



the

Farmington Town Letter

Volume 31 • No. 1 • Town Hall • Fall/Winter 2017
1 Monteith Drive • Farmington, CT 06032
www.farmington-ct.org

A Note From Our Town Council Chair

Fall is a period of transition; a new school year begins, the weather gets cooler, the leaves turn and the clocks are set back. We begin to prepare for the holidays, the winter months, and a new year. Farmington's town employees work diligently season after season to provide exceptional services and programs to our residents. I would like to take this opportunity to thank them for their hard work, especially on the projects that commenced this past spring and summer.

It has been a busy few months. The Town of Farmington has completed the Unionville Sidewalk Project. As you may know, Phase 1 of the project commenced in 2015 and replaced sidewalks along the east side of Route 177 from Depot Place to West District Road. Work began on Phase 2, the Unionville Center portion of the project, in June of 2017. Phase 2 included the replacement of sidewalks on Mill Street, Platner Street, Maple Avenue, School Street, and a portion of Main Street and Farmington Avenue along Suburban Park. This project was made possible through a matching grant in the amount of \$425,000 from the State of Connecticut Main Street Investment Fund, administered through the State Department of Housing.

As part of the Town's long term paving program the Highway & Grounds department completed road repairs throughout town and specifically on Pinnacle Road, Pinnacle Ridge Road, Old Pinnacle Road, Suncrest Lane, Fieldstone Run, Hidden Oak Avenue, School Street-Unionville, Maple Avenue- Unionville, Mill Street and Platner Street. Highway & Grounds personnel are scheduled to pave the Oakland Gardens neighborhood, White Oak Road, Mountain Spring Road and Mountain Lane by the end of fall, weather permitting.

Many of you have seen that there has been a lot of exciting construction work this summer on our Rails to Trails system. A new trail section has been constructed from Red Oak Hill to the Town of Plainville. A bridge over Route 6 for trail users has also been installed as part of the project. Construction will be completed this fall and the Town is planning a ribbon cutting ceremony to celebrate the completion of the trails system. This project is 100% reimbursed by the State's "Let's Go CT" Transportation fund.

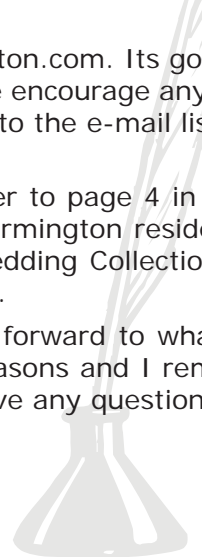
The Town's proactive approach to applying for various state grants coupled with the Town Council's deliberate increase in capital spending to improve our town-wide infrastructure has enabled the Public Works Department to successfully create, implement, and oversee some amazing projects that improve the quality of life for our residents.

The Economic Development Commission is launching a new website - ExploreFarmington.com. Its goal is to create an online hub for all town events, businesses, organizations, and residents. We encourage anyone interested in learning about the site to go to www.ExploreFarmington.com to subscribe to the e-mail list to be notified of the site's launch.

Our bi-annual Bulk Waste Collection will take place October 16-20, 2017. Please refer to page 4 in this newsletter for more information on what can and cannot be included in the pickup. Farmington residents will have the opportunity to participate in Household Hazardous Waste/Electronic/Shredding Collection in Simsbury on October 28th. Please refer to page 5 in the newsletter for more information.

I am proud of all that Farmington has accomplished during this past year and look forward to what is in store for the Town this fall and upcoming winter. I hope you enjoy the change of seasons and I remind you to vote on November 7th. As always, please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,
Nancy W. Nickerson
Town Council Chair



911 EMERGENCY SYSTEM GETS UPGRADED



On October 4th the Farmington Police Department will roll out the new Next-Gen 911 system, giving citizens and dispatchers the ability to take advantage of today's wireless mobile society. While the existing 911 system has performed well over the past three decades, NextGen technology will enable users to text to 911 when it is implemented Statewide, planned for early 2018. This will enhance services in many ways such as allowing hearing impaired, deaf, or speech-impaired individuals to communicate directly with dispatchers via text. Nationally where text to 911 has been implemented it is most often used by children reporting activity in the household where they do not want to be heard, such as a burglary or parents involved in a domestic dispute. The change should be seamless and there will be no interruption of emergency services. For additional information please visit the State of Connecticut Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection web site at: <http://www.ct.gov/despp/cwp/view.asp?a=4379&Q=543436>



The Town of Farmington's Emergency and Community Alert System, EVERBRIDGE, has upgraded its software platform!

