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## FIRST SELECTMAN'S REPORT

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**TO:** Board of Selectmen  
**FROM:** Eric Wellman – First Selectman  
**DATE:** May 29, 2019

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### **Memorial Day Parades**

I wanted to send a big thank you to the American Legion Post 84 and the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1926 for their partnership with the town in organizing Monday's Memorial Day parades and ceremonies. I hope you enjoyed time with family, but I also hope you took the opportunity to pause to remember the real meaning of the holiday and the incredible debt of gratitude we owe to those who answered the call of service. The theme this year's ceremony was the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of D-Day. I appreciated the research conducted by the Scouts of Troop 76 who shared the stories of World War II soldiers from Simsbury who died in service to our country.

### **2019 Hometown Hero Awards**

The Hometown Hero Committee met on May 6<sup>th</sup> to review nominations and made award recipient selections. Due to the conflict with the Burgers on the Bridge event, the annual Hometown Hero Ceremony will be held on Monday, June 10<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 PM in the Main Meeting Room at Town Hall.

### **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. The public hearing is scheduled for this coming Monday June 3. The hearing will be held at the Simsbury Public Library starting at 7:00pm.
- 200 Hopmeadow Street (former Hartford property): The project includes 282 rental units (about half have been permitted so far), a 120 bed assisted living facility, and 11 thousand square feet of commercial space. All of the development is on the north side of the property. The south side, where the former Hartford building was located, has no development at this time. Construction is underway and the assisted living facility is expected to be open by August.
- Planning Director Mike Glidden recently shared an update with the Economic Development Commission, summarizing key projects around town that are either planned or underway. It has the latest update on projects we frequently receive questions about including the former Hartford property, Powder Forest, and the Big Y parcel. You can find the full PowerPoint [here](#).

### **Tobacco Valley Solar**

At our May 29<sup>th</sup> Board of Selectman meeting, Planning Director Mike Glidden and town engineer Jeff Shea shared a presentation on the Tobacco Valley Solar Project, the 26 Megawatt solar installation currently under construction on the north side of town. You can access a link to that presentation [here](#).

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

### **Burgers on the Bridge – Rescheduled**

The annual Burgers on the Bridge fundraiser has been unfortunately postponed because of the weather. It will be held Thursday May 30<sup>th</sup> from 4:30 – 7pm at the Old Drake Hill Flower Bridge. The fundraiser supports the activities of the nonprofit that cares for the bridge and the more than 60 flower boxes.

### **New Park Construction**

In early 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.

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.

### **Annual Greenways Awards and Celebration**

Friday May 31<sup>st</sup> is the annual Greenways Awards and Celebration held in conjunction with National Trails Day. The event will take place at Stratton Brook State Park starting at 10am. This year's award recipients include State Representative John Hampton and the Simsbury Land Trust.

### **Simsbury Public Schools Facilities Master Plan**

The Simsbury Board of Education is working on a facilities master plan for the school district. On Wednesday June 5<sup>th</sup>, the public is invited to attend a forum to learn more about student populations and the conditions of the schools as well as offer input. What is important to you? What do you believe are the greatest needs? It will take place at the Library starting at 7pm.

### **First Responder Panel Discussion**

The Simsbury Special Ed PTO will host a panel of first responders and parents to collaborate on working together to build a strong community response for Simsbury citizens with special needs. The event will be held Wednesday June 5<sup>th</sup> in the Simsbury High School Amphitheater from 6:30 – 8pm.

### **Bike to School**

A reminder that June 7<sup>th</sup> is going to be bike to school day for students at Squadron. Bike to school days for Tootin' and Latimer occurred earlier this spring.

### **Concerts on the Green**

The Simsbury Historical Society and Simsbury Grange will host "Concerts on the Green," again this summer held among the Simsbury Historical Society's buildings and gardens at 800 Hopmeadow Street.

The first concert, billed as "SHS @ SHS," will be held Saturday, June 8<sup>th</sup> from 3:00-5:00 PM. This concert is planned as an annual concert near the date of the Simsbury High School (SHS) graduation and an opportunity for the whole community to celebrate with a downtown, outdoor event and outstanding live music. SHS @ SHS 2019 will feature nationally known blues artist Chris Tofield.

In the case of rain, the concert will be relocated to Boy Scout Hall. Up to date information can be found at [www.facebook.com/simsburyhistoricalsociety](http://www.facebook.com/simsburyhistoricalsociety).

### **STEM Summer Camps**

The Simsbury Public Library is offering two STEM summer camps to introduce elementary-age students to Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math.

- July 22<sup>nd</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup>
- From 9:30 – noon, camp will be offered to students entering grades 1 – 3.
- From 1 – 5pm, there will be a session for girls entering grades 4 – 6.
- Cost is \$25
- [Learn more here](#)

### **Save the Dates!**

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

- [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.

### **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 our town. 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:** May 29, 2019

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

***Naming of 1 Old Bridge Park Agenda Item:*** Should the Board of Selectmen decide to move forward with creating a work group to help identify a name for the new park (Item F, Selectmen Action), the Culture, Parks and Recreation Commission has identified a member to participate. At their May 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting, the Culture, Parks and Recreation Commission identified and recommend Rachel Wellman to serve on the work group.

***Late Addition to Tonight's Agenda:*** The public gathering permit application for the Farmington Valley Jewish Congregational Sabbath Worship was added to the agenda on Tuesday morning. The Board will not need to add this item to the agenda tonight since it was added to the filed agenda (Item D, Selectmen Action) more than 24 hours ahead of the scheduled meeting, therefore adhering to FOIA posting requirements.

***Proposed Easement (87 Riverside) Road Agenda Item:*** There have been two minor edits to the proposed easement document included under Selectmen Action Item E. The title of the easement map, which is referenced in the first paragraph of the easement document, has been updated to reflect the title included on the final map. In addition, the month referenced on the signature page has been changed from March to June to reflect the expected month of execution. Both items are non-substantive in nature, and are redlined on the document for your convenience. Hard copies of the revised document have been left at your desks.

### **DEPARTMENTAL NEWS & NOTES**

***Town Clerk's Office:*** The Town Clerk's Office will be issuing Dog License Renewals for 2019/2020 starting June 1st. The yellow renewal postcard reminders have gone in the mail to all residents who licensed their dog in 2018/2019. Residents must renew by June 30th to avoid late fees which start accruing July 1st. Residents can come in person to the Town Clerk's Office to renew, or they can renew through the mail. If the rabies expiration date is highlighted on the postcard, this means that the expiration date has passed, and the Town Clerk's Office will need to see an up-to-date rabies certificate (please send a copy if renewing by mail). If a resident is licensing a dog for the first time, and the dog is spayed or neutered, our office will need to see this certificate in addition to a rabies certificate. If a resident no longer has a dog that was previously licensed, they should call the Town Clerk's Office at (860) 658-3243 or email [ebutler@simsbury-ct.gov](mailto:ebutler@simsbury-ct.gov).

The Simsbury Town Clerk and the Animal Control Officer will be hosting a Rabies Clinic on June 1st from 1pm-3pm at the Weatogue Fire Station. Vaccinations will be administered Dr. Goldman of Canton Animal Hospital. Vaccinations are \$20 each, cash only, and you do not need to be a Simsbury resident to participate.

Be sure to license your dog by June 30th to be entered into the “Top Dog” Contest:

- Random drawing to select Top Dogs 1, 2, 3 & 4
  - Winners will receive free license & gift
  - Photo to be placed on Town Website/Facebook Page
  - Honored at small ceremony

For more information, please visit the Town Clerk’s webpage <http://www.simsbury-ct.gov/town-clerk>.

**Engineering:** I am happy to report that The Town of Simsbury’s grant application that was recently submitted to CROCOG for \$1.58 million to construct 3,700 linear feet of new multi-use trail along Tariffville Road has been short-listed. This grant could provide significant funding for the multi-use trail connection from Farmington Canal Heritage Trail to Curtiss Park. CROCOG staff received eight (8) submissions and has identified five (5) short-listed projects. Interviews for the short-listed projects will be held on June 3, 2019 with three (3) projects to be recommended for funding to the Department of Transportation.