



THE FARMINGTON TOWN LETTER

Town Hall, 1 Monteith Drive, Farmington, CT 06032

www.farmington-ct.org

A Note From Our Town Council Chair

"Spring is the time of plans and projects." -Leo Tolstoy

Happy Spring!

As the days get longer, the warmth of spring will lure more of us outdoors to enjoy the beauty of the season. We will encounter others more frequently, so please continue to be respectful and give them space. Along with walkers, runners and strollers, there will be bicycles. Motorists shall be reminded; State Law requires you to keep at least 3 feet of space between your vehicle and a cyclist. With common courtesy, common sense and respect for the rules of the road, Farmington can be safer for everyone.

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. This year's Annual Clean-Up Day is scheduled for Saturday, April 24, 2021. Many thanks to the wonderful volunteers, for their hard work, who make the Clean-Up days possible.

In preparation for an anticipated referendum in early June, the Farmington High School Building Committee is hosting a number of informational presentations on the new high school, via Zoom. Community members may review the proposed new high school and upcoming event schedule on the Building Committee's website, www.fhsbuildingproject.org.

I encourage you to stay informed and involved during this year's budget process, particularly during the Annual Town Meeting on April 19th, and the Budget Referendum Vote on April 29th. 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.

This year has been an incredible challenge to all of us. I would like to thank all employees of the Town and the Board of Education for their hard work and dedication. I would also like to thank all the volunteers and elected officials who have stepped up and stepped in to help make these difficult times just a bit less difficult. Finally, I would like to thank all the people of Farmington and Unionville who followed health guidelines, supported local businesses, and most importantly, looked after their neighbors and those in need.

As more and more of our community members receive a vaccine, I certainly feel that there is a light at the end of the tunnel. Stay strong, stay careful, and stay positive. Better days are ahead!

Be well,

C.J. Thomas
Town Council Chair



FHS Building Committee Update

As the Town of Farmington prepares for an early June vote on the new high school, the Farmington High School Building Committee (FHSBC) is dedicated to providing a complete understanding of value, impact, and cost of this very important community investment.

We are committed to comprehensive community engagement through summary and topic specific meetings, newsletters, and website updates. The committee will provide information on the project, and we will also listen and answer questions. Prior to the June referendum, the FHSBC will:

- Present how this new high school will enhance learning for all students
- Explain how the new high school provides a safe and healthy learning environment
- Highlight the benefits the new high school will have beyond the school community

There will be a series of virtual meetings both live and recorded. Please visit the project website, www.fhsbuildingproject.org for a calendar and link to Zoom meetings.

All information presented will be accurate and thorough. It will explain why and how the new high school design was selected and the anticipated next steps after referendum.

We encourage everyone to read the newsletters and visit the officially sanctioned factual website as your source for information, updates, and anytime you have questions regarding the project.

The Farmington High School Building Committee is grateful for your continued engagement and hope you join us at one of our many upcoming community events.

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 2021-2022.

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 23, 2021, at 10:00 am, in the lobby of Town Hall, to determine Farmington's Top Dog.

FISHING FACTS:

There is a State of Connecticut regulation requiring a trout stamp. Frequently asked questions, regarding the Trout Stamp, can be found on the Fisheries Web page at www.ct.gov/deep/fishing, or by phone at 860-424-FISH. The stamp has a fee of \$5.00 (\$3.00 for CT residents ages 16-17) and expires at the end of each calendar year.

- A Trout Stamp is required for anyone age 16 or older, **including those age 65 and over who:**
- Harvest trout, Kokanee, or Salmon (except as described in 26-48c)
 - Fishes in one of these four trout/salmon areas: trout management areas, wild trout management areas, trout parks or brood stock Atlantic salmon areas.

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.

FALL ABSENTEE BALLOTS

The date of the Municipal Election this fall is November 2, 2021. College students, and anyone that will be out of town at election time, are encouraged to fill out their absentee ballot applications, before leaving town. Applications will be kept on file in the Town Clerk's office and ballots will be issued on October 1, 2021, which is the first day regular absentee ballots become available. **Applications for absentee ballots can be found on the Town of Farmington website www.farmington-ct.org.**



Crosswalk Safety Tips

Crosswalks can be dangerous when certain rules are not followed by both drivers and pedestrians. A (3) year study (2015-2017) performed by the State of Connecticut determined there was an average of almost 1500 pedestrian involved crashes each year. These resulted in an average of 55 pedestrian deaths and more than 3,900 pedestrian injuries. Connecticut has been ranked 20th in pedestrian fatality rates. Many of those killed or injured are between the ages of 25-34 years old. Most crosswalk violations by pedestrians are not waiting, not looking, and being distracted.

