



Town of Simsbury

FY 2018-2019 Annual Report

Greetings from the BOS, BOF, BOE Chairs

We are pleased to present the 157th Annual Report of the Town of Simsbury. The goal of the report is to provide our residents and businesses important information about the Town's financial position and performance during the reporting period, fiscal year July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019.

The **Board of Finance** is a citizen oversight board that serves as the Town's primary budget making authority. The Board works in a collaborative manner with the Town Manager and the Boards of Selectmen and Education to ensure the highest quality services at the lowest possible cost, while ensuring long term fiscal discipline. A top priority of your town government is to make sure you, as a resident, have an accurate accounting of how your tax dollars are spent and a summary of town functions, goals and accomplishments.

We are pleased to report that Simsbury's fiscal condition continues to be strong with a Standard and Poor's, AAA rating, the highest bond rating that a municipality can achieve. The Board of Finance strives to maintain adequate fund balances and a balanced budget that covers our expenses while recognizing the importance of keeping taxes affordable for our citizens.

Excellent public schools, historical charm, preserved open space, recreational and cultural offerings, strong governance, and quality services keep Simsbury a beautiful and award-winning place to live, work and retire.

It is an honor and privilege to serve as your elected members of the Simsbury Board of Finance. We thank the many dedicated members of our community who give of their time and talent to serve on boards and commissions and Town and Board of Education staff who work hard every day to serve our residents and businesses.

Regards,
Rob Pomeroy
Board of Finance Chair

Simsbury Public Schools has established high benchmarks for both teaching and learning. Each fall we examine the areas we identified for improvement during the previous cycle, assess how much we have progressed in those areas, and then take that data and synthesize it into this District Annual Report.

Our Board of Education (BOE) prioritizes goal setting as part of our continuous improvement planning cycle. On June 11th, the BOE adopted new Strategic Board Goals (2019-2024), which give us direction relative to financial and human resources and drive the adjustments and refinements we make to our teaching practices at all grade levels. Our teachers develop their individual goals in alignment with school and district goals through the lens of the Vision of a Graduate work. The BOE Strategic Goals encompass four key areas: Student Growth and Success, Compassionate and Connected School Culture, Premier Workforce, and Sustainable and Strategic Investments. You can find more details about each of these areas on the BOE webpage at <https://www.simsbury.k12.ct.us/boe/goals>.

To best support student learning, we must strive to achieve the best use of our school buildings. In 2018 \$200,000 was approved by the Board of Finance to develop a School Facilities Master Plan and Reconfiguration Study. The plan consists of: 1) preparing a detailed inventory of all buildings; 2) identifying capital improvement and maintenance needs over the next 10 years; and 3) using this information to assist in the preparation of the BOE's 6-year capital improvement program. Our ultimate goal is to ensure that our buildings serve our students and teachers well into the future.

As always, if you have a question or concern about how your expectations are being met, please contact me or visit our website at www.simsbury.k12.ct.us. There is so much happening in our public schools, and we are so proud to share this journey with the Simsbury community.

Regards,
Susan Salina
Board of Education Chair

I am pleased to share with you the **Town of Simsbury**'s 2018/2019 annual report. This summarizes the Town's activities and accomplishments in year two since our transition to a Town Manager form of government. Year one was a year of transition. We hired five new department heads including our very first Town Manager. This annual report reflects the work of the first full year since the hiring of our Town's new leadership team. The work summarized in this report was made possible thanks to the dedicated staff who serve our Town, the passionate volunteers who serve on our elected and appointed boards and commissions, and of course you, our residents.

I am particularly excited about the work we're doing to make Simsbury a welcoming place for all who live here. That work can be seen in our long-range plan to upgrade our network of sidewalks to ensure they're ADA compliant. It can be seen in the Pride installation near the Performing Arts Center. It can be seen in Community for Care, which organized a series of "sensory friendly" events to coincide with major holidays.

