The Simsbury Scoop

December 2015 www.simsbury-ct.gov, on Twitter @TownofSimsbury
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What to know before buying an automatic generator

Are you thinking of buying a whole-house automatic, standby generator for your home? If you are, there are certain things you should know and do before your purchase.

A generator for your home requires a permit from the Town of Simsbury Building Department, and associated mechanical permits, such as electrical, and gas line/propane tank, etc.

Assistant Town Planner Michael Glidden said anyone considering buying a generator should come into the building department ***before*** making a purchase.

There, someone can help lookup the requirements, such as setback from the home, for the zoning district where your property is located, and if there are any special circumstance such as inlands or wetlands on the property.

A manufacturer brochure will have the requirement specification for distances from your house, but those product specifications must meet with town regulations. If they don't, property owners can ask for a variance.

If you go to the building department first, you will know what you need when you go shopping for both the generator and fuel source, removing the likelihood of buying an unsuitable purchase.

"It's just good planning to make

sure all your ducks are in a row before you buy and schedule an installation," said Glidden.

He said the process is not difficult and stressed that property owners should use licensed and insured contractors to install generators.

To reach the building department call 860-658-3234, or stop by.

Help others this holiday season

Here is a nice way to spread some holiday cheer. The Simsbury Social Services Department is once again collecting gift cards for needy Simsbury youth under the age of 16. The department has a number of children who would be thrilled to receive a gift card for the holidays.
Gift card suggestions are:

- Walmart
- Best Buy
- Target
- Kohl's
- Toys "R" Us

You can drop a gift card off at the social services department, located at Eno Memorial Hall, 754 Hopmeadow Street, or you can mail it to the department at P.O. Box 495, Simsbury, CT 06070.
If you have any questions, please call social services at 860-658-3283. Thank you for helping Simsbury families.

Vacation Public Skating Session

Thursday, Dec. 24	1 to 3 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 26	2:15 to 4:15 p.m.
	7:30 to 9 p.m.
Sunday, Dec. 27	7:30 to 9 p.m.
Wednesday, Dec. 30	1 to 3 p.m.
	7:30 to 9 p.m.
Thursday, Dec. 31	1 to 3 p.m.
Family New Year's Eve Party	
	6:15 to 8:15 p.m.
Friday, Jan. 1	1 to 3 p.m.
	7:30 to 9 p.m.

Public Skate Fees

Residents

Child under 15 and 65+: $3

Adult: $4

Non-Residents

Child under 15 and 65+: $5

Adult: $6

Skate Rentals: $5

A Message from Fire Chief Jim Baldis on Fire Hydrants

Over the past few months many of the fire hydrants in Simsbury have received a new High Visibility Marker to aid in locating them during an emergency.

The new markers are taller and orange with two blue reflective stripes. The plan is to change out the markers on the hydrants over the next 12 to 18 months.

The Simsbury Volunteer Fire Company's goal is to make the hydrant easier to spot by the fire engine operator, especially during winter storms when visibility is low and snow hasn't be removed from around the hydrant.

With regard to hydrant care, which includes snow removal, please be advised that the Town of Simsbury passed a new hydrant ordinance that took effect October 21, 2015.

This ordinance is in effect to help ensure that fire hydrants are accessible year round.

This means free from plantings, rocks, fences, and any other items that may be put in place to hide the hydrant that sits on a front lawn.

The ordinance requires that snow and other debris is removed from around hydrants to keep them accessible to firefighters at the time they need it to protect you and your property.

The department asks that all residents and property owners become familiar with this ordinance and check the hydrants on or near their property.

The department encourages neighborhoods to work together in this effort, especially to help those who may be elderly and have a hydrant on their property.

The location of the hydrant is determined by the location of the water main and where the hydrant will be beneficial to the greatest number of homes or businesses.

So while that hydrant next door or right down the street may not be "your" responsibility to keep clear, that hydrant is there to protect "your home" in the event of a fire which is also why the insurance companies always ask where the nearest fire hydrant is to your home.

Should you have questions or comments regarding this or any other fire department matter, email: JBaldis@simsburyfd.org or call 860-658-1971.

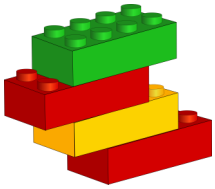
Ideas for December vacation

Do you have kids home for December vacation? Looking for things to do? Look no more. Here are a two fun ideas:

Winter Wonderland Workshop using LEGO!

- for kids ages 5-12
- held at the Apple Barn
- $105 per child
- December 28-30

In this workshop youngsters will apply engineering, architecture, creativity and fun to create a magical Winter Wonderland! Build motorized contraptions like snowmobiles, gondolas, or a hilltop village, and slopes for LEGO skiers and sledders. Sign up.



UConn Women's Basketball vs Maryland Terrapins at Madison Square Garden

Join the recreation department on Monday, December 28, 2015 to travel to New York City to cheer on the defending national champion UConn Huskies as they take on the University of Maryland Terrapins in the Maggie Dixon Classic at the world's most famous arena, Madison Square Garden.

