



the

Farmington Town Letter

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1 Monteith Drive • Farmington, CT 06032
www.farmington-ct.org

A NOTE FROM OUR TOWN COUNCIL CHAIR

Happy spring! I am sure we are all looking forward to the warmer weather months ahead. Our Public works department has begun the process of clearing winter debris, preparing our roads for repair projects, and getting our athletic fields ready for the spring outdoor events. To stay up to date on events, businesses, and local happenings throughout the spring and summer, don't forget to visit the Economic Development Commission's community engagement website, www.explorefarmington.com.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Town employees who continuously go above and beyond their respective duties to ensure that Town residents continue to receive exceptional services. For instance, the Public Works Department paved or reconstructed many local roads during the recent paving season, and additional roads are scheduled for paving as soon as the weather permits.

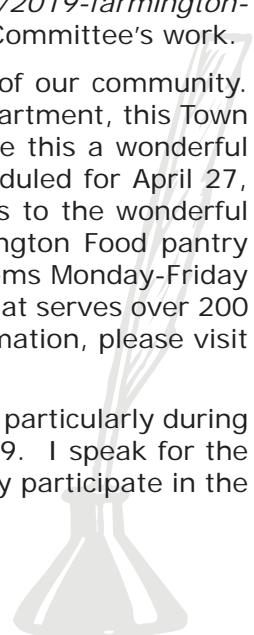
Thanks to our favorable business environment, Farmington continues to have a robust diverse business community, attracting Fortune 500 headquarters' relocations, creative entrepreneurs, independent retail shops, national retailers, restaurants and many more! The Farmington Village Center Committee, which was established in July 2018, has been working diligently to determine the future use of the Parson's Property and recommend quality of life enhancements for the Farmington Village Center Study area. For more information on the committee, including minutes and agendas, please visit www.farmington-ct.org/government/farmington-village-center-committee.

The Farmington High School Ad Hoc Committees completed their respective responsibilities and presented their findings and recommendations to the Town Council and Board of Education in January. The work these committees completed will serve as the foundation for future discussions about Farmington High School. The Town Council recently appointed a new Farmington High School Building Committee to begin working on a comprehensive solution to the Farmington High School facility. Public participation is strongly encouraged throughout the process. Please visit www.farmington-ct.org/government/2019-farmington-high-school-building-committee for up to date information regarding the FHS Building Committee's work.

The Town of Farmington whole-heartedly believes that volunteers are the true fabric of our community. From elected and appointed boards and commission members to the volunteer Fire Department, this Town cares for its community with its strong volunteer base. Farmington's volunteers make this a wonderful community in which to live, work, and play. This year's Annual Clean-Up Day is scheduled for April 27, 2019. Last year's Clean-Up Day produced a total of 4.02 tons of trash. Many thanks to the wonderful volunteers for their hard work who make these Clean-Up days possible. The Farmington Food pantry recently added a new drop off location at Farmington Fire Station for non-perishable items Monday-Friday from 7am- 4pm. The Farmington Food Pantry is an incredible asset to our community that serves over 200 Farmington families and distributes over 90,000 pounds of food a year. For more information, please visit www.farmingtonfoodpantryct.com.

Lastly, I encourage you to stay informed and involved during this year's budget process, particularly during the Annual Town Meeting on April 15, 2019 and the Referendum Vote on April 25, 2019. I speak for the entire Town Council in saying that we welcome your input and hope that you will actively participate in the budgetary process.

Sincerely,
Nancy W. Nickerson, Town Council Chair





Enter a team and compete in the **"Heaviest Haul" Competition.**

Winners will be recognized in five categories:

- Families & Individuals
- Civic Organizations
- School Groups
- Youth Sports Teams and Scout Troops
- Businesses

CALLING ALL FARMINGTON RESIDENTS!
"Pitch In" at the 22nd Annual Town-Wide Clean-Up
SATURDAY, April 27, 2019, 8am to 1pm

THE DAY OF THE CLEAN-UP:

Register your group and pick up trash bags, gloves, and refreshments at...

