
FIRST SELECTMAN'S REPORT

MEMORIAL DAY:

I was honored to join my fellow Selectmen in participating in the Tariffville and Simsbury Memorial Day parades and ceremonies. This year marks the 100th Memorial Day parade in Simsbury and the centennial of the end of World War I. It was deeply moving listening to the Boy Scouts who read profiles of the soldiers from Simsbury who died in that war.

It was also a privilege and an honor to present a proclamation to John Benjamin. Mr. Benjamin commanded and piloted a B24 bomber in World War II. He flew 35 missions and was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for bravery. He and his crew were forced to bail out of a crippled aircraft during a mission and were missing in action for 3 days. Mr. Benjamin turns 101 this Saturday and I wish him a very happy birthday!

HOMETOWN HERO AWARD:

Every May since 1986, Simsbury has honored people who go above and beyond in giving back to our community. This year six people were named hometown heroes: Susan Brachwitz, Kathleen Fallon, Jim and Marianne Flynn, Gerald Garlick, John J. O'Neil, Jr., and James Ray. This evening I was pleased to join my colleagues on the Board of Selectmen in recognizing these six extraordinary people.

NATIONAL BIKE MONTH:

May is National Bike Month. As the month nears its end, I want to thank the Bike Pedestrian Advisory Committee for all of their work organizing the Bike Challenge, the Selectmen's Ride, among many other events. Two upcoming bike-related events I'll highlight:

- **Thursday May 31st**, join Steve Novy at the Simsbury Public Library from 6:30 – 8pm to learn about bicycle repair.
- **Sunday June 3rd** a group will be biking the Simsbury Art Trail. It's an opportunity to see all 32 sculptures in a 17-mile ride. There's also a walking tour that's about 2 miles and will visit 19 sculptures. Both leave at Millwrights at 2pm.

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.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:

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. On May 30th, we gathered input from members of the business community. I appreciate everyone who attended these meetings. The next step will be creating a draft ordinance to share with the full Board of Selectmen and ultimately bring to a public hearing.

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 are situated in prominent places around town. The sculptures will be with us through the summer. You can learn more and see all of the upcoming events at SimsburyArtTrail.com.

It's my pleasure to welcome 3 new businesses to Simsbury:

- Farmers Insurance Agent Isaac Adams is celebrating the opening of his new Agency office – Adams Insurance Agency located in Simsbury at 522 Hopmeadow Street. A ribbon cutting will take place at **5pm May 31st**.
- There will be an open house to celebrate the opening of Simsbury's newest bike shop, Iron Horse Trike and Ebike, **Friday June 1st, 2 – 5pm** at 19 Iron Horse Blvd.
- Peachwave is under new ownership and will be having a ribbon cutting at 4pm **Wednesday June 6th** at 710 Hopmeadow St.

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 **November 3rd**. You can find a list of acceptable items [here](#).

COMMUNITY FOR CARE EVENT:

The Community for Care will be hosting a forum titled "I'm going to College – Now What? Keys to a Happy, Successful Freshman Year" – June 6th at 7pm at Eno Hall.

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.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

TO: Board of Selectmen
FROM: Maria E. Capriola – Town Manager
DATE: May 30, 2018

BOARD OF SELECTMEN BUSINESS:

Addition to the Agenda: The Town Attorney and I respectfully request that the following be added to tonight's agenda, "Executive session pursuant to CGS §1-200(6)(B) concerning pending claims and litigation – Pavlik v. Town of Simsbury." This is a recent case that involves our health insurance pool. This item can be added to your agenda this evening with a 2/3 vote of the body.

Age Friendly Community Designation: Staff is currently researching this topic further and is planning to report back at a June meeting.

Sub-Committee Packet Distribution: We currently have a number of Board of Selectmen Sub-Committees that are regularly meeting such as: Economic Development Work Group; Work Group on Appointment of Unaffiliated Voters; Water Shortage Ordinance Sub-Committee; Personnel Sub-Committee.

As a practice, do all Board members want to be emailed BOS Sub-Committee packets, or do just members of the sub-committees want to receive the packets?

