



2014-2015 Annual Report

# **SIMSBURY, CONNECTICUT**

**Heritage. Charm. Adventure.**



**Heritage. Charm. Adventure.**





*Simsbury Board of Finance members back row from the left: Linda Schofield, Barbara Petitjean, Jeff Blumenthal and Moira Wertheimer. Seated from the left vice chairman Nick B. Mason and chairman Peter K. Askham.*

### A Message from the Board of Finance

We are pleased to present the 153rd annual report of the Town of Simsbury. The goal of this report is to provide the town's citizens, taxpayers and other stakeholders with important financial information and a description of the significant events occurring in our town during the reporting period, fiscal year July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015.

Simsbury's boards of finance, selectmen and education worked closely together to prepare budgets and capital improvement projects designed to provide an excellent level of service to residents and to fit within our conservative financial guidelines.

We are pleased to report that for the second time in recent history, we were able to provide a slight decrease in taxes for Simsbury taxpayers. At the same time, we maintained the town's undesignated fund balance (reserves) at 12 percent and fully funded the town's pension and other post-employment plan (OPEB) benefits. We were able to achieve savings on expenses through new cooperative efforts between the boards of selectmen and education.

The town's fiscal prudence continues to be recognized by Moody's Investors Service Inc., which has awarded us with the Aaa rating, the highest bond rating that a municipality can achieve.

During the past year, we approved capital projects designed to protect and restore some of our most important assets including:

- Adding to and improving generator capacity at local schools in the event of an emergency.
- The purchase of 1 Old Bridge Road, which will enhance the area near the Old Drake Hill Flower Bridge, and add access to the river.
- Restoring the assistant assessor position.
- Completing the purchase of Ethel Walker Woods, among the largest open spaces areas in the state.
- Completing energy savings projects at the town's schools.

Excellent educational, recreational, and cultural offerings, strong governance, and historic and bucolic surroundings combine to bring Simsbury continued public recognition as one of the best places to live in Connecticut and beyond.

It is an honor and privilege to serve as elected members of the Simsbury Board of Finance. We are fortunate to work with the many dedicated members of our community who give of their time and talent to serve on town boards and commissions, and with town and board of education staff who work hard every day to serve the residents and businesses of this community.

Sincerely,  
Board of Finance

## A Message from the First Selectman



Lisa L. Heavner  
Photo by Curt Henderson Photography & Custom Framing

The top priority for the town is to provide the taxpayers of Simsbury the highest quality services at the lowest possible cost to keep Simsbury a great place to live, learn, retire and do business. One of our primary goals as your town government is to make sure that you, as a resident, have an accurate accounting of how your tax dollars are spent and a summary of town functions, goals and accomplishments.

Simsbury is an exceptional town, and it is through the dedication and cooperation of Simsbury's elected officials, town staff, volunteers and the community that our town is such a special place. Here are some of the things that we achieved together:

Simsbury was named to the 2015 list of *Money* magazine's 'Best Places to Live in America' in the country, which the magazine defines as places with "great jobs, strong economies, affordable homes, excellent schools, and that special something that makes it a great place to live."

Simsbury has been on the list before, but this year we made a significant jump, up to ninth place, which demonstrates what our residents already know — Simsbury is a wonderful place to call home.

At the start of the fiscal year, in July 2014, we received more good news. The town was notified it ranked as the Top Bicycle Friendly Town in the state by Bike Walk Connecticut in a first-of-its-kind ranking of the state's cities and towns. In November, Simsbury was named the first "Silver Bicycle Friendly Community" in Connecticut. This award recognizes our town's commitment to improving conditions for bicycling through investment in bicycling promotion, education, infrastructure and pro-bicycling policies. We scored high on our public education outreach, our Bike Month and Bike to Work events and, not surprisingly, on having a very active bicycle advocacy group. The designation is awarded by the League of American Bicyclists.

In August of 2014, Simsbury was recognized as among the best places for home ownership in Connecticut by Nerdwallet — an organization providing people with information about best possible values. Recognition

like this reinforces that we are doing the right thing by promoting our existing assets and making the best possible use of them.

In September of 2014, we began a free, paint recycling program at the town's bulky waste/recycling facility for residents. This was one of several green initiatives — such as a gas installation at public works to reduce costs and a public/private partnership for organic farming on town-owned lands — made during the year.

In November 2014, the town closed on the acquisition of 1 Old Bridge Road and spent the next several months working with the flower bridge folks and others to begin planning what will happen with the site. This is an exciting project and I look forward to moving through the process of determining the best use of this incredibly scenic property located in the heart of our downtown.

In December 2014, Simsbury fulfilled its long-range open space program to preserve more than 425 acres of the Ethel Walker School property. The initial planning for protecting this environmentally sensitive land began in 2001. The town worked cooperatively with the Ethel Walker School, the state Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, Keep the Woods, Trust for Public Land, our residents, other community groups, and town boards and commissions to develop a long-range acquisition agreement that provided for grant applications and acquisitions over a 14-year period.

The Ethel Walker properties now serve as the cornerstone of more than 1,400 contiguous acres of open space, recreation and agricultural land, with connectivity to an additional 5,200 acres of open space. These combined properties are among the largest open space areas in Connecticut.

Protection of these land assets were achieved through the efforts of the state, town, the residents of Simsbury, The Trust for Public Land, Ethel Walker, and Keep the Woods.

At the start of 2015, the Geographic Information System (GIS) was launched. GIS provides georeferenced information via the internet to the public including: parcel

information, property ownership, historical documentation of various properties, natural resource information, floodplain information and other information pertinent to land use. GIS includes thematic maps as well, such as: zoning, assessor's tax maps, land use, and open space to name some.

This was one of several technology initiatives — others included data storage upgrades and police vehicle technology upgrades — that took place during the fiscal year.

In March, the Town of Simsbury and the Simsbury Land Trust were awarded a 2015 Excellence in Conservation Organization award by the Connecticut Land Conservation Council in recognition of our work to preserve the George Hall Farm and Pharos Farm for agricultural purposes.

During May, residents approved a town budget that did not raise taxes for the second year in a row, and continues to provide quality services, responsible stewardship of our natural resources and town assets, and modernizes technology. The total approved budget for the town was: \$98,578,627. The board of finance set the mill rate at 37.12, a decrease from last year's rate, which was 37.14.

Also that month, according to CTNow's "Best of Hartford Readers Poll" for 2015, Simsbury's Paw Meadow Dog Park is the best. This comes as no surprise to those of us who live here — particularly to those in our community who make frequent use of it.

This is just a small accounting of the accomplishments during the past year. A more complete picture is revealed in the following pages of this annual report. As always, I wish to thank our outstanding town employees and the many, many volunteers who compose the backbone of our community.

On behalf of the board of selectmen, thank you for choosing Simsbury as your home.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lisa L. Heavner'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline.

Lisa L. Heavner, First Selectman



Matthew T. Curtis and Lydia Tedone

## A Message from the Chairman of the Board of Education and Superintendent

As we often tell students, success begins with setting goals. This past school year was the first time that we measured our progress against our new five-year Simsbury Board of Education goals. Assessment of student learning was also different in 2014-2015, but our initial results from the new Smarter Balanced (SBAC) tests are showing the strong results we'd hoped for.

Last year students, families, teachers, and administrators worked as a team to make changes and strengthen programs. We also worked as a team with the community, including during the budget process when we collaborated with our town leaders on the board of finance and board of selectmen to spend responsibly and keep the mill rate flat, all while supporting a world-class school system.

Partnerships like these make for great schools, and Simsbury's "premier public schools" as a main draw to the town are why *Money* magazine ranked Simsbury No. 9 of the 50 best small cities in the country. *U.S. News & World Report* agreed, ranking Simsbury High School No. 6 in Connecticut. Although such rankings are gratifying, we will continue to strive for ways to improve our schools, not for national recognition but for Simsbury families and the staff and faculty that are so invested in providing a great education.

We are honored to serve a district that places such a high value on education. It is significant that 93 percent of Simsbury High School graduates pursue higher education. We believe that one of the reasons our students are so hungry for learning is because our learning clusters at the high school give them a wide range of electives and areas

of study to sample and/or pursue in depth. There is truly something for students of all abilities and interests.

Every day we see children blossom under the tutelage of our amazing visual and performing arts teachers, acquire new skills and concepts using our new technologies, or experience that "ah ha!" moment while doing something brand new, like learning computer coding. We feel fortunate indeed, and we thank you for your continued support of our public schools.

We will continue to keep the residents of Simsbury updated on what's happening in the district. If you have never visited our website, take a moment and browse [www.simsbury.k12.ct.us](http://www.simsbury.k12.ct.us). Please let us know if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

*Lydia Tedone*

Lydia Tedone, Chairman, Board of Education

*Matthew T. Curtis*

Matthew T. Curtis, Superintendent

## Town Elected Boards

### BOARD OF SELECTMAN

The Simsbury Board of Selectmen is the legislative body of the Town of Simsbury. The board consists of six members, including the First Selectman, and members are elected to two-year terms. The board of selectmen derives its authority through the town charter and Connecticut General Statutes.

### BOARD OF FINANCE

Boards of finance in Connecticut perform a significant role as an elected citizen oversight board whose charge is to balance the municipal expenditure requests with the available revenue. The task of Simsbury's six member board of finance, as outlined in the Connecticut General Statutes and the town charter, is twofold: act as the budget making authority, and be responsible for financial and taxation matters.

The Simsbury Board of Finance works on an annual basis

with the board of selectmen and board of education to put both operating and capital budgets before the voters. During that process, the finance board is responsible for holding public hearings for the presentation of operating and capital budgets by the first selectman and the chairman of the board of education. These meetings provide an open forum for public comment before further action is taken after the town referendum.

The board of finance is also responsible for gathering all relevant financial data pertinent to local, state and national economic health, in order to establish budget guidelines and establish the mill rate on an annual basis. Finally, the board works with the finance director to oversee the town's accounting systems, provide for the annual budget audit, and assist the first selectman's office in preparing the annual town report. The work of the board of finance provides essential checks and balances that ensure the long-term financial stability of the town.

Simsbury's economy is showing signs of improvement from the "great recession" which witnessed higher than normal levels of unemployment, a depressed housing market, reduced investment income and little growth of the

town's Grand List, all of which have challenged the board of finance since 2008. The finance board has adopted a conservative, low tax increase posture for several years. The current budget, adopted in May 2015, did not raise taxes for the second year in a row while providing funds to maintain quality education and exceptional town services. Simsbury maintains a "rainy day" reserve fund balance to 12 percent, which in recent years has allowed the town to "weather" inclement storm events without major disruption. Moody's Investors Service Inc. continues to rate the town's debt at its highest bond rating: Aaa. Additionally, Simsbury has won awards for excellence in financial reporting from the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) for 18 consecutive years.

The finance board remains focused on improving the management of the town's pension obligations and public safety. Initiatives include financing some capital projects at low favorable interest rates, saving the town on interest expense. Simsbury continues to support the purchase of open space and development rights.



Photo by Leo Collins Jr.

## BOARD OF EDUCATION

The Simsbury Board of Education is the governing and policy making body of the Simsbury School District. The board derives its power from the Constitution and General Statutes of the State of Connecticut, as well as from the State Board of Education and the Charter of the Town of Simsbury.

The board of education is responsible for establishing policy and educational goals and objectives that guide the school system toward the continuous improvement of the educational program for Simsbury's children. The board is also responsible for the ongoing evaluation of the school program against its goals and objectives and for the evaluation of the superintendent. The board of education, by Connecticut General Statute 10-222, must prepare an itemized estimate of the expenses for operating the schools in the upcoming year. Once the town has approved the appropriation of funds at referendum, the board of education has the discretion and responsibility for the expenditure of those funds.

The board consists of eight elected members who meet twice a month at the board of education offices. Agendas and minutes of the meetings are posted on the board of education page of the district website <http://www.simsbury.k12.ct.us/page.cfm?p=1675>.

The board has a strategic plan that provides direction and focus to the improvement work of the district. The strategic plan includes improvement indicators that establish ambitious goals that push staff and students to grow and improve beyond current high levels of performance.

## 2014-2015 Accomplishments

### Achievements

- 18 students were Simsbury Scholars for all four years of high school
- Three Simsbury High School (SHS) students received Model UN Best Delegate Awards
- 14 students were inducted to the National Business Honor Society
- Two SHS students were national winners in the Financial Literacy Life Smarts competition
- One SHS student was awarded the Gold Key CT Scholastic Art Award/National Gold Medal Scholastic Art Award
- One student received a National Honor Society Scholarship to Yale
- 25 SHS students participated in the Northern Regional Chorus
- The Unified Basketball Team placed third in the league and second in the tournament championship
- All AP Photography students received scholarship offers from the University of Hartford
- The FIRST Robotics team placed first in the Waterbury District Competition and second in the Hartford District Competition
- One Squadron Line Elementary School student achieved first and second place in four different categories in a robotics competition



*The Simsbury High School FIRST Robotics team earned a place at the world championships April 22-27, 2015, in St. Louis, Missouri. Photo courtesy of Simsbury High School*

- Five Latin I students and three Latin III students received National Latin Exam Awards
- Two SHS students placed nationally on the National French Exam
- Eight Henry James Memorial School (HJMS) students earned medals at the CT Colt State Poetry Recitation competition
- Two students were presenters at the Connecticut Junior Science and Humanities Symposium at UConn
- An eighth grader was accepted as a Junior Finalist in the Honors Junior Orchestra and represented HJMS in a performance at Carnegie Hall playing her violin
- One SHS student was licensed as a pilot and was accepted to Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University
- One SHS student was honored as a Hometown Hero
- Trojan Wall students organized a "Pink Night" and raised \$500 for breast cancer research by selling pink T-shirts
- The HJMS Exploring Technologies and Engineering students competed in the CT State SeaPerch scrimmage, earning five trophies for the Obstacle Course and the Deepwater Challenge
- Seven HJMS students attended the CAS Student Leadership Conference at Trinity College
- At Central Elementary School 100 percent of students received a school-based recognition award for positive choices made during the 2014-2015 school year
- 55 Central School students in grades 4-6 participated in Math Olympiads; 41 Tariffville Elementary School students also participated, with five scoring above the 90th percentile
- 12 Latimer Lane Elementary School students represented Simsbury at the Connecticut Writing Project celebration; three were chosen as readers at the celebration held at UConn (no other district had more than one reader)
- Latimer Lane's entire sixth grade chorus performed in the Fantastic Festival program, earning a gold rating
- Tootin' Hills Elementary School's Take Action Club raised \$12,000 for a village to build a school in Los Rios, Ecuador
- 31 students participated in Tariffville's first annual Invention Convention competition, with four qualifying for state level competition at UConn



*The Bache family participates in Latimer Lane Elementary School's Walk/Bike to School Day. Photo by Martha Hogan*

## 2015-2016 Goals

**For fiscal year 2015, the Simsbury Board of Education will continue to implement these goals:**

**Student achievement:** All students will participate in a rigorous and engaging learning experience that balances academics with personal, social, civic, and physical development, enabling them to be successful.

- **Professionalism:** All staff will contribute to a challenging, collaborative, and focused environment that fosters continuous improvement.
- **School culture:** Simsbury Public Schools will provide a physically and emotionally safe and supportive environment.
- **Communication:** The district will effectively communicate with stakeholders and engage them in the district's improvement efforts.
- **Resources:** All resources will be utilized efficiently and effectively towards the district's vision and goals.



*Photo top: Abby Fazzone, a junior at Simsbury High School, and her first place art award for a dress made of sheet metal.*

*Photo right: Graduates of the Class of 2015 display their decorated caps.*

*Photo below: The Children's Academy of Simsbury preschoolers get ready to perform Chicka Chicka Boom Boom.*

*Photos by Martha Hogan*



## Departments & Services

### ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

Simsbury's Administrative Services Department is primarily responsible for the development and administration of the town's human resources program and for providing assistance to the first selectman in managing the general government operations of the town.

The department plays a key role in the development of the board of selectmen's annual budget, is responsible for implementation of town policies and initiatives, and supports the town's economic development activities. In addition, the department leads the town's contract negotiations with its six unions and oversees the town's risk management function.

The director and deputy director of administrative services staff the retirement plan subcommittee, the economic development commission, the insurance committee, the technology task force, the public safety subcommittee, the charter revision commission, and the safety committee. The director serves as the town's Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) coordinator and the deputy director serves as the town's risk manager and veterans liaison.

The department also includes a benefits coordinator responsible for health and wellness benefits administration and a communications specialist tasked with improving communications with residents and businesses as well as working with town departments to make the website more user-friendly.

### ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER

Simsbury Animal Control is a service provided by the Simsbury Police Department. It is comprised of responding to domestic and non-domestic animal related needs, insuring animal related compliance with public health and safety concerns, quality of life issues and education. The dedicated Animal Control Officer (ACO) remains readily accessible to Simsbury residents and is frequently called upon to assist

area towns with animal related issues, which promotes strong relationships with surrounding towns. Year after year, the department has completed the annual

#### Animal Control Incident Statistics 2014 – 2015

Animal Complaints	1,124
Dog Licenses Issued	2,354
Animal Bites	3
Animal Related Arrests	2
Impounded Animals	31

dog license survey. This activity is very time consuming and requires ACO Mark Rudewicz to physically go to over 1,600 homes and check for licensing and rabies vaccination compliance. This survey was completed again in order to reduce the risk of public health issues and allows for the town to keep 60 percent of the dog license fees. Simsbury is one of 11 towns that complete the survey. The department also provides an annual rabies vaccination clinic, which allows

pet owners to have their pets vaccinated at a reduced fee. A micro-chip clinic is planned for the future.

The department's ACO continues to maintain the Heroes and Hounds program, which sends holiday care packages to active military and their canine partners serving overseas. Over 200 packages were sent out in December 2014.

The ACO is always prepared to respond to emergencies that involve resident animals. The animal shelter that was setup after storm Alfred, and the tropical storm Irene response illustrated this. The ACO is also licensed and certified by the state Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) for nuisance wildlife control.

### 2015-2016 Goals

- Continue annual participation in dog license survey and hosting of rabies vaccination clinic.
- Provide broad based educational presentations and information concerning wildlife safety as well as domestic animals, such as "Preventing Dog Bites," "Aggressive Dogs" and "Keeping Your Pets Safe."
- Host training for patrol officers and area animal control officers.
- Enhance professional growth and service

### ASSESSOR'S OFFICE

The Simsbury Assessor's Office is responsible for discovering, listing, and valuing property and administering exemption and tax relief programs as required by applicable state and federal law or local ordinance.

Among the tax relief programs Simsbury offers are tax relief for elderly or disabled homeowners, and the local option exemption for veterans or the surviving spouse of a veteran. Both of these are subject to maximum income limits. The former has been in existence in some form since 1990, although the ordinance for the current program was adopted in 2007, with benefits that were significantly increased in 2012. The latter was adopted in 2003, and the ordinance was amended in 2004 to raise the income limits to the maximum allowed by the enabling statutes and the exemption to 10 percent of the assessment of the property to which it is applied. Details are available on the town website.

The Simsbury Grand List of October 1, 2014 was completed on February 17, 2015. The net taxable grand list

as reported to the State of Connecticut by June 1, 2015 was \$2,268,971,299.

