



THE FARMINGTON TOWN LETTER

Town Hall, 1 Monteith Drive, Farmington, CT 06032

www.farmington-ct.org

A Note From Our Town Council Chair

“Good fortune is what happens when opportunity meets with planning.” – Thomas Edison

On January 11, 2022, Farmington’s new Town Council was sworn in. In addition to me, three members returned for another term, and we also welcomed three new members. I am sure that I speak for the entire Council in saying thank you for putting your trust in us, and we will work hard to earn it over the next two years.

This year, we also welcomed a new Town Clerk, Maureen Frink. Maureen served five years as Farmington’s Assistant Town Clerk prior to being elected to her new role. Paula Ray, former Town Clerk, retired from the Town of Farmington in January after 22 years of dedicated service.

We have certainly hit the ground running since being sworn in. The Town Council recently approved the 2022-2024 Strategic Plan. This document outlines our agenda, as a list of goals. The Strategic Plan is a living document, intended to be modified, amended, and updated, to reflect the needs and interests of our community. It is our guide for the decisions and actions we will make throughout our term. The recently approved Strategic Plan can be found on our Town website at: farmington-ct.org/government/town-council/town-council-document-central.

The world continues to feel the effects of COVID-19. In December and January, the Town staff worked with the State of Connecticut, to distribute N95 masks and COVID-19 self-test kits, safely and efficiently, to our residents with an immediate need. After the rise in cases during the holidays, the latest decline in Omicron cases is encouraging. Please continue to do your part to help Farmington and Unionville limit the spread of COVID-19.

The FHS Building Project is progressing on schedule. The Building Committee selected O&G Industries to serve as Construction Manager, and continues to meet bi-weekly on Wednesday evenings at 5:00 pm. Visit fhsbuildingproject.org, for more information.

Lastly, I encourage you to stay informed and involved during this year’s budget process, particularly during the Annual Town Meeting on April 18, 2022, and the Referendum Vote on April 28, 2022. Although the vote is months away, Town Council budget meetings began on February 22nd, with a Public Hearing on the Town Manager’s Capital Budget. To the right of this note, you will find a full budget schedule for upcoming meetings. 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.

Please take the time to review this newsletter, for more relevant information affecting the Town and you, as residents. In addition, if you are considering volunteer service for our Town, please visit the link to openings available, to serve on Town Boards and Commissions, at: farmington-ct.org/about-farmington/employment/job-openings.

I am proud of what we have done, and look forward to what we will achieve, over the course of this next year. Please do not hesitate to contact me at thomascj@farmington-ct.org, if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

C.J. Thomas, Town Council Chair

2022 Budget Schedule

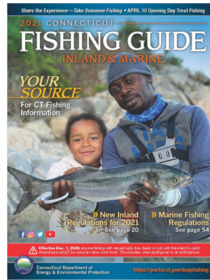
Below is the 2022 Town Council meeting schedule for the upcoming budget meetings, workshops, Annual Town Meetings and Referendums.

- **March 8, 2022 - Public Hearing on Town Manager’s Recommended Budget**, 7:00 pm, Town Hall Council Chambers/Zoom
- **March 9, 2022 - Town Council Budget Workshop**, 4:00 pm, Town Hall Council Chambers/Zoom
- **March 10, 2022 - Town Council Budget Workshop**, 4:00 pm, Town Hall Council Chambers/Zoom
- **March 12, 2022 - Town Council Budget Workshop**, 9:00 am, Town Hall Council Chambers/Zoom
- **March 14, 2022 - Town Council Budget Workshop (if needed)**, 4:00 pm, Town Hall Council Chambers/Zoom
- **March 15, 2022 - Town Council Budget Workshop (if needed)**, 4:00 pm, Town Hall Council Chambers/Zoom
- **April 4, 2022 - Public Hearing on Town Council’s Proposed Budget**, 7:00 pm, Town Hall Council Chambers/Zoom
- **April 18, 2022 - First Annual Town Meeting**, 7:00 pm, FHS Auditorium/Zoom
- **April 28, 2022 - First Budget Referendum**
- **April 29, 2022 - Town Council Meeting (only if first Referendum fails)**, 4:00 pm, Town Hall Council Chambers/Zoom
- **May 2, 2022 - Second Annual Town Meeting (if needed)**, 7:00 pm, FHS Auditorium/Zoom
- **May 12, 2022 - Second Referendum (if needed)**

Notes From Maureen Frink, Town Clerk

Thank you to the residents of Farmington who elected me to the position of Town Clerk. The clerk's office is open Monday – Friday, 8:30 am – 4:30 pm. You may stop in any time, or call 860-675-2380, should you need our services. You may also visit our website, farmington-ct.org, which is full of helpful information.

