

Town of South Windsor

Town Manager's Report October 2021



Michael Maniscalco
Town Manager

COVID-19 Update At the time of this report there are 1,991 total cases in South Windsor since the beginning of the pandemic/ 1,906 are past the time of quarantine/ 55 have passed away and/ 30 are currently infected with COVID-19. Please note that we had another COVID related death over the weekend. We have released the criteria that will be needed to end the mask mandate. The criteria can be found on the Town website at: <https://www.southwindsor-ct.gov/home/news/mask-guidance-update>. Lastly, the House has passed an extension of Governor Lamont's emergency powers through February 2022 which has also been approved by the Senate.

Safety Sheets Town departments have worked to pull together safety tips for the public since the last Council meeting. They are currently uploaded to the website and public for everyone to see. We have added them under the Emergency Management page located here: <https://www.southwindsor-ct.gov/safetytips>.

Mastek Building The Town has heard from a number of residents concerned about the blighted condition of this building. Town Staff have reached out to the current owner in an effort to get it cleaned up and to get a plan in place for maintenance. Additionally, I had the opportunity to meet with a potential new business last week and had showed them the building for redevelopment. Unfortunately, due to the condition and design it did not meet what they needed.

Beelzebub Rd Construction Update The new water main has been completed on Beelzebub Road for the Connecticut Water Company. Jeff Doolittle met with representatives from the Connecticut Water Company and their contractor last Friday to discuss the temporary pavement patch, as we have received numerous complaints about the roughness of this patch and it needs to last through the winter. They have offered to pay the Town's paving contractor to do a thin mill and overlay of their patch in the west bound lane to provide a better driving surface for the winter.

The paving contractor was contacted about this and are expected to meet to go over this extra paving work and to schedule a date for the work to begin.

The design plans include new stormwater drainage pipes and structures, new road base, bituminous pavement, curb and a sidewalk on one side. The design plans are 80%-85% complete and are being finalized. The Town has spent over \$115,000 on this design of this project to date. As part of finishing the design, we need to apply to the IWA/CC for a Wetlands permit and coordinate any utility relocations needed in October. Easements for the new sidewalk will be needed on about nine properties and will be sought this fall. Acquiring the necessary sidewalk easements may take longer than expected and we can bid the project for the road work with the sidewalk as an alternate item. That will allow a contractor to get the road improvements done first and the sidewalks can be done later. This project is scheduled to be bid for construction this winter, so road work can begin in the spring of 2022.



Police Department

Kristian R. Lindstrom
Chief of Police

Monthly Statistics September 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.

September's numbers are below:

Total Computer Aided Dispatch Entries:	2329
9-1-1 Calls Received:	715
Routine Calls Received/Outgoing:	4787
Directed Patrol/Premise Checks:	779
Motor Vehicle Stops:	235
Emotionally Disturbed Persons:	6
Medical Assists:	188
Suspicious:	107
Alarms:	96
Motor Vehicle Accidents:	22
Welfare Check:	42
Assist Outside Agency:	35
Animal Problem:	40
Citizen Assist:	29
Miscellaneous Service:	8
Collision Reports:	19
BOLO:	32
Disabled Motor Vehicle:	28
Larceny - Motor Vehicle	4
Larceny:	37
Hazardous Conditions:	30
Pistol Permits:	6
Burglary - Residential	5
Burglary - Motor Vehicle	8
Civil Matter:	10
911 Check:	8
Fraud:	11
Domestic Dispute:	13
Violation of Town Ordinance:	8
Youth Problem:	8

Covid 19 Update

The month of September saw a continued rise in community spread of the Covid 19 virus. This prompted further mask enforcement and amplified the need for community members to get

vaccinated. Mask mandates in particular have been met with unfortunate polarization within the community. This polarization has bred some hostility and anger towards town officials for implementing a local mandate. These feelings have temporarily called for some police attention at Town Council meetings, but this need is expected to be short lived.

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 September the police Department offered Jared Grabowski a position as a police officer. Grabowski performed commendably during the extensive testing and selection process. He accepted the job offer and will begin employment next month.

In preparation for an upcoming retirement, with the approval of the Town Manager, Chief Lindstrom made several promotions during the month of September. Corporal Stephen Hoover was promoted to the rank of Sergeant and Officers Jacob Truebig and Alexis McLain were both reported to the rank of Corporal. All of these three promotees will undergo internal and external supervisory training requirements as they assume their new ranks.



