

The Simsbury Scoop



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

Simsbury places 9th on *Money* magazine's 'Best Places to Live in America' 2015 list

Simsbury has been named to the 2015 list of *Money* magazine's 50 best small cities in the country, which the magazine defines as places with "great jobs, strong economies, affordable homes, excellent schools, and that special something that makes it a great place to live."

"This is great news," said First Selectman Lisa Heavner. "Simsbury has been on the list before, but this year we made a significant jump, up to ninth place, which demonstrates what our residents already know – Simsbury is a wonderful place to live, work and visit."

"We feel fortunate to be in a community that supports education," said Simsbury's Superintendent of Schools Matthew Curtis. "Simsbury Public Schools has a long-standing record of excellence

because of our incredible programs, staff and students and because our parents and community provide so much support for what we do."

Simsbury was ranked between No. 8, Coppell, Texas and No. 10, Solon, Ohio. According to the magazine, Simsbury's premier public schools are the main draw to this "quiet colonial village nestled in Connecticut's Farmington Valley."

And it is not only book smarts, the magazine points out: "The National Association of Music Merchants Foundation named Simsbury one of the nation's best communities for music education." Also noted, residents can take in a show at

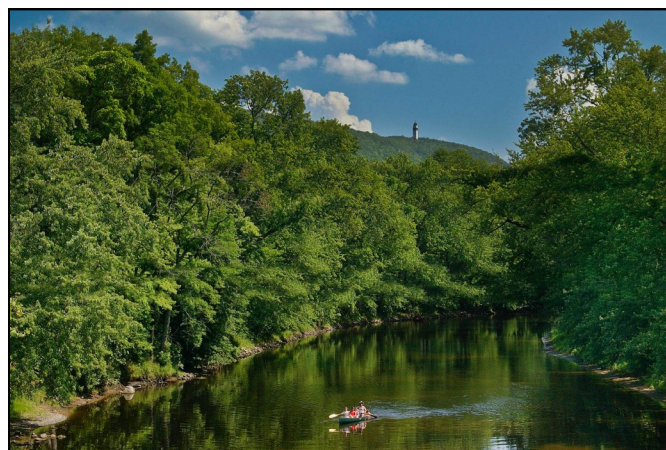


Photo By Rich Wagner—©Imagine it Framed

the "impressive" outdoor performing-arts center, or bike on the 84-mile Farmington Canal Heritage Trail.

Money magazine ranks the best places to live in America annually, and Simsbury has been on the list three times: ranking No. 57 in 2009, No. 39 in 2011, and No. 50 in 2013. To see the 2015 list, [click here](#).

The ranking is derived from 39 data points from various sources. For details on the methodology, [click here](#).

Top Ten 2015

1. Apex, N.C.
2. Papillion, Neb.
3. Sharon, Mass.
4. Louisville, Colo.
5. Snoqualmie, Wash.
6. Sherwood, Ore.
7. Chanhassen, Minn.
8. Coppell, Texas
9. **Simsbury, Conn.**
10. Solon, Ohio

Money

Simsbury Voted No. 1!

Simsbury was also voted the No. 1 town of the top 10 in an online poll. Simsbury received 2,400 votes. The next highest vote-getter, No. 8 Coppell, TX, received 759. Simsbury also received 32 comments with the next town racking up four.

To see those results, [click here](#).

30th annual Simsbury Fly-In and Car Show

This is the largest event of its kind in the Northeastern U.S., featuring 750 airplanes and autos of virtually every type and vintage on display in a country fair atmosphere, plus great activities including:

- Shriners' parade
- Radio control model aerobatic demo
- Waco biplane rides
- Old Rhinebeck Aerodrome
- Free seminars
- Live music (two bands)
- Kids activities
- Aerial banner pickup demo
- Formation flying
- Judging and trophies, many new aircraft and cars on display by dealers
- Ben & Jerry's and other good eats, local craft items for sale, breakfast and lunch
- Handicapped restrooms
- Doggie watering station

September 20, 2015

8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Simsbury Airport

94 Wolcott Road

www.simsburyflyin.com



There is no entry fee, but your donation is appreciated. Nearby parking is available at \$10, with proceeds helping to benefit the Boy Scouts.



