



heritage



charm



adventure

SIMSBURY CONNECTICUT

2007-2008 Annual Report

www.simsbury-ct.gov

The front and back covers of this Annual Report reflect a new tourism initiative in Simsbury, sponsored by the Simsbury Main Street Partnership and paid for by grants from Preserve America and the Commission on Culture and Tourism. With the theme *Heritage. Charm. Adventure.* this new program will promote Simsbury's historic and recreational sites, as well as restaurants, hotels and shops, as destinations for residents and visitors alike. Look for the downtown map, an outdoor guide, a listing of heritage sites, and a guide to the Farmington Valley Trails.

Our Town

A Message from the Chairman of the Board of Finance

I am pleased to deliver the 146th Annual Report of the Town of Simsbury. The goal of this report is to convey to the Town's citizens, taxpayers and other stakeholders a description of the significant events and activities that have occurred during the reporting period. This report includes financial information for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2008, as well as a description of the significant events and activities that occurred in the community during the calendar year 2008.

2008 brought with it much change. This included a new President, improvements overseas, and also a tumultuous downturn in the nation's economy. This downturn in the economy has certainly had an impact on our community. Our town revenue sources have seen reductions which will impact our 2009-2010 budget. In addition, the State of Connecticut is facing a significant budget shortfall and this could potentially have an impact on state aid in the future.

The Boards of Finance, Education and Selectmen have acted prudently and proactively throughout this economic crisis to effectively manage the Town's finances. While carefully monitoring the revenue side of the budget, the Boards of Education and Selectmen have taken action to control and reduce budgeted expenditures to the greatest extent possible. This prudence has continued throughout the budget development process leading to the proposed fiscal year 2010 operating budget.

Simsbury has continued to prepare for the future by proactively investing in its infrastructure, open space and educational programs. At the special town meeting on May 6, 2008, several important appropriations were approved. These appropriations included funding for updates to Eno Memorial Hall, water and sewer improvement projects, a new roof for

the original section of Tootin Hills School, including the replacement of the modular classroom roofs, and the replacement of boilers and controls at Henry James.

In addition, the community has continued its commitment to the purchase of open space. \$720,000 was approved and appropriated for the Laurel Hill/Gersten Land Purchase. This purchase will entail the acquisition of approximately 50 acres located along the Talcott Mountain Ridgeline for open space, recreation and other municipal purposes. In addition, the referendum approved the appropriation of \$2,750,000 for the acquisition of approximately 77 acres of land bounded by Firetown Road and Holcomb Road. The purchase of this particular property is the culmination of a protracted legal dispute.

In closing, I want to thank the many dedicated members of our community that serve on the Town's boards and commissions. These volunteers work tirelessly for the betterment of our community through the donation of countless hours of service.

Again, it continues to be my pleasure and honor to serve as Chairman of the Board of Finance. I continue to be grateful for the honor and privilege.

Sincerely,



Paul Henault
Chairman, Board of Finance





Our Town

A Message from the First Selectman

As the Town of Simsbury closes its books on last fiscal year and prepares for 2009-2010, we face difficult economic challenges. A downturn in the national economy, a looming state budget deficit and decreases in local revenue and investment income have presented challenges for our Town. Yet given this economic climate, the elected officials, employees and volunteers who serve our town have worked together on some exciting initiatives. The work of the boards and commissions is outlined here in this Annual Report. Whether you live, work or play in our wonderful Town of Simsbury, we hope that you will find the information contained in this Annual Report helpful.

First, the Town has increased its commitment to green business practices. The Board of Selectmen has committed to participate in the Connecticut Clean Energy 20% by 2010 Program and appointed the Clean Energy Commission to assist the Town in achieving this goal. In addition, through the use of energy saving lighting, motors and controls, the recently completed Library and Wastewater Treatment Plant have reduced their energy consumption, and qualified for receipt of \$160,000 in Connecticut Energy Efficiency Fund Incentive Awards. The Town has also recently purchased two vehicles that have the ability to operate on natural gas.

Second, the Town has focused on its investment in the community's infrastructure. A total of \$1,000,000 was appropriated by the special town meeting in 2008 for improvements to Eno Memorial Hall. Work has included life safety code improvements, including railings and a fire suppression system. In addition, a new front entry plaza has recently been

completed. Public area painting, accessibility improvements, bathroom reconstruction and signage projects will also be undertaken. This work will be accomplished in a manner consistent with the building's use and historic nature.

Third, the community continues to demonstrate a strong commitment to the preservation of open space. The special town meeting approved funding for the preservation of approximately 50 acres in Tariffville located along the Talcott Mountain Ridgeline. In addition, the referendum approved \$2,750,000 to purchase 77 acres of property located on Firetown Road known as the Barndoor Hills Triangle. To help decide the future of the Barndoor Hills Triangle, the Board of Selectmen invited the public to attend a public hearing to discuss possible future uses for the property.

By any measure, Simsbury remains an exceptional community. I thank you for your interest in this report and encourage you to become involved in our community. I look forward to hearing from you. Please feel free to contact me at 658-3230 or via e-mail at mglassman@simsbury-ct.gov.

Sincerely,

Mary A. Glassman
First Selectman



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Our Town/Town Government

2008 Town of Simsbury Hometown Heroes

The Hometown Hero Program was initiated in 1986 by Governor William O'Neil as part of the 350th Anniversary of the founding of Connecticut. Any municipality could designate residents as "Hometown Heroes" for any deed or service that made the community a better place in which to live. State certificates were presented to the 42 individuals and 4 organizations on May 12, 1986. The following year, the First Selectman, Margaret Shanks, continued the program with certificates developed for Simsbury, naming 48 designates. It has been continued since, with Hometown Heroes recognized at a ceremony on or near the date of May 12, the date of Simsbury's birth. The Hometown Hero Selection Committee, which is appointed by the Board of Selectmen, selected the following recipients for the 2008 Hometown Hero Award:

Todd Myers, Helen K. Peterson and Thomas S. West

The following criterion for selection applies:

- A person(s) who is a resident, or who is active in the Simsbury community, or who lived in Simsbury during the time period that is under consideration;
- Person(s) who has demonstrated selfless and altruistic behavior which contributes significantly to the betterment of our Town;
- That such deed or action performed inures primarily to the Town of Simsbury, although not necessarily exclusively; and that;
- Any individual or group that has been nominated to the Hometown Hero Award Committee (henceforth "Committee") shall be duly considered with the following exceptions:
 - The hero shall not be a member of Town staff, nor a sitting elected official. Nor shall the hero have benefited economically from his/her endeavors on behalf of the Town.
 - There will be no quotas or automatic selections by the Committee. Recognizing the premise that an abundance of awards will dilute the significance of the award, the Committee is duly charged to use its discretion in the number to be awarded.

Board of Selectmen

The 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 our Town Charter, is two fold: act as the budget making authority and be responsible for financial and taxation matters.

The Board of Finance works on an annual basis with the Board of Selectmen and Board of Education in order to put both operating and capital budgets before the voters. During that process, the 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, either at Town Meeting or 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.

Board of Education

The 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 of Education is also responsible for the ongoing evaluation of the school program against its goals and objectives and for the evaluation of the Superintendent.

(continued on page 6)



Departments & Services

Board of Education (continued)

The Board consists of eight elected members who meet twice a month at the Board of Education offices or at one of the seven Simsbury schools. 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 adopted 5-year goals (2004-2009) to provide direction and focus on the improvement work of the district. The goals, which address both student achievement and organizational quality, are as follows:

Achievement Goals

- All Simsbury students will demonstrate achievement of the district's performance standards in language arts, mathematics, science, social studies, and world languages.
- All students will demonstrate an achievement in the fine and performing arts as measured by district performance standards.
- All Simsbury students will be prepared to function effectively in a complex, multi-cultural society as evidenced by achievement of the district's performance standards in the areas of health, personal responsibility, citizenship, career awareness/life skills and technology.

System Quality Goals

- To create curriculum that will respond to the learning needs of all students and prepare them for life in the 21st century.
- To ensure that teachers in the Simsbury Public Schools meet the district performance standards in both subject matter expertise and in teaching skill.
- To ensure that the system as a whole as well as each school/program engages in continuous improvement and self-evaluation and holds itself accountable for increased levels of performance over time as measured by national and international standards of achievement.
- To develop a comprehensive plan that describes the future needs of the district and associated costs including capital as well as operating needs.

Continuous Improvement

Each year the schools, as well as the Central Office, establish improvement plans that guide the system toward achievement of the Board of Education Five Year Goals. Both the 2007-2008 Annual Reports and the 2008-2009 Continuous Improvement Plans can be found on the District's website at <http://www.simsbury.k12.ct.us/page.cfm?p=1104>.

Highlights of progress made toward the BOE achievement and quality goals and strategic objectives during the 2007-08 school year include:

- Achieved best CMT and CAPT results in the last 6 years.
- Revised curriculum with an emphasis on elementary science, social studies, and all 9th grade curriculum.
- Established Simsbury Arts Academy to provide enrichment for K-12 students in all areas of the arts.
- Increased international/multicultural initiatives for staff and students, including a partnership with Chinese sister school and the establishment of a Chinese language program.
- Upgraded classroom technology at all levels, including digital projectors and interactive whiteboards installed in nearly all classrooms.
- Maintained class size within the guidelines established in 2006 in grades K-12.
- Launched faculty web pages to enable teachers to better communicate with students and parents.
- Developed model for Student Success Center to support struggling secondary students.
- Achieved significant reduction in suspensions and expulsions.
- Aligned District Continuous Improvement Plan with District Vision and Core Beliefs.
- Sought greater input from parents and the community through online surveys and the establishment of advisory committees/community groups.
- Initiated School Connects emergency call system and new student data system.
- Established "Tools for School" indoor air quality teams in each school building.
- Instituted changes to the school lunch program including nutrition information on school lunches; increased flexibility for students with specific allergies and conditions; installed "Point of Sale" system in all cafeterias; established expectations that food as incentive would be eliminated.
- Successfully completed 6-month NEASC accreditation requirements at SHS.
- Completed CIAC evaluation of SHS Athletic Program.

Honors and Recognitions

Highlights of the honors and recognitions received by faculty and students during the 2007-08 school year include:



Departments & Services

Board of Education (continued)

- HJMS Art teacher Paul Kulikowski named Simsbury Teacher of the Year.
- SHS Business teacher Deb Manning named Connecticut Career Choices Teaching Fellow.
- Tariffville Math Resource teacher Courtney Quigley named Fellow of the Connecticut Academy for Education in Mathematics, Science and Technology.
- SHS Principal Neil Sullivan is 2007 winner of the Connecticut Educational Media Association Award (CEMA).
- Ron Jeffers is 2007 recipient of CEMA's Pellerin Classroom Teacher Award.
- SHS Art educator Cindy Parsons named National Art Association (NAEA) 2008 Eastern Regional Secondary Art Educator of the Year.
- SHS Art educator Cindy Rehm named Connecticut Art Educator of the Year by the Connecticut Art Education Association (CAEA)
- SHS Chorale teacher Dr. Stuart Younse named Secondary Music Teacher of the Year by the Connecticut Music Education Association (CMEA)
- SHS Science teacher Keirsten Huttig earns 2007-08 Siemens Award for Advanced Placement.
- SHS Social Studies teacher Liz McKay recognized by the American Psychological Association (APA) for her outstanding paper, "Psychological Sense of School Membership Mediates the Relationship Between Attachment and Academic Motivation in High School Students"
- HJMS Vice Principal Patty-Lou Peters named by the Simsbury Board of Education as Educator of the Year.
- Tariffville Grade 5 teacher Terry Henault became one of the finalists for CAS Elementary Exemplary Educator of the Year.
- Three SHS students, Brandt Smallwood, Alex Makkaveyev, and Kevin Su qualified for the American Invitational Mathematics Exam (AIME).
- Brandt Smallwood was elected as State Vice President of Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA).
- At Berklee Jazz Festival Swati Pullela received a Judges Choice for her performance in the ensemble and an Outstanding Jazz Soloist Award overall; P J Duffy received a Judges Choice Award for his performance in the High School Big Band and an Outstanding Musicianship Award overall.
- SHS student Divya Bajekal named 2008 Governors Scholar
- SHS student Richard Saunders named 2008 Presidential Scholar
- SHS senior Cody Hughes received a National Silver Scholastic Art Award for his mixed media sculpture.

Administrative Services

The Director of Administrative Services recommends management policy to the First Selectman and to the Personnel Sub-Committee. Under the direction of the First Selectman, who serves as the Town's Personnel Director, the Director of Administrative Services administers and evaluates the staffing program for approximately 146 full time and up to 50 regular part time employees. In addition, the Director of Administrative Services provides management support to the

First Selectman and Board of Selectmen in the administration of Town operations.

Animal Control Officer

Animal Control is a function of the Police Department that provides a response to all animal related needs. The Animal Control Officer provides service for domestic and farm animals and is licensed and certified by the Department of Environmental Protection for nuisance wildlife control.

Accomplishments of 2007 – 2008

Public Health and Safety

- Pet owner compliance for rabies vaccinations and dog licensing through the Annual Dog License Survey.

Public Awareness and Education

- Educational programs with community groups – Simsbury Rotary Club, McLean Home, Citizens' Police Academy, Simsbury Public Schools and daycare facilities.
- Awareness through media sources such as television, newspapers and the website with the addition of streaming video.

Service Development

- Hosted a regional Bear Awareness and Response Seminar for police and animal control officers, conducted by a former member of the Canadian Fish and Wildlife.
- Emergency Preparedness Operations Planning.
- Increased level of service for injured animals through immediate emergency care and first aid.
- Expanded knowledge base for equestrian needs through the Connecticut Department of Agriculture and the Connecticut Horse Council.

Goals for 2008 – 2009

- Host the Annual Rabies Vaccination Clinic in conjunction with canine education and adoption event.
- Expand educational programs for students and parents of the Simsbury public and private schools, school bus drivers and school crossing guards.
- Continue education and awareness efforts through the media outlets.
- Enhance knowledge and service delivery through continued animal related training and education seminars.
- Expand our available resources to respond to community needs.

Incident Statistics 2007 – 2008

Animal Complaints	1,183	Dog Licenses Issued	2,366
Animal Bites	8	Animal Related Arrests	8
Impounded Animals	55		

Departments & Services

Assessor

The 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.

The required revaluation of all real estate was completed for the list of October 1, 2007 and the grand list was completed by the January 31, 2008 deadline. The assessor's office worked diligently on the real estate valuation, including completing its own field review of residential properties along with giving direction to the work of the revaluation company. The department also provided staff support to the Board of Assessment Appeals, which completed its duties on March 31, 2008, its normal deadline.

Under the current provisions of state law, the next revaluation must be completed for the list of October 1, 2012, and must include the reinspection of residential and commercial/industrial buildings.

In the six months ending December 31, 2008, field work and much of the real estate valuation for the October 1, 2008 was completed; personal property declarations had been sent out, received and processed and nearly all of the values estimated; several personal property audits were initiated and the remaining review of land information continued; and more than three quarters of the tax appeals from the October 1, 2007 grand list had been resolved.

The top ten taxpayers on the October 1, 2006 grand list were:

Name	Nature of Business	Net Taxable Valuation 10/1/2006
Simsbury Associates Limited Partnership	Real Estate Holdings	\$ 37,800,000
Hartford Life & Accident Ins. Co.	Insurance Company	\$ 22,530,180
Executive Risk Indemnity Inc.	Real Estate Holdings	\$ 16,950,654
Connecticut Light and Power Co.	Public Utility	\$ 15,378,170
E and A/ I and G Simsbury Commons LP	Shopping Center	\$ 13,022,000
Ensign-Bickford Realty Corporation	Real Estate Holdings	\$ 10,139,710
Powder Forest Homes LLC	Residential Dev.	\$ 9,869,983
Dyno Nobel Inc.	Manufacturing Co.	\$ 8,448,188
Simsbury Commons North E and A LLC	Supermarket Property	\$ 8,024,310
McLean George P Estate	Real Estate Holdings	\$ 6,536,990

Building Department

The Building Department is responsible for the enforcement of the State Building Codes and other regulations. These include the International Building, Fire, Electrical, Plumbing, Heating/Mechanical, Existing Building, Demolition, Fuel, Gas and Energy Codes. We assure that other approvals including Fire, Zoning, Engineering, Wetlands, Health, Septic Sewer, Tax, Historic District, State Traffic Commission and other State and Federal regulations are addressed prior to issuing permits and during construction. We perform nearly 2000 inspections annually, including emergency response.

