

Town of Simsbury

933 HOPMEADOW STREET, SIMSBURY, CONNECTICUT 06070

Lisa L. Heavner - First Selectwoman

First Selectwoman's Report – June 12, 2017

Town of Simsbury Assigned a 'AAA' rating from S&P Global Ratings

On June 1, 2017, the Town of Simsbury was assigned a 'AAA' rating from Standard and Poor's (S&P) Global Ratings – *the highest rating a municipality can receive*. S&P cited very strong management with strong fiscal policies and practices, strong budgetary performance, and the town's commitment to conservative budgetary assumptions. The 'AAA' rating will save taxpayer dollars with lower borrowing costs.

Budget Update

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

[Find a referendum sample ballot and election & voter information here](#)

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>

Dog License Renewals Underway

The Simsbury Town Clerk's office has begun issuing dog licenses for 2017/18. Yellow renewal postcard reminders were mailed May 31st to all residents who licensed their dog in 2016/17. Residents must renew by June 30th to avoid late fees. Residents can renew in person at the Town Clerk's office or by mail. Please check to make sure your dog's rabies records are up-to-date. If the rabies expiration date is highlighted on the yellow postcard, you will need to show an up-to-date rabies certificate to the Town Clerk (please send a copy if renewing by mail).

If you are licensing a dog for the first time, congratulations! If your dog is spayed or neutered, the Town Clerk's office will need to see this certificate as well as a rabies certificate.

Questions? Please call the Town Clerk's office at (860) 658-3243 or email ebutler@simsbury-ct.gov

For more information, please visit the Town Clerk's webpage:

<http://www.simsbury-ct.gov/town-clerk/news/license-your-dog-at-the-town-clerks-office>

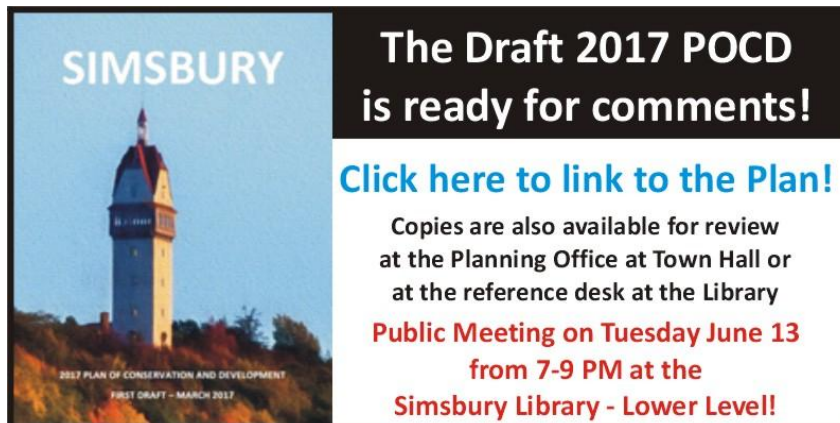
Burgers on the Bridge

This year's Burgers on the Bridge will be held on Wednesday, June 14th from 4:30 to 7:00 p.m. at the Old Drake Hill Flower Bridge, with a rain date of Thursday, June 15th. This is a fun time with burgers and hot dogs, local beer and wine, live music, sodas and desserts, and of course beautiful flowers right on the river! Proceeds from the event will help to keep the Flower Bridge the attraction that it is! Please bring a chair if you wish.

Simsbury Public Library and Senior Center Offer Community Summer Kickoff Party for All!

Join us on Monday, June 19th at the Simsbury Library for free hot dogs, chips and cookies provided by the Senior Center. We will have temporary tattoos, face painting, games, crafts, juggling, and live music performed by the KC Sisters! Co-sponsored by the Simsbury Senior Center and the Simsbury Public Library.

Public Meeting on Draft Plan of Conservation and Development on June 13



SimSBURY

**The Draft 2017 POCD
is ready for comments!**

Click here to link to the Plan!

Copies are also available for review
at the Planning Office at Town Hall or
at the reference desk at the Library

**Public Meeting on Tuesday June 13
from 7-9 PM at the
Simsbury Library - Lower Level!**

Hazardous Waste Collection

The Town of Simsbury, in conjunction with the towns of Avon, Canton, Granby and Farmington, will be holding a Hazardous Waste collection on Saturday, June 17, 2017 at Simsbury Public Works Facility, 66 Town Forest Road. The collection will run from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Residents may dispose of items including compact and fluorescent 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 our home page at www.simsbury-ct.gov and click on the picture of paint and oil cans!

