installed in the Farnham Estates neighborhood on Scantic Meadow Rd, Harvest Ln and Plum Ln. This contractor will continue to install a new water main in other roads in this neighborhood next year.

Jeffrey Doolittle, Assistant Director of Public Works/Town Engineer

Finance Department

Mary Huda
Assessor

Patricia Perry
Director of Finance

Jennifer Hilinski-Shirley
Collector of Revenue

Assessor's Update

Personal Property Update: Thank you to the 1,053 business owners that have timely filed their annual declaration with the Town. For those that missed the November 1st deadline, it is still beneficial to file your actual asset values so that the Assessor's Office does not have to place an estimated value on your account. In addition, the penalty will be calculated on actual asset values versus an estimate of value.

The Assessor's Department is working hard at processing Personal Property Declarations as well as valuing the 2020 Supplement Motor Vehicle list (which will be billed in late December 2021). We are also continuing to finalize the real estate valuations for the 2021 Grand list which will be used as the basis for the upcoming budget and property assessment values for the July 2022 tax bills.

Just a reminder to residents that for motor vehicles stolen, sold, destroyed, after October 1st 2021 and the registration was not transferred to another vehicle, you may be eligible for a motor vehicle prorated. To obtain a credit, you must furnish proof as required by the Assessor. These forms of proof may be emailed to: Assessor@southwindsor-ct.gov or submitted through our webpage: <https://www.southwindsor-ct.gov/assessor>. Assessor's office expects to get the file from CT DMV for the 2021 Grand List motor vehicle records in early December 2021 to begin the valuation process for those vehicles.

Mary Huda, Assessor

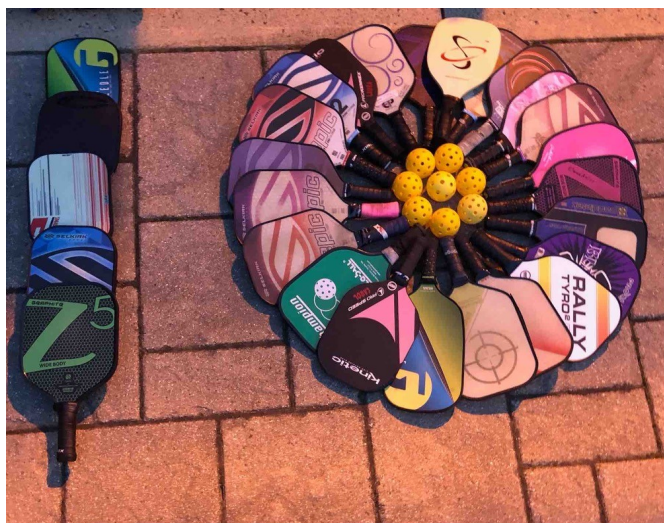
Human Services Department

Andrea Cofrancesco
Director of Human Services

**Town Manager's Report ~
October 2021
Andrea Cofrancesco, Director of Human**

Pickleball Celebrates 10 Years

The South Windsor Senior Center's pickleball program celebrated 10 years in September and they celebrated at their annual picnic at Nevers Park. Started by program coordinator Tracy Conery in 2011, the program has grown over the years in part because it's a great sport, but also due to the dedication of volunteers Dick and Bobbie Lane, among many others, who make the program welcoming and organized. They advocate for the program as well which is now resulting in new pickleball courts being built at Rye Street Park. Not only does this offer a great opportunity to stay fit and exercise, this program has formed relationships that have resulted in friendships formed to last a lifetime. 160 people are registered in the program "Team Reach" to be informed of playing time, court availability and more. This is a great asset to the Senior Center program offerings and we thank all involved!



