



Town of Simsbury

933 HOPMEADOW STREET, SIMSBURY, CONNECTICUT 06070

Lisa L. Heavner - First Selectwoman

First Selectwoman's Report – May 22, 2017

Budget Update

Tentative Town of Simsbury Budget Referendum on **June 13, 2017 at Henry James Memorial School**. Polls are open from 6:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m.

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>

Board of Selectmen Adopts a “Carry In, Carry Out” Policy for Simsbury Parks

On May 8, 2017 the Board of Selectmen adopted a “Carry In, Carry Out” policy for Simsbury Parks at the recommendation of the Culture, Parks and Recreation Commission. The policy recommends the removal of trash cans from parks and fields and asks patrons to carry out anything they carry to the site. Youth sports groups and other organizations will still have the option of securing receptacles for trash disposal and contracting with a private hauler. In addition to saving tax dollars, “Carry In, Carry Out” policies have been effective in:

- Promoting environmentally friendly behaviors like recycling and biodegradable products
- Increasing safety by reducing bees, wasps, pests and animals (bears)
- Enabling staff resources to be redirected to other park improvements
- Leaving parks cleaner by eliminating excess trash, smells and messes
- Improving the health of wildlife by reducing their dependency on trash as a food source
- Fostering a partnership with our visitors by encouraging all to help maintain our parks
- Supporting Simsbury's commitment to conservation and sustainability
- Reducing illegal dumping



Thank you for working with us!

Regional Cost Saving Initiatives

With challenges at the State impacting towns across Connecticut, Simsbury has worked hard to find shared services and efficiencies to reduce costs for our residents. Below are some examples of regional cooperation to save taxpayer dollars. Most recently at our last meeting, the Board of Selectmen approved a shared service agreement for a building official with the Town of Bloomfield. Regional collaborations include:

- *Joint Building Official* position with the Town of Bloomfield
- *Joint grant* with the Town of Bloomfield for a multi-use trail
- *Regional Hazardous Waste Collections* with Avon, Farmington, Granby and Canton
- Member of the *Police North Central Regional* for mutual aid assistance with Bloomfield, Granby, Avon, Farmington, Canton, Suffield and Windsor
- Member of the *Farmington Valley Health District* with Avon, Barkhamsted, Canton, Colebrook, East Granby, Farmington, Granby, Hartland and New Hartford
- Participate in the regional *Movable LGBT Senior Center* with Bloomfield, West Hartford, Avon, Canton and Newington
- Member and co-founder of *CT Prime*, a regional stop loss insurance captive with Cheshire, CREC, Enfield, Glastonbury, Granby, Manchester, Plainville, South Windsor, Suffield, Wethersfield, Windsor, and Windsor Locks
- Member of Connecticut Interlocal Risk Management Agency (*CIRMA*), a regional insurance collaborative for providing Worker's Compensation and Liability-Auto-Property pools for 396 towns, schools and local public agency members
- Participate in *regional bids* through CRCOG and CCM
- Member of the *Nutmeg Network*, a regional fiber optics network
- *Secured Intertown Capital Equipment (ICE) grants* for shared equipment purchases with neighboring towns

Friends of Simsbury Public Library (FSPL) Annual Used Book Sale

Book collections for the FSPL Annual Book Sale begin on Tuesday, May 30 and will continue to until August 26. Books will be collected at the Library. Please bring your books and/or materials to the designated area on the lower level – just follow the clearly marked signs. A cart is available if you need one.



Collection dates and times are Tuesday and Friday mornings from 10:00 a.m. – Noon; and Saturdays from 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Thanks to all the volunteers who work hard on this effort and to those who donate! <http://www.simsburylibrary.info/used-books-wanted/>

Public Input Session on the Performing Arts Center Capital Planning

The board of the Performing Arts Center is looking for public feedback regarding:

- physical plan of the Performing Arts Center
- types of entertainment you want to see
- your experiences, what's good and what can be improved.

