

Minutes of the Town of Farmington  
Regular Town Council Meeting March 8, 2022  
Held in Person and by Zoom Webinar Meeting

Attending:

C. J. Thomas, Chair  
Rafeena Bacchus-Lee  
Joe Capodiferro  
Johnny Carrier  
Brian F. X. Connolly  
Edward Giannaros  
Keith Vibert

Kathy Blonski, Town Manager  
Maureen Frink, Clerk

A. Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

B. Pledge of Allegiance

The Council and members of the public recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

C. Presentations and Recognitions

1. Citizen Recognition – Eugene Kirouac

Mr. Capodiferro recognized Farmington citizen Eugene Kirouac with the Good Samaritan Award for his selfless act of kindness. Mr. Kirouac plowed driveways during the nor'easter storm in January for fellow residents of Farmington including the elderly, disabled, and veterans. Mr. Capodiferro thanked Mr. Kirouac on behalf of the Town Council.

D. Public Hearing

1. A public hearing on the Town Manager's 2022-2023 Recommended Operating Budget.

The Chair called the public hearing to order on the Town Manager's 2022-2023 Recommended Operating Budget at 7:04 p.m.

The Clerk read the legal notice for the public hearing as follows:

LEGAL NOTICE  
TOWN OF FARMINGTON  
PUBLIC HEARING

A Public Hearing will be held on Tuesday, March 8, 2022, at 7:05 p.m. in the Town Hall Council Chambers on the Town Manager's 2022-2023 Recommended Budget.

Dated at Farmington, Connecticut this 22nd day of February 2022.

Kathleen A. Blonski  
Town Manager

The Town Manager reviewed pages 1-8 of her presentation of the Manager's recommended budget for Fiscal Year 2022-2023, which is recorded with these minutes as Agenda Item D-1.

Superintendent of Schools, Kathy Greider, presented the Board of Education's recommended budget for Fiscal Year 2022-2023, which is recorded with these minutes as Agenda Item D-2. Ms. Greider stated in summary the recommended budget advances educational excellence, equity, student well-being, innovated teaching and learning, and acceleration of learning all align to their vision of a global citizen. The Superintendent also reviewed the Board of Education's 2022-2023 Capital Improvement Budget, which was presented in detail at the February 22, 2022, Town Council meeting. An overview was presented and is recorded with these minutes as Agenda Item D-3. A Q & A document is included with the minutes and recorded as Agenda Item D-4.

The Manager continued to review the Town Manager's Recommended Budget (D-1) covering pages 9-10 including the Grand List, Revenues, and Tax and Mill Rate. The Manager stated that the Annual Town Meeting is April 18, 2022, at the Farmington High School Auditorium in person or via Zoom. The Town-wide Referendum is Thursday, April 28 at the usual polling places. The Town Council will continue to meet this week on Wednesday and Thursday, March 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup>, and on Saturday, March 12<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m. to go over the details of the Budget.

There was no public comment at the Public Hearing.  
The Chair closed the Public Hearing at 7:28 p.m.

#### E. New Items

There were no New Items.

#### F. Public Comments

There was no Public Comment.

#### G. Reading of the Minutes

##### 1. February 8, 2022 Regular Town Council Meeting

Motion was made and seconded (Capodiferro/Vibert) to approve the minutes of the February 8, 2022 Regular Town Council meeting.

Adopted Unanimously

##### 2. February 22, 2022 Special\* Town Council Meeting

Motion was made and seconded (Capodiferro/Vibert) to approve the minutes of the February 22, 2022 Regular\* Town Council meeting. (\*The Town Council Meeting held on February 22 was a Regular meeting, Agenda Item G-2 stated Special meeting in error)

Adopted Unanimously

#### H. Reading of Communications and Written Appeals

There were no Communications and Written Appeals.

#### I. Report of the Committees

##### 1. 1928 Building Ad-Hoc Committee – Attachment

Mr. Carrier reported the Committee has had a series of meetings to get the timeline down and recommends to the Council to proceed with an online public opinion survey. There was a consensus to proceed by the Council. A chart outlining the charge of the Ad Hoc 1928 Building Committee is attached as Agenda Item I-1.

##### 2. American Rescue Plan (ARPA) Ad-Hoc Committee

To be discussed with Agenda Item N-3.

##### 3. Farmington High School Building Committee

Mr. Carrier reported that the Committee voted to approve the Code Review RFQ and Rating forms and the Structural Peer Review RFQ and Rating form. The next meeting is scheduled for March 30, 2022. Mr. Carrier also discussed the Office of State Traffic Control and the DOT approval. In order for DOT to begin, local approval is needed. Mr. Carrier asked the Council to write a letter on behalf of the Town to the State Representatives. The Town Manager will write the letter.

Mr. Carrier also discussed the reimbursement and talk of the Office of School Construction Grants issues on the 900-wing reimbursements and reimbursement rates. Mr. Carrier stated that the Town of Farmington, through its legislatures, could issue a formal request, through Emergency Certification, to consider taking our reimbursement rate from 18.93% to the new proposed rate of 19.64%. Town Manager will compose a letter to include both the status report of the 900-wing and the change of the reimbursement rate.

##### 4. Green Efforts Committee

Mr. Carrier reported the Committee continues to discuss anti-idling at the schools, signage being put up in the next month or two, and composting. Clean-up day is on April 23, 2022, at IAR with discussion about a town-wide yard sale at this event. Discussion was had regarding a charging station in town.

##### 5. Land Acquisition Committee

There was no report for Agenda Item I-5.

##### 6. Racial Equality Taskforce

Mr. Capodiferro reported that the Taskforce recently launched their website, which is [diversefarmington.com](http://diversefarmington.com). The next meeting is on March 28, 2022, at 6:30 p.m.

## J. Report of the Council Chair and Liaisons

### 1. Chair

The Chair reported that the Town of Farmington is no longer requiring mask be worn at Town Hall; however, it is still recommended that masks be worn if you are sick. During this Budget season of Fiscal Year 2022-2023, the Council is committed to a tax increase of no more than 3%. The Chair, on behalf of the Council sends support to the brave citizens of Ukraine and encourages the residents of Farmington to seek out local international support groups.

### 2. Conservation and Inland Wetlands

### 3. Board of Education Liaison

There was no report for Agenda Items J-2 and J-3

### 4. Bicycle and Trails Advisory Committee

Mr. Thomas reported that the Committee is hoping to be putting up signs on the trails.

### 5. Economic Development Commission Liaison

Mr. Giannaros reported the next meeting for the Commission is March 9, 2022 at 5:30 p.m.

### 6. Farmington Historic District Commission

Mr. Connolly reported the Commission is looking into different ways to invite people to join the Historic Commission. Mr. Connolly also reported there have been a number of situations where businesses were doing additions and changes in the Historic District without talking to the Commission which is no allowable by law. There is an effort to reach out to businesses to speak to the Historic Commission before any changes are made to their businesses. Mr. Connolly extends this information to the public as well.

### 7. Housing Authority

### 8. Human Relations Commission

### 9. Library Board

There was no report for Agenda Items J7-J9

### 10. Town Plan and Zoning Liaison

Mr. Vibert reported that the Commission met on the site plan approval for the Midpoint Development, which is 1349 - 1571 Farmington Avenue, and forwarded a positive report on the property on Meadow Rd.



#### 11. Unionville Historic District Commission

Mr Giannaros report the Assistant Planner Daigle gave a presentation on how to conduct a land record search and will hold a more formal training with Commission members who are interested. The next meeting is April 7, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.

#### 12. Unionville Village Improvement Association Liaison

There was no report for Agenda Item J-12.

#### 13. Water Pollution Control Authority

Mr. Capodiferro reported the WPCA will be holding their budget hearing tomorrow night at 7 :00 p.m.

#### 14. Other Liaisons

There was no report for Agenda Item J-14

#### K. Report of the Town Manager

There was no Town Manager report.

#### L. Appointments

##### 1. Board of Assessment Appeals (Simoneau)

Motion was made and seconded (Capodiferro/Vibert) that Rich Highly be appointed to the Board of Assessment Appeals the remainder of the 6-year term beginning immediately and ending January 20, 2024.

Adopted unanimously

##### 2. Economic Development Commission (Philips)

There was no action taken on Agenda Items L-2.

##### 3. Green Efforts Commission (Barnes)

Motion was made and seconded (Capodiferro/Vibert) that Talia Stigliano be appointed to the Green Efforts Commission beginning immediately for an indefinite term.

Adopted unanimously

##### 4. Green Efforts Commission (Boye-Williams)

There was no action taken on Agenda Items L-4.

5. Human Relations Commission (Pawlik)

Motion was made and seconded (Capodiferro/Vibert) that Kayla Zimmerman be appointed to the Human Relations Commission for a balance of a two year term beginning immediately and ending June 30, 2022.

6. Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook Wild & Scenic Management Plan (LFSWS) (Schlegel)

Motion was made and seconded (Capodiferro/Vibert) that Bob Hannon be appointed to the Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook Wild & Scenic Management Plan (LFSWS) for an indefinite term.

Adopted unanimously

7. Plainville Area Cable TV Advisory Council (Bernier)
8. Retirement Board (Huelin)
9. Retirement Board (Wlodkowski)
10. Town Plan & Zoning Commission – **Alternate** (Sanford)
11. Unionville Historic District & Properties Commission – **Alternate** (Marsh)
12. Unionville Historic District & Properties Commission (Martin)
13. Greater Hartford Transit District (Grow)

There was no action taken on Agenda Items L-7 through L-13

M. Old Business

There was no Old Business conducted.

N. New Business

1. To approve the purchase of property owned by Robert and Eileen Bland located at 8480 Meadow Road (11.27 acres) and 8481 Meadow Road (7.13 acres) for a total price of \$604,000.

There was no action taken on Agenda Item N-1

2. To authorize the Town Manager to sign a tax abatement agreement with New Horizons Village located at 37 Bliss Memorial Road in Unionville.

A Motion was made and seconded (Capodiferro/Vibert) for the Town Manager to sign a Tax Abatement agreement with New Horizons Village located at 37 Bliss Memorial Road in Unionville. The Motion is attached to these minutes as Agenda Item N-2.

Adopted unanimously

3. To approve the attached general recommendations from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Ad- Hoc Committee.

A Motion was made and seconded (Capodiferro/Vibert) to approve the attached general recommendations from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Ad-Hoc Committee, Agenda Item N-3.

Adopted unanimously

4. To set a public hearing on Monday, April 4, 2022, at 7:05 p.m. in the Town Hall Council Chambers on the Town Council's Proposed Budget for the Fiscal Year 2022-2023.

A Motion was made and seconded (Capodiferro/Vibert) to set a public hearing on Monday, April 4, 2022, at 7:05 p.m. in the Town Hall Council Chambers on the Town Council's Proposed Budget for the Fiscal Year 2022-2023, attached as Agenda Item N-4.

Adopted unanimously

5. To accept the Annual Report of July 1, 2020, to June 30, 2021.

A Motion was made and seconded (Capodiferro/Vibert) to accept the Annual Report of July 1, 2020, to June 30, 2021, attached as Agenda Item N-5.

Adopted unanimously

6. To cancel the March 22, 2022, Town Council meeting.

A Motion was made and seconded (Capodiferro/Vibert) to cancel the March 22, 2022, Town Council meeting.

Adopted unanimously

7. To approve property tax refunds.

A Motion was made and seconded (Capodiferro/Vibert) to approved property tax refunds, Agenda Item N-7

Adopted unanimously

O. Executive Session

There was no Executive Session held.

P. Adjournment

Motion was made and seconded (Capodiferro/Vibert) to adjourn the meeting at 8:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Maureen Frink, Clerk

## Attachment to Agenda Item D-1

March 8, 2022

Farmington Town Council and Members of the Public:

I present for your review the Town Manager's recommended budget for Fiscal Year 2022 - 2023. This budget is proposed, as always, with the Town of Farmington Vision Statement in mind. The Town of Farmington Vision Statement is:

*"...Farmington will be recognized as an historic and progressive town with an engaged citizenry committed to the betterment of the entire community. To that end, high quality services will be provided to a diverse population living and working in a balanced blend of open space, and residential housing and commercial properties supported by stable and equitable revenues..."*

The General Fund Budget includes the recommended spending for the Town, for the school system, for debt service and for capital improvements. The recommended budgets for the Golf Course, Recreation Fund and solid waste collection and disposal are also included for your review.

The Town Council set a target in which the Town expenditure portion of the budget would increase no more than 2.75% above current year expenditures. Along with the Town Council's budget target, the Town's Strategic Plan and the Town's Capital Improvement Policy were the policy guidelines at the forefront when formulating this budget. The budget building process focused on the following funding themes:

- 1) **Maintain current service levels.** Continue to fund accounts at levels that will enable service levels to remain at high standards. Additionally, any increase in service levels should be directly tied to accomplishing the Town's Strategic Plan/Town Manager goals.
- 2) **Increase current Capital Funding levels.** The cost of maintaining the Town's infrastructure through the Capital Budget is a necessary expense that must be recognized. The cost of not maintaining the Town's property, buildings, and equipment will have a significant negative long-term impact.

Based on the Town Council target, I am recommending a town budget with an increase of 2.74% above current expenditures. To meet that target, I decreased \$751,717 from the budget that was requested by my departments. This decrease reduced the overall budget increase from 5.1% to 2.74%. An increase of 2.74% equates to \$885,237 above the current year's budget.

Overall, this budget is a maintenance budget with no (or very limited) expansion of town services. Typically, our operating budget has "drivers" that increase expenditures. Health Insurance and Utilities have increased significantly, but I am happy to report that due to various factors and cost containment measures, other budget drivers have been minimized to keep cost down. In addition, the 2021-2022 budget included an additional pay period, which increased the personnel budget base. This additional pay period did not have to be included this year which helped me to meet the budget target.

The revenue side of the budget has done exceptionally well this year. The increase in non-tax Revenue has enabled me to recommend an overall 4.30% expenditure increase, while recommending a 1.63% tax rate increase.

**EXPENDITURE SUMMARY:**

**Expenditures**

The total proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2022-2023 is \$121,088,233; an increase of \$4,987,703 or 4.30% above the current budget.

<b>Category</b>	<b>2021-2022</b>	<b>2022-2023</b>	<b>\$ Change</b>	<b>% Change</b>
Board of Education	\$72,288,934	\$74,448,257	\$2,159,323	2.99%
Town Operations	32,317,083	33,202,320	885,237	2.74
Debt Service	8,272,347	9,306,656	1,034,309	12.50
Capital Outlay	3,147,166	3,881,000	733,834	23.32
BOE Defined Contribution	75,000	250,000	175,000	233.33
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$116,100,530</b>	<b>\$121,088,233</b>	<b>\$4,987,703</b>	<b>4.30%</b>

**Town Operations**

I am recommending a town budget of \$33,202,320, an increase of \$885,237 or 2.74% above current expenditures

I will now review the Town Expenditure portion of the budget.

**Definitions:**

**General Administration**

The General Administration group of accounts includes expenses for the administrative branch of the Town government and funding for non-profit organizations that the Town supports.

**Public Safety**

The Public Safety group of accounts includes fire, police, emergency medical and ambulance services, dispatching, and building inspection functions.

**Public Works**

The Public Works group of accounts includes Public Works Administration and Development, Highway and Grounds, and Engineering

**Community and Recreation Services**

The Community and Recreation Services group of accounts includes Community Services, Recreation, and Housing.

**Other**

The Other group of accounts includes funds for employee benefits and contingencies.

Highlights of the Town Budget by category include the following:

**EXPENDITURES:**

<b>General Fund</b>	<b>2021/2022 Revised Budget</b>	<b>2022/2023 TM Recommended</b>	<b>Dollar Change</b>	<b>Percent Change</b>
General Administration	\$7,441,012	\$7,460,326	\$19,314	0.26%
Public Safety	\$10,824,261	\$11,091,864	\$267,603	2.47%
Public Works	\$4,708,440	\$4,935,529	\$227,089	4.82%
Community & Recreation	\$896,768	\$924,662	\$27,894	3.11%
Other	\$8,446,602	\$8,789,939	\$343,337	4.06%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$32,317,083</b>	<b>\$33,202,320</b>	<b>\$885,237</b>	<b>2.74%</b>

**Some areas to note:**

- Personnel costs included 27 pay periods in the 2021- 2022 budget. This budget includes 26 pay periods which a significant reduction in personnel accounts.
- The contribution to the Farmington Library is \$2,837,235 which is a 2.74% increase above current budget levels.
- The Police Fleet account includes funding for three new 24-hour patrol vehicles.
- The Development Wing has been restructured with additional staffing. A part-time secretary in the Fire Marshal has been increased to a full-time position and the part-time building official position has been increased to full-time position.
- The Highway and Grounds Operations account shows funding for four (4) seasonal summer employees who will be used to supplement regular staff.
- A part-time Dial-a Ride driver position in Community and Recreational Services has been increased to full-time position.
- The pension account has been increased due to a reduction in the assumed rate of return on pension investments from 6.875% to 6.75%. The Retirement Board established a policy two years ago to reduce the assumed rate of return on pension investments by an eighth of a percent each year until it is at 6.5%. Once the assumed rate of return reaches 6.5% the Retirement Board will decide if any further reductions are needed. The reduction in the assumed rate of return for the July 1, 2021 valuation increased the FY2022/2023 actuarially determined contribution by \$82,838. This account also funds the employer's share of the matching contribution for employees participating in the defined contribution plans.
- The Health Insurance Account has increased 7.80% due to projected higher claims.
- Overall utilities have increased 5.46 % with Gasoline and Diesel increasing 19.13 %.
- Equipment is up 11.07% due to the increased cost to purchase new police vehicles and the equipment needed to outfit them.
- FVHD increased 14.94% due to Farmington's population increase and a per capita rate increase

- Due to a change in cell phone service provider the Town will realize savings in many cell phone accounts.

**Town Expenditures by Object**

I have also separated the budget by object, which includes Salaries, Benefits, Supplies, Equipment, Contractual, and Utilities. The increases/decreases for each object are as follows:

General Fund	2021/2022 Revised Budget	2022/2023 Manager Recommended	\$ Increase (Decrease)	% Increase (Decrease)
Salaries	\$14,697,255	\$14,986,125	\$288,870	1.97%
Benefits	8,047,324	8,395,071	347,747	4.32
Supplies	769,471	807,431	37,960	4.93
Equipment	420,662	467,234	46,571	11.07
Contractual	6,356,224	6,409,741	53,516	.84
Utilities	2,026,146	2,136,718	110,572	5.46
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$32,317,083</b>	<b>\$33,202,320</b>	<b>\$885,237</b>	<b>2.74%</b>

The recommended total Town General Fund appropriation is \$33,202,320 which is a 2.74% increase above the current budget.

**Debt**

The Debt Service group of accounts is recommended to increase by \$1,034,309 or 12.5%. This group of accounts includes funds to pay for lease financing obligations, Clean Water Fund Loan repayments and the principal and interest due on existing debt. Also included in this account is a new debt service payment for a \$40.0 million bond issue that took place on February 23rd, 2022.

The \$40.0 million issue has a term of 20 years. Most of the bonds (\$37.2 million) will be used to finance the construction of the new Farmington High School. The remainder of the issue will finance land acquisition, road improvements, and elementary school improvement projects. The bonds were rated Aaa by Moody's Rating Service. The Town received ten bids with the lowest bid submitted by Citigroup Global Markets, Inc. with a true interest cost of 2.3844% after applying a \$2.5 million premium. The premium will be used to partially offset interest costs over the first three years of repayments.

**Refuse Collection**

The Refuse Collection budget includes the cost of collecting and disposing of solid, bulky, and hazardous waste generated by Town residents and the Town's landfill operation. This budget proposes a rate increase of \$18.00. The annual fee will be \$272.00 per household.

**Capital Improvements**

The Town's Capital Improvement Policy and the Town's Strategic Plan were the policy guidelines that were at the forefront when formulating the CIP.

The proposed General Fund appropriation to support the first year of the Capital Improvement Plan is \$3,881,000. This is above what we have historically been funding for capital projects. Since 2005, through the Town's Capital Improvement Policy, our capital plan strives to contribute at least 2.5% of General Fund revenues to the capital budget each year. With a cash appropriation of \$3,881,000, the recommended capital budget contribution would be at 3.2% of general fund revenues in FY2022/2023.

## **Summary of General Fund Appropriations Year 1 (2022-2023)**

### **Board of Education**

- \$510,000 Technology Improvements. Funds will be used for infrastructure upgrades and equipment replacement throughout the district.
- \$164,000 School Security. Funds will be used to enhance security measures throughout the district.
- \$158,500 School Code/Safety Compliance. Funds will be used to continue with ADA and building code compliance measures throughout the district.
- \$118,000 Districtwide Mechanical Equipment. Funds will be used to upgrade and replace mechanical, electrical, and plumbing systems and equipment measures throughout the district.
- \$111,500 Cafeteria Equipment. Funds will be used to replace aging kitchen equipment.
- \$515,000 Structural/Architectural. Funds will be used to make repairs and upgrades to the physical structure and architectural features at various schools.
- \$100,000 Vehicle Replacement. Funds will be used to replace a Handicap Accessible Van.
- \$25,000 Telephone System. Funds will be used for adds, moves, and maintenance associated with school facility projects.
- \$185,000 Classroom Furniture. Funds will be used to replace old and aging furniture and fixtures throughout the district.

### **Engineering**

- \$50,000 Environmental Compliance. Funds will be used to continue a mandated Town-wide catch basin cleaning program as well as storm water sampling and other required permit tasks.
- \$25,000 Open Space Management. Funds will be used for the Town's Open Space management program to address invasive species.

### **Highway and Grounds**

- \$40,000 Irrigation Improvements. Funds will be used to continue to upgrade irrigation systems at schools and athletic fields. IAR middle school is slated for this funding.
- \$75,000 Vehicle Maintenance Building Roof. Funds will be used to replace the roof over the vehicle maintenance section of the highway garage. This is the oldest section of the Highway & Grounds facility, and the roof is original to the building.
- \$85,000 Road Maintenance Truck-Highway. Funds will be used to replace an existing 2001 Road Maintenance Truck in the Highway Unit.



- \$225,000 Excavator. Funds will be used to purchase an excavator. This is a new piece of equipment for the Highway & Grounds Department and would replace a backhoe
- \$30,000 Sandpro. Funds will be used to replace a 1998 Sandpro for the Grounds Unit.
- \$45,000 Building Maintenance Vehicle. Funds will be used to replace an existing 2004 Van in the Building Maintenance Unit.

### **Planning Department**

- \$30,000 Affordable Housing Plan. Funds will be used to implement the goals and objectives of the Town of Farmington Affordable Housing Plan, which was approved by the Town Plan and Zoning Commission in July 2021.
- \$30,000 Tinty Barn Improvements. Funds will be used for repairs to the two barns at the Tinty farm.

### **Fire Department**

- \$66,000 Turnout Gear. Funds will continue the replacement program for turnout gear.
- \$75,000 Communications Upgrades. Funds will continue the implementation of a multiyear communications plan to replace mobile and portable radios.
- \$75,000 Extrication Equipment. Funds will be used to begin a program of replacing old combustion powered hydraulic tools with battery powered extrication tools. The purpose of this 'replacement program is to have uniform extrication equipment at East Farms, Farmington, and Tunxis Hose stations allowing for interoperability and ease in training.
- \$95,000 Keyless Building Entry. Funds will be used to upgrade the building access by providing key fobs at all 5 fire stations. This is a continuation of the security program at Town Hall and will provide for continuity and consistency of building access across all town buildings.

### **Police Department**

- \$35,000 Utility Vehicle. Funds will be used to purchase a utility vehicle to be used by Community Service Officers on the Rails to Trails, and for Police Officers during public events.
- \$160,000 Technology Improvements. Fund will be used to purchase license plate readers, replace a network switch, and make security improvements including video camera replacement and electronic door locks.
- \$75,000 Communications Upgrade. Funds will be used to improve radio coverage by upgrading the West Farms Mall to a full repeater site.
- \$60,000 Dispatch Console Stations. Funds will be used to purchase dispatch console furniture. These stations are customized for the multiple computer screens used in public safety dispatch and have ergonomic features for long work shifts.

