



the

Farmington Town Letter

Volume 28 • No. 5 • Town Hall • April 2015
1 Monteith Drive • Farmington, CT 06032
www.farmington-ct.org

A NOTE FROM OUR TOWN COUNCIL CHAIR

I am sure that you are all just as relieved as I am that this cold and snowy winter is behind us. Almost every week this winter, I saw Farmington residents pulling on their parkas and grabbing their snow blowers and shovels to dig themselves, and their neighbors, out of the snow. Thankfully, spring is just around the corner. I can finally see the grass, and hopefully soon some flowers and birds!

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Town employees for the fine job they did this winter. It was their careful attention to the roads during the many storms this season that allowed us to go about our daily business with few interruptions and little inconvenience.

As you may remember, last year at this time, the Town Council charged a Strategic Planning Committee with conducting a Town-wide survey in order to update the Town of Farmington Strategic Plan. Based on the results of the survey, the Strategic Planning Committee was able to make recommendations to the Town Council to aid in prioritizing town services and setting planning and budgetary goals for the future.

The results of the survey were extremely positive. Town residents rate the Town of Farmington and its services very highly. In particular, our library services, public schools, and public safety received extremely high ratings from those surveyed. These results reinforce that the Town Council's strategic policy decisions are moving the Town in a direction that residents find satisfactory and that residents feel that the Town's current level of spending is appropriate for the quality of public services available.

I would like to thank those residents that were contacted by the Town's survey consultant and asked to complete the survey. The survey questions that you answered will guide the Town Council's thinking on matters of policy, finance, and operations for the foreseeable future.

The Town Council is gratified with the results of the survey and has already utilized the updated Strategic Plan as it developed a Town budget for the upcoming fiscal year that is consistent with the Town's vision to provide residents with premium public services supported by stable and equitable revenues. This year's budget includes spending for Town and Education operations, and capital projects.

I encourage you to stay informed and involved during this process and welcome you to review and comment on the budget, particularly during the Annual Town Meeting on April 20, and the Referendum Vote on April 30.

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

Chair, Farmington Town Council

**HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE
COLLECTION DAY - MDC
SATURDAY, MAY 9, 2015
LOCATION: Farmington High School
10 Monteith Drive - 8:00am - 1:00pm
See page 4 for details**

UPCOMING ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS



Call Farmington Community Services (FCS) – 860-675-2390

Renter Rebate – income eligible seniors/disabled renters receive rebate – applications accepted from April 1st – Oct. 1st. (Maximum annual income: Single - \$34,600 & Couple - \$42,200)

Camp Assistance – income eligible families can receive camp tuition assistance – applications accepted until May 15 or funds depleted. (Ex: Family of 4 must make below \$48,500/year)

Community Service Days - Seniors/Disabled residents needing help with chore services. Upcoming dates – May 2nd and May 30th.

POLICE COMMUNITY SERVICE OFFICERS

Those who enjoy spending their days taking in the scenic beauty of the Farmington River and town recreational areas will notice some welcome changes this season. The Town of Farmington began a pilot program last year in response to increasing complaints of town code violations in these areas. Those trying to enjoy the natural beauty were instead encountering litter, fires, alcohol violations, parking violations, loud music, and trespassing. Increased use was leading to increased abuse.

Farmington Police addressed the problem by implementing a new Community Service Officer (CSO) program. CSO's are part-time, seasonal employees, who are tasked with patrolling the Farmington River access areas, town parks, and Rails to Trails. CSO's are recognizable by their sand- and black-colored uniforms. Their primary duties include: ensuring their areas of responsibility are clear of trash; educating the public on rules and regulations regarding use of facilities; and issuing municipal code violations where appropriate.



Feedback from the community has been very positive. Complaints and trash have subsided and CSO's have had many positive interactions with visitors. We look forward to another successful season. We are fortunate to have access to such beautiful natural resources and we strive to maintain them in as pristine a condition as possible for current and future generations to enjoy. All recreational areas are posted with relevant town code violations. For a complete list, please visit the Town of Farmington web site at: <http://ecode360.com/7271228> . Report any violation to the Farmington Police Department at 860-675-2400.

FARMINGTON CLEAN-UP EVENTS MARK YOUR CALENDAR

**SATURDAY APRIL 25TH
CLEAN-UP THE TOWN DAY
9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.**

Be part of the "Heaviest Haul" Competition
Join a team or start your own!

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**–
hosted by Westwoods Upper
Elementary School



**SATURDAY MAY 9TH
CLEAN-UP YOUR HOUSE DAY
8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Monteith Drive**

- Electronics Recycling** - Green Monster
Farmington Town Hall Parking Lot
- Household Hazardous Waste**
Farmington High School Parking Lot
- Personal Document Shredding** - Infoshred
Farmington Library Parking Lot
- Textile Recycling** - Bay State Textiles
Farmington Library Parking Lot

Please drop off in above order. Make sure electronics can be removed from car without handling hazardous waste.