Police Department

Kristian R. Lindstrom
Chief of Police

During the month of September, the Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) organization held their annual awards luncheon at Mohegan Sun Casino. This year's ceremony was particularly poignant as Officer Benjamin Lovett was posthumously awarded the MADD award for his drunk driving enforcement efforts. This award was received on his behalf by his family who was in attendance only two months after Ben died as a result of being hit and killed by a drunk driver. MADD staff indicated that this is the first time a MADD award recipient was killed by a drunk driver. MADD also announced that they have started an educational fund in Ofc. Lovett's name. In addition to Ofc. Lovett's award, his close friend and colleague, Officer Zachary Cosenza also received a MADD award for his fine work detecting and arresting drunk driver's in the Town of South Windsor. Both officers' efforts and attention to this ongoing issue are commendable.

During the month of September, Chief Lindstrom was appointed by Governor Lamont to the Connecticut Emergency Medical Services Advisory Board. He will begin attending meetings with the other Board members next month.

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 contend with lingering social distancing and other Covid concerns, we continue to work to engage the community public to build trust and legitimacy.

Engaging members of the community at events

like this month's Wapping Fair and the 175th Anniversary festivities are non-confrontational contacts that each play a small role in undoing any ill will present towards police within the community.

This is particularly important 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.

September 11th marked the twentieth anniversary of the terrorist attack on the World Trade Centers. Many of the Police Department's staff gathered with their brother and sister first responders from the fire department and EMS community along with several civilian members of the community for a brief remembrance ceremony. During times of such social and political polarization, this was an empowering reminder of where we have come from, what we stand for, and how strong we are when we are united together.

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 September traffic unit personnel and patrol personnel were busy with our annual School Zone Traffic Safety Initiative. With schools returning to normal in person learning this Fall, this initiative was particularly important this year. The start of school brings with it added traffic volume, new driver's driving to school for the first time, and added pedestrian and bicycle traffic in school zones. These factors all call for an increased police presence and high visibility, proactive traffic enforcement in school zones. Each year, this initiative begins with several days of issuing warnings to drivers before

Police Department

Kristian R. Lindstrom
Chief of Police

transitioning into a phase where infractions are more commonplace. In addition to the school zone enforcement activity, police department personnel continue to work with school personnel to address traffic congestion concerns at Pleasant Valley School.

During the month of September, traffic concerns from the Laurel Street and Chapel Road areas seemed to subside significantly. The remaining concerns/suggestions from the latter were received from a resident by the Chief and forwarded to the Local Road Safety Committee. As for the former, the Town is in the process of acquiring a traffic feedback sign that will hopefully further mitigate any perceived issue on Laurel Street. The arrival on this sign is expected before Winter.

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.

The police department worked through yet another significant weather event when the remnants of Tropical Storm Ida came through Town. We were able to take some of the lessons learned from Hurricane Henri and make sure the response to Ida was improved. Ida did not pack as much of a punch as Henri did, but the Town's staff was equipped, prepared, and ready for this weather event.

The political campaign season is upon us and that brings with it the complaints of campaign sign tampering and theft. The police department continues to respond to these complaints and deploy resources to identify the violators and hold them accountable.

After several years of behind the scenes preparation by the Department's Accreditation Manager Sgt. Charles Bowes, on September 17th, the agency began the formal application process for national accreditation through the Commission for Accreditation of Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA). This application

process is required to take no more than 36 months, however due to the hard work already done by Sgt. Bowes, it is expected to take significantly less time. The pursuit of national (CALEA) accreditation goes above and beyond that which is called for in the Accountability Act and will strengthen our agency and the community in the long run.

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

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

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

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.

During the month of September, it appears as

Police Department

Kristian R. Lindstrom
Chief of Police

though this campaign may be paying dividends as the police department saw a dramatic reduction in car burglaries and thefts and may make it through the entire month without a single such incident.

As this public service announcement campaign continues, Chief Lindstrom continues to work with other Chiefs in the region to assemble a task force that will address this issue from a more traditional law enforcement approach. 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 September 2021

Street crews remained very busy with flooding issues with the continuing unprecedented rainfalls. Following the rains, several streets needed to be swept of washout debris. Crews also tackled several washouts along roadways as a result of the overburdened drainage systems.

