

The Simsbury Scoop



June 2016, www.simsbury-ct.gov, on Twitter @TownofSimsbury
Connecticut's first bicycle friendly community, www.simsbury.bike

Simsbury Farms Golf Course selected for pro-bono site evaluation from USGA, ASGCA golf course experts

The Simsbury Farms Golf Course was recently selected for a pro-bono site evaluation program initiated by the United States Golf Association (USGA) and the American Society of Golf Course Architects (ASGCA).

The program is a new joint effort by the two associations to offer their combined expertise to courses that have demonstrated an ongoing effort to make golf course upgrades and carry out recommendations for further improvements.

"Our selection for the program is a testament to the town's commitment to ongoing improvements, including the renovation of all of the golf course sand bunkers, fairway and drainage improvements, and most recently the recontouring of the #2 green," said Simsbury's Director of Culture, Parks and Recreation Gerard Toner.

The course is also committed to

improving its playability for golfers of all ages and skill levels.

"This work has been done under the expert oversight of Golf Course Superintendent Mike Wallace," said Toner.

"Mike also prepared and submitted the application that made participation in the evaluation assistance program possible."

"We are fortunate to have staff in every department who regularly seek out low-cost or no-cost opportunities that make Simsbury a better place to live, work and play," said First Selectman Lisa Heavner.

"Thanks to Gerry Toner and Mike Wallace, our golf course will be one of six chosen for receipt of free consultative services," she said.

Following the site visit, a report will be created by the consultants



recommending goals and desired outcomes for each of the six facilities chosen. The report will include analysis and recommendations in the areas of course design, agronomics and maintenance practices, and operations.

The staff of the parks and recreation department and the Simsbury Farms Golf Course will track and report on the subsequent improvements that have been made based on the report.

Take time to be safe on your bicycle

The Simsbury Police Department recently published the updated 20-page Bicycle Pedestrian State Law Guide on its [Facebook page](#), to see a copy or to download it, [click here](#).



Take a ride

To find out about rides you can participate in, check out simsbury.bike or the [Farmington Valley Trails Council](#) has a lot of ongoing rides throughout the summer and early fall. Their signature ride "Ride the State" is on June 25, for information, [click here](#). To see their list of activities, [click here](#).

SCTV helps people hear better at town meetings

The Town of Simsbury with the assistance of Simsbury Community Television (SCTV) has installed an Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant assistive listening system in the main meeting room in Simsbury Town Hall. The transmitter is connected to the microphones at the main desk and uses a transmitter to send a high quality audio signal to the assistive listening devices.

The devices work with headphones, T-coil (tele-coil) capable hearing aids and cochlear implants.

The assistive listening devices can be signed out by any meeting participants by simply asking any of the town staff.



Picture Book Party with Froggy

Tuesday, June 14 at 11 a.m. drop in to party with the Simsbury Public Library's children's department and Jonathan London's Froggy to celebrate the completion of the picture book reorganization project. The department reclassified about 10,000 picture books into new categories so children and adults can easily browse. All ages. Drop in.



"Safe Exchange Zone" established

The Simsbury Police Department has established a "Safe Exchange Zone" for the exchange of goods.

The department's lobby can be used as a "safe exchange zone." The idea is that people can use the public portion of the lobby to safely exchange goods – for example, a Craig's list exchange. The lobby is open to the public and under video

surveillance twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week. The space should be used for exchanges and not for the conduct of regular business, and the goal is to provide a sense of security for those who may want it.

The lobby has been and will continue to be a safe place for child custody exchanges. To be clear, the "safe



exchange zone" is in the lobby and not in the town hall parking lot. The police department is located in the basement of the Simsbury Town Hall, 933 Hopmeadow Street.

2016-2017 Budget Referendum, June 7

The referendum on the proposed 2016-2017 fiscal year Town and Education budgets will be held June 7.

Voting will take place at Henry James Memorial School, 155 Firetown Road, from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. For budget info, [click here](#).



Pro-bono road safety audit

The Town of Simsbury was selected to receive a pro-bono Road Safety Audit of trail and street intersections through the state Department of Transportation's Community Connectivity Program.

Director of Public Works Tom Roy submitted the application on behalf of the town. The safety audit will be done at no cost to residents by a team of safety specialists in close coordination with the local community to improve safety and reduce crashes.



Simsbury library awarded grant to explore Simsbury's contributions to the history of land conservation

A \$1,125 grant to the Simsbury Public Library awarded by Connecticut Humanities will bring to life Simsbury's role in the long history of land conservation.

Imagine two boys, Gifford Pinchot and George McLean, wandering the meadows and forests of Simsbury in the late 19th century. Pinchot went on to become the first Chief of the U.S. Forest Service under Teddy Roosevelt, while McLean became a Governor and Senator who bequeathed the McLean Game Refuge to the Farmington Valley.