Many of the distracted violators were either talking with someone or using a phone. It is imperative we utilize the crosswalks correctly as well as teach our children how to cross a street safely. It is also imperative drivers know the rules of the law when approaching a crosswalk.

Pedestrians:

- Cross the street only at intersections or crosswalks.
- Utilize traffic safety devices (crosswalk buttons or safety signals), if any;
- Look left, right, then left again before crossing;
- Make eye contact with drivers before crossing. Don't assume drivers see you;
- Obey all traffic and crosswalk signals;
- When walking, put away electronic devices that take your eyes and ears off the road

Drivers:

- Do not speed;
- CT Law requires you stop for pedestrians in crosswalks;
- CT Law prohibits passing a vehicle stopped at a crosswalk;
- CT Law requires you yield right-of-way to pedestrians, especially when turning;
- Pay attention and put your phone away as pedestrians may suddenly enter your path.

We should all work together to ensure we all arrive home safely!

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.

On March 30, 2021, a public workshop was held to solicit community input on potential affordable housing strategies. If you were unable to participate in the workshop, you can still provide your input on potential affordable housing strategies in the Town of Farmington.

For more information, and to participate in the survey on affordable housing strategies, please visit the project website <http://bit.ly/affordablehousingplan>.

Farmington in 1920 - CT Women Given the Right to Vote

The women of the State of Connecticut were given the right to vote, by the ratification of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution of the United States, in August of 1920. **The Town of Farmington registered over 600 women, between September 19, 1920 and October 19, 1920, to vote in the November 2, 1920 Presidential Election.**





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

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

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

23rd Annual Town-Wide Clean-Up Sign Up: Saturday, April 24, 2021



CALLING ALL FARMINGTON RESIDENTS!

It's not too early to start planning... "Pitch In" For Our 23rd Annual TOWN-WIDE CLEAN-UP Saturday, April 24th, 2021 8am to 1pm

Organize your team to help with our annual spring cleaning!



THE DAY OF THE CLEAN-UP:

Register your group and pick up trash bags and gloves at any of the four official locations...

- Farmington Firehouse** – 76 Main St. Farmington
- Farmington Main Library** – 6 Monteith Dr. Farmington
- Tunxis Hose Firehouse** – 11 School St. Unionville
- Tunxis Mead Athletic Fields** – 80 Tunxis Mead Rd Farmington

Please follow all CDC recommended Covid precautions while participating. For questions or to volunteer to clean one of the many "dirty spots" in town call: 860-558-6556 or click: [HERE](#)

Sponsored by: The Town of Farmington Green Efforts Committee

Tunxis Mead Compost Area Rules - For Residents Only

Spring/Summer Days & Hours: Wednesdays & Saturdays, 8:00 am - 12:00 Noon

Residents may bring brush, leaves and pallets to the Compost Area, at no charge. Also allowed: clean lumber and plywood (NO pressure-treated, stained or painted wood). This material is ground up to make bark mulch. Stumps and grass clippings are NOT allowed. **A photo ID, showing your Farmington address, is required. Gate closes promptly at 12:00 noon. For further information, contact the Highway & Grounds Division of Public Works at 860-675-2550.**

Logs over 6" (six inches) in diameter must be cut into 2' (two foot) lengths, and require residential tickets as listed below:

- RESIDENTIAL TICKETS: \$8.50 per ticket**
(Purchase at Highway & Grounds Division of Public Works, 544 New Britain Ave., M - F, 8:00 am - 4:00 pm)
- Passenger vehicles1 ticket per load = \$ 8.50
- Small trailer (towed).....2 tickets per load = \$17.00
- Van/pickup under 3/4 ton.....3 tickets per load = \$25.50

Reminders for Trash and Recycling Holidays:

Only three (3) holidays are observed for the trash & recycling holiday schedule: Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, and New Year's Day.

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.



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Town Hall, Farmington, CT 06032-1053

www.farmington-ct.org

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FARMINGTON, CT
Permit #17

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.**

2021 CPR Classes



- **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:

www.farmingtonct.org/departments/fire-department/cpr-registration.

