



Town of Simsbury

933 HOPMEADOW STREET, SIMSBURY, CONNECTICUT 06070

Lisa L. Heavner - First Selectwoman

First Selectwoman's Report – September 25, 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. 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.

Currently Democratic and Republican leaders have put forth two budgets, neither of which is likely to be the final budget. Of concern, both budgets result in another massive deficit of over \$3 billion two years from now. As negotiations continue, we strongly urge that any budget passed include a plan to address this deficit.

To understand the depth of the State crisis and how we got here, it is well worth reading the article by Keith Phaneuf of the CTmirror, "[A Legacy of Debt: Connecticut Standing on its Own Fiscal Cliff.](#)" No doubt, the problem is daunting and the solutions will be difficult, but the time for simply re-arranging the deck chairs has passed.

Your tax bill 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.

Town of Simsbury Returns \$106,191 to the General Fund

Continuing the Town's commitment to responsible fiscal management, we are pleased to announce that the Town is closing out FY 2017 with a surplus of \$106,191 which will be returned to the General Fund. Thank you to town departments that work hard every day to deliver quality services in the most cost effective manner.



Fond Farewell to Mickey Lecours-Beck

Please join us in wishing Director of Social Services Mickey Lecours-Beck a fond farewell upon her retirement from the town after *37 years* of service. Mickey consistently went above and beyond what was expected of her to help Simsbury citizens in need have the essentials of life such as food and a safe place to live. Mickey expertly ran and operated the Town's shelter during the October 2011 storm and during other storms. She served on the Aging and Disability Commission, the Community for Care, the Health and Welfare Commission, the Human Relations Commission, the Juvenile Review Board, the Public Safety Subcommittee, the Youth Services Advisory Board, the Welfare Committee and as the town's Veterans Services Contact Person. We will miss you dearly!

Warm Welcome to Simsbury's new Director of Community and Social Services

Kristen Formanek

Please join us in welcoming Kristen Formanek as Simsbury's new Director of Community and Social Services. Kristen joins us from the Town of East Windsor where she served as the Director of Social Services for the last three years. Kristen comes to Simsbury with extensive experience in human and senior services, helping those in need with fuel, renter's rebate, SNAP, food pantry, back to school, holiday programs and more. Kristen's top priority is to ensure all town residents are treated with respect and dignity and provide them with the best experience possible at the senior center and through programs to meet their social, emotional and health needs.

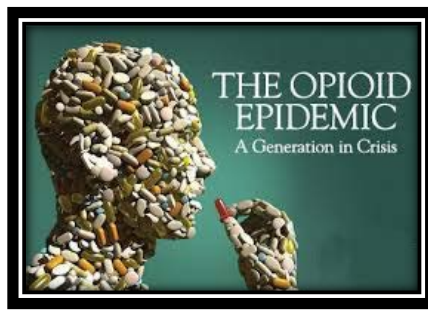
Kristen has served as the co-chair of the Hunger Action Team, as the Municipal Agent for the Elderly, and Liaison to the Elderly Commission. She has participated in local emergency planning. Kristen has served as the past president of the Connecticut Local Administrators of Social Services (C.L.A.S.S.) and is currently on their executive board and is their Technology Chair.

Discover Your Veteran's Benefits on September 27 at 5:30 PM

Are you a Veteran? Confused about all the benefits and programs available to you? Jason Coppola, Veterans' Service Officer, from the State of Connecticut Department of Veterans' Affairs will be discussing veteran's benefits topics of interest to veterans at the Simsbury Public Library on September 27 at 5:30 PM in program room 2. For more information about this program, please visit [here](#).

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

Hosted by Representative Hampton, a community forum on opioid addiction will be held with local partners and experts in the field on October 28, 2017 at the Simsbury Library. Speakers include Miriam Delphin-Rittmon, Commissioner of Department of Mental Health Addiction Services, Jennifer Kertanis, Director of the Farmington Valley Health District, Thomas Steen, Executive Director, Capital Area Substance Abuse Council (CASAC), Dave Messenger, Board Member of CASAC, and Shawn Lang, Deputy Director, AIDS CT. 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.



Simsbury Farms Awarded the Farmington Valley's Favorite Golf Course

Congratulations to Simsbury Farms on being awarded the Farmington Valley's Favorite Golf Course by the Farmington Valley Visitor's Association!