Activity levels for fiscal year 07-08 were consistent with past years with a noticeable change in residential applications which began to drop in mid 2008. New applications and permits in the last quarter of 2008 were substantially down from past years. The number of single family home starts began to fall dramatically at this time. Even additions and renovations that are generally a large part of our activity have seen noticeable decreases. Of interest is the action by many homeowners to install new roofs, siding or windows in preparation for the sale of their home. We are at the point where many of the large commercial projects under construction are in the last half of the construction process with the bulk of the final construction occurring in mid 2009. We continue to address old permits that have not been formally closed by notification and follow up inspections. These permits number in the thousands and will take a substantial effort to bring up to date.

Our Assistant Building Official qualified for and received his full Building Official License. Our Building Official has been involved at the state level as a member of the Connecticut Codes and Standards Committee and as an active member in a statewide code coalition that includes AIA CT, CT Engineers, CT Association of Homebuilders, Building Owners, CT Realtors and a number of other groups. A new code amendment package developed and recommended by Codes and Standards will become law in 2009. Statute changes with development of new regulations regarding sustainable design and construction is under way and we are a major part of that process. The new permit application has been well received. More and more permits are being downloaded and submitted through the mail making our job and the contractor's job more efficient. We continue to organize and consolidate files into a single street address file while eliminating duplicate and outdated information in the files. This has and will ease access and reduce file space. We remain hopeful that we will be able to update a very old computer permit program. This program is being coordinated with the Town-wide Information Technology Plan and will include updated reports, permit tracking and inspection logs that will get information to users much more efficiently than the present systems.

Initiatives have been and will continue to be made to make the permit process clearer and easier for both the applicant and the departments that are involved with managing the process. This includes proposed changes

Departments & Services

to Simsbury's Code of Ordinances. Several new information packets for homeowners and builders have been created and many older ones have been eliminated. A safe and healthy building environment is our mission. Getting there in the most efficient, effective and user friendly way is our constant goal.

Computer Department

The Simsbury Computer department supports technologies throughout all municipal departments, including offices of Board of Education and Law Enforcement. The department oversees the daily IT operations and maintenance of these departments, as well as, Simsbury's satellite locations; Senior Center, Water Pollution Control Facility, Public Works Building and Maintenance Facilities, Simsbury Farms Recreational Complex, and Simsbury Public Library. With the continued growth in government technology usage and the demand for providing and utilizing various information streams, the department is focused on researching innovative ways to develop current technologies and researching new technologies to provide informational benefits to Town departments and the citizens of Simsbury.

Accomplishments of 2007 – 2008

Application Migration - The successful migration of the town's financial application suite to an alternate platform for both municipal and educational offices to model financial standards on daily operations and business continuity planning as well as, coordinated the implementation of the Employee Access Center (EAC) for educational employees throughout the district.

Computer Recycling – Continuation of a successful recycling program for computer and electronic office equipment through the use of a cost efficient vendor program. During this period, the Town of Simsbury properly recycled 115 pieces of technology equipment without increasing it's operation budget.

STEP Program - Participation in the STEP (Supported Training and Employment Program) at Simsbury High School that provides work experiences for students with disabilities within the field of technology. Student's assisted in the digitalizing of 1984 assessment information for historical archiving and retrieval.

Policy - Assisted in the development and acceptance of the Town of Simsbury's Internet and Technology usage policy to govern Simsbury's information systems and their usage.

Web Site - Provided technical assistance to department staff and election officials in the development of web site preparations, presentations, and posting of voter instructions and notifications for the historic 2008 presidential election.

- During this period the Town of Simsbury's website experienced 475,000 total hits with a average daily hit count of 1,297 and a cumulative file download amount of 18GB of municipal information, forms and data by its' constituents. The use of video publications was introduced to provide informative presentations and reporting of Board/Commission meetings.

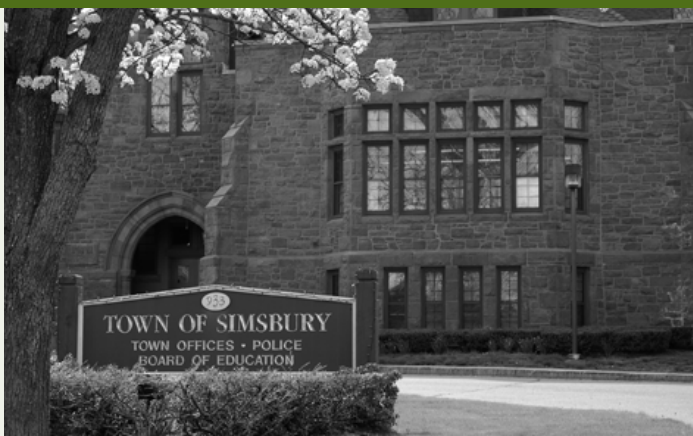
Simsbury Library – Successful implementation of extending telecommunications to Eno Memorial Hall and Simsbury Library via VPN for remote access to financial reporting and email communications.

- Within this location, the Computer department conducted a pilot program for Open Source applications of word processing, spreadsheet and presentation software for possible deployment to other departments in the future to curtail anticipated software expenditures.
- The successful installation of a VoIP (Voice over IP) solution was completed that provides greater and efficient telephone services and features to its' employees and patrons and lower telephone expenditures.
- The successful installation of load-balancing equipment that provides Internet access avenues while providing the highest levels of WAN optimization, reliability, security and bandwidth management to employees and patrons.
- Successfully introduced personal computing technology that reduced hardware/software dependencies and expense by implementing a "thin client" system on a single computer to support up to three additional users.

Goals for 2008 - 2009

Assist in the research and planning for Building department application that will provide property information, permits and inspections, planning and code enforcement, licensing and other building activities.

(continued on page 10)



Departments & Services

Computer Department (continued)

Research and identify new and alternative methods in the delivery and presentation of municipal information for Internet and Intranet-based publication.

Continue the extension of telecommunications among municipal locations in providing secure and cost effective network segments to support and enhance municipal services.

Expansion of wireless networks within Simsbury Town offices to provide alternate uses and availability of applications and services for office departments and other governmental units.

Culture, Parks and Recreation

The Culture, Parks and Recreation Department oversees the administration of the town's parks and recreational facilities. It also provides a wide range of programs for all ages throughout the year. The Department seeks to provide quality leisure opportunities which contribute to the environment, needs and interests of the community.

The Simsbury Culture, Parks and Recreation Commission provides direction and oversight to the Department, as well as recommending policy to the Board of Selectmen. The Commission is assisted by the Simsbury Farms Complex Committee, a sub-committee that advises on the operation and programming at the Simsbury Farms Recreation Complex.

Accomplishments of 2007 – 2008

- Increased volume of program offerings and on-line registration through the Department's web site, www.simsburyrec.com. Utilized website to market programs by direct e-mail to a database of over 3,400 families.
- Coordinated fundraising and planning activities for the annual Simsbury Celebrates event in November. Over \$23,000 was raised through private donations and sponsorships. The event drew attendance of over 9,000 for indoor and outdoor entertainment, a parade, and fireworks display.
- Continued marketing initiative by developing a new tri-fold brochure dedicated to showcasing the Simsbury Farms facility and it's amenities to new residents and potential users of the facility.

- Completed golf course improvements including drainage installation on holes #10, #15, and #17.

Goals for 2008 - 2009

- Continue growth of program and facility use through ongoing marketing initiative.
- Secure funding and complete construction of access road at Simsbury Farms, as well as park and golf maintenance facilities.
- Offer new incentives to increase play at the Simsbury Farms Golf Course.
- Promote use of the Simsbury Farms Ropes/Challenge Course to groups of all ages.
- Continue to make Simsbury Farms the "Heart of a Great Community".

Department of Engineering/ Capital Projects

The Department provides design and management services for a full range of community projects; and, administrative and design support for Capital Projects. During the past year, we worked closely with the Board of Selectmen, Public Building Committee, Simsbury Public Schools and several Town agencies in order to advance several projects to the bidding and construction phase.

Capital Project Services

During the year, the Department's Capital Projects division provided support for the following 6 projects:

Project	Activity	Project Values (\$Millions)
Greenway Rt. 10 Crossing & Section SI-5	Construction Completion	0.85
Treatment Plant Expansion	Closeout & Grant Process	26.84
High School Auditorium	Construction	1.11
Library Addition/Renovation Study	Construction	6.1
Tariffville School Expansion/ Renovation	Design & Construction	6.2
Eno Fire Suppression & Entry Plaza	Design	0.45
Total Value:		\$41.55 Million



Departments & Services

Department of Engineering/Capital Projects (continued)

The Simsbury Public Library's grand opening was held in the spring. This facility will provide the community with a full range of modern library services for many years.

With the installation of new rigging, lighting and curtains, the Simsbury High School auditorium now compliments the recent school renovation and addition.

Project Professional Services

The Engineering Department staff of design professionals provided survey, engineering, and contract management and inspection services for 22 projects, valued at \$2.5 million.

A study was initiated to construct a multi-use trail from the Farmington Valley Greenway to Tariffville. This trail will ultimately provide an important link between the New Haven to NorthHampton trail to the East Coast Greenway.

In order to remedy drainage concerns on roads and adjacent properties, catch basins and pipes were installed on areas of Canton Road, Stonepost Dr., Pifershire Road, and Hoskins Road. All catch basins included deep sums to trap winter road sand and debris.

Addressing the need for neighborhood sanitary sewers, the department worked closely with the Water Pollution Control Authority to install sewers in parts of Elaine Drive, Bushy Hill Road and Cornfield Road.

Sidewalk resurfacing was performed on Powder Horn and Ox Yoke Drives. This work, which we expect to continue in future years, improves the safety for children walking to school and residents general use.

These projects, which addressed residents' travel, environment and recreation needs, included the use of grants, donations, and inter-town Agreements. These efforts allowed Simsbury to realize important program savings, and benefited Simsbury and the surrounding communities.

Development Services

Development Services comprise plan review, periodic observation of work, performance bond administration and data base management for the land uses commissions. Fifteen projects, with site improvements valued at \$18 million, were managed during the year.

While overall site construction declined, several projects, such as Hoffman/Best Buy center, River View Banquet Facility, Brookshire, and the Powder Forest housing, saw completion of, or continuing, construction in the past year.

Special Services

Special Services encompass support activities for various Town departments. Major initiatives included the following:

- "Green Summit" - Sponsored with Ethel Walker School, a "Green Summit" program was attended by over 100 people. The program highlighted the Towns continuing efforts in energy conservation and alternative sources, such as solar, wind, photo voltaic and geo-thermal. Partnering opportunities such as the "20% by 2010" and the Clean Energy Fund programs were explored for use of non-fossil fuels.
- Grant Applications, with a value in excess of \$8.6 million, were administered for design and construction of the Greenway in Simsbury, Greenway Crossings at Routes 10, Simsbury Library expansion/addition, the pavement management program (LOCIP), the National Conservation Resource Center (NRCS), improvement of the Greenway at Hopmeadow Street & Drake Hill Road, and the Waste Water Treatment Plant renovation; and, for acquisition of Ethel Walker, Laurel Hill & Meadowood Open Space.
- Open Space Studies were prepared for a number of potential locations, resulting in successful agreements to preserve over 450 acres of forest, meadows and wetlands at the Ethel Walker School, Laurel Hill in Tariffville, and the Barndoor Hill wildlife corridor.
- Graphic Design, Studies, and Mapping Services were provided to numerous Town departments to assist in their presentations, data management, and community activities. A continuing commitment to the Town's Geographic Information System allowed the production of agricultural resource and pavement management mapping. Graphic designs were provided for Police community events, Simsbury Celebrates, and Economic Development Commission displays. Maps were updated for the Assessor, public work's utilities and School District boundaries. Data bases and map files were maintained for subdivision and site developments, surety bonding, excavation permits, and state aid road maps and mileage records.

Looking Back and Ahead

Our Past year's efforts were rewarded with the completion of the Simsbury Public Library, preservation of important open space parcels, and developing the framework for incorporating clean energy options into Town projects. Completion of the last sections of the Farmington Valley Greenway has opened a unique recreation and transportation trail in the Farmington River communities.

On a regional basis, the Department staff actively participated on the Board of Directors of the Farmington Valley Health District, the Call Before You Dig system, the Capitol Region Council of Governments' Transportation Committee, and the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection's stormwater management program. We will strive to realize greater efficiencies & savings from these regional and state alliances.

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Departments & Services

Department of Engineering/Capital Projects (continued)

During 2009, we will work in partnership with elected officials, commissions, staff, and consultants to complete the renovation and addition to the Tariffville School, to undertake a facilities' needs assessment for buildings at Simsbury Farms, and to incorporate energy savings and alternates into the Tootin' Hill school roof replacement, the Simsbury Farms study and Eno Memorial Improvements projects.

We also plan to extend the Center Area Streetscape's lighting, landscaping and walks in conjunction with the State DOT's Hopmeadow/Drake Hill West Street intersection improvements. Those improvements include greenway, crosswalk and travel lane improvements.

While the current economic environment demands ever more efficient use and management of resources, we also believe that the prudent selection of projects may result in construction cost savings.

Department of Finance

The Finance Department has three distinct divisions – Assessor's Office, Computers and Tax Collector.

In addition to the administration/accounting/payroll functions, the Finance Department, in cooperation with the Board of Finance, has responsibility for all aspects of the Town's financial affairs. This includes risk management; purchasing preparation and monitoring of the annual operating and capital budgets; establishment and monitoring of internal control procedures; investment of Town funds; and coordination of debt financing.

Simsbury Public Library

The grand opening for the expanded and renovated 42,000 sq. ft facility took place on June 8, 2008. More than a thousand people attended the day-long event which included a parade, a HUG of the Library, and outstanding performances by local talent.

Some features of the renovated building are lots of natural light, expansive spaces, large bay windows, a grand staircase, and a beautifully appointed courtyard. The Children's area, which doubled in space, includes a large Science and Discovery Center, a Baby Room, a large window-seat reading nook, gaming computers, a study center, and media computers for our youngest patrons. The adult area includes a Teen Space, a Technology Learning Center, a Business Resource Center, work/study rooms, a business conference room with presentation equipment, a new media wing and a café area.

Also, there is more parking, increased accessibility for the handicapped, wireless capability throughout the building, two conference rooms and a program room that accommodates 150 people.

The Library operates with a staff of 21 full-time-equivalents – 14 full-time and 23 part time staff. It is open 68 hours a week including evenings and weekends through most of the year. More than 200 volunteers complement the staff's work and ensure that we have a vibrant, well funded, full-service library.

A sampling of what we offered in 2008:

Programs

- Catch the Reading Bug summer reading program. 2,700 children participating.
- Chess Club for children. Meets twice/month.
- Mystery Book Club, Thursday Night Book Club, Great Decisions are some of the adult discussion groups sponsored by the Library.
- One Valley, One Book project, a region-wide book discussion event culminating with author visit.
- Natural Health Series and Green Home programs for everyone.

New Services and Technology

- Overdrive. Downloadable audio books. Expanded access to 1,600 adult and teen titles.
- Book Flix. Books on film for children (great for adults too!) downloadable through our website: www.simsburylibrary.info
- System Wide Holds: Library users can reserve any book in our 29-library system and have it delivered to Simsbury Library for pick up.
- Learning Express- provides interactive online practice tests and tutorial courses for academic and licensing tests.
- PrepMe prepares students for the SAT & ACT exams. Study from the Library or download it at home through our website.