Build a Better World: Tour of the Award-Winning Green Building at Westminster School on June 22 at 10:00 a.m.

Find out how geothermal heating and cooling works and then take a tour of Westminster School's Armour Academic Center, a gold level LEED certified building. The tour will take place at Westminster School, 995 Hopmeadow Street and is co-sponsored by the Simsbury Public Library and Westminster School. [To sign up for the tour or for more information, visit here.](#)

Tariffville's New Water Tank Receives Two Awards!

Congratulations to the Tariffville Fire District and all who worked so hard on the new water tank in Tariffville! On May 10, 2017 the Connecticut Society of Civil Engineers presented the "Water Resources Achievement in Civil Engineering Award of Merit" to the Tariffville Water Commission and those who worked on the project. The project also received an award from the State Department of Public Health: "Small Community Water System Public Health Drinking Water Merit Award." Well done! The tank looks great – for those interested, please visit: <http://tariffvillewater.org/AwardsCSCEandDPH.html>

June is Handicapped Parking Awareness Month

June is Handicapped Parking Awareness Month. The Town of Simsbury, the Simsbury Police, the Aging and Disability Commission and local businesses are working together to educate motorists and to prevent and enforce violations. Please remember that residents without a disability who park in a handicapped parking spot "For just one minute is 60 seconds too long." Please also remember not to park in the striped area next to the space. Thanks for your help and support with this initiative.

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!

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/>



Memorial Day Parades in Simsbury

Thank you to the Simsbury American Legion and the Veterans of Foreign Wars for once again hosting Memorial Day Ceremonies in Simsbury on May 29, 2017 and to all the volunteers who worked so hard to make this event a success. Although the weather prevented us from marching this year, two beautiful ceremonies were held at Trinity Church and Eno Memorial Hall.



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 the great events happening at the Simsbury Meadows Performing Arts Center.

<http://simsburymeadowsmusic.com/>



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:

- *A Crash Course on Goal Setting*. This 90 minute workshop will focus on goals, overcoming obstacles, a formula for success and more. June 21 from 6:30-8:00 p.m.

To register or for more information, visit here.

<http://www.libraryinsight.com/eventdetails.asp?jx=scp&lmx=%C6ag%23%A9%AD&v=3>

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: Content Marketing Strategy

Co-sponsored by Greater Hartford SCORE, Constant Contact and the Simsbury Library: *Compete to Win: Content Marketing Strategy* on June 13 from 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. at the Simsbury Public Library. This workshop will be an overview of Content Marketing Strategy, which includes creating and distributing relevant and valuable content to attract, acquire and engage a clearly defined target audience. To sign up or for more information, please visit: <http://www.libraryinsight.com/eventdetails.asp?jx=scp&lmx=%C7%60%60%23%AE%AE&v=3>



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.

The Silverman Group: On May 3, 2017, the Town's Zoning Commission approved an application that was submitted on April 4, 2017 by Silverman SL, for an approval under the Hartford-Simsbury Form Based Code. The approval permits the construction of 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 was 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. In order for construction to move forward, the applicant still needs to receive two additional permits from the State of Connecticut: the Connecticut Department of Transportation (CTDOT) and the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP). It is anticipated that construction will begin mid to late summer.

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

On the Horizon

Deepwater Wind Tobacco Valley Solar Project: New: Deepwater Wind will hold an Open Meeting at Simsbury High School, 34 Farms Village Road on Thursday, June 22 from 6PM – 8PM to learn about the project and for sharing updated information about the project incorporating public feedback.

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 at: <http://simsburytv.org/v/Re7uMABkA7s>

The project is not subject to the town zoning requirements 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 through 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 June 9, 2017, no application has been submitted and Deepwater Wind plans are not final. Deepwater Wind indicated they invite input from residents.

Town Counsel Robert Decrescenzo spoke to the Board of Selectmen on May 22nd about what the Siting Council is and the Town's limited role in the process. To see that discussion, visit <http://simsburytv.org/v/1pW2hBOsBKI>

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/>

Information about Deepwater Wind Solar project in Simsbury can be found [here](#)

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

*"I think I began learning long ago that those who are happiest are those who do the most for others."
– Booker T. Washington*