

WINDSOR

1999 ANNUAL REPORT



LETTER FROM THE MAYOR

Dear Windsor Resident,

It is with great pleasure that we present to you the Town of Windsor’s 1999 Annual Report. This publication provides a comprehensive description of Windsor’s local government at work, highlighting activities and accomplishments of the past calendar year.

As you turn the pages, I think you’ll agree that we are truly lucky to have achieved what other towns in the greater Hartford region would like to have.

Windsor is a community of people from rich and varied ethnic backgrounds. Our schools provide an environment that encourages the success of each and every student. Our town services provide the people of Windsor opportunities and the resources to make individual, family and business dreams come true.

I look forward to the coming year, when we can continue working together to make Windsor a town where newcomers want to live in our friendly neighborhoods. Let’s tell everyone how proud we are of our diversity, and that Windsor really is “first” as a place to live, a “first” place for business and as a place to visit.

I know that I’m particularly proud, not only to serve this community, but to be a part of it.



Mary Hogan
Mayor



The Windsor Town Council

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FAMILY & LEISURE SERVICES



Family & Leisure Services is comprised of Northwest Park, Caring Connection, Recreation Services, Senior Center and Dial-A-Ride Services,

the Milo Peck Child Discovery Center, Montessori School, and Parent Center.

Our goal is to create opportunities for individuals and families that will enrich their lives by offering a diverse number of programs, activities and services. Family and Leisure Services prides itself in striving for new and innovative programs to offer Windsor residents of all ages. In the past year, we are particularly proud of:

- ◆ Development of a comprehensive Recreation Master Plan
- ◆ Northwest Park outreach programs which traveled throughout our community to libraries and neighborhoods
- ◆ Our Caring Connection, ADHC participated in many intergenerational programs with students from Windsor High School, JFK Elementary School and the Poquonock Elementary School Art Department
- ◆ Environmental education programs offered to the Windsor school district were expanded by 15%
- ◆ Hiring of a Family and Leisure Services Director to coordinate services
- ◆ To celebrate the “International Year of the Older Person”, the Caring Connection held an intergenerational art show featuring the work of artists ages 4 - 94 in April

“OUR GOAL IS TO CREATE OPPORTUNITIES FOR INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES THAT WILL ENRICH THEIR LIVES . . .”

– Family & Leisure Services Staff

- ◆ “RECWARE” computerized registration procedures for the convenience of our customers
- ◆ Town of Windsor employee, Peggy Ristas, Discovery Center Infant/Toddler teacher won the Quality Child Care Teacher Award from the Greater Hartford Child Care Collaborative
- ◆ Offered a “Snow Day” program to assist working parents when school is canceled due to inclement weather



- ◆ Expanded scholarship opportunities to ensure everyone has the opportunity to participate in programming
- ◆ Programs celebrating the 1999 International Year of Older Persons
- ◆ To protect our valuable natural resources, Northwest park staff received a grant for grassland management

Our Family & Leisure Services staff cares about you and your family. Together with the community, every effort will be made to continue being responsive and committed to providing services that make Windsor the fun and active community we all love.



Family Facts:

- ◆ 77 volunteers transport our senior citizens to medical appointments and deliver hot meals
- ◆ Family programs offered every night of the week for six weeks this summer
- ◆ Over 7600 hikers, cross country skiers, bicyclists and joggers enjoyed the splendor of Northwest Park in 1999
- ◆ 2500 middle school students enjoyed Club Café dances this year

LIBRARY SERVICES

The Main Library and the Wilson Branch provide the community with access to over 100,000 informational resources in a variety of media, including the Internet. In 1999 the libraries answered 58,103



queries for information and conducted 1,020 educational and cultural programs. 9,540 individuals attended various community and library events in the library's meeting rooms.

New services this year included:

Homework Club – In continuing support of families and schools the Library conducted the Homework Club for 4th and 5th grade Windsor students. Four, 6 or 7 week sessions began in October and will run through June 2000 to provide supervision and homework assistance in a safe, friendly environment. Children are transported by bus to the library after school on Monday through Thursday and are picked up at 5:30 PM by their parents.

Enhanced Computer Access – Many customers have become adept at using their home computers or the library's computers to locate library materials throughout the state, to view full-text magazine

articles online, and to check their library card account. Beginning this year, customers could place holds for needed materials right on the computer, as well as renew materials or pose research questions via email. 13,873 people signed up for computer time during 1999, as well as thousands more who dropped in to use the library's computers to access library databases or do research on the Web. Library staff and volunteers conducted 50 computer classes to familiarize adults and children with the Internet.

Visit the library's web page at its new address: <http://www.townofwindsorct.com/library.htm>.

Wilson Branch Hours Extended – The Wilson Branch extended hours to include Monday evenings and Saturday afternoons. This gives more time for the

Branch's popular Monday tutoring program, which has 23 students and 23 adult volunteers participating each week.

New Wilson Branch hours are: Monday 10:00 AM-7:30 PM, Tuesday-Friday 10:00 AM-5:30 PM and Saturday 10:00 AM-3:00 PM.

“WE’VE NOTICED OUR SON IS HAPPIER AND ABLE TO DO MORE WORK AT THE *HOMework CLUB* WITH LESS DISTRACTIONS, AND HIS TEACHER HAS COMMENTED ON HIS IMPROVEMENT”

– *Melinda Comeau, Parent*



Library Facts:

- ◆ Wilson Branch Tutoring Program celebrated 10 years of service. Over 500 people have participated in this tutoring/mentor program.
- ◆ 13,873 people signed up for computer time during 1999
- ◆ Library volunteers conducted 50 computer classes
- ◆ Over 58,000 queries for information were answered by Library staff in 1999.