As of June 30, 2015, no tax appeals to superior court were outstanding. The Simsbury Hopmeadow Street LLC tax appeal on 632 Hopmeadow Street was settled in June 2015, and its effect is reflected in the top 10 taxpayer list, which is included in this report.

At the close of the fiscal year, the selection process for hiring an assistant assessor was well under way. This position was last funded in the fiscal year ending 2010.

Work on the October 1, 2015 grand list is scheduled to be completed by January 31, 2016.

Requests for proposal for work on the October 1, 2017 revaluation will be solicited by June 30, 2016, with selection early in the 2016-2017 fiscal year.

### BUILDING DEPARTMENT

The Connecticut Building Code is actually a number of model codes including the electric, fire safety, mechanical, plumbing, energy and existing building codes, as well as a number of reference standards including those for accessibility.

The bottom line is that the department enforces a tremendous amount of very technical requirements in a way that it hopes is understandable and attainable to the people who need to follow them. Staff does this through plan reviews, thousands of site inspections, responding to inquiries, providing information and, when needed, issuing orders to get compliance with all of the code requirements. The department coordinates its efforts with other departments including zoning, wetlands, the fire marshal, historic district, health, water pollution control, tax collector and assessor, so that a permit to construct can be issued by the building official.

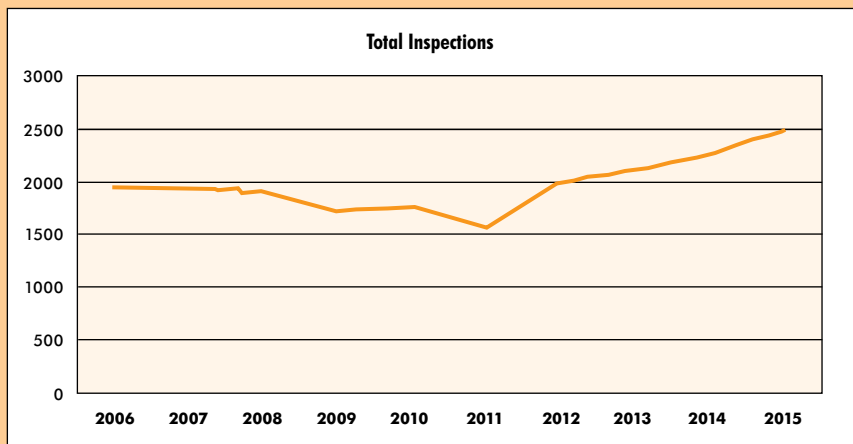
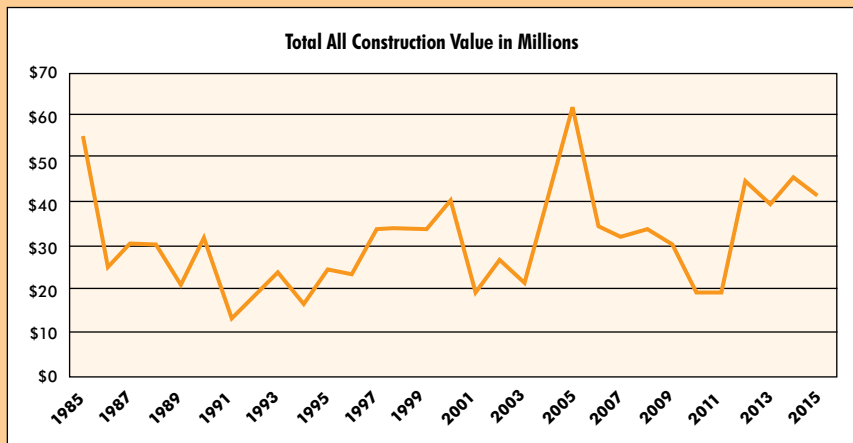
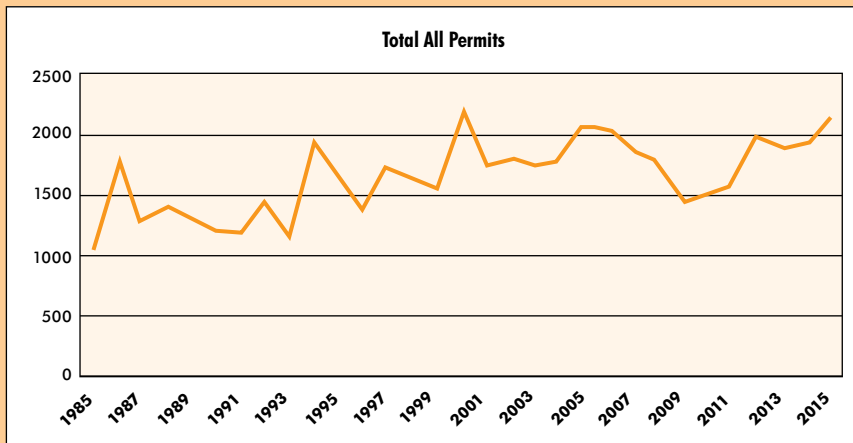
The building department also interacts and supports the enforcement of the State Traffic Commission, the state Department of Transportation, the state Department of Consumer Protection licensing, OSHA, and state and federal environmental protection regulations. Staff supports the fire marshal in responding to fires, is the liaison with public utilities for service approvals and connections, and has the authority to condemn a building or structure. The process can be daunting, but the department's goal has been to make the permit process as simple and seamless as possible

### The Top 10 Taxpayers on the October 1, 2013 Simsbury Grand List as of June 30, 2015:

Name	Nature of Business	Net Taxable Valuation
Hartford Life and Accident Ins. Company	Ins. Co. & Real Estate Holdings	\$43,074,030
E and A/I and I and G Commons LP	Shopping Center	\$23,450,000
Connecticut Light & Power	Public Utility	\$22,206,346
Executive Risk Indemnity Inc.	Real Estate Holdings	\$17,247,680
Hoffman Enterprises Limited Partnership	Real Estate Holdings	\$10,613,400
Simsbury Hopmeadow Street LLC	Real Estate Holdings	\$9,899,030
Simsbury Commons North E&A LLC	Supermarket Property	\$8,864,800
Woodgreen Simsbury LLC	Real Estate Holdings	\$8,464,400
Mill Commons LLC	Apartments	\$7,989,878
River Bend Development	Real Estate Holdings	\$6,729,910

**\$158,539,474**

## Building Department Statistics



for each applicant while protecting the public interest and assuring the safety of the town's built environment.

### 2014-2015 Accomplishments

The staff of the building department often hears the comment from residents: "It's good that things are picking up." There appears to be a misconception that activity was slow to begin with. The graphs included illustrate how active construction has been in Simsbury over the past years. When compared to time periods in the past that were considered boom years, this year the department actually exceeds the number of inspections and permits issued.

The current staff hours per week are 85 versus 158 staff hours per week in years past. Updated code requirements have not made code administration and enforcement easier or more streamlined. This year was another very busy year for plan review, permitting and inspections. The building department issued over 2,159 permits with a total value exceeding \$42 million dollars and performed over 2,400 inspections. Simsbury continued to participate in a mutual aid agreement with Granby, East Granby, Suffield, Canton and Hartland.

As a member of the Connecticut Codes and Standards

Committee, Simsbury's Building Official Henry Miga has heard appeals to the state building, plumbing, mechanical, electrical, accessibility and fire codes; participated in the production and hearings for the 2012 model codes for inclusion in the state codes; and commented on the proposed State Fire Prevention Code. He also participated and voted on code proposals for the International Code Council model codes.

Administrative assistant Colleen Fenn has been working diligently to meet the administrative workload related to the high number of both inspections and the number of permits issued. The addition of a part-time file clerk, Debi Ackels, and an assistant building official, Jerry Waters, for six hours per week has allowed the department to meet the increased activity most of the time.

Fenn and Ackels continue to make substantial contributions to fine tune and streamline office procedures, permit processing, and record retention. The staff has concentrated on maintaining a high level of customer service, however, due to the increased volume there have been occasions where they have not always been able to meet customers' specific timeframes for inspections.

### 2014-2015 Goals

The building department hopes to be able to maintain a high level of customer service with limited inconvenience in scheduling and no reduction in primary services. Many new state and federal requirements and updated codes will be in effect this year with learning curves for contractors, design professionals and this department. Some of those new codes will require additional inspections and documentation. The department will begin limited record digitizing and storage, and continue improving its permit software. The ability to accomplish these goals will be directly related to staffing levels and budget constraints. Miga hopes to continue involvement in code development at the state and national level. Better, more usable and accessible codes, not just more regulation, must be diligently pursued.

## COMPUTER DEPARTMENT

The computer department supports information technologies within all municipal departments, including offices of the board of education, Simsbury Public Library, and law enforcement. With the continued growth in government usage of technologies and its demand for providing and utilizing various information streams, the department continues to focus on researching innovative ways to develop existing, and researching new, technologies to provide informational benefits to supervised departments and the citizens of Simsbury.

This year has been a great year of collaborating with town departments and their personnel to provide better service and programs for residents and others parties that make Simsbury a great place to work and live.

### 2014-2015 Accomplishments

- Developed and implemented a cost effective wireless and network solution for the Performing Arts Center at Simsbury Meadows that provided ISP services for critical business and patron applications during events.



*Simsbury Farms pools. Photo by Taryn Rea*

## CULTURE, PARKS AND RECREATION

The Simsbury Culture, Parks and Recreation Department is responsible for the administration of the town's parks, recreational facilities and recreational programs. The department attempts to provide a wide range of programs and recreational opportunities, which contribute to the environment, needs, and interests of the community. It is recognized that the programs and services provided by this department contribute to the quality of life in this community, and are an integral part of Simsbury's health, welfare, attractiveness, and economic vitality.

The Simsbury Culture, Parks and Recreation Commission provides direction and oversight to the department, as well as recommending policy to the board of selectmen. Department staff also provides support to the Performing Arts Center Board, Simsbury Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Committee, and the Simsbury Beautification Committee.

### 2014-2015 Accomplishments

- Renovations at the Simsbury Farms Golf Course were completed on holes No. 1 and No. 10, and reconstruction on the No. 2 green was started. The course was again voted "Best Golf Course in the Farmington Valley" by the Farmington Valley Visitors Association.
- A renovation to the Farmington River Bike Trail was completed.

- Participating in the State of Connecticut's Nutmeg\CEN Network project for Internet services, as well as future participation in regional sharing initiatives as provided by municipalities.
- Expansion of the town's fiber optic network that includes telephony, data, and business continuity features to the senior center/social services and public works locations. The implementation provides secure and cost effective network build-out to support and enhance municipal services and share town-wide technologies.
- Successfully installed tablet technology within the Simsbury Public Library's Children's Department. iPads and Surface tablets are now used for children's access stations and public access catalog stations. Both solutions lowered the daily cost of operations and administration of hardware and software.
- In partnership with the Simsbury Police Department, the computer department was successful in researching, planning and the implementation of new in-car video support systems and mobile-data-terminals for patrol vehicles.
- The department successfully implemented a pilot program of a VDI (virtual desktop infrastructure) environment and deployed "physical to virtual" replacement network servers within municipal offices. This environment lowers administration and support costs of desktops and network servers.

### 2015-2016 Goals

- Participate in a regional sharing initiative of Hosted VoIP (voice over internet protocol) services to enhance telephony needs of departments and lower operating costs.
- Expansion of town's fiber build-out to other municipal locations. Areas include water pollution control, Simsbury Public Library and the Simsbury Fire District - Main Station.
- The migration to an open-source software platform for Simsbury's website that provides enhanced design, greater flexibility and administration of website content.
- Completion of collaborative project with law enforcement and educational districts' implementation of Student

Resource Officer (SRO) program that provides officers with a VDI environment to provide student and public safety programs and information within a secure mobile footprint.

- Introduction of a hyper-convergence environment that will allow for centralized software and hardware management that will support all network resources, storage, virtualization, data duplication and compression, as well as provide a higher level of business continuity.



*Photo top: Parks and Recreation staff; bottom Dance-off at Summer Explorers camp. Photo by Courtney Langdell*

- Working cooperatively with the youth sports organizations, a number of park and facility improvements were successfully completed.
- Maintained over 2,500 acres of parks and open space, 40 athletic fields and facilities including the Performing Arts Center and Farmington Valley Greenway. Received budget approval for facility improvements to the Simsbury Farms Recreation Complex, and the town's park system.

### 2015-2016 Goals

- Complete No. 2 green renovation and cart path reconstruction on the Simsbury Farms Golf Course.
- Initiate improvements to the Simsbury Farms swimming pools, ice rink and tennis courts.
- Work with consulting forester and town staff on the administration of the initial timber harvest to enhance the health and viability of town forest areas.
- Continue to make Simsbury Farms the "Heart of a Great Community."

## ENGINEERING/CAPITAL PROJECTS

The Simsbury Engineering Department provides design and management services for community projects, and administrative and design support for capital projects. During the past year, the department worked closely with the board of selectmen, the public building committee, Simsbury Public Schools, the Simsbury Housing Authority and town departments in order to advance several capital projects.

### Project Professional Services

The engineering department staff coordinated survey, engineering, environmental testing, contract management and contract administration services for 24 capital projects and grants valued at \$8.1 million. A significant portion of these activities requires the management and coordination of professional consultants to complete these projects. The department works closely with the public building committee and town counsel to develop project scope and fee proposals, negotiate fees and develop contracts for these professional services.

Master plans were completed for the Simsbury Meadows, Tariffville Park, and Ethel Walker Woods open space parcels.



The paddle courts and tennis courts at Simsbury Farms.  
Photo by Taryn Rea

## Capital Project Services

*During the year, the engineering department provided support for the following capital projects:*

Project	Activity	Project Values \$Millions
Curtiss Park/Pinchot Sycamore Tree Area Parking Improvements	Construction	\$ 0.026
Emergency Generator Improvements	Design /Construction	0.340
Ethel Walker Open Space - Parcel C	Acquisition Coordination	1.050
Ethel Walker Master Plan	Site Study	0.030
Farmington River Trail Improvements	Construction	0.001
Henry James Memorial School Main Office Renovations	Design /Construction	1.055
High School Track and Turf Renovation	Design /Construction	0.640
One Old Bridge Property	Acquisition Coordination	0.200
Owens Brook Multi-Use Path	Design /Construction	0.360
Riverside Road / Drake Hill Road Bridge	Design	0.350
Russell Road Sanitary Sewer Extension	Design	0.550
Seminary Road Sanitary Sewer Extension	Design /Construction	0.610
Senior Community Center	Site Studies	0.037
Simsbury Meadows Master Plan	Site Study	0.026
Simsbury Center Improvements	Design /Construction	0.350
Simsbury Meadows Environmental Testing	Coordination	0.005
Simsbury Veterans Memorial	Design /Construction	0.350
Squadron Line Boiler Replacement	Design /Construction	0.850
Squadron Line School Main Office Relocation	Design /Construction	1.050
Tariffville Connection Multi-Use Trail	Study Phase	0.004
Tariffville Park Master Plan	Site Study	0.014
Tariffville Water Commission Storage Tank Replacement	Coordination	NA
Town Forest Road Land Exchange	Acquisition Coordination	NA
Town Hall / Eno Partial Roof Replacement	Construction	0.288
<b>Total Value:</b>		<b>\$8.18 Million</b>

The development of these plans required a significant public involvement process that included input from the various town committees and public outreach meetings. These master plans will serve as a guide for managing these properties and for considering possible future projects or improvements that would enhance the enjoyment of these town-owned parcels.

In March of 2015, the board of selectmen voted to focus on the Performing Arts Center site as the primary location, and Eno Memorial Hall as a secondary location, for possible use for the senior/community center. Preliminary studies of the Performing Arts Center site were initiated during the fiscal year including detailed field survey and wetlands delineation. Also, a new architectural team was selected for the senior/community center project through a rigorous public interview process. The architectural team will complete further site studies, complete schematic design plans, develop costs and obtain town land use approvals in preparation for a possible referendum on the project.

The acquisition of the 1 Old Bridge Road property was completed during the fiscal year. A significant public outreach program was implemented to determine an appropriate future use for the property. The process resulted in a framework for developing a plan for the property use that would include passive recreation. More detailed plans and costs for improvements will be developed in the next fiscal year.

Land exchanges were completed with the state Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) to support a gas main extension on Town Forest Road to serve the public works campus, and Tootin' Hills Elementary School. Conversion to natural gas at these facilities during the next fiscal year will

result in operational cost savings for the town and the board of education, and reduced emissions to the environment.

The construction of the sanitary sewer extension was completed for a portion of Seminary Road. Coordination and administrative assistance was also provided to the board of education for the design, bidding and construction of the Henry James Memorial School and Squadron Line Elementary School main office renovation projects. Contract documents were also developed for the Squadron boiler replacement project that will be completed in the summer of 2016.

Design coordination is ongoing for the Simsbury Center Improvement Project that included improvements to Riverside Road, Drake Hill Road Bridge, and an improved pedestrian crossing on Hopmeadow Street. Unanticipated permitting requirements for the project have impacted the completion of the design phase.

Construction was also completed for Phase III of the multi-use path on Owens Brook Boulevard.

The installation of emergency generators was completed at Tariffville Elementary School and at Simsbury High School to improve the town's capability to respond to power interruptions during storm events. Engineering staff worked closely with various organizations to expedite progress on projects including the Simsbury Veterans Memorial and the Tariffville Water Commission storage tank replacement project.

### Development Services

Development services comprise plan review, periodic observation of work, performance bond administration, and database management for the land use commissions. Twenty



*Mini MakerSpace Ribbon Cutting in April 2015.*

seven projects, with site improvements valued at \$21.8 million, were managed during the year.

These projects will add significant value to the town's Grand List and offer attractive business and residential facilities. Engineering reviews of land use applications were completed for a number of projects including Talcott Estates, Murphy's Turn, Garden Homes, Green Tea Restaurant, Highcroft Estates, and the Cumberland Farms mixed-use development. Construction of several developments including Carson Way - Phase II in the Powder Forest, Eastpointe at Dorset Crossing, special needs housing at Dorset Crossing, and Ethel Walker Centennial Center continued during the year. New developments including Garden Homes, Big Y Supermarket, and other significant residential projects are expected to be under construction next year. Also, land use applications for the redevelopment of 200 Hopmeadow Street (formally The Hartford Insurance site) are expected to be submitted during next year.

### Special Services

Special services encompass support activities for various town departments. Major activities included the following:

Geographical Information Services availability to the public was initiated in January of 2015 as planned through the town website. The engineering department continues to add data to the system and make this information available to other town departments, the public, and to be consistent with the assessor's property information. This system will continue to make engineering and planning information more accessible to both internal and external customers.

Grant applications were administered for several projects. Several grants applications were developed including a Small Town Economic Assistant Grant for the Simsbury Veterans Memorial, a Hazard Mitigation Grant for the demolition of the existing structure at the recently acquired 1 Old Bridge Road, a Small Cities Grant for improvements for facilities at the Simsbury Housing Authority properties, and support for a gigabyte Internet network project proposal to serve the Town of Simsbury.

Environmental testing, studies and data management were provided to several town departments. Ground and surface water tests were coordinated at several sites to assure regulatory standards compliance as required by the DEEP's Clean Water regulations. Databases and map files were maintained for subdivision and site developments, surety

bonding, excavation permits, and state aid road maps and mileage records. State mileage records are an important component for various grant programs.

