

# The Simsbury Scoop



January 2016, [www.simsbury-ct.gov](http://www.simsbury-ct.gov), on Twitter @TownofSimsbury  
Connecticut's first bicycle friendly community, [www.simsbury.bike](http://www.simsbury.bike)

## Want to ride in a snowplow? You can! (*When it snows*)

**S**imsbury's Department of Public Works is offering the opportunity for residents to ride-along with one of its snowplows during a winter storm. There is no fee for the ride-along, but participants must be at least 18 years old and capable of climbing into the large truck.

### How it works:

Interested participants can fill out an application with times that they are available to participate in the ride-along. Applications are available on the town's website on the public works home page. [Or click here.](#)

One or two days before a winter storm, town staff will confirm your availability for the anticipated storm and schedule a time for your ride-

along. Participants will arrive at the public works facility at 66 Town Forest Road, where they will be given an overview of the town's snow plowing operations and a tour of the public works vehicle maintenance facility.

Following the tour, the participants will meet the plow driver and climb into the truck. The ride-along will typically last one to two hours and return to the public works compound on Town Forest Road.

### What to bring:

Participants should dress in comfortable clothes and stable footwear, boots are preferred. Layered clothing is recommended, as the cab of the plow trucks are kept very warm to minimize the ice build-up on the



windshields (most driver's only wear a T-shirt or light sweatshirt while plowing).

### Questions:

Contact Tom Roy, Director of Public Works at [troy@simsbury-ct.gov](mailto:troy@simsbury-ct.gov) or at 860-658-3222.

## Tax office news — DMV registration

**T**he Connecticut Department of Motor Vehicles underwent a major computer and system upgrade in late August 2015. This upgrade has changed the way tax collectors can now communicate with the DMV.

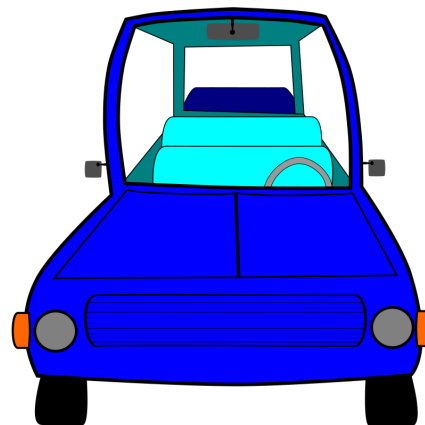
Simsbury has been in full compliance with the DMV's new requirements to communicate on a nightly basis the names of those taxpayers who have met their municipal tax obligations so they can then go online and re-

new their registrations if they were being prohibited from renewing because of outstanding taxes.

The following are tasks you can now do with the DMV at [www.ct.gov/dmv](http://www.ct.gov/dmv):

- Check for any outstanding compliance issues that you may have.
- Renew your registration online.
- Cancel your plates online.

Remember don't wait in line, go online at [www.ct.gov/dmv](http://www.ct.gov/dmv).



## Documentary film screening: *The Untold Story of Emmett Louis Till*

In August 1955, Mamie Till-Mobley of Chicago sent her only child, 14-year-old Emmett Louis Till, to visit relatives in the Mississippi Delta.

Little did she know that only eight days later, Emmett would be abducted from his great-uncle's home, brutally beaten and murdered for one of the oldest Southern taboos: whistling at a white woman in public.

The murderers were soon arrested but later acquitted of murder by an all-white, all-male jury.

Keith Beauchamp's groundbreaking 2005 film, *The Untold Story of Emmett Louis Till*, is the result of a 10-year journey to uncover the truth behind the nightmarish murder of an innocent African-American teenager.

Emmett's brutal murder — and his family's brave actions in the horrifying aftermath — served as a major impetus for America's civil rights movement and led Rosa

Parks and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. to make decisions that changed the course of history.

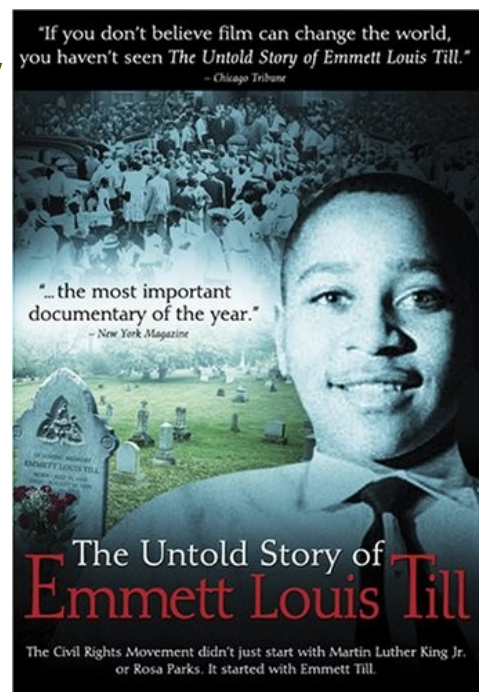
Following the film, Deacon Art Miller, author, radio host, revivalist, retired businessman, and friend of the film's producer, Keith Beauchamp, will lead an informal discussion. His perspective is that of an African American who grew up on the South Side of Chicago in the 1940s and 1950s.

