
FIRST SELECTMAN'S REPORT

TO: Board of Selectmen
FROM: Eric Wellman – First Selectman
DATE: March 23, 2020

To the Simsbury Community:

I am going to use my First Selectmen's report to share with you some reflections on the past week, some personal thoughts about the weeks to come, and ways you can stay connected to your local government and each other.

I have full confidence in our Town Manager, Police Chief, Emergency Management officials, and Social Services Department that they are doing what needs to be done to keep our community safe and healthy. The steps we are taking to encourage social distancing are evolving on a daily basis. The best way to ensure you are getting the most current information from the Town is to subscribe to News and Announcements on the Town's website. This allows you to have Town news delivered directly to your email. To subscribe, visit Simsbury-ct.gov and click on "Subscribe to News" on the homepage.

[Click here](#) to watch our latest press briefing or visit SimsburyTV.org.

You can also follow the Town and various departments on Facebook:

- Town: <https://www.facebook.com/TownofSimsbury/>
- Public Works: <https://www.facebook.com/Town-of-Simsbury-Connecticut-Public-Works-Department-366602746711626/>
- Simsbury Public Library: <https://www.facebook.com/SimsburyPublicLibrary/>
- Simsbury Culture Parks and Rec: <https://www.facebook.com/SimsburyParksandRec/>
- Simsbury Community and Social Services: <https://www.facebook.com/simscommunityandsocial/>

We will be using our Facebook pages to share information about closures and other news, but we'll also be using these pages to share ideas about staying connected, informed, and entertained.

How to watch public meetings

For the coming month, we are only holding meetings of our boards and commissions that are deemed to be essential. These meetings are closed to the public, but will all be available to stream live online. They will also be archived on SimsburyTV.org. For meetings that include public audience, you can send your comments to ebutler@simsbury-ct.gov and they will be read into the record.

There are several ways to watch public meetings:

- Comcast customers can watch live on channels 96 and 1090.
- Frontier customers can watch on 6071.
- Live stream on SimsburyTV.org.

Closed captioning is available. Instructions on how to turn close captioning on can be found on SCTV's [Facebook page](#).

Thank you

I want to thank all members of our community who are heeding the call for social distancing. Thank you to our educators, who today have begun distance learning, an experiment never before tried on this scale in the history of our community.

I also want to thank the residents of this community who have reached out looking for ways to help. Currently, Social Services is collecting supermarket and gas station gift cards and non-perishables. There is a cart in front of Eno Memorial Hall where non-perishables can be left. There is a secure lock box where donations of gift cards can be placed. Social Services also accepts donations by check. If you have any questions, or are in need of assistance, please call Social Services at 860-658-3283.

Staying Connected

I am completely supportive of the steps the Town has taken to support social distancing, including the closure of our playgrounds, courts, and other Town facilities. I realize, however, that these are places we are used to turning to for staying active, entertained, and connected. In the weeks to come, we will be using our communication channels, especially Facebook, to share ideas for how you and your family can stay connected with the larger community.

I invite you to follow me on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/eric4ct>. I work hard to maintain a page that is informative, but also positive and uplifting. Last night, I hosted a Facebook Live conversation with local author, magician, and motivational speaker, Brian Miller. Miller has written a book about social connection and we talked about strategies for maintaining and building relationships during this difficult time.

Leading with Kindness

Lastly, I wanted to share my confidence that we, as a community and as a country, are going to get through this. There is no doubt in my mind. I ask that we lead with kindness. At a time when our stress is high, let's show an extra dose of patience at the supermarket, with our educators, and all those we interact with. Consider brightening someone's day with an email or a phone call. In the weeks to come, I'd like to start documenting some of the acts of kindness we see around us on my Facebook page, and inspire others to build upon them. Let's see if we can be the kindest community in America. We're going to do this together and come out stronger on the other side.