
FIRST SELECTMAN'S REPORT

BUDGET REFERENDUM:

Our annual referendum is scheduled for **May 1st** for the budget that takes effect July 1st. You'll be voting on four items, including the Board of Selectmen budget, the Board of Education BUDGET, THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN, AND THE HENRY JAMES PHASE 3 RENOVATIONS.

I strongly encourage you to spend some time reviewing what's included in these spending plans and come out and vote on May 1st. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to reach out to me (ewellman@simsbury-ct.gov), or any member of your Board of Selectmen (or Board of Education if it pertains to our schools).

A link to our budget information page is [here](#), where you'll find a sample ballot, a concise summary of what's included in the budget, as well as the entire approved budget for referendum. We've also included a tax calculator so you can understand what this budget will mean for your specific situation.

WELCOMING OUR NEW POLICE CHIEF:

I would like to congratulate Nick Boulter, who was appointed unanimously by the Board of Selectmen as Simsbury's next police chief. While he is new to the chief role, he is certainly not new to Simsbury. His official swearing in is Monday May 14th at 4:30pm here at Eno Memorial Hall. I'd like to thank the Police Commission and our Town Manager for their work in leading this competitive process.

MAY IS NATIONAL BIKE MONTH:

Throughout the month of May, Simsbury celebrates National Bike Month. You can find a full calendar of events at Simsbury.bike. A couple events I'll highlight include:

- Thursday May 3rd is The Board of Selectmen Community Ride. It's a 5-mile round trip starting at town hall at 5:30pm (and hopefully ending with some ice cream!).
- Friday May 18th is National Bike to Work Day from 6:30 to 8:30am. There will be a welcome table on Iron Horse Blvd.

HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION:

The next hazardous waste collection day is Saturday June 9th from 8am – 1pm at the Simsbury Public Works Facility, 66 Town Forest Rd. There will be an additional collection this fall on October 27th. You can find a list of acceptable items [here](#).

HOMETOWN HERO AWARD:

We continue to accept nominations for the Hometown Hero Award. If you know someone in our community who has done something to make this community a better place to live, please submit their name! You'll find the online form [here](#). Please get it in before 9am on April 30th.

RIBBON CUTTING:

A ribbon cutting ceremony for the new Berkshire Bank branch on the corner of Rte. 44 and Bushy Hill Road is scheduled for next Wednesday, April 25 at 11:00 A. M.

VOLUNTEER EXPO:

The Simsbury Public Library is hosting a volunteer expo on Saturday April 28th from 10 to noon. Participating organizations should set up between 9:30 and 9:45. Tables and space throughout the library will be provided. This is a drop-in event that is free and open to the public. If your organization would like to participate, contact Sarah Loudenslager: sarahl@simsburylibrary.info or (860) 658-7663 x2107.

OPEN SPACE STEWARDSHIP:

A forum titled “The Planet, Our Forests, and Championship Trees” will be held April 26th at 7pm in the Program Room at the Simsbury Library. It will be led by Eric Hammerling, Executive Director of Connecticut Forest and Parks Association. Other speakers include Dr. William Moomaw, Professor Emeritus of International Environmental Policy at Tufts University and Robert Leverett, co-author of the Sierra Club Guide Book to Ancient Forests of the Northeast.

TOWN MANAGER’S REPORT

TO: Board of Selectmen
FROM: Maria E. Capriola – Town Manager
DATE: April 23, 2018

BOARD OF SELECTMEN BUSINESS:

Budget Referendum: As a reminder, the budget referendum has been set for May 1st, from 6am-8pm at Henry James Middle School, 155 Firetown Road. Budget information has been updated online and budget mailers are being sent to all properties in Simsbury. Staff has coordinated a number of public communications to promote the budget referendum date such as sandwich boards, social media, and with SCTV. The Board of Finance is scheduled to meet Tuesday, May 1st at 8:15pm following the budget referendum in anticipation of either setting the mill rate or referring the budgets back to the BOS and BOE, dependent upon the outcome of the referendum.

Economic Development Work Group: The Economic Development work group has scheduled two meetings to obtain feedback from the public regarding the yet-to-be developed Economic Development Commission Ordinance, including member composition and commission duties. Members of advisory committees, elected bodies, and non-profit agencies are encouraged to attend and comment at the May 14th meeting, being held at 7:30am in the Main Meeting Room of Town Hall. Members of the business community are encouraged to attend and comment at the May 30th meeting, being held at 7:30am in the Main Meeting Room of Town Hall. Staff is currently working on communication pieces to inform the public of these opportunities for public comment.

DEPARTMENTAL NEWS & NOTES:

Planning and Development: Work on the Capitol Region Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan update continues. This update will identify significant changes in risks, vulnerabilities, capabilities, and mitigation actions that have developed since adoption of the previous plan in 2014. The Board of Selectmen received a presentation on this topic at the February 15, 2018 meeting. The Council of Governments is offering an opportunity for the public to attend an informational meeting on Tuesday, May 22nd at 7pm at the Simsbury Public Library where local residents and workers can learn about the plan, ask questions, and provide input.

