



THE FARMINGTON TOWN LETTER

Town Hall, 1 Monteith Drive, Farmington, CT 06032

www.farmington-ct.org

A Note From Our Town Council Chair

"No pessimist ever discovered the secrets of the stars." - Helen Keller

We are entering 2021 in a much different manner from the past, but I hope we are still filled with optimism. In Farmington, we expect many positive changes and successes built upon our past efforts. With the new year upon us, I thought it appropriate to reflect (chronologically) on some significant Town achievements accomplished in 2020.

In January, the Farmington High School Building Committee (FHSBC) presented plans for a new building, but unfortunately, the financial uncertainty created by the pandemic led us to put that on a pause. We reactivated the Committee at our first meeting of 2021, so expect to hear more information on that topic soon. In the meantime, visit the FHSBC website, www.fhsbuildingproject.org to familiarize yourself with the proposed project.

The Council discussed an annual budget in February that would have led to a small tax increase. By March, the effects of COVID were beginning to take shape and impact our businesses, jobs, and the economy at large. All Town Council members united in the decision not to raise taxes during such uncertain times.

The strong relationship forged over many years between our staff and the Farmington Valley Health District proved critical in communications from the health community, to all of you, throughout this past year. We are still following the guidelines we passed along to you in March: Wash your hands, wear your masks, and watch your distance from others.

During the Summer, our nation focused on the need for reforms due to racial injustice. The Town Council immediately formed our "Racial Equality Task Force," whose recommendations were presented to us in January of 2021. Through the diligence and commitment of this Task Force, we have a set of proposed action items that can help us move forward and become a more inclusive and caring community.

Tropical Storm Isaias hit us in August, knocking out power to many of our residents. It took five days to restore power to 99% of the Town. We cleared debris and fallen trees in anticipation of Eversource's arrival, opened our shelters, sent out 11 updates through various means, and offered clean water at our fire stations. In addition, our police, public works, and emergency personnel responded to you throughout the storm and its aftermath. Thank you to all of our Town staff who worked tirelessly to get us through this emergency.

Many of you may not be aware of the Town staff's smooth adjustment to new guidelines and rules for work during the pandemic. They navigated work from home, social distancing, and constant sanitizing, while continuing to offer the top rate services we have come to expect from them.

In the Fall, we continued work on the Farmington Village Center project. This project will replace the sidewalks on Main Street (Route 10), and work should be completed over the Summer of 2021. The majority of this \$2 million dollar project is being funded by State grants.

Both a primary and a Presidential election were held under quite different circumstances this year. Our Registrars of Voters and Town Clerk worked together with Town staff to successfully ensure that all voting could take place in a safe environment and via absentee ballot.

This year has been an incredible challenge to all of us. I would like to thank all employees of the Town and Board of Education for their hard work and dedication. I would also like to thank all of the volunteers and elected officials who stepped up and stepped in to help make these difficult times just a bit less difficult.

Finally, I would like to thank all of the people of Farmington and Unionville who followed health guidelines, supported local businesses, and most importantly, looked after their neighbors and those in need.

I am proud of what we have done and look forward to what we will achieve over the course of this next year. Please read through this newsletter for all the important information it contains. I wish you all the best in 2021.

C.J. Thomas
Town Council Chair

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2021 Budget Schedule

Below is the 2021 Town Council meeting schedule for the upcoming budget meetings, workshops, Annual Town Meetings and Referendums. **Please note that as of now, all public meetings will be held online. This could change as public meeting dates get closer. Be sure to check the Meeting Calendar, on the Town of Farmington website, for the latest information on public meeting locations: www.farmington-ct.org/about-us/calendar-meetings.**

- **February 23, 2021 - Capital Budget Presentation,** 6:00 pm
- **March 9, 2021 - Public Hearing on Town Manager's Recommended Budget,** 7:00 pm
- **March 10, 2021 - Town Council Budget Workshop,** 4:00 pm
- **March 11, 2021 - Town Council Budget Workshop,** 4:00 pm
- **March 13, 2021 - Town Council Budget Workshop,** 9:00 am
- **March 15, 2021 - Town Council Budget Workshop (if needed),** 4:00 pm
- **March 16, 2021 - Town Council Budget Workshop (if needed),** 4:00 pm
- **April 5, 2021 - Public Hearing on Town Council's Proposed Budget,** 7:00 pm
- **April 19, 2021 - First Annual Town Meeting,** 7:00 pm
- **April 29, 2021 - First Budget Referendum**
- **April 30, 2021 - Town Council Meeting (only if first Referendum fails),** 4:00 pm
- **May 3, 2021 - Second Annual Town Meeting (if needed),** 7:00 pm
- **May 13, 2021 - Second Referendum (if needed)**

Thank You
FOR YOUR HELP

The Registrars Office applauds our community for the tremendous outpouring of help we received, during our recent election in November. COVID-19 added to the stress that always appears for the Presidential Election, but our residents made the event a little less crazy.

