

2012-2013 *Annual Report*



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

Our Town

A Message from the Board of Finance

We are pleased to present the 151st annual report of the Town of Simsbury. The goal of this report is to provide the town's citizens, taxpayers and other stakeholders with a description of the significant events and activities occurring during the reporting period. This report includes financial information for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2013, as well as a description of the significant events and activities that occurred in the community during the calendar year 2013.

Some of the 2013 fiscal challenges successfully met by the town during 2013 included: restoring the town's undesignated fund balance (reserves) to its prior level of 12 percent, following appropriations made in 2012 to address the expenses associated with the unprecedented "Storm Alfred" damage experienced in 2011; successfully complying with the state mandated property revaluation; and undertaking a successful bond issue for capital project funding.

Simsbury's finance, selectmen and education boards continued to work together preparing

budgets and capital improvement projects designed to provide both an excellent level of service to residents and simultaneously to fit within established conservative financial guidelines. The town's fiscal prudence was again recognized by Moody's Investors Service Inc.'s recent reaffirmation of the town's Aaa bond rating, the highest that a municipality can achieve.

Both the boards of selectmen and education continued to implement the transition to defined contribution plans for certain new employees, and at the same time, continued evaluating pension plans to ensure that those plans use appropriate assumptions and are properly funded.

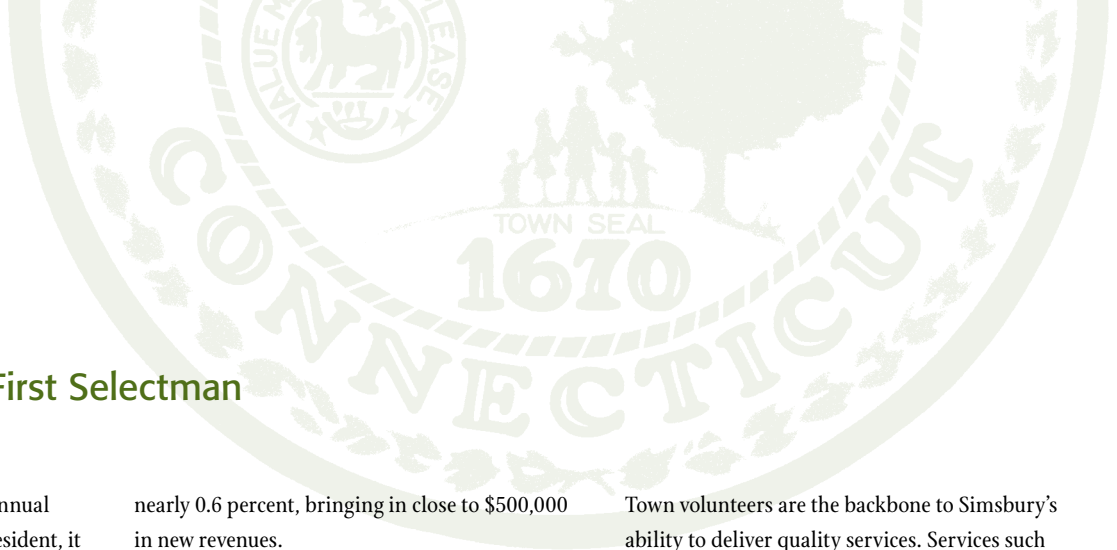
The town moved forward with capital projects designed to protect and restore some of its most important assets. Several of the approved capital projects undertaken in 2013 included: purchasing emergency generators to ensure that Simsbury has the power supply and shelters it needs in the event of a major emergency; performing necessary improvements to town offices and the town's

teledata infrastructure; performing necessary repairs to Eno Memorial Hall; replacing the boiler at Squadron Line Elementary School; and undergoing stabilization of the Farmington River stream bank.

Simsbury continues to benefit from a strong spirit of volunteerism as residents step forward to serve on boards and commissions, and care for their neighbors in times of trouble. Because of these qualities, the town continues to be publicly recognized as one of the best places to live in Connecticut and beyond.

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

Sincerely,
Board of Finance



A Message from the First Selectman

I am pleased to present the 2012-2013 annual report for the Town of Simsbury. As a resident, it is critical for you to have an accurate accounting of your tax dollars and a summary of town functions, goals and accomplishments. It continues to be the top priority for the town to provide the taxpayers of Simsbury with the highest quality of services without adding to the tax burden.

Simsbury continues to be an excellent place to live, work and play. It is through the dedication and cooperation of Simsbury's elected officials, town staff, volunteers and the community as a whole that has made our town such a special place. Most recently, the town was ranked number one for families and schools in *Hartford Magazine's* 2013 list of the state's Top Towns, medium sized. *Money Magazine* also listed Simsbury on the "Best Places to Live" in 2013 for the third time since 2009.

Over the past year, the town has focused on proactive economic development initiatives, regional collaborations and creative efficiencies to deliver services while reducing costs. And those initiatives have started to pay dividends, bringing in more tax revenue to reduce the burden on Simsbury taxpayers. For the first time since 2010, the town has seen the grand list grow by

nearly 0.6 percent, bringing in close to \$500,000 in new revenues.

New businesses such as an emergency urgent care center, new downtown restaurants and new apartments and townhouses walkable to downtown are providing additional excitement to our town. The town's proactive efforts, such as the state's first form-based code zoning regulation and a town-wide marketing study, has resulted in the highest number of approved development applications in the town's history.

The town's unique partnership with The Hartford insurance company to redevelop the company's property for future use is providing stability and opportunity, as The Hartford has extended its commitment to the town for the next fiscal year.

Simsbury continues to be a leader in regional voluntary cooperative efforts in the Greater Hartford area. As chair of the Capitol Region Council of Governments (CRCOG), I am honored to serve with the chief elected officials of the 30-town Hartford region working to find ways to provide better efficiencies at reduced costs. Working together, CRCOG has been a leader in securing state grants to upgrade town technology initiatives and public safety coordination.

Town volunteers are the backbone to Simsbury's ability to deliver quality services. Services such as greeters to town hall visitors, gardeners who maintain the Old Drake Hill Flower Bridge, and helpers at Simsbury Public Library are all provided by the dedicated and committed volunteers from our community. There is no doubt that the tremendous commitment by the community makes Simsbury such a special place to live.

Town staff and officials will continue to promote economic development growth to bring in new tax dollars — such as a new grocery store and additional housing. As always, town officials continue to work with state officials to advocate for state funding for education and to reduce local mandates.

On behalf of the board of selectmen, I thank you for choosing Simsbury as your home. Our community offers an unmatched quality of life and we are honored to serve you and provide the very best for you and your family.

Sincerely,

Mary A. Glassman, First Selectman

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



Being leaders for the Simsbury Public Schools means working as part of a team with students, parents, teachers, and administrators. We feel we have one of the best teams in Connecticut, and 2012-2013 was a great example of the work we can accomplish together.

Simsbury's attractiveness as a community, ranked number one in the June 2012 issue of *Hartford Magazine*, is due in large part to the quality of the school system. Simsbury students come to school motivated to achieve at high levels. They have supportive families who value education. We have amazing, dedicated teachers who are highly skilled at guiding students toward their goals, whether those goals are academic, athletic, or artistic.

In 2012-2013, because of the support that our students receive from teachers, parents, and the community, they achieved third in percentage of students meeting goal on all tested areas of the Connecticut Academic Performance Test (CAPT); they participated in and passed more Advanced Placement Exams than ever before; students continued their record of solid performance on the SAT; and they performed well above like districts in our reference group on the Connecticut Mastery Test (CMT). Simsbury High School was the fifth highest ranked high school in the state, and Henry James Memorial School and Tariffville Elementary School were selected as "Schools of Distinction" by the state. We are proud of our high-achieving students and the fact that we provide a safe, nurturing environment in which they can learn. You can read much more about our collective and individual achievements in subsequent pages of this report.

School safety was an important issue for this year. In the wake of the Newtown tragedy, we made improvements to school security through work with town officials, the Simsbury Police Department,

and our crisis team. We responded to concerns in a proactive and timely manner, and the result is safer schools for Simsbury's children.

We also responded to enrollment concerns, making significant adjustments to our buildings to accommodate declining enrollment. The facilities and enrollment task force took a long-range look at facilities and teacher/administrator staffing needs, and within one year completed the work of dismantling outdated modular classrooms that were no longer needed.

Although we may have streamlined the physical space, we continue to grow programs that set our high school, in particular, apart. Student learning clusters offer enrichment and highly focused exploration in subjects like architecture, biomedical sciences, engineering, visual arts, music and performing arts, communication, and more. The engineering program, for example, has grown from 15 students in 2004-2005 to 193 students in 2012-2013. Simsbury Arts Academy (SAA) has grown from 63 students in 2008 to 200 students enrolled in classes this past year.

Technology was a prime area of focus this year. Partly due to a response to state mandates, we concentrated on providing ready access to technology, including purchasing Chromebooks. When we have multiple grade levels that need to be online at the same time for testing, these low-cost devices get our teachers and students on the Internet very quickly and reliably. Aside from meeting technology needs for state testing, we also have provided seamless integration of technology tools and digital resources into our curriculum to enhance teaching and learning.

Given the many improvements that we have shared here, it may surprise you that we were able to accomplish them without a large budget increase.

We controlled spending, and rest assured, we will continue to find ways to be responsible with our spending as enrollment declines.

This annual report finds us at the close of our cycle of board of education five-year goals, which drives decision-making along with our vision and core beliefs documents. As we begin the work of formulating new goals for our district, it is important to note that the cycle of continuous improvement is just that — continuous. It never ends. There is always more work to do and better ways of making that work meaningful for this community's students and their families.

As we look to 2013-2014, we wave goodbye to the CAPT and CMT standardized tests that we have been using to measure student progress for a great many years. The state's assessment landscape is changing, and the public report card evolving, with the goal of providing a more accurate picture of what Simsbury's students know and are able to do. It is a big challenge, but we will face it as we face all challenges in our district, with a collaborative spirit and dedication to maximizing financial and human resources to the best of our ability.

Thank you for all of your past and future support of our schools. For more information, please take a moment to browse the website at www.simsbury.k12.ct.us. If you have any questions or concerns, you can email us at LTedone@simsbury.k12.ct.us or MCurtis@simsbury.k12.ct.us. We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in green ink that reads "Lydia Tedone".

Lydia Tedone, Chairman, Board of Education

A handwritten signature in green ink that reads "Matthew T. Curtis".

Matthew T. Curtis, Superintendent



Town Elected Boards

Board of Selectmen

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

Board of Finance

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

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

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



Students at Latimer Lane Elementary School participated in a bike/walk to school day in the fall as part of a national effort to encourage healthy activity.

provides essential checks and balances that ensure the long-term financial stability of the town.

Simsbury's economy is showing signs of improvement from the "great recession" which witnessed higher than normal levels of unemployment, a depressed housing market, reduced investment income and little growth of the town's Grand List, all of which have challenged the board of finance since 2008. The finance board has adopted a conservative, low tax increase posture for several years. The budget, adopted in May 2013 resulted in an increase of about 1.3 percent and provides funds to maintain quality education and exceptional town services. Simsbury has restored its "rainy day" reserve fund balance to 12 percent, which in recent years has allowed the town to "weather" inclement storm events without major disruption. Moody's Investors Service Inc. continues to rate the town's debt at its highest bond rating: Aaa. Additionally, Simsbury has won awards for excellence in financial reporting.

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

Board of Education

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



Volunteers built Squadron Line Elementary School's new playground in the fall.

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

The board consists of eight elected members who meet twice a month at the education offices. Agendas and minutes of the meetings are posted on the board of education page of the district website www.simsbury.k12.ct.us.

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

Academic Excellence

- Under the state's new accountability system, Simsbury High School (SHS) was ranked fifth among state high schools based on an average of the past three years of Connecticut Academic Performance Test (CAPT) scores.
- 15 SHS students received National Merit recognition; three were National Merit semi-finalists.
- One SHS student was selected as a Connecticut Association of Schools Governors Scholar.



Central Elementary School celebrated Halloween in a unified, creative way, with faculty and staff dressed as "Super Teachers." Third grade teacher Kim Aeschlimann, who organized the event along with fourth grade teacher Porsche Gold and tutor Megan Scully, were inspired by the quote 'I teach, what's your superpower?'



Simsbury High School art teacher Dave Holzman, right, had members of the Simsbury Arts Academy mural class paint a Trojan Horse mascot during the summer. The horse sits in the lobby of SHS and the day's athletic events are posted on it.

- 164 SHS students were recognized as Simsbury Scholars; 18 SHS students were Simsbury Scholars for all four years.
- One SHS student qualified to take the American Invitational Mathematics Exam.

District Awards, Honors and Recognitions

- Tariffville Elementary and Henry James Memorial schools were identified as schools of distinction by the Connecticut State Department of Education, using Connecticut Mastery Test (CMT) scores from 2011 and 2012.
- SHS social studies department supervisor chosen as the 2013 state Outstanding American History Teacher of the Year by the Daughters of the American Revolution.
- Chinese teacher accepted into prestigious Asia Society Confucius Classrooms Teacher Institute in Los Angeles, CA, which is limited to 50 teachers nationwide.

Student Awards, Honors and Recognitions

- SHS architecture student won second place in house design in the Home Builders and Remodelers Association of Greater Hartford competition; a SHS student has placed in four out of the last five years in this competition.
- Henry James Memorial School's (HJMS) MATHCOUNTS team finished in the top 25 percent at the Hartford Chapter competition, with one subgroup of four students finishing second in the state and two students finishing in the top 16 out of the 176 state mathletes.
- SHS had four Cum Laude, 10 Magna Cum Laude, one Silver Maxima Cum Laude, and four Gold Summa Cum Laude students recognized for their scores in the National Latin Exam.

- SHS had eight poetry recitation winners at the state level in Chinese, French, Spanish and Latin at the Connecticut Council of Language Teachers (COLT) contest.
- SHS had 17 winners at the Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) State Conference.
- HJMS's SeaPerch team built an underwater remotely operated vehicle (ROV) and placed third in national competition in Indianapolis.
- Squadron Line Elementary School received an award from Central Connecticut State University for being the U.S. champion of the Kid Lit Quiz for the second consecutive year.

Visual Arts/Performing Arts Awards

- 10 HJMS artists were selected for the Connecticut Regional Scholastic Art Awards exhibition at the University of Hartford's Silpe Gallery.
- At the scholastic art awards program, four SHS students received Gold Key awards; one SHS student received a Silver Key award; and three SHS students received Honorable Mention.
- A SHS student won the Halo Award for "Best Performance by a Leading Actor in a Musical;" two SHS students shared the Halo Award for "Best Stage Management."
- Tariffville Elementary School's jazz band won first place in the "elementary jazz" division at Fantastic Festivals adjudication in May 2013.

Athletics Honors

- Three SHS wrestlers earned All-American honors.
- SHS athletes earned Central Connecticut Conference All-Conference honors 96 times and numerous All-State honors.
- Two students were awarded the National Football Foundation and College Football Hall of Fame

Connecticut Scholar Athlete award.

- In its first year as a varsity team, the SHS girls' rugby team won the State Championship.

Health and Wellness

- Central Elementary School organized a school-wide "All Children Exercise Simultaneously" activity as part of a national program called "Let's Move."
- Latimer Lane and Tootin' Hills elementary schools held bike/walk to school events that were well attended, with hundreds of students, parents, and teachers pitching in to promote physical activity.

Character

- During the annual Jack Bannan Memorial Turkey Trot for needy families in the area, SHS collected 471 lbs. of nonperishable food, \$649 in donations, and two turkeys. HJMS raised \$1,200 and collected approximately 500 nonperishable items from students. Central collected nearly 700 lbs. of nonperishables and more than \$1,000. Latimer Lane collected an additional six boxes of food on top of 30 boxes that had been collected two weeks earlier by the school's physical education teachers, who ran a food drive for the ING marathon. Squadron Line students and faculty donated more than 17 boxes of food and more than \$400. Tariffville collected 23 boxes of nonperishables, and Tootin' Hills filled nine boxes with nonperishable food items.
- A Latimer Lane fifth grade class sent patients at McLean Hospice program letters, poems and cards on a monthly basis; the students also baked cookies and made fleece baby blankets for patients in the intensive care unit at Connecticut Children's Medical Center.
- Tariffville school students raked lawns for



The Children's Academy of Simsbury preschoolers visit Brown's Harvest in Windsor.