Focal Point for Aging Services

The South Windsor Senior Center is proud to be re-designated as a Community Focal Point for Aging Services by the North Central Area Agency on Aging, Inc. (NCAAA) for the **2022-2024** Area Plan cycle. We are committed to continue our role as a visible, recognized place where community members can find information and gain access to a full range of aging services. Now more than ever, older adults and individuals with disabilities need to be able to identify trusted sources of information delivered in an unbiased and person-centered manner. In photo (left to right) Eric Rodko, North Central Area Agency on Aging, then Mayor Andrew Paterna, then Deputy Mayor Liz Pendleton, Human Services Director Andrea Cofrancesco



Flu Shots

Human Services Department

Andrea Cofrancesco
Director of Human Services

The Senior Center offered a flu clinic at the center in October for a total of 72 shots administered. Walgreens Pharmacist Dan was great to work with and they accepted most insurances which was a great benefit to those who attended. We hope to continue this annually.



The Fit for Life Fitness Center is Open! Monday – Friday 8:00 AM – 4:30 PM

We are currently accepting new members to our fitness center. We have state of the art equipment that includes treadmills, elliptical machines, nu-steps, a recumbent bicycle, free weights and resistance training machines. To join Fit for Life Fitness Center you must:

- Be 55 years of age or older
- Have a medical clearance form signed by your doctor
- Register at the front desk
- Make an orientation with Tiffany who will teach you how to use the equipment and can design a program based on your needs if you would like one.

Cost for Residents: \$30 for 3 months, \$50 for 6 months, \$75 for 1 year

Cost for Non-Residents: \$50 for 3 months, \$75 for 6 months, \$100 for 1 year. The registration forms are available online or at the front desk. If you have any questions give Tiffany a call at 860-648-6399.

We will be holding an open house on **Thursday, January 6 from 2:00-4:00 PM**. Stop in and see all we have to offer. Learn all about our equipment, classes, volunteer opportunities, and program options. There will be healthy snacks and you will be entered to win a free raffle prize for

attending the open house!



Pumpkins for Homebound



The Senior Center's Community Service Group was back at it again this year to spread Halloween joy to 25 older adults who are homebound. Thank you to Lots and More for their donation of pumpkins and to the decorators and the deliverers who continue to make a difference to residents throughout the year. Neighbors helping neighbors.

Holiday Programs

Caseworkers are gearing up for our annual Thanksgiving baskets program which provides over 150 families a turkey and gift card and all the fixings for a great meal. Additionally, the Adopt a Child program has started where donors provide toys and needed items for children. For information on either program please call 860-648-

Human Services Department

Andrea Cofrancesco
Director of Human Services

6361 ext. 3335. This program is possible only as a result of the generous South Windsor community.

American Rescue Plan Act Funds

The Human Services staff is proud to be able to offer assistance to residents who are directly impacted financially by Covid-19. Funds can be used for a variety of needs based on the following criteria:

- ☐ Are you a South Windsor resident?
- ☐ Have you experienced a hardship due to COVID-19?
- ☐ Is your income less than \$54,950 (single) or \$62,800 (couple) (and more for larger families)?
- ☐ Please call Human Services for assistance. 860-648-6361 ext. 3335 (ask to speak to a caseworker)

Residents will be asked to provide proof of their income and assets as well as be able to demonstrate that their specific hardship is a result of loss of income or death due to COVID-19.

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



Teen Center

The Teen Center has had a great start to the new school year so far. Being only a couple of months in, we've had a successful turnout of students attending our drop-in hours and other events. We now have four additional staff members that recently joined us at the Teen Center. We've hired

another Teen Center Supervisor, along with 3 teen employees who have all proven to be great additions to the team.

Our staff has been working hard to revamp the Teen Center, making the space more inviting and comfortable for our students. We have been working diligently to promote programs and events, as one of our main goals is to reach more students and families to increase attendance and participation.



To kick off the school year, we hosted an Open House in October for students and their families. This was an opportunity for them to check out all the Teen Center has to offer, meet staff, register for the program, and ask any questions they may have. Parents mingled while students participated in games and crafts, took endless photos in the photo booth, and enjoyed some pizza with peers. Our Youth Council volunteer group, consisting of the high school students is now up to over 40 members. We have met monthly since the beginning of school and have fun events planned for this year.

