



Town of Simsbury

933 HOPMEADOW STREET, SIMSBURY, CONNECTICUT 06070

Lisa L. Heavner - First Selectman

First Selectman's Report – November 14, 2016

Congratulations to School Resource Officers Kushman and Cormier for Being Selected Officers of the Year by the VFW Post 1926

Congratulations to Simsbury Police School Resource Officers Todd Kushman and Jeremy Cormier for being selected *Officers of the Year* by the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1926. They are being honored on November 14th at Eno Hall at 7:30 p.m.

Director of Public Works Tom Roy Receives Richard C. Lee Innovators Award from CCM

I am pleased to report that Tom Roy, our Director of Public Works, was selected by the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities for its Richard C. Lee Innovators Award. CCM's Municipal Excellence Awards recognize innovative projects and individuals that have significantly improved the quality of life for citizens, established partnerships, and built community support. The Richard C. Lee Innovators Award is an individual award for municipal leaders who have developed unique and creative projects and programs to increase the effectiveness of local government. Please join me in congratulating Tom and thanking him for all that he has done for the Town of Simsbury.

Town of Simsbury Leaf Collection Underway

The Town of Simsbury Leaf Collection schedule has been posted and is under way. Please click on or copy the link to see when your street is scheduled for pick up. Thank you to our Public Works employees! <http://simsbury.mapxpress.net/leaf/>

Emergency Winter Storm Drill Held on November 2nd

Simsbury emergency responders, the Public Safety Committee and Town and Board of Education staff participated in a statewide emergency preparation drill for an ice event across the state. Thanks to Mike Berry, Deputy Emergency Management Director, who led the exercise and to all who work so hard every day to keep our community safe: Simsbury Police, the Fire District, Public Works, Simsbury Volunteer Ambulance, Social Services, BOE staff, the First Selectman's Office staff, IT and the Visiting Nurses Association.

Winter is Upon us – like it or not! Now's the Time to Prepare for Weather Emergencies

In anticipation of the coming season, now is a good time to prepare for weather emergencies. When weather looks doubtful, please remember to stock up on gas, cash, water, medications, food and other essentials. Check out the following site to help get ready for whatever comes our way: <http://www.ct.gov/dph/cwp/view.asp?a=3115&q=482616>

Please also remember to sign up for emergency alerts on our Town website so we can keep you informed: <http://www.simsbury-ct.gov/alerts>

Veterans Memorial Project – Dedication Ceremony November 13th

Thank you to all who attended the Veterans Memorial Dedication Ceremony on Sunday, November 13th. The ceremony was the culmination of a five year effort by local veterans and Terri Hahn of Landscape Architectural Design Associates. The memorial will honor the 98 residents of Simsbury who died while in service to their country since the Revolutionary War.

The project was funded through generous citizen donations, a State STEAP grant and capital funding through the Town. Thanks to our veterans, donors, volunteers, the residents of Simsbury, the Board of Selectmen, the Board of Finance, our State representatives and Town staff who supported our veterans on this project.

Warm Welcome to Adam Kessler, Project Engineer

Please join me in welcoming Adam Kessler to our Engineering Department as the new Project Engineer. Adam is a professional engineer with over 10 years of consulting experience in land development including site design, storm water management, and permitting and construction inspection. Adam will assist the department in supporting the completion of capital projects, review and monitoring of development projects, and providing technical support as required. Stop by and say hello!

Plan Like Your Children Will Live Here - POCD

At Henry James Memorial School on November 3rd at 7:00 p.m., the Planning Commission kicked-off its planning process for Simsbury's common vision for the future of our community and policies that will help us get there. The process, over the next year, will culminate in an updated Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD).

Thank you to the residents who attended this informative and interactive first meeting. Residents were given several maps and asked to put green dots on areas or buildings they were proud of and put red dots on areas or buildings they were sorry about. Residents were then asked to place "planning points" in boxes representing what they felt are the most important issues that should be further evaluated as part of the Plan. An interactive discussion followed. If you missed this meeting but want to share your thoughts and give input, please consider filling out the on-line survey so we know what matters to you: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Simsbury_POCD

At its most basic level, planning is a process for making informed decisions about the future based on what we like about our town, where we want to go, and how to enhance what we already have. Please join us and be part of the conversation over the next few months!!

Thank you to Planning Commission members, Chairman Bill Rice, Director of Planning Jamie Rabbitt and Assistant Town Planner Mike Glidden for leading this effort.

Conservation Commission – Not Just Yet

The Conservation Commission would like to encourage residents to delay putting out any birdfeeders until after Thanksgiving to minimize potential conflict with the bears and other wildlife that also call Simsbury home. There is an ample supply of wild bird food available for our feathered friends at this time of the year. Wait to put out the feeders until the weather turns consistently cold and our local bears begin their winter hibernation. For more information on how to co-exist with these creatures, visit www.bearsmart.com and www.lwwf.org.