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

Spring Safety Reminders

Spring is here! So, the Farmington Police Department has been airing up our bicycle tires, fueling up the UTV, and dusting off our hiking boots to prepare to increase patrols of the Rails to Trails, town parks, and hiking trails that so many of us love to explore. FPD has some important reminders as the pedestrian and bicycle traffic in our area will soon be increasing. Motorists must yield to pedestrians in crosswalks. Pedestrians who have established themselves in the crosswalk have the right of way and traffic must yield. Vehicles must also provide 3 feet clearance while passing a bicycle traveling on the side of the road. There are times that bicycles can use the entire travel lane, usually when the roadway is too narrow for a vehicle and a bicycle to safely ride side by side. It is important that bicyclists and motorists share the road and do so safely. Riding a bicycle against traffic is not only illegal, but very hazardous and riding on sidewalks is more dangerous (except for children) than riding on the road.

As we look forward to enjoying upcoming summer days at Tunxis Mead and other town parks, we want to remind the community that alcohol is prohibited on town property as are open fires (including grills). Dogs must always be leashed and cleaned up after. As always, littering violations are strictly enforced. Town of Farmington parks and river access areas are "carry in, carry out" locations which means that there are no trash receptacles available. Any trash or refuse must be carried out and removed. It is important that everyone take an active role in protecting and maintaining our parks and that everyone be given the opportunity to enjoy our open space areas, walking trails, and river access points safely and comfortably.

It is also important to note that there are several locations in town where privately owned, but undeveloped, property abuts the Farmington River. The Farmington Police Department is regularly contacted by property owners with trespassing complaints because parties are unaware that this space is not open to the public. The town owned parks include Suburban Park, Shade Swamp Sanctuary, Yodkins Park, Tunxis Mead, and the Groueten Fields on Wannowmassa Rd.

The Community Policing Unit is proud to offer child bike safety presentations to small groups. All COVID-19 recommendations that are in place at the time of the scheduled presentation will be followed. For more information or to schedule a presentation for your group, contact Sergeant James Stone at StoneJ@Farmington-CT.org or (860) 675-2452.

Your Community Needs You!

The Town of Farmington Fire Department is looking for volunteers of all backgrounds and skill sets to join their ranks. If you're interested, please call Director of Fire and Rescue Services, Steve Hoffmann, at 860-675-2322, or email him at: hoffmanns@farmingtonct.org.



TOWN COUNCIL RECOMMENDED BUDGET FY 2021/2022

	FY 20/21 Adopted Budget	FY 21/22 Town Council Recommended Budget	Dollar Change	% Change
<u>EXPENDITURES</u>				
Education	69,976,581	72,288,934	2,312,353	3.30
Town	31,378,237	32,317,083	938,846	2.99
Debt Service	8,837,449	8,272,347	(565,102)	(6.39)
Capital Improvements	1,691,983	3,147,166	1,455,183	86.00
BOE Defined Contribution	50,000	75,000	25,000	50.00
Total	111,934,250	116,100,530	4,166,280	3.72
<u>GRAND LIST</u>				
Real Estate	3,222,223,680	3,241,496,228	19,272,548	0.60
Personal Property	237,811,910	239,751,822	1,939,912	0.82
Motor Vehicles	239,931,487	251,973,408	12,041,921	5.02
Total	3,699,967,077	3,733,221,458	33,254,381	0.90
<u>REVENUES</u>				
Other Property Taxes	1,208,000	1,316,000	108,000	8.94
Licenses and Permits	664,500	701,000	36,500	5.49
Fines and Penalties	19,500	18,500	(1,000)	(5.13)
Interest	250,000	125,000	(125,000)	(50.00)
Grants	4,872,273	4,918,103	45,830	0.94
Service Charges	1,328,500	1,366,500	38,000	2.86
Other	500,000	861,844	361,844	72.37
Westwoods Contribution	327,233	330,000	2,767	0.85
CIP	625,000	-	(625,000)	100.00
Total	9,795,006	9,636,947	(158,059)	(1.61)
<u>TAX & MILL RATE</u>				
Tax Levy	\$ 102,970,244	\$ 107,144,687		
Mill Rate	27.97	28.81		
Mill Rate Change	-	0.84		
% Change	0.00%	2.99%		
Avg Residential Assessment	\$ 226,777	\$ 226,777		
Real Estate Taxes	\$ 6,342.93	\$ 6,532.75		
Dollar Increase	0.02	189.82		
Percent Increase	0.00%	2.99%		

**Every \$100,000 of
assessed value =
\$2,881 in taxes**

IMPORTANT BUDGET DATES

- [Monday, April 19th 7:00 pm — First Annual Town Meeting \(FHS Auditorium\)](#)
- [Thursday, April 29th First Budget Referendum Vote](#)
- [Friday, April 30th 4:00 pm — Special Town Council Meeting \(if first Referendum fails\)](#)
- [Monday, May 3rd 7:00 pm — Second Annual Town Meeting \(if needed\)](#)
- [Thursday, May 13th Second Referendum Vote \(if needed\)](#)