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

Administrative Services supports town operations by providing other departments with the financial, personnel, and information resources they need to deliver products and services to the community. Administrative Services also protects town resources from the risk of loss through risk management services.

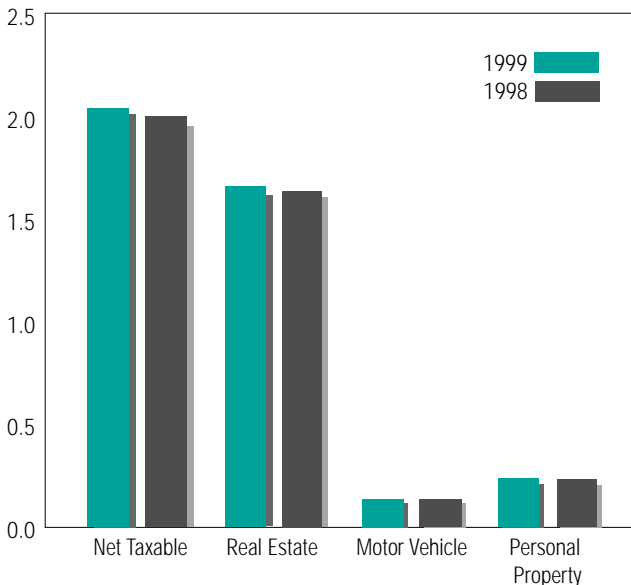
Among the many accomplishments in 1999 are the following:

- ◆ The Town of Windsor was the first municipal recipient of the State of Connecticut Workers' Compensation Commission Award. The award recognized our town's significant cost reductions including a 94% decrease in overall workers' compensation costs, 40% decrease in frequency of claims, and 75% reduction in the days away from work.
- ◆ The Town of Windsor's comprehensive annual financial report (CAFR) was awarded The *Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting* by the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada.
- ◆ Our Town was the recipient of the *Distinguished Budget Presentation Award* from the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada.

- ◆ Windsor's comprehensive annual financial report (CAFR) program is available for public inspection
- ◆ The Town received a AA bond rating with Standard & Poors and a Moody's Rating of Aa2, reflecting sound finances, low debt levels and a local employment base that is relatively deep and diverse.
- ◆ Our website, <http://www.townofwindsorct.com>, was improved to enhance the way we provide information to the public. Our E-mail electronic mailing service, <http://www.townofwindsorct.com/edirect/info.htm>, showed a steady increase in traffic during the year. In addition, our website was recognized by *GovNetworks* and *eGovernment* magazine with their *Digital Award of Excellence* as a Web site that benefits the public.
- ◆ Windsor Human Resources established a Community Employment Opportunity Board which is a town-wide posting site for vacancies in Windsor businesses and organizations.
- ◆ The Town was honored when it received the *Distinguished Wellness Award*, the highest award from Community Health Charities of Connecticut.

GRAND LIST

In Millions



The October 1, 1998 Net Taxable Grand List totals \$2,044,330,830 which is an increase of \$43,140,150 (2.1%) over last year's total. At the present mill rate of 22.1, this increase will produce \$953,397 in new tax revenue. However, with the increase in the manufacturer's machinery & equipment exemption of \$5,901,760 (16.9%) which is fully reimbursed by the State of Connecticut, the total new revenue generated by this Grand List is \$1,083,826.

The Real Estate portion of the October 1, 1998 Grand List totals \$1,663,584,280 which is an increase of \$19,014,760 or 1.15% over last year.

The Motor Vehicle portion of the October 1, 1998 Grand List totals \$141,105,300 which is an increase of \$8,641,450 or 6.5% over last year. While the total number of vehicles is approximately the same from last year, the percentage of newer vehicles that have replaced older, less expensive vehicles accounts for the major portion of this increase. Also, the continued resurgence in motor vehicle leasing has also contributed to this increase in that it puts more new and late model vehicles on the road.

The Personal Property section of the October 1, 1998 Grand List totals \$239,641,250 which is \$15,483,940 or 6.9% greater than last year.

INFORMATION SERVICES



1999 was the year of “the past meeting the present” in Information Services. Responsible for maintaining all public records for our community, the Windsor Town Clerk’s office became the first in the State of Connecticut to provide land record information on the internet

for its customers. This initiative allows title searchers, attorneys or other interested parties to find the information they need without having to make a special trip to Town Hall.

Memories of Windsor will forever be preserved in *Windsor Storytellers*, a 279 page publication written in collaboration with 81 Windsor residents. In addition to capturing a historic perspective of the past century, the book was a more popular holiday gift than a furbie!

- ◆ Information Services continued its efforts in providing Windsor residents with information via the “There’s a lot to do in Windsor” magazine

- ◆ Merged the index of vital statistics of the 20th century



- ◆ Over 200 dogs converged on the Windsor Town green for the 2nd Annual “Just For Fun Dog Show” in honor of dog licensing month in June
- ◆ Over 7100 land records were processed in 1999
- ◆ During November and December alone, our website received an average of more than 8,700 page requests per week

“THE TOWN’S LAND RECORDS ONLINE IS WELL LAID OUT, PRACTICAL AND SAVES A LOT OF TIME.”

