
FIRST SELECTMAN'S REPORT - AUGUST 13TH, 2018

I say this every summer at about this time, but I can't believe that it's already mid-August! I have been blown away by the response to the Simsbury Art Trail. The Art Trail, in fact, has been so successful that it's being extended another six weeks. **The last day to see the sculptures will be October 27th.** They will be all in one place at the Chili Challenge at Simsbury Meadows. I have heard from so many people who appreciate the sculptures, both residents and visitors, including other New England towns that are interested in following Simsbury's lead. I am so grateful to the Simsbury Chamber of Commerce, which organized the Art Trail, and the businesses and other donors who sponsored statues. It was a meaningful draw to bring tourists to our beautiful town, as well as a joy for us who live here.

I also wanted to send my thanks to the Simsbury Meadows Performing Arts Center, The Hartford Symphony Orchestra, their respective boards, Simsbury emergency services, and all the volunteers who made the Talcott Mountain Music Festival possible. It was great to see so many friends and neighbors having picnics on the lawn and enjoying great music.

Bicycle Friendly Community

Since 2010, Simsbury has been named a Silver Bicycle Friendly Community by the League of American Bicyclists. I'm excited to share that the Bike Pedestrian Advisory Committee in partnership with the Town has submitted an application to renew that designation and we are hopeful that we may be in the running for gold status. This application is no easy process. It's months of work and is a collaborative effort between the Bike Pedestrian Advisory Committee and several Town departments including Public Works, Police, and Engineering. I am truly grateful for this partnership and all of the volunteer hours that went into this process.

In my opinion, the designation whether silver or gold, is not the most important piece. In striving for the Bicycle Friendly Community designation, Simsbury has taken meaningful steps to make its roads safer for bikers and pedestrians alike, which contributes to the well-being of our community and is a driver of economic development.

Eno Hall

Eno Hall has been under construction this summer. We are planning to host an Open House on **October 2, from 9:30 – 11:00** giving everyone the opportunity to see the updates. This will include the kitchen, the bathrooms, and improved sound proofing in the main auditorium. Our new Social Worker will also be on board to meet, a new position the Board of Selectmen created earlier this year.

Once the renovations at Eno are complete we will begin to offer a Café style lunch meal at the Senior Center on **Tuesdays every week. This is anticipated to begin on November 5, 2018.** Participants will pay \$2 per soup and \$2 per sandwich.

Business & Development

New Business

- I'd like to welcome a number of new businesses to Simsbury, including two in the Simsbury Town Shops. Andy's Italian Kitchen opened in the space formerly occupied by Little City Pizza and True Made, a men's consignment store.
- ReVive Boutique Consignment opened at 1384 Hopmeadow Street in the Holloways Plaza
- My Lily of the Valley, a children's boutique, opened in Simsmore Square.
- Quarry Dog Daycare opened at 53 Quarry Rd.

Planning Department

- **690 Hopmeadow Street** (Ensign Mansion): building permits have been filed for the conversion of the existing mansion and annex to a first floor restaurant (7,160 sq ft) and office space (1,457 sq ft). The second and third floors of the mansion will be turned into 5 residential apartment units.
- **995 Hopmeadow Street** (former Mobil station): Planning staff has met with potential tenants that intend to re-open the gas station and convenience store.
- **850 Hopmeadow Street** (former Getty Station): The underground tanks and gasoline pumps have been removed. Planning staff will be reaching out to the property owner to discuss their future plans for the site.
- **1225 Hopmeadow Street:** St. Mary's School and Church started work on an addition to the school and parish facilities.

Staff is working with the Zoning Commission on a comprehensive update of the zoning regulations. The intent of this work is to create a more user friendly version of zoning regulations. **The Zoning Commission has a special meeting scheduled for August 20th** to continue discussing this matter. A public hearing for updates to the Zoning Regulations will be scheduled in the future.

Picnic in the Park

The Aging and Disability Commission and the Simsbury Special Education Parent Teacher Organization invite all residents of Simsbury who have a disability or a family member with a disability to join us for a picnic and a day of fun. Food will be provided by Kane's Market. You're welcome to bring your own food if you or a family member has dietary restrictions. Gluten free options will be available. It will take place on **August 25th at St. Catherine of Siena Church from 11:30 – 1:30.**

Septemberfest 2018

Septemberfest is a 3-day festival of food, music, and family fun at Simsbury Meadows. It runs **Friday September 7th through Sunday September 9th**. Don't miss out on the Friday night fireworks display!

Concert on the Green

On August 4th about 100 people attended the Concert on the Green co-sponsored by the Simsbury Grange and the Simsbury Historical Society. The Roberto Morbioli band featured two musicians that have been inducted in the Blues Musicians Hall of Fame and Curbside Chef's food truck dished out great homemade food.

The next Concert on the Green is September 15th, once again at the Simsbury Historical Society. The music will be from **5:30 - 7:30** and feature the band "Livi Pop and Friends." Livi Pop is an internationally known drummer and his friends are Tim McDonald, Ray Morant, and Ed Corvo - all CT-based professional musicians. To make it accessible and affordable to everyone the concert is free with donations requested. Perfect Vision and Sound is generously providing sound equipment, and please contact the Grange or the Historical Society if you are interested in volunteering or helping to sponsor these concerts.

