



# 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

*"Autumn is a second spring when every leaf is a flower." - Albert Camus*

There is nothing more beautiful than New England in Autumn. We can go for a ride, a walk, or simply look out our window to view all of the colors nature has to offer. With the Fall chill, comes election season. I would like to remind residents to exercise their right to vote on November 3rd. Due to COVID-19, all voters have the option to use an absentee ballot or vote in person. Pages 2-3 of this newsletter contain important information regarding this year's voting process.

Our residents and businesses have continued to show resilience and strength throughout all that we have faced this year. As guidelines and guidance have changed, you have adjusted and worked together to ease the transition. I am confident that we will continue to meet the challenges ahead.

Town services have remained in operation throughout the pandemic to help keep some sense of normalcy. In addition, our Town employees did a tremendous job throughout Tropical Storm Isaias, which left the majority of Farmington without power for five days. The Town continued to put pressure on Eversource until power was fully restored and Town services continued without interruption. Comfort centers were opened, our Highway Department cleared streets and trails, the Town's compost areas hours of operation were extended and expanded, our Fire Departments opened filling stations for residents who were without water, and our First Responders continued to respond to calls for service.

Communication with our residents remains a top priority. The Town website, [www.farmington-ct.org](http://www.farmington-ct.org), and Explore Farmington, [www.explorefarmington.com](http://www.explorefarmington.com) are updated on a daily basis. Explore Farmington also has a Facebook page and email distribution list for Town news, updates, and local happenings.

In addition, I encourage all residents to sign up for our Everbridge communication system. Everbridge allows residents to access multiple means of communication for both the Emergency Alert System and the Community Notification System. Residents can sign up for Everbridge notices on the Town's website, [www.farmington-ct.org](http://www.farmington-ct.org). Simply click the "Community Notifications" button under popular links, on the main page, and follow the instructions to register.

Since it was established in July, the Racial Equality Taskforce has been meeting regularly and working towards its goal of providing the Town Council with an Action Plan to address racial equality in our community. The Town Council looks forward to receiving this action plan and continuing these very important discussions. More information on the work of the taskforce, including minutes and agendas, is available on the Town website.

Our annual Bulky Waste Collection will take place on October 19-23, 2020. Farmington residents will also have the opportunity to participate in a Household Hazardous Waste Collection, in Simsbury, on October 17, 2020. Please refer to page 4 of this newsletter, for more information.

I hope you enjoy Farmington this fall. Please remember to maintain six feet between each other, wear a face covering, and follow the Governor's guidance regarding gatherings. With flu season approaching, please continue to practice preventative actions, such as washing your hands, avoiding touching your face, and disinfecting surfaces to help stop the spread of germs. As always, please continue to be respectful of your neighbors.

Take care and be well,

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

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# Voting in the November 3, 2020 Presidential Election: What You Need to Know

## Absentee Ballots Are Now Available

State-wide elections will take place this year on November 3, 2020. Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, all Connecticut voters will have the option to vote by Absentee Ballot, or to vote in person. **The Town of Farmington is encouraging residents to vote by Absentee Ballot, when possible, to avoid long lines outdoors at the polls, due to social distancing constraints.**

## Voting by Absentee Ballot

The Secretary of the State of Connecticut has mailed absentee ballot applications to all registered voters in the State of Connecticut. If you have not received one, Absentee Ballot Applications can also be downloaded and printed off the Town of Farmington website, and hard copies of the applications are available in the Town Hall Lobby (open for pick-up and drop off of documents only). Please fill out the application and return it completed, to the Town Clerk's office, one of four ways:

1. **Drop in:** Absentee Application/Ballot Drop Box, in front of the Town Hall (this is the quickest option),
2. **Mail to:** Town Clerk, 1 Monteith Drive, Farmington, CT 06032,
3. **Fax to:** Town Clerk, 860-675-2389, OR
4. **Email to:** Town Clerk, rayp@farmington-ct.org.



Town Clerk's Office staff, from left to right: Janet Olmstead, Assistant Registrar of Vital Statistics, Paula Ray, Town Clerk, Maureen Frink, Assistant Town Clerk, Tracy Morrocco, Assistant Town Clerk.



**Please Note:** If you choose to email or fax a copy of the completed application, the original signed application must be dropped off or mailed, and received, by the Town Clerk's office, by the close of the polls on November 3, 2020, in order for your ballot to be counted.

**Please call the Town Clerk's Office, if you have any questions: 860-675-2380.**

After Absentee Ballot Applications have been received and processed, the Town Clerk's Office will send out Absentee Ballot Packets, beginning October 2, 2020. Once completed, your Absentee Ballots can be returned one of two ways:

1. **Drop in:** Absentee Application/Ballot Drop Box, in front of the Town Hall (quickest option), OR
2. **Mail to:** Town Clerk, 1 Monteith Drive, Farmington, CT 06032.