Drought Watch in Effect Statewide

The Conservation Commission would also like to remind residents that there is still a drought watch in effect for the state. A trip around town should be enough to remind us of the effect of the ongoing severe drought on our local wetlands and watercourses. All Connecticut residents and businesses are requested to voluntarily reduce water demand by 15 percent. Check out these tips to conserve water from the Farmington Valley Health District: <http://www.fvhd.org/>

Senior Citizen Happenings

The latest edition of the Senior Center Communicator is out! Check out all the great programs and activities available at: http://www.simsbury-ct.gov/sites/simsburyct/files/news/november_-_december_2016_edited.pdf.

New this year: The Senior Center is partnering with the Farmington Valley YMCA to offer Simsbury Active Adult Days at the Y. Come for free to enjoy a water fitness class, try pickleball, participate in a group exercise class and experience all the YMCA has to offer. Mark your calendars for November 21st, December 5th and December 19th to check it out. Please make reservations through the Senior Center at (860) 658-3273.

Farmington River, Riverbank Stabilization Project

The Town of Simsbury has begun work to stabilize the bank of the Farmington River in the area of Mathers Crossing and Riverview Court. This project is designed to prevent further erosion of the bank and to protect the 30 inch sanitary sewer that runs adjacent to the river. Black and Warner Construction Co. from Unionville, CT have been engaged to complete the work which began the week of October 17, 2016.

In order to access the project area, construction vehicles will be required to cross the Greenway (*Farmington River Heritage Trail*) in the area of the Weatogue commuter lot and behind Mitchell Auto Group. Signs will be posted to alert trail users.

Please contact the Water Pollution Control office at (860) 658-3258 if you have any questions or concerns during the project.

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.

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. The last program will be held on November 29th: The Impact of Medication Management on Chronic Diseases.

Community for Care Presents “Talk Saves Lives: An Introduction to Suicide Prevention” November 15, 2016

On November 15, 2016 the Community for Care is offering a community-based presentation covering the general scope of suicide, the research on prevention, and what people can do to prevent suicide. The presentation, which is being held at the Simsbury Public Library Program Room at 6:30 p.m., will help attendees to learn the risk and warning signs of suicide, what we know about it, and how together, we can help prevent it. The presenter will be Thomas J. Steen, Executive Director, Capital Area Substance Abuse Council (CASAC). This is a very informative presentation and I strongly urge residents to participate. If you have questions, please contact Simsbury Social Services at (860) 658-3283.

Simsbury Celebrates – November 26th from 4:30 – 8:00 p.m.

Simsbury Celebrates is a free community holiday celebration, traditionally held on the Saturday after Thanksgiving. This year, we are celebrating the 15th Anniversary of the event on Saturday, November 26th, with a variety of events culminating with a spectacular fireworks show on Iron Horse Boulevard. Please join us!

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Black Friday and Small Business Saturday on November 25th and 26th

Please join Simsbury Main Street, Simsbury Chamber of Commerce and the Town of Simsbury in supporting our small businesses by shopping locally in Simsbury on November 25th and 26th for *Black Friday* and *Small Business Saturday*. Shopping locally is a great way to celebrate and support small businesses across the nation and right here in town. See you there!

SBA Economic Injury Disaster Loans Available in Connecticut Following Secretary of Agriculture Disaster Declaration for Drought

Federal Economic Injury Disaster Loans are available to small businesses, small agricultural cooperatives, small businesses engaged in aquaculture and private nonprofit organizations located in Connecticut as a result of the drought. Applicants can apply online using the Electronic Loan Application (ELA) via SBA’s secure website at <https://disasterloan.sba.gov/ela> or at disastercustomerservice@sba.gov/disaster.

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:

- *Networking for Business and Career Development on Wednesday, November 16th*

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>

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 was held on October 6th 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

Best Cleaners A ribbon cutting was held on October 11th to welcome *Best Cleaners*, located at 1227 Hopmeadow Street. *Best Cleaners* is committed to environmentally responsible cleaning practices. They also offer on-site tailoring, free home delivery and same day service. Committed in being a great community partner, Best Cleaners donated two bicycles to Simsbury Free Bike – thank you! Stop by to say hello and check out their website at: <http://www.bestcleaners.com/>

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 mid-November! 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. This property is currently for sale.

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>. **A public hearing is scheduled for November 21st at 7:00 p.m. in the Main Meeting Room of Town Hall, 933 Hopmeadow Street.** The purpose of the hearing is to receive comments on the Silverman's application for a master development site plan.

Girard Brothers Corporation: 32 and 36 Iron Horse Blvd. (Simscroft-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.