- Farmington Firehouse** – 76 Main St., Farmington
- Farmington Main Library** – 6 Monteith Dr., Farmington
- Tunxis Hose Firehouse** – 11 School St., Unionville
- Tunxis Mead Playing Fields** - Gazebo

Sponsored by: The Town of Farmington Green Efforts Committee

With contributions from: * Dunkin' Donuts of Unionville * George's Pizza *
 * 4 Eat & Drink* * Farmington Farm Truck * Highland Park Market *
 * Naples Pizza * Stop & Shop * Taprock Beer Bar and Refuge *

Competition Rules:

- Only trash that is brought to official Clean-Up centers on 4/27/19 between 8am-1pm will be weighed & posted
- Trash may be collected from April 1st to April 27th
- Any single item weighing more than 25 lbs. will be counted as 25 lbs.

For questions or to volunteer to clean one of the many "dirty spots" in town call 860-558-6556 or go to:

<http://tinyurl.com/FarmingtonCleanup>

LAWN MAINTENANCE AND STORMWATER RUNOFF POLLUTION

Did you know that how we care for our lawns can impact the health of our waterways? Many pesticides and fertilizers contain nitrogen and phosphorus that can cause problems with our drinking water, nearby waterways, and environment. Here are ways to improve the health of your lawn and prevent Stormwater Runoff Pollution:

1. Use fertilizers sparingly and sweep up driveways, sidewalks, and roads. If you apply fertilizer before a rainstorm, much of it will be washed into nearby storm drains, streams, lakes, and rivers causing algae blooms and fish kills. So when you fertilize your lawn, avoid applying it before a rainstorm, use it sparingly, and use organic, slow-release fertilizers. Maintain a buffer of at least 25 feet of unfertilized grasses or other vegetation around water bodies, wetlands, and roadways. Try applying one- half to one- third (or less) of that recommended on the fertilizer label and then monitor lawn response. Reapply at the reduced rate only when lawn response starts to fall below acceptability.
2. Have your soil tested. Many homeowners may be over fertilizing their lawns when a simple soil test could tell what your lawn is in need of. Nearby soil labs can tell you whether your lawn is deficient in nitrogen, phosphorus, or PH. PH testing can be performed at home utilizing simple soil testing kits you can obtain at your local nursery or home improvement center. Maintain a soil pH of 6.0 to 7.0. Monitor pH levels to determine if liming is necessary.
3. Avoid pesticides; learn about Integrated Pest Management (IPM).
4. Compost your yard waste. Mow as high as possible (leave at least 3 inches) and grass clippings left on the lawn are a natural fertilizer.
5. Discuss these concerns with your lawn care service to insure they are abiding by these same philosophies.

Please visit the Town of Farmington's Stormwater Website <http://www.farmington-ct.org/departments/engineering/stormwater> to review further information as to how you can maintain your lawn along with other stormwater pollution prevention ideas.

TOWN OF FARMINGTON
BULKY WASTE COLLECTION

The next Town-wide bulky waste collection will begin on Monday, April 22nd and will be picked up on your normal trash pickup day during the week of **April 22-26, 2019**.

During the week of **April 22, 2019**, 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 the manual lifting by two persons. Six feet (6') is the maximum length.

****Mark your calendar for the next Fall Town-wide Bulky Waste Collection, which will be October 21-25, 2019****

ACCEPTABLE ITEMS - LIMITED to 2 PER HOUSEHOLD

- **Large Furniture:** 2 MAX - i.e. Couches, over-stuffed 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 (State of Connecticut Regulation)
- **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.

OTHER ACCEPTABLE ITEMS:

- **Carpet/padding:** Must be rolled, and taped or tied, 6' maximum length.
- **Smaller pieces of furniture.**
- **Misc. Household Items:** MAXIMUM 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, plastics food/beverage containers, 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 @860-828-1162).
- **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.

