



Town of Simsbury

933 HOPMEADOW STREET, SIMSBURY, CONNECTICUT 06070

Lisa L. Heavner - First Selectwoman

First Selectwoman's Report – September 11, 2017

Budget Update

Important Notice to Simsbury Taxpayers

The State *still* has not adopted its budget, leaving a high degree of uncertainty for all municipalities in Connecticut. **Last week the Governor announced his compromise budget, which proposes a \$3.8M negative impact to Simsbury** when compared to last year's budget - *reducing Educational Cost Sharing (ECS) by half*. We anticipate that reduction to change once the General Assembly passes their budget. Because there is no State budget, the estimated amount of revenue from the State of Connecticut indicated on your tax bill is subject to change.

Your tax bill also reflects current State law, which does not allow municipalities to assess a mill rate above 32 mills on motor vehicles effective July 1st. This mill rate tax cap on motor vehicles may be increased or eliminated altogether by the State legislature.

Once the State budget is adopted, the Town of Simsbury may need to adjust your tax levy to address any changes in municipal aid.

We know the State's failure to adopt a budget prior to the start of the Town of Simsbury's fiscal year is a major inconvenience for local taxpayers and we are doing everything in our power to mitigate the impact of the State's delay on our taxpayers.

Congratulations to Sergeant Thomas Sheehan

Excellence in Policing: Congratulations to Sergeant Thomas Sheehan on successfully completing the prestigious *Command Officers Development Course* – a flagship educational program for law enforcement managers which provides a solid foundation for practical law enforcement administration and a comprehensive overview of best practices in management.

The Town of Simsbury Receives a FEMA Grant of \$41,978

The Town of Simsbury received a FEMA grant of \$41,978 for the removal of the structure at One Old Bridge, "The Betty Hudson House," as part of the Town's plans to renovate the park next to the Flower Bridge. We anticipate work in that area to begin in the summer of 2018.

Stressing Out: The Impact of Stress on Youth and Young Adults – September 13

Please join the Simsbury Community for Care for a discussion led by Marc Lehman, LMFT and Dr. Nicholas Pinkerton, Director of Counseling and Psychological Services at the University of Hartford. The discussion will focus on stress related issues in teenagers and young adults. Topics include school, parental pressure, college preparation and the transition to college. Wednesday, September 13 at 6:30 PM in the Simsbury Public Library. For information, please contact Simsbury Social Services at (860) 658-3283.

State Water Planning Council Public Meeting on September 13



The State Water Planning Council and Representative Hampton are co-hosting the first statewide public meeting on the draft State Water Plan to be held at Simsbury Town Hall, Main Meeting Room on Wednesday, September 13 at 7:00 PM. The Forum will give residents, businesses and other stakeholders an opportunity to provide feedback on the plan before it is finalized. The State Water Plan can be found on the following [website](#).

Senior Center Happenings: The September -October Edition of the Senior Center Communicator

Hot off the presses, the September-October edition of the Senior Center Communicator is available. Check out all the great programs, events, meals and more [here](#).

Simsbury Women's Arts and Crafts Festival September 16 and 17

It's almost that time of year again! Save the date for the Simsbury Women's Arts and Crafts Festival on Iron Horse Boulevard on September 16 and 17 from 10 AM to 5 PM. Over 100 juried artists and crafts persons will be displaying and selling their works. Valley Collector Cars will be on display. Admission is free.

Simsbury Grange Agriculture Fair on September 16

Join the Simsbury Grange for their Agriculture Fair on September 16 from 10-3 PM. Learn about your local farmers and showcase your own tasty baked goods and healthy fruits, vegetables and flowers in one of our adult contests. Children can enter one of the many creative contests including Lego creations and photography. Activities include hayrides, kids' activities, contests, refreshments, craft fair, book sale, music, silent auction, and local agriculture displays. Free parking and free admission. For more information, visit [here](#).



Bicycle-Pedestrian Master Plan- September 18 Kick-Off!

