



THE FARMINGTON TOWN LETTER

Town Hall, 1 Monteith Drive, Farmington, CT 06032

www.farmington-ct.org

A Note From Our Town Council Chair

I have seen so many things that have made me proud of Farmington these past few months; I would like to share a few.

- We have continued to face down a pandemic of historic proportions, while showing respect for our neighbors. We have socially distanced ourselves, worn masks, and have reached out in support of those on the front lines.
- Local businesses have shown their resilience and their creativity in how they have operated. Through curbside pickup, outdoor dining, and delivery services, they have helped to meet our needs and have allowed us to stay close to home and our loved ones.
- Town employees have gone above and beyond to help keep some sense of normalcy. The Town Hall has remained in operation throughout, teachers have mastered distance learning, Social Services have helped those most in need, Public Works has kept our infrastructure operating, and first responders have been on call 24 hours a day.
- I would like to once again congratulate the FHS class of 2020 for a job well done and an outstanding and memorable graduation! The weather was fantastic, the students were able to walk the stage outdoors, and the fireworks finale made it very special.
- Recently, as the death of George Floyd has brought the national tragedy of social injustice to the forefront, our citizens have held numerous protests, in an effort to try and peacefully bring about change. The Town Manager, Chief of Police and I wrote a letter on this issue that can be found on our website - www.farmington-ct.org.
- The Town Council has assembled a working group that is tasked with establishing a Community Committee to Develop Strategies and Community Partnerships for Racial Justice. This committee will be diverse and include representatives from a large cross section in town. This group will be up and running in July.

While all of this has been going on, the regular business of Town operations has continued as well. The FY 20/21 budget was adopted in May. Governor Lamont issued executive orders modifying the budget process, outlined in the Town of Farmington Charter. There was an explicit restriction on holding the Annual Town Meeting and the budget referendum, and the Town Council was charged with setting the budget and tax rate for FY 2020-2021. At the May 12, 2020 Town Council public meeting, held through Zoom, the Council unanimously adopted the FY 2020-2021 Town of Farmington Budget. The adopted budget has no tax increase. As such, the mill rate will remain at 27.97 and the Solid Waste Service Charge will remain at \$235. More information about the FY 2020-2021 Adopted Budget can be found on our website.

Due to the uncertainty regarding the economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Farmington High School Building Committee (FHSBC) project is on a temporary pause and will not be on the November ballot. During this pause, the FHSBC will continue to work with its consultants to complete the schematic design and to work on other open items. The FHSBC will continue to meet on a regular basis to evaluate new information and respond accordingly, communicate as necessary, and work closely with the Town Council and the Board of Education, in preparation of a new referendum date.

In April, the Farmington Town Council unanimously approved a Tax Deferment program. Under this program, eligible taxpayers (businesses, nonprofits, and residents) impacted by COVID-19, can obtain a deferment of three months, on taxes of real property, personal property or motor vehicles, sewer and waste charges and assessments, that are levied between 4/1/20 and 7/1/20. Information regarding the tax deferment program, including the guidelines and required documentation, is available on our website at the Tax Collector's Office web page - **Paperwork must be submitted by 7/1/20.**

Now that Summer is here, and the State continues a phased reopening plan, I want to thank everyone in the Town of Farmington for keeping strong during the COVID-19 pandemic. Our community has done a great job of working together and adjusting to many of the challenges to everyday life that COVID-19 has brought. The Farmington Valley Health District is continuously monitoring statistics. Please visit www.fvhd.org, for the latest information on Farmington and the Farmington Valley. Continue to visit the Town's COVID-19 website for the latest updates, while we all work together to keep our community healthy and safe.

As we continue to reopen, social distancing is more important than ever. Please always remember to maintain six feet between each other, and wear a face covering, per the Governor's guidance regarding gathering. You should have a face covering with you whenever you leave your home. Continue to practice preventative actions, such as washing your hands, avoiding touching your face, and disinfecting surfaces to help stop the spread of germs. Whether it's COVID-19, social issues, or daily life, our community is at its best when we work together. Please continue to be respectful to your neighbors.

Thank you and be well,

C.J. Thomas

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Notes From Paula Ray, Town Clerk

Absentee Ballots for the August 11, 2020 Primary:

By now, all registered Democrats and Republicans should have received an application for an absentee ballot, in the mail, from the Connecticut Secretary of the State's office, for the August 11, 2020 Primary. Anyone that feels they shouldn't be voting in person at the polls because of Covid-19, can check illness as their reason for voting by absentee ballot, per Executive Order 7QQ, issued by Governor Lamont, on May 20, 2020. If you wish to vote by absentee ballot, please fill out the application and return it to my office: Paula B. Ray, Town Clerk, 1 Monteith Drive, Farmington, CT 06032. We will mail ballots to all the voters that have sent us applications, beginning on July 21, 2020, which is the first day they become available to the public. If you choose to vote in person at the polls, please discard the application. If you have any questions about voting by absentee ballot, please call 860-675-2390. We understand this is a new process for many people.



Items of interest 75 years ago in Farmington:

- The Town Zoning Commission and the Town Plan Commission were consolidated into the Town Plan and Zoning Commission and a new Town Plan and Zoning Board of Appeals was created.
- \$3,500 was appropriated to establish a course at Farmington High School, designated by the State Board of Education as "Job Finding Program."
- A Committee was established to explore and study the question of consolidating the Town, Borough and School District Governments.
- A Committee was established to study a permanent Honor Roll for the men and women in the Armed Forces.
- E.W. Ellis reported that it was his fifteenth annual report as Superintendent of Schools and Principal of Farmington High School. He stated that peace had been declared and the seriousness of education took on a new prospective. All the boy graduates had or were entering the Armed Services, fifteen of the girl graduates had gone on to advanced institutions of learning, with the remaining girls entering the Business Field.