We thank each and every worker, regardless of the time spent or job description held. You all made a big difference and we appreciate every one of you.

Thanks again and stay safe...wear your mask!

Barbara Brenneman & Ed Leary, Registrars of Voters

FHS Building Project Committee Update



Town Council has removed the Farmington High School Building Committee (FHSBC) from pause and the committee will continue to work with the Town Council and Board of Education on a timeline of activities such as: determining a referendum date, community presentations and input, and finalizing the design of the new high school.

FHSBC activities for the new year include:

- Enhancing the project information landing page on fhsbuildingproject.org
- Continuing to meet regularly to work on the project details as needed
- Working collaboratively with the Town Council and Board of Education
- Staying connected to the Farmington community

The FHSBC has worked on a course of action to ensure the project will be designed to meet all of the programmatic needs of the school district, for our children, and the Farmington Community at large. We look forward to seeing this project through, while keeping in mind the impact of COVID-19 within our community.

We thank you for your patience and look forward to your active participation in helping us build a brighter future for our children and community. **Please continue to visit our website at fhsbuildingproject.org, for project information and updates.**

2021 CPR Classes



- **Wednesday, 3/10/21, 10:00 am - 1:00 pm**
- **Wednesday, 6/9/21, 7:00 - 10:00 pm**
- **Wednesday, 9/8/21, 7:00 - 10:00 pm**
- **Wednesday, 12/8/21, 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 26 - 30, 2021 – Town-Wide Bulky Waste Collection

April 24, 2021 – 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 26th and will be picked up on your normal trash pickup day, during the week of April 26-30, 2021.

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 box springs. 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.

Simple Recycling Reminders and Tips

- 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.

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.

2021 Dates and Locations:

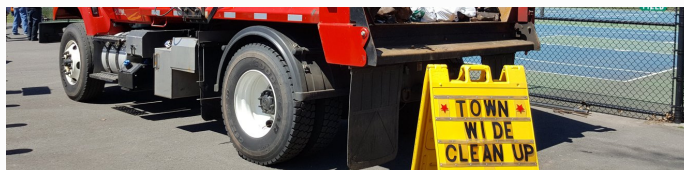
- **April 24, 2021** – at Farmington High School, 10 Monteith Drive, Farmington, CT
- **June 12, 2021** - Simsbury Public Works Facility, 66 Town Forest Road, Simsbury, CT
- **October 16, 2021** - Simsbury Public Works Facility, 66 Town Forest Road, Simsbury, CT

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.



Annual Town-Wide Clean-Up Day - Saturday, April 24, 2021

This year, Farmington's Annual Town-Wide Clean Up Day will take place on Saturday, April 24, 2021. The Household Hazardous Waste Collection also takes place on April 24, 2021. This year's Clean Up Day will take a COVID-safe approach. There will be no Heaviest Haul Competition this year. Join in and help keep Farmington/Unionville beautiful!

YEAR AT A GLANCE
SIMPLE
RECYCLING



December 2019 - December 2020

- **The Simple Recycling Program Launched December 9, 2019.**
- **First Year Total: 59,811 lbs. of Textiles Collected.**
- **29.905 Tons of Textiles Taken Out of the Waste Stream!**

HOW TO REGISTER FOR A COVID-19 VACCINE IN FARMINGTON VALLEY

Farmington Community Services and the Farmington Valley Health District are committed to helping residents stay informed and access healthcare as quickly as possible.

Most vaccination avenues require internet accessibility and an email address.

If you have a friend or loved one that does not use the internet and you are unable to assist them, call Farmington Community Services at 860-675-2390. Staff can help residents create accounts, locate sites and schedule appointments.

Some sites will schedule appointments over the phone. Call 2-1-1 for assistance in locating those vaccination sites. Please note, wait times may be long.

3 EASIEST WAYS TO REGISTER AND SCHEDULE YOUR VACCINE

VAMS

Vaccine Administration Management System

VAMS is the portal for the Connecticut Department of Public Health. Registering with VAMS offers the most location options for appointments throughout CT.

- To get started, visit: dphsubmissions.ct.gov/OnlineVaccine
- Fill in the form with your information and email.
- You **MUST** have an email address to register.

