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## FIRST SELECTMAN'S REPORT

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**TO:** Board of Selectmen  
**FROM:** Wendy Mackstutis – First Selectman  
**DATE:** May 9, 2022

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Both members of our legislative team at the capital are retiring from service. State Senator Kevin Witkos announced a few months back that he was leaving the state senate. Kevin has been a great partner for Simsbury and worked in a bi-partisan manner to do what he felt was best for our district and his constituents. Thank you, Kevin.

And very recently, State Rep John Hampton announced that he would not be seeking reelection. I want to personally thank John for his service and representation of Simsbury in the CT General Assembly. He was always a good partner to the BOS, Town Hall and worked collaboratively with me as First Selectman. He also seemed to know and care about every single one of his constituents – I believe knowing them all by name! We wish you the best of luck, John!

I'm very happy to see that our budget passed on May 3<sup>rd</sup>. Thank you to the 1156 of you (out of 18,559) who came out to vote in person or by absentee ballot. It is everyone's right to vote and have a voice in how the town spends your tax dollars. I would have liked to see more people involved in the process, but we now have a 2022/2023 fiscal year budget that I'm very proud of. <https://www.simsbury-ct.gov/finance/pages/2022-2023-budget-information>

The Governor's budget was approved. There was a change in the final budget to use a vehicle mill rate of 32.46 – an increase over the originally proposed 29 mils. The state will offset this by providing towns with a Municipal Transition Grant. Simsbury will be receiving \$1,180,975 to offset the difference in our projected MV collection at our town mill rate of 37.41.

As May is Bike Month, please find the upcoming biking activities on the flyer provided in today's (May 9) agenda. The Board of Selectmen will be going on our annual Bike Month ride on May 19<sup>th</sup> and you are welcome to join us. We will be meeting at Town Hall at 5:00 for an estimated 5-mile ride on the bike path.

Please also note the many bike partnerships with our library.

Please join the Town of Simsbury and the Board of Selectmen in our Red Cross Blood Drive on May 24<sup>th</sup> at the library from 1:00 PM to 6:00 PM. You can use this QR code to make an appointment.



The ADU Opt out discussion that was scheduled for tonight has been moved to May 23<sup>rd</sup> so that members of the Zoning Commission can attend and answer questions. We are also open to hearing your thoughts on this topic via public audience as we this conversation moves forward.

The Town of Simsbury has an Anti-Harassment policy that states “we will not tolerate harassment as defined in this policy by anyone, including any supervisor, co-worker, vendor, citizen, resident, client,

or customer, whether in the workplace, at assignments outside the workplace, at Town-sponsored (social) functions.” Besides Sexual Harassment, the following is addressed. I ask that those who come to speak to the BOS for Public Audience respect the town’s policy.

*B. Other Forms of Harassment Examples • Jokes about ethnicity, religious beliefs or practices, accents or gender-specific traits; • Repeated, unscheduled demands for attention and time regarding matters of a non-urgent nature that interfere with an employee’s ability to perform his or her routine job duties in a timely and effective manner; • Any communication or action that is demeaning, rude or inflammatory or otherwise incites anger, hurt, fear or embarrassment in the receiver of the communication or action; • Unwanted questions or comments pertaining to any aspect of an employee’s person or personal life; • Unwanted contact at an employee’s home or in public when an employee is off duty. Examples of unwanted contact may include but are not limited to calling an employee at their personal cell phone or land line; emailing an employee at their personal email address; and physically approaching and/or berating employees about work matters when the employee is off duty.*

Hometown Hero awards will be presented on May 23<sup>rd</sup> at 5:00.

Please join us in hearing about people who your 2022 Hometown Heroes will be!

The Board of Selectmen will once again be competing in the Simsbury Duck Race on May 27<sup>th</sup> at the Flower Bridge. This is a school fundraiser for Tootin’ Hills and a fun, town wide event. Information can be found on the following page. We will be there and up to the challenge both in the visual and water-based competition! <https://shopsimsbury.com/events.html>

June is Pride Month, and we will be issuing a proclamation at our May 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting. There will be a Pride Flag Raising at Town Hall, followed by a starting at 12:00 June 4<sup>th</sup>. Everyone is welcome!