Town Elected Boards

senior citizens in the neighborhood and planted vegetables at the Community Farm of Simsbury to help families in need.

Accomplishments and Goals

In 2012-2013, the school system made significant progress on board goals and continues to work to achieve these in 2013-2014.

Integrate and align content area curriculum and instruction with the higher-order, 21st Century essential thinking skills needed for success in learning, work and life.

- Through professional development sessions, teachers and administrators worked to align Simsbury K-12 curriculum with the Common Core State Standards (CCSS). In addition, training was provided to align classroom instruction with the standards in order for teachers to assist students to better master critical content from one grade to the next and to utilize the standards to engage K-12 students in solving real-world problems, which will improve their readiness for college and careers.
- Implemented full-day kindergarten program to meet the academic, social, and emotional needs of students.
- Throughout the course of the year, district administrators and teacher leaders met regularly to develop skill in facilitating strategic conversations around improving teacher practice.
- A committee of teachers, administrators and union representatives designed the new Simsbury Public Schools teacher professional growth and evaluation system throughout the school year. The plan was reviewed and adopted by the board of education, and the district received approval from the Connecticut State

Department of Education in May 2013.

- Teachers collaborated in professional learning communities, which focused on the careful analysis of district data in order to inform teacher instructional practice and goal setting in relation to student achievement.
- The town's Department of Continuing Education preschool program, the Children's Academy of Simsbury, implemented its first year of the creative curriculum, which is aligned with the Connecticut Preschool Curriculum Framework.

Ensure that every student is engaged in a rigorous and engaging learning experience that recognizes and challenges him/her to balance his/her academic progress with personal, physical, civic and social development.

- The board implemented the Simsbury Safe School Climate Plan, a comprehensive approach to proactively define expectations for creating, maintaining and improving upon positive school climates across the district and to address bullying within that context. Each of the district's seven schools created safe school climate committees, inclusive of faculty, staff and parents to identify areas of continued focus for each school environment.
- Simsbury's rank remains in the top five districts in its reference group (DRG B) in mathematics, reading and writing on the CAPT. Simsbury is within the top 10 percent of districts across the state relative to CAPT scores.
- Simsbury demonstrated strong levels of performance in grades 4-8 on the CMT. Focus on grade 3 literacy will continue throughout the district.
- K-3 students requiring intensive reading interventions received supplemental literacy instruction through the Simsbury Reading

Intervention Program. Highly trained teachers of reading serviced identified students daily, and held data conversations regarding student progress and effective instructional strategies with special education teachers, classroom teachers, principals, and language arts consultants.

- Classroom teachers participated in ongoing professional learning and curriculum development opportunities focused on the implementation of the Common Core State Standards.
- As part of a tier two intervention program for those students at SHS who demonstrate difficulty with positive social choices, the Trojan Code Committee established a menu of pilot programs, including a mentoring program, a check-in/check-out system, and a "Mindset" counseling group.

Attract and retain the highest quality staff by providing a vital, challenging, and consistently focused professional environment.

- One hundred percent of 32 teachers met or exceeded the state requirements of the Teacher Education and Mentoring induction program.
- Eighteen faculty and staff participated in a variety of recruitment fairs to ensure the hiring of the highest quality teaching staff.
- The second annual district-wide technology conference was held in March with a focus on transformative practices to engage students through technology. Forty-five teachers led the sessions ranging in topics from Google apps for education to iPad apps to the recent upgrade to Microsoft Office 2010.
- Teachers of English, social studies and science in grades 7-12 participated in several training sessions with Columbia University's Teachers College staff, utilizing the Common Core Anchor



Every week, a class at Tootin' Hills Elementary School assembles countless peanut butter and jelly sandwiches for the homeless as part of the ongoing initiative Project Outreach, for which Tootin' has been involved for 28 years.



Departments & Services

Standards to identify units across the disciplines in order to launch, reinforce and assess the standards. A curricular map was designed and will be utilized to guide instruction.

- Ongoing professional development was provided to teachers in grades K-12, focusing on content area literacy and instructional strategies necessary for students to meet the learning expectations defined by the Common Core State Standards.
- Teachers in grades 7-12 refined and implemented performance-based assessments (end-of-course assessments) for all core area classes, and implemented one quarterly benchmark assessment that aligns with the type of task expected on the end-of-course assessment.
- Professional conversations and exposure to the state assessment, called Smarter Balanced, was provided to teachers throughout the school year. During the spring, Simsbury students in grades 3-8 participated in practice Common Core State Standards aligned assessments, which allowed teachers to become better acquainted with the learning expectations and technology skills students need to be successful on the new state-designed assessment.
- All certified staff, as well as nurses, bus drivers and paraprofessionals, participated in professional development related to school climate and preventative bullying strategies.

Continuously improve the systems that promote effective communication among and between the administration, staff and community; and ensure that the deployment of resources efficiently supports the district's mission and priorities.

- In response to a multi-year study examining enrollment trends relative to effective building

use, a collaborative facilities and enrollment task force provided a series of recommendations for a three-year district modular removal plan. Implementation began in summer 2013 with the removal of modulars at Tootin' Hills.

- An innovation subcommittee of the technology advisory council was established to provide "in-house" research on the effectiveness of newer technologies and digital resources. Teachers on this committee engaged in innovative classroom practices with technology to improve student learning and ultimately their students' preparedness for college and career.
- The superintendent emailed a monthly letter to the community on topics such as Common Core State Standards, technology, school security, enrollment, and the school budget process.
- In the first phase of the district virtualization project, all classroom Smartboards connected to computers were virtualized, which improved reliability, speed, and 24/7 access to digital learning resources. Three presentations were provided to the board of education to review progress toward the goals outlined in the technology plan.
- The board adopted a volunteer policy recognizing the importance of volunteers within the school community, while requiring such individuals to adhere to a background check if volunteering in a context independent of faculty oversight. Nearly 1,000 checks were completed as of October 1, 2013.
- The Comprehensive School Climate Survey was administered to parents/guardians, students, and faculty members focused on grades 3, 6, 8, and 12. More than 2,000 respondents provided insight regarding the quality of school life, values, norms, and student/adult interactions across the

district. Results indicated significant strength in all five assessed domains with particular strength noted in safety rules/norms as well as social supports for students at school.

- The Simsbury Board of Education was recognized as exemplary by the Connecticut Association of Boards of Education and received its board of distinction award.

Administrative Services

Simsbury's Administrative Services Department recommends management policy to the first selectman and to the personnel subcommittee. Under the direction of the first selectman, who serves as the town's personnel director, the director and deputy director of administrative services administer and evaluate the staffing program for approximately 150 full-time and up to 50 regular part-time employees. In addition, the administrative services staff provides management support to the first selectman and board of selectmen in the administration of town operations.

Additional key administrative services functions include:

- Negotiating collective bargaining agreements
- Filling open staff positions
- Managing staff disciplinary issues
- Administering employee and retiree health benefits
- Managing workers compensation and general liability claims
- Administering town and police pension plans

The administrative services function continues to increase and improve the town's risk management initiative in order to reduce costs to the town.

Animal Control

Incident Statistics 2012 – 2013

Animal Complaints	1,131
Dog Licenses Issued	2,290
Animal Bites	3
Animal Related Arrests	3
Impounded Animals	36

The Top 10 Taxpayers on the October 1, 2011 Simsbury Grand List

Name	Nature of Business	Net Taxable Valuation
Hartford Life and Accident Ins. Company	Ins. Co. & Real Estate Holdings	\$45,005,603
E and A/I and I and G Commons LP	Shopping Center	\$32,375,000
Executive Risk Indemnity Inc.	Real Estate Holdings	\$19,986,020
Connecticut Light & Power	Public Utility	\$18,120,430
Simsbury Hopmeadow Street LLC	Real Estate Holdings	\$16,441,010
Woodgreen Simsbury LLC	Real Estate Holdings	\$10,372,640
Hoffman, Phyllis W Trustee	Real Estate Holdings	\$9,784,490
Simsbury Commons North E&A LLC	Supermarket Property	\$9,625,000
Hoffman Enterprises Limited Partnership	Real Estate Holdings	\$8,088,710
Harco Property Services Inc.	Real Estate Holdings	\$6,468,020
		\$176,266,923

Departments & Services

Working closely with the town's insurance provider, Connecticut Interlocal Risk Management Agency (CIRMA), the town has strengthened its employee safety committee, has increased employee training, and has identified specific training to prevent job-related injuries and corresponding workers compensation claims.

Animal Control Officer

Simsbury Animal Control is a service provided by the Simsbury Police Department. It is comprised of responding to domestic and non-domestic animal related needs, insuring animal related compliance with public health and safety concerns, quality of life issues and education.

The dedicated animal control officer (ACO) remains readily accessible to Simsbury residents and is frequently called upon to assist area towns with animal related issues, which promotes strong relationships with surrounding towns. In addition to the ongoing programs noted below, the ACO is always prepared to respond to emergencies that involve resident animals. The animal shelter that was set up after Storm Alfred and the Tropical Storm Irene illustrated this. The ACO is also licensed and certified by the state Department of Energy and Environmental Protection for nuisance wildlife control.

2012-2013 Accomplishments

Public Health and Safety

- Completed annual dog license survey to promote vaccination and licensing compliance
- Hosted annual rabies vaccination clinic to provide convenience and reduce fees
- Facilitated the adoption of pets

Public Awareness, Education and Community Outreach

- Educational presentations for the public at Eno Memorial Hall, to all residents via Simsbury Community Television (SCTV) and the department website, to civic organizations, residential care facilities and other groups in town
- Serves as an instructor at the police academy and for other law enforcement agencies
- Distribution of brochure on black bears
- "Living with Coyotes" presentation at the Simsbury Public Library
- Addition of links to the department website
- Advisor to the dog park committee
- Town's Top Dog Contest
- Participated the Fidelco Guide Dog Foundation's Share the Vision Fundraising Walk & Family Fun Day
- Dog Days of Summer at the Farmer's Market
- "Heroes and Hounds" Holiday Collection for Active Military Canine Handlers and their dogs

Service Development

- Extended information/specialized services to the patrol division to allow a more comprehensive departmental response to animal related needs within town
- Participation in Regional Animal Response Team exercise for emergency preparedness
- Completion of Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) courses and numerous professional development classes

2013-2104 Goals

- Continue annual participation in dog license survey and hosting of rabies vaccination clinic
- Provide broad based educational presentations

and information concerning wildlife safety as well as domestic animals, such as "Preventing Dog Bites," "Aggressive Dogs" and "Keeping Your Pets Safe"

- Host training for patrol officers and area animal control officers
- Enhance professional growth and service

Assessor's Office

The Simsbury Assessor's Office is responsible for discovering, listing, and valuing property and administering exemption and tax relief programs as required by applicable state and federal law or local ordinance. The list of October 1, 2012 was completed on January 31, 2013. The net taxable grand list as reported to the State of Connecticut on April 26, 2013 was \$2,234,667,295.

The 2012 revaluation project was completed. In the six months ending December 31, 2013, the personal property declarations were sent out and the list was substantially completed as was the motor vehicle list. Real estate transfers were completed. The assessor's records were updated for new construction status as of October 1, 2013 and some of the other building permit follow-up was also completed.

The supplemental motor vehicle list was completed in time for bills to be sent in mid-December. The due date of tax for those bills is January 1.

Quadrennial (recurring every four years) returns were received from those organizations that are organized for scientific, educational, literary or charitable reasons and whose property is used for those purposes. These are required in order to maintain tax-exempt status for their property.



Recreation programs were well attended, including many with a fitness theme.



Renovations at Simsbury Farms were completed.

Property tax appeals to the superior court were concluded for most of the cases filed on the 2012 revalued grand list assessments, including three that had not yet been presented to the board of selectmen as of December 31. These represent a majority of the property value under appeal.

Building Department

The Connecticut Building Code is a number of model codes including electric, fire, safety, mechanical, plumbing, energy and existing building codes, as well as a number of reference standards including those for accessibility. The building department enforces a tremendous amount of technical requirements in a way as to make them understandable and attainable by the people who need to follow them. The department does this through plan reviews, site inspections (that number in the thousands), responding to inquiries, providing information and, when needed, issuing compliance orders for code requirements.

The department coordinates its efforts with other offices and departments including zoning, wetlands, the fire marshal, historic, health, water pollution control, tax collector and the assessor, so that a permit to construct can be issued by the building official. The building department also interacts and supports the enforcement of the State Traffic Commission, the state Department of Transportation, the Department of Consumer Protection licensing, OSHA, and state and federal environmental protection regulations.

The process can be daunting, but the department's goal has been to make the permit process as simple and seamless as possible for each applicant while

protecting the public interest and assuring the safety of the town's built environment. In addition, the department supports the fire marshal in responding to fires, is the liaison with public utilities for service approvals and connections, and has the authority to condemn a building or structure.

2012-2013 Accomplishments

This was a busy year for plan review, permitting, and inspections, making 2012-2013 challenging but fruitful. Completed projects include: five buildings at Westminster School; a new dorm, generator and water project at Ethel Walker School; more than 70 units at Mill Pond Crossing; a 24-unit building at 144 Hopmeadow St.; 23 single-family homes; and more than 2,100 inspections. In addition, a new real estate law requiring disclosure of open permits on homes sold added work to the schedule.

The department was able to help many Simsbury residents, and soon to be residents, resolve open issues, and documented and addressed projects that were done without permits. The department created consistent procedures and worked with homeowners and realtors to make homes safe and saleable.

As chairman of the Connecticut Codes and Standards Committee, building official Henry M. Miga heard appeals to the state building, plumbing, mechanical, electrical, accessibility and fire codes, participated in the production and hearings for the 2009 and 2012 model codes for inclusion in the state codes and commented on the proposed State Fire Prevention Code. Time constraints forced him to defer responsibilities as director for several regional and state code associations and committees, but he is still available to those

organizations as needed, and almost entirely on his own time.

Administrative assistant Colleen Fenn has been working diligently to meet the administrative workload related to the high number of both inspections and the number of permits issued. The load is comparable to any busy year in the past decade, with one major difference: there is one full-time inspector, rather than two or three. The department recently added a part-time file clerk position. Fenn has made substantial contributions to fine tuning of the permit software. The department has concentrated on maintaining a high-level of customer service, but there have been occasions when inspection requests were scheduled at times other than desired. This has had some affect on private sector scheduling. The closeout of existing permits — that still number in the thousands — means officials are taking all open permits for the address being visiting for an inspection so they can be closed. The department is making progress, but it is slow due to the fact that plan review, permitting and inspection of current projects takes precedent.

2013-2014 Goals

The building department hopes to be able to maintain a high-level of customer service with limited inconvenience in scheduling and no reduction in primary services. Many new state and federal requirements and updated codes will be in effect this year with learning curves for contractors, design professionals and the department. Some of the new codes will require additional inspections and documentation. The department will begin limited record digitizing and storage, and continue



Updates were made during the fiscal year to Simsbury Farms.

Departments & Services

improvement to its permit software. The ability to accomplish these goals will be directly related to staffing levels and budget constraints. Miga hopes to continue his involvement in code development at the state and national level. Better, more usable and accessible codes, not just more regulation, must be diligently pursued.

Computer Department

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

2012-2013 Accomplishments

- Updated wired and wireless network infrastructure at Simsbury Farms Recreation Complex, which provides secure, efficient and reliable access to Internet services for the complex and its public visitors. Areas included are the Simsbury Farms Pro Shop, the main recreational building and grounds, and the Apple Barn.
- Successfully implemented virtual desktop infrastructure (VDI) to accommodate seasonal employees at Simsbury Culture, Parks and Recreation Center, which allowed for additional vendor and activity check-in stations while reducing hardware and software costs.
- Assisted the Simsbury Building Department

in the development and implementation of a new and improved cloud-based building permit application for Simsbury homeowners and contractors. The application is part of a regional initiative.

- Provided research, planning, and design for successful implementation of a new Simsbury Housing Authority network infrastructure, including wiring and equipment.

