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Town to become part of 'Preserve America'

By Ken Harrison
Staff Writer

The Board of Selectmen unanimously approved a resolution to become a part of the White House's Preserve America Community Designation program at their meeting on Monday night.

The program, brought before the selectmen by the Simsbury Main Street Partnership, Inc. organization, was started by Laura Bush in 2004 as an initiative that encourages and supports community efforts to preserve and promote their history and heritage. Sarah Floroski, a representative from Simsbury Main Street Partnership, who will help facilitate the program for the town, explained to the members of the board that if the town joins the White House program, her organization will begin a marketing campaign to promote Simsbury as a cultural and historical destination in Connecticut.

"As members of this program, we will receive enhanced visibility for the community and become eligible for grant money that will help us begin a market analysis about how to best promote the tireless preservation work that is done here," Floroski said. "This is an amazing program that comes at no cost to the town and will help protect our heritage

while promoting Simsbury as a cultural and historic destination. This town has already done a fantastic job with preservation and through this program, we will be able to market those efforts."

The grant portion of the Preserve America program provides federal funding to support local preservation efforts through tourism, education and historic preservation planning. If Simsbury is designated as a Preserve America Community, the town will receive federal and state money to help promote historical tourist attractions, including scenic walking and driving tours, the Talcott Mountain Music Festival and other cultural and heritage-based events that bring people to Simsbury every year. By joining the program, Simsbury will join three other towns in Connecticut, including Bridgeport, Norwalk and Wethersfield, who have all been designated as Preserve America Communities.

"This program is an extension of what we do as a board in trying to preserve our natural resources and local heritage," Deputy First Selectman Joel Mandell said. "I think it is a terrific idea and we are happy to be a part of it."

For more information on the Preserve America Community Designation program, go online to www.preserveamerica.gov.



Photo by Jay Nowakowski

Ten-year-old Aaron Beguelinio of Simsbury receives marching instructions during the children's drill from Sgt. Tom Castrvinci of the 5th Connecticut Regiment. The regiment was originally founded in 1776 as part of the continental army.

Historical Society sponsors Colonial Muster

By Jay Nowakowski
Correspondent

"Welcome to Loyalty Day - 1775."

That's how the Simsbury Historical Society billed the Revolutionary War muster that was held on the Phelps Tavern Museum grounds on Saturday, May 6. It was an all-day event that highlighted camp life, military drills, cook-

ing, sewing, music and emergency medicine as practiced in the 18th century. Visitors had an opportunity to express their support as either a loyalist (those loyal to the British king) or a patriot (those supporting the cause of independence).

Demonstrating camp life was the 5th

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