## Voting in Person

If you plan to vote in person, please remember to wear a mask and follow social distancing rules. In-person voting will take place on Tuesday, November 3, 2020, at our usual polling places:

- **District 1, Precincts 1,2,3,4 = Irving Robbins School**
- **District 1, Precinct 5 = West Woods School**
- **District 2, Precinct 6 = Community Center**
- **District 2, Precinct 7 = Farmington High School**

Polls will be open from 6:00 am - 8:00 pm. If you are not sure of your voting district and/or precinct, visit the Town of Farmington website:

[www.farmington-ct.org](http://www.farmington-ct.org) for a detailed map.

## Registering to Vote

If you'd like to check the status of your voter registration, to make sure you are registered to vote in Farmington, use the "look up tool" on the Connecticut Secretary of the State's website:

[portaldir.ct.gov/sots/LookUp.aspx](http://portaldir.ct.gov/sots/LookUp.aspx).

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# Voting in the November 3, 2020 Presidential Election

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## Registering to Vote

If you need to register to vote, you can now do it **ONLINE**, via Connecticut's Online Voter Registration System: [voterregistration.ct.gov/OLVR/welcome.do](https://voterregistration.ct.gov/OLVR/welcome.do).

In addition to registering to vote online, you can also register to vote one of the following ways:

- **By mail:** Download the Voter Registration Form, from the Town of Farmington website. Once completed, mail to: REGISTRARS OF VOTERS, FARMINGTON TOWN HALL, 1 MONTEITH DRIVE, FARMINGTON, CT 06032-1053.
- **By mail:** Voter Registration Cards are available at both libraries and at social service agencies; also on the information table in the lobby of Town Hall. Once completed, mail to: REGISTRARS OF VOTERS, FARMINGTON TOWN HALL, 1 MONTEITH DRIVE, FARMINGTON, CT 06032-1053.
- **By mail:** Using the Voter Registration Card furnished when renewing driver's license with DMV. Please note that notifying DMV of a change of address does not automatically change your voter registration. Once completed, mail to: REGISTRARS OF VOTERS, FARMINGTON TOWN HALL, 1 MONTEITH DRIVE, FARMINGTON, CT 06032-1053.
- **In person:** at Town Hall, BY APPOINTMENT ONLY, Mon-Fri., 8:30am - 4:30pm, either in the Registrar's office or the Town Clerk's office.
- **In person:** at any other City Hall or Town Hall in the state, that is open to the public.
- **In person:** Election Day Registration (EDR) will be available at the Town Hall this election year, but we **STRONGLY** suggest registering **ONLINE** at: <https://voterregistration.ct.gov/OLVR/welcome.do> OR in advance by mail, or in person (as outlined above). EDR will be available on election day, from 6:00 am - 8:00 pm. Be sure to wear a mask, bring adequate documentation, and be prepared for long waits, due to social distancing requirements and manpower shortages.

**Please Note:** In order to register to vote in Farmington, you must meet these requirements:

- Be a United States citizen.
- Be a resident of Farmington.
- Be 17 years of age, turning 18 by election day.
- If previously convicted of a felony, have completed sentence and had rights restored by Registrar.

**If you have any questions, please call the Registrars office: 860-675-2379.**

## Get the Latest Updates on Community News and Events!

- Have you heard about a great event, only to find out you missed it?
- Ever wondered when the Town Council and other public meetings take place?
- Are you looking for fun activities to enjoy as a family?
- During the last storm, were you anxious to receive the latest updates about power restoration?

If you answered yes to any of these questions, then you should sign up for Explore Farmington's weekly emails. The Economic Development Department wants to be your trusted source for town information and local events. Sign up is easy! You can email Rose Ponte at [ponter@farmington-ct.org](mailto:ponter@farmington-ct.org), or sign up online at: <https://bit.ly/3crfiZz>.

### FHS Building Project 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:

- 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. Please visit the recently updated building committee website, [www.fhsbuildingproject.org](http://www.fhsbuildingproject.org), for the latest project information



**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.

**Note:** Only (3) holidays are 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: [www.farmington-ct.org/departments/highway-grounds/trash-and-recycling](http://www.farmington-ct.org/departments/highway-grounds/trash-and-recycling).

## 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: [www.farmington-ct.org/departments/highway-grounds/household-hazardous-waste](http://www.farmington-ct.org/departments/highway-grounds/household-hazardous-waste) or call Farmington Highway & Grounds at 860-675-2550.