TOWN OF FARMINGTON
HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE/ELECTRONICS/SHREDDING COLLECTIONS FOR 2019

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. There will be three (3) collection dates that Town of Farmington residents can attend:

There will be three (3) collection dates that Town of Farmington residents can attend:

April 27, 2019 – at Farmington High School, 10 Monteith Drive, Farmington, CT.

June 8, 2019 – at Simsbury Public Works Facility, 66 Town Forest Road, Simsbury, CT.

November 9, 2019 - at Simsbury Public Works Facility, 66 Town Forest Road, Simsbury, CT.

On the same dates and locations 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 (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:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☺ Ammunition and/or explosives (incl. 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 ☺ Medicine/Drugs/Needles/Syringes ☺ Propane Tanks for gas grills ☺ Appliances | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☺ Smoke detectors ☺ Tires ☺ Used Oil Filters ☺ 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 ☺ Marine Flares – Pyrotechnic flares cannot be accepted at the Collection because they are categorized as explosives. ☺ Latex paint – Go to www.paintcare.org/connecticut/index.php for recycling information |
|---|---|

YOUR COMMUNITY NEEDS YOU!

The Town of Farmington Fire Department is looking for operational and administrative volunteers of all backgrounds and skill sets. If you are interested, please call Fire Director Steve Hoffmann at 860.675.2322 or email him at hoffmanns@farmington-ct.org.

***Join the Farmington Volunteer
Fire Department today!***



TOWN COUNCIL RECOMMENDED BUDGET FY 2019/2020

	FY 18/19 Adopted Budget	FY 19/20 Town Council Recommended Budget	Dollar Change	% Change
<u>EXPENDITURES</u>				
Education	65,799,897	67,708,605	1,908,708	2.90
Town	29,573,654	30,373,104	799,450	2.70
Debt Service	8,399,011	9,298,362	899,351	10.71
Capital Improvements	2,519,000	2,968,000	449,000	17.82
CIP-Parsons Purchase	-	700,000	700,000	100.00
BOE Defined Cont	-	40,000	40,000	100.00
Teacher's Retirement	-	256,006	256,006	100.00
Total	106,291,562	111,344,077	5,052,515	4.75
<u>GRAND LIST</u>				
Real Estate	3,193,799,380	3,200,941,250	7,141,870	0.22
Personal Property	228,781,599	233,199,367	4,417,768	1.93
Motor Vehicles	232,795,485	235,232,708	2,437,223	1.05
Total	3,655,376,464	3,669,373,325	13,996,861	0.38
<u>REVENUES</u>				
Other Property Taxes	1,265,000	1,240,000	(25,000)	(1.98)
Licenses and Permits	648,000	645,000	(3,000)	(0.46)
Fines and Penalties	39,000	24,000	(15,000)	(38.46)
Interest	335,000	525,000	190,000	56.72
Grants	4,039,095	4,822,777	783,682	19.40
Service Charges	1,313,790	1,380,025	66,235	5.04
Other	51,500	50,000	(1,500)	(2.91)
Westwoods Contribution	335,030	335,025	(5)	(0.00)
Fund Balance	-	800,000	800,000	100.00
Total	8,026,415	9,821,827	1,795,412	22.37

TAX & MILL RATE

Tax Levy	\$98,973,147	\$102,241,250
Mill Rate	27.18	27.97
Mill Rate Change	0.51	0.78
% Change	1.90%	2.88%
Avg Residential Assess.	\$226,777	\$226,777
Real Estate Taxes	\$6,164.88	\$6,342.25
Dollar Increase	(26.66)	177.37
Percent Increase	-0.43%	2.88%

Every \$100,000 of
assessed value =
\$2,880 in taxes

IMPORTANT BUDGET DATES	April 15 Monday	7:00 p.m. Annual Town Meeting (FHS Auditorium)
	April 25 Thursday	Referendum Vote
	April 26 Friday	4:00 p.m. Special Town Council Meeting (if needed)
	April 29 Monday	7:00 p.m. Second Annual Town Meeting (if needed)
	May 9 Thursday	Second Referendum Vote (if needed)
	May 28 Tuesday	7:00 p.m. Town Council Meeting - set tax rate