Within 12 hours, you will receive an email with instructions on how to access the VAMS portal and set up your vaccine appointment.

Prefer to set up VAMS by phone?
Call the CT Vaccine Appointment Assistance Line — 860.679.5589 (Mon-Fri—8:00AM to 4:30PM)

MyChart

UCONN HEALTH

MyChart
One Patient. One Record. Endless Benefits.

If you are a UCONN patient, and have a MyChart account, you can schedule an appointment at a UCONN clinic.

- Visit: mychart.uconn.edu/mychart
- Sign in and schedule

If you do not have an account, visit:

- mychart.uconn.edu/mychart/signup
- Click "Verify your Identity for Instant Access"
- Answer the questions and follow steps
- Sign in and schedule

Prefer to schedule a UCONN clinic by phone?
Call the Scheduling Line — 860.679.5589

MyChartPlus

MyChartPLUS



Your Hartford HealthCare Connection

If you are a Hartford Healthcare patient, and have a MyChartPlus account, you can schedule an appointment at a Hartford Hospital or CT Convention Center clinic.

- Visit: mychartplus.org
- Sign in and schedule

If you do not have an account, visit:

- mychartplus.org/mychart/accesscheck.asp
- Click "Sign Up Online" underneath the title **No Activation Code?**
- Fill in the form with your information and email.
- Sign in and schedule

Prefer to schedule a Hartford Healthcare clinic by phone?
Call the Access Center— 860.827.7690

Great, you're scheduled! Need a ride?

Farmington Dial-a-Ride will be providing transportation for residents for vaccination appointments. Call 860-675-2390 to check availability. At least 24 hours notice is required.

**The process may be challenging, but you are not alone.
Take your time and ask for help!
Farmington Community Services is here for you.**



Please visit www.farmington-ct.org for the latest COVID-19 Updates

Update on Motor Vehicle Burglary and Theft



As reported in the last newsletter, Farmington is one of many Connecticut towns experiencing an increase in stolen cars and larcenies from vehicles. The Special Projects Unit has been using social media and working with numerous neighborhood groups to promote best practices and hopefully prevent some of these incidents.

In nearly all the larceny cases, the vehicles were left unlocked, and if the keys were in the vehicle, the car itself was stolen. We encourage everyone to always lock your vehicle, remove valuables from plain sight, and report any suspicious incidents to the police. We discourage any citizen from confronting any suspicious person and instead advise them to be a good witness (pay attention to identifying details) and to immediately contact the police.

If your community is interested in a neighborhood safety and security meeting, contact Officer Zachary Martin at MartinZ@Farmington-CT.org or **860-675-2433**.

Winter Weather Preparedness

The Police Department takes proactive steps to prepare for winter storms and severe weather, to ensure continuity of services to the citizens of Farmington.

- When severe weather is predicted, officers ensure that back up emergency equipment and vehicles are fully fueled and ready to deploy, if needed.
- Emergency traffic control devices, like portable stop signs, traffic cones, and other signage, is strategically placed, for quick access.
- Personnel continually monitor storm advisories and changes in weather patterns to adapt to shifting conditions.

Similarly, we recommend that citizens take steps to prepare for winter weather prior to the start of the weather event:

- Always have an emergency supply kit with first aid supplies, bottled water, medications, battery powered radio, flashlights, and extra batteries.
- Always fully charge cell phones and have a source, like a back up battery, to recharge them, if necessary.
- For citizens who rely on medical alarms or other alert systems, check with your service providers to see if your communications systems have a battery back-up AND a cellular back up, in case phone lines go down. It is important that you can call for help, even if the power and phone lines are out of service.
- Use generators safely, and never use outdoor grills inside the home.

More information on emergency preparedness can be found at www.ready.gov. The police department's Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) is alerted to impending storms and can be deployed when supplemental resources are needed. The CERT volunteers are trained to assist police officers with traffic control, shelter operations, search and rescue, and mobile canteen services.

If you are interested in more information about volunteering for CERT, please visit www.farmington-ct.org/departments/police-department or contact Sergeant Kory Vincent at VincentK@farmington-ct.org or 860-675-2412.