One of Windsor: The Untold Story of America's First Witch Hanging on October 10 from 1-3 PM

Beth Caruso, author of *One of Windsor: the untold Story of America's First Witch Hanging* will talk about this tragic and important event in America's colonial history and about her extensive historical research to find out about the victim, Alice Young of Windsor. This program is co-sponsored by the Simsbury Library and the Simsbury Women's Club. For more information or to register for the talk, please visit [here](#).

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.



VOTING LOCATIONS ARE BEING CHANGED FOR THE FOLLOWING ADDRESSES

STREET NAME	NEW LOCATION
Ardsley Way	Tootin Hills School 25 Nimrod Road, West Simsbury
August Road	
Bushy Hill Lane	
Bushy Hill Road: <u>Odd</u> numbers #355 and up, <i>plus #468,480,482,484,488,492</i>	
Fernwood Drive	
George Street	
Joyce Lane	
Laddie Lane	
Maureen Drive	
Neal Drive	
Nilas Way	
Pinecrest Drive	
West Mary Drive	
Westridge Drive	
Maple Court	Henry James Memorial School 155 Firetown Road, Simsbury
Mill Pond Lane	
Millers Way	
Old Mill Court	
Old Mill Lane	
Sawyers Path	
West Street	
Barnard Drive	Tariffville School 42 Winthrop Street, Tariffville
Hopmeadow Street: #995, 999, 1001, 1003, 1075, 1083, 1087, 1091	
Westminster Cartway	
Westwood Drive	

QUESTIONS? Contact the Registrars of Voters at 860-658-3267 or 860-658-3269

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 as 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

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 was held on September 21 at 5:30. Check out their website [here](#).

Ribbon Cutting and Welcome to the Storyteller's Cottage

Congratulations and welcome to the *Storyteller's Cottage* located at 750 Hopmeadow Street. "The Storyteller's Cottage is a unique space for booklovers. Here you'll find a wide variety of literary activities and challenging intellectual events and adventures!" A ribbon cutting sponsored by the Simsbury Chamber of Commerce will be held on September 26 at 5:00 P.M. Check out their website [here](#).

Ribbon Cutting for the New Owners of Mill Commons

Congratulations and welcome to South *Oxford Management*, the new management company of Mill Commons! Please join us for a ribbon cutting sponsored by the Simsbury Chamber of Commerce on October 3 at 4:00 PM at One Miller's Way.

Ribbon Cutting for the Iron Horse Sports Pub

Congratulations and welcome to *Iron Horse Sports Pub!* Please join us for a ribbon cutting sponsored by the Simsbury Chamber of Commerce on October 11 at 5:30 PM at 836 Hopmeadow Street.

Ribbon Cutting for Proofreading and Beyond

Congratulations and welcome to *Proofreading and Beyond* located at 749 Hopmeadow Street. Find help with virtual and on-site proofreading and administrative services. Please join us for a ribbon cutting sponsored by the Simsbury Chamber of Commerce on October 5 at 5:30 PM.

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:

Entrepreneurship in 3 Easy Steps September 25, October 4 and October 11, 6:30-7:30 PM

This workshop series from the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBAJ) lays the groundwork for helping new and aspiring entrepreneurs launch a business idea and understand the steps to building a business that is credit ready. Topics include the basics of a business startup, the essentials of becoming credit-ready and where and how to find small business support and resources. Come to all three modules or attend the one that fits your needs. To find out more about the series or to register, please visit [here](#).

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](#)



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.

Cambridge Crossing: The Town planning boards have approved 88 residential units for the property along Hoskins Road with twenty percent affordable housing. The applicant has broken ground on the project. It is anticipated construction will continue over the next year.

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.

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.

A public hearing before the Siting Council was 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. If you were unable to attend you can view the proceedings on Simsbury Community Television (SCTV): <http://simsburytv.org/>

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.

The Connecticut Siting Council will hold a further evidentiary hearing on October 10, 2017 in Hearing Room Two, Ten Franklin Square, New Britain, CT, beginning at 11:00 a.m.

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. (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>

“It is common sense to take a method and try it. If it fails, admit it frankly and try another. But above all, try something.”

Franklin D. Roosevelt

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