### Looking Ahead

A number of capital projects funded under the fiscal year 2015-2016 budget will again provide a challenge for the department in providing necessary services and coordination. In addition, development activity will continue to increase significantly and could reach a historically significant level. This anticipated activity will be a considerable challenge to the department.

On a regional basis, the department full- and part-time staff actively participates on the board of directors of the Farmington Valley Health District, the Call Before You Dig system, and the Capitol Region Council of Governments' transportation committee.

The department will continue to coordinate with the public building committee to continue the process for study and site selection for the senior/community center.

The department will be carefully balancing the services provided to manage a challenging program of design and development projects in the upcoming year.



## FINANCE DEPARTMENT

The department of finance consists of the following offices: finance/treasurer, assessor, tax collector, and information technology.

The finance department handles all the day-to-day fiscal operations of the town including accounts payable, payroll, assessment and collections, and is responsible for establishing policies and procedures to safeguard the town's assets. The finance office prepares the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report and has received the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting from the Government Finance Officers Association for the last 18 years. The finance director coordinates with the boards of selectmen and finance to issue debt in accordance with town policy.

## SIMSBURY PUBLIC LIBRARY

The Simsbury Public Library is the community's multi-generational gathering place, technology hub and first stop for information. This fiscal year, improvements and changes included the reestablishment of teen services after 22 years. From the outset, teen engagement was record breaking and participation continues to grow. The teens are now involved in nearly all departments of the library through volunteering, program planning and facilitating, as well as teaching.

The library's Innovators' Workshop thrived this year with the 3D printer creating 254 print jobs over 616 hours; Sketch-Up 3D design classes; the creation of MakerBuddies, a Simsbury High School student volunteer led program for elementary school children; Coding Club; and launch of a Mini MakerSpace in the children's department.

The award-winning business resource center continued to support local job seekers and economic development with

*Photo left; Mini MakerSpace fun at the Simsbury Public Library. Below; The Simsbury Public Library's Storytime at Rotary Park drew 400 over four weeks. Photos courtesy of Simsbury Public Library*

## Simsbury Public Library

### Performance Measures FY 2014-2015

	Simsbury	State Average
Items circulated per capita	16.3	8.2
Program attendance per capita	1.6	.54
Library visits per capita	15.2	5.8

### Key Statistics 2012-2015

	2012	2013	2014	2015
Average number of visits per hour	90	78.2	96.7	110.9
Average number of questions answered per hour	19.2	18.1	20.8	21.1
Average number of public Internet workstations used per hour open	37.8	36.1	38.9	41.6
Annual program attendance	34,556	27,934	26,425	38,634
Total annual service hours	2,775	3,256	3,256	3,256

both an increase in program attendance and requests for information and assistance.

Retirement of numerous children's department staff presented the opportunity to laterally reclassify positions to better meet the needs of the community. This resulted in a revitalization of weekly programming with double the number of events and double the number of participants. Collaboration with town departments and community organizations brought public works to showcase their mighty equipment at the first Touch a Truck, seniors who challenged and beat handily the teens in a Wii bowling tournament, a new Simsbury Historical Society rotating display at the library and the library's participation in the Simsbury Innovation Fair.

Each day over the past year it was clearly evident that so much truly does happen at Simsbury Public Library.

The library continues to be able to provide the high level of service and wide range of educational opportunities, even as usage has increased over 14 percent, for just \$1.23 a week per capita thanks to its dedicated staff, Library Board of Trustees, Friends of the Simsbury Public Library and wonderful volunteers.

### 2014-2015 Accomplishments

- Received a 99.5 percent satisfaction rating from town residents as part of town-wide survey.
- Hired teen services librarian, Sara Ray, with funds derived through attrition of existing staff.
- Number of teen programs has doubled
- Teen program participation has tripled
- Teen library use has increased 50 percent
- Lateral reclassification of children's department staff.
- Number of weekly programs offered and attendance doubled

- Opened the Innovators' Workshop Mini MakerSpace in the children's department with generous support from the Friends of Simsbury Public Library and the Simsbury Junior Woman's Club
- Held the first Touch a Truck event in cooperation with the Simsbury Public Works Department.
- Library Journal Index of Public Library Use 2014 ranked Simsbury Public Library fourth highest in its budget category behind the Darien, New Canaan and Westport libraries. Simsbury out-ranked libraries in West Hartford, Farmington, Fairfield, Glastonbury and Avon.
- Number of library visits increased 15 percent to over 361,300
- Program attendance increased 46 percent to 38,634
- Reference transactions by business resource center coordinator Jenna Mayotte increased 25 percent
- Electronic downloads increased 251 percent
- Use of notary services increased 30 percent

### 2015-2016 Goals

- Through community conversations, begin the development of a strategic plan to guide the library through the next three to five years.
- Continue the expansion of Innovators' Workshop through the addition of equipment and hands-on educational opportunities.
- Further develop teen services to provide a safe environment and experiences that will help teens develop the skills to be successful adults.
- Expand outreach to increase the level of community engagement with the library, its resources, services and educational opportunities.

## PLANNING AND LAND USE DEPARTMENT

During the 2014-2015 fiscal year, the Simsbury Department of Planning and Community Development continued to provide staff support to seven boards and commissions (conservation commission/inland wetlands and watercourses agency, design review board, economic development commission, historic district commission, planning commission, zoning board of appeals, and zoning commission). In its support role, department staff evaluated development proposals and advised the town's land use boards and commissions on matters associated with the regulatory process. Staff also provided guidance on a wide variety of matters, including: short- and long-term land use policy and applicable regulations and ordinances.

In this past fiscal year, a few major projects came through the department. The Centennial Center at Ethel Walker School received approvals in December 2014 to construct a multifaceted facility designed to seamlessly integrate athletics, academics and the social dimensions of life at the school. The town's land use commissions also approved a large residential project on Powder Forest Road named Highcroft in January 2015, which will develop 272 new townhouses and apartments. In May 2015, the Garden Homes project on Hopmeadow Street was approved as a mixed-use development, with 181 residential units; the commercial component will be brought before the zoning commission at a later date.

Staff has spent a significant amount of time keeping up with zoning violations. The department has seen an increase in blight complaints from residents, due, in part, to the record number of foreclosures in process at this time. Sign permit violations are a steady source of concern from the public, which are researched and remedied by the code enforcement officer on staff.

In addition to providing support to the town's land use commissions, staff provides advice and direction to landowners, homeowners, builders, and developers on matters concerning planning and community development as projects are contemplated. Department staff also provides counsel to all other town departments. The review and processing of all land use applications by the staff provides the coordination necessary for the efficient administration of all land use applications. This assistance will continue in the future, as the department strives to further improve coordination and communication between the land use commissions and all other town departments in order to optimize the land use application process.



Kids having fun at the Teen Nerdfest/Fandom Social.

## POLICE DEPARTMENT

The Simsbury Police Department is a nationally accredited, through the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies Inc. (CALEA), and State of Connecticut Accredited agency providing law enforcement and public safety services to Simsbury residents 24 hours a day, seven days a week, including operation of the E-911 Public Safety Answering Point. The department employs 38 sworn officers, 10 full-time and two part-time civilian employees. The department provides a full range of services with 37 first responders and two Emergency Medical Technicians. During fiscal year 2014-2015 there were 32,183 calls for service with an average response time of approximately three minutes for medical calls. The department is staffed by highly qualified and extensively trained personnel. Department personnel received 3,901 hours of training during fiscal year 2014-2015.

During fiscal year 2014-2015, the Simsbury Police Department maintained their National Accreditation status through the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA). Maintaining national accreditation status allows the Simsbury Police Department to remain within an elite group of police agencies in the state that offer the most current and professional law enforcement to the communities that they serve. The department has already achieved State Accreditation Certification and in the

### Simsbury Police Department Incident Statistics

	2010-2011	2011-2012	2012-2013	2013-2014	2014-2015
Part I Crimes	136	188	189	169	151
Motor Vehicle Accidents	723	625	510	651	615
Medical Calls	1,370	1,444	1,430	1,544	1,599
Motor Vehicle Enforcement	4,394	3,940	3,167	2,980	3,757
Alarm Responses	840	879	810	789	865
<b>Total Incidents</b>	<b>29,890</b>	<b>33,311</b>	<b>36,171</b>	<b>31,256</b>	<b>32,183</b>

future will continuously work towards remaining accredited at both the state and national levels.

The officers and civilian members of the department are proud of their work and the relationships that they have established with the community, and look forward to continuing and expanding these positive associations by providing not only routine police services on a daily basis, but also with programs like the Citizens Police Academy and Alumni programs, Junior Police Academy, senior picnic, Explorer Program, ride-along program, job shadow day, Special Olympics, tip-a-cop, Salvation Army Holiday Store Stuff-a-Cruiser, Family Night @ Simsbury Farms and Wreaths Across America.

One of the most important child safety programs continues to be the child car seat inspection, which is well utilized by Simsbury residents and the residents of surrounding communities. The department and its members have served the community for well over 50 years and the goal of ensuring the safety of Simsbury's residents and visitors is the department's first priority. It is the department's mission to always strive to increase the quality and level of service to residents, and to be worthy of the community's continued pride. The department's concentration is to ensure that the residents of Simsbury have a police department that is steadfastly focused on community safety and can always be relied upon to provide exceptional service.

*Photo left: School Resource Officer Tim May, center, and Colonel Joseph Bellino award winners Nick St. Sauveur, left, and Rayon Christie, right. The award is given to students who do good work within the school and the community.*

*Below: Members of the Simsbury Police Department, led by Chief Peter Ingvertsen, march in the Memorial Day parade.*

The department faced many significant challenges during 2014-2015. A homicide investigation consumed considerable amounts of the department's resources and was a major focus for the detective division. The town experienced a rash of burglaries in the summer and early fall of 2015, which were solved once the perpetrators were arrested. Drug activity remains a constant focus and this concentrated attention led to the discovery of an active drug factory and the arrest of its operator.

### 2014-2015 Accomplishments

A study that was published in the fall of 2014 found Simsbury to be the 10th safest city in the State of Connecticut. The study also recognized Simsbury as one of the best places in which to live in Connecticut in part because of its "impressively low crime rates."

Chief Peter N. Ingvertsen and Captain Nick Boulter were honored by the Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence as two of the First 100 Plus Men. The coalition recognizes "men who are working to improve the lives of domestic violence victims throughout Connecticut."

The two dedicated School Resource Officers (SROs) maintained efforts to promote public safety values within the schools. SRO Tim May continues to use the variable message signs on high school grounds to promote safety. SRO May also initiated the use of a car with significant damage that was the result of impaired and/or distracted teenage driving as a visual deterrent at the high school. SRO May along with assistance from SRO Todd Kushman, and other officers, led the resurgence of the Police Explorer Program, now known as the Cadet Program. Both SROs participated in the Youth Advisory Board meetings where students and teachers discuss issues in town. A drug presentation was provided to the school nurses by the SROs.

In October 2014, the Simsbury Police Department teamed up with the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration by sponsoring a designated Teen Driver Safety Week. The "5 to Drive" campaign encourages the parents of teen drivers to always set the rules before their teens begin to drive. The five "rules" are designed to save the lives of teen drivers and focus on driving while impaired, seat belt use, distracted driving, speeding, and the "one passenger at a time rule." Various members of the department also continue teaching classes through the Avon Driving School.

Lieutenant Fred Sifodaskalakis acts as the department's liaison for the newly formed town and school Community for Care Committee, and provides valuable input from the law enforcement perspective. This committee was formed to





*Simsbury Police Department patrol members on bicycles.*

discuss and communicate issues regarding mental health and substance abuse in the community. This committee's main mission is to better coordinate responses and improve communications between various support entities. Lt. Sifodaskalakakis arranged for a presentation to the Community for Care Committee by the two School Resource Officers that focused on the common types of drugs and paraphernalia that are used by local school age youth. Committee members found it to be eye-opening and informative. The presentation was also broadcast on Simsbury Community Television (SCTV).

In November of 2014, the Simsbury Police Department worked with the State of Connecticut Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services to conduct tobacco sale compliance checks at eight local businesses. Efforts to prevent underage tobacco sales and use will continue in the future with education, compliance checks and investigations.

The department is very proud that in fiscal year 2014-2015 it received — for the third year in a row — two Traffic Safety Law Enforcement Challenge Awards: "Best Overall Occupant Protection Safety Program" and "Honorable Mention for Overall Traffic Safety Enforcement," based on the size of the municipality. The department was awarded a variable message/radar speed sign for its accomplishments in traffic safety programs. The Law Enforcement Challenge is difficult to win and these awards represent a great deal of work and commitment on the part of the department.

The department held a car seat clinic for Simsbury residents at a local daycare center and frequently performs car seat inspections for parents and grandparents.

The department's website continues to be updated on a regular basis with press releases, crime alerts/prevention and safety information (arrests, car break-ins, back to school, bicycle, pedestrian, Halloween, holiday season safety, etc.). The addition of the police Facebook page has proved to be a valuable communication tool. The department has also maintained the home/business security surveys.

The department continues to actively participate in bike safety. Officers provide services to students and adults participating in the three Bike/Walk to School events in May. Up-to-date information/changes regarding bicycling in the

community are posted to the police website and Facebook page. The department's purchase of a bicycle repair station located in the area of Rotary Park has been a success and is frequently utilized by passing cyclists.

The department provided a "Bio-Terrorism" class to alumni of the Citizens' Police Academy at the Sejong Lecture Hall at Westminster School.

The department maintained a college internship program through FY 14-15 from local colleges by providing semester-long internships to one student in the fall and one student in the spring. The department also participated in recruitment events/fairs throughout the region.

The department provides officers with training in a variety of areas. Two such areas are communications and mental health. The Crisis Intervention Training program (one week program) and Responding to Situations Involving People with Mental Illness (one day class) are two core programs that the department has embraced. These programs, in addition to established annual mental health training, have been a benefit to the delivery of service. Additionally this year, two officers have obtained certification to instruct in the area of

Police Response to Individuals with Mental Illness.

During this fiscal year one officer was certified as a bicycle officer. One detective became certified as a computer forensic examiner after attending 160 hours of specialized training. Three dispatchers received focused training in Protecting Law Enforcement Responders, Suicide Prevention and 911 Liability.

The department received approval to carry and administer Naloxone. The entire department was trained and equipment was deployed to officers in March.

Since January 2012, the Simsbury Police Department has maintained a medication disposal program that allows for a safe and secure way for people to dispose of expired, unwanted or unused medications. As residents have become more aware of the service, the program continues to grow. In FY 14-15, the department collected more than 1,000 pounds of medication. The police department continues to dispose of the medication with two surrounding communities in an effort to promote regionalization.

With the continuation of the dedicated traffic officer, the town is able to readily respond to citizens' concerns regarding motor vehicle speeding. Simsbury continues to see decreases in motor vehicle speeding in town and is able to provide additional focus on areas with greater numbers of traffic related motor vehicle accidents.

The department continues to hold its annual community programs and events (Citizens Police Academy, Junior Police Academy, Turkey Trot, senior picnic, Stuff A Cruiser, Job Shadow Day, Top Dog Contest, etc.).

### **2015-2016 Goals**

- To staff the patrol, detective and dispatch divisions sufficiently to provide timely and comprehensive police service, guided by a strong community policing philosophy, and fiscal responsibility.
- To recruit and retain the best possible members for the department.
- To seek non-budgetary funds to support current and future department programs and services.



*The senior picnic is held at Simsbury Farms with service provided by the Simsbury Police Department and the social services department.*

## PROBATE COURT

The Simsbury Regional Probate District encompasses the towns of Avon, Canton, Granby and Simsbury and is located in the Simsbury Town Hall. Cynthia C. Becker, former judge for the Avon Probate Court, was elected as Judge of the Simsbury Regional Probate District for the term commencing January 5, 2011.

The mission of the Simsbury Regional Probate Court is to assist individuals and families residing in the district who require the services of the court in an efficient and compassionate manner. The probate court strives to ease the process as much as possible knowing that during stressful times it is difficult to cope with the unknown.

Although the staff and judge cannot provide legal advice to the users of the court, informational pamphlets are available and questions are always welcome. In addition, Judge Becker, in her capacity as Judge of Probate, is available to speak to community groups about probate matters.

### Jurisdiction of the Court

Connecticut probate courts have jurisdiction over probating of wills, administration and settlement of decedent's estates, overseeing the carrying out of the terms and provisions of testamentary and living (inter vivos) trusts, and reviewing the accountings of trustees. In addition, probate courts appoint, supervise and remove conservators of the person and estate of individuals incapable of managing their personal or financial affairs due to mental or physical disability. These areas represent over half of the Simsbury Regional Probate Court's workload.

The probate court also has jurisdiction over the appointment and supervision of guardians of the property, and persons of minors, and persons with developmental disabilities; the removal of unfit parents as guardians of their children; the termination of parental rights of parents who cannot fulfill their parental responsibilities; the adjudication of paternity of children born out of wedlock; and the finalization of adoptions. These matters make up about one third of the court's caseload, but are some of the most sensitive and time-consuming responsibilities of the court.

While probate courts have jurisdiction to authorize the commitment of those suffering from mental illness, or drug or alcohol addiction to appropriate hospitals or facilities for treatment, these cases represent a small percentage of the court's workload due mainly to the absence of psychiatric facilities in the region.

### New Developments

The Connecticut Probate Assembly revised the Probate Practice Book, which means that the users of the Probate Court will find there have been some procedural changes and new forms. The new Probate Court Rules of Procedure went into effect July 1, 2013. A complete copy of the Probate Court Rules of Procedure can be found at the judicial website: <http://www.jud.ct.gov/probate/CourtRules/default.htm> and a list of the new Probate Court forms can be found at [www.ctprobate.gov](http://www.ctprobate.gov).

As part of the new state budget, the General Assembly



*Members of the Simsbury Public Works Department.*

increased the statutory probate fee for decedent's gross estates that are over \$2 million. The fee increase, which is contained in section 44 of Public Act 15-5 (June 2015 special session), applies retroactively to the estates of all persons in the jurisdiction who died on or after January 1, 2015.

For decedent's estates over \$2 million where the probate fee was billed prior to the retroactive application of the statute, supplemental invoices will be issued by the court to cover the additional amount due as a result of the fee increase.

### 2014-2015 Workload of Court

During the past year, 193 applications were accepted for probate of decedent's estates. In addition, 180 small estate affidavits and tax purposes only estates were filed. The court also processed 35 applications for conservatorships, and several applications for guardianships of the estate and person of minors, guardianships of the intellectually disabled, termination of parental rights, approval of adoptions, name changes and inter vivos trust matters.

### Court Contact Information

The Probate Court is located at the Simsbury Town Hall, 933 Hopmeadow Street, and is open Monday through Thursday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Friday from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Online information about the courts is available on the website, located at [www.jud.ct.gov](http://www.jud.ct.gov), click on "Probate." Many of the forms used by the probate courts are now available through the website.

## PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

The Simsbury Public Works Department is comprised of five divisions: administrative, highway, building and grounds, landfill and recycling, and water pollution control. The department has a combined staff of 38 and has a \$6.4 million combined operating budget. The administrative division has responsibility for budget preparation, administration, operational planning, contracting, purchasing, and personnel.