2013-2014 Goals

- Started a pilot program of a VDI environment for employees that will provide an efficient and reliable means of accessing virtual desktops and applications from local and remote locations.
- Participation in the State of Connecticut's Nutmeg\CEN Network project for Internet services, as well as future participation in regional initiatives as provided by municipalities.
- Continue the expansion of telecommunications, including telephony, among remote municipal locations, providing secure and cost effective network segments to support and enhance municipal services. Areas include: Eno Memorial, Water Pollution Control, the public works facility, and the Simsbury Public Library.
- Migration to a browser-based financial application that will provide enhanced features to financial processing and reporting.
- The development of Simsbury's website to the Drupal software platform while providing a scalable, low cost and high-value solution for website administration and content management.
- The design and deployment of mobile services for school resource officers within the educational district that provides officers with informational tools and resources.

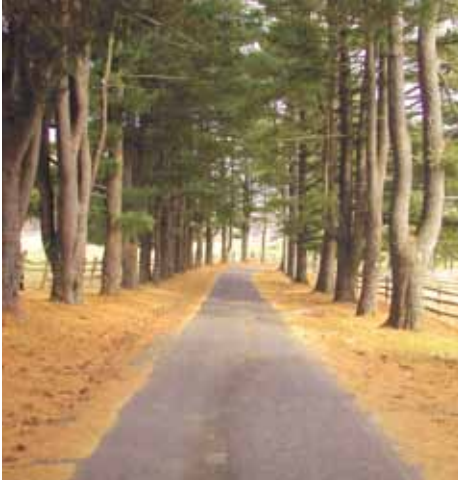
Culture, Parks and Recreation

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

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 Simsbury Farms Complex Committee, a sub-committee that advises on the operation and programming at the Simsbury Farms Recreation Complex, assists the commission.

2012-2013 Accomplishments

- Utilizing new golf course website and online tee time reservation system, increased user participation of both residents and non-residents at the Simsbury Farms Golf Course.
- Organized and administered the 12th annual Simsbury Celebrates event in November. The event drew more than 12,000 people for indoor and outdoor entertainment, a fire truck parade, and fireworks display.
- Completed field renovations at Memorial Park.
- Increased volume of programs, and built database of more than 7,000 households that participate in the online registration process.
- Maintained more than 400 acres of parklands, 40 athletic fields and facilities, including the Performing Arts Center and Farmington Valley Greenway.



During 2013, the town acquired 65 acres of open space, including a key parcel in the Ethel Walker School's open space program.

Capital Project Services

During the year, the Simsbury Engineering Department provided support for the following capital projects:

Project	Activity	Project Values (\$Millions)
Ethel Walker Open Space – Parcel B	Acquisition	2.05
Police Radio Console Replace	Construction	0.19
Emergency Generator Improvements	Design	0.24
Owens Brook/West Street Walks	Design/Construction	0.36
Wolcott Pump Station Rehab	Design/Bid	1.38
Eno Senior/Community Center	Design Study	0.003
Tunxis Pumping Station Rehab	Construction	0.67
Henry James Boilers	Construction	0.19
Simsbury Farms Main Building	Construction/Close-Out	2.80
Simsbury Farms Golf Improvements	Construction	0.23
Total Value:		\$8.11 Million

2013-2014 Goals

- Complete bunker renovations to the Simsbury Farms Golf Course.
- Restructure instructional and camp programs, giving users more scheduling flexibility.
- Continue to make Simsbury Farms the “Heart of a Great Community.”

Engineering/Capital Projects

The engineering department provides design and management services for community projects, and administrative and design support for capital projects. During the past year, the department worked closely with the board of selectmen, public building committee, Simsbury Public Schools and several town agencies in order to advance several projects to the bidding and construction phase. Challenges presented by Hurricane Sandy and a major February snowstorm were met, and major projects delivered on schedule.

Capital Projects

With the fresh memory of recent storms, Simsbury initiated important life safety improvements. The police radio console was replaced to incorporate the most reliable communications equipment in the dispatch center. Design studies began for improved back-up generator capabilities for the emergency operations center and the high school emergency shelter. A \$66,000 grant was received to assist in the installation of a generator for a shelter at Tariffville Elementary School.

As part of Simsbury's “complete streets” program, pedestrian and bicycle facilities were improved through construction of a sidewalk and pedestrian signal on West Street near Simsbury High School. The Connecticut Department of Transportation

contributed the \$20,000 for the pedestrian signal project. The deteriorated walk on Owens Brook Boulevard was reconstructed as a multi-use path, connecting the Greenway to Firetown Road.

Project Professional Services

The engineering department staff of design professionals provided survey, engineering, and contract management and inspection services for 22 projects, valued at \$1.3 million.

As mentioned, sidewalks were installed on West Street, and a multi-use path was constructed on parts of Owens Brook Boulevard. The path is slated to be completed all the way to Firetown Road in the following year. The department has also initiated design studies for extending the Greenway towards Tariffville.

Tariffville Green walks and lighting were completed to complement the Tariffville Village Association's gazebo and enhance the village area. This project was an excellent example of a cooperative community group/town partnership.

In co-operation with the Connecticut Natural Gas Co., new gas pipes were installed on Herman Drive, with planning initiated to install pipes on Town Forest Road to serve the public works campus and Tootin' Hills Elementary School. Conversion to natural gas will result in cost savings and less emissions.

Addressing the need for environmental quality, the department worked closely with the town's Water Pollution Control Authority to reconstruct the Tunxis and Wolcott pump stations with energy efficient controls and emergency generators. In response to neighborhood requests, plans were

developed for sewer extensions on Russell Lane, Seminary Road, and Buttonwood Lane.

These projects, which addressed residents' travel, environment and recreation needs, included the use of grants, assessments and donations. These efforts allowed Simsbury to realize important program savings.

Development Services

Development services is comprised of plan review, periodic observation of work, performance bond administration, and database management for the land use commissions. Twenty-three projects, with site improvements valued at \$12 million, were managed during the year.

These projects will add significant value to the town's Grand List and offer attractive business and residential facilities. The single-family homes of Croft Lane Village and the apartments in phase one of Hop Brook Village were completed. Reviews were completed for a number of projects including Carson Way in the Powder Forest, Eastpointe at Dorset Crossing, Big Y Supermarket, and special needs housing at Dorset Crossing. Mixed-use communities on Powder Forest Drive and Dorset Crossing are expected to be submitted next year.

Special Services

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

Hazard Mitigation Plan update: Engineering worked closely with the planning department, other town departments and the Capitol Region Council of Governments to develop Simsbury's

Simsbury Public Library

Performance Measures FY 2012-2013

	Simsbury	State Average
Items circulated per capita	19.5	9
Program attendance per capita	1.18	.5
Library visits per capita	10.8	6

Key Statistics 2009-2013

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Average number of items circulated per hour open	137.5	146.9	152.9	172.1	144.1
Average number of questions answered per hour open	15.6	16.7	17.6	19.2	18.1
Average number of public Internet computers used per hour open	24.3	39.5	36.5	37.8	36.1
Annual program attendance	24,640	25,049	36,466	34,556	27,934
Number of borrowers	12,161	12,636	14,597	14,149	13,380
Total annual service hours	3,341	3,138	3,138	2,775	3,256

Departments & Services

portion of the Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan update. This document assists the community to identify the risks of natural hazards, steps to eliminate or reduce risks, and potential grant funding opportunities.

Grant applications, with a value in excess of \$2.5 million, were administered for 12 projects. New applications included Ethel Walker School's parcel C open space, Tariffville Elementary School emergency shelter generator, and the Tariffville multi-use trail connection. The administrative process was completed, with receipt of funding for Ethel Walker parcel B open space (\$691,600), Greenway crossing of Hopmeadow Street (\$139,000), and the landfill closing (\$142,500).

Environmental testing, studies, and mapping services were provided to numerous town departments to assist in their presentations, data management, and community activities. A continuing commitment is the mapping of the town with the Geographic Information System (GIS), which has resulted in production of new assessor, police district, town street, zoning, and land-use maps. This system allows efficient updating of maps, along with the ability to retrieve underlying land use information. Data retrieval, along with the ability to compute land use changes and values, are essential features for the town's economic development initiatives. Thirty percent of the town's drainage system has been mapped with GIS, including infrastructure data, enabling the town to develop maintenance strategies and to respond to accidental spills. Ground and surface water tests were completed at several sites to assure regulatory standards compliance as required by the state Department of Energy and Environmental

Protection's clean water regulations. Databases and map files were maintained for subdivision and site developments, surety bonding, excavation permits, state aid road maps, and mileage records. State mileage records are an important component for various grant programs.

Looking Ahead

After serving Simsbury for 33 years, town engineer Richard Sawitzke retired in November 2013.

The town completed a successful search process, with the hiring of Jerome Shea to serve as town engineer, beginning in January 2014. Sawitzke and Shea will work together in early 2014 in order to assure a smooth transition of engineering projects and programs.

Department staff actively participates, on a regional basis, 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 Energy, and Environmental Protection's storm water management program. The department continues to realize greater efficiencies and savings from these regional and state alliances.

In 2014, the senior center/Eno Memorial subcommittee of the board of selectmen expects to make a recommendation for a facility to meet the facility and program needs that were identified in a comprehensive needs assessment study, and presented at several public meetings. Upon authorization to proceed, the department will provide support services to the public building committee for project design and bonding approval.

The engineering department will be carefully balancing the services provided to manage a challenging program of design and development projects in the upcoming year. Successful implementation of these services will play an important role in assuring project outcomes that will be attractive for the community, and add significant increases to the town's Grand List.

Finance Department

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

The finance department handles all the day-to-day fiscal operations of the town including accounts payable, payroll, assessment and collections, and is responsible for establishing policies and procedures to safeguard the town's assets. The finance office prepares the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report and has received the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting from the Government Finance Officers Association for the last 16 years. The finance director coordinates with the boards of selectmen and finance to issue debt in accordance with town policy.

Simsbury Public Library

The Simsbury Public Library continues to be a vital resource, prominent destination and first stop for any needed community information in the town. On any given day you'll find people of all ages taking advantage of the comfortable spaces, engaging programs, technology resources and learning opportunities, and connecting with others. Residents are also actively participating in the library remotely through the many various web-based offerings 24/7, 365 days a year.



Throughout the year the Simsbury Public Library hosts many events and activities such as baking.



The Simsbury Public Library offers public Internet access.



Young library patrons visiting with some soft bunnies.

Library Director Susan Bullock retired after 17 years of service during which time she made sizable contributions to the library that will benefit the community for many years to come, most exceptionally the expansion to the building. Lisa Karim began as library director in mid-July.

Thanks goes to the staff for furthering the library's vision of helping residents make smoother transitions in an ever-changing world during this year of transition in library leadership. Thanks also goes to library users for their kind words and support, which make the staff's job a pleasure. The library has been able to provide a high level of service to the community thanks to commitment of the Friends of the Library, the Library Board of Trustees and more than 150 volunteers.

2012-2013 Accomplishments Personnel

- Jenna Mayotte was hired as the new business resource center coordinator.
- Library Director Susan Bullock retired after 17 years of service and Lisa Karim was hired as the new library director.
- Head of Adult Services James Miller resigned and Susan Ray was hired to replace him.
- Part-time Reference Librarian Joan Nagy filled the full-time reference librarian position previously held by Susan Ray.

Services

- Began offering notary public service, four notaries are currently on staff.
- Through a series of community forums and grassroots engagement, established Innovators' Workshop, as an inaugural step into providing programs of the Maker Movement.

- Joined a partnership with Simsbury Historical Society, Main Street Partnership and the Town of Simsbury in a town-wide Innovation Initiative to promote Simsbury as a place of innovation, both past, present and future, as a means of economic development.
- Increased the library's visibility through a variety of social media.

Collections

- Added Zinio, more than 50 always-available magazine titles for downloading to computers or personal devices.
- Added Playaway Book Packs – easy to use MP3 players preloaded with children's books included in a kit with the print version for read-a-long.
- Expanded the eBook collection to better meet the demand by users of all ages.

Programs and Events

- Second annual Take Your Child to the Library Day, a collaborative effort with the Simsbury Junior Woman's Club, brought more than 500 people to the library on February 2.
- Town-wide Halloween celebration brought more than 600 people through the library on the evening of October 30.
- Sweet Holiday Morning Hands-On Baking Program held at Simsbury High School led by Chef Thomas Sentino and his culinary arts students.
- Expanded the number and variety of programs offered during the day.

Building and Grounds

- Replaced the building's original air conditioning unit with a more efficient, cost effective model.

Collaboration

- Simsbury High School Culinary Arts Department, SCORE, Hopmeadow Nursery School, Miss Lisa's Montessori School, Simsbury Historical Society, Simsbury Junior Woman's Club, Simsbury Senior Center, Septemberfest, town-wide Halloween celebration, Simsbury Celebrates, MakeHartford

Honors

- "Library Journal" 2013 Index of Public Library Use: Simsbury library rated third highest in its category behind Darien and New Canaan, moving up a step from ranking fourth in 2012. Simsbury out-ranked libraries in West Hartford, Farmington, Fairfield, Glastonbury and Avon.
- In the capital region, Simsbury had the highest per capita number of visits, circulation and program attendance for fiscal year 2013.

2013-2014 Goals

- Through attrition of staff, hire a teen services librarian. Reimagine teen services. Repurpose teen spaces. With the addition of a teen librarian, achieve a 5 percent increase in teen activities and teen library use.
- Transition to Innovative Interfaces Inc.'s integrated library system, Sierra, which offers more efficient workflow for staff, and a greater level of service to patrons through the Encore catalog interface.
- Expand upon the Innovators' Workshop MakerSpace project through engagement of the community in the Maker Movement. As a community leader, collaborate on the town-wide Innovation Initiative to further Simsbury's recognition as a place of innovation.
- Rollout a redesigned, dynamic website which

Simsbury Police Department Incident Statistics

	'08-'09	'09-'10	'10-'11	'11-'12	'12-'13
Part I Crimes	214	221	136	188	189
Motor Vehicle Accidents	724	661	723	625	510
Medical Calls	1,216	1,300	1,370	1,444	1,430
Motor Vehicle Enforcement	5,242	4,740	4,394	3,940	3,167
Alarm Responses	866	837	840	879	810
Total Incidents	28,055	28,139	29,890	33,311	36,171

Departments & Services

is more user friendly and better promotes the library's services and resources, especially those available remotely 24/7.

- Engage in strategic marketing and outreach promoting library programs and services to the community. Achieve a 3 percent increase in library usage.
- Evaluate and pursue the use of volunteers in expanded capacities in order to reduce costs.

Planning & Land Use Department

During the fiscal year 2012-2013, the town's Department of Community Planning and Development continued supporting the planning commission, zoning commission, conservation and inland wetlands commission, economic development commission, zoning board of appeals, design review board, and historic district commission. In this role, the department's staff meets with applicants, evaluates development applications, and advises these boards and commissions as they review them. The staff provides guidance on a wide variety of matters, including: land use policy issues, plans, and applicable regulations and ordinances.

Major projects that have come through the office in 2012-2013 include: Dorset Crossing Specialty Housing, Big Y Foods, new student residences at Ethel Walker School, a five-lot subdivision on Hildurcrest Drive, changes to the zoning regulations regarding accessory dwelling units, and the implementation of the workforce housing overlay zone.

During the 2012-2013 fiscal year, the zoning commission continued revising and reorganizing the

zoning regulations to better serve the community. In addition, the planning commission revised the subdivision regulations. The new Simsbury Town Center Design Guidelines were completed in October 2012 and added to the existing guidelines for community design.

Staff also has spent a significant amount of time keeping up with zoning and wetland violations. Blight complaints from neighbors have continued to increase, due to the record number of foreclosures in process at this time.

Department staff continues meeting with applicants and potential applicants to advise and assist them with the process and procedures for their contemplated projects. In addition, the department staff counsels all other town departments, as well as town residents and the general public. The review and processing of all land use applications by the staff provides the coordination necessary for the efficient administering of all land use applications. This will continue in the future, as the department strives 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 nationally accredited through the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies Inc. (CALEA), and is a State of Connecticut Accredited agency providing law enforcement and public safety services to Simsbury residents 24 hours a day, seven days a week, including operation of the E-911 Public Safety Answering Point. The department employs 36 sworn officers, 10 full-time and two part-time civilian

employees. The department provides a full range of services with 35 first responders and two Emergency Medical Technicians. During fiscal year 2012-2013 there were 36,171 calls for service with an average response time of approximately three minutes for medical calls. Highly qualified and extensively trained personnel staff the department. Department personnel received 3,901 hours of training during 2013.

