
FIRST SELECTMAN'S REPORT

TO: Board of Selectmen
FROM: Wendy Mackstutis – First Selectman
DATE: May 22, 2023

Condolences to the Rinaldi Family

Dr. Michael Rinaldi passed away on May 13th at his home in Simsbury.

He was well known as a passionate advocate for causes he believed in and came to speak at our BOS public audience many, many times over the years. We did not always all agree, but he took advantage of the opportunity to share his views with our town government and to let his voice be heard. We thank you for your belief in the democratic process.

<https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/hartfordcourant/name/michael-rinaldi-obituary?id=51926289&fhid=6837>

Town Manager Search UPDATE

On Monday, May 15th, the Executive Search Committee, made up of all members of the BOS, met in Executive Session with Attorney Mike Harrington, and Attorney Bob DeCresenzo to review the 3 applicants that were being considered for the Executive Search Firm for the Town Manager Search. A consensual decision was made and voted on in open session. GovHR USA is the firm that we look forward to working with over the coming months in our Town Manager search. We all agreed that we liked their methodology – from creating a desired Town Manager Profile, to bringing in qualified candidates - which includes multiple stakeholders along the way. We all felt they were a good fit to work with our community. The proposed timeframe is the next 3-4 months. <https://www.govhrusa.com>

Hometown Heroes Ceremony and Award Recipients

This year's Hometown Heroes were presented earlier tonight in our annual ceremony. The recipients are: Alvin Schwapp - amazing neighbor for all of us on Adams Rd and Lincoln Lane; Bob Braunlich - volunteer at the Simsbury Food Pantry, Simsbury Community Television, and First Church; Brad Griswold - long-time President of the Simsbury Airport Board; Dennis Michaud - dedication to the dog park; Friends of the Simsbury Public Library – providing our library continuous support, financially, thru programming, advocacy, and volunteer hours 1971; Michele Jenks - member of Simsbury Beautification

For more detail on each of our Hometown Heroes, please see the agenda that includes each submission. https://www.simsburyct.gov/sites/g/files/vyh1if9751/f/minutes/hometown_hero_minutes_5-1-23_draft.pdf

Housing Forum

Many of us attended the housing forum on May 10th, put on by the DEI Council. It was an engaging discussion, where we worked with our neighbors, and discussed what brought us to Simsbury, what we liked about Simsbury, what we don't like about Simsbury, and how to address the housing needs in our community and in the state. We have some take-aways from this event and will be working on ways to elevate this discussion, with action plans going forward. The Planning Commission is hard at work on the updates to the POCD, which includes the town's Affordable Housing Plan and that will be a good place for the BOS to partner.

We all strive to ensure that Simsbury is an inclusive community, and we pride ourselves on welcoming all who live and visit here. The DEI Council shared a video at the forum with some differing views that

they collected from some of our residents, that they asked us to share. The link is below. Please be aware that it is hard to hear at times, but these are honest voices from members of our community.

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1fMCw3PvPrx_xHl1b2Mnbj7qyvcuxSUs7/view

Simsbury Main Street Partnership MOU update

Establishing an MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) with the Simsbury Main Street Partnership is one of the BOS established goals for this term. During the budget workshops, our board created a condition that we have the MOU prior to releasing their funding, which has been requested annually via our Outside Agency Funding Application.

We received a draft last week, and I have forwarded it to our Interim Town Manager, and Town Attorney for an initial review. Once we have a working draft in place, we will discuss this at the board level, which has been the normal practice for an MOU. This will help define the roles and responsibilities for SMSP and working with Executive Director Sarah Nielson around Economic Development.

VESSEL Property

The Zoning Commission voted against this property along Hopmeadow Street, in a 4-2 vote on May 15th. The meeting is available for viewing on Simsburytv.org if you would like to listen to the discussion.

PRIDE MONTH

We will be holding our annual Pride Flag Raising in front of Town Hall on June 1st, at 5:30. Tonight, we issued a proclamation recognizing our LGBTQ+ for Pride Month and invite everyone to join us that evening.

Granby-Simsbury Chamber of Commerce Exec Director

The Granby-Simsbury Chamber of Commerce has named a new Executive Director. Please join us in welcoming Ray Lagan. Ray was previously the Head of School at The Master's School, West Simsbury. Ray also happens to be a long time Simsbury resident, and fellow Bloomfield High School graduate, although he is a bit younger than me. (I graduated with his older sister, Barbara 😊)

Public Works Touch-a-Truck

A big thank you the public work's staff who made this Saturday's Touch-a-Truck event successful. Even though it was rainy, it was very well attended, and everyone seemed to be having a good time. It's great opportunity for our moms, dads, grandmas, and grandpas to take the kids to an event that has something for everyone. Where else can your little ones get inside a bobcat, dump truck, ambulance, fire truck, police car, loader, and other pieces of equipment, while enjoying cotton candy and popcorn. The plastic hard hats were big hit, too! Many family members of the public works team were there, too, helping out, adding a personal touch.

BOS Bike RIDE

Please join the Board of Selectman, members of town staff, our Bike-Ped community and anyone else who wants to come along for the ride, on May 30th at 5:30 for our annual 'May Is Bike Month' ride from Town Hall to Lake Basile, following along the Farmington Canal Heritage Trail (on Iron Horse) to the Granby Town Line. It's always a fun, leisurely ride, for all abilities. When we get back to Town Hall, there will be ice cream for everyone!

