

The Simsbury Scoop



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

Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day is April 30

The Town of Simsbury, in conjunction with the Towns of Avon, Canton, Granby, and Farmington will be holding a Household Hazardous Waste collection on Saturday, April 30, 2016 at Farmington High School, 10 Monteith Drive, Farmington, CT.

The collection will run from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. and will be open to all residents from Simsbury, Avon, Canton, Granby, and Farmington. There will be two other collection dates this year that town residents can attend:

- June 18, 2016: Simsbury Public Works Facility, 66 Town Forest Road, Simsbury, CT.
- November 5, 2016: Simsbury Public Works Facility, 66 Town Forest Road, Simsbury, CT.

For this first collection, Farmington is also offering free to residents of the participating towns:

- Electronic recycling drop-off at Farmington Town Hall parking lot, 1 Monteith Drive, and
- Used motor oil collection

Below are some frequently asked questions related to Household Hazardous Waste disposal. For more specific information, please contact Simsbury Public Works at 860-658-3222 or Farmington Highway and Grounds at 860-675-2550.

Acceptable items:

- Fluorescent and compact

light bulbs

- Batteries — common household batteries including rechargeable batteries and car batteries
- Lawn care chemicals — fertilizers, pesticides, herbicides, fungicides
- Switches or items containing Mercury — thermometers, thermostats, motion detectors
- Household cleaners — acids, adhesives, aerosol cans, ammonia, drain cleaner, disinfectants, moth balls, etc.
- Chemicals from the garage or workshop — antifreeze, ant/bug spray or bait, brake fluid, old gasoline, oil based and latex paints, lighter fluid, polyurethane, pool chemicals, road flares, transmission fluid, power steering fluid, wood stain, etc.

Unacceptable items:

- Ammunition and/or explosives (including gunpowder)
- Asbestos
- Business waste — (collection is for residential waste only)
- Cement
- Empty containers — a container is considered empty when no more than one inch or 3 percent (by weight) of material is left in the container, these can be disposed of in the regular trash.
- Fire extinguishers



- Freon
- Marine flares — pyrotechnic flares cannot be accepted at the collection because they are categorized as explosives.
- Ice melt — ice melt is not hazardous and can be disposed in the regular trash.
- Latex driveway sealer (Genite) — driveway sealer is not hazardous; solidify then throw in the regular trash.
- Medicine/drugs/needles/syringes
- Propane tanks for gas grills
- Appliances
- Smoke detectors
- Tires
- Used oil filters

To get rid of latex and oil-based paint, you can recycle it through PaintCare — it's free.

For drop off locations and program information, please go to: www.paintcare.org.

Simsbury Innovation Fair

April 30, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.



The Innovation Fair is set for April 30 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The theme this year is "Innovation by Design."

The exhibits, activities and demonstrations will be at the Simsbury Public Library, the Simsbury Historical Society, and Simsbury High School. A sampling of some of what you will find at each location is listed below.

Simsbury High School

10 AM Keynote Speaker Jake Fisher — Director of Auto Testing at Consumer Reports

Fisher oversees the extensive automotive testing program at the magazine. The organization buys and tests about 70 cars and trucks a year, and collects reliability data from subscribers on more than one million vehicles annually. He has been instrumental in all areas of vehicle testing and reliability analysis. His passion for cars and expert driving can be seen in many online videos, a program that he pioneered.

Also at the high school:

- Biomedical Projects
- Technology and Engineering
- Innovation in Art and Math

- Robotics
- Middle School MakerSpace

Simsbury Public Library All Ages

- Drones & How They Fly
- Minecraft Open Play
- Design a Bookmark
- 3D Printer Demonstration

Teen Activities

- LED Bowties & Flowers
- LEGO Innovation Challenge

Children's Activities

- Wind Tunnel
- Musical Marble Machine
- Mini Makerspace
- Strawbees Structures
- LEGO Mania Universe
- Coding & STEM Apps
- Interactive LEGO & KEVA Building

Exhibits of Local Innovation

Throughout the second floor of the library and the lower level.

