



Town of Simsbury

933 HOPMEADOW STREET, SIMSBURY, CONNECTICUT 06070

Lisa L. Heavner - First Selectman

First Selectman's Report – September 26, 2016

Simsbury Farms Voted the Farmington Valley's Favorite Golf Course

The Farmington Valley Visitors Association "Best of the Valley" Awards were just announced and Simsbury Farms was voted the Farmington Valley's Favorite Golf Course. Please join me in congratulating Town staff, the Culture, Parks and Recreation Commission, and volunteers who work so hard to make Simsbury Farms a true gem in Simsbury!

Safety First

Safety is a top priority in the Town of Simsbury. All of our Highway and Buildings and Grounds staff have recently been re-certified in CPR through training received from the Simsbury Ambulance Association. In addition to CPR training, staff was trained in the proper use of AED's for adults, children and infants. These lifesaving skills could potentially benefit both Town staff and the public during an emergency. Please join me in congratulating Public Works on this accomplishment.

Drought Advisory in Effect Statewide

All Connecticut residents and businesses are requested to voluntarily reduce water demand by 10 percent. Reductions in lawn watering are encouraged as the best way to meet conservation goals. Check out these tips to conserve water from The State of Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP).

http://www.ct.gov/deep/cwp/view.asp?a=2720&q=325664&deepNav_GID=1654

Register to Vote/Absentee Ballots

Election Day is November 8th! Visit the Town of Simsbury's Registrar of Voters page to find out everything you need to know about registering to vote; changing your name, address or party affiliation; obtaining an absentee ballot; deadlines and polling locations. Please note that the voter registration deadline for the Presidential Election is November 1, 2016.

<http://www.simsbury-ct.gov/registrar-of-voters>

Revaluation of Real Estate in Simsbury

In accordance with State law and in order to make sure residents are taxed on the fair value of their properties, revaluation of all real estate in Simsbury is now underway. Over the next 18 months each property in town will be reassessed in-line with current market values. You may see town employees and contractors from *Municipal Valuation Services* assisting with this process.

The first phase is a pre-review which includes comparisons between what is actually observed at the property and what is shown on the assessor's card. The next phase beginning in December includes property questionnaires, updating records for work done under building permits,

inspection of recently sold properties and valuation. Revaluation notices culminate the process and are expected to be mailed to taxpayers in December 2017. For questions, please contact the Director of Finance Sean Kimball at skimball@simsbury-ct.gov or (860) 658-3244 or the Tax Assessor David Gardner at dgardner@simsbury-ct.gov or (860) 658-3251.

Energy Assistance Available

The Simsbury Social Services Department has been designated as an official intake site for residents wishing to apply for the Connecticut Energy Assistance Program. This program is available to assist households paying for primary heating bills incurred after November 9th. The program also has a “heat included” component for renters. Incomes and asset limits apply. For further information or to schedule an appointment, please call the Social Services Department at (860) 658-3283.

Everybody Plays Playgroup at the Library

The first playgroup for families affected by autism, *Everybody Plays*, of the Library’s *Autism Welcome Here* grant project, was held on September 16th. Forty children and 20 parents/caregivers took part. The playgroup is facilitated by Library staff member April Jones who developed the project and a coordinator from Creative Intervention. Simsbury Public Library was one of two libraries nationally to receive project funding from *Autism Welcome Here*. Playgroups will be held again October 21st and December 16th at 10:30 a.m. in the Friends of the Simsbury Library Program Room.

Thank You!

Thank you to all the volunteers, first responders and Town staff who helped make the Arts and Crafts Festival, Septemberfest, the Grange Fair, the Book Sale, and the Fly-In so successful and fun!

Live Longer, Stronger

Join the Simsbury Aging and Disability Commission for free presentations and discussions led by healthcare experts regarding emerging trends across all healthcare settings. All programs will be held at the Simsbury Public Library, 725 Hopmeadow Street from 6:30 -8:00 p.m.

- September 27: The Hows and Whys of Movement between Healthcare Settings
- October 25: Making the Most of Your 12-Minute Doctor’s Appointment
- November 29: The Impact of Medication Management on Chronic Diseases

Walk/Bike to School

Join students, staff and parents for Walk/Bike to School days in Simsbury! Walk/Bike events are part of a national *Safe Routes to School* initiative that promotes health and wellness by developing safe routes for all children to walk/bike to school: Latimer Lane on September 29th; Tootin’ Hills October 5th; and Squadron Line on October 7th. Thanks to all the volunteers who organize these events!

Trunk or Treat at Simsbury Farms is Back! – October 29th

The 2016 Simsbury Trunk or Treat will be held on Saturday, October 29, starting at 12:00 p.m. at Simsbury Farms (100 Old Farms Road, Simsbury). Pre-registration for a parking space is required, and can be done on www.simsburyrec.com. Prizes will be awarded to families for the best decorated trunks. We will also have a Monster Mash dance party, an inflatable slide donated by *Bounce About Inflatables*, and so much more! Mark your calendars for this super-fun event! For questions, please contact Simsbury Farms at (860) 658-3836.

Simsbury Spooktacular Chili Challenge – October 29th

Save the date for great chili in Simsbury at the Chamber's Simsbury *Spooktacular* Chili Challenge on October 29th from noon to 5:00 p.m. This is a great family event with trick-or-treating, live entertainment, costume contest and something for everyone. Tickets are \$10 and admission is free for children aged 10 and under. New this year - a local restaurant competition for the "best darn chili" in the Valley! For more information, visit: simsburychili.com or simsburycoc.org.

