
FIRST SELECTMAN'S REPORT

TO: Board of Selectmen
FROM: Wendy Mackstutis – First Selectman
DATE: November 14, 2022

Not sure about everyone else, but this getting dark early is for the birds!
I find myself thinking it's **much** later than it is at 7:00PM.
I am already looking forward to springing forward.

Veterans Day

Thank you to the VFW Post 1926 and American Legion Post 84 for hosting the annual Veteran's Day event at the Veteran's Memorial in front of the Simsbury Public Library. The rain held off and it was a very moving ceremony.

Election Day and Results

I'd like to congratulate the winners of the election held on November 9th, from our District 16 State Rep race that encompasses only Simsbury, all the way to the US Senate. Congrats to Melissa Osborne, State Representative-elect. Kudos to Mike Paine for a race well run.

For the District 8 State Senate race, to replace Kevin Witkos, there is a recount scheduled for tomorrow between Lisa Seminara, Republican and Paul Honig, Democrat, so the results of that should be forthcoming.

CCM Convention

On November 2-3, I attended the CCM Convention at Mohegan Sun. Representing Simsbury was Selectman Goetz, Town Manager Maria Capriola and Management Specialist Tom Fitzgerald. There were many sessions to choose from and we all seemed to end up in different ones to take advantage of spreading the information around. One that was very informational to me was focusing on an age friendly community. This is a key priority of the Aging and Disability Commission, and the work they are doing.

I also received an award for earning my Certified Connecticut Municipal Official designation along with 41 others from across the state. Included in that group, although unable to attend, was our very own Kristen Formanek, Director of Social Services. Congrats to Kristen – I hope you got your framed certificate and pin!

Latimer Lane Bids

The bids for Latimer Lane have come in and resulted in an overage of \$1,766,674 over the approved amount at last year's referendum. The Board of Ed, Board of Finance and Board of Selectmen met for a Tri-Board meeting on November 10th to discuss the increased cost estimate and alternatives for an additional cost. The BOE voted to include 3 of the presented alternatives (Alt 2, Alt 3, Alt 4 – adding an additional \$494,863), stating they were key to education and the use of outdoor space for learning. These 3 alternates were included in the funding proposal presented to our board tonight, which uses capital reserves and ARPA funding. Our board approved this to move forward to the Board of Finance.

They will vote on holding a public hearing, where everyone will have an opportunity to express their views and will end with a referendum in January, sending it back to the voters. The meetings will be available on Simsbury Community Media for your viewing pleasure.

Cannabis

Reminder of upcoming events and ways to be heard on all things Cannabis:

Letters and Emails – We are always happy to receive your thoughts and concerns in written format, which are shared with the full board, if you are not comfortable speaking in public. These can be sent at any time.

Public Hearing at the November 21 Zoning Meeting- At this meeting there will be a public hearing, and all are welcome. The agenda for the 21st includes the text amendment for retail sales, including number of outlets and the proposed location(s). The hearing will be held at the Simsbury Public Library, 725 Hopmeadow Street, at 7pm.

Public Hearing at the November 28 Board of Selectmen meeting will be held at the Simsbury Public Library, 725 Hopmeadow Street, at 6pm. As always, all are welcome. This is a Public Hearing by the Board of Selectmen to hear our residents' views on whether to permit or prohibit retail cannabis sales in Simsbury. This will provide another venue for residents to be heard and will be held in conjunction with our regular meeting.

COVID Relief Non-Profit Program

After tonight's meeting, if the full Board approves, we will have provided funding to these non-profits because of the program created to use ARPA funds for agencies that met the requirements of the program. Information on these non-profits and the amounts approved can be found in our Finance Subcommittee agendas, and at our BOS meetings. The program is closed.

Approved 10/12/2022

Farmington Valley Jewish Congregation, For All Ages, Gifts of Love, McLean, Simsbury Community Media, Simsbury Historical Society, Inc, Simsbury Granby Club Ed Dodge Charitable Fund, Inc (Rotary), VNA Valley Care, Ind dba Farmington Valley VNA, Inc

Approved 10/24/2022 Meeting

A Promise to Jordan, Simsbury Meadows Performing Arts Center, Simsbury Second Chance Shop for The Villages, Simsbury High School Student Parent Teacher Council

Approved 11/14/2022 Meeting

Simsbury Main Street Partnership, Simsbury Youth Football and Cheer

To end, I would like to wish everyone a Happy Thanksgiving, which just so happens to be next week already! I hope you get to spend a lot of time with family, hanging out at the house, eating turkey, stuffing, and pie, watching football, and enjoying the time off.

I'll be at Simsbury Celebrates on Saturday night, 11/26, so I hope to see you there!

Wendy

Wendy Mackstutis, First Selectman
Town of Simsbury

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

TO: Board of Selectmen
FROM: Maria E. Capriola – Town Manager
DATE: November 14, 2022

CORONAVIRUS UPDATE

We are monitoring the state's municipal COVID alert system and are currently at "red" status for the period ending on November 13th. This status indicates that we have more than 15 COVID cases per 100,000 residents. We are at 43 COVID cases per 100,000 residents in the last seven days. Over the most recent week, we had a total of 11 cases. We also had a positivity rate of 5.7%, an increase from the prior period's rate of 4.29%. As a reminder, this data does not include positive test results from at-home test kits.

At this time, there are no counties in Connecticut considered to be "high" according to the CDC Community Levels categorization. In Hartford County, community levels are "medium." The CDC recommends that if you are at high risk for severe illness, talking to your healthcare provider about whether you need to wear a mask and taking other precautions. People may choose to mask at any time. People with symptoms, a positive test, or exposure to someone with COVID-19 should wear a mask. If you are experiencing symptoms, it is important to get tested.

For additional information on why the CDC changed from measuring Community Transmission to Community Levels, please click on this link <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/science/community-levels.html>

The Farmington Valley Health District is offering annual influenza vaccinations (no high dose vaccines available), as well as COVID Bivalent vaccinations including Pfizer and Moderna products. They are offering both Flu and COVID vaccines to individuals 18 years and older. The vaccinations are provided primarily at the FVHD office located at 95 River Rd, Canton CT. However, for businesses or organizations with 10 or more people interested in receiving the vaccine(s), FVHD staff can come to your place of employment. They have approximately 80 doses of influenza vaccine left. For more information or to register for a clinic appointment, please visit our website at www.fvhd.org. To arrange off-site clinics for your place of employment, please call the office at 860-352-2333.

Data from the state ending November 9th reports that 23,014 Simsbury residents have received at least their first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine, or 90.62% of the population, while 84.47% of our residents are now fully vaccinated. Additionally, 57.64% of the population have received an additional booster dose. Further vaccination data for Simsbury by age group:

Age Groups	Received 1st Dose	Fully Vaccinated	Received Booster
0 - 4	33.21%	21.76%	N/A
5 - 11	71.64%	67.92%	16.19%
12 - 17	91.05%	86.21%	49.00%
18 - 24	100%	100%	65.68%
25 - 44	100%	98.06%	64.38%
45 - 64	88.21%	84.53%	65.98%
65+	100%	100%	97.14%

DEPARTMENT NEWS & NOTES

Culture, Parks and Recreation:

- **Ice Rink is Open** - The Simsbury Farms Ice Rink has opened for the winter season. Public Skating Sessions are held regularly on Sunday afternoons from 2:15pm-4:15pm as well as on many holidays and school vacation days throughout the winter. Additionally, there are planned morning and afternoon open skating sessions on weekdays. Please visit www.SimsburyRec.com to get more information and download the skating session schedule.
- **Simsbury Celebrates** – Simsbury Celebrates, presented by UCONN Health, is right around the corner! The annual community event to kick-off the holiday season will be held on Saturday, November 26 from 5:00pm-8:30pm in downtown Simsbury along Hopmeadow St. between Drake Hill and Plank Hill Roads. The free event includes indoor and outdoor family entertainment along Hopmeadow St, including the popular Bubblemania Show, an ice carving demonstration, photos with Santa, and a magical torchlight Firetruck Parade. Simsbury Celebrates will conclude with a spectacular fireworks show beginning at 8:15pm at Simsbury Meadows. Simsbury Celebrates is made possible by generous contributions from many local businesses and families. To get more information on the event, please go to www.SimsburyCelebrates.com and also follow Simsbury Celebrates on Facebook to stay up to date on all the event happenings!

Library: The Simsbury Public Library will soon be a regional service hub for the Connecticut State Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (<https://ctstatelibrary.org/lbph/>). Informational materials and demonstration equipment will be located onsite to increase awareness and access to the array of free services available to Connecticut residents who are unable to read traditional book and magazine formats because of a visual, reading, or physical disability. Once eligibility requirements for the program are met, patrons enjoy easy access to fiction and nonfiction materials, with content available for all ages as well as in multiple languages.

Social Services: The Simsbury Senior Center is partnering with the Farmington Valley Health District to distribute free radon test kits beginning in December. These kits will enable Simsbury residents to have the opportunity to test their homes for radon and take mitigation steps to protect their health, if necessary. To reserve your kit, please contact the Senior Center at 860-658-3273.

Social Services & Library: AARP Connecticut selected the Simsbury Stories Café project as a 2022 recipient of its Livable Communities Support Program Grant. This project is a collaboration between the Simsbury Public Library and the Simsbury Senior Center. The Simsbury Stories Café creates multifaceted opportunities for the community to engage in the healthy living benefits of storytelling. The two main components of the project include hosting several facilitated Memory Café events for local seniors and their caregivers and creating a Sharing Stories Studio. The Studio expands the offerings of the Library's Innovator's Workshop with age-friendly technology for creating and preserving oral histories, and equipment will be portable, allowing patrons with limited mobility to access this service. The project is in the planning phase now with expectations of inaugural events in early 2023.