

TOWN OF SIMSBURY NEWS & UPDATES

FIRST SELECTMAN'S UPDATE:

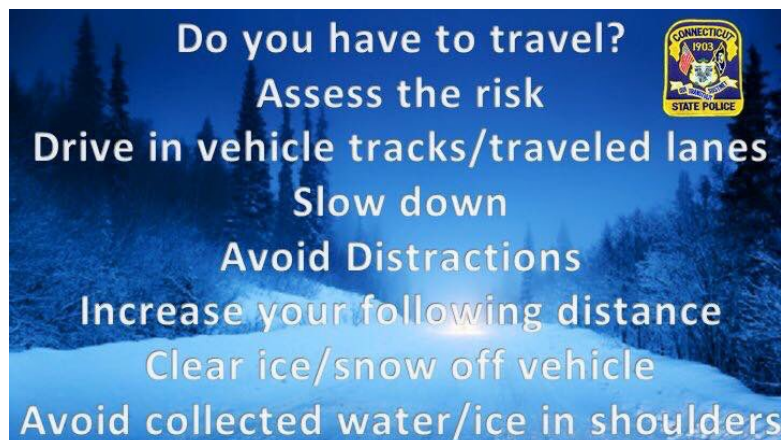
- Today – as of this meeting on January 8th the Connecticut House and Senate voted overwhelmingly to restore cuts that had been made to the Medicare Savings program. Governor Malloy has promised a veto because of where the money came from to reverse these cuts. There are people in our community who rely on this program, so it's something we continue to watch closely.
- On January 17th I'll be hosting a coffee and meet and greet at the Senior Center from 1-2 in the afternoon.
- On Saturday January 27th, Representative Hampton and I will be holding joint office hours at Storytellers Cottage from 10 to noon. I also have regular office hours every Monday evening from 4-6pm and of course any other time by appointment.
- With Christmas behind us...Paines will be doing its annual Christmas tree pickup next week, the week of January 15th. So Paines customers can put their tree out on garbage day. Allwaste is doing its pickup the week of January 29th.
- This is our first board meeting since the holidays. So I wanted to say a public thank you to all of the town employees including police and public works who worked over Christmas and New Years to keep us safe and keep our roads clear. I extend my thanks to non-town employees as well including the volunteer fire department and EMS. And the employees who work at the handful of businesses that were open on Christmas and New Years Day.

TOWN MANAGER'S UPDATE

PUBLIC SAFETY INFORMATION

Winter Weather Advisory

Please remember the following winter driving tips and exercise caution if you need to travel during a storm:



Car Break-Ins

To date, there have been 15 cars stolen in Simsbury in 2017 (up from 7 in 2016). Each of these cars was unlocked and the keys were left in the car or otherwise accessible. Additionally, over 60 cars were entered into during the year and items stolen from inside (gift cards, cash, credit cards, etc.). These vehicles were also unlocked. Most of these car thefts have been in the southern part of town during the overnight hours, but the entire town has experienced some of the thefts. The Simsbury Police Department has been working to identify those responsible for the thefts and to prevent any further thefts. The number one way to prevent these thefts is to always lock your car and do not leave the keys accessible. Every car stolen in town was unlocked and the keys were accessible. Every car that was unlawfully entered into was unlocked.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

Lock your cars.

Do not leave keys/fobs in your car.

Do not hide/leave holiday gifts or items of value in your car.

Call the police immediately if you see any suspicious activity.

Use motion sensors in your driveway.

Use car alarm systems.

LIBRARY AND TOWN DEPARTMENT EVENTS

Teen Advisory Board Meeting – Tuesday, January 9th at 7:00PM in the Teen Space

Motivated, dedicated Teens Wanted! If you are in grades 7-12, come share your ideas about upcoming programs, materials and the Teen Space. Great addition to resumes and college applications. Drop-in. Pizza and free books provided!

How to Prepare Your Small Business Exit Strategy – Wednesday, January 10th at 5:30PM in Program Room II

This seminar will cover family succession, what buyers look for and transferring your business to a third party. This seminar features guest speaker Jim deReynier who is an active SCORE volunteer for more than six years. This event is co-sponsored by the Greater Hartford SCORE Chapter and Simsbury Chamber of Commerce.

Senior Center Vision Support Group – Friday, January 12th at 10AM

The group discusses assistive technologies and strategies for managing daily activities and offers an opportunity to share experiences, information and encouragement. For more information, contact the Senior Center at (860) 658-3273.

Open Gym – Sundays from 12:00-4:30PM in the HJMS Gym

HJMS Gym will be open for everyone to come and have fun. The first hour, between 12:00 and 1:00PM, is dedicated to allowing individuals and families with individuals who have developmental disabilities to take advantage of the gym. Individuals and families are encouraged to bring their own basketballs and other recreational equipment to enjoy in the gym. Fees are \$2/person and a maximum of \$5/family.

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day Program –
Monday January 15th at 2:00PM in the First Church of Christ, 689 Hopmeadow Street

Come and enjoy a talk paying tribute to the life and work of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Topics in the News – Civil Rights in the 21st Century –
Tuesday January 16th at 6:30PM in the FEPL Program Room

Professor Stephen Balkaran will share his views on Civil Rights in the 21st Century, exploring the disappointing state of race and politics and the entrenched racism that takes away the best of who we are and what we can become as a nation. Mr. Balkaran is an author with a long history of activism. Registration required.