Technology Learning Center

Created through a generous donation from the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving, the Technology Learning Center, is a 20-computer teaching and learning facility for students, seniors, job seekers and entrepreneurs. Since it's opening in September 2008, 70 classes have been held attended by 600 residents. Sample of offerings include:

- Digital Photography A-Z classes presented by Simsbury camera Club.
- Introduction to Computers and the Internet; Advanced Internet Searching.
- Introductory Word, Advanced Word.
- Resume writing- for first-time job seekers and veteran workers

Business Resource Center

- Monthly business buzz and periodic business newflashes.
- Answered 3,345 business related questions.
- Presented 27 business programs to 754 people. Sample of recent programs are:
 - Effective and low cost on-line advertising
 - Mediation for Small Business
 - Cold calling Techniques
 - Small Ad, Big Results

Departments & Services

Simsbury Public Library (continued)

Accomplishments of 2007 – 2008

- Added the Hayes Collection – a circulating collection of several hundred items of rare music and film.
- Developed a 21st Century logo to match our 21st Century Library.
- Obtained \$147,000 grant from the U.S. Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to implement a radio frequency identification (RFID) express check-out for the public.
- Raised \$1, 200,000 for library furniture, fixtures, equipment and technology under the leadership of the Friends of the Simsbury Public Library.
- Invested in popular items like new fiction (and non) and movies. Purchased heavily in areas of interest to Simsbury residents, such as caring for aging parents, gardening, politics, history and biography. Eliminated dozens of rarely-used titles or ones rendered superfluous by the Internet.
- Tested electronic databases and evaluated them for purchase. Eliminated our microfilm subscriptions and substituted more user-friendly and less expensive electronic databases such as the Historical Hartford Courant.
- Maintained, learned and managed new library technology. There have been no major equipment failures or network outages. Staff have adapted to the detailed use of complicated audio-visual gear as well as specialized systems like the electronic bulletin board and surveillance cameras.
- Established a Buildings and Grounds Committee under the leadership of the Library Board of Directors which resulted in a detailed landscaping plan and upgraded plantings and tree management throughout the grounds. Volunteers from the Town Beautification Committee were vital to this project.
- Organized, staffed and outfitted a Children's Department that is twice the size of our former Children's Library. It has become a destination point for young families in the region. Refocused purchasing of children's circulating materials. Deleted 5,000 items that were outdated, or in poor condition. Added 10,685 new beginning readers, picture books, audio and DVD.
- Established Children's Newsletter

Goals for 2008 - 2009

Because of budget constraints, our goals for next year are limited to those that will provide cost savings and a greener environment:

- Self-Service: Select, install and implement a Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) self-check in and out system with a bill paying option.
- Develop the "Library That Never Sleeps" through a completely revised and interactive library web-site. Library users will use the Library's new website to communicate about their library accounts - overdues, reserves, expired cards, and be able to make program and room reservations, pay fines, make suggestions and ask reference questions.
- Increase positive interactions with the public: Free staff from the circulation desks so they can find patrons who need help wherever they may be in the building.
- Develop an in-depth staff training curriculum. Hold staff-training workshops at our Technology Training Center on utilizing the library website. Train staff to put themselves in the customer's shoes and learn what is needed to keep track of your library transactions through the web, ask questions via email, book meeting rooms, sign up for programs, place reserves, sign up for library newsletters, download audio and video, pay fines and research projects. Programs will be presented by our own staff in our own facility.
- Initiate the lending of equipment that helps residents monitor their energy consumption such as Raytech's Laser Temperature Gun and wattage meters.
- Put cash in resident's pockets by promoting the library as a place they can go when they need a "warming" or "cooling" place and as a place where they can find free entertainment and education.
- Work with job-seekers, an expanding segment of the population, to help them transition to new jobs and careers through the provision of skills sets taught in our Technology Learning Center, through networking opportunities at our business programs and through special workshops on resume writing, interviewing and job-search skills.
- Maintain the beauty of the building and grounds so that the Library remains a destination for residents and visitors. Institute a facilities maintenance plan for replacing carpeting, painting sections of the Library, cleaning vents, windows, carpet shampooing.

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Departments & Services

Simsbury Public Library (continued)

- Explore energy-saving options, such as reconfiguring light switch controls so we can shut off lights and use natural light around the perimeter of the building.
- Explore partnerships with other organizations to bring quality environmental programs to children at reduced costs.
- Develop the 2009-2014 Library Long Range Plan and review and update library policies as needed.

Performance Indicators

The Library was closed for four weeks for the move back. From July 2007 through April 2008, only 1/3 of the collection was available to patrons. FY 2006 was the last full service year prior to the renovations.

Statistics	2008	2006	% Difference	As % of 2006 Stats
Circulation	332,226	436,048	-24%	76%
Reference	47,054	57,170	-18%	82%
Borrowers	12,086	12,433	-3%	97%
Attendance	225,000	262,130	-14%	86%
Interlibrary loan	5,518	4,411	+25%	125%
Programs	457	760	-40%	60%
Program attendance	19,203	30,041	-36%	64%

Statistics	2008	2006	% Difference	As % of 2006 Stats
Print collection	126,879	146,260	-13%	87%
Non-print collection	12,265	16,844	-27%	73%
Staff size	21FTE	21FTE	SAME	SAME
Volunteers	77	65	+18%	118%
Volunteer hours	254	210	+21%	121%
Library budget	\$1,271,569	\$1,209,193	+5%	105%

Planning and Land Use Department

During the fiscal year 2006-2007 the Department of Community Planning and Development continued to provide assistance to the Planning Commission, Zoning Commission, Conservation and Inland Wetlands Commission, Economic Development Commission, Zoning Board of

Appeals, Design Review Board and the Historic District Commission. In this role the Department's staff reviews development applications and advises these boards and commissions as they review them. Staff also provides guidance on a wide variety of specific matters, land use policy issues, plans and applicable regulations and ordinances

The Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD) as required by CGS 8-23 has been completed and was adopted on October 9, 2007 and became effective on November 3, 2007. The Zoning Commission has restarted a significant reorganization and revision of the Zoning Regulations which was begun in 2003 and placed on hold in 2005. This work is scheduled for completion in 2009. This work was placed on hold until the POCD was completed. The Zoning Commission is also working on an Incentive Housing Zone study for possible adoption of a workforce housing regulation. It is also working on a Planned Area Development (PAD) zoning regulation to allow mixed use development as an overlay zone as well.

The Department staff also continues to meet with applicants or potential applicants to advise and assist them regarding the process and procedures for their contemplated projects. The Department staff also provides advice to all other departments as well as to the general public. The review and administrative processing of all land use applications by the staff provides coordination necessary for the efficient processing of all land use applications.

The Department staff will continue to coordinate efforts with surrounding town's land use agencies, regional planning organizations and state agencies. The Department staff continues to strive to further improve the necessary coordination and communication between the land use commissions and all other departments in order to optimize the land use application process.

Police Department

The Simsbury Police Department is a State of Connecticut accredited agency that provides law enforcement and public safety services to Town of Simsbury residents 24 hours a day, seven days a week, including operation of the E-911 Public Safety Answering Point. The Department employs 36 sworn officers, ten full-time and three part-time civilian employees. More than two-thirds of the sworn personnel are assigned to the Patrol Division,



Courtesy of Simsbury Police Department.

Departments & Services

Police Department (continued)

which represents the “front line” of the community policing effort. Patrol officers are very visible in the community, and they are largely responsible for laying the foundation for a positive rapport between the public and the Police Department. The Police Department is the only Town Department staffed around the clock, providing a full range of services for all problems and situations encountered by residents. Not every call relates to law enforcement. All of our sworn personnel are first responders with four Emergency Medical Technicians and 32 Medical Response Technicians. Patrol officers evaluate situations and make objective determinations as to the appropriate course of action that should be taken. Oftentimes, the resolution may include referrals to Town departments or other agencies whose programs are specifically designed to assist those in need of special services.

We are committed to ensuring that residents and visitors to our Town enjoy a safe living and working environment. We continue to address the law enforcement concerns of our community including a very proactive traffic enforcement program. Police personnel received 2,694 hours of both mandatory and elective training during the year.

The Simsbury Police Department celebrated its 50th Anniversary as an organized Police Department in December 2008. We are proud of our history and of the highly educated, trained and dedicated officers who now serve the Town of Simsbury

Accomplishments of 2007 – 2008

We have increased our traffic enforcement program to address our residents’ concerns regarding motor vehicle speeding and now have a dedicated traffic officer. One of the Department’s most successful programs and, also the one that receives numerous positive comments from residents, is the bicycle patrol, logging approximately 50 miles per week, weather permitting.

- All Public Safety Telecommunicators recertified in Emergency Medical Dispatch (EMD) protocol.
- Career Development Initiatives.
- Crime tips and information that continually update Police Department website.
- Youth Driver Education Program/SIDNE – Simulated Drunk Driving Experience vehicle.
- Met CJIS requirements for computer network security.
- Animal Control Officer regular on SCTV education segment.
- Bear Sighting Tips – SCTV.
- Held 2nd Annual CT Five-O on Snow Law Enforcement Ski Race benefiting Connecticut Children’s Medical Center.
- Held 7th Annual Junior Police Academy.
- Held 8th Annual Simsbury Citizens’ Police Academy.
- Held 1st Annual Simsbury Citizens’ Police Academy Alumni Class.
- Women’s self defense tactics program (RAD – Rape Aggression Defense).
- “Stuff-A-Cruiser” – Toy collection for Salvation Army.

- Continued to support established Simsbury Police Explorer Program.
- Presented “Officer Phil” Safety Program in both public and private schools.
- Continued increased effort in bike patrols.
- In an effort to address residents’ concerns - increased selective enforcement focusing on traffic issues, traffic studies, and traffic calming solutions.
- Participated in State of Connecticut seat belt educational/enforcement waves.
- Participated in Multiple Sclerosis “MS Walk for the Cure”.
- Co-sponsored the 10th Annual “Skate and Share” Christmas Party with the Social Services and Recreation Departments to benefit the Simsbury Food Closet.
- Sponsored Senior Picnic with more than 200 seniors in attendance.
- Participation in 2007 Food Share Program (Turkey Trot).
- Bicycle Safety Program in schools.
- Halloween Safety presentation.
- Participated in “Tip-a-Cop” for Special Olympics.
- Participated in Special Olympics “Torch Run”.
- Assist and organize 9th Annual David Vidal Road Race for St. Jude’s.
- Certified child car seat inspections (4 Certified Technicians).
- Held 7th Annual Top Dog Contest in cooperation with Town Clerk’s office.
- TIPS – Training for alcohol servers (2 Certified Instructors).
- Senior Citizens/Community Groups informational talks and presentations.
- Advocacy for elderly program.
- Updated Nexgen Software (Information Management System).
- Received CJIS Certification.
- AED Training – All Officers.
- Project Safe Childhood-Online Predators – 2 Officers.
- Driving Simulator Training – 2 Officers.
- Field Training Officer (FTO) Training – 2 Officers.
- Effective Police Interactions with Youth – School Resource Officer.
- First Line Supervisor Training – One Sergeant.
- Crisis Intervention Team Training – 4 Officers.
- Personal Safety and Awareness Program for Women.
- Job Shadow program participant.
- Northwestern Connecticut Community College Criminal Justice Practicum Placement.
- University of Hartford Internship program.

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INCIDENT STATISTICS

	'03-'04	'04-'05	'05-'06	'06-'07	'07-'08
Part I Crimes	230	240	234	272	236
Motor Vehicle Accidents	774	853	744	714	756
Medical Calls	940	1,044	1,088	1,025	1,129
Motor Vehicle Enforcement	2,975	4,168	3,635	4,235	4,949
Alarm Responses	932	873	862	812	797
Total Incidents	22,653	24,451	23,518	24,158	25,703

Departments & Services

Police Department (continued)

Goals for 2008 - 2009

- Expand Community Oriented Policing/Problem Solving initiatives.
- Gain International Police Accreditation through CALEA.
- Continue to address traffic concerns through a sustained departmental effort.
- CAPTAIN/NEXGEN Mobile Data interface to allow report writing in mobile environment.
- Complete installation and implementation of Reverse 911 System.

Probate Court

The Simsbury Probate Court is staffed by Paul J. Knierim, Judge of Probate, Julie Lavissiere, Clerk, and Deborah Trovato and Pamela Baldini, both Assistant Clerks.

In addition to serving as probate judge for Simsbury, Paul Knierim serves as Probate Court Administrator. In that capacity, he is responsible for the administration of the probate courts throughout the state and for implementing measures to strengthen and improve the system.

Our mission at the Simsbury Probate Court is to assist the individuals and families who require the services of the court in an efficient and compassionate manner. Knowing that families become involved in the probate courts during times that are emotionally difficult, we strive to ease the process as much as possible.

Jurisdiction of the Court

Connecticut's probate courts are charged with responsibility for several different types of legal matters. In general, the court is involved in circumstances in which an individual is unable to manage his or her own affairs. The court appoints and supervises fiduciaries to take responsibility for the affairs of such individuals, or, in the case of a deceased individual, to settle his or her estate.

Most people associate the probate court with decedents' estates, and this area represents approximately 35% of our overall workload. The court also has jurisdiction over certain types of trusts, which cases make up another 15% of the court's workload.

The probate court also has jurisdiction over several different types of legal matters involving children. These cases include the appointment of guardians for parents who may be unable to care for their children, or for minors receiving property, termination of parental rights in abuse and neglect situations, and adoptions. Children's matters represent only 30% of our workload by number of cases, but are some of the most sensitive and time-consuming responsibilities of the court.

Conservatorship and guardianship for individuals with mental retardation both involve the appointment and supervision of fiduciaries for adults who are unable to manage their finances or care for themselves. These cases represent 20% of our overall workload.

Information about Probate

Involvement with the probate court, like any element of the legal system, can be intimidating, and we strive to make the process as understandable as possible. Although we cannot provide legal advice, we welcome the opportunity to answer questions. We also have informational pamphlets on hand at the court that are an excellent source of information on a variety of probate topics. Please feel free to call or stop by the court at town hall if you would like any of these pamphlets. In addition, Paul Knierim, in his capacity as Judge of Probate, is available to speak to community groups about probate matters.

Passports

Although not mandated by statute, the Simsbury Probate Court has elected, as a courtesy to the public, to serve as a local passport acceptance agency. We suggest that you submit your application at least six weeks prior to your travel departure date. We also ask that you call ahead to schedule an appointment so that we can set aside time to assist you with your passport application. You may reach the court at (860) 658-3277.

New Developments

Conservatorship

The laws governing conservatorship proceedings in probate court were significantly changed during the 2007 legislative session. As a result of these changes, the court will now consider whether a less restrictive alternative arrangement, such as a power of attorney, might make the appointment of a conservator unnecessary for a person who is unable to care for herself or himself. The 2007 legislation also modified the procedures for the conduct of conservatorship hearings and the method to appeal the decisions of probate courts.

Probate Court Website

The Probate Court Administration has established a website to provide on-line information about the courts. Many of the forms used by the probate courts are now available through the website. Visit us at "www.jud.state.ct.us" and click on "probate."

Department of Public Works

The Public Works Department is comprised of four divisions: Administrative, Highway, Building and Grounds Maintenance, and Landfill (Bulky Waste and Recycling). The Department has a combined staff of 28 and is funded by \$3.5M in combined operating budgets. The Administrative Division has responsibility for budget preparation

Departments & Services

Department of Public Works (continued)

and administration, operational planning, contracting, purchasing, and personnel.

Highway Department

The Highway Division maintains 164 miles of Town accepted roadways including 3,850 catch basins, the storm drainage system, roadside mowing, sign and guide-rail maintenance and trees within the right of way. The Highway Division also performs fleet maintenance for all vehicles utilized by the Public Works Division 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.

Several drainage improvement projects were completed by the Department's staff including the installation of new culverts at Deerpark, County and Hoskins Roads. Sidewalk improvements were completed on Power Horn and Ox Yoke Drives.