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

- Winners will be recognized in four categories:
- Families & Individuals
 - Civic Organizations
 - School Groups, Youth Sports Teams and Scout Troops
 - Businesses

To volunteer to clean one of the many "dirty spots" in town go to our sign up genius at: <http://tinyurl.com/FarmingtonCleanup>

"Pitch In" at the Town-Wide Clean-Up

SATURDAY, April 25th, 9am to 1pm

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 – hosted by Westwoods Upper Elementary School

Sponsored by: The Town of Farmington Green Efforts Committee

With contributions from: Highland Park Market, Naples Pizza, Dunkin Donuts of Unionville, Georges Pizza, Starbucks, Truffles, Joey Garlic's, Westwoods Elementary School

For more information and suggestions call: 860-677-6094

Competition Rules:

- Only trash that is brought to official Clean-Up centers on 4/25/15 9am-1pm will be weighed & posted
- Trash may be collected from 4/17-4/25
- Any single item weighing more than 25 lbs will be counted as 25 lbs.

Season Passes available now at Westwoods Golf Course



NOTES FROM PAULA RAY, TOWN CLERK

TOP DOG CONTEST:

The Farmington Town Clerk's office will be holding a "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 2015-2016.

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 06032-1053 starting May 1, 2015.
- A drawing will be held on June 16, 2015 at 10:00 a.m. in the Town Clerk's Office to determine Farmington's Top Dog.

LICENSING INFORMATION:

The Town Clerk's Office reminds dog owners that renewal and new licenses are issued during the month of June. License renewal post cards will be mailed the end of May to all dog owners currently licensed.

If you have any questions regarding dog licensing please call the Town Clerk's Office at 675-2380.

REMINDER:

Opening day fishing has been changed to April 11, 2015 by the State of Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection. Licenses are available on line from the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection www.ct.gov/deep/fishing and at the Town Clerk's office.



**HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION DAY - MDC
SATURDAY, MAY 9, 2015**

LOCATION: Farmington High School, 10 Monteith Drive - 8:00am – 1:00pm

Sponsored by the Farmington Conservation and Inland Wetlands Commission and The Metropolitan District Commission (MDC)

COMMON ACCEPTABLE HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTES

Misc Items	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alkaline, Rechargeable and Button Batteries – please separate by type • Small camping size propane tanks • Fluorescent Bulbs, including Compact Fluorescent Bulbs (CFL) Bulbs – wrap bulbs to protect from breakage, bulbs contain mercury • Fire extinguishers
Garage & Workshop:	Gasoline and Diesel, Antifreeze, Residential Oil and Latex Paints, Turpentine, Transmission Fluid, Acids, Brake Fluid, Lighter Fluid, Paint Strippers/Thinners, Polyurethane, Power Steering Fluids, Road Flares, Wood Preservatives, Wood Stains, Asbestos (small quantity, moistened and double bagged)
Household:	Drain Cleaners, Disinfectants, Oven Cleaners, Wood & Metal Polishes, Ammonia, Unfinished Aerosols, Mercury Thermometers, Thermostats and Switches, Ant Sprays & Bait, Moth Balls, Flea Repellants, Floor Care Products
Yard & Hobby:	Pesticides, Herbicides, Fungicides, Insecticides, Cleaning Solvents, Glues, Kerosene, Pool Chemicals, Chemistry Sets, Artist Paints, Epoxy Products

NOTE: Car batteries and waste oil will be accepted at this collection. **Car batteries and waste oil ONLY are also accepted 24/7 at the Farmington Highway Garage on New Britain Avenue.** Waste oil must be brought in a sealed, non-returnable container no larger than 2 gallons. (See Importance of Proper Disposal below)

UNACCEPTABLE ITEMS

Empty Containers, Explosives, Large Propane Tanks for gas grills, Tires, **Medicines/Drugs****, Smoke Detectors and **Electronics*****

** A drop-off container for waste medicine/drugs is now available at the Farmington Police Department: www.farmington-ct.org/docs/FYI/Drug_Collection_Unit.pdf

*** Electronics **WILL** be collected on the same day at the Farmington Town Hall.

IMPORTANCE OF PROPER DISPOSAL: Hazardous materials must be disposed of by specially licensed companies. These wastes CANNOT be collected during bulk pickup and must NOT be left at the Highway Department or any other location. Improper disposal puts people at risk for injury and increases the possibility of contamination. Separating household hazardous waste from your regular trash is only the first step towards proper disposal. Please take the extra step to dispose of them properly at a scheduled Household Hazardous Waste Collection. If you cannot make this collection, MDC will be sponsoring several future Household Hazardous Waste Collection Days in other towns that you may attend. For more information call (860) 278-3809.