- Bill Selig Jewelry
- Brian Owens — salt art
- Ensign-Bickford
- Harry Cooke — wooden models

- Hartford High's Academy of Engineering & Green Technology's electricity source for a village in Nepal
- Karl Lund — artist uses models in paintings
- Phase Zero Design
- Rick Lynch — models of historic local buildings made with drones & 3D printer
- SCTV — How Raspberry Pi plays recorded video on cable systems
- Wearsafe — safety tag to connect with loved ones while in a crisis
- Al D'Agosto and artist Jeff Dornenburg — flower carpet

Simsbury Historical Society

Innovations in stick design:

lacrosse stick design and fishing pole design (and accessories)

Innovation in: Pedal Power, games with life-size lightning rod chess pieces

Innovative artists & artisans:

flower carpets, furniture design
Steph Dascanio, Priscilla Ruppert
jewelry design, and car design.

For complete details go to:
simsburyideas.com.

April Dates to Remember

April 9: Opening Day — Trout Fishing Season

April 11-15: Simsbury Public Schools Spring Recess

April 22: Passover Begins at Sundown

April 22: Earth Day

April 26: Presidential Preference Primary for Major Parties

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

Summer is around the corner! Sign up for camp now!

Camp registration is underway! Visit www.simsburyrec.com for all the info. Registration for pool passes and swimming lessons will be coming soon, so be sure to check the website often for details.



Help Keep the Trails Clean on April 17

The Farmington Valley Trails Council will hold its 7th annual Trail-Wide Clean-Up Day on Sunday, April 17 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. (The rain date is Sunday, April 24). Last year's event drew over 200 volunteers at four staging areas across the eight towns in the Farmington Valley that encompass the 22.4 miles of the Farmington Canal Heritage Trail and the 10.2 miles of the Farmington River Trail.

These continuously paved miles from Farmington to Southwick, MA had over 11 cubic yards of trash

removed. Volunteers will cover a specific 1-mile stretch of the trail starting from five staging areas:

- Brickyard Road in Farmington
- Iron Horse Blvd. in Simsbury
- The River Trail Pavilion at Rt. 4 in Unionville
- Copper Hill Road in Granby and
- Sperry Park in Avon

It is requested that volunteers bring gloves, brooms, rakes and clippers. All volunteers are invited to a barbeque after the clean-up at Flamig Farm (www.flamigfarm.com)



in Simsbury from 12 to 3 p.m.

Please see www.fvgreenway.org for volunteer registration, donations and membership.

To register directly, [click here](#).

Try Simsbury Triathlon May 22!

By Pattie Smith Jacobus

Looking for a little adventure? Mark your calendar for the third annual Try Simsbury Meadows and Mountain Adventure Triathlon. The event is scheduled for May 22, 2016 at 11 a.m.

This early season run, bike, paddle event is an ideal way to kick off your triathlon season.

The event is open to both individuals and teams. The race is being organized by the Town of Simsbury and this year's new race director, Sharon McHale. Thank you to Simsbury Bank, returning as our platinum sponsor. Simsbury Connecticut, the state's only Silver Bicycle Friendly Community, is located on the beautiful Farmington River and on the Farmington Canal Heritage Bike Trail that runs through the historic and scenic town center. Triathletes will experience Simsbury's exquisite biking, hiking and paddling routes as part of the event. The 5k



off-road trail run will showcase the recently refurbished River Walk Trail. The 12-mile road route, on back county roads and the bike trail, exemplify some of the best cycling in the state. Participants will finish with a 2-mile paddle on the Farmington River with views of the picturesque Old Drake Hill Flower

Bridge and will utilize the newly acquired river-access land. The bridge is an ideal location for spectators. Assistance moving kayaks in and out of the river will be provided by volunteers. Post-race festivities will be held at the Simsbury Performing Arts Center, home to the Hartford Symphony summer series.

Race bags and numbers can be picked up on Saturday May 21st at the Red Stone Pub between 3 and 6 p.m. Race bags include generous discount coupons for use at local businesses so bring the family and enjoy all Simsbury has to offer.

Registration is open online (only) at



www.trysimsbury.com or through www.facebook.com/trysimsbury.

Race is capped at 250 participants.

Like us on Facebook to join the conversation, see training videos, hear about pre-race rides, runs and paddles and to thank our sponsors!