The Highway Department was recognized by the Connecticut Interlocal Risk Management Agency (CIRMA) for their development of a unique piece of equipment that is used to clean storm catch basins. "Pinchie the Basin Cleaner" allows basin cleaning to be more efficient and greatly reduces the potential injuries associated with this type of work. CIRMA stated that innovative initiatives like this have helped Simsbury to maintain a loss ratio much lower than CIRMA's target for the past 5 years.

As part of the DEP's Municipal Small Storm Sewer System (MS4) Program, 1300 catch basins and 10 sediment chambers were cleaned, along with the sweeping of all streets. In addition, 100 catch basins were reconstructed to assure safe and effective functioning.

With an unusually mild winter, the Division was able to complete part of the Greenway in the Dyno Nobel area, complete maintenance on much of the storm drainage system, and resurface 14 miles of streets.

Bulky Waste and Recycling Transfer Station

The Simsbury Landfill at 66 Wolcott Road was closed in 1998, and an application has been approved by the Department of Environmental Protection for continued operation as a bulky waste and recycling materials Transfer Station. The Town conducts annual monitoring of ground water

and storm water at this site and the site is also used as a composting area.

This year several improvements were made to the facility, including repaving of the existing roadway, a new waste oil tank and containment system and additional perimeter fencing was installed.

Building Maintenance

Building Maintenance is responsible for 4 Town Buildings (Town Hall, the Library, Eno Memorial Hall, and Scout Hall), 5 rental properties, a service facility, a commuter bus shelter, and the Old Tariffville Cemetery. In addition, this division provides setup and cleaning services for all activities related to the community use of these buildings. Building Maintenance staff also assisted with the operation of the Simsbury Meadows Performing Arts Center.

Additional HVAC digital control system zones were installed at Eno Memorial Hall and the Town Offices Building, in order to improve energy efficiency and user comfort. One of our largest tasks was to assist with the startup of the HVAC systems at the newly renovated Library.

Registrars of Voters

The Registrars of Voters are jointly responsible for the administration of the State Election Laws. They supervise voter registration, maintain enrollment list and staff the polls at all local, state, federal elections and primaries as well as supervising balloting in health care facilities. They are responsible for the check-off lists at the Annual Town Meeting in May and the staffing for the Budget Referendum.

A mail canvass was conducted in 2008 to ascertain residency. A special registration is held each year at the Simsbury High School to register students who will be 18 years of age by Election Day. The office is open for two special sessions to register new voters at least fourteen days before any Election.

Our office is connected to the State Computer Registration System, which gives us contact with the Secretary of the State's Office and the 169 Towns to keep our records up to date to prevent duplication of voters.

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Courtesy of Simsbury Department of Public Works.

Departments & Services

Registrars of Voters (continued)

The Presidential Election was held in November 2008 with the highest turnout of voters for Simsbury (88%) for any election. We staffed and conducted a Municipal Election November 2007, a Democratic and Republican Presidential Primaries in February 2008, also a Republican Primary for State Senate in August 2008 and we will prepare for a Municipal Election to be held in November 2009. We have transferred from the lever machines to use the Optical Scanner machines, regulated by the new HAVA (federal) act. We conducted and staffed for the Budget Referendum held in May of 2007 and 2008 and will prepare for one in 2009, which is mandated by the Town Charter. All our poll workers and Moderators have been fully trained and tested for this new system and will be having more training classes in the future. We feel this new system of voting is easier and more accurate than the old lever machines.

As of December 30, 2008 registration statistics are as follows:

Republican	5458
Democrat	4901
Unaffiliated	6202
Minor Parties	40
TOTAL	16,601

Social Services Department

The Social Services Department provides assistance to individuals, families, and elderly residents in a professional and confidential manner.

The Department offers a variety of services to Simsbury residents. These include: Financial Assistance, Medical Assistance, Cheese Day, Bread Day, the Food Closet, the Holiday Program, Energy Assistance, Emergency Shelter, Counseling, Eviction Assistance, Medical Transportation, Renter's Rebate, Family Therapy, Youth Services, Notary services, Trigger Locks, Cell Phones, and Emergency Beacon Lights.

The Department also provides vital outreach services to the senior population through the Senior Outreach Program; we provide transportation to seniors and persons with disabilities five days per week through our Dial-A-Ride Program, and operate a very active and diverse Senior Center for our residents over 50 years of age.

Over the past year, our Youth Service Bureau has provided after-school events for Middle school students on early release days. In addition, we have sponsored drug and alcohol awareness programs, character development and mentoring programs, Teen Center programs, a graduation celebration, a MADD presentation, and have sponsored a suicide prevention handbook given to Simsbury faculty members.

The Department's work continues to be generously supported by the donations of time, money, food, gifts, and products from various civic organizations, businesses, churches, schools, families, and individuals. A special thank you to all those who responded to our special appeal for food donations during the fall to help re-stock the shelves of our Food Closet. A special thank you also to Fitzgerald's Foods, Panera Bread, Brookside Bagels, Dunkin Donuts, and Starbucks for their weekly donations to our Bread Day Program. And to Stop & Shop for their annual Food for Friends donation.

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 Center offers opportunities for health and wellness with the use of a Fitness Center and exercise classes for varied fitness levels. The Senior Fitness Center was enhanced this year with the addition of a new treadmill, an upright bicycle and dumbbells. Health screenings are offered for blood pressure, skin cancer, and hearing.

A variety of educational and informational programs are offered, including a writing group, book club an investment group, and guest lecturers. Opportunities to participate in artistic and creative programs are available with such activities as painting, choral singing, knitting and ceramics. A variety of ongoing recreational and social activities are offered as well as special events to celebrate holidays and occasions. The center also offers opportunities to travel with a variety of day and overnight trips. Souper Tuesday Lunches are provided six times a year sponsored by the Aging and Disability Commission. In addition, the Center will begin a weekly congregate meal program in January 2009.



Departments & Services

Social Services Department (continued)

The Senior Center received a grant from the State of Connecticut Department of Social Services in December 2008 to purchase lap top computers that will allow a reinvention of the physical space for a computer lab, with a greater emphasis on meeting the diverse computing needs of our members in a highly flexible environment. The center also offers appointments with volunteer counselors to assist with income tax, social security benefits, health insurance and prescription drug coverage.

The Senior Center continued its efforts to save energy and reduce waste this year with two new initiatives:

- Members and visitors who enjoy coffee, tea, or hot cocoa at the Center are now encouraged to bring their own mugs instead of using disposable cups.
- The Center began offering their newsletter, "The Communicator" in an electronic format and now prints the newsletter on recycled paper.

The Center, located in Eno Memorial Hall, 754 Hopmeadow Street, is open year round, Monday, 8:30 AM - 7:00 PM and Tuesday through Friday, 8:30 AM- 4:30 PM. For further information, please call us at 658-3273 or 651-9161 or visit us on line at www.townofsimsbury-ct.gov.

The Simsbury Senior Center welcomes all members of the diverse and growing older adult population (age 50 and over), their families and friends. Please stop in for a visit at any time.

Dial-A-Ride Program

The Social Services Department has operated the Dial-A-Ride Program for Simsbury's elderly and disabled residents since 1980. During the 2007-2008 Fiscal Year approximately 8,300 passengers requested approximately 7,682 trips, and traveled 43,932 miles. Two buses run daily, Monday through Friday providing door-to-door transportation within Simsbury for such things as shopping, hairdresser appointments, the Senior Center, the Library and local functions. Further, the buses provide rides to doctor's appointments in Simsbury and Avon, shopping trips to the Simsbury Commons, and stores along Route 44. On Mondays transportation is provided to Buckland Hills Mall, Enfield Square Mall, The Shoppes at Farmington Valley, and WestFarms Mall. In addition, the Program provides service for Simsbury residents to the McLean Adult Daycare Program, physical therapy, and transports several disabled residents to and from their place of employment.

During 2007-2008 the Social Services Department received a grant from the Connecticut Department of Transportation to provide additional services to the elderly and disabled residents. With these grant funds, the Enhanced Dial-A-Ride Program was able to provide 273 out-of-town medical trips; 11 trips to the casinos; 06 joint trips with the Canton Senior Center; and 20 Senior Center trips. Reservations can be made by calling 693-6876 between 8:00 A.M. and 12:00 Noon at least 24 hours in advance.

Elderly Outreach Program

The Elderly Outreach Program provides outreach services to Simsbury's homebound elderly and disabled residents. Since its inception in 1981, the Program uses volunteers to make weekly visits to those homebound who might need socialization, comfort, and friendship. The Program lets our homebound residents know that they are cared about. Successful matches have been made throughout the year resulting in 25 volunteers who made 945 visits.

In addition, our Elderly Outreach Program provides information and guidance to residents and their families regarding local, state, and federal resources they may benefit from. All emergency 911 medical incident reports provided by the Simsbury Police Department are followed up on. Home visits are made and information given regarding services including homcare, alternate housing, medical and financial assistance. Assistance is provided with Energy Assistance, ConnPace, and Medicaid applications. Finally, we maintain a current list of frail elderly and persons with disabilities, which is activated each time we experience severe weather conditions. We will continue to strive to better serve our senior and disabled residents, and with the continued assistance from our wonderful and committed volunteers our program will continue to thrive.

Tax Collector

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 Tax Collector is responsible for collection of both current and delinquent taxes (real estate and motor vehicle, sewer use and assessment.) We are also responsible for the collections and balancing of all Fire District taxes.

Concern and understanding continue to be the departments driving force. We also strive for quality of personal contact with the taxpayer. If at any time there is a problem or concern please feel free to contact us at (860) 658-3238.

These duties, when performed in an efficient manner, should reflect the financial well being of the Town which is the backbone of any municipality in regard to the fiscal debt and bonding capacity.

2007 Grand List Mill Rate

Town	29.60
Fire District	1.05
Total	30.65

Statistics for 2007 Grand List

Number of Accounts to be collected

Real Estate	8,657
Personal Property	1,068
Motor Vehicle	21,100
Motor Vehicle Supp.	3,344

Total Amount to be collected \$77,318,495.00

Departments & Services

Town Clerk

The Town Clerk's Office is responsible for receiving and maintaining extensive records concerning real estate transactions; births, deaths, marriages and civil unions; elections, primaries and referenda; meeting minutes for Town boards and commissions; military discharges; hunting and fishing 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.

In 2007, at the election held on November 7 for municipal offices, voter turnout was 53%. On February 5, 2008, Democrat and Republican presidential preference primaries were held. A second Republican primary was conducted on August 12 for the office of state representative.

At the November 4 state election, which included the offices of president and vice president, voter turnout was 88%. We issued a record number of absentee ballots (2,040), which was an increase of 19% over the amount issued at the 2004 presidential election.

Annual budget and special town meetings were held on May 6, 2008. The operating budgets for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2009, were presented. Board of Selectmen capital projects were approved to purchase land on Laurel Hill in Tariffville, to improve the Hopmeadow Street streetscape, to improve Eno Memorial Hall, to extend water and sewer mains, and to improve the waste water treatment plant south pump station. Board of Education capital projects were approved to replace the roof at Tootin' Hills School and to replace the boilers at Tariffville and Henry James Memorial Schools.

At the referendum held on May 20, voter turnout was 18%. The operating budgets and an expenditure of \$2.75 million to purchase 77 acres of land located near Holcomb Street, Firetown and Barndoor Hills Roads were approved.

In cooperation with Chief Peter Ingvertsen, Animal Control Officer Mark Rudewicz, and the Simsbury Police Department, we conducted our 7th Top Dog Contest during May 2007. The four happy winners received dog treats, and their owners received a 2007 dog license at no charge.

Statistics for Fiscal Year 2007-2008

Total Revenues*	\$844,945		
Birth Certificates	174	Trade Names	80
Death Certificates	190	Dog Licenses	2,348
Marriage/Civil Union Licenses	189	Land Record Pages	23,265
Military Discharges	67		

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

Water Pollution Control

Simsbury Water Pollution Control is responsible for the operation and maintenance of over 70 miles of collection system, five pumping stations and the treatment facility. Wastewater from Granby and portions of Avon are also received for treatment. The department is staffed by a superintendent, five operators, two maintainers, an administrative secretary, and an engineering technician.

The construction of the treatment facility upgrade was substantially complete in March 2007. One of the primary goals of the upgrade was to remove nitrogen from the discharge to the Farmington River. During the reporting interval permit limits were consistently achieved. One-half of the biological nutrient removal volume (requiring 230 horsepower) is not being used as an energy and budget conservation effort. As flows increase, this practice will not be possible.

Parameter	Influent	Effluent	
		Permit Limit	7/07 to 6/08
ADF, mgd	--	3.8	2.27
CBOD, mg/L	226	25	4
TSS, mg/L	263	30	8
TN, lb TN/day	647	107	63

ADF, Average Daily Flow

TSS, Total Suspended Solids

CBOD, Carbonaceous Biochemical Oxygen Demand

TN, Total Nitrogen

During the reporting period, wastewater treatment for a population equivalent of 24,900 was provided. In addition to clean water, the other end result of treatment is sludge. An average of 58 dry tons of dewatered sludge per month is transported to the Metropolitan District Commission's Hartford facility for incineration.

Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection is in the process of developing phosphorus limits for wastewater treatment facilities that discharge to receiving streams with impoundments (Rainbow reservoir). Simsbury will be renewing its discharge permit in February 2010. At that time a compliance schedule will be developed to design and build the structures/equipment required to achieve the required level of phosphorus removal.

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.

Accomplishments of 2007 – 2008

- Sewer easement maintenance continued.
- Completed design and specification for the rehabilitation of South Pump Station.

Departments & Services

Water Pollution Control (continued)

- In September the New England Water Environment Association held a meeting and tour at the facility to showcase the project.
- The U.S. EPA DMRQA27 evaluation was passed. This is an annual evaluation of our laboratory procedures.
- CL&P delivered a \$115,779 check for energy conservation measures that were incorporated into the facility design.
- The closing for the Clean Water Act loan for the facility upgrade occurred in March.
- Mutual aid agreements were signed with other Farmington River Watershed wastewater treatment facilities and statewide through Connecticut Water & Wastewater Agency Response Network. This greatly increases the availability of resources should they be needed for response to an emergency.

Goals for 2008-2009

- Complete the rehabilitation of South Pump Station.
- Begin design for rehabilitation of Wolcott Pump Station and replacement of Tunxis Pump Station.
- Continue documenting the location and condition of manholes and sewers. Develop budget to fund needed repairs.
- Document need and obtain funding to stabilize the Farmington River stream bank in the Hazel Meadow area.
- Evaluate conversion of commercial sewer use billing to a water use based method.
- Enhance and expand safety training efforts.
- Prepare the Water Pollution Control Plan and submit to DEP.
- Evaluate revisions to the Sewer Use Ordinance.

Tours of the Water Pollution Control Facility can be scheduled.

Information on connections, permits, or sewer line locations can be obtained by visiting the facility or calling (860) 658-1380.

Boards & Commissions

Aging and Disability Commission

The 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.

To that end, the Aging and Disability Commission was involved with numerous activities and events during the 2007-08 fiscal year. They include:

- The Commission conducted a Picnic in the Park event, which is a community event for persons with disabilities, their friends and families. This year's event which took place at St. Catherine of Siena Church in West Simsbury with over ninety individuals participating.
- The Commission conducted three "Open Forums" the intent of which was to offer seniors and persons with disabilities an opportunity to have a discussion regarding issues and concerns they had about town programs and services. The forums were conducted in November, April and May.
- The Commission sponsored Souper Tuesday luncheons held six times a year at the Senior Center. The luncheon consists of a special soup, sandwich and dessert and is rounded out by local entertainment. Over 400 seniors attended the Souper Tuesday luncheons.
- The Commission sponsored a fashion show – presented in concert with the Second Chance Shop for the Village for Families and Children. The Fashion Show was conducted during a Souper Tuesday Luncheon at the Senior Center.
- Seven sub-committees were established in order to provide a more effective manner of addressing the Commission's Plan of Action.
- Three members of the Commission taped a session at SCTV, for a program called Our Simsbury. The program centered on the programs and activities of the Commission.
- The Commission worked in concert with the town's Zoning Enforcement Officer regarding issues brought forth to the Commission by members of the community.
- The Commission received \$3,500 from the town to provide additional Souper Tuesday luncheons as well as to offset the costs of the Picnic in the Park event.
- The Commission provided consultation and support to the Coordinator of the Simsbury Senior Center.
- The Commission, in 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 Commission presented the Senior Service Award to Mr. Max Horton at a Board of Selectman meeting in May of 2008.