Please check <https://www.simsbury-ct.gov/first-selectmans-office> for my office hours each week.

Email me at [wmackstutis@simsbury-ct.gov](mailto:wmackstutis@simsbury-ct.gov) and I’ll be happy to respond or call you back.

I also have a First Selectman Facebook page where I post town information and updates for the community.

You can follow me and contact me here... <https://www.facebook.com/wendymackselectman>

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## TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

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**TO:** Board of Selectmen  
**FROM:** Maria E. Capriola – Town Manager  
**DATE:** May 9, 2022

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### **CORONAVIRUS UPDATE**

We are monitoring the state's municipal COVID alert system and are currently at "red" status for the period ending April 30th. This status indicates that we have more than 15 COVID cases per 100,000 residents. We are at 26.7 COVID cases per 100,000 residents. Over the most recent two-week period we had a total of 95 cases. We also had a positivity rate of 13.1%, an increase from the prior period's rate of 11.7%. As a reminder, this data does not include positive test results from at-home test kits.

All counties in Connecticut are considered to be "High" according to the CDC Community Levels categorization. The CDC recommends wearing a mask indoors, staying up to date with COVID-19 vaccines, and getting tested if you have symptoms when in a county with "High" community levels. For additional information on why the CDC changed from measuring Community Transmission to Community Levels, please click on this link <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/science/community-levels.html>

The Town of Simsbury has a small supply of COVID test kits available for pick-up by the general public at the Simsbury Public Library, 725 Hopmeadow Street. Distribution will be limited to one test kit per individual per visit (each kit contains two tests). Kits will be distributed on a first come, first served basis while supplies last.

U.S. households can place a second order for free, at-home COVID-19 rapid tests (4 tests per order). The link to order is: <https://www.covidtests.gov>.

Data from the state ending April 20th reports that 22,723 Simsbury residents have received at least their first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine, or 89.48% of the population, while 82.86% of our residents or 21,043 people are now fully vaccinated. Additionally, 13,669 Simsbury residents, or 53.83% of the population, have received an additional booster dose. Further vaccination data for Simsbury by age group:

- Ages 5-11, 66.98% of those eligible have received their first dose, and 63.26% are fully vaccinated.
- Ages 12-17, 89.78% of those eligible have received their first dose, and 84.30% are fully vaccinated; 42.64% of the total population of Ages 12 – 17 have received an additional booster dose.
- Ages 18-24, 100% of those eligible have received their first dose, and 100% are fully vaccinated; 61.42% of the total population of ages 18 - 24 received an additional booster dose;
- Ages 25-44, 100% of those eligible have received their first dose, and 99.98% are fully vaccinated; 63.31% of the total population of ages 25 - 44 received an additional booster dose.
- Ages 45-64, 89.68% of those eligible have received their first dose, and 84.92% are fully vaccinated; 64.31% of the total population of ages 45 - 64 received an additional booster dose.
- Ages 65+, 100% of those eligible have received their first dose, and 100% are fully vaccinated; 92.03% of the total population of ages 65+ received an additional booster dose.

## **BOARD OF SELECTMEN BUSINESS**

The Board of Selectmen Annual Bike Ride event is scheduled for May 19<sup>th</sup>. The bike ride will start at 5:00 PM and participants should meet at the Town Hall parking lot. All members of the community are welcome to join in for a five-mile loop along the bike trail.

## **DEPARTMENT NEWS & NOTES**

***Culture, Parks and Recreation:*** The Culture, Parks and Recreation Department is excited to welcome Caitrin Huysman to their team as the new Recreation Coordinator. Caitrin is graduate of Eastern Connecticut State University with a degree in Sport and Leisure Management. She has most recently been working with an adventure tourism company where she planned and coordinated local and international trips and camps. She is an avid cyclist and is looking forward to taking advantage of the abundance of trails and parks in our area. Caitrin will be responsible for planning and overseeing a variety of recreation programs and special events for Simsbury's families and will begin work with us on May 16th. Welcome Caitrin!