Photo courtesy of the Simsbury Police Department

Junior police have the right stuff

The 14th annual Simsbury Junior Police Academy ran from Aug. 3-7. The academy is for children in grades four through eighth. At left, participants use the ropes course that emphasized team building and trust. The children are shown working together to complete obstacles that they would not be able to complete on their own. They assessed the issue and came up with a plan to get their entire group through the obstacle. The academy runs every summer during the first full week of August. Anyone interested can check the police department web page for videos and more information on next year's program. Or [click here](#).

Friends of Simsbury Public Library Giant Used Book Sale, Sept. 12, 13

Don't miss the Simsbury Public Library's biggest event of the year. Their annual Giant Used Book Sale will be held in the gym at Simsbury High School on the weekend after Labor Day: Saturday, September 12, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sunday the 13, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Parking is free. Over the summer, thousands of books have been collected and sorted, so that only the best are presented at the sale. The books are organized in separate sections. There are more than 30 cate-

gories of nonfiction from cooking, biography, parenting, arts, poetry and drama, how-to and hobbies, travel, history, business, science and nature, computers to religion, self-help, sports and games and more. There is a HUGE children's section containing top quality books, games and puzzles. Also available are large print books, DVDs, CDs and audio tapes

for children and adults. A "Special Selections" section includes old and rare books, plus collectibles.



Everything is priced to sell, most at \$.25 to \$4.00. On Sunday there is an all day bag sale, where for \$10 you can fill a grocery bag (supplied) with almost anything still available. Cash, checks, and credit cards (for purchases over \$25) accepted. Proceeds support programs and services at the library.

Stone walls and Simsbury's sense of place

New Englanders in general and Simsbury residents in particular love their old stone walls. Why? The answer isn't quite as obvious as it seems. Come hear what UConn professor Robert Thorson thinks during this public lecture program. The history, art, psychology, and science of stone walls are all on the menu. Readings, photographic slides, and hands-on specimens will be part of the program.

Thorson, whose ancestors were sodbuster homesteaders during the 1870s-1890s, came to New England in 1984 via the Midwest and Alaska. Along the way, he earned a Ph.D. in geology from the University of Washington in Seattle and spent time in the West working with the U.S. Geological Service. Thorson is the author of *Stone Wall Secrets*, *Exploring Stone Walls*,

Stone By Stone, *Beyond Walden*, and *Walden's Shore*. He is also a journalist, publishing columns on science, environment and education in *The Hartford Courant*.

During his first 20 years at UConn, his appointment was with the department of geology and geophysics. In 2005, he joined the department of ecology and evolutionary biology and the department of anthropology (archaeology). His academic career took a turn in 2002 after publication of *Stone by Stone*. Within a year, it had become a regional bestseller and had won the Connecticut Book Award for nonfiction. This

**Thursday, September 17
6:30-8 p.m.
Simsbury Public Library
Program Room**



inaugurated a decade of evangelical advocacy for the preservation of historic landscapes, one that included giving over 500 talks. Copies of his books will be available for signing and inscription.

Preregistration is suggested at 860-658-7663 x2200 or [click here](#). Free and open to all.

Simsbury Culture, Parks and Recreation Department Fall 2015 Programs — www.simsburyrec.com

From yoga to web programming, the recreation department has it all! How about a babysitter class or an acting workshop? Check out the offerings at

www.simsburyrec.com and sign up today. You can register for all of the programs through the website, www.simsburyrec.com, or you can visit



the Simsbury Farms main office at 100 Old Farms Road during business hours, Monday-Friday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., or call 860-658-3836 for more information.

Start thinking about Simsbury Celebrates!



Simsbury Celebrates!

