

The Simsbury Scoop



October 2015 www.simsbury-ct.gov, on Twitter @TownofSimsbury
Connecticut's first bicycle friendly community, www.simsbury.bike

Fire district launches radio station — WSIM 103.5 FM

Remember when there was no power for days on end and you didn't know where to get bottled water, a pack of batteries or gas for your generator? Or even what roads were passable?

Well during the next such emergency there will be a constant flow of up-to-date Simsbury-specific information on WSIM 103.5 FM, the non-profit community radio station being launched by the Simsbury Fire District the first week of October.

On Oct. 4, the start of Fire Prevention Week, the main fire station will host an open house from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. where residents can find out more about the station, which is housed on the second floor.

"We're going to talk about specific items of interest to Simsbury," said Fire Marshal Kevin Kowalski, adding the big picture during any event will be handled by larger news organizations.

"We can talk about individual roads in Simsbury," he said.

News from NOAA, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and other emergency alert systems and tones will be included, but it is the details, such as where residents can charge their cell phones, and perhaps take a shower, that will

be the most helpful locally.

The station plans to start streaming its

broadcasts as well, he said. Some people leave town when they lose power and they want to know when to come back. With streaming, residents can get the latest information about town conditions on their computer and smartphone.

Kowalski said the idea for a the radio station grew out of the succession of storms a few years back that left a lot of people in the dark, both literally and figuratively.

The inability to communicate with

residents was a concern. The station is LP, or low power, but will reach the majority of residents. It will operate under the authority of the Federal Communications Commission, or FCC.

With emergencies hopefully far and few between, the

station is also working on programming, as it will be broadcasting 24-hours-a-day seven days a week eventually.

Kowalski said there will be a lot of public service announcements, music and the station may work with

SIMSBURY'S COMMUNITY RADIO

www.SimsburyFD.org



the schools to broadcast sporting events, as well as other community affairs programming. But the mission is clear: to serve the public.

"The priority is emergency use," said Kowalski.

Until the programming is continuous, since the station is low power, it will bleed over into other stations when there is no local programming.

Kowalski said the process of licensing and getting ready to launch took more than three years.

The station was helped by equipment donations and some money from the federal government as part of storm expenses, which aided the \$25,000 start-up cost. Resident Jeff Hugabonne was instrumental in getting the project off the ground, said Kowalski. Hugabonne is chief engineer for CBS radio.

There will be fundraising events here and there to help with recurring costs, said Kowalski, adding that there are few fire department radio stations in the country.

The head programmer and operations manager is Steve Hess, who is a Lieutenant at the Firetown Road firehouse. He also created the logo for the station.

"We're hoping it's going to work well for everyone," said Kowalski.

October 4 is the start of Fire Prevention Week. The main fire station on Hopmeadow Street will host an open house from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. where residents can find out more about the radio station.

Do You Need Energy Assistance?

The Simsbury Social Services Department has been designated as an official intake site for residents wishing to apply for the Connecticut Energy Assistance Program.

This program is available to assist households in paying for primary heating bills incurred after November 15. The Program also has a "heat included" component for renters.

Income and asset limits apply. For further information or to schedule an appointment, please call the Social Services Department at 860-658-3283.

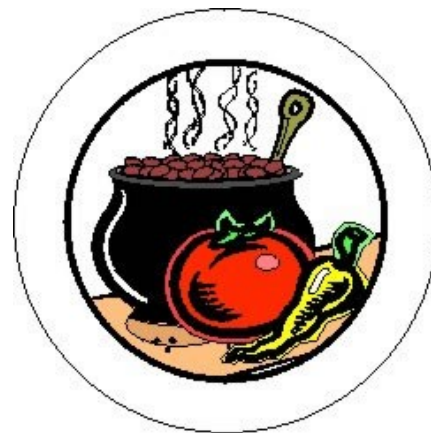


Simsbury Chamber of Commerce hosts Halloween event and chili cook-off

The first annual Simsbury Spooktacular Chili Challenge will be held on Saturday, October 31, 2015. The event, sponsored by the Simsbury Chamber of Commerce, will include live entertainment, trick-or-treating for the kids, a costume contest, and a chili cook-off competition sanctioned by the International Chili Society (ICS). The idea is the brainchild of the Chamber's Executive Director Lisa Gray, who came up with the concept after attending a chili cook-off in New Haven in September 2014. "My husband and I were having a

great time walking around, tasting chili, and chatting with the cooks, and it occurred to me that this would be a great thing to bring to Simsbury," she said. "I realized that Halloween falls on a Saturday this year and it just seemed like the perfect fit."