### **Town Manager**

- \$100,000 1928 Building. Funds will be used for design work for a potential 1928 Building Committee.
- \$150,000 Town Hall Improvements. Funds will be used to continue to implement a multiphase plan to improve the security at Town Hall and to address interior building improvements and code issues.
- \$50,000 Building/Equipment Improvements. Funds will be used for unanticipated major repairs to various town buildings and equipment as the need arises.
- \$35,000 Unionville Museum. Funds will be used for the Town's share of a joint project with the Unionville Museum for an addition to house a bathroom and kitchenette.
- \$130,000 Technology Improvements. Funds will be used for technology upgrades including server infrastructure replacement, an IT Security Audit, phone system upgrades at the Police Department and Senior Center, and banking funds for rewiring at Town Hall, to be undertaken after the new High School construction project is completed.
- \$136,000 Revaluation. Funds will be used to continue the process of reappraising all real property by October 1, 2022.

### **Community and Recreation Services**

- \$25,000 Building Safety. Funds will be used to upgrade the current building access to provide electronic entry at the Senior Center and Staples House. This is a continuation of the security program begun at Town Hall and will provide for continuity and consistency for building access across all town buildings.
- \$25,000 Senior Center Exercise Equipment. Funds will be used to replace the flooring in the Senior Center Exercise Room
- \$25,000 Youth Center Renovations. Funds will be used to continue renovations at the Youth Center in accordance with the building improvement plan.

### **Westwoods Golf Course**

- \$42,000 Utility Vehicle. Funds will be used to purchase a utility vehicle with a debris blower. This will replace a broken Cushman truckster and, also replace a 2003 giant vac blower.

### **Summary of Other Funding (2022-2023)**

#### **Town Manager**

- \$128,205 Outdoor Pavilion. Small Town Economic Assistance Program (STEAP) Grant funds will be used to construct an outdoor meeting pavilion on the Town Hall patio.

#### **Community & Recreation Services**

- \$55,000 Dial-a-Ride Bus. Funds will be used to purchase a new minibus to support the dial-a-ride program.

- \$59,000 Recreation Facilities Improvement. Based on the Recreation Fund Policy, funds will be used to replace equipment as needed at recreational facilities used for recreation programs (ex: nets for batting cages, basketball hoops, etc.).

**Bonding**

I am not proposing any bonding this year. It should be noted that the Board of Education proposed capital budget included funding for two large ventilation projects in schools this year and an additional two ventilations projects the following year. I am recommending all four of these projects be bonded together in FY23/24.

This Capital Budget will allow us to make headway to meet the Town’s capital improvement needs. The cost of maintaining the Town’s infrastructure through the CIP is a necessary expense that must be recognized. The need for funds to maintain the Town’s property, buildings, and equipment is often greater than the willingness of the Town to appropriate funds to meet those needs. However, the cost of not maintaining the Town’s property, buildings, and equipment will have a significant long-term impact. It may be tempting to defer a cost today to save money; however, the cost of deferred maintenance and repairs does not disappear, it accumulates, and will likely increase in the future.

**Water Pollution Control Authority Budget**

The Water Pollution Control Authority will hold a public hearing on its budget on March 9, 2022, at 7:00 p.m. in person and virtually via Zoom. The budget shows a 0% increase per residential and commercial sewer use fees as well as a 0% increase in the residential connection fee.

**Board of Education**

The Board of Education account includes a request of \$74,448,257, an increase of 2.99% above the current year budget. Details of the Education budget are included in the budget document provided by the Board of Education.

**Expenditures Summary**

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<b>Total</b>	<b>\$116,100,530</b>	<b>\$121,088,233</b>	<b>\$4,987,703</b>	<b>4.30%</b>

## GRAND LIST

The Grand List is broken down into three categories: Real Estate, Personal Property, and Motor Vehicles. The Real Estate account shows a 0.21 % increase, the Personal Property account shows a (2.51%) decrease, and the Motor Vehicles account shows a 25.22% increase. In summary, the Grand List increased by 1.72 % or \$64,395,241, for a total Grand List of \$3,797,616,699.

Category	2021-2022	2022-2023	\$ Change	% Change
Real Estate	\$3,241,496,228	\$3,248,365,946	\$6,869,718	0.21%
Personal Property	239,751,822	233,736,253	(6,015,569)	(2.51)
Motor Vehicles	251,973,408	315,514,500	63,541,092	25.22
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$3,733,221,458</b>	<b>\$3,797,616,699</b>	<b>\$64,395,241</b>	<b>1.72%</b>

### Some areas to note:

- Motor Vehicles increased by 25.22%. Overall, we have seen an increase in the value of cars in Farmington. This is considerable growth and has driven the overall increase in the grand list.

## REVENUES

I have broken down revenues into nine categories: Other Property Taxes, Licenses and Permits, Fines and Penalties, Interest, Grants, Service Charges, Other, Westwoods Contribution, CIP.

Revenues	FY 21/22	FY 22/23	\$ Change	% Change
Other Property Taxes	\$1,316,000	\$1,405,000	\$89,000	6.76%
Licenses and Permits	701,000	781,500	80,500	11.48
Fines and Penalties	18,500	15,000	(3,500)	(18.92)
Interest	125,000	150,000	25,000	20.00
Grants	4,918,103	6,459,586	1,541,483	31.34
Service Charges	1,366,500	1,514,308	147,808	10.82
Other	861,844	772,126	(89,718)	(10.41)
Westwoods Contribution	330,000	320,000	(10,000)	(3.03)
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$9,636,947</b>	<b>\$11,417,520</b>	<b>\$1,780,573</b>	<b>18.48%</b>

In summary, projected non-tax revenues are \$11,417,520 or an 18.48% increase over the current year.

### Some areas to note:

- State and Federal Grants have substantially been increased from last year. The Town received an additional \$1,640,533 in PILOT Funds from the State of Connecticut.
- Charges for Services revenue is expected to increase due to the strong real estate market. The Town Clerk's office has been able to collect a significant amount of revenue from the conveyance tax and recording fees.
- The Westwoods Contribution account includes a \$320,000 contribution from the West Woods Golf Course to the Operating Budget to help support golf course maintenance expenses.
- Other Revenue includes \$707,126 in payments from the other major users of the wastewater treatment plant. These payments represent their share of the cost of the wastewater treatment plant upgrade project completed in 2020. These payments will be less each year based on a twenty-year payment schedule.

**Recommended Tax and Mill Rate:**

The recommended General Fund budget will require a property tax rate of 29.28 mills, an increase of .47 mills. In other words, \$100,000 of assessed value equals \$2,928 in taxes. Below is the cost for the average homeowner with a house assessed at \$226,777.

<b>Proposed Tax and Mill Rate</b>	<b>FY 21/22</b>	<b>FY 22/23</b>
Tax Levy	\$107,144,687	\$110,770,713
Mill Rate	28.81	29.28
Mill Rate Change	0.84	0.47
% of Change	2.99%	1.63%
Real Estate Taxes for the Average Homeowner	\$6,532.75	6,639.31
Dollar Increase /decrease	189.82	106.56
Percent Increase/decrease	2.99%	1.63%

Based on a tax rate of 29.28 mills, the average residential assessment will see an increase of \$106.56 in their taxes.

As always, Town staff continually work to serve the community at a high level without substantially increasing the tax burden on our property owners. We constantly review the organization for efficiencies, cost savings and implementation of best practices for municipal governments.

My staff and I stand ready to assist you in your deliberations during the next week.

Sincerely,



Kathleen A. Blonski  
Town Manager

# Board of Education's 2022-2023 Recommended Budget



**FARMINGTON  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

Empowering Global Citizens

March 8, 2022



## FARMINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS: BOARD OF EDUCATION'S 2022-2023 RECOMMENDED BUDGET

### The 2022-2023 recommended budget reflects the following:

- Maintains and advances academic excellence through innovative programming PreK-12;
- Promotes innovation in student-centered teaching and learning;
- Advances programming and resources aligned to the district's Equity Framework;
- Supports students' academic and social emotional development, especially due to the impact of the pandemic;
- Moves and/or reinstates much needed personnel, academic supplies, facility projects, programming and technology off grants and onto the operating budget, some of which were reduced in the 2021-2022 budget;
- Factors in ESSER funding to offset costs to mitigate the overall increase in the operating budget;
- Contains costs through zero-based budgeting, reductions and efficiencies to maintain and advance current programming; and
- Maintains class size levels in accordance with BoE policy.





**FARMINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS:  
BOARD OF EDUCATION'S 2022-2023  
RECOMMENDED BUDGET**

<b>Total Budget Amount</b>	<b>\$74,448,257</b>
<b>Increase:</b>	<b>\$2,159,323</b>
<b>Percent Increase Over 2021-2022 Budget:</b>	<b>2.99%</b>





## FARMINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS: EXCELLENCE IN FISCAL MANAGEMENT EXPENDITURE RANKINGS

### \*Exceptional management of taxpayer dollars:

- 110 out of all Connecticut districts in instruction;
- 157 out of all Connecticut districts in general administration;
- 124 out of all Connecticut districts in central and other services;
- 130 out of all Connecticut districts in student transportation; and
- 106 out of all Connecticut districts in per pupil expenditures (FPS spends \$1,918 less per pupil than the average per pupil expenditure in Connecticut).

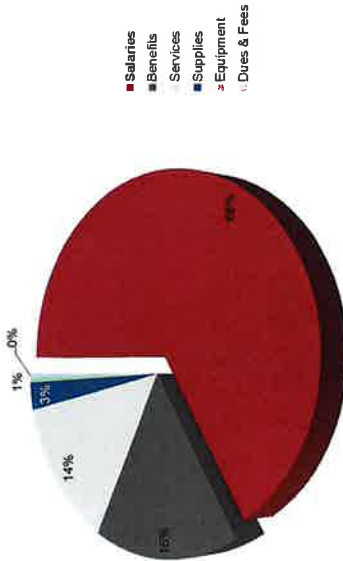
*\*Of 166 districts: #1 spending the most and #166 spending the lowest*

*Source: Connecticut Public School Expenditures Report*



# SALARIES-100 SERIES

- Provides funding for school district employees, including teachers
- Account reflects the following negotiated increases:
  - Teachers
    - 1.75% GWI top step and BA track steps 9-11
    - +Step increase only for teachers below top step
    - 1.25% increase in Appendix C
  - Administrators
    - 1.75% GWI
    - + Step increase
  - Nurses
    - 1.5% GWI top step
    - + Step increase only for nurses below top step
    - Additional prep day per negotiated contract
  - Classified Staff
    - 2.0% GWI
    - + Step increase only for those below top step

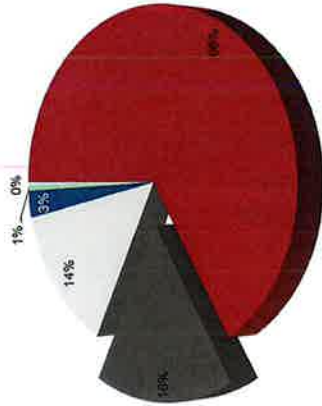


**2022-2023 Requested Budget** \$49,097,978  
**2021-2022 Approved Budget** \$47,455,355  
**Total Increase Requested** \$1,642,623  
**Percentage Increase** 3.46%



## BENEFITS-200 SERIES

- This account provides 100% of expected paid claims and administration of employee health insurance;
- All Associations have a High Deductible HSA with Co-Insurance;
- All Associations now have “dispense as written” within negotiated contracts which will create cost containment and efficiencies within self insurance;
- The Farmington BOE and Town have collaborated on a self-insurance policy that is a model for the state; and
- Life Insurance cost is \$.23/thousand and Long Term Disability cost is \$.22/hundred.



■ Salaries  
■ Benefits  
■ Services  
■ Supplies  
■ Equipment  
■ Dues & Fees

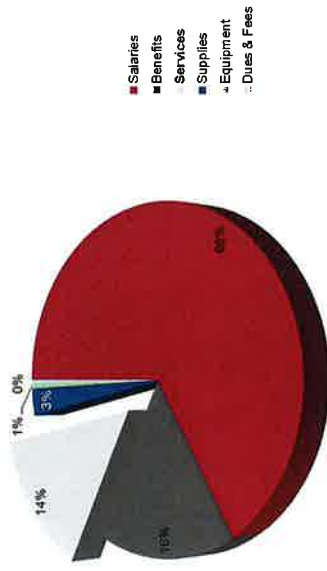
**2022-2023 Requested Budget**  
**\$12,243,626**  
**2021-2022 Approved Budget**  
**\$12,130,996**  
**Total Increase Requested**  
**\$112,630**  
**0.93%**

**2022-2023 Requested Budget**  
**2021-2022 Approved Budget**  
**Total Increase Requested**  
**Percentage Increase**



## SERVICES-300 SERIES

- Account provides for Special Services consultation services and tuition costs for outplacements;
- Account provides for major facility projects, K-8 summer school and technology based operational systems. Some facility projects were reduced in the 2021-22 budget and are being reinstated in 2022-23;
- Account includes costs for student transportation and provides for Professional Development Programs to improve teaching and learning; and
- The Board and Town collaborated on a successful energy service company performance contract which continues to bring further efficiencies to Board and Town buildings.

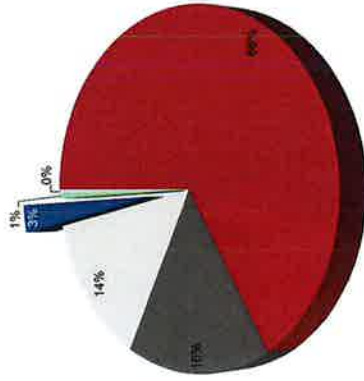


2022-2023 Requested Budget	\$10,583,873
2021-2022 Approved Budget	\$10,330,236
Total Increase Requested	\$253,637
Percentage Increase	2.46%



## SUPPLIES-400 SERIES

- Account provides for facilities used in swimming and ice hockey competitions;
- Account provides for the purchase of a wide ranging group of items such as instructional, health, custodial, computer, and testing supplies, text and library books, and A-V/Computer materials; and
- This series experienced reductions in 2021-22 and reflects a reinstatement of funding for much needed supplies in 2022-23.



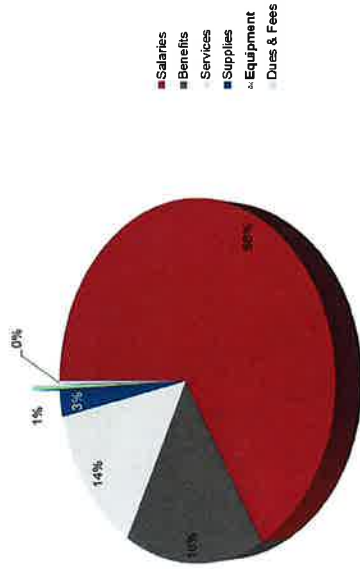
■ Salaries  
 ■ Benefits  
 ■ Services  
 ■ Supplies  
 ■ Equipment  
 ■ Dues & Fees

2022-2023 Requested Budget	\$1,904,504
2021-2022 Approved Budget	\$1,831,555
Total Increase Requested	\$72,949
Percentage Increase	3.98%



## EQUIPMENT-500 SERIES

- Account provides for facility and technology equipment;
- The district has prioritized all potential technology and facility purchases within this series;
- This series experienced major reductions in 2021-22 and reflects a reinstatement of funding in 2022-23; and
- The major driver of this increase is the restoration of funding for technology equipment related to the district's full transition to take-home 1:1 devices.



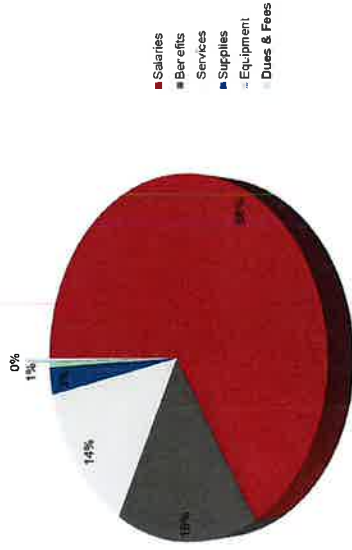
2022-2023 Requested Budget	\$362,304
2021-2022 Approved Budget	\$278,168
Total Increase Requested	\$84,136
Percentage Increase	30.25%





## DUES AND FEES-600 SERIES

- Memberships in organizations such as the Connecticut Association of School Business Officials and the Connecticut Association of Public School Superintendents are included here;
- Account includes the Town of Farmington's negotiated liability, umbrella and motor vehicle insurance for the school district; and
- The reduction in this account is due to movement of ASPIRE funds into the correct supply account.



2022-2023 Requested Budget	\$255,973
2021-2022 Approved Budget	\$262,624
Total Increase Requested	\$(6,651)
Percentage Increase	-2.53%



## FARMINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS: BUDGET SUMMARY 2022-2023

ACCOUNT	2021-2022	2022-2023	Change	Percent
SALARIES	\$47,455,355	\$49,097,978	\$1,642,623	3.46%
BENEFITS	\$12,130,996	\$12,243,626	\$112,630	0.93%
SERVICES	\$10,330,236	\$10,583,873	\$253,637	2.46%
SUPPLIES	\$1,831,555	\$1,904,504	\$72,949	3.98%
EQUIPMENT	\$278,168	\$362,304	\$84,136	30.25%
DUES/FEES	\$262,624	\$255,973	-\$6,651	-2.53%
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$72,288,934</b>	<b>\$74,448,257</b>	<b>\$2,159,323</b>	<b>2.99%</b>





# FARMINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Empowering Global Citizens

**2022-2023**

## **Board of Education's** **Capital Improvement Budget**

# Capital Improvement Request 2022-2023

Technology Infrastructure	\$510,000
School Security	\$164,000
School Code and Safety	\$158,500
Cafeteria Equipment	\$111,500
Classroom Furniture	\$185,000
UN Mechanical Ventilation Upgrades	\$850,000

Districtwide Mechanical, Electrical, and Plumbing	\$118,000
Structural/Architectural	\$515,000
Telephone System	\$25,000
Replacement of Vehicles	\$100,000
NW Mechanical Ventilation Upgrades	\$850,000

**TOTAL CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT REQUEST:**

**\$3,587,000**

# Seven Year Capital Improvement Budget

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (Seven Year)  
FOR THE PERIOD  
FY2022/2023-FY2028/2029

FUNDING SOURCE CODE:  
G = GENERAL FUND  
B = BONDING  
O = OTHER FUNDS

	F	Town Council Approved 2021-2022	Superintendent Request 2022-2023	Town Council Approved 2022-2023	PROJECTED	PROJECTED	PROJECTED	PROJECTED	PROJECTED	PROJECTED	PROJECTED	TOTAL
	S	2021-2022	2022-2023	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025	2025-2026	2026-2027	2027-2028	2028-2029		
<b>BOARD OF EDUCATION</b>												
Technology Infrastructure	G	400,000	510,000		575,000	575,000	575,000	575,000	575,000	575,000	575,000	3,960,000
School Security	G	100,000	164,000		350,000	350,000	200,000	200,000	200,000	200,000	200,000	1,714,000
School Code and Safety Compliance	G	100,000	158,500		250,000	250,000	250,000	250,000	250,000	250,000	250,000	1,656,500
Union Mechanical Ventilation	G		850,000									850,000
Districtwide Mechanical, Electrical and Plumbing	G	160,000	118,000		1,700,000	300,000	500,000	750,000	750,000	750,000	750,000	4,868,000
Cafeteria Equipment	G	91,000	111,500		100,000	75,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	486,500
Structural/Architectural	G	260,000	515,000		300,000	1,700,000	1,800,000	1,250,000	1,500,000	1,250,000	1,250,000	8,315,000
Noah Wallace Mechanical Ventilation	G		850,000									850,000
Replacement of Vehicles	G	0	100,000		25,000	100,000		150,000	100,000			450,000
Telephone System	G	0	25,000		25,000	25,000						75,000
Classroom Furniture (FF&E)	G	1,284,000	185,000		185,000	185,000	160,000	160,000	160,000	160,000	160,000	1,195,000
IAR Cafeteria Addition/Renovation	B											
FHS Roof Replacement	G	120,000										
NW Roof Partial Roof Replacement	B	450,000										
WD Corridor Flooring	G	236,166										
FHS Mascot	G	20,000										
<b>TOTAL EDUCATION</b>		<b>3,221,166</b>	<b>3,587,000</b>		<b>3,485,000</b>	<b>3,560,000</b>	<b>3,535,000</b>	<b>3,385,000</b>	<b>3,585,000</b>	<b>3,285,000</b>	<b>3,285,000</b>	<b>24,422,000</b>

Updated 1/27/22



**2022-2023**

**Board of Education's**  
**Capital Improvement Budget**

# Farmington Public Schools Budget Development Philosophy

The budget development process is a strategic planning opportunity for the school district administration and the BoE.

The FPS K-8 Facilities Review has provided the district with short-term and long-term facility goals that we continue to prioritize in the budget process. This thorough review provides a roadmap for our school facility upgrades and improvements to:

- *Address short term and long term capital maintenance planning and expenditure allocation; and*
- *Maintain schools that are safe, modern, compliant with current building codes and able to support educational programming.*

# FPS Capital Improvement Budget: What has been accomplished in 2021-2022?

## Completed:

- EF Office relocation, library renovation
- IAR Heat/AC RTU Replacement
- EF Soffit Frame Repair
- WW Heat Exchange Replacement (Phased)

## COVID-19 related expenses (unanticipated):

- 2020-2021, Commissioned an engineering firm, CES, to complete a thorough analysis of our ventilation systems district-wide, and to provide recommended improvements for district mechanical ventilation.

## In Process:

- IAR Cafeteria Expansion
- NW Partial Roof Replacement
- WD Chimney Cap and Repoint
- WD Corridor Flooring Abatement
- IAR Building Automation Control Upgrades\*
- Security System Motherboard Replacements

# Capital Budget “Buckets”

- ✓ Technology Infrastructure ✓ Districtwide MEP\*
- ✓ School Security\* ✓ Structural/Architectural\*
- ✓ School Code and Safety\* ✓ Telephone System
- ✓ Cafeteria Equipment ✓ Replacement of Vehicles
- ✓ Classroom Furniture (FF & E) ✓ Mechanical Ventilation Projects

\*Including but not limited to K-8 Facilities Review Report Recommendations

\*\*Per State of Connecticut and Town of Farmington policies many projects will be listed as separate and distinct Capital Projects to qualify for partial reimbursement.

# Farmington Public Schools 2022-2023 Capital Improvement Projects

## Technology

# \$510,000



# Capital Improvement Plan - Technology

Servers (Core)	District	\$35,000.00
Network Equipment	District	\$150,000.00
Wireless Infrastructure	District	\$50,000.00
Data Room BCDR	District	\$25,000.00
Classroom A/V Upgrades	District	\$150,000.00
Classroom Desktop Upgrades	District	\$75,000.00
Auditorium Upgrades	IAR/WW	\$25,000.00
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$510,000.00</b>

Includes phased updates to classroom A/V technology at K-6 schools, annual replacement of network hardware, phased upgrade of classroom desktops, continued work to support business continuity/disaster recovery in our main data rooms, and continued funding of server infrastructure that supports Core applications as well as operations at the school level.

Also includes phased funding for FHS Building project network hardware due to higher reimbursement rate via Federal E-Rate program.