– Ben Dowe, Attorney

TOWN OF WINDSOR FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

General Fund

Revenues

The General Fund Budget approved for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1999 amounted to \$57,760,340, financed as follows:

	1999 Budget	%	1999 Actual Amount	%	1998 Actual Amount	%	\$ +/-	% +/-
Property Taxes	44,402,430	77	44,638,469	76	43,252,612	77	1,385,857	3.2
State & Federal	9,886,200	17	9,763,511	17	9,556,419	17	207,092	2.1
Rev. Town Dept.	2,963,680	5	3,669,638	6	3,530,899	5	138,739	3.8
Other	508,030	1	517,979	1	507,187	1	10,792	2.1
Total	57,760,340	100	58,589,597	100	56,847,117	100	1,742,480	

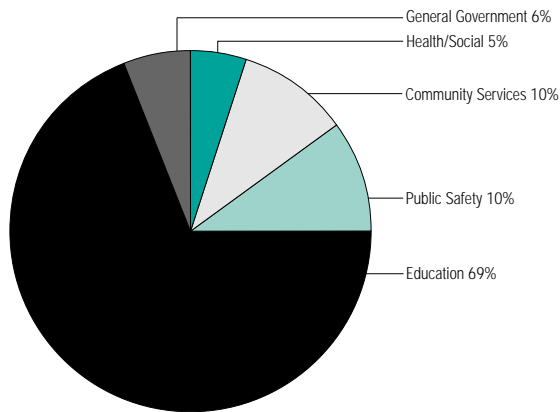
The Grand List of 1997, after exemptions and Board of Assessment Appeals revisions, amounted to \$1,994,398,040 and a tax rate of 21.6 mills was set for the 1999 budget.

Expenditures & Encumbrances

The original budget for expenditures of \$57,760,340 was increased during the year to \$58,104,481 by additional appropriations. Expenditures were incurred or encumbered in the following amounts.

	Rev. 1999 Budget	%	Actual 1999 Amount	%	Actual 1998 Amount	\$ +/-	% +/-
General Government	23,212,801	40	22,592,861	40	22,829,740	(236,879)	(1.0)
Board of Education	34,891,680	60	34,647,140	60	32,733,782	1,913,358	5.8
Total	58,104,481	100	57,240,001	100	55,563,522	1,676,479	

GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES (BUDGETARY) FISCAL YEAR 1999



Special Revenues

The town received \$4,104,070 in revenues earmarked for specific programs in 1999 compared to \$3,334,080 in 1998, a increase of 8%. The majority of this special revenue was received or earned from the following sources:

State of Connecticut	\$ 767,182
Federal Government	1,207,836
Sale of Food	1,018,925

These revenues were segregated into the following programs:

	1999		1998	
	Amount	%	Amount	%
Cafeteria	\$1,428,550	35	\$1,299,259	39
Community Rehab Program	255,506	6	334,135	10
Education Grant Program	903,009	22	614,032	18
Other	1,517,005	37	1,086,654	33
Total	\$4,104,070	100	\$3,334,080	100

Expenditures

Expenditures totaled \$4,334,262 in 1999 compared to \$3,482,813 in 1998. Expenditures were distributed as follows:

	1999		1998	
	Amount	%	Amount	%
Education	\$2,469,539	57	\$1,916,564	55
Family Services	786,669	18	645,323	19
Capital Outlay	3,500	0	289,170	8
Public Lands, Roads & Facilities	336,376	8	152,702	4
Other	738,178	17	479,054	14
Total	\$4,334,262	100	\$3,482,813	100

HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES

Windsor's Health Services Department was established on August 2, 1999 as part of an overall town government restructuring intended to compliment the five strategic planning areas outlined in the Town Manager's FY 2000 budget message. The new Department consolidated inspection and regulation, disease control and clinic service programs from the former Health and Environment Service Unit with the Adult and Senior Social Service programs formerly in the Family Services Service Unit. The focus of the reorganization from the Department's perspective is to compliment traditional health department programs by emphasizing diagnosis and referral services for any Windsor resident no matter their age, race, social status, or need.

During 1999, the following new initiatives and updated services were initiated:

- ◆ The procedure for assisting at-risk people during natural and man-made emergencies was reviewed, updated, and improved jointly by Social Services and Civil Preparedness. This procedure allows the town to respond to the special needs of individuals who may not be able to cope on their own when an emergency occurs
- ◆ A variety of preventive health programs were presented throughout the year. Classes and seminars on CPR and first aid, bike safety, diabetes control, Lyme Disease, rabies control, exercise, and food handling safety were just a few of the programs presented.

“THIS IS A WONDERFUL PROGRAM AND IT MAKES ME FEEL GOOD. MAYBE SOMEDAY I WILL NEED THE SERVICE. YOU TRULY MAKE A FRIEND...”

– Doris Puro
Friendly Shoppers Volunteer

Social Services Team

The Social Services Team is staffed with six caseworkers located at the L.P. Wilson Community Center. The staff has a working knowledge of local, state and federal health and social service programs. They assist people with home care, transportation, food programs, medical equipment, housing, financial programs fuel assistance, etc. Caseworkers are available at L. P. Wilson and makes home visits.

The following new initiatives were undertaken in 1999:

- ◆ The Windsor Resource Guide, Directory of Capitol Region Human Services was updated and mailed to every Windsor household. This guide lists various regional resources available to our residents in



over 25 subject areas ranging from adult services to wellness programs

- ◆ Evaluated each of our programs through a user survey distributed to a random sample of Windsor residents
- ◆ At the request of residents, began a Diabetes Support Group that meets monthly at L.P. Wilson
- ◆ Initiated a group for Grandparents Raising Grandchildren where they can share experiences and information
- ◆ Expanded the Windsor Food Bank to include along with nonperishable items: bread, fresh fruits and vegetables, frozen meats, personal care items and dog and cat food
- ◆ The Holiday Program was expanded to meet the needs of more seniors, adults with disabilities and families.

