



# THE FARMINGTON TOWN LETTER

Town Hall, 1 Monteith Drive, Farmington, CT 06032

[www.farmington-ct.org](http://www.farmington-ct.org)

## A Note From Our Town Council Chair

On January 14, 2020 I was sworn in as the new Town Council Chair. Five other new members of the Town Council were sworn in that evening as well. I am sure that I speak for each member of the Council in saying thank you for putting your trust in us and we will do our best to earn it over the next two years.

At our first meeting, I quoted the philosopher Plato by saying, “the beginning is the most important part of the work.” We have certainly hit the ground running since being sworn in. The Town Council recently approved the 2020-2022 Strategic Plan. The Strategic Plan is a living document, intended to be modified, amended, and updated to reflect the needs and interests of our community. It is our guide for the decisions and actions we will make throughout our term. The recently approved Strategic Plan can be found on our Town website at: <https://www.farmington-ct.org/government/town-council/town-council-document-central>.

On February 4, 2020 the Farmington High School Building Committee presented its recommendation for a new building, designed by TSKP Studio. The Town Council unanimously agreed with its recommendation and set the net municipal budget for this project at \$105M- \$110M. This is an exciting time for our community, and I encourage all residents to become engaged and informed. The selected option is a comprehensive solution to meet the needs of Farmington High School, and addresses the risk of losing accreditation, ADA compliance, and security issues. Over the next few months, the FHS Building Committee will work diligently to refine the design for the selected option. Please visit [www.fhsbuildingproject.org](http://www.fhsbuildingproject.org) for information on the selected option and the FHS Building Committee.

Lastly, I encourage you to stay informed and involved during this year’s budget process, particularly during the Annual Town Meeting on April 27, 2020 and the Referendum Vote on May 7, 2020. Although the vote is months away, Town Council budget meetings begin on February 25th, with a public hearing on the Town Manager’s Capital Budget. In this newsletter, you will see a complete budget schedule. 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.

I look forward to serving the Town of Farmington as Chair for the next two years. Please do not hesitate to contact me at [thomascj@farmington-ct.org](mailto:thomascj@farmington-ct.org) if you have any questions or concerns.

**C.J. Thomas**  
Town Council Chair

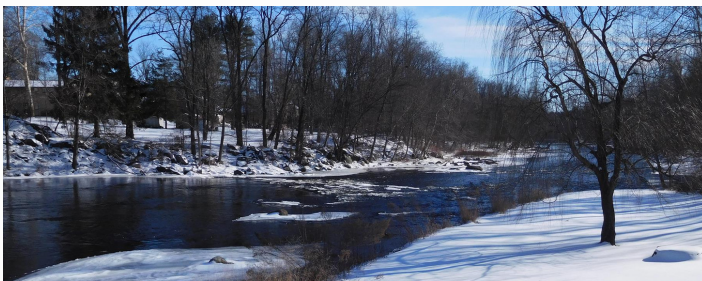


Photo Courtesy of John Cudworth

### 2020 Budget Schedule

- **February 25, 2020 - Capital Budget Presentation**, 6:00 pm, Town Hall Council Chambers
- **March 10, 2020 - Public Hearing on Town Manager’s Recommended Budget**, 7:00 pm, Town Hall Council Chambers
- **March 11, 2020 - Town Council Budget Workshop**, 4:00 pm, Town Hall Council Chambers
- **March 12, 2020 - Town Council Budget Workshop**, 4:00 pm, Town Hall Council Chambers
- **March 14, 2020 - Town Council Budget Workshop**, 9:00 am, Town Hall Council Chambers
- **March 16, 2020 - Town Council Budget Workshop (if needed)**, 4:00 pm, Town Hall Council Chambers
- **March 17, 2020 - Town Council Budget Workshop (if needed)**, 4:00 pm, Town Hall Council Chambers
- **April 7, 2020 - Public Hearing on Town Council’s Proposed Budget**, 7:00 pm, Town Hall Council Chambers
- **April 27, 2020 - First Annual Town Meeting**, 7:00 pm, FHS Auditorium
- **May 7, 2020 - First Budget Referendum**
- **May 8, 2020 - Town Council Meeting (only if first Referendum fails)**, 4:00 pm, Town Hall Council Chambers
- **May 11, 2020 - Second Annual Town Meeting (if needed)**, 7:00 pm, FHS Auditorium
- **May 21, 2020 - Second Referendum (if needed)**

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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're interested, please call Director of Fire and Rescue Services, Steve Hoffmann, at 860-675-2322, or email him at: hoffmanns@farmington-ct.org.