In 2013 the Simsbury Police Department continued working towards its goal to achieve continued National Accreditation in 2014 through CALEA. This process will conclude in April 2014 with an onsite review of policies and procedures by assessors from CALEA. Successful retention of National Accreditation status will allow the Simsbury Police Department to remain within an elite group of police agencies in the state that offer the most current and professional law enforcement to the communities they serve. The department has already achieved State Accreditation Certification and in the future will continuously work towards remaining accredited at both the state and national levels.

The officers and civilian members of the department are proud of their work and the relationships that they have established with the community, and look forward to continuing and expanding these positive associations by providing not only routine police services on a daily basis, but also with programs like the Citizens Police Academy and alumni programs, Junior Police Academy, senior picnic, Skate-and-Share, Explorer Program, ride-a-long program, Special Olympics, Tip-a-Cop, and Salvation Army Holiday Store Stuff-a-Cruiser. One of the most important child safety programs continues to be the child car seat inspection,



Children attend the Junior Police Academy with members of the Simsbury Police Department in July 2013.



The Simsbury Police Department responded to 36,171 calls for service during fiscal year 2012-2013, with an average response time of approximately three minutes for medical calls.

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

2012-2013 Accomplishments

The department is very proud that in fiscal year 2012-2013 it received two 2012 Traffic Safety Law Enforcement Challenge Awards: Best Overall in the Occupant Protection Safety Program and third place in the Municipal 3 Category. The Law Enforcement Challenge is difficult to win and these awards represent a great deal of work and dedication.

The police department partnered with Simsbury High School students to hold the high school's first toy drive and stuff-a-cruiser event. All of the toys that were collected were donated to the Hartford Salvation Army for final distribution to needy children in the Hartford area.

The department applied for and received a grant totaling \$8,730 to support the second year of the "Bowling with Badges" youth program, which the department will continue to pursue in fiscal year 2013-2014. This program promotes positive interaction between youths and police officers in a casual, relaxed setting.

A bridge dedication and naming ceremony was held on December 7, 2013, Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day. The Rte. 185 bridge in Simsbury was named the "Bataan Corregidor Memorial Bridge" to commemorate the Battles of Bataan and Corregidor and the tragedy of POW slave labor camps. The police department provided traffic assistance and personal support to all attendees, many of which were elderly.

First Selectman Mary Glassman was re-elected for a third consecutive term and the department's Honor Guard participated in the swearing-in ceremony.

The department's Animal Control Officer continues to grow the Heroes and Hounds program, which sends holiday care packages to active military and their canine partners serving overseas. More than 350 packages were sent out in December 2013, a significant increase over previous years.

With the continuation of a dedicated traffic officer, the town is able to readily respond to citizen's concerns regarding motor vehicle speeding. Simsbury continues to see decreases in motor vehicle speeding in town and will begin focusing on areas with greater numbers of traffic related motor vehicle accidents.

Other highlights include:

- Participation in a one day Disaster Emergency Preparedness Drill
- Simsbury Citizen's Alert program maintained
- Everbridge Emergency Notification System maintained
- Response training specific to situations involving individuals with mental health issues
- School Crisis Scenario Training — all officers

- Blue Plan/Emergency Operations Training
- Completed training requirements for a new public safety dispatcher
- Maintained department's Emergency Medical Dispatch (EMD) certification
- Participated in Regional Incident Dispatch Team
- Criminal investigation training
- All hazards training
- Accident reconstruction training
- Career development initiatives
- Crime tips and information is continually updated on the police department website
- Maintenance of a permanent drug disposal site housed in the lobby of the police department
- Community services and traffic enforcement officers regularly appeared on SCTV education segment
- Chief Peter Ingvertsen served as a judge for a public service announcement (PSA) competition where the PSAs were created by teams from area high schools, the serious subject matters of the PSAs were bullying and distracted driving
- Held 12th annual Junior Police Academy
- Held 13th annual Simsbury Citizens' Police Academy
- "Stuff-A-Cruiser" — toy collection for Salvation Army
- Participated in "Wreaths Across America"
- Continued to support established Simsbury Police Explorer Program
- Participated in the first "Farmington Valley Bike to Work Day" event
- Continued increased effort in bike patrols
- Participated in the "walk/bike to school" and the annual bike rodeo
- The department supported the "Officer Phil Program" which was presented in both public and private elementary schools



Department members marched in the Memorial Day Parade in 2013.



Children attending the Junior Police Academy in July 2013 receive a hands-on tour of a police vehicle.

Departments & Services

- Educational safety classes were taught in school (stranger danger)
- In an effort to address residents' concerns — increased selective enforcement focusing on traffic issues, traffic studies, and traffic calming solutions
- Participated in the 70th anniversary remembrance of the Bataan Death March
- Participated in State of Connecticut seat belt educational/enforcement waves
- Participated in multiple sclerosis "MS Walk for the Cure"
- Co-sponsored the 15th annual "Skate and Share" Christmas party with the social services and recreation departments for the Simsbury Food Closet
- Sponsored senior picnic with more than 200 seniors in attendance
- Participation in 2013 Foodshare program (Turkey Trot)
- Served as a mentor for the Henry James Memorial School "Lunch and Learn" program sponsored by the Simsbury Chamber of Commerce
- Bowling with Badges Officer/Youth program closed out with a Greenway "Clean Up" day
- Halloween safety presentation
- Assist and organize 14th annual David Vidal Road Race for St. Jude's
- Offered certified child car seat inspections
- Held 12th annual Top Dog contest in cooperation with town clerk's office
- Senior citizens/community groups informational talks and presentations
- Advocacy for elderly program
- Updated Nexgen software (information management system)
- Acquired new police portable radios for all sworn officers
- Automated external defibrillator (AED) training

for all officers

- Effective police interactions with youth – patrol officer
- Violence in schools training
- Participated in the 18th annual Government, Criminal Justice & Non-Profit Career Fair at Westfield State University
- Multiple college/university criminal justice internship programs
- Participated in the new "Senior Showcase" at Eno Memorial Hall

2013-2014 Goals

- Enhance promotion of public safety values, commitments and initiatives through engaging and interacting with public and private sectors
- Continued expansion of the department's community oriented policing/problem-solving initiatives
- To achieve the department's first re-accreditation through CALEA (Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies)
- Increase service through training relating to communications, mental health and special needs
- Enhance communication opportunities with the public
- Optimize emergency preparedness

Probate Court

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

The mission of the Simsbury Regional Probate Court is to assist individuals and families residing in the

district who require the services of the court in an efficient and compassionate manner. The probate court strives to ease the process as much as possible knowing that during stressful times it is difficult to cope with the unknown.

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

Jurisdiction of the Court

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

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



Members of the public works department.

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

New Developments

The Connecticut Probate Assembly revised the Probate Practice Book, which means that the users of the probate court will find there have been some procedural changes and new forms. The new Probate Court Rules of Procedure went into effect July 1, 2013. A complete copy of the Probate Court Rules of Procedure and a list of the new probate court forms can be found at www.ctprobate.gov.

2012-2013 Workload of Court

During the past year, 143 applications were accepted for probating decedent's estates. In addition, 159 small estate affidavits and tax purposes only estates were filed. The court also processed 26 applications for conservatorships, and several applications for guardianships of the estate and person of minors, guardianships of the intellectually disabled, termination of parental rights, approval of adoptions, name changes and inter vivos trust matters.

Court Contact Information

The probate court is located at the Simsbury Town Hall, 933 Hopmeadow Street, and is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Information is also available online at www.jud.ct.gov, click on "probate." Many of the forms used by the probate courts are now available through the website.

Public Works Department

The Simsbury Public Works Department is comprised of five divisions: administrative, highway, building and grounds, landfill and recycling, and the Water Pollution Control Authority (WPCA). The department has a combined staff of 28 and has a \$3.4 million combined operating budget. The administrative division has responsibility for budget preparation, administration, operational planning, contracting, purchasing, and personnel.

Highway Department

The highway department maintains 165 miles of town accepted roadways including 3,850 catch basins, the storm drainage system, roadside mowing, sign and guide-rail maintenance, and care for trees within the town's roadway right of way. The highway department also performs fleet maintenance for all vehicles and heavy equipment utilized by the public works department, as well as the engineering, building, and police departments. Some fleet maintenance has also been performed for the board of education in an attempt to help control costs for that department.

The highway department has been working to continue to improve the quality of the town's roadways. This past year, the department was able to pave 8.15 miles of road. In addition, this year the department purchased an asphalt recycler that allows staff to make small batches of hot asphalt year round. This material is used for patching, curbing and pothole repair.

Drainage crews rebuilt 165 catch basin structures and replaced 1,800 linear feet of drainage pipe to provide adequate roadway drainage. Most of this

work was in conjunction with the paving program to assure that the structures below the newly paved road will not fail, requiring excavation of the newly paved roadway.

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

As part of the state Department of Energy and Environmental Protection's (DEEP) small municipal, storm sewer system program, 200 catch basins and 10 sediment chambers were cleaned, along with the sweeping of all streets.

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

Landfill and Recycling Center

The Simsbury landfill at 66 Wolcott Road was closed in 1998, and an application has been approved by the state DEEP 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 an area for residents to pickup leaf compost and woodchips has been added to the facility. This addition to the services at the facility will benefit residents at no cost.

The town hosted a Household Hazardous Waste Collection in conjunction with Avon, Granby



Voter Registration Summary

Town of Simsbury - January 15, 2014

Democratic:	4,789
Republican:	5,174
Unaffiliated:	6,021
Other:	87
TOTAL:	16,071

Departments & Services

and Canton. A combined total of 522 residents participated with 274 residents from Simsbury. The town's costs were greatly reduced from when it participated in the MDC collection. Simsbury's residents continue to show a willingness to dispose of their household wastes responsibly.

This past year, Simsbury instituted new recycling ordinances that will increase recycling rates and rebates, and lower trash collection costs for residents.

Building Maintenance Department

Building maintenance is responsible for four town buildings (town hall, the library, Eno Memorial Hall, and Scout Hall), six rental properties, a service facility, a commuter bus shelter, and the Old Tariffville Cemetery.

The department is proud to report that the town's low-income rental housing units are again at full capacity this year. The units have been continuously updated, which allows the town to provide opportunities for affordable housing.

Eno Memorial Hall has again seen renovation work this year: exterior railings were replaced and in the old court room, display cases were added for Veterans of Foreign Wars, the American Legion and all military branches.

At town hall, renovations also continued this year with stair treads being installed on all interior stairs, the exterior stair surface was redone, and windows on the north side were painted and reglazed.

Registrars of Voters

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

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

Some 395 residents were enrolled as new voters in 2013, including more than 60 Simsbury High School students who were enrolled during a special session held in May at the school.

In 2013, the registrars of voters administered the May budget referendum and the November municipal election.

Simsbury participated in an expanded pilot program to test live online election night reporting for the November municipal election. The program is part of the Connecticut Secretary of the State's initiative to improve voting efficiency.

Following the municipal election, the registrars supervised a hand count audit of ballots cast at Tootin' Hills Elementary School. Pursuant to Public Act 07-194, mandatory post-election hand count audits are to be conducted by Registrars of Voters in 10 percent of the voting districts randomly selected to participate. The primary purpose of the hand count audit is to assess how well the optical scan

voting machines functioned in an actual election and to ensure that votes cast using these machines are counted properly and accurately.

The registrars continue to work with the government and elections administration committee of the Connecticut General Assembly to reduce statute-driven mandates, including the reduction in number of polling places used for primaries, streamlining the audit process, and use of electronic poll books. Should these initiatives pass, it would result in cost savings for all 169 towns in Connecticut.

The Simsbury registrars are lead advocates for the proposal to reduce the number of polling locations for primaries, which was considered during the 2009 and 2010 legislative sessions, and ultimately passed both houses of the legislature in 2012 as An Act Concerning Polling Places for Primaries. The Governor subsequently vetoed the measure. The registrars continue to advocate for this legislation as a bipartisan measure in hopes that the act will be passed and signed into law by the Governor.

During the 2014-2015 budget year, Simsbury voters will cast ballots in gubernatorial and congressional primaries, the 2014 state election and the 2015 budget referendum. The projections for 2014-2015 therefore include costs for the annual canvass of registered voters, gubernatorial and congressional primaries, the state election, a potential ballot audit, and the 2015 budget referendum.

Social Services Department

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



The police department and the senior center host the annual senior picnic, which is held at the Simsbury Farms ice rink.

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

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

The department provides vital services to the town's senior population through its senior outreach program, provides transportation to seniors and persons with disabilities five days per week through the Dial-A-Ride Program, and operates an active and diverse senior center for residents over 50 years of age.

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

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

The department's work continues to be generously supported by donations of time, money, food, gifts, and other products from various civic organizations, businesses, churches, schools, families, and individuals. A special thank you to Fitzgerald's Foods, Panera Bread, Brookside Bagels, Simsbury Market, Starbucks and Kentucky Fried Chicken for their weekly donations, and to Stop & Shop for their generous financial and food donations throughout the year.

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

Senior Center

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

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

A variety of educational and informational programs are offered, including a writing group, 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, ceramics, drumming circles, and jewelry

making. 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 seven times a year sponsored by the aging and disability commission. The senior center offers noon time dining twice a week. These popular meals provide guests with nutritious seasonal menus and an opportunity to socialize with peers.

Several computer/technology classes provide older adults the opportunity to stay connected in the increasingly computer-based and wireless society. The senior center continues to partner with the Simsbury Public Schools, St. Mary's School, and Westminster to offer opportunities that link students with older adults to help dispel inaccurate stereotypes, increase cooperation, and encourage interaction between generations.

The center offers a wide variety of local trips to theaters, museums, shopping centers, sporting events, restaurants, concerts, and area special events. The center provides assistance and support with income tax, health insurance, mature driver safety and bereavement issues.

The center, located in Eno Memorial Hall, 754 Hopmeadow Street, is open year round, Monday, 8:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Tuesday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. For further information, call 860-658-3273 or click on www.simsbury-ct.gov/senior-center.

The Simsbury Senior Center welcomes all members of the diverse and growing older adult population (age 50 and over), their families and friends.



2012 Grand List Mill Rate

Town	37.29
Fire District	1.22
Total	38.51

Total dollar amount to be collected for town taxes, fire district and sewer use fees: **\$88,743,044.**

Town Clerk Statistics for Fiscal Year 2012-2013

Military Discharges	27
Trade Names	83
Birth Certificates	167
Death Certificates	195
Marriage Licenses	306
Dog Licenses	2,269
Land Record Pages	25,300
Total Revenues*	\$751,244

* The Town of Simsbury forwarded 29% of these revenues to various state agencies in accordance with the General Statutes of Connecticut.

Departments & Services

Dial-A-Ride Program

For the past 33 years, the Simsbury Social Services Department has provided transportation to Simsbury's seniors and persons with disabilities. Buses run daily, Monday through Friday, and provide door-to-door transportation around Simsbury for such things as shopping, hair appointments, visiting the senior center, library visits and attending local events. Further, the program provides transportation to medical appointments in Simsbury, Avon and Granby; and shopping trips to Simsbury Commons as well as stores along Route 44. Additionally, the program provides rides to several persons with disabilities to their places of employment. During the 2012-2013 fiscal year, 9,768 passengers requested 9,032 trips and traveled 50,342 miles.

During 2012-2013 the social services department received a state Department of Transportation grant to provide additional Dial-A-Ride service. With these funds, enhanced Dial-A-Ride provided 238 out-of-town medical trips and 27 senior center trips; 11 joint trips with the Canton Senior Center. A total of 644 passengers utilized the enhanced service, and traveled 2,059 miles. The program has developed a local transportation resource list for residents to use. Anyone unable to afford the cost of medical transportation may apply to the social services department for assistance.

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

Dial-A-Ride also has Vets-Helping-Vets, a volunteer program, which matches Simsbury veterans and provides transportation to the veterans' affairs complex in Newington. Special thanks to the many veterans who have volunteered for this program. Calling 860-693-6876 between 8 a.m. and noon at least 24 hours in advance can make reservations.

Senior Outreach Program

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

In addition, the friendly visitor component matches community volunteers with the homebound to make weekly visits to offer socialization, comfort and friendship. Successful matches have been made throughout the year resulting in 21 volunteers who made 654 visits. The department will continue to strive to better serve residents with the continued assistance from the town's wonderful

and committed volunteers who help to make department programs so successful.

Tax Department

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

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

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

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

2012-2013 Accomplishments

Online bill payments have increased. In fiscal year 2011 there were 852 payments online, and in fiscal year 2012 there were 4,746 payments.