We recently added more information and pictures to our page on the Town website. Check it out for more information!

The weekend of Halloween, the Teen Center hosted a dance party for the middle school students to celebrate the spooky holiday, show off their costumes, and spend time with friends. The event was a great turnout with around 50 students

Human Services Department

Andrea Cofrancesco
Director of Human Services

in attendance and amazing, energetic staff members and volunteers who were so helpful. We had a DJ who played music, led games, and assisted with judging our costume contest. Students also enjoyed the photo booth and were able to get awesome pictures! We cannot wait to continue with this in the future!



School Outreach & Prevention

The SWHS SADD Club celebrated Unity Day by handing out orange starbursts and reminding people that our school community strives for inclusion, acceptance and kindness each and every day. The color orange signifies Unity for all.

The Club leaders also participated in an afternoon training/meeting to prepare for the year. The students came together to make connections, create programs and engage in leadership activities. They look forward to helping the SADD Club make a difference this year!

A 6th grade leadership team worked on a project to say thank you to the bus drivers that provide them with safe transportation every day. The students wrote beautiful thank you cards and put them together with a bag of candy. At the end of the day, the group of 6th graders handed each bus driver the treat bag and said thank you. It was a simple way to show gratitude to others.

This group also worked on sharing information about Unity day. They created a bulletin board around the word CommUNITY, so that we can all be reminded that treating each other with

kindness can help bring a community together.

Youth Counseling, Parent Education and Support

YFS counselors remain busy with 56 active cases of youth seen for mental health counseling. That is an additional 8 from last month. Referrals to counseling services are continuing to rise. The transition back to full time in person school has exacerbated the anxiety for many teens. Counselors are working hard to accommodate this demand for services. We are thankful to have Sarah Soboleski, our current Part Time Youth Counselor take on an additional 5 hours per week to meet the needs. This was made possible by the ARPA funds. Despite having Sarah take on these additional hours, we are still have a waitlist for counseling services. Our new contract with Intercommunity that Andrea mentioned will help with this need.

Our Teen Center Coordinator, Danielle, has just begun her MSW internship with us. In addition to her 30 work hours, she is now dedicated 16 additional hours to the clinical aspect of our division. She has taken on her own caseload. We are excited to support her on the journey of becoming a professional Social Worker. Danielle and Robin are now facilitating two anxiety reduction groups at the middle school.

This month we organized a Gender 101 Training with the New Haven Pride Center for Youth and Family Staff as well as the counseling team at Timothy Edwards Middle School. This was an opportunity to learn some new lingo, how best to support non-binary and transgendered students and Q&A to better serve our clients.

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

Our new Peace At Home webpage is now live. Parents/caregivers only have to sign up once with the code now which is much easier! I will send you all the flyer for classes as soon as I receive it.

Human Services Department

Andrea Cofrancesco
Director of Human Services

Spread the word!

“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 partnered 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.

Your **Peace At Home Parenting Solutions Center** delivers evidence-based digital strategies and support through live and recorded classes and conversation, at no cost (Free). Your Solutions Center has a new look, making it easier to find the support you need. Here's what you'll find:

Our Solution Series are developed around a specific parenting challenge. Each Series includes a collection of hand-picked, easily digestible (15 min+/-) videos which unlock a key piece of the parenting puzzle. Each class includes a video, handouts, and information about our Experts. Series are grouped by Age and by Topic. **South Windsor's Solutions Series include:**

- Little Kids, Big Feelings (Toddlers & Preschoolers)
- Positive Discipline, Peaceful Home (School Age)
- Help you Tweens & Teens Thrive, Even When They Think You are Ridiculous
- Parenting Essentials – Let's Talk About You (All Ages)

Live Classes – something for every age group, weekly classes open to all Peace At Home parents where you can connect with teachers and other parents while you get answers on the spot. You'll find these added to

the **Live Class Schedule** calendar link. Every live class is recorded and includes helpful handouts that help you apply strategies and share with your partner or others. These recordings and handouts can be found in **your Course Catalog**, along with your Solution Series recordings.