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Boards & Commissions

Aging and Disability Comm. (continued)

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 Lion’s Club
- First Church of Christ
- Civitan Club of Simsbury
- Simsbury Women’s Club

The Aging and Disability Commission has as its action plan for FY 08-09 the following:

- To provide programs to benefit seniors and the disabled.
- To conduct “Community Forums” for seniors and persons with disabilities to express their ideas and concerns. Minimum two times per year.
- To ensure that town and public buildings, facilities and their environs are in compliance with ADA guidelines and other relevant national and local standards.
- To determine the needs of individuals with disabilities in the Town of Simsbury through the development and distribution of a disability needs assessment survey.
- To inform residents of Simsbury, other interested parties and media outlets of the Commissions endeavors and results.
- To investigate existing housing opportunities, in order to provide efficient, affordable and safe housing for seniors and persons with disabilities.
- To investigate and assess the need for a new senior and/or community center.
- To inform town residents about existing tax relief options currently available through the town.
- To work in concert with the town’s emergency management team in developing a workable emergency preparedness plan for seniors and persons with disabilities.
- To develop and distribute information to residents, businesses, and organizations regarding programs and services for seniors and persons with disabilities.

Beautification Commission

The more than 80 Simsbury Beautification Committee (SBC) volunteers plant and maintain nearly 100 public spaces throughout our town, including planter boxes, traffic triangles, Simsbury Farms Golf Course, and Schultz Park. Every spring volunteers plant annuals in their chosen plots and maintain them – often hauling buckets of water to the sites – into the fall season.

Plans for the coming season include recruitment of still more volunteers to replace members who have moved away or to pair up current volunteers who enjoy working with another person. Several of the new volunteers involve their young children in the planting and watering, instilling in them at an early age the importance of working for the good of our community.

Board of Assessment Appeals

The Board of Assessment Appeals is an elected board of three individuals which hears appeals of property tax valuations. The board meets twice a year, hearing homeowner, other real estate, and personal property and automobile appeals in March, and automobiles only in September. The board works closely with the town Assessor’s office.

In February 2008, all of the board members (Bill Gardner, Dennis Farrell & Mark Wigmore) attended a regional training session in Bloomfield. During the March meetings, the board heard 350 homeowner appeals and 60 appeals from commercial property holders. Bill Gardner, board chairman, resigned in 2008 after ten years of dedicated service. Mark Wigmore was elected board chairman, and Will Fiske was named to take Bill’s seat. In September, the board heard 25 automobile appeals.

For 2009, the board has set hearing days for March 24-26 for homeowner appeals and the September date will be set later next spring.

Board of Ethics

Pursuant to Chapter 13 of the Town Code of Ordinances, The Board of Ethics is comprised of six members appointed by the Board of Selectmen, two of whom shall be registered Republicans, two of whom shall be registered Democrats and two of whom shall be unaffiliated voters. The Board of Ethics, which is established under State Statutes and Town ordinance:

- Renders advisory opinions with respect to the applicability of the Code of Ethics to specific situations to any agency or any officer, official or employee upon written request or on its own initiative.
- Establishes procedures by which the public may initiate complaints for review by the Board, alleging a violation of the Code of Ethics. The Board may also initiate such complaints

Copies of the Code of Ethics are available on the townofsimsbury.com website as well as from the Town Clerk’s office and the office of the First Selectman.

Board Membership

In 2008 the Board membership changed over the year. Adam Sharaf resigned in June 2008 and Kathy Martin and Glenn Knierim resigned in December 2008. The Democrat nominating committee nominated Richard Order to the Board of Ethics and the Board of Selectmen approved his appointment in November 2008.

Requests for Opinion

The Board responded to 3 requests for advisory opinions and rendered opinions on each.

Board of Ethics (continued)

Complaints/Requests for Investigation

The Board received 2 complaints from citizens. Each complaint was investigated thoroughly and found no violations of the Code of Ethics. In accordance with Connecticut General Statute: Ethics Chapter 10 Section 1-82 and Connecticut General Statute Sec 1-82(a) all complaints were filed in confidence.

Code and supporting documents revisions

Our major focus since June was the drafting of revisions of the Code of Ethics, a revamping of the Complaint and Hearing Procedures document and the writing form for the filing a complaint. The form was drafted to comply with a provision of the state statute. This would help the party(s) bringing the complaint and the Board understand the specific violations to be investigated as related to the Code.

These documents were sent to the Town attorney to review with respect to their compliance with state statutes and case law precedence. When it is determined that the revisions and the new document are in order, they will be forward to the Board of Selectmen, through our liaison, for a vote of approval.

Building Code Board of Appeals

The Connecticut General Statutes mandate that each municipality offer a means to review and evaluate an appeal of an aggrieved party to a decision rendered by the local Building Official. The Simsbury Building Code Board of Appeals fulfills that requirement.

There are five regular members appointed by the Board of Selectmen including four with a minimum of five years experience in either building design, building construction, or supervision of building construction, and a fifth member serving from the general public. Membership appointments are for a period of five years and staggered for continuity. A quorum consists of not less than three members.

Appeals must be heard in the jurisdiction in which the Building Official serves and are subject to the FOIA requirements of public notification in Town Hall stipulating dates, time and location for the meeting.

Procedurally, a written appeal must be filed by the aggrieved party 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. Upon notification 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.

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

Simsbury's Clean Energy Task Force is dedicated to the promotion of the Connecticut Clean Energy Funds, Clean Energy Options Program; specifically, 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, large hydro electric, oil, coal and other sources, but residents may instead choose to utilize wind, solar or small hydro electric power. A small surcharge is assessed on your regular energy bill currently priced at approximately 15 cents per day for 50% clean energy or 30 cents per day for 100% clean energy, (based upon the average kilowatt usage in New England, per household, per month of 700 kwh). To learn more about this program or to sign up, residents may visit ctcleanenergyoptions.com

CETF Ongoing Action Items

20% by 2010 initiative

Grass roots campaign in support of Simsbury's commitment to increasing clean, renewable energy levels in excess of 20%.

Through library displays, newsletter media hits, event tables at the Simsbury Volunteer Expo, Earth Day celebrations, etc., CETF will be getting the word out in 2009 regarding the clean energy options available to Simsbury residents.

The task force is creating informational hand-outs explaining the CCEF's clean energy options. These hand-outs will be utilized at all events and as source material/talking points for presentations and available media hits. A power point presentation has also been created for member utilization while presenting to local organizations.

The task force is solidifying a partnership with the Environmental Club and students at Simsbury High to assist in the grass roots promotion of the Clean Energy Options program. The students will be working towards earning a solar installation at the high school, which would offer an excellent learning opportunity in addition to the practical implementation of a clean energy source in their school power system.

Proclamations recognizing LEED certified projects in Simsbury

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Boards & Commissions

Clean Energy Task Force (continued)

We are currently drafting proclamations for review by the BOS to recognize the efforts of Ethel Walker and Westminster schools. We are collecting data on the LEEDS Silver certified residence at Ethel Walker and the new Science Center at Westminster and are exploring the option of Earth Day open houses at each of these buildings.

Ongoing research regarding converting municipal buildings to clean, renewable energy sources, through no capital cost power purchase agreements. Considerable time has been spent researching this option, however the Clean Energy Fund has currently utilized all grant funds for commercial solar programs and has suspended the application process until additional funds can be replenished through the energy surcharge program or other potential sources.

Conservation Commission

The Conservation Commission is comprised of nine appointed members including seven regular members and two alternates. 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 also acts as the official Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Agency for Simsbury and administers state and local regulations regarding the use and protection of designated wetlands. The Commission endeavors to protect designated wetlands, watercourses, vernal pools and associated upland review areas, as well as the natural habitats and species that they support. During the 2007 – 2008 fiscal year, the Commission received 32 applications. Of these 31 were approved, and 1 denied.

The Commission may also comment on applications made to the Planning and Zoning Commissions that involve conservation issues. The Commission also assisted the Planning Commission with the update of the 2004 Plan of Conservation and Development to develop policies concerning the preservation of the environment and environmentally sensitive areas. The new POCD was adopted in November 2007. The Commission based its input, in part, on information derived from the Farmington Valley Biodiversity Study. This study includes a mapped, verified data-base of the intact natural communities in Simsbury and the management tools necessary to assure the preservation of this diverse population of both plant and animal species. The Commission remains active in commenting on the conservation aspects of proposals for regulation changes from the Zoning Commission at this time.

Design Review Board

The Simsbury Design Review Board (DRB) serves as an advisory body to the Planning and Zoning Commissions on matters of planning, site and building design. The DRB is responsible for reviewing details of land use applications and making constructive recommendations consistent with its publication, Guidelines for Community Design.

The DRB recommends to property owners, developers and other commissions ways and methods to preserve Simsbury's visual resources, improve community development, protect significant architectural heritage, conserve value in the built and natural environment, and assist when appropriate to formulate and implement sound planning and design policies.

There are 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 as determined appropriate by the Board of Selectmen. Members are appointed on a two-year basis.

The Design Review Board has supported and advised the Planning Commission in the preparation of the 2007 Plan of Conservation and Development and plays a prominent role in the implementation of the many goals endorsed in that document.

The Design Review Board also has begun studies on amendments to the Guidelines for Community Design and has offered assistance for revisions to the zoning regulations, the Main Street Partnership's mission for Town Center development, and participating in proposed design charrettes.

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.

Economic Development Commission

The EDC was created by municipal ordinance for the promotion and development of the economic development resources of the Town of Simsbury. Its powers are defined by Charter and as established by CGS Section 7-136. Its mission is to advise the Town of Simsbury and act as its liaison in order to facilitate expansion of the tax base, consistent with the character of the Town, through maintenance and growth of existing businesses and attraction of comparable new businesses. The EDC's current efforts have been in the areas of marketing the Town consistent with the EDC's business attraction plan: developing a town-wide infrastructure more supportive of business; and as appropriate, advocating approval of commercial development projects that will augment the Town's commercial tax base and help maintain the overall character and quality of life within Simsbury.

Accomplishments of 2007 – 2008

- Continued to provide input to the Zoning Commission as they continue to work on Zoning Regulation revisions for a new mixed use regulation.
- Supported, when appropriate, the expansion and development of local businesses.

Economic Development Comm. (continued)

- Attended the Developers Showcase trade show and conferences such as the Community Builder's Institute sponsored by NU, to promote the town and learn more about new trends and opportunities in economic development.
- Continued to support economic development efforts through membership to CERC and the EDDI programs which provide information to those looking for various development alternatives, or looking to locate in Simsbury.
- Continued to support Simsbury Main Street organization.
- Continued to participate and monitor the federally funded study of Simsbury Airport to determine the appropriate ultimate use of that property.

Goals for 2008 – 2009

In keeping with our mission to facilitate the expansion of the tax base, we will continue to work collaboratively with applicants, organizations, town staff, boards and commissions and other entities whose common objectives are to foster the economic vitality of Simsbury.

- Work to help implement policies and regulations which increase the vibrancy of our town center.
- Continue to participate in the Simsbury Airport study activities.
- Work toward a master plan for the land east of Iron Horse Boulevard.
- Meet with applicants to help determine how best to continually improve the application and approval process.
- Continue to promote Simsbury businesses through a series of outreach activities.
- Support the efforts of the Chamber of Commerce, Farming Valley Visitors Association, Main Street Partnership and Simsbury Library's Business Resource Center and Tourism.
- Continue to investigate infrastructure improvements which will improve Simsbury's competitiveness.
- Continue to utilize Metro Hartford Alliance and CERC to regionally promote and market Simsbury.

Fair Rent Commission

The Fair Rent Commission was established pursuant to State Statute and Chapter 15 of the Town Code of Ordinances. Pursuant to State Law and local ordinances, the Commission has the power to make studies and investigations, 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.

Fire District

Simsbury is especially fortunate to have a group of dedicated fire volunteers that devote untold hours to training and protecting its citizens resulting in one of the best protected communities in the state. Fortunately, the regular department membership and the cadet program are at strong levels.

Additionally, Simsbury Fire's volunteers also include the members of the Ladies' Auxiliary and the commissioners and officers of the Simsbury Fire District. The extraordinary efforts of your fellow citizens saves taxpayers untold costs each year. Their professionalism and commitment to continuing education and expertise is a great source of community great pride and results in a high level of security as we go about our everyday lives.

The commitment and work of our paid employees is much appreciated also. The Fire Marshal's office, the building and fleet maintenance staff and the dispatch office staff contributed greatly this year, as in the past, to maintaining the excellence of this department. The community outreach activities of the Fire Marshal's office with public fire education as well as the District have helped the community better understand fire department operations.

- The Simsbury Fire District operated within budget. The District adhered to its long-term goal of meeting both operating and capital requirements without resorting to borrowing. Last year's mill rate was set at 1.05 mills.
- The Fire District is moving ahead on its plan to replace the Main Fire Station and we acquired the adjacent property of the Freemasons to accommodate a flexible site plan. We will move ahead diligently to complete the planning for the upgraded facility.
- The Fire District hosted the annual Lt. Richard Kelleher Awards Dinner the evening of February 15, 2008. (Lt. Kelleher, aged 37, died in the line of duty fighting a fire at the Knights of Columbus Hall, next to St. Mary's Church, on November 6, 1981.)

A total of eleven Firefighter service awards were presented representing a remarkable 145 cumulative years of volunteer service for the honored recipients. Further, four Ladies' Auxiliary service awards were also presented representing an additional 90 years of volunteer service. Simsbury can be proud to have volunteers that make this kind of commitment to the safety and protection of the community.

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Boards & Commissions

Fire District (continued)

Awards were presented as follows:

Chief's Award – Chris Lilley

Carl Banks Engineer Award – Brian Bulger

Lea Hutchinson Service Award – Michael Brown

35 Year Award	James Meade	
25 Year Award	Paul Kelley	
20 Year Award	Richard Driscoll	
15 Year Award	Greg Silpe	
10 Year Award	Patrick Tourville	Chris Lilley
	Kristin Kelley	
5 Year Award	Guy Casalino	Andrew Gaines
	Brandon Letson	Michael McDonald

The following service awards were also presented to members of the Ladies Auxiliary.

45 Year Award	Lucy Bowman
25 Year Award	Diane Wilcox
15 Year Award	Sharon Kowalski
5 Year Award	Jessica Starr

Goals for 2008 – 2009

- Continued enhancements for the department website which citizens are encouraged to explore at www.simsburyfd.org.
- Continue funding and finalize the strategic plan for upgrading of the Main Fire Station on Hopmeadow Street.
- Continued commitment to emergency readiness through ongoing training, live exercises, and review of past practices.
- Continued commitment to the Town of Simsbury safety focus as an active member of the public safety subcommittee.

Historic District Commission

The Commission has the responsibility to preserve and retain the historic character of each building in the East Weatogue historic district. In fulfillment of its responsibility the commission received and processed two applications during the year. One related to the building of a garden shed on property within the district, and the other to the replacement of windows in a home in the historic district. Both requests were processed in accordance with historic property rules and with the agreement of the property owners.

Simsbury is one of the oldest towns not only in Connecticut and New England, but within our country. Our history is replete with many buildings of historic significance. It should be a goal to evaluate every building of historic heritage located within our borders. A recognition marker could be assigned to each. It is requested that the Historic District Commission be assigned the responsibility for developing such a plan.

