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## FIRST SELECTMAN'S REPORT

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**TO:** Board of Selectmen  
**FROM:** Eric Wellman – First Selectman  
**DATE:** June 10, 2019

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### **2019 Hometown Hero Awards**

Congratulations to our 2019 Hometown Heroes! This year's recipients include an amazing group of Simsbury residents: Nancy Buggy, Lisa Gray, Ferg Jansen, Laura Riley, and The Simsbury Garden Club. Each year, the Town designates Hometown Heroes to recognize people and organizations who go above and beyond to give back to our community. In my time as First Selectman, I have been deeply touched by the level of engagement in our community and the many ways people give their time and talent to make our town the beautiful place it is to live. Congratulations to the 2019 recipients!

### **Planning Department**

- 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**

Construction is underway on the Tobacco Valley Solar development on the north side of town off of Hoskins and County Roads. Construction is expected to wrap up in mid-October. I recognize how disruptive the construction process is for residents who live in the area. One of the most important things we can do is keep the lines of communication open through the summer. Anyone with concerns can always reach out to me or directly to Aaron Svedlow, the project's development manager (aaron@nleservices.com).

I'm told that the next 6-8 weeks will be the most disruptive from a noise standpoint due to the pounding of pilings into the soil. Toward the end of July/early August, the noise level is expected to be significantly reduced as the panels are installed on the stands.

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. 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.

### **School News**

- On Monday June 10<sup>th</sup>, a ceremony was held at Henry James Memorial School for a groundbreaking to kick off the school renovation and addition project. Student representatives joined public officials from the town and Board of Education to kick-off the school's \$23.9 million project.

- The Board of Education has engaged a consulting firm on a Facilities Master Plan to develop a roadmap to address concerns around aging buildings and student capacity. On June 5<sup>th</sup>, the District held a public hearing and information session to solicit feedback and share some initial findings around enrollment projections and building conditions. You can learn more about the work going on and find a link to that presentation [here](#).

### **Simsbury Featured in CT Magazine**

The May issue of Connecticut Magazine featured a [beautiful article about Simsbury](#). It shared many of the places we love including our farms, hikes, and restaurants, and is a reminder how fortunate we are to live in this community!

### **Friends of Simsbury Farms Golf Tournament**

The Friends of Simsbury Farms is holding its annual golf tournament on Friday June 21<sup>st</sup>. Money raised will support projects at Simsbury Farms including a waterslide for the pool, rubber matting in the rink area, a warming shed for the paddle courts, and a spray fountain for the wading pool. You can learn more and register for this year's tournament [here](#).

### **New Park Construction**

This month the town is beginning 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 delivered earlier this spring 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.

### **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 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:** June 10, 2019

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

***Bond Rating:*** S&P has confirmed that Simsbury has retained its AAA bond rating and has assigned the Town with a stable outlook; this is the highest possible rating. S&P was impressed with Simsbury's credit position and management practices and also highlighted our strong management team, budgeting discipline, manageable and well-funded long-term liabilities (Pension & OPEB), and our strong financial reserve position. Having a AAA rating allows the Town to receive strong interest from investors in bond sales. The Town has an upcoming bond sale on June 18<sup>th</sup> for a number of approved 2017 and 2018 projects.

***Vacation Carryover Agenda Item:*** Please note a revision to agenda item "B" under Selectmen Action, Vacation Carryover Requests. The number of carryover days requested for Tom Roy that would require Selectmen action has been reduced from 8 days to 3 days; Tom now anticipates utilizing 5 earned vacation days in June, therefore reducing the carryover request.

***Addition to the Agenda:*** Today I received a request to have an appointment to the Tourism Committee added to the agenda. I am respectfully requesting that "Appointment to the Tourism Committee" be added to the agenda under Appointments and Resignations. This item can be added to your agenda tonight with a 2/3 vote of the body. Supporting documentation regarding this appointment was emailed to you today and hard copies have been provided.

### **DEPARTMENTAL NEWS & NOTES**

***Engineering:*** I am happy to report that our grant application for \$1.58 million in federal funding for the multi-use trail from the Farmington Canal Heritage Trail (Route 10) to Curtiss Park was selected as one of three (3) priority projects of the eight (8) applications received by CRCOG to be recommended for federal funding under the recent Transportation Alternatives (TA) funding solicitation.

The recommendation will now be presented to the CRCOG Transportation Committee and Policy Board for approval. Also, the recommendation needs to receive an endorsement from the Hartford Transportation Management Area Board. The recommendation would then be forwarded to the Department of Transportation.

Although the selection of our grant application under this solicitation does not guarantee project eligibility or funding, this selection positions the project for future federal funding not yet authorized under this TA program. The funding for this grant application would be authorized for federal fiscal years 2021 through 2025. This provides time to complete plans and permitting required for the project with local funding that is currently appropriated.

***Library:*** Library Director Lisa Karim begins her one year term as President of the Connecticut Library Association on July 1<sup>st</sup>. Congratulations Lisa!

***Public Works:*** The Simsbury Public Works Department hosted the annual Household Hazardous Waste Collection this past Saturday, June 8th, at our location on 66 Town Forest Road. This event is run in conjunction with the Towns of Avon, Canton, Farmington and Granby. We are happy to announce the event was a huge success with a total of 563 vehicles attending; over half of the participants were from

Simsbury. Following a RFP process we utilized a new vendor, MXI, for the event. The vendor proved to be very professional, experienced and easy to work with.

Our next Collection will be Saturday, November 9, 2019.

### **SPECIAL EVENTS**

***Library:*** Visit the Simsbury Public Library on Monday, June 17<sup>th</sup> from 4-7 pm and be part of the Community Summer Party which kicks off the 2019 intergenerational Summer Reading Program, "A Community of Readers." Join us for free hotdogs, visits from community partners (Simsbury Police Department, Culture, Parks & Recreation, Public Works and the Performing Arts Center), and a musical performance which begins at 6pm. The Simsbury Senior Center is co-sponsoring the event. For more information about the Community Party and the Library's Summer Reading Program visit [www.simsburylibrary.info](http://www.simsburylibrary.info).