



# Town of Simsbury

933 HOPMEADOW STREET, SIMSBURY, CONNECTICUT 06070

Lisa L. Heavner - First Selectwoman

## *First Selectwoman's Report – October 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. 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.](#)"

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.

### **Sign up for Town of Simsbury Emergency Alerts**

*We can't reach you, if you don't subscribe!*

The Town of Simsbury is committed to providing residents with up-to-date information about storm preparations and emergencies. To receive regular updates about storms and other emergencies, sign up for *Town News and Announcements*. In addition, to make sure you know about emergencies and incidents as they happen, please also sign up for *Simsbury's Community Alerts* and the state-wide *CTAlert* System which sends time-sensitive notices wherever you specify, such as your home, cell or business phone, text message, email, hearing impaired receiving devices and more. Please click [here](#) to update your current profile and remember to sign up *for all three!*



## **Simsbury Named One of the Top Ten Safest Cities in Connecticut**



Safewise.com has listed Simsbury as one of the top ten safest cities in Connecticut. The ranking is based on the most recent FBI crime reports and population data. To read more about the 50 safest cities in Connecticut 2017, visit [here](#).

## **Simsbury Receives Grant of \$1,020,000 for Multi-use Trail Connecting with the Town of Bloomfield**

Another example of regional cooperation, Simsbury and Bloomfield are pleased to announce a regional grant in the amount of \$1,020,000 from the CT Department of Transportation, in cooperation with the Capitol Region Council of Governments, to construct a 0.8 mile link in the Region's greenway system. The link will provide a safe, off-road, commuter and recreation bicycle/pedestrian route from near St. Andrew's Church on Tariffville Road in Bloomfield to the Village of Tariffville in Simsbury. The trail section also bridges a gap in the East Coast Greenway. Thank you to the Simsbury Board of Selectmen and the Bloomfield Town Council for their critical support of the grant request and our respective state delegations, including Representatives John Hampton and David Baram and State Senators Kevin Witkos, Beth Bye and Doug McCrory, the Connecticut Greenways Council and Simsbury and Bloomfield town staff.

## **Library Staff Member Featured as Guest Blogger on the National Association of Library Services to Children Blog**

Simsbury Library Staff member April Jones, who designed the Everybody Plays program which supports services for children and families affected by autism and who also wrote the grant funded by the national organization *Autism Welcome Here*, was featured as a guest blogger on the National Association of Library Services to Children (ALSC) blog September 14. We're certain April's thoughtful words will inspire other libraries and communities throughout the nation to create similar vitally needed programs! April's post can be found [here](#).

## **Connecticut Energy Assistance Program Available**

We are here to help ensure that you stay warm this winter! The Connecticut Energy Assistance Program provides assistance with winter heating costs for Connecticut's lower income households. The Town of Simsbury Social Services Department is available to take applications for this program. Size of household, income, assets, and age will determine the amount of benefits awarded. Please contact us at 860-658-3283 to make an appointment or discuss eligibility.

## **Simsbury Leaf Schedule**



The Simsbury curbside leaf pickup schedule for 2017 is posted. The town will be making one collection per neighborhood and requests leaves be placed in biodegradable brown bags. Additional leaves can be disposed of at the Simsbury landfill on Wednesdays and Saturdays from 8:00AM-3:00PM at no cost. Click [here](#) to determine the date for pickup in your neighborhood.

## **Simsbury Pedestrian/Bicycle Survey is Up and Running**

The Simsbury Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Planning has begun. Let us know what is important to you by taking a brief [survey](#). Your responses will help guide improvements for pedestrians and bicyclists throughout town!

## **Resident's Reminded to Inspect Mailboxes Before Winter Storms**

Winter is coming and the Simsbury Department of Public Works recommends residents take a few minutes to inspect their mailboxes and mailbox posts for cracks, dry rot or deterioration, especially where the post goes into the ground. Posts with cracks, dry rot or deterioration will most likely fail when hit with wet snow during the Town's snowplowing operations. It is easier to replace a weak or worn out mailbox post during the fall months before the ground is frozen.

If you have any questions on preparing your mailbox for the winter season, please visit the link to the town's mailbox information [here](#) or contact the Department of Public Works at 860.658.3222.



## **Household Hazardous Waste Collection on October 28**

Simsbury is hosting a Household Hazardous Waste Collection at the Public Works Facility, 66 Town Forest Road on October 28 from 8:00 AM-1:00 PM. A great example of regional collaboration and cost sharing, this event is hosted by Simsbury, Avon, Canton, Granby and Farmington. Also included: electronics recycling and personal document shredding (2 box limit). For more information, 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.

## **Veterans Day Lunch and Lecture on November 9**

Veterans and the public are invited to a soup and sandwich lunch and dessert followed by a lecture to honor our veterans. Historian John Cilio will present an engaging and enlightening multi-media presentation on America's WWII Army Airforce, focusing on the many bomber aircraft it used and people who flew them. This event is co-sponsored by the Simsbury Public Library and the Senior Center. The lunch and lecture will be held at the Simsbury Library on November 9 from 12:00-2:00 PM. For more information or to register, please visit [here](#). If you prefer to register by phone, please contact the Library at (860) 658-7663 x4 or the Senior Center at (860) 658-3273.

