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## FIRST SELECTMAN'S REPORT

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**TO:** Board of Selectmen  
**FROM:** Eric Wellman – First Selectman  
**DATE:** April 22, 2019

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### **Budget Update**

On Tuesday April 23<sup>rd</sup>, the Board of Finance will hold its second public hearing on the budget. It will take place at 5:45pm at the Simsbury Public Library.

The Board of Selectmen's [adopted budget](#) that we sent to public hearing maintains town services at their current level, and contains very few service enhancements. Healthcare costs and debt service have proven to be a significant budget driver. We have worked hard to balance those obligations, the high expectations of our residents for services, and a desire to keep increases in the mill rate in check. You can find all of the budget materials [here](#), including the full budget document as well as a PowerPoint summary.

The budget referendum at Henry James Middle School is tentatively scheduled for **Tuesday May 14<sup>th</sup>**.

### **Planning Department**

- Mcleans filed a text amendment application with the Zoning Commission for the construction of a new independent senior living facility within the campus. The proposal is for a 4 ½ story structure to be constructed with 78 apartment units which will be independent senior living.
- 200 Hopmeadow Street (former Hartford property): roadway work associated with the project is anticipated to start this week. The roadwork is associated with the CTDOT approval for the project. The plan for the property consists of apartments, an assisted living facility, and some commercial development. Work has begun on one of two commercial buildings for the development. The assisted living portion of the development is scheduled to be open in late July/early August.

### **Welcome to the following New Businesses**

- Selma Grille will be moving into the 1820 House (space formerly of Metro Bis).
- Luscious Breeze LLC day spa to 10 Jim Gallagher Way
- Tyler English on relocating his personal fitness business to 141 West Street.

### **Simsbury Chamber's New Home**

Congratulations to the Simsbury Chamber of Commerce, which is moving into a new home in the Cannon Building, 720 Hopmeadow St. An open house is scheduled for Thursday April 25<sup>th</sup> from 5:30 to 8pm.

### **Tobacco Valley Solar**

On March 28, 2019, the Connecticut Siting Council approved the development and management plan for the 26 megawatt solar farm off Hoskins and County Road. The Town reviewed the development and management plan and determined that the plans comply with the stipulated agreement. Last week a building permit application was filed for the construction. The contractors have mobilized and started some of the site work associated with the project. According to the development and management plan, the project is anticipated to be completed in 8 months. Planning Director Mike Glidden and Town Engineer Jeff Shea will provide the Board of Selectman a presentation on the project in May.

If you're interested in learning more about the project, we have aggregated information on the [First Selectman's Page](#) of the Town website.

### **Climax Road Update**

The affordable housing development for the construction of 19 homes at 80 Climax Road was under appeal. The superior court judge remanded the application back to the Planning Commission with 3 areas of concern. According to the ruling, the judge ordered that a public hearing be held on these three areas only. The comments were all concerning drainage. A public hearing is scheduled for May 14, 2019 at which time the Planning Commission will discuss the areas that were remanded back to the Commission by the Court.

### **Bike Month**

May is Bike Month and I'd like to highlight the dates for Bike/Walk to School Days:

- May 8<sup>th</sup> – Tootin' Hills
- May 14<sup>th</sup> – Latimer Lane
- June 7<sup>th</sup> – Squadron Line

You can find the full lineup of Bike Month events at [Simsbury.bike](http://Simsbury.bike).

### **Simsbury Mini Maker Faire**

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Simsbury Mini Maker Faire will be held Saturday, May 4, 10am-4pm at the Simsbury Public Library. There will be hands-on activities for all ages throughout the day. You can learn more [here](#).

### **Thank You Tax Volunteers**

Thank you to AARP Tax Aid, the Simsbury Library, Senior Center, and all the volunteers who gave their time to assist members of our community with their taxes. The service was held free of charge at the library during tax season. Nearly 200 tax returns were completed during that time for Simsbury residents.

### **Wild & Scenic Celebration**

Senator Chris Murphy will be holding a celebration in Simsbury to mark the Wild & Scenic designation for the Lower Farmington River, Saturday, May 11 from noon to 1:30pm at the Flower Bridge. Senator Murphy will be joined by the Farmington River Watershed Association and other local stakeholders for a casual get together and a brief program. Attendees are encouraged to bring folding chairs, a picnic blanket, and some lunch. The Wild & Scenic Designation enables the river to be eligible for up to \$100 thousand a year in federal funds for conservation.

### **E-Cycling Event**

The Simsbury Grange and Green Monster E-Cycling are co-hosting a recycling event on May 11<sup>th</sup>, from 9am to noon at the former Andy's Market, 836 Hopmeadow Street. Almost anything with a cord or battery is accepted, including televisions, computers, printers, and stereo equipment. Air conditioners, washers/dryers, refrigerators, vacuums, and microwaves are not accepted. Members of the Simsbury Grange will be assisted by local students, including Boy Scout Troop 76.