Landfill

- ◆ During 1999, 55,750 tons of refuse were deposited in the landfill
- ◆ During 1999, 4,220 tons of material were recycled at the landfill
- ◆ 325 households participated in Household Hazardous Waste Day, dropping off 3,250 gallons and 6,500 pounds of hazardous waste
- ◆ Two major studies were carried out in 1999 - the first examining alternative methods of controlling leachate, and the second studying construction and demolition processing possibilities at the Windsor-Bloomfield Landfill.

PUBLIC WORKS

To continue the beautification of Windsor, new spring bulbs and summer perennials were planted in the median beds along Windsor Avenue in Wilson.

Two new playscapes were installed at Roger Wolcott School; new basketball goals were installed at Roger Wolcott School, John F. Kennedy School and Sharshon Park. Basketball rims were replaced at Stroh Park and Deerfield Park.

Basketball courts were repaved at Sharshon Park and Stroh Park. The tennis courts at Welch Park were improved with new curbing and pavement. The parking area at Roger Wolcott School was repaved and several new parking spaces were constructed at the Kennedy School.

Washington Park pond was dredged to alleviate a future bog condition. Lowering the water depth will make the pond healthier for fish and reduce any potential for algae growth in the summer months. Herman, a 25-30lb carp (pictured below) eluded Public Works staff until the “tail” end of the draining phase. He was rescued and transported to a nearby pond, much to the delight of Washington Park neighbors.

54 trees were planted around town to replace trees that were taken down on town property because they were hit by cars, or were dead or dying. Of these trees 20 were given to homeowners to replace trees removed from the town right of way adjacent to their property. 20 trees were planted to replace street trees. 14 trees were planted around town buildings or in town parks.

Drainage was improved on Gloria Street, the intersection of Larch Drive and Hemlock Road, Alden Road, Capen Street, Gloria Street, Nook Farms Road, Remington Road, Welch Avenue, Bina Avenue, Skitchewaug Street, East Barber Street, Amaryllis Drive, Henry Street,

Woodland Street, and Rainbow Road.

Road reconstruction projects included work on Old Kennedy Road and Douglas Street.

New larger street name signs designed for increased readability have been installed at 44 intersections throughout town.

These signs were upgrades to replace damaged, stolen, or inadequate signs. In addition, new decorative oval street name signs were installed in Wilson along Windsor Avenue from Arrowbrook Road south to the Hartford City line.

Public access was improved as a service for the State Services for the Blind, which moved into the old Metro Home Center at the corner of Windsor Avenue and Meadow Road. The town worked with the State of Connecticut to provide a safe and attractive access path, brick sidewalk and new bus shelter for their clients. A new bus shelter was also installed on Poquonock Ave by the Riverbend condominiums.

This past year occupants of the Luddy House and Carriage House (Center View Hairstyling and the Windsor Chamber of Commerce) at 261 Broad Street switched locations. Along with these relocations, Facilities Management implemented an asbestos removal project and renewed and restored many of the original finishes including refinishing of the hardwood floors and restoring the wall finishes to an original color scheme of the time period. An electrical upgrade was implemented to include energy efficient products.



“THE MEDIAN PLANTINGS IN THE CENTER OF TOWN ARE BEAUTIFUL. IT LOOKS LIKE THEY WERE DONE WITH A LOT OF CARE. CAN HE COME TO MY HOUSE?”

– Carol Engelmann
Windsor Resident



WINDSOR . . . THE BEST COMMUNITY

The Windsor Town Council and Town Manager Leon Churchill have collaborated on goals to make Windsor the best community possible.

This past year, town staff began planning and implementing long term strategies to address these goals and create an environment where dreams can come true for individuals, families and businesses.

Healthy Community

Mission Statement:

To promote safe, beautiful and desirable neighborhoods for all current and potential residents, businesses and visitors by providing quality essential municipal services and encouraging individual involvement and partnering.

- ◆ A Core Inspection Team composed of members from the building, fire marshal's office, health, community development, planning and zoning and police departments was formed to focus on various problem properties in town and to discuss alternatives for gaining compliance from habitual offenders, develop strategies to prevent future violations and to make sure that problem properties are dealt with quickly and fairly.
- ◆ The Neighborhood Enhancement Team (NET), began meeting with residents in the Oakland Hills neighborhood, and will continue meeting with residents throughout town to promote safe, beautiful and desirable neighborhoods for all current and potential residents, businesses and visitors
- ◆ In addition to large-scale road projects, the Capitol Improvements Plan was revised to identify projects which will improve neighborhood amenities such as Goslee Pool.

Healthy People

Mission Statement:

To foster a vital, creative and productive Windsor by promoting the physical, intellectual, social and emotional well-being of all people who live, work and travel in our community through school, Town and community programs.

- ◆ Staff members from throughout the organization formed a "Healthy People Strategy Team" to begin addressing the "Healthy Youth and Families" portion of the five strategic planning areas outlined by the Town Manager in his FY 2000 budget message. This strategy team has developed goals for addressing various health issues in town and is presently expanding its planning efforts so that all segments of the community can become a part of this initiative.

Note: In addition to the above goals, the Healthy People strategy team is considering undertaking a comprehensive public awareness campaign as a vehicle for disseminating and collecting information relevant to these and future goals.

POSSIBLE

Effective Partnerships, Regionalism and Service Delivery

Mission Statement:

To improve services, lower costs and foster social and economic equity for Windsor residents by establishing a common set of goals with our local and regional partners, sharing resources and utilizing innovative thinking.

Efforts in this area will ensure we make the best use of regional resources and partnerships.