Housing Authority

The Simsbury Housing Authority is a non-profit corporation responsible for operating the Dr. Owen L. Murphy Apartments and the Virginia Connolly Residence located on 13 acres at 1600 Hopmeadow Street. The Authority has provided affordable, subsidized housing primarily for senior citizens for the past thirty-seven years. The Authority consists of five (5) commissioners appointed by the Board of Selectmen (as required by State of Connecticut Statue) that oversee operations and provide strategic direction to the Authority's staff. The Authority employs five (5) full time, permanent staff and a number of part time workers. The Authority receives no funding from the Town of Simsbury. Revenues are from rents, subsidy from the Department of Economic and Community Development, and grants and donations from individuals, and commercial, government, private and civic organizations.

The Dr. Owen L. Murphy Apartments feature a total of seventy garden-style units designed for independent living for singles or couples 55 years of age or older, or disabled under Social Security Disability. There is also a Community Building for social functions such as Bingo, holiday parties, and events sponsored by local civic organizations. In addition to the Community Room, there are two gazebos on the property where residents gather to socialize in nice weather.

The Virginia Connolly Residence, a congregate facility, is a two story brick building that features independent living, with services, for forty elderly singles who are 62 years of age or over. Services include one main meal each day prepared on-site and served in a central dining room, weekly housekeeping service and 24-hour security

Accomplishments of 2007 – 2008

- Renovating and upgrading of both facilities by making use of funding from a \$775,000 Small Cities Grant and other sources.
- Renovations at Dr. Owen Murphy Apartments included: a) new eco-friendly heater/air conditioner heat pump units (donated by CL&P) to replace old electric base board heaters; b) new Community Room flooring and furniture.
- Renovations at Virginia Connolly Residence included: a) new dining room roller assisted chairs; b) resurfaced dining room tables; c) new trash compactor, d) new eco-friendly apartment refrigerators (donated by CL&P)
- In addition, received approval from the State of Connecticut to reduce the age eligibility for Dr. Own Murphy apartments from 62 to 55 years of age.

Goals for 2008 – 2009

- Complete renovations identified in the Small Cities Grant.
- Issue a Long Range Plan for expansion and modification to both facilities.
- Complete installation of heat pumps and new refrigerators (donated by CL&P) in Owen Murphy Apartments.

Juvenile Review Board

The 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 15 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 2007-2008, the Board met with 05 Simsbury youths and their families. A total of 280 community service hours were assigned.

Library Board of Directors

The goal of the Library is to provide residents with the information and resources they need to fulfill their personal, recreational and business needs. This is accomplished by providing a comprehensive range of library and community services that includes books, reference materials, programs and learning opportunities for all ages. The implementation of these programs and services is the responsibility of the Library Director. The Library Board is responsible for long range planning, establishing philosophies and policies for operations and governance, and fiscal oversight of the Library.

Construction of our expanded Library was completed early in the 2008, on time and on budget. Thanks to the dedicated work of the staff and many volunteers, books and services were successfully transferred to the new facility. The new facility allows us to expand our range of books and materials, increase the number of programs, significantly improve technology capabilities and services and provide increased opportunities for residents to meet or relax. The changes have been well received by our patrons. We thank the Staff, Library Director and Town Boards and Commissions for their enthusiastic support throughout the process. In addition, a special word of thanks goes to the Friends of Simsbury Public Library for their extraordinary fund-raising efforts and countless hours of help and service.

2009 promises to be another year of strong development for the Library. Our goal is to continue to provide excellent customer service while responding to the current economic challenges. We will expand programs for the Technology Learning Center, Business Resource Center, adults, teens and children, particularly with regard to science and math. Our staff

will be given additional training to better advise patrons with selections of reading and study materials. Our website will be enhanced to offer greater self-service capabilities. Furthermore, the Library has been provided with a grant to implement self-service check-in and out. Finally, the Library Board and Library Director will be working to develop a long range plan to ensure that our Library continues to meet and exceed the needs and expectations of our community and ensure we remain at the forefront of library services.

Open Space Committee

The Open Space Committee was established to assist and advise the Board of Selectmen in identifying land suitable for acquisition or preservation. The Committee is comprised of the First Selectman, and the chairmen of the Planning, Zoning and Conservation Commission and one other member as may be appointed by the Board of Selectmen. The Committee acts on requests made to it by the Board of Selectmen. The Committee has been active in discussing the Hopmeadow Streetscape effort and the use of the Town Farm Dairy property.

Pensions Committee

The Pension Committee, which consists of six appointed members, meets quarterly to monitor the investment of the assets for the General Government Employees, the Board of Education, and the Police Pension Plans. The Committee also reviews that the assets are performing in accordance with their benchmarks and are invested in the appropriate asset classes.

Performing Arts Center Board

Duties and Accomplishments of the Performing Arts Center Board
The Performing Arts Center Board was established in May 2008 by a resolution of the Simsbury Board of Selectmen. This resolution charged the Board to oversee the management of the Performing Arts Center at Simsbury Meadows. Within the constraints imposed upon the Simsbury Performing Arts Center as a Town of Simsbury special revenue fund, the duties and responsibilities of the board are to set policies and annual objectives, to plan future growth, to motivate the management to meet the objectives and to report annually on performance.

The following citizens were appointed to the Board:

David Ryan, Chairman	Ken Mason, Board Member
Greg Piecuch, Vice Chairman	John Paddock, Board Member
Leo Collins, Board Member	Adam Sharaf, Board Member
Janet Goman, Board Member	

(continued on page 28)

Boards & Commissions

Performing Arts Center Board (continued)

The Board met on a monthly meeting schedule, starting in June 2008. Several special meetings were held in order to meet objectives on a timely basis.

During the 2008 year, the PAC Board accomplished the following items:

- It established a Fiscal Year for Reporting Operational Results. That year runs from Oct 1 to the following September 30th.
- A Statement of Purpose was established, providing that the Performing Arts Center is an entertainment facility.
- A set of Policies have been approved concerning the use of the Performing Arts Center.
- With the approval of the Board of Selectmen, a contract for the Manager, Keith Distel, was renewed for the 2009 Fiscal Year. This timely renewal enabled Mr. Distel to market the facility for the 2009 season beginning on October 1, 2008. The contract includes incentives for attainment of the event bookings objectives.
- A 2008 Financial Report was published in November 2008.
- A PAC at SM 2009 Capital Request and Cost Justification was submitted.
- The 2009 Talcott Mountain Music Festival dates have been scheduled with the Hartford Symphony Orchestra, and one additional major entertainment event has been scheduled to date. The objective is to book two additional major events.
- A PAC at SM website update has been specified. The changes will be implemented by the end of February 2009.

Planning Commission

The Planning Commission is an elected body of six members and three alternate members. In accordance with the Connecticut General Statutes the Commission prepares, adopts and amends the Plan of Conservation and Development every ten (10) years. It also makes recommendations under CGS Section 8-24 with regard to municipal improvements including the construction of facilities, acquisition and disposition of real property and acts upon applications for the subdivision of land.

The Commission, which meets regularly on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month, also makes recommendations to the Zoning Commission on proposed zone changes and text amendments to the Simsbury Zoning Regulations as required by the Connecticut General Statutes under CGS Section 8-3.

During the 2007 – 2008 fiscal year the Commission received 3 subdivision applications. All of the three were approved. In addition, the Commission received and acted on 2 CGS 8-24 referrals during this time as well.

During this period the Planning Commission continued to investigate the possibility of conducting a Charrette and subsequently producing a plan focused on increasing the vitality of the town center. In 2008, the Planning Commission will begin to undertake the implementation efforts associated with the adopted Plan.

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 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 submission of annual budget to the Board of Selectmen. It further participates in the collective bargaining process; and is the final authority for all personnel and disciplinary matters within the Police Department.

Accomplishments of 2007 – 2008

- Supported National Accreditation activities
- Approved additional personnel required to maintain levels of police protection during budget process.
- Participated in department leadership through the Administration of the department.
- Reviewed monthly activity reports wherein criminal events and officer activities are summarized. Make recommendations for actions to enhance positive trends.
- Made recommendations as to desired direction of the department in order to achieve goals in safety, performance and reduction in criminal activity.
- Reviewed and supported department Community Policing initiatives.
- Reviewed communications from citizens.
- Attended various functions established by the Police Department such as Citizens' Police Academy Graduation, inductions of new officers and promotions.

Goals for 2008 – 2009

- Achieve National Accreditation.
- Continue activities to further support department goals.
- Provide additional support for Police Department involvement in the community.
- Support Community Policing initiatives.

Public Building Committee

The Public Building Committee, which is made up of nine appointed members, 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 assigns major addition and/or renovation projects of town-owned buildings to the Public Building Committee for oversight.

Accomplishments of 2007 – 2008

- Completed construction of the \$1.11 million High School Auditorium renovation. The auditorium's new rigging, lighting and curtains compliment the recent High School renovations and addition.
- Completed construction of the Simsbury Public Library addition and renovation, with a value of \$6.5 million. A grand opening was held in the spring 2008.

Public Building Committee (continued)

- Completed plans and bidding for the addition and renovation project at the Tariffville School. With an estimated value of \$6.2 million, this project is expected to be completed in 2009.
- Completed design for Eno Memorial Hall fire suppression system and code improvements, valued at \$0.3 million.

We foresee a very busy schedule next fiscal year, with the completion of construction for the Tariffville School addition/renovation; design and bidding for the Tootin Hill school roof, including solar or wind power features; undertaking a building improvements' facility study for Simsbury Farms Recreation Complex, which will include investigating alternative energy sources; and, completing the Eno Memorial project.

Recycling Committee

The Recycling Committee was heavily occupied in 2008 amending our Mission Statement, completing extensive research into and recommending to the BOS our support for the 20% by 2010 initiative and for the Single-Stream Recycling Program. In May 2008 we sponsored and chaperoned the Enviro-Team from Henry James Middle School to the CRRA Trash Museum as part of our Educational Program.

Our Nike Reuse-A-Shoe Program completed another successful collection effort this past Spring. This program collects sneakers to be shipped to the Nike Company where they are ground up to be used in making new sports surfaces, including soccer and football fields, basketball and tennis courts and tracks and playground surfacing. The Recycling Committee coordinated with preschools, private and public schools, local gyms, Little League fields and the Town Hall to collect and deliver discarded sneakers to the designated pick-up site at the Transfer Station.

The Recycling Committee managed the Swap Center located at the Transfer Station on Wolcott Road, which was open on Saturdays from April through October from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. The Center accepts donations of items no longer needed by their owners to be offered free to any resident without limit. Our volunteers donated 127 hours of their time to manage the Center. Volunteers this year consisted of members of our Recycling Committee and volunteers from the Civitan Club of Simsbury and the Farmington Valley. A total of 413 residents visited the Center and of that number, 137 residents selected 395 items for continued home use, which is our ultimate recycling goal.

November 15 is the official date of America Recycles Day, a celebration instituted over 12 years ago by the National Recycling Coalition in an effort to educate and encourage Americans to reduce the amount of trash going into landfills by recycling and buying recycled products. Since 1997 the Simsbury Recycling Committee, in conjunction with America Recycles Day, has presented Annual Recycling Awards to a total of 28 recipients

who have shown a dedication to reduce, recycle and reuse within their community. On November 10, 2008 the Annual Recycling Award was awarded to two recipients, the Farmington River Watershed Association for initiating and coordinating the collection and appropriate disposal of unwanted medications and to Jan Manchester for her continued recycling efforts involving used baseball equipment donated to Hartford Southside Little League and the Nike Reuse-A-Shoe Program.

Goals for 2008 – 2009

- To open and rededicate a New Swap Center located at the Simsbury Transfer Station.
- To continue the Nike Reuse-A-Shoe Program and to involve additional schools and the private sector to increase participation in this effort.
- To continue our Educational Program within the Simsbury school system.
- To publish and distribute a revised Simsbury Bulky Waste & Recycling Center informational handout for residents and businesses.

Simsbury Farms Complex Committee

Duties

The Simsbury Farms Complex Committee was established by the Board of Selectmen in 1998. This Committee was established, specifically, to evaluate the facilities and operations at Simsbury Farms and provide recommendations to meet the short and long term goals of the community.

Accomplishments of 2007 – 2008

Financial:

The special revenue fund established for Simsbury Farms ended FY 07-08 with a \$51,727 fund surplus. Total revenues for Simsbury Farms during this fiscal year were \$1,784k.

Projects:

- Centralized Maintenance is a new concept recommended by the Complex Committee. This centralized facility combines Parks maintenance located at Simsbury Farms with Golf maintenance. The proposed 10,000 sq. ft modular steel building will be located parallel to the fifth fairway, adjacent to the present golf maintenance facility. Total cost for this project is in the \$800k range and is a line item in the six year Capital Plan.
- Access road to the golf parking lot remains a high priority. To expedite this project a lower cost, one way exit road from the golf parking lot is now recommended. Construction is planned to be completed in the fall of 2008.
- Parking remains an issue during the busy summer months. Construction of the new exit road will provide approximately fifty new parking spaces on the present exit lane from the golf parking lot.

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Boards & Commissions

Simsbury Farms Complex (continued)

- The Apple Barn, which was not included in the scope of the Master Plan published in 1999, has now been identified as an important resource and will be included in future development plans for Simsbury Farms. An independent study will be recommended to examine potential options for this building.

Goals for 2008 – 2009

Specifically, the Simsbury Farms Complex Committee will aggressively pursue:

- Capital funding for the centralized maintenance facility to replace the present facilities which are seriously compromised.
- Completion of the new one way exit road from the golf parking lot,
- Adding new parking for pool and summer recreation.
- Redefining the future role of the Apple Barn.
- Initiating new incentives to increase rounds played at the golf course.

Tourism Committee

Established in 1994, the Tourism Committee's mission is to "help facilitate efforts towards enhancing the vitality and broadening the economic base of Simsbury through the development and promotion of tourism." Through this effort, employment opportunities and local revenues will be increased while the integrity and character of Simsbury as a traditional New England town is maintained.

Accomplishments of 2007 – 2008

- Continued participation in the Preserve America Grant which has a large tourism component and will allow us to increase our printed material, to publicize town events, to expand our website presence and act on many projects we have not had the funding to accomplish. We contributed \$2000 from our tourism budget towards printing expenses.
- Signed a new Visitor Center agreement to keep the center at Sew Inspired Quilt Shop for the next year. They have dedicated a window to display Tourism materials and are responsible for answering the phone line at 658-4000. We are working on new ways to publicize the site in directories and printed material. Directional signs to the location are a work in progress.
- Had an active presence at the last Septemberfest. Again used Tourism questionnaires to interact with the public and offered a drawing for a lunch at Metro Bis. We sold postcards, prints and coloring books and gave away brochures, maps etc.
- Helped in the planning and staffing of Simsbury Celebrates.
- Held a December open house holiday celebration to attract new members.
- Continued to market our postcards with 8 scenes of Simsbury in circulation. Coloring books, crayons and Simsbury prints continue to be sold around town.
- Devoted much attention and discussion to the town website to enhance tourism information. Kathy Oakes continues to update and improve

the content. It now has an accessible "button" to go directly to the tourism page and many links to the various organizations and events.

- Continued involvement in the Farmington Valley Film Commission which is working on a services and vendor directory, a photo archive and a permit which all of the FV towns will use.
- Discussion began on the construction of an information kiosk either outside Town Hall or at Simsbury Meadows.
- A Volunteer fair was proposed to attract new participants for all of the town committees and organizations. Details are being worked out.
- Reworked our annual "See Simsbury First" ad in the annual CT Vacation Guide which continues to generate tourism inquiries
- Participated in many group meetings such as those of SCOC, Main St. Partnership, The Bridge of Flowers, the Tariffville Village Assoc. and the EDC. Continued our support of plantings on the Flower Bridge.
- In addition we attended meetings of FVVA and Liz Banco was appointed the representative to the Greater Hartford Tourism District

Goals for 2008 – 2009

- To increase marketing of the Town of Simsbury souvenir coloring book, prints and postcards in new locations.
- To maintain an active presence in the planning and execution of Town events and in the publicizing of outside groups coming to town for various activities.
- To help maintain the Visitor Center.
- To develop an information kiosk.
- To further our relationship with TVA.
- To plan a Volunteer Fair at Eno with tables represented by organizations in town.
- To continue expanding our tourism web site.
- To actively seek new committee members interested in tourism.
- Working to contribute in any way to the economic development of Simsbury through the avenue of tourism and to serve as a link to all the groups who have that as a common goal.