### Highway Department

The highway department maintains 165 miles of town accepted roadways including 3,850 catch basins, the storm drainage system, roadside mowing, sign and guide-rail maintenance, and care for trees within the town's roadway right of way. The highway department also performs fleet maintenance for all vehicles and heavy equipment utilized

by the public works department, as well as the engineering, building, and police departments. Some fleet maintenance has also been performed for the board of education in an attempt to help control costs for that department.

The department has been working to continue to improve the quality of the town's roadways. This past year, the department was able to pave 17.42 miles of roadway.

Drainage crews rebuilt 232 catch basin structures and replaced 875 linear feet of drainage pipe to provide adequate roadway drainage. Most of this work was in conjunction with the paving program to assure that the structures below the newly paved road will not fail, requiring excavation of the newly paved roadway.

The highway department continued its tree work along town roadways. The department is working to protect residents from accidents or injuries resulting from falling trees and limbs. The department has also worked closely with Eversource on its tree trimming and removal programs.

As part of the state Department of Energy and Environmental Protection's (DEEP) small municipal, storm sewer system program, 287 catch basins and 10 sediment chambers were cleaned, along with the sweeping of all streets.

The department has also continued its popular "snowplow ride-along" program that allows interested residents to get a first-hand look at the town's snowplow operations.

### Building Maintenance Department

Building maintenance is responsible for the inside and outside maintenance and safety for the public and employees in and around the four large town buildings (town hall, Simsbury Public Library, Eno Memorial Hall, and Scout Hall), six rental properties, a service facility, a commuter bus shelter, and the Old Tariffville Cemetery.

The department is proud to report that the town's low income rental housing units are again at full capacity this year. The department has continued to update these units that allow the town to provide opportunities for affordable housing.

Building and maintenance has made major lighting upgrades to town hall, Eno hall and the library, which will conserve energy and lower costs. The department will be adding shades to the library to make a far more ergonomic environment for patrons and staff. This will generate a heating and cooling cost savings throughout the year.

Other projects include the repair of the brick entry at town



The town's Highway Department maintains 165 miles of town accepted roadways, among other duties.

hall, and several upgrades to Eno hall to make it more easily accessible to the public. Upgrades at Eno included: the fire suppression system in the kitchen, and the fire alarm system. Work on repointing the chimneys is expected to be completed this year. Department staff has taken on the outside maintenance at the library. This has not only been a cost savings, but has proven to be more efficient and timely.

**Landfill and Recycling**

Tthe Simsbury landfill at 66 Wolcott Road is permitted by the state Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) for operation as a bulky waste and recycling materials transfer station. The town conducts annual monitoring of ground water and storm water at this site. The site is also used as a composting area. An area for residents to pick up leaf compost and woodchips is available at no cost to residents. A fall leaf collection is provided to town residents at no charge.

The town hosted two Household Hazardous Waste Collection days in conjunction with the towns of Avon, Granby, and Canton. A combined total of 841 residents participated with 446 residents from Simsbury. The town's costs have been reduced by more than half from when it participated in the MDC collection. Simsbury's residents continue to show a willingness to dispose of their household wastes responsibly.

Simsbury has developed new recycling ordinances and a Residential Recycling Registration Program that not only increases the town's recycling rates, but also allows flexibility for trash haulers collecting recyclables, which ultimately allows for lower trash collection costs for residents.

The Paint Recycling Program through PaintCare continues at the bulky waste facility. This program allows residents

to dispose of paints and stain at no cost. All of the paint collected will be recycled or re-used.

**Water Pollution Control**

Simsbury Water Pollution Control (SWPC) is a customer-funded utility owned and operated by the Town of Simsbury. The towns of Avon and Granby are also co-owners of the treatment facility. SWPC is responsible for the operation and maintenance of over 80 miles of collection system, five pumping stations, and the treatment facility. The department is staffed by a superintendent, an assistant superintendent, five operators, two maintainers, an administrative secretary, and an engineering technician. During the summer, seasonal staff is used primarily for easement maintenance.

The treatment facility is designed to provide biological nitrogen removal. During the reporting interval the discharge limits were achieved, with insignificant exceptions. Generally dry conditions during the reporting period resulted in lower average daily flows and slightly elevated pollutant concentrations.

During the reporting period, wastewater treatment for a population equivalent of 15,639 was provided. In addition to clean water, the other end result of treatment is sludge. An average of 45 dry tons of dewatered sludge per month was transported to the Metropolitan District Commission's Hartford facility for incineration.

Simsbury WPC received a total phosphorus limit with the renewal of its National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit in 2013. The new permit Total Maximum Daily Load for phosphorus is 2.5 mg/l or 46.95 lbs. per day. Staff has modified the operation of the biological process and the proposed phosphorus limit is being achieved with current flows.

Sewer easement maintenance continues to be a priority. Most of the overgrown easements have been cleared. The easements need to be kept open to allow access for inspection and maintenance.

**2014-2015 Accomplishments**

- Received \$21,254 for sale of nitrogen credits.
- Installed a new mechanical bar screen and screenings conditioner.
- Started collection system cleaning and inspection program to identify problem areas.
- Completed several sewer allocation analyses for proposed development in the sewer service area.
- Completed flow assessment of north interceptor for planned improvements.
- Completed the construction phase of the Tunxis Pump Station replacement project.
- Completed energy audit and upgrades for a potential \$20,000 annual savings.
- A number of tours were provided to Simsbury school groups throughout the year.

**2015-2016 Goals**

- Design, permit, and obtain funding to stabilize the Farmington River stream bank in the Hazel Meadow area.
- Installed a new mechanical bar screen and screenings conditioner.
- Complete sewer feasibility analysis for West Mountain Road service area.
- Continue sewer easement maintenance and clearing.
- Enhance and expand safety training efforts.

Tours of the water pollution control facility can be scheduled. Public information presentations are also available to groups. Information on connections, permits, or sewer line locations can be obtained by visiting the facility on Drake Hill Road or calling 860-658-1380.

**REGISTRARS OF VOTERS/ELECTION ADMINISTRATORS**

The Secretary of the State's office and state statute governs the operations of the office of the Simsbury Registrars of Voters. The registrars are jointly responsible for the administration of state election laws.

They direct all local, state and federal elections and primaries, and the town's budget referendum, including hiring and training of poll staff, equipment testing and operation, absentee voter counting, reporting of results, and records retention. Registrars supervise voter registration, maintain the list of qualified electors, and conduct the annual canvass of registered voters.

On January 7, 2015, Michele Potvin-Piecuch was sworn in as Republican Registrar of Voters. Her term began following the retirement of Margaret C. Diachenko, who served the town for more than 14 years. Karen E. Cortés is the Democratic Registrar.

Some 452 residents were enrolled as new voters from July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015, including over 299 voters who used Connecticut's new online voter registration system.

During the 2015 fiscal year, the Registrars of Voters

Water Pollution Control			
Parameter	Influent	Permit Limit	Effluent 7/1/14 to 6/30/15
ADF, mgd	—	3.8	1.99
CBOD, mg/L	185	25	3
TSS, mg/L	257	30	4
TN, lb/day	612	105	56
TP, lb/day	77	47	18
ADF: Average Daily Flow, CBOD: Carbonaceous Biochemical Oxygen Demand, TSS: Total Suspended Solids, TN: Total Nitrogen, TP: Total Phosphorus			

ADF: Average Daily Flow  
CBOD: Carbonaceous Biochemical Oxygen Demand  
TSS: Total Suspended Solids  
TN: Total Nitrogen  
TP: Total Phosphorus

## Voter Registration Summary

### Town of Simsbury

June 17, 2015

Democratic:	4,657
Republican:	4,972
Unaffiliated:	5,996
Other:	107
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>15,732</b>

administered the August 2014 state primary, the November 2014 state election, and the May 2015 budget referendum.

The registrars continue to work with the Government and Elections Administration committee of the Connecticut General Assembly to reduce

statute-driven mandates, and increase election reporting efficiency. In 2014, the Connecticut General Assembly passed legislation allowing the use of electronic poll books. Simsbury had previously served as a pilot site for electronic poll books, and the registrars were actively involved in lobbying for the passage of the bill.

During the 2015-2016 budget year, Simsbury voters will cast ballots in the 2015 municipal election, the 2016 Democratic and Republican presidential preference primaries, and the 2016 budget referendum. Projections for 2015-2016 therefore include costs for the annual canvass of registered voters, the municipal election, presidential primaries, potential ballot audits, and the 2016 budget referendum.

## SOCIAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT

The Simsbury Social Services Department provides assistance to families, youth and senior residents in a professional and confidential manner.

This has been another difficult year for Simsbury families, as the town continues to see an increase in requests for assistance, especially food. Thankfully, the department has been able to meet this need thanks to the continued generosity of the residents of Simsbury.

The department offers a variety of services to Simsbury residents, including: financial and medical assistance, cheese day, bread day, the food closet, mobile Foodshare, energy assistance, emergency shelter, counseling, eviction assistance, medical transportation, renter's rebate, family therapy, youth services, notary services, trigger locks for firearms, cell phones, and emergency beacon lights.

The department provides vital services to the town's senior population through its senior outreach program, provides



Photo above; Simsbury Police Chief Peter N. Ingvertsen with senior center members enjoying the annual firehouse breakfast. Right, senior center members enjoying a summer picnic.



transportation to seniors and persons with disabilities five days per week through the Dial-A-Ride Program, and operates an active and diverse senior center for residents over 50 years of age.

In situations such as power outages, social services has developed a Neighbor-To-Neighbor Program, which involves 15 call captains who check on more than 6,000 Simsbury residents. Additionally, the department initiates the opening of cooling and warming centers when weather conditions are extreme.

The youth service bureau continues to sponsor substance abuse awareness programs, character development and mentoring programs, Family Day, Skate and Share, intergenerational programs with the senior center, and distracted driving prevention campaigns.

The department's work continues to be generously supported by donations of time, money, food, gifts, and other products from various civic organizations, businesses, churches, schools, families, and individuals. Special thanks to the First Church of Christ Simsbury for the many dedicated volunteers who distribute food from the bi-weekly mobile Foodshare van. A special thank you to Fitzgerald's Foods, Panera Bread, Brookside Bagels, Metro Bis, Simsbury Market, Starbucks and Kentucky Fried Chicken for their weekly donations, and to Stop & Shop for its generous financial and

food donations throughout the year.

Since the majority of the department's assistance programs are funded by donations, the department would like to thank the many Simsbury residents who have made financial donations during the year. It is through such generosity that social services has the ability to assist Simsbury neighbors who continue to struggle.

## Senior Center

The mission of the Simsbury Senior Center is to provide a community focal point where older adults come together for programs that reflect their experience and skills, respond to their diverse needs and interests, enhance their dignity, support their independence, and encourage their involvement in and with the center and their community.

The senior center offers opportunities for health and wellness with the use of a fitness center and exercise classes for varied fitness levels. Health screenings and clinics are offered for blood pressure, hearing, vision, flu and pneumonia vaccines.

A variety of educational and informational programs are offered, including a writing group, computer/technology classes, an investment group, and guest lectures. Opportunities to participate in artistic and creative programs are available with such activities as painting, choral singing, ceramics, and jewelry making. A variety of ongoing recreational and social activities are offered, as well as special events to celebrate holidays and occasions. The senior center offers noontime dining twice a week. These popular meals provide guests with nutritious seasonal meals and an opportunity to socialize with peers.

The center continues to partner with the Simsbury Public Schools, St. Mary's School, and Westminster School to offer

Photo far left; Joanna Vincent at the annual Veterans Appreciation Luncheon at the senior center.

Right; Senior center kitchen staff helping out at Saint Mary's School.





*Tulmeadow Farm, Photo by Susan Klotz*

opportunities that link students with older adults. The center offers a wide variety of local trips to theaters, museums, shopping centers, sporting events, restaurants, concerts, and area special events. The center provides assistance and support with income tax, health insurance, and mature driving safety.

The center enhanced its programming this year with a diverse mix of fitness classes, speakers, concerts, and dinners in the evening hours. The Simsbury Senior Center welcomes all members of the diverse and growing older adult population (age 50 and over), their families and friends.

### **Dial-A-Ride Program**

For the past 35 years, the Simsbury Social Services Department has provided transportation to Simsbury's seniors and persons with disabilities. Buses run daily, Monday through Friday, and provide door-to-door transportation around Simsbury for such things as shopping, hair appointments, visiting the senior center, library visits and attending local events. The program provides transportation to medical appointments in Simsbury, Avon and Granby; and shopping trips to Simsbury Commons, as well as stores along Route 44. Additionally, the program provides rides for persons with disabilities to their places of employment. During the 2014-2015 fiscal year, 9,704 passengers requested 9,044 trips, and traveled 49,066 miles.

During 2014-2015 the social services department received a state Department of Transportation grant to provide additional Dial-A-Ride service. With these grant funds, Enhanced Dial-A-Ride provided 388 out-of-town medical trips and 31 senior center trips. A total of 677 passengers utilized the enhanced service, and traveled 7,961 miles. The program has developed a local transportation resource list for residents to use. Anyone unable to afford the cost of medical transportation may apply to the social services department for assistance.

Due to the increased cost of transportation, the department began using a Dial-A-Ride pass system. This annual pass, for a donation of \$25 for an individual and \$35 for a couple, provides unlimited use of the Dial-A-Ride system, as well as two out-of-town medical trips per month.

The department also offers Vets-Helping-Vets, a volunteer program, which matches Simsbury veterans and provides transportation to the veterans' affairs complex in Newington. Special thanks to the many veterans who have volunteered for this program.

Dial-A-Ride reservations can be made by calling 860-693-6876 between 8 a.m. and noon at least 24 hours in advance.

### **Senior Outreach Program**

The senior outreach program provides many services to

Simsbury seniors and persons with disabilities. Information, guidance and referrals are given to residents and their families regarding local, state and federal resources that they may benefit from. Home visits are made and information is given on services including homecare, alternate housing, medical and financial assistance. Assistance is provided with state and federal applications, including energy assistance and Social Security programs. Emergency 911 medical incident reports are provided by the Simsbury Police Department and follow up phone calls and visits are made to find those who may be at risk or in need of services. The outreach program continues to update its emergency call list of seniors and persons with disabilities, which is activated each time the town experiences severe weather conditions. Senior outreach encourages residents to register for the Connecticut and Simsbury Alert Systems.

In addition, the friendly visitor component matches community volunteers with the homebound to make weekly visits offering socialization, comfort and friendship. Volunteers made 613 visits this past year. The department will continue to strive to better serve residents with the continued assistance from the town's wonderful and committed volunteers who help to make department programs so successful.

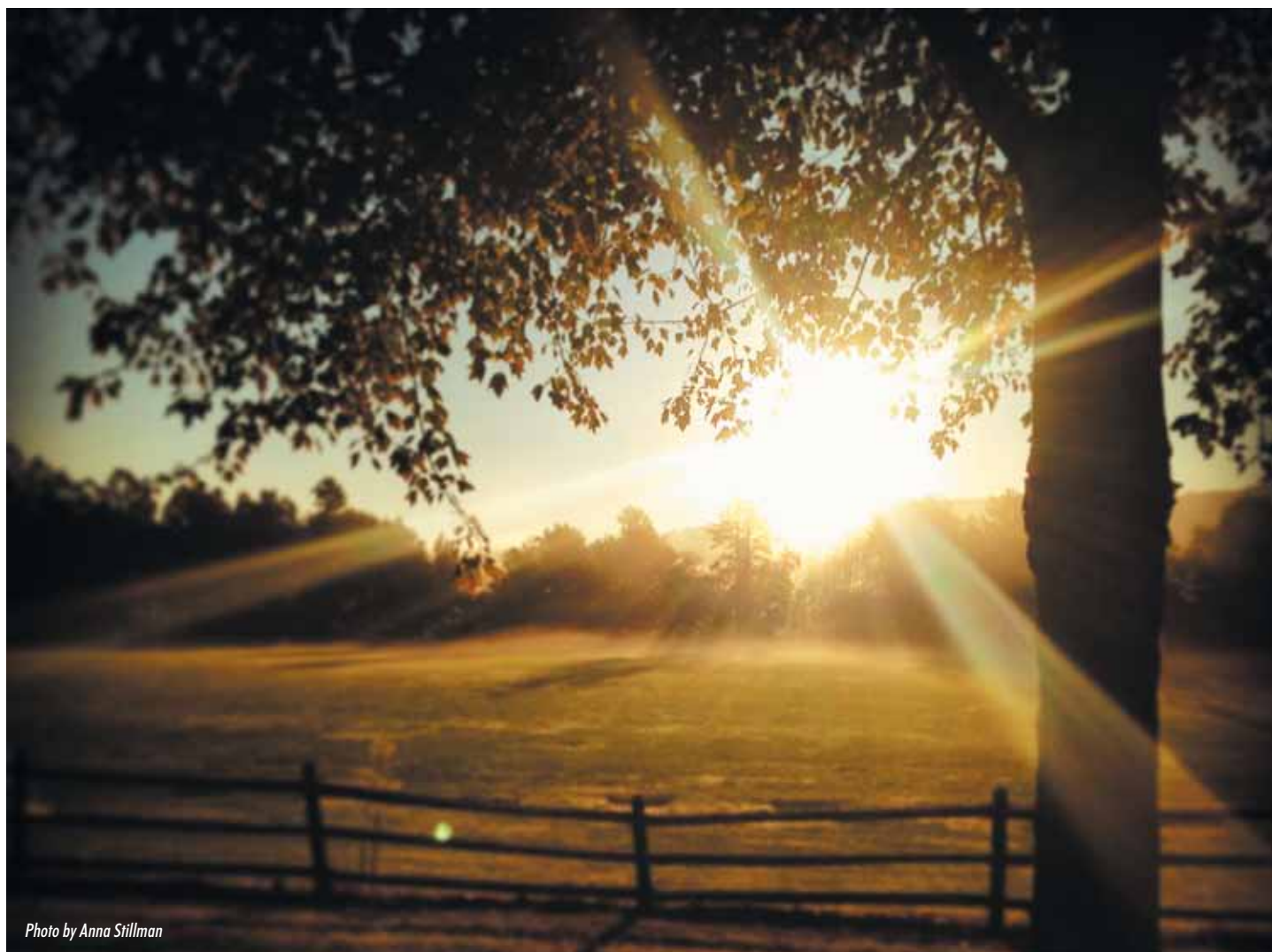


Photo by Anna Stillman

## TAX DEPARTMENT

Taxes, a compulsory governmental charge for the purpose of defraying the cost of services provided for common benefit, is the major source of revenue for town government.

As such, the Simsbury Tax Collector is responsible for the financial well-being of the town, which is the backbone of the municipality in regards to the fiscal debt and bonding capacity. The tax collector collects both current and delinquent taxes for real estate and motor vehicle, sewer use and sewer/water assessments. The department is also responsible for the collections and balancing of all fire district taxes.

These duties, when performed in an efficient manner, should reflect the financial health of the town, which is the mainstay of any municipality in regard to the fiscal debt and bonding capacity.

Concern and understanding continue to be the department's driving force. The department also strives for quality personal contact with the taxpayer. If at any time there is a problem or concern please feel free to contact the department at 860-658-3238.

### 2014-2015 Accomplishments

- The tax collection rate was again over 99 percent.