## 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.

# Stormwater Runoff Pollution: What You Can Do To Help

***The Town of Farmington has the benefit of two major rivers that flow through its borders: the Farmington River and the Pequabuck River. These rivers provide a habitat for wildlife and provide many aesthetic and recreational opportunities, including enjoyment of wildlife, canoeing, fishing and swimming, to name a few. These benefits, however, are ours to enjoy only as long as we are good stewards and protect the water quality of these rivers, and all the smaller tributaries that ultimately flow into them (collectively called a watershed). We can all do our part to prevent stormwater runoff from polluting our waters.***

## What is Stormwater?

Stormwater is precipitation that flows across the ground and pavement from rain or snow and ice melt. The water seeps into the ground or flows over impervious surfaces such as driveways, parking lots and roads, where it picks up dirt, debris and other pollutants which drain into our storm sewer systems. Storm sewer systems are a combination of inlets and pipes that directly connect to our wetlands, ponds, lakes and rivers. Stormwater becomes a problem when it picks up pollutants on these surfaces such as oil, grease, metals, and coolants from our vehicles or other sources. The result is the discharge of untreated pollutants into the same rivers we treasure for their aesthetic and recreational values. We can all do our part to minimize pollution of stormwater by minimizing the contaminants that runoff comes in contact with.

## How does this affect an individual/resident?

Responsible storm water management helps protect our local waterways from unnecessary pollutants from entering these areas affecting our communities. It is important that everyone is aware of the pollutants that are harmful to our water quality.

## What is illicit discharge?

Any direct or indirect non-storm water discharge to the storm drain system including any drain or conveyance, whether on the surface or subsurface, which allows an illegal discharge to enter the storm drain system, including but not limited to, any conveyances which allow any non-storm water discharge including sewage, process wastewater, and wash water to enter the storm drain system and any connections to the storm drain system from indoor drains and sinks, regardless of whether said drain or connection had been previously allowed, permitted, or approved by an authorized enforcement agency or, any drain or conveyance connected from a commercial or industrial land use to the storm drain system which has not been documented in plans, maps, or equivalent records and approved by an authorized enforcement agency.

## Here are some things we can do to Prevent Stormwater Runoff Pollution:

1. Never dump anything down the storm drains. Homeowners should be aware of any illicit connections or discharges they may have to the storm drain system. Any pollutants that enter the storm drains will be washed into nearby wells, storm drains, streams and lakes, and rivers.
2. Direct downspouts away from paved surfaces. Consider installing a rain garden or rain barrels as a great way to recycle water and to use around the yard for watering of gardens. Information on rain gardens and rain barrels can be found utilizing this link to the Town's website: [www.farmingtonct.org/departments/engineering/stormwater](http://www.farmingtonct.org/departments/engineering/stormwater).
3. If you have an oil tank in your basement, ensure the following:
  - a. Ensure oil line from tank to furnace has a protective sleeve.
  - b. Inspect tank legs for damage.
  - c. Check for leaks at filter and valves.
  - d. Inspect tank for rust or dents.
  - e. Check seams for rust or damage.
  - f. Examine gauge for cracks or leaks.
  - g. Inspect fill pipe for leaks or drips.
  - h. Have your heating system cleaned and inspected by a licensed technician.
4. Take your car to the car wash, where wash water is filtered and recycled, instead of washing it in the driveway. If you must wash at home, wash your car on a grass or gravel surface and use a small amount of soap.
5. Check and/or repair fluid leaks in your cars and recycle motor oil and other automotive fluids.

In compliance with Federal regulations, the Town of Farmington has been testing runoff from various areas of Town. The results of this testing are then utilized to determine areas of concern, and to pinpoint sources of contamination.

**Visit: [www.farmington-ct.org/departments/engineering/stormwater](http://www.farmington-ct.org/departments/engineering/stormwater), to access the stormwater section of the Town website**

*Our section of the town website is filled with information addressing stormwater runoff pollution, recycling, and other useful tips on preventing stormwater runoff from polluting our waters. **Check out the "Rubber Ducky Video" link that puts a perspective on pollution, if every drop represented a rubber ducky.** For questions or concerns, please contact the Planning Division: 860.675.2325, or by email: [stormwater@farmington-ct.org](mailto:stormwater@farmington-ct.org).*



# THE FARMINGTON TOWN LETTER

Town Hall, Farmington, CT 06032-1053

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

PRST STD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
FARMINGTON, CT  
Permit #17



## 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!***

[www.farmington-ct.org/government/conservation-inland-wetlands-commission](http://www.farmington-ct.org/government/conservation-inland-wetlands-commission)



## 2020 CPR Class



- **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](mailto:hoffmanns@farmington-ct.org).**

Community feedback is also needed. Please take the time to fill out the Fire Department's survey, check out the newest 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 website - [www.farmington-ct.org](http://www.farmington-ct.org).

