



# Town of Simsbury

933 HOPMEADOW STREET, SIMSBURY, CONNECTICUT 06070

Lisa L. Heavner - First Selectwoman

## *First Selectwoman's Report – April 24, 2017*

### **Budget Update**

The magnitude of the State's fiscal crisis has become a challenge for Simsbury and all towns in the State of Connecticut. In addition to the tough choices we make every year at budget time, we are grappling with Governor Malloy's proposed budget that adds an unprecedented and untenable \$4.3 million in additional costs for Simsbury, if adopted by the Legislature. The largest and most harmful part of this proposal is the transfer of the teachers' pension costs from the State to the towns. *For Simsbury, that cost alone is \$3.6 million.*

We expect the budget ultimately passed by the Legislature to look vastly different from the Governor's initial proposal, but will not know the final impact to Simsbury until later this spring. As we get better information from the State, we will further evaluate local budgets and seek your input to determine what is best for Simsbury.

The Board of Finance has asked the Board of Selectmen to evaluate reductions of \$200,000. On May 2, 2017, the Board of Finance will review additional information from the State, which could further impact the Board of Selectmen's budget.

An additional Board of Finance public hearing is scheduled for May 16, 2017 at 5:45 p.m. in the Main Meeting Room of Town Hall.

You can find budget information on the Town and School websites:

- Town: [www.simsbury-ct.gov/budget](http://www.simsbury-ct.gov/budget)
- Board of Education: <http://www.simsbury.k12.ct.us/boe/budget>

We welcome your input at every step in the process and look forward to hearing your comments and suggestions.

### **Simsbury Ranks #1 Best Suburb to Live in Connecticut by Niche.com**

Simsbury tops the list of "Best Places to Live in Connecticut" according to Niche.com holding spots #1 (Simsbury), 4 (Weatogue), and 9 (West Simsbury). Great to see others recognizing what our residents have known for years – *Simsbury is a great place to live, learn, retire and do business.* To see the rankings, visit: <https://www.niche.com/places-to-live/rankings/suburbs/best-suburbs/s/connecticut/>

### **New! – Simsbury Community Calendar**

Looking for something fun to do in Simsbury? Check out our *new* Simsbury Community Calendar. If you have an event happening in Simsbury, you can post it to the community calendar managed by the Simsbury Main Street Partnership. Check it out: [www.simsburysocial.com](http://www.simsburysocial.com)

## **Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day on April 29 at Farmington High School**

The Town of Simsbury, in conjunction with the towns of Avon, Canton, Granby and Farmington, will be holding a Hazardous Waste collection on Saturday, April 29, 2017 in Farmington at Farmington High School, 10 Montieth Drive, Farmington, CT. The collection will run from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Residents may dispose of items including compact and florescent light bulbs, batteries, lawn care chemicals, items containing Mercury, household cleaners and chemicals from the garage. To see the full list of what will be accepted and for more information, please visit: [http://www.simsbury-ct.gov/sites/simsburyct/files/news/household\\_hazardous\\_waste\\_collection\\_information\\_0.pdf](http://www.simsbury-ct.gov/sites/simsburyct/files/news/household_hazardous_waste_collection_information_0.pdf)

## **The Community for Care Hosts the Harlem Rockets vs. Simsbury Dream Team**

Join us at Simsbury High School on Wednesday, May 10 at 6:00 p.m. for a night of basketball, fun and information about community health resources in Simsbury! Sponsored by the Community for Care, the Simsbury Dream Team is playing the Harlem Rockets. Suggested donations of \$2.00 per person or a nonperishable food item at the door. Hope to see you there!

## **National Bike Month in Simsbury – Board of Selectmen Ride on May 4<sup>th</sup>!**

Did you know that May is [National Bike Month](#)? Help kick the season off by joining the Simsbury Board of Selectmen for a short ride on May 4<sup>th</sup> starting at 5:00 p.m. All welcome.

Simsbury's [Bike Month calendar](#) is filled with activities that will appeal to casual riders, kids, commuters, and serious cyclists. Now is the time to get your family bikes ready for the season! Don't have a bike? Borrow a bike from the [Simsbury Free Bike](#) Program beginning May 1. The 2017 [Simsbury Bike Challenge](#) also begins May 1. A copy of the Bike Month Calendar can be found at the end of this report.

## **Veterans and their Families Invited to Learn about Veterans' Benefits**

Wayne Rioux, Veteran's Liaison from Hartford Health Care at Home, will speak about veterans' benefits May 11 in Simsbury. Topics include survivor burial allowance, veterans' benefits, entitlements and services, presumptive diseases, and service-connected disability.