According to Joan Nagy, Project Director and Reference Librarian at Simsbury Public Library, "I have always been fascinated by Simsbury's historic role in both local and federal land conservation. How did this way of thinking get embedded in the DNA of our community, and how did what started here move into the national consciousness? We decided to tap into the great resources in our community and state — the Simsbury



Historical Society, the McLean Game Refuge, the Simsbury 1820 House/Metro Bis Restaurant, and the CT Forest and Park Association — to tie it all together in an entertaining way. We are thrilled that this grant from Connecticut Humanities allows us to

bring the story of this important moment in history to the public."

Appealing to teens or adults, this interactive and entertaining series of lectures, a hike, a Teddy Roosevelt reenactor, a luncheon, and an historic house tour will begin on Saturday, June 4, 2016. On that day, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., attend a McLean lecture by Alan Lahue

of the Simsbury Historical Society and guided hike through the McLean Game Refuge led by Steve Paine.

Teddy Roosevelt reenactor James Foote will be at the library on June 11 (CT Open House Day), followed by a lecture on Pinchot by Eric Hammerling of the CT Forest and Park Association, lunch from Metro Bis at the library and a talk by Barbara Strong, and a tour of the 1820 House. June 11 events take place between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. Programs have been grouped into four events on the library's event calendar, and reservations are required for each.

To sign up you, use the links below.

- June 4, lecture from 10 to 10:30 a.m., [click here](#).
- June 4, guided hike from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., [click here](#).



Senator and Mrs. McLean host President and Mrs. Coolidge at Trout Pond

- June 11, lecture, reenactor and lunch from 10 a.m. to 12:15 p.m., [click here](#).
- June 11, Simsbury 1820 House talk and tour from 12:15 to 2 p.m., [click here](#).

To see the library calendar for all the details, and make reservations there, go to the library website www.simsburylibrary.info and click on "Full Calendar" or call 860-658-7663 x2200. Programs are free and open to all. The library is located at 725 Hopmeadow Street.

Connecticut Humanities, a nonprofit affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities, supports cultural and historic organizations that tell the state's stories, build community and enrich lives.



SCTV kicks off capital campaign with a \$10,000 Hartford Foundation grant

Local Simsbury resident Rick Wagner has kicked off Simsbury Community Television's Capital Fundraising Campaign by recommending a \$10,000 grant from his family's Richard D. Wagner and Madeline/Lina F. Wagner Fund at the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving. The grant will be used to match a \$35,000 Hartford Foundation for Public Giving capital grant SCTV received late last year to bring SCTV's equipment into the 21st Century.

The grants will enable SCTV to purchase studio and town hall high definition switching, editing, and recording equipment. In addition to making SCTV's programs more watchable for its viewers, the new equipment will replace very old equipment that is beginning to break down. It will also allow staff and volunteers to create programs more efficiently to get them on the air more quickly.

In announcing the grant, SCTV President, Althea Greaney said, "We are grateful to the Wagner family for their support of SCTV and the Simsbury community. This is the second such grant they have given us. They have made it possible for us to purchase some of the high tech video recording, editing, and broadcasting equipment that our residents need to create shows and record

meetings in our studio in high definition."

Explaining why he recommended the grant to SCTV, Wagner said, "I appreciate how much SCTV adds to our community because it truly represents the tradition of a high level of volunteerism that makes Simsbury unique in our area." Wagner urged others in the community to also contribute to the station now that the traditional state funding for new technology is no longer available. He continued, "We need great technology so that Simsbury can stay informed and continue to be one of the best communities to live in the U.S."

Since 1984, SCTV, a non-profit public access television station, has provided Simsbury residents a place to share information on Comcast channels 5, 95, and 96, Frontier channel 99, and on its website www.simsburytv.org. Supported by a small staff, town residents and organizations are provided with the tools to learn about television production, from camera operations, through editing and broadcasting. Volunteers can cover live government and school meetings or studio programs or create their own programs about upcoming events,



Rick Wagner joins SCTV President Althea Greaney and Station Manager Karen Handville in front of the studio equipment which Wagner's Hartford Foundation Fund grant will help replace.

health, exercise, poetry, school news, art, or any variety of other topics free of charge.

The Hartford Foundation for Public Giving is the community foundation for Hartford and 28 surrounding communities. In 2015 the Foundation celebrated 90 years of grant making in the Greater Hartford region, made possible by the gifts of generous individuals, families, and organizations.

It has awarded grants of more than \$650 million since its founding in 1925. For more information about the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving, visit www.hfpg.org or call 860-548-1888.

Summer is here ... sign up for fun with parks and recreation!

The countdown is on! Sign up today for summer camps, programs, pool passes and swimming lessons.

Visit www.simsburyrec.com for more information.

To see the Summer Program Guide, [click here](#).



Town of Simsbury Public Hearing Notice Charter Revision Commission

The Board of Selectmen will hold a public hearing on Monday, June 13, 2016 at 6 p.m. to receive public comment concerning the Simsbury Charter Revision Commission's Final Report and Proposed Revised Charter as adopted by the Commission on May 5, 2016. The hearing will be in the main meeting room of town hall, 933 Hopmeadow Street. See the report, [here](#).