WHERE TO VOTE IN TOWN (POLLING PLACES)

District 1, Precinct 1, 2, 3, 4 - Irving Robbins Middle School, 20 Wolf Pit Rd., Farmington
 District 1, Precinct 5 - West Woods Upper Elementary School, 50 Judson Lane, Farmington
 District 2, Precinct 6 - Community/Senior Center, 321 New Britain Ave., Unionville
 District 2, Precinct 7 - Municipal Campus (High School, Library or Town Hall), Monteith Dr., Farmington

See page 5 for Voting Resolutions and Explanatory Text

REFERENDUM VOTE APRIL 25, 2019

TOWN OF FARMINGTON EXPLANATORY TEXT -- APRIL 25, 2019 REFERENDUM VOTE

"1. SHALL THE BUDGET FOR THE TOWN OF FARMINGTON PRESENTED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL AND RECOMMENDED BY THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING FOR FISCAL YEAR 2019-2020 BE APPROVED?"

A budget, as recommended by the Farmington Town Council at a meeting held on April 1, 2019, and to be presented and discussed at the Annual Town Meeting to be held Monday, April 15, 2019, shall be submitted under the ballot heading above to vote on voting machines of persons qualified to vote in Town meetings of the Town of Farmington on Thursday, April 25, 2019, between the hours of 6:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. The budget as recommended by the Town Council is on file and available for public inspection in the office of the Town Clerk.

"2. SHALL THE TOWN OF FARMINGTON APPROPRIATE \$1,990,000 FOR INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS AT VARIOUS SCHOOLS AND AUTHORIZE THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS AND NOTES IN THE SAME AMOUNT TO FINANCE SAID APPROPRIATION?"

"3. SHALL THE TOWN OF FARMINGTON APPROPRIATE \$2,000,000 FOR REPAIRS TO AND RECONSTRUCTION OF VARIOUS TOWN ROADS AND DRAINAGE SYSTEMS, AND AUTHORIZE THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS AND NOTES IN THE SAME AMOUNT TO FINANCE SAID APPROPRIATION?"

"4. SHALL THE TOWN OF FARMINGTON APPROPRIATE \$1,500,000 FOR ACQUISITION OF A LADDER TRUCK TO BE STATIONED AT THE FARMINGTON FIRE STATION AND AUTHORIZE THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS AND NOTES IN THE SAME AMOUNT TO FINANCE SAID APPROPRIATION?"

Resolutions adopted by the Farmington Town Council at meeting held April 1, 2019, and to be presented and discussed at the Annual Town Meeting to be held Monday, April 15, 2019, shall be submitted under the ballot headings above to vote on voting machines of persons qualified to vote in town meetings of the Town of Farmington on Thursday, April 25, 2019, between the hours of 6:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. in conjunction with the referendum on the Fiscal Year 2019-2020 budget to be held on that date.

If approved, resolution #2 will appropriate \$1,990,000 and authorize borrowing for costs related to infrastructure improvements at various Town schools, including but not limited to: (1) at East Farms School, relocation of the administrative and nurse's offices from the interior of the building to the building entrance, relocation of the media center, relocation of the art program to the new media center location, relocation of support space to the existing location of the media center, and addressing ADA compliance issues at the building entrance, (2) at Union Elementary School, replacement of the elevator, (3) at West Woods Upper Elementary School, design of dehumidification improvements, (4) at Noah Wallace Elementary School, improvements to the air conditioning system, (5) at Irving A. Robbins Middle School, improvements to the heating and air conditioning systems, and (6) related work and improvements. The Town anticipates receiving grants from the State of Connecticut to defray in part the appropriation for the projects.

If approved, resolution #3 will appropriate \$2,000,000 and authorize borrowing for costs related to repairs to and reconstruction of such various Town roads and drainage systems as may be determined by the Town Manager and the Town Engineer from time-to-time, and will authorize the issue of bonds, notes and temporary notes in an amount not to exceed \$2,000,000 to finance the appropriation.