Simsbury Grange Agricultural Fair

September 15th is the date of the Simsbury Grange Agricultural Fair, the only certified Agricultural Fair in the Farmington Valley. From 10 am to 3 pm, at the Grange property at 236 Farms Village Rd. in West Simsbury, there will be hay rides, kids games, contests, a bake sale, farm displays, local vendors, live entertainment and local food. New this year is a life-size game of "Pub Skittles." Non-profits are welcome to have a free table, and vendor tables are \$25. Kids can get a site map stamped in exchange for a free hayride. Please contact the Grange at info@simsburygrange.org if you would like to be part of the fun!

FEMA is updating flood maps

Later this year FEMA will be initiating the process of updating its Flood Insurance Rate Maps. This project will involve re-study of areas of flood hazards within the Farming River Watershed. Public meetings, which are yet to be scheduled, will be held as part of the process. I will share details when they become available.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

TO: Board of Selectmen
FROM: Maria E. Capriola – Town Manager
DATE: August 13, 2018

BOARD OF SELECTMEN BUSINESS:

Board of Selectmen Goal Setting Session: Please save-the-date for the Board of Selectmen goal setting session on Saturday, September 29th from 9am-noon. Staff is working on a meeting location.

Economic Development Workshop: Please remember to save-the date for the CERC economic development workshop being held on September 13th from 6-7:30pm at the Simsbury Public Library Program Room 1. You can RSVP to the Town Manager's Office intern. Additionally the following groups were invited to attend:

- Planning Commission
- Zoning Commission
- Design Review Board
- Conservation Commission
- Tourism Committee
- Chamber of Commerce – Executive Director and Board representation
- Main Street Partnership - Executive Director and Board representation
- Tariffville Village Association – John Nagy and Board representation
- North Village Merchants Group
- Bike-Ped Committee

Additions to the Agenda: Late last week I received a request to have multiple appointments added to the agenda. The following is being requested to be added under Appointments and Resignations:

Proposed appointment of Kevin McCusker (R) as a regular member of the Conservation Commission with a term expiring 1/1/2022

Proposed appointment of Ann Erickson (R) as a regular member of the Aging and Disability Commission with a term expiring 1/1/2019

Proposed reappointment of Jan Losee (U) as a regular member of the Tourism Committee with a term expiring 12/2/2019

Acceptance of resignation of Katherine Beal (R) as a regular member of the Public Building Committee

Proposed appointment of Michael Egan (R) as a regular member of the Public Building Committee with a term expiring 1/1/2020

These items can be added to your agenda this evening with a 2/3 vote of the body. Supporting documentation regarding these appointments were emailed to you today and hard copies have been provided.

Revised Attachment to Agenda: Please note that there is a revision to an attachment for the agenda item regarding the Juvenile Review Board procedures. Staff has made a correction to the proposed Juvenile Review Board policy membership composition (Section 4). This correction addresses that the "Board of Selectmen" slot was inadvertently left off of the document and brings the regular membership slots to ten (10).

DEPARTMENTAL NEWS & NOTES:

Culture, Parks and Recreation: The Simsbury Farms pools will close for the season on August 28. The Farms pools are open Monday-Friday 1pm-7pm and Saturdays and Sundays Noon-6pm for public swimming for those who still need to "cool off" before the end of the summer.

Culture, Parks and Recreation: Planning has begun for Simsbury Celebrates 2018. This year's event will be held on Saturday, November 24th. If you or a group would like to volunteer or be a sponsor for this year's event please contact the Culture, Parks and Recreation Department at 860-658-3836.

Library: After 53 years of service, Reference/Adult Service Librarian Miss Celia Roberts will be retiring September 30th. Miss Roberts has made innumerable contributions to the Simsbury Library and community throughout her tenure. An Open House will be held Friday, September 28th from 3-5pm at the Library for those who'd like to come wish her well as she begins this new chapter.

Police: Recently several members of the Simsbury Police Department were involved in a life-saving call for service. Dispatcher Anderson, Officer Buoniconti, and Officer Brittell responded to and provided quick, life saving measures to one of our residents. The resident's spouse reached out and personally thanked Officers Buoniconti and Brittell and Dispatcher Anderson for saving her life. I want to take a moment and commend these staff members for their life saving work.

Town Manager's Office: First round interviews for our Planning and Community Development Director position are being held this Thursday, August 16th. A member of the Planning Commission, Zoning Commission, and ZBA, along with Selectman Mike Paine and our Town Engineer will assist with the first round interviews. I have also assembled a panel of external professionals to interview candidates for the first round.

Town Manager's Office: Eversource will be performing transmission maintenance work off of Ruthies Lane, Westledge Road, Fleetwood Drive, Laurel Lane and Casterbridge Crossing which began in July and is expected to be complete by the end of the year (however restoration could continue into the Spring of 2019). Work hours will be Monday through Sunday, 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. The scope of work is to replace some of the existing wood structures with new steel structures. Please note that this work will not interrupt electric service to homes or businesses.