- ◆ Evaluated and revised the Capital Improvements Plan so it is better aligned with Economic Development goals
- ◆ Participated in the CRCOC Regional Transit Strategy
- ◆ The Windsor Police Department actively collaborated with regional partners on the CRCOG Public Safety Council

Broad-Based Development

Mission Statement:

To facilitate a full-service community that creates a high quality of life for all who live, work and play in Windsor through exceptional municipal services and development opportunities.

Efforts to improve housing stock, new strategies to promote commercial development as well as beginning the updating process of the Town of Windsor Plan of Development are incorporated into this strategy.

This strategy team came up with the following characteristics for broad-based development:

- | | |
|--|--|
| ◆ mix of residential, housing, retail | ◆ broad spectrum of housing options |
| ◆ limited/controlled development | ◆ family, business and social elements |
| ◆ diverse corporate community | ◆ uniqueness among inner ring suburbs |
| ◆ smart growth with focus on quality of life | ◆ development according to needs of area |
| ◆ sustainable | ◆ maintain value of housing at or slightly above regional median |
| ◆ comprehensive | ◆ balance of housing opportunities |
| ◆ wealth creation | ◆ diversity of development |
| ◆ established niche | |

Healthy Organization



The strategy team for this area ensures that our organization's policies and procedures align with the core vision and values, which were identified this past year in collaboration with the entire staff.

Achieving these goals will depend largely on participation and partnering with the community as a whole. If you have comments or questions regarding these goals, feel free to call us at (860)285-1835.

BUILDING AND LAND DEVELOPMENT

Economic Development

1999 was yet another very productive year for economic development in the Town of Windsor, as we continued our aggressive plan to improve the economic health of the town. Our strategy revolves around three separate but related initiatives: 1) bring more jobs to Windsor, 2) bring more corporate development to Windsor, and 3) determine and work to meet the needs of current Windsor employers.

Our efforts resulted in a number of new businesses moving to Town. In calendar year 1999 fourteen companies brought or announced plans to bring ten or more new employees to Windsor. Upon completion of all moves, these companies will have brought over 3,200 new jobs to Windsor and will have filled in excess of 800,000 square feet of office and industrial space. In addition to these larger companies, a number of smaller employers have moved to Windsor, primarily filling available warehouse, industrial or distribution space.

Some notable 1999 Windsor Economic Development accomplishments:

- ◆ Execution of the two largest office leases in the State of Connecticut (UTC/Pratt Whitney – 169,000 square feet and Hartford Life – 144,000 square feet)
- ◆ Aetna reoccupies 575 Pigeon Hill Road, bringing 1,200 new jobs to town
- ◆ Speculative industrial development continues, indicating the strength of the market
- ◆ Construction begins on the new 160 room Hilton Hotel



- ◆ International Marketing initiative continues to pay dividends with three more international companies (from Germany, Israel and Italy) establishing US headquarters in Windsor
- ◆ Trout Brook Bissell Tavern opens on the shores of the Connecticut River

Community Development

During the past year, the Office of Community Development assisted the Wilson neighborhood with a number of physical and social enhancement projects. Physical improvements included:

- ◆ Facade improvements to Nadeau's Auction Gallery on Meadow Road, FBN Security and a Citgo station
- ◆ Facilitated the installation of decorative street signs along Windsor Avenue
- ◆ With the assistance of Public Works new benches and grills were installed at Sharshon Park

Numerous events were sponsored by Community Development to celebrate neighborhood assets and to build a sense of community, including:

- ◆ Family Day at Sharshon Park
- ◆ Wet and Wild Wednesdays at Wilson Library
- ◆ Windsor Sports Day
- ◆ Discover Bissell Bridge and Discover Matianuck State Park events
- ◆ Placing holiday lighting at the Wilson Library

Other highlights included:

- ◆ Assisting with the acquisition of 330 Windsor Avenue by way of donation
- ◆ Conducting a series of focus groups to receive citizen input on neighborhood concerns

Fire Prevention

The Fire Prevention component of the Building and Land Development Team continues to be responsible for a variety of services based upon state statutes, local ordinances and regulations all of which are meant to prevent the outbreak of fire and educate individuals and organizations on how to react properly when a fire occurs. These include inspection of commercial buildings, multi-family dwellings and places of assembly, as well as review of plans for new

construction, the determination of the cause and origin of fires, and the monitoring of the use of hazardous materials. In addition, we work with the volunteer firefighters to present a variety of fire safety education programs throughout the year. These programs range from children’s fire safety presentations, to fire training for building managers and staff.



These are of particular interest for 1999:

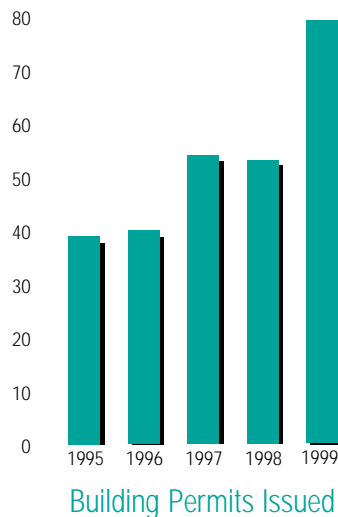
- ◆ Worked with owners, developers and builders to protect more than a dozen new or renovated buildings with automatic sprinklers
- ◆ The number of structure fires in Windsor continued to decline with 29% fewer in 1999 than the average of the past five years
- ◆ In partnership with the Hartford Fire Department and the Department of Environmental Protection, the Fire Inspector and Fire Marshal presented family oriented interactive fire safety demonstrations at the Country Fair and Safety Day.
- ◆ The Fire Prevention Unit worked with the volunteer Fire Department to provide comprehensive town-wide pre-plans for major fire risk properties. These pre-plans provide the Fire Department with information about a building’s use, construction, and contents. These plans will add to fire fighter safety and assist the Fire Department in preparing for the next ISO review. This project will be completed early in 2000.

