



THE FARMINGTON TOWN LETTER

Town Hall, 1 Monteith Drive, Farmington, CT 06032

www.farmington-ct.org

A Note From Our Town Council Chair

With July going down in history as the hottest month on record, we are especially thankful for the hard work and continued efforts of all town employees that braved the heat. Our Public Works department has been hard at work on the milling, paving, and the ongoing maintenance of local town roads. The summer is a beautiful time in Farmington, and we are fortunate to have many scenic trails, wonderful parks, and a community garden that enables people to get outside, connect, and take advantage of all that summer has to offer.

Check out the Economic Development Commission's community engagement web site, Explore Farmington (www.explorefarmington.com), to learn about upcoming programs and events. While you're there, sign up for weekly emails that will highlight the events of the coming week. There are so many exciting things happening in Farmington, and so many ways to have fun and get involved.

The Farmington High School (FHS) Building Committee has selected Construction Solutions Group (CSG) to serve as the owner's representative and is in the process of hiring architects. Attend a meeting, held bi-weekly on Wednesdays, at 5:00 pm or 7:00 pm, in the FHS Library. For more information, visit the Town website at www.farmington-ct.org.

With Summer winding down and Fall soon approaching, take note of upcoming dates for the **Town-Wide Bulky Waste Pick-up, the week of October 21st – 25th**, and the next **Household Hazardous Waste Collection, November 9th, at the Simsbury Public Works Facility**.

We have learned that newsletters are one of the preferred ways to receive important town information and updates. As a result, we have redesigned this newsletter and will be publishing it, and other town newsletters, on a more frequent basis. We hope you enjoy the new "look and feel" of **The Farmington Town Letter** and welcome your feedback.

Enjoy the rest of your Summer and the transition to Fall!

Sincerely,
Nancy W. Nickerson, Town Council Chair



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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 Director of Fire and Rescue, Steve Hoffman, at 860-675-2322, or email him at: hoffmanns@farmington-ct.org.

Join the Farmington Volunteer Fire Department Today!

CPR Classes



Join members of the Town of Farmington Fire Department at the Senior/Community Center for the **American Heart Association's Family & Friends CPR Course**.

This no-cost, video-based course teaches CPR and relief of choking in adults, children and infants, and the use of an Automated External Defibrillator (AED).

Participants receive a student manual for ongoing reference. This course is for those who want to learn basic CPR, but do not need a course completion card.

Upcoming Dates:

Wednesday, 9/11/19, 7:00 pm - 10:00 pm
Wednesday, 12/11/19, 10:00 am - 1:00 pm

To sign up for a class, go to:

<http://www.farmington-ct.org/departments/fire-department/cpr-registration>.



Dryer Safety Tips

- Do not use the dryer without a lint filter.
- Have your dryer installed and serviced by a professional.
- Make sure you clean the lint filter before or after each load of laundry. Remove lint that has collected around the drum.
- Rigid or flexible metal venting material should be used to sustain proper air flow and drying time.
- Make sure the air exhaust vent pipe is not restricted and the outdoor vent flap will open when the dryer is operating. Clean vent pipe annually.
- Keep dryer in good working order. Gas dryers should be inspected by a qualified professional to make sure that the gas line and connection are intact and free of leaks.
- Make sure the right plug and outlet are used and that the machine is connected properly.
- Follow the manufacturer's operating instructions and don't overload your dryer.
- Turn the dryer off if you leave home or when you go to sleep.

FACT: The leading cause of home clothes dryer fires is failure to clean them.

- Dryers should be properly grounded.
- Keep the area around your dryer clear of things that can burn, like boxes, cleaning supplies, clothing, etc.
- Clothes that have come in contact with flammable substances, like gasoline, paint thinner, or similar solvents, should be laid outside to dry, then can be washed and dried as usual.



September 16, 2019 – Are We Recycling Right? Farmington Main Library, 6:30 pm

October 21 - 25, 2019 – Fall Town-Wide Bulky Waste Collection

November 9, 2019 – Household Hazardous Waste Collection, Simsbury Public Works Facility, 66 Town Forest Road, 8:00 am - 1:00 pm

Household Hazardous Waste Collection

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 next collection will take place on Saturday, November 9th, at the Simsbury Public Works Facility, 66 Town Forest Road, from 8:00 am - 1:00 pm.**

For more information, go to:

<http://www.farmington-ct.org/departments/highway-grounds/household-hazardous-waste>.