## TOWN CLERK

The Simsbury Town Clerk's office receives and maintains extensive records concerning real estate transactions; births, deaths, and marriages; elections, primaries and referenda; meeting minutes for town boards and commissions; military discharges; hunting and fishing sport licenses; dog licenses; liquor licenses; notaries public; justices of the peace; trade name certificates; and other historical documents that date back to the seventeenth century. State statutes, the Town Charter, and local ordinances govern the implementation of duties for this office.

On November 4, 2014, 65 percent of Simsbury voters turned out for the State Election for Governor and other statewide offices, Representative in Congress, State Representative, State Senator, Judge of Probate, and Registrars of Voters. At the May 5, 2015, referendum, 6.3 percent of electors voted and approved the fiscal year 2015-2016 operating budgets totaling \$98,578,627. The voters approved two capital projects: \$1,000,000 to improve

### 2014 Grand List Mill Rate

Town	37.12
Fire District	1.19

### Total 38.31

Total dollar amount to be collected for town taxes, fire district and sewer use fees: \$88,831.673

the pools and skating rink facilities at Simsbury Farms; and \$2,150,000 to install climate control improvements in all seven public schools.

### 2014-2015 Accomplishments

In July 2015, the town clerk vault was renovated to provide additional shelving units for land record books and other records. Old shelving units were removed and replaced by a new, more efficient system within the same footprint. The life of the vault has been extended for several more years. For the first time, the regional Probate Court has all of its records consolidated in one area in the vault adjacent to its offices.

With the help of a Connecticut State Library grant, the pages in 61 land record books were re-microfilmed onto durable, longer-lasting security film; the

### Town Clerk Statistics for Fiscal Year 2014-2015

Military Discharges	26
Trade Names	58
Birth Certificates	164
Death Certificates	215
Marriage Licenses	303
Dog Licenses	2,280
Land Record Pages	16,137
<b>Total Revenues*</b>	<b>\$717,381</b>

\*The Town of Simsbury forwarded 30% of these revenues to various state agencies in accordance with the General Statutes of Connecticut.



microfilm for another 75 land record books was examined for viability; archival supplies were purchased to house records that were removed from old shelving and will be placed on the new shelving; 244 maps were microfilmed to provide security backup and scanned to add images to the existing database used to make copies for title searchers and the public.

In collaboration with Simsbury Police Chief Peter Ingvertsen, Animal Control Officer Mark Rudewicz, and the Simsbury Police Department, the department conducted its 14th Top Dog Contest during May 2015. The program is designed to promote responsible dog ownership and, in turn, to advance public safety within the community. The four happy winners received doggie treats, and their owners received a 2015 dog license at no charge.



**Town Clerk**  
 Photos clockwise from top left; Winners of 14th Top Dog Contest include Ivan, most handsome, Sassy, cutest, Norman, biggest and Nutty, smallest.

## Boards and Commissions

### AGING AND DISABILITY COMMISSION

The Simsbury Aging and Disability Commission is an advisory group whose purpose is to study the needs of and evaluate services and events designed to enhance the quality of life for Simsbury's older adults and individuals who are disabled. Its focus is to be advocates for the elderly and disabled by promoting sources that provide appropriate information, assistance and support services.

#### 2014-2015 Accomplishments

- The commission chairman was a guest on a SCTV program where he discussed programs and services sponsored by the commission.
- At the request of the commission, the board of selectman designated the month of June as Handicapped Parking Awareness Month.
- The commission continued to provide support to the Ojadian Commons special needs housing located at Dorset Crossing.
- The commission, through the efforts of the public relations subcommittee chairman, continued running regular press releases on its programs and activities.
- The commission continued to consult with the registrars of voters to discuss ways of making the polling stations in town more accessible.
- Members of the commission continued to provide consultation to the town with regard to the development of a new senior center.
- A draft of a new commission brochure was developed. Once approved, the brochure will be located in town venues to provide information to the community regarding the aging and disability commission.
- The commission's Picnic in the Park event, which is a community event for persons with disabilities, their friends and families, was held in August at St. Catherine of Siena Church in West Simsbury. Approximately 70 individuals attended.
- The commission sponsored Souper Tuesday luncheons seven times at the senior center. The luncheon consists of a special soup, sandwich and dessert and is rounded out by local entertainment. Approximately 600 seniors attended the luncheons.
- A draft proposal for a town affordable housing plan was developed. The commission voted to pass on the proposal to the board of selectmen.
- Members of the commission participated on the senior outreach committee along with the Simsbury Board of Education and Social Services Department. The senior outreach program provides opportunities for seniors to participate in school activities free of charge.
- The commission provided consultation and support to the coordinator of the Simsbury Senior Center.



*Simsbury Beautification Committee volunteer gardener Judy Larkin took the time to create a welcoming entrance at Simsbury Farms. Photo by Elizabeth Burt*

- The commission, in an effort to keep abreast of current happenings in the field of seniors and persons with disabilities, had as its guest several community speakers who are acknowledged as experts in their field.
- The aging and disability commission would like to thank the following community organizations for their financial support of Souper Tuesday and Picnic in the Park:
  - Simsbury Lions Club
  - Simsbury Granby Rotary Club
  - First Church of Christ
  - Simsbury Woman's Club

#### 2015-2016 Goals

- Work in concert with the Town of Simsbury to develop and implement a plan for a new senior center.
- Advocate for affordable housing for seniors and persons with disabilities.
- Continue to ensure that all town buildings and properties are accessible to persons with disabilities and seniors.
- Investigate development of an information guide for seniors and their caregivers.
- Work on a proposal toward having Simsbury designated as an Age Friendly Town.
- Work in concert with the town's emergency management team to investigate and implement programs that will ensure the safety and security of seniors and persons with disabilities.
- Continue with the development of a new aging and disability commission brochure.
- Work in concert with the registrars of voters to ensure polling places are accessible to persons with disabilities and seniors.
- Serve as a resource to Simsbury businesses on issues that impact seniors and individuals with disabilities as it relates to purchasing goods and services.
- Work with state and local officials to advocate for legislation related to seniors and individuals with disabilities.

### BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE

More than 50 dedicated volunteers continued to maintain gardens in public spaces throughout the town, including Simsbury Town Hall, Simsbury Public Library, Schultz Park, the Simsbury Farms Recreation Center and golf course, Eno Memorial Hall and numerous traffic islands and triangles. Each member adopts a garden or set of planters at one of these locations and is responsible for the site's maintenance throughout the year. These activities are funded by the town.

#### 2014-2015 Accomplishments

Each May, members plant a variety of annuals, perennials and shrubs in their garden site. Throughout the spring, summer and early fall they water, fertilize and groom their gardens, and in autumn, those who have adopted planters replace spent annuals with chrysanthemums and later with winter greenery. Committee Chair Elizabeth Burt, who took office in November 2013, encouraged members to use best gardening practices that would decrease water use, and foster conditions for pollinators through the use of composted soil, soaker hoses, native plants, and perennials and shrubs where appropriate.



*The Simsbury Beautification Committee maintains several planters, welcome signs, and islands around town filled with flowers and greenery. Volunteer gardener Jeanette Van Wormer worked on the fall mums at the intersection of Routes 10/185. Photo by Elizabeth Burt*

In keeping with this, a new shrub and perennial garden was established on the traffic island at Terrys Plain Road and Goodrich Street. Also in May, the small garden at the stone seating area off Ironhorse Boulevard, "Stonehenge," was redesigned to feature a knockout rose and perennials with plants and materials purchased by resident Gloria Knierem in honor of former co-chair Candace Petersen. The committee also provided a variety of day lilies to the Simsbury Farms Recreation Center for the small garden in front of the swimming pool entrance.

The recruitment of volunteers remained a pressing issue. Several longtime members were lost during the year because of age, illness or death, and the committee struggled to find replacements to adopt their garden sites. Though a call for volunteers on the committee's website and in articles published in the local press resulted in the addition of five new members by the end of June, vacancies still remained after the end of the fiscal year. Here are the names of the volunteers on the committee: Bonnie Aldrich, Sue Bednarczyk, Kelly Boothby, Nicole Braun, Betty and Peter Burkholder, Elizabeth Burt, Joanne Chasen, Jane Coburn, Laurie Colvin, Len Desson, Beverly Drees, Mary Lou Gallagher, Jane Hannah, Betty Hewitt, Betty and Dick Holden, Joan Howard, Mabel and Ron Howard, Michelle Jenks, Cindy Johnson, Jacy Jones, Marianne Joyce, Becky Kreczko, Ery Kurowski, Judy Larkin, Annette Lilly, Jan and Jerry Lintner, Sue Lofgren, Bonnie and Bob Lombardi, Ann Marroni, Bettylou McGill, Joan Miller, Lauren Miller, Nancy and Rich Murphy, John Nagy, Chris Noble, Nick Parisi, Andy Radow, Lynn Roth, Leslie Ronan, Terry Salls, Cathy Sauer, Cynthia Smith, Beverly Theodore, Terry and Charlie Urquhart, Jeanette Van Wormer, Marjorie Wickersham, Chele Wilkins, and Marilyn and Ben Winiarski.

## 2015-2016 Goals

The major thrust of the committee will be to continue its efforts to beautify Simsbury by maintaining its gardens in an environmentally sound way. It will attempt to raise public awareness and, in the process, recruit new members, through press reports and specific activities. In spring 2016, the committee will sponsor a photo contest featuring its gardens. Submissions from town residents will be accepted from May through July. Details will be posted on the website. The beautification committee webpage includes a slideshow of its gardens as well as volunteer forms and information that can be downloaded. New members can join the committee at any time. The webpage address is: [www.simsbury-ct.gov/simsbury-beautification-committee](http://www.simsbury-ct.gov/simsbury-beautification-committee).

## BOARD OF ASSESSMENT APPEALS

The Simsbury Board of Assessment Appeals is a board made up of three elected members each serving a four-year term. The board of assessment appeals works closely with the town assessor and plays a significant role in assessment administration. Per Connecticut State Statute, the board meets in March (or April) to hear motor vehicle, real estate,

and business personal property appeals, and meets in September to hear only motor vehicle appeals.

Scott Sirianni, Sharon Lawson and Stephen Nocera were the elected members of the board of assessment appeals during the 2013 and 2014 Grand List hearings.

In September 2014, the board heard 35 motor vehicle appeals. In April 2015, the board heard seven homeowner appeals, one appeal from a mixed/used commercial property, two vacant land property appeals, and nine motor vehicle appeals. There were zero appeals for business personal property for the 2014 Grand List.

In September 2015, the board heard 29 motor vehicle appeals for the 2014 Grand List.

## BUILDING CODE BOARD OF APPEALS

The Simsbury Building Code Board of Appeals, in accordance with Connecticut General Statutes, meets at the written request of an appellant or other aggrieved party to review that appellant's challenge to the interpretation of the Connecticut State Building Code by the Simsbury Building Official.

Procedurally, a written appeal must be filed by the appellant stipulating the specific sections of the Connecticut State Building Code being challenged citing reasons and must be delivered to the Simsbury Building Official for action. Once notified by the building official, the chairman of the building code board of appeals must convene a meeting within five working days to act on the specific appeal.

A simple majority vote by board members at the conclusion of the meeting will affirm, modify, or reverse the decision of the building official and a formal Notice of Decision is filed with the town with copies to the appellant and the building official.

Appeals are subject to the FOIA requirements of public notification in town hall stipulating dates, time and location for the meeting.

There are five regular members and two alternates appointed by the board of selectmen. Four members must have the qualification of a minimum five years experience in either building design, building construction, or supervision of building construction, and a fifth member to serve from the general public. Membership appointments are for a period of five years and staggered for membership continuity. A quorum consists of not less than three members.

The building code board of appeals meets at a minimum annually to elect a chairman and deputy chairman from its membership and review any changes to the applicable codes; otherwise the panel meets on an as-needed basis.

## CLEAN ENERGY TASK FORCE

The Clean Energy Task Force (CETF), created by the Simsbury Board of Selectmen in 2008, is charged with overseeing the town's commitment to new, sustainable, green initiatives and clean, alternate energy sources. The CETF is currently comprised of five members: Susan Van Kleef, James A. Ray, Bob Beinstein, Mark Scully and Melissa Osborne. The CETF has also maintained an association with Simsbury schools in supporting their energy related projects. Tom Roy, Simsbury Director of Public Works, has continued to be liaison with the town along with a representative of the board of selectman, Michael Paine.

In 2010, the CETF created and implemented the first in a series of clean energy initiatives funded through a generous donation from Aquarion Water Company designed to underwrite future sustainable initiatives. Additionally,



*The town's Clean Energy Task Force, in conjunction with the Town of Simsbury, submitted a proposal to be part of the state's Solarize campaign.*

two \$2,000 grants have been received from the state. These funds have enabled the CETF to support various sustainable initiatives with Simsbury schools, and to provide for various activities and information for local business and community sustainability.

## 2014-2015 Accomplishments

### Educational Initiatives

The CETF has funded programs at the elementary, middle and high schools in the past. This past year, CETF funded new batteries for the Simsbury High School electric car team. Coordination with various groups in the school system will be utilized to continue such initiatives in the future.

### Green Business Challenge

The Green Business Challenge rating system, originally designed in 2010 and completed for future implementation, provides standards for environmentally sustainable Simsbury business operations and services. The state revised its criteria for communities to add key elements of energy conservation in addition to the original Clean Energy Initiative that had been the key thrust. As such, CETF revised its previously developed criteria to incorporate this element plus other sustainability elements. The implementation of this plan had been delayed due to other initiatives, but was begun this year with events at the library and with the Simsbury Chamber of Commerce, but it is still in its beginning stages. The state will provide further resources to support this effort, which will be part of the plan for the next stage.

### Solarize Simsbury Campaign

CETF in conjunction with the Town of Simsbury submitted a proposal to be part of the state's solarize campaign. Simsbury was selected as one of the towns to conduct the campaign in its community. This campaign provided for residential solar installations with state and federal incentives plus a discounted cost based on the large-scale Simsbury community involvement. The state gave a very specific time period, with the program ending in September 2014. Simsbury did very well with 80 installations resulting from this effort within the allotted timeframe. The actual number of installations was higher as additional installations were subsequently finalized outside of the specific time period established by the state, and have added to Simsbury's overall solar usage.

### Shared Solar

CETF is supporting the shared solar legislation that is being introduced within the state legislature as another option where an individual solar installation is not feasible. The legislature did not enact a residential program this last session, but did so for municipalities. Options for municipal solar installations are still being investigated for the future.

### Clean Energy Options Program (CEOP is an ongoing initiative)

The CETF continued to support the Clean Energy Communities program providing the opportunity for Simsbury residents to choose to bring clean, renewable energy into

the power grid. Electrical power is currently generated in New England through natural gas, nuclear power, oil, coal and other sources. Through the CEOP, Simsbury residents can instead choose wind, solar or small hydroelectric power through several energy products available in a partnership with local utility providers. The number of residences that have chosen this option has allowed Simsbury to accumulate points toward a photovoltaic solar installation. Additionally, new criteria were added in regard to energy conservation where residents could also get energy audits and choose other energy conservation options. The residents taking advantage of this state supported program allowed Simsbury to accumulate points toward monetary grants.

With a change in the state's criteria for the Clean Energy Communities program, it required a new municipal pledge in order to qualify for the solar installation and grant program. This was coordinated between the town and the school district as all buildings within the community are required to be part of the commitment. This new pledge was finalized this year making Simsbury eligible for these additional program aspects. These include CETF having earned a \$10,000 Bright Ideas grant from the state that will be used primarily with energy conservation type projects for the town. Also, CETF has earned an 11-kW photovoltaic solar system which will be installed at Simsbury High School.

Effort is on-going with public works director Tom Roy to put together a Simsbury Energy Plan to provide a basis for future energy related goals and objectives for the town.



Photo by Leo Collins Jr.

## CONSERVATION COMMISSION/ INLAND WETLANDS AND WATERCOURSES AGENCY

The Simsbury Conservation Commission is composed of nine appointed members, including seven regular members and two alternates. Formed under the auspices of, and controlled primarily by, CGS Sec. 7-131a through CGS Sec. 7-131e, it is responsible for preserving the natural resources of the Town of Simsbury and for keeping a town-wide inventory of open spaces. The commission has worked closely with the town's Open Space Committee and has supported the efforts of both the Town of Simsbury and the Simsbury Land Trust to obtain and preserve parcels of open space with ecological value and connectivity.

The commission also acts as the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Agency (IWWA) for the Town of Simsbury and, under CGS Sec. 22a-36 thru 22a-42, administers state and local regulations regarding the use and protection of designated wetlands and watercourses. Members are expected to complete a three-part training course offered by the state Department of Energy and Environmental Protection and encouraged to attend the Connecticut Bar Association's Land Use Legal Seminar, held every two years.

During the 2014-2015 fiscal year, the commission received 39 applications. One was withdrawn by the applicant, six were processed administratively by the duly authorized agent of the Town of Simsbury's Conservation Commission/Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Agency, and the remaining applications were approved by the commission.

The conservation commission/inland wetlands and watercourses agency regularly meets on the first and third Tuesday of the month at 7:30 p.m. in the main meeting room of the Simsbury Town Offices. Agendas and meeting calendars can be found on the town's website and in the town clerk's office.

The conservation commission/inland wetlands and watercourses agency is staffed by the department of planning and community development.

## DESIGN REVIEW BOARD

The Simsbury Design Review Board is composed of seven regular and three alternate members appointed and qualified to serve by reason of training and/or experience in architecture, site planning, landscape architecture, historic preservation, professional engineering, graphic design or other discipline determined appropriate by the board of selectmen. Members are appointed on a two-year basis.

The design review board serves as an advisory body to the planning and zoning commissions on site planning, building design, and signage. The board is responsible for reviewing land use applications in order to make detailed recommendations consistent with its publication, "Guidelines for Community Design." During the 2014-2015 fiscal year, the board referred 18 applications to the zoning commission.

The design review board advises property owners, developers, and other commissions on methods of preserving Simsbury's visual resources, improving community



Photo by Kristen Kerwin

development, protecting significant architectural heritage, and conserving value in the built and natural environment. When appropriate, the board assists in formulating and implementing sound planning and design policies.

In summary, the design review board functions as part of Simsbury's informed decision making to revitalize its centers, celebrate its heritage, maintain the natural environment, provide for recreation, build on established landscape patterns, and, most importantly, preserve community identity.

The board regularly meets on the first and third Monday of the month at 5:30 p.m. in the main meeting room of the Simsbury Town Offices. Agendas and meeting calendars can be found on the town's website and in the town clerk's office.

The design review board is staffed by the department of planning and community development.

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

During the 2014-2015 fiscal year, the Simsbury Economic Development Commission continued its mission to grow the grand list and promote the Town of Simsbury. The commission also supported the Simsbury Main Street Partnership, the Farmington Valley Visitors Association and the Simsbury Tourism Committee. The commission plans to continue to support these organizations in the future to boost new business development in town, as well as to retain current resident businesses.

The town's Economic Development Task Force (EDTF) focused on three main areas in 2015: the land use process; the marketing of the town and the upgrade of both the task force's and the town's websites; and the tax incentive/abatement plan. The EDTF completed its work and presented a final report to the commission in November. The commission voted to support the recommendations presented to it in the final report and sent the report to the board of selectmen for its support. The commission participated in and supported the development of the Simsbury Business Incentive Program for tax abatement and infrastructure support for new and existing businesses, and the upgrade of the town's new website for better functionality.

