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## FIRST SELECTMAN'S REPORT

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**TO:** Board of Selectmen  
**FROM:** Wendy Mackstutis – First Selectman  
**DATE:** January 23, 2023

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### MLK Day Event

Thank you to the MLK Day Committee for the celebration held at Eno Memorial Hall last Monday, January 16<sup>th</sup>. Keynote speaker Dr. Camelia Lawrence delivered a speech that was meaningful and heartfelt, which set the tone of the celebration and commitment to service that Dr. King represented and advocated. We were honored to have U.S. Congresswoman Jahana Hayes, State Senator Lisa Seminara, and State Representative Melissa Osborne join us. Thank you to all involved and to everyone who attended. Special thanks to the Town of Simsbury for their help in facilitating the change in venue.

### Simsbury Community Media

Congratulations to Simsbury Community Media, formerly known as SCTV, for the ribbon cutting event that debuted the new studio. One take away is that it is easy to now refer to them as SCM, which for some reason none of us were doing! (I know I could not get away from saying SCTV, but this is just as easy).

SCM has been a huge asset to our community, providing coverage of our town meetings, along with more fun programming. With the new studio and technical improvements, there are many opportunities for expanded programming and volunteers.

Here is the contact information Patrick Fallon, Station Manager: (860) 658-1720. [simtv@yahoo.com](mailto:simtv@yahoo.com)

### Cannabis Hearing and Draft Ordinance

The BOS voted 4-2 at our January 9<sup>th</sup> meeting to prohibit the retail sale of cannabis in Simsbury for a period of 18 months. There will be a public hearing regarding the draft ordinance on February 13<sup>th</sup> at our BOS meeting.

All are welcome, and comments will be limited to 3 minutes during the public hearing so we can accommodate everyone's views. The draft ordinance can be found in our agenda from our 1/23/2023 meeting. [https://www.simsbury-ct.gov/sites/g/files/vyhlf1216/f/agendas/1-23-23\\_1.pdf](https://www.simsbury-ct.gov/sites/g/files/vyhlf1216/f/agendas/1-23-23_1.pdf)

(It is the second to last document in the packet)

### FY 2023/2024 Budget Process

I included this information in my last report but will continue to repeat it, so everyone is aware of upcoming meetings, and to follow the process. The Town Manager is currently working with each department to discuss their '23/'24 budget needs. During the month of February, the Town Manager's budget will be developed, and presented to the Board of Selectmen, per below timeline. That will kick off the meetings throughout March for workshops, presentations, and adoption of the budget.

Police Commission Budget presentation - 1/9/2023 at 5:00pm Town Hall Main Meeting Room

Tri-Board Meeting (BOF, BOS, BOE) – 1/17/2023 at 5:45 Simsbury Public Library

Town Manager Budget presentation to BOS – 2/27/2023 6:00pm Town Hall Main Meeting Room

BOE presents their budget to BOF – 3/7/2023 (location TBD)

BOS Budget Workshop – Town Hall Main Meeting Room

Part 1– 3/9/2023 5:30pm

Part 2 – 3/11/2023 9:00am

BOS Meeting – (potential budget adoption) 3/13/2023 6:00pm Town Hall Main Meeting Room

BOS Special Meeting If needed (potential budget adoption) – 3/15/2023 6:00pm  
BOS Budget presentation to BOF – 3/21/2023 5:45 (location TBD)  
BOF Public Hearing on the Budget – 4/4/2023 6:00pm Simsbury Public Library  
Budget Referendum – May 2023

Town Manager Office Hours

Town Manager Maria Capriola will be holding office hours at the end of each month during the first half of 2023. This will provide residents with an opportunity to learn more about what is happening in town, ask questions, share concerns, or just stop in and say hi. We have had a Town Manager since 2018, and if you have not met Maria, this is a great way to do so.