The Town has entered into an agreement with Fitzgerald and Halliday Inc. (FHI) to develop a [Bicycle/Pedestrian Master Plan for Simsbury](#). This plan will be developed with our stakeholder groups/residents to provide a road-map to improve our biking and pedestrian facilities with a focus on implementing a complete streets model for our future infrastructure improvements. This plan will establish both short and long term goals to improve upon the Town's biking and pedestrian infrastructure. For those who may be interested in serving on the Plan's advisory committee or who want to learn more, please contact Director of Public Works Tom Roy at (860) 658-3222. The first meeting will be held on September 18th at 5 PM at the Simsbury Public Library.



Poetry by the Pond at the Simsbury Public Library on September 24

Join us for outdoor pond-side readings at the Simsbury Public Library on September 24 at 2:00 PM. The readings will focus on the world of nature and will occur by the historic pond located behind the Library. Please bring a blanket or chair. This program is free and open to all. To register or for more information, please visit [here](#).

Community Forum on Opioid Addiction on September 28 from 6-8 PM

Hosted by Representative Hampton and the Connecticut Department of Mental Health Addiction Services, residents are invited to a community forum on opioid addiction. Speakers include Miriam Delphin-Rittmon, Commissioner of Department of Mental Health Addiction Services, Pat Rehmer, President Behavioral Health Network, Shawn Lang, Deputy Director, AIDS CT, Terrence Wain, ASM-Aetna Ambulance, Kimberly Beauregard, Chief Executive Officer InterCommunity, and Ann Hartman, Assistant Director Community Health, Central Connecticut Health District. The forum will be held at Simsbury Public Library and is free to the public. For more information, please contact Representative Hampton at (860) 240-8659.

LGBTQ + History Trivia & Dinner Event on October 24

Co-sponsored by the Library and Senior Center, teens and older adult LGBTQ+ and advocates are invited to gather for a free picnic-style dinner and trivia challenge from 4:30-6:00 PM on October 24 at the Simsbury Public Library. The trivia challenge will be based on the book "Queer, There, and Everywhere," by Sarah Prager. To register or for more information, please contact the Senior Center at (860) 658-3273.



Renter's Rebate Program

Simsbury Social Services is now accepting applications for the Renter's Rebate Program that runs through October 1, 2017. Applicants must be at least 65 years of age, or be totally disabled – with proof of disability. Maximum gross income for a couple is \$42,900; and for a single individual is \$35,000. For more information and/or to schedule an appointment, please call (860) 658-3283.

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 summer, will include updating records for work done under building permits, property questionnaires, 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 or (860) 658-3244 or Tax Assessor David Gardner at dgardner@simsbury-ct.gov or (860) 658-3251.

Community Survey on Simsbury's New Town Manager

In November 2016, Simsbury's residents voted to make changes to the Town Charter, including a change in the form of government from a First Selectman/Board of Selectmen to a Town Manager/Board of Selectmen form of government. The Board of Selectmen is currently in the process of hiring its first Town Manager, and it is seeking community input through an online survey.

Please visit the following link to fill out the survey and share your thoughts on the qualities the Board should look for in a Town Manager, as well your feedback on the goals and challenges for the community in the coming years: <http://app.surveymethods.com/EndUser.aspx?F0D4B8A0F4B6A5AAFA>

Responses are anonymous, and will be submitted directly to Municipal Resources Inc., the company that has been retained by the Town to assist with the recruitment process.



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 Meadows Performing Arts Center

Check out all the great events happening at the [Simsbury Meadows Performing Arts Center](http://www.simsburymeadows.org).



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Ribbon Cutting and Welcome to G Fitness!

Congratulations to G Fitness on the opening of their new fitness studio at 1 Grist Mill Road. G Fitness specializes in women's fitness, personal training, small group training, barre and Pilates. A Ribbon cutting sponsored by the Simsbury Chamber of Commerce will be held on September 21 at 5:30. Check out their website [here](#).

