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## FIRST SELECTMAN'S REPORT

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### **BUDGET UPDATE:**

Last Thursday evening the Board of Finance approved the Board of Selectmen's Operating Budget of just over \$21 million and the Board of Education's budget of \$69.1 million, along with the Capital Improve Plan. The referendum is expected to be Tuesday May 1<sup>st</sup>. You can learn more about the budget and find a tax calculator on the [Finance Department's page](#) on the Town Website.

### **HOMETOWN HERO NOMINATIONS:**

The Town is seeking nominations for the 2018 Hometown Hero Award. If you know someone who has performed a deed or service that has made this community a better place to live, you can submit their nomination [online](#) through the Town website. Nominations will be accepted through April 29<sup>th</sup>.

### **TRAIL-WIDE CLEANUP DAY:**

The Farmington Valley Trails Council will hold its 9<sup>th</sup> annual Trail-wide Cleanup Day on Saturday April 14<sup>th</sup> from 10am – 1pm. Volunteers will cover a 1-mile stretch of trail starting from one of six staging areas, including Iron Horse Blvd. Over 200 people came out last year across the valley. To learn more about this event or to register, [click here](#).

### **VOLUNTEER EXPO:**

The Simsbury Public Library is hosting a volunteer expo on Saturday April 28<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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 26<sup>th</sup> 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.

### **PUBLIC SAFETY:**

In recent months our police department has reported a rise in vehicle break-ins and thefts. The vast majority of these thefts happen with cars that are unlocked or have the keys inside. We are blessed to live in such a safe community, but it's important to take basic steps like locking your car and removing the keys.

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## TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

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**TO:** Board of Selectmen  
**FROM:** Maria E. Capriola – Town Manager  
**DATE:** April 9, 2018

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### **BOARD OF SELECTMEN BUSINESS:**

**Addition to the Agenda:** Following the budget public hearing on Thursday evening, the resolutions needed to set the budget referendum date and formally approve FY 18/19 capital projects have been prepared with bond counsel's assistance. The following is being requested to be added to the agenda after the recognition of Mr. Kimball's service to our community:

- FY 18/19 Operating and Capital Budget Resolutions and Setting the Budget Referendum Date

This item can be added to your agenda this evening with a 2/3 vote of the body. The resolutions were emailed to you today and hard copies have been provided.

**Executive Session for DWW:** The Town Attorney does not have an update regarding Deepwater Wind. Therefore, the executive session scheduled for this evening is not needed.

**"Non-Noticed" Meeting for Negotiations:** Following adjournment of tonight's Board of Selectmen meeting, the Board will have a "non-noticed" meeting to discuss strategy related to negotiations with our police union for a successor collective bargaining agreement. Melissa and I have both received advice from the Freedom of Information Commission (FOIC) that strategy related to negotiations for collective bargaining is not an item under "executive session," but rather a topic that falls outside the definition of a "meeting." My understanding is that this is different than how the town has noticed this item on your agendas in the past. Please note that while FOIC has advised me in the past that we do not need to "post" for a non-noticed meeting, for transparency purposes I find it helpful to list the "non-noticed" meeting on the agenda.

**Appointments:** Late last week my office received a request to have multiple committee appointments added to the agenda. Additional information and/or work are needed on these appointments; I anticipate that they will be ready for the April 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting.

**April 13<sup>th</sup> Special Meeting:** As a reminder, there will be a special meeting of the Board of Selectmen this Friday, April 13<sup>th</sup> at 8:30am in the Main Meeting Room of Town Hall. The purpose of the meeting will be to present the Police Commission and Town Manager's recommended appointment for the Police Chief position and to approve the FY 18/19 budget mailer. The meeting will be properly noticed.

### **DEPARTMENTAL NEWS & NOTES:**

**Public Works:** As part of his ongoing training related to his duties as Tree Warden, Director of Public Works Tom Roy recently took and passed the Supervising Forest Products Harvester exam through Connecticut DEEP. This certification is one step below a Forester certification and requires skill and knowledge pertaining to forestry harvesting including: applicable laws; timber harvesting techniques; environmental regulations; safety; and ethics. Congratulations Tom!

***Town Manager's Office:*** Leadership Team Recruitments –

- First round interviews for Finance Director were conducted on April 4<sup>th</sup>. We are proceeding with next steps in the recruitment, with the second round of interviewing occurring the week of April 16<sup>th</sup>.
- First round interviews for the Director of Culture, Parks and Recreation are scheduled for April 23<sup>rd</sup>.
- The Police Commission is meeting later this evening to identify their preferred candidate for the Police Chief position, which will be formally presented to the Board of Selectmen at your special meeting on Friday.

**SPECIAL EVENTS:**

***Holocaust Remembrance Ceremony:*** A Holocaust Remembrance Ceremony will take place at Eno Memorial Hall, front portico, on Wednesday, April 11<sup>th</sup> at 6:50 pm through Thursday, April 12<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm. The event includes a 24 hour continuous reading of the names of victims of the Holocaust. Everyone is welcome to attend, listen and remember. The event is sponsored by the Farmington Valley Jewish Congregation – Emek Shalom. Anyone who would like to join in reading names of the victims can contact Michael Bonchick at 860-709-4383.

***Seminar on Serving the Needs of People with Limitations:*** A free educational event regarding the role of parents, families, guardians, and conservators will be held on April 24<sup>th</sup> from 7-8:30pm at the Simsbury Public Library Program Room. The speaker is retired Probate Judge Robert K. Killian. The event is sponsored by the Simsbury Aging and Disability Commission.