**Farmington Public Schools  
2022-2023 Capital Improvement Projects**

**Security  
\$164,000**

# Security

## 2022-2023 projects include:

- Card Swipe Access Points
- Additional Camera Locations
- Radio Replacements
- Security Assessment Report (10 Yrs.)
- Remote Panic Buttons and Burglar Alarms

**Farmington Public Schools  
2022-2023 Capital Improvement Projects**

**Code and Safety Compliance  
\$158,500**

# Code and Safety Compliance

## 2022-2023 projects include:

- ADA School Signage\*
- Updated Emergency Plans\*
- Magnetic Hold Opens\*
- UN Stairwell Doors\*
- IAR Gas Pipe Repair\*



\*K-8 Facilities Review Report Recommendations

# Farmington Public Schools 2022-2023 Capital Improvement Projects



## Cafeteria Equipment \$111,500

- IAR Warmer
- WW Oven
- UN Steamer
- UN Warmer
- NW Milk Cooler
- EF Bain Marie/Warmer
- NW Dishwasher
- IAR Grease Trap



**Farmington Public Schools  
2022-2023 Capital Improvement Projects**

**Furniture, Fixtures and  
Equipment (FF&E): Classroom  
Furniture  
\$185,000**

# Furniture, Fixtures and Equipment



## 2022-2023 project:

- Completion of IAR classroom furniture replacement





**Farmington Public Schools  
2022-2023 Capital Improvement Projects**

**MEP: District-wide  
Mechanical, Electrical  
and Plumbing**

**\$118,000**

# Disctrictwide MEP



## 2022-2023 projects include:

- IAR RTU replacement (Phased)\*
- IAR Rooftop Exhaust Replacement\*
- WW Walk-In Freezer Replacement\*

*\*K-8 Facilities Review Report Recommendations*

**Farmington Public Schools  
2022-2023 Capital Improvement Projects**

**Mechanical Ventilation**

**Upgrades, UN, NW**

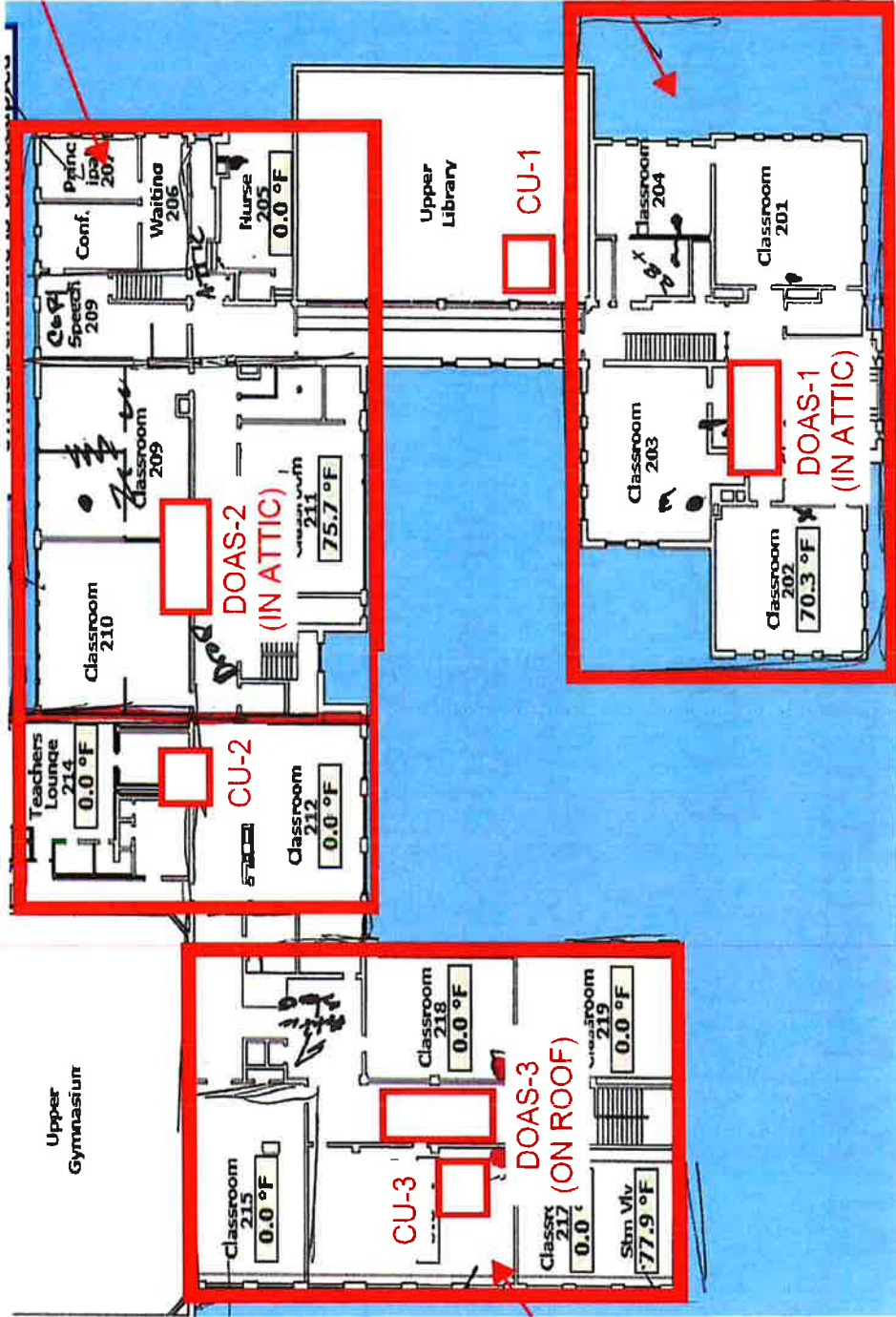
**\$850,000 per school**

# NW Mechanical Ventilation Upgrades

## Project Highlights:

- Schematic Design with Budgetary Magnitude
- 3 dedicated outdoor air supply units
- Serving 29 Classroom and support spaces
- Design is not full air conditioning, but will supply preconditioned outdoor air
  - Air energy recovery units
  - 70 degree heating design
  - 78 degree cooling design
  - ASHRAE Fundamentals

# Noah Wallace Ventilation Upgrade





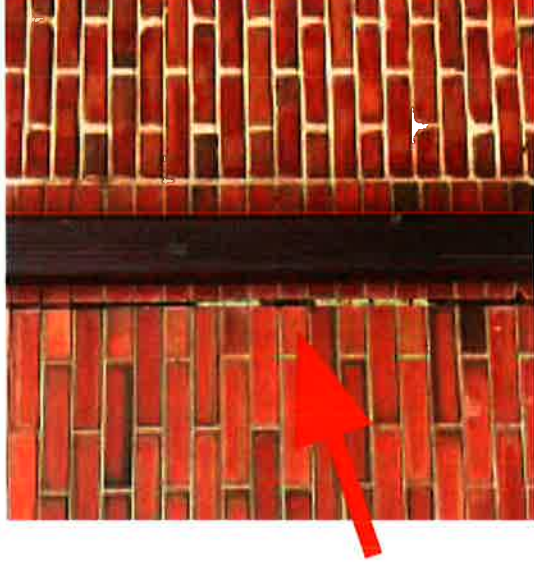
**Farmington Public Schools  
2022-2023 Capital Improvement Projects**

**Structural /Architectural  
\$515,000**

# Structural / Architectural

## 2022-2023 projects include:

- NW Facade Upgrades\*
- IAR Expansion Joint Repair\*
- WW Gymnasium Floor



# Farmington Public Schools 2022-2023 Capital Improvement Projects

**Telephone System**  
**\$25,000**



# Farmington Public Schools 2022-2023 Capital Improvement Projects

## Replacement of Vehicles

**\$100,000**

- **Handicap Accessible Van**

# Farmington Public Schools 2022-2023 Capital Improvement Projects

## Capital Projects: Out Years

# Examples of “Out Years” Capital Projects:

## **Transportation: Vehicle Replacement**

- *Replace (2) vehicles that are 12+ years old and each have more than 200,000 miles.*

## **Telephone: Upgrade District Telephone System (target 2025)**

- *Begin to build capital (2022-23) for planned upgrade the district’s telephone servers.*

## **MEP: West Woods Upper Elementary School (20 years old)**

- *Mechanical systems reaching life expectancy*

## **Structural Architectural: West Woods Upper Elementary School**

- *WW Built-Up Roof Sections*

# Capital Improvement Request

## 2022-2023

Technology Infrastructure	\$510,000
School Security	\$164,000
School Code and Safety	\$158,500
Cafeteria Equipment	\$111,500
Classroom Furniture	\$185,000
UN Mechanical Ventilation Upgrades	\$850,000

Districtwide Mechanical, Electrical, and Plumbing	\$118,000
Structural/Architectural	\$515,000
Telephone System	\$25,000
Replacement of Vehicles	\$100,000
NW Mechanical Ventilation Upgrades	\$850,000

**TOTAL CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT REQUEST:**

**\$3,587,000**

# Seven Year Capital Improvement Budget

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (Seven Year)  
FOR THE PERIOD  
FY2022/2023-FY2028/2029

FUNDING SOURCE CODE:  
G = GENERAL FUND  
B = BONDING  
O = OTHER FUNDS

	F	Town Council Approved 2021-2022	Superintendent Request 2022-2023	Town Council Approved 2022-2023	PROJECTED 2023-2024	PROJECTED 2024-2025	PROJECTED 2025-2026	PROJECTED 2026-2027	PROJECTED 2027-2028	PROJECTED 2028-2029	TOTAL
<b>BOARD OF EDUCATION</b>											
G		400,000	510,000		575,000	575,000	575,000	575,000	575,000	575,000	3,960,000
G		100,000	164,000		350,000	350,000	200,000	200,000	200,000	250,000	1,714,000
G		100,000	158,500		250,000	250,000	250,000	250,000	250,000	250,000	1,658,500
G			850,000								850,000
G		160,000	118,000		1,700,000	300,000	500,000	750,000	750,000	750,000	4,868,000
G		91,000	111,500		100,000	75,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	486,500
G		260,000	515,000		300,000	1,700,000	1,800,000	1,250,000	1,500,000	1,250,000	8,315,000
G			850,000								850,000
G		0	100,000			100,000		150,000	100,000		450,000
G		0	25,000		25,000	25,000					75,000
G			185,000		185,000	185,000		160,000	160,000	160,000	1,195,000
B		1,284,000									-
G		120,000									-
B		450,000									-
G		236,166									-
G		20,000									-
		<b>3,221,166</b>	<b>3,587,000</b>		<b>3,485,000</b>	<b>3,560,000</b>	<b>3,535,000</b>	<b>3,385,000</b>	<b>3,585,000</b>	<b>3,285,000</b>	<b>24,422,000</b>
<b>TOTAL-EDUCATION</b>											



## **Q & A 2022-2023 Budget**

The Question & Answer document is a working document that will be updated throughout the 2022-2023 Farmington Board of Education budget development process. The purpose of this document is to provide the Farmington community with factual information relative to the most frequently asked questions that the Board of Education receives throughout the budget development process.

### **Sections**

[Critical Dates and Meetings](#)  
[Proposed 2022-2023 Budget](#)  
[Cost Containment](#)  
[Farmington's Expenditure Rankings](#)  
[Curriculum](#)  
[Technology](#)  
[Staffing](#)  
[Special Education](#)  
[Budget Development](#)  
[Budget Impact](#)  
[Self-Insurance](#)  
[General Questions](#)  
[COVID-19 Impact](#)

### **Appendix**

[Attachment A](#)  
[Attachment B](#)

## Critical Dates and Meetings

**Farmington Public Schools  
School District Budget Development Outline  
2022-2023 Budget**

BOE Budget Meeting Workshop	February 5 – 9:00am – 2:00pm
BOE Budget and Regular Meeting	February 7 – 7:00pm
BOE Budget Meeting	February 8 – 7:00pm
BOE Budget Meeting (if needed)	February 9 – 7:00pm
BOE’s Recommended Budget due to Town Manager	February 18
First Public Hearing on Town/School Budget	March 8 @ 7:00pm
Board Town Council Budget Workshop	March 9 @ 4:00 – 9:00pm
Town Council Budget Workshop	March 10 @ 4:00 – 9:00pm
Town Council Budget Workshop	March 12 @ 9:00am – 12:00pm
Town Council Budget Workshop (if needed)	March 14 @ 4:00 – 9:00pm
Town Council Budget Workshop (if needed)	March 15 @ 4:00 – 9:00pm
Town Council Public Hearing on the Budget	April 4 @ 7:00pm
First Annual Town Meeting	April 18 @ 7:00pm
Townwide Referendum on 2022-2023 Town & School Budgets	April 28
Town Council Budget Workshop (if referendum fails)	April 29 @ 4:00pm
Second Annual Meeting (if needed)	May 2 @ 7:00pm
Second Referendum (if needed)	May 12





## 2022-2023 Budget Amounts

**What is the budget for the 2022-2023 school year?**

**Superintendent Recommended:**

Total Superintendent Recommended: **\$74,695,599**

Increase over 2021-2022 BOE Adopted: **3.33%**

**BOE Approved:**

Motion passed: **02/05/2022**

Total BOE Approved: **\$74,448,257**

Increase over 2021-2022 BOE Adopted: **\$2,159,323 or 2.99%**

**BOE Adopted:**

Motion passed: **xx/xx/2022**

Total BOE Approved: **\$xxxxxxx**

Increase over 2021-2022 BOE Adopted: **\$xxxxxxx or xxx%**

**What are the major messages of the 2022-2023 Budget?**

**The 2022-2023 Budget:**

- Maintains and advances academic excellence through innovative programming PreK-12;
- Promotes innovation in student-centered teaching and learning;
- Advances programming and resources aligned to the district’s Equity Framework;
- Supports students’ academic and social emotional development, especially due to the impact of the pandemic;
- Moves and/or reinstates much needed personnel, academic supplies, facility projects, programming and technology off grants and onto the operating budget, some of which were reduced in the 2021-2022 budget;
- Factors in ESSER funding to offset costs to mitigate the overall increase in the operating budget;
- Contains costs through zero-based budgeting, reductions and efficiencies to maintain and advance current programming; and
- Maintains class size levels in accordance with BoE policy.

## Cost Containment and Avoidance

**What are some cost containment STRATEGIES that have impacted the budget in a way that has reduced the Board of Education’s approved 2022-2023 budget?**

Federal level ESSER III ARP funds will provide approximately \$970,000 in 2022-2023

The district was reimbursed \$726,877 for a school security construction grant to advance safety and security measures throughout the district (\$202,439 for reimbursement of security vestibule projects and \$524,438 for reimbursement of various roof projects);



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The Town of Farmington's contract negotiations for liability insurance has resulted in significant savings that will continue into the 2022-2023 budget;

Planning for the future (cost efficiency work, facility study, equipment audit (vehicle/kitchen), Special Services study and building internal capacity);

Reductions to the budget of over \$603,000 to arrive at the Superintendent's recommended budget;

Joint Town and Board of Education Self Insurance Committee established a Joint Self Insurance Policy that articulates best practices in self-insurance budgeting and establishes protocols for proactively reducing reserve when it reaches the 25% level. Thus, the policy assists the Town and Board in reducing the taxpayer's burden when the reserve reaches an insurance industry's reserve level;

Town and Board of Education collaboration continues to promote innovation and best practices; Farmington schools utilizes a High Deductible HSA for all employees; new updated features to the health insurance plans are projected to result in cost savings and avoidance;

Developed and continued to expand in-house experts on our faculty in a training-of-trainees model to avoid costs of consultation and external staff developers;

Negotiated contract with energy services provider for a low three year fixed rate, resulting in cost containment for the district.

## **Farmington's Expenditure Rankings**

110 out of all Connecticut districts in instruction;  
157 out of all Connecticut districts in general administration;  
124 out of all Connecticut districts in central and other services;  
130 out of all Connecticut districts in student transportation; and  
106 out of all Connecticut districts in per pupil expenditures (FPS spends \$1,918 less per pupil than the average per pupil expenditure in Connecticut).

*\*Of 166 districts in Connecticut: #1 spending the most and 166 spending the lowest  
Source: Connecticut Public School Expenditures Report*

## **Curriculum**

### **What does the Curriculum budget fund?**

The budget allocation includes:

- Stipends for teachers to serve on district-wide vertical teams in each discipline to set standards, monitor assessment data and propose curriculum development work that will ensure a K-12 alignment of knowledge and skills.



- Stipends for curriculum leaders who provide training and coaching at the annual Summer Curriculum Academy and review/evaluate all curriculum documents.
- Stipends for teams of teachers to develop curriculum maps for courses and grade levels that have been identified by the vertical team as in need of revision or realignment.

### **Why do we need curriculum documents?**

- Articulate for teachers exactly what students should know and be able to do in each unit of study.
- Specify which standards are to be taught, how they will be assessed and what unique learning activities will lead students to develop these understandings.
- Build on what students have already learned and increase in knowledge, complexity and skill as students' progress through the grades.
- Ensure common experiences across schools and classrooms so that all children have access to the knowledge and skills they need to achieve at high levels.

### **Why don't we just buy textbooks?**

- FPS curriculum is designed to include differentiated instruction for diverse learners.
- Farmington standards are high and textbook companies do not always align their content with our standards.
- Textbooks alone do not provide the rich and varied resources that engage students in doing meaningful "real-world" work so that they know how to transfer and apply what they have learned to new situations.

### **What is a techbook and why don't we just use those?**

A "techbook" is a marketing term used by Discovery Education for its online classroom resources. FPS purchases these resources for Science and Social Studies at the grade 7 and 8 levels and uses it in place of a traditional textbook and in combination with other resources. This resource provides an extensive compilation of video, digital print, and audio resources that students can use when researching topics. These resources are also important opportunities to extend learning beyond the school day. Students are able to be self-directed and resourceful in accessing tools and resources that help them meet essential learning targets through practice and video tutorials OR extend their learning by tackling challenging tasks or enriching content.

### **Does the district purchase E-books?**

Yes, FPS subscribes to several e-book services. Licensing for these books can be in two forms: a license in perpetuity; and annual subscription licensing. The school libraries provide many options for electronic nonfiction and fiction reading. Additionally, the libraries have devices available to students to access these e-books (e.g. Kindles, ipads, etc.). Students can also access these books through their Chromebooks.

### **Why do we need to rewrite curriculum once it has been done?**

- FPS curriculum reflects "state-of-the-art" knowledge and understandings that students must acquire in order to be college and career ready in each discipline as they further their education.



- FPS is committed to providing students with opportunities to direct their own learning through inquiry and collaborative dialogue, both of which require current and interesting curricular topics.
- Educators continue to research better methods of instruction and assessment that must eventually become a part of the curriculum that is taught.

### **What are the major curriculum initiatives for the 2022-2023 school year?**

The following initiatives support the implementation of the Board of Education's five year goals:

- Advisory lessons (WWUES CREW, IAR Advisory, FHS Hawk's Nest) and school event planning (All schools) (Annual)
- Assessment of the VOGC skills
- Early Childhood Institute and planning
- New Courses such as: Sign Language II, New ASPIRE courses, Human Geography
- Course Revisions - Including alignment to the new schedule
- Math Revisions - K adopting Developing Roots, Grades 1-5 adopting Think! Mathematics, Grade 6-8 revisions to add more anchor tasks
- Course alignment to ECE (Early College Experience) expectations in several courses

### **How do we determine who will write curriculum?**

Teachers must apply to write curriculum and demonstrate a high level of understanding and expertise in order to be selected. Teachers who apply must currently teach or have previously taught the course and be considered strong in both content and pedagogy by their supervisors. The application process also gives weight to teachers who propose new and engaging ways to elevate the quality of the teaching and learning in the course. Often, teachers work on these projects in teams.

### **What are the responsibilities of curriculum writers?**

- Writers attend a Summer Curriculum Academy - 3 - 4 full days of training in the summer focused on the Understanding by Design model. This training helps teachers to design or revise curriculum that aligns with Farmington's principles of teaching, learning and assessment.
- Over the course of the summer, writers work together to complete the map that articulates a course purpose, essential understandings, concepts and learning skills to be taught and the major assessments. They submit their work to the academy coaches for review and feedback by mid-August.
- Over the course of the school year, writers continue to develop the instructional plan for each unit using student work to guide these revisions. They write the "Stage III" portion of the map and develop rubrics to be used to judge the quality of student performances on key assessments. They meet at least 3 more times with their assigned academy coach for review and feedback. They assume responsibility for facilitating regular conversations about the effectiveness of the curriculum design with the teachers who are teaching the course.

### **Why does the Board of Education fund professional development activities for faculty and staff?**



- The district needs to continuously develop the skills and knowledge of its administrators, teachers and staff in order to meet the Board's goals, respond to the ever changing needs of students, comply with state and federal mandates, and continuously improve teaching and learning for all students.
- The district is legally obliged to provide professional development annually that is aligned with the teacher evaluation process.
- The district is legally responsible for providing training on topics mandated by the State of Connecticut.

### **What opportunities do students have to study World Language?**

- Students must meet a world language proficiency standard in order to graduate. Students who have completed the elementary Spanish curriculum will likely meet proficiency in Spanish by the end of grade 9 (and, eventually, grade 8, as the students come up who have had it since Kindergarten). Students electing to begin French in Grade 7 will likely meet proficiency in Grade 11 or 12. Both French and Spanish students may continue their language study until the AP level.
- Also included in the World Language department is an elective sequence in Latin beginning in Grade 9 and continuing through Latin V.
- Beginning in grade 9, students may elect to take American Sign Language (ASL) as an additional elective. Next year, a second level of this course will be taught.
- Students begin their World Language program in kindergarten. Spanish only is taught in grades k through 6. French and Spanish are taught in grades 7 through 12.
- At the high school level, students may pursue any language as an independent study. Through this independent study program, students, with the support of a teacher, can find an online or university language course and submit an application to take the course for high school credit.

## **Technology**

### **What are the focus areas for the 2022-2023 budget in the areas of technology?**

#### **Technology for Teaching and Learning:**

Continued work of the Technology Integration Specialists and K-12 Library, Media, and Technology Department around the use of the FPS Technology Matrix and assessment of student technology skills closely tied to ISTE standards.

A continued focus on ensuring that web-based resources and digital media engage students and provide opportunities to access curriculum, interventions, and online learning tools from anywhere, as demonstrated during Interactive Learning.

Cost effective devices and the use of digital resources for research, creation, and production of student work align to and support the FPS Theory of Action and Vision of the Global Citizen.

#### **Technology for Productivity and Efficiency:**

Infrastructure upgrades and investment in virtual technologies set a strong foundation for current technological demands and support for future growth and innovation.

Investments in web-based applications to create operational efficiencies as well as provide added protections in cybersecurity.

FPS Student Device 1:1 was accelerated due to COVID-19. We are proposing the continuance of K-12 1:1 for continued productivity and efficiency in teaching and learning as well as operations using tools (e.g. Google Apps) built to support 21st century learning skills (collaboration, innovation, and inquiry).

**Can you provide examples of how online resources, like the Khan Academy, are utilized in Farmington? Are there any savings associated with the use of these types of online resources?**

Farmington families saw first hand over the past two years, how online resources can support and enhance student learning as well as social engagement.

Online resources are used in all grades to enhance teaching and learning. At the elementary schools, students use Raz-Kids and BookFlix – online guided reading programs with interactive e-books, downloadable books, and reading quizzes. Each class in Grades 1-4 has a subscription and students can login at school and at home. Raz-Kids offers a wealth of books that we do not need to order, shelve, or inventory.

Using a variety of online tools, students gain more practice; teachers have access to formative and summative electronic resources. Because of these materials, we have created new assessments to align with Math in Focus. Resources such as Khan Academy are frequently used by students for both reinforcement and re-teaching of concepts as well as challenging students beyond grade level content. The district carefully reviews these online learning resources as we have seen a lack of rigor and/or alignment to our rigorous curriculum standards in various online resources. These can be a valuable resource for students who are struggling with a particular concept as they can watch the video several times and practice the related questions. It can also be a great resource for the student that has mastered a concept and want to challenge their thinking.

Where appropriate, teachers “flip” their classrooms (similar to the Khan Academy) by placing their lessons on videos so that students view lessons at home and class time is used primarily for demonstration of learning, collaborative tasks and complex problem solving with the support of the teacher as a coach/facilitator.

Interventions, if appropriate, are administered on-line with an adaptive feature so that students move through the intervention at their own pace. Of course, this is another area of variation when it comes to rigor and quality. So, all programs are thoroughly reviewed by the school district prior.

Discovery Education Tech-books are used in grades 7-8 as an alternative or accompaniment to the traditional textbook. Additionally, school libraries are more carefully choosing subscriptions that include digital access to books as well as traditional paper copy.

While these digital resources may replace paper based resources, the end result does not always result in a cost savings. More appropriately, these digital resources supplement or reinforce current materials, and provide access to more dynamic content allowing the students and teachers access to more authentic experiences with the classroom curriculum.



**To fully implement our technology plan, what technology would each classroom in Farmington include?**

A technology plan is never fully implemented. Rapid advancement in technology requires continuous revisions of a technology plan. Please see attachment A for an overview of the vision of the Farmington classroom for technology. Technology staff and educators revised the list in 2015 and the Board of Education approved a plan to begin upgrading the Farmington classrooms with the newer technology. Updates have consisted primarily of projectors and wiring to accommodate newer display technologies. As we entered a new 5 year period, upgrades to newer LCD/LED display technology have now become the norm.

**How do you guarantee equity in technology when PTOs raise funds for technology at individual schools?**

Our PTOs have been generous in purchasing technology for individual schools. Our District Technology Plan is the guide for all purchases of technology equipment for classrooms, students, and teachers. The PTO works with the principal to identify equipment that is already identified for future purchase and is part of the District Technology Plan. The PTOs, in effect, accelerate the purchasing of equipment on the District Plan. When this occurs, the school receiving this equipment is no longer slotted to receive those items. In future budget cycles, the same equipment is purchased for the other schools.



