
FIRST SELECTMAN'S REPORT

TO: Board of Selectmen
FROM: Wendy Mackstutis – First Selectman
DATE: August 8, 2022

Tonight, we are rolling out the COVID-19 Relief 501(C)(3) Non-Profit Program. Information on this will be going out via multiple channels, thanks to Melissa Appleby, our Deputy Town Manager. The link will be provided here, so you can apply.

Please note the criteria for applications, which is also included in the documentation for the program.

- *Applicant has no outstanding taxes or other obligations to the Town*
- *Program will address a need or negative impact of COVID-19 health crisis*
- *Program will have a positive impact on Simsbury*
- *Completeness of Application (reasonable, understandable)*
- *Supporting documentation for the amount being requested*
- *Prior financial assistance*

We have been working on this project since last year, where it started as an idea to help those most in need under our initial ARPA Workgroup made up of Selectmen Askham, Battos and myself. I am happy to see it come to fruition as Chair of our Finance Sub-committee, which has been focused on ARPA funding. Selectmen Abbuhl, Goetz and I have collaborated to get this rolled out– with the support of Deputy Town Manager Melissa Appleby and Finance Director Amy Meriwether.

https://www.simsbury-ct.gov/sites/g/files/vyhlif1216/f/uploads/covid-19_relief_program_application.pdf

Thank you to the Simsbury Performing Arts Center for hosting the Hartford Symphony Orchestra during the month of July for such a fun series of concerts this summer. These events would not be possible without the volunteers that make it happen – we all appreciate the amount of effort that goes into the PAC events.

In our agenda tonight, Item 1) is about a technical glitch in our email system that blocked emails sent to Board of Selectmen members from being received. This happened if the emails were set via the Contact All button on our website over the last year. The issue has been fixed and we are working to respond to everyone. I would like to apologize to our residents who did not hear back from us in a timely manner. We all do our best to respond to everyone that shares their thoughts with us.

The Police Work-study that was funded in our FY2022/2023 budget has issued an RFQ and will be moving forward with review of the responses once we receive them. An agency will be selected to work with the Simsbury Police Department to make sure we are working properly staffed and working at optimal efficiency. Members of the Police Commission (Jenna Caulfield), Board of Selectmen (me), Town Staff (Melissa Appleby and Maria Capriola) and the SPD (Chief Boulter and Deputy Chief Davis) will be evaluating the responses.

Here's an update for our Pickleball players on the courts in Tariffville. The word from our Culture, Parks and Rec Director, Tom Tyburski is that they hope to go out to bid in December/January, have construction begin in March/April with courts playable by May 2023! As a new player, having those courts in Tariffville Park will be a great addition for our town.

We are waiting to hear next steps on the Latimer Lane project regarding the amount of the project that exceeds what went to referendum in our 2021/2022 budget. Tonight's Public Building Committee Meeting will add clarity, and the BOF, BOE and BOS will need to meet on this in the coming months at a Tri-Board meeting. The amount will need to go back to the voters in another referendum, to approve any amount over the original budgeted amount. Stay tuned.

Tomorrow is the Primary for both registered Democrats and registered Republicans. This will take place at your normal voting location.

Please let me know you are coming by reaching out to me at my email address. I'm happy to meet at other times, based on our schedules.

wmackstutis@simsbury-ct.gov.

Wendy

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

TO: Board of Selectmen
FROM: Maria E. Capriola – Town Manager
DATE: August 8, 2022

CORONAVIRUS UPDATE

We are monitoring the state's municipal COVID alert system and are currently at "red" status for the period ending August 4th. This status indicates that we have more than 15 COVID cases per 100,000 residents. We are at 20.5 COVID cases per 100,000 residents. Over the most recent week we had a total of 16 cases. We also had a positivity rate of 10.56%, a decrease from the prior period's rate of 10.9%. As a reminder, this data does not include positive test results from at-home test kits.

At this time, there are no counties in Connecticut considered to be "high" according to the CDC Community Levels categorization. In Hartford County, community levels are "low." 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. People may choose to mask at any time. People with symptoms, a positive test, or exposure to someone with COVID-19 should wear a mask. If you are experiencing symptoms, it is important to get tested. 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>.

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>.