Need some seeds? The library has got you covered

As you begin your garden this year, make sure to stop by Simsbury Public Library and pick up seeds — free with your library card.

You'll find a wide range of flowers, vegetables and herbs, many organic and heirloom varieties, in the new Seed Library. Bringing a Seed Library to Simsbury was the brain-child and project of Head of Adult Services Susan Ray who said, "The Seed Library is a natural extension of the library as a community hub. It provides a simple, no cost way for groups or individuals to build fellowship with other gardeners and

introduce new people to gardening and sustainability through growing their own food."

"Simsbury is already a natural farm community, and by saving seeds as that community we can help create local seed stock which are better acclimated to our climate and growing conditions," she said.

The Seed Library has been established through generous support from national and regional seed companies but users are encouraged to harvest and save their seeds and donate them back to the library for next year.



For more information, [visit](#) or call the library at 860-658-7663.

"Explore Simsbury"

There is still plenty of time to explore Simsbury. Lisa Karim, director of the Simsbury Public Library, is challenging Simsbury residents to "Explore Simsbury" this summer in the first annual Director's Challenge through August 31.

The challenge provides incentive for people to get out and explore the highlights of Simsbury. A scorecard is available at the library listing

interesting attractions and activities throughout Simsbury. There are 18 places on the list and each person or family is encouraged to visit at least 12. Enter your scorecard with 12 or more places checked off by August 31 and return it to the library to have your name entered to win one of three prizes to be drawn at Septemberfest.

Some of the activities include a hike to Heublein Tower, a visit to the Simsbury Historical Society (you may borrow a free museum pass

with your library card), a bike ride down the Farmington Valley Greenway, a historical walk down Hopmeadow Street and more.

The library has created a guide with directions and business hours of places in the area. Copies of the challenge are available at the library and the Simsbury Visitor's Center, in the Simsbury Chamber of Commerce office.

Have fun this summer and explore Simsbury!



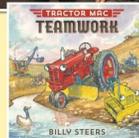
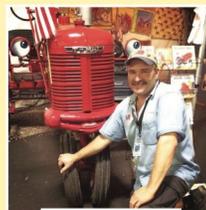
June Dates to Remember

- June 1-30: Dog license renewals.
- June 6: Ramadan begins at sundown.
- June 14: Flag Day
- June 19: Father's Day
- June 20: Summer begins.



To receive the monthly email newsletter, sign up here! <http://www.simsbury-ct.gov/subscriber>

CHILDREN'S AUTHOR PROGRAM

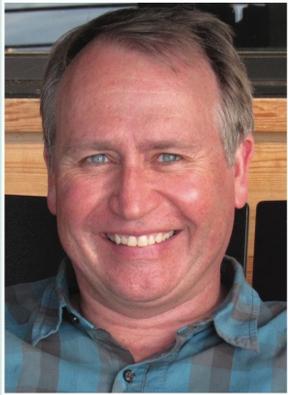


Meet Bestselling Author **BILLY STEERS & TRACTOR MAC**
Saturday, June 25
10 a.m. - noon

The program is free and open to all.
RSVP by June 18 at the reference desk or online.



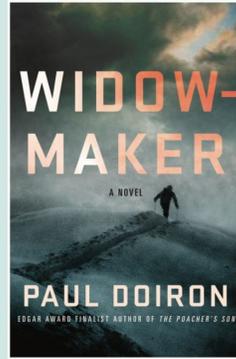
Evening with an Author



Paul Doiron "Widowmaker"

(with a mystery author)

**Thursday, June 16
6:30-8:30 pm
in the Program Room**



Free & Open to all!

Prior registration requested by June 9. Sign up at the library's reference desk, call 860-658-7663, or register online.



**Girl Yoga, grades 5-12
June 16, 2016
3 to 4 p.m.**

Program Room (150)

Stretch and unwind while exploring stress reduction skills and techniques.



Class will include yoga postures and may touch on meditation, breath work, and wellness. Dress comfortably, bring a yoga mat, and a water bottle. The instructor is Terry Wolfisch Cole of Journey of Yoga. A parental waiver form must be filled out if under 18. To sign up and to print the waiver, [click here](#).

Evening with an Author



photo by Catherine White



Ann Leary NY Times Bestselling Author

**Wednesday, June 29
6:30-8:30 p.m.
in the Program Room**

The program is free and open to all.
RSVP by June 22 at the reference desk or online.



**June 14, 2016
French cooking class for teens, 2 to 3 p.m.
Program Room (150)**



Learn how to cook a simple

French meal. Taught by local teens, Laure and Grace of LCF Catering Co. Sign up [here](#).

**Summer Reading for teens is here
6/20 to 8/12!**



June 20, 2 to 4 p.m., is the Kickoff Karaoke

party with giveaways! For teens entering grades 7-12. Info [here](#).