
FIRST SELECTMAN'S REPORT

BUDGET UPDATE:

On Thursday, March 15th, the Board of Selectmen adopted the 2018/2019 budget. You can learn more by visiting the [Budget Information page](#). Since the revaluation took place this year, we've included a tax calculator so you can understand the impact of the budget on your taxes (please note that the budget may change before it goes to referendum).

The Board of Selectmen's recommended total operating budget for the Town is \$20,982,401. It maintains current services and programs and includes the addition of a full-time social worker position to meet the growing needs of some of our residents. On March 28th, Selectman Askham and I will be presenting the budget to the Board of Finance. The Board of Finance public hearing will be April 5th.

AARP TAX ASSISTANCE:

AARP volunteers are providing free income tax filing assistance at the Simsbury Public Library on Tuesdays through April 10th. Appointments only. To make an appointment, call the Senior Center at (860) 658-3273.

TRANSPORTATION UPDATE:

The Connecticut Department of Transportation has closed the Farms Village Road sidewalk between Simsbury High School and the Farmington River Trail. Pedestrians and bicyclists should now cross at the intersection of Bushy Hill Road and enter/exit the trail from the Bushy Hill Rd. trailhead. That intersection now has improved pedestrian signals.

The Farmington Valley Trails Council will hold its 9th annual Trail-wide Cleanup Day on Saturday April 14th 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 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.

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.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

TO: Board of Selectmen
FROM: Maria E. Capriola – Town Manager
DATE: March 26, 2018

BOARD OF SELECTMEN BUSINESS:

Budget Presentation: As a reminder, the Board of Selectmen's recommended budget will be presented to the Board of Finance on Wednesday, March 28th at 5:45pm in the Main Meeting Room of Town Hall. First Selectman Wellman and Board member Askham will be presenting the budget.

DEPARTMENTAL NEWS & NOTES:

Library: The Simsbury Public Library has been awarded a Revisiting the Founding Era grant from the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History through the American Library Association. Revisiting the Founding Era is a nationwide project that will use historical documents to spark public conversations about the Founding Era's enduring ideas and themes and how they continue to influence our lives today. Simsbury was one of only one hundred libraries selected to participate. The themes on which Simsbury has chosen to focus are the treatment of veterans and the peaceful transfer of power through elections. The Library is partnering with the Simsbury Historical Society, Henry James Memorial School and Simsbury High School to bring this program to fruition.

Town Manager's Office: Leadership Team Recruitments –

- First round interviews for Finance Director are scheduled for April 4th.
- The application deadline for the Director of Culture, Parks and Recreation is March 30th. First round interviews will be held on April 23rd. Board members Cook and Peterson have agreed to assist with the first round interviews.
- We conducted first round interviews for the Police Chief position on March 22nd. We are proceeding with next steps in the recruitment, with the intention of bringing a preferred candidate to the Board of Selectmen by mid-April.

Town Manager's Office: We have received notification from Eversource that they will be conducting vegetation management along their transmission line that runs through Simsbury. Examples of the work that will be performed includes tree trimming, tree removal, and brush removal. This work will likely occur in the spring and summer. It is our understanding that Eversource will contact abutting property owners and the Town with additional information before vegetation management activity occurs.

SPECIAL EVENTS:

Veterans Suicide Prevention Program: A Veterans Suicide Prevention Program is being held on March 31st from 3-5pm at the Simsbury Public Library large program room. In just 90 minutes you can learn to ask the question, persuade someone to get help, and know where to refer them to get support and assistance. This program is open to the general public; veterans, their families, and first responders are encouraged to attend. Speakers will include Christina Allen, LCSW, Suicide Prevention, Veteran Affairs West Haven and Justine Ginsberg, RN, Community Health Coordinator and Director of Resilience Grows Here at the Farmington Valley Health District. This event is co-sponsored by Simsbury's Metacomet Post 1926 of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and Congresswoman Elizabeth Esty.