If approved, resolution #4 will appropriate \$1,500,000 and authorize borrowing for costs related to acquisition of a ladder truck to replace Ladder #1 at the Farmington Fire Station located at 76 Main Street in Farmington, and related equipment.

The full text of each resolution as approved by the Town Council is on file and available for public inspection in the office of the Town Clerk.

Electors shall vote at their regularly assigned polling places, as follows: Electors residing in the First Voting District and assigned to polling places 1-1, 1-2, 1-3, and 1-4 shall vote at Irving A. Robbins Middle School, 20 Wolf Pit Road, Farmington, Connecticut; and those assigned to polling place 1-5 shall vote at West Woods Upper Elementary School, 50 Judson Lane, Farmington, Connecticut. Electors residing in the Second Voting District and assigned to polling place 2-6 shall vote at the Community & Senior Center, 321 New Britain Avenue, Unionville, Connecticut; and those assigned to polling place 2-7 shall vote at the Municipal Complex, Monteith Drive, Farmington, Connecticut. Voters qualified to vote at town meeting who are not electors shall vote at their respective polling place at Irving A. Robbins Middle School, West Woods Upper Elementary School, the Community & Senior Center or the Municipal Complex. Absentee ballots will be available from the Town Clerk's office.

BIKE SAFETY

Happy Spring!



With warmer temperatures approaching, bicyclists will be returning to the roads. Motorist shall be reminded; State Law requires you to keep at least 3 feet of space between your vehicle and a cyclist. With common courtesy, common sense, and respect for the rules to share the road, Farmington's roads can be safer for everyone.

Safety tips for motorists, cyclists, and pedestrians, as well as information on the Town of Farmington Bicycle Advisory Committee and Bicycle Friendly Farmington can be found at www.farmington-ct.org/government/bicycle-committee.

REMINDERS FROM COMMUNITY & RECREATIONAL SERVICES



- ☺ **Summer of Music** is held Thursdays 6:30-8:30 PM Jun 20 through Aug 15 at Alice Clover Pinney Park in Unionville (no concert July 4).
- ☺ **Golf Tournament at Tunxis Country Club** to benefit the Dial-A-Ride Program will be held on Monday, June 3. \$150 each or \$550 per foursome; includes golf cart, lunch & dinner. Call 860-673-9525 to sign-up or become a sponsor.
- ☺ **Senior Center Fitness Membership** includes guidance from a certified personal trainer. Call 860.675.2490 for more info.
- ☺ **Renter Rebate Program** begins April 1 for elderly and/or disabled residents who rented in Connecticut in 2018. For more info, call 860-675-2390. Deadline to register is 9/30/2019
- ☺ **Recreation Summer Camps** Children can enjoy a variety of organized games, activities, sports, special entertainment, arts & crafts and field trips. These camps are the perfect outlet for any child to spend their summer in a safe, entertaining environment. Sign-up online at www.farmington-ct.org/departments/recreation.

HELP PRESERVE FARMINGTON'S WETLANDS AND STREAMS

Is your backyard frequently wet? Do you have a brook or stream that runs through or near your property? If so, you may need a permit with the Inland Wetlands Commission before you clear parts of your property. Call the wetlands staff at 860.675.2325 to discuss your project **before** you start work. We are happy to help you determine if a permit is needed and discuss ways to protect the wetlands and streams. Remember most stormwater in town eventually flows to the Farmington River!



www.farmington-ct.org/government/conservation-inland-wetlands-commission

CPR CLASSES

- *Do you know what to do if a family member collapses in front of you?*
- *Do you know how to relieve choking?*
- *Do you know how to use an AED?*



If the answer to any of these questions is "no," join members of The Town of Farmington Fire Department at the Senior/Community Center as they instruct the American Heart Association's **Family and Friends** CPR Course.

