



Town of Simsbury

933 HOPMEADOW STREET, SIMSBURY, CONNECTICUT 06070

Lisa L. Heavner - First Selectman

First Selectman's Report – August 29, 2016

First Day of School is August 31st for Simsbury Students

The first day of school in Simsbury is August 31st. Visit the Simsbury Public Schools website for information to help get the year off to good start!

<http://www.simsbury.k12.ct.us/page.cfm?p=4076>

National Bicycle Challenge

Through September 30th, Simsbury is participating in the National Bike Challenge, a free wellness and bicycle advocacy program that encourages people to bike for transportation, fitness and recreation. Participants log the miles they bicycle and compete for prizes and awards with local and national riders.

Our local challenge, the *Simsbury Bike Challenge*, is currently ranked #2 in the U.S. with 73,000 miles logged since May 1st. Riders can win gift certificates to local businesses just for participating and every ride logged supports local bike advocacy efforts. There's still time to join and help Simsbury reach #1 at www.nationalbikechallenge.org. Learn more at www.simsbury.bike.

Congratulations to Simsbury Police Cadets

Congratulations to Simsbury Police Cadets who received an award for the highest overall GPA for the academic portion of the Connecticut Cadet Academy. Five high school and college cadets were sponsored by the Simsbury Police Department to attend the Academy to learn about police work and as part of Simsbury's commitment to Community Policing. Well done!

Back to School Program for Simsbury Families

Thanks to the generous donations of Simsbury residents, eligible families will receive a Walmart gift card to purchase school supplies or school clothes for their children. To be eligible, families must be enrolled in a Social Services program. For further information or to set up an appointment, please call the Social Services Department at (860) 658-3283.

Annual Police Senior Citizen Picnic September 7th

The Simsbury Police Department and the Senior Center are holding their annual Senior Citizen Picnic on September 7th from 12:00 to 2:00 p.m. at the Simsbury Farms Ice Skating Rink. Great food and live entertainment! The picnic is free for Simsbury senior citizens, although there currently is a waiting list. Please contact the Senior Center to add your name to the wait list (860) 658-3273.

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. The event includes children's activities, live music, great food and a Business Expo of retailers and organizations from the greater Hartford area. A \$5 dollar admission is good for the entire weekend. Children under 13 enter free. For more information, visit: <http://simsburymeadowsmusic.com/events/septemberfest-2016/>

Recycling Committee Hosting Composting Event – September 17th

The Simsbury Recycling Committee will be hosting a composting event at the Simsbury Community Farm on September 17th from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Come learn about composting material in order to reduce waste. The event is friendly for all ages! Thanks to Signature Marketing for sponsoring the event.

Simsbury Women's Club Arts and Crafts Festival – September 17th-18th

The Simsbury Women's Club is hosting its 47th annual Arts and Crafts Festival on September 17th-18th. The festival grounds will be open 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Come on down to check out the 100 juried artists and crafts persons selling artwork, photography, fine and costume jewelry, handcrafted soaps and lotions, clothing, pottery, blown glass and more! Admission is free.

2016 Simsbury Grange Agriculture Fair – September 17th

Join the *Simsbury Grange* on Saturday, September 17th from 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. for a celebration of the plentiful agriculture offerings in the Town of Simsbury and the surrounding area. Activities include hayrides, children's activities, contests, refreshments, bake sale, craft and book sale, music and local agriculture displays. And it is free! For more information, please visit: <http://www.simsburygrange.org/grangeagfair.asp>

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

The Annual Simsbury Fly-In and Car Show will be held September 18th from 8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. 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

Simsbury Library Giant Used Book Sale – September 24th and 25th

The Friends of Simsbury Library are hosting their *2016 Giant Used Book Sale* on September 24th and 25th at Simsbury High School. Saturday hours are 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Sunday hours are 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Thanks to the many volunteers who put in hundreds of hours to make this happen! Questions? Please call Charmaine Glew (860) 651-4192 or Annie Wallack (860) 658-7781 or visit the website at: <http://www.simsburylibrary.info/friends-of-the-library/book-sale/>

Veterans' Appreciation Luncheon at Eno on September 29th

The Senior Center is hosting a special luncheon in honor of all Veterans on Thursday, September 29th from 12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. at Eno Memorial Hall. Veterans and a guest are cordially welcome to attend at no cost. Please call the Senior Center at (860) 658-3273 to make a reservation.