It's that time of year: the kids are back in school, the nights are getting crisp, and a stray leaf or two has begun to fall. One event that heralds the coming season is Simsbury Celebrates!, which this year is on **Saturday, November 28**. It's always a huge success and a huge event. But it takes an enormous amount of work to pull off. The people who put this free event together are looking for help, from small to large

Interested in helping out? Find out what you can do, email simscelebrates@gmail.com.

commitments. There is work to be done on the various committees, as well as some fundraising (the entertainment is not funded by the town). This year marks the 15th anniversary of the event, which takes place from 4:30 to 8 p.m. on Hopmeadow Street in downtown Simsbury. The street will be closed to traffic and turned into a pedestrian thoroughfare featuring over 20 indoor and outdoor performances and activities for

all ages, followed by the annual Simsbury Volunteer Fire Department decorated multi-town Fire Truck Parade, and ending with the largest fireworks display of the season at Simsbury Meadows. Please consider helping out with this year's effort. If you are interested, email simscelebrates@gmail.com. If you would like to make a financial donation, either call 860-658-3886, or send a check, made out to Simsbury Celebrates to: Simsbury Celebrates, P.O. Box 495, Simsbury, CT 06070. To keep up with the latest news, go to <http://www.simsburycelebrates.com/>.

New selectman joins board

Philip Purciello was appointed to the Simsbury Board of Selectman on Aug. 10. He filled the seat vacated by Deputy First Selectman Nancy Haase.

Purciello served in the Navy as an intelligence specialist for six years and was stationed the U.S., Qatar, Afghanistan, Australia, and El Salvador. He reached the grade of E-6 before his four year mark and was honorably discharged in 2012. Simultaneously, he earned his bachelor's in legal studies at American Military University.

After separating from the military, Purciello was accepted into UConn's master of public administration (MPA) program. In addition to earning his MPA, he received a post-baccalaureate certificate in leadership and public management.

Purciello also enrolled in Southern New Hampshire University's master's in communications and public relations program, he has four courses remaining to earn his second master's degree. He served on Simsbury's Conservation / Inland Wetlands Commission for the past year, and in the past few months, was brought on as a full-time employee at Travelers as a project leader where he focuses on innovation in business insurance, got engaged, and became a first-time homeowner.



The Simsbury Board of Selectmen, from the left: Deputy First Selectman Sean P. Askham, Cheryl B. Cook, Philip Purciello, First Selectman Lisa L. Heavner, Mike R. Paine, and Chris M. Kelly.

"I look forward to working with the women and men of this board and I will continuously strive to provide exceptional utility to this exceptional town," said Purciello.

Hearing on proposed fire hydrant ordinance: keep them clear, or face a fine

The Simsbury Board of Selectmen will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, September 16, 2015 at 7 p.m. in the main meeting room of town hall, 933 Hopmeadow Street, Simsbury, to receive public comment concerning the proposed Amendments to Simsbury Code of Ordinances, inserting a new Chapter 90 concerning fire hydrant maintenance and the removal of vegetation and other obstructions from public and private fire hydrants.

To see the proposed changes, [click here](#). Hard copies are available at the town clerk's office in town hall. In essence, to provide for the safety and welfare of residents and property owners, the Town of Simsbury requires the owner, agent of the owner or the occupant of any property which has a public or private fire hydrant located on or adjacent to that property to keep the area clear of any obstructions around

fire hydrants and/or automatic fire sprinkler equipment. Obstructions refers to any item including but not limited to snow, vegetation, ground cover, fences, mailboxes or such that would impede any use or maintenance by the Simsbury Fire District. Obstructions should be cleared within a three foot radius of any such hydrant, and to an access strip five feet in width from such hydrant to the street. The Simsbury Police Department will enforce this upon notification by the Fire Marshal, Fire Chief or his/her designees, of a violation. It will be the duty of the Chief of Police to provide notice of all violations to the offending party, and order immediate correction. Any owner, agent of the owner or the occupant of any property which has a public or private fire hydrant located on or adjacent to, who fails to comply with the provisions of this chapter following

notification shall be issued an infraction ticket for each day that the violation remains unabated after the date of the notification. Each infraction ticket shall subject the owner, agent of the owner or the occupant to a fine of \$90 for each ticket issued, or the maximum penalty provided by the Connecticut General Statute Section 51-164p. The town may, at any time after the issuance of the notice of violation and failure to comply, remove the obstruction and recover its cost to remove the obstruction in any fashion permitted by law, including the filing of a lien against the subject property, pursuant to the provisions of Connecticut General Statute Section 7-148(c)(6)(C)(v). This ordinance shall take effect on October 21, 2015.



September dates to remember:
Sept. 7, Labor Day (town hall/schools closed)

Sept. 14, Rosh Hashanah
Sept. 23, Yom Kippur
Sept. 23, Fall begins

September, bow hunting season, various days