The Town of Farmington has upgraded its Emergency Alert and Community Notification Program, Everbridge, to a new software platform. The new system provides you with the ability to customize what alert notifications you want to receive and how you want to receive them. Although you will continue to receive emergency alerts from the Everbridge system we ask that you re-validate your information in the new system in order to access the updated features and subscriptions.

What is the Emergency Alert/Community Notification Program?

In an effort to enhance the Town's ability to communicate with its residents and strengthen its ability to make large-scale notifications during an emergency, the Town has implemented the Everbridge Notification System. The system has two clearly distinct components. The first component is the Emergency Alert Notification System. The Emergency Alert system allows local officials to help protect lives and property by providing critical information to residents during emergencies, including dangerous situations. The system allows the Police and Fire Departments to quickly send out an emergency alert to residents in any affected geographic area in town. Depending on the emergency, the alert may be sent to the entire town or selected areas within town. The current database includes only traditional wire-line telephone numbers as listed in the telephone book (the "land line" phone you may have in your home). If you want the system to send alerts to other communication devices that you use, then you must provide your contact information by logging into the Notification Web Page on the Town's web site at:

<http://www.farmington-ct.org/>

The second component is the Community Notification System. This system allows residents to receive information on upcoming events and general information from various Town Departments. The categories of notification that you may select from are General Government, Public Safety (non-emergency), Recreation, Business and Economic Development, Public Works, Community Services and Senior Services. Community notifications are only available if you log into the website and register for the Departments of your choice.

How can I sign up for the Emergency Alert and Community Notification Program?

The system allows you to add other means of communication to the Notification System. In addition to your current home phone, you can add mobile phones, e-mail and/or text messaging to be included to receive alerts from the Emergency Alert and Community Notification System.

Please visit <http://www.farmington-ct.org/> for more information. The system will only work with your participation. Help us to keep your families safer and more informed. Please sign up today.



PERSONAL PROPERTY DECLARATIONS

The Assessor's Office would like to remind businesses that Personal Property Declarations must be filed on or before November 1, 2017 in order to avoid a 25% penalty.

If you have not received a form, please contact the Assessor's Office to request one. A declaration is also available on the Town of Farmington website. Please go to the Assessor page and look under "Forms".

As always, if you have any questions regarding this filing, or any other Assessor-related matters, please do not hesitate to contact us at 860-675-2370, or by email at:

Bartac@farmington-ct.org

Quadrennial Filings

Please be aware that every *exempt* person or organization is required to file a Quadrennial form this year, even if your initial application was made within the last three years.

Applications were mailed recently to organizations currently receiving a tax exemption. Anyone requesting information or an application may contact the Assessor's Office at 860-675-2370, or email me at Bartac@farmington-ct.org. **ALL applications MUST be received by November 1, 2017 or the application will be null and void.** If you have any questions regarding this process, please feel free to call the Assessor's Office at 860-675-2370.

EXPLORE FARMINGTON

The Economic Development Commission will be launching a community engagement platform and marketing program in the Fall of 2017. Over the past decade society's use of technology and its reliance on smartphones has drastically changed the expectations and behaviors of the modern resident. The Economic Development Commission determined that our communication methods needed to improve and reflect the technological advances that are driving how we connect with one another, the speed by which information is shared and delivered, and the types of business models that are thriving and meeting the needs of our residents.

We have partnered with a Civic Lift, an innovative marketing and strategy agency that specializes in creating community engagement infrastructure for cities and towns of all sizes. They've built an online platform that allows residents and local business owners to submit content including events, business listings, and articles. Explore Farmington will provide our community with a resource that will improve community engagement, and inform our residents of all that is available in Farmington. This program will be launched by the end of the year. Visit www.ExploreFarmington.com for more information.

NEWS FROM... COMMUNITY & RECREATIONAL SERVICES

Annual Senior Wellness Fair

Join Farmington Community & Recreational Services for our annual Senior Fair this October 18th from 1:00 – 3:00 pm at the Community & Senior Center. This event exhibits a wide range of information on senior services, products, and resources in the health, housing and financial industries. We are currently registering vendors to be a part of this successful event, which attracts over 300 local residents each year. Gain valuable exposure for your business! Please contact the Farmington Senior Center at 860-675-2490 for more information.