Peace At Home's Community & Support anchors your parenting center, with quick access to our **Monthly Q&A sessions** and our **private, monitored Facebook group**, where you can ask questions and get support from our experts and your peers. When you need a bit of 1:1, you can rely on our experts to provide guidance with **individualized Coaching**.

We invite you to visit the Parenting Center at <https://www.peaceathomeparenting.com/south-windsor-login/>. You'll need to create an account, using the code **SWindsorPeace**. Once you've registered, you'll be able to login and access your content. Your personal account will keep track of the classes you've taken, those added to your schedule and provide a customized video library of your classes. If you are unsure where to start or have questions, contact us at Solutions@PeaceAtHomeParenting.com or call 860-775-5109.

*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 - October 2021

Jennifer Filer
Asst. Director of Parks & Recreation

Park & Recreation Commission (PARC): The Commission held a meeting on Wednesday, October 13, 2021 at 7:30pm. The November meeting was held on November 10, 2021 at Town Hall.



The South Windsor Walk & Wheel Ways (SWW&WW):

SWW&WW continued their partnership with the BOE and conducted their fourth-grade bike program at Pleasant Valley and Phillip R. Smith school. This program educates youth on bike safety, basic repair and maintenance of bikes, along with proper riding skills.

RECREATION DIVISION “*Feel great – recreate!*”

Farmers Market: Our first ever winter Farmers’ Market will begin on Saturday, November 13 at the Parks and Recreation facility! We will be highlighting over twenty-five local businesses during this holiday season. The winter farmers’ market will run from 9-1pm on Saturday, November 13, November 20, December 4, and December 11. Remember to love where you live and shop local!

Pumpkin Roll: Our second annual Porters on Porter’s Pumpkin Roll was a huge success! On Friday, October 15, over 350 residents came to Porter’s Hill to prove they could roll with us! Heats took place every 15 minutes, and a prize was awarded to the furthest roll in each heat. The winning pumpkins rolled anywhere from 240 feet all the way to 304 feet! Dude’s Donuts had tasty treats for sale, and Broad Brook Brewing Company donated a variety of beer options for adults to enjoy, including their aptly named “Porter’s Porter!” This event was generously sponsored by Imperial Oil and Plumbing

Halloween Hullabaloo: On Saturday, October 23, we hosted our annual Halloween Trick-

or-Treating Extravaganza: Halloween Hullabaloo! Throughout the event over 400 kids and their parents trick-or-treated through the Wapping Parks



We love all of the costumes our families and youth wore at the Hullabaloo!

and Recreation Facility, stopping at 25 festively decorated doors to receive candy and treats! Doors were decorated by the 4th “R” Staff, SWPRD Preschool Staff, SWPRD Camp Staff, and a variety of community groups including the South Windsor Community Women’s Club, South Windsor Youth Hockey, and South Windsor High School’s FCCLA Club!

Preschool: The preschool had lots of fall fun with Halloween themed activities and plenty of time to play with friends! Session A ends the second week of November, and we will begin Session B on Monday, November 15!

4th R: This month the 4th “R” program hosted our annual Fall Family Fun Night at Foster Farms! Nearly 250 4th “R” participants and their families joined their 4th “R” counselors at the farm for a night of games, activities, snacks, a Halloween dance party, and of course the famous corn maze!

Athletic programs: Our community stayed active in a variety of athletics this fall! Our adult volleyball season began October 4th, with 18 teams in men's and 18 in the women's league. Our fall tennis program finished up a successful season on October 24th. We were lucky enough to fill up most of the program and have zero cancellations due to weather. On October 11, we hosted one last baseball clinic of the season with Chris Corkum! The families were excited to participate after not being able to host it the last three years due to weather! Our basketball season is about to start as our beginner basketball program is officially full and teams were made. We held our Men's Basketball Captains Meeting and practices. We are welcoming three new teams into the league, for a total of eight teams. They are excited to have a season this year.