Town Clerk

The Simsbury Town Clerk's Office receives and maintains extensive records concerning real estate



(clockwise from bottom right): Syra was named "most handsome" in the Top Dog contest. Bixby was named the "biggest" Top Dog. Pumpkin was named "smallest" Top Dog. Rex was named the "cutest" Top Dog.

Water Pollution Control

Parameter	Influent	Effluent	
		Permit Limit	1/1/13 to 12/31/13
ADF, mgd	—	3.8	1.90
CBOD, mg/L	185	25	3
TSS, mg/L	257	30	4
TN, lb/day	612	112	46
TP, lb/day	77	47	18

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

transactions; births, deaths, and marriages; elections, primaries and referenda; meeting minutes for town boards and commissions; military discharges; hunting and fishing sport licenses; dog licenses; liquor licenses; notaries public; justices of the peace; trade name certificates; and other historical documents that date back to the 17th century. State statutes, the town charter, and local ordinances govern the implementation of duties for this office.

At the May 14, 2013, referendum, 7.4 percent of electors voted; and a majority approved the fiscal year 2013-2014 operating budgets totaling \$96,114,419. At the November 6, 2012, state election, 83.6 percent of Simsbury electors voted. On November 5, 2013, 39.8 percent of Simsbury voters turned out for the municipal election.

Extensive preservation work was completed to clean, restore, and rebind certificates of deaths and marriages for the years 1914 to 1923. An upgrade of the land record computer system was completed, providing online access to indices from July 1976 to the present. Another project to scan more than 180,000 pages of land records, makes available images from August 1987 to the present.

In cooperation with Chief of Police Peter Ingvertsen, Animal Control Officer Mark Rudewicz, and the Simsbury Police Department, the office conducted its 12th Top Dog contest during May 2013. The four happy winners received doggie treats, and their owners received a 2013 dog license at no charge.

Water Pollution Control

Simsbury Water Pollution Control (WPC) is a customer-funded utility owned and operated by the Town of

Simsbury. The towns of Avon and Granby are also co-owners of the treatment facility. SWPC is responsible for the operation and maintenance of over 80 miles of collection system, five pumping stations and the treatment facility. A superintendent, an assistant superintendent, five operators, two maintainers, an administrative secretary, and an engineering technician staff the department. During the summer, seasonal staff is used primarily for easement maintenance.

The treatment facility is designed to provide biological nitrogen removal. During the reporting interval the discharge limits were achieved, with insignificant exceptions. Generally dry conditions during the reporting period resulted in lower average daily flows and slightly elevated pollutant concentrations. During the reporting period, wastewater treatment for a population equivalent of 16,251 was provided. In addition to clean water, the other end result of treatment is sludge. An average of 45 dry tons of dewatered sludge per month was transported to the Metropolitan District Commission's Hartford facility for incineration.

The Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) developed a phosphorus limit for wastewater treatment facilities that discharge to receiving streams with impoundments (Rainbow Reservoir) or impaired water quality. Simsbury WPC received a total phosphorus limit with the renewal of its National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit in 2013. The new permit total maximum daily load for phosphorus is 2.5 mg/l or 46.95 lbs. per day. Staff has modified the operation of the biological process and the proposed phosphorus limit is being achieved with current flows.

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

2012-2013 Accomplishments

- Received \$11,751 for sale of nitrogen credits
- A new operator and superintendent were hired to fill vacancies
- Sewer easement maintenance was continued
- Completed several sewer allocation analyses for proposed development in the sewer service area
- Purchased Kubota tractor for sewer easement maintenance
- Tours were provided to Simsbury school groups

2013-2014 Goals

- Complete flow assessment of north interceptor for planned improvements
- Complete the construction phase of the Tunxis Pump Station replacement project
- Complete rehabilitation of the Wolcott Pumping Station
- Establish collection system cleaning and video inspection program to prioritize system maintenance and repairs
- Design, permit and obtain funding to stabilize the Farmington River stream bank in the Hazelmeadow area
- Enhance and expand safety training efforts

Tours of the Water Pollution Control Facility can be scheduled by calling 860-658-3258. Public information presentations are also available to groups. Information on connections, permits, or sewer line locations can be obtained by visiting the facility on Drake Hill Road or calling 860-658-1380.

Boards & Commissions

Aging and Disability Commission

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

2012-2013 Accomplishments

- The commission worked in concert with the Regan Development Corporation with regard to the development of 48 units of housing for persons with disabilities. The housing will be located at Dorsett Crossing on Hopmeadow Street.
- At the request of the commission, the board of selectman designated the month of July as Handicapped Awareness Month.
- The commission worked in concert with the Senior Job Bank to once again reestablish a presence in Simsbury.
- The commission, through the efforts of the chairman of the public relations subcommittee, began running regular press releases on its programs and activities.
- The commission continued to consult with the registrars of voters to discuss ways of making the polling stations in town more accessible.
- Members of the commission continued to provide consultation to the town with regard to the construction of a new senior center or renovation of the existing center at Eno Memorial Hall.
- The principal of Simsbury High School reappointed a senior student to act as liaison to the commission.
- The board of selectman appointed a veterans affairs liaison to the commission.
- The commission's Picnic in the Park event, which is a community event for persons with disabilities their friends and families, was held in August at St. Catherine of Siena Church in West Simsbury. Approximately 90 individuals attended.
- The commission presented their Citizen Service Award to Lucille Bowman at a board of selectman meeting in June of 2012.

- The commission increased their sponsored Souper Tuesday luncheons to seven times a year at the senior center. The luncheon consists of a special soup, sandwich and dessert and is rounded out by local entertainment. Approximately 700 seniors attended the Souper Tuesday luncheons.
- The commission received \$1,500 from the social services department to provide additional Souper Tuesday luncheons, and to offset the costs of the Picnic in the Park event.
- Members of the commission participated on the senior outreach committee along with the Simsbury Board of Education and Simsbury Social Services Department. The senior outreach program provides opportunities for seniors to participate in school activities free of charge.
- The commission provided consultation and support to the coordinator of the Simsbury Senior Center.
- The commission, in an effort to keep abreast of current happenings in the field of seniors and persons with disabilities, had as its guest several community speakers who are acknowledged as experts in their field.

The aging and disability commission would like to thank the following community organizations for their financial support of Souper Tuesday and Picnic in the Park:

- Simsbury Lions Club
- Simsbury Granby Rotary Club
- First Church of Christ
- Civitan Club of Simsbury
- Simsbury United Methodist Church
- Simsbury Woman's Club

2013-2014 Goals

- Work in concert with the Town of Simsbury to develop and implement a plan for the renovation of Eno Memorial Hall or to develop and implement a plan for a new senior center.
- Advocate for affordable housing for seniors and persons with disabilities.
- Continue to ensure that all town buildings and properties are accessible to persons with disabilities and seniors.
- Investigate accessible transportation options for seniors and persons with disabilities.

- Advocate for senior tax relief while informing seniors of existing programs.
- Work in concert with the town's emergency management team to investigate and implement programs which will ensure the safety and security of seniors and persons with disabilities.
- Work in concert with the Simsbury Public Schools for the purpose of providing senior outreach programs.
- Recognize community members who make positive contributions to the town's seniors and persons with disabilities, as well as recognizing businesses that do the same.
- Work in concert with the registrars of voters to ensure polling places are accessible to persons with disabilities and seniors.
- Serve as a resource to Simsbury businesses on issues that impact seniors and individuals with disabilities as it relates to purchasing goods and services.
- Work with state and local officials to advocate for legislation related to seniors and individuals with disabilities.

Beautification Commission

More than 60 Simsbury Beautification Committee (SBC) volunteers plant and maintain gardens in nearly 70 public spaces throughout the town, including Simsbury Town Hall, Schultz Park, the Simsbury Farms recreation center and golf course, the Simsbury Public Library, various traffic islands and triangles, and numerous planters at key locations.

In 2012-2013, two additional gardens were added by the brownstone welcome columns at the Simsbury/Bloomfield town line on Route 185 and the Simsbury/Avon town line on Route 10. The town funds these projects.



Planter maintained by the beautification commission



Simsbury Farms



Schultz Park gazebo

In September 2012, volunteers donated perennials from their own gardens for the committee's second annual plant swap at Schultz Park.

Every spring volunteers plant a variety of annuals, perennials, and shrubs in their chosen locations and maintain them until late autumn. During the hot and dry months, these volunteers are often seen lugging gallon jugs of water to their sites. In the fall, members who have adopted planters replace summer annuals with autumn blooming plants and, in November, with winter greenery.

SBC continues to recruit volunteers of all ages to assist in its projects and to replace members who can no longer participate. Further information on the organization can be found at www.simsbury-ct.gov/beautification.

Board of Assessment Appeals

The Simsbury Board of Assessment Appeals is an elected board of three individuals that hears appeals of property tax valuations. The board meets twice a year to hear homeowner, other real estate, and personal property and automobile appeals in March (or April); and in September holds a hearing on automobiles only. The board works closely with the town assessor's office.

The members of the board were Scott Sirianni, Sharon Lawson and Stephen Nocera, who served as chairman.

In September 2012, the board heard 34 automobile appeals. During the March 2013 meetings, following the 2012 revaluation, the board heard 42 homeowner appeals, 12 appeals from commercial property holders, one industrial property appeal, two apartment property appeals, and eight automobile appeals. The board heard 32 motor vehicle appeals on the 2012 grand list during its September 2013 meeting.

Building Code Board of Appeals

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

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

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

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

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

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

Clean Energy Task Force

The Simsbury Clean Energy Task Force (CETF), created by the board of selectmen in 2008, is charged with overseeing the town's commitment to new, sustainable, green initiatives and clean, alternate energy sources. The task force is currently comprised of five members: Patrick Boeshans, Susan Van Kleef, James A. Ray, Bob Beinstein and Melissa Valentin. One vacancy exists and a prospective new member has been nominated to the selectman for approval in 2014. The CETF has also maintained an association with the Simsbury High School Environmental Club and the school's engineering department in supporting their energy related projects. Additionally, other volunteers have been involved in helping CETF for specific tasks. Simsbury Director of Public Works Tom Roy has continued to be liaison with the town along with a representative of the board of selectman, Michael Paine.

In 2010, the CETF created and implemented the first in a series of clean energy initiatives funded through a generous donation from Aquarion Water Company designed to underwrite future sustainable initiatives. In 2011 and 2012, Aquarion's grant funded initiatives in the areas of education, local business, and community sustainability. In 2013, due to vacancies in the membership of the task force and travel schedules of some of its members, additional funded activities were not pursued, but are now planned for implementation in 2014.

Boards & Commissions

2012-2013 Accomplishments

Green Business Challenge

The Green Business Challenge (GBC) rating system, originally designed in 2010 and completed for future implementation, provides standards for environmentally sustainable Simsbury business operations and services. The state revised its criteria for communities to add key elements of energy conservation in addition to the original clean energy initiative. As such, CETF has been revising its criteria to incorporate this element plus other sustainability elements. With the determination that the actual implementation would take considerable effort from CETF members, this initiative was deferred in 2013 until a new implementation plan was done. This plan is still evolving, but it has been agreed that CETF will use summer intern(s) as a means to provide the personal contacts with Simsbury businesses in its implementation. The implementation plan will be finalized in early 2014 along with recruitment of intern(s) to allow initiation in the summer of 2014.

Clean Energy Options Program

The CETF continued to support the state's Clean Energy Communities Program providing the opportunity for Simsbury residents to choose to bring clean, renewable energy into the power grid. Electrical power is generated in New England through natural gas, nuclear power, oil, coal and other sources. Through the clean energy program, residents can instead choose wind, solar or small hydroelectric power through several energy products available in a partnership with local utility providers. The minimal associated costs and significant personal carbon reductions are benefits of this program, in addition to the state's municipal reward program, which provides participating municipalities with photovoltaic solar installations on public buildings.

The CETF participated in local events, with the most successful one being Septemberfest. With coordination from Simsbury High School and a task force volunteer, the high school engineering department's electric cars and a Tesla electric car were displayed. The CETF booth was adjacent to one of the state's approved energy audit contractors, and Simsbury solar firm C-Tec Solar

also had a nearby booth. CETF was able to get clean energy option and home energy audit sign-ups and provide information for electric cars and solar at one event.

A joint effort with public works Tom Roy to put together a Simsbury Energy Plan, and coordination to get the board of selectman and the board of education to endorse the state's new Clean Energy Communities Municipal Pledge is underway. With the pledge, based on the task force's success in getting prior clean energy options sign-ups and home energy audits, Simsbury will receive a 7kW solar photovoltaic installation and additional grant funds. It is intended to use the solar installation for educational purposes and initial efforts with the Simsbury High School and the Simsbury Community Farm have been done for the planned installations. Additionally, to highlight solar usage, the task force arranged for a donation of solar powered lighting for Simsbury's bicycle sculpture, and plans to apply for the Solarize Connecticut program in 2014.

Conservation/Inland Wetlands Commission

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

The commission also acts as the town's Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Agency (IWWA) under CGS Sec. 22a-36 thru 22a-42, and administers state and local regulations regarding the use and protection of designated wetlands and watercourses. Members are expected to complete a three-part training course offered by the state Department of Energy and Environmental

Protection and encouraged to attend the Connecticut Bar Association's Land Use Legal Seminar held every two years.

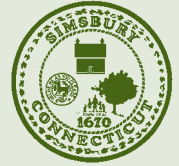
In its role as the inland wetlands and watercourses agency, the commission reviewed and revised its regulations, bringing them up-to-date with state law and model regulations. Conservation commissions have been described as "the conservation consciousness of the community." In that capacity, the commission took a leading role in focusing public attention on the threat to the Farmington River posed by a scheme to pipe its water to another watershed in service of development there. The commission also publicly raised yet unresolved questions about the regulation of flows in the river. The commission also continued to advocate for low impact development features, in order to protect water quality in the town's inland water resources, through permitting processes and in town planning and design standards, such as those that were proposed this past year for the reuse and redevelopment of The Hartford property.

During the 2012-2013 fiscal year, the Commission received 29 applications. Of these applications, 27 were approved by the commission, two were withdrawn, and one cease and desist order was issued.

Design Review Board

The Simsbury Design Review Board (DRB) serves as an advisory body to the planning and zoning commissions on site planning, building design and signage. The DRB is responsible for reviewing land use applications and making detailed 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.

In addition to its regular function in the town-wide land use process, the DRB will play a primary role in all Simsbury Center applications subject to the form-based code currently considered for adoption by the zoning commission.

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

Economic Development Commission

The Simsbury Economic Development Commission (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 Connecticut General Statute Section 7-136. Its mission is to advise the town 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 commission'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.

2012-2013 Accomplishments

- Monthly meetings of the EDC have been held. Discussion of various issues relating to

commercial development, revaluation process, film activities, tourism activities, its website, along with informal developer presentations on various projects.

- Worked closely with Simsbury Main Street Partnership (SMSP) during 2013 on its activities, including:
 - Financial support for SMSP, whose mission is to support local businesses using print media, website, marketing and surveys, and providing business services to the Talcott Mountain musical events at Simsbury Meadows.
 - At least monthly meetings with SMSP staff to discuss progress and issues.
- Financial support for the Farmington Valley Visitors Association, which supports businesses and related tourist industry in the eight-town valley area with an annual brochure, mailings, website, activity packages, and Simsbury's visitor's bureau.
- Supported and participated in the first phase of the marketing study by Fairweather Consulting.
- Supported and participated in the discussion and development of the new zoning code around the Hartford Insurance Group's Simsbury campus.
- Supported and participated in the development of the town's Village District zoning codes.
- Supported and participated in the dissemination of information regarding the State of Connecticut's Enterprise Fund and C-PACE (Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy) loan and grant programs that were authorized by the state legislature.
- Supported and participated in the dissemination of information about the Connecticut Small Business Development Center.
- Supported and discussed the urgent need to upgrade and maintain the websites for the EDC, Simsbury tourism and Simsbury Main Street Partnership.
- Supported the need to develop the Simsbury Meadows area as a cultural, recreational and educational destination.
- Supported and encouraged Simsbury as a bike-friendly community and maintenance of the "rails to trails" bike path through town as part of the East Coast Greenway.

Board of Ethics

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

In fiscal year 2012-2013, the board of ethics held two administrative meetings to introduce vote on officers and discuss revising complaint procedures. There were no complaints submitted during the year. The board did provide two advisory opinions on the request of town officials.

