



THE FARMINGTON TOWN LETTER

Town Hall, 1 Monteith Drive, Farmington, CT 06032

www.farmington-ct.org

A Note From Our Town Council Chair

Since our March 10th Town Council meeting, the Town of Farmington has worked to provide timely communications to our businesses and residents in an effort to equip everyone with resources and information to keep our community healthy and safe. I am including a recap of many of those communications below.

There has been a rapid escalation of COVID-19 cases across the country, in our state and Town, and with the proportionately small number of individuals actually being tested in Connecticut; we should assume more people are infected than what is being reported. As such, Farmington has experienced an uptick in the number of positive cases and we expect that this number will continue to rise.

Everyday, preventative actions such as social distancing, washing your hands, avoiding touching your face, and disinfecting surfaces can help stop the spread of germs. Residents should familiarize themselves with the necessary actions on how to protect themselves and their families and slow the spread of this virus in our community. The chart to the right outlines the steps you should take, depending on your situation.

As this situation continues to evolve, updates to Town services and closures are occurring frequently. Some of the latest updates include:

- Town facilities are closed to the public, except for the Town Clerk's Office (please call 860- 675-2380 in advance). Town staff will continue to work on site or remotely during normal operating hours. Residents are advised to interact with the Town online, via email, over the phone, or through US Mail. A secure drop box has been placed in the Town Hall lobby for the public to leave documents for Town departments.
- A list of service offerings by department is posted on the Town website, www.farmington-ct.org and updated frequently.
- Farmington Community Services is providing many supportive services. Please do not hesitate to contact 860-675-2390.
- A Frequently Asked Questions document has been added to the Town website, and is updated as more questions from businesses and residents are received.
- At this time, parks and trails remain open. Please practice social distancing.
- All athletic fields are closed to organized activities.
- Playscapes/swing sets at all Town parks, pocket parks, and school facilities are closed until further notice.
- Basketball and Tennis Courts are closed until further notice
- Westwoods Golf Course is open and following the established guidelines by the Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development.

In response to COVID-19, Governor Lamont issued Executive Orders pertaining to the municipal budget processes. As a result, our budget process has been modified to comply with the Governor's Executive Orders, while also providing the Town with flexibility for navigating through a pandemic. Page 2 of this newsletter outlines the changes and provides the anticipated schedule.

Please visit the COVID-19 page on www.farmington-ct.org for the latest updates. Thank you all for making Farmington the strong, caring community it is. Let us continue to support each other through these challenging times. Be well.

C.J. Thomas
Town Council Chair

DO YOUR PART---SLOW THE SPREAD OF COVID-19

<p>I am sick with fever (100.4), cough and / or difficulty breathing</p> <p>Stay HOME- do not leave the home unless to seek medical care (call provider or hospital first before going).</p> <p>Self ISOLATION- stay away from others in the house.</p> <p>Clearance Instructions: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/steps-when-sick.html</p>	<p>I had contact with confirmed case or someone who had symptoms</p> <p>Stay HOME for 14 days and SELF-MONITOR for symptoms.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. check temperature in AM and PM 2. watch for other symptoms 3. if symptoms develop- stay home (see red box) <p>Self-Quarantine: Avoid going out, being in groups</p>	<p>I have no symptoms</p> <p>DO YOUR Part:</p> <p>Practice Social Distancing No groups Keep 6 foot distance</p> <p>Comply with Closures</p> <p>Wash your hands Use hand sanitizer Don't touch your face If symptoms develop- stay home (see red box)</p> <p><small>https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/when-to-self-isolate.html</small></p>
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FVHD Contact FVHD for more information. Call 860-352-2333 or visit www.FVHD.org

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Donation Requests

The COVID-19 pandemic has caused international shortages of critical Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for our healthcare workers and first responders. While we are continuously working with local, state, and federal officials to obtain additional PPE, please consider donating unused PPE or medical supplies. Items that are needed include:

- N95 masks
- Surgical masks
- Medical face shields or goggles
- Rubber gloves
- Purell hand sanitizer (or equivalent),
- Isolation gowns
- Temporal thermometers

To donate supplies, please contact Lt. Pat Buckley at buckleyp@farmington-ct.org or 860-675-2464.

While the Farmington Food Pantry is unable to accept food donations during the COVID-19 pandemic, monetary donations via paypal are accepted to help our community. To contribute, please visit www.farmingtonfoodpantryct.com.

Additionally, cleaning supplies, wipes, paper towels, toilet paper, or other essential supplies can be donated to families in need. Donations can be left in the shopping cart located outside of the Staples House, 2 Monteith Drive, Farmington.

Business Resources

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Economic Development website, www.explorefarmington.com has been changed to a Farmington COVID-19 Response Site. We believe these changes will allow you to better navigate the COVID- 9 response efforts, and better support our local businesses. Some of the new features include a list of essential businesses that are still operating, community updates, and business and financial resources.

Despite this difficult time, there have been countless examples of kindness, ingenuity, and generosity. Many of our local businesses are employing new and creative ways to connect with their customers, neighbors are helping neighbors, and community leaders are matching needs to available resources. Some of these Hometown Heroes are highlighted on the "Updates" page on Explore Farmington's website.