Farmington Community Services is gearing up for our Holiday Giving Programs. We are seeking volunteers to join us in supporting our low-income residents and families. We offer three programs – Thanksgiving Meal Baskets, Holiday Meal Baskets, and Adopt-a-Family. Please contact Community Services at 860-675-2390 if you are interested in donating or if you feel you could benefit from these programs.

Join us on Thanksgiving Day!

Join us on November 23rd for our annual Thanksgiving Day Gathering at the Farmington Community & Senior Center. The event will feature a full Thanksgiving meal from 12:00 pm to 2:00 pm. Reservations are required. Participants, volunteers, and donors needed. Call 860-675-2390 for more information.



Emergency Services

Farmington Community Services works with members of CERT to reach and assist residents in need during times of severe weather, state-of-emergency, or prolonged loss of electricity. The department maintains a list of elderly, disabled or otherwise impaired residents who are a priority for services and well-being checks during these times. This list is updated annually. If you or someone you know should be included on this list, please call 860-675-2390.

BULKY WASTE COLLECTION SERVICE



The next Town-wide bulky waste collection will begin on Monday, October 16, 2017 and will be picked up on your normal trash

pickup day during the week of **October 16-20, 2017**.

During the week of **October 16, 2017**, all Farmington residents who have trash collection by the Town's contractor (Waste Material Trucking Company) are invited to leave their bulk items curbside the night before their regular collection day. *Separate* bulk trucks will pick up tires; appliances and metal items; and clean/dry mattresses and boxsprings. These items should be separated from regular bulk items and four feet (4') from the Town of Farmington approved Trash and Recycling Carts. Small bulk items should be bundled, boxed or bagged. Tires should be removed from their rims. The weight for all acceptable items is limited to manual lifting by two persons. Six feet (6') is the maximum length.

*****Mark your calendar for the next Town-wide Bulky Waste Collection, which will be in the Spring - April 2-6, 2018*****

ACCEPTABLE ITEMS - LIMITED to 2 PER HOUSEHOLD

- ☺ **Large Furniture:** 2 MAX - i.e. Couches, overstuffed chairs, box springs and mattresses (*a mattress and a box spring are considered 1 piece of large furniture*). *****If possible, please try to keep mattresses & box springs dry so they can be recycled*****
- ☺ **Appliances:** 2 MAX - Doors must be removed.
- ☺ **Tires and Rims:** 2 MAX - Car and bicycle tires only. Tires must be removed from rims.
- ☺ **Plumbing Fixtures:** 2 MAX - i.e. Sinks, tubs and toilets.
- ☺ **Carpet/padding:** Must be rolled, and taped or tied, 6' maximum length.

- ☺ **Smaller pieces of furniture.**
- ☺ **Misc. Household Items:** MAX OF 10 BAGS

RESTRICTIONS:

- ✓ Weight for all acceptable items is limited to manual lifting by two (2) persons.
- ✓ Length for all acceptable items is limited to six (6) feet.

UNACCEPTABLE ITEMS:

- ☺ **NO RECYCLABLE MATERIALS:** i.e. cardboard, rigid plastics items such as toys, buckets, coolers, etc.
- ☺ **NO EXTRA/REGULAR HOUSEHOLD TRASH:** i.e. food scraps, weekly trash items, etc.
- ☺ **NO Building Materials:** i.e. shingles, sheetrock, brick, stone, concrete, ceramic tile, or wood flooring.
- ☺ **NO Lumber** (Clean lumber with no nails/hardware/NOT pressure treated or painted can be brought to the Tunxis Mead Compost Area during normal hours of operation; For Unclean Lumber, call CWPM @860-829-0714).
- ☺ **NO Plywood**
- ☺ **NO Pallets** (residents may bring to the Tunxis Mead Compost Area during the hours of operation).
- ☺ **NO Stumps or Lawn Debris**
- ☺ **NO Motor Vehicle Parts or Batteries** Motor vehicle batteries and used motor oil in small quantities are the only two items that are accepted at the Highway Division of Public Works. Any other Hazardous materials left will be considered illegal dumping and subject to fines.
- ☺ **NO Propane Tanks**
- ☺ **NO Televisions, Computers (desktop or laptop), Monitors, Printers, or Keyboards**
- ☺ **NO Hazardous Waste Products**
- ☺ **No Paint (latex or oil-based)**

Additional information can be found on the Town website: www.farmington-ct.org. Any questions or concerns, please contact the Farmington Highway & Grounds Division of Public Works - 860.675.2550.