Maintainers assisted the BOE with more line painting work for the parking lot expansion at Pleasant Valley School.

Crews repaired a large sinkhole at the Community Center near the skate park. A drainage structure failed due to age and certainly, the amount of rain we received hastened this failure.

Streets crews installed nearly 430' of new curbing along Abbe Rd. This new curbing will prevent rainwater runoff from entering yards on Abbe Rd and Garnet Lane. During one of the many storms, water cascaded into yards in this area. This new curbing should help keep the water in the roadway and direct it into storm water catch basins. Additionally, we installed 50' of curbing along Rye St near Troy Rd for the same reason.

Street Services assisted with the Wapping Fair delivering hundreds of feet of snow fence and posts, light towers as well as installing temporary no parking signage.

Parks and Streets maintainers also assisted with the South Windsor 175th Anniversary Jubilee. Our team helped set-up events (corn hole, cricket, miniature golf) held during the day on Saturday. Crews also set-up numerous tents, emptied trash barrels, picked up litter throughout both days, assisted with traffic control, roped off the field, set up traffic control devices and temporary no parking signs and worked to secure everything at the close of the event. Both Streets and Parks worked closely with the Jubilee Committee several weeks before the event to ensure we did our part to make this jubilee a huge success.

Crews have been working to grade leaf site #1 in preparation for the upcoming leaf harvest. Materials are being trucked in to cover the entire site and the grading will allow water to shed off the area. As the leaf harvest continues even in rainy weather, having the site able to drain allows our trucks to get in and out of the site

quickly. Having a solid base also helps when leaves are being turned.



The sign shop also assisted with the Jubilee by fabricating several signs at the committee's request. The shop updated and installed signs for the Believe 208 run on Main St to warn motorists that the road will be closed. The sign shop maintainer is also preparing numerous signs for the upcoming Hartford Marathon.

Residents are encouraged to use Connect South Windsor to report hazards. WWW.SOUTHWINDSOR.ORG/CONNECT or look for the app for iPhones and Androids.

Scott Yeomans
Associate Manager, Street Services

Public Works Department

Vincent Stetson
Director of Public Works



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

Building Maintenance Project Updates

Town Hall Elevator Replacement

Elevator construction continues on. We are getting close to completion, the masonry work around the elevator doors on the first and second floors will be completed in the next couple of days. The masonry work around the door opening on the ground floor will be completed last. Right now the elevator rail system used to hang and operate the doors is being assembled. The elevator car still needs to be assembled as does wiring for the car controls. These two items move relatively quickly even though it seems like a bigger job than it actually is. Ceilings on each floor that were removed to access and install "I" Beams will be put back in place as soon as the mason has completed his work. I expect the elevator to be ready for use sometime in October.

Town Hall Phone System

Porting of the new circuits and relocation of the phone system equipment happened flawlessly last week. The IT Department played a key part in making that happen. At this point we are waiting for AT&T to provide a port date to cut over the phone numbers. Port dates typically take three to four weeks but that also depends on the carrier.

Fire Alarm Replacements Fire Company 1&2

Both systems have been installed and have passed their functional testing. We are currently waiting for a change order to install new system dialers. Dialers are the devices that communicate with the central station and or dispatch center indicating a trouble, supervisory or alarm event.

Wood Memorial Library HVAC Upgrades

The project is moving a bit slower than expected but we are making good progress. There are lots of details dealing with an historic building as one

could imagine. Schematic designs were approved last week and the Engineer now has the "go" to start working on the construction documents. There is still a long road ahead, construction documents need to be vetted by the State Historic Preservation Office to ensure the buildings historic characteristics are maintained. We are still on schedule for July 2022 for substantial completion.

Public Works Garage Roof Replacement

The start date was pushed off until Monday the 27th but mobilizing of equipment staging materials and setting up safety roof fencing all happened on Friday the 24th. On Monday the 27th, a crew of ten were onsite to start ripping a section the roof on the east bay including gutters and downspouts. About one-third of the bay roof can be ripped and replaced in one day. With exception to a couple of small areas that will need to be replaced the roof decking looks to be in good condition. Once finished with the east bay the contractor will move onto the west bay and then on to the main administrative section of the building.