The implementation of the economic development commission's new web page will provide developers, existing businesses and visitors to town with improved access to comprehensive information about Simsbury. In addition, the commission supported the Simsbury Meadows trail restoration program, the Weatogue Village District Regulation, the town's open space initiative to assess best uses of small town-owned parcels, and the new zoning code for the Hartford property.

The EDC looks for additional ways to promote the Town of Simsbury such as through supporting the Simsbury Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee, the Simsbury Historical Society, and the Simsbury Chamber of Commerce, and continues to look for ways to better coordinate with the Simsbury Culture, Parks and Recreation Department in order to promote the recreation opportunities in town as an economic driver.

## BOARD OF ETHICS

The Simsbury Board of Ethics administers the town's Code of Ethics (chapter 13). The code of ethics sets forth standards of ethical conduct guiding officials, employees, and consultants of the Town of Simsbury in the conduct of their public responsibilities and develops and maintains a tradition of responsible and effective public service.

## FAIR RENT COMMISSION

Simsbury's Fair Rent Commission was established pursuant to Connecticut's General Statutes and chapter 15 of the Simsbury Town Code of Ordinances. The commission has the power to study and investigate, conduct hearings and receive written complaints relative to rental charges on housing accommodations, except those accommodations rented on a seasonal basis, within the Town of Simsbury. The fair rent commission seeks to control or eliminate excessive rental charges on such accommodations and to carry out the provisions of chapter 15 of the town code and applicable state law.

As the commission looks to the future with improving economic conditions, both locally and nationally, there is an increased sensitivity to the historical pattern of increased pressures on rents. The fair rent commission's goal is to retain and encourage the development of a reasonable diversity in rental housing in Simsbury.

Commission members include: Madeleine Gilkey, Cornelia

Mason, John Paddock, Helen Peterson, David Richman, Judy Schaefer and Mary Turner.

## SIMSBURY FIRE DISTRICT

Since 1944, the Simsbury Fire District, an independent fire protection authority, has provided fire protection to the taxpayers and residents of the Town of Simsbury. In the 71 years since that beginning, the tradition of excellence of service has continued to grow while providing emergency services to all.

Today's demands on the volunteer group of dedicated firefighting individuals is much more than firefighting alone. These men and women are trained in search and rescue, vehicle rescue, confined space rescue, hazardous materials, water and ice rescue, high angle rescue, as well as all aspects of firefighting. These individuals are your friends, co-workers and neighbors, willing to interrupt a meal or a night's sleep at a moment's notice to respond to an emergency.

In the past year, the members of the Simsbury Volunteer Fire Company responded to 592 call outs. In addition, they attended weekly training drills and other exercises to keep their skills superior and the residents in Simsbury safe.

The Simsbury Fire District is led by a volunteer board of five members and three commissioners. The district also has a small group of paid employees that staff the dispatch center, the fire marshal's office, and the facility and maintenance department, while the Simsbury Volunteer Fire Company is an all-volunteer group that provides all of Simsbury's firefighting. The value these volunteer groups bring to Simsbury is remarkable and the cost savings considerable. All of the personnel, paid and volunteer, exhibit outstanding professionalism day in and day out and are to be highly commended for their service to this town for over 71 years.

The following are some highlights of this past year's accomplishments and some goals for next year.

- The fire district has had a long history of operating within budget and without any borrowing of funds. It did so this past year while keeping the tax mill rate at 1.19 mills.

- Long-time district president Kevin North along with district clerk William Ketchabaw announced retirements. Vice president Gary Wilcox replaced president North and John Solury was appointed to replace clerk Ketchabaw. Dan Coppinger Jr. was appointed to replace vice president Wilcox.
- Delivery of new Engine 5 and Engine 6 was made and they are equipped and online. They replaced engines that had served the department well for 25 years. This is a part of the ongoing equipment replacement plan.
- The car fire simulation prop has been installed and is an asset in training firefighters.
- Equipment for the district's LPFM (low power FM) radio station 103.5 is installed and will be launched in the fall of 2015. While providing music and fire safety programming in the greater Simsbury area, the real mission is the ability to broadcast locally during any type of emergency. Remember the prolonged power outages where critical local information about road closures or local conditions was simply not available? Simsbury is fortunate to be one of only a few towns/fire departments in the country that now has this ability to broadcast to its residents.
- Through its efforts the district was awarded a federal grant to largely fund a self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBAs or "airpacks"). This keeps firefighters up to date with essential equipment. The existing equipment has reached its end after 20 years of life protecting service. Delivery of this equipment is expected before the end of the year.
- Michael Berry was hired to fill the part-time position as deputy emergency management director. Berry comes to Simsbury with many years in emergency management.
- The Junior Firefighter Cadet Program continues to attract young volunteers. The district is proud that many longtime regular members began their fire service as a Simsbury cadet while countless other cadets have gone on to careers in all aspects of emergency services.
- The Simsbury Volunteer Fire Company Ladies Auxiliary



*Delivery of new Engine 5 and Engine 6 was made to the Simsbury Fire District and they are equipped and online. They replaced engines that had served the department well for 25 years. This is a part of the ongoing equipment replacement plan.*

continues to be active in supporting the fire company and town.

- Support and enthusiasm continues for the district's part in Simsbury Celebrates! torchlight fire truck parade.
- Continued support for school visits to every elementary school, and the annual open house during fire prevention week.

## HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION

The East Weatogue Historic District Commission is composed of eight appointed members, including five regular members and three alternates. The commission is responsible for perpetuating, preserving, and retaining the historic features of Simsbury, while promoting the educational, cultural, economic, and general welfare of the public through the preservation and protection of the distinctive characteristics of buildings and places located within the district.

During the 2014-2015 fiscal year, the commission heard five applications for Certificates of Appropriateness, including: a roofing repair, driveway relocation, installation of a central air conditioning unit, and the construction of two new homes. All of these applications were approved.

The Simsbury Historic District Commission continues its efforts to be a resource to the residents of the Town of Simsbury in assisting with answering any questions regarding historic building renovations.

The Simsbury Historic District Commission regularly meets on the first Thursday of the month at 7:30 p.m. in the main meeting room of the Simsbury Town Offices. Agendas and meeting calendars can be found on the town's website and in the town clerk's office.

The Historic District Commission is staffed by the department of planning and community development

## HOUSING AUTHORITY

The Simsbury Housing Authority, located on 13 acres at 1600 Hopmeadow Street, is a non-profit organization responsible for operating the Dr. Owen L. Murphy Apartments and the Virginia Connolly Residence.

The authority is dedicated to providing affordable, safe, decent, sanitary and drug-free housing for residents. The facilities provide subsidized housing for the elderly and persons over 18 with disabilities meeting certain income limitations. The housing authority consists of five commissioners appointed by the board of selectmen (as required by the State of Connecticut General Statutes) who oversee operations and provide strategic direction to the housing authority's staff. The authority employs five full-time, permanent staff and five part-time workers.

The authority receives no funding from the Town of Simsbury; however there is a mutually cooperative working relationship between the town and the housing authority. Revenues are derived from rents, subsidy from the State of Connecticut Department of Housing and grants and donations from individuals, commercial, private and civic organizations.

### Dr. Owen L. Murphy Apartments

The Dr. Owen L. Murphy Apartments provides housing



Photo by Leo Collins Jr.

for elderly persons, aged 62 and over, and persons with disabilities over the age of 18 receiving Social Security Disability Income. There are 70 garden-style wood frame construction units (49 efficiency units and 21 one-bedroom units) designed for independent living. The first phase consisting of 40 units was constructed in 1970 and the second phase consisting of 30 units was constructed in 1974. There is also a community building for social functions and two gazebos on the property where residents gather to socialize in nice weather. Many of the residents participate in activities and programs conducted at the Virginia Connolly Residence as well as the Town of Simsbury Senior Center.

### Virginia Connolly Residence

The Virginia Connolly Residence provides congregate housing for persons aged 62 and over. Constructed in 1990, it is a two-story brick building consisting of 40 efficiency units designed for independent living with services. Services include one main meal each day, which is prepared on-site and wait staff served in a central dining room, laundry facilities, emergency call system, weekly housekeeping service and 24-hour security. The housing authority also offers a variety of social/recreational programs designed to enhance the lives of residents.

An assisted living program is available for residents who require assistance beyond the basic congregate program. The services are provided through the State Department of Social Services Home Care Program for the Elderly and are designed

to help elderly residents age in place.

## 2014-2015 Accomplishments

- The housing authority participated in outreach activities including having a table at Septemberfest, Simsbury/Granby Rotary Club River Run and the Wellness/Senior Showcase Fair. An open house for both properties was held in the fall of 2014. Two veterans from the Virginia Connolly Residence attended a town-sponsored Veteran's Appreciation Luncheon in September of 2014.
- The Simsbury Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors voted to extend an honorary membership to the Simsbury Housing Authority. The housing authority sponsored a Simsbury Chamber of Commerce "After Hours" event in March.
- An application was made to the State of Connecticut Department of Housing for a Small Cities Grant. The grant would be used to replace the roof of the Virginia Connolly Residence as well as to pave the entire complex roadway. The paving would include handicapped accessible walkways, curb cuts, handicapped parking spaces and re-striping.
- A grant was received from Connecticut Housing and Finance Authority for the purchase of items to start a weekly Morning Program at VCR. The Morning Program provided coffee, juice and fruit as well as the morning paper and provided an opportunity for residents to socialize.



Photo by Anna Stillman

- As part of the housing authority's ongoing community outreach, students from the Master's School in West Simsbury, Henry James Memorial School and Westminster assisted staff with spring and fall clean-up as well as visiting with residents at the Virginia Connolly Residence.
- The housing authority held a Veterans Recognition Day for residents who were veterans of World War II and Vietnam. Attending was a representative from U.S. Congresswoman Elizabeth Esty's office, State Representative John Hampton from the 16th district, Simsbury VFW and Town of Simsbury officials.
- A volunteer lunch was held in April to recognize the many volunteers who give of their time to provided programs and services to the residents of the Simsbury Housing Authority.

### 2015-2016 Goals

- Continue to develop a long-term strategy for maintaining and expanding both properties in order to be competitive in the housing market.
- Continue to be active with the trade organization Connecticut National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials (CONN NAHRO) to keep abreast of current and future business trends.
- Continue to upgrade the overall marketing strategy including advertising, brochures, news articles, local public television, the website, and Facebook page.
- Actively participate in supporting current legislative matters related to public housing, assisted living concerns

and most importantly, funding for rental assistance, congregate subsidy and resident services.

### JUVENILE REVIEW BOARD

The Simsbury Juvenile Review Board was established in 1982 by the Simsbury Police Department to provide an alternative and early means of identifying and assisting Simsbury youths, age 16 and under, who come in contact with the police for being involved with minor violations of criminal statutes.

The function of the board is to divert Simsbury youth from the juvenile justice system. A referral to the juvenile review board provides an opportunity for professionals, who work with children, to ensure that the child understands that he/

she will be held accountable by the community for minor violations of the law.

Historically, the board has had a high rate of success. The vast majority of children who are referred to the juvenile review board are not again involved with the police.

In fiscal year 2014-2015, the board met with eight Simsbury youth and their families. A total of 165 community service hours were assigned and performed.

Board members include: Mickey Lecours-Beck, Simsbury Police Chief Peter Ingvertsen, Scott Sagan, Meredith Brockbank, Steve Patrino, Rabbi Howard Herman, Marilyn Rotondo, John Thibeault and Gerard Toner.

### LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Connecticut State Statutes and the Simsbury Town Charter establish the nine-member, popularly elected, Simsbury Library Board of Trustees. The management of the Simsbury Public Library is vested in the library board of trustees. Trustees serve six-year terms.

The board of trustees appoints a qualified library director in accordance with town personnel procedures, to serve as the executive and administrative officer of the library on behalf of the board and under its review and direction. The library board of trustees is responsible for establishing a philosophy of library service, setting policies to implement that philosophy, accepting gifts and donations on behalf of the library, and expending all money appropriated for the Simsbury Public Library.

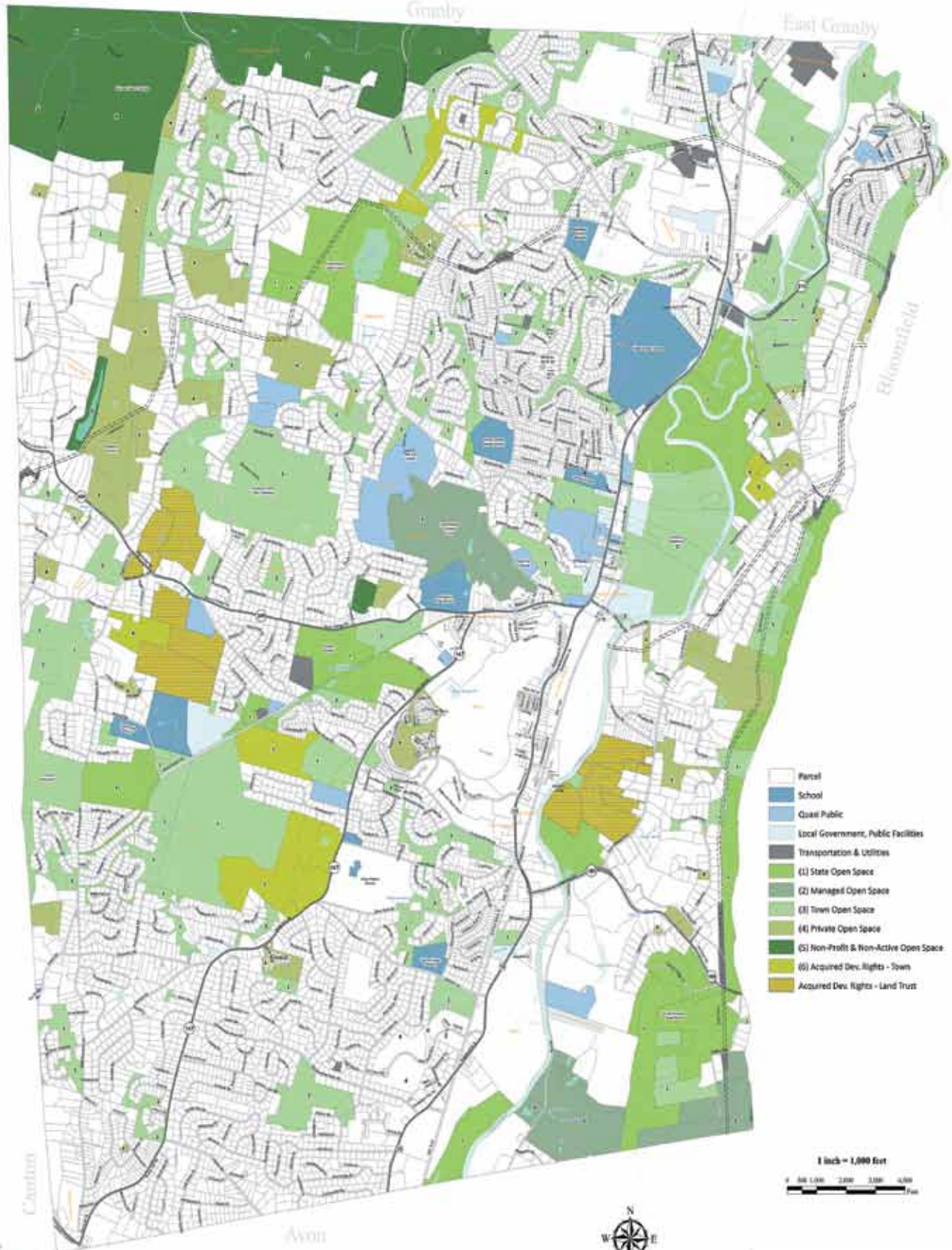
### 2014-2015 Accomplishments

- Approved the revised Art Exhibit/Display Guidelines, the Art Exhibit Application and the Hold Harmless Agreement.
- Reaffirmed its policy that programs at the library are free and open to all.
- Approved use of the Friends workroom by the Simsbury Junior Woman's Club to store and assemble their luminary kits.
- Approved the development of the Teen Space. Approved the design of the "Teen Wall" and approved use of funds from the Jewel Gutman bequest to fund it.
- Accepted and approved the use of funds from the Simsbury Junior Women's Club for the children's room Mini Maker Space.
- Discussed and approved a temperature policy for the library. Decided the decision to close the facility due to an emergency, including extreme temperatures, will be left to the discretion of the library director or her/his designee.
- Amended the Program Room Use Policy to allow for-profit businesses to use the program rooms for a charge.
- Advocated with state legislators to support funding for libraries and initiatives that benefit regionalization and provide large cost savings to public libraries.
- Approved having picnic tables on the front lawn for use by patrons.
- Accepted the concept of the site plan for the pond walkway.
- Approved the installation of tracking for art work in program room two.





# Open Space 2015 Town of Simsbury, CT



- Parcel
- School
- Quasi Public
- Local Government, Public Facilities
- Transportation & Utilities
- (1) State Open Space
- (2) Managed Open Space
- (3) Town Open Space
- (4) Private Open Space
- (5) Non-Profit & Non-Active Open Space
- (6) Acquired Dev. Rights - Town
- Acquired Dev. Rights - Land Trust

1 inch = 1,000 feet



- Recognized and acknowledged with deep appreciation the support the Friends of the Simsbury Public Library provides the library, both with funding and volunteer hours.
- Attended the state-wide leadership conference for library board of trustees.

### 2015-2016 Goals

- Continue expansion of the Innovators' Workshop.
- Complete a long-term technology plan for the library.
- Begin development of a five-year strategic plan.
- Further develop teen services.

### OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE

Simsbury's Open Space Committee is chaired by the first selectman, and was established by Town Charter Section 716 to assist and advise the board of selectmen in identifying land suitable for acquisition or preservation. The committee is composed of the first selectman; the chairmen of the planning, zoning, and conservation commissions, and a member as may be appointed by the board of selectmen. The committee acts on requests made to it by the board of selectmen.

During the 2014-2015 fiscal year, the town completed the acquisition of 41.8 acres of open space known as Parcel C, an important parcel in the Ethel Walker open space program. The acquisition completes the 426 acre Ethel Walker Open Space Program. The Ethel Walker property is a cornerstone of more than 1,400 contiguous acres of open space, recreation and agricultural land, with connectivity to an additional 5,200 acres of open space. These combined properties are among the largest open space areas in Connecticut.

The town also acquired a 0.5 acre parcel adjacent to the Farmington River to enhance public access to this area. A public process was initiated to determine how to best utilize this property during fiscal year 2014-2015.

The town received a gift of 0.4 acre on Casterbridge Crossing, and a 3.6 acre conservation easement on King Philip Road. Both these parcels complemented existing town open space.

The town is responsible for 3,403 acres of open space and park/recreation land. In addition, the town has certain enforcement responsibilities for 100 acres of acquired conservation easement and development rights land.

- Total open space, park/recreation and conservation/development rights properties, owned by the town, state and private entities (Simsbury Land Trust, McLean Game Refuge, Metropolitan District Commission and owners' associations) are 7,187 acres, which is 32.76 percent of the town's total land area.