DEPARTMENTAL NEWS & NOTES:

Library: Rachel Gravel joins the Simsbury Public Library team on June 4th as the Head of Borrowing and Technical Services. Rachel received her MLIS degree from Simmons College. Most recently, she has served as an Access Librarian at Wheelock College in Boston. Prior to that, Rachel was a Technical Services Librarian at Marlboro College in Vermont. Both positions provided Rachel with supervisory and leadership experience. We're excited to welcome Rachel and look forward to her many contributions.

Planning and Development: Simsbury's Zoning Commission received an application on May 21, 2018 for the redevelopment of 690 Hopmeadow (Ensign House/EB Mansion). The mixed use project includes plans for restaurant, office and residential space. The Zoning Commission will consider the application at their next regularly scheduled meeting on June 4th. Our Deputy Town Manager, Assistant Town Planner, myself, and Main Street Partnership conducted a site visit with the property owners earlier this month.

Planning and Development: Dunkin Donuts broke ground on their new site at 1261 Hopmeadow across from M&M automotive. It is anticipated that they will be open mid to late summer.

Police: On May 9, 2018, the Simsbury Police Department was recognized and presented with a certificate by the North Central Multi-Disciplinary Team. The award was presented to the top five agencies in North Central Connecticut who had the most cases reviewed at MDT during the 2017 year. The award also recognized the Simsbury Police Department for submitting its cases in a timely manner and properly conducting follow ups throughout the case evaluation. Acting Lieutenant Tom Sheehan serves as a board member was also given an award for his dedication to the MDT.

Police: On May 10, 2018, Lt. Frederick Sifodaskalakis graduated from the 139th Administrative Officers Course which was held at the Southern Police Institute (University of Louisville). Lt. Sifodaskalakis was enrolled in the graduate program which was held from February 12 to May 10, 2018. The course curriculum is designed to develop informed, effective, ethically and technically competent law enforcement managers who are capable of assuming positions of leadership in their respective agencies. On May 10, 2018, Lt. Sifodaskalakis also received the "William F. Walsh Director's Award" for achieving the highest academic average in the graduate program.

Public Works: On Monday May 21st Eric Pelletier started work in the Highway Department as a Truck Driver. Eric comes from a civil site background where he had spent 11 years working for a large commercial developer. He has hit the ground running with the Department's construction and drainage work and we are excited to have him on our team.

Public Works: East Weatogue Street drainage improvements have been completed and the first course of asphalt was placed on May 25th. Final restoration work will be completed by the end of the month. This was a large drainage project on a very busy and scenic roadway, where we were fortunate to be allowed to detour traffic onto Riverside Road during construction. We are thankful for the patience of the residents of this area that have been both understanding and cooperative as we worked to complete this project.

Public Works: On May 24th the Department sent a crew of five along with two large wood chippers and associated trucks to support the cleanup efforts in Southbury following the damage from the May 15th tornado. The crews worked a 15 hour day so that they could spend 12 hours on site clearing fallen trees and clearing debris. The crews reported that the staff in Southbury were extremely appreciative of our support. The crews we sent were very proud to have been able to be of service and to provide assistance to a community in need.

Town Clerk: The Town Clerk's Office has implemented eRecording, which is the electronic recording of land records. eRecording is a more efficient way of recording land records for both the Town and the recording entity. The hard copy documents will no longer need to be mailed back to the recorder, cutting down on expenditures such as postage, envelopes and labels. Also, the documents we receive electronically will no longer need to be scanned for printing. This will save time for the Town Clerk's staff, freeing up staff resources to work on other important projects and initiatives such as records management.

Town Clerk: The Town Clerk's Office, in collaboration with the Animal Control Officer, will be hosting a microchip clinic at the Weatogue Fire Station on June 23rd, 2018 from 10 AM to 12 PM. Microchipping will be done by Hopmeadow Animal Hospital and will cost \$20, cash only. Microchipping will be available for anyone, not just Simsbury residents. The Town Clerk will also be there to issue Simsbury dog licenses. Please be sure to bring proof of rabies vaccination and spay/neuter. Cash or check will be accepted for licenses, exact change if paying by cash. For questions, please contact the Town Clerk's Office or the Animal Control Officer.