Public Works Garage Roof Replacement



Public Works Department

Vincent Stetson
Director of Public Works



Police Department Locker Room Renovations

We are currently in the process of reviewing finishes for the office, locker rooms and cafeteria. Construction drawings and bid documents are in the works now and they should be completed in the next few weeks. Once reviewed and approved we can solicit proposals for the construction work.

Police Department Perimeter Security Fence Project.

All of the fencing, wiring and cameras have been installed. The wire loops for the driveway that detect the presence of a vehicle at both the entry and exits along with the gate operators are expected to be installed during the second week of October. Testing, inspections and commissioning will follow shortly thereafter.

Fire Alarm Replacements Community Center and Police Department

The Community Center Fire Alarm system was installed a few weeks ago but there is still one last item that needs to be completed. Because the new Fire Alarm panel is smaller than the one removed, custom trim has to be made to cover the gaps between the two panels. I'm expecting the trim work to be completed in the next week or so. The additional horn strobes were also installed in the administrative area and the fitness center. Those areas did not have adequate coverage but current code standards so they were added to the project after inspections were completed.

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. Thus far each of those buildings has something that needs to be addressed to make them fully accessible. At the end of the building audits 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.



Town Hall Elevator Work in Progress

Library Carpet Replacement 2nd Floor

The carpeting on the second floor is done. A relatively small crew was onsite and ripped up all of the existing carpeting in no time at all. In fact, laying the new carpet seemed to go down just as fast as the old carpet came out. The crew worked like a well-oiled machine, from offloading materials to clean up.

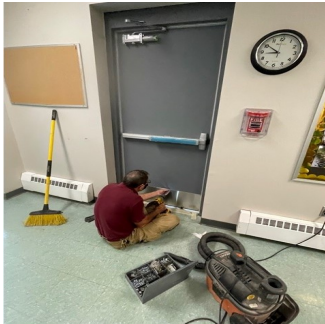
Clay Major, Director of Facilities, Public Buildings Division

Public Works Department

Vincent Stetson
Director of Public Works

Building Maintenance Photos:

Two New Exterior Doors Installed in the Teen Center



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 overturned 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 has been reconstructed and the first course of pavement installed from Dart Hill Road south to about 300 feet north of Talcott Ridge Road and this last section is ready for pavement with new stone base installed and graded. All drainage work has been completed. New bituminous curbs have been installed, concrete sidewalks have been repaired, extended to Dart Hill Road, and new ramps installed. The remaining pavement is scheduled to be installed the first week in October. Then driveway aprons will be repaved and restoration of roadside areas completed. This project will be substantially completed this fall. Construction of this project is funded through the Connecticut DOT LOTCIP program.

Public Works Department

Vincent Stetson
Director of Public Works

Local Road Paving

Drainage repairs are complete on Nutmeg Rd South from Governors Highway to South Satellite, on South Satellite Rd and in the Quarry Brook neighborhood including Quarry Brook Dr, Evergreen La, Sycamore Rd, Beechnut La. These roads have been milled and are scheduled to be paved the end of this week and beginning of next week and then driveway aprons will be paved and roadside restoration completed. Ident Road needs more extensive drainage work than expected and that needs to be completed before road work begins there. This work is supported by the 2018 Bond funds.

Sidewalk Repair

CRC has raised concrete slabs to eliminate trip hazards that are 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 for their review and approval. The project has been advertised for bids to be received on October 28, 2021. 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

No bids were received on September 2 for the construction of this project so we have advertised a second time to rebid the project with an extended deadline. We will review the bids that are received on October 14 and recommend award to a contractor for ConnDOT approval.

Beelzebub Road

The new water main has been completed on Beelzebub Road for the Connecticut Water Company. I am working with them to improve their temporary pavement patch. 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 80% complete and are being finalized. As part of finishing the design we need to coordinate any utility relocations needed and will to apply to the IWA/CC for a Wetlands permit in October. Easements for the new sidewalk will be needed on about 9 properties and 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 are just about finished on Deming Street (from Buckland Road to Summit Drive) and on Foster Street (from Bayberry to Orchard Hill Drive). 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

Collector of Revenue Update

Residential sewer use bills will be mailed the last week of September and are due October 1, 2021. The last day to pay without interest is Monday, November 1, 2021.