## Staffing

The following professional staffing plan is based on current and emerging data-driven needs identified by teachers and administrators. There are five main drivers of this year's overall budget: **1. Cost Efficiencies, Containment, Avoidance; 2. Academic Excellence; 3. Special Services / Mental Health; 4. Positions Moving Off Grants; 5. Pandemic Related Expenses** This staffing report addresses certified faculty proposals related to drivers 1, 2, and 3.

### The Farmington Public Schools staffing budget supports **Continuous Improvement and Enhanced Opportunities for ALL Students**

**Academic Excellence:** Farmington's Vision of the Global Citizen represents the Board of Education's commitment to ensuring that all students graduate from FHS ready to fulfill their personal goals for college, career, and citizenship. In an ever changing, complex, global society, Farmington students will have acquired the content knowledge, thinking skills, and emotional regulation strategies to become collaborative and contributing members of their communities and productive, self-aware individuals.

#### This proposal:

- Adheres to the Board of Education Policy and Regulations for class size
- Expands AP, ECE, and ASPIRE Courses at FHS all related to College and Career Readiness
- Responds to student interests in expanded American Sign Language course offerings
- Provides academic support for students accelerating in the Math Pathways at IAR
- Responds to enrollment needs for Library Media instruction as K returns to EF
- Creates a focused early childhood family outreach program for achieving critical markers of academic success

**Special Services / Mental Health:** Farmington has had a strong history of success in providing highly specialized services within the district that respond to the needs of children who thrive in a setting that allows them access to typical peers and an enriching curriculum. In recent years, student mental health needs have escalated and although past increases in staffing have provided adequate responsiveness, younger students are demonstrating a need for more proactive support.

#### This proposal:

- Responds to increased Special Education needs in the area of Speech and Language
- Provides high quality supervision and program development at the Preschool level
- Provides increased support for mental health needs in grades 5 and 6

**Positions Moving Off Grants:** As federal ESSR II funding is set to expire, these positions are still needed and necessary for continued academic programming.

#### This proposal brings back into the operating budget:



- Non-deployed positions that were added to respond to enrollment in 21-22
- One SLC teacher employed in 21-22 to respond to enrollment
- Part-time Math Interventionist at IAR needed to accelerate learning
- Provides coaching and support for K-6 Social Studies content

<b>ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE</b>	
+.4 ASL	<b>American Sign Language FHS</b> - To increase FTE of existing faculty to meet growing student interest and continue program development through more advanced level classes
+1.0 Social Studies	<b>Social Studies FHS</b> - To expand ASPIRE, AP and ECE course offerings, respond to growing interest in new courses-ASPIRE is part of mandated graduation requirements in Connecticut
+.5 Math	<b>Math Intervention IAR</b> - To provide expanded support for students who have been accelerated into challenging courses, as per recommendation of the Math Pathway Program Review Consultant
+.2 Library Media	<b>Library Media Specialist EF</b> - To increase FTE of existing faculty to accommodate enrollment and return of K to EF
+.5	<b>Early Childhood Family Engagement Specialist</b> - To strengthen learning partnerships with families through training, resources, and culturally responsive relationship building
<b>SPECIAL SERVICES / Mental Health</b>	
+1.0 Special Education	<b>Preschool Coordinator</b> - To oversee collaborative and SLC Pre-K Programs, Conduct Home Visits, Coordinate Birth to Three
+.5 Speech	<b>Speech and Language Pathologist</b> - To increase FTEs to existing faculty in order to meet identified student needs
+1.0 Counseling	<b>School Counselor WW</b> - To increase counseling services and proactive support for increase mental health needs
<b>POSITIONS MOVING OFF GRANTS</b>	
+1.0 Special Education	<b>SLC Teacher</b> - To bring back into the operating budget this position previously funded in 21-22 by ESSR II due to budget cuts. This position was added due to increased enrollment at WD
+.2 Math	<b>Math Intervention IAR</b> - To bring back into the operating budget this portion of a position funded in 21-22 by ESSR II due to budget cuts
+1.0 Social Studies	<b>Social Studies Specialist K-6</b> - To bring back from ESSR II funding, a coordinator position to support academic excellence in the teaching of global studies, civic engagement, and history
<b>Total Proposed Staffing Changes = + 7.3 FTE's</b>	
<i>Does not include 2.0 for non-deployed elementary teachers returning to budget from ESSR II Funds due to budget cuts in the 21-22 operating budget</i>	



**Certified Positions remaining in ESSR II funding for 2022-23 that offsets Operating Budget:**

0.5 FTE Specialized Reading - Special Education at West Woods

**What are some of the job responsibilities of a Farmington Principal?**

Farmington principals are first and foremost instructional leaders. Principals are responsible for the total operation of their schools. They are responsible for creating a school culture and climate conducive to student learning and for supervising and evaluating their teachers. They work closely with teacher teams and departments to ensure that instruction supports high levels of student achievement and a consistent set of experiences developed from our standards-based curriculum. Farmington principals also are fully engaged in working between schools and levels in order to create a coherent instructional program for students K-12.

They participate in district instructional improvement initiatives through roles as leaders in town-wide committees specifically designed and charged to monitor program development and implementation issues. They participate in cross-level administrative teams to develop consistent expectations and create pathways for success for students as they transition between levels.

- Responsible for the total operation of the school in accordance with policies and regulation of the Board of Education
- Responsible for the hiring, assignment, supervision and evaluation of professional and non-certified staff
- Responsible for the implementation of the curriculum program in the school
- Responsible for student discipline and positive school climate
- Responsible for the day-to-day operations of the special education programs
- Responsible for effective communications with parents and the school community
- Responsible for promoting the professional growth of each staff member and improving instruction
- Responsible for the evaluation of the curriculum and administration of testing and evaluation programs
- Responsible for preparing and administering a school budget based on the goals and of the school and district
- Responsible for the health and well-being of students and staff, including security of the facility
- Responsible for personal professional development and for providing leadership
- Responsible for the supervision and evaluation of assistant principals (High School, Middle School and Upper Elementary)

**What are some of the responsibilities of Farmington Principals in the summer months?**

Summer Activities of Elementary Building Principals K-4, 5-6

- Recruit, select and induct new faculty members
- Review end of year data with faculty for school development planning purposes, write school goals
- Plan professional development activities for the opening of school



- 
- Develop the school schedule
  - Revise the Parent Handbook and prepare it for printing and distribution
  - Finalize the Results summary for the previous school year
  - Meet with building or district leadership teams for system-wide planning
  - Meet with and induct new families to the school community
  - Develop and finalize student class assignments
  - Participate in two to three days of professional development with the District Leadership Council
  - Oversee the purchasing of materials and equipment for the opening of school
  - Work with the custodial staff to coordinate building readiness for the opening of school – furniture, grounds, maintenance projects, etc.
  - Meet with PTO and other community groups to plan activities for the school year
  - Summer Activities of Secondary Principals 7-8, 9-12
  - Finalize the Results summary for the previous school year
  - Recruit, select and induct new faculty members
  - Finalize the Results summary for the previous school year
  - Review end of year data with faculty for school development planning purposes, write school goals
  - Plan professional development activities for the opening of school
  - Finalize the school schedule
  - Revise the parent and student publications and prepare them for printing and distribution
  - Meet with parents to resolve answer end of school year grading, promotion and graduation issues
  - Meet with building or district leadership teams for coordination of responsibilities and planning purposes
  - Work with guidance staff to induct and schedule new students
  - Work with guidance staff to resolve student schedule problems
  - Participate in two or three days of professional development with the District Leadership Council
  - Oversee the purchasing of materials and equipment for the opening of school
  - Oversee the summer school programs
  - Work with the Director of Facilities and custodial staff to coordinate building readiness for the opening of school – furniture, grounds, maintenance projects, etc.
  - Meet with Athletic Director, intramural and interscholastic coaches in preparation for opening sports activities
  - Meet with parent and advocacy group leaders

### **What is the job description of a Farmington Department Chair? Do they teach?**

Yes, Department Chairs teach two classes per day. Their responsibilities include:

- Fulfilling all of the responsibilities of a classroom teacher
- Participating in the selection of new teachers, orientation, induction, and development
- Supervising teachers in the given department and providing performance information to the principal
- Establishing department goals and improvement strategies aligned with school and district goals
- Providing professional development for the department
- Monitoring the implementation of the curriculum within the department
- Leading Vertical Teams and Ad Hoc Committees
- Leading the development of new curriculum and evaluation of curriculum
- Selecting texts and materials and budgeting for the department



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- Collecting and analyzing student achievement data and leading monthly department meetings
  - Assisting the principal in scheduling and assigning teachers to classes
  - Participating in the building leadership team, which provides input into the school development planning process and meets twice monthly
  - Music, Art and PE Department Leaders work with K-12 departments and therefore supervise teachers and oversee programs in seven buildings.

**What is the job description of a Farmington High School Dean of Students? Does the Farmington High School Dean of Students teach?**

The Dean of Students is an administrator with limited teaching responsibilities. The Dean has the full complement of administrative responsibilities described above, including supervision and evaluation of teachers, assignment to specific academic departments, and student services. The Dean works on an eleven month calendar.

**What are some of the job responsibilities of a Farmington Department Head during the four (4) days in the summer that they work?**

Department Leaders work an additional four days during the summer when they orient and mentor new teachers, conduct budget related activities, plan for the implementation of curriculum across the department and conduct other business pertinent to the opening of school. They work with their administrators to develop a comprehensive school development plan. They also participate in a leadership meeting with the Assistant Superintendent and Director of Curriculum and meet with their Vertical Team members.



## Special Education

### Is Special Education mandated? Where does the mandate come from?

Special Education services are mandated by the federal government (Individuals with Disability Act). FAPE (Free and Appropriate Public Education) is the term used to describe the educational rights of children with disabilities in the United States. This right is guaranteed by the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA.) It is defined as an educational program that is individualized to fit the specific needs of a child having a disability or qualifying for special education in the least restrictive environment. The program must meet the child’s unique needs, provide access to the general education curriculum and meet State grade level standards.

### How does Farmington compare to other school districts in Special Education spending?

State Data 2019-2020 (most recent available)

In comparison to other DRG B districts, the percentage of the total budget spent on special education continues to reflect effective and efficient budgeting.

Fairfield	27.70%
Cheshire	25.00%
Madison	23.80%
Simsbury	21.30%
South Windsor	23.60%
Greenwich	20.00%
Avon	21.90%
<b>Farmington</b>	<b>19.70%</b>
Glastonbury	18.80%

### What special services staffing increases are proposed for the 2022-2023 school year and why are these positions being proposed?

**Special Education Preschool Teacher:** (1.0 FTE) This position will provide an additional full time SLC teacher position which will be assigned to Union School.

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**Examples of innovative special education programs that have been initiated in the past and the impact those programs have had on student success.**

Farmington has a rich history of innovation and excellence when it comes to programming, including special education programming.

**SLC Programs at WD, Union and WWUES:** The **Specialized Learning Center (SLC)** is a program that was developed to address an increase in students identified with autism. Over the past 5 years, the district has experienced a significant increase in the number of students identified with autism who require a specialized program. The SLC was established in Farmington several years ago and the program offers intensive programming for students with autism with an inclusive feature that is unique to our SLC program. Currently, there are SLC classrooms at Union, West District, WWUES, and at the preschool level. This program affords our students with autism to receive exemplary instruction and intervention while having the opportunity to interact with their typical peers.

**SLC Programs at IAR and FHS:** At both IAR and FHS, specialized programs support students who require a modified curriculum with an emphasis on activities of daily living and prevocational experiences. Students in these programs participate in activities with their typical peers and receive specialized instruction in academics, social skills and life skills. In addition to opportunities within the school, students are able to practice their skills in community settings.

**FVTA:** The **Farmington Valley Transition Academy's** program is designed for intensive students who have met graduation course and credit requirements and for whom the PPT recommends continued services to meet transition needs. The program is located on the campus of the University of Hartford and is co-sponsored by the Simsbury and Farmington school districts. The FVTA is a community-based transition program focusing on instruction and application of skills in the areas of self-advocacy, functional academics, daily living, and vocational skills.

**FVDC:** The **Farmington Valley Diagnostic Center** has provided students with a short term educational setting that provides psychiatric, psychological and educational supports. The cost of this regional program is significantly less than hospital based programs. The mission of the FVDC is to diagnose students, make educational and therapeutic recommendations, and if possible, assist students in returning to their home school environment.

**Farmington Alternative High School:** The **FAHS** provides alternative educational experiences for students who struggle with the size and scope of the traditional high school setting. Students are exposed to the high school curriculum through more hands on, experiential learning opportunities. Through this alternative environment, students are able to complete their high school requirements while meeting Farmington's academic standards.

**CARE Team:** The CARE Team was initiated during the 2014-2015 school year for the purpose of supporting the district in working with students who struggle with emotional challenges and consists of a full time special education teacher, social worker and school psychologist. In addition to offering support to the SEL Classrooms, they provide professional development, consultation, PMT Training and coaching to both special education and regular education staff.



**STEP:** The Specialized Transition Educational Program (STEP) offers a supportive therapeutic milieu for our high school students who are encountering emotional and/or behavioral struggles. Each student has an individualized program focused on providing them with therapeutic interventions and therapies, while offering the opportunity to access Farmington's regular education offerings. Currently, fifteen students are assigned to this program, where they are able to access academic and emotional supports.

**SAIL:** The Social, Academic Individualized Learning Program (SAIL) was conceived of and initiated during the 2014-2015 school year. This is a program that was developed at FHS for students with Autism who are academically advanced, yet struggle with the social/emotional aspects of school by shifting existing resources to meet the needs of our students. Currently, thirteen students are assigned to this program, where they are able to access academic and emotional supports. The program is based on the Social Thinking Model with each student's program designed to support their individual needs as articulated in each student's IEP.

**SEL Classrooms:** The Social Emotional Learning Resource Rooms (SEL) have been created to best support students at Noah Wallace, WWUES and IAR who struggle with emotional and/or behavioral regulation. Each student has an individualized program, with the goal of accessing the regular education setting to the maximum amount possible. Students in the SEL classrooms have access to specialized academic instruction, therapeutic interventions, and social skills groups.

#### **Examples of Special Services cost containment:**

Over a number of years, the Special Services Department has developed innovative in-district programming that reflects program excellence and research based best practices while containing costs:

**Tuition in out of district students:** At times, we accept students on a tuition basis from a neighboring district into one of our specialized programs which resulted in a cost savings.

## **Budget Development**

**What is the timeline for the 2022-2023 budget development for the Farmington Board of Education? What is the role of the Superintendent, Board of Education and Town Council in establishing the Board of Education's annual budget?**

The Superintendent is responsible for the financial plan of the district. In November, the Superintendent explains to the leadership that the goals of the district must be related to the resources being allocated. The Superintendent also shares with the leadership the context in which the resources will be appropriated. She informs the group of the timeline for the coming months and expectations regarding documentation of the budget. The leadership is then charged with formulating their building/area budgets.





In January, the Superintendent reviews the information provided from the staff and crafts the financial plan for the district.

In early February, the Superintendent presents the budget to the Board of Education and community during a series of workshops. The Superintendent explains all items contained in the financial plan and provides documentation requested by the Board.

The Board reviews the Superintendent's request during a series of workshops in February. The Board then votes on the request and forwards it to the Town Manager according to the timeline contained in the charter.

The Town Manager submits an overall financial plan for the coming year to the Town Council.

The Town Council holds a series of budget workshops during March at which the Board and Town Department Heads explain their requests.

The Town Council holds public hearings on the budget, the second of which is held in early April and follows the approval of the budget by the Council.





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**What is the process used for developing the budget recommended to the Board of Education?**

The Superintendent's budget is strictly aligned to the Farmington Public Schools five year goals, state and federal educational requirements and most importantly our administrative team's deep day to day knowledge of their schools and the educational alignment needed for continuous improvement across grades K-12 in Farmington.

In November our Superintendent brought forward a budget forecast that provided a preliminary snapshot of the 2022-2023 school district budget.

In meetings from November '21 through January '22, administrators presented the staffing, special services and technology budgets in detail.

The Superintendent conducted many meetings over many months with her administrative team that serves as the working environment to produce the budget detail. This extensive work forms the Superintendent's recommendation, which was the budget brought forward on behalf of the educational professionals who work for the Farmington Public Schools.

In preparation for the Board's review extensive education program reviews and adjustments were completed by school principals, program directors and Central Office administration.

**Once developed, how does the Board of Education come to their recommended Budget?**

The Board's recommended budget comes after months of preparation by district administrators and numerous reports to the Board reflecting the needs of departments and schools. This took place from November through January. Budget hearings are held and budget review will be conducted from February 5-9, 2022.

**For the past ten years, what has been the Farmington Board of Education annual budget increase?**

See attachment B.

**What are the budget "drivers" when it comes to annual budget development?**

The budget "drivers" that impact budget development:

**Salaries and wages**

Contractual agreements with the teachers, administrators, nurses and FPSEU (secretaries, tutors, aides and custodians) represent the largest portion of our annual budget. For 2022-2023 the Board negotiated a 1.75% GWI for top step and 1.75% GWI for BA track steps 9-11 for teachers only with a 1.25% increase in Appendix C of the contract, a 1.75% increase for administrators. Nurses negotiated a 2.0% GWI at the top step only and a step increase only for nurses below the top step. FPSEU negotiated a 2.0%.



### **Benefits**

Contributions to the self-insurance medical reserve fund and payments to the federal government for FICA and Medicare represent the second largest driver in our budget. The BOE negotiated a high deductible health savings account program with FPSEU, teachers, and administrators. With a healthcare design that promotes proactive healthcare and consumerism, the High Deductible Health Savings Account (HD HSA) will contain and avoid higher healthcare costs.

### **Other**

To a lesser extent than the headings listed above, other items which must be addressed in the budget are, Special Services for students, technology equipment, building and equipment repairs, supplies (both instructional and maintenance), and professional development.

### **When was the teacher's contract negotiated and what is the 2020-2023 increase for teacher salaries?**

The teachers' contract negotiations commenced in July 2019 in accordance with state statute and ended in October 2019. The agreement includes a 1.75% GWI increase at the top step and a 1.75% GWI increase for BA track steps (7-11, 8-11, and then 9-11) in years 1-3. Also includes insertion of a new penultimate step and elimination of step 1.

### **How do the school district's goals impact the annual budget?**

The Board of Education's 2020-2025 goals drive all aspects of budget planning. Decisions about programming, supplies, equipment, services and staffing are all made to support instructional programs that align with district goals. .

### **What happens if the budget fails at the first referendum?**

According to the Town Charter, "If the recommended budget is rejected at the budget referendum pursuant to subsection C, the Council shall meet and shall submit a second recommended budget to a new Town Meeting to be held not later than the second Monday of May (the "Second Town Meeting"). The second recommended budget shall be lower than the budget rejected at the referendum held pursuant to Subsection C."

### **What is an FTE?**

A full-time equivalent is how a full-time position is calculated. An FTE represents one full-time teacher but sometimes an FTE is made up of various part-time assignments requiring different individuals to fill those parts.



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### **How do the school district and the Farmington Police Department collaborate?**

The Farmington school district and the Police Department have a strong collaborative partnership. Farmington has one School Resource Officer and two Youth Officer. The Superintendent and Chief of Police meet regularly to ensure best practices are implemented. Here are just some examples of the strong partnership that exists between FPS and the Farmington Police Department:

- In 2018-2019, the Farmington Police Department made changes in its leadership structure to provide more support and leadership to the Farmington schools.
- Emergency Drills at each school are done in collaboration with the Farmington Police Department
- The Farmington Police Department works closely with school leaders on continuous improvement efforts related to safety and security.
- The Farmington Police Chief annually reviews safety and security measures in collaboration with school and district Administration.
- The FPD is part of the district's District-wide Security Committee as well as school-based Security Committees.
- Police Officers have a visible presence at all schools.
- When law enforcement receives security updates, those updates are shared with the school district and adjustments are implemented so that the school district's practices reflect the most current safety and security practices.

The school district and Police Department work in collaboration to update safety and security measures. An in depth review of safety and security occurred by an outside security expert, in collaboration with the Farmington Police Department. Funding to support the implementation of the security review recommendations were supported by Farmington's Board of Education and Town Council. In turn, Farmington is implementing the recommendations in phases, working closely with the Farmington Police Department.

### **Budget Impact**

#### **Given the final 2021-2022 budget allocation, what was accomplished?**

The 2021-2022 budget included over \$1,300,000 in operating budget reductions from the original budget submissions.

- Reasonable elementary class sizes are maintained in all elementary schools.
- Expanded ASPIRE / CAPSTONE course offerings at FHS
- Initiated an American Sign Language course sequence at FHS
- Added Black and LatinX Studies course at FHS
- Expanded Specialized Learning Center programming to respond to increased enrollment
- Restructured leadership roles at IAR to provide responsive instructional coaching and curriculum oversight
- Expanded elective offerings at IAR
- Continued implementation of RULER Strategies for supporting student social and emotional development and regulation
- Consultative services advanced Equity and Inclusion professional learning and community engagement
- Web resources and digital media engage students in inquiry and remote learning.



- 
- Google Apps for Education create greater productivity and efficiency for teachers and students.
  - Expanded student clubs and leadership opportunities to promote inclusive learning communities in all schools.
  - Library books and classroom-based reading selections purchased to better reflect the growing diversity and interests of our student population.
  - Improvements to technology hardware, infrastructure, and systems: student-centered assessment programs, Google Classroom enhancements, HR and Talent management paperless programs, website and parent communication enhancements

## Self-Insurance

### **The self-insurance account has raised many questions. How does it work?**

The Board of Education's health benefits are self-insured. The self-insurance concept was instituted in 1983-1984 in the insurance benefits areas of hospitalization, doctor, dental and prescription drug costs.

Self-insurance provides required employee benefits through a fund managed by the Board of Education. Instead of paying a premium (a set amount based on elected coverages) to an insurance company, self-insurance requires the Board to establish and adequately fund an insurance account which is used to pay medical expenses. Self-insurance requires the Board to accept responsibility to pay medical costs as claims occur. The benefit of self-insurance is that the control of the fund surpluses remains with the Board of Education and not with an insurance carrier. While there is an inherent risk by being self-insured, savings accrue to the reserve account when actual claims are less than expected. Contrarily, if claims exceed what is budgeted, the BOE is still responsible to fund those costs. Therefore a reserve is maintained. These fund balances remain under the control of the BOE. To protect the BOE against a catastrophic cash loss in this account, special forms of insurance are purchased by the board (aggregate stop loss insurance of 125% of expected paid claims and individual stop loss coverage for individual claims over \$175,000 per person).



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## General Questions

### **Pupil transportation seems like a big expense. Why not ask parents to help pay for bussing students to school?**

Under Connecticut law, “each local or regional board of education shall furnish, by transportation or otherwise, school accommodations” to resident children (C.G.S. 10-186 (a) and C.G.S. 10-220). Therefore school districts are required to provide transportation to resident children and cannot charge for this service.

### **Can we charge for programs such as Latin at FHS, Strings K-12?**

No, we are unable to charge for these programs. Current music and language programs are considered curricular and, therefore, charging for them is inappropriate. Connecticut General Statute 10-16b requires prescribed courses of study that must be “planned, on-going and systematic.” Intramural, interscholastic and varsity sports exist beyond the curriculum and are considered co-curricular.

### **What is Open Choice? How long has Farmington participated in Open Choice? What funding do we receive for Open Choice and how do we utilize the funding we receive?**

The Farmington Public Schools have participated in the Open Choice program since 1966. Farmington is one of five school districts that are considered early participants in this program and the school district is proud of this 50 year tradition. In 1997, the program was modified in the state legislature to a wider statewide program as part of the Sheff settlement.

The Open Choice program provides interdistrict enrollment options for parents and students from large urban school systems and surrounding suburban districts on a space-available basis. The purpose of the program is to improve academic achievement; reduce racial, ethnic, and economic isolation; and provide a choice of educational programs.