## **Town Forest Park Improvements**

Improvements to Town Forest Park approved in the June referendum budget have begun with an anticipated completion targeted for November 30, 2017. Improvements will include replacement of the trailhead footbridge, paved parking lot, paved walking path to the trailhead and pavilion restoration. Access to the parking area, trailhead and pavilion will be prohibited during construction and we request residents seek alternative access points to the trail system. Thanks for working with us!



## VOTING LOCATIONS ARE BEING CHANGED FOR THE FOLLOWING ADDRESSES

STREET NAME	NEW LOCATION
Ardsley Way	<b>Tootin Hills School</b> <b>25 Nimrod Road, West Simsbury</b>
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	<b>Henry James Memorial School</b> <b>155 Firetown Road, Simsbury</b>
Mill Pond Lane	
Millers Way	
Old Mill Court	
Old Mill Lane	
Sawyers Path	
West Street	
Barnard Drive	<b>Tariffville School</b> <b>42 Winthrop Street, Tariffville</b>
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**

## **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](mailto:skimball@simsbury-ct.gov) or (860) 658-3244 or Tax Assessor David Gardner at [dgardner@simsbury-ct.gov](mailto:dgardner@simsbury-ct.gov) or (860) 658-3251.

## **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](http://www.simsburyevents.com)



## **Simsbury Meadows Performing Arts Center**

Check out all the great events happening at the [Simsbury Meadows Performing Arts Center](#).



## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



### **Ribbon Cutting for the Iron Horse Sports Pub**

Congratulations and welcome to *Iron Horse Sports Pub!* A ribbon cutting sponsored by the Simsbury Chamber of Commerce was held on October 11 at 5:30 PM at 836 Hopmeadow Street.

### **Ribbon Cutting and Welcome to Leaping Into Art**

Please join us for a ribbon cutting sponsored by Main Street Partnership for Leaping Into Art on Thursday, October 12 at 4:30 PM at 924 Hopmeadow Street. Leaping Into Art offers art classes, art therapy and more. Congratulations and welcome!

### **Ribbon Cutting for Headdress Beauty Lounge**

Please join us for a ribbon cutting sponsored by the Simsbury Chamber of Commerce for Headdress Beauty Lounge located at 1348 Hopmeadow Street on November 9, 2017, 5:00 – 6:00 p.m. Headdress Beauty offers beauty services in a way that nurtures inner beauty and peace. Check out their website [here](#).

### **Ribbon Cutting and Welcome to Hello Lovely**

Congratulations to Hello Lovely located at 771 Hopmeadow Street, offering makeup and lash extension artistry. A ribbon cutting sponsored by Main Street Partnership and the Simsbury Chamber of Commerce will be held on November 16 from 5:00-7:00 PM. 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 was 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! A ribbon cutting sponsored by the Simsbury Chamber of Commerce was held on October 3 at 4:00 PM at One Miller's Way.

### **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. A ribbon cutting sponsored by the Simsbury Chamber of Commerce was held on October 5.

## **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:

*Leveraging the Strength of LinkedIn:* October 18 from 6:00-8:00 PM

Geared towards intermediate and advanced LinkedIn users, this hands-on workshop will help you get the most out of LinkedIn. Learn how to build your professional network, search for your target audience and the type of activity to attract the attention of clients, recruiters and hiring managers. For more information, please click [here](#).

*How to be Secure in an Unsecure World:* October 25 from 6:30-8:00 PM

Join us to become more cyber aware and learn how to protect against current threats such as malware, viruses, identity theft and also learn about the new strategies to combat these threats. For more information, 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 with 224 apartments and 48 townhomes by Landworks Development/Nelson Construction team. Phase 1 (128 apartments) is already leased-up and Phase 2 (96 apartments) is under construction with first move-ins expected Spring 2018. The final phase of 48 townhomes is planned for 2019. Please visit: <http://www.lifeinsimsbury.com> for general information 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.

*Carson Way:* 74 Single-family Planned Community Homes off Stratton Brook Road by Landworks Development/Nelson Construction. 21 homes are complete with another 7 under construction. Anticipated completion in 2020. Visit: <http://www.lifeinsimsbury.com/find-a-home/>

*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.

*Mill Pond Crossing:* 20 Luxury Townhomes on Mill Pond Lane by Landworks/Nelson. Only 4 homes left in this upscale brownstone and siding community within walking distance to the Town Center. Visit: : <http://www.lifeinsimsbury.com/find-a-home/>

### **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. The developer plans to break ground this fall.

### **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. If you were unable to attend you can view the proceedings on Simsbury Community Television (SCTV): <http://simsburytv.org/>

A second evidentiary hearing was held at the Siting Council offices in New Britain on October 10. A third evidentiary hearing is scheduled for November 2, 2017

**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](mailto:siting.council@ct.gov).**

**The Connecticut Siting Council will hold a further evidentiary hearing on November 2, 2017 in Hearing Room Two, Ten Franklin Square, New Britain, CT.**



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>

*"Do not let what you cannot do interfere with what you can do."*

John Wooden