Fishing licenses are available in our office, and online at portal.ct.gov/DEEP/Fishing/CT-Fishing. Fishing season opens on the second Saturday in April, each year. This year, the second Saturday will be April 9th.



Town of Farmington to Begin Revaluation Process

The Town of Farmington is beginning the process of revaluing all real estate within the town, as of October 1, 2022. By state law, Connecticut towns and cities are required to revalue real estate, once every five years. The last time this was done in Farmington was 2017.

Revaluation is the equalization of property values, by estimating the current market value of all properties in town, as of the same date. The values derived in the revaluation will be used in the assessment of real estate and the levying of taxes until the next revaluation.

Tyler Technologies, Inc. has been hired to assist the assessor with this project. Data collectors, working for Tyler, will visit each residential property to verify the exterior (including measuring), and inspect the interior, with the permission of an adult occupant of the property.

Given the current situation, it is possible that other means of updating the interior information may be needed, such as property questionnaires.

Commercial and industrial properties will also be inspected. **Additional information will be posted on the Town of Farmington website, www.farmington-ct.org.**

The Assessor's Office would like to take this opportunity to thank all the citizens of Farmington, for their interest and cooperation in this very important project.

Remember: Only Rain Down the Storm Drain!



What is an illicit discharge? It's an illegal discharge to the storm drain system.

The Town of Farmington's storm drain system is an interconnected network of catch basins (the grates in the road), manholes and piping, that conveys storm water (rain runoff) from our roadways, driveways, lawns and rooftops, to our wetlands, brooks, streams and rivers (waterbodies). The rain runoff picks up sediment, trash, pet waste, fertilizers, and other contaminants and transports them to the storm drain system, which conveys them to our waterbodies. None of these contaminants belong in the storm water and all are harmful to our waterbodies.

An illicit discharge is any contaminant discharged to the storm drain system. This can include the direct dumping of a contaminant into a catch basin or waterbody, or a piped connection of a floor drain or laundry drain, into the storm drain system.

Contaminants commonly found in Farmington's storm drain system include: baggies of pet waste, disposable face masks, disposable gloves, plastic beverage bottles, fast food/convenience store food wrappers, receipts, etc.

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, lakes, and rivers.
2. **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.
3. **Check and/or repair fluid leaks in your cars and recycle motor oil and other automotive fluids.**
4. **Dispose of paint and items from other household improvement projects appropriately.** Two resources:
 - a. farmington-ct.org/departments/highway-grounds/household-hazardous-waste
 - b. portal.ct.gov/DEEP/Waste-Management-and-Disposal/What-Do-I-Do-With

Utilize the following link: farmington-ct.org/departments/engineering/stormwater, to access our stormwater section of the Town's website.

If anyone has any questions or concerns, please feel free to either contact the Planning Division at 860-675-2325, or by email at stormwater@farmington-ct.org.

10 THINGS YOU CAN DO TO PREVENT STORMWATER POLLUTION

1. Never dump anything down the storm drain.
2. Use fertilizers sparingly, and sweep up driveways, sidewalks, and roads.
3. Vegetate bare spots in your lawn.
4. Use a mulching lawn mower, in lieu of bagging.
5. Consider Integrated Pest Management Techniques, for lawn and landscaping care.
6. Direct downspouts away from paved surfaces, and consider the use of rain gardens.
7. Take your car to the car wash.
8. Repair fluid leaks, in your vehicles.
9. Pick up after your pet. Dispose of pet waste in the garbage, not the woods and wetlands.
10. Maintain septic systems properly.





MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- **April 23, 2022** - Household Hazardous Waste Collection, Farmington High School, 10 Monteith Drive, Farmington, CT, 8:00 am - 1:00 pm
- **April 25th - 29th, 2022** - Town-Wide Bulky Waste Collection
- **June 11, 2022** - Household Hazardous Waste Collection, Simsbury Public Works Facility, 66 Town Forest Road, Simsbury, CT, 8:00 am - 1:00 pm

Town-Wide Bulky Waste Collection Service

The next town-wide bulky waste collection will begin on Monday, April 25th, and will be picked up on your normal trash pickup day, during the week of April 25th - 29th, 2022.

During the week of April 25th - 29th, 2022, 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.

Additional information, including lists of acceptable and unacceptable items, can be found on the Town website: 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.

2022 Dates and Locations:

- **April 23, 2022** - Farmington High School, 10 Monteith Drive, Farmington, CT
- **June 11, 2022** - Simsbury Public Works Facility, 66 Town Forest Road, Simsbury, CT
- **October 15, 2022** - 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:

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

Simple Recycling - Convenient Scheduling and Available to All

Simple Recycling is now available to ALL Farmington residents, with convenient scheduled pickups.

- Residents are required to schedule their pickups, by either going online to simplerecycling.com, OR using the link on the Town of Farmington Highway and Grounds website page, OR by calling 866-835-5068.
- Pickups will be at the front door, instead of the curb.
- The pink bags have been eliminated from the program. Residents must provide their clean & dry recyclable material, in their own bags or boxes.
- The pickup scheduling is driven by our zip codes. Once a zip code is entered, a calendar will appear, showing residents what days are available, for scheduling. Residents then select the day that works best for them. There should be one or two date options, when the calendar appears.
- Items included for donation: all types of clothing, shoes, accessories, kitchenware, linens, etc. A full list can be found at simplerecycling.com.

PROGRAM AT A GLANCE

SIMPLE RECYCLING

Need additional bags? Visit www.SimpleRecycling.com
Call 1-866-835-5068 or email info@simplerecycling.com



December 2019 - December 2021

- **The Simple Recycling Program Launched December 9, 2019**
- **First Year Total: 55,804 lbs. of Textiles Collected**
- **Second Year Total: 42,551 lbs. of Textiles Collected**
- **Program Total: 98,355 lbs. of Textiles Collected = 49.1775 TONS of Textiles Taken Out of the Waste Stream!**

Annual Town-Wide Clean-Up Day - Saturday, April 23, 2022

Farmington's Annual Town-Wide Clean Up Day will take place on Saturday, April 23, 2022. The Household Hazardous Waste Collection also takes place on April 23, 2022.

This year's Clean Up Day will once again take a COVID-safe approach. We will also be partnering with Bicycle Friendly Farmington, and the Farmington Valley Trails Council, for Trail Clean-up Day, in conjunction with Earth Day 2022. Join in and help keep Farmington, Unionville, and our trails, beautiful!



An Easy Way to Make a Positive Impact: *Stop Idling Our Vehicles*

Are you feeling like there's nothing you can do to impact climate change? There's a simple step we can all make: Stop idling our vehicles.

Did You Know?

Idling of cars, trucks and buses contributes to climate change, by emitting pollutants into the air we breathe. Sulphur dioxide, carbon monoxide, nitrogen dioxide, lead, and particulate matter are all byproducts of vehicle exhaust, and are linked to ground-level ozone (or "smog"), toxic air pollutants, acid rain, climate change, and other environmental problems.

Not only are these pollutants bad for the environment, they are bad for our health. This is especially seen in children. A child's lungs are still developing, and when they are exposed to these pollutants, they have an increased risk of developing asthma, respiratory problems, eczema, and cancer. Limiting your vehicle's idling time can dramatically reduce these pollutants. Idling for a 30-second period produces nearly twice as much pollution as switching off, then restarting, the engine.

Believe it or not, there is a regulation in the state of Connecticut! The Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies (RCSA) section 22a-174-18(b)(3) states; a mobile source shall not operate for more than 3 consecutive minutes, when such mobile source is not in motion.