The event will take place from 1-2:00 p.m., Thursday, May 11, in the Simsbury Public Library Program Room and is co-sponsored by the Senior Center. To register for the event, call the Senior Center at (860) 658-3273 or the Library at (860) 658-7663. For more information or to register online, please visit: <http://www.libraryinsight.com/eventdetails.asp?jx=scp&lmx=%C7%60b%2C%AE%A4&v=3>

## **Simsbury Library Commemorates the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of America's Entry into World War I**

The Simsbury Public Library is offering a series of programs commemorating the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of America's Entry into World War I. Topics include the Evolved Roles of Aviation in World War I, Poetry, Dancing in the World War I years, a showing and discussion of "All Quiet on the Western Front," and a History of Memorial Day and the Simsbury Veterans Memorial. The series runs from April 13 to May 24. To check out these and more, visit: <http://www.simsburylibrary.info/100th-anniversary-americas-entry-world-war/>

## **The May-June Edition of the Senior Communicator is Hot Off the Presses!**

Check out the latest edition of the Senior Communicator for activities and classes geared to senior citizens. The edition includes health and wellness classes, trips, lunch and dinner information, classes, educational programs and more! [http://www.simsbury-ct.gov/sites/simsburyct/files/news/may\\_june\\_17\\_newsletter\\_with\\_ads.pdf](http://www.simsbury-ct.gov/sites/simsburyct/files/news/may_june_17_newsletter_with_ads.pdf)

### **Try Simsbury Adventure Triathlon – Sunday, May 21 at 11:00 a.m.**

Try Simsbury is back this May! Join us for a quick 5k run on the re-established “River Walk” trail system, a 12 mile bike course on scenic country roads and a 2-mile paddle segment on the Farmington River. Post-race festivities take place at the Simsbury Performing Arts Center. To register online: [www.trysimsbury.com](http://www.trysimsbury.com)

### **Talcott Mountain Music Festival at Simsbury Meadows Performing Arts Center**

Celebrate all summer long at the Hartford Symphony Orchestra’s annual Talcott Mountain Music Festival! Pack your picnic, attend with family and friends, relax under the stars, and enjoy the Hartford Symphony Orchestra under Music Director Carolyn Kuan and distinguished guest conductors.

- Celebrate America! Friday, June 30
- Sgt. Pepper’s 50<sup>th</sup>! Featuring Classical Mystery Tour. Friday, July 7
- The Music of David Bowie. Friday, July 14
- Williams and Warner Bros. Friday, July 21
- Broadway A to Z. Friday, July 28

For more information, please visit: <https://hartfordsymphony.org/concerts-tickets/series/talcott-mountain-music-festival/>

### **Drought Watch Still in Effect Statewide**

Just a reminder that all Connecticut residents and businesses are requested to voluntarily reduce water demand by 15 percent. Check out these tips to conserve water from the Farmington Valley Health District: <http://www.fvhd.org/>

### **Revaluation of Real Estate in Simsbury**

In accordance with State law and in order to make sure residents are taxed on the fair value of their properties, revaluation of all real estate in Simsbury is now underway. Over the next year each property in town will be reassessed in-line with current market values. You may see town employees and contractors from *Municipal Valuation Services* assisting with this process.

The first phase is a pre-review which includes comparisons between what is actually observed at the property and what is shown on the assessor’s card. The next phase beginning this spring will include property questionnaires, updating records for work done under building permits, inspection of recently sold properties and valuation. Revaluation notices culminate the process and are expected to be mailed to taxpayers in December 2017. For questions, please contact the Director of Finance Sean Kimball at [skimball@simsbury-ct.gov](mailto:skimball@simsbury-ct.gov) or (860) 658-3244 or the Tax Assessor David Gardner at [dgardner@simsbury-ct.gov](mailto:dgardner@simsbury-ct.gov) or (860) 658-3251.

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

### **Wednesday Night is Business Night at the Simsbury Library**

The Library is offering programming on a consistent night for business people or those interested in business. Be on the lookout for *Wednesday Night is Business Night!* events throughout the year. Currently scheduled programs include:

- *Strategic Planning* will be held on April 26 from 6:30-8:00 p.m. Learn about strategic planning, a suggested format and a proven structure to help you develop, crystalize and communicate your vision and strategic business plan.

To register for these free programs or to see all the great educational programs offered to assist small businesses in Simsbury, please visit the Library website and click on the business tab at the top of the screen: <http://www.simsburylibrary.info/> or contact Sarah Loudenslager, Business Resource Coordinator, at (860) 658-7663, ext. 2107

### **Economic Development Implementation and Strategic Activities Report**

Looking for an update on current and anticipated actions to promote economic development in Simsbury? Check out the *Economic Development Implementation and Strategic Activities Report* to see what we are working on. Our goal is to support and spur *Smart Growth* economic activity which will keep Simsbury affordable for families, businesses and retirees and to preserve Simsbury's unique character.