There is important work our Finance Department accomplished that helped maintain our AAA bond rating and improved our financial controls. We continue to invest in our library with the construction of a new program space on the lower level. Our Parks Department kicked off a long-range planning process that will help ensure we're investing in the recreational amenities most important to our community.

These items are merely a sample of the work going on throughout our Town and I wish you happy reading. Serving as your First Selectman is a tremendous honor and I encourage you to reach out to me or anyone on your Board of Selectmen to share your feedback and your ideas to make our town the best place in the country to live, go to school, work, and visit.

Regards,
Eric Wellman
First Selectman

Town Manager's Office

The Town Manager is appointed by the Board of Selectmen to serve as the chief executive officer of the Town. She is responsible for the oversight of all Town departments, implementing all acts and policies of the Board and all resolutions and ordinances adopted by the Town. The Office is responsible for the implementation of policies and initiatives, the administration of the human resources program, risk management, and supports the Town's economic development activities.

2018-2019 Initiatives and Accomplishments

- Worked with the Board of Selectmen to create the Economic Development Commission (EDC) ordinance and policy resolution; coordinated and assisted with the creation of the new EDC.
- Coordinated and worked with the Board of Selectmen work group for reviewing the appointment process for unaffiliated voters.
- Implemented a tax sale policy and professional travel policy; updated the Eno Hall facility use guidelines and purchasing policy.
- Conducted Freedom of Information Act training for staff and members of boards and commissions.
- Conducted the organization's first annual leadership retreat for department directors and mid-level supervisors.



Economic Development Commission Business Roundtable – June 12, 2019

Budget: \$453,560
4 full-time equivalent
employees

Finance Department

The Finance Department includes financial administration, assessment and revenue collection. The Department's mission is to provide the highest level of fiscal integrity and department support through training, prudent policies and business practices within its procurement, payroll, accounts payable, accounting and reporting, tax collection and debt management.



2018-2019 Initiatives and Accomplishments

- Awarded the GFOA Award for Excellence in Financial Reporting for the 20th consecutive year.
- Maintained AAA credit rating at a time when many municipalities are being re-evaluated, and in many cases, downgraded due to state budget uncertainties.
- Issued requests for qualification for audit services.
- Updated Purchasing, Capital and CNR Policies.
- Contracted with a new accounting systems vendor.
- Implemented the use of purchasing cards.
- FY 2018/2019 ended with unaudited close results of a net increase to fund balance in the amount of \$2,212,185.
- Completed the first Town of Simsbury Tax Sale.

Budget: \$787,279

7.82 full-time equivalent employees

Information Technology

The Department oversees technology systems and operations of municipal offices, and provides services to the Board of Education Central Office, Regional Probate Court and the Housing Authority. The Department participates in monthly meetings with the Technology Task Force and IT Steering Committee on technology activities, issues and recommendations.



2018-2019 Initiatives and Accomplishments

- Implemented cost-effective solution to link our Town website with social media platforms to streamline communications with the public.
- Continued Cyber Security Awareness Program for all departments.
- Integrated cloud-based email services and security platform.
- Successfully installed new telephone systems for municipal and law enforcement offices.
- Developed Remote Access and Acceptable Use policies.
- Migrated to new software platforms for servers and desktops.

Budget: \$204,413
2 full-time equivalent employees

Town Clerk's Office

It is the mission of the Town Clerk's Office to serve as the liaison between the local government and the residents and patrons of Simsbury, making sure that information is easily accessible and reliably provided, all while delivering the highest quality of customer service.

2018-2019 Initiatives and Accomplishments

- On November 6, 2018, 71% of Simsbury voters turned out for the State Election. The Town Clerk's Office issued 1,097 Absentee Ballots, which was an increase of approximately 60% from the number issued for the 2014 State Election. At the May 14, 2019 referendum, 5.7% of Electors turned out.
- Installed a storage unit in the Town Clerk's vault to be used for storing non-vital records; this project was partially funded by a CT State Library grant. This unit allows us to lock the entire vital storage room, instead of the individual storage units within the room. The storage unit also serves as a workstation. We are now using our limited space more efficiently, freeing up space for our permanent records that continue to grow.
- Conducted our 18th *Top Dog Contest* in collaboration with Chief Nicholas J. Boulter, Animal Control Officer Mark Rudewicz, and the Simsbury Police Department. 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, certificates, and a 2019 dog license at no charge.
- Hosted a rabies clinic and dog licensing event with the Animal Control Officer on June 1, 2019 at the Weatogue Fire Station. Rabies vaccinations were administered by Canton

Animal Hospital and the Town Clerk Staff was on site to issue 2019/2020 Dog Licenses.