Volunteer Ambulance Association

Simsbury Volunteer Ambulance Association has served the emergency medical needs of the community for more than fifty years. Over the years, our history demonstrates a continuum of increased levels of service provided to our community. The volunteers of SVAA proudly continue the tradition of service to the community begun a half century ago by our founding members.

The Simsbury Volunteer Ambulance Association was founded in 1957 and the first ambulance was provided by the Kiwanis Club whose members went door to door to solicit contributions. The first ambulance was housed in a barn on property adjacent to the Holly Hill Convalescent Home, presently known as Governor's House, and members held only an American

Red Cross first aid certification. In 1965 a facility on Old Mill Lane was built as a one bay structure on land owned by the VNA. By 1967, as the Association celebrated its tenth anniversary, members had responded to a total of 1600 calls. By comparison, we currently respond to approximately 1500 calls per year.

SVAA is comprised of approximately forty active volunteer members whose dedication to our community is demonstrated by an aggregate of more than 30,000 hours per year of scheduled duty, training, recertification, stand-bys and meetings. The volunteer EMT staff is augmented by a paid staff of Paramedics.

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 First Night. Annually, SVAA provides on site tours and demonstrations for sixth grade students at the towns elementary schools.

Beginning in 1997, SVAA has provided Paramedic level service 24 hours per day, dramatically reducing the time it takes to get these lifesaving measures to the patient.

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

Please visit us at our web site: www.simsburyems.com

Water Pollution Control Authority

The Water Pollution Control Authority (WPCA) is a body of seven members, appointed by the Board of Selectman, and responsible for establishing and reviewing the policies and fees that are applied by Simsbury Water Pollution Control for the operation and maintenance of both Simsbury's sanitary sewer system and the Water Pollution Control Facility. The Facility also receives wastewater from Avon and Granby, and both of these towns are financial partners in The Water Pollution Control Facility. Intermunicipal agreements have been established to regulate these relationships.

Regular 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.

Construction of the \$22 million Water Pollution Control Facility Upgrade was completed in the spring of 2008. The completion of Phase

I in 2007 resulted in compliance with the nitrogen discharge limits set by the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection for the year 2015, enabling participation in the state nitrogen credit trading program and resulting in \$14,036 income to the town. This is indicative of the capabilities of the now state-of-the-art plant that will serve the community's waste water needs for decades to come, and help prevent pollution of the Farmington River and Long Island Sound. An Open House and tours for the public was held in May. Tours for school groups are given routinely throughout the year

The WPCA conducted 11 meetings, including 5 public hearings, during which they reviewed, approved and accepted sewer extension projects and assessments on Bushy Hill Road, Elaine Drive, Cornfield Road and Wolcott Road. They also approved a modification of the sewer service area for the Meadowwood project; and an increase in annual sewer use fees for the fiscal year. They also authorized an emergency repair for the Tunxis Pump Station and authorized renovations for the South Pump Station.

Zoning Board of Appeals

The Simsbury Zoning Board of Appeals is an elected body of nine members including six regular members and three alternates. The powers and duties of the Board are established under CGS Chapter 124. The Zoning Board of Appeals hears and decides on requests for variances from the Zoning Regulations. The ZBA also hears and decides on appeals of zoning enforcements decisions as well as decisions made by the Building Official. It also decides on Special Exceptions under CGS 8-2g as specified in the zoning regulations.

In addition to its regular business, the Zoning Board of Appeals will also participate in the revision of the Simsbury Zoning Regulations. This process will result in the adoption of more current Zoning Regulations. This task is an important one in that the regulations are enacted in order to meet the needs of the Town and to allow for expansion of the local economic base while maintaining the character of the community. The Zoning Board of Appeals function in this task will be to provide insight into those aspects of the Regulations with which they have the most contact on an ongoing basis regarding variance requests. When under land use hardships are found the ZBA has the authority to grant a proper variance in accordance with the Connecticut General Statutes and the Simsbury Zoning Regulations.

During the 2007 – 2008 fiscal year the Board received 19 applications. Of these 14 were approved, while 2 were denied and 3 were withdrawn.

Boards & Commissions

Zoning Commission

The Simsbury Zoning Commission is an elected body of nine members including six regular members and three alternates. Among the powers and duties of the Commission which is established under the Simsbury Town Charter and with the powers and authority granted by CGS Chapter 124 has the additional duty of Aquifer Protection Agency. The Zoning Commission regulates land and buildings within the Town based on the adopted Zoning Regulations. It also adopts, revises and repeals regulations, hears and decides applications to change regulations and for site plan and special permit applications. The Zoning Regulations also provide for the manner in which the regulations are to be enforced. The Zoning Commission also makes recommendations on other matters that may come before it.

The Zoning Commission is the designated Aquifer Protection Agency in accordance with Chapter 4 of the Town Code. In this regard the Commission and Commission staff performs the required overview, inventory and regulation of land uses located on the mapped aquifer areas. These aquifer areas are given due consideration during review of any application which proposes to use or change a land use in a mapped aquifer area.

During the 2007 – 2008 fiscal year the Commission received 41 applications. As part of these applications, the Commission reviewed 25 site plans, 14 special permits, 5 zone changes, and 3 zoning amendments. Of these 41 applications, 37 were approved, 1 was denied and 3 were withdrawn.

In addition to its regular business, the Commission continues with a complete reorganization and revision of the Simsbury Zoning Regulations. This process will result in Zoning Regulations which have not been comprehensively revised since 1964. The present regulations do not meet current standards or the needs of the community. This task is an important one in that the regulations are enacted in order to meet the needs of the Town and to allow for expansion of the local economic base while maintaining the character of the community. This work is scheduled to be completed in 2009. In addition, the Commission is drafting a Planned Area Development (PAD) regulation in order to allow for establishment of zones which would permit appropriate mixed use development in a variety of locations in Simsbury.



Town Finances

Fiscal Year 2007-2008

The annual fiscal report of the Town of Simsbury for the year ended June 30, 2008 is submitted and on file in the Town Clerk's Office.

I believe the data presented is accurate and is presented in a manner designed to fairly set forth the financial position and results of operations for the various funds of the Town.

The Board of Finance established a tax rate of 36.9 mills, which was levied on the Grand List of 2006. The General Fund budget is prepared on a

modified accrual basis of accounting. Encumbrances are recognized as a valid and proper charge against a budget appropriation in the year in which the purchase order, contract or other commitment is issued, and accordingly encumbrances outstanding at year-end are reflected in budgetary reports as expenditures in the current fiscal year.

The Town's amended budget was \$84,724,169. Total expenditures were \$84,564,331. Operation for the year resulted in a change to Undesignated Fund Balance to \$7,644,660 for the period ending June 30, 2008.

General Fund

A comparative tabulation of General Fund (budgetary basis) expenditures classified by main function is presented below:

Year Ended		Year Ended		June 30,
2007	%	June 30, 2008	%	
General Government	\$16,745,057	20.6%	\$17,323,528	20.5%
Education	55,724,738	68.4%	58,562,224	69.3%
Debt Service Transfers	5,370,670	6.6%	5,860,785	6.9%
Other Transfers	3,620,532	4.3%	2,817,794	3.2%
Total	\$81,460,997	100.0%	\$84,564,331	100.0%

Debt

As of June 30, 2008, the Town had bonds outstanding which mature serially to the year 2018, as follows:

Schools	\$25,422,000
Public Improvement	12,688,000
Total	\$38,110,000

A summary of statutory debt limits in excess of outstanding and authorized debt is presented below:

General Purpose	\$153,633,116
Schools	304,943,938
Sewers	262,542,089
Urban Renewal	245,768,731

Schedule of Debt Principle and Interest Maturities by Year – June 30, 2008

Year Ending June 30	Principal	Interest	Total Principal & Interest
2009	4,815,000	1,443,285	6,258,285
2010	4,815,000	1,299,025	6,114,025
2011	4,360,000	1,120,588	5,480,588
2012	3,960,000	952,700	4,912,700
2013	3,950,000	803,275	4,753,275
2014-2018	16,210,000	1,769,825	17,979,825
Total	\$38,110,000	\$7,388,698	\$45,498,698

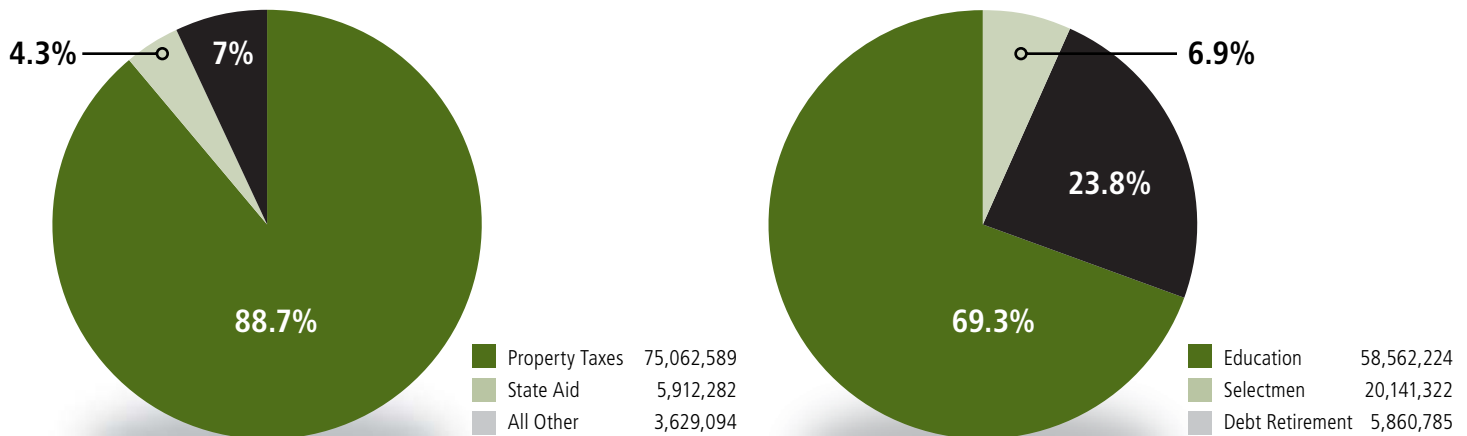
Town Finances

Net Grand Lists and Tax Rates – 1999-2008

Per statutory debt limitations, total indebtedness shall not exceed seven times annual receipts from taxation which is \$529,348,036.

Year End June 30	Grand List	Mill Rate	General Town	Board of Education	Debt Retirement	Totals
1999	1,390,784,719	31.20	14,065,579	34,337,624	2,462,840	50,866,043
2000	1,419,110,606	32.40	14,463,516	36,638,070	1,846,206	52,947,792
2001	1,456,028,736	34.40	14,322,754	40,610,016	2,519,429	57,452,199
2002	1,481,996,519	36.30	14,869,912	42,768,525	2,911,891	60,550,328
2003	1,500,146,075	39.10	14,823,992	46,072,296	2,928,111	63,824,399
2004	1,911,380,612	32.60	14,818,826	48,290,928	5,025,232	68,134,986
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	2,012,441,273	36.90	20,141,322	58,562,224	5,860,785	84,564,331

Revenues and Expenditures for the Year Ended June 30, 2008



Revenues

Property Taxes	\$75,062,589
Investments	1,004,469
Licenses/Permits	449,893
Charges For Services	967,767
State Aid	5,912,282
Other	1,206,965
Total	\$84,603,965

Expenditures

Education	\$58,562,224
Debt Retirement	5,860,785
Health & Welfare	484,267
General Government	2,266,752
Planning & Development	718,300
Public Safety	3,758,560
Facility Management	3,452,147
Library	1,253,761

Culture & Recreation	738,184
Insurance & Benefits	4,344,674
Special Projects	306,883
Other	2,817,794
Total	\$84,564,331

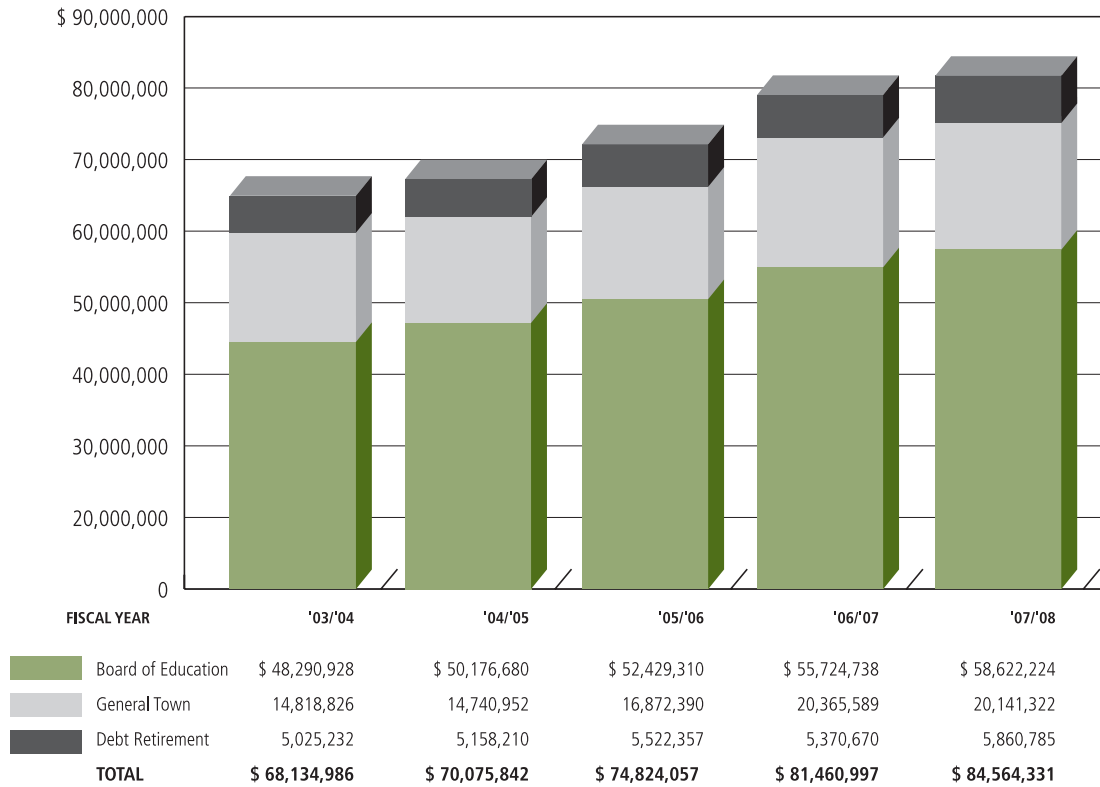
Excess Revenues	39,634
Over Expenditures (1)	

(1) During fiscal year ended June 30, 2008, supplemental appropriations from RESERVES totaling \$2,579,307 was approved. The Board of Finance approved supplemental appropriations totaling \$229,507. At a May Special Town Meeting, voters approved \$2,350,250 from RESERVES for various capital projects. Included was \$880,250 to be used for a \$1,257,500 Tootin' Hills School roof replacement, \$700,000 for HVAC Boiler replacements for several schools, \$600,000 to be used for a \$1 million improvement to Eno Memorial Hall and \$170,000 for Water Main Extensions.