Here are some examples of how Farmington utilizes the funds received from Open Choice:

- Elementary Math Tutors
- Homework Clubs and After School Enrichment
- Family School Liaisons
- Professional Development
- Curriculum Materials
- Furniture and equipment
- High School Tutors
- Pays for all CREC Magnet Tuitions for Farmington residents attending magnet schools
- Special Education within the Farmington school district

**The amounts below are given to districts based on the percentage of Open Choice students in relation to total student population in the district:**

- \$6,000 per OC student for districts who enroll greater than or equal to 3%
- \$4,000 per OC student for districts who enroll greater than or equal to 2%
- \$3,000 per OC student for districts who enroll less than 2%

Farmington receives \$6,000 per Open Choice student. Farmington currently enrolls 133 Open Choice students. If an Open Choice student is enrolled in Pre-K or Kindergarten, the school district receives an additional \$4,500 for each Pre-K and Kindergarten student enrolled.

**Tiered Incentive:** Those districts that continue to increase their enrollment of Open Choice students in an effort to meet or exceed the 3% enrollment target as requested by the Commissioner of Education are eligible for the Tiered Incentive.

- \$50,000 if Open Choice student enrollment is greater than or equal to 2.1% and less than 2.7% of the district's enrollment; or
- \$75,000 if Open Choice student enrollment is greater than or equal to 2.7% and less than 3% of the district's enrollment; or

**Bonus Set-Aside Grants:**

- **Seat Declaration:** This funding is provided to districts that offer additional Open Choice seats to share in a bonus set-aside of up to \$500,000.
- **Schools with 10 or more Choice students:** This funding is provided to any school with 10 or more enrolled Choice students to share in a bonus set aside of \$500,000
- **Academic and Social Support Grant; Per Pupil Award:** \$575 per student in grades K-5 & \$900 per student in grades 6-12 based on October 1 Open Choice enrollment. Adjustments will be made for additional enrollments as filed in the State's Public School Information System.

**What are the K-8 Facility Assessment Reports and how will they be used to guide current and future facility Operating and Capital needs of the district over the next 10-15 years?**

On the recommendation of the Capital Ad Hoc Committee (2015), the Farmington Board of Education (2016) and the Farmington Town Council (2016) recommended adding funding to the Capital Budget (BOE Section) to hire a firm to complete a Facility Condition and Programmatic needs study of the district's schools (EXCLUDING FARMINGTON HIGH SCHOOL). Friar Associates, a Framington based Architectural and Engineering firm were selected through a bid process and over the course of 2017 completed the studies through on-site visitations and with input from the district's Director of Facilities, Head Custodians, Principals and Central Office Administrators. The Final Reports were presented to the Farmington Board of Education in January 2018. The reports provide detailed information on the existing conditions of the district's K-8 schools and outline in detail the projected facility and programmatic needs. The information in the reports influenced the Board of Education Capital Budget requests and the Board of Education Operating Budget development. The K-8 Facility Assessment Reports can be found here on the FPS website: <http://www.fpsct.org/departments/business-services/facilities-operations>.

## COVID-19 Impact

**What are some of the impacts from COVID-19?**

The district incurred significant, unexpected expenses in the 2020-2021 budget in the areas of health and safety, technology, facilities, and staffing. Unemployment claims were another hardship for the district. In addition, FCE and EXCL experienced a dramatic decrease in enrollment, which devastatingly affected their operating budgets.





**How has the district used COVID-19 Grant Funding?**

CRF and ESSER funds helped to offset some of the financial burden that was not budgeted for in 2020-21. Additional funds were awarded through ESSER II and ARP ESSER to support the district in 2021-22 and beyond.

SUM of Estimated Cost ARP ESSER  Priority	Years				
	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	Summer 2024	Grand Total
Priority 1: Learning Acceleration, Academic Renewal, and Student Enrichment (Required)	\$475,000	\$535,808	\$245,000	\$20,000	\$1,275,808
Priority 2: Family and Community Connections	\$92,500	\$85,000	\$55,000		\$232,500
Priority 3: Social, Emotional, and Mental Health of the Students and of our School Staff	\$93,000	\$60,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$173,000
Priority 4: Strategic Use of Technology, Staff Development, and the Digital Divide	\$120,000	\$242,000	\$200,000		\$562,000
Priority 5: Building Safe and Healthy Schools	\$75,000	\$50,000	\$50,000		\$175,000
<b>G Total</b>	<b>\$855,500</b>	<b>\$972,808</b>	<b>\$560,000</b>	<b>\$30,000</b>	<b>\$2,418,308</b>

*\*Adjustments are permitted between years and priorities*



## Attachment A (revised 2020)

### Technology: The Farmington Classroom

#### **K-4**

Teacher Workstation w/  
DVD Capability and HDMI  
Lampless Projector/LCD SmartBoard  
Document Camera  
Web Camera  
Wireless Access  
Chromebooks 1:1

#### **7-8**

Teacher Workstation w/  
DVD Capability and HDMI  
Lampless Projector/LCD SmartBoard  
Document Camera  
Web Camera  
Wireless Access  
Chromebooks 1:1

#### **5-6**

Teacher Workstation w/  
DVD Capability and HDMI  
Lampless Projector/ LCD SmartBoard  
Document Camera  
Web Camera  
Wireless Access  
Chromebooks 1:1

#### **9-12**

Teacher Workstation w/  
DVD Capability and HDMI  
Lampless Projector/ LCD SmartBoard  
Document Camera  
Web Camera  
Wireless Access  
Chromebooks 1:1



## Attachment B

YEAR	ENROLLMENT*	APPROPRIATION	INCREASE	PERCENT
2021-22	4,038	\$72,288,934	\$2,312,353	3.30%
2020-21	3,994	\$69,976,581	\$2,267,976	3.35%
2019-20	4,068	\$67,708,605	\$1,908,708	2.90%
2018-19	4,005	\$65,799,897	\$1,627,256	2.54%
2017-18	4,024	\$64,172,641	\$1,486,566	2.37%
2016-17	3,978	\$62,686,075	\$2,294,866	3.80%
2015-16	3,976	\$60,391,209	\$2,154,749	3.70%
2014-15	3,946	\$58,236,460	\$1,527,670	2.69%
2013-14	3,959	\$56,708,790	\$1,085,090	1.96%
2012-13	4,014	\$55,462,700	\$1,484,404	2.75%
2011-12	4,009	\$53,978,296	\$2,487,104	4.83%
2010-11	4,068	\$51,491,192	\$1,980,430	4.00%
2009-10	4,108	\$49,510,762	\$941,156	1.94%
2008-09	4,145	\$48,569,606	\$308,174	0.64%
2007-08	4,166	\$48,261,432	\$1,676,887	3.60%
2006-07	4,221	\$46,584,545	\$2,006,033	4.50%
2005-06	4,257	\$44,578,512	\$2,602,512	6.20%
2004-05	4,344	\$41,976,000	\$2,376,000	6.00%
2003-04	4,278	\$39,600,000	\$915,914	2.37%

\*Includes Special Education Out Placements

**Attachment Agenda Item I-1**

On January 18, 2022 the Town Council established the Ad Hoc 1928 Building Committee. The Ad-Hoc Committee has met three times and has made progress on creating a recommendation to the Town Council regarding the next steps on the 1928 Building.

Below is a chart outlining the charge of the Ad Hoc 1928 Building Committee, along with a status update for each item. The Ad-Hoc Committee is looking for Town Council consensus on the item in red at the March 8, 2022 meeting.

<b>Charge</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Summary</b>
1. Work with the Farmington High School Building Committee to prepare the following timelines:  a. When a final decision on the status of the building needs to be made.  b. Based on that decision, a timeline to a referendum or the demolition of the building.	Complete	Members of the Ad-Hoc committee met with the FHS Building Project's professional partners to solidify timelines. It has been determined that a Final Decision needs to be made by July 2024, when demolition is scheduled to begin. The Ad-hoc committee believes that, if renovation is recommended, a referendum would need to occur in the Spring of 2023. This would give the Town Council time to appoint a building committee, complete the requirements for a public building project per Chapter 53 of the Town of Farmington Code, and prepare for a referendum. If successful at referendum, it would also give the committee time to finalize the approved design before the July 2024 deadline.
2. Engage stakeholders and conduct a needs assessment on space needs in the Town, including approximate square footage requirements.	In Process	The Ad-Hoc Committee has conducted a needs assessment on space needs in the Town, including square footage requirements. A public opinion survey will supplement the information obtained in the needs assessment.
3. Provide a high-level recommendation if the 1928 Building could be used to satisfy those needs. Please note, this is meant to be a broad overview of the Town's space needs and if	In Progress	The Town's overall space needs were discussed and summarized as follows: • Relocating the Town Hall into the 1928 Building.

<p>they can be satisfied by the 1928 Building. A future building committee would be charged with a deeper dive into the specifics, including cost and design.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Relocating the Probate Court which is a regional court into the 1928 Building.</li> <li>• Relocating the Social Services Department and the Recreation Department into the 1928 Building</li> <li>• Keeping the gyms and creating a recreational center. Current non senior recreational programs that take place in the Senior Center could take place at the new recreation center. This would create more opportunity for additional senior programming at the Senior Center.</li> <li>• The need for additional storage space</li> <li>• The need for additional community room space</li> <li>• Tunxis Hose Fire Department has significant space needs. The Fire Department could use the space next door to the Fire house when the Alt School moves into the new High School.</li> <li>• Demolition of the existing Town Hall and creating a ball field in that space.</li> </ul> <p>The Ad-Hoc Committee agreed that it is important for the community to weigh in on these ideas, in order to make a recommendation to the Town Council.</p>
<p>4. Public opinion is important to this process. The Ad-Hoc Committee will determine if a public opinion survey is warranted at this stage, or if it would be more appropriate for a future building committee to solicit that input.</p>	<p>In Process</p>	<p>The Ad-Hoc Committee met with Jerry Lindsley from the Center for Research and Public Policy (CRPP) regarding a public opinion survey. Upon CRPP's recommendation, the committee agreed that an online survey is the best way to proceed and believes the public's input is necessary at this stage in the process.</p>

		The Ad-Hoc Committee is looking for Town Council consensus on proceeding with the online public opinion survey.
5. Provide any other recommendations the Committee has determined is important based on their findings.	In Process	This item will be incorporated in the final recommendation to the Town Council.

**MOTION:**

**Agenda Item N-2**

To authorize the Town Manager to sign a tax abatement agreement for New Horizons Village located at 37 Bliss Memorial Road in Unionville.

**MOTION:**

**Agenda Item N-3**

To approve the attached general recommendations from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Ad- Hoc Committee.



ARPA Ad-Hoc Committee Recommendation to the Farmington Town Council  
March 8, 2022

**Recommendation:**

The Ad-Hoc committee is recommending to the Town Council, that the ARPA funds be used to undergo large long term capital expenditures. The Ad-hoc Committee took into consideration the Town's successful fiscal philosophy, and latest US Treasury's Final Rule, which is broader and more flexible when making their recommendation.

Long term capital budgets would produce the following results:

1. Positively impact all taxpayers rather than specific requestees; enabling funds to be distributed in a more equitable manner
2. Allow the Town to fund projects that normally may not otherwise be afforded
3. Make Investments in transformational projects that will have town-wide long-term benefits

Since the funds do not have to be obligated by December 31, 2024, the Committee is recommending that the first policy decision that the Town Council address is whether the entire ARPA funds should be used for one large capital expenditure. Two potential projects could be the renovation of the 1928 Building or the Fire Department Building renovations. If the Town Council decides to fund more than one capital project the committee is recommending the following list for possible consideration. This list is not in priority order.

- 1- Paving of the Rails to Trails
- 2- School Parking Lots Paving
- 3- Stone House Improvements
- 4- Tunxis Mead Improvements
- 5- West Farms Mall Pump Station 2
- 6- Sidewalk Project/ Route 4

The Committee also recognizes the importance of public participation and recommends that the Town Council solicit the public's input as necessary related to the ARPA funds.

MOTION:

Agenda Item N-4

To set a public hearing on Monday, April 4, 2022 at 7:05 p.m. in the Town Hall Council Chambers on the Town Council's Proposed Budget for the Fiscal Year 2022-2023.

NOTE: Below is the full budget schedule.

**Public Hearings, Annual Town Meetings & Referendums:**

February 22, 2022	Capital Budget Presentation
March 8, 2022	Public Hearing on Town Manager's Recommended Budget
April 4, 2022	Public Hearing on Town Council's Proposed Budget
April 18, 2022	First Annual Town Meeting
April 28, 2022	First Budget Referendum
May 2, 20202	Second Annual Town Meeting (if needed)
May 12, 2022	Second Referendum (if needed)

**Budget Workshop Sessions:**

Wednesday, March 9	4:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
Thursday, March 10	4:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
Saturday, March 12	9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
Monday, March 14	4:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. (if needed)
Tuesday, March 15	4:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. (if needed)
Friday, April 29	4:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. (Only if first Referendum fails)

MOTION:

Agenda Item N-5

To accept the attached Annual Report of July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021.



# Town of Farmington

## FY 2020 - 2021 Annual Report



**Town of Farmington**  
**1 Monteith Drive, Farmington, CT 06032**  
**Phone: 860-675-2300**  
**[www.farmington-ct.org](http://www.farmington-ct.org)**

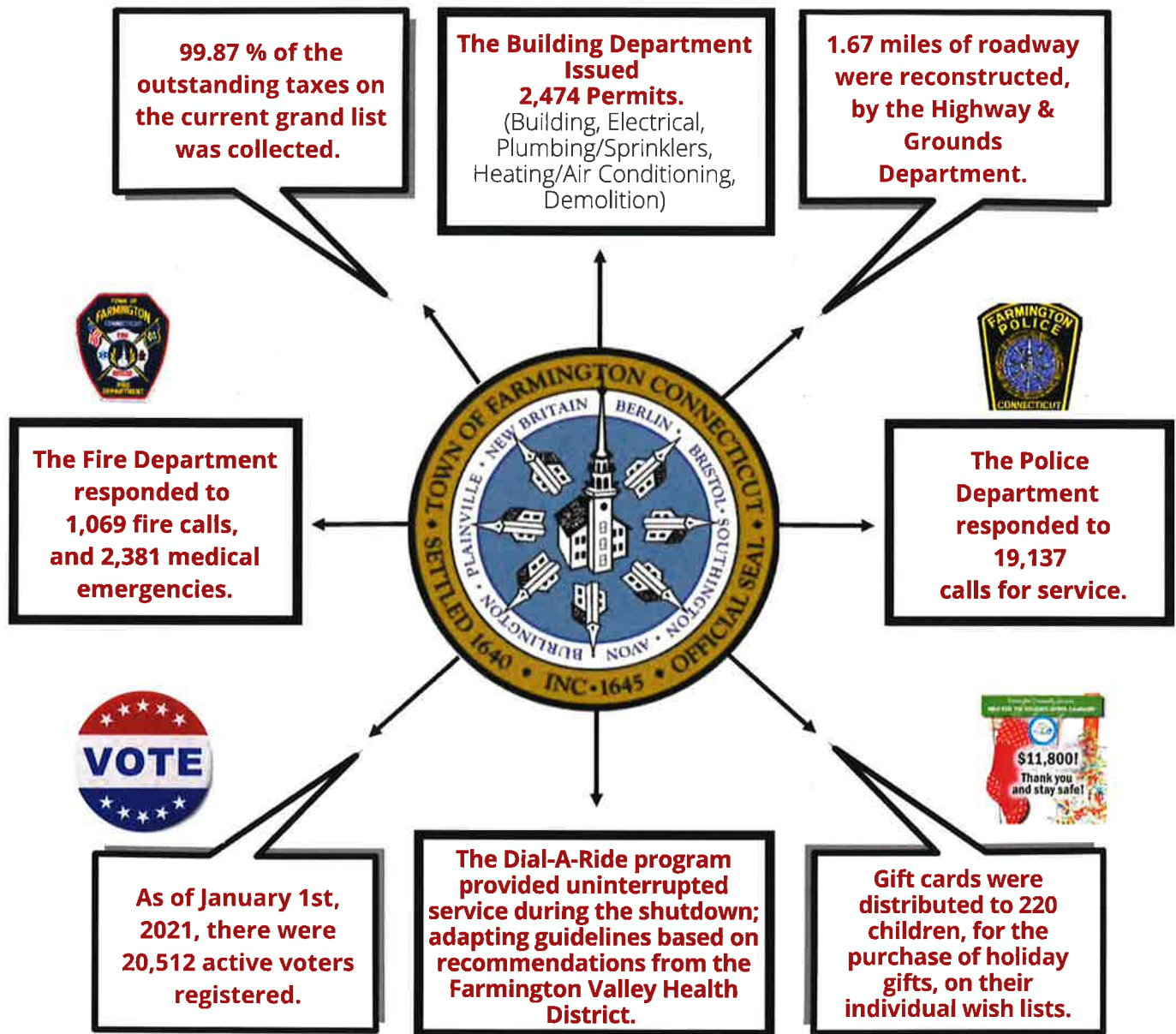
**Cover Picture Photo Credit:  
John Cudworth**



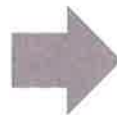
# Farmington at a Glance - FY 2020 - 2021

Page 3

*"Farmington continues to be an economic leader, in the Hartford region. Of the 28 towns and cities, in the Metro Hartford region, Farmington has one of the lowest mill rates, of 28.81, and has maintained a AAA Bond Rating."*



## FARMINGTON GREEN EFFORTS



### Tons of Materials Recycled:

- Combined Materials = 2,101.17 Tons
- Leaves = 3,924.82 Tons
- Brush and Wood Products = 790.04 Tons
- Mattresses and Boxsprings = 1,115

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## Town of Farmington Department Directory



Animal Control	860-675-2440
Assessor	860-675-2370
Building	860-675-2315
Board of Education	860-673-8270
Community Center	860-675-2490
Economic Development	860-675-2395
Engineering	860-675-2305
Finance - Accounts Payable	860-675-2339
Finance - Main	860-675-2335
Finance - Payroll	860-675-2337
Finance - Purchasing	860-675-2335
Fire & Rescue Services	860-675-2322
Fire Marshal	860-675-2320
General Info.	860-675-2300
Highway & Grounds	860-675-2550
Housing Authority	860-675-2390
Library	860-673-6791
Plan & Zoning	860-675-2325
Police (Routine)	860-675-2400
Police (TDD)	860-673-2527
Probate Court	860-675-2360
Public Works	860-675-2330
Recorded Info.	860-675-2301
Recreation	860-675-2540
Registrar of Voters	860-675-2367
Senior Center	860-675-2490
Social Services (Sec. VIII)	860-675-2390
Tax Collector	860-675-2340
Town Clerk	860-675-2380
Town Hall (TDD)	860-675-2314
Town Manager	860-675-2350
Water Pollution Control	860-675-2545
Youth Services	860-675-2390



# Town Council Chair's Message

Page 5

The Town Council is pleased to provide you with the Annual Report, for the Town of Farmington, for the July 1, 2020, to June 30, 2021, fiscal year. This report includes information on some of the many important services we provided, to our citizens and business community. On behalf of the entire Town Council, I want to express the pride we have in our community, schools, and our Town employees. As you read through this report, we hope you will find it both informative and useful.

As of June 30, 2021, Farmington is still fighting the spread of COVID-19, that created various challenges to Farmington's operations and management. For example, managing the Town's finances has always been a priority, but during Fiscal Year 2020-21, it was especially critical, due to the global pandemic. The Town Council discussed concerns of a potential economic collapse, that could have significantly changed how the Town provided services, to residents and businesses. However, by May of 2021, many of our concerns were alleviated, as the economy stabilized and Town finances remained strong.

In the Spring of 2021, Farmington and Unionville voters overwhelmingly approved the appropriation of \$135,600,000 (an anticipated net project cost of \$109,300,000) for a new Farmington High School. The new Farmington High School will provide a flexible and engaging learning environment, for our students and the community.



*Town Council Members with Town Manager, Kathleen Blonski, at the 2021 Memorial Day Parade*

On behalf of the Farmington Town Council, I offer a sincere thank you to the Farmington Community, for its support of this transformational project. It is anticipated that the students will occupy the new high school in August/September of 2024. In conjunction with the FHS Building Committee, we will ensure that this major project is completed both effectively and efficiently.

Currently, the Farmington population is 70% vaccinated. This high vaccination rate has allowed us to see the faces of friends and family, for the first time in many months. Due to the wide availability of vaccines, there has been a reduction of COVID-19 restrictions, which has brought a much-needed sense of normalcy. I am hopeful that this trend will continue.

We are fortunate to have such great assets here in Town. The trails, rivers, and parks provide outdoor recreation. Our restaurants, shops, and businesses allow us to work and commune together.

Most importantly, it is the people of Farmington, both residents and employees, who make this such a special place to call home.

Thank you all for working together, during the challenges we have faced, these past two years. I look forward to hearing from you. Please feel free to email me at [ThomasCJ@farmington-ct.org](mailto:ThomasCJ@farmington-ct.org).

Be Well-

**Town Council Chair**

# Town Manager's Message

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The Town of Farmington 2020-2021 Annual Report will provide with you details of the accomplishments achieved by elected and appointed officials, as well as Town of Farmington employees, during the Fiscal Year of July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021.

2020-2021 has truly been an extraordinary and unpredictable year. Considerable time has been spent addressing the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic. The death of George Floyd outraged the country and propelled our nation and our town into a serious conversation on the devastating effects of racial injustice. The Town ran a socially-distanced Presidential election, that was hugely controversial, with record turn-out. In addition, Tropical Storm Isaias' power outages disrupted businesses, and the community at large, for several days. That said, the year ended on a positive note, when the Town came together and supported a new high school, which is the largest project in Farmington history. Never has good communication channels, a willingness to see things through a different lens, and the agility to pivot, proved to be more essential, than during this year.

## COVID-19 Pandemic

For the last 12 months, the primary focus of my time was maintaining the health and safety of all employees, responding to both the needs of our residents and businesses, while maintaining municipal service levels, because of COVID-19. In January 2021, the primary focus pivoted to the vaccine rollout. Farmington Community Services launched a Vaccination Roll Out Action Plan, to contact individuals 75+, with a sharp focus on isolated and frail residents. These individuals require more support and assistance to complete the process. Working in conjunction with the Farmington Valley Health District, Farmington Community Services helped residents stay informed, and access healthcare, as quickly as possible. With the expedited rollout of the vaccine, the number of fully-vaccinated residents and employees has increased, while the positivity rates in Connecticut have decreased. On May 24, 2021, Town Hall re-opened for full public access.

## Farmington's Racial Equality Task Force

The Town Council established a taskforce to examine and create a plan to develop strategies and community partnerships, to address racial inequality, to educate residents, and to increase awareness about Black lives, by identifying areas of improvement in the Community, and to recommend an Action Plan, to eliminate factors that lead to inequality.

On January 12, 2021, the Taskforce presented their Action Plan to the Town Council, which was unanimously approved. The Taskforce has continued to meet regularly, to implement their Action Plan. Although there is still a large amount of work to accomplish on the Action Plan, the first year has been marked with many successes, and I am excited to see the work progress, in the upcoming years.

## New Farmington High School

On June 3, 2021, Farmington voters approved the appropriation of \$135,600,000 (an anticipated net project cost of \$109,300,000). Voter turnout for this referendum was 33.18%. The results of the vote were as follows:

- **Number of "YES" votes – 4,500**
- **Number of "NO" votes – 2,198**

The success of this project would not have been possible without the unwavering support of the Farmington Town Council, Board of Education, the Farmington High School Building Committee and all of the residents, who came out to support the project. This is a historic accomplishment, for the Town of Farmington.

## Farmington Economic Status

Farmington remains an economic leader in the Hartford Region, with one of the lowest mill rates in the area. In the upcoming year, as we prepare to reopen our economy and adapt to our new normal, continuing to communicate and engage our community will be a crucial component, to a successful recovery. The Town's efforts will continue to focus on connecting businesses to available resources, and ensuring that we address business needs, while balancing the needs of Farmington residents.

Despite the challenges encountered over the past year, Farmington's economic indicators showed stability and modest growth.

## Farmington Economic Status

- Of the 28 towns and cities in the Metro Hartford region, Farmington has the one of the lowest mill rates, of 28.81.
- The grand list grew by .97%, for an increase of \$35,734,688. The net taxable grand list will generate approximately \$1,029,516,361, in new revenue, at the current 28.81 mill rate.

Farmington's commercial base contributes 33.2% of the total taxes, and the residential base is 67.8%. These ratios indicate a vibrant business community, whose contribution to the tax base takes much burden away from the residential community.