Anticipated Budget Schedule*

Original Date	Normal Action	Modified Process
April 27, 2020	First Annual Town Meeting	Annual Town Meeting is cancelled per Executive Order
April 28, 2020	Town Council Meeting	Meeting remains on calendar for any possible changes to the budget due to the COVID-19 pandemic
May 7, 2020	First Budget Referendum	Budget Referendum is cancelled per Executive Order
May 12, 2020	Set the Mill Rate	Town Council will adopt a budget for FY 2020/2021 and set the tax rate at their regular meeting on 5/12

*Subject to Change due to COVID-19 public health crisis

COVID-19 Guidelines for Grocery Stores

Governor Lamont announced "Safe Store Rules" to reduce the risk of transmission of COVID-19 among customers and employees, effective April 3, 2020. These rules include social distancing measures, such as capping the store occupancy at 50%, marking six feet on the floor for checkout lines and high traffic areas, and creating one-way aisles to maximize spacing between customers. **As a result, Farmington Valley Health District has issued the following guidelines for grocery shopping:**

- Maintain a six foot distance between you, fellow shoppers, and employees.
- Go shopping alone, one per household, when possible.
- Make a comprehensive list.
- Avoid shopping for only one thing at a time, and shop for 14 days if possible.
- Wipe down your cart before use.
- Use debit or credit cards to limit exposure to cashiers.
- Use a delivery service.
- Avoid peak shopping times (weekends and 4-6pm during the week).

Important Updates to the Budget Process

Governor Lamont has issued several Executive Orders that affect the Town of Farmington budget process. The most significant change is that the Governor has declared that municipalities shall not hold an annual town meeting or budget referendum. By Executive Order, the Town Council must adopt the budget for FY 2020/2021.

The Public Hearing on the budget was held on April 7, 2020. This meeting was conducted via an online meeting to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. At the April 7, 2020 meeting, the Town Council approved a resolution which set a new budget schedule per the Governor's Executive Order. **Based on that schedule, it is projected that the Town Council will adopt the FY 2020/2021 budget at the May 12, 2020 regular Town Council meeting and set the mill rate at that time.**

The coming weeks will offer more data and information regarding the impact of the COVID-19 public health crisis, which will enable the Town Council to make better decisions regarding the budget on May 12, 2020. The April 28, 2020 Town Council meeting remains on the calendar, which will give the Town Council an opportunity to revisit the budget before the May 12, 2020 meeting, if necessary.

Budget Information is available on the Town Budget page under "About Us" at www.farmington-ct.org. The Town Council Proposed Budget is also included as an insert to this newsletter.



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

Schedule Changes:

April 25, 2020 - Household Hazardous Waste Collection has been **cancelled**. A new date will be posted on the Town Website in the near future.

April 25, 2020- Annual Clean Up Day has been **postponed** until the Fall.

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.

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.

Hazards of Improper Waste Disposal



Improper household waste disposal leads to water pollution, land pollution, air pollution, loss of biodiversity and exposes residents to health risks.

When improperly disposed, chemical wastes find their way into waterbodies through surface runoff and seepage into groundwater. These polluted waters are unsuitable for recreation, consumption as drinking water, agriculture or any other economic activity, due to their adverse health effects.

Additionally, many of us have mercury containing products at home: thermometers, thermostats, fluorescent lights, CFLs, barometers, and electrical switches, and relays. It is important that any device containing mercury be disposed of at the Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event. Mercury is a heavy metal that can be toxic to humans and wildlife or cause serious neurological or reproductive disorders.

REMEMBER: ALL STORM DRAINS LEAD TO A STREAM, POND OR RIVER. NOTHING BUT RAIN DOWN THE DRAIN.

Water Pollution Control Facility Upgrade

The comprehensive upgrade to the Town's Water Pollution Control Facility was completed in late 2019. This upgrade included new Headworks, Grit Removal, Four Primary Settling Tanks, Aeration Tank 3 & Aeration Tank 1 and 2 retrofitting, Final Settling Tank 3 and Final Settling Tank 1 and 2 retrofitting, UV Disinfection, Solids Transfer, and Dewatering. The upgraded facility's capacity has increased from 5.65 MGD to 6.30 MGD and has design peak of 18.97 MGD.

The facility will help improve effluent quality by removing nitrogen and phosphorus and will treat our wastewater more reliably and efficiently. The Ultraviolet Disinfection System is now in use and has eliminated the use of chemicals previously used to disinfect treated effluent. New instrumentation and control allow data collection and trending for all plant process allowing process optimization and enhancement.

The comprehensive upgrade also included energy cost saving projects which include improvements to pump station instrumentation and control, heating control systems, energy efficient lighting, and emergency back-up power systems for the seventeen pump stations within town.





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Notes From Paula Ray, Town Clerk

DOG 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 860-675-2380 or email rayp@farmington-ct.org with any questions.



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 2020-2021.

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 18, 2020, 10:00 a.m., in the Town Clerk's Office, to determine Farmington's Top Dog.

FISHING FACTS:

- Under an Executive Order, fishing season was opened early in public waters, to encourage social distancing.
- 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.

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 second issue of their 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.

2020 CPR Classes



- 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.