
FIRST SELECTMAN'S REPORT

TO: Board of Selectmen
FROM: Eric Wellman – First Selectman
DATE: October 28, 2019

Sustainable CT Certification

Earlier this year, Simsbury became a member of Sustainable Connecticut, which provides a voluntary certification program for communities across the state. I am excited to share that Simsbury learned today that we have received Sustainable CT's Silver certification, the highest award currently offered by the organization. In receiving Silver status, Simsbury is recognized for implementing a broad range of sustainability initiatives. I want to thank the Clean Energy Task Force and the Sustainability Team, which headed up this effort. Also thank you to the Board of Selectmen for their support of this work.

Going forward, the Clean Energy Task Force is working on developing an Energy Plan for the Town, and will be soliciting broad community input as part of the process. It will ultimately give the Town a roadmap of projects so we're approaching our Clean Energy work in a strategic manner.

Local Elections, November 5

I wanted to remind our residents that on November 5, the Town will be holding local elections. The polls will be open from 6am to 8pm. Election information including polling locations can be found on the homepage of the Town website on the [Registrar of Voters page](#).

School Facilities Master Plan

Our school district is in the process of completing a [facilities study](#). Some of the goals of the project include developing a 10 year capital improvement and maintenance plan for each of our school buildings, evaluating energy saving opportunities, developing demographic projections for the district, and developing a long-range master plan.

- The next meeting of the Facilities and Enrollment Task Force is October 30th at 6pm in Town Hall. The public is welcome to attend, but no public comment will be taken.
- There is a public forum scheduled for November 20th.

Wildlife Feeding Ordinance

The Board of Selectmen has asked the Public Safety Subcommittee to work on an ordinance that would address the intentional feeding of certain kinds of wildlife. We are currently looking at draft ordinances from other towns. I'll provide an update in this space as this work progresses. For more context on this issue, here's a link to a [recent article](#) on the topic from the Hartford Courant.

Belden Forest Dedication

Belden Forest in Simsbury became the first forest in Connecticut to be included in Old Growth Forest Network. Last Friday, the Town hosted a dedication ceremony. Thank you to the Open Space Committee and the Board of Selectmen for their support in protecting this forest for future generations. I also wanted to congratulate Simsbury resident Susan Masino, who was recognized for her advocacy work with the 2019 National Forest Advocate of the Year Award.

Simsbury's 350th Anniversary

In the coming year, Simsbury will be celebrating its 350th anniversary since it was incorporated in 1670. Work is well underway to plan a series of events throughout the year to celebrate this milestone. You can

learn more about opportunities to get involved at Simsbury350.com. You can also follow the committee's Facebook page at Facebook.com/Simsbury350.

Simsbury Celebrates

Simsbury Celebrates is going to take place on November 30 this year, the Saturday after Thanksgiving. Hopmeadow will be closed to traffic in the center of town starting at 5pm to make way for more than two dozen family friendly activities. The annual firetruck parade will start at 7:30 and fireworks at 8:15. Hope you can join us! See a schedule of activities and ways to get involved at Simsburycelebrates.com.

Veterans Program and Events

- Community for Care is organizing a discussion focused on supporting our veterans, in partnership with the nonprofit Resilience Grows Here. It will take place on November 6, at 6:30pm at the Simsbury Public Library.
- VFW Post 1926 and American Legion Post 84 will commemorate Veterans Day on November 11, with a ceremony at Eno Memorial Hall. This year's ceremony starts at 10:45am.
- The Housing Authority is hosting a luncheon for its residents who are veterans at the Virginia Connolly Residence on Veterans Day, November 11 at noon. Please RSVP to 860-658-1147.

Tobacco Valley Solar

Construction is wrapping up in the coming days on the Tobacco Valley Solar development on the north side of town off of Hoskins and County Roads. At our August 12th Board of Selectmen meeting, Tobacco Valley Solar delivered an update on the project and its progress. You can find a link to that presentation [here](#).

I am frequently asked whether the Town benefits in any way from the project. When the solar installation is complete, Tobacco Valley Solar will be one of the biggest taxpayers in Simsbury. Estimated tax revenue is expected to be more than \$1 million per year for the first few years and will decrease over time as the solar panels depreciate. Over the life of the project, the tax revenue is estimated at more than \$500 thousand per year.

