
FIRST SELECTMAN'S REPORT

TO: Board of Selectmen
FROM: Wendy Mackstutis – First Selectman
DATE: June 13, 2022

Welcome to Summer 2022! I can hardly believe it is finally here, although I realize it will go fast. Make sure you start getting out there and swimming, biking, hiking, hanging with friends, vacationing, and taking advantage of no school, time off from work (hopefully) and longer days! This is my favorite time of year. I will be around town most of the summer and hope to run into you. Please say hi if you see me. ☺

The recent gun violence in our nation has devastated all of us, having to watch yet another attack at a school, taking the lives of 19 fourth graders in Uvalde TX. We here in CT all vividly recall the Sandy Hook attack and are again saddened by the continued use of these weapons. I want to make sure that anyone who needs help dealing with this knows they have places to turn - our social services department, our school guidance counselors, friends, family, and anyone you are comfortable talking with. We should also all be diligent in looking for warning signs of potential acts of violence that might be preventable. I do have confidence in our Police Department that they would do whatever is necessary to protect us.

There are important discussions happening on the Zoning Commission around ADUs and Cannabis regulations in Simsbury. If you want to be part of the conversation, please tune into their meetings, and stay tuned for upcoming Public Hearings. Our Board of Selectmen Public Audience is also a place to share your thoughts on town business and agenda items and I encourage you to come to a meeting and speak.

As a Selectman, I enrolled in the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities CCMO program last year. This is a program for municipal leaders and town staff members across the state to stay up on issues impacting our cities and towns. It requires attending and participation in a series of webinars offered throughout the year. I completed the requirements last month (May 2022) and will be part of the group recognized at the CCM Annual Convention in October 2022. I do not usually 'brag' about this stuff, but I want you to know more about what I am doing behind the scenes to benefit our town.

CCM understands how valuable professional development can be. Continuing education is not only important for your current position, but also to your career path. Under the advisement and direction from experienced staff at Trinity College, the Certified Connecticut Municipal Official (CCMO) program was developed.

Our training is intended to teach you how to work collaboratively, solve problems, build partnerships, and work across political and organizational boundaries. CCM encourages elected and appointed officials to utilize municipal training workshops, conferences, special meetings, and other educational opportunities to expand their knowledge and enhance important leadership skills through education.

A few things to share with everyone, June is Accessibility Parking Month. This means that everyone should be aware of handicap/accessible parking spaces, stickers, and lanes between those designated and non-designated spaces to make sure there is room for entry and exit. Having a mom who uses a walker, you need a lot of room to get in and out of your vehicle.

Our Juneteenth celebration, put on by the DEI council and Town of Simsbury will be held on June 19th, at the Simsbury Public Library, with lots of activities, music, and speakers. Please come and join in to help recognize this day in our community from 1:00 to 4:00. It also happens to be Father's Day, so stop by after making Dad breakfast in bed (although I believe that's what Mom's get on Mother's Day). I think Dad's no longer need ties.

Thank you to the Flower Bridge Committee for a lovely evening last week at the annual Burgers on the Bridge. Great weather, good burgers, a nice crowd, and beautiful flowers! We couldn't have asked for a nicer night!

We did hear some concerns with parking and traffic after the road race on June 4th and hope to make sure everyone is aware of these events so that parking can be blocked off and traffic on the race path is communicated clearly.

We sadly lost the Simsbury Duck Race, coming in second place. Our Board of Selectmen duck was out in front until the wind took control, turned us around, after which we floated backwards for a stretch. Then, we took an unfortunate flip on our side, and the current took us to the finish line. We will apply lessons learned for next year when we plan to take it all!

