

The Simsbury Scoop



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

May is Bike Month — get out there!

May is bike month and there are many ways to participate all month long!

•**May 1:** Simsbury Free Bike opens, www.facebook.com/simsburyfreebike.

•**May 3:** Ride and learn with League Certified Bike Instructor Steve Mitchell — every Tuesday at 5:30 p.m. Iron Horse Blvd., 5-10 miles, 11 mph pace. Riders attending 8 of 10 rides will earn a Traffic Skills Certificate. Or walk with the Chamber, also at 5:30 p.m.

•**May 4:** [Bicycle Cellar](http://www.simsbury.bike) 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. Join Simsbury Schools in celebrating National Bike to School Day. Squadron Line is Wed., May 4; Tootin' Hills is Fri., May 6; Latimer Lane is Wed., May 18. See www.simsbury.bike for times. 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.

•**May 11:** Basic bicycle maintenance class, [Simsbury library](http://www.simsbury.bike) — 6:30 p.m., hosted by The Bicycle Cellar.

•**May 14:** Trail history and ride — 10 a.m. to noon. [Simsbury Public Library](http://www.simsbury.bike); Rob Dexter, East Coast Greenway/Larry Linonis, Simsbury Free Bike. Rain date 5/21.

•**May 20:** Bike to Work Day — 6:30 to 8 a.m., Simsbury Meadows, by the playground on Iron Horse Blvd.

•**May 20:** Bike Month Happy Hour at the Red Stone Pub — 5:30 p.m.

For the full event list, [simsbury.bike](http://www.simsbury.bike).

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.



Simsbury Free Bikes can be borrowed in the towns of Simsbury, Avon, Granby, Unionville 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 \$1.60 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.

Try Simsbury Triathlon May 22

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.

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.

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.

Race bags and numbers can be picked up on Saturday May 21 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 Simsbury.

Registration is open online (only) at www.trysimsbury.com or through [www.Facebook.com/trysimsbury](https://www.facebook.com/trysimsbury).

The race is capped at 250 participants.

Like us on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/trysimsbury) to join the conversation, see training videos, hear about pre-race rides, runs and paddles and to thank sponsors.

Email trysimsbury@gmail.com or sym624@comcast.net.



Simsbury Chamber of Commerce to honor four at annual awards luncheon

The Simsbury Chamber of Commerce will recognize the achievements of four individuals at its annual leadership awards luncheon and meeting to be held May 26, 2016 at The North House, 1 Nod Road, Avon. Hartford Mayor Luke Bronin is the guest speaker. The "2016 Business Leader of the Year" award will be presented to

Robert Hensley, of Robert Hensley & Associates, LLC, for his myriad contributions to the Town of Simsbury, the surrounding communities, and the chamber.

Peter Askham and Nicholas Mason, will receive the chamber's "2016 Public Servant of the Year" award for their many years of service to the Town of Simsbury.



Bryan Forman, a Technology Education teacher at Henry James Memorial School, is the recipient of the chamber's "2016 Educator of the Year" award.

Members of the Simsbury Chamber of Commerce, their guests and the public are invited to attend the luncheon, beginning at 11:30 a.m.

For more information, or to purchase tickets, [click here](#).

2016-2017 Budget Referendum

The budget referendum has been postponed, due to possible changes in the state budget and its affect on the local budget. It is no longer May 10, 2016. No new date has been set as of yet. For budget info, [click here](#).



Development status in Simsbury as of February 2016

In response to inquiries regarding recent/future development in Simsbury, the planning department will put together periodic updates, which will be published on the website.

Recently Completed Projects:

- Cumberland Farms (Hopmeadow Street)
- Dorset Crossing — specialty housing completed September 2015 (Dorset Crossing and Casterbridge Crossing Road)

Under Construction:

- Berkshire Bank — still doing interior fit out. Not opened. (16 Albany Turnpike/Bushy Hill Road)
- Powder Forest — Carson Way: single family homes/cluster development, 74 units (Powder Forest Road); and Highcroft: 272 units (52 townhouse style, 220 apartment style)
- Dorset Crossing — Eastpointe Apartments, 168 residential units total, 143 completed (Dorset Crossing and Casterbridge Crossing Road)
- Garden Homes — town house and apartment style housing, broke ground Jan. 28, 2016 (181 units)
- Ethel Walker — Centennial Center, broke ground April 24, 2015
- Murphy's Turn — 5 lot residential subdivision
- Cumberland Farms and Pool Barn Building — Cumberland Farms open. Pool Barn Building

interior fit out to be completed (Hopmeadow Street)