Budget: \$226,809

3 full-time equivalent employees

Picture left: Storage unit and accessible workstation in the Town Clerk's vault was installed with the help of a Connecticut State Library grant.

Registrars of Voters/Election Administration

The Registrars of Voters administer elections, primaries, and referendums for the Town of Simsbury, conduct an annual canvass of Simsbury voters, and maintain the Town's voter rolls according to State statutes.

2018-2019 Initiatives and Accomplishments

- Completed the UConn Information Technology Institute Certification.
- Administered a high-volume absentee balloting complicated by state-level delays while still completing post-election reporting ahead of schedule for the State Election.
- Produced a new GIS map that reflects changes made to voting districts.
- Enrolled 1,770 new voters, which reflects a net increase of 463 voters.

Budget: \$120,572

1 full-time equivalent employee

Simsbury Public Library

The Simsbury Public Library educates and enriches the community by providing free and equal access to information, resources and experiences, inspiring our community to discover and connect, enriching lives while approaching the future together.

2018-2019 Initiatives and Accomplishments

- Successfully completed the lower level renovation, which was funded by the Town, the Friends of the Simsbury Public Library, and through a grant from the Connecticut State Library.
- The Simsbury Public Library was awarded the 2018 Connecticut Library Association Excellence in Public Library Service Award for the Teen Job Center.
- The Simsbury Public Library had an overall increase in program implementation and community involvement:
 - Increased the usage of library material by 18%
 - Increased the number of library programs by 5% and attendance by 54%
 - Increased the number of hands-on learning opportunities by 10%

Budget: \$1,605,736

17.78 full-time equivalent employees

Culture, Parks and Recreation

The 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 the community, and are an integral part of Simsbury's health, welfare, attractiveness, and economic vitality.

2018-2019 Initiatives and Accomplishments

- Completed the #5 green reconstruction at the Simsbury Farms Golf Course. This project improved the drainage and playability of the hole. This project was made possible through a generous donation from the Simsbury Farms Men's Club.
- Transitioned to a new point of sale software system at the Golf Course in the Spring of 2019. The new system improves revenue tracking, allows customers to complete transactions more quickly, and has improved marketing functionality over the previous system.
- The Culture, Parks and Recreation Department transitioned to a new Director after 36 years of leadership under Gerard Toner. Thomas Tyburski, a previous employee of the Department, assumed the role in July 2018.
- Participated in the planning and preparations for the construction of the new park next to the Old Drake Hill Flower Bridge.
- Staff, along with members of the Open Space and Culture, Parks and Recreation Commissions, began the Parks and Open Space Master Plan. Weston and Sampson was chosen to assist the Town with this project through a competitive request for qualifications process.
- Conducted an analysis of the irrigation system at the Simsbury Farms Golf Course.



Pictured: The fifth green at Simsbury Farms Golf Course (taken by Marc Fischer, Assistant Golf Professional)

General Fund Budget: \$804,422
Special Revenue Fund Budget: \$1,981,983
19 full-time equivalent employees

Community and Social Services

The mission of the Community and Social Services Department is to assist residents with their social, emotional and financial needs while welcoming the commonalities and diversities of all who walk through our doors.