Family and Friends CPR: This video-based course teaches CPR and relief of choking in adults, children and infants. Use of an AED (Automated External Defibrillator) is also included in the training, and participants receive a student manual for ongoing reference. Family and Friends CPR is designed for members of the general public who would like to learn basic CPR, including families with children or elderly relatives, community groups, and those who do not need a course completion card.



Available Dates:

- ✓ Wed., 6/12/19 7pm-10pm
- ✓ Wed., 9/11/19 7pm-10pm
- ✓ Wed., 12/11/19 10am-1pm

If you would like to sign up for one of these upcoming classes at the Senior/Community Center and learn the skills to help a loved one in distress, go to:

www.farmington-ct.org/departments/fire-department/cpr-registration



NO COST!!!

POLICE DEPARTMENT 9 P.M. ROUTINE

The Farmington Police Department adopted the “9 p.m. routine” slogan, as Farmington was part of the motor vehicle theft, and theft from a motor vehicle epidemic which has continued to plague the entire United States. Farmington motor vehicle thefts went down, from 31 in 2017 to 21 in 2018. Larceny from a motor vehicle went down as well, from 188 in 2017 to 98 in 2018. This appears to be great news; however there are still ways the community could take action, to make this trend continue to drop.

Even though there are still isolated cases of physical force being used to break-in to vehicles, the majority of the incidents are caused by the keys left inside the vehicle, the doors unlocked and they occur during the night. In terms of Motor vehicle theft, over 50% occurred during the night time, when the vehicle was unsecured, and the keys were inside the vehicle. The numbers are even greater when discussing larceny from a motor vehicle. Over 80% of incidents where items were stolen from a motor vehicle occurred during the night and the vehicle was unsecured. Both of these crimes are a result of opportunity. Research shows that offenders will often move on, simply if a vehicle is locked. The offender will rarely use force or smash windows to gain entry into a vehicle because it's both time-consuming and could cause unwanted attention. Residents of Farmington can prevent being victims of these crimes, if they just take the extra time to make sure that their vehicle is locked and



account for all of the keys before going to bed. Overall, offenders are not “criminal masterminds.” The common mindset is; see a valuable item, take it. Therefore you should never leave items lying around in plain sight, i.e. on your seat, on the floor, or dashboard of your vehicle. The most common items stolen when a vehicle is broken into are phones, purses, wallets, laptops, briefcases, backpacks, shopping bags, cash, and of course keys.

It's important to realize that just because your vehicle is inside a garage, that doesn't mean it cannot be stolen or gone-through. There were a few cases from both 2017 and 2018 where unlocked garages were entered and vehicles were either gone-through or stolen completely. Many people leave their keys hanging up inside the garage but leave the garage unlocked. Offenders have picked up on this and are more likely to check if they can gain access to your garage. To add to this dilemma, key fobs can be used to unlock, and start the vehicle as long as they are within close proximity to the vehicle. Key fobs should be secured far away from the vehicle

when it is not being used, and it is good to know the distance your key fob will work on your vehicle.

Another thing to avoid is leaving your vehicle unsecured while you warm it up. There were a few cases where a vehicle was left in the driveway, unsecured, and running while the owner was either inside their residence or inside their place of work when their vehicle was stolen. To prevent this from happening to you, try to avoid leaving your vehicle unattended while it is running. This trails back to being a crime of opportunity, you're more likely to become a victim if you're making it easier for the criminal.

The Farmington Police Department prides itself on the high level of service we provide to the community. It's apparent that some residents are becoming aware of this epidemic, but it is our goal to spread the word throughout the community and ensure less people fall victim to this crime. Make it part of your 9 p.m. routine to ensure that your vehicle is locked and the keys are all accounted for. Ensure that your garage is locked. Also, avoid leaving your vehicle running if you are not driving it! If the community adopts these practices, we know that the number the motor vehicle thefts/larceny from a motor vehicle in Farmington will continue to descend and it will make Farmington an even safer community.