Simsbury Duck Race Entry

Big night this coming Friday, May 26th, as the BOS tries again to win the Simsbury Duck Race. We are using the same team of engineers – Ellie Askham and her dad, Sean. We came in second last year, due to some technical issues, that our team is working to reconfigure. Come cheer us on.

Memorial Day Parades

Below is information that was provided to the town for both parades.

EVENT INFO

Description of Event:

Annual Memorial Day Parade for Tariffville, CT.

Parade Organizers, groups and participants will gather/muster at the Tariffville Green. Gather/muster time is 830am-845am with Step off is scheduled for 9am. As groups/participants arrive, they will be lined up according to the Parade Committees Order of March starting on the corner of Winthrop and Main Street and heading down Main Street towards Tariffville Park. When parade steps off, participants will march/walk up Winthrop Street, pausing at the firehouse for the placement of a ceremonial wreath, then continuing up Winthrop Street, turning right into St. Bernards Cemetery. After groups/participants have all arrived at the Cemetery, the Memorial Day ceremony will commence. At the conclusion of the Ceremony, Participants/Groups will either head home or to Trinity Church for a small reception.

Parking is available at Trinity Church, at the Church across from Tariffville Cemetery (formerly known as St Bernards Church) and at peoples personal homes. Bathrooms are available for use at both of the Churches

In case of inclement weather, Trinity Church will host the Memorial Day Ceremony.

Simsbury Police Department has received the request for road closure areas and times for this parade. See attached document that was provided to Simsbury PD

Any and all current Covid 19 State/Town Protocols will be briefed by Parade Management to all Groups/Participants.

EVENT INFO

Description of Event:

Annual Memorial Day Parade for Simsbury, CT.

Parade Organizers, groups and participants will gather/muster at Liberty Bank. Gather/muster time is 1245pm with Step off is scheduled for 130pm. As groups/participants arrive, they will be lined up according to the Parade Committees Order of March starting on the corner of Owens Brook and Hopmeadow and heading up the hill to Winterset Road. When parade steps off, participants will ride/march/walk down Owens Brook Blvd wish to the Simsbury Veterans Memorial for the ceremony. Once the groups/participants have all fully arrived at the Simsbury Veterans Memorial, the Memorial Day ceremony will commence. At the conclusion of the Ceremony, Participants/Groups will either head home or to the reception afterwards.

Parking is available at 1st Church, multiple business, at the Jim Gallagher Way parking lot and people' s personal homes for their own vehicles.

Porta-Potties/Port-O-Lets will be requested to be placed on Owens Brook Blvd and Somerset St. Multiple businesses will also allow use of bathrooms.

In case of inclement weather, Eno Hall will host the Memorial Day Ceremony.

Simsbury Police Department has received the request for road closure areas and times for this parade. See attached document that was provided to Simsbury PD.

Any and all current Covid 19 State/Town Protocols will be briefed by Parade Management to all Groups/Participants.

Thanks for reading! Enjoy the great weather.

Feel free to reach out to me anytime at 860-543-3770 or at wmackstutis@simsbury-ct.gov.

I'm happy to meet you for office hours based on your schedule.

Wendy

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

TO: Board of Selectmen
FROM: Nick Boulter – Interim Town Manager
DATE: May 22, 2023

DEPARTMENT NEWS & NOTES

Library: The library is looking for a Book Bike Summer Intern! If you know someone who would be interested in this opportunity please have them go to www.simsbury-ct.gov/jobs. The Book Bike Summer Intern would be responsible for riding the Book Bike to various locations in Town including the 5 elementary schools and engage with the community to build knowledge and understanding of the breadth and scope of library offerings, programs and services.

Public Works: The Public Works Department hosted the annual Touch-A-Truck this past Saturday from 9 am to 12:30 pm. There were over 400 participants with raving reviews from kids and adults. There were endless amounts of trucks and equipment from the Highway Department as well as some from the Parks and Recreation, Police and Fire Departments.

The Simsbury Public Works Department will be hosting a regional Household Hazardous Waste Collection at the DPW facility at 66 Town Forest Road, West Simsbury, on Saturday, June 10, 2023, from 8:00 AM to 1:00 PM. Participants should access Town Forest Road from Stratton Brook Road to keep the line orderly. This event is run in conjunction with the Towns of Avon, Canton, Farmington, Granby, and Suffield. Residents will be able to dispose of their qualifying items at no cost by providing proof of residency upon arrival. These collections are for items that cannot go into the regular trash, keeping hazardous materials from being deposited into the landfill. Residents can find more information on which items would be accepted at this collection by visiting the following: <https://www.simsbury-ct.gov/public-works/pages/household-hazardous-waste-collection>.

Police Department: The Police Department will be hosting the annual Junior Police Academy July 31 through August 4 for children of Simsbury (5th grade to 8th grade). They will experience hands-on methods and techniques in the profession of law enforcement. Throughout this academy, respect, self-discipline, integrity, equality, education, and physical fitness will be stressed. Attendees will also gain an understanding of community responsibility, problem solving, and the role of the public servant. Visit the police department website for more information and an application.

Memorial Day Parades: There will be two parades in town again this year for Memorial Day. The Tariffville parade begins at 9:00 am. It starts on Winthrop Street at Main Street, travels up Winthrop into St. Bernards Cemetery, followed by a ceremony.

The Simsbury parade begins at 1:30 pm. It starts on Route 10 at Owens Brook Boulevard and travels south on Route 10 to Simsbury Veteran's Memorial in front of the library for a ceremony. I hope you can all join us.