
FIRST SELECTMAN'S REPORT

TO: Board of Selectmen
FROM: Eric Wellman – First Selectman
DATE: November 13, 2019

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.

Since the last public forum in June, Tecton Architects was asked to create a series of planning options for the Simsbury school facilities. More details on two options being proposed can be found [here](#).

There is going to be a public forum on Wednesday November 20th at the Simsbury Public Library starting at 7:00pm. It's an opportunity to learn more about the options being considered and to provide your input.

This is a process that is being driven by our Board of Education and it will eventually intersect with the Board of Selectmen, which is responsible with approving capital projects. I appreciate the residents who have reached out to me with questions and concerns about the options under consideration. Considering a change of this magnitude is not an easy thing. I have interest in the outcome, not just as your First Selectman, but as the father of a child in one of our elementary schools. Like many of our residents, I am still learning about the options and taking in information. I join our Board of Education in its commitment to a transparent process where timely information is shared and input is appreciated. I trust in the collective wisdom of this community to arrive at a fiscally responsible plan that is in the best interest of our children.

Welcome to New Businesses

- The Chamber of Commerce held a ribbon cutting to celebrate the grand opening of Anthology of Simsbury. Anthology is a senior living community and is located on the former Hartford Property, 142 Cooper Avenue.
- Simsbury Main Street Partnership held a triple ribbon for the Welden Building in the center of Simsbury. John and Melissa Brett, owners of Welden Hardware, recently purchased the entire building. They welcomed a couple of new tenants: Center for Living Your Best, a new business, and Vincent Sport Shop, which is moving from its current location.

Veterans Day

Thank you to VFW Post 1926 and American Legion Post 84 for organizing a beautiful Veterans Day Ceremony this past Monday, November 11th. At the ceremony, long-time Simsbury resident Len Lanza was honored following his induction into the Connecticut Veterans Hall of Fame. The Hall of Fame recognizes veterans, not just for their service in the armed forces, but also for their contributions to their communities in the years since. Please join me in congratulating Len Lanza on this incredible honor!

Substance Abuse Awareness Event

The non-profit, A Promise to Jordan, is holding a community event on the field at Simsbury High School from 1:30 – 4:30pm on Monday November 18th. The event will feature a poster project, with more than 140 pictures of the thousands of young lives lost to addiction in Connecticut. There will also be food trucks, music, and giveaways. The event is free and open to everyone, not just Simsbury High School

students. A Promise to Jordan’s mission focuses on raising awareness and reducing the stigma of issues surrounding substance abuse and addiction.

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.

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.

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 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. Going forward, I’ll provide information on how to lend your voice to this process for anyone interested.

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.

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
- 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: November 13, 2019

BOARD OF SELECTMEN BUSINESS:

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

- Board of Selectmen goal setting session, November 16th, 9:00am-noon, Tariffville Room, Simsbury Public Library
- Board of Selectmen swearing in ceremony, December 2nd, 6:00pm, Eno Memorial Hall
- Tri-Board budget meeting, December 3rd at 5:45pm, back-up December 5th at 5:45pm, Tariffville Room, Simsbury Public Library

Addition to the Agenda: Yesterday I received a request to have appointments to the Culture, Parks and Recreation Commission and the Aging & Disability Commission added to the agenda. I am respectfully requesting that “Proposed Appointments to Various Boards/Commissions” be added to the agenda under Appointments and Resignations. This item can be added to your agenda tonight with a 2/3 vote of the body. Supporting documentation regarding this appointment was emailed to you today and hard copies have been provided.

DEPARTMENTAL NEWS & NOTES:

Culture, Parks and Recreation: The Simsbury Farms Ice Rink is now open for the season. Public skating sessions are held on Saturdays from 2:15-4:15pm and 7:30-9:00pm and on Sundays from 2:15-4:15pm. Weekday open skating is held Mondays-Fridays from 11:00am-2:00pm. For more information please call Simsbury Farms at 860-658-3836 or visit www.SimsburyRec.com

Engineering: The State of Connecticut Department of Transportation (DOT) is proposing a project for the rehabilitation of Bridge No. 00653 on Route 10 (Hopmeadow St.) in the vicinity of the EB / Dyno Nobel facility. The project scope involves superstructure replacement, substructure rehabilitation and installation of scour countermeasures near the bridge abutments. Town staff and staff of the Fire District have been coordinating with DOT over the last several months on options to minimize the impacts to the public during the completion of the project. Staff has also involved representatives of Dyno Nobel as part of this coordination effort to ensure they have an opportunity to comment on the proposed project. The project is currently scheduled to be completed during the 2022 construction season. The Department of Transportation has scheduled a public informational meeting for December 12, 2019 at 7:00pm in the Simsbury Public Library to receive any public comment on the project.

Public Works: On November 9th Simsbury hosted the final household hazardous waste collection of 2019. Public Works is reporting that 817 cars were served, which is an increase from the 563 cars from the June collection. In addition, 17,633 pounds of e-waste was collected, a sizeable increase compared to the 5,956 pounds from June. The next household hazardous waste collection is scheduled for April 25, 2020 in the Town of Farmington.

SPECIAL EVENTS:

Board of Education School Facilities Master Plan and Reconfiguration Study: The Board of Education's School Facilities Master Plan and Reconfiguration Study is underway, analyzing the future needs for Simsbury Schools. A public forum on the study will be held on Wednesday, November 20th at 7:00 PM in the Simsbury Public Library. Please click [here](#) for an informational flyer.

Simsbury Celebrates: Simsbury Celebrates will once again be held the Saturday after Thanksgiving (Sat. Nov. 30th) from 5:00-8:30pm in downtown Simsbury. The event features a variety of entertainment and local food options. Highlights of the event include the decorated fire truck parade along Hopmeadow Street and a spectacular fireworks show at Simsbury Meadows. Visit www.SimsburyCelebrates.com for more information.

The following ROAD CLOSING NOTICE will apply to Simsbury Celebrates:

Simsbury Celebrates 2019 is scheduled for Saturday, November 30, 2019. The event necessitates the closing of Hopmeadow Street, Route 10, between Plank Hill Road and Drake Hill Road between the hours of **5:00 PM to 8:00 PM** and traffic will be detoured onto Iron Horse Boulevard. Only local traffic will be allowed to Plank Hill Road. All other traffic will be rerouted onto Iron Horse Boulevard.