### **Memorial Day Parades**

The Town of Simsbury, American Legion Post 84 and the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1926 are organizing two Memorial Day parades on May 27<sup>th</sup>. The Tariffville parade will march along Winthrop Street starting at 9am followed by a ceremony at St. Bernard's Cemetery. The Simsbury parade will start at 1:30. As usual, it will proceed south along Hopmeadow Street from Owens Brook Boulevard to the Library. There will be a ceremony on the Simsbury Veterans Memorial following the parade. The theme this year is the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of D-Day. We will be recognizing our World War II veterans and the Scouts will tell stories of 5 of Simsbury's World War II veterans who died in service.

## **Save the Dates!**

The Board of Selectman has approved public gathering permits for the following 2019 events:

- [The Simsbury Flea and Smorgasbord](#) features vendors and food trucks at Simsbury Meadows on Saturday April 27<sup>th</sup>.
- [The Simsbury River Run](#) is 5K and 10K road race that's taking place Sunday April 28<sup>th</sup>. There will be family activities at Simsbury Meadows where the race begins.
- The annual [Mini Maker Faire](#) will take place May 4<sup>th</sup> at the Simsbury Public Library.
- [The Simsbury Triathlon](#) will take place May 5<sup>th</sup>. It includes a run, bike ride, and kayak portion. A duathlon (no kayaking) is also being offered this year.
- The Tootin Hills PTO is holding their annual [Duck Race](#) at the Flower Bridge on May 24<sup>th</sup> from 4-7pm.
- [The Iron Horse Half Marathon](#), 10k and 5k, will take place Sunday June 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- The Simsbury Freemason's Valley Lodge 36 is hosting a Battle of the Bands to support the Dana Farber Institute on June 8<sup>th</sup> at the Simsbury Meadows Performing Arts Center.
- [The Valley Collector Club Car Show](#) will take place Sunday July 21<sup>st</sup> in the parking lots along Iron Horse Blvd.
- Simsbury is the summer home of the Hartford Symphony Orchestra! [The Talcott Mountain Music Festival](#) will feature five concerts June – July (6/28, 7/5, 7/12, 7/19, 7/26)
- The Simsbury Volunteer Fire Department is hosting a Chicken Barbecue on June 29<sup>th</sup> at the Weatogue Fire Station in celebration of their 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary.
- [Circus Smirkus](#) is a youth traveling circus that will be coming to the Simsbury Meadows Performing Arts Center July 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> for four shows.
- The 2019 CT Volley DIG Tournament is a volley ball tournament that will be taking place August 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> at the Simsbury Meadows Performing Arts Center. Spectators are welcome to watch for free.
- Septemberfest is a 3 day event at the Simsbury Meadows Performing Arts Center from September 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup>. This year's event will feature a fire truck parade on Iron Horse Blvd. in celebration of the Fire Department's 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.
- The Simsbury Woman's Club's [50<sup>th</sup> Arts and Crafts Festival](#) will take place September 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> in the parking lots along Iron Horse Blvd.
- The [2019 Walk MS](#) will take place September 15<sup>th</sup> starting at the Simsbury Meadows Performing Arts Center.
- The 2019 [Spooktacular Chili Challenge](#) is scheduled for October 20<sup>th</sup> at the Simsbury Meadows Performing Arts Center.

## **New Park Construction**

In June, the town is scheduled to begin work on a new park next to the Flower Bridge. It will include new landscaping, paver walkways, and a new pavilion. This project will also improve access to the river for the launching of kayaks. While this park will enhance an already amazing attraction, the town will unfortunately need to close the Flower Bridge for much of the 2019 season. It will remain open until June to allow for the annual Duck Race and Burgers on the Bridge Fundraisers.

If you have questions about the new park or the bridge closure, I encourage you to [review a presentation](#), which was recently delivered to the Board of Selectmen. The temporary closure of the bridge is not something we take lightly, but I'm very excited that we'll be able to unveil the new park in time for Simsbury's 350<sup>th</sup> celebration.

## **Sustainable CT**

At our February 11<sup>th</sup> meeting, the Board of Selectmen adopted a resolution joining the Sustainable CT program. It's an environmental certification program that towns can join free of charge. The part of the program I'm most excited about is the structure it will provide our town in the creation of a roadmap of

projects to make the town more environmentally friendly. You can see the presentation to the Board of Selectmen [here](#). Thank you to the members of the Clean Energy Task Force for taking the lead on this initiative!

**Opportunities to Serve Your Town**

There are more than a dozen boards and commissions that serve our town whose members are appointed by the Board of Selectmen. We're always looking for volunteers willing to serve and I'm pleased to share that the Town has made the process easier and more transparent. You can learn more about all of our boards and commissions, current vacancies, and how to apply [here](#).