Veterans Memorial Project – Dedication Ceremony on November 13th

Construction of the Veterans Memorial Project is underway with completion of the project anticipated by early November 2016. A dedication ceremony will be held on November 13th. More information to follow!

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Tariffville Water Storage Tank is Under Construction

A groundbreaking ceremony for the Tariffville Water Storage Tank was held on September 22nd. The Town is pleased to support the Tariffville Water Commission of the Tariffville Fire District with its plans to replace the old cast-in-place water tank, which was constructed over 80 years ago and which provides water to Tariffville, with a new tank. Thanks to the Tariffville Water Commission and Fire District, the Board of Selectmen, the many commissions and boards that approved this project, town staff, Simsbury's State representatives, the Connecticut Department of Public Health, Woodard and Curran, DN Tanks, Simscroft-Echo Farms, Shipman and Goodwin, and the many volunteers who worked so hard to make this possible. It was a *big* effort and we look forward to many years of continued excellent water quality in Tariffville!

Grant Writing for Simsbury Businesses – October 17th at 9:30 a.m.

On October 17th at 9:30 a.m., The Library is hosting a program on Grant Writing for Business. Topics include how to navigate the grant seeking process and how to turn your ideas into opportunities. To sign up for this free informative program, please visit the Simsbury Library website:

<http://www.libraryinsight.com/calendare.asp?xc=1&dp=&sm=&jx=scp&nMonth=10&nYear=2016&x=3>

Wednesday Night is Business Night at the Simsbury Library

The Library is offering programming on a consistent night for business people or those interested in business. Be on the lookout for *Wednesday Night is Business Night!* events this fall. Currently scheduled programs include:

- *The 'Gig' Economy and Its Impact on Finding a Job -- How to Manage Your Career In a Contract Economy*, Wednesday September 28, 2016, 6:30 PM to 8:00 PM
- *Things That Will Disappear In Your Lifetime*, Wednesday October 5, 2016, 6:30 PM to 8:00 PM
- *How to Use LinkedIn to Grow Your Business*, Wednesday October 26, 2016, 6:00 PM to 8:30 PM

To register for these free programs or to see all the great educational programs offered to assist small businesses in Simsbury, please visit the Library website:

<http://www.libraryinsight.com/calendare.asp?jx=sc&xc=1>

Congratulations

Congratulations to the *Bicycle Cellar* on being designated as Simsbury's *first* Bicycle Friendly business by the League of American Bicyclists! The Bicycle Cellar joins nearly 1,200 local businesses, government agencies and Fortune 500 companies in receiving this designation for transforming the American workplace into a more sustainable place to live and work.

<http://www.bloomfieldbike.com/articles/welcome-to-the-bicycle-cellar-pg165.htm>

Open for Business

Congratulations and welcome to Luis Valentin of *Sabor Olive Oil Co. and Art Gallery* and Pinar Ozy of *Happiest Inc.* on the opening of their new businesses in the Simsbury Town Shops across from Town Hall. A ribbon cutting will be held on October 6th at 4:30 p.m. to welcome these new businesses. Stop by to say hello and check out these wonderful new shops in Simsbury!

Sabor Olive Oil Co. and Art Gallery: <http://www.saboroliveoil.com/>

Happiest Inc.: www.happiestinc.com

Congratulations and welcome to Rana Morton who opened a *State Farm Insurance* office at 1243 Hopmeadow Street, offering auto, home, business and life insurance. A ribbon cutting was held on September 14th.

Congratulations to Landworks on the opening of *Highcroft* residential units located along Powder Forest Drive. This development includes 224 apartments, lofts and 48 townhomes. A ribbon cutting was held on September 15th. <http://www.lifeinsimsbury.com/find-a-home/>

The Old Well Tavern has completed a remodeling project to provide a more family-friendly dining space. Stop by and check out the new space! A ribbon cutting was held on September 22nd.

Best Cleaners located at 1227 Hopmeadow Street will have a ribbon cutting on October 11th at 12:00 p.m.

Under Construction in Simsbury

Green Tea Chinese Restaurant, located at 570 Hopmeadow Street is undergoing significant renovations, and will re-open with a new name and a new Asian-fusion style menu. Looking forward to the re-opening later this fall! Their new name will be *Table 570 Asian Fusion*.

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/>

Garden Homes on the south side of town along Hopmeadow Street is now under construction – building foundations have been completed and framing has started. 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 rental units off Powder Forest Drive are also under construction by Landworks Development/Nelson Construction team. The project includes *Highcroft Apartment Homes* with 224 apartment units and *Highcroft Townhomes* with 48 units. Move-ins commenced in July 2016 and construction is expected to conclude on the first 128 unit phase in late spring 2017. You can visit their website at: <http://www.lifeinsimsbury.com> for information on their sale and rental offerings or <http://www.highcroftapartments.com/>.

Berkshire Bank: At the Corner of Bushy Hill and Albany Turnpike, Berkshire Bank 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. Preliminary plans were presented to the Zoning Commission on September 19th. To see the presentation on SCTV, please visit:

<http://simsburytv.org/v/CZS6vtqZk0k>

Girard Brothers Corporation: 32 and 36 Iron Horse Blvd. (Simsroft-Echo Farms). Initial concept plans have been presented to Design Review, Planning and Zoning for a 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.