GENERAL REMINDERS FOR TRASH AND RECYCLING

- ✍ To ensure proper trash and recyclable pickups, all are required to be at the curbside the night before your normal trash/recycling day.
- ✍ Carts should be placed within 6 feet of curb, 4 feet away from other objects, and with the front of the cart facing the street.
- ✍ Always bag trash to keep cart clean and allow trash to flow out freely.
- ✍ Wash/clean regularly with ammonia or disinfectant cleaner to deter animals.
- ✍ Keep bears and other animals away from your carts by taping dryer sheets to the inside of the lid.
- ✍ No bulk items, construction debris, hazardous items, or flammable materials in carts.
- ✍ No grass clippings, branches, or lawn debris in carts.
- ✍ No plastic bags, pizza boxes, Styrofoam, or other foam plastics in recycling carts.

FINAL HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE/ELECTRONICS/SHREDDING COLLECTION FOR 2017

The Town of Farmington is happy to announce that we are working with the Towns of Avon, Canton, Granby and Simsbury to provide Household Hazardous Waste Collections. The collections will run from **8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.** and will be open to all residents from Avon, Canton, Farmington, Granby and Simsbury. **Farmington residents will no longer be able to participate in any of the MDC household hazardous waste collections.**

There is one (1) final collection date for 2017 that Town of Farmington residents can attend:

- ✓ **October 28, 2017 - at Simsbury Public Works Facility, 66 Town Forest Road, Simsbury, CT.**

On the same date and location listed above, there will also be FREE collections for the residents of Avon, Canton, Farmington, Granby, and Simsbury:

- Electronics Recycling collection
- Used Motor Oil collection
- Personal document shredding ****Special hours: 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. or until the truck is full** (please limit yourself to 2 boxes)**

Below are some frequently asked questions related to Household Hazardous Waste disposal. For more specific information, please contact Farmington Highway & Grounds at 860-675-2550.

Acceptable items:

- ☉ Fluorescent and compact light bulbs
- ☉ Batteries – common household batteries including rechargeable batteries & car batteries
- ☉ Lawn care chemicals – fertilizers, pesticides, herbicides, fungicides
- ☉ Switches or items containing Mercury – thermometers, thermostats, motion detectors
- ☉ Household cleaners – acids, adhesives, aerosol cans, ammonia, drain cleaner, disinfectants, moth balls, etc.
- ☉ Chemicals from the garage or workshop – antifreeze, ant/bug spray or bait, brake fluid, old gasoline, oil based and latex paints, lighter fluid, polyurethane, pool chemicals, road flares, transmission fluid, power steering fluid, wood stain, etc.

Unacceptable items:

- ☉ Ammunition and/or explosives (including gunpowder)
- ☉ Asbestos
- ☉ Business Waste – (collection is for residential waste only)
- ☉ Cement
- ☉ Empty Containers – A container is considered empty when no more than one inch or 3% (by weight) of material is left in the container, these can be disposed of in the regular trash.
- ☉ Fire extinguishers
- ☉ Freon
- ☉ Marine Flares – Pyrotechnic flares cannot be accepted at the Collection because they are categorized as explosives.
- ☉ Ice melt – Ice melt is not hazardous and can be disposed in the regular trash
- ☉ Latex Driveway Sealer (Genite) – Driveway sealer is not hazardous; solidify then throw in the regular trash
- ☉ Medicine/Drugs/Needles/Syringes
- ☉ Propane Tanks for gas grills
- ☉ Appliances
- ☉ Smoke detectors
- ☉ Tires
- ☉ Used Oil Filters

How can I get rid of latex and oil-based paint?