Fair Rent Commission

Simsbury's Fair Rent Commission was established pursuant to state statute and Chapter 15 of the town's 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 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 commission's goal is to retain and encourage the development of reasonable diversity in Simsbury's rental housing.

Fire District

Simsbury is fortunate to have a group of dedicated fire volunteers who devote untold hours toward specialized training to protect its citizens. These efforts result in one of the best-protected communities in the state. In addition, the regular department membership and the cadet program are at strong levels.

In the past year, the fire company responded to

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646 call outs. It has been a remarkable year of volunteer service by the entire Simsbury Volunteer Fire Company (SVFC) family: regular members, officers that lead the department, and members of the Simsbury Volunteer Fire Company Ladies Auxiliary.

The commitment and work of the paid employees is much appreciated. The Simsbury 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 activity of the fire marshal's office with public fire education has helped the community better understand fire department operations.

2012-2013 Accomplishments

- The Simsbury Fire District operated within budget. The district met both its operating and capital requirements without resorting to borrowing.
- Last year's mill rate was 1.22 mills. The increase was the result of revaluation that resulted in a decrease in the grand list. The district's actual expense increase was 1.6 percent.
- Vice president James Fleming retired from the district after 29 years of service, 16 as a firefighter and 13 as a district officer. The department thanks him for his service and commitment.
- The district solicited bids and awarded contracts for the replacement of engines 5 and 6; both will be 25 years old at the time of replacement in 2014.
- The district also has a new maintenance utility vehicle.
- The heating system upgrade at the Bushy Hill Station was completed, meaning increased comfort and energy efficiency.
- A new hydraulic lift, capable of lifting 91,000 pounds (increased from 75,000 pounds), was installed in the maintenance building (behind the Main Station).
- A blizzard in February 2013 that dropped three feet of snow left roads impassable to autos; crews were stationed in the fire stations to ensure the department's timely response capabilities.

- Simsbury maintained its status as a member of the Capital Region Hazmat Team as well as the Capital Region Emergency Response Plan.
- The fire district has been pursuing a low power FM broadcasting license to enhance communications, particularly during emergencies, with residents.
- The fire district hosted the annual Lt. Richard Kelleher awards dinner at which the 2013 service awards were presented to the department's volunteers. (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 11 firefighter service awards were presented representing 175 cumulative years (and 41,146 callouts) of volunteer service for the honored recipients. Further, six ladies auxiliary service awards were also presented representing an additional 45 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.
- Additionally, three former district members were named to emeritus status for their long service on the board. They were: Daniel Coppinger (15 years of service), Kathleen Hayes (tax collector for 22 years), and Thomas Moore (treasurer for 17 years).

Firefighter Service Awards

Chief's Award – Kenneth Myers
Carl Banks Engineer Award – Chris Hwang
Lea Hutchinson Service Award – Brian Everest

5-Year

No. 483 Susan Colman – 1,798 calls
No. 484 Mark Zenick – 1,784 calls
No. 489 Christopher Burkett – 1,387 calls
No. 491 Anson Brown – 1,471 calls

10-Year

No. 442 Michael McDonald – 1,938 calls
No. 448 Bryan Bulger – 1,849 calls

25-Year

No. 155 Kenneth Beliveau – 5,502 calls
No. 296 Randall Chesaneck – 7,407 calls
No. 300 James Vangunten – 5,878 calls

30-Year

No. 249 Walter Banzhaf – 5,286 calls
No. 251 Michael Jepeal – 6,846 calls

Ladies' Auxiliary Service Awards:

5-Year

Danielle Civitillo, Jessica Storm, Carol Tuller and Meredith Taylor

10-Year

Jackie Battos

15-Year

Donna Anderson

2013-2014 Goals

- Continued enhancements to community outreach and communications, including the department website which citizens are encouraged to explore at www.simsburyfd.org.
- Expanding educational opportunities for the Junior Firefighter program.
- Continued community outreach through programs sponsored by the fire district, fire company and ladies auxiliary.
- 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 East Weatogue Historic District Commission is responsible for perpetuating, preserving and retaining the historic features of Simsbury and promoting the educational, cultural, economic, and general welfare of the public through the preservation and protection of the distinctive characteristics of buildings and places located within the district.

2012-2013 Accomplishments

Fiscal year 2012-2013 was a year in which the commission heard and approved seven applications for Certificates of Appropriateness. The applications consisted of:

- Construction of a porch
- Approval of a fence (existing)
- Approval of a chicken coop (existing)
- Approval of a skateboard ramp (existing)



- Construction of a dining room addition
- Reconstruction of a front porch
- Installation of two replacement windows

The commission received a grant from the State Historic Preservation Office with funds from the Community Investment Act, and completed an historic and architectural resources inventory for West Simsbury and the Wolcott Road area. The information produced by this inventory will be added to the town assessor's database so it will be readily available to the public once the town's GIS (geographic information system) goes online.

The historic district commission created "A Property Owner's Guide to the East Weatogue Historic District" which will be distributed to anyone purchasing a home within the district. This publication outlines the "Certificate of Appropriateness" process and offers tips on how to apply.

At the close of the fiscal year two members of the commission resigned. The town's nominating committees are currently interviewing candidates to fill those positions.

The commission continues its efforts to be a resource to the residents of Simsbury to help answer any questions regarding historic building renovations.

Housing Authority

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

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

employs five full-time, permanent staff and five part-time workers.

The housing authority receives no funding from the town, however, there is a mutually cooperative working relationship between the town and the authority. Revenues are derived from rents, subsidy from the state Department of Economic and Community Development and grants and donations from individuals, commercial, private and civic organizations.

Dr. Owen L. Murphy Apartments

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

Virginia Connolly Residence

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

An assisted living program is available for residents who require assistance beyond the basic congregate program. The services are provided through the state Department of Social Services Home Care Program for Elders and are designed to help elderly residents age in place.

2012-2013 Accomplishments

- The housing authority participated with the outreach efforts of the town to coordinate activities between the Simsbury School System and authority residents. Residents attended several theater performances and sports events, free of charge, at the high school and middle school.
- The housing authority became a Simsbury Chamber of Commerce "Friend of the Chamber".
- A Boy Scout completed construction of a storage shed at the Virginia Connolly Residence for his Eagle Scout Project.
- Representatives from On-Site Insight, a real estate advisory company, completed a capital needs assessment for both the Virginia Connolly Residence and Dr. Owen Murphy Apartments. The Connecticut Housing Finance Authority (CHFA) funded the survey.
- Two grants were received from CHFA. One was for spot paving the roadway and the other was for the purchase of five benches for outside the Virginia Connolly Residence.
- In an effort to provide marketing material to the community, the housing authority had a booth at Septemberfest, Simsbury-Granby Rotary Club River Run and a volunteer fair held at Eno Memorial Hall.
- As part of the authority's ongoing community outreach, students from the Master's School in West Simsbury, Henry James Memorial School, Westminster School and the Global Experience Magnet School in Bloomfield assisted staff with spring and fall cleanup, as well as visiting with residents at the Virginia Connolly Residence.
- The authority held a Veterans Recognition Day for residents who were veterans of World War II and Vietnam. Representatives from the VFW and Town of Simsbury attended.

2013-2104 Goals

- The authority will continue to develop a long-term strategy for maintaining and expanding both properties in order to be competitive in the housing market.
- The authority will continue to be active with the trade organization Connecticut National Association Of Housing and Redevelopment Officials (CONN NAHRO) to keep abreast of

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current and future business trends.

- The authority will continue to upgrade overall marketing strategy including advertising, brochures, news articles, local public television, its website, etc. A new Facebook page was established this year as well.
- The authority will actively participate in supporting current legislative matters related to public housing, assisted living concerns and most importantly, funding for rental assistance, congregate subsidy and resident services.

Human Relations Commission

The Simsbury Human Relations Commission is an advisory group whose goal is to eliminate discrimination based upon race, color, religion, age, sex, disability, sexual orientation, or national ancestry. The commission seeks to foster mutual respect and understanding, offers community-wide education and awareness, and encourages equality of treatment. It seeks compliance with federal, state, and other governmental laws and regulations, and assists public and private agencies in the implementation of those goals.

Juvenile Review Board

The Simsbury Juvenile Review Board was established in 1982 by the Simsbury Police Department to provide an alternative and early means of identifying and assisting Simsbury youths, age 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 the child understands that the community will hold her/him accountable 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 board are not again involved with the police.

In fiscal year 2012-2013, the board met with seven Simsbury youths and their families. A total of 160 community service hours were assigned and performed.

Library Board of Trustees

Connecticut State Statutes and the Simsbury Town Charter establish the nine-member, popularly elected, Simsbury Public Library Board of Trustees. The management of the library is vested in the board of trustees. Trustees serve six-year terms. The library board of trustees appoints a qualified library director, in accordance with town personnel procedures, to serve as the executive and administrative officer of the library on behalf of the trustees and under its review and direction. The board of trustees is responsible for establishing a philosophy of library service, setting policies to implement this philosophy, accepting gifts and donations on behalf of the library, and expending all money appropriated for the Simsbury Public Library.

2012-2013 Accomplishments

- Conducted a national search for and hired the new library director.
- Expanded hours for full services at the library to 64 hours per week. Expanded schedule reflected patron input from questionnaires.
- Approved the site for a Veteran's Memorial at the entrance to the library on Hopmeadow Street.
- Approved a multi-year holiday closing plan.
- Expanded parking for the library by clearing and paving an area of Scout Hall grounds, constructing a paved walkway from Scout Hall to the library and authorizing a Boy Scout Eagle Project to clear and improve the pathway between Scout Hall and the library. Added an additional handicap parking space on lower level.
- Authorized and supervised the addition of interior lighting.
- Revised and approved the library program room use policy and fee schedule.
- Conducted citizen surveys regarding library hours of operation and citizen willingness to pay for restoration of hours.
- Wrote and approved new job description for the library director. Approved new job descriptions for library technical assistant, library technician and business resource center coordinator.
- Reaffirmed its policy that programs at the library are free and open to all.
- Studied e-book pricing for libraries and advocated with state legislators for equal

treatment in pricing and availability between libraries and consumers.

- Researched and studied the Do-It-Yourself and Maker Movement in libraries and recommended implementation of one in the Simsbury Public Library. It is called the Innovator's Workshop.
- Accepted the gifts of a mural in the children's room, a wall clock and a donation for young adult books to commemorate Westminster School's 125th anniversary.
- Secured funding for and replaced the central air conditioner unit.
- Approved the Food for Fines program to support the annual Jack Bannon Turkey Trot.
- Attended the state-wide leadership conference for library board of trustees.

2013-2014 Goals

- Secure budget approval to reestablish the teen librarian/reference librarian position.
- Expand the Innovator's Workshop, including a 3-D printer.

Open Space Committee

Simsbury's Open Space Committee is chaired by the First Selectman, and was established by Town Charter Section 716 to assist and advise the board of selectmen in identifying land suitable for acquisition or preservation. The committee is composed of: the First Selectman; the chairmen of the planning, zoning, and conservation commissions; and 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.

During 2013, the town acquired 65 acres of open space, including a key parcel in the Ethel Walker School's open space program. The final 42-acre parcel, scheduled for purchase in 2014, will complete the 431-acre Ethel Walker Open Space Program. The Ethel Walker property is a cornerstone of over 1,400 contiguous acres of open space, recreation and agricultural land, with connectivity to an additional 5,200 acres of open space. These combined properties are among the largest open space areas in Connecticut.

- The town is responsible for 2,907 acres of open space and park/recreation land. In addition, the



town has certain enforcement responsibilities for 92 acres of acquired conservation easement and development rights land.

Growth since the 2007 town Plan of Conservation and Development

Year	Open Space (acres)	Conservation/Development Rights (acres)
2007	2,659	62
2007-2014 (bought)	232	0
2007-2014 (dedicated)	16	30
TOTAL	2,907	92

- Total open space, park/recreation and conservation/development rights properties, owned by the town, state and private entities (Simsbury Land Trust, McLean Game Refuge, Metropolitan District Commission and owner's associations) total 7,057 acres, which is 32.2 percent of the town's total land area.
- The town's ownership and responsibilities for property classified as open space, park/recreation, and conservation/development rights account for coverage of nearly 45 percent of all properties in those land use categories in Simsbury.

Performing Arts Center Board

The Simsbury Meadows Performing Arts Center Board (SMPAC Board) was established by resolution of the board of selectmen in May of 2008. The goal of the SMPAC was to transition toward management of the facility by a new 501(c)(3) board, which was created as part of a long-term plan for the facility. That goal was realized when the Simsbury Performing Arts Center, Inc. signed a contract with the town to manage the facility, starting January 1, 2014.

In the previous fiscal year, SMPAC commissioned a study of the facility and a market research project that included comparatives, demographics, interviews with businesses and individuals, which resulted in a six-year business plan. That report was accepted during this past year, and the selectmen asked the SMPAC Board to organize the transfer of the management of the center from the town to the non-profit. In January 2013, Simsbury PAC,

Inc. recruited a board of directors and began discussions with the town on the "orderly" transfer of the center's management to the Simsbury PAC, Inc. Those discussions culminated in the operating agreement between the town and the Simsbury PAC, Inc. in December 2013.

During that transition period, the Simsbury PAC Board managed the concert season presenting five Talcott Mountain Music Festival concerts, and two major concerts promoted by Premier Concerts and Bushnell Management. The first was an exciting concert by Harry Connick Jr. The second was a well-received concert by Emmylou Harris and Rodney Crowell. Other events at the center included: the Jim Calhoun Cancer Challenge Ride and Walk, the Amica Iron Horse Half Marathon, 10K & 5K, and the Fidelco Guide Dog Foundation's Share the Vision Fundraising Walk & Family Fun Day.



The Performing Arts Center at Simsbury Meadows is the summer home of the Hartford Symphony Orchestra, as well as hosting a variety of events and performances throughout the year.

Planning Commission

Simsbury's Planning Commission is an elected body composed of six regular members and three alternates. In accordance with the Connecticut General Statutes, the commission prepares, adopts, and amends the town's Plan of Conservation and Development at least every 10 years. It also makes findings and sends recommendations to the zoning commission and the board of selectmen under CGS 8-24 regarding 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, 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 8-3.

During this fiscal year, the commission approved three referrals to the board of selectmen under CGS 8-24, including the application of the Simsbury Land Trust to purchase Pharos Farm, the restroom facility at Memorial Park Little League field, and Capital Improvement Projects. The commission also approved six applications during this fiscal year, including five subdivision/re-subdivisions and one extension of a previously-approved re-subdivision. The planning commission continues to play a key role in commenting on development applications.

Police Commission

By Connecticut State Statute and Simsbury Town Charter provisions, the Simsbury Police Commission has the requirement of general management and supervision of the Simsbury Police Department (through the auspices of the Chief of Police). In pursuit of that requirement, the commission reviews citizen matters involving the police department and submission of an 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.

2012-2013 Accomplishments

- Supported National Accreditation activities

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- 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

2013-2014 Goals

- Support national and state re-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

Simsbury's Public Building Committee, which is made up of nine appointed members, generally meets at least once a month throughout the year to oversee the design and construction of all major school projects. The board of selectmen also assigned major addition and/or renovation projects of town-owned buildings to the committee for oversight. The town Engineer/Director of Capital Projects and the Simsbury Public School's Business Manager provide staff support.

2012-2013 Accomplishments

- Completed a needs assessment study to determine the space and program requirements for a senior/community center at Eno Memorial Hall, and at other alternative sites. The study involved an outreach program in order to gain an extensive understanding of users' and staff thoughts and opinions, as well as visits to facilities in neighboring communities. The final report, which was completed in 2013,

included a program narrative, schematic plans and cost estimates. In late 2013/early 2014, a recommendation will be made to the board of selectmen for a potential site and program.

- Completed construction closeout for Simsbury Farms' main building renovation and addition, which includes full accessibility and energy efficient heating and lighting. Construction of the \$2.84 million improvements were completed in phases so that the ice rink rooms were available for the 2011/12 winter season, and the pool facilities for the 2012 summer season.

2013-2104 Goals

- Upon direction from the board of selectmen, the public building committee will complete design development plans for a senior/community center.
- Upon approval, the committee will develop plans with Simsbury Public Schools for modifications at Henry James Memorial School, to include enhanced building access security.