Building Department

In 1999 the Building Department issued 1,785 building permits for a total construction value of \$39,995,594 which resulted in the total collection of \$497,348 in fees. Of these 1,785 permits, 1,118 were residential and 667 were non-residential permits.

Planning

The Connecticut Chapter of American Planning Association’s 1999 Outstanding Planning Project Award was given to the Town of Windsor Planning and Zoning Commission and the Colvest Group for their work on the “Fitting CVS in Downtown Windsor” project. The APA applauded Windsor’s attention to detail and overall quality of the project. Special recognition was also given to First Town Downtown and the Town of Windsor Planning staff.



Building and Land Facts:

- ◆ 3 companies from Germany, Israel and Italy established US Headquarters in Windsor this year
- ◆ Decorative street signs installed along Windsor Avenue
- ◆ The number of structure fires continued to decline with 29% fewer in 1999 than the average of the past five years
- ◆ Construction began on the new 160 room Hilton Hotel

WINDSOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Of all the things we can be proud of in Windsor, our schools must rank near the top of the list. Our initiative, "Schooling for Community Success" has been cited by the state as a model community engagement-based school improvement program. It continues to be fully supported by the Windsor Chamber of Commerce, The William Caspar Graustein Memorial Fund, Konica Business Machines, USA, Inc., ABB, Daniel J. Ferraina and the Connecticut State Department of Education. Recently, the University of Connecticut quarterly, *The Connecticut Economy*, ranked Windsor High School 21st of 118 Connecticut high schools in terms of value added per dollar and our Sage Park Middle School was one of only nine middle schools in Connecticut and 32 in all of New England to receive accreditation from the New England Association of Schools and Colleges.

This past year, our community showed its willingness to invest in education when it approved a \$35 million renovation of Windsor High School.

Roger Wolcott Early Childhood Center

During the past year, the Roger Wolcott Early Childhood Center continued to expand its program offerings and to provide developmentally appropriate experiences for both preschool and kindergarten children.



Of particular note is Wolcott's intensive effort in the area of early literacy. This effort was supported by a \$100,000 Early Reading Success grant from the Connecticut State Department of Education and included the development of an intensive early intervention component as well as a summer school

program. Wolcott's early literacy program has become a model for other towns seeking to provide similar opportunities for their students.

In an ongoing effort to be involved with both its families and the Windsor community, Roger Wolcott provided a variety of activities throughout the year. Evening programs such as Dr. Seuss's Read Across America and parenting classes helped to strengthen

home-school connections. A grant awarded to Wolcott by the Mobil Oil Corporation provided sponsorship for a visit by Mother Goose to the Windsor



Public Library. Community outreach efforts by Wolcott's young students included a food drive, a hat and mitten collection, and the donation of meals to a Hartford soup kitchen.

The Early Childhood Center also intensified its efforts in 1999 in the area of school readiness. Throughout the year, several preschool screenings were available to Windsor families interested in the development of their three or four year olds. Area preschool and nursery school teachers were invited to four professional workshops focusing on topics related to early childhood education. Finally, Roger Wolcott was represented on the School Readiness Council which received \$100,000 grant from the State of Connecticut to support families seeking school readiness opportunities for their children.

John F. Kennedy School

John F. Kennedy Elementary School is made up of grades 1-5 and has approximately 460 students.

During this past year, our school was visited by Congressman John Larson, Astronaut William Readdy and several NASA administrators to demonstrate the education/space connection. Besides a video presentation and informational assembly, students were given the opportunity to meet all of the dignitaries and ask questions.

Volunteers from the Northeast Regional Postal Service office have become reading partners with individual classrooms, visiting our school on a weekly basis to read books to students. This program began on March 2, 1999, as part of Read-Across-America Day.



We have established a Sister School partnership with Lake Street School in Vernon, Connecticut. JFK students have been in regular contact with their sister classroom and exchanged visits.

JFK Elementary School began a study of continuous improvement programs to choose one for adoption. The committee includes parents, community members, teachers and administrators.

Poquonock School

Poquonock School is an active Accelerated School and has approximately 345 students in grades 1-5.

In October, our school held its third annual Autumn Harvest Walk-a-Thon for Food Share. Students and their families pledged money for their children to walk a mile in support of Food Share. The students raised more than \$1,650. Our students and their families can be proud of their caring and generosity.

Last spring Ralph Yulo spent a week at Poquonock as a Scientist-in-Residence, doing hands-on activities with every class. In addition to working with all of our classes, Mr. Yulo hosted a Parent Interactive Science Night and presented a kaleidoscope workshop for teachers and a science poetry workshop for interested students.

Poquonock School maintains a sister school partnership with the Hockanum School in East Hartford. Our students correspond regularly with their friends at Hockanum who will be visiting Poquonock in early March. Poquonock students will be returning the visit later this year.

Clover Street School

Clover Street Elementary School, made up of grades 1-5, has approximately 435 students.

Our literacy program features a balanced approach to reading and writing providing the opportunity for all students to succeed. Author visits, and a reading incentive program, as well as national celebrations including Read Across America Day and Children's Book Week foster enthusiasm for reading

and writing. Volunteers from the Northeast Regional Postal Service office have become reading partners with individual classrooms, visiting Clover Street School on a weekly basis to read books to students. Reading Recovery, an early intervention program for at risk first graders, is part of our literacy initiative. There are two after school tutoring programs for our students; one held at Clover Street and one held in partnership with Fun In Learning, at the Grace Episcopal Church.

