
FIRST SELECTMAN'S REPORT

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.

Business & Development

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.

Economic Development Commission

The Board of Selectmen has formed an Economic Development work group to develop an ordinance to create an Economic Development Commission. We've been gathering input from members of the business community, residents who serve on boards and commissions, and other members of the public with an interest in economic development. On July 9th we will be sharing the draft ordinance with the full Board of Selectmen for their input. We are aiming to have the new Economic Development Commission in place this fall.

Eno Hall Renovations

Renovations are scheduled to begin Monday July 2nd 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.

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 8th 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/>.

Carry In, Carry Out

With the warm weather upon us, a reminder that Simsbury adopted a carry in, carry out policy for trash in our town parks. That means anything you bring into the parks needs to be carried out. This policy was adopted about a year ago based on research that it's better for wildlife, prevents illegal dumping, and can play a role in making our parks cleaner. I have heard from some residents who have noticed an uptick in trash left on the ground, especially around Rotary Park. Since this policy is still relatively new, the Board of Selectmen has asked the Culture Parks and Rec Commission to monitor how it's working and provide any recommendations to improve it.

Depression in the Elderly Forum

The Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS) and State Representative John Hampton are holding a discussion on the issue of depression in senior citizens. Topics include warning signs, coping mechanisms and helpful resources available. It will take place **Wednesday June 27th 1 – 3pm** in Program Room 2 at the Simsbury Public Library.

Hazardous Waste Collection

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

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

TO: Board of Selectmen
FROM: Maria E. Capriola – Town Manager
DATE: June 25, 2018

BOARD OF SELECTMEN BUSINESS:

Additional Correspondence: For this evening's meeting I have provided additional correspondence as follows:

- Agenda item regarding the Police Department vacation carryforward requests. Staff has been diligently working to reduce their accrued vacation time, and the Chief has provided revised (lower) vacation balances for which staff is seeking approval to carryforward.
- Agenda item regarding the proposed Water Shortage Ordinance. Don Rieger submitted some minor proposed edits to the Water Shortage Ordinance as presented. Those edits have been provided and dated June 25, 2018.

DEPARTMENTAL NEWS & NOTES:

Engineering: Richard Sawitzke is officially retiring from service on June 30th to spend more time with his family and to enjoy his leisure time rooting for the Red Sox, UCONN women's basketball, hiking, biking, skiing and travel. Rich has served the Town of Simsbury for nearly 38 years and most recently in a part-time capacity for the last 4 ½ years. During his full-time tenure he served as the Director of Capital Projects, Director of Public Works and Town Engineer.

Rich's passion over the years has been to support the acquisition of open space and the development of many notable projects such as the development of the Performing Arts Center, expansion of the wastewater treatment plant, and designing, planning and managing hundreds of projects to improve the public facilities for the residents of the town and private land development projects.

Rich has been invaluable in passing on his knowledge and history of town facilities, open space and development activities to staff during his transition. We will miss Rich's dedication and stewardship. We extend our gratitude and appreciation to Rich's service to the Town of Simsbury.

Library: The Friends of the Simsbury Public Library received a Community Service Award for their tremendous support of the Simsbury Public Library, a cornerstone of the Simsbury community, from the Abigail Phelps Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) at the DAR Chapter meeting on May 14.

Library: Sarah Hart, current Friends of the Simsbury Public Library President, received an Individual Achievement Award for her contributions to the Friends of Simsbury Public Library over the past 15 years. She received the award from the Friends of CT Libraries at their Annual Meeting held on June 9.

Police: The Chief and I are pleased to announce the upcoming promotions of Tom Sheehan from sergeant to lieutenant and Brad Chase from patrol officer first class to sergeant. Both Tom and Brad have a long history of great service to our community and department. They have the essential qualities to guide, manage and develop personnel and to continue our approach to community policing. Both Tom and Brad participated in competitive recruitment processes with other extremely qualified internal candidates, which also included subsequent interviews with appointed officials. Please join us for a swearing in ceremony for Tom and Brad on Monday July 2, 2018 at 2:00 PM in the Main Meeting Room of Town Hall.

Town Clerk's Office: Many thanks to our Town Clerk and Animal Control Officer for hosting the dog licensing and microchip clinic on Saturday. The event resulted in 7 dog licenses being issued and over 15 pets being microchipped.

Town Manager's Office: A reminder that our new directors of Finance and Culture, Parks and Recreation begin work tomorrow, June 26th, both on a part-time basis initially. Welcome Amy and Tom!