This plan builds upon the work of the many commissions and boards. Feedback was sought from residents and businesses through the 2015 Town Survey, the Economic Development Task Force and the Marketing Study focus groups. I want to particularly thank and recognize the Board of Selectmen for their work in setting priorities for sensible growth. In creating this plan, we have utilized the framework recommended by the EPA: *Framework for Creating a Smart Growth Economic Development Strategy: A Tool for Small Cities and Towns (January 2016)*.

To see the report, please visit: <http://www.simsbury-ct.gov/first-selectwomans-office/files/economic-development-strategic-plan>

### **Town of Simsbury Residential Development Trends**

Wondering about the impacts of new development planned and anticipated for Simsbury? While Simsbury is down almost \$790,000 in revenues this year due to the demolition of the office building formerly owned by The Hartford, the good news is that within three to five years we expect that loss to be replaced and exceeded with revenues from planned new development. To see the informative report on *Residential Development Trends* prepared by Director of Planning Jamie Rabbitt, please visit: <http://www.simsbury-ct.gov/planning-and-land-use-department/pages/residential-development-trends>

### **Small Business Assistance Programs**

For information on Small Business Assistance Programs from state, federal and Connecticut non-profit programs providing grants, loans and tax breaks to small businesses, please check out the Office of Legislative Research Report on Small Business Assistance Programs: <http://www.simsbury-ct.gov/first-selectwomans-office/files/small-business-assistance-programs-research-report>

## **Under Construction in Simsbury**

*Aspen Green (Formerly referred to as Garden Homes)* on the south side of town along Hopmeadow Street is now under construction – building foundations have been completed and framing is underway. This development was approved for 181 residential rental units, including townhomes and apartment style housing. Commercial and retail units were also approved as part of the Planned Area Development (PAD), but zoning and specific site plan approvals have yet to be sought and therefore only the residential component is under construction at this time. You can visit Garden Homes' website at <http://www.gardenhomes.com/> for more information about the development company. For information regarding rentals, you can visit their website at: <http://www.liveataspengreen.com/>.

*Highcroft*: 272 residential rental units off Powder Forest Drive are also under construction by Landworks Development/Nelson Construction team. The project includes *Highcroft Apartment Homes* with 224 apartment units and *Highcroft Townhomes* with 48 units. Move-ins commenced in July 2016 and construction is expected to conclude on the first 128 unit phase in late spring 2017. You can visit their website at: <http://www.lifeinsimsbury.com> for information on their sale and rental offerings or <http://www.highcroftapartments.com/>.

*Berkshire Bank*: At the Corner of Bushy Hill and Albany Turnpike, Berkshire Bank is waiting on interior fit-out and is not yet open.

## **Permitted**

*Big Y* reaffirmed in April, 2017 that they have delayed a start date in Simsbury indefinitely based on internal financial priorities and commitments elsewhere. Big Y further indicated that they are still interested in Simsbury and confirmed that they have all their town and state permits in place for when they do begin.

*Hoskins Road Workforce Overlay Zone (WHOZ)*: The Town planning boards have approved 88 residential units for the property with twenty percent affordable housing. Although the project has been approved there is currently no activity.

*Chestnut Hills*: Located on the corner of Drake Hill and Hopmeadow Street, 46 unit apartments have been approved for the historical building and the surrounding property. This property is currently for sale.

## **On the Horizon**

*The Silverman Group*: On April 4, 2017, the Silverman Group filed a Zoning application for site plan approval under the Hartford-Simsbury Form Based Code. Their application includes plans for a 120 bed assisted living facility (146,100 sq. ft.), 280 units of luxury rental housing (156 units in stacked flats and 124 units in town homes), a community center and 11,600 square feet of retail/office space in a Traditional Neighborhood Design (TND) setting. This application is the second part of the Hartford-Simsbury Form Based Code permitting process. The first part began back in October of 2016 when The Silverman Group submitted their Master Plan for the northern portion (40 acres) of the former Hartford property which was approved by the Town's Zoning Commission and Design Review Board.

[The Hartford-Simsbury Form Based Code](#) was adopted on July 7, 2014, and went into effect on August 1, 2014. It was adopted after a systematic study of the site was undertaken by the Town of Simsbury and The Hartford in 2013 utilizing various consultants (Gateway Planning, Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc. Catalyst and CB Richard Ellis).