2018-2019 Initiatives and Accomplishments

- Recruited a new Community Social Worker to expand and add to our existing programs and services.
- Created and implemented a new program series called “Sensory Friendly,” which focuses on themed activities that are geared to meet the needs of children with special needs.
- Partnered with and provided funding to the Simsbury Police, Board of Education, Simsbury Public Library, and the Community for Care to support programming on topics related to safety, drug abuse prevention, family relations, and mental health concerns. Programs included: mindfulness and stress reduction; the dangers of vaping and other inhalants; two distracted-driving campaigns; bike safety; multigenerational events; yoga; and Wii tournaments.
- Participated in Septemberfest, and hosted the “Dream It Be It” girls career conference, a paint night, drawing workshops, and cooking events. In total, more than 2,046 people participated in these preventive and supportive programs. We also provided funding and referrals for 18 students to access therapeutic treatment.
- Collaborated with Resilience Grows Here to host a veterans resource evening and implemented a monthly veterans coffee hour. We also collaborated with Farmington Valley Health District to offer the evidence-based Chronic Pain Self-Management Course.
- Implemented the Tuesday Café Lunch, giving our seniors a second opportunity for a healthy meal while socializing.
- Served as an intake site for the Connecticut Energy Assistance Program, facilitating \$143,020 in federal heating assistance, which is an increase of \$7,999 over the prior year. Provided 31 families with 70 children with assistance for the holidays.

Pictured above: the 2018 Senior Center Thanksgiving Luncheon.

Budget: \$559,321

4.71 full-time equivalent employees

Public Works

The mission of the Public Works Department is to manage and maintain the Town's infrastructure, including roads, public buildings, and the transfer station in a cost effective and efficient manner that will benefit the safety and comfort of our residents and employees.



2018-2019 Initiatives and Accomplishments

- Recorded over 550 requests for service, including: tree inspections for trees in the right-of-way; pothole repairs; drainage issues and catch basin inspections; curbing repairs; removal of dead animals from the roads; clean-ups of illegal dumping; mailbox repairs; and sign repairs.
- Installed a new 92 kW solar array at the Public Works Facility, which will save over \$20,000 per year on energy costs.
- Collaborated with the Board of Selectmen, the Assistant Town Planner, Tariffville Village Water Company, and the Conservation Commission to draft a water shortage ordinance, which was adopted by the Board of Selectmen on September 24, 2018.
- Completed the Simsbury Pedestrian Bicycle Master Plan in December 2018 in conjunction with other Town departments and hundreds of members of the Simsbury community.
- Removed approximately 300 trees along our roadsides in a proactive program to remove the dead and dying trees to prevent injuries and property damage.
- Paved over 10.5 miles of roadway, including extensive drainage repairs.
- In June 2019, in coordination with the Board of Selectmen's Pride Month Proclamation, our staff members painted the temporary rainbow crosswalk installation at Rotary Park and the Performing Arts Center.

Pictured above: Staff paints the temporary rainbow crosswalk in honor of LGBTQ+ pride month, June 2019

Budget: \$4,041,699

30.35 full-time equivalent employees

Water Pollution

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, four operators, two maintainers, one truck driver, an engineering inspector, and an administrative secretary. During the summer, seasonal staff is used primarily for easement maintenance.



2018-2019 Initiatives and Accomplishments

- Finalized Flow Allocation Policy to allow for better maintenance of flows in the collection system and treatment plant.
- Completed the upgrade of pumps and SCADA system at the Wolcott Street pumping station to reduce maintenance time due to clogging and provide for more energy efficient operation of the entire system.
- Completed sanitary sewer extensions on Oakhurst Road and Bushy Hill Road.
- Upgraded sanitary sewers on Massaco Street to eliminate inadequate piping and bring the system up to Town standards.

Budget: \$3,856,387

11 full-time equivalent employees

Engineering

The mission of the Engineering department is to provide professional infrastructure and building design, project management, and planning services to effectively sustain and improve the current quality of life for Simsbury residents and businesses.