Stratton Brook State Park

### PLANNING COMMISSION

The Simsbury Planning Commission is an elected body composed of six regular members and three alternates. In accordance with the Connecticut General Statutes, the commission prepares, adopts, and amends the town's Plan of Conservation and Development at least every 10 years. In addition to acting upon applications for the subdivision and re-subdivision of land, it also makes findings and sends recommendations to the board of selectmen, under CGS 8-24, regarding municipal improvements, including the construction of facilities, and acquisition and disposition of real property. Under CGS 8-3, the commission makes recommendations to the zoning commission on proposed zone changes and text amendments to the Simsbury Zoning Regulations.

During the 2014-2015 fiscal year, the commission received and reviewed five referrals from the board of selectmen under CGS 8-24, all of which received positive endorsements. The commission also reviewed the town's 2016 Capital Improvement Plan that included a pedestrian path to the gazebo behind the Simsbury Public Library, the purchase of the property at 1 Old Bridge Road by the town, an exchange of property with the State of Connecticut on Town Forest Road in connection with a gas line installation, and a license agreement for 8 Firetown Road.

The commission received and reviewed five referrals from the zoning commission on requested zone changes, all of which received favorable responses. The commission also received and reviewed three applications for subdivisions/re-subdivisions, all of which were approved.

The planning commission regularly meets on the second and fourth Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m. in the main

meeting room of the Simsbury Town Offices. Agendas and meeting calendars can be found on the town's website and in the town clerk's office.

The planning commission is staffed by the department of planning and community development.

### POLICE COMMISSION

By Connecticut State Statute and Simsbury Town Charter provisions, the Simsbury Police Commission has the requirement of general management and supervision of the Simsbury Police Department (through the auspices of the Chief of Police). In pursuit of that requirement, the commission reviews citizen matters involving the police department, and the submission of an annual budget to the board of selectmen. It participates in the collective bargaining process, and is the final authority for all personnel and disciplinary matters within the police department.

### PUBLIC BUILDING COMMITTEE

Simsbury's Public Building Committee, which is made up of nine appointed members, generally met at least once a month throughout the year to oversee the design and construction of all major school projects. The board of selectmen also assigned major addition and/or renovation projects of town-owned buildings to the public building committee for oversight. The town engineer and the public school's business manager provide staff support.

### 2014-2015 Accomplishments

- The board of selectmen requested that the public building committee recommend the most appropriate site in the town center area for the senior/community center facility along with further evaluating the feasibility of renovating Eno Memorial Hall. The committee reviewed five sites that were considered in the center area and completed a more deliberate review of two possible sites that were more desirable in consideration of several key factors. The public building committee recommended to the board of selectman further study of the state-owned Department of Transportation site on Iron Horse Boulevard for the senior/community center project. The selectman considered the recommendation, but determined that the Performing Arts Center site in the Simsbury Meadows be studied for a senior/community center, and Eno Memorial be studied further and also considered for the project. The public building committee chairman participated as part of the selection committee for a new architect to provide design services for the project going forward.
- The public building committee selected an architect and is carrying out the design, bidding and advertising for the Henry James Memorial School renovation — phase one, the main office security project — during the year. Construction of the project is planned to be completed in the summer of 2015.
- The public building committee selected an architect and is carrying out the design, bidding and advertising for the Squadron Line Elementary School main office project during the year. Construction of the project is planned to

### Growth since the 2007 town Plan of Conservation and Development

Year	Open Space (acres)	Conservation/Development Rights (acres)
2007	2,658	62
2007-2013 (bought)	191	0
2007-2013 (dedicated)	16	30
2013 /2014	(39)	5
2014 /2015	41.9	3.6
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,867.9</b>	<b>100.6</b>

be completed in the summer of 2015.

- Completed construction closeout for Simsbury Farms renovation and addition project that included the main building renovation and addition which includes full accessibility and energy efficient heating and lighting. Construction of the \$2.87-million project was completed in phases so some of the facilities would be available for use prior to the completion of the project.
- The board of selectman assigned the public building committee with carrying out the design and construction oversight for the Henry James Memorial School renovation — Phase 1A main office security project in May 28 of 2014.
- The selectman assigned the public building committee with carrying out the design and construction oversight for the Squadron Line Elementary School main office project in May of 2014.

### 2015-2106 Goals

- The public building committee will initiate a detailed site study of the Performing Arts Center site during next year for possible advancing of the senior/community center project to a referendum.
- The committee will complete the selection of an architect for the Simsbury Farms pool improvements project with the intent of completing plans for the project in 2015. Construction of the project is planned for fall of 2015.
- The committee will complete the selection of an architect for the Simsbury Farms hockey rink warming shelter with the intent of completing plans for the project in early 2016. Construction of the project is planned for spring of 2016.
- The public building committee will complete the selection of an architect for the Simsbury Farms tennis court improvements with the intent of completing plans for the project in early 2016. Construction of the project is planned for spring of 2016.
- The committee will complete the selection of an architect for the Central Elementary School partial roof replacement project with the intent of completing plans for the project in spring of 2016. Construction of the project is planned for summer of 2016.

## RECYCLING COMMITTEE

The mission of the Simsbury Recycling Committee is to educate and disseminate information to the public regarding the Town of Simsbury's recycling goals, and to facilitate the reuse and recycling of material resources and the reduction of waste within the community. The recycling standard set by the State of Connecticut has been lifted to 58 percent of potentially recyclable materials, a high level requiring greater town, community and contractor efforts. The recycling committee, through practical demonstration and a variety of educational inducements, continues its efforts to bring the higher standards in sight for Simsbury.

### 2014-2015 Accomplishments

- The committee seeks to enlist residents' support in attaining the goal of recycling 58 percent of eligible disposable materials, as required by the state's new Solid

Waste Management Plan. To help Simsbury accomplish this goal, a town-wide residential mailing card has been created highlighting the benefits of increased recycling, introducing the new state requirements, listing materials to recycle and encouraging full community participation. These cards will be mailed in early September, 2015.

- With its Recycling Award, presented at a board of selectmen meeting, the committee annually recognizes an individual or entity for an outstanding recycling achievement that has taken place within the community. In November 2014, the Civitan Club of Simsbury and the Farmington Valley was honored with this award for its more than decade-long management of the committee's Swap Shoppe.
- Composting seminars were held by the committee at the Simsbury Community Farm on November 15, 2014 and June 13, 2015. Master Composter Jonas Strimaitis presented composting best practices for residents interested in starting or expanding home composting, and offered information on local businesses that were willing to retrieve food waste for a nominal fee for residents unable to compost.
- The public works department has installed a bin at the transfer station for the recycling of textiles. The committee worked with public works to provide signage informing the public of the different purposes of the Salvation Army bin and the new Bay State Textile bin.
- The recycling committee manages the Swap Shoppe from April through October at the entrance to the transfer station. The swap center experiences an average adoption



*The Town of Simsbury Recycling Committee operates the Swap Shoppe at the entrance to the landfill and recycling center. It is run by volunteers and is open on Saturdays from April 1 through October 31 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., weather permitting.*

rate of 900 to 1,000 items each season with an average of 900 visitors and well over 150 hours of volunteer time expended in achieving these results. The Swap Shoppe is a popular destination for residents on Saturday mornings. The recycling committee continues oversight of the operation of the Swap Shoppe with on-site management provided by members of the committee and by community volunteers.

- The recycling committee's magazine swap kiosk, located in the coffee bar and hospitality area at the Simsbury Public Library, is a popular stopping point for free periodicals donated by other patrons and the library. The committee created and manages the magazine swap kiosk and performs weekly organization and vetting of its offerings.

### 2015-2016 Goals

- The committee's plans and goals include exploring methods to increase recycling by renters of dumpsters, expanding SCTV and media coverage of committee recycling efforts, updating the town's recycling committee web and Swap Shoppe pages and expanding accessibility of the clothing and textile bins at the transfer station.

## TOURISM COMMITTEE

The Simsbury Tourism Committee continues to follow its mission to develop and promote tourism in Simsbury as a way of supporting and broadening the economic base of Simsbury.

The committee was thrilled at the end of last July when it was announced that Simsbury was voted the No. 7 Fan Favorite town in the entire state in the State Tourism Contest. Proud to be named among the top 10 "tourist attractions" alongside the more traditionally accepted shore towns and hosts of well-known sites, the committee had hoped to better its standing this year. The goal was to use the contest to continue to change the town's image from suburban bedroom town to a destination place, but the state did not sponsor the contest again.

### 2014-2015 Accomplishments

- Worked with other town non-profit groups and the Simsbury Chamber of Commerce to develop a centralized hub center for non-profits in town that would also serve as a Visitors Center. In the interim decided to create a Simsbury Visitors Center in the Simsbury Chamber of Commerce to which the town would contribute for rent and a part-time administrative assistant.
- Worked with the Performing Arts Board to develop a new and improved layout for Septemberfest.
- Worked with the Friends of the Library organizers of the annual used book sale, which attracts visitors from all over New England, to promote Simsbury hotels and restaurants.
- Worked with the economic development task force as it develops a new town website.
- Revised the Hopmeadow Walk Brochure highlighting Simsbury's downtown historical buildings.
- Continued to maintain the committee's Facebook page to promote local sites and activities almost daily. These

postings included items on the town-wide Innovation Fair, the Old Drake Hill Flower Bridge, the Performing Arts Center at Simsbury Meadows, Heublein Tower, the Annual Triathlon, performances of the Theatre Guild and Simsbury Light Opera Company, the Simsbury Free Library, Simsbury Public Library, the Beautification Committee, Simsbury Historical Society, Simsbury Grange, local farms, Simsbury Farmers Market, Simsbury Fly-In & Car Show, Simsbury Celebrates!, Simsbury Land Trust, Septemberfest, the Community Farm, Martin Luther King Jr. events, veterans events, Tariffville's Whitewater Triple Crown, the Taste of Simsbury, the Simsbury Bike Community and many others.

- Continued to refine and improve the "Visit Simsbury" section of the town website.
- Worked with the town and Simsbury Main Street Partnership on Simsbury's Valentine's Day marriage license contest.
- Wrote a letter of support for a Simsbury Historical Society grant.
- Supported the purchase of the Betty Hudson house next to the flower bridge.
- Supported Simsbury locations and businesses in the Farmington Valley Visitors Association first annual EF-VEE awards for favorite places in the Farmington Valley where Simsbury sites took top honors in six of 12 categories.
- Began to develop a complete list of places in Simsbury to eat or take-out food with addresses and phone numbers.
- Members continued to respond to calls requesting information on the visitor's line, 860-658-4000, and distributed brochures at sites around the town.
- Produced shows on SCTV's Simsbury View and the Talk of Simsbury to promote town sites, activities and events.
- The committee continued its practice of holding its monthly meetings around town to learn from the hosts how tourism contributes to their business and how they, in turn, contribute to the economic development of the town.

### 2015-2016 Goals

- Maintain the Simsbury Tourism Facebook page to promote the town and all it has to offer to residents and visitors.
- Continue to work with other town groups, such as the Simsbury Historical Society, Simsbury Main Street Partnership, etc., in focusing on the planning of town-wide events to attract more tourists to Simsbury.
- Continue to work on the creation of a town hub for a group of non-profits involved in tourism, which would include a Simsbury Visitors Center.
- Support the creation of an attractive and easy to use "Visit Simsbury" page on the new town website.

*Top left: Andy Buckle, recipient of the Simsbury Volunteer Ambulance Association's Director's Award for Distinguished Service. Top right: So-Hyeon Park, A2 of the Year, with Megan Drummey, EMT of the Year. Bottom photo: The 100 Call Club, left to right, Dave Harriman, Megan Drummey, Terry Fogarty, Shiela Sennett and Russ Regenauer.*



*The Simsbury Tourism Committee's table at the second annual Try Simsbury: River to Ridge Tri-Athlon in May 2015.*

- Support the creation of Simsbury souvenirs by local artists and entrepreneurs and a list of all the places where they can be purchased for the website.
- Support the creation of new town-wide events needed to grow and expand tourism, recreation and culture.
- Help build civic pride by reminding residents of the treasures in the town of Simsbury so that they will function as town ambassadors.

## SIMSBURY VOLUNTEER AMBULANCE ASSOCIATION

The Simsbury Volunteer Ambulance Association (SVAA) has served the emergency medical needs of the community for 57 years. In the past year SVAA's volunteer EMTs, augmented by its paid staff of paramedics, responded to approximately 1,800 emergency medical calls.

Retiring after an exemplary career with SVAA, Chet Novak was named Member Emeritus. Novak was a member of SVAA for 27 years, serving many years on the board of directors, and was a past president. During his award-winning tenure, Novak was an exemplary volunteer and role model to members new and old.

Simsbury has been designated as a HEARTsafe community by the state Department of Public Health. The goal of this program is to improve the chances of survival for anyone suffering a sudden cardiac arrest by maximizing the number of non-medical people trained in CPR and documenting the locations of AED's (automated external defibrillators) in public places. Since being designated a HEARTsafe community, SVAA has trained 200 individuals in CPR.

During the past year, SVAA has begun staffing a second ambulance during the busy weekday hours. The association has started with several days per week and will expand this program as resources allow. Next year, the association plans to obtain authorization from the state Department of Public





*An aerial view of the Water Pollution Control Facility on Drake Hill Road.*

Health to add a third ambulance. This third ambulance will assure the continuity of the two ambulance system and enhance the association's ability to respond to major events.

Beyond providing emergency medical responses to 911 calls, the association has several other public functions. Throughout the year, SVAA conducts CPR and First Aid classes as well as an annual EMT course. You may also see the ambulance on stand-by at major public functions like the St. Mary's Carnival, and Simsbury Celebrates!.

As Simsbury Volunteer Ambulance Association serves the town's emergency medical needs, it continues to rely on, and appreciate, the ongoing financial support of local citizens, businesses, and organizations.

Please visit the website: [www.simsburyems.com](http://www.simsburyems.com) to learn more about the organization and its history.

## **WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY**

The Water Pollution Control Authority (WPCA) is a body of seven members, appointed by the board of selectmen, responsible for establishing, reviewing and enforcing the policies, procedures and fees in connection with the operation and maintenance of Simsbury's sanitary sewer system and wastewater treatment facility. The treatment facility also receives wastewater from Avon, Granby and Canton. Each of these towns is a financial partner in the Water Pollution Control Facility. Inter-municipal agreements have been established to administer these relationships.

Regular WPCA meetings are held on the second Thursday of the month at 7:30 p.m. at the Water Pollution Control Facility on Drake Hill Road, unless otherwise posted.

### **2014-2015 Accomplishments**

The WPCA conducted 10 regular meetings, including two public hearings, during which they:

- Approved a sewer extension for 4, 5, 7, 8 and 9 Andrew Drive.

- Maintained the residential and non-residential user fee rate.
- The goal of completing the construction phase of the Tunxis Pump Station replacement was reached in 2015.
- An energy audit was conducted at the treatment facility by Environmental Systems Corporation in partnership with Tighe & Bond.
- Mill Commons Apartments, a complex consisting of apartments and condominiums, was a development that took advantage of the FCC Financing Program for Developers.
- Simsbury WPCA participated in the state nitrogen credit trading program to reduce the environmental impact on the Farmington River and ultimately Long Island Sound. Since 2007, the Simsbury WPCA has been a net recipient of funds from the state Department of Energy and Environmental Protection in the form of nitrogen credits.

### **2015-2016 Goals**

- Complete rehabilitation of the Wolcott Pump Station.
- Complete a sewer service study on West Mountain Road, West Simsbury.
- Hold public hearings regarding extending sanitary sewers on Flintlock Ridge and Musket Trail.

## **ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS**

The Simsbury Zoning Board of Appeals is an elected body composed of nine members, including six regular members and three alternates. The powers and duties of the board are established under Connecticut General Statutes Chapter 124.

The zoning board of appeals hears and decides upon requests for variances from the Town of Simsbury Zoning Regulations. Determinations are based on whether the request is in harmony with the general purpose and intent of the zoning regulations, with due consideration for conserving public health, welfare and safety; convenience; and property values, solely with respect to the parcel of land in question where, owing to conditions especially affecting such parcel,

but not generally affecting the district in which it is situated, a literal enforcement of such regulations would result in an exceptional difficulty or unusual hardship. The zoning board of appeals also hears and decides on appeals of zoning enforcement decisions, decisions made by the building official, and special exceptions under CGS §8-2g, as specified in article 12 of the zoning regulations.

During fiscal year 2014-2015, the board received 12 applications. Two were ultimately withdrawn; eight were approved; two failed to be approved.

The board regularly meets on the fourth Wednesday of the month at 7 p.m. in the main meeting room of the Simsbury Town Offices. Agendas and meeting calendars can be found on the town's website and in the town clerk's office.

The zoning board of appeals is staffed by the department of planning and community development.

## **ZONING COMMISSION**

The Simsbury Zoning Commission, established under the Simsbury Town Charter, is an elected body composed of six regular members and three alternates. The zoning commission regulates land and buildings within the town based on the adopted Town of Simsbury Zoning Regulations. It also: adopts, amends, and repeals regulations; hears and decides upon applications to change regulations; and decides on site plan and special permit applications. The zoning regulations provide for the manner in which the regulations are to be enforced.

Among the powers and duties of the commission, and with the powers and authority granted by Connecticut General Statutes Chapter 124, the commission has the additional responsibility of acting as the Simsbury Aquifer Protection Agency. In this regard, the commission and commission staff perform the required overview, inventory, and regulation of land uses located on the mapped aquifer areas. These aquifer areas are given due consideration during the review of any application that proposes to use or change a land use in a mapped aquifer area to ensure the activity proposed meets the requirements of the town's Aquifer Protection Regulations.

During the 2014-2015 fiscal year, the commission received the following applications: 13 site plan approvals and amendments; 15 special permits; nine sign permits; and three zone changes. Of these applications, one failed to pass and the rest were approved.

The zoning commission regularly meets on the first and third Monday of the month at 7 p.m. in the main meeting room of the Simsbury Town Offices. Agendas and meeting calendars can be found on the town's website and in the town clerk's office.

The zoning commission is staffed by the department of planning and community development.

The Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for the Town of Simsbury for June 30, 2015 is on file with the town clerk's office and available for view. The data below is presented in a manner to set forth the financial portion of the town and results of operations

of the various funds of the town. The Board of Finance established a tax rate of 37.14 mills for fiscal year 2015, which was levied on the October 1, 2013 town Grand List. The budget for fiscal year 2015 was \$91,014,736. Total expenditures for fiscal year 2015 were

\$89,958,151. The Town's unassigned fund balance (reserves) increased by \$258,570 from \$11,611,521 for the period ending June 30, 2014 to \$11,870,091 for the period ending June 30, 2015.