Community feedback is also needed. Please take the time to fill out the Fire Department's survey, check out the first issue of their new, quarterly newsletter, and add your name to their email distribution list. Find this and more on the Fire Department's page of the Town of Farmington's website.

Join and Help Support the Town of Farmington Fire Department Today!



## Reminder of The Ridgeline Protection Act

The Metacomet ridgeline in Connecticut has been identified as being a key cultural and scenic asset that is deserving of preservation. In 1998, the State of Connecticut enacted the Ridgeline Protection Act, authorizing towns and cities to protect this resource. On July 26, 1999, the Farmington Town Planning and Zoning Commission (TPZ) adopted Ridgeline Protection Area (RPA) regulations to protect what scenic vista remains of the ridgeline, within Farmington. The regulation impacts all development and tree removal within the RPA, from the date of its passage. Activities that occurred prior to the enactment of the law are not subject to enforcement action, but all new activity since then is. In Farmington, the Metacomet ridgeline runs generally north-south to the east of State Route 10, and many local properties lie within its boundaries.

The desire to clear trees along the ridgeline to improve scenic vistas from homes is understandable; however, the Town has had to enforce the regulation due to the removal of trees on the ridgeline by owners unaware of these regulations. We hope to avoid such occurrences in the future through this friendly reminder. In providing this notification, we hope to mitigate future enforcement action and costly mistakes. While certain activities can be approved within the Ridgeline Protection Area, they must be presented to the Town Planning and Zoning Commission, for consideration.

The RPA regulations can be found in Section 26 of the Farmington Zoning Regulations at: <https://www.farmington-ct.org/home/showdocument?id=17401>. In addition, you can view your property by inputting the street address or owner's information using the Town of Farmington GIS System: <http://farmington.mapxpress.net/>.

Generally speaking, the RPA encompasses all land within an area as much as 150 feet from the highest point of the ridgeline. If you are unsure as to whether you are within the RPA boundaries, and you are planning activities including tree cutting and/or construction of any kind in the area, please contact the Planning Office at 860-675-2325. We will be happy to answer any questions you have. If it is found that a formal application is necessary to perform the planned work, we will also provide you with the information needed to make such application to the TPZ.

## 2020 CPR Classes



- Wednesday, 3/11/20, 10:00 am - 1:00 pm
- Wednesday, 6/10/20, 7:00 - 10:00 pm
- Wednesday, 9/9/20, 7:00 - 10:00 pm
- Wednesday, 12/9/20, 10:00 am - 1:00 pm

**Brought to you at NO COST by the Town of Farmington Fire Department.**

**Register today:**

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

### Friends & Family CPR

The AHA's Family & Friends CPR Course is a video-based, classroom course intended for anyone who wants to learn CPR and prefers to learn in an Instructor-led or facilitated group environment. This course is for people who do not need a course completion card for a job or other requirements. Family & Friends CPR is ideal for community groups, parents, grandparents, caregivers, schools and students, and others interested in learning how to save a life.

**All Community CPR Classes will be held in the Yates Community Room, at the Farmington Police Station, 319 New Britain Ave., Unionville, CT, 06085.**



**April 20 - 24, 2020** – Town-Wide Bulky Waste Collection

**April 25, 2020** – Household Hazardous Waste Collection, Farmington High School, 10 Monteith Drive, 8:00 am - 1:00 pm

## Town-Wide Bulky Waste Collection Service

The next town-wide bulky waste collection will begin on Monday, April 20th and will be picked up on your normal trash pickup day, during the week of April 20-24, 2020.

During this week, 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.

**Additional information, including lists of Acceptable and Unacceptable items, can be found on the Town website: <http://www.farmington-ct.org/departments/highway-grounds/bulk-waste-collection>.**

Any questions or concerns, please contact Farmington Highway & Grounds Division at 860-675-2550.

## FHS Building Project Committee Update



On February 4, 2020 the Farmington High School Building Committee presented its recommendation for a new building designed by TSKP. The Town Council unanimously agreed with its recommendation and set the net municipal budget for this project at \$105M- \$110M. The Building Committee will now move to the Preliminary Design Phase of their process to develop a detailed schematic design of the selected option.

Please visit the committee's website, [www.fhsbuildingproject.org](http://www.fhsbuildingproject.org) to learn about the selected option, the FHS facility, frequently asked questions, meeting information and upcoming events.

### Household Hazardous Waste Collections

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 am - 1:00 pm and will be open to all residents of Avon, Canton, Farmington, Granby and Simsbury.