## 2020-2021 Projects Completed or In Progress

### In Progress:

- Two 33,000 square foot medical office buildings, located on 1 Munson Road, were approved and are in the construction phase.
- The State of Connecticut purchased a vacant manufacturing building on Spring Lane. Tunxis Community College is in the process of redeveloping the manufacturing facility into a new Manufacturing Training Center.
- An approved retail mall plaza at 52, 54, 56 Farmington Avenue, to include two personal service shops and three take out delivery restaurants, is currently under construction.
- An approved new Chase Bank building, and the relocation and preservation of the historic Elm Street Inn former garage building, was approved. The historic structure was moved in Spring 2021, and new construction on the bank building will start in early Summer 2021.
- The redevelopment of two retail buildings on Main Street in Farmington to include new office, retail, and personal office space, was approved and is under construction.
- Two former office buildings, located in Farmington Center, were approved to be converted to 12 one-bedroom residential units.
- Kaoud Real Estate Development's Zone Change, Master plan and Midpoint Development Special Permit were approved. This development will include multifamily housing structures and commercial development. They are currently developing and refining the master plan. They are expected to return to TPZ in early Summer 2021.

### Completed:

- A new Collinsville Bank building was completed in March 2020, they held a grand opening in September 2020.
- The redevelopment of a vacant manufacturing building was completed in the Fall of 2020. The project houses a new Thomaston Bank building, that opened in January 2020, and the indoor climate control storage units were completed in Fall 2020.
- A new Ion Bank building was built in Unionville.
- Labcorp opened in the Epicure Plaza.
- Iron Horse Sports Bar opened in the former River's Edge Mediterranean Cuisine, in Unionville.
- Yue Se Chinese and Hong Kong Restaurant opened, in the former Chang-An Chinese Restaurant.
- Valley Fitness reopened, under new management.
- The gas station at 989 Farmington Avenue was reopened.
- Farmington Pizza + Kitchen opened, in the former Artistica Pizza location.

As always, working with the residents of the Town of Farmington continues to be a satisfying experience. As of June 30, 2021, Farmington and the entire world is still fighting the spread of COVID-19. But there is now a vaccine, and our vaccination rate is high. With COVID-19 cases coming down, I truly hope that we have turned a corner, in this pandemic. I want to express my appreciation to the community, for your partnership, cooperation, and patience, as we continue to address the emerging issues related to COVID-19.

I look forward to hearing from you. Please feel free to give me a call at 860.675.2350 or email me at [BlonskiK@farmington-ct.org](mailto:BlonskiK@farmington-ct.org).

Sincerely,

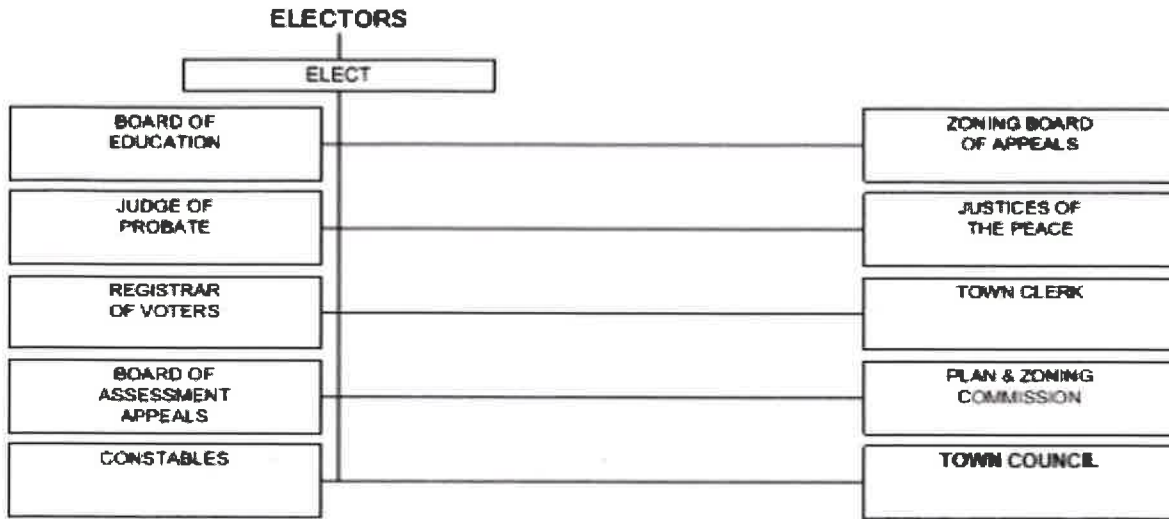
*Karleen A. Blonski*

**Town Manager**

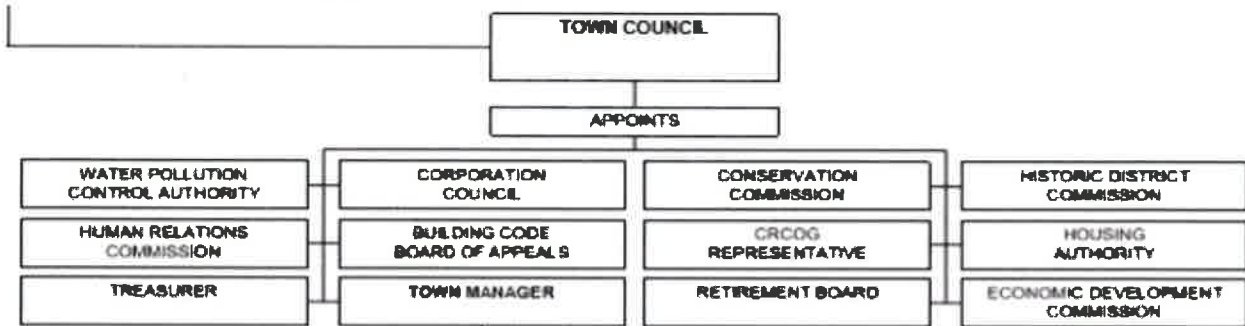


# Organizational Chart - Town of Farmington

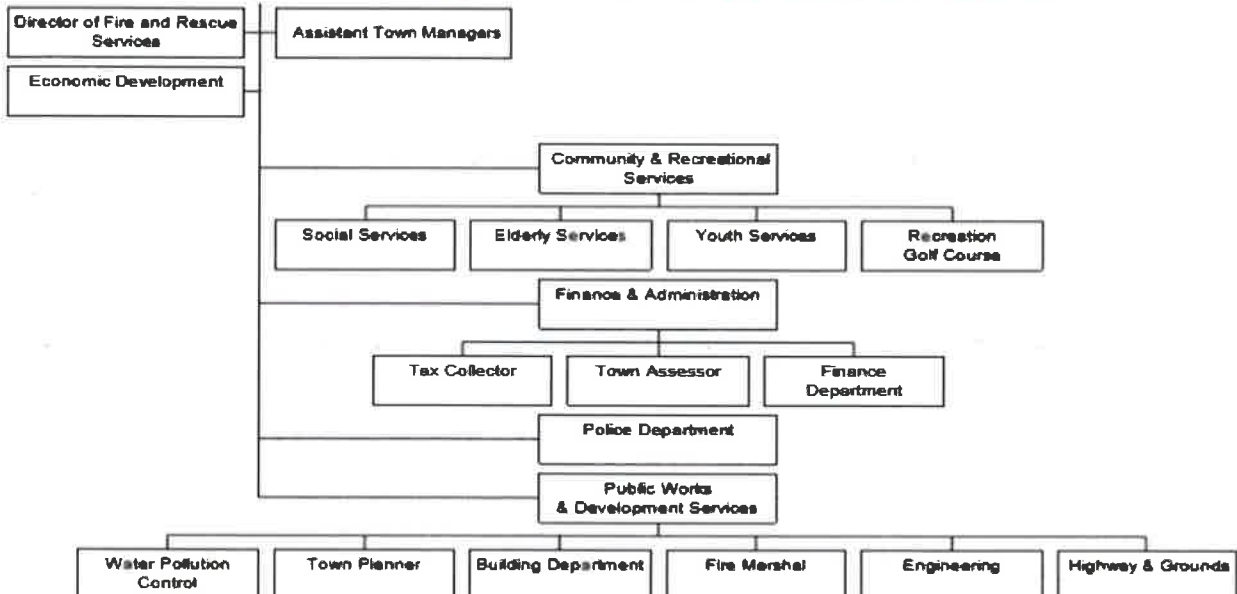
## Residents/Electors Elect the Following Positions:



## Town Council Appoints the Following Positions:



## The Town Manager Appoints the Following Positions:



## Day-Lewis Museum

158 Main St. (rear), Farmington, CT 06032

Phone: 860-678-1645

The Day-Lewis Museum of Indian Artifacts, owned by Yale and operated by the Farmington Historical Society.



## Farmington Historical Society Office

71 Main St., Farmington, CT 06032

Mailing Address:

P.O. Box 1645

Farmington, CT 06034

Phone: 860-678-1645

Website: [farmingtonhistoricalsociety-ct.org](http://farmingtonhistoricalsociety-ct.org)

Founded in 1954 to study and teach Farmington history, the Historical Society collects and preserves documents and artifacts related to local history. The Society maintains two 18th century cottages, located at 138 and 140 Main Street, Farmington. One of the cottages serves as the Society headquarters, where meetings are held, as well as exhibits and the annual tag sale. The Society also maintains the 1790 Stone Schoolhouse, at 93 Coppermine Road (intersection of Red Oak Hill Road).



## Farmington Memorial Town Forest

The Farmington Memorial Town Forest was established in 1926, as a memorial to the men and women who served in the First World War. The Forest consists of 266 acres, between Red Oak Hill Road and Plainville Avenue (Rt. 177). Mr. Harry C. Ney, of Farmington, contributed 188 acres, and other parcels were acquired from a neighboring owner. The Forest is owned by the Town of Farmington.

~continued in next column ~

## Farmington Memorial Town Forest

At a Special Town Meeting on May 20, 1926, it was established that the Forest be supervised and controlled by a quasi/Town Board of Trustees. The Board, seven in number, decided that use of the Forest be for passive recreation, such as hiking and bird watching, with no hunting, fires or vehicle trespass. As time passed, it was found necessary to manage the Forest in a constructive manner, so a professional forester was asked to draw up a forest management plan, analyzing tree stands, recommending harvest where appropriate, conducting oversight of harvests, conducting replanting and regeneration of desirable tree species and conducting surveillance of the six blocks in the plan. Mel Harder of East Hartland, CT is our forester, and has been for many years.



## Hill-Stead Museum

35 Mountain Rd., Farmington, CT 06032

Phone: 860-677-4787

Website: [hillstead.org](http://hillstead.org)

Hill-Stead Museum, designated a National Historic Landmark in 1991, is an outstanding example of Colonial Revival domestic architecture, set on 152 acres of fields and woodlands. The Museum houses outstanding works by Monet, Manet, Degas, Cassatt and Whistler, which are shown with the furnishings and decorative arts, as they were when the Pope and Riddle families were in residence (1901-1946). The main house is complimented by a Sunken Garden, with period plantings restored after the original Beatrix Farrand design.

Hill-Stead Museum is located off route I-84, at exit 39. Follow route 4 to the second light; turn left onto route 10 South. At the next light, turn left onto Mountain Road. The Museum entrance is at 35 Mountain Road. For more information, or a calendar of events, please call (860) 677-4787 or email [hillstead@hillstead.org](mailto:hillstead@hillstead.org).





**Lewis Walpole Library**  
**154 Main Street, Farmington, CT 06032**  
**Phone: 860-677-2140**  
**Website: [walpole.library.yale.edu](http://walpole.library.yale.edu)**

The Lewis Walpole Library is a non-circulating research library, for English eighteenth-century studies. It was bequeathed to Yale by W.S. Lewis, who devoted his life to collecting the letters and works of Horace Walpole, 1717-1797, and to editing the Yale Edition of Horace Walpole's Correspondence. The library is located in a colonial frame house built in 1784, to which new wings have been added. Almost every aspect of the eighteenth century is covered by the library's holdings, including the most extensive collection of English 18th-century satirical prints, in the United States. Drawings, paintings, and memorabilia from Strawberry Hill, Horace Walpole's Gothic Revival villa, enrich the print and manuscript sources. The manuscript holdings are strong in the 18th-century history of diplomatic relations, particularly between Great Britain and Poland, Germany, and Russia. The staff currently provides information by telephone and through the mail and e-mail. The library provides photocopying services. Researchers may also request that items from the Library be sent either to the Beinecke Library or the British Art Center for consultation.



**Old Stone Schoolhouse**  
**93 Coppermine Rd. (at Red Oak Hill Rd.)**  
**Unionville, CT 06085**  
**Phone: 860-678-1645**

The Old Stone (West District) Schoolhouse is a museum of local history operated by the Farmington Historical Society.



**Stanley-Whitman House**  
**37 High St., Farmington, CT 06032**  
**Phone: 860-677-9222**  
**Website: [stanleywhitman.org](http://stanleywhitman.org)**

The Stanley-Whitman House was built by Deacon John Stanley in 1720, and opened as a museum in 1935. The House was named a National Historic Landmark in 1961 and remains one of the best-known examples of early New England framed architecture. Recently restored, the house embodies the styles of both the 17th and 18th centuries. Constructed around the massive central chimney, the House features an overhanging second story, with four pendant drops across the front. A lean-to, added across the back in the middle 1700's, gives it the traditional New England saltbox shape. The Stanley-Whitman House preserves and interprets the history and culture of 18th-century Farmington. Adults and children enjoy open-hearth cooking, candle-making, spinning, weaving, and other colonial activities, during special events.



**Unionville Museum**  
**15 School St., Unionville, CT 06085**  
**Phone: 860-673-2231**  
**Website: [unionvillemuseum.org](http://unionvillemuseum.org)**

Housed in a restored Andrew Carnegie free public library building (the original West End Library), built circa 1917, the Unionville Museum opened in 1984, on the 150th anniversary of the federal government's official "naming" of Unionville. Through its collection and carefully researched thematic exhibits, the Unionville Museum brings together and celebrates the people, places and events that make Unionville unique. The Museum presents three exhibits a year, prints an annual historic calendar, sponsors annual vintage car parades, co-sponsors eight public summer band concerts, in the nearby gazebo, and participates in other community activities.

# Town, State and Federal Elected Officials

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## **Town of Farmington**

### **Town Council**

C.J. Thomas, Chair  
Joseph Capodiferro  
Brian Connolly  
Christopher Fagan  
Edward Giannaros  
Peter Mastrobattista  
Gary Palumbo

### **Board of Education**

Ellen Siuta, Chair  
Elizabeth Fitzsimmons, Vice-Chair  
Christine Arnold  
William Beckert  
Sylvie Binette  
Kristi Brouker  
Sarah Healey  
Beth Kintner  
Andrea Sobinski

### **Board of Assessment Appeals**

Christopher M. Mathieu, Chair  
Patty Buttero  
Matthew Hutvagner  
John Simoneau  
Mark Simpson  
Ronald White

### **Constables**

Geno Avenoso  
Peter Bagdigan  
Diane Rogers

### **Registrar of Voters**

Barbara Brenneman  
Edward Leary

## **Town of Farmington**

### **Town Clerk**

Paula B. Ray

### **Town Plan & Zoning Commission**

Barbara Brenneman, Chair  
Patrick A. Carrier  
Michael Grabulis  
Matthew Pogson  
Inez St. James  
Marcie Schwartz  
Scott Halstead, Alternate  
John Vibert, Alternate  
Keith Vibert, Alternate

### **Zoning Board of Appeals**

Kerry Callahan, Chair  
Johnny Carrier  
Ronald Llewellyn  
Sara Nadim  
Robert Phillips  
Jon L. Schoenhorn  
John Brockelman, Alternate  
Harry Marsh, Alternate  
Steven Walsh, Alternate

## **State and Federal Officials**

### **U.S. Senate**

Richard Blumenthal  
Christopher Murphy

### **U.S. Representative**

Jahana Hayes (5th District)

### **State Senator**

Derek Slap (5th District)  
R (6th District)

### **State Representative**

Tammy Exum (19th District)  
Mike Demicco (21st District)



# Town Council Appointed Officials

Page 12

## **Building Code of Appeals**

Swapna Das  
George Santos  
Ned Statchen  
Donad Doeg  
Vacant

## **Conservation and Inland Wetlands Commission**

Robert Hannon, Chair  
Robert C. Isner, Vice Chair  
David Fox  
Mark Simpson  
Ned Statchen  
Jay Tulin  
Guy Wolf  
Richard Berlandy, Alternate  
Emily Bryk, Alternate

## **Economic Development Commission**

Phillip Chabot  
Daniel E. Kleinman  
Rob Phillips  
Robert Reeve  
Bill Wadsworth  
Lun Warren Hua  
Pete Ramchandani

## **Farmington Historic District Commission**

John Bombara, Chair  
James Calciano  
Sally Hatzenbuhler  
Evan Honeyman  
Jaye O'Leary, Vice Chair  
Elizabeth Gemski, Alternate  
John Renehan, Alternate  
Ted Sanford, Alternate

## **Unionville Historic District Commission**

Lisa Johnson, Chair  
John Brockelman  
Robert Hoffman  
Sherryl Horton  
Howard Martin  
Barbara Marsh, Alternate  
Matthew Ross, Alternate  
Ann V. Wuelfing

## **Town Historian**

Lisa Johnson

## **Housing Authority**

John DeMeo  
Gregory Hall  
Sally Hatzenbuhler  
Christian Hoheb  
Cynthia Mason  
Justin Pagano

## **Human Relations Commission**

Jay Tulin, Chair  
Andrew Arboe  
Kay Higgins  
Donna S. Mambrino  
Christine Mergenthaler  
Zalman Nakhimovsky  
Lisa Pawlik

## **Land Acquisition Committee**

Brian F.X. Connolly  
Peter Mastrobattista  
Evan Cowles  
Ned T. Statchen  
Stephen Nelson  
William Wadsworth  
Guy Wolf

## **Retirement Board**

Peter Mastrobattista, Chair  
Joshua Allen  
Robert Brochu  
Kyle Cunningham  
Steven Egan  
Robert Huelin  
Robert Ingvertsen  
Geoffrey Porter  
Joan Valenti  
David Wlodkowski  
Michael Ziebka

## **Town Manager**

Kathleen A. Blonski

## **Veterans Memorial Committee**

Paul J. Krause, Chair  
Tyson Belanger  
Justin Bernier  
James Hayes  
Theodore C. Jones  
Vacant  
Vacant

## **Water Pollution Control Authority**

Peter Bagdigian, Chair  
Philip Cordeiro  
Kevin Ray  
Jennifer Wynn  
James Foote

# Town Manager Appointed Officials

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## **Assistant Town Managers**

Kathryn Krajewski  
Erica Robertson

## **Building Official**

Stephen Doyon

## **Chief of Police**

Paul Melanson

## **Director of Community & Recreational Services**

Nancy Parent

## **Director of Fire & Rescue Services**

Steven Hoffmann

## **Director of Finance & Administration**

Joseph Swetcky

## **Director of Public Works & Development Services**

Russell Arnold, Jr.

## **Economic Development**

Rose Ponte

## **Fire Marshal**

Michael Gulino

## **Highway & Grounds Superintendent**

James Ruzbasan

## **Tax Collector**

Samantha Pletscher

## **Town Planner**

Kathryn Kramer

## **Water Pollution Control Plant Superintendent**

Mark Batorski

## **Other Municipal Officials**

### **Director of Health**

Jennifer Kertanis, Farmington Valley Health District

### **Library Director**

Christopher Lindquist

### **Fire Chiefs**

David Czapinski, East Farms  
Michael Grabulis, Farmington  
Rich Higley, Sr., Tunxis Hose

## **School District Leadership:**

### **Superintendent of Schools**

Kathleen C. Greider

### **Assistant Superintendents**

Alicia Bowman  
Kimberly Wynne

### **Director of Curriculum and Instruction**

Veronica Ruzek

### **Director of Special Services**

Dr. Laurie Singer

## **School Information 2020-2021**

### **Farmington High School**

Dr. Scott Hurwitz, Principal

### **Irving A. Robbins Middle School**

Nilda Irizarry, Principal

### **West Woods Upper Elementary School**

Dr. Katie Blore, Principal

### **East Farms School**

Renee St. Hilaire, Principal

### **Noah Wallace School**

Carrie Huber, Principal

### **Union School**

Caitlin Eckler, Principal

### **West District School**

Kelly Sanders, Principal

# Demographic and Economic Statistics

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Population				
1980	1990	2000	2010	2021
16,407	20,608	23,641	25,340	25,528

Age Distribution by Percent						
Under 10	10-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60+
9%	13%	11%	11%	13%	16%	26%

Employment Data (2020)	
Employed	13,226
Unemployed	808
Unemployment Rate	6%

Educational Attainment (2015-2019)	
High school graduate or higher	83%
Bachelor's degree or higher	60%

Median household income (in 2019 dollars): \$93,053

Education (2020-2021 School Year)	
Average Class Size	20 Students per Teacher
Percent of Further Education— Post-Graduate Plans	93%

Real Estate	
Owner-occupied housing unit rate (2015-2019)	73.0%
Median value of owner-occupied housing units (2015-	\$332,000
Subsidized Housing (2018)	875

Transportation	
Number of Interchanges with I-84	3
Distance to Bradley Airport	20 miles

# Demographic and Economic Statistics *continued*

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## 2020 Annual Wages Employment and Industry Totals

Year	Industry	Units (Q4)	Average Employment (Q4)	Total Annual Wages	Annual Average Employment Wages and Industries
2020	<b>Total - All Industries</b>	1,455	30,425	\$2,820,059,000	\$92,688.87
	Agric., Forestry, Fishing & Hunting	*	*	*	*
	Construction	83	1,114	\$109,067,835	\$97,906.49
	Manufacturing	39	2,407	\$195,330,688	\$52,513.13
	Wholesale Trade	86	593	\$67,432,291	\$113,713.81
	Retail Trade	157	2,518	\$76,487,985	\$30,376.48
	Transportation & Warehousing	17	131	\$5,050,844	\$38,556.06
	Information	47	548	\$60,663,355	\$110,699.55
	Finance & Insurance	178	3,711	\$470,008,481	\$126,652.78
	Real Estate and Rental & Leasing	50	326	\$30,796,229	\$94,466.96
	Professional, Scientific, & Technical Services	211	1,791	\$191,802,715	\$107,092.53
	Management of Companies & Enterprises	26	3,008	\$680,020,704	\$226,070.71
	Admin. & Support & Waste Mgmt. & Remed. Services	99	1,470	\$56,137,443	\$38,188.74
	Educational Services	*	*	*	*
	Health Care & Social Assistance	192	4,090	\$251,463,000	\$61,482.40
	Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	21	276	\$8,463,337	\$30,664.26
	Accommodation & Food Services	81	1,190	\$30,930,559	\$25,992.07
	Other Services (except Public Administration)	124	649	\$26,113,384	\$40,236.34
	Unclassified establishment	*	*	*	*

## 2020 Major Employers

Employer	Approximate # of Employees
Institute For Regenerative	5000
Uconn Health Ctr	1355
Connecticut Children's Nicu	1251
Ct Children's Medical Ctr	1251
Otis Worldwide Corp	800
Connecti Care Inc	700
Macy's	500
Trumpf Medical Systems Inc	500
Tunxis Community College	500
American Red Cross	388
Allied World Assurance Co	350
Css	350
Nordstrom	300
Stanley Access Technologies	280
Prohealth Physicians Inc	250
Ebm Papst	230
JC Penney	230
Raytheon Technologies	200
Amberwoods	180
Mott Corp	180



# Summary of Town Council Actions

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## **Town Council Members**

### **Front Row (L to R):**

Brian Connolly  
Paula Ray - Town Clerk  
C.J. Thomas - Chair  
Kathy Blonski - Town Manager  
Peter Mastrobattista

### **Back Row (L to R):**

Edward Giannaros  
Christopher Fagan  
Gary Palumbo  
Joseph Capodiferro

## Summary of Town Council Actions: July 1st, 2020 - June 30th, 2021

### **JULY 2020**

- Established a taskforce to examine and create a plan, to develop strategies and community partnerships, to address racial inequality, to educate residents and to increase awareness about Black Lives, by identifying areas of improvement in the Community, and to recommend an Action Plan, to eliminate factors that lead to inequality.
- Awarded Bid # 295, Tree Removal and Pruning Services, to Distinctive Gardens & Tree Care of South Windsor, CT.
- Awarded Bid # 297, Large Fire Apparatus Maintenance, to Fleetmasters Sales and Service of Windsor Locks, CT.
- Accepted a FEMA Assistance to Firefighters Grant supplemental funding opportunity, for response to COVID-19, for \$13,818.18.
- Established a Town Council Ad-Hoc Committee, to work with Town Staff, to make recommendations to the Town Council, on next steps concerning the Parson's property, and the BSC Streetscape Improvement Plan.

