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## FIRST SELECTMAN'S REPORT

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### **Improved cell phone service**

The Town is working with Verizon to improve cell phone service in parts of town where service has historically lagged. Verizon is installing a series of 5 boosters. Two boosters have already been installed and are active near Westminster School and Simsbury Commons. Additional boosters are planned near the Weatogue Post Office, the High School, and Route 10 near Plank Hill Rd. Pending regulatory approval, installation of the remaining three is expected to take place over the next six months.

### **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.

### **Business & Development**

Millwrights has submitted an application to turn, what is currently outdoor dining area within existing deck, into a three season room. The application will be going before the Zoning Commission 07/16/2018.

The medical marijuana producer, Curaleaf, was granted a special exception for relocating its operations from 100 Grist Mill to 34 Hopmeadow Street. Curaleaf will be using the entire CL&P (Eversource) Building. According to the executive director, the company is planning on increasing its Simsbury workforce, which is currently about 38, and increasing capacity by about 40%.

690 Hopmeadow St (Ensign Mansion) was approved for a change in use. The change calls for a restaurant and office space on the first floor with 5 residential apartments on the second and third floors.

The property owner of 955 Hopmeadow Street has approached the Planning Office concerning opening the former Gibbs Mobile station. No applications are pending yet.

### **Get rewarded for reading**

The Simsbury Public Library encourages you to sign up for its [summer reading program](#). It's not just for kids. Teens and adults are also encouraged to sign up. Every time you visit the library you'll be entered to win one of numerous prizes. Also, every week they will be giving away vouchers for free stuff including Yard Goats tickets and ice cream! The summer reading program runs through mid-August.

## **Courtyard Concerts at the Library**

Stop by the Simsbury Public Library's lower level courtyard on select days this summer for free concerts by local musicians. Performances will take place **July 16<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> from 10 – 11am and July 11<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>, and August 8<sup>th</sup> from 5 – 6pm**. Please note that musicians need to sign up ahead of time.

## **Economic Development Commission**

The Board of Selectmen has formed an Economic Development work group to develop an ordinance to create an Economic Development Commission. On July 9<sup>th</sup> we shared the [draft ordinance](#) with the full Board of Selectmen for their input and the board scheduled a public hearing on August 13<sup>th</sup>. We are aiming to have the new Economic Development Commission in place this fall.

## **Eno Hall Renovations**

Renovations began this month at Eno Hall to improve the kitchen, construct additional storage space, and bathroom renovations. During construction, the lower level of Eno will be closed to the public. Parking in the rear of the building will be limited. The elevator and the existing handicapped accessible ramp on the north side of the building will remain open during construction. The first and second floors of Eno will remain open with access through the first floor entrance of the building. Please contact the Department of Community and Social Services if you have any questions (860) 658-3283.

## **Multi-use Trail through Tariffville**

The preliminary designs have been completed for a multi-use trail, a joint project between Simsbury and Bloomfield. The majority of the proposed trail will be located within the State Route 189 right-of-way and separated from the road by a roadside barrier system. The trail is planned to end at the intersection of Main Street and State Route 189 in Tariffville. This project is part of a larger effort to complete a multi-use path connection from the Farmington Canal Heritage Trail to the City of Hartford and points east as part of the East Coast Greenway. The East Coast Greenway is a continuous multi-use trail that will extend from Maine to Florida along the eastern seaboard. Construction is expected to begin in 2019.

## **Safest Community Award**

For the third year in a row, the Town of Simsbury was recognized as one of the 20 safest communities in Connecticut. The town ranks 8<sup>th</sup> according to the SafeWise report, which was based on FBI crime data showing property crime and violent crime well below the national average. You can access the full report here: <https://www.safewise.com/blog/safest-cities-connecticut/>.

## **Hazardous Waste Collection**

There will be one more hazardous waste collection this fall on **November 3<sup>rd</sup>**. It will be held at the Public Works Facility, 66 Town Forest Road. You can find a list of acceptable items [here](#).

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## TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

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

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

***DWW Executive Session:*** The Executive Session scheduled for this evening regarding Deepwater Wind is no longer needed.

***Board of Selectmen Goal Setting Session:*** Earlier today, my office sent an email with possible dates (Saturdays) in late August and September to hold the Board of Selectmen's goal setting session. When you have a moment, please respond via the doodle poll your availability.

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

***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 will receive a member's equity distribution from CIRMA, our insurance provider for these policies. The anticipated distribution will be applied to the appropriate accounts:

- Town and BOE LAP Policy - \$26,008
- Town Workers Comp - \$12,293
- BOE Workers Comp - \$10,623

The total anticipated distribution, which will be provided by CIRMA later this month, is \$48,924.

***Town Manager's Office:*** I have initiated a recruitment for our Planning and Community Development Director position. The position is currently posted with application materials due by July 30<sup>th</sup>. I have asked the chairs of Planning, Zoning, and ZBA, along with Selectman Mike Paine and our Town Engineer to assist with the first round interviews. I will also be assembling a panel of external professionals to interview candidates for the first round. First round interviews are tentatively being planned for mid-August.

### **SPECIAL EVENTS:**

***17<sup>th</sup> Annual Family Night:*** Join the Simsbury Social Services Department and the Recreation Department on Tuesday, July 17 from 5:30-7:30pm at Simsbury Farms. Entertainment, food, games, inflatables, and police and fire vehicles to explore will be available! Dinner will be available for \$2 a person and will include a piece of pizza, a bag of chips and a bottle of water. Please call the Simsbury Recreation Department with any questions at 860-658-3836 or visit the website at [www.simsburyrec.com](http://www.simsburyrec.com)

***Veterans Resource Event:*** The Simsbury Senior Center and Resilience Grows Here are co-sponsoring a Veterans Resource Event on Wednesday, July 18th from 5:30-7:00 pm at Eno Memorial Hall Auditorium. Veteran affiliated organizations and community resources will be present to share valuable information and assistance available to veterans and families. Resilience Grows Here is an initiative of the Farmington Valley Health District. Their mission is to create a community that fosters the health and resilience of veterans across their lifespan.