The Clover Learning Community takes pride in all our community service projects. Jump Rope For Heart raised over \$5,000. We also participate in Pasta For Pennies, in which the class that raises the most money is treated to lunch courtesy of the Olive Garden Restaurant. In the past, the students have donated the winning lunch to a homeless shelter. During Book Week, Clover Street School students made tapes of their favorite books and poems and delivered them, along with plants, to residents of a local nursing home.

Oliver Ellsworth School

Oliver Ellsworth School has approximately 480 students in grades 1-5.

In 1998-99, a public engagement process was established in order to pursue school improvement. Oliver Ellsworth School joined a consortium of ten schools statewide to develop a comprehensive school reform blueprint. Working with the Bell School Reform Network a team of teachers, parents, and community members joined the principal in developing a plan for change. The staff, the PTO, and the Windsor Board of Education endorsed this plan. In the spring of 1999, a Comprehensive School Reform Demonstration grant was awarded to Oliver Ellsworth School to assist in the implementation of the school-wide plan.

Some components of this plan include:

Success For All, a nationally acclaimed school reform model, was selected and implementation began in school year 1999-2000.



The Trailblazers Mathematics program was piloted by nine teachers in 1998-99 and has now been implemented in all first and second grade classes. This program is a major reform initiative.

Parent and community members are now active participants in school governance. A site management council, a public relations group, and a school-family partnership committee include parents. Intensive training and support is provided for staff in their implementation of new programs.

Sage Park Middle School

Sage Park Middle School is Windsor's only middle school. It is made up of grades 6-8 and has approximately 1100 students.

House Structure – Sage Park implemented a new “House Structure” during the 1999-00 school year to create three “schools” within the larger school. The purpose of the “House” is to make a large school smaller and foster a personalized approach to education. Each house is made up of three teams, one in each grade, one counselor and one vice principal with approximately 375 students per house. Students move as a group each year to the next team of teachers in the same house allowing students to interact with a smaller number of peers and teachers. Both students and parents are able to work with one vice principal and one counselor promoting consistency with student issues and the development of stronger relationships between the school and the home.

Greater Hartford Academy of the Arts – Students in eighth grade Language Arts classes are participating in an exciting, ten-week program at The Greater Hartford Academy of Arts. Students from Sage Park are teamed up with students from Hartford's Quirk Middle School in small classes that offer a wide-range of diverse, cultural activities. Students use words as paintbrushes to explore various aspects of their lives, explore elements of dance technique, including stretching, yoga and muscle control as they sample styles of dance and take a hands-on journey using percussion as the means of travel around the world. This is Windsor's second year participating in the program and both teachers and students alike are enjoying the adoption of the arts into education.

Cape Cod Expedition – Last year, 250 seventh graders went on the Cape Cod Expedition, as they have for the last 26 years. The week-long experience allows students to grow in responsibility for themselves and the group while staying at the Cape Cod Sea Camps. Sage Park teachers have developed a challenging, interdisciplinary program that takes students in vigorous activities along the National Seashore.



Farmington River Wetland Study via Canoe – Grade 7 students at Sage Park Middle School are involved in a wetland habitat study of Rainbow Reservoir. Accompanied by Northwest Park naturalists, students study the fascinating fauna and flora of the diverse habitats along the waterway. Students are instructed in basic canoe techniques, important wetland concepts, testing for water quality, and the adaptations of life forms.

Technology and People (TAP) – Technology and People is a student-oriented activity-based program that integrates academia and technology. Technology and People is an integral part of the total middle school curriculum. Technology and People is designed to impart technological awareness and provide exploratory experiences that promote physical, social, emotional, and intellectual development. Opportunities are provided for students to apply and reinforce concepts in the sciences, language arts, mathematics, and social studies in the completion of hands-on/minds-on activities.

Music Program – Sage Park Middle School's music students have participated in various competitions this past year. The stage band recently won a gold medal and top honors for its performance at a recent jazz festival. Two of the students were recognized with outstanding musicianship awards. They will be participating in the Northern Region Middle School Music Festival and they will compete at the



University of New Hampshire against middle and high school jazz ensembles from throughout New England.

Enrichment Clusters – Enrichment Clusters are after school classes held at Sage Park Middle School. Now in their sixth year, they are interest-based and facilitated by qualified teachers and professionals

from the area. The facilitators of the Enrichment Clusters have no set curriculum, but encourage exploration and hands-on discovery. The students themselves develop the direction of the cluster and the activities pursued. Sage Park Middle School offers twelve different clusters every fall and spring.

Intramurals – Sage Park intramurals in the fall involved over 100 6th, 7th and 8th grade students in soccer and volleyball games that are held after school. Each session is finished with a championship tournament and winners were awarded “Intramural Champion” tee shirts and a pizza party.

Basketball intramurals have more than 120 students participating. After basketball, Sage Park will run a spring softball session. Sage Park Intramurals have become a great, fun filled activity available to all Sage Park students where they can show their competitive edge as well as develop their skills.

Windsor High School

1999 was an exciting year at Windsor High School. 78 percent of the senior class went on to higher education, including early college admissions to Brown, Columbia, Cornell, Dartmouth, Georgetown, Harvard, Johns Hopkins, MIT, Penn, Princeton, and Yale. Overall CAPT scores were up for the second year in a row. The instrumental music program was the grand champion at the Fiesta-Val Adjudication Festival in Virginia Beach, VA. Our boys’ basketball team won the Class LL state championship for the second consecutive time. Windsor High students won first and third place in the home design competition at the Connecticut Home Show. Our technology education

department entered into a partnership program with the CISCO Corporation to develop a series of courses leading to high tech jobs after graduation for WHS students. This program will take effect in 1999-2000. Technology education also established cooperative programs with Tunxis Community Technical College in the areas of graphics/photography and computer-aided drafting, and with Capital Community Technical College in marketing and business education. Lastly, Windsor High School embarked on the planning phase of a \$35 million renovation approved by the voters.

