



Town of Simsbury

933 HOPMEADOW STREET, SIMSBURY, CONNECTICUT 06070

Lisa L. Heavner - First Selectwoman

First Selectwoman's Report – May 8, 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 uncertainties of the State budget impact to Simsbury.

Governor Malloy's proposed budget adds an unprecedented and untenable \$4.3 million in additional costs for Simsbury, if adopted by the Legislature. 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 summer.

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

The Board of Finance will hold a **public hearing on May 16, 2017 at 5:45 p.m.** in the Main Meeting Room of Town Hall. Please come and share your opinions on this year's budget.

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

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

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

If you missed this last report... 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/>

...Because some things are worth repeating!!!

2017 Hometown Heroes

Congratulations to this year's 2017 Hometown Heroes: *Leonard Lanza and Ieke Scully*. Each year Hometown Heroes are chosen by the Board of Selectmen in honor of their outstanding contributions to our community. Mr. Lanza is being recognized for his efforts on behalf of our veterans and for his work on the beautiful new Veterans Memorial. Ms. Scully is being recognized for her contributions to the Simsbury Historical Society, including bringing back Colonial Day. Both have been active community volunteers in many organizations in Simsbury throughout the years. Please join the Board of Selectmen in thanking them for making our community a better place in which to live!

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

Did you know that May is [National Bike Month](#)? 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 on 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>

Memorial Day Parades in Simsbury

Thank you to the Simsbury American Legion and the Veterans of Foreign Wars for once again hosting Memorial Day Parades in Simsbury on May 29, 2017

- The *Tariffville* Parade will assemble on Main Street at 8:30 a.m. and will march off onto Winthrop Street promptly at 9:00 a.m. There will be a ceremony at St. Bernard's Cemetery at the conclusion of the parade.
- The *Simsbury* parade will assemble on Owens Brook Boulevard at 1:00 p.m. and will march off onto Hopmeadow Street promptly at 1:30 p.m. There will be a ceremony at the Simsbury Veterans Memorial at the conclusion of the parade.
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For questions, please contact John Fox at 860-658-0388.

Thanks to all the volunteers who work so hard on this!

Simsbury Community Calendar

Looking for something fun to do in Simsbury? Check out our *new* Simsbury Community Calendar on the Town website. 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.simsburyevents.com

Simsbury Library Commemorates the 100th Anniversary of America's Entry into World War I

The Simsbury Public Library is offering a series of programs commemorating the 100th Anniversary of America's Entry into World War I. The series runs from April 13 to May 24. To check out the programs, visit: <http://www.simsburylibrary.info/100th-anniversary-americas-entry-world-war/>

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

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 50th! 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/>

UPDATE ON TOWN PROJECTS

Engineering staff has been working diligently on several projects funded through both the capital program and grants received by the town. Below is a brief update on the progress of a few of the key projects.

Simsbury Farms Pool Improvements: The construction phase of this project is currently underway with completion of the project scheduled for the opening of the 2017 swim season. The project includes improvements to the lap pool including new code compliant pool drains and drain piping, improved gutter system, new concrete decking and deck drainage, and automated water level control for the lap pool.

Open Space Planning Improvements: Preparation of design plans is underway for trailhead improvements for the Ethel Walker Wood property and the One Old Bridge Road (Betty Hudson) property recently acquired by the town.

Trailhead improvements will be completed in Town Forest Park adjacent to the Ethel Walker Woods property and include removal of old park structures, improved parking, signage, bridge replacement, pathway improvements, and installation of signage and informational kiosk. These facilities will be constructed in the summer of 2017.

A concept plan for the One Old Bridge property has been completed. The plan includes improved access to the Farmington River, a river overlook, benches, construction of a pavilion, a storage shed for maintenance of the Flower Bridge and landscaping of the site. Development of final construction plans and permit applications will be initiated soon with construction anticipated in the spring of 2018.

