
FIRST SELECTMAN'S REPORT

BUDGET REFERENDUM:

Thank you to all who came out to vote in the budget referendum on May 1st. We saw turnout of more than 9% of registered voters. While that may sound low, that's significantly more than we've seen in recent years. All four ballot items passed overwhelmingly including the Board of Selectmen/Board of Education budgets, the capital improvement plan, and the Henry James renovations.

Since the vote, I heard from some residents who wished there was more communication and education ahead of the vote. I appreciate that feedback and can empathize how difficult it can be to get information about local issues. Next year, I'm going to explore some innovative things on the communications front. Along with the usual steps we take, like posting budget information on the town website, I think there is an opportunity to make more robust use of social media, including sharing information, posting short explainer videos, and holding a live Q&A.

WELCOMING OUR NEW POLICE CHIEF:

I would like to congratulate Nick Boulter, who was officially sworn in on May 14th as Simsbury's new police chief. While new to the role, Chief Boulter is hardly new to Simsbury. He has served the town for more than 19 years, holding every rank in the department. I thank the Chief for his continued service in this new role. I also thank the Police Commission and Town Manager Maria Capriola for leading a competitive recruitment process.

MEMORIAL DAY:

Memorial Day is May 28th and once again, the Town of Simsbury, American Legion Post 84, and the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1926 are organizing two parades. The Tariffville parade will march up Winthrop Street at 9am, and the Simsbury parade will march along Hopmeadow at 1:30pm. There will be a ceremony at St. Bernard's cemetery at the conclusion of the Tariffville parade and on the Veterans Memorial at the conclusion of the Simsbury parade. A special thanks to the Memorial Day Committee and Boy Scout Troop 76 who placed more than 1,700 flags on the graves of veterans here in Simsbury.

MAY IS NATIONAL BIKE MONTH:

Throughout the month of May, Simsbury celebrates National Bike Month. You can find a full calendar of events at Simsbury.bike. One event I will highlight is coming up this Friday. May 18th is National Bike to Work Day. From 6:30 to 8:30am there will be a welcome table on Iron Horse Blvd.

HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION:

The next hazardous waste collection day is Saturday June 9th from 8am – 1pm at the Simsbury Public Works Facility, 66 Town Forest Rd. There will be an additional collection this fall on October 27th. You can find a list of acceptable items [here](#).

HOMETOWN HERO AWARD:

Thank you to the more than two-dozen people who submitted nominations for the annual Hometown Hero award. This award recognizes people who have gone above and beyond to give back to their community. This year's awards will be given out at a ceremony at Town Hall on May 30th at 5:00pm.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:

On Thursday May 24th at 9am there will be a groundbreaking for Cambridge Crossing, a development of 79 homes in the north end of town off of Hoskins Rd.

The Board of Selectmen has formed an Economic Development work group to develop an ordinance to create an Economic Development Commission. On May 14th, we had the opportunity to gather input from members of elected bodies, appointed boards and commissions, and nonprofit agencies. The next time we meet, we look forward to hearing from members of the business community who are interested in providing input. That meeting will take place at 7:30am on May 30th at Town Hall. All members of the public are welcome to attend.

Tuesday May 15th was the official opening of the Simsbury Art Trail, presented by the Chamber of Commerce. The art trail features the Sculpture Works of Seward Johnson, which will be situated in prominent places around town. Numerous events are scheduled through May and June. You can learn more about SimsburyArtTrail.com.

CONSTRUCTION OF BASKETBALL COURTS:

Construction is underway on a new basketball court at Simsbury Farms. It's expected to be complete in July. These courts would not have been possible without a generous donation from a Simsbury Family (David and Kerry McElroy, and their children Mary, Ellie, and Kate). The basketball courts have long been part of the Simsbury Farms master plan. My sincere thanks to the McElroys for making these courts possible.

COMMUNITY FOR CARE EVENTS:

- Free Narcan Training – May 16th 6pm – 8pm at Simsbury Public Library
- Forum titled “I’m going to College – Now What? Keys to a Happy, Successful Freshman Year” – June 6th at 7pm at Eno Hall

TOWN MANAGER’S REPORT

TO: Board of Selectmen
FROM: Maria E. Capriola – Town Manager
DATE: May 14, 2018

BOARD OF SELECTMEN BUSINESS:

Budget Update: On May 1st all three budgets and the Henry James Middle School project passed. 1,648 electors voted, for a voter turnout of 9.4%. The Board of Selectmen (town) budget passed with 80% of voters voting in favor of the budget. The full budget results are included in tonight’s packet.

Following the referendum, the Board of Finance set the uniform mill rate for the town for FY 18/19 at **36.42** mills. The Fire District budget has not yet been set, but as proposed would require a mill rate of 1.17 mills. If the Fire District budget is approved as presented on May 14th, the total combined mill rate for FY 18/19 will be **37.59** mills, a reduction of 2.4 mills (a 6% decrease) from 39.99 mills.