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. Office staff is available to answer questions by calling 860-644-2511 extension 321 or by emailing us at: taxcollector@southwindsor-ct.gov

Jennifer Hilinski, Collector of Revenue

Assessor's Update

The Personal Property Declarations were mailed to all business owners in South Windsor on Tuesday, September 28, 2021. The declarations must be completed and returned to the South Windsor Assessor's Office on or before November 1, 2021 to avoid a 25% penalty due to late or non-filing. The Assessor's webpage has copies of all blank forms, if needed. Additionally, the option to file online is available! If business owners are interested, please contact the Assessor's Office and we will provide you with your account-specific online access code for this year.

Just a reminder to residents that for motor vehicles stolen, sold, destroyed, 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>.

Mary Huda, Assessor

Human Services Department

Andrea Cofrancesco
Director of Human Services

September 2021



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.

Senior Center Month

All programs have been back for a few months now and people are so excited to be back! For Senior Center month, we have celebrated being back together and have sold out on several of our events!

Pizza Party

To kick off Senior Center Month we offered a FREE pizza party for over 60 people. Following, Dr. Anwar answered questions about Covid-19 and the group was listening intently with his first-hand knowledge of this pandemic and what he has witnessed.



Annual Senior Picnic

Our annual senior picnic was a huge hit with games, caricatures, magic, and great food! 140 people came out to enjoy, see their friends and make new ones.



Adventure Club

Our Adventure Club is enjoying being outdoors, especially on the amazing weather days! There's nothing like breathing in the fresh air! Be on the lookout for more "adventures" in the coming months!



Human Services Department

Andrea Cofrancesco
Director of Human Services



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.

We have assisted three families with these funds, for needs ranging from medical bills to HVAC repairs.

Staff continues to assist residents through UniteCT for emergency rental and utility assistance.

TRIP Offerings

After a break from offering trips for over 1.5 years, we are back!

Lancaster, in Style

Enjoy 3 days visiting Lancaster, In Style on April 18-20, 2022. Trip includes 2 nights at The Historic Cork Factory Hotel, 2 breakfasts, 2 lunches, and 2 dinners, Kitchen Kettle Village hands on experience, Private wine, cheese and painting party, tickets for 'David' at Sight and Sound Theatre, Mount Hope Estate and Winery, with tasting and tour along with gratuities for the tour director and bus driver. Trip insurance is to be purchased separately. \$50 deposit due at time of reservation and final payment is due by February 7, 2022. Cost is \$790 single, \$635pp double and \$580pp triple. Checks payable to Town of South Windsor. For more information call Tiffany at 860-648-6399.

Magical Mackinac

Traditional Mackinac Island is a step-back in time. Enjoy a horse-carriage tour on Mackinac Island and lunch at the Grand Hotel. Explore Greenfield Village and the innovative Henry Ford Museum, visit the Bavarian influenced town of Frankenmuth. Guided tour and overnight in Niagara Falls, Canada. Tour includes motorcoach transportation, hotel accommodations, 13 meals and more. Trip will be August 14-21, 2022. Cost is \$2,199pp single, \$1,725pp double, and \$1,599pp triple. Call Tiffany at 860-648-6399 for further information and reservations. \$150 is due at time of reservation and full payment is due by June 1, 2022. Trip insurance purchased separately.



Human Services Department

Andrea Cofrancesco
Director of Human Services



The Teen Center is officially open for drop-in hours! Our staff cannot wait to see all of our friends again and are excited to have new students join us. The center opened for drop-in on Monday, September 13th for middle school and high school students during the week.

Students from TEMS are welcome to stop by the Teen Center on Tuesdays from 3-5:30pm, and Friday nights from 5:45-9:30pm. South Windsor High School students can walk across the street from 2-4:30pm on Monday, Wednesdays, and Thursdays. We offer snacks, have countless games and electronics, pool tables, ping-pong, and more!

The Teen Center Youth Council, our high school volunteer group has grown quickly from 20 students to almost 40 active members. We held our first meeting of the school year in September, which was a huge success. We are lucky to have so many students interested in volunteering and have a passion for community service opportunities. Just this past month our students have participated at the Parks & Recreation Mud Run, the Wapping Fair, and the Farmer's Market on Saturday's. Volunteers have continued to stay busy writing letters to isolated seniors around the world, and have recently started to write to firefighters battling the wildfires in California.