### **SEPTEMBER 2020**

- Recommended that the Farmington Village Center/Parson's Property Ad-Hoc Committee hold a public informational meeting on the Committee's phasing and design plan (phase 1), for replacement of sidewalks on Main Street/Route 10.
- Awarded a contract for the purchase of one (1) Pierce Arrow XT, 100-foot Mid-Mounted Telescoping Ladder, with Platform Truck, and related equipment, to Pierce Manufacturing, Inc. of Appleton, Wisconsin, at a purchase price of \$1,493,657.00
- Awarded a contract for the purchase of one 2020 Model # 31699 Groundsmaster 5910 wing deck mower, to Turf Products Company, of Enfield, CT, at a purchase price of \$114,549.21

- Ratified the tentative agreement between the Town of Farmington and Farmington School Nurses.
- Set a Public Hearing on October 13, 2020, at 7:05 pm, online via Zoom Webinar, to Amend the Farmington Town Code Chapter 51 "Pensions."
- Accepted and approved the Route 4 Transportation Safety and Improvement Study.

### **OCTOBER 2020**

- Amended Chapter 51 "Pensions" of the Town of Farmington Code.
- Approved the Proposed Contract Between the Farmington Administrators' and Supervisors' Association (FASA) and the Board of Education 2021-2024.

### **NOVEMBER 2020**

- Approved the Farmington Village Center/Parson's Property Ad-Hoc Committee phasing and design plan (phase 1), for the replacement of sidewalks on Main Street/Route 10.
- Awarded a contract for the acquisition of four (4) Dell computer servers, at a cost of \$19,890.00 each (\$79,560 total), to Dell Marketing LP, of Round Rock TX.
- Awarded a contract for the purchase of Treated Road Salt, for the 2020/2021 Winter season, to CARGILL, Inc. of Boston, MA, at a purchase price of \$61.00 per ton.
- Acquired 28 new Lithium Ion battery powered golf carts, from Club Car LLC of Evans, GA, for Westwoods Golf.

### **DECEMBER 2020**

- Authorized the Town Manager to sign a contract with Stryker, for the purchase of three (3) LUCAS devices, one (1) for each main fire station, for a multi-year commitment of five (5) years.



# Summary of Town Council Actions *continued*

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## **JANUARY 2021**

- Approved the Racial Equality Taskforce's Action Plan, and requested that the Taskforce create an Implementation Schedule.
- Removed the Farmington High School Building Committee from pause, to initiate their communications plan and continue their work, in accordance with the committee charge.
- Authorized the Town Treasurer to submit a request to the State of Connecticut Office of Policy and Management, for reimbursement of expenses the Town has incurred, during the time-period July 1, 2020 and December 3, 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Set a 3% budget target, for the expenditure budgets, for both the Board of Education and Town.
- Set a Public Hearing on February 23, 2021, at 6:00 pm, on the Town Manager's Proposed Seven-Year Capital Improvement Plan.
- Established a Town Council Sub-Committee, to review Article IV: Property Tax Relief for Elderly Homeowners (Local Option), Article V: Property Tax Relief for Volunteer Fire Fighters, Article VI: Qualifying Veterans and Surviving Spouses and Article VII: Elderly Tax Freeze Program of Chapter L76 Taxation, of the Code of the Town of Farmington, and to determine whether there is a need for ordinance changes.

## **FEBRUARY 2021**

- Set a public hearing on March 9, 2021, at 7:00 pm, on the Town Manager's FY 2021-2022 Recommended Budget.
- Public Hearing on the Town Manager's Proposed Seven Year Capital Improvement Plan.

## **MARCH 2021**

- Appointed the firm of PKF OConnor Davies, LLP of Wethersfield, CT, as the Town's independent auditor, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2021.
- Accepted the Annual Report of July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020.

## **APRIL 2021**

- Approved the Town Council's Recommended Budget, for the Fiscal Year 2021-2022.
- Awarded a contract to Tilcon Connecticut Inc. to supply in-place bituminous material on town roads, for the 2021 paving season, at a cost not to exceed \$1,400,000.
- Appointed the firm of Pullman & Comley, LLC as Bond Counsel, for a term effective immediately, until January 2022.
- Approved the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Policy and Grievance Procedure.
- Adopted the Farmington Equal Employment Opportunity Program and Affirmative Action Plan, for the Town of Farmington.
- Adopted the Compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 Statement, for the Town of Farmington.
- Adopted the Fair Housing Policy Statement, for the Town of Farmington.

## **MAY 2021**

- Set the Property Tax Rate and Solid Waste Special Service Charge, for the 2021-2022 Fiscal Year.
- Approved the schematic drawings and project cost estimate, for the Farmington High School Building Project, as recommended by the Farmington High School Building Committee.
- Approved a resolution and warning, recommending the appropriation and authorizing the borrowing of \$ 135,600,000 (an anticipated net project cost to the Town of \$109,300,000) and to set a Special Town Meeting on May 24, 2021 and a Referendum on June 3, 2021.
- Approved a three-year Contract from July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2024, between the Town of Farmington and the East Farmington Volunteer Fire Department Inc., Farmington Volunteer Fire Department LLC, and Tunxis Hose Co. No. 1 Inc.

## **JUNE 2021**

- Amended Article IV "Property Tax Relief for Elderly Homeowners (Local Option)" of Chapter 176 "Taxation" of the Farmington Town Code.
- Amended Article V "Property Tax Relief for Volunteer Firefighters" of Chapter 176 "Taxation" of the Farmington Town Code
- Authorized the Town Manager to sign a Memorandum of Understanding between the Town of Farmington and the Farmington Fraternal Order of Police, Local #331, extending the contract, due to expire on June 30, 2021.
- Authorized the Town Manager to sign a Memorandum of Understanding between the Town of Farmington and the International Association of Firefighters, Local #3103, extending the contract, due to expire on June 30, 2021.
- Updated the 2020-2022 Town Council Strategic Plan.
- Approved a contract, in the amount of \$84,551.15, to Security 101- Advanced Security Integration, LLC. of Southington, for a Town Hall Card Access System, under Connecticut State Contract 17PSX0002.
- Approved resolutions for the State Grant application, for the construction of the new Farmington High School.
- Approved resolutions for the State Grant application, for the renovation of the Farmington Public School Central Office Administration.

***"The Assessor is required by Connecticut Law to list and value all real estate at 70% of value, as of the last revaluation. Farmington's most recent revaluation, of all real property, was effective as of October 1, 2017, and real estate assessments are based on market value as of that date."***

## Top 10 Taxpayers

Name	Net Assessment	% of Net Grand List (Rounded)
West Farms Mall	\$155,682,770	4.17%
C L & P	\$56,019,190	1.50%
JPMCC 2007-CIBC19 Farm Springs Road LLC	\$27,536,223	0.74%
Trumpf Inc.	\$23,628,370	0.63%
SHI-IV SLR Farmington LLC	\$21,682,648	0.58%
Price Reit Inc	\$20,952,120	0.56%
CA SENIOR Farmington CT	\$20,440,000	0.55%
NIC 13 Village Gate Owner	\$20,042,700	0.54%
United Technologies	\$19,937,500	0.53%
West Farms Associates	\$19,239,440	0.52%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$385,160,961</b>	<b>10.32%</b>

- Motor vehicles are assessed each year, at 70 percent of the retail value, using the October issue of NADA. Personal property is also assessed annually, based on the acquisition cost and depreciation schedules.
- The Assessors' Office is responsible for approximately 11,240 real estate parcels, 23,360 regular motor vehicle accounts, and 1,576 personal property accounts. In addition, there were 3,276 accounts on the 2019 supplemental motor vehicle list, and it had a net billable assessment of \$30,331,933.
- Real estate comprises approximately 86.8% of the total taxable grand list with residential properties at 60.1% and commercial (also including industrial, public utility, use assessment and apartment buildings) at 26.70%. Motor vehicles accounted for a little more than half of the remaining 13.2%, of the net taxable grand list. The assessment department completed the 2020 grand list January 28, 2021.
- There are exemptions available for veterans, among others, as well as tax relief for the elderly or disabled. Some of these have income limits, and require an application every two years.

West Farms Mall Complex	Assessment
West Farms Mall LLC	\$155,682,770
West Farms Associates	\$19,239,440
Nordstrom Inc	\$4,251,880
Macy's Mall Real Estate LLC	\$1,631,010
Tiffany & Co	\$1,176,200
J C Penney Corp Inc.	\$671,650
All Other Retail	\$14,356,468
<b>Total West Farms Mall</b>	<b>\$197,009,418</b>

## Grand List as of October 1, 2020

TOWN OF FARMINGTON TAXABLE GRAND LIST, OCTOBER 1, 2020, AS REVISED BY THE BOARD OF ASSESSMENT APPEALS			
	GROSS	EXEMPTIONS	NET
REAL ESTATE	\$3,242,935,658	\$1,439,430	\$3,241,496,228
PERSONAL PROPERTY	\$340,950,526	\$101,229,742	\$239,720,784
MOTOR VEHICLE	\$254,398,358	\$2,424,950	\$251,973,408
<b>NET TAXABLE GRAND LIST</b>	<b>\$3,838,284,542</b>	<b>\$105,094,122</b>	<b>\$3,733,190,420</b>



Commercial Base:  
33.2%



Residential Base:  
67.8%

TOWN OF FARMINGTON TAXABLE GRAND LIST, OCTOBER 1, 2020, AS REVISED BY THE BOARD OF ASSESSMENT APPEALS, COMPARED WITH 2019				
	2019 NET	2020 NET	DIFFERENCE	% CHANGE
REAL ESTATE	\$3,222,223,680	\$3,241,496,228	\$19,272,548	0.60%
PERSONAL PROPERTY	\$237,811,910	\$239,720,784	\$1,908,874	0.80%
MOTOR VEHICLE	\$239,931,487	\$251,973,408	\$12,041,921	5.02%
<b>NET TAXABLE GRAND LIST</b>	<b>\$3,699,967,077</b>	<b>\$3,733,190,420</b>	<b>\$33,223,343</b>	<b>0.90%</b>

The taxable grand list increase would add approximately \$929,000 in new revenue, at the 2019 mill rate of 27.97.

## Assessment Records and GIS Available on Town Website

Assessment data is available online, through the [assessor's web page](#), using the "Property Records Search" link. The information is updated automatically overnight, and represents a work in progress, as the records are being updated in preparation for the next grand list.



# Department of Public Works

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*"The Department of Public Works is comprised of seven divisions: Building, Engineering, Fire Marshal, Highway & Grounds, Planning and Zoning, Water Pollution Control, and Westwoods Golf Course maintenance."*

## Building Division

The Building Department is responsible for the protection of persons, in all public and private structures, through its inspection programs. Building Department Staff inspect and confirm on-site work, in order to monitor compliance with regulations. Areas of inspection include: general construction, electric, plumbing, heating/air-conditioning, and fire safety. Staff also review specifications and engineering data, for special structural, mechanical, energy, and fire suppression systems.

The intent of the Building Code is to ensure public safety, health, and welfare, as it is affected by building construction, structural strength, adequate egress facilities, sanitary equipment, light and ventilation, and fire safety; and to secure safety for life and property of all hazards, incidental to the design, erection, removal, demolition, use and occupancy of buildings.

**The Building Division approved the following permits:**

**Total: 2,474 permits, \$957,290 fees**

## Engineering Division

The Engineering Division's mission is to design, review, and inspect public works projects, to ensure public safety, improve and maintain the quality of life. It also provides technical support to all Town government departments, boards, commissions and the general public.

The Engineering Division is responsible for the development of engineering designs, specifications, bid documents, as well as contract administration and inspection for various public improvements, including; drainage infrastructure, roadway reconstruction, sanitary sewer installation and repair, and improvements to parks and other publicly owned land. This includes surveying, plan development, as well as contract administration and inspection.

Highlights of projects processed through the Engineering Division, over the course of the past fiscal year, include:

- **Paving of Ridgeview Drive, Helm Drive, Blueridge Drive and Shady Lane:** The Engineering Division provided new pavement elevations, for the reconstruction of these roadways, completed in the Summer of 2021 and paid for under the Capital Improvement Program.

## Engineering Division *continued*

The Engineering Division also acted as the liaison to the State DOT, for various traffic and roadway improvement projects, along all State Roads in Town, including:

- **State Project #0051-0272 Rehabilitation of Bridge # 01487, Route 177 Truss Bridge:** The CT DOT is working on structural steel improvements, as well as rehabilitation of the sidewalks and railings, on both the east and west sides of the bridge. Due to construction/design issues, the project has had some re-design of the structural steel component, and is expected to continue work in the Spring, with a Fall 2022 completion.
- **State Project #0171-0412 CT Fastrak Commuter Lot, Colt Highway/Route 6:** The CT DOT started this project in the Spring of 2021, and is expected to be completed in the Summer of 2022. This commuter lot replaces the lot that was along Route 4 and the I-84 on ramp.
- **State Project #0051-0274; Intersection Improvements on Colt Highway at I-84 Entrance on Route 6:** The intersection of Route 6, State Route 531 and the I-84 on ramp, will be reconstructed Summer of 2023, to improve the traffic flow onto I-84. Work will include a new configuration of the "X" intersection, and allow for a dedicated left turn lane, onto I-84.
- **LOTICIP Project #L051-004 Roundabout at Intersection of South Road, Two Mile Road Colt Highway and State Route 531:** The Engineering Division worked with the State of Connecticut DOT, to transfer funding from a previously approved project on Route 6, which will be incorporated into a future DOT project, to construct a roundabout at this intersection, to improve traffic flow during the peak am and pm periods. The 100% design plans have been submitted to CT DOT, and are awaiting approval to advertise. Construction is anticipated to start Fall of 2022 or Spring 2023.

The Engineering Division also provided staff support for the Green Efforts Committee, the Bicycle Advisory Committee, Traffic Review Board, Water Pollution Control Authority, and various other committees and local groups. The Engineering Division is also involved in the design of upgrades, associated with the Town's Waste Water Treatment Facility.

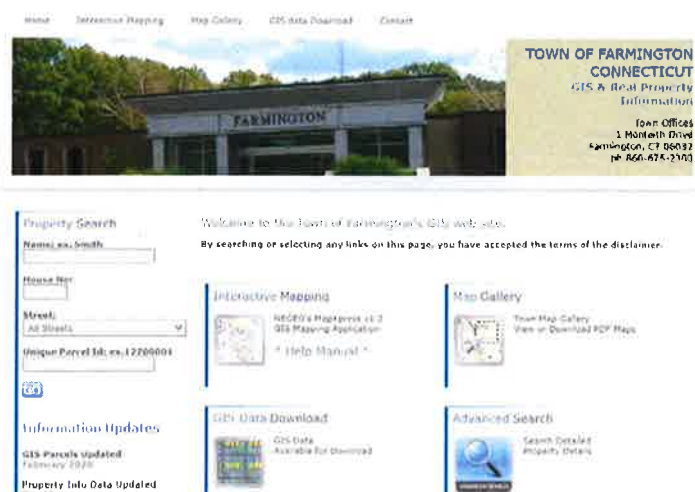
## Engineering Division *continued*

Engineering staff review and inspect improvements such as drainage, sanitary sewer, and pavement, constructed by private developers. In addition, Engineering Staff located town infrastructure, including storm and sanitary sewer lines, for over 3,600 Call-Before-You-Dig requests, and inspected 49 sanitary sewer connections and repairs.

**125 excavation permits and 64 traffic obstruction permits were also issued by the Engineering Division. Additionally, 14 new single-family plot plans, and 15 site plans were reviewed, for adherence to town design standards, for projects being presented to the Town Planning and Zoning Commission.**

The Engineering Division Geographic Information System (GIS) parcel project maintains and updates the changes to more than 8,700 parcels; such as splits, combines, boundary changes, and the addition of subdivisions. The data is used to update the Assessor's Parcel Maps.

The Engineering Division utilizes this data to provide mapping support for Town departments and committees, including bus mapping for the Board of Education, mapping for elections, as well as map support for the police and fire departments. In addition, we continue to update and maintain GIS mapping of the Town storm drainage discharge, as required by the State and Federal Mandate, for Storm Water Phase II Permitting and yearly reporting.



## Fire Marshal

The following services were provided by the Fire Marshal's Office, during the period of July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021:

- 498 new projects were reviewed, for fire code compliance.
- 13 fire incidents were investigated, for cause and origin.
- 1 miscellaneous investigation was conducted.
- 28 fire protection systems tests were witnessed.
- 854 code compliance and follow-up inspections were conducted.
- There were 0 blasting permits issued.
- There was 1 fireworks display.
- 36 complaint and code question visits were conducted.
- Due to COVID, the Fire Marshal did not do any Fire Prevention presentations at the elementary or nursery schools, during the past year.
- Due to COVID, there were no in-person classes held by the State, for Continuing Education credits. However, the Fire Marshal did attend a two-day, online presentation, given by the International Arson Association Investigators.
- 55 burn permits were issued.
- 16 tent permits were ordered and inspected; and 42 fire watches were ordered.

## Calls by Situation Found - FY 2020-2021

Fires	
Structure	28
Vehicle	13
Others	32
<b>Total Fires:</b>	<b>73</b>

Casualty Summary	Civilian	Fire Service
Fire Related Injuries	0	0
Fire Related Deaths	0	0

## Fire Marshal *continued*

Rescue/Emergency	
Medical Treatment	2,260
False Alarms	361
Mutual Aid Given	256
Hazardous Condition Calls	215
All Other Calls	512
<b>Total All Calls:</b>	<b>3,677</b>
<b>Total Fire Dollar Loss:</b>	<b>\$73,500</b>

## Highway and Grounds

The mission of the Highway and Grounds Division is the construction and maintenance of the Town roadways and parks. These duties include seasonal maintenance such as plowing snow, leaf collection, and highway and park construction. This Division also handles waste collection, recycling, and tree maintenance.

**Road Overlay Program:** As part of the Town's annual roadway overlay program, 1.67 miles of roadway were reconstructed. The following roads were paved in the 2020/2021 paving season: Cobblestone Road, Stonegate, Briar Hill, Oakridge, and Dunne Wood Court. Underdrain work of Oakridge was completed, prior to paving, in June of 2021.

**Line Striping:** 204,000 lineal feet of double yellow lines and 220,000 lineal feet of single white lines were completed on Town roads.

**Tunxis Mead Compost Area:** Built a new gatekeeper shed; relocated compost and mulch bins; overhead power relocated to an underground service; installed a new automated security gate; graded and paved a 27,000 sq. ft. area, around the new gatekeeper shed.

**Westwoods Golf Course:** Demolition of existing kitchen, including new electrical service and complete remodeling/updating of the facility.

## Highway and Grounds *continued*

**Catch Basins:** 0 catch basins were cleaned.

**Trees:** Through the use of Town forces and outside contractors, approximately 200 dead or diseased trees were removed from Town-owned properties and right-of-ways. An additional 50+ dead or diseased trees were removed, along the Farmington Rails-to-Trails, from the parking lot at Rt. 4, to the Burlington Town line.

**Leaf Collection:** Starting on November 2nd, five Town crews collected approximately 15,420 cubic yards of leaves, throughout Town. Leaves were taken to the Compost and Recycling areas, and processed for Town residents to use as organic compost, which can be picked up at Tunxis Mead Park.

**Winter Maintenance:** Eight storms, amounting to 48.50 inches of snow/ice, fell on Farmington. The Highway and Grounds Division of Public Works plowed 27,451 miles of roads, and spread 1,509.35 tons of salt, to keep Town roads clear and safe.

**Recycling:** Recycling efforts continued throughout the year. Used motor oil and vehicle batteries were collected, at the Highway and Grounds Garage, located at 544 New Britain Avenue. The used motor oil is used to heat the Highway Garage.

### Tons of Materials Recycled (FY 2020 - 2021):

- **Combined: Scrap Metal, Commingled Containers, Magazines, Newspapers & Corrugated Cardboard = 2,101.17 Tons**
- **Leaves = 3,924.82 Tons**
- **Brush and Wood Products = 790.04 Tons**
- **Mattresses and Boxsprings = 1,115 (59,500 lbs.)**





## Planning and Zoning

- Number of Zoning Permits Issued: 129
- Number of Zoning Registration Forms Issued: 25
- Number of Certificates of Zoning Compliance Issued: 21
- TPZ Applications Processed and Reviewed: 82
- ZBA Applications Processed and Reviewed: 21
- IWC/CC Applications Processed and Reviewed: 34
- Upland Review Applications Processed and Reviewed: 2
- Historic District Commission Applications Processed and Reviewed: 36

The Town Plan and Zoning Commission continues to be led by Chairperson Barbara Brenneman. In July 2020, Shannon Rutherford assumed the role of Acting Town Planner and liaison to the TPZ, until Kathryn Kramer was hired as the new Town Planner, and began January 2021.

The Planning Department and the Economic Development Department have worked collaboratively on several projects, which will benefit Farmington. This year, there were 32% more zoning permits issued, four times the amount of ZBA applications reviewed, and processed, and 71% more Historic District applications processed and reviewed.

Some highlights from this year include:

- Approval of a Master Plan, Zone Change and Special Permit for the Midpoint Development - including lowering sections of the trail between the Rte 4 "Big Bird Bridge" and the Farmington River Trestle Bridge, allowing access to the proposed development, as well as vital access from the trail to the nearby athletic fields, on Wannowmassa Lane.
- Approval for medical office use, in the Lord & Taylor space, at WestFarms Mall.
- Approval to construct Chase Bank, on Farmington Avenue, and move the historic building 90 degrees, to be parallel to Backage Road.
- Approval to develop a 3-story residential apartment building, at 402 Farmington Ave.
- Approval for the renovation and site plan improvements to Sarah Lane, at Miss Porter's.
- Approval of an expansion to the Dance Barn, for Miss Porter's, which upgraded the ADA access to and within the building.
- Approval of 244 and 248 Main St., allowing for the redevelopment and expansion of these existing buildings.
- Site plan modification to 1 Munson Rd., to allow the development to construct two, two-story medical office buildings, rather than a single three-story medical office building.
- Special permit, to allow medical office use at 838 Farmington Ave. (Epicure), accommodating a new business, and allowing an existing business to down-size and remain in the community.

- Approval of Zone Change, at 790 Farmington Ave., from B1 to FC/FV zone, to allow the repurposing of existing office space, to residential apartments.
- Approvals of a number of expanded home projects, allowing residents to complete improvement projects at home, and adjust to the new work-from-home model, that has come from the pandemic.
- Special permit, site plan and Aquifer Protection approval, for 145 Hyde Rd., allowing an existing manufacturer, at 72 Spring Lane, to expand their production facilities.
- Special permit for installation of a large solar array, at 303 Middle Road.
- Special permit for conversion of the existing radio broadcasting school and property, at 130 Birdseye Road, to allow for a medical use, and repurposing of the aging building.

Additionally, the Planning Department has provided these development services, in the following areas:

- Oversee construction of the 1 Munson Rd. Medical Office development.
- Construction and erosion control monitoring, at 60 Main St., the Miss Porter's cafeteria.
- Construction and erosion control monitoring, at 54, 56, 58 Farmington Ave.
- Continued to work with businesses, to accommodate modifications to their operations, as a result of the pandemic restrictions.
- Oversee construction of numerous residential new construction and expansions, including Yorkshire, Tanbark Trail, Coyote Court and Sachem Court.
- Numerous staff consultations, with developers and property owners, regarding development and redevelopment opportunities in Farmington.

Additional items that members of the Planning Division continue to oversee include:

- Working on the Town's Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) requirements, to ensure compliance with the state DEEP permit.
- Management of streetlights.
- Bike Plan
  - Installation of portable toilets, at the Brickyard Road, New Britain Avenue/Coppermine Road, and Collinsville Road Trail parking lots.
  - Development of a Public Service Announcement, to increase public awareness of pedestrian safety.
  - Developing a wayfinding plan, to provide signage along trails, directing users to nearby businesses and services.
- Development of an Affordable Housing Plan, to help the Town reach the State-mandated requirements.
- Work with a number of Eagle Scouts, to educate and assist them, through the municipal permitting process.