Based on information we are receiving, it appears that the state adopted budget will provide approximately \$670,982 more in state revenue to the Town than we adopted for the General Fund for FY 18/19. The increases are attributed to ECS and PILOT payments. Our LOCIP number is slightly less than expected, and we will see a reduction of \$1,892.

Water Shortage Ordinance Sub-Committee: The Sub-Committee of the Board of Selectmen that is working on the proposed water shortage ordinance has recently reconvened. Mike Glidden, Assistant Town Planner has been assigned to support the work of the Committee, with additional assistance being provided by the Town Manager's Office, Director of Public Works, and Town Engineer. The Sub-Committee is meeting tomorrow, May 15th to further discuss potential revisions to the draft ordinance.

DEPARTMENTAL NEWS & NOTES:

Library: Simsbury Public Library was awarded the 2017 Excellence in Public Library Service Award for libraries serving populations over 15,000 from the CT Library Association. The award was given at the Association's annual conference on April 23-24, 2018.

Library: The Simsbury Public Library held a Volunteer Expo Saturday, April 28, 10am - 12pm. Over 30 organizations were represented and nearly 250 people attended. Feedback from participating groups has been positive. Participating groups, including the Library, have noted a boost in volunteer applications since the event. The event was co-sponsored by Representative John Hampton and the Simsbury Tourism Committee.

Library: The 2nd Annual Simsbury Mini Maker Faire was held Saturday, May 5, 10am - 4pm. Just over 3,300 people attended, coming from CT, NY, NJ, MA, MD, TN and France. This number is an increase over last year's attendance. There were 51 maker events going on continuously throughout the day. This event would not have been possible without the 30 volunteers that worked over the course of the day, 20 Boy Scouts who assisted with setup and breakdown, the support of Public Works and community partners, and the sponsorship of local businesses and the Investor Angels of the Friends of the Simsbury Public Library.

Parks and Recreation: On Thursday, May 10, a groundbreaking ceremony was held at Simsbury Farms for the construction of two new basketball courts. This project was made possible by a generous donation by David McElroy and his family. Also participating in the groundbreaking were: Board of Selectmen member Mike Paine; the Town Manager, Culture, Parks and Recreation Director, and Town Engineer; members of the Culture, Parks and Recreation Commission; and Friends of Simsbury Farms.

The project was identified in the 1998 Simsbury Farms Master Plan as a needed amenity at the facility and is now the last major project to be completed. The contractor for the project is Vermont Recreational Surfacing and Fencing, Inc. and construction began today, Monday, May 14. The project is expected to be completed in late July.

Town Manager's Office: Our remaining two leadership team recruitments are nearing completion, with finalists interviewed for the Director of Finance and Director of Culture, Parks and Recreation positions. I anticipate advancing preferred candidates to the Board of Finance and Culture, Parks and Recreation Commission, and Board of Selectmen later this month.

SPECIAL EVENTS:

Public Art Trail: Simsbury Chamber of Commerce is proud to announce that the town's first public art trail, "Life in Simsbury: A Public Art Trail." The Art Trail will open May 15th with 32 life-sized bronze sculptures created by artist Seward Johnson placed throughout Town in a walkable and bikeable art trail. The sculptures will remain in place until September 15th. The pieces are intended to be interactive, so touching and selfie-taking are encouraged! Several events surrounding the project are scheduled such as the Champagne Breakfast at Ana's Kitchen on May 18th and the Garden Party at the Simsbury Historical Society on June 22nd.

More information and a trail map are available on the website, www.simsburyarttrail.com, and at each sculpture location. Donations are gratefully accepted to fund this unique community project and can be submitted on the Chamber's website or by calling the Simsbury Chamber of Commerce at (860) 651-7307. See you on the art trail!

Narcan Training: Simsbury Social Services and Community for Care is sponsoring a free Narcan training session on Wednesday, May 16th from 6:00 – 8:00 PM in program room 2 at the Simsbury Public Library. A light supper will be provided. RSVP to 860-658-3283.

Senior Center: The Simsbury Fire Department will host a pancake breakfast for Simsbury Seniors starting at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, May 22, at their Main Firehouse, 871 Hopmeadow Street. Breakfast includes pancakes, sausage, juice and coffee. There is no charge for the breakfast, but we ask that you make a reservation by calling the Senior Center at 860-658-3273.

Charitable Golf Tournament: The Friends of Simsbury Farms Golf Tournament is being held on June 22, 2018 with a 12:30 Shotgun Start. Cost is \$150.00 per player and includes golf, prizes, lunch and dinner. All proceeds will be used for Simsbury Farms Enhancements. For additional information call Gerry Wetjen 860-658-1416.