The seats are located in Section 117 (mid court opposite team benches) in the lower bowl, rows 16-20. Plan to leave the Granby Town Hall parking lot at 12:45 p.m. arriving in NYC about 3 p.m. You can choose to sightsee, shop, or dine before the basketball game, which begins at 8:30 p.m. (doors to the arena open at 7:30 p.m.). Plan to leave NYC right after the game.

The cost is $85 per person

Seats are limited so don't wait to sign up. These tickets will make great holiday gifts.

Time to think about snow and ice removal

The Simsbury Police Department wants to remind residents, businesses owners/employees and snow plowing/removal personnel to keep streets and sidewalks clear of snow and ice. It is imperative to provide emergency access for police, fire, ambulance and maintenance vehicles to all areas of the community.

Parking on the street

Vehicles should not be parked on the street if they impede snow removal operations, during and after a storm. The owner/operator of a vehicle that obstructs snow removal operations may be subject to a fine and the vehicle may be towed.

Plowing or blowing snow in or across the street

Snow plowing and blowing into the street or across a street is prohibited. As a homeowner/business owner it is your responsibility to tell your contractors not to clear your driveway by pushing the snow across and into the streets.

Sidewalks

Sidewalks are used for emergency personnel, children walking to school, commerce (e.g. USPS, FedEx, UPS) and general use. Any and all snow, sleet and ice must be removed from sidewalks by property owners within 24 hours.

For questions, call the police department at 860-658-3100.

Simsbury shines on Luminary Night

Sunday, December 6 from 5 to 8 p.m. Simsbury will light up with thousands of luminaries in a non-denominational celebration of the holiday season during the sixth annual community fundraiser sponsored by the Simsbury Junior Woman's Club. Kits make 10 luminaries, order at www.simsburyjuniors.org.

All things Jane Austen in December at the Simsbury Public Library

England's favorite author, Jane Austen, turns 240 in December, and the Simsbury Public Library will celebrate!

Fashion in Fiction: Clothing Speaks Volumes in Jane Austen's Regency Novels features the dynamic, funny, and educational performance artist Kandie Carle who will delight you with this program about the use of fashion in Jane Austen's books on Saturday, December 5 at 10 a.m.

Learn how Jane Austen used fashion and clothing in her literature to distinguish character and class and to further plot points and storytelling.

On Thursday, December 10 at 2 p.m., Trinity College Professor Barbara M. Benedict, a scholar of British literature, culture and book history, will lead a community discussion of Jane Austen's last completed novel and arguably one of her finest, *Persuasion*. Dr. Benedict said, "Through hilarious portraits of fools and villains, and sentimental sketches of sailors and sufferers, the book ridicules the selfishness, avarice and vanity of old England and of new money before a surprising conclusion that points the way to a brave new world for women and men in a fresh century."

Jane Austen loved music, and Boston-based music therapist, vocalist and historian Jessica Lupien will entertain you with a concert, "Lost in Jane Austen" on Friday, December 18 at 8 p.m. Imagine Jane Austen's fictional characters and actual family serenading her. Lupien and her piano accompanist will perform songs loved by Jane Austen herself and by her fictional characters. These include sensuous classical ariettas, haunting folk tunes, roistering music hall songs, and more, with themes from the Napoleonic wars, Irish nationalism, lost love, found love, married love, and (of course) lots of dancing. The songs of Austen's era can be moving, rowdy, intellectual, heart-breaking, and enchanting.

Finally, the library's regular Friday Flicks at 1 p.m. will feature Jane Austen movies on the first two Fridays of December.

All of these programs will be held at the Simsbury Public Library, 725 Hopmeadow Street. They are free and open to all. Registration is suggested at 860-658-7663 x2200 or www.simsburylibrary.info.

Wreaths across America

National Wreaths Across America day, where wreaths are laid at monuments honoring veterans, will be held on Saturday, December 12.

The Abigail Phelps Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution will be holding a Simsbury Cemetery Ceremony on Plank Hill Road beginning at 12 noon on December 12.

There will be a reception following the ceremony at the Simsbury Public Library in the program room.

All residents are welcome to attend this event.

December Dates to Remember

December 6,
Hanukkah begins at sundown

December 7,
Pear Harbor Remembrance Day

December 21,
Winter begins

December 25,
Christmas Day

December 26,
Kwanzaa begins

Swearing In Ceremony
December 7

The public is invited to attend the Town of Simsbury's Oath of Office Ceremony for First Selectman Lisa L. Heavner, the Board of Selectmen and other elected officials on Monday, December 7, 2015 at 6 p.m. in Eno Memorial Hall, 754 Hopmeadow Street. A reception will immediately following.

Town of Simsbury
Board of Selectmen
2015 - 2017
Lisa L. Heavner
First Selectman
Sean P. Askham
Cheryl B. Cook
Chris M. Kelly
Elaine W. Lang
Michael R. Paine

**Please consider bringing a non-perishable food item for the Simsbury Food Closet.*

Closings: Simsbury Town Hall, Eno Memorial Hall, and the Simsbury Public Library are closed December 24 and 25. Schools are closed December 24 through January 1.

In December 2015, the town clerk's office starts issuing the 2016 hunting and fishing licenses. The office continues to issue 2015 licenses through December 31, 2015.