Thank you Simsbury Bank, Crossfit Simsbury, TD Bank, The Bicycle Cellar, Collinsville Canoe & Kayak, Fleet Feet Sports, The Simsbury Inn, and Paine's Recycling.

Do you have questions or are you interested in volunteering? Email us at trysimsbury@gmail.com or sym624@comcast.net.

Want to know who is on what board? There's an app.

The Town of Simsbury has launched the Board and Committee Information Center app in conjunction with its recent website redesign.

Simsbury is the first town in Connecticut to use this app, provided by Virtual Towns & Schools, a Massachusetts-based company that provides online services and applications to the municipal market.

The app provides:

- Centralized management and control of Simsbury's 200+ volunteer and elected members.
- Open portal provides residents access to information on boards, commissions and committees.
- Provides information on Simsbury's Code of Ethics.
- Comprehensive listing of members and their board/commission participation.
- Maintain party affiliation status to meet state statute requirements.
- Provides consolidated listing of all current vacancies along with upcoming term expirations for each board/commission.
- Easy online volunteer form to allow residents to show their interest to serve on a board or committee.

To see the app, click the link <http://simsburyctboards.vt-s.net/>.



Get your ducks in a row!

The Tootin' Hills PTO is sponsoring Simsbury's second Duck Race at the historic Old Drake Hill Flower Bridge on Friday, May 20, 2016 from 4 to 7 p.m.



The event is lots of fun and serves as a fundraiser for the Tootin' Hills PTO, which is a 501(c)(3) organization. Event info can be found at www.simsburyduckrace.com.

New Trail Signage

Jack Mundt, from Boy Scout Troop 76, completed his Eagle Scout Project in the fall. Jack made newly designed historic entrance signs at the trailhead from West Mountain Road, part of rails to trails.



2016-2017 Budget Dates

The Simsbury Board of Finance will hold a public hearing on the budget (operating and capital) on April 6, 2016 at 6 p.m. in the Simsbury High School amphitheater, with a regular meeting to follow. For budget info, [click here](#).

The budget referendum will be held May 10, 2016 from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. at Henry James Memorial School.



April 9 is Opening Day for Trout Fishing Season

To purchase a license or for additional information, [click here](#).

April 26 is the Presidential Preference Primary

For information on the primary, [click here](#).



Open Space and the Connecticut Green Plan: a State and Local Perspective



In 2001, the Connecticut General Assembly established the first Green Plan, the guiding document for the state Department of Energy and Environmental Protection when making open space decisions.

The Green Plan is currently being revised and updated to reveal a sophisticated program for advancing land acquisition goals. Come and learn more about the Green

Plan and about local conservation efforts from Diana Atwood Johnson, Chairman of the CT Natural Heritage, Open Space and Land Acquisition Review Board and Margery Winters, Vice-President of the Simsbury Land Trust Board of Trustees and Assistant Director of Roaring Brook Nature Center.

Free and open to all. Registration suggested at 860-658-7663 or [click here](#) to sign up.

Open Space and the Connecticut Green Plan: a State and Local Perspective

Thursday, April 7

6:30 to 8 p.m.

Simsbury Public Library

Free and open to all. Registration suggested at 860-658-7663 or [click here](#) to sign up.

A Place for Poetry – A Poetry Workshop with Poet Laureate Rennie McQuilkin

Join a poetry workshop led by Rennie McQuilkin, Connecticut and Simsbury Poet Laureate.

Readings and discussions of participants' poems as well as those of published poets will help to hone writing skills and prepare participants for public presentation of their work.

This workshop, which will be held on the second Tuesday of the month from April through November, is limited to 10 participants.

It is free and open to all, but you must preregister at 860-658-7663 x2200 or [click here](#) to sign up.

Registering for the April workshop will automatically sign you up for all eight sessions.

April—November
Second Tuesday of the month
Begins: April 12
Time: 6:30 to 8 p.m.
Simsbury Public Library
Free and open to all.
You must preregister at
860-658-7663 x2200
or [click here](#) to sign up.



Rennie McQuilkin, Connecticut and Simsbury Poet Laureate.