- ◆ Seventy-three percent of the students in AP classes score a “three” or higher on the test, which makes them eligible for college credit or advanced standing.
- ◆ More than 11% of Windsor High School Juniors and Seniors are enrolled in one or more courses for college credit through University of Connecticut and other colleges.
- ◆ More than 20% of Windsor High School students scored 600 or above on SAT math
- ◆ More than 10% scored 600 or above on the SAT verbal

In the last three years, Windsor had:

- ◆ One National Merit Scholarship Winner (less than 0.5% nationally of all students become scholarship winners)
- ◆ Three National Merit Scholarship Finalists (less than 0.9% nationally)
- ◆ Six National Merit Scholarship Semi-Finalists (less than 1% nationally)
- ◆ Seventeen National Merit Commended Students (less than 5% nationally)



SAFETY SERVICES

Police

The Windsor Police Department has set forth a plan to transform its culture and operating strategies into a neighborhood-based problem solving organization.

The process has begun with 16 hours of training for all personnel staff. Steering committees have been formed from all divisions to make recommendations in the implementation of community policing strategies. The department has been performing a variety of services such as foot and bike patrols that are key components of the community policing approach. This proactive step has enabled us to maintain a low crime rate and a community free of fear.

“COMMUNITY
POLICING WORKS IN
WINDSOR BECAUSE
THE COMMUNITY
WANTS IT TO...”

– Kevin Searles
Windsor Police Chief

Explorers



Governor John Rowland recognized the Windsor Police Explorers for their dedication and commitment to the community. As part of their community service, they refurbished the benches surrounding the fountain on the town green. The Explorers also placed second in the Law Enforcement Stations Day held annually at the Police Academy in Meriden, CT.

Fire & Rescue

The Windsor Volunteer Fire Department has over 150 volunteer firefighters in its' four companies. In 1999, they responded to 1,082 calls for service, which is

6.5% higher than the previous year.

The top three categories were: medical calls, false alarms and hazardous conditions. The bidding process for the fire station on Rainbow Road is complete and a contractor has been selected.

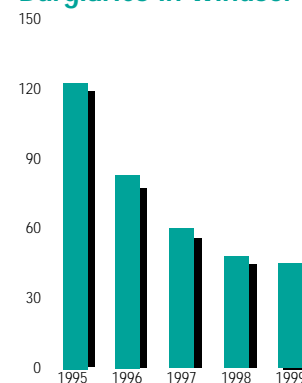
Construction is scheduled to begin in early spring of 2000. This new station will be equipped with emer-

gency power capability and could be used as an emergency shelter in the Northwest section of town.

Windsor Volunteer Ambulance

The Windsor Volunteer Ambulance responded to over 3,000 emergency calls in 1999. In their on-going fund raising efforts, they achieved the benchmark of placing a defibrillator in each on-line police vehicle. They are continuing their campaign into 2000 to obtain eleven additional units. The placement of these units will provide a transition step toward a future where the machines are as available a safety item as a fire extinguisher.

Burglaries in Windsor



Burglaries fell 63% over the past 5 years.

Safety Facts:

- ◆ All members of the Police Department have participated in Community Policing training
- ◆ K9 Officers responded to 200 calls for service
- ◆ The new Rainbow Road Firehouse is designed with a residential “look” to fit in with neighboring homes.
- ◆ All first-line police vehicles are equipped with defibrillators

MESSAGE FROM THE TOWN MANAGER

This annual report is a special publication for me since it re-caps a year of “firsts” for me both personally and professionally.

As a new Windsor resident, my first impression was that the people are genuinely gracious and hospitable. Gabrielle, our six-year-old daughter has made a successful transition into the world of birthday parties, recreational activities and participating in school events. My wife Marni is thrilled to have her personal and professional needs met, right here in New England. Our family feels as though we are a real part of the community, and touched by the truly kind gestures of our new neighbors and friends.

As Windsor’s Town Manager, I have observed many other “firsts” in an organization comprised of a staff that continues to impress me as they strive to make Windsor the best it can be. In a year of “firsts” our town was honored to be the first municipality to receive the State of Connecticut Worker’s Compensation Commission Award in recognition of our decrease in overall worker’s compensation costs.

Windsor’s own Peggy Ristas, an infant/toddler teacher at the Milo Peck Child Development Center won the “Quality Child Care Teacher” award from the Greater Hartford Child Care Collaborative.

Our Town Clerk’s Office became the first in Connecticut to provide land record information on the internet for its customers.

With our Board of Education partners, the first Education Summit was held to align strategies, goals and communication efforts. A referendum was passed to initiate a \$35 million renovation of Windsor High School.

These are just a few examples of the many “firsts” that have made my first year in Windsor such a memorable one. As I reflect on these, and look forward to what 2000 will bring, I can’t help but feel the best is yet to come for Windsor, the first town in all of our hearts.



Town Manager Leon Churchill with the 1999 Quality Child Care Teacher Award Winner Peggy Ristas and two of her students.

**Windsor Town Hall**

275 Broad Street
Windsor, CT 06095

www.townofwindsorct.com

Town Manager: R. Leon Churchill, Jr.
(860) 285-1800

Windsor Public Schools Central Offices

601 Matianuck Avenue
Windsor, CT 06095

www.windsorct.org

Superintendent of Schools:
Richard H. Silverman, Ed.D
(860) 687-2000

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