Special thanks to the Board of Ed for inviting me to the SHS Graduation on Friday night. It was a beautiful night, and was nostalgic for me to be there, since my kids graduated back in 2008 (Kevin - great weather) and 2011 (Leah - rain and cold). The speeches by the graduates and faculty were heartfelt and optimistic about the possibilities facing this group of young adults who are leaving Simsbury behind. The world right now is a tough place, and we are all facing challenges, but they seem to be ready to get out there and take it on. I hope we can all do the same.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

TO: Board of Selectmen
FROM: Maria E. Capriola – Town Manager
DATE: June 13, 2022

CORONAVIRUS UPDATE

We are monitoring the state's municipal COVID alert system and are currently at "red" status for the period ending June 4th. This status indicates that we have more than 15 COVID cases per 100,000 residents. We are at 28.4 COVID cases per 100,000 residents. Over the most recent two-week period we had a total of 101 cases. We also had a positivity rate of 14.9%, a decrease from the prior period's rate of 18.8%. As a reminder, this data does not include positive test results from at-home test kits.

In Hartford County, community levels are "medium" according to the CDC Community Levels categorization. The CDC recommends that if you are at high risk for severe illness, talking to your healthcare provider about whether you need to wear a mask and taking other precautions, staying up to date with COVID-19 vaccines, and getting tested if you have symptoms. For additional information regarding CDC levels of Community Transmission, please click on this link <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/science/community-levels.html>

U.S. households can now place a **third** order for free, at-home COVID-19 rapid tests (**8** tests per order). The link to order is: <https://www.covidtests.gov>.

During the month of May we experienced an uptick in positive COVID cases amongst staff; this typically happens when community transmission is also high. During the month of May we had 12 positive cases amongst our workforce and 2 staff members that needed to quarantine. This was our second highest month of COVID cases amongst our workforce during the entirety of the pandemic. As a result, please be patient if we are experiencing a slight delay, or need to reschedule, for non-emergency matters. For June, month-to-date, we have had four staff members test positive.

Data from the state ending June 8th reports that 22,709 Simsbury residents have received at least their first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine, or 89.42% of the population, while 83.25% of our residents or 21,142 people are now fully vaccinated. Additionally, 13,940 Simsbury residents, or 54.89% of the population, have received an additional booster dose. Further vaccination data for Simsbury by age group:

- Ages 5-11, 68.3% of those eligible have received their first dose, and 64.42% are fully vaccinated.
- Ages 12-17, 90.03% of those eligible have received their first dose, and 84.64% are fully vaccinated; 43.87% 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; 62.41% 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 100% are fully vaccinated; 64.57% of the total population of ages 25 - 44 received an additional booster dose.
- Ages 45-64, 89.23% of those eligible have received their first dose, and 85.02% are fully vaccinated; 65.1% 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; 93.29% of the total population of ages 65+ received an additional booster dose.

DEPARTMENT NEWS & NOTES

Culture, Parks and Recreation: Town staff reminds residents to clean up after their pets when visiting our parks and trails. Please take your waste bags home or dispose of them in an appropriate trash receptacle.

Library: The Library has resumed providing passport application appointments. Applicants must contact the Library Information Desk at 860-658-7663, menu option 2, to make an appointment. Please note, Library staff are unable to process passport renewals.

Public Works: The Department of Public Works held a regional Household Hazardous Waste Collection on Saturday June 11th. 600 households from Simsbury, Avon, Canton, Granby, Farmington and Suffield participated. The next collection event is on October 15th at the Simsbury Public Works Department.

Social Services: Our Youth Service Bureau will be offering a free babysitting course for youth ages 11-17 just in time for summer. In conjunction with the American Red Cross, we will be offering this 1-day course on Monday, June 20th from 9am-4:30pm. The course focuses on first aid, making good decisions, communicating with parents, responsibility, and more. You can register your youth by calling Social Services at 860-658-3283. Please note that space is limited and your youth will need to attend the full day. Participants that complete the course will receive a certificate. Lunch will be provided.

Town Clerk's Office: Congratulations to our Town Clerk Trish Munroe for passing her Town Clerk Certification Exam. Ms. Munroe is now a Certified Connecticut Town Clerk. To accomplish this Trish had to sit through 5 classroom training modules and then take a final exam. Trish is a true asset to our Simsbury Town Clerk's Office and our community. Next time you are in Town Hall make sure to stop by and say congratulations!