Here are some tips:

- If you expect to idle for more than 30 seconds, turn off the engine.
- DO NOT turn off your engine in traffic or at stoplights, as this could be dangerous or annoying to other drivers.
- Steer clear of drive-through windows at fast-food restaurants, banks and drug stores. Park and go inside instead. If you must use a drive-through, turn off your engine, while at the window.
- Waiting for someone in the parking lot? Picking up the kids at school? Turn off the engine, in the meantime.

You'll make an impact not only for the health of people, but also the planet!



In addition to Recycling and Reducing, Reusing and/or Repurposing items is another great way to lessen the amount of waste we create.

Learn to REUSE - Here Are Some Tips:

- Purchase durable goods, so they last longer.
- Use washable plates, cups, and silverware, rather than disposable.
- Reuse or repurpose old clothing, cloth grocery bags, and containers.
- Buy goods that can be repaired, and repair them when they need fixing. You can also find and use tailors, seamstresses, cobblers and other local repair service professionals.
- Recognize that when you do not want an item anymore, it doesn't mean that it has no value. It could be sold, gifted, or given away. Share/exchange items with family, friends, neighbors and other community members. Check out social media for local trade, borrow and barter groups.
- Buy and sell used goods, in an online marketplace, like Facebook Marketplace.
- Borrow from local libraries! The Farmington Libraries have amazing physical and digital collections of books, DVDs, CDs, and more. Check out the "Library of Things," at the Farmington Main Library, and borrow things you may only need once or twice.
- Rent from local rental centers, rather than buy new, for single-use items.
- Start a reuse center or swap shack/shop, here in town!

For additional information and resources, check out the [CT DEEP website](#).

Farmington's Racial Equality Taskforce Update

The Farmington Racial Equality Taskforce was established in 2020, to develop strategies and community partnerships, to address racial inequality, to educate residents, and to increase awareness about Black Lives.

The Racial Equality Taskforce meets every two months, via Zoom. For more information, go to: diversefarmington.com, or contact Nancy Parent at: parentn@farmington-ct.org.

Secure Your Home for Vacations and Time Away



The Winter is a great time for family vacations, away from the cold Connecticut weather, but preparing your home, for your absence is important. The Farmington Police Department has several recommendations, to help secure your home.

- Ensure that there is a clear line of sight to your home, by trimming foliage away from doors, windows, and other access points, to the home. Burglars use overgrowth as concealment while they make entry into vacant homes. A clear line of sight for neighbors, officers on routine patrol, and even passing traffic can help harden your home as a target.
- Notify trusted friends and neighbors of your travel plans. Especially now, as we are navigating a world where so many people are working from home, it is beneficial to let neighbors and area friends know that your home will be vacant, and what normal activity around the home should look like. Tell your friends and neighbors if you are expecting contractors, utility services, or other authorized visitors, to your home. That way, if someone unexpected is on the property, they can immediately notify the police. Many crimes have been prevented by neighbors helping neighbors.
- Install theft deterrence and monitoring equipment. There are an abundance of options, ranging from motion-activated lighting, to home automation and surveillance systems. Motion lighting has become less effective as a theft deterrence, because of its prevalence. Burglars have grown accustomed to a light activating, to frighten them away. However, they prove to be beneficial, when coupled with the recommendations above. If a neighbor, or officer patrolling the area, notices a motion light on, that is not normally on, it draws attention to an unusual circumstance. Other equipment, such as security alarms and surveillance cameras, can alert you to activity at your home, even when you are hundreds or even thousands of miles away. These systems can also help protect packages that have been delivered to your home while you are away. There are many different makes and models available, to suit your individual needs. If you install a new alarm system, be sure to complete an Alarm Registration Form, that can be found on the [Police Department website](#).
- It is important to stay current with exterior maintenance, even while you are away. Burglars can be drawn to target homes that appear to be vacant, because the driveway is not cleared of snow, the lawn is not mowed, or mail/packages have been piling up. This is another area where support from a friend or neighbor is beneficial.

Continued in next column. . .

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The Farmington Police Department also provides **customized security assessments, upon request.** An officer will tour your property with you, to make security recommendations, that include identifying vulnerabilities, recommendations for security monitoring equipment, and general safety suggestions. This assessment takes about 45 minutes, and must be scheduled in advance.

To schedule an assessment, or for more information, contact the Community Policing Unit Sergeant, Jamie Stone, at StoneJ@farmington-ct.org or 860-675-2452.