### General Fund Expenditures and Debt

#### Debt

As of June 30, 2015, the Town had bonds outstanding which mature serially to the year 2025, as follows:

Schools	\$8,722,936
Public Improvement	\$16,234,214
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$24,957,150</b>

### Schedule of Debt Principle and Interest Maturities by Year – June 2015

Year Ending June 30	Principal	Interest	Total Principal & Interest
2016	\$5,035,000	\$501,273	\$5,536,273
2017	\$5,150,000	\$488,175	\$5,638,175
2018	\$4,125,000	\$354,825	\$4,479,825
2019	\$2,150,000	\$248,450	\$2,398,450
2020	\$2,145,000	\$192,275	\$2,337,275
2021-2025	\$5,315,000	\$371,175	\$5,686,175
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$23,920,000</b>	<b>\$2,156,173</b>	<b>\$26,076,173</b>

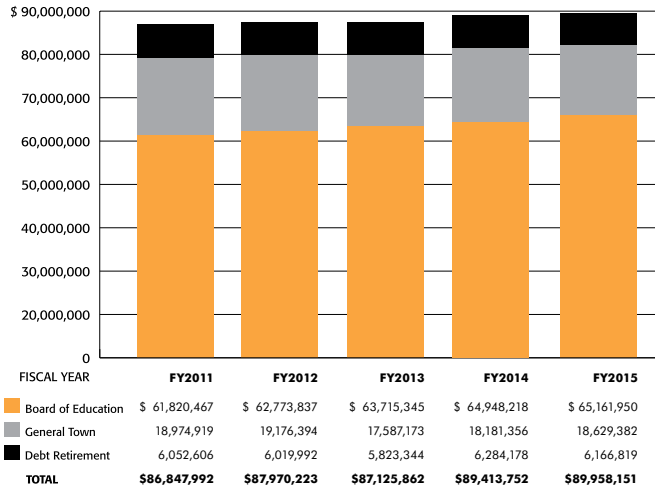
Per statutory debt limitations, total indebtedness shall not exceed seven times annual receipts from taxation. Total Capacity for borrowing shall not exceed \$524,856,353

### Net Grand Lists and Tax Rates – 2004-2015

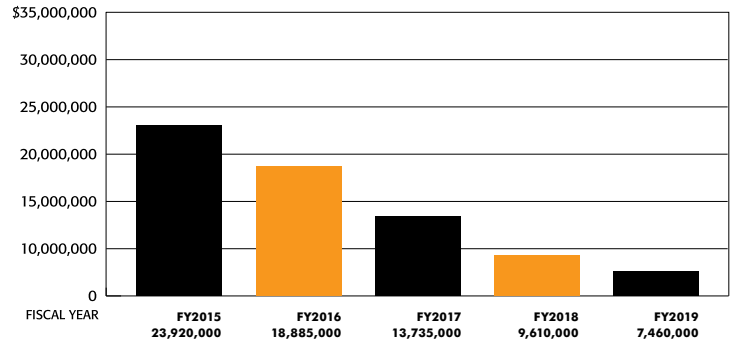
Per statutory debt limitations, total indebtedness shall not exceed seven times annual receipts from taxation, which is \$587,668,774.

Year End June 30	Grand List	Mill Rate	General Town	Board of Education	Debt Retirement	Totals
2005	\$1,911,949,429	34.00	\$14,740,952	\$50,176,680	\$5,158,210	\$70,075,842
2006	\$1,935,322,272	35.20	\$16,872,390	\$52,429,310	\$5,522,357	\$74,824,057
2007	\$1,985,359,901	35.90	\$20,365,589	\$55,724,738	\$5,370,670	\$81,460,997
2008	\$2,010,867,186	36.90	\$20,141,322	\$58,562,224	\$5,860,785	\$84,564,331
2009	\$2,584,781,826	29.60	\$18,266,814	\$60,608,232	\$6,258,285	\$85,133,331
2010	\$2,581,459,147	30.10	\$18,694,242	\$61,362,608	\$6,114,025	\$86,170,875
2011	\$2,579,290,063	30.55	\$18,974,919	\$61,820,467	\$6,052,606	\$86,847,992
2012	\$2,599,506,658	30.86	\$19,176,394	\$62,773,837	\$6,019,992	\$87,970,223
2013	\$2,615,263,899	31.37	\$17,587,173	\$63,715,345	\$5,823,344	\$87,125,862
2014	\$2,239,093,122	37.29	\$18,181,356	\$64,948,218	\$6,284,178	\$89,413,752
2015	\$2,252,511,295	37.14	\$18,629,382	\$65,161,950	\$6,166,819	\$89,958,151

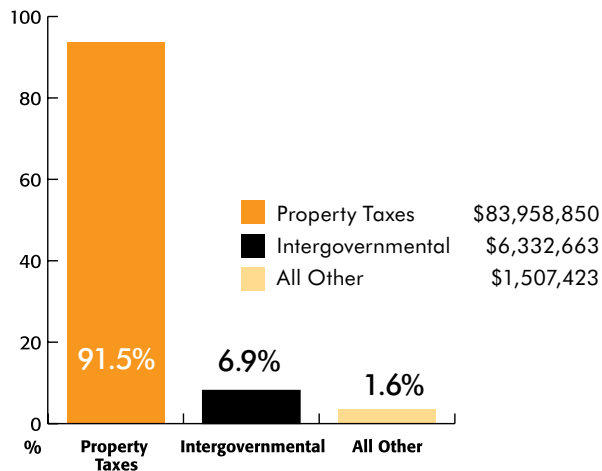
## Total Expenditures – 2010-2014



## Total Principal Outstanding – 2015-2019

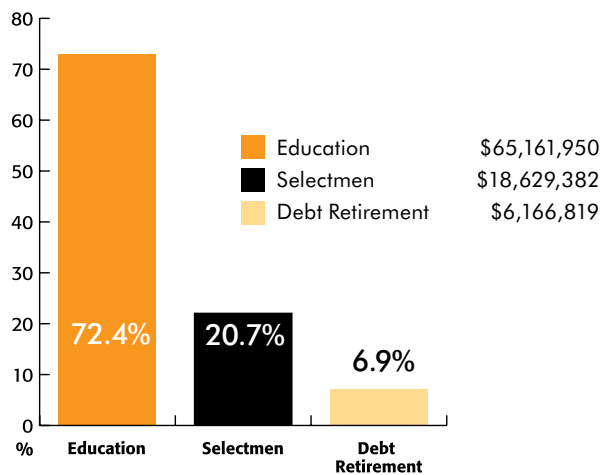


## Revenues and Expenditures for Fiscal Year 2015



### Revenues

Property Taxes	83,958,850
Intergovernmental	6,332,663
Investments	(22,531)
Changes for Services	577,427
Licenses / Permits	675,091
Other	277,436
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$91,798,936</b>



### Expenditures

Education	65,161,950
Debt Retirement	6,166,819
General Government	1,309,546
Planning and Development	488,363
Public Safety	4,213,973
Facility Management	3,913,840
Culture & Recreation	2,146,974
Health & Welfare	587,220
Insurance & Benefits	5,080,535
Other	888,931
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$89,958,151</b>

## Board & Commission Members

## Board and Commission Members, Additional Boards and Commissions

(as of November 17, 2015)

### Board of Assessment Appeals

Lori Fernand  
Stephen J. Nocera  
Jim Tourtillotte

### Board of Education

Todd S. Burrick  
Thomas A. Doran  
Thomas E. Frank  
Robert Michael Goman  
Susan B. Salina  
Lydia A. Tedone, *Chair*  
Jeffrey E. Tindall  
Tara Donohue Willerup

### Board of Finance

Jeff Blumenthal  
Barbara A. Petitjean  
Robert Pomeroy  
Kevin Prell  
Linda J. Schofield  
Moira K. Wertheimer

### Board of Selectmen

Sean P. Askham, *Deputy First Selectman*  
Cheryl B. Cook  
Lisa L. Heavner, *First Selectman*  
Chris M. Kelly  
Elaine W. Lang  
Mike R. Paine

### Library Board of Trustees

David J. Blume  
Anne D. Erickson  
Charmaine E. Glew  
Linda P. Johnson  
Lauren Miller  
Marianne B. O'Neil, *Chair*  
Mark A. Orenstein  
Polly Gardow Rice  
Gail Keebler Ryan

### Planning Commission

Elizabeth Burt  
Ronald J. Locandro Jr.  
Gary J. Lungarini  
Holly A. Beum  
Robert J. Kulakowski  
Erin Leavitt-Smith  
Alan C. Needham  
Kevin M. Prell  
William F. Rice

### Zoning Board of Appeals

Joseph L. Campolieta  
Diane Madigan  
Chris Peterson  
Steven T. Antonio

Tegan Blackburn, *Chair*

Dennis J. Fallon  
JoAnn Comotti Hogan  
Thomas F. Horan  
Katie S. Martin

### Zoning Commission

Jacqueline S. Battos  
Michael T. Doyle  
Bruce H. Elliott  
Donna Lynn Beinstein  
Kevin E. Gray  
Derek B. Peterson  
Robert D. Pomeroy Jr., *Chair*  
Gerald A. Post  
David Rogers Ryan

### Aging & Disability Commission

Victor Bible III  
Lorraine Doonan  
Arlene E. Zappile  
Janet M. Beatty  
Grace Comeau  
Margaret C. Diachenko  
Mona Herman  
Michael R. Jennings  
Marvin S. Koff  
Edward J. LaMontagne, *Chair*  
Mary Ellen Long  
Mona Martinik  
Mark A. Orenstein  
Lynn R. Veith  
Diana Anderson Yeisley

### Board of Ethics

Kevin M. Crimmins  
Polly A. Maier  
David M. Moore  
Thomas J. Rechen

### Building Code Board of Appeals

Richard Cortes  
Samuel Ziplow  
Steven Antonio  
William J. Egan  
JoAnn M. Hogan  
Paul E. Holland, *Deputy Chair*  
Charles A. Warren Jr., *Chair*

### Clean Energy Task Force

Robert Beinstein  
Melissa Osborne  
James A. Ray  
Mark W. Scully  
Susan Van Kleef

### Conservation Commission/ Inland Wetlands & Watercourses Agency

Donna L. Beinstein  
Charles W. Haldeman  
Darren P. Cunningham, *Vice Chair*  
James I. Morrison  
Andrew S. O'Connor  
Donald F. Rieger Jr.  
Patrick S. Spaulding  
Margery C.B. Winters, *Chair*

### Culture, Parks & Recreation Commission

David W. Bush, *Chair*  
Sarah K. Cramer  
Dennis J. Fallon  
Kelly J. Kearney  
William K. Mullen  
Gerald A. Post  
Francis Salls  
Steven J. Spalla  
Gerard H. Wetjen

### Design Review Board

Jonathan Laschever  
Anca Dragulski  
Anthony L. Drapelick  
Joseph Paul Lanza  
Jennifer Murnane, *Chair*  
Ronald R. Perry

### Economic Development Commission

David Balboni  
Kristen C. Barnett, *Vice Chair*  
Carolyn Bligh  
Mark Deming, *Chair*  
Jay DeVivo  
Louis N. George  
Christopher M. Meile  
Charles A. Minor  
Allan Richard Raphael Sr.

### Fair Rent Commission

Madeleine P. Gilkey  
Cornelia Mason  
John F. Paddock  
Helen K. Peterson  
David A. Richman  
Judy G. Schaefer  
Mary N. Turner

### Historic District Commission

Denise H. Alfeld  
Julie P. Carmelich  
Mark Nyquist  
Patricia F. Hyypa  
Jonathan Laschever  
Dianne L. Mead, *Chair*

Marguerite C. Rodney  
Elizabeth B. Woollacott

### Housing Authority

Kathleen H. Coffey  
Cheryl B. Cook  
Oliver B. Dickins Jr.  
Woodrow W. Eddins Jr.  
Ronald P. Zappile, *Chair*

### Human Relations Commission

Susan G. Ersinghaus  
Sharon I. Lawson

### Insurance Committee

Kateryna Lagun  
Nicholas B. Mason  
Paul H. Mikkelsen Jr.  
Peter C. (Chris) Peterson  
Edward F. Sparkowski, *Chair*

### Open Space Committee

Lisa L. Heavner, *FS, Chair*  
Ferguson R. Jansen Jr., *PC*  
Helen K. Peterson, *At-Large*  
Robert D. Pomeroy Jr., *ZC*  
Donald F. Rieger Jr., *CC/IWWA*

### Police Commission

Edward M. Cosgrove  
James T. Fleming  
Michael T. Long  
Peter L. Tedone  
Brendan M. Walsh, *Chair*

### Public Building Committee

Lawrence Boardman  
Richard Cortes  
Richard A. Derr  
Lucian M. Dragulski  
Francis J. Kelly  
Michael E. Laureno Jr.  
Richard E. Ostop, *Chair*  
Mary Lou Patrina  
John J. Salvatore

### Recycling Committee

R. Kingsbury Chase  
Lori P. Fernand  
Rosemary V. Fusco  
William P. Hantzogs  
Carol Miller  
Alexandra C. Rice  
Mary N. Turner, *Chair*

### Simsbury Farms Complex Committee

Antonio B. Braz  
David P. Dell

Dennis J. Fallon  
Linda P. Johnson  
Elizabeth A. Keppel  
Ronald T. Patterson  
Gerald A. Post

### Tourism Committee

Dominique Avery, *Co-Chair*  
Catherine Barnard  
Patricia Carbone  
Paulette Clark  
Joyce R. Howard, *Co-Chair*  
Laurie G. Matczak  
Steven S. Mitchell  
Katherine A. Oakes  
Barbara L. O'Connor  
Diane D. Phillips  
Charmaine L. Seavy  
Richard D. Wagner Jr.

### Water Pollution Control Authority

Paul N. Gilmore  
Thomas J. Hickey  
Edward J. Kelly  
Michael A. Park  
Jerry G. Sheehan  
Loren Shoemaker

# Our Town Today

## PHONE NUMBERS

<b>Area Code</b>	860
<b>Emergency Phone Numbers</b>	
<b>Fire Department</b>	911
Routine Information	658-1971
<b>Police Department/Ambulance</b>	911
933 Hopmeadow Street	
<b>Routine Information</b>	658-3100
<b>Simsbury Vol. Ambulance Assoc.</b>	
658-7213	4 Old Mill Lane
<b>Department/Service</b>	<b>Phone Number</b>
Assessor	658-3251
Board of Education	651-3361
Building	658-3234
Chamber of Commerce	651-7307
Continuing Education	658-3870
Engineering	658-3260
Farmington Valley Health District	352-2333
Finance	658-3244
Fire Marshal	658-1971
Historical Society	658-2500
Housing Authority	658-1147
Judge of Probate	658-3277
Landfill	658-9481
Library, Simsbury Public	658-7663
Planning	658-3245
Police	658-3100
Public Works	658-3222
Recreation	658-3836
Simsbury Farms Complex office	658-3836
Simsbury Farms Golf Club	658-6246
Recorded Information	658-2512
Registrar of Voters	(D) 658-3267
	(R) 658-3269
First Selectman	658-3230
SCTV Community TV	658-1720
Sewer Treatment	658-1380
Social Services	658-3283
Tax Collector	658-3238
Town Clerk	658-3243
Town Hall	658-3200
Aquarion Water Company	658-6707
Visitors Center	658-4000

## TOWN MANAGEMENT

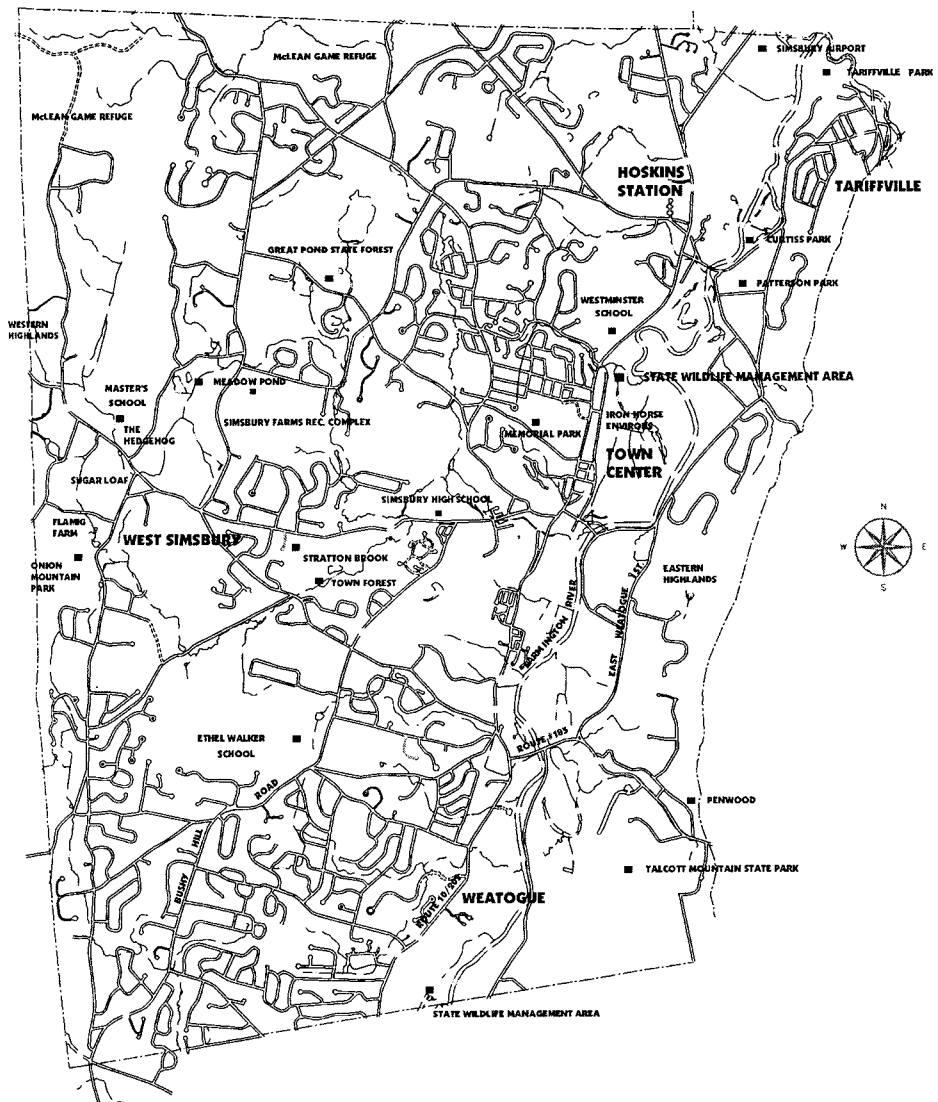
<b>First Selectman</b>	Lisa L. Heavner
<b>Police Chief</b>	Peter Ingvertsen
<b>Director of Finance</b>	Joseph Mancini
<b>Town Engineer</b>	Jerome F. Shea
<b>Dir. of Admin. Services</b>	Thomas Cooke
<b>Dep. Dir. of Admin. Services</b>	Sean Kimball
<b>Dir of Culture, Parks and Rec.</b>	Gerry Toner
<b>Dir. of Planning</b>	Hiram Peck III
<b>Dir. of Public Works</b>	Thomas Roy
<b>Dir. of Simsbury Public Library</b>	Lisa Karim
<b>Dir. of Social Services</b>	Mickey Lecours-Beck
<b>Town Clerk</b>	Carolyn Keily

## TOWN MEETING DATES\*

<b>Board of Selectmen</b>	The second and fourth Monday of each month.
<b>Board of Education</b>	The second and fourth Tuesday of each month.
<b>Board of Finance</b>	The third Tuesday of each month.
<b>Planning Commission</b>	The second and fourth Tuesday of each month.
<b>Zoning Commission</b>	The first and third Monday of each month.

\*Subject to change - verify meeting dates and times by calling the town hall.

## TOWN MAP





# **SIMSBURY, CONNECTICUT**

**Heritage. Charm. Adventure.**

**2014-2015 Annual Report**