



Town of Simsbury

933 HOPMEADOW STREET, SIMSBURY, CONNECTICUT 06070

Lisa L. Heavner - First Selectman

First Selectman's Report – July 11, 2016

Simsbury in the News

Simsbury ranked as a *top five town in Connecticut for solar progress* with the deployment of residential photovoltaic energy systems. Evaluations were made on solar adaption, clean energy engagement, information availability, permit process and time and cost. To see the rankings, please visit: <http://www.nhregister.com/business/20160630/yale-scorecard-ranks-towns-solar-progress>

Open House to Meet the New Business Resource Coordinator at the Library on July 12th

The Community is invited to meet Sarah Loudenslager, Simsbury Library's new Business Resource Coordinator, on July 12th from 4:30-6:30 p.m. Light refreshments will be served.

Tax Bills Mailed on June 28th

Taxes to the Town of Simsbury are due July 1, 2016 with the last day to pay as August 1, 2016. Taxes due at this time include Real Estate, Motor Vehicles and Business Personal Property taxes. Sewer Use fees are also due for payment.

DMV – Car Issues

Due to all of the Department of Motor Vehicle changes in the past year, we are asking all residents to verify that you received all of your car bills. If you received a tax bill from Simsbury and you never lived in Simsbury, please contact the Simsbury Assessor's office at 860-658-3251 or if you received a bill from another town and you never lived there, please contact *that town's* assessor's office.

Veteran's Memorial Project

Construction of the Veterans Memorial Project is scheduled to begin on or about July 18 with completion of the project anticipated by November 1, 2016. There will be periodic closures of the vehicular entrance to the Simsbury Public Library from Hopmeadow Street. Vehicles should access the Simsbury Library parking lot from the Library Lane entrance when the Hopmeadow entrance is closed. We appreciate your cooperation and patience during this period and will do everything possible to minimize the disruption. Thank you.

Legal Notices are on the Town Website

The Town recently launched a service to help make residents aware of municipal legal notices. The new feature allows anyone the ability to sign up to automatically receive updates when legal notices are posted to the Town website. To sign up for Town of Simsbury legal notices please go to: www.simsbury-ct.gov/subscriber. To view existing legal notices please go to www.simsbury-ct.gov/legal-notices.

Five Fridays of Fun with the Talcott Mountain Music Festival

The schedule is out for the Talcott Mountain Music Festival at the Simsbury Meadows Performing Arts Center! The remaining concerts are as follows:

- Friday, July 15 @ 7:30 p.m. Appalachian Spring
- Friday, July 22 @ 7:30 p.m. A Tribute to Ray Charles
- Friday, July 29 @ 7:30 p.m. Faithfully

To see all that is offered at the Simsbury Performing Arts Center, visit:

<http://simsburymeadowsmusic.com/>

Family Night at the Simsbury Library

All ages can drop-in to the program room at Simsbury Library for a family movie. All movies start at 6:30 p.m. and are free to the public.

- Wednesday, July 13 *The Jungle Book* – 1967 (G)
- Wednesday, July 27 *Eight Below* – 2006 (PG)
- Wednesday, August 3 *The Sandlot* – 1993 (PG)
- Wednesday, August 10 *Monster's University* – 2013 (G)

Simsbury Community Band Free Concert Series

The 42nd season of the Simsbury Community Band is underway! Stop by and enjoy the orchestra led by Music Director Ertan Seyyar Sener and the amazing musicians. Wednesday evenings in July at 7:00 p.m.

- Wednesday, July 13 @ 7:00 p.m. – Simsbury Farms
- Wednesday, July 20 @ 7:00 p.m. – Simsbury Meadows
- Wednesday, July 27 @ 7:00 p.m. – Simsbury Meadows

Please visit their website for additional information: <http://www.simsburyband.org/>

Septemberfest – September 9th, 10th and 11th

Septemberfest is a 3 day festival of family fun, food and great entertainment with a Friday night Fireworks display. Admission is free and the agenda includes children's activities, live music, great food and a Business Expo of retailers and organizations from the greater Hartford area. For more information, visit: <http://simsburymeadowsmusic.com/events/septemberfest-2016/>

31st Annual Simsbury Fly-In and Car Show – September 18th

The Annual Simsbury Fly-In and Car Show will be held September 18th. The event features over 700 great airplanes and cars of virtually every type and vintage, plus over 100 activities, exhibitors, sponsors and advertisers to interest the entire family. To see all that is offered please visit www.simsburyflyin.com.