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## TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

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**TO:** Board of Selectmen  
**FROM:** Maria E. Capriola – Town Manager  
**DATE:** April 22, 2019

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### **BOARD OF SELECTMEN BUSINESS:**

***FY 19/20 Budget:*** The next public hearing on the budget will be held tomorrow, Tuesday, April 23<sup>rd</sup> at 5:45pm at Program Room 1 of the Simsbury Public Library. The referendum date will likely be held on Tuesday, May 14<sup>th</sup>. The Board of Selectmen will have a brief special meeting this Friday, April 26, 2019 at 8:30am in the Main Meeting Room of Town Hall to take care of a number of procedural budget items. A call-in number is available for those members unable to attend in person.

***Delegation of Open Space Stewardship and Land Management Update:*** The Conservation Commission has requested additional time to discuss the referral regarding the delegation of Open Space stewardship and land management duties. You referred the matter to the Conservation Commission at your March 25<sup>th</sup> Board of Selectmen meeting. We plan to report on this item at your May 13<sup>th</sup> meeting.

### **DEPARTMENTAL NEWS & NOTES**

***Town Manager's Office:*** The Hometown Hero Committee is meeting on May 6<sup>th</sup> to review received nominations. The annual Hometown Hero Ceremony will be held on Wednesday, May 29<sup>th</sup> at 4:30pm at the Eno Memorial Hall auditorium.

***Police Department:*** For the 4<sup>th</sup> year in a row, the Town of Simsbury was recognized as one of the 20 safest cities in Connecticut by SafeWise, a private organization which provides consumers with resources and tools to help them choose appropriate security systems. According to the report, Simsbury ranked 3<sup>rd</sup> out of Connecticut's 20 safest municipalities. Simsbury moved up from the number 8 spot in last year's ranking. The ranking is based on SafeWise's review of FBI crime report statistics, including the number of violent crimes and property crimes, as well as population data. Violent crimes are defined as aggravated assault, murder, rape and robbery, while property crimes include burglary, arson, larceny theft and motor vehicle theft. SafeWise calculates crime rates on a per 1,000 population ratio to allow comparison with municipalities of different sizes. Simsbury's violent crimes were 0.16 per 1,000 people, which is significantly lower than the statewide average of 2.25 per 1,000. Similarly, the Town's property crimes were just 6.68 per 1,000 people, compared with the statewide average of 19.53 per 1,000. [Click here](#) for the 2019 report.

***Culture, Parks and Recreation:*** Simsbury Farms Golf Updates

- ***Friends of Simsbury Farms 2019 Golf Tournament:*** The 2019 Friends of Simsbury Farms Golf Tournament will be held on June 21<sup>st</sup>, 2019 at the Simsbury Farms Golf Course. This tournament will benefit projects throughout the Simsbury Farms Recreation Complex. You may register online at [www.friendsofsimsburyfarms.com/golf](http://www.friendsofsimsburyfarms.com/golf). If you have any questions, please call the Simsbury Culture, Parks and Recreation Department at 860-658-3836.
- ***Intro to Golf Program for Female Golfers:*** The Simsbury Farms Golf Course is hosting an Intro to Golf program for female golfers this spring. The program will be taught by LPGA instructor Karen Bali and is meant to be a first step in your journey to learn, play and enjoy the game of golf. The dates of the program are May 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> from 10-11:30am or 5-6:30pm. If you are interested please email Karen at [kbali26@comcast.net](mailto:kbali26@comcast.net).
- ***Simsbury Farms Thursday Night Co-Ed Golf League:*** The Simsbury Farms Thursday night co-ed golf league is back and looking for new members. The league is for beginners or experienced golfers, men and women, who want to have a fun time and make new friends. It is anticipated that

the league will start on May 2<sup>nd</sup>, weather permitting. If you have any questions or want more information please email [robertduguay@sbcglobal.net](mailto:robertduguay@sbcglobal.net) or call 860-904-5525.

**SPECIAL EVENTS & PROGRAMS:**

***Veterans Resource Fair:*** A Veterans Resource Fair will be held on April 26<sup>th</sup> from 8am – 5pm at Tunxis Community College. The event is open to veterans who are community college students and faculty and staff that work with them. The Farmington Valley Health District is a co-sponsor of this event.

***Household Hazardous Waste Collection:*** There will be a household hazardous waste collection on Saturday, April 27, 2019 at the Farmington High School, 10 Monteith Drive, Farmington, CT from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. This regional initiative is open to all residents from Simsbury, Avon, Canton, Farmington, and Granby. Sample types of items accepted include: fluorescent and compact light bulbs; batteries; lawn care chemicals; switches or items containing Mercury; household cleaners; and chemicals from the garage or workshop. In addition to collecting household hazardous waste items, residents can also drop off electronics, used motor oil, and personal documents for shredding (up to 2 boxes) at no cost.

***Mini-Maker Faire:*** The 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Simsbury Mini Maker Faire will take place Saturday, May 4<sup>th</sup> from 10am-4pm at the Simsbury Public Library. There will be hands-on activities for all ages throughout the day. More information can be found at [facebook.com/simsburymakers/](https://facebook.com/simsburymakers/).