The Planning and Zoning Department had a record busy year, in spite of COVID-19, changing shutdowns, and evolving regulations. The projects from this year will continue to foster a strong sense of place and attract new businesses and talent to the community in the future. Many of the projects focused on creating flexibility, and providing opportunities for businesses and residences in a time of uncertainty. As we move forward, the flexible component will continue to drive redevelopment and preservation of Farmington's historical character, and future planning efforts.

## Water Pollution Control Facility

The Farmington WPCF treated over 1.1 billion gallons of wastewater, between July 1st, 2020, and June 30th, 2021. Throughout this time period, the new facility achieved Biological Oxygen Demand (BOD) and Total Suspended Solids (TSS) removal rates of 98-99%, while seeing large decreases in total nitrogen and phosphorus removal.

Plant maintenance and operations constructed a hybrid tank, using existing primary tankage. The tank allows increased fermentation before the anaerobic zones, allowing greater VFA production and time under anoxic conditions. This design has decreased effluent numbers, while reducing chemical costs and usage. There were no permit violations or citations, throughout 2020-2021.

The Batterson Park Pump Station upgrade was completed on October 19th, 2020. The \$1.9 million comprehensive upgrade included a complete overhaul of the existing station. The facility continues to work on energy cost-saving projects, which include improvements to pump station instrumentation and control, heating control systems, energy efficient lighting, and emergency back-up power systems, for the seventeen pump stations within town.

### The following projects are currently in progress at the WPCF:

- Plant maintenance and operations continue to enhance their preventative maintenance program. Between August 4th, 2020, to August 9th, 2020, the Farmington WPCF, and 14 out of 17 pump stations, were all under generator power, during Tropical Storm Isaias. All equipment ran flawlessly, throughout the five-day outage, while maintaining permit compliance.
- The Farmington WPCF constructed a hybrid tank, using existing primary tankage. The tank allows increased fermentation before the anaerobic zones, allowing greater VFA production and time under anoxic conditions.
- Biological Phosphorus Removal – Management and operations have been working on Bio-P and VFA's (Volatile Fatty Acids) production, in order to reduce chemical costs, for phosphorus removal.
- WPCF Management has been working with NIC Systems, on increased data collection and trending software. This will help streamline the equipment records for maintenance, and assist in process control.
- WPCF Maintenance personnel installed new gear reducers on the dewatering feed pumps, to help increase dewatering capability. The existing polymer systems were also adjusted, to increase dewatering capacity.
- Plant maintenance and operations installed a new auger, in the headworks screenings system.
- Farmington WPCF personnel constructed new brackets for the primary tanks, in order to help optimize odor control.
- Plant-wide repairs and improvements – Replacement, repairs, and improvements to the physical buildings and equipment, that were not affected by the construction, continues.
- Ongoing improvements to WPCF Safety Program, expanded training and equipment.
- Operator Licenses and Cross Training – All operators, that have been at the plant a year or longer, have passed their Class II Operator exam and have been cross-trained in Laboratory Procedures.

### The following projects are currently in progress, throughout the existing collection system, to address aging pump stations, and infiltration and inflow issues:

- The Batterson Park Pump Station Upgrade was completed on Monday October 19th, 2020. The upgrade included a completely new wet well, new Flygt pumps, building interiors, fuel tank, and I & C controls. The Flygt pumps were flow tested and the station was started, under the PLC program. On November 30th, 2020, the Purafil Odor Control System was installed, to help mitigate any H2S.
- Epoxy lining in the Batterson Park Pump Station manholes and wet well was completed in September 2020, by Savy and Sons, to prevent corrosion. Savy and Sons also epoxied the remaining seven manholes, in the Hillstead/High Street Line. The WPCF continues to work towards identifying and mitigating any infiltration and corrosion areas.
- CMOM Program (Capacity Management Operations and Maintenance) jetted and cleaned Asbury Hollow, Birch Street, Briar Hill, Burke Crossing, Canterbury Lane, Cedar Lane, Clear Brook, Cobblestone Road, Cope Farms, Dorset Lane, Harvest Lane, Jefferson Street, Junior Road, Lake Street, Larchwood, Laurel Lane, Litchfield Road, Meadow Road, Noah Wallace, Pine Hollow, Red Coat Lane, Saunders Hill, Somersby, Stonegate, Virginia Lane, Wells Drive, and Wyndham Lane. Structural repairs of inverts and risers are being completed, as needed.
- Right-Of-Ways (ROW's)- WPCF crews continue cleaning and inspecting all town sewer lines. This includes clearing of many overgrown sewer rights-of-ways. Recently cleared ROW's include Chimney Hill to Route 6, Hyde Road to Johnson Avenue, Pinnacle Road to Forest Hill Drive, and New Britain Avenue to Unionville Intercept.



## Water Pollution Control Facility *continued*

The following projects are currently in progress, throughout the existing collection system, to address aging pump stations, and infiltration and inflow issues:

- Sewer & Manhole Repairs were completed at Dunne Wood Court & Oak Ridge Road. Cambridge Crossing and Devonwood are tentatively planned for July 2021.
- Motorola I & C upgrades are completed at Tunxis Pump Station and Pequabuck Pump Station. Oakland Gardens and All State I & C upgrades are planned for July 2021, and are the last two remaining stations, with original I & C systems.
- Sewer and Storm drain lines around town were inspected, with our line camera, for condition of lines and presence of roots (Dorset Lane, Brookdale Gardens).
- In November 2020, Dukes Roots Control completed chemical treatment for Dorset Lane, Hatters Lane, Maiden Lane, Maple Street, Mill Street & Pearl Street. The warranty for these root control applications continues through 2022.
- Westfarms Pump Station – The Westfarms pump station had both pumps/motors #1 & #2 replaced, in September 2020. Plant maintenance and management also ordered a critical spare, and spare parts for the station.
- South Road Pump Station – A new pump and motor (elbow, volute, impeller, etc.) was installed, in the South Road Pump Station. The existing pump will be rebuilt as a critical spare. As of 2021, both existing pumps at the pump station have been rebuilt and/or replaced. The wet well was also cleaned and vacuumed.
- Patrick Flood Pump Station – New solenoids and filters for the priming system were installed. Wet well cleaning is planned for May 2021.
- Tunxis Road Pump Station- The I & C upgrade was completed in October 2020; the wet well was also cleaned.
- Oakland Garden Pump Station – A new pump was installed, and plant personnel began working towards replacing the existing I & C panel.
- Collection System Data Management- Database improvements are complete and are used to record and organize collection system cleaning and Right of Way maintenance.



- FOG (fats, oils, and grease) Management Program – Inspections of all establishments in town were completed early this year (2020). WPCA and town staff have implemented changes to the Town Code to prevent the discharge of FOG, into the sanitary sewer system. This program is for the food services within town (restaurants, schools, businesses), to control and alleviate FOG, within the collection system. This will reduce sanitary sewer back-ups and operational difficulties, at the WPCF. Individual registrations were collected, and facility inspections made. Cleaning records are requested quarterly, from each facility. The WPCF began inspections of establishments, in early 2021, to verify compliance.
- Energy cost-saving projects - These improvements continue and include pump station instrumentation and control, heating control systems, energy-efficient lighting, and emergency back-up power systems, for the seventeen pump stations, within town.
- Avon flow and Crocus Lane flow meters, which provide daily flow information, from Avon to Farmington WPCF, were calibrated in July 2020. Both meters were well under the MPE (Max permissible Error) of 55. They are scheduled for their annual calibration, in July of 2021.





# Economic Development

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*"The Farmington Economic Development Department and its Commissioners (EDC) are dedicated to promoting business growth and vibrancy in our town, while maintaining the proud character of our community."*

## Focused on Communication, Connection, and Engagement

Over the past 15 months, we have focused on addressing the consequences from the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition to the pandemic, on August 4, 2021, Storm Isaias' power outages disrupted businesses, and the community at large, for several days. Never before has having good communication channels, a willingness to see things through a different lens, and the agility to pivot, proven to be more essential, than during this time.

Our investment in the Explore Farmington website, and the department's consistent weekly emails and social media posts, established a valuable link for connecting residents and businesses. Businesses were informed and connected to available resources, residents were kept apprised of ever-changing safety protocols, and the relationship between the town and the community was strengthened.

In the upcoming year, continuing to communicate and engage our community, will be a crucial component to a successful return to normal. Our efforts will continue to focus on connecting businesses to available resources, and ensuring that we address business concerns, while balancing the needs of Farmington residents.



## Farmington Continues to be an Economic Leader in the Hartford Region

Despite the challenges encountered over the past year, Farmington's economic indicators showed stability and growth. **These numbers are current as June 30, 2021.**

- Of the 28 towns and cities in the Metro Hartford region, Farmington has one of the lowest mill rates, at 28.81.
- The grand list grew by .97%, for an increase of \$35,734,688. The net taxable grand list will generate approximately \$1,029,516,361, in new revenue, at the current 28.81 mill rate.
- Farmington's commercial tax base contributed 33.2% to the grand list, and the residential base contributes 67.8%. These ratios indicate a vibrant business community, whose contribution to the tax base takes a healthy burden away from the residential community.
- Unemployment rate for residents of Farmington was 4.7%, while the State of Connecticut's unemployment rate was 6.8%.
- Farmington's 4.4 million square feet of office space vacancy rate is 5.3%, and it's 2.1 million square feet of industrial space vacancy rate is .2%.
- The Town's Aaa Bond Rating was maintained again this year.

## 2020-2021 Accomplishments at a Glance:

- The Explore Farmington website was refreshed and revamped.
- The department's communications initiative continues to grow and engage community residents and businesses. In the past year, engagement on Facebook increased by 125% and Instagram reached three times more users, than the year before. During this past year, 77 emails were sent out, with a 30% open rate, and over 4,000 clicks. There were over 10,000 unique visitors to Explore Farmington.
- A Minority Focused Business Resource document, highlighting federal, state, and local funding sources for minority-owned businesses, was created, and added to the Choose Farmington website, and to the resource tab on Explore Farmington.
- Three "Shop Local" campaigns were developed, to assist local small businesses, to broaden their customer base, and increase revenues. The campaigns ran in October, February, and May. Surveys were sent to merchants, to gauge consumer interest and understand the effectiveness of each campaign. Changes were made in response to the survey results.
- Three Business Breakfasts were hosted over the past year.
- Brownfield testing on the former Parson's lot was completed. If the parcel is purchased, compliance with the Transfer ACT will need to be completed, with the Department of Environmental and Energy Protection (DEEP).
- The Town Council's Ad-Hoc Committee determined that it would be best to pivot from purchasing the former Parson's parcel for economic development purposes, and instead use it as modified open space.
- In accordance with the BSC Streetscape Improvement Master Plan, we completed the planning for new sidewalks, on the east and west side of Main Street. A community outreach meeting was held on October 24, 2021, in the St. Patrick's Church parking lot. Approximately two dozen residents attended, with COVID health protocols in place.
- The Beautify Farmington program continued to receive community and business support, albeit less than in prior years. Holiday Kissing Balls and Summer 2021 flowering baskets were installed.
- Farmington's outdoor trails continue to be a valuable asset, and heavily used over the last year, by both residents and visitors. We initiated the development of a town-wide wayfinder signage program, to guide visitors on the trails, to the business amenities, in our town centers. Once the wayfinder signage is developed, installation will take place in early 2022.



## 2020 Board of Education

Ellen Siuta, Chair  
Elizabeth Fitzsimmons, Vice-Chair/Secretary  
Christine Arnold  
William Beckert  
Sylvia Binette  
Kristi Brouker  
Sarah Healey  
Beth Kintner  
Andrea Sobinski

## 2021 Board of Education

Ellen Siuta, Chair  
Elizabeth Fitzsimmons, Vice-Chair  
Christine Arnold  
William Beckert  
Sylvia Binette  
Kristi Brouker  
Sarah Healey  
Beth Kintner  
Andrea Sobinski

## District Leadership

Kathleen C. Greider, Superintendent of Schools  
Kimberly Wynne, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum  
Alicia Bowman, Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Operations  
Veronica Ruzek, Director of Curriculum  
Laurie Singer, Director of Special Services

## School Information 2020-2021

### School

Farmington High School  
Irving A. Robbins Middle School  
West Woods Upper Elementary School  
East Farms School  
Noah Wallace School  
Union School  
West District School

### Principal

Dr. Scott Hurwitz  
Nilda Irizarry  
Dr. Katherine Blore  
Renee St. Hilaire  
Dr. Carrie Huber  
Caitlin Eckler  
Kelly Sanders

## Superintendent's Message

The 2021 Annual Report for the Farmington Public Schools reflects a focused commitment to excellence in education as well as social emotional well-being. We believe that all students are capable of acquiring the knowledge, skills and dispositions needed for productive, ethical and responsible citizenship in an evolving world community. We are an innovative learning organization deeply committed to continuous improvement. Thus, collaborative interactions among students, educators, parents and families emphasize the importance of clear expectations, rigorous standards-led curriculum, inspired instruction, personal effort and engaged relationships leading to high levels of achievement for all learners.

We are a mission-driven school district. The mission of the Farmington Public Schools is to enable all students to achieve academic and personal excellence, exhibit persistent effort and live as resourceful, inquiring and contributing global citizens. In turn, this report summarizes our student achievement results and outcomes, important partnerships and accomplishments from the 2020-2021 school year aligned to our mission. It is important to note that some accountability measures are not included in the 2021 Annual Report due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

As a school district community, we are proud of our purposeful improvement efforts and our strong partnerships with students, families and our community. On behalf of the Farmington Board of Education, I am pleased to present this report to the citizens of Farmington.

Kathleen C. Greider  
Superintendent of Schools

### SCHOOL DISTRICT FIVE YEAR GOALS 2020-2025

The mission of the Farmington Public Schools is to enable all students to achieve academic and personal excellence, exhibit persistent effort, and live as resourceful, inquiring, and contributing global citizens.

**Self-Aware Individual** *I know myself and how to care for my own well-being. I can assess my own personal strengths and needs, persist in overcoming obstacles to reach my own goals, make wise choices and informed decisions, and adapt to new challenges and opportunities by regulating my emotions and adjusting my behavior to positively impact myself and others.*

**Empowered Learner** *I am a knowledgeable, reflective, and resourceful learner. I can explore interests, take initiative, ask questions and conduct research. I can use technology and media tools skillfully, and learn from my successes and failures by engaging in feedback and self-assessment protocols.*

**Disciplined Thinker** *I can apply strategic thinking to develop ideas and solve problems. I am a critical consumer of information recognizing point of view and bias. I can reason with evidence, synthesize and evaluate data, and connect concepts and ideas while thinking creatively and flexibly to design and develop innovative solutions, strategies, and outcomes.*

**Engaged Collaborator** *I can work effectively and respectfully with diverse groups of people. I can actively listen and seek to understand the ideas of others, self-monitoring for biased thinking. I can create inclusive environments for dialogue that establish and adhere to group norms for effective communication and conflict resolution.*

**Civic-Minded Contributor** *I can actively contribute to a civilized society. I understand complex interdependent systems and their impact on people and the environment. I question prevailing assumptions, develop my cultural competence, and seek solutions through negotiation and compromise in order to contribute to the betterment of my local/global communities through service and civic participation.*

### Investing in Our Students

#### Farmington Board of Education Budget 2020-2021

Salaries	\$46,322,976
Benefits	\$11,714,539
Services	\$9,630,729
Supplies	\$1,862,838
Equipment	\$209,319
Dues & Fees	\$236,180
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$69,976,581</b>

#### Exceptional Management of taxpayer dollars

Farmington ranked 152 out of 166 in purchased services.

Farmington ranked 156 out of 166 in general administration.

Farmington ranked 109 out of 166 in central and other services.

Farmington ranked 115 out of 166 in employee benefits.

Farmington ranked 133 out of 166 in total transportation.

Farmington ranked 103 out of 166 in per pupil expenditures.

*\*Of 166 districts: #1 spending the most and 166 spending the lowest*



## Farmington's Vision of the Global Citizen



## A Year of Achievements

Impressive rankings for Farmington High School (FHS)—U.S. News & World Report ranked FHS #13 on their list of Best High Schools in Connecticut.

Fifty-nine percent of FHS seniors were accepted at colleges ranked most, highly or very competitive. Ninety-three percent of the Class of 2021 continued to college or military service.

FHS had four National Merit Program Finalists, four National Merit Semi-Finalists, eight National Merit Commended Students, and ninety AP Scholars in 2019. FHS had eighty-four AP Honors with Distinction, thirty-nine AP Honors students and fifteen AP National Scholars.

The Farmington High School Music Department received a statewide award, the 2021 Challenge to Educational Citizenship by the Connecticut Association of Schools honoring the community service of 85 student musicians who created senior citizen virtual performances for residents across the state.



## A Year of Achievements



Approximately 30 students participated in math competitions throughout the year. FHS team of students tied for 1st place in the New England Math Competitions in our region, which consists of 5 schools. FHS was recognized as a high scoring school (cumulative) in the New England Math League.

FHS had 20 students recognized by the National Center for Women & Information Technology (NCWIT) as part of their "Aspirations in Computing" awards. This is the highest number of NCWIT awardees of any school in the state.

The Voice won its fifth gold medal in the Columbia Scholastic Press Association's Annual Medalist Critique and its highest score ever, including an all-Columbian distinction in the essential category.



Mercy Adekola, a FHS senior, Class of 2021, was selected as a Morehead-Cain Scholar. Fewer than 4% of the Morehead-Cain nominations will become a member of the Class of 2025, placing Mercy among an elite group and the first student from Farmington High School to attain this prestigious award.

IAR students won top awards at the UConn KidsSpeak Competition for their social justice presentations. First Place Winner: Zeeva Haviland, Second Place Winner: Sree Bala, Runners-up: Caitlyn Petit and Aditi Bhor

CT History Day, 2021 Harford Regional Contest Results: First Place in the Junior Papers Category: Megan Archambault, Second Place in the Junior Individual Documentary Category: Siddharth Rajagopal, First Place Junior Group Website: Lakshmi Parankusham, Charitha Diyyala, and Jwalitha Nareddy, First Place in the Junior Individual Website: Mikail Aliyev, Second Place in the Junior Individual Exhibit: Jane Guay





## Student Achievement— Standardized Testing



**Smarter Balanced Assessment**

This past spring, students in grades 3-8 were administered a statewide assessment of their English/Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics skills. Farmington’s results show that our students consistently perform above state averages.

**Percentage of Students Meeting or Exceeding the Expected Achievement Level**

Grade	ELA		Math	
	Farmington	State*	Farmington	State*
4	78%	47%	71%	40%
6	79%	50%	64%	34%
8	80%	51%	67%	35%
All Grades	77%	49%	67%	37%

**SAT**

In March 2021, all 11<sup>th</sup> grade students took the SAT as the statewide assessment in the areas of ELA and mathematics.

**Percentage of Students Meeting or Exceeding the Expected Achievement Level**

Grade	ELA		Math	
	Farmington	State*	Farmington	State*
11	79%	59%	56%	37%

**Science (NGSS)**

This past spring, the NGSS (Next Generation Science Standards Test) was administered to students in grades 5, 8, and 11.

**Percentage of Students Meeting or Exceeding the Expected Achievement Level**

Grade	Science	
	Farmington	State*
5	81%	48%
8	73%	48%
11	76%	52%



All achievement results can be found on the Board of Education’s website ([www.fpset.org](http://www.fpset.org)) under District and School Reports.  
 \*Unofficial percentages derived from data on the CSDE website: <https://portal.ct.gov/SDE/Student-Assessment/Main-Assessment/Statewide-Summative-Assessment-Results-2020-21>



## Farmington Board of Education

### Board of Education Committees

#### Personnel and Negotiations Committee

*Contract negotiations, collective bargaining.*

**2020**

**Andrea Sobinski**, Chair  
Liz Fitzsimmons and Sarah Healey

**2021**

**Andrea Sobinski**, Chair  
Liz Fitzsimmons and Sarah Healey

#### Policy Committee

*Develops and revises policy upon recommendation of the Board.  
Recommends Board action, as needed.*

**William Beckert**, Chair  
Christine Arnold and Sylvie Binette

**William Beckert**, Chair  
Christine Arnold and Sylvie Binette

#### Curriculum Committee

*New course approval, program revisions, annual curriculum reports.*

**Liz Fitzsimmons**, Chair  
Christine Arnold and Andrea Sobinski

**Liz Fitzsimmons**, Chair  
Christine Arnold and Andrea Sobinski

#### Communications/Public Relations Committee

*Communications to the public, newsletters.*

**Beth Kintner**, Chair  
William Beckert and Kristi Brouker

**Beth Kintner**, Chair  
William Beckert and Ellen Siuta

#### Liaisons to Organizations and Representatives to Administrative/Community Committees

**2020**

CREC—**Rep Ellen Siuta**  
Superintendent's Interscholastic Athletics Advisory Committee—**Rep Bill Beckert**  
Farmington FOCUS—**Rep Beth Kintner**  
Green Efforts—**Rep Sylvie Binette**  
Farmington Chamber of Commerce—**Rep Sarah Healey**  
Farmington Public School Foundation—**Rep Liz Fitzsimmons**  
Health & Wellness Committee—**Rep Andrea Sobinski**  
Cafeteria Advisory Committee—**Rep Christine Arnold**  
FHS Building Committee—**Rep Beth Kintner**  
FHS Extended Learning Opportunities —**Rep Kristi Brouker**

**2021**

CREC—**Rep Ellen Siuta**  
Superintendent's Interscholastic Athletics Advisory Committee—**Rep Bill Beckert**  
Farmington FOCUS—**Rep Beth Kintner**  
Green Efforts—**Rep Sylvie Binette**  
Farmington Chamber of Commerce—**Rep Sarah Healey**  
Farmington Public School Foundation—**Rep Liz Fitzsimmons**  
Health & Wellness Committee—**Rep Andrea Sobinski**  
Cafeteria Advisory Committee—**Rep Christine Arnold**  
FHS Building Committee—**Rep Beth Kintner**  
FHS Extended Learning Opportunities —**Rep Ellen Siuta**  
Noah Wallace Fund—**Rep Sarah Healey**  
FHS Ad-Hoc Committee—**Rep Liz Fitzsimmons and Rep Christine Arnold**  
Racial Equality Task Force—**Rep Bill Beckert**  
Community Council for Equity and Inclusion—**Rep Beth Kintner**



## Farmington Board of Education

### Congratulations to our Administrators and Staff

Leslie Imse, Music Department Chair for Farmington Public Schools, was selected as Connecticut Music Education Association's Outstanding Arts Administrator for the 2020-2021 school year .

Lea Marcello and Kristin Alvarez were each honored as a CREC Open Choice Liaison of the Year.

Karla McClain published an article titled, "Teaching Social Justice: It's Time to Act" in the February issue of MusicConstructed. She was also featured as an exemplary music teacher leader in the same publication. Lastly, she presented at the Connecticut Music Educators Association conference.

IAR, WWUES, and FHS administrators in collaboration with Assistant Superintendent Kim Wynne, Director of Curriculum Veronica Ruzek, and Equity and Inclusion Coordinator Lisette Cobb presented on the FPS Equity Framework to the Connecticut Association of Schools to over 80 attendees from across the state.



### Summer Learning Academy

Farmington's Summer Learning Academy provides educational programs that extend and accelerate learning for the community's students. This summer, a total of 1,389 students participated in a variety of programs including elementary, upper elementary, and middle school academic acceleration and remediation courses. For high school students, there were credit-bearing courses in selected subject areas. Farmington Continuing Education offered a Suzuki String Academy, Theatre Academy, and Visual and Performing Arts STEAM Academy, in addition to other youth enrichment courses and experiences. The Extended Care and Learning program, which provides child care during the school year for students, offered an EXCL Summer Care program at Irving Robbins Middle School, adapted to follow COVID-19 regulations.

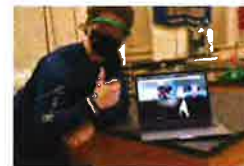


### Farmington Public School Foundation

The Farmington Public School Foundation (FPSF) is an independent, section 501(c)3 non-profit organization that provides funds for programs and projects that excite and engage students, empower the creativity of teachers and support the goals and mission of the Farmington school district.

#### At Farmington High School and all Farmington Elementary Schools:

- Promotion of Social Justice Through Literature:
- Multiple teachers were awarded grants totaