
FIRST SELECTMAN'S REPORT

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

It's been a while since I've reported here, and I apologize for the gaps. Our last meeting was cancelled due to lack of a quorum. I do want to start with a personal statement against the instances of antisemitism that have cropped up in the Farmington Valley over the last couple of weeks. It is not welcome here. Our Simsbury Police Department has spent time and resources investigating a bomb threat (that turned out to be a hoax) and looking into flyers that were distributed to driveways in Avon and Simsbury that represented a hate group. Our local clergy have also reached out to the town to discuss these events that seemed to have happened after the terrorist attack in Israel on October 7th.

Interval House Breakfast

The Annual Interval House Breakfast with Champions is being held this Wednesday 10/25 at the Riverview at starting at 7:30am, with breakfast at 8:00am. I have invited many of our female chairs, and members of boards and commissions to join at a table. State Senator Lisa Seminara and State Representative Melissa Osborne will be joining those of us from the town. Feel free to see if there is still room to attend. They ask for a donation at the event. <https://intervalhousect.org/breakfast/>

Town Manager Update

At our meeting on Monday 10/23, we agreed to the employment contract with Marc Nelson as our next Town Manager. We welcome Marc to the Town of Simsbury and look forward to his leadership as our Chief Executive Officer. He will start in his new position on January 8th, which should coincide with our first Board of Selectmen meeting for 2024. Everyone is eager to get to work with Marc, although we will miss our Interim Town Manager, Lee Erdmann when he leaves in December. The contract that we signed has been added to last night's agenda.

https://www.simsbury-ct.gov/sites/g/files/vyhlf9751/f/agendas/10-23-23_0.pdf

POCD Hearing

Tuesday night, 10/24, the Public Hearing on the POCD will be held at the library at 7:00 PM in the program room. Please come and share your comments with the Planning Commission if you haven't already done that, as they would like to hear from everyone.

Fashion Show

Thank you to the Simsbury Senior Center and Aging and Disability for the lunch and Fashion show last week. Selectman Goetz and I had a blast going as Bride and Groom to show our bipartisan union – and because we found a bridal gown and tuxedo jacket at FAVARH thrift shop. It was a great event with over 20 models, and full standing room only crowd.

Members of our Police Department served as ushers with models who wanted a person-in-blue to walk them down the aisle. Even K9 Clifton with Officer Jamie Ball came to be part of the festivities.

K9 Clifton's Gotcha Day

Speaking of Clifton, he was celebrate at the Simsbury Public Library last week to mark his one year of service with our community – his 'Gotcha Day'. Many children were there to help make it a real party

by drawing cards, getting their 'Pawspports' signed, enjoying some swag, and having a cupcake! Clifton's friends from around the state were also there including Chase, Hodges, Nash, Teddy, and others. You can find Clifton on Instagram @k9clifton_simsburypd if you want an overload of a sweet dog and his travels.

Ribbon Cutting for ECG

Stay tuned for the upcoming ribbon cutting on the ECG sometime in November. We will be joined by CRCOG, ECG, Town of Bloomfield and potentially others.

Public Safety Commission

I'd like to thank Sean Askham for his leadership as the Chairman of this team for the last 12 years. He has shown professionalism, knowledge, and empathy in each meeting of our emergency, health, town and business professionals. During Covid he kept the town informed with weekly meetings of the Public Safety Committee via zoom. It will be hard to fill his role as chair.

Fair Rent Commission Hearing

There will be a public hearing to hear from the public on the re-establishment of the town's Fair Rent Commission on November 13. Information and a presentation were given in tonight's agenda. (See below link)

Non Smoking – Cannabis Hearing

There will be a public hearing to hear from the public on the ordinance drafted by the Board of Selectman work group on November 13. Information and the draft are included in tonight's agenda. https://www.simsbury-ct.gov/sites/g/files/vyhli9751/f/agendas/10-23-23_0.pdf

For All Ages Luminary Event

This annual event will be held on December 3 and is sponsored by our local 501c3 organization, For All Ages.

There are opportunities to attend, volunteer and decorate a luminary – or do all 3! Please see the link below for information on how you can get involved. This group has used money received from our ARPA Non-Profit grant program for this event. <https://forallages.org/unite-by-light>

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

TO: Board of Selectmen
FROM: Lee Erdmann – Interim Town Manager
DATE: October 23, 2023

BOARD OF SELECTMEN BUSINESS:

We received notice of the Greater Hartford Transit District Dial-A-Ride Operating Assistance Grant Agreement that the Town budgets as a revenue in the yearly budget. I would recommend this being added as an item under Selection Action at tonight's meeting. This can be done with a motion and vote by 2/3 of the Board.

DEPARTMENT NEWS & NOTES

Public Works:

- The Simsbury Public Works Department hosted a Household Hazardous Waste Collection at the DPW facility at 66 Town Forest Road, West Simsbury, on Saturday, October 7, 2023. This was the third of the three collections we hold annually in conjunction with the Towns of Avon, Canton, Farmington, Granby, and Suffield.

Saturday was very well attended, with 793 vehicles participating. Our Household Hazardous Waste collections provide an opportunity to dispose of items that cannot go into the regular trash, keeping hazardous materials from being deposited into the landfill.

The next collection will be held on Saturday, April 20, 2024 in Farmington. Residents can find more information on which items will be accepted at this collection by visiting the following:

<https://www.simsbury-ct.gov/public-works/pages/household-hazardous-waste-collection>

- Bagged leaves will be collected from November 27, 2023, through December 7, 2023, weather permitting. Place your bagged leaves curbside the night before or by 6:00 am on the morning of your street's collection. No items should be placed in the street or in any way block a sidewalk. All leaves must be contained in biodegradable paper bags--plastic bags will not be accepted, and under no circumstances should you blow or rake your leaves into the road. Residents can also bring bagged leaves and grass clippings to the Bulky Waste Facility during normal hours at no charge. The facility is open Wednesdays and Saturdays from 8:00 am to 3:00 pm. We have updated our [Leaf Collection page](#) to help you determine when it will occur in your neighborhood this Fall.