The Health District is providing COVID vaccine appointments on Mondays and Fridays for people ages 18 and older. Details can be found here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0c4aa9ab22a7f5c07-covid19>

Data from the state ending August 4th reports that 22,839 Simsbury residents have received at least their first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine, or 89.94% of the population, while 86.93% of our residents are now fully vaccinated. Additionally, 56.11% of the population have received an additional booster dose. Further vaccination data for Simsbury by age group:

- Ages 0-4, 19.27% of those eligible have received their first dose, and 1.24% are fully vaccinated.
- Ages 5-11, 76.18% of those eligible have received their first dose, and 65.91% are fully vaccinated; 8.59% of the total population of Ages 5-11 received an additional booster dose.
- Ages 12-17, 90.5% of those eligible have received their first dose, and 85.32% are fully vaccinated; 47.35% of the total population of Ages 12 – 17 received an additional booster dose.
- Ages 18-24, 100% of those eligible have received their first dose, and 100% are fully vaccinated; 64.94% 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 97.59% are fully vaccinated; 63.35% of the total population of ages 25 - 44 received an additional booster dose.
- Ages 45-64, 88.61% of those eligible have received their first dose, and 84.62% are fully vaccinated; 65.44% 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; 95.36% of the total population of ages 65+ received an additional booster dose.

DEPARTMENT NEWS & NOTES

Culture, Parks and Recreation:

- Memorial Pool will close for the season on Saturday, August 13th. The Simsbury Farms Pools remain open until Tuesday, August 30th.
- The 50th Anniversary events at Simsbury Farms continue through August. Come to the pool this Friday evening, August 12th at 7:30PM for our "Dive-In" Movie. In partnership with the Simsbury Public Library children and parents will be able to float in the pool or sit on the deck and watch Finding Nemo on a large movie screen. Free admission to the pool after 7PM. There will also be a glow in the dark golf event on August 19th.
- Saturday, August 27th will be the grand finale of the 50 events for 50 years of Simsbury Farms celebration. Starting at 3PM there will be swimming, inflatables for kids, and music. At 6PM families can enjoy a concert by the 80's tribute band "Pop Rocks" followed by a spectacular firework show at 8PM. Look for more information soon at www.simsburyrec.com on the Recreation Department's Facebook page.
- Fall recreation program signups are now taking place. Please visit www.simsburyrec.com to see what's new!

Library:

- Follow the Book Bike on its adventures throughout Town:
 - Wednesday, August 10 at 7PM at Iron Horse Pub for Trivia Night - Register online at <https://simsbury.librarycalendar.com/event/book-bike-trivia-iron-horse> to be part of the Library's trivia team.

Public Works:

- A reminder that the Connecticut DOT has begun milling and paving a portion of Route 10/202 starting on the Avon/Simsbury border. The milling began on July 17th and was completed on July 28th. The paving portion of the project is scheduled for August 14th through August 25th. This work will be done between the hours on 7:00PM to 5:00AM Sunday through Thursday to try to minimize disruption to traffic.

Social Services:

- The Department of Community and Social Services is pleased to provide an update on its programs and services.
 - We are beginning to take applications for our Back to School program. This program is open to those residents who are income eligible as well as those who already participate in a qualifying program. Gift cards and available supplies will be distributed during the week of August 22nd. Please contact us at 860-658-3283 for more details or to make an application.
 - We are currently in our Renters' Rebate season, taking applications for the 2021 program year. Please visit our website for eligibility criteria, and contact our office at 860-658-3283 to apply.
- The Department of Community and Social Services is pleased to announce that it has received approval for the second year of its Youth Service Bureau grant funding. The Department has also been awarded an additional \$7,246 in supplemental funding. These additional funds will be used to provide additional direct service programming to our youth and their families. Some examples of programming include but are not limited to intergenerational events and sensory friendly programming.

Town Clerk's Office:

- Each year the Town Clerk has an opportunity to apply for the Historic Documents Preservation Grant through the Connecticut State Library to support records projects. The Town Clerk's Office has received an increase in requests for vital records (particularly birth records) required to obtain verified licenses and passports. From 1975 through 1999, birth records are not available on the state birth registry, so the only copies we have access to are in bound volumes. For FY 22/23, the town will receive \$7,500 in grant money to fund a project to unbind these vital records volumes and place the records into archival binders. Having these records accessible will enable us to create better quality certified copies, while preserving the integrity of the records for years to come.

Town Manager's Office:

- Due to favorable LAP (liability-auto-property) and workers compensation claims experience, along with CIRMA's financial strength, the Town and Board of Education have received a member equity distribution in the amount of \$56,431 from CIRMA, our insurance provider, for these policies. The distribution will be applied to the appropriate accounts:
 - Town and BOE LAP Policy - \$28,508
 - Town and BOE Workers Comp - \$27,923