#### 2020 Dates and Locations

- **April 25, 2020** – at Farmington High School, 10 Monteith Drive, Farmington, CT
- **June 13, 2020** – at Simsbury Public Works Facility, 66 Town Forest Road, Simsbury, CT
- **October 17, 2020** - 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 of:

- Electronics Recycling
- Used Motor Oil
- Personal Document Shredding - until the trucks are full (please limit yourself to 2 boxes)

#### For more information, including lists of acceptable and unacceptable items, go to:

<http://www.farmington-ct.org/departments/highway-grounds/household-hazardous-waste> or call Farmington Highway & Grounds at 860-675-2550.

## Simple Recycling! Keep Up the Great Work Farmington!

*In December, residents recycled 3,665 lbs of textiles!*

### Tips/FAQs :

- Your bag must be out early, the night before preferably, so that the recycling hauler can tell Simple Recycling that there is a pick up needed.
- Place your pink bag outside on your recycling week.
- Leave the bags out all afternoon for collection. The Simple Recycling truck comes after your recycling is picked up.
- Place your bags next to your recycling bin.
- Please don't put your Simple Recycling bag on top of your recycling bin.
- If you are using a non-pink bag, please mark it clearly with a piece of paper etc., so that the hauler knows it's Simple Recycling and not trash.
- Report any missed pickups to Simple Recycling.

**For more information about the Simple Recycling program, residents can visit [www.simplerecycling.com](http://www.simplerecycling.com).**

Need additional bags? Visit [www.SimpleRecycling.com](http://www.SimpleRecycling.com)  
Call 1-866-835-5068 or email [info@simplerecycling.com](mailto:info@simplerecycling.com)



## How Can I Get Rid of Latex and Oil-based Paint? Recycle it through PaintCare – it's FREE!

A Connecticut Law requires the paint and coating industry to develop a financially and environmentally sustainable solution to manage post-consumer architectural paint. Under the 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>.



# THE FARMINGTON TOWN LETTER

Town Hall, Farmington, CT 06032-1053  
[www.farmington-ct.org](http://www.farmington-ct.org)

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## Notes From Paula Ray, Town Clerk

*April 28, 2020 - the State of Connecticut will be holding a Presidential Primary.*

### Important Dates and Notes for the Presidential Primary:

- The hours of voting are 6:00 am - 8:00 pm, at your regular polling place.
- If you know you are going to be out of town for the Presidential Primary, stop in the Town Clerk's office or call us for an application for an absentee ballot.
- Starting April 7, 2020 Absentee Ballots are available from the Town Clerk's Office.

### Qualifications to vote in a primary:

- You must be enrolled in the party holding the primary.
- January 28, 2020 was the deadline to switch from one party to another and be eligible to vote in the Presidential Primary.
- For unaffiliated voters to be eligible to vote, the deadline to enroll in a party for the Presidential Primary is April 23, 2020 by mail and April 27, 2020 at noon, in person.

**If you have any questions about voting by absentee ballot, please call my office at 860-675-2380 and for questions about voter registration, please call the Registrar of Voters at 860-675-2367.**



As you traveled through Unionville Center and over the DiPietro Bridge, you may have noticed the beautiful Holiday Kissing Balls there. These holiday decorations are part of the annual Beautify Farmington Program. The program is in its 9th year and is a collaboration between the town, our founding sponsor, Farmington Garden Club, and donations from residents and local businesses.

In May, summer flowering baskets will decorate Unionville Center and the DiPietro Bridge. If you love the holiday kissing balls and summer baskets, please consider joining this worthwhile community program.

Information on the Beautify Farmington Program, along with a complete list of Winter sponsors, can be found on the Economic Development's website at: [www.choosefarmington.com/beautify-farmington-program](http://www.choosefarmington.com/beautify-farmington-program).





**Thomaston Savings Bank**

**2019 Winter Beautify Farmington Sponsors**

Winter Sponsor: Thomaston Savings Bank  
 Founding Sponsor: Farmington Garden Club

**Premier Business Sponsors**

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**Community Sponsors**

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**Naming Sponsors**

	Barbara Brenneman, In memory of Diann Graeber Dorothy and Gerard Haviland, In memory of Steve Flis George & Carol Reider, In loving memory of David and George III Paula Ray, In memory of Margery Belkin Servpro of the Farmington Valley Interscape Commercial Environment Ann F. Newbury Judith King Michael & Martha Cheshire E Nicole Delong Kay Belanger Joyce & James Baldwin Evelyn M. Stewart William & Patricia Kowalski
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Thank You to One and All!