Our Teen Center Program Coordinator, Danielle is excited to see what the new school year brings and has been working hard to make additional connections in the town and with community members. We are currently planning to have upcoming events and activities for students to participate in outside of drop-in hours in the next few months!

School Outreach & Prevention

During the month of September, everyone has been getting back into the routines of school, activities and work. School outreach has been busy taking this time to reconnect with kids and

families. Timothy Edwards celebrated International Peace Day by "planting" hundreds of pinwheels out on the front lawn of the school. The pinwheels, created by students and staff, symbolized our collective hope for a more peaceful world.

The Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD) Club is also back up and running at SWHS. We have lots of returning students who will be taking on leadership roles within the club. They will have the opportunity to lead their peers and encourage them to make positive life choices. Finally, the SW Alliance For Families advisory board met for our first meeting. SWAFF helps to understand the needs of youth and families in our community and then takes action to educate others. We look forward to learning from each other and creating programs that can benefit South Windsor.

We have two very important conversations coming up in relation to our prevention work.

One is a Healthy Relationships and Safe Dating Conversation for Parents on Wednesday, October 13th. And a QPR Suicide Prevention Training on Thursday, October 14th. Both will be virtual.

Youth Counseling, Parent Education and Support

YFS counselors remain busy with 48 active cases of youth seen for mental health counseling. Since the start of school three weeks ago, we have already received five new referrals. 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. The team is preparing for an increase in referrals due to the recent changes in marijuana possession laws. Robin Lagasse our clinical coordinator attended a 2-day summit on Suicide Prevention. She is also working closely with the middle school to begin providing more skill building groups around managing anxiety.

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

Human Services Department

Andrea Cofrancesco
Director of Human Services

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.

We are hosting two Behavioral Health Provider Meet and Greets this month. One will be virtual and one in person. This gives us the opportunity to meet with other mental health professionals and to know who we can send families to if we are unable to provide the services ourselves.

Although we no longer have a Parent Educator, thanks to DCF Enhancement grant funds, we have

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:

Solution Series 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.



contracted services with Peace At Home Parenting, Inc.

Peace At Home Our 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 September & October classes as soon as I receive it. 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

Human Services Department

Andrea Cofrancesco
Director of Human Services

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 - September 2021

Jennifer Filer
Asst. Director of Parks & Recreation

MONTHLY REPORT October 4, 2021



Park & Recreation Commission (PARC) The Commission did not hold a meeting on September 8, 2021, but they will be meeting on Wednesday, October 13 at 7:30pm.

The South Windsor Walk & Wheel Ways (SWW&WW) SWW&WW had a busy month! They conducted the 4th grade bike program from September 20-24, and will go to the remaining schools the first week of October! The committee also had a booth at the 175th anniversary, where they provided conceptual maps and information on the cross-town trail project. For the crosstown trail, SWW&WW is currently working with Kevin Grindle to fill out permitted use applications for the areas that cross into Eversource's right of ways. SWW&WW had their monthly meeting on September 8, 2021 at the parks and recreation facility. They will be meeting again on Wednesday, October 6 2021 at 7pm.

RECREATION DIVISION *“Feel great – recreate!”*

Farmers Market Our Farmers Market ended the season on September 11! We want to thank all of our vendors, sponsors, and community members for supporting our market each week! During the summer, the market grew, and we had the largest attendance the during the last few markets! We recorded an average of over 1,100 people in attendance! The Power of Produce program was a hit all season long. We had around 80 youth registered for our program and each week, they participated in the educational programs we offered. During our September 4 market, we featured a thank a farmer activity where the youth were able to write thank you cards to our local vendors. Although we are done for the summer

season, we will return for a four-week pop-up winter market at the Wapping banquet hall on Saturday, November 13! Check our website and Facebook for more details!

Preschool We're having fun making new friends and learning new things as we kicked off another fantastic year of SWPRD Preschool! All of our classes were ¾ full this session and we are hoping to continue to increase numbers as the year continues.

4th R It's all smiles, sunshine, and two thumbs up for the start of the 15th year at 4th “R!” We have around 270 youth in our program and we will be accepting more youth over the next few months.