"Exploring Depression and Anxiety and the Risks Associated with Aging: The Changing Impact of Depression as We Age"

On Wednesday April 6 at 6 p.m. at the Simsbury Public Library, Community for Care will present this panel discussion led by psychiatrist Dr. Harry Morgan and Nancy Sheetz, APRN, B.C. This event is free of charge and open to the public. The

panel and the audience will discuss awareness of early signs and symptoms, treatment options, and when and how to ask for help. Find out about the difference between grief and depression and the impact of self-medicating. Explore the

difference between depression and dementia. This program is appropriate for adults. For more visit the Community for Care [website](#) or call the Simsbury Social Services Department at 860-658-3283.



May is Bike Month — Start April 30!

The Simsbury Innovation Fair, April 30 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., is the unofficial kick off to bike month — which is in May. “Everybody Rides” biking-related exhibits will be at the Simsbury Historical Society, as well as a chance to sign up for the Simsbury Bike Challenge. The 2016 Simsbury Bike Challenge is hosted by Simsbury Free Bike and the Simsbury Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee. It is a local advocacy challenge within the National Bike Challenge. Join the challenge at www.nationabikechallenge.org. Register with a Simsbury home or work zip code. Bike anywhere, any distance. Log the rides online or sync to an app. Learn more about the Simsbury Bike Challenge, local biking events, great places to bike, and safe cycling at www.simsbury.bike. The challenge is open to adults and teens who live, work, or volunteer in Simsbury. Simsbury businesses can also register and host a workplace challenge. The challenge runs May 1 to September 30. Local and national prizes are awarded each month through a random drawing, so anyone logging rides can win.

Events on April 30 include:

- 9 a.m. Group ride (moderate, two hour) registration/sign waivers at SBC table
- 10 a.m. Group ride (casual, one hour trail) registration/sign waivers at SBC table
- 1 to 2 p.m. “Parents & Kids Riding As One”

There are also giveaways — slap bracelets, bike lights, as well as water, and light snacks.

Simsbury May Bike Month Rides

April: Weekday Trail Rides with Tanya Stevens begin in April. Check Simsbury Free Bike FB page for updates. Monday mornings at 10 a.m. and Thursday evenings at 6:30 p.m. These rides are a great way to find riding friends, get back into cycling and build miles for the Simsbury Bike Challenge! Your pace, your distance.

- **April 17:** FVTC Annual Trail Cleanup Day, fvgreenway.org.
- **April 23:** Valley Cycling Annual Meeting: Simsbury Public Library — 1 p.m. safety talk, prizes, speakers.
- **April 26:** Bike Commuter Forum — Simsbury Public Library at 6:30 p.m.

- **May 1:** Simsbury Free Bike opens, www.facebook.com/simsburyfreebike.
- **May 1:** Trail History and Ride — 1 p.m. Simsbury Public Library; Rob Dexter East Coast Greenway/Larry Linonis Simsbury Free Bike; New 2016 Route.
- **May 3:** Ride and Learn with League Certified Bike Instructor Steve Mitchell — Every Tuesday at 6 p.m. Iron Horse Blvd., 5-10 miles, 11 mph pace. Riders attending 8 of 10 rides will earn a Traffic Skills Certificate. Learn about riding etiquette, fix a flat.
- **May 4:** Bicycle Cellar Weekly Rides begin — Wednesday’s 6 p.m. from the shop, 12-15 mph pace, 10 miles.
- **May 4, 6, 18:** Elementary Safe Routes to School events. Please be sure bikes are in working order and helmets still fit.
- **May 5:** Board of Selectmen’s Ride — 5 p.m. at town hall. Everyone is welcome, 5-mile, social ride. Stop for ice cream at J. Foster.



Look for more May events in next month’s issue or www.simsbury.bike.



Simsbury Free Bikes can be borrowed in the towns of Simsbury, Avon, Granby, Canton and Farmington. Riders must verify that they are at least 18 years old, sign a waiver and provide a refundable \$10 deposit. Riders receive a helmet and bike lock. Trail maps can be purchased for \$1 each and

bikes can be borrowed for up to 24 hours. The program operates from May 1 through October 31. For more information or for bike share locations, visit www.facebook.com/simsburyfreebike.

Have a hometown hero to nominate?

Nominations must be submitted by **April 18, 2016**. Nomination forms may be submitted electronically. To see the guidelines, [click here](#).

For a nomination form, [click here](#).