Memorial Day Parade, 1945, photo courtesy of the Unionville Museum

FHS Building Committee Update

During this time of uncertainty, The Town Council has decided to place the FHS Building Project on a temporary pause. Until more clarity can be shed on the short term impacts the pandemic has presented, the FHSBC will adjust committee operations to include the following:

- Create a new project information landing page on fhsbuildingproject.org, including FAQs and project information most relevant, during the timeline pause.
- Continue to meet monthly to evaluate new information as it is received.
- Work collaboratively with the Town Council and Board of Ed to establish a new project timeline, based on a projected referendum date.
- Stay connected to the Farmington community.

The FHS Building Committee has worked tirelessly over the past year, maintaining a course of action to ensure a new project is designed to meet all of the programmatic needs of the school district, our children and the Farmington Community at large. We look forward to seeing this project through, as we temporarily pause for this momentous event. We thank you for your continued support and active participation in this process. We are proud of the work we have accomplished to date, and we look forward to reconvening with all of you soon, in building a brighter future together.



After a brief pause due to COVID-19, Simple Recycling is up and running.

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.

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! <http://www.farmington-ct.org/government/conservation-inland-wetlands-commission>



October 17, 2020 - Household Hazardous Waste Collection, Simsbury Public Works Facility, 66 Town Forest Road, 8:00 am - 1:00 pm.

October 19 - 23, 2020 - Town-Wide Bulky Waste Collection

Town-Wide Bulky Waste Collection Service

The next town-wide bulky waste collection will begin on **Monday, October 19th** and will be picked up on your normal trash pickup day, during the week of **October 19-23, 2020**.

During the week of October 19th, 2020, 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.

Household Hazardous Waste Collections

The Town of Farmington is happy to announce that we are working with the Towns of Avon, Canton, Granby, Simsbury and Suffield 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, Simsbury and Suffield.

2020 Date and Location

- **October 17, 2020** - at Simsbury Public Works Facility, 66 Town Forest Road, Simsbury, CT

On the same date and location 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.

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.

General Reminders for Trash and Recycling:

- To ensure proper trash and recyclable pickups, all are required to be at the curbside the night before your normal trash/recycling day.
- Carts should be placed within 6 feet of curb, 4 feet away from other objects, and with the front of the cart facing the street. Do not place carts in the roadway.
- Always bag trash to keep cart clean and allow trash to flow out freely.
- Wash/clean regularly with ammonia or disinfectant cleaner to deter animals.
- Keep bears and other animals away from your carts by taping dryer sheets to the inside of the lid.
- No bulk items, construction debris, hazardous items, or flammable materials in carts.
- No grass clippings, branches, or lawn debris in carts.
- No plastic bags, soiled pizza boxes, Styrofoam, or other foam plastics in recycling carts.
- Only (3) holidays observed for the trash & recycling schedule: Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, and New Year's Day. Pickup days will be delayed by one (1) day, STARTING with the holiday.

For a copy of the current recycling calendar, trash & recycling collection routes, and recycling week A and B street listings, please visit: <https://www.farmington-ct.org/departments/highway-grounds/trash-and-recycling>.



We all have those items lying around the house that we aren't sure how to dispose of...Can I recycle it? Can it go in the trash? Is there a special disposal process?

CT DEEP has a great website to help answer these questions:

<https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP/Waste-Management-and-Disposal/What-Do-I-Do-With>

Or simply type: "CT DEEP What do I do with" into your search engine, and the website will be the top option. It provides helpful, up-to-date information on how to dispose of any household item. Dispose of all items properly to avoid water, land, and air contamination! Thank you!



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EXPLORE FARMINGTON Presented by ionBANK

The Farmington Economic Development Department has created a wonderful community website to keep us all informed about current events, business offerings and community issues.

Please visit explorefarmington.com, and follow them on Facebook and Intagram (@ExploreFarmingtonCT) to stay current with what's going on here in town. To sign up to receive regular emails, contact Rose Ponte at ponter@farmington-ct.org and add your email to her distribution list.

Grilling Safety

- Propane and charcoal BBQ grills should only be used outdoors.
- The grill should be placed well away from the home, deck railings and out from under eaves and overhanging branches.
- Keep children and pets at least three feet away from the grill area.
- Keep your grill clean by removing grease or fat buildup from the grills and in trays below the grill.
- Never leave your grill unattended.
- Always make sure your gas grill lid is open before lighting it.

Charcoal Grills

- If you use a starter fluid, use only charcoal starter fluid. Never add charcoal fluid or any other flammable liquids to the fire.
- Keep charcoal fluid out of the reach of children and away from heat sources.
- When you are finished grilling, let the coals completely cool before disposing in a metal container.

Propane Grills

Check the gas tank hose for leaks before using it for the first time each year. Apply a light soap and water solution to the hose. A propane leak will release bubbles. If your grill has a gas leak, by smell or the soapy bubble test, and there is no flame, turn off both the gas tank and the grill. If the leak stops, get the grill serviced by a professional before using it again. If the leak does not stop, call the fire department. **If you smell gas while cooking, immediately get away from the grill and call the fire department.** Do not move the grill. **For more information, visit: nfpa.org/education.**

2020 CPR Classes



- **Wednesday, 7/29/20, 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.



Your Community Needs You!



The Town of Farmington Fire Department is looking for 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 - www.farmington-ct.org.