The event is designed to appeal to the whole family. Along with trick-or-treating and the costume contest, there will be face painters for the kids, and beer, wine, hard cider and shopping among vendors for adults. Judges will determine the winners of the chili competition, and interested



cooks can sign up to compete on the ICS website, www.chilicookoff.com. Tickets to attend the event are \$8 in advance for ages 11 and up, and can be purchased on the Chamber of Commerce website, www.simsburycoc.org, the event website, www.simsburychili.com, or by calling 860-651-7307.

Eighties Family Dance Party!

"You're so fine, Mickey" meets big hair, tights and leggings at this totally rad dance party. So practice your break dancing moves, comb back your mullets and perm up your hair, and be prepared to have an evening of fun! Win prizes for best dance moves and (optional) best costume. Dig out your jean jackets and parachute pants. Enjoy your favorite snacks from

the eighties. Dance to the hits, and not so great hits, of the 80's with DJ N.E.B who'll keep the tunes going all evening long. All ages are welcome. Reservations are suggested at 860-658-5973 or [click here](#). Free.

**Friday, October 9
7 to 10 PM
Simsbury Public Library
Program Room**



Simsbury Visitors Center opens

When *Money* magazine named Simsbury 9th on its 2015 list of the top 50 best small cities in the country, it was showcasing something residents already knew – the town is a great place to live, work and visit. In an effort to further that message, a Simsbury Visitors Center, an initiative sponsored by the Tourism Committee and funded by the Board of Selectmen, recently opened in the Simsbury Chamber of Commerce office. The center will offer coverage most days and will have 24/7 access by phone (860-658-4000), with messages picked up regularly. Outside of the doorway brochures will be available any time of the day or night.

"This is a wonderful addition to the services Simsbury offers residents, potential residents and visitors," said First Selectman Lisa Heavner. "I am really happy we have a Visitors Center once again," said Dominique Avery, co-chair of the Tourism Committee, noting there was one several years ago. Avery is particularly glad to know messages will be answered promptly. "This has become more and more important with the publicity we have

been getting with more and more people interested in visiting the town."

"The Simsbury Chamber of Commerce is so pleased to have the opportunity to host the Town of Simsbury's new Visitors Center within our offices," said Lisa Gray, executive director of the chamber. "With the myriad significant accolades Simsbury has received in recent months, it's definitely time to bring back

the Visitors Center and share our community's many virtues with travelers and residents alike." She said the absence of a Visitors Center meant the chamber was often the first

place people turned for information. "Housing the Visitors Center in our office is a natural alliance that I predict will be beneficial to both organizations." "We want to educate potential residents, new residents and current residents about Simsbury and what it has to offer," said Lori Lubetkin, administrative assistant to Gray and administrator of the Visitors Center. "A lot of people who have been here for years don't know all that Simsbury has to offer, and I want to

**Simsbury Visitors Center
Ribbon Cutting
October 5 at 4 p.m.
749 Hopmeadow Street
(Simsbury Chamber of
Commerce Office)**



Lori Lubetkin, right, helps future residents with information about moving to Simsbury. This couple was moving from Minnesota.

welcome visitors whether they are here for a day or a weekend." Lubetkin has already been receiving calls, including one from a woman in New York who wanted information about the arts and crafts show in town, and visits to the office. A couple from Minnesota stopped in, after seeing the sign (added to the signpost in front of their location in the Simsbury Free Library building), as they are moving here. The couple was looking for information about the town and about setting up a small business. With the Visitors Center in the chamber office, it was easy to get the couple what they needed. To reach the Visitors Center call 860-658-4000. The office is located at 749 Hopmeadow Street.

Board of Selectmen Meeting Reminder

Because Monday, October 12 — Columbus Day — is a state holiday, although town hall is open,

the regular board of selectmen meeting will be on Wednesday, October 14.

Reminder!



October dates to remember:

October 12, Columbus Day
(schools closed)

October 31, Halloween

October: bow hunting
season, various days



Voter information for the upcoming Nov. 3 election

There is an election in November, and to prepare, you can find out everything you need to know on the town clerk's web page.

Absentee ballots will be available October 2.

The election is November 3.

To see more information, such as a [sample ballot](#) and [polling locations by street](#), [click here](#).



SAVE THE DATE!

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 31ST,
12:00PM**

FOR...

**SIMSBURY
TRUNK OR TREAT!**

**MORE INFORMATION TO COME!
NOT SURE WHAT TRUNK OR
TREAT IS?**

[CLICK HERE!](#)



Print from your device at the library

The Simsbury Public Library now offers remote printing services.

Print virtually any document or web page from your Internet connected PC to one of the library's printers.

There is no additional software required. Simply follow the steps.

Printing is done through the Wi-Fi in

the building or jobs can be sent from anywhere to the library for printing through the PrinterOn app. Prints are 15 cents a page for black and white and 50 cents a page for color.

Library staff is happy to assist anyone with questions, or the process. For more, [click here](#).

