

The Simsbury Scoop



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Introducing First Selectman Lisa Heavner

First Selectman Lisa Heavner, whose term begins January 2, 2015 with the resignation of Mary Glassman, is a three-term selectman.

She is liaison to the board of education, chair of the town's Public Safety Subcommittee and has met emergency response training requirements for public officials. She chairs the personnel subcommittee. Heavner recently initiated Simsbury's Technology Task force as well as

Community For Care, which provides information to families with children suffering from substance abuse. She previously served as Deputy First Selectman.

"As we turn to getting on with the town's business, I thank you for your support and confidence in me," said Heavner.

"Having worked side by side with Mary for the last half decade, I am ready to step up and step in to complete Mary's term and to continue

the work she began. I am up to speed on town issues and take this responsibility seriously. Now is the time to turn our focus to doing the town's business and restoring the public trust."

Heavner added that she has always worked in a bipartisan manner to do what is best for the town and will continue to do so.

Heavner is a graduate of Georgetown University Law Center. She resides in Weatogue with her husband



First Selectman Lisa Heavner

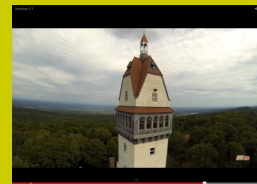
Jim. They are parents to Mike and Rob, both Simsbury High School graduates who are currently attending college.

The hours of the Regional Probate Court have changed.

**The new hours are:
Monday through Thursday
8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and
Friday 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.**



**Want to see a drone's view of Simsbury?
Check it out here:
[https://
www.youtube.com/
watch?v=8FmQWJ3t42I](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8FmQWJ3t42I)**



Keep fire hydrants clear of snow

The Simsbury Fire District wants to remind residents that hydrants must be kept accessible and easily seen by approaching fire personnel year round. Appropriate

clearance allows for the safe operation of the hydrant by fire personnel and room to connect the needed hoses and appliances to the hydrant. Snow must be removed as soon as the

storm is over and kept at least five feet from the hydrant in all directions and must not obscure visibility. Any questions can be directed to the Simsbury Fire District at 860-658-1971.



Dates to remember, holiday closings:

- ♦ Simsbury Town Hall will be closed New Year's Day, Jan. 1 and Jan. 19 for MLK Day.
- ♦ Simsbury Public Schools will be closed Jan. 1, 2 and 19.
- ♦ The Simsbury Public Library will be closed on Jan. 1 and Jan. 19.

Update on Dorset Crossing

The Dorset Crossing Planned Area Development (PAD), approved in 2012, includes one medical building that has already been constructed. That walk-in medical facility has an association with St. Francis.

More medical buildings and offices are slated for this area when the demand is present.

The second part of this development is 48 units of Specialty Housing called Ojakian Commons. Forty units of this housing is specifically designed and set aside for residents with MS. Additionally 8 units are set aside for local residents with special needs.

This facility is only the second of its kind on the east coast of the U.S. The other facility is in New Jersey.

"We look forward to this facility providing a valuable service to the residents who often find living in facilities that are not specifically designed for them to be very difficult," said the town's Director

of Community Planning and Development Hiram Peck. "Life can already be more than a little difficult for these folks and we hope this state of the art facility will make their lives a bit easier."

The third section of the PAD, which is also currently under construction is called Eastpointe. It is an apartment complex with a clubhouse and other amenities for its residents. There will be a total of 168 units at Eastpointe which will add to the amount of available new housing units in the "north village" of Simsbury. These units are scheduled to begin accepting occupants in early spring of 2015.

A couple of other notes about this area:

The Dorset Crossing PAD is home to the first new "roundabout" in Simsbury. This new roadway configuration was the result of a significant amount of cooperation between the developer, the town and the State of Connecticut as well as Northeast Utilities.



The Northeast Utilities substation was also recently reconstructed and upgraded in order to provide a more dependable source of power for the northern portion of Simsbury. NU has put a significant amount of funding and effort into this upgraded facility and is in the process of adding the final steps which will include some sound walls and additional landscaping to benefit the residents of the area.

Many people are also awaiting the onset of construction of the new Big Y store in the same general area. This too will give the residents another option for shopping choices.

Kindle class

If one of your resolutions is to read more, here is a way to further that goal. Learn how to download free eBooks to your Kindle at the Simsbury Public Library.

The class is offered Tuesdays, January 6, 13, 20, and 27 or Wednesdays, January 7, 14, 21 and 28 from 1 to 2 p.m. or 2 to 3 p.m.

Kindle guru Gita Agrawal is offering small group instruction for two people at a time. Preregistration is required at 860-658-7663 or go to the [January calendar](#) and pick the day you are interested in to register. Free and open to all.



Laugh away the winter blues

Are you tired of the cold? Feeling the effects of Seasonal Affective Disorder? Try Laughter Yoga!

Warm yourself up and infuse your life with positive energy. Laughter yoga is recommended by Oprah, Dr. Andrew Weil and Dr. Sanjay Gupta. This program is presented by Laura Le, a certified Laughter Yoga instructor. She has been interviewed on radio and public

TV and has been featured in the Hartford Courant. Participants are asked to bring their own water bottles.

No yoga mats or flexibility are required to benefit from this class. Co-sponsored by the Simsbury Senior Center.

**Thursday, January 8
10 to 11 a.m.
Simsbury Public Library
Program Room**



Registration is requested through the library. To register, [click here](#) or 860-658-7663 x2200.