Recycling Committee

Simsbury Recycling Committee's mission is to educate and disseminate information to the public regarding the State of Connecticut and the Town of Simsbury's expanding goals to reduce, reuse and recycle material resources within the community. In recent years and for 2014, that goal has been lifted to 58 percent of potentially recyclable materials, a high level requiring much greater town, community and contractor effort. The recycling committee will increase its effort to meet recycling goals set for Simsbury.

2012-2013 Accomplishments

- The committee managed the Swap Shoppe at the transfer station for 30 Saturdays and reports that the year 2013 saw 844 items adopted, total visitors of 802 (an average of 27 visitors per Saturday) and over 150 hours of volunteer time expended in achieving these results. The committee will continue to oversee the on-site management of the Swap Shoppe with the help of the Civitan Club of Simsbury and the Farmington Valley, and community volunteers.
- The committee's magazine swap kiosk, created in 2010 in the coffee bar/hospitality area at the library, continued to see a growing clientele

for periodicals donated by the library and by patrons for free taking by other residents.

The committee will continue to oversee and monitor the magazine swap kiosk in 2014.

- The committee annually attempts to recognize outstanding recycling efforts within the community and in 2013 the annual recycling award was presented to town engineer Richard Sawitzke.

2013-2104 Goals

- The committee is undertaking a major project in 2014 to enlist residents in meeting or surpassing the goal of recycling 58 percent of eligible disposable materials, as required by the new Solid Waste Management Plan adopted by the State of Connecticut. To accomplish this in Simsbury, two town-wide mailings will highlight the benefits of increased recycling, introduce state requirements and goals, explain changes required locally and the financial benefits derived by the town (\$10 per ton for recycled materials), and encourage full community participation. Additional efforts will include expanding recycling coverage in the media, collaborating with town schools, using street banners and public recycling bins to promote recycling and holding a recycling fair.
- Further improve the recycling committee's website.
- Encourage and recognize recycling efforts within the school system and encourage interested students from Simsbury High School to liaison with the recycling committee.

Tourism Committee

For nearly two decades, the Simsbury Tourism Committee's mission has been "to help efforts to enhance the vitality and broadening of the economic base of Simsbury through the development and promotion of tourism." In 2013, the committee received confirmation from consultant Peter Fairweather of the importance of that work when his marketing action study cited tourism/recreation/culture as target growth industries for the town because of the many "raw materials" already here.

In a 2013 Simsbury Community Television (SCTV) interview with the tourism committee co-chair,



Fairweather observed that other towns would “give their eye teeth” to have things that residents of Simsbury take for granted; such as recreational opportunities, great schools, and a beautiful town center. He said residents of Simsbury are the best ambassadors for the town and should tell friends, relatives and acquaintances about Simsbury. To this end, the Simsbury Tourism Committee has focused its main efforts on educating residents about the great things the town has to offer.

2012-2013 Accomplishments

- Started a Facebook page on which local activities are promoted. The site posted items on the Flower Bridge, Performing Arts Center events at Simsbury Meadows, offerings of the Theatre Guild, the Simsbury Light Opera Company, the Simsbury Free Library, the Simsbury Public Library, the beautification committee, the Simsbury Historical Society, the Simsbury Grange, local farms, the Simsbury Fly-in & Car Show, Simsbury Celebrates, the Simsbury Land Trust, Septemberfest, the Community Farm, Martin Luther King Jr. events, Tariffville’s Whitewater Triple Crown and many others.
- Brought the governor to visit Simsbury as part of his 2013 Summer Tourism Tour.
- Arranged for Simsbury High School students to appear at Connecticut’s Old State House for a Connecticut Freedom Trail panel to promote their Martin Luther King Jr. project.
- Interviewed on the “Travel with Kal” radio show who wrote: “I wish more Connecticut towns and cities would have people like you promoting their communities. Simsbury is lucky to have volunteers like you promoting tourism to and within Simsbury.”
- With former selectman John Hampton organized and hosted the 2013 Volunteer Expo April 25 at Eno Memorial Hall.
- Began working with real estate professionals who work in Simsbury to promote the tourism Facebook page as a way for people who are moving here to learn more about Simsbury.
- Worked on the redesign of the travel and tourism section of the town website to better present Simsbury’s tourism assets.
- Members continue to take turns responding to calls to the visitor line 860-658-4000, which

is now an answering machine at town hall, including a call from a woman in North Carolina who wanted copies of the tourism coloring book. Having grown up in Simsbury and moved away, she wanted to give them to her nieces and nephews to tell them about her old home.

- Redesigned the brochure about the farms in town, and continued to distribute all the other tourism brochures including the cell phone tour brochure, and post cards at sites around town such as town hall, the library, the Simsbury Inn, Linden House, and Green Acres bed and breakfast.
- Began producing a show on SCTV called the Simsbury View, which highlights town events and tourism institutions.
- The committee has always met in various tourist locations around town, but this year has started the meeting with a presentation from the host and a discussion of how the committee can help the location or attraction.
- The committee, which was behind the creation of the Farmington Valley Film Commission, continues to work with the commission as well as the Farmington Valley Visitors Association, Main Street Partnership, the economic development commission, and the newly formed Innovator’s Workshop at the library.
- Expanded membership to include a tourism marketing professional and a founding member of the Flower Bridge. They joined a dedicated group of volunteers who are proud of their town and want to share that pride.

2013-2014 Goals

- Continue maintaining the Simsbury tourism Facebook page.
- Create a blog on Patch (which no longer has a local reporter).
- Assist in the creation of a video that will aid in the marketing of the town.
- Support the creation of a stand alone Simsbury travel and tourism website.
- Support the expansion of Simsbury’s vibrant arts community into storefronts in town.
- Support the creation of new town-wide events needed to grow and expand tourism, recreation and culture.
- Expand the cell phone tour to include more sites.

- With other town groups, focus on the planning of town-wide events to attract more tourists to Simsbury.

Volunteer Ambulance Association

Simsbury Volunteer Ambulance Association (SVAA) has served the emergency medical needs of the community for 56 years. The association’s history demonstrates a continuum of increased levels of service provided to the community. The volunteers of SVAA proudly continue the tradition of service to the community begun a half century ago by its founding members.

The volunteer ambulance association was founded in 1957 and the Kiwanis Club, whose members went door to door to solicit contributions, provided the first ambulance. 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



Receiving the “Distinguished Service Award” were, from the left, Ann O’Donnell, Josh Storm, Peter Tedone, and Mark Macpherson.



2013 EMT of the Year Shannon Harvill with Simsbury Volunteer Ambulance Association Executive Director Michael Delehanty.

Boards & Commissions

the association celebrated its 10th anniversary, members had responded to a total of 1,600 calls. By comparison, the association currently responds to more than 1,600 calls every year.

SVAA is comprised of more than 50 active volunteer members whose dedication to the community is demonstrated by an aggregate of more than 30,000 hours per year of scheduled duty, training, recertification, standbys and meetings. A paid staff of paramedics augments the volunteer EMT staff. SVAA has provided paramedic level service 24 hours per day since 1997, dramatically reducing the time it takes to get advanced lifesaving measures to the patient. Earlier this year the association recognized its members' exceptional dedication with awards for 1,000 Hours of Service, and 100 Calls in 2013. EMT of the Year 2013 was awarded to Shannon Harvill in recognition of her service to the organization. Peter Tedone was recognized for 25 years of service, and Ann O'Donnell for 30 years of service.

Retiring after an exemplary career with SVAA, Tammie Coffey was named Member Emeritus. Her years of award winning service as an EMT, in addition to officer and board of director service, earned her the honor.

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. Residents may also see the ambulance on stand-by at major public functions like the St. Mary's Carnival, and Simsbury Celebrates.

During 2013, due to the efforts of SVAA, Simsbury was designated as a HEARTSafe Community by the state Department of Public Health. The goal of this program is to improve the chances of survival for anyone suffering a sudden cardiac arrest by maximizing the number of non-medical people trained in CPR, and documenting the locations of automated external defibrillators (AEDs) in public places. As Simsbury Volunteer Ambulance Association serves the town's emergency medical needs, the association continues to rely on, and appreciate, the ongoing financial support of local

citizens, businesses, and organizations. For more information, visit www.simsburyems.com.

Water Pollution Control Authority

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

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

2012-2013 Accomplishments

- The WPCA conducted eight regular and two special meetings, including three public hearings, during which they: reviewed, approved and accepted sewer extension projects and/or assessments on Russell Lane and Seminary Road, and set the residential and non-residential user fee rate.
- In August 2013, Water Pollution Control Superintendent Jim Clifton retired after 13 years of service to the Town of Simsbury. Clifton was honored by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency with the "2013 Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator Excellence Award". He was selected for this recognition because of the outstanding job he performed over many years in operating and maintaining the Simsbury facility.
- Anthony Piazza was hired in January 2014 as the new superintendent.
- The closing for financing the facility upgrade was accomplished in the spring of 2008. The completion of phase one of the upgrade in 2006 resulted in the facility being in compliance with the nitrogen discharge limits set by the Connecticut Department of Energy and

Environmental Protection (DEEP) for the year 2015. Accomplishing this goal enabled Simsbury WPCA participation in the state nitrogen credit-trading program and reduced the environmental impact on the Farmington River and ultimately Long Island Sound. Since 2007, the Simsbury WPCA has been a net recipient of funds from the DEEP in the form of nitrogen credits.

2013-2014 Goals

- Complete the construction phase of the Tunxis Pump Station replacement.
- Complete rehabilitation of the Wolcott Pump Station.
- Hold public hearings regarding extending sanitary sewers on Flintlock Ridge and Musket Trail

The WPCA gives thanks for the life and service of Warren Coe, P.E., who served the Town of Simsbury faithfully and with distinction as a member of the authority for many years. The authority notes his passing this past January. He will be greatly missed.

Zoning Board of Appeals

The Simsbury Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) is an elected body of nine members, which includes six regular members and three alternates. The powers and duties of the board are established under Connecticut statute, chapter 124. The zoning board of appeals hears and decides:

- Variances: variances may be granted after due consideration of whether the request is consistent with public health, welfare, convenience, safety and property values; and whether owing to unusual conditions present on the specific lot or parcel, but not affecting generally the district in which it is situated, that a literal enforcement of the regulation or ordinance at issue would result in an "exceptional difficulty or unusual hardship" so that, if granted, substantial justice would be done and public safety and welfare thereby secured.
- Appeals: the ZBA hears and decides appeals of zoning enforcement decisions, as well as certain decisions by the building official.



- Special exceptions: the ZBA also decides on special exceptions under state statute chapter 124, section 8-2g as specified in article 12 of the Simsbury Zoning Regulations.

2012-2013 Accomplishments

During fiscal year 2012-2013 the zoning board of appeals received:

- 19 Variance Applications
- 14 Approved
- 3 Failed to Approve
- 2 Withdrawn

Attorney Stephen Byrne provided guidance to new and current board members on procedures, conflict of interest issues, and training on ZBA powers and duties. Board chairman Tegan Blackburn and zoning enforcement officer Howard Beach provided additional training to members on motions.

The board always welcomes members of the public contemplating a variance to attend a meeting of the zoning board of appeals, which meets every fourth Wednesday of the month at 7 p.m. in the main meeting room of the Simsbury Town Hall.

Zoning Commission

The Simsbury Zoning Commission, established under the Simsbury Town Charter, is an elected body of six regular members and three alternates. Among the powers and duties of the commission, and with the powers and authority granted by CGS Chapter 124, the commission has the additional responsibility of acting as the Simsbury Aquifer Protection Agency.

The zoning commission regulates land and buildings within the town based on the adopted zoning regulations. It also adopts, amends, and repeals regulations, hears and decides applications to change regulations, and decides on site plan and special permit applications. The Simsbury Zoning Regulations also provide for the manner in which the regulations are to be enforced. The zoning commission makes recommendations on other matters that may come before it, including requests from the board of selectmen.

In accordance with Chapter 4 of the Simsbury Town Code, the zoning commission is the designated Statutory Aquifer Protection Agency. In this regard, the commission and commission staff perform the required overview, inventory, and regulation of land uses located on the mapped aquifer areas. These aquifer areas are given due consideration during the review of any application which proposes to use or change a land use in a mapped aquifer area to ensure the activity proposed meets the requirements of the town's Aquifer Protection Regulations.

During the 2012–2013 fiscal year, the commission received 59 applications, consisting of: 17 site plans, 23 special permits, 15 sign permits, two zone changes, one change of use, and two regulation changes. Of these 59 applications, two were withdrawn, two failed to pass, and the rest were approved.

In addition to its other regular business, the commission continued revising the Simsbury Zoning Regulations to better meet the needs of the community.



Town Finances

Fiscal Year 2012-2013 Annual Report

The Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for the Town of Simsbury for June 30, 2013 is on file with the Town Clerk's Office and available for view.

The date presented below is presented in a manner to set forth the financial portion of the town and results of operations of the various funds of the town. The Board of Finance established a tax rate of 31.37 mills for fiscal year 2013, which was levied on the October 1, 2011 Grand List.

The Budget for fiscal year 2013 was \$88,259,260. Total expenditures for fiscal year 2013 were \$87,125,862. Revenues over expenditures increased \$3,372,288, resulting in a change in Unassigned Fund Balance to \$11,654,389 for the period ending June 30, 2013.

Debt

As of June 30, 2013, the Town had bonds outstanding which mature serially to the year 2023, as follows:

Schools	\$14,591,146
Public Improvement	\$14,703,854
Total	\$29,295,000

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

General Purpose	\$168,681,575
Schools	\$351,360,309
Sewers	\$291,686,377
Urban Renewal	\$266,381,057

Schedule of Debt Principle and Interest Maturities by Year – June 30, 2013

Year Ending June 30	Principal	Interest	Total Principal & Interest
2014	\$5,485,000	\$799,178	\$6,284,178
2015	\$5,545,000	\$621,819	\$6,166,819
2016	\$5,035,000	\$440,463	\$5,475,463
2017	\$4,525,000	\$307,263	\$4,832,263
2018-2022	\$8,705,000	\$439,788	\$ 9,144,788
	\$29,295,000	\$2,608,509	\$31,903,509

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

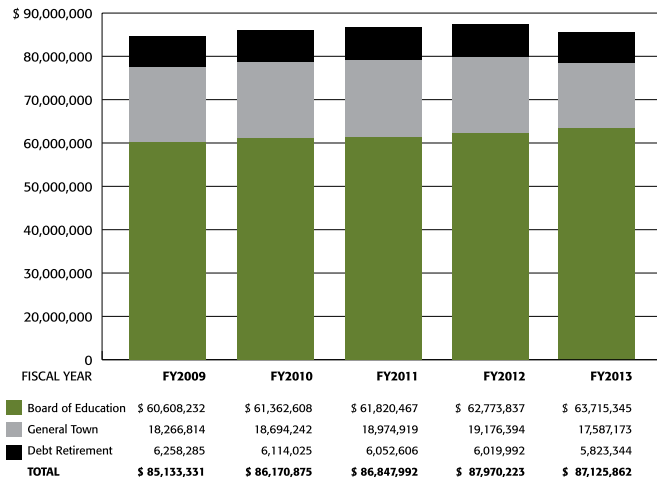
Net Grand Lists and Tax Rates – 2003-2012

Per statutory debt limitations, total indebtedness shall not exceed seven times annual receipts from taxation, which is \$543,238,564.