WHERE TO VOTE IN TOWN (POLLING PLACES)

- District 1, Precincts 1,2,3,4 — Irving Robbins Middle School, 20 Wolf Pit Road, Farmington
- District 1, Precinct 5 — West Woods Upper Elementary School, 50 Judson Lane, Farmington
- District 2, Precinct 6 — Community/Senior Center, 321 New Britain Avenue, Unionville
- District 2, Precinct 7 — Farmington High School, 10 Monteith Drive, Farmington

* Please Turn Over for Voting Resolutions and Explanatory Text*

REFERENDUM VOTE APRIL 29, 2021

TOWN OF FARMINGTON EXPLANATORY TEXT— APRIL 29, 2021 REFERENDUM VOTE

“1. SHALL THE BUDGET FOR THE TOWN OF FARMINGTON PRESENTED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL AND RECOMMENDED BY THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021-2022 BE APPROVED?”

A budget, as recommended by the Farmington Town Council at a meeting held on April 5, 2021 and to be presented and discussed at the Annual Town Meeting to be held Monday, April 19, 2021, shall be submitted under the ballot heading above to vote on voting machines of persons qualified to vote in Town meetings of the Town of Farmington on Thursday, April 29, 2021, between the hours of 6:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. The budget as recommended by the Town Council is on file and available for public inspection in the office of the Town Clerk.

2. “SHALL THE TOWN OF FARMINGTON APPROPRIATE \$1,284,000 FOR THE IRVING A. ROBBINS MIDDLE SCHOOL CAFETERIA EXPANSION PROJECT AND AUTHORIZE THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS AND NOTES IN THE SAME AMOUNT TO FINANCE SAID APPROPRIATION?”

3. “SHALL THE TOWN OF FARMINGTON APPROPRIATE \$450,000 FOR THE NOAH WALLACE SCHOOL PARTIAL ROOF REPLACEMENT PROJECT AND AUTHORIZE THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS AND NOTES IN THE SAME AMOUNT TO FINANCE SAID APPROPRIATION?”

4. “SHALL THE TOWN OF FARMINGTON APPROPRIATE \$2,000,000 FOR REPAIRS TO AND RECONSTRUCTION OF VARIOUS TOWN ROADS AND DRAINAGE SYSTEMS, AND AUTHORIZE THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS AND NOTES IN THE SAME AMOUNT TO FINANCE SAID APPROPRIATION?”

Resolutions adopted by the Farmington Town Council at meeting held April 5, 2021, and to be presented and discussed at the Annual Town Meeting to be held Monday, April 19, 2021, shall be submitted under the ballot headings above to vote on voting machines of persons qualified to vote in town meetings of the Town of Farmington on Thursday, April 29, 2021, between the hours of 6:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. in conjunction with the referendum on the Fiscal Year 2021-2022 budget to be held on that date.

If approved, resolution #2 will appropriate \$1,284,000 and authorize borrowing for costs related to the Irving A. Robbins Middle School Cafeteria Expansion Project, and related work and improvements.

If approved, resolution #3 will appropriate \$450,000 and authorize borrowing for costs related to the Noah Wallace School Partial Roof Replacement Project, and related work and improvements.

If approved, resolution #4 will appropriate \$2,000,000 and authorize borrowing for costs related to repairs to and reconstruction of such various Town roads and drainage systems as may be determined by the Town Manager and the Town Engineer from time-to-time, and will authorize the issue of bonds, notes, and temporary notes in an amount not to exceed \$2,000,000 to finance the appropriation.

The full text of each resolution as approved by the Town Council is on file and available for public inspection in the office of the Town Clerk.

Electors shall vote at their regularly assigned polling places, as follows: Electors residing in the First Voting District and assigned to polling places 1-1, 1-2, 1-3, and 1-4 shall vote at Irving A. Robbins Middle School, 20 Wolf Pit Road, Farmington, Connecticut; and those assigned to polling place 1-5 shall vote at West Woods Upper Elementary School, 50 Judson Lane, Farmington, Connecticut. Electors residing in the Second Voting District and assigned to polling place 2-6 shall vote at the Community & Senior Center, 321 New Britain Avenue, Unionville, Connecticut; and those assigned to polling place 2-7 shall vote at the Municipal Complex, Monteith Drive, Farmington, Connecticut. Voters qualified to vote at town meeting who are not electors shall vote at their respective polling place at Irving A. Robbins Middle School, West Woods Upper Elementary School, the Community & Senior Center, or the Municipal Complex. Absentee ballots will be available from the Town Clerk’s office.