Thursday, May 25, 2017

6:30-8:30 pm

Simsbury Public Library

725 Hopmeadow Street

Program Room

National Bike Month in Simsbury

Only a few days left for [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 began May 1. A copy of the Bike Month Calendar can be found at the end of this report.

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.

For questions, please contact John Fox at 860-658-0388.

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



XFINITY ADDS NEW CHANNELS FOR SCTV

There's a NEW place to watch Simsbury Community TV for Comcast/Xfinity viewers. You likely know by now that they introduced a new channel lineup that they hope will make it easier to find things that you want to watch. With this change, channels from 1-999 stayed the same, but channels 1000-1999 are organized by category, so networks with similar programming - like news networks, sports, and kids' networks - will be grouped together into neighborhoods to make browsing easier. What that means for Simsbury residents is that you will be able to find SCTV's Public Channel 5, our Educational Channel 95 and our Government Channel 96 close to the news channels you already love.

This new "News Neighborhood" is terrific news for SCTV viewers who like to browse. Look for the Educational Channel at 1070, the Public Channel on 1084 and the Government Channel at 1090. They're now in the same neighborhood as the "big guys" at Fox, CNN, MSNBC and all the C-SPAN Channels. SCTV's old channels haven't gone away. They are still available on 5, 95, and 96. Watching on Frontier? You will still find SCTV on Channel 99. For cord cutters, all local programming is available on the SCTV website at www.simsburytv.org.

According to Comcast, this does not apply to those of you who have digital adapter (SD or HD), or an XiD device. They will not receive the full new channel lineup. Happy channel surfing.

SCTV is a non-profit 501(c)(3) public access television station, which has provided Simsbury residents a free place to share information since 1984.

For additional information please contact: Dominique Avery, Vice President – Simsbury Community TV, 860-651-8014, domery@aol.com

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

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/>

Simsbury Meadows Performing Arts Center

Check out all that is happening at the Simsbury Meadows Performing Arts Center. "Party at the PAC" kicks off the season on Friday May 26 at 6:00 p.m. with music by The Jonny Larsen Band and Carolyn Rae.

To see all events, visit:

<http://simsburymeadowsmusic.com/>



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: 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. 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.



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.

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:

- *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>

Economic Development Links

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



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).

Deepwater Wind Tobacco Valley Solar Project: Deepwater Wind held an open meeting on May 11 to enable residents to learn about their proposed Tobacco Valley Solar Project located off Hoskins and County Road. This is not a Town project and does not involve town approvals. The project involves the sale of private property from a private seller to a private business. Deepwater Wind representatives were available to speak about various aspects of the project including key features and benefits, wetlands studies, environmental information, visual renderings, landscaping and more. They also answered questions from residents. If you were not able to attend the meeting, you can watch it on SCTV as a later date. Link will be provided in the next First Selectwoman's Report.

The project is not subject to the zoning requirements of the town and accordingly will not be submitted to the Planning, Zoning or Conservation Boards for approvals. Because this solar project will generate greater than one (1) megawatt of energy, Connecticut State law requires that the approval process be done by the Connecticut Siting Council with opportunities for public input as part of State approvals. Deepwater Wind indicated they would file an application with the Siting Council in late June or July. The Town has some building permitting responsibility and will be alerted to all of the proceedings before the Siting Council, but does not have the authority to decide whether or not the project can move forward. As of May 11, 2017, no application has been submitted and Deepwater Wind plans are not final. Deepwater Wind has invited input from residents.

To speak with a Deepwater Wind representative with questions, objections, concerns and suggestions, please contact Aileen Kenney at 401-648-0607 or akenney@dwwind.com.

More information about Deepwater Wind can be found at: <http://dwwind.com/>

More information about the Connecticut Siting Council can be found at:

<http://www.ct.gov/csc/cwp/view.asp?a=895&q=318776>.

Girard Brothers Corporation: 32 and 36 Iron Horse Blvd. (Simscoft-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

*"Care is a state in which something does matter;
it is the source of human tenderness."*

– Rollo May