Wellness Programs: Our Jukido program has been growing since we've added an additional night to the schedule. In October we had a total of 20 participants which means the program has nearly doubled in the past couple of months! We look forward to seeing this program grow with the potential of adding additional days. Over the course of the month we had over 35 participants participate in our virtual yoga classes which took place on Tuesday mornings, Tuesday evenings and Wednesday evenings. Since classes were being held virtually, we were able to have participants from all over the United States participate! We look forward to bringing this program back in person in November. This program will grow into a hybrid program where participants can choose to come in person or take classes from home. The new hybrid options give participants the flexibility to switch between in person and virtually throughout the month.



We had tons of fun with this event! Youth and adults alike enjoyed racing pumpkins down the hill.



Youth Enrichment Programs: We began our Dinner Club session of Food Explorers which has been a blast for participants! So far, they have made Taco Salads and Rainbow Pasta salad. This program continues into November with more exciting dishes coming up. We look forward to seeing everything the participants make. Abrakadoodle Art Studio hosted an art class for children 20 months to 3 years old which was a blast! Over the past month they have made story dolls and art projects that have helped them create 3 dimensional effects with shapes that pop off the pages. See the pictures below to see some of the awesome designs.

PARKS DEPARTMENT “Caring for South Windsor’s Growing Needs”

Athletic Fields & Grounds:

- We added in-house a complete drainage system to newly renovate Craig Pepin field at the little league complex.
- We ensured that all of the athletic fields were prepped and ready for the soccer clubs October tournament along with high school senior night events.

Parks & Open Space:

- Continued tree and stump removal around the town in various locations.
- Reseeding and irrigation of many fields.
- Leaf clean-up in town with public works

Projects:

- Annually mowing the dams in town. This is a challenging task as the grass grows tall and the banks are steep.
- Re-lined the basketball court in the Parks and Recreation department.
- We had to resurface some of the boundless playground in our worn out spaces to ensure safe playing for the youth.

Recreation Photos



Our preschool teachers always have the best activities planned for our preschoolers to learn, explore, and play!



We made a lot of new friends this session!



A few of our Abakadoodle art class participants 3D art work! We love the talent and creativity these youth display.

Recreation Photos:



Our 4th "R" program had an awesome time at the annual foster farms fall family night!



Our 4th "R" staff getting into character for the minion's theme! They are truly the best!

Parks Photos



Mowing the dams, a very challenging task that the parks Department is required to do annually. With extremely tall growth obstacles and very steep banking, both hand and machine work are utilized.



Just one of many fall decorations through the town.



8000 lbs of new playground rubber at the boundless for the paly area.

Parks Photos



The gym at Wapping needed line repair prior to our Mighty Mites season! A huge thank you to the crew for doing an amazing job! We can truly do it all. This saved the Town thousands of dollars and a lot of company's were not even sure how to take on the task since it is something many have never attempted.



Adding a complete drainage system to newly renovate Craig Pepin field at the little league complex
Another huge in house project by SW parks & recreation to solve some serious playing issues.



In early October, we planted a memorial Pink Dogwood tree in remembrance of Joe Pava, a librarian in town who passed away this year.

November 2021 Town Council Meetings and Events

Meetings

Monday, November 15, 2021

7:00 pm Regular Meeting

Council Chambers

Monday, December 6, 2021

7:00 pm Regular Meeting

Council Chambers

Holidays

Veterans Day

November 11, 2021

Town Offices Closed

Thanksgiving Day

November 25, 2021

Town Offices Closed—Thursday, 11/25 and Friday, 11/26

Layout by Katherine Senerth, Executive Assistant