Athletic programs Our Fall Tennis lessons began on September 11. Our program continues to be successful with three out of the total offerings at full capacity. The Boys and Girls Travel basketball



Imagination and Play are super important here at our preschool!

began open gym in Ellsworth. Their open gym will lead right up to their tryouts which are set for mid-October. Our Adult Volleyball League began practicing Tuesday, September 21. Each team gets two practices before the start of their season on October 5. Despite not having a season last year, our numbers are almost identical to 2019. We currently have 18 men's volleyball teams and 17 women. In

2019, we had 20 teams in each. Youth Basketball season will begin soon. Practices for youth basketball will run Monday-Friday from 6:15pm-10:15pm, with games on Saturday from 9am-10pm. Our Adult basketball league will be run on Sunday's from 12pm-8pm. In order to continue running a high caliber youth basketball season, we had our new sports program coordinator, Matt start of September 23. Matt will help Assist our recreation supervisor, Ashley with our youth and adult sport leagues.

Wellness programs Our yoga classes are continuing to be held both virtually and in person in the Wapping Banquet Hall. This month we have a total of 45 participants among the two groups. Classes are held every Tuesday morning, Tuesday evening and Wednesday evenings. Our new virtual fusion yoga classes are scheduled to begin on Saturday, October 16th.

Creative Cardio is also continuing to offer both the virtual and in person classes in the Wapping activity room. This month we have about 20 participants among the two classes. We are excited to see these classes grow over the next couple of months!

Jukido now has a new timeslot on Wednesday nights which is held in addition to the Sunday evening timeslot. In our Wednesday night classes that just kicked off on Wednesday, September 1st we already have 13 participants! We look forward to seeing more participants next month with the hopes of eventually adding additional days. We will continue to offer the Sunday night classes and currently have 9 participants who come weekly!

My First Mud Run We held the first annual *Your First Mud Run* event on Sunday, September 19, which had about 410 participants from all over Connecticut and Massachusetts. This event was a family friendly run which consisted of about 10 obstacles and a mud pit which was about 1.5 miles long. This event couldn't have been possible without the help of our Parks crew, our volunteers from the Teen Center and The Power of Peace group along with our wonderful Sponsors: The Max Challenge and The Wapping Fair. Please see below for some photos of this fun event!



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

Athletic Fields & Grounds

- As the school year kicked off, we continued to prepare and maintain all of the BOE facilities.
- We continued tree work clean-up of the broken and hazardous trees at the Little League fields.
- Fall is the time for field maintenance. We have been overseeding, aerating, and integrating new varieties of grass to maintain turf and our fields.

Parks & Open Space

- The rain subsided this month, so we were able to catch up on mowing and maintenance of our parks and open space.
- We decorated and completed new landscaping for the fall season around town!

Projects

- The crew was busy preparing and supporting various events around town such as the Wapping fair, the 175th anniversary, and the Mud run.
- The crew with the help of public works, closed up the VMP facility on Thursday, September 23 for the winter season.



We continued tree work at the Little League complex this month to ensure all hazardous trees were cleaned up.

Recreation Photos



We landscaped the Town of South Windsor sign and flagpole with new mums for the fall.



We closed VMP for the season! A big thanks for the Parks crew and Public Works for putting the covers back on for the winter. We are already excited for summer 2022!



Decorating for the fall season around the town!



Recreation Photos:



One of our preschool classes ready for their first day of school!



We love playing all sorts of games to get our bodies



Fun, but challenging obstacles for our mud run participants! The mud run featured obstacles such as rope climbs, inner tubes, mud pits etc. Our participants loved the mud pit!



Recreation Photos



The 175th Anniversary celebration held on September 17-18 was a success. Thank you to all Town departments for helping support this event for the Town.



Our new showmobile was featured at the 175th anniversary! The community band along with the Savage Brothers were the featured entertainment.



Our first ever winter market will be held at the banquet hall!

October 2021 Town Council Meetings and Events

Meetings

Monday, October 4, 2021

7:00 pm Regular Meeting

Hybrid Meeting

Monday, October 18, 2021

7:00 pm Regular Meeting

Hybrid Meeting

Holidays

October 11, 2021 –Columbus Day– Town Offices Closed

October 31, 2021–Halloween

Layout by Katherine Senerth, Executive Assistant