College Funding Workshop –
Thursday January 18th at 6:00PM in the FEPL Program Room

Have you started saving for your children's education? This educational presentation will review various benefits to understand, funding options available and issues to consider with each, as well as some risks to mitigate or avoid. The guest speakers will be Ryan Purves and Patrick Howell with Charter Oak Insurance and Financial Services.

Investing 201: Asset Allocation and Portfolio Construction –
Wednesday January 24th at 6:30PM in HFGP TLC Room

Come to learn about the difference between value and growth stocks, what income stocks are and how to construct a portfolio that suits your needs. This program will be presented by Brian Elmer, President of BE Investment Management. Registration is required.

Senior Center Free Tax Assistance –
Thursdays February 1st through April 12th & Tuesdays March 6th through March 27th at
Simsbury Public Library

The Senior Center, in partnership with Simsbury Public Library and AARP will be offering free tax assistance again the year. Trained and certified AARP volunteers will prepare and electronically file both federal and state tax returns.

Appointments are available from 10:00am to 3:00pm and can be made by calling the Senior Center at (860) 658-3273.

REVALUATION

Revaluation notices will be mailed out this week. Notices will include: both the new and old assessed values, instructions on how to make an appointment with the revaluation company to discuss revaluations, and requirements for appealing the revaluation with the board of assessment appeals.

ACHIEVEMENTS

Connecticut Interlocal Risk Management Agency (CIRMA): We were just informed today that the Town of Simsbury Department of Public Works was awarded the 2018 CIRMA Excellence Risk Management Award. The Department of Public Works was one of four CIRMA members that was selected to be awarded the award, under the category of 'New and Innovative Risk Management Initiatives'. The award includes a \$2,500 risk management grant. The Department of Public Works will be honored at CIRMA's annual meeting, which will be held on January 26, 2018. A formal press release recognizing the Department of Public Works' achievements will be provided.

WINTER BUDGET STATUS

We've had 19 winter snow and ice events so far and we've expended about 40% of our total winter budget (salt and labor only).

RETIREMENTS/RECRUITMENTS

Chief of Police: Chief of Police Peter Ingvertsen has informed the Town that he will be retiring on March 1st, after 18 years serving the Town of Simsbury in this role. Under the Chief's command, the Simsbury Police Department has truly become a model agency for professionalism and community policing, and earned federal accreditation by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, known as CALEA. I will personally miss his professionalism and leadership, but also his great sense of humor and we wish him all the best in his retirement. The Town Manager's Office will be working with the Police Commission on an interim plan and the recruitment process.

UNDER CONSTRUCTION

Aspen Green (formerly referred to as Garden Homes) on the south side of town along Hopmeadow Street is now under construction with some units occupied. This development was approved for 181 residential rental units, including townhomes and apartment style housing. Commercial and retail units were also approved as part of the Planned Area Development (PAD). For information regarding rentals, you can visit their website at: <http://www.liveataspengreen.com/>.

Highcroft: 272 Rental residences off Powder Forest Drive with 224 apartments and 48 townhomes by the Landworks Development / Nelson Construction team. Phase 1 (128 apartments) is already leased-up and Phase 2 (96 apartments) is under construction with first move-ins expected Spring

2018. The final phase of 48 townhomes is planned for 2019. Please visit <http://www.lifeinsimsbury.com> for general information or <http://www.highcroftapartments.com/> for Highcroft.

Carson Way: 74 Single-family Planned Community Homes off Stratton Brook Road by Landworks/ Nelson. 21 Homes are complete with another 7 are under construction. Anticipated completion in 2020. Visit: <http://www.lifeinsimsbury.com/find-a-home/>

Mill Pond Crossing: 20 Luxury Townhomes on Mill Pond Lane by Landworks / Nelson. Only 4 homes left in this upscale brownstone and siding community within walking distance to Town Center. All 5 buildings are complete. Visit: <http://www.lifeinsimsbury.com/find-a-home/>

Cambridge Crossing: The Town planning boards have approved 88 residential units for the property along Hoskins Road with twenty percent affordable housing. The applicant has broken ground on the project. It is anticipated construction will continue over the next year.

Berkshire Bank: At the Corner of Bushy Hill and Albany Turnpike, Berkshire Bank has started their interior renovations. The Zoning Commission recently approved signage for the tenant. They hope to be open by the end of December.

PERMITTED

Big Y reaffirmed in July 2017 that they have delayed a start date in Simsbury indefinitely based on internal financial priorities and commitments elsewhere. Big Y further indicated that they are still interested in Simsbury and confirmed that they have all their town and state permits in place for when they do begin.

Dunkin Donuts: Great American Donut Inc. of East Plainville, CT received approval to construct a new Dunkin Donuts store at 1225 Hopmeadow Street currently owned by Antonio's LLS. Construction was approved on September 18, 2017.

The Ensign House: Located on the corner of Drake Hill and Hopmeadow Street, this property was recently sold to Mark and Ieke Scully, with the goals of preserving "the stone mansion, turning it into residential apartments and building additional net zero residential units on the property."

The Silverman Group:

On May 3, 2017, the Town's Zoning Commission approved an application by Silverman SL for an approval under the Hartford-Simsbury Form Based Code. The project permits the construction of a 120 bed assisted living facility (146,100 sq. ft.), 280 units of luxury rental housing (156 units in stacked flats and 124 units in town homes), a community center and 11,600 square feet of retail/office space in a Traditional Neighborhood Design (TND) setting. This application was the second part of the Hartford-Simsbury Form Based Code permitting process. The developer broke ground in mid-September.