Miller was 10 years old in 1955 when his schoolmate Emmett Till was brutally murdered. His book,

***The Untold Story of  
Emmett Louis Till***  
**Thursday, January 14, 2016**  
**from 2 to 3:30 p.m.**

Registration is suggested at  
860-658-7663 x 2200 or  
[click here.](#)

Free and open to all.  
Simsbury Public Library  
725 Hopmeadow Street



*The Journey to Chatham*, details the historic events seen through the eyes of Emmett's friends. Along with his other activities, Miller preaches at Mass and leads a biweekly Bible study at St. Mary's Church in Simsbury.

Running time: approximately 70 minutes.

## Reminder: tax bills are due on January 1, 2016

The last day to make a payment without penalty will be February 1, 2016. (Postmarks of February 1, 2016 will be accepted.)

Taxes due at this time are for the second installment on real estate and personal property on any business. Those bills were mailed out last June.

To get a copy of your bill please hit the blue button "[View/Pay Your Tax Bill](#)" on tax office front page online. Supplemental motor vehicle taxes were mailed out December 16, 2015

and are also due January 1, 2016 with the last day as February 1, 2016. Supplemental motor vehicle bills are for cars that were newly registered after October 1, 2014 and before August 2, 2015.

By state law, failure to receive a tax bill does not exempt you from paying taxes.

The P.O. Box 4156 in Woburn, MA 01888-4156 is correct, that is Simsbury Bank's processing center for the town.



If you are paying in person the tax office hours are Monday 8:30 a.m. to 7 p.m., Tuesday through Thursday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and

Friday 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Payments can still be made in person at the tax office or can also be mailed to P.O. Box 495 Simsbury. Don't wait in line, pay online at

[www.simsbury-ct.gov/tax](http://www.simsbury-ct.gov/tax). It's free with an electronic check.

All debit/credit cards have a 2.95 percent fee on the total payment.

## “Warm Reads for Cold Nights” during January at the Simsbury Public Library January 4 through February 1

**T**he holidays are over and we're settling into the doldrums of winter.

Simsbury Public Library has the remedy for the doldrums!

Take part in “Warm Reads for Cold Nights.”

Be one of the first 25 to [register](#) and receive a gift bag filled with goodies.

Submit brief reviews of what you're reading or listening to between January 4 and February 1 each time you visit SPL

and be entered to win cozy prizes every Monday.

Grand prize drawing for the coziest prize of all will be February 1.

The more reviews you submit the more chances you have to win. Join the fun — Keep Warm and Read a Good Book.

This program is supported through the Simsbury 1820 House and Simsbury Newcomer's Knitting Group.

Free and open to all.



### *Winter fun!*

*Check out the culture, parks and recreation department's activities. [Click here](#) to see what's in store!*



## Time to think about snow and ice removal

**T**he Simsbury Police Department wants to remind residents, businesses owners/employees and snow plowing/removal personnel to keep streets, sidewalks, and hydrants clear of snow and ice. It is imperative to provide emergency access for police, fire, ambulance and maintenance vehicles to all areas of the community.

### **Parking on the street**

Vehicles should not be parked on the street if they impede snow removal operations, during and after a storm. The owner/operator of a

vehicle that obstructs snow removal operations may be subject to a fine and the vehicle may be towed.

### **Plowing or blowing snow in or across the street**

Snow plowing and blowing into the street or across a street is prohibited. As a homeowner/business owner it is your responsibility to tell your contractors not to clear your driveway by pushing the snow across and into the streets.

### **Sidewalks**

Sidewalks are used for emergency personnel, children walking to school, commerce (e.g. USPS, Fed-

Ex, UPS) and general use. Any and all snow, sleet and ice must be removed from sidewalks by property owners within 24 hours.

### **Hydrants**

Property owners with hydrants on or adjacent to their property should clear snow and other obstructions that would delay or prevent their use in the event of an emergency.

For questions, call the police department at 860-658-3100.



## January Dates to Remember



January 1,  
New Year's Day



January 18,  
Martin Luther King Jr. Day



## January Closings, Deadlines

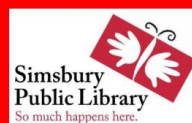
- ♦ Simsbury Town Hall, Eno Memorial Hall, the Simsbury Public Library and the Simsbury Public Schools are closed January 1 and January 18.
- ♦ Monday, January 25 is the last day for an elector to switch political party affiliation to be eligible to vote in a major party presidential preference primary.

*You're Invited...*



**Teen Space Ribbon Cutting & DIY Buttons**  
**Saturday January 9, 2:00 p.m.**

**Cookies will be served**



## Board of Selectmen Meeting Time Change

Please note that the board of selectmen will start its meetings at 6 p.m. in 2016. The board used to hold its regular meetings at 7 p.m.