Remember to Sign Up For Emergency Alerts – Sign up for All Three

Summer is a good time to sign up for Emergency Alerts with the Town and the State. We are encouraging residents to sign up for all three Alert systems so we can get you information in a timely manner:

1. **Town News and Announcements**: for general information about storm preparations and emergencies. News and Announcements also allows you to receive information on town news, events, programs, the First Selectman's Report and other activities.
<http://www.simsbury-ct.gov/subscriber>
2. **Simsbury Community Alerts**: for receiving time critical notifications such as road closures, emergency shelter openings and community updates regarding weather, emergency and other important information.
<https://member.everbridge.net/index/453003085612632#/login>
3. **CT Alert – Connecticut's Emergency Alert System**: for receiving important emergency information on weather or natural disasters, major crimes or other important information.
<http://www.ctalert.gov/ctalert/site/default.asp>

The Town is committed to providing residents with up-to-date information about storm preparations and emergencies. Help us get information to you in a timely manner by signing up for these alerts!

Town Road Paving Schedule

The schedule for road paving work for 2016 is now available! A list of roads scheduled to be paved during the 2016 construction season is posted on the Department of Public Works webpage. Adjustments to the schedule may be required depending on weather and other factors influencing paving work. Letters are being sent to residents on the identified streets notifying them of anticipated work. You can see what roads are scheduled to be paved by clicking here: <http://www.simsbury-ct.gov/sites/simsburyct/files/uploads/pavingschedule2016.pdf>

Simsbury Farms Ice Rink Warming Room Construction

Beginning on Monday, June 27th, construction will take place on the new Ice Rink Warming Room at Simsbury Farms. Construction will necessitate the use of approximately 14 spaces at the west end of the golf course parking lot, adjacent to the rink, for equipment and materials. We appreciate your cooperation and patience during this period and will do everything possible to minimize the disruption. Thank you.

Electric Vehicle Charging Station New at Town Hall

New at Town Hall: an Electric Vehicle Charging station which is up and running and is free to the public. Check it out!

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Open for Business

Peachwave: Congratulations to Jim and Stefania Pasternak who will be taking over as the new owners of Peachwave on July 1st with a ribbon cutting scheduled for July 13th at 4:30 p.m. They will be introducing gelato to the menu! Congratulations and welcome.

Law Offices of Nicole Veno, LLC:

Congratulations and welcome to Nicole Veno on the opening of her law offices located at 573 Hopmeadow Street. A ribbon cutting is scheduled for July 12th at 4:00 p.m.

Under Construction in Simsbury

Green Tea Chinese Restaurant, located at 570 Hopmeadow Street, temporarily closed on June 5, 2016 for significant renovations, and will re-open with a new name and a new Asian-fusion style menu. The renovations are expected to take approximately four months. Looking forward to the re-opening!

Garden Homes on the south side of town along Hopmeadow Street is now under construction. This development was approved for 181 residential rental units, including townhomes and apartment style housing. Commercial and retail units were also approved as part of the Planned Area Development (PAD), but zoning and specific site plan approvals have yet to be sought and therefore only the residential component is under construction at this time. You can visit Garden Homes' website at <http://www.gardenhomes.com/> for more information about the development company.

Highcroft: 272 residential units for rent by Land Works as part of the Highcroft Apartment Homes and Highcroft Townhomes along Powder Forest Drive are also under construction. This development includes 224 apartments, lofts and 48 townhomes. This development includes rentals and condominiums. Units are coming on line in July. You can visit their website at: <http://www.lifeinsimsbury.com/find-a-home/>

Berkshire Bank: At the Corner of Bushy Hill and Albany Turnpike, Berkshire Bank is working on interior fit-out and is not yet open.

Permitted

Big Y has indicated that they have delayed a start date in Simsbury for at least a year and possibly into 2018 based on internal financial priorities and commitments elsewhere, but will begin removal of the buildings on their property. Big Y further indicated that they are still interested in Simsbury and confirmed that they have all their town and state permits in place for when they do begin.

Hoskins Road Workforce Overlay Zone (WHZOZ): The Town planning boards have approved 88 residential units for the property with twenty percent affordable housing. Although the project has been approved there is currently no activity.

Chestnut Hills: Located on the corner of Plank Hill and Hopmeadow Street, 46 unit apartments have been approved for the historical building and the surrounding property. The Business Development Committee recommended a tax abatement of \$300,000 to help preserve the historical nature of the building. The Board of Selectmen indicated it would support a tax abatement in that amount and would entertain a request for an additional abatement amount, but will make a final decision once counsel for the town and developer have a proposal to present.

On the Horizon

The Silverman Group: Simsbury's Planning Department has been advised that The Silverman Group continues to press forward on their plans to develop/redevelop the site located at 200 Hopmeadow Street (formerly The Hartford). The property underwent a Charrette planning process and is currently zoned for residential, commercial and retail. The Silverman Group is close to completing the demolition of the data wing located on the northern portion of property and will be moving south with the intent to complete structural demolition by the end of July.

Girard Brothers Corporation: 32 and 36 Iron Horse Blvd. (Simsroft-Echo Farms) Informal development discussions have taken place over the past few months regarding a residential community compatible with the Charrette. Before Design Review on July 11th.