*Girard Brothers Corporation*: 32 and 36 Iron Horse Blvd. (Simsroft-Echo Farms). Initial concept plans have been presented to Design Review, Planning and Zoning for a multifamily residential community. The Planning presentation can be viewed on SCTV at the following link: <http://simsburytv.org/v/4rffJvkGMTA>

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*To receive a copy of the First Selectwoman's Report by email, please visit the Town website: [www.simsbury-ct.gov](http://www.simsbury-ct.gov) and click on the "subscribe" button. Sign up for "Town News and Announcements."*

Contact Lisa at: [lhevner@simsbury-ct.gov](mailto:lhevner@simsbury-ct.gov) or (860) 658-3230























# Simsbury Celebrates Nat'l Bike Month - May 2017



[www.facebook.com/simsburyfreebike](http://www.facebook.com/simsburyfreebike)

[www.simsbury.bike](http://www.simsbury.bike)


See Back for Ride and Event Details

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p><b>Season 7</b> <b>Simsbury Free Bike Opens</b></p> <p>Sign up for the <b>Simsbury Bike Challenge</b> Begins (May-September)</p>	<p><b>1</b> <b>Simsbury Bike Challenge Kickoff Ride at Simsbury Free Bike Shop - 10 miles - 6PM</b></p> <p><b>Questions:</b> challenge@simsbury.bike</p> 	<p><b>2</b> <b>TS101 Bike and Learn Smart Cycling May2-Aug 1 5:30-7:15</b></p> <p><b>Simsbury Free Bike Shop</b></p> <p><b>Simsbury Chamber Weekly Walks - 5:30 PM</b> Iron Horse Blvd</p>  Weekly	<p><b>3</b></p>	<p><b>4</b> <b>Board of Selectmen Ride - Simsbury Town Hall 5:00 PM</b> Everyone Welcome - 5 Miles</p>  <p><b>Weekly Casual Riders Meetup 6PM &lt;10mph</b></p>  Weekly	<p><b>5</b> <b>Squadron Line Bike to School Day</b></p> 	<p><b>6</b> <b>Blessing of the Bikes - 8AM</b> W. Granby Methodist Church - Road or Trail Ride - Lunch after the Ride</p> 
<p><b>7</b></p>	<p><b>8</b> <b>Eastern Bloc - Weekly 'C' Rides - Social Pace</b> Mondays Farms Village Plaza - West Simsbury</p>  Weekly	<p><b>9</b> <b>Eastern Bloc Weekly 'B' Rides</b></p> <p>Smart Cycling TS101 5:30 (Weekly)</p>  Weekly	<p><b>10</b> <b>National Bike to School Day</b></p> <p><b>Bike to School Day, Tootin' Hills Elem. School</b></p> 	<p><b>11</b> <b>Eastern Bloc Weekly Women's 'B' Ride</b></p> <p>Iron Horse Blvd Commuter Lot (behind Fitzgerald's - Simsbury)</p>  Weekly	<p><b>12</b></p>	<p><b>13</b></p>
<p><b>14</b> <b>Mother's Day</b></p>	<p><b>15</b> <b>National Bike Week</b></p> <p>Eastern Block C Ride</p>  Weekly	<p><b>16</b> <b>Latimer Lane Bike to School Day (rain date 25th)</b></p> <p>Smart Cycling TS101 5:30 (Weekly)</p>  Weekly	<p><b>17</b> <b>Bike in the Park - Kids Celebrate Bike Month - Simsbury Library @ Rotary Park 2-4PM</b></p> <p><b>Ride of Silence - 6PM</b> Granby to Avon to Granby</p> 	<p><b>18</b> <b>The Bicycle Cellar Bike Repair/ Maintenance Workshop Simsbury Library 6:30 - 8PM</b></p> <p>Program Room</p>  Weekly	<p><b>19</b> <b>National Bike to Work Day</b></p> <p><b>Bike to Work Simsbury</b> 6:30 AM Iron Horse Blvd.</p> <p><b>Bike Month Happy Hour</b> Redstone Pub -5:30PM</p> 	<p><b>20</b> <b>Geology Bike Ride - at Simsbury Public Library - Mark Winbourne (Geologist) and Larry Linonis - 1-2 PM</b> Lecture - Ride 2-4PM Signup on-line - Simsbury Library</p> 
<p><b>21</b> <b>Try Simsbury Adventure Triathlon</b> Run, Bike &amp; Paddle 11am Perf Arts Ctr.</p> 	<p><b>22</b> <b>Eastern Block C Ride</b></p>  Weekly	<p><b>23</b> <b>Smart Cycling TS101 5:30 (Weekly)</b></p>  Weekly	<p><b>24</b></p>	<p><b>25</b> <b>Latimer Lane Bike To School Raindate</b></p>  Weekly	<p><b>26</b></p>	<p><b>27</b></p>

**28**  
Updated: April 9, 2017 v11

**29**  
**Memorial Day**

**30**  
Smart Cycling TS101 5:30 (Weekly)

 Weekly

**April 21: Kids Bike Safety Check - 3:45-6PM Squadron Line School**  
**June 3 National Trails Day: FVTC Ride Simsbury Start**  
**June 24th: Ride the State (New Haven to Southwick)**  
**TURN OVER FOR EVENT DETAILS OR VISIT [WWW.SIMSBURY.BIKE](http://WWW.SIMSBURY.BIKE)**

 = Single ride or event      Weekly ride=Through summer