

**TOWN OF SIMSBURY
AGING AND DISABILITY COMMISSION
SENIOR CENTER SURVEY RESULTS**

Please answer the following about yourself:

1. I am: **Female: 158 (68%) Male: 73 (32%)**

2. Age Group: **50-59: 21 (9%) 60-69: 51 (22%) 70-79: 89 (39%)**
 80-89: 66 (29%) 90+: 3 (1%)

3. I live: **Alone: 90 (41%) With Spouse: 116 (53%) With Others: 13 (6%)**

Knowledge of present Senior Center:

1. Do you know where the Simsbury Senior Center is?
Yes: 216 (97%) No: 6 (3%)

2. Have you ever been to the Senior Center?
Yes: 200 (90%) No: 22 (10%)

3. If no – why not:
 - Don't know anything about it or if it is available to younger people with disabilities
 - Not a senior
 - No interest (2)
 - Still working
 - Activities are during daytime hours and I still work full time
 - Nothing of interest
 - Do not feel I am old enough
 - Have not had the need
 - I am busy with other activities
 - No transportation
 - I belong to Granby Senior Center
 - I have had the perception the Center is for "older" people with nothing better to do with their time.
 - Most of the things I cannot do

4. If you do attend – why?
 - For information (11)
 - Attend events (7)

Simsbury Senior Center Survey Results
Page Two

- Enjoy classes/programs (88)
- Concerts
- To volunteer (3)
- Wednesday senior lunch (18)
- Trips (18)
- To be with people/socialize (28)
- Clinics (6)
- Cheese day/food pantry (5)
- Book discussion meetings (2)
- Bridge (8)
- Disabled access
- Driving course (2)
- Convenient location
- Tootsie Rolls

5. How do you get to the Senior Center?

Drive: 194 (92%) I Am Driven: 6 (3%) Dial A Ride: 6 (3%) Walk: 5 (2%)

6. Is the Senior Center accessible to your needs:

Yes: 194 (92%) No: 16 (8%)

7. How familiar are you with the activities, classes, trips, etc. at the Senior Center?

Not at all: 13 (6%) Somewhat familiar: 102 (46%) Very familiar: 107 (48%)

8. How do you learn about the activities, programs, trips, etc., at the Senior Center?

**Senior Communicator: 182 (63%) Newspaper: 38 (13%) SCTV: 21 (7%)
Friends: 40 (14%) Other: 9 (3%)**

Future Plans:

1. Do you think the current Senior Center has sufficient room for all of the activities?

Yes: 82 (42%) No: 104 (53%) Don't Know: 10 (5%)

Comments:

- Inadequate parking (19)
- Luncheons should accommodate everyone who wants to attend (2)
- Expansion for additional programs (3)
- Plenty of square footage, but too chopped up to put to good use (2)
- Insufficient room (44)
- Senior Center should be on one floor (6)
- Basement is like a dungeon

Simsbury Senior Center Survey Report
Page Three

- Make a separate café instead of using Blue Room
 - A new modern senior center which would accommodate adults with disabilities
 - Compared to Canton and Granby Simsbury is behind the times (2)
 - Not enough variety
 - Need new modern kitchen (5)
 - Need separate rooms for activities such as ping pong and pool – activities that might interest men (2)
 - Nothing available for working seniors
 - Not a “friendly” place to go
 - Just fine, very nice (7)
2. If possible, should the town consider expanding the current Senior Center?
Yes: 98 (54%) No: 85 (46%)
3. If funding is available, would you like to see the town construct a new Senior Center?
Yes: 118 (60%) No: 79 (40%)
4. Should the new building be a Senior Center or Community Center?
Senior Center Only: 53 (40%) Senior Center/Community Center: 78 (60%)
5. Where should this new building be located?
Center of Town: 64 (54%) North End: 13 (11%)
South End: 3 (3%) Wherever there is land available: 38 (32%)
6. Please list what you feel would be the most important program areas to be located in a new Senior Center or Community Center?
- Classrooms (47)
 - Large exercise room (23)
 - Cozy dining room (3)
 - Coffee shop (3)
 - Game room (11)
 - Kitchen (54)
 - Computer room (6)
 - Reading room (6)
 - TV room (5)
 - Auditorium (39)
 - Meeting/conference room (6)
 - Swimming pool (2)
 - Chapel

Simsbury Senior Center Survey Report
Page Four

7. Are there any programs/activities that you would like to see in a new Senior Center or Community Center that are not available now?
- More trips (6)
 - Overnight trips
 - More art type beginner/intro classes
 - More activities related to physical fitness (2)
 - Computer classes related to seniors (3)
 - Lunch program for at least two days per week (2)
 - Regular clinic hours
 - A game room geared to the senior men (8)
 - Upgrade kitchen (2)
 - Walking program
 - Bingo on a weekly basis (3)
 - Increase discussion groups
 - More musical presentations
 - Quilting
 - Ballroom dancing
 - Tap dancing
 - More educational programs (3)
 - Swimming (4)
 - Evening classes (2)
 - Paddle tennis
 - Rest rooms on each floor
 - Everything should be on one level (4)
8. Please make any additional comments you feel would be helpful.
- Senior Center needs to be more handicapped accessible
 - I would like to see the senior rebates on town taxes increased (3)
 - Add Dial a Ride to evening events
 - Eno is a unique and historical building which makes a wonderful place for seniors to meet (11)
 - Shuttles from adjacent parking
 - We don't need more government building and associated taxes (5)
 - Senior Center should coordinate with Simsbury Library
 - Simsbury has more pressing needs
 - Social Service office is not too private for handling seniors personal issues
 - Kudos to Kathy Marshall and staff (10)
 - Very pleased with the variety of activities for seniors

Simsbury Senior Center Survey Report
Page Five

- Center busy in the morning, quiet in the afternoon. Programs could be spread out throughout the day
- We deserve a center that will accommodate our needs
- Transportation to sports – UCONN
- There should be a convenient drop off location close to an entrance
- One good piano
- We need a facility with easier access (2)
- Own a large bus for trips (2)
- Big problem is parking (15)
- Simsbury has always been far behind other towns in addressing senior issues (2)
- There should be air conditioning in the whole building
- The present building should have an automatic electronic defibrillator
- For a handicapped person the Simsbury Senior Center is very inaccessible
- I believe a monthly newsletter would be very helpful
- Open house at least two times per year for screening for available services
- Low cost or free programs
- Everyone is helpful all the time. I have made many new friends since I retired. I am happy!

October 2009