Recycle your leftover paint through *PaintCare* – it's **FREE**

Starting 7/1/13, a Connecticut Law requires the paint and coating industry to develop a financially and environmentally sustainable solution to manage postconsumer architectural paint. Under the new program, the paint industry will make paint recycling more convenient by setting up drop-off sites throughout the state where consumers can take their paint. *PaintCare* will also conduct outreach and education about buying the right amount and using up remaining paint. For drop off locations and program information, please go to:

<http://www.paintcare.org/connecticut/index.php>

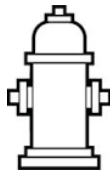


REQUEST FROM OUR FIRE DEPARTMENT

Immediate access to a fire hydrant during a fire is critical in order to establish a water supply to extinguish a fire. The Town of Farmington Fire Department recommends that all property owners and occupants assure that fire hydrants on or near their property are readily accessible to fire fighters.

The Fire Department offers the following recommendations to property owners and occupants for clearing their own hydrants:

1. Snow, ice, brush or other impediments should be regularly removed from the fire hydrant in a 4' radius in all directions around the hydrant.
2. A 3' wide path from the hydrant to the street should remain clear to allow fire fighters to access the fire hydrant.
3. Fire hydrants should be cleared of snow and ice within 24 hours after each storm.



a reminder from...YOUR FIRE MARSHAL'S OFFICE

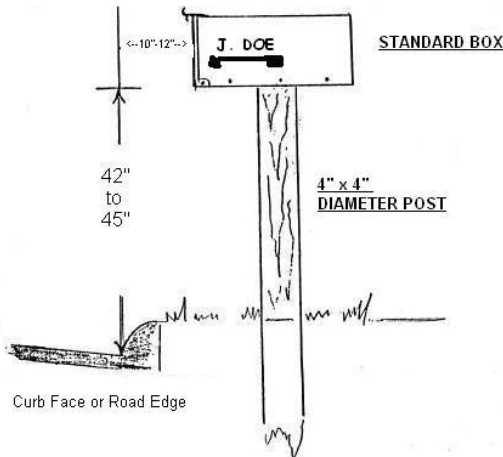
Halloween is an annual opportunity to conjure and create natural and mental imaginative illusions. With the simple precautions listed below, we can all share the intentions of this celebration and prevent a needless tragedy:

1. Use battery-operated devices for the illumination of pumpkins, etc. (open flame and candles are extremely dangerous);
2. Costumes and clothing should not be material that is highly flammable or susceptible to heat or open flame;
3. When trick or treating, wear clothing which will reflect light or is of a light color, and children should be accompanied by an adult and carry a flashlight.



Have fun and be safe!

MAILBOX SURVIVAL



Snow thrown against a mailbox is often sufficient to cause damage to a less than perfect installation. Moisture content of the snow varies between storms, the higher the moisture content, the heavier the snow will be. This snow, mixed with the snowmelt caused by salt and traffic, may be ten-times as heavy.

Help Us Help You: Inspect your mailbox post for age, cracks, dry rot and deterioration at the bottom where the post goes into the ground. Posts with cracks, dry rot, or deterioration at the bottom are likely to fail when wet snow from the snowplow trucks hits them.

Keep in mind that the larger the mailbox, the more square inches of area is exposed to the force of the snow. A larger, sturdier post and mount are needed to support the load.

Decorative posts turned on a lathe to make them round in places reduce the strength of the post. They will not withstand

the twisting torque motion causing a split along the grain of the wood starting at the support arm or at one of the narrowest points.

Heavy snow coming off the plow blade will often knock over and damage mailboxes that haven't been adequately mounted or braced; or those mailboxes whose doors have been left open. Also private contractors, homeowners clearing snow, errant motorists, etc., damage mailboxes. The Town will not compensate for mailboxes in these situations.

Mailboxes are to be installed 42" to 45" above the gutter line and 10" to 12" behind the edge of the road or face of curb, allowing the plow to clear snow to the road edge.

The Town will not be responsible for additional paper boxes or decorations placed or installed below the required mailbox height.

The Town will compensate for a damaged mailbox when the Director of Public Works, or his designee, determines that a plow physically hit the mailbox. This determination is made by observation of cut marks, paint off the plow blade, etc. In the event a mailbox or post is physically struck by the Town Highway Department snow plow/truck, it will be repaired or replaced only if the mailbox was installed properly. The repair or replacement by the Highway Department will be with a standard Post Office-approved mailbox and/or a pretreated 4" x 4" square wooden post. No mailbox or post will be repaired or replaced if the force of snow thrown by plows caused damage. See sketch of a typical mailbox installation.