- Townhouses at Mill Pond Crossing, 20 units approved

Current – Land Use Approval Granted – No Activity:

- Big Y — site plan approved late 2012
- Hoskins Road Workforce Housing Overlay Zone (WHOZ) — 88 residential units (16 affordable)
- Meadow Woods – 296 single family homes
- Wolcott Road — Simscroft construction yard relocation
- Chestnut Hill Associates — 46 units, apartments
- Westminster School — dining hall facility, late winter/early spring construction expected
- Green Tea — renovations and new building

On the Horizon:

- The Silverman Group — present owner of The Hartford site, informal development discussions have taken place over the past month. Application for demolition of office complex submitted to conservation commission, Feb. 22, 2016
- Community/senior center facility — preliminary concept/site design ongoing (Iron Horse Blvd.)
- Performing Arts Center — ticket booth/office building. Preliminary planning stages (Iron Horse Blvd.)
- Infinity IV/Mark Greenberg —

Hopmeadow Street. Southern parcel — retail PAD approved (no site plan) with PAD for Garden Homes (under construction). Central parcel — leased to Eversource (PAD approval). Northern parcel — retail office (PAD approval)

- St. Mary's School — preliminary discussions possible expansion
- Sunrise Convenience — adjacent to Big Y, stand alone structure
- Powder Forest — PAD approval for 200,000 sq. ft. assisted living facility (Powder Forest Drive). PAD approval for 75,000 sq. ft. retail development (Powder Forest Drive)
- Solar Farm Project — Town of Simsbury, preliminary discussion/planning (old landfill site)
- Solar Farm Project – Deepwater Wind (Providence, RI), 26 MW Solar Project, RFP Response submitted to the state Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, the Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources, Eversource Energy, National Grid and Unifil (Hoskins Road).

To see more updates, [check here](#).



Calling all Veterans — Simsbury announces plans for Memorial Day parades

Simsbury's Memorial Day parades are attended by thousands of residents and visitors, with nearly 100 veterans marching or riding.

This year's Memorial Day events will be held Monday, May 30. The parade and following ceremonies are great family events as they involve over a dozen bands, the police and fire department, town and state government representatives and nearly 100 veterans marching, many in uniform. Coordinators are requesting that Veterans participate in the parades being held in Simsbury and Tariffville. "Every year the participation of Veterans gets larger and larger," said organizing chairman Bob Gauthier from the American Legion. This year marks the 99th anniversary of the parade and organizers want to increase Veteran participation to more than 100.

Many veterans can no longer march

therefore rides in either military vehicles or in classic cars will be made available. Veterans, including active duty personnel, if you have a uniform please wear it. If not, please wear a hat designating branch of service or conflict. For the VFW and American Legion members please wear your cover.

The Tariffville parade takes place at 9 a.m., beginning at the foot of Winthrop Street and concluding at St. Bernard Cemetery. At the cemetery there will be a short ceremony with guest speakers. Veterans should muster at the foot of Winthrop Street at 8:30 a.m.

The Simsbury Parade begins at 1:30 p.m., stepping off from Owens Brook Blvd. and concluding at Eno Memorial Hall. If you are unable to march, rides can be arranged.

Marchers should muster at 12:45 p.m. in the Simsbury Bank parking



lot. Riders should muster at the same time at 12:45 p.m. at Somerset Lane. Following the parade there will be a ceremony in front of Eno Memorial Hall, 754 Hopmeadow Street.

People needing rides please contact Mike Bolduc at 860-651-8905, John Fox at 860-658-0388 or Bob Gauthier at 860-658-2071 so that a proper number of vehicles are available.

Particulars such as shuttle bus service from First Church, toilet facilities, etc., will be announced in the local media as it gets closer to Memorial Day.

Summer is almost here ... time to sign up for fun with parks and recreation

The countdown is on! Sign up today for summer camps, programs, pool passes and swimming lessons. Visit www.simsburyrec.com for more information. To see the Summer Program Guide, [click here](#).



May Dates to Remember

May 1-31: Spring turkey hunting season begins.

May 1-31: Top Dog Photo Contest
(winners' ceremony in June)

May 8: Mother's Day

May 30: Memorial Day

NOTE: The May 10 budget referendum has been postponed. No new date has been set yet.