Multi-Use Trail Connections: Grant funding for two sections of multi-use trail are in the process of being finalized to offset the cost of new multi-use trails that will be constructed in the near future. These trail connections include a new trail section from the existing Farmington Valley Greenway at the State Route 315 intersection continuing to Curtiss Park. The other trail section will connect the village of Tariffville to a trail to be constructed by the Town of Bloomfield along State Route 189. The design and permitting for these projects will begin in 2017 with construction anticipated in 2018.

Under construction right now, Public Works is resurfacing a 2.6-mile section of the Greenway multi-use trail between Iron Horse and the Granby line.

Public Works: Public Works is in the final stages of several facility improvement projects at the Public Works Facility on Town Forest Road, including the addition of a new sanitary sewer pump station, fire sprinklers, new roof, and vehicle wash system. These improvements will improve safety, protect the environment and protect town equipment at this facility.

Town Engineer Jeff Shea will update the Board of Selectmen on all capital projects in July.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Save the Date: Deepwater Wind is Hosting an Open Meeting on the Proposed Tobacco Valley Solar Project on May 11 from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. at Henry James

All are invited to join Deepwater Wind's open meeting on May 11 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Henry James Memorial School in the cafeteria. The open meeting will enable residents to learn about the proposed Tobacco Valley Solar Project located off Hoskins and County Road. Deepwater Wind representatives will speak about various aspects of the project including key features and benefits, wetlands studies, environmental information, visual renderings, landscaping and more. Questions are welcome. For questions, contact Aileen Kenney at 401-648-0607 or akenney@dwwind.com.

Congratulations to Simsbury Main Street Partnership on Receiving National Accreditation

Congratulations to Simsbury Main Street Partnership on achieving accreditation for meeting the commercial district revitalization performance standards set by Main Street of America, a subsidiary of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. Simsbury Main Street demonstrated “exemplary commitment to historic preservation and community revitalization through the Main Street Four Point Approach.”

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:

- *The ABC's of Selling Your Business* will be held on May 10, 2017 from 6:30 -8:00 p.m.
- *The ABC's of Buying a Business* will be held on May 17, 2017 from 6:30- 8:00 p.m.
- *5 Critical Tips to Solve Your Revenue and Operational Challenges so You Can Maximize Your Profit* will be held on May 24, 2017 from 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

To register for these free programs or to see all the great educational programs offered to assist small businesses in Simsbury, please contact Sarah Loudenslager, Business Resource Coordinator, at (860) 658-7663, ext. 2107 or visit the Library website at:

<http://www.libraryinsight.com/calendare.asp?jx=sc&xc=1>

Compete to Win: How to Build a Relationship with Your Customers

Please join us on May 16, 2017 from 9:30-11:30 at the Simsbury Library for this informative program. Co-sponsored by the Simsbury Library, the Simsbury Chamber of Commerce and Greater Hartford SCORE and in partnership with Constant Contact, this workshop will be an overview of how to build a relationship with your customers. Topics will include gaining customer interest & loyalty, social media strategy, and content marketing strategy. Guest speaker April Heavens-Woodcock works with small and mid-size companies with online presence using strategic marketing initiatives. To register, please visit:

<http://www.libraryinsight.com/EventSignUp.asp?t=1015775493&jx=scp&lmx=%C7%60%60%23%AE%AF>

Economic Development Links

- [Economic Development Strategic Plan and Activities Report](#)
- [Town of Simsbury Residential Development Trends](#)
- [Small Business Assistance Programs](#)

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. June 15, 2017 is the targeted move-in date for some tenants. 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. (SimsCroft-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>

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

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



Simsbury Celebrates Nat'l Bike Month - May 2017



www.facebook.com/simsburyfreebike

www.simsbury.bike

See Back for Ride and Event Details

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

28
 Updated: April 9, 2017 v11

29
Memorial Day

30
 Smart Cycling TS101 5:30 (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

= Single ride or event = Weekly ride=Through summer