Finally, if you are going to be away for more than five days, please complete a Vacant House Check Form, on the [Police Department's website](#). Officers patrolling your area of town will be notified of your absence, and will provide extra attention, while you are away. Please note: the maximum duration of the Vacant House Check is 15 days.

For more information, visit the [Farmington Police Department website at: \[farmington-ct.org/departments/police-department\]\(http://farmington-ct.org/departments/police-department\).](#)



Farmington High School Building Committee Update

The FHS Building Committee continues to build partnerships for critical professional services, with the addition of Diversified Technology Consultants (Professional Engineering Services) and Innovative Engineering Services (Commissioning Agent). TSKP Studio (Architect) remains on schedule to complete final design drawings by Summer 2022.

The committee recently voted to approve an Early Enabling Package, which will limit the disruption to school operations, by allowing some site work to occur, during the summer of 2022.

The FHS Building Committee continues to meet every other Wednesday, at 5:00 pm. Please visit fhsbuildingproject.org, for meeting information and project updates.



THE FARMINGTON TOWN LETTER

Town Hall, Farmington, CT 06032-1053

www.farmington-ct.org

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Thank You to Our 2021 Holiday Kissing Ball Sponsors!

Annually, Unionville Center and the DiPietro Bridge have been decorated with beautiful Holiday Kissing Balls, welcoming the Winter holiday season. These festive decorations are part of the Beautify Farmington Program. Now in its 10th year, this public landscape program has become an annual tradition. In addition to the winter décor, summer flowering baskets are installed during Memorial Day Weekend, and grow well into Fall. Did you know this program is made possible by donations large and small, from our residents and businesses?

We'd like to thank all who supported the 2021 Holiday Kissing Balls. If you're Interested in participating in this annual program, please visit bit.ly/beautifyfarmington, for details.

Thank you to our 2021 Holiday Kissing Ball Sponsors!

The Beautify Farmington program is responsible for the festive Holiday Kissing Balls, that adorn the light poles on the DiPietro Bridge, and in Unionville Center.

The Farmington Economic Development Department would like to thank the following sponsors, for participating in the 2021-2022 program:

Winter Title Sponsor

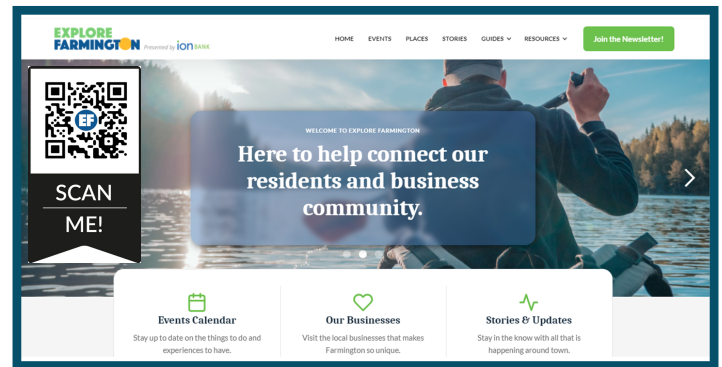
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Thomaston Savings Bank - Winter Title Sponsor

Community News and Events, Delivered Direct to Your Inbox



Looking for things to do and local experiences to enjoy? Want to strengthen your connections in town and engage in your community? Searching for local restaurant and business locations, hours, menus, and offerings? Find it all on [ExploreFarmington.com!](http://ExploreFarmington.com)

Be the first to receive all the latest news from the Town of Farmington, our local organizations and businesses, by signing up for our weekly emails, delivered right to your inbox: bit.ly/3rOMGBk.

Follow us on **Facebook** and **Instagram**, for daily posts and updates, direct from the source. Help us spread the word, by liking our pages, and sharing our posts and emails, with friends and neighbors. Then, get out and **Explore Farmington**, your way!

Reminder for Residents . . .

Keep Fire Hydrants Clear of Snow

Every second counts in an emergency

- Remove snow and ice from the hydrant
- Clear an area approximately 3 feet around the hydrant
- Clear a path from the hydrant to the street

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 email Amber Rush, Police Management Assistant, at: rusha@farmington-ct.org.