2018-2019 Initiatives and Accomplishments

- Successfully obtained a priority ranking for a transportation alternative grant in the amount of \$1.58 million dollars for extending a multi-use trail from the Farmington Valley Greenway at Hopmeadow Street to Curtiss & Pattison Parks.
- Advertised for bids and initiated construction for the development of 1 Old Bridge (Hop Brook Landing at the Flower Bridge Park) property as a passive park.
- Completed several components of the Eno Memorial Hall Renovations project, including lower level kitchen renovations, lower level bathroom renovations and the installation of acoustical panels in the auditorium .
- Completed design documents and advertised for bids for the Riverside Road/Drake Hill Road Bridge Rehabilitation project.
- Completed a design and construction for emergency repairs to the House Rest Pond Dam.
- Completed a design, advertised for a bid and initiated construction for the Simsbury Public Library Lower Level Improvements project.
- Received a commitment of grant funding in the amount of \$189,000 for the rehabilitation of two Town-owned bridges under the State of Connecticut Local Bridge Program. These bridges include Firetown Road Bridge over Bissell Brook and Barndoor Hills Road Bridge over Bissell Brook.



Pictured above: The new Hop Brook Landing at the Flower Bridge Park, under construction as of Summer2019

Budget: \$ 265,288

2.85 full time equivalent employees

Planning and Community Development

The Department's primary mission is to engage the Town's residents and provide professional guidance and coordination in a manner which allows them to envision and plan for a highly desirable and livable town, and to implement and maintain that vision through the implementation of astute use of land in order to ensure a high quality of life for all generations. The Department includes the Planning Department as well as the Building Department.

2018-2019 Initiatives and Accomplishments

- Assisted the Zoning Commission in updating the zoning regulations so that standards are current with National Flood Insurance Program.
- Continued to work on the comprehensive update and consolidation of zoning regulations.
- Assisted the Planning Commission in drafting updates to the subdivision regulations.
- Participated in business visitation meetings coordinated by the Town Manager's Office.
- Provided staffing assistance to the Zoning Commission, Planning Commission, Conservation Commission, Design Review Board, Zoning Board of Appeals, East Weatogue Historic District Commission, and Aquifer Protection Agency.
- The Building Division continues to adapt to new state and federal requirements and updated codes, which result in learning curves for department staff, contractors, and design professionals. Some of the new codes will require additional inspections and documentation requirements.
- Received 67 zoning applications, 1 planning application, 14 conservation applications, 8 zoning board of appeals applications, and 6 historic district commission applications.
- The Building Division processed over 2,000 building and mechanical permits.

Budget: \$653,880

7.54 full-time equivalent employees

Police Department

The Simsbury Police Department is a national and state accredited police department that provides law enforcement and public safety services, including operation of the E-911 Communications Center. The Department provides a full range of services under a community policing philosophy.



2018-2019 Initiatives and Accomplishments

- Maintained national and state accreditation through the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA) and Connecticut Police Officer Standards and Training Council (POSTC).
- Hosted various annual community based events, such as the Citizens Police Academy, Junior Police Academy, and Senior Picnic as well as the continued success of the Cadet Program for our youth.
- Participated in events to support great causes such as CT Special Olympics and programs such as Project Lifesaver for individuals who may have a tendency to wander.
- Organized informational efforts for crime prevention and compliance continued to grow, through teaching in school classrooms and driver's education, roadway message signs, social media, self-defense classes and participation in community based meetings/events and public forums.
- Traffic safety remained a priority through enforcement, education and assessment of traffic control devices, roadway markings/signs and roadway design. The Department participated in various seatbelt and distracted driving campaigns and child safety seat inspections.

Police & Dispatch: \$4,784,371

Animal Control: \$70,581

Emergency Management: \$6,685

52.36 full-time equivalent employees

Pictured above: Members of the Police Department receive the Social Changes Connecticut Award.

Simsbury Fire District

To minimize injuries, and property loss from fire, hazardous conditions, rescue situations, and other disasters, by providing excellent state of the art, life and property conservation, emergency and educational services while recognizing our people as our most important resource and the key to our success. The District is a separate taxing entity and independent organization from the town. The District also provides emergency management services to the Town.