If you're interested in learning more about the project, we have aggregated additional information on the [First Selectman's Page](#) of the Town website.

New Development

- Big Y is proposing to build a 52,000 square foot store on the north side of Simsbury. This is a project that has been on the table for a number of years. Big Y had previously gathered all of the approvals it needed to build, but has not moved forward until now. The company is in the process of coordinating with the Connecticut Department of Transportation for the excavation permit process and reviewing the plans with town staff. [Here is a link](#) to a Courant article about the development.
- 200 Hopmeadow Street (former Hartford property): The project includes 282 rental units (about half have been permitted so far), a 120 bed assisted living facility, and 11 thousand square feet of commercial space. All of the development is on the north side of the property. The south side, where the former Hartford building was located, has no development at this time. The assisted living facility has recently received a certificate of occupancy. Construction is proceeding on 124 out of the 282 rental units.

Ribbon Cutting

- A ribbon cutting and grand opening for Anthology of Simsbury will be held on Thursday, November 7 at 4pm. Anthology is located on the former Hartford Property, 142 Cooper Avenue.

- A triple ribbon cutting is scheduled November 12 for the Welden Building, Tuesday, November 12 at 5pm. John and Melissa Brett, owners of Welden Hardware now own the entire building. We will be welcoming Center for Living Your Best, a new business, and Vincent Sport Shop, which is moving to a new location.

Opportunities to Serve Your Town

There are numerous boards and commissions that serve our town whose members are appointed by the Board of Selectmen. Here is a list of current vacancies:

- Aging and Disability Commission
- Community for Care
- Clean Energy Task Force
- Culture Parks and Rec (per charter this position needs to be filled by a registered Republican)
- Design Review Board
- Historic District Commission
- Recycling Committee
- Tourism Committee

If you're interested in applying for any of these opportunities, you can submit a [volunteer form](#) online. If you have any questions about what these committees do or the appointment process, you can always reach out to me directly at ewellman@simsbury-ct.gov.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

TO: Board of Selectmen
FROM: Maria E. Capriola – Town Manager
DATE: October 28, 2019

BOARD OF SELECTMEN BUSINESS:

Save-the-Dates: We have a number of items for your calendar as follows:

- Parks and Open Space Master Plan informational session, October 29th, 7pm, Tariffville Room, Simsbury Public Library
- Board of Selectmen goal setting session, November 16th, 9am-noon, Tariffville Room, Simsbury Public Library
- Tri-Board budget meeting, December 3rd at 5:45pm, back-up December 5th at 5:45pm, Tariffville Room, Simsbury Public Library

DEPARTMENTAL NEWS & NOTES:

Library: Andrew "Sherm" Sherman joined the Simsbury Public Library staff October 28th as the Business Resource Center Coordinator. In the past nine years, Andrew "Sherm" has worked in libraries as the Technology Coordinator at the Sump Memorial Library in Papillion, Nebraska and Director of the Sidney, Nebraska Public Library. He was selected for the American Library Association's Emerging Leaders and the Nebraska Library Leadership Institute programs. Sherm earned his MLIS degree at University of Missouri. He was named the 2017 Community Leader of the Year by the Cheyenne County Chamber of Commerce for the work he's done engaging the Sidney Public Library with the local community and the construction and operation of a new makerspace in the Sidney Public Library. Prior to becoming a librarian, Sherm had a successful IT career in banking and distribution.

Town Manager's Office: The Town has launched an organization-wide Facebook page. We will be sharing information about news, announcements, and events on this Facebook page. You can find the page here: <https://www.facebook.com/TownofSimsbury/>

Town Manager's Office: Our Deputy Town Manager and I attended our annual professional development conference from October 20th – October 23rd. We are grateful to the town for budgeting funds for us to attend and for supporting our professional development. We attended many informative sessions on topics such as: economic development; ethics; innovation and inclusivity; managing during a crisis; leveraging technology during a crisis; civility in the workplace; and shared services.

SPECIAL EVENTS:

Household Hazardous Waste Collection: the last Household Hazardous Waste Collection of 2019 is coming up on Saturday November 9th. The Collection will be held at the Simsbury Public Works Facility located at 66 Town Forest Road, West Simsbury. Information about the event can be found online on the Public Works page of the Town Website, by clicking [Here](#) or by calling Public Works at (860) 658-3222.