Planning and Development: The Town of Simsbury has received notification from the Office of the State Traffic Administration (OSTA) that the State of Connecticut has issued Certificate (#348-F) for the Ridge at Talcott Mountain. This certificate was a remaining critical piece of the permitting process for the redevelopment of the former Hartford Insurance property owned by the Silverman Group. Until its issuance, the Town's Building Department could not issue foundation and/or building permits for the project, per State law.

The Building Department had received applications for building permits for a 120-bed Assisted Living Facility and for six residential buildings (one 32-unit multi-family building, one 28-unit multi-family building and 4 townhouse-style, multi-family buildings – 78 total units) at this location. With the OSTA certificate in hand, the Building Department has begun issuing building permits and anticipates that they will fully release the remaining building permits shortly.

Last week the Silverman Group began pouring concrete as part of their foundation permits. The building permits that have been applied for, to date, represent just over \$30,000,000 in new construction value, exclusive of site work. In addition, the Department has collected building permit fees of \$440,981 for the seven new buildings.

Social Services: On May 1, 2018 Simsbury's Social Services Department will begin accepting applications for the Renters' Rebate Program. The program application period runs through October 1, 2018. Applicants must be at least 65 years of age or be totally disabled (with proof of disability) as of December 31, 2017. Maximum gross income for a couple is \$43,000 and for a single individual is \$35,300. Applicants will need to provide financial information for calendar year 2017 including the 1099 Social Security form, proof of any other income, all rent and utility receipts, CRT fuel assistance award letter, and if filed, their 2017 income tax return. For more information and/or to schedule an appointment, please contact Social Services staff at 860-658-3283.

Town Manager's Office: Leadership Team Recruitments –

- First round interviews for the Director of Culture, Parks and Recreation occurred today. Finalists will be brought back for a second round of interviews in May.
- The recruitment for Finance Director continues. Second round of interviewing occurred on April 20th.

Town Manager's Office: Aquarion Water Company will be cleaning water mains in Simsbury from Tuesday, May 1 through Wednesday, May 23. You might notice some discoloration in your water. This discoloration results from the temporary disturbance of the water flow, which stirs up naturally occurring minerals that settle in water mains. You may want to store tap water in the refrigerator ahead of time for drinking and cooking. And, if your water is discolored, delay washing clothes until it is clear. Information and the work schedules will be available at 1-800-203-7000, under alert listings at www.aquarionwater.com. For other questions, please call Customer Service at 1-800-732-9678.

SPECIAL EVENTS:

The Planet, Our Forests, and Championship Trees: On Thursday, April 26th a regional forum entitled *The Planet, Our Forests, and Championship Trees* will be held at 7pm in the Simsbury Public Library Program Room. The forum will be led by Eric Hammerling, Executive Director of Connecticut Forest and Parks. Check-in and a light supper will begin at 6pm. The program is sponsored by the Town of Simsbury, the Simsbury Land Trust, the Canton Land Conservation Trust, and the Farmington River Watershed Association. Questions and RSVP's to Helen Peterson: hkpeterson@comcast.net

Volunteer Expo: A Volunteer Expo will be held on Saturday, April 28th from 10am-noon in the Simsbury Public Library Program Room. 28 local organizations which use volunteer support will be present and recruiting potential new volunteers. This event is co-sponsored by the Simsbury Public Library's Business Resource Center, Representative John Hampton and the Simsbury Tourism Committee.

Simsbury Mini-Maker Faire: The Simsbury Mini Maker Faire will be held on Saturday, May 5th from 10am-4pm at the Simsbury Public Library. This event will highlight the talents and skills of over 35 tinkerers and entrepreneurs of all ages. To obtain more information, a list of makers, and events, and to register to attend please visit us online at <http://simsbury.makerfaire.com/>. The Simsbury Mini Maker Faire is co-sponsored by the Simsbury Public Library and the Simsbury Main Street Partnership, with support from the Investor Angels of the Friends of the Simsbury Public Library and community businesses.

Swearing In Ceremony for Chief Boulter: A swearing in ceremony for Chief Boulter has been scheduled for May 14th at 4:30pm in Eno Memorial Hall. All are welcome to attend.

Retirement Celebration Recognizing Gerry Toner: After 36 years of service to the Town, Gerry Toner will be retiring June 1st. A retirement celebration has been planned for Wednesday, May 16th from 4-5:30pm at Maple Tree Café, 781 Hopmeadow Street. Tickets are \$20 per person. Please RSVP to Krista Yard at kyard@simsbury-ct.gov, or 860-408-4683 or Orlando Casiano at ocasiano@simsbury-ct.gov or 860-651-3944.