Farmington Village Center Update

On July 10, 2018, the Town Council appointed the **Farmington Village Center Committee** to determine the future use of the Parson's property, and make recommendations on pedestrian quality of life enhancements for the Farmington Village Center Study area. A top priority of the committee was to engage and encourage public participation. Public forums, online surveys, and engagement events were held to determine resident's preferences and priorities.

The committee worked with BSC Group to develop a conceptual streetscape master plan that, when implemented, will reflect the community's vision for a universally accessible, greener, safer, and more welcoming Farmington Village Center.

To view the streetscape master plan, please visit: <http://bit.ly/2KOrCFS>

Are We Recycling Right?

Presenter Sherill Baldwin, Environmental Analyst III, CT DEEP, will talk all about recycling, including what goes in the bin, what stays out, and the impact of China's National Sword on Connecticut's recycling programs. **Join her at the main library on Monday, September 16th, at 6:30 pm.** There will be time for questions at the end of the presentation.

Ms. Baldwin has worked in sustainable materials management for over 30 years, and at the DEEP since 2008.

New Town Planner Appointed

The Town of Farmington is pleased to announce that a new Town Planner has been appointed to help guide preservation and development efforts for the town.

Mark DeVoe is certified by the American Institute of Certified Planners, and has 30 years of experience in planning, for both public and private concerns. Having recently served as Director of Planning and Economic Development in nearby Plainville, DeVoe was instrumental in integrating municipal and environmental planning, economic development, conservation, and zoning functions under one position there. The depth and breadth of his experience will serve the Town of Farmington well, as we work to implement community plans, while navigating private development proposals.

As DeVoe settles into his new position, he will also be working to utilize the town's website as a platform for public transparency. To that end, work will soon be underway to enhance the accessibility of information on the website, including pending plans and development applications.

As that work is being done, DeVoe recommends that anyone interested in development visit the town's website at: www.farmington-ct.org, for more information. Over the coming weeks and months, you should be able to view an increasing amount of information on significant development proposals.

Notes From Paula Ray, Town Clerk

Absentee Ballots

The date of the Municipal Election this fall is November 5, 2019. College students, and anyone else who will be out of town on election day, are encouraged to fill out their absentee ballot applications before leaving. Their applications will be kept on file in the Town Clerk's office, and their ballots will be issued on October 4, 2019, which is the first day regular absentee ballots become available.

Absentee balloting is a two-step process:

1. The first step is to fill out an application, which can be obtained in person or by mail from the Town Clerk's office and online at: <http://www.farmington-ct.org/departments/town-clerk>. Applications are also available from the Secretary of the State's office at www.sots.state.ct.us. Completed applications should be returned to the Town Clerk's Office, 1 Monteith Drive, Farmington, CT 06032-1053. Any applications received before October 4, 2019, will be kept on file and their ballots will be issued on October 4, 2019. Any applications received on or after October 4, 2019, will have ballots issued within 24 hours.
2. The second step is to return the completed ballot to the Town Clerk's Office, 1 Monteith Drive, Farmington, CT 06032-1053. To have your ballot counted, it must be received by the close of the polls on Election Day.

FHS Building Project Update

The Farmington High School (FHS) Building Committee was established earlier this year and has been busy with four subcommittees, working in the areas of communication, professional partnership, finance, and site evaluation.

Recently, the committee selected Construction Solutions Group (CSG) to serve as the owner's representative and is in the process of hiring architects. The committee and subcommittees are currently progressing through the Conceptual Option phase of the process.

Conceptual Option Phase

Evaluate conceptual options from multiple architects to provide Town Council with the information they need to set the net municipal project budget range and project scope.

Preliminary Design Phase

Design a comprehensive solution to meet the BOE Statement of Needs that falls within the net municipal project budget range and project scope set by Town Council.



Myla is Our 2019 Top Dog Winner!

As winner this year, Myla received the number "1" dog tag, some tasty treats, and toys. She is a merle-colored Australian Shepherd/Corgi mix who will turn two in October. Myla loves to play frisbee, soccer, and volleyball. She also loves to swim and play catch with her human brothers, Kaden and Xzavior. **Congratulations to Myla and her family!**

Animal Control Reminder

While outside enjoying the Summer weather, please be mindful of your neighbors and ensure that your pets are leashed and/or contained in your yard. We ask this is for the safety and enjoyment of your pets and your neighbors. Thank you for your cooperation.

For FHS Building Committee agendas, meeting schedules, and more information about the process, please visit <http://bit.ly/2OinF1b>. New website coming soon: FHSbuildingproject.org

The committee meets bi-weekly, on Wednesdays, at 5:00 PM and 7:00 PM, in the FHS Library.

Members of the public are encouraged to attend!