2018-2019 Initiatives and Accomplishments

The Fiscal Year of 2018 – 2019 was completed within the budget with no bonding of funds. In June 2019, we began the celebration of the Fire District's and the Fire Company's 75th Year of service to the residents of the Town of Simsbury with taking part in the River Run celebration in May and a chicken barbeque held at the Weatogue Fire Grounds. Additional events are scheduled throughout the coming year in order to continue the celebration of 75 years of service. The future highlighted events are:

- The Fire Apparatus Parade during Septemberfest
- The Annual Torchlight Parade in November
- The Black and Red Gala and yearbook release in 2020

Budget: \$3,098,635
8 full-time equivalent employees

Simsbury Volunteer Ambulance Association

Simsbury Volunteer Ambulance Association (SVAA) has served the emergency medical needs of the community since 1957. In the past year SVAA's volunteer EMTs, augmented by our paid staff of Paramedics and EMTs, responded to approximately 2,080 emergency medical calls.

2018-2019 Initiatives and Accomplishments

- With a grant from the Granby Simsbury Rotary Club, trained over 100 residents in Friends and Family CPR. SVAA also became an American Heart Association Training Site. SVAA was awarded the Silver Plus award from the American Heart Association for excellence in the care of acute coronary syndrome.
- Participated in several town stand-bys including the St. Mary's Carnival, the Torch Light Parade, MS Walk, Septemberfest Parade, the River Run Race, Simsbury Police Department's Junior Police Academy.
- After over 25 years of dedicated service, Michael Delehanty was made an Emeritus Member of SVAA. Karin Stewart was appointed as the new Executive Director and Chief of Service. Russell Regenauer received the EMT of the Year Award and was recognized for his 10 years of service; Dave Harriman received the SVAA 100-call Award for responding to over 100 9-1-1 calls; Matthew Nardozza and Megan Drummey received the Distinguished Service Award; Deanna Cunningham received the A-2 Award; Donna Anderson was the receipt of a Certificate of Appreciation presented by VFW Post 1926.

Board of Education

The Simsbury Public Schools cultivate the mind, body, and character of each student. We engage students with a meaningful and rigorous academic foundation so that they can contribute to a global society with integrity, compassion, and resilience.

2018-2019 Initiatives and Accomplishments



- The percentage of Simsbury High School seniors completing at least one Advanced Placement (AP) course was 75%; the percentage of those students achieving a score of 3 or above on the AP Exam was 80%; of the total of 1,027 students who took Advanced Placement exams, 822 students passed the exam.
- Our 11th graders performed well in both the math (score of 580) and ELA (score of 591) portions of the SAT com-

pared with our District Reference Group average (math 566 and ELA 569) and the state average (math 501 and ELA 515). For Grades 3-8, the percentage of Simsbury students meeting goal on SBAC ELA was 82%, compared to 56% statewide. Students meeting goal on SBAC Math was 70%, compared to 48% statewide.

- In June the Board of Education adopted new 5 year goals for 2019-2024. These goals will address: Student Growth and Success, Compassionate and Connected School Culture, Premier Workforce and Sustainable and Strategic Investments.
- After funding was approved in the 2019-20 budget, the school district hired a retired Simsbury police officer to the new position of Director of Safety & Security to oversee the safety and security at all 7 of our schools.
- The Henry James renovation project has begun and construction of the library/media center, auditorium, and science classrooms/labs is well underway. Classrooms will begin coming online in November 2019 with a substantial complete timeframe of Fall 2020.
- A yearlong School Facilities Master Plan and Reconfiguration Study is in progress. Information from the public was requested at a forum in June. Further discussions will take place over the school year with the Enrollment and Facilities Task Force, the Board of Education, and through another public forum.

Budget: \$69,129,522
641.94 full-time equivalent employees

Housing Authority

Dedicated to providing safe and affordable housing for limited income seniors and individuals with disabilities.