Respectfully Submitted,
Officer Zachary J. Martin
Community Policing/
Special Projects Unit

POLICE DEPARTMENT CITIZEN SURVEY

The Farmington Police Department takes great pride in providing quality and professional service to everyone in our community. Citizen input on how we are doing and where we could improve is invaluable to enhancing our services, and for future planning. A citizen survey is available on our website, and we ask that community members take a few minutes and complete the confidential and voluntary survey. The survey is available at www.farmington-ct.org/departments/police-department, and it will be available for completion between April 15 - June 15, 2019. We value and appreciate the time taken and feedback from those we serve. Thank you, *Paul J. Melanson*, Chief of Police





the Farmington
Town
Letter

Town Hall
Farmington, CT 06032-1053

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

ELDERLY/TOTALLY DISABLED AND VETERANS TAX RELIEF PROGRAMS

Applications for the Elderly and Totally Disabled State and Town Homeowner programs are available in the Assessor's Office through May 15, 2019. Applicants must be 65 years of age by December 31, 2018 or totally disabled, no age limit, to qualify. Income levels for the State program cannot exceed \$36,000 for a single person and \$43,900 for a married couple. The Town program income limits are \$42,000 for a single person or \$49,900 for a married couple. You may download an application from the Town of Farmington website; go to the Assessor's Page, under "FORMS", or you may come to the Assessor's Office in the Town Hall. Please

be sure to bring your Federal Tax Return, if you file one, and your Social Security Statement (SSA 1099) when applying. If you do not file a tax return, you must provide proof of all forms of income, including your 1099 statement, pension benefits, interest, dividends, etc.

The Veterans Program requirements are the same as the elderly programs. However if the applicant is 100% disabled, the income maximum is \$18,000 for a single person, and \$21,000 for a married couple, excluding Social Security. If you have any questions regarding these programs, please contact the Assessor's Office at 860.675.2370.

NOTES FROM PAULA RAY, TOWN CLERK

LICENSING INFORMATION:

The Town Clerk's Office reminds dog owners that renewal and new licenses are issued during the month of June. Please call the Town Clerk's Office at 675-2380 or email rayp@farmington-ct.org with any questions.

TOP DOG CONTEST:

The Farmington Town Clerk's office will be holding the annual "Top Dog" drawing. Join the fun by entering your best friend for a chance to wear Farmington Dog License Number 1 free of charge for 2019-2020.



TO PARTICIPATE:

- The dog must be currently registered in Farmington or under 6 months of age.
- A photo of your dog no larger than 4x6 inches is required.
- On the back of the photo list the name of the dog, and the owner's name, address and phone number.

- Send the photo to the Farmington Town Clerk, 1 Monteith Drive, Farmington, CT 06032 between May 1st and June 1st.
- A drawing will be held on June 20, 2019 at 10:00 a.m. in the Town Clerk's Office to determine Farmington's Top Dog.

FISHING FACTS:

A Trout Stamp is required for anyone age 16 or older, including those age 65 and over who:

- Harvest trout, Kokanee, or Salmon (except as described in 26-48c)
- Fishes in one of these four trout/salmon areas: trout management areas, wild trout management areas, trout parks or broodstock Atlantic salmon areas.
- Frequently asked questions regarding the new Trout Stamp can be found on the Fisheries Web page at www.ct.gov/deep/fishing or by phone at 860-424-fish. The stamp has a fee of \$5.00 (\$3.00 for CT residents age 16-17) and expires at the end of each calendar year.

Opening day for fishing is April 13, 2019 by the State of Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection. Licenses are available online from the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection www.ct.gov/deep/fishing and at the Town Clerk's office.

ABSENTEE BALLOTS FOR THIS FALL:

The date of the Municipal Election this fall is November 5, 2019. College students and anyone that will be out of town at election time are encouraged to fill out their absentee ballot applications before leaving town. Applications will be kept on file in the Town Clerk's office and ballots will be issued on October 4, 2019, which is the first day regular absentee ballots are available. Please call the Town Clerk's Office 860-675-2380 if you have any questions about voting by absentee ballot.