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



The Gardeners of Simsbury
Annual Plant Sale
(Day Before Mother's Day)
May 7th, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Boy Scout Hall
710 Hopmeadow Street
Simsbury, CT 06070

Upcoming events at the library and beyond

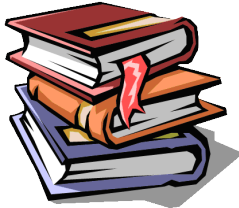
The Simsbury Public Library has a variety of events in May, some outside the library walls.

For a complete list, see the full calendar by [clicking here](#).

Highlights include:

Nutmeg Read-A-Thon: the new Nutmeg Book Award nominees (Connecticut state children's/teen book award) are announced May 1 and the library is celebrating with pizza, ice cream, and raffle tickets for a whole set of books (10 titles for each age group: 4-6, 7-8, 9-12).

This is a program for grades 4-12 and registration is available [here](#).



Teen Duck Tape Contest: Saturday, May 14, winner gets a 10-inch duck for the Simsbury Duck Race, teen space, 3 to 4:30 p.m. Register [here](#).



Teen Coloring & Cookies: come reduce stress by coloring. Three Tuesdays (May 3, 10, 17) from 3 to 5 p.m. Drop in. No registration needed.



Special Storytimes:

Bicycle Storytime: Saturday, May 14 at 11:30 a.m. A special bicycle-themed storytime and craft. Ages 2+. Drop-in.



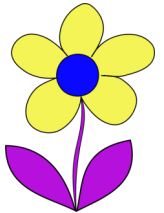
Story Stars: Lizards: Tuesday, May 10 at 10:30 a.m. Storytime



for ages 3 and up featuring live animals. Register [here](#).

Storytime at the Flower Bridge (located at 1 Old Bridge Road):

Tuesday, May 24 at 11 a.m. Meet Joanne Moody at the Flower Bridge for stories, songs & more. Ages 2+. Drop-in. (The event will be cancelled in inclement weather.)



Storytime at Schultz Park (located at 921 Hopmeadow Street): Friday,

May 27 at 11 a.m. Park at town hall and meet Joanne Moody at Schultz Park for stories, songs & more. Ages 2+. Drop-in. (The event will be cancelled in inclement weather.)



"Explore Simsbury"

Are you up for a challenge? Lisa Karim, director of the Simsbury Public Library, is challenging Simsbury residents to "Explore Simsbury" this summer in the first annual Director's Challenge from May 1 through August 31.

"The Director's Challenge provides incentive for people to get out and explore the highlights of Simsbury, of which there are many. We're excited to partner with the Tourism Committee to help promote all the



great history, sites and activities available in our community. We hope everyone will be part of the challenge this year," she said.

A scorecard is available at the library listing interesting attractions and activities throughout Simsbury. There are 18 places on the list and each person or family is encouraged to visit at least 12.

Enter your scorecard with 12 or more places checked off by August 31 and return it to the library to have your name entered to win one of three prizes to be drawn at Septemberfest.

Some of the activities include a

hike to Heublein Tower, a visit to the Simsbury Historical Society (you may borrow a free museum pass with your library card), a bike ride down the Farmington Valley Greenway, a historical walk down Hopmeadow Street and more.

The library has created a guide with directions and business hours of places in the area. Copies of the challenge will be available at the library and the Simsbury Visitor's Center. Have fun this summer and explore Simsbury!



Simsbury Grange & Green Monster E-Cycling

Monster-Size Recycling Event Saturday, May 14 • 9 AM - 12 Noon

Andy's Market

836 Hopmeadow St, Simsbury, CT 06070



ACCEPTING THE FOLLOWING ITEMS:

- Televisions
- Computer Monitors/Screens
- Toner and Ink-jet Cartridges
- Modems/Routers, Switches or Hubs
- Main-frames and Server Racks
- DVD and CD Players
- ALL Storage Media
- Computers and Laptops
- Printers and Fax Machines
- Telephones or PBX systems
- All Types of Cables and Wiring
- Stereos and Radios
- iPods, Walkmans and P.D.A.s
- and more



NOT accepting ANY of the following:

- Air-Conditioners
- Washers/Dryers
- Refrigerators
- De-humidifiers
- Water-coolers
- Light-bulbs
- Vacuums
- Microwaves
- Household batteries

More information on the items accepted
can be found on Green Monster E-Cycling at
<http://www.GreenMonsterEcycling.com>
or contact them at 860-231-1426

Information on Simsbury Grange can be found at
<http://www.SimsburyGrange.org>

A \$10.00 donation is suggested.

