
FIRST SELECTMAN'S REPORT

TO: Board of Selectmen
FROM: Wendy Mackstutis – First Selectman
DATE: July 10, 2023

Public Forum with Gov HR's Mike Jaillett

Thank everyone who came out last week to share their thoughts on what we as a town, would like in our next Town Manager. That was something the BOS wanted as part of the process, and I know some of you took advantage of it. We also appreciate those of you who responded to the survey that was sent out on the same topic. The 'brochure' that is being created as a posting should be going out later this week. We will be collecting resumes, with a deadline of August 16th.

National Parks and Recreation Month

At our meeting, we issued a proclamation from the board, in recognition of July being Parks and Recreation Month. We thanked our Culture, Parks and Rec Director Tom Tyburski and the great staff we have for all the work they do to keep us connected, active and having fun!! He provided the following piece of information that I thought was valuable to share:

Park and Recreation Month 2023: Where Community Grows

Since 1985, people in the United States have celebrated Park and Recreation Month in July to promote building strong, vibrant, and resilient communities through the power of parks and recreation and to recognize the more than 160,000 full-time park and recreation professionals — along with hundreds of thousands of part-time and seasonal workers and volunteers — that maintain our country's local, state and community parks.

This year's theme — **"Where Community Grows"** — celebrates the vital role park and recreation professionals play in bringing people together, providing essential services and fostering the growth of our communities.

As park and recreation professionals, you make a positive impact on the lives of your community members every single day. Let's come together this year and show the world just how much parks and recreation means to our communities.

The Simsbury Community Band 50th Anniversary

Please join me in congratulating our community band on their 50th Anniversary. I was invited back in February, by Fred Bull, President, if I would come to the summer opener, last Wednesday at Simsbury Farms, to say a few words. They were presented with a proclamation on their achievement and commitment.

My memories of the band are from Schultz Park, where we would sometimes go – on a Wed night – with our young kids – to listen to the band on a summer night. Music and cultural events in town bring us all together. Coming from a family where my mom was a pianist and music teacher, and as a teen from the 70's whose life was driven my music and concerts, I know the value of music. It's good for the soul, lifts your mood and allows you to make a connection to the sounds.

They continue to play Wednesday nights at the rink thru the summer. Bring a chair and come out to enjoy some music.

Simsbury-Granby Rotary Month

July is Simsbury-Granby Rotary Month, where our Rotarians are kicking off awareness of the work they do, along with starting to plan for changes and improvements to Rotary Park, as they partner with the Town of Simsbury. I wrote and presented them with the following proclamation, which touches on their involvement and commitment to community.

PROCLAMATION in Recognition of The Simsbury-Granby Rotary Month

Whereas, for more than 110 years, Rotarians have used their passion, energy, and intelligence to find ways to better our world, with the Simsbury-Granby Rotary one the many clubs across the globe, made up of dedicated people who share a love for community service and friendship, coming together at meetings, events and to work on projects as a way for members to strengthen connections to friends and neighbors, with a commitment to improving lives; and

Whereas, the investment this group of dedicated volunteers has had in our community is immense – they raised the initial \$10,000 for the Memorial pool construction, donated the first racing shell to the SHS crew team, funded construction of the SHS athletic field press box, built the refreshment stand at Memorial field, helped fund construction of the Performing Arts Center shell, and raised money and donated hard work for the beloved Rotary Park boundless playground that has been entertaining families in our town center since 2002; and

Whereas, the River Run has been an iconic event in Simsbury since 1995, attracting runners from all over to participate in both 5Ks or 10Ks along our scenic river and country roads, with all proceeds going to various groups, including, college scholarships for Simsbury and Granby High School graduates, Food Share in Bloomfield, ABC House in Simsbury, and many other Rotary-assisted non-profits; and

Whereas, the club has been providing funding for the ‘Children Friendly’ food pantry with the Simsbury Community and Social Services department, purchasing kid friendly foods, where at each Cheese Day they give out kid friendly food packed for each family, with the height of the pandemic showing the greatest need, but continuing to help our local families to this day, helping to secure funding for this program; and

Whereas, this proclamation only scratches the surface on what this group has done, and plans to do in the coming years, for which we thank them all in advance for improving and working alongside The Town of Simsbury; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Wendy Mackstutis, First Selectman of the Town of Simsbury, do hereby Proclaim and Recognize this as Simsbury-Granby Rotary Month, to highlight their passion for community service and acknowledge all the work they do to improve lives, not just here in Simsbury and Granby, but world-wide.

Simsbury Police Department Promotions

Congratulations to new Sergeants - Timothy Russell and Tim May on this achievement. Both had ceremonies in the Main Meeting room that were packed houses with family, fellow officers, and members of the community. I was honored to be given the opportunity to thank them and our SPD for all the work they do to keep us safe and to work alongside us in the community.