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:

These HR Issues Could Impact Your Business, September 13, 5:30-7:30 PM: Mike Botte, from Paychex, will discuss various human resource issues affecting today's employers. This program is co-sponsored by the Simsbury Public Library, SCORE and the Simsbury Chamber of Commerce. For more information or to sign up, please visit [here](#).

Start, Manage & Grow Your Business with ReferenceUSA on September 20, 6:30-8PM: Guest speaker, TJ Pridell, with ReferenceUSA will be hosting an interactive lead generation marketing seminar utilizing this library subscription resource. For more information or to sign up, please visit [here](#).

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.

Economic Development Links

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



IN SIMSBURY

Aspen Green (formerly referred to as Garden Homes) on the south side of town along Hopmeadow Street is now under construction with some units occupied. 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). 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 complete on the first 128-unit phase. The second phase of 96 units is currently in construction with full completion in November 2018. The last phase of 48 townhomes is planned for 2019. You can visit their website at: <http://www.lifeinsimsbury.com> for information on their sale and rental offerings or <http://www.highcroftapartments.com/> for Highcroft.

Berkshire Bank: At the Corner of Bushy Hill and Albany Turnpike, Berkshire Bank is waiting on interior fit-out and is not yet open. The Zoning Commission recently approved signage for the tenant.

Powder Forest - Carson Way: Single Family Homes/Cluster Development, 74 Units (Stratton Brook Rd.). To date, 21 units have been completed with another 6 units under construction and another unit about to go under construction. The anticipated completion date is 2022.

Permitted

Big Y reaffirmed in July 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. The project has been approved and the applicant is currently addressing conditions of approval with Town staff. The applicant expects to break ground on the project in the next 30 to 45 days. A preconstruction meeting was held on September 7, 2017.

The Ensign House: Located on the corner of Drake Hill and Hopmeadow Street. This property was recently sold to Mark and Ieke Scully, with the goals of preserving “the stone mansion, turning it into residential apartments and building additional net zero residential units on the property.”

The Silverman Group: **Congratulations on the groundbreaking of the project held on August 16. Welcome to Simsbury!**

On May 3, 2017, the Town’s Zoning Commission approved an application by Silverman SL for an approval under the Hartford-Simsbury Form Based Code. The project 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. A preconstruction meeting is scheduled for September 13, 2017. The developer plans to break ground in the next 2 to 4 weeks.

On the Horizon

Deepwater Wind Tobacco Valley Solar Project: Deepwater Wind has proposed a 26.4 megawatt solar project (Tobacco Valley Solar) located on five separate parcels of land totaling 289 acres of property owned by Griffin Land off Hoskins and County Roads in the North end of Simsbury. The land is currently zoned for industrial and residential use. Under Connecticut State law, entities of this size and output are permitted by the Connecticut Siting Council and are not subject to local zoning and land use requirements for the Town of Simsbury. Deepwater Wind has filed a Petition for Declaratory Ruling with the Connecticut Siting Council: Petition No. 1313, which can be found on the Connecticut Siting Council webpage [here](#). The Town requested and was granted party status in the Connecticut Siting Council proceeding.

Public Hearing on September 12 at Eno Memorial Hall

A public hearing before the Siting Council will be held at Eno Memorial Hall on September 12 with a public field review at 1:30 p.m., an evidentiary session at 3:00 p.m. and a public comment session at 6:30 p.m. To see the Hearing information, click [here](#).

Members of the public will be allowed to submit written statements into the record within 30 days after the close of the hearing. Please reference Petition No. 1313 and send to Connecticut Siting Council, Ten Franklin Square, New Britain, CT 06051 or to siting.council@ct.gov.

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.

Information about the Deepwater Wind Solar project in Simsbury can be found on the Town website [here](#).

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

“The best portion of a good man’s life is his little, nameless, unremembered acts of kindness and love.”

- William Wordsworth – from “Tintern Abbey”

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.