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!

Simsbury Farms Ice Rink Warming Room Construction

On Monday, June 27th, construction began 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.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Social Media Revolution Seminar for Simsbury Businesses

On September 15th at 5:30 p.m. at the Simsbury Public Library, local businesses can attend a seminar on the Social Media Revolution. This seminar will give you a closer look at popular social media networks – Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, Pinterest, and Instagram. The presenter is April Heavens-Woodcock. This presentation is sponsored by Constant Contact, the Greater Hartford SCORE Chapter, the Simsbury Public Library and the Simsbury Chamber of Commerce. Registration is required.

<http://www.libraryinsight.com/eventdetails.asp?jx=scp&lmx=818151&v=3>

Open for Business

Present Company located at the Mill at 2T is now open for business. Please join us for a ribbon cutting on September 6th at 4:00 p.m. *Present Company* is honoring Mill at 2T gift certificates. Welcome to Simsbury! <http://www.presentcompanyct.com/> .

Congratulations and welcome to Rana Morton who on August 2nd opened a *State Farm Insurance* office at 1243 Hopmeadow Street, offering auto, home, business and life insurance. Please join us for a ribbon cutting on September 14th at 4:00 p.m.

The Old Well Tavern is currently undergoing a remodeling project to provide a more family-friendly dining space. The Tavern will remain open during the remodeling. Stay tuned for information on the ribbon cutting which is expected to take place in the fall.

Congratulations to Landworks on the opening of Highcroft residential units located along Powder Forest Drive. This development includes 224 apartments, lofts and 48 townhomes. Please join us for a ribbon cutting on September 15th at 4:30.

<http://www.lifeinsimsbury.com/find-a-home/>

Congratulations to the Simsbury ABC House on their new sign! A ribbon cutting was held on August 23rd. Located in downtown Simsbury at 835 Hopmeadow Street, the ABC house welcomes young men as scholars to live at the house and attend Simsbury High School. The ABC scholars make the difficult choice of living away from their families in order to receive a better education than that which is available in their home communities. 2016 marks Simsbury ABC's 43rd year. Since 1973, 80+ students have graduated from the program. So happy to have you in Simsbury! www.simsburyabetterchance.org.

Coming soon...pleased to welcome Luis Valentin who will be opening Sabor Olive Oil Co. and Art Gallery in mid-September in the Simsbury Town Shops across from Town Hall.

<http://www.saboroliveoil.com/>

Under Construction in Simsbury

Construction of the Veteran's Memorial Project is underway with completion of the project anticipated by November 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.

The Simsbury Public Library's Maker-Space is nearing the end of construction and will be open for innovators at the end of September. Check it out!

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. Looking forward to the re-opening this fall! Their new name will be Table 570 Asian Fusion.

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.

Benny's located at 562 Hopmeadow Street is undergoing a new dining room expansion, package store improvements, and parking and landscape improvements. They will remain open during construction. <http://bennysofsimsbury.com/>

Berkshire Bank: At the Corner of Bushy Hill and Albany Turnpike, is waiting 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 (WHOZ): 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 Drake Hill and Hopmeadow Street, 46 unit apartments have been approved for the historical building and the surrounding property.

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 demolition of the original Hartford building is complete.

Girard Brothers Corporation: 32 and 36 Iron Horse Blvd. (Simscoft-Echo Farms). Initial concept plans have been presented to Design Review, Planning and Zoning for multifamily residential community. The Planning presentation can be viewed on SCTV at the following link: <http://simsburytv.org/v/4rffJvkGMTA>

To receive a copy of the First Selectman's Report by email, please visit the Town website: www.simsbury-ct.gov and click on the "subscribe" button. Sign up for Town News and Announcements.