Ballot Item for Cannabis

It is now official that our November municipal ballot will include a question for all electors regarding the retail sale of Cannabis in Simsbury. This was a topic of much discussion – at the Zoning Commission meeting and hearings, and at the Board of Selectmen meetings and hearing. Having this on the ballot on November 7th, 2023, puts the final question on this topic out to all our residents. I saw Tom Turner many times at Big Y, Fitzgeralds and around town with his clipboard, so thank you Tom and everyone who helped participate in the democratic process.

SHALL THE SALE OF RECREATIONAL MARIJUANA BE ALLOWED IN THE TOWN OF SIMSBURY?

Changes to Public Audience

The Board has been looking at ways to change the Public Audience portion of our meetings and this was brought before us tonight in the agenda. After much discussion, it was sent back to the workgroup, to make some suggested changes, and to then bring it back to us for further discussion. I ask all of you who have comments or input on this topic, to reach out to our board via email, or to come to Public Audience. You can email the full board at bos@simsbury-ct.gov to be heard.

Nutrition Roundtable at UCONN

Congresswoman Jahana Hayes' office reached out to me and asked that Simsbury be represented at a Roundtable discussion on the Farm Bill and Nutrition at UCONN Health Center this week. I was happy to bring with me some experts – Kristen Formanek and Rachel Loveland from our Community and Social Services Department, and the Aging and Disability Chair, Diana Yeisley. Thank you to the town for sharing members of the team, who gave up a portion of their busy day to attend.

Enjoy the rest of July, and we will see later this summer. Hope you get some vacation time in so you can enjoy time with family and friends, or to regroup after a busy year! I'm looking forward to doing that myself!

Wendy

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

TO: Board of Selectmen
FROM: Lee Erdmann – Interim Town Manager
DATE: July 10, 2023

BOARD OF SELECTMEN BUSINESS

Additions to the Agenda:

- **Appointment to the Aging & Disability Commission** - This item can be added to tonight's meeting agenda under Selectmen Action with a 2/3 vote of the body.

DEPARTMENT NEWS & NOTES

Library:

- The Simsbury Public Library has been awarded the grant from CT Humanities for the program Simsbury History and Culinary Storytelling. The program will focus on four historic buildings in town, explore their histories, and examine their journeys to the present-day restaurants these buildings have become with a panel of the notable chefs from the restaurants, a historical authority, and a moderator that is curious about both the history and the food.

Specifically, the historic buildings anticipated to be featured include Abigail's (formerly Pettibone Tavern), Simsbury 1820 House, Millwright's (formerly Hop Brook Tavern), and Metro Bis (the Ensign House.) We have a tentative commitment from Connecticut Public's Seasoned podcast crew with Chef Plum to moderate and record the program. Both Chefs Tyler Anderson of Millwrights and Chris Prospero of Metro Bis have committed to the panel.

Watch for this program coming this fall.

- Be on the look out for the Simsbury Public Library Book Bike coming to an elementary school near you! Weather permitting, meet the Book Bike in the schools' parking lots to check out books, take home crafts and more! Children under 12 should be accompanied by an adult. From 10:00 AM to Noon the Book Bike will be at the following locations:
 - Mondays – Squadron Line
 - Tuesdays – Latimer Lane
 - Wednesdays – Tariffville
 - Thursdays – Tootin' Hills
 - Fridays – Central

Culture, Parks and Recreation:

- The Simsbury Culture, Parks and Recreation Concerts will hosting free summer concerts this summer in local parks:
 - Tuesday, July 11 – Hopbrook Landing at the Flower Bridge – The Jazz Alliance – 6:30pm
 - Tuesday, July 18 – Hopbrook Landing at the Flower Bridge – Kinetic Ukes – 6:30pm
 - Tuesday, July 25 – Hopbrook Landing at the Flower Bridge – The Jazz Alliance – 6:30pm

- Wednesday, August 9 – Tariffville Green – Above the Tree Line Band – 6:30pm
- Wednesday, August 16 – Tariffville Green – The Leaf Jumpers Band – 6:30pm

Get more information at www.Simsburyrec.com or at the Culture, Parks and Recreation Dept's Facebook Page

- Join the Culture, Parks and Recreation Department for a summer Flick and Float movie at the Pool on Friday, August 11 at 6pm. The event is included with regular pool admission or seasons pass and Super Mario Bros. will be shown poolside on a large LED screen. Get more information at www.Simsburyrec.com or at the Culture, Parks and Recreation Dept's Facebook Page

Police: The Police Department recently promoted two members from the rank of officer to sergeant. Tim May was promoted on June 13, 2023 and Tim Russell was promoted on July 1, 2023. Congratulations to Sergeants May and Russell for their years of dedicated and professional service and we look forward to their success in their new roles.