For more information:

www.themdc.com/what-we-do/environment-health-safety/household-hazardous-waste-collection



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Letter
Town Hall
Farmington, CT 06032-1053

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TOWN COUNCIL RECOMMENDED BUDGET FY 2015/2016

	FY14/15 Revised Budget	FY15/16 Council Recommended	Dollar Change	%
EXPENDITURES				
Education	\$58,236,460	\$60,391,209	\$2,154,749	3.70
Town	26,179,873	27,118,908	939,035	3.59
Debt Service	6,988,196	6,818,620	(169,576)	(2.43)
Capital Improvements	2,944,765	3,234,000	289,235	9.82
Total	\$94,349,294	\$97,562,737	\$3,213,443	3.41
GRAND LIST				
Real Estate	\$3,080,593,965	\$3,103,537,170	\$22,943,205	0.74
Personal Property	193,391,908	201,150,865	7,758,957	4.01
Motor Vehicles	226,075,865	228,593,290	2,517,425	1.11
Total	\$3,500,061,738	\$3,533,281,325	\$33,219,587	0.95
REVENUES				
Other Property Taxes	\$1,040,000	\$1,079,000	\$39,000	3.75
Licenses and Permits	769,500	843,500	74,000	9.62
Fines and Penalties	47,200	39,200	(8,000)	(16.95)
Interest	80,000	75,000	(5,000)	(6.25)
Grants	6,314,425	6,471,275	156,850	2.48
Service Charges	1,308,000	1,288,834	(19,166)	(1.47)
Other	209,562	178,000	(31,562)	(15.06)
Total	\$9,768,687	\$9,974,809	\$206,122	2.11

TAX & MILL RATE

Tax Levy	\$85,185,607	\$88,320,928	
Mill Rate	24.44	25.10	
Mill Rate Change	0.37	0.66	
% Change	1.54%	2.71%	
Avg Residential Assessment	\$232,074	\$232,074	
Real Estate Taxes	\$5,672.11	\$5,825.59	
Dollar Increase	86.09	153.48	
Percent Increase	1.54%	2.71%	

Every \$100,000 of assessed value = \$2,510 in taxes

IMPORTANT BUDGET DATES

April 20 Monday	7:00 p.m. Annual Town Meeting
April 30 Thursday	Referendum Vote
May 1 Friday	4:00 p.m. Special Town Council Meeting (if needed)
May 4 Monday	7:00 p.m. Second Town Meeting (if needed)
May 14 Thursday	Second Referendum Vote (if needed)
May 26 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 other side for Voting Resolutions and Explanatory Text

APRIL 30, 2015 REFERENDUM VOTE

TOWN OF FARMINGTON EXPLANATORY TEXT -- APRIL 30, 2015 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 2015-2016 BE APPROVED?"
2. "SHALL THE TOWN OF FARMINGTON INCREASE BY \$900,000 THE \$1,100,000 APPROPRIATION AND BORROWING AUTHORIZATION FOR THE IRVING A. ROBBINS MIDDLE SCHOOL HEATING SYSTEM REPLACEMENT PROJECT?"
3. "SHALL THE TOWN OF FARMINGTON APPROPRIATE \$1,100,000 FOR ACQUISITION OF TWO PUMPER FIRE ENGINES TO BE STATIONED AT 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 6, 2015, and to be presented and discussed at the Annual Town Meeting to be held Monday, April 20, 2015, 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 30, 2015, between the hours of 6:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. in conjunction with the referendum on the Fiscal Year 2015-2016 budget to be held on that date.

If approved, resolution #2 will increase by \$900,000 the appropriation and borrowing authorization for costs related to replacement of the heating system at the Irving A. Robbins Middle School, and related work and improvements, as approved at adjourned town meeting vote held on May 2, 2013, for an aggregate appropriation and aggregate borrowing authorization of \$2,000,000. The appropriation may be spent for design, installation and construction costs, engineering and other consultant fees, materials, equipment, legal fees, net temporary interest and other financing costs, and other expenses related to the project.

If approved, resolution #3 will appropriate \$1,100,000 and authorize borrowing for costs related to acquisition of two pumper fire engines to replace Engine 4 and Engine 6 stationed at the Farmington Fire Station, and related equipment. The appropriation may be spent for acquisition and commissioning costs, equipment, consultant fees, legal fees, net temporary interest and other financing costs, and other expenses related to the project.

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.