2018-2019 Initiatives and Accomplishments

- Completed a Small Cities grant construction project at the Virginia Connolly Residence, which included paving of a roadway, installing ADA compliant sidewalks, and adding handicapped parking spaces.
- Finished the renovation of ten units at the Dr. Owen L. Murphy Apartments including painting, replacement/upgrading of electrical panels, installation of lever handles, conversion of tubs to walk-in showers, new VCT flooring, new fixtures as needed, and new appliances.
- Instituted a “Smoke Free” policy at the Dr. Owen L. Murphy Apartments.
- Completed capital non-recurring projects in the amount of \$45,600 for improvements at the Virginia Connolly Residence. Projects included: installing a new dining room floor; replacement of an exterior kitchen door; installing energy efficient lighting in dining room; replacing the original bathroom floors with new VCT in apartments; reorganizing the lobby area and office space; and replacing the office computers.
- Continued a partnership with the Farmington Valley VNA to provide monthly blood pressure and blood sugar screening as well as a flu clinic for residents at the Dr. Owen L. Murphy Apartments.
- Conducted monthly resident council meetings to provide a forum for residents to express themselves and suggest positive changes. The council is comprised of three residents from the Dr. Owen L. Murphy Apartments, three residents from the Virginia Connolly Residence and the cur-

Probate Court

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 Court strives to ease the process as much as possible knowing that during stressful times it is difficult to cope with the unknown.

2018-2019 Initiatives and Accomplishments

During the past year, 242 applications were accepted for probate of decedent’s estates. In addition, 198 small estate affidavits and tax purposes only estates were filed. The Court also processed 66 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 intervivos trust matters.



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A seal for the Town of Simsbury was chosen from among many designs which were submitted during a competition open to all residents of the Farmington Valley between September 1 and November 30, 1969. The winning entry was submitted by Allen W. Hixon and was later adopted officially as the Simsbury Town Seal.

The seal embraces the Higley Copper, the first copper coin to be minted in America; the Old Meeting House, a replica of which stands in the Simsbury Historical Center; the Tree, symbol of our natural resources; and the family group, which is the base of our whole society. The leaves on the outer circumference of the seal represent the hop vine, from which many familiar Simsbury names are derived, and the inner circle represents a fuse, symbolic of America's first such industry, which was founded in Simsbury.

The picture above was taken by Ray Padron

FY18-19 Financial Information

Expenditures

	\$	% of Total
Education	68,687,701	70.1%
Debt Service	4,063,100	4.1%
General Government	2,190,083	2.2%
Planning and Development	584,321	0.6%
Public Safety	4,808,177	4.8%
Public Works	3,883,769	4.1%
Parks & Recreation	2,373,612	2.4%
Health & Social Services	683,824	0.7%
Insurance & Benefits	5,412,529	5.4%
Other	5,570,101	5.6%
Total	\$99,354,165	100.0%

Revenues

	\$	% of Total
Property Taxes	88,687,363	88.7%
Intergovernmental	6,648,375	6.7%
Investments	727,158	0.7%
Changes for Services	671,521	0.7%
Licenses / Permits	1,267,592	1.3%
Other	1,928,510	1.9%
Total	99,930,519	100.0%

Mill Rate History

	Town	Fire District	Total
FY14-15	37.14	1.19	38.33
FY15-16	37.12	1.19	38.31
FY16-17	37.12	1.23	38.35
FY17-18	38.76	1.23	39.99
FY 18-19	36.42	1.17	37.59

18/19 Board of Selectmen

Eric Wellman, First Selectman
Chris Kelly, Deputy First Selectman
Sean Askham
Cheryl Cook
Mike Paine
Chris Peterson
Maria Capriola, Town Manager

18/19 Board of Finance

Rob Pomeroy, Chair
Linda Schofield, Vice Chair
Lisa Heavner
Derek Peterson
Kevin Prell
Moira Wertheimer
Amy Meriwether, Finance Director

18/19 Board of Education

Tara Donohue Willerup, Chair
Susan Salina, Vice Chair
Todd Burrick, Secretary
Jennifer Batchelar
Thomas Frank
Lydia Tedone
Jeffrey Tindall
Matthew Curtis, Superintendent