100 Years Ago, in Farmington

In 1919, the population of the Town of Farmington was approximately 3,800 people, with a school population of 717.

The Town was managed by a First Selectman, two Selectmen, and a Treasurer. The schools were overseen by the nine-member Board of School Visitors. All major decisions were made by votes at Town Meetings.

Selectmen's Orders, today the Town Operating Budget, was \$53,967.52 of which \$27,452.75 was appropriated for the schools – Center, Union, and Farmington High School. The Selectmen's Orders were approved by Town Meeting.

A summary of the 1919 Selectmen's Orders:

Roads and Bridges	\$10,204.65
Electric Lights	\$1,968.61
Town Farm & Inmates	\$2,187.98
Town Clerk's Office	\$1,178.64
Printing	\$588.93
Town Officers	\$2,012.19
Poor Outside Town Farm	\$2,308.50
Town Halls	\$2,731.57
Schools	\$27,452.75
Sundry Orders	\$3,573.70
Less Rent Town Farm	(\$240.00)
Total	\$53,967.52



The Barney Library was built in 1919. Originally called the Village Library, it was donated to the town by D. Newton Barney, in honor of his mother, Sarah Brandegee Barney. A children's wing was added in 1959. The Village Library was the town's main library until 1983, when it became a branch library. It was renamed the Barney Library in 1999.

Some topics of the Town Meetings held in 1919 were the approval of the Annual Report, the purchase of a dump truck for road repairs, sewer and storm drain installations, the formation of a committee to define the duties of the Town Auditor, and appropriation of funds for the observance of Declaration Day.

The High School was found to be in disrepair by the State of Connecticut Inspector of Schools. In the Annual Report, the High School Principal reported that the High School was overcrowded and unable to provide classes found in other high schools, such as, manual training, mechanical drawing and design, domestic science, sewing, textile and industrial chemistry, and shop work. It was his opinion that what was needed was a new high school with a community gymnasium.

Things have changed over the past century in Farmington, but the business of the Town, in many ways, has stayed the same.

Lower Farmington River Designated "Wild and Scenic"

On March 12, 2019, a bill passed that included a "Wild and Scenic" designation for the 1.1-mile section of the Lower Farmington River. This Lower Section has joined the 14-mile Upper Section of the Farmington River, designated "Wild and Scenic" in 1994. The **Farmington Wild and Scenic River** segment now runs from the base of the Goodwin Dam in Hartland, to the Nepaug River confluence in Canton (slightly upstream of the Canton Town Bridge). The segment is 15.1 miles long. For more information on the protections the designation offers, and the management of the Farmington River segment, go to: <http://www.farmingtonriver.org/index.php/wild-and-scenic-information>.





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It's a Toilet, Not a Trash Can

Toilets are only meant for one activity, and you know what we're talking about! When the wrong things are flushed, results can include costly backups on your own property, and in the Town's sewer system. They also cause problems at our wastewater treatment plant. That's why it's so important to treat toilets properly and flush only your personal contributions to the Town's wastewater treatment plant.

Don't flush any items like:

- Baby wipes and diapers
- Paper towels
- Cleaning/disinfecting wipes
- Cotton swabs
- Syringes
- Candy and other food wrappers
- Cleaning sponges
- Plastic items of any description
- Kitty litter
- Rubber items such as latex gloves
- Cigarette butts
- Sanitary napkins
- Hair
- Underwear
- Disposable toilet brushes

Kitchen Clean Up

Rinsing Fats, Oils, and Grease (FOG) and food waste down your drains also results in problems in our pipes and sewer system. Over time, layers of FOG build up and form restrictions, blockages and accumulations in our sewers and pump stations. Allow grease and oil to cool and pour it into a container, or wipe it out of pots, pans and dishes, and dispose of it in the garbage.

Also, make use of the Drug Collection Unit available at the Police Department to dispose of unused medications. Remember, in one way or another, **ALL DRAINS LEAD TO THE RIVER.**

Water Pollution Control Facility Upgrade Update

The comprehensive upgrade to the Town's Water Pollution Control Facility has been underway for three years and is on course to be completed during this construction season.

The last process areas to be completed are the sludge handling facilities, along with their associated odor control systems. Interior building renovations, site restoration, and landscaping will be the final work to be completed.

The project is currently progressing on time and on budget, and is nearing 95 percent completion.

The completed facility will improve discharge water quality by removing nitrogen and phosphorous, and produce a higher quality effluent with greater reliability and efficiency for years to come.



Automated screening machines remove any large debris that comes into the plant, to protect downstream equipment.