WATER POLLUTION CONTROL FACILITY UPDATE



The Comprehensive Upgrade to the Town's Water Pollution Control Facility has been under construction for the past 18 months. At this time the project is approximately 50 percent complete and is on schedule to be completed by the fall of 2019. Work to date has concentrated on excavating the site and building the new concrete structures and tanks, installing large piping, and providing a new electrical service and emergency generator. Looking ahead, work will focus on completing new buildings, renovating the existing tanks and buildings and installing new process equipment with computerized controls. The upgraded facility will have more capacity, an improved effluent quality

by removing nitrogen and phosphorus, and will treat our wastewater more reliably and efficiently. The upgraded facility will also utilize an Ultra Violet Disinfection System, eliminating the use of chemicals currently used to disinfect treated effluent.

A REMINDER FROM THE WATER POLLUTION CONTROL FACILITY

Flushing wipes and items other than toilet paper have been causing a lot of damage and costing homeowners and municipalities across the country lots of money in recent years. Often the marketing of "flushable" products have led people to believe that these and other household items are safe to dispose of down the drain. The reality is that they end up clogging pipes and the cost to unclog, clean the mess, and repair water damage can climb into thousands of dollars. The problem continues all the way down the line through the



Town's sewers and into the wastewater treatment plant. Rinsing Fats, Oils, Grease (FOG) and excessive food waste down your drain also results in problems in our pipes. Allow grease and oil to cool and pour it into a container; wipe it out of pots, pans and dishes and dispose of it in the garbage. Lastly, make use of the Drug Collection Unit available at the Police Department to dispose of unused medications instead of flushing them.

KOLP COMMUNITY GARDEN PLOT PROGRAM UPDATES

It is the end of the gardening season and the Town of Farmington asks that all gardeners clean out their assigned plots by October 25, 2017. The annual Clean-Up Day will take place on Saturday, October 28, 2017 from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. (rain or shine). To volunteer for the Clean-Up Day, please email kolpgardens@farmington-ct.org.

Applications for the 2018 season will become available the second week of January. For more information, please visit the Kolp Community Garden Plot website at www.farmington-ct.org under the "Community" page.





the **Farmington
Town
Letter**
Town Hall
Farmington, CT 06032-1053

PRSR STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Farmington, CT
Permit #17

a note from...PAULA RAY, TOWN CLERK

Absentee ballots for the November 7, 2017 Municipal Election are available starting October 6, 2017 by mail or at the Town Clerk's office. To accommodate voters, the Town Clerk's office will be open extended hours on Tuesday October 24, 2017 until 7:00 p.m.

In order to vote by absentee ballot, you must first complete an absentee ballot application. You may obtain an application for an absentee ballot by any of the following methods:

- | | |
|---|--|
| ➤ at the Town Clerk's office | ➤ from the link contained in the Town |
| ➤ by calling (860-675-2380) | Clerk's section of the Town of Farmington |
| ➤ by emailing: rayp@farmington-ct.org | website www.farmington-ct.org under |
| | the Absentee Ballot heading. |

If you have any questions about voting by absentee ballot please call the Town Clerk's office at 860-675-2380.

notes from...THE REGISTRARS OF VOTERS

CT State elections will take place on November 7, 2017 at your usual polling place:

- | | |
|------------------------------|---------------------------|
| District 1 precincts 1,2,3,4 | Irving Robbins School |
| District 1 precinct 5 | West Woods School |
| District 2 precinct 6 | Community / Senior Center |
| District 2 precinct 7 | Farmington High School |

If you wish to check the status of your voter registration, you may use the "look up tool" at the web site of the CT Secretary of the State: www.sots.ct.gov. If you need to register or change you current registration you may do so at www.voterregistration.ct.gov

Mail-in registrations must be postmarked by October 31, 2017 in order to be added to our voter list. The Registrars of Voters' office is open Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 9AM to 2PM. Limited registration at the Registrars' office will close at 12Noon Monday November 6, 2017.

Election Day Registration (EDR) will be available **only** at the Registrar's office in Town Hall.

Absentee ballot applications are available through the Town Clerk's office weekdays from 8:30AM-4:30PM. Absentee Ballots will be mailed after October 6, 2017.

To register to vote in Farmington one must meet these requirements:

1. Be a United States Citizen
2. Be a resident of Farmington
3. Be 17 years of age, becoming 18 by November 7, 2017
4. Be completely released of confinement and parole if a past felon

Call with questions: 860-675-2378 or 860-675-2379