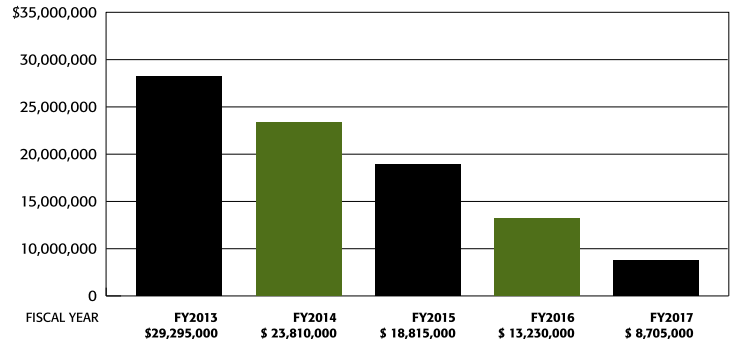
Year End June 30	Grand List	Mill Rate	General Town	Board of Education	Debt Retirement	Totals
2003	\$1,500,146,075	39.10	\$14,823,992	\$46,072,296	\$2,928,111	\$63,824,399
2004	\$1,911,380,612	32.60	\$14,818,826	\$48,290,928	\$5,025,232	\$68,134,986
2005	\$1,911,949,429	34.00	\$14,740,952	\$50,176,680	\$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	\$2,010,867,186	36.90	\$20,141,322	\$58,562,224	\$5,860,785	\$84,564,331
2009	\$2,584,781,826	29.60	\$18,266,814	\$60,608,232	\$6,258,285	\$85,133,331
2010	\$2,581,459,147	30.10	\$18,694,242	\$61,362,608	\$6,114,025	\$86,170,875
2011	\$2,579,290,063	30.55	\$18,974,919	\$61,820,467	\$6,052,606	\$86,847,992
2012	\$2,599,506,658	30.86	\$19,176,394	\$62,773,837	\$6,019,992	\$87,970,223

Town Finances

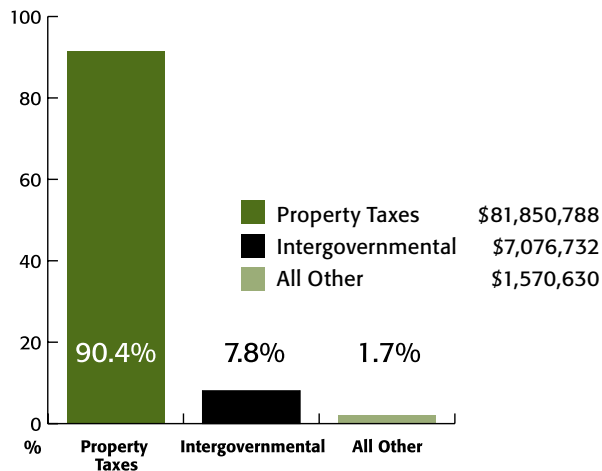
Total Expenditures – 2009-2013



Total Principal Outstanding – 2013-2017



Revenues and Expenditures for Fiscal Year 2013

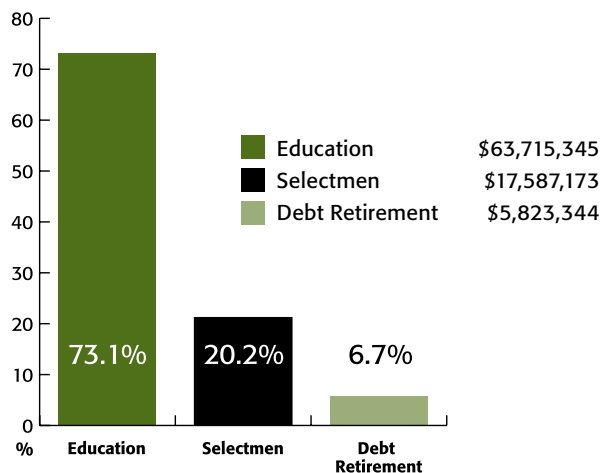


Revenues

Property Taxes	\$81,850,788
Intergovernmental	\$7,076,732
Investments	\$19,628
Charges For Services	\$692,722
Licenses/Permits	\$546,348
Other	\$311,932
Total	\$90,498,150

Reconciliation

Revenue surplus (Actual vs. Budgeted)	\$2,238,890
Expenditure surplus (Budget vs. Actual)	\$73,470
Supplemental appropriations from Reserves	(\$1,596,445)
	\$715,915



Expenditures

Education	\$63,715,345
Debt Retirement	\$5,823,344
General Government	\$1,940,392
Planning & Development	\$509,762
Public Safety	\$4,205,182
Facility Management	\$3,739,426
Culture & Recreation	\$2,184,038
Health & Welfare	\$532,894
Insurance & Benefits	\$4,475,479
Other	-
Total	\$87,125,862

Excess Revenues Over Expenditures ⁽¹⁾ \$3,372,288



Board & Commission Members

Elected Boards and Commissions

(as of February 25, 2014)

Board of Selectmen Town Moderator

Sean P. Askham John J. O'Neil

Cheryl B. Cook

Mary A. Glassman,

First Selectman

Nancy M. Haase,

Deputy First Selectman

Lisa L. Heavenner

Mike R. Paine

Planning Commission

Richard Cortes

Ronald J. Locandro Jr.

Gary J. Lungarini

Mark S. Drake

Ferguson R. Jansen Jr., *Chair*

Robert J. Kulakowski

Alan C. Needham

Kevin M. Prell

William F. Rice

Board of Assessment

Appeals

Sharon I. Lawson

Stephen J. Nocera

Scott G. Sirianni

Zoning Board of Appeals

Jacqueline S. Battos

Paul J. Cocchi Jr.

Dennis J. Fallon

Carol Bingham

Tegan Blackburn, *Chair*

Thomas F. Horan

Craig K. MacCormac

Katie S. Martin

Gregory W. Picuch

Board of Education

Todd S. Burrick

Thomas A. Doran

Robert Michael Goman

Chris M. Kelly

Susan B. Salina

Lydia A. Tedone, *Chair*

Michael T. Wade

Tara Donohue Willerup

Board of Finance

Peter K. Askham, *Chair*

Jeff Blumenthal

Nicholas B. Mason,

Vice Chairman

Barbara A. Petitjean

Linda J. Schofield

Moiria K. Wertheimer

Zoning Commission

Edward M. Cosgrove

Michael T. Doyle

Vaughan A. Marecki

William J. Fiske,

Kevin E. Gray

Derek B. Peterson

Robert D. Pomeroy Jr., *Chair*

Gerald A. Post

David Rogers Ryan

Library Board of Trustees

David J. Blume

Anne D. Erickson

Diana Fiske

Charmaine E. Glew

Diane S. Madigan

Christopher Morkan

Marianne B. O'Neil, *Chair*

Polly Gardow Rice

Gail Keebler Ryan

Additional Boards and Commissions

(as of February 25, 2014)

Aging and Disability

Victor Bible III

Mary L. Patrino

Diana Anderson Yeisley

Arlene E. Zappile

Grace Comeau

Kathleen M. Fallon

Mona Herman

Michael R. Jennings

Marvin S. Koff

Edward J. LaMontagne, *Chair*

Mary Ellen Long

Mona Martinik

Mark A. Orenstein

Charlotte W. Steptoe

Lynn R. Veith

Ronald P. Zappile

Board of Ethics

Kevin M. Crimmins

Robert W. Heagney, *Chair*

Peter Thomas Kellogg,

Vice Chair

Polly A. Maier

David M. Moore

Barbara A. Petitjean

Building Code Board of Appeals

Steven T. Antonio

Samuel Ziplow

Emil T. Dahlquist, *Chair*

William J. Egan

JoAnn M. Hogan

Paul E. Holland

Charles A. Warren Jr.,

Deputy Chair

Clean Energy Task Force

Robert Beinstein

Patrick James Boeshans, *Chair*

James A. Ray

Claudia Szerakowski

Melissa Valentin

Susan Van Kleef

Conservation Commission

Patrick R. Kottas

James Morrison

Darren P. Cunningham

Betram Kaplan

Richard A. Miller Jr., *Chair*

Donald F. Rieger Jr.

Margaret R. Sexton

Margery C.B. Winters,

Vice Chair

Dominick Zackeo

Culture, Parks and Recreation Commission

David W. Bush, *Chair*

Sarah K. Cramer

Kelly J. Kearney

Marc Lubetkin

William K. Mullen

Gerald A. Post

Francis Salls

Steven J. Spalla

Gerard H. Wetjen

Design Review Board

Jonathan Laschever

John E. Carroll

Anca Dragulski

Anthony L. Drapelick

Joseph Paul Lanza

Jennifer Murnane, *Chair*

Ronald R. Perry

Economic Development Commission

David Balboni

Kristen C. Barnett

Carolyn Bligh

Mark Deming, *Chair*

Jay DeVivo

Gary F. Dornbush

Louis N. George

Charles A. Minor

Allan Richard Raphael Sr.

Fair Rent Commission

Madeleine P. Gilkey

Cornelia Mason

John F. Paddock

Helen K. Peterson

David A. Richman

Judy G. Schaefer

Mary N. Turner

Historic District Commission

Jonathan Laschever

Marc E. Lubetkin

Mark Nyquist

Denise H. Alfeld

Dianne L. Mead

Marguerite C. Rodney

Elizabeth B. Woollacott

Housing Authority

Kathleen H. Coffey

Cheryl Brienza Cook

Oliver B. Dickens Jr.

Woodrow W. Eddins Jr.

Ronald P. Zappile, *Chair*

Human Relations Commission

Susan G. Ersinghaus

Eva W. Hausman

Sharon I. Lawson

Insurance Committee

Madeleine Pelcher Gilkey

Nicholas B. Mason

Paul H. Mikkelsen Jr.

Peter C. (Chris) Peterson

Edward F. Sparkowski, *Chair*

Open Space Committee

Mary A. Glassman FS, *Chair*

Ferguson R. Jansen Jr., PC

Helen K. Peterson, *At-Large*

Robert D. Pomeroy Jr., ZC

Margery C.B. Winters,

CC/IWWA

Performing Arts Center Board

Catherine A. Barnard

Robert S. Hensley, *Chair*

Ross D. Herlands

Ferguson R. Jansen Jr.,

Vice Chair

Edward J. Kubasek II

Michael G. Penderagst

Timothy E. Pusch

Public Building Committee

Lawrence Boardman

Richard Cortes

Richard A. Derr

Lucian M. Dragulski

Francis J. Kelly

Michael E. Laurenro Jr.

Richard E. Ostop, *Chair*

Mary Lou Patrino

John J. Salvatore

Police Commission

Edward M. Cosgrove

Carl D. Eisenmann

James T. Fleming

Michael T. Long

Brendan M. Walsh, *Chair*

Recycling Committee

R. Kingsbury (Dave) Chase

Lori P. Fernand, *Chair*

Janice L. Kern

Carol Miller

Nancy Carol Thoma

Mary N. Turner

Simsbury Farms Complex Committee

Antonio B. Braz

David P. Dell

Dennis J. Fallon

Linda P. Johnson

Ronald T. Patterson

Gerald A. Post

Kevin W. Schultz

Tourism Committee

Dominique Avery, *Co-Chair*

Catherine Barnard

Angela Marie Campetti

Patricia Carbone

Paulette Clark

Joyce R. Howard, *Co-Chair*

Laurie G. Matczak

Steven S. Mitchell

Katherine A. Oakes

Barbara L. O'Connor

Diane D. Phillips

Sara Ann Schultz

Charmaine L. Seavy

Water Pollution Control Authority

Paul N. Gilmore

Thomas J. Hickey

Edward J. Kelly

Michael A. Park

Philip W. Richardson, *Chair*

Jerry G. Sheehan

Loren Shoemaker

Our Town Today

Phone Numbers

Area Code	860
Emergency Phone Numbers	
Fire Department	911
Routine Information	658-1971
Police Department/Ambulance	911
933 Hopmeadow Street	
Routine Information	658-3100
Simsbury Vol. Ambulance Assoc.	658-7213
64 West Street	
Department/Service Phone Number	
Assessor	658-3251
Board of Education	651-3361
Building	658-3234
Chamber of Commerce	651-7307
Continuing Education	658-3870
Engineering	658-3260
Farmington Valley Health District	352-2333
Finance	658-3244
Fire Marshal	658-1973
Historical Society	658-2500
Housing Authority	658-1147
Judge of Probate	658-3277
Landfill	658-9481
Library, Simsbury Public	658-7663
Planning	658-3245
Police	658-3100
Public Works	658-3222
Recreation	658-3255
Simsbury Farms Complex office	658-3836
Simsbury Farms Golf Club	658-6246
Recorded Information	658-2512
Registrar of Voters	658-3267
First Selectman	658-3230
SCTV Community TV	658-1720
Sewer Treatment	658-1380
Social Services	658-3283
Tax Collector	658-3238
Town Clerk	658-3243
Town Hall	658-3200
Aquarion Water Company	658-6707
Visitors Center	658-4000

Town Management

First Selectman	Mary A. Glassman
Police Chief	Peter Ingvertsen
Director of Finance	Joseph Mancini
Town Engineer	Jerome F. Shea
Dir. of Administrative Services	Thomas Cooke
Dep. Dir. of Admin. Services	Sean Kimball
Dir of Culture, Parks and Rec.	Gerry Toner
Dir. of Planning	Hiram Peck III
Dir. of Public Works	Thomas Roy
Dir. of Simsbury Public Library	Lisa Karim
Dir. 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

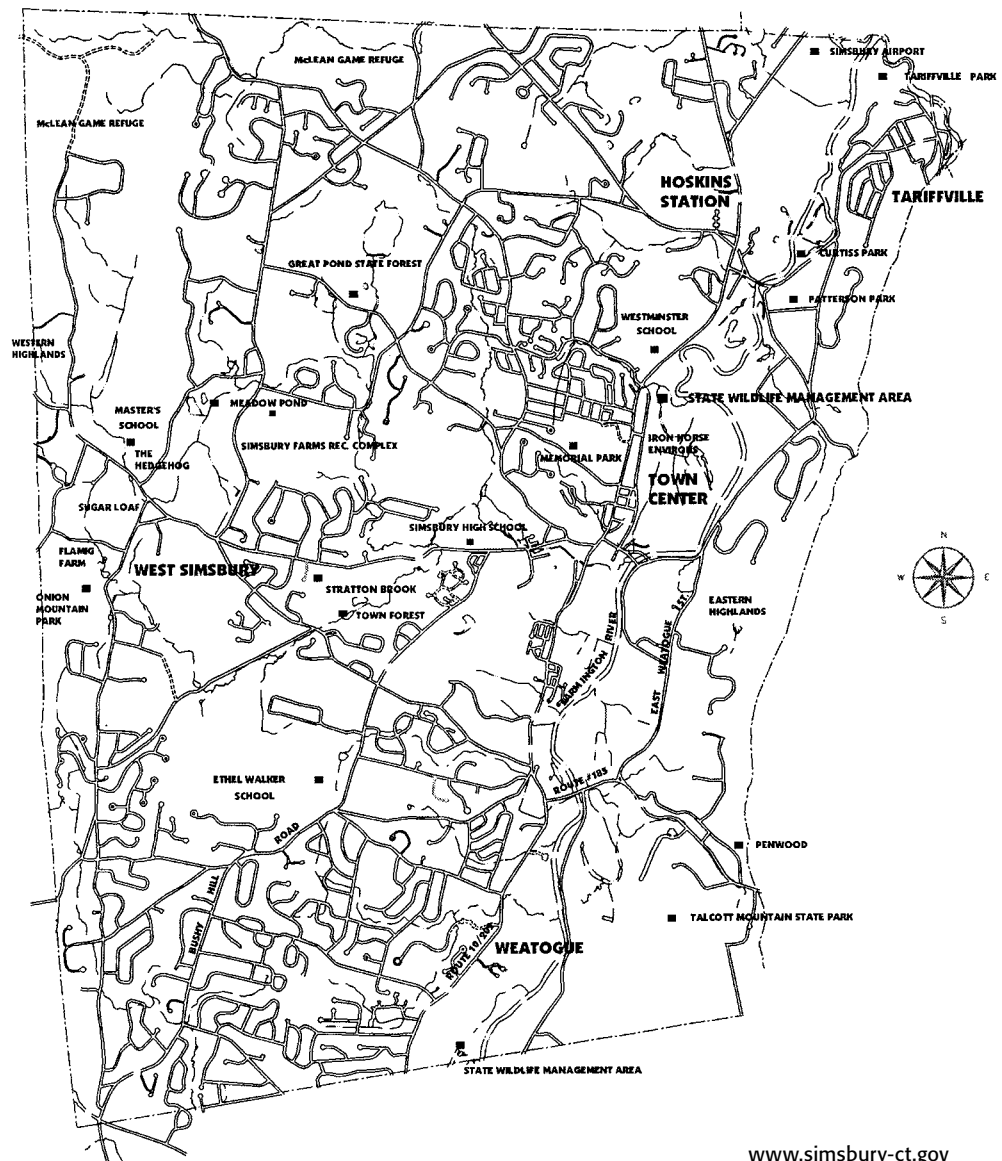
The second and fourth Tuesday of each month

Zoning Commission

The first and third Monday of each month

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

Town Map



Heritage. Charm. Adventure.



SIMSBURY CONNECTICUT

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