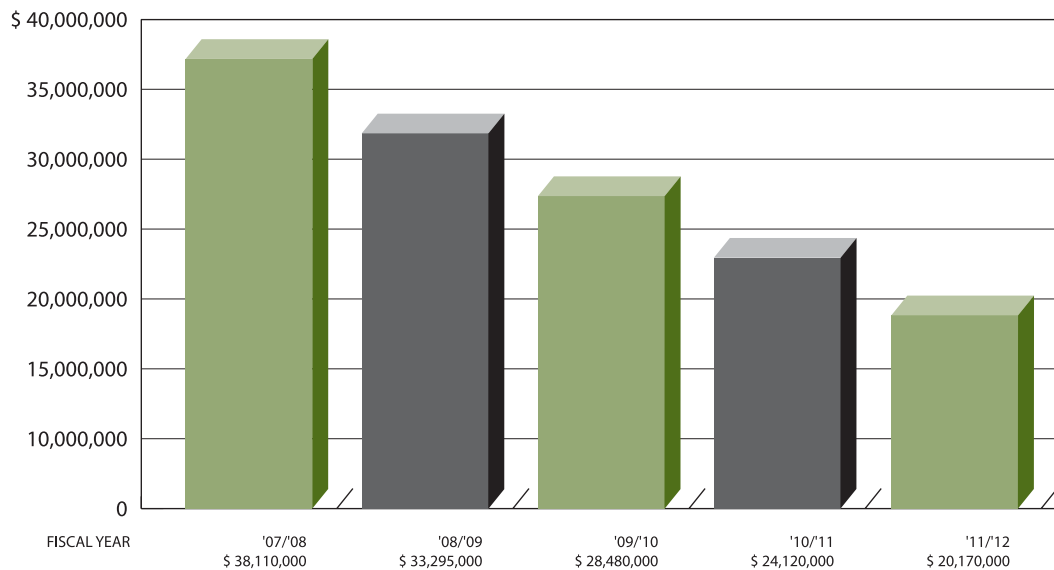
Reconciliation

Revenue surplus (Actual vs. Budgeted)	2,459,103
Expenditure surplus (Budget vs. Actual)	159,838
Supplemental appropriations from Reserves	(2,579,307)
	39,634

Total Expenditures – 2004-2008



Total Principal Outstanding – 2008-2011



Town Finances

Capital Projects Funds

A summary of expenditures and encumbrances compared with appropriations for the Town's various Capital Projects Fund is presented below:

Projects	Appropriations	Expenditures	Balances
Capital and nonrecurring	\$1,964,041	\$1,402,522	\$561,519
Sewer extension projects:			
Project 2006	240,000	238,408	1,592
Project 2008	260,000	-	260,000
Town projects:			
Townwide computer technology	330,000	296,006	33,994
Economic Development Fund 5/02	250,000	151,893	98,107
Sewer Rehab - Church & Elm Street 5/04	100,000	82,500	17,500
Library Expansion Design Services 3/05	200,000	185,887	14,113
Greenway 5/05	750,000	583,282	166,718
Park Improvements 5/06	450,000	349,513	100,487
Library Expansion 5/06	6,100,000	5,540,274	559,726
Gertsen Land Purchase 5/08	720,000	-	720,000
Triangle Land Purchase 5/08	2,750,000	-	2,750,000
Streetscape 10/167 5/08	325,000	-	325,000
Eno Hall Improvements 5/08	1,000,000	-	1,000,000
Water Extensions 5/08	170,000	-	170,000
South Pump Station Rehab 5/08	450,000	-	450,000
Education projects:			
Henry James expansion project	3,581,662	3,555,506	26,156
Henry James expan proj phase II 5/00	1,260,000	1,250,662	9,338
Simsbury High School Addition & Alteration 5/02	43,178,567	36,055,957	7,122,610
Modular Classrooms 5/02	340,000	299,339	40,661
System Window Treatment Project 5/02	220,000	126,428	93,572
Central School Roof Replacement 5/04	325,000	271,768	53,232
SHS Auditorium Improvements 5/04	712,500	664,972	47,528
System HVAC / Boiler Replacement	500,000	495,124	4,876
Computer technology improv 5/06	450,000	176,551	273,449
Tariffville Expansion 5/06	6,200,000	394,589	5,805,411
System Telecommunications, Security Upgrade 5/06	420,000	400,797	19,203
HVAC Boiler Replacement 5/08	700,000	-	700,000
Tootin Hills Roof Replacement	1,257,500	-	1,257,500
	\$75,204,270	\$52,521,978	\$22,682,292

Board and Commission Members

Elected Boards and Commissions

(as of December 31, 2007)

Board of Selectmen

John K. Hampton -
Deputy First Selectman
Robert S. Hensley
Richard A. Hogan
Michael T. Long
Moiria K. Wertheimer

Board of Assessment Appeals

Dennis J. Fallon
William Fiske
W. Mark Wigmore

Board of Education

Robert Michael Goman
Chris M. Kelly
Charles Moret
Susan B. Selina
John L. Sennott, Jr.
Lydia A. Tedone
Michael T. Wade
Tara Willerup

Board of Finance

Peter K. Askham
Candace V. Fitzpatrick
Paul W. Henault
Nicholas B. Mason
Anita L. Mielert
Kevin A. North

Library Board of Directors

Carol M. Bingham
Ann D. Erickson
Barbara C. Gardner
Charmaine E. Glew
Joy Himmelfarb
Bertram Kaplan
Gail K. Ryan

Planning Commission

Susan M. Bednarczyk
Charles D. Houlihan, Jr.
Ferguson R. Jansen, Jr.
John M. Loomis
Julie K. Meyer
Gerald Post

Alternates

Carol A. Cole
Mark S. Drake
Carl Eisenmann

Zoning Board of Appeals

Nancy Haase
Thomas F. Horan
Katie S. Martin
John McCann
Peter A. Stempien
Alternates
Tegan Blackburn
Edward M. Cosgrove
Craig K. MacCormac

Zoning Commission

Scott S. Barnett
Austin D. Barney II
Garrett J. Delehanty, Jr.
Bruce H. Elliott
James W. Gallagher
John F. Vaughn
Alternates
Madeleine Gilkey
Edward Pabich

Additional Boards and Commissions

(as of December 31, 2007)

Aging and Disability

Grace Comeau
Kathleen Fallon
Mona Herman
Michael Jennings
Marvin Koff
Carrie Jan Kramer
Edward LaMontagne
Mary Ellen Long
Mona Martinik
Charlotte Steptoe
Ann Walters Thompson
Lynn Veith

Board of Ethics

Nancy Hendryx
Kathleen Loomis
Louis A. Norton
Richard Order
William Tysza

Building Code Board of Appeals

Emil Dahlquist
Harvey Goodfriend
Paul Holland
Charles A. Warren, Jr.

Clean Energy Task Force

Patrick Boeshans
Lori Fernand
Carol Kruse
James Ray
Susan Van Kleef
Alfred Weisbrich

Conservation Commission

Andrew Bucknam
Darren Cunningham
Ryan Mihalic
Richard A. Miller Jr.
Margaret Sexton
Margery Winters
Dominick Zackeo
Alternate
Patrick Kottas
Donald Reiger, Jr.

Culture, Parks and Recreation Commission

David Bush

Karen Cortes
Joseph Grace
Linda Johnson
Kelly Kearney
Barbara Koff
Mary Liljedahl
John Pendergast
Harry Ryan

Economic Development Commission

Kevin Crimmins
Mark Deming
Thomas Frank
Louis George
Nancy Haase
Alan Levesque
Charles Minor
Alan Needham
Derek Peterson

Fair Rent Commission

Ruben Acosta
Madeline P. Gilkey
Geraldine Muench
John F. Paddock
David A. Richman

Historic District Commission

Kenneth Feder
David Freitas
Dianne Mead
Elizabeth Woollacott
Evan Woollacott

Alternate

J. Paul Lanza
Marc Lubetkin
James W. Oliver

Housing Authority

Kathleen Coffey
Melvin Cote
Woodrow Eddins
Patricia Howland
John Pasquenza

Police Commission

Edward Cosgrove
Carl Eisenmann
Harvey Goodfriend
Michael T. Long
Brendan Walsh

Public Building Committee

Richard Cortes
Richard Derr
Lucian M. Dragulski
Francis Kelly
Michael Laureno
Richard Ostop
Mary Lou Patrino
Alice Rowland
John Salvatore

Water Pollution Control Authority

Philip Burton
Warren Coe
Gary Faraci
Paul Gilmore
Edward J. Kelly
Michael Park
Philip Richardson

Design Review Board

Emil Dahlquist
William Gardner
Kevin Gray
Mark Naccarato
Richard Schoenhardt
Charles Stephenson
John Stewart
Alternates
John Carroll
Anthony Drapelick
Rita Bond

Insurance Committee

Robert Asensio
Stanley Cataldo
Nicholas Mason
Paul Mikkelsen Jr.
Peter Peterson
Edward Sparkowski
Raymond Wahl
Jonathan Yeisley

Open Space Committee

Austin D. Barney II
Mary Glassman
John Loomis
Helen Peterson
Margery Winters

(continued on page 38)

Our Town Today

Board Members (continued)

Pension Committee

Nicholas Mason
Paul McAlenney
Donna Parker
Susan Royles
Kevin Schultz
Phil Schulz

Performing Arts Center Board

Leo Collins
Janet Goman
Ken Mason
John Paddock
Greg Picuch
David Ryan
Adam Sharaf

Recycling Committee

Lori Fernand
Gwendolyn Moraski
Jill Patterson
Andrew Rose
Lonni Schulz
Mary Turner
Nathan D. Woodberry

Simsbury Farms Complex Committee

Antonio Braz
David Dell
Dennis Fallon
Marc Lubetkin
Erwin Marques
Maribeth Mortillaro
Ronald Patterson
Gerald Post
Jeffrey Seltzer
Tom West

Tourism Committee

Dominique Avery
Elizabeth Banco
Terry Boulton
Patricia Carbone
Paulette Clark
Joyce Howard
Laurie Matczak
Steven Mitchell
Katherine Oakes

Important Phone Numbers

Area Code	860	Fire Marshal	658-1973
		Historical Society	658-2500
		Housing Authority	658-1147
Emergency Phone Numbers		Judge of Probate	658-3277
Fire Department	911	Landfill	658-9481
Routine Information	658-1971	Library, Simsbury Public	658-7663
Police Department/Ambulance	911	Planning	658-3245
Routine Information	658-3100	Police	658-3100
933 Hopmeadow Street		Public Works	658-3222
		Recreation	658-3255
Simsbury Volunteer Ambulance Association	658-7213	Simsbury Farms Complex office	658-3836
64 West Street		Simsbury Farms Golf Club	658-6246
		Recorded Information	658-2512
Department/Service	Phone Number	Registrar of Voters	658-3267
Assessor	658-3251	First Selectman	658-3230
Board of Education	651-3361	SCTV-Simsbury Community Television	658-1720
Building	658-3234	Sewer Treatment	658-1380
Chamber of Commerce	651-7307	Social Services	658-3283
Continuing Education	658-3870	Tax	658-3238
Engineering	658-3260	Town Clerk	658-3243
Eno Hall, Basement Pay Phone	658-7073	Town Hall	658-3200
Farmington Valley Health District	676-1953	Aquarion Water Company	658-6707
Finance	658-3244	Visitors Center	651-8994

Town Management (As of 12/31/08)

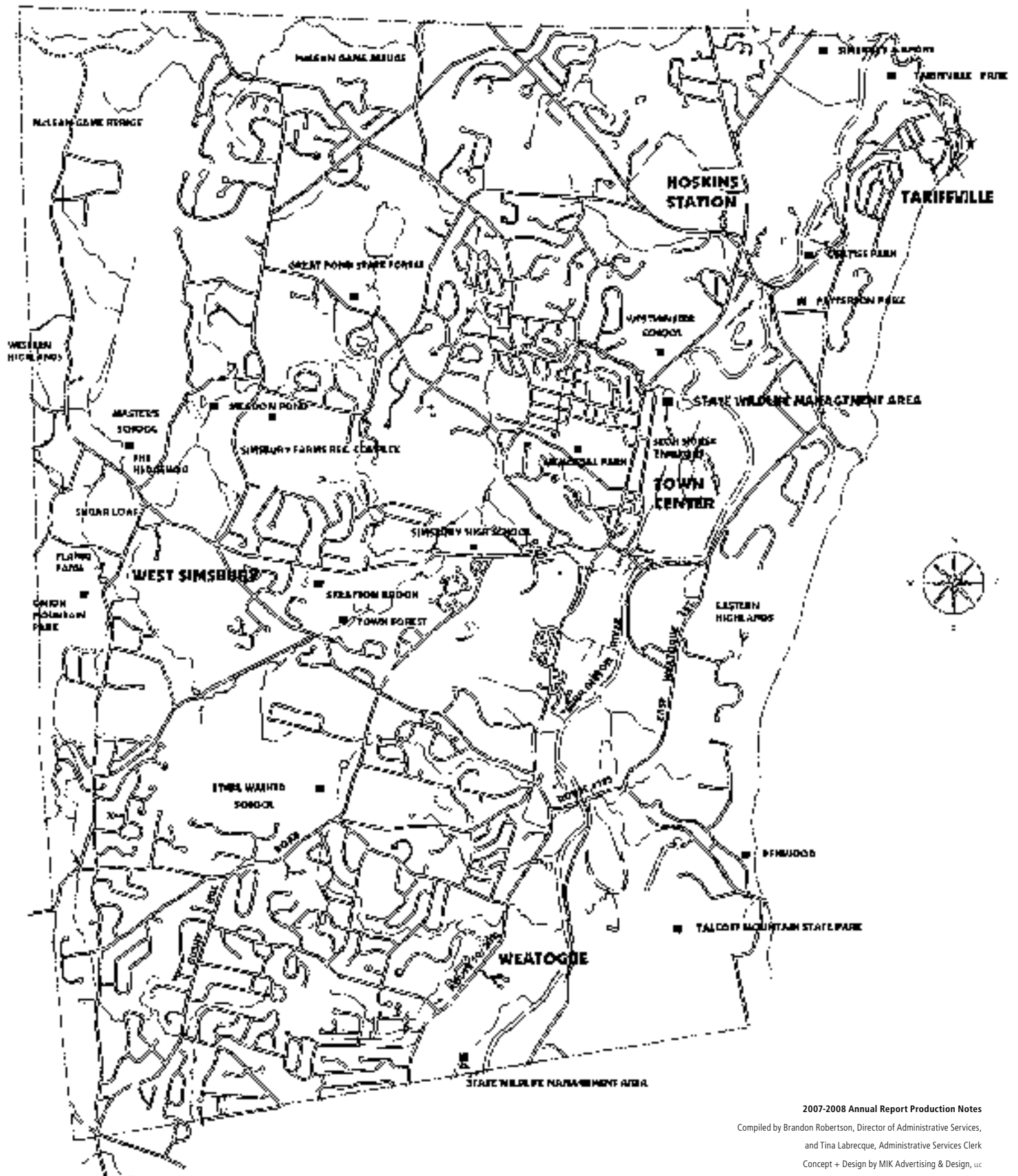
First Selectman	Mary A. Glassman
Police Chief	Peter Ingvertsen
Director of Finance	Kevin Kane
Town Engineer	Richard Sawitzke
Director of Administrative Services	Brandon Robertson
Director of Culture, Parks and Recreation	Gerry Toner
Director of Planning	Hiram Peck III
Director of Public Works	Thomas Roy
Director of Simsbury Public Library	Susan Bullock
Director of Social Services	Mickey Lecours-Beck
Town Clerk	Carolyn Keily

Town Meeting Dates*

Board of Selectmen	The second and fourth Monday of each month
Board of Education	The second and fourth Tuesday of each month
Board of Finance	The third Tuesday of each month
Planning Commission	The second and fourth Tuesday of each month
Zoning Commission	The first and third Monday of each month

* Subject to change - verify meeting dates and times by calling the Town Hall

Our Town Today



2007-2008 Annual Report Production Notes

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and Tina Labrecque, Administrative Services Clerk

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adventure



heritage



charm

SIMSBURY
CONNECTICUT

933 Hopmeadow Street / P.O. Box 495 / Simsbury, CT 06070 / 860-658-3200
www.simsbury-ct.gov