The first one will be on Monday, January 30, and I will be joining Maria in the Main Meeting Room from 5:00 PM – 6:00 PM. Here is the upcoming schedule:

Date	Location	Time	Attendees
30 JAN	Town Hall, Main Meeting Room	5:00 PM - 6:00 PM	with First Selectman Wendy Mackstutis
28 FEB	Eno Memorial, Director's Office	3:30 PM - 3:30 PM	with Deputy First Selectman Amber Abbuhl and Director Kristen Formanek
29 MAR	Simsbury Library, Barnes Room	4:00 PM - 5:00 PM	with Selectman Heather Goetz and Director Lisa Karim
25 APR	Town Hall, Main Meeting Room	8:00 AM - 9:00 AM	with Selectman Sean Askham and Chief Boulter
23 MAY	Simsbury Farms Admin Building	3:30 PM - 4:30 PM	with Selectman Chris Peterson and Director Tom Tyburski
14 JUN	Public Works Garage	2:00 PM - 3:00 PM	with Selectman Eric Wellman and Director Tom Roy

**Don't miss this opportunity to meet with your Town Manager, members of the Board of Selectmen, and members of town leadership to see what's happening in town, ask questions or just to say hi. Please join us!**

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## TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

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**TO:** Board of Selectmen  
**FROM:** Maria E. Capriola – Town Manager  
**DATE:** January 23, 2022

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### **CORONAVIRUS UPDATE**

We are monitoring the state's municipal COVID alert system and are currently at "red" status for the period ending on January 22<sup>nd</sup>. This status indicates that we have more than 15 COVID cases per 100,000 residents. We are at 60 COVID cases per 100,000 residents in the last seven days. Over the most recent week, we had a total of 15 cases. We also had a positivity rate of 12.67%, an increase from the prior period's rate of 10.43%. As a reminder, this data does not include positive test results from at-home test kits.

The federal government is again offering free COVID test kits. Each household is eligible to order 4 kits. You can order the kits at: [COVID.gov/tests - Free at-home COVID-19 tests](https://www.cdc.gov/COVID-19/need-to-know/faq/faq-001.html)

At this time, there are 6 counties in Connecticut considered to be "high" according to the CDC Community Levels categorization. In Hartford County, community levels of transmission are "high", as determined by the CDC. The CDC recommends that people wear a high-quality [mask or respirator](#) and if you are at [high risk of getting very sick](#), consider avoiding non-essential indoor activities in public where you could be exposed. The CDC has recommendations for [isolation](#) if you have suspected or confirmed COVID-19 and recommendations for [what to do if you are exposed](#) to someone with COVID-19. For additional information on the CDC Community Levels of Transmission, please click on this link <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/science/community-levels.html>.

The Farmington Valley Health District is now booking COVID-19 vaccine appointments for individuals ages 18 and older. You can schedule online @ [fvhd.org/vaccination](https://fvhd.org/vaccination) or by phone at 860-352-2333 (calls received 8 AM to 4 PM Monday through Friday). Bring insurance information and proof of prior vaccination (if applicable) to your appointment, located at 95 River Road Suite A, Canton, CT 06019.

Data from the state ending January 18<sup>th</sup> reports that 22,976 Simsbury residents have received at least their first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine, or 90.47% of the population, while 84.91% of our residents are now fully vaccinated. Additionally, 58.14% of the population have received an additional booster dose. Further vaccination data for Simsbury by age group:

<b>Age Groups</b>	<b>Received 1<sup>st</sup> Dose</b>	<b>Fully Vaccinated</b>	<b>Received Booster</b>
0 - 4	37.03%	27.89%	N/A
5 - 11	71.89%	68.56%	16.23%
12 - 17	90.67%	86.21%	49.38%
18 - 24	100%	100%	65.80%
25 - 44	100%	98.98%	65.83%
45 - 64	87.72%	84.41%	66.24%
65+	100%	100%	97.78%

## **DEPARTMENT NEWS & NOTES**

*Social Services:* Our new Youth & Family Social Worker has been busy coordinating a variety of programs and events for our youth. We'd like to highlight some upcoming programming. The Youth Service Bureau (YSB) will be offering a healthy relationships course in early February. Teens and support systems are invited to discuss all aspects of relationships as well as to raise awareness around domestic violence. In March, Ginger Katz from the Courage to Speak Foundation, will present to 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grade students to spread awareness on opioid prevention followed by a presentation to parents the same evening on "Parenting 101 - Opioid Prevention." In February, a Narcan training has been established for staff members to be able to determine the signs of opioid use and how to properly administer Narcan.

The YSB is also developing several programs for our teens including: home alone safety, babysitting training, anxiety and coping skills, and hidden in plain sight. Details about these programs such as dates, times, location and any registration requirements will be shared on social media. Please like the [Community and Social Services Facebook page](#) to stay up-to-date on these and future program offerings.