Stormwater Runoff Pollution: Pet Waste

Pet waste left in our yards and communities can have many adverse effects on the environment, as it is full of harmful bacteria and excess nutrients. Besides the fact that pet waste is a neighborhood nuisance, it can make people sick, especially children who are more likely to come into contact with it while playing. Pet waste left on lawns can also kill or damage grass and other plants. When you fail to clean up after your pet, the poop left on sidewalks and lawns is both unpleasant and a nuisance. But, it can become an even bigger problem when it rains and is carried by stormwater into nearby rivers, lakes and streams. When pet waste is washed into lakes or streams, the waste decays and uses up oxygen, degrading water quality and affecting fish. It also contains nutrients that encourage weed and algae growth. **Here are some things you can do to prevent Stormwater Runoff Pollution:**

1. Pick up after your pet. Pet waste can be a source of bacteria, and can lead to contamination of wetlands, streams, lakes, and rivers. Pet waste should NOT be composted, even in a biodegradable bag.
2. Dispose of cat litter in the trash. NEVER flush cat litter down the toilet or compost it.
3. Always bring a plastic bag when you walk your dog.
4. Put bags in the car or tie them to the leash, so you'll be prepared when you travel with your pet. Place bags by the door so you don't forget them.
5. Use the bag as a glove to pick up the pet waste. Scoop up the waste and turn the bag inside out around the waste.
6. Properly dispose the waste by placing it in a trash can or flushing it (unbagged) down the toilet. NEVER THROW WASTE DOWN A STORM DRAIN!
7. Talk to your family and friends about stormwater pollution and picking up after their pets!
8. WASH YOUR HANDS!!!

Be the Solution to Water Pollution!



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Town Hall, Farmington, CT 06032-1053

www.farmington-ct.org

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Beautify Farmington Program

This year marks the 10th anniversary of the Beautify Farmington Program. This program is responsible for the Festive Holiday Kissing Balls and the summer flowering baskets that adorn the light poles on the DiPietro Bridge and in Unionville Center. In the past, we've been fortunate to receive 50% of the necessary funding, from community sponsors. Given the challenging economic times brought on by the COVID pandemic, our sponsorships have decreased substantially. If you consider this a valuable community program, please consider joining this community effort. **Details can be found at www.farmington-ct.org. We would like to thank the following sponsors, for participating in this year's program!**

Kay F. Belanger

Martha & Michael Cheshire

Central Chambers of Commerce

Judith King

Nicole Delong

Ann Newbury, In honor of Rose Ponte

Scully, Nicksa & Reeve

Paula and Kevin Ray, In memory of Alec

Interscape Commercial Environments

Lion's Club of Unionville

Servpro of Farmington Valley

Verne-Marie Kozak, In memory of Bette Jones

Carol & George Reider, In memory of David & George III

Maureen & Douglas Frink, In memory of Anthony Ryan

Dorothy & Gerard Haviland, In memory of Steve Flis



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 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 on the Town of Farmington's website.

Join and Help Support the Town of Farmington Fire Department

Affordable Housing Plan

The Town of Farmington is in the process of creating an Affordable Housing Plan to meet the requirements of Connecticut General Statutes 8-30j. The preparation of the plan will be a collaborative process with the community. Please monitor the Town's website, www.farmington-ct.org, for information regarding public meetings, public surveys, and the development of the plan.

Farmington Food Pantry Continues Mission During Pandemic



The Farmington Food Pantry is a 501(c)3 organization, completely run by volunteers, housed in the Amistad/Porter Hall of First Church Congregational, 75 Main Street, Farmington. The Pantry has been serving the community for over 30 years. Their mission is to provide supplemental food and personal care items to Farmington residents, who have met eligibility requirements, as determined by the Town of Farmington's Community Services Department.

Thanks, in large part, to the overwhelming generosity of local businesses, residents and volunteers, the pantry has been able to continue operating, during the pandemic. Under normal circumstances, the pantry offers an in-person shopping experience, where shoppers get to browse and choose their own items. Unfortunately, due to COVID-19, the pantry has had to change their model to a drive-up shopping experience, in order to safely continue operations.

The Farmington Food Pantry is very thankful they've been able to continue the distribution of food and personal care items, and for the incredible support they've received from the Farmington community. They are looking forward to the day when they can safely reopen and offer in person shopping once again. **Farmington residents who wish to inquire about access to the Food Pantry should contact Community Services, at 860-675-2390.**

If you'd like to support the efforts of the Farmington Food Pantry, the best way to help, during these challenging times, is through a monetary donation. That allows the pantry to buy the most needed food items for their clients, while adhering to state and local health protocols, that keep their volunteers safe.

Tax deductible monetary donations can be sent to Farmington Food Pantry Inc, P.O. Box 84, Farmington, CT 06034-0084 or can be sent via the secure PayPal account on their website: www.farmingtonfoodpantryct.com.