***Library:*** Full-time Library Services Assistant Suzanne Bailey has retired from her position. Suzanne served in this role for over 25 years and had a special rapport with many of the Library's visitors. She will be missed.

Sonya Williams, a part-time Library Services Assistant, has been selected as our full-time Library Services Assistant, filling the position previously held by Ms. Bailey. She has 7 years of prior library experience. Sonya has a B.A. from Columbia College Chicago in Photography and is currently pursuing a Masters in Information and Library Science from Denver University. Congratulations Sonya!

### ***Public Works:***

- We are excited to welcome back Adam Kessler to our Engineering Department as our new Deputy Town Engineer. Adam previously worked for the Town of Simsbury from November 2016 to May of 2019 as our Project Engineer. Adam has been the Assistant Town Engineer in Windsor since May of 2019. Adam has his Bachelors in Civil Engineering from UConn, is a licensed PE in Connecticut, and is a LEED Green Associate. Adam's first day as Deputy Town Engineer will be May 23rd. Congratulations Adam!
- **Touch-a-Truck and Open House** - Join us at the DPW facility at 66 Town Forest Road, West Simsbury, for a Touch-a-Truck event and Public Works Open House on Saturday, May 14, 2022 from 9:00am-12:30pm. Kids will be able to get an up-close look at our Town's trucks and families can learn about our Public Works Department. We'll have popcorn, giveaways, and guided tours of the facility. Participants are encouraged to bring a non-perishable food item to "Fill-a-Truck." All ages, drop in. Rain or shine. The event is co-sponsored with the Simsbury Public Library.

### ***Social Services:***

- Many thanks to Social Services and the Police Department for purchasing children's bike helmets for young riders who may need helmets, but may not have the means to purchase them. The funds were provided through a grant from the Simsbury Youth Service Bureau.
- **Group Book Discussion - #OneChoice – How Ten Seconds Can Change Your Life** - On Wednesday, June 15, the Town of Simsbury Department of Community and Social Services, Youth Service Bureau, and local nonprofit, A Promise to Jordan, will host a discussion of the book *#OneChoice: How Ten Seconds Can Change Your Life*. The discussion will be geared

towards youth aged 12 to 17, but adults are also welcome to sign up. The book is written by a mother in the voices of her two sons who tragically passed away after making the bad decision to mix opioids with alcohol while attending a graduation party. Free copies of the book are available to those who register in advance. Register here:

<http://events.constantcontact.com/register/event?llr=zee7wz5ab&oeidk=a07ej5bi2evf6fff58c> or email A Promise to Jordan at [info@apromisetojordan.org](mailto:info@apromisetojordan.org).

- **Renter's Rebate Program** - Simsbury Community & Social Services began accepting Renter's Rebate Program Year 2021 applications May 1, 2022. Eligibility includes: those 65 and older as of December 31, 2021 or totally disabled; gross income under \$38,111 for a single person and under \$46,400 for a married couple; currently living in Simsbury; Connecticut residency for at least one year. A list of required documents can be accessed on the Social Services website and appointments can be made by calling 860-658-3283 or email [Rloveland@simsbury-ct.gov](mailto:Rloveland@simsbury-ct.gov). Applications are accepted through October 1, 2022.

***Town Manager's Office:*** The Hometown Hero Selection Committee met on May 2, 2022 to discuss the nominations for the 2022 Hometown Heroes Program. Eight people were nominated, with the Committee selecting four nominees to be recognized as 2022 Hometown Heroes. Congratulations to Marianne O'Neil, Jay Willerup, Gerry Wetjen, and Margaret Kennedy on being selected as Hometown Heroes. We are planning on having our annual ceremony to recognize the 2022 recipients on May 23<sup>rd</sup> at 5:00 PM. The ceremony will be held on the lawn outside Town Hall by the clock tower. If there is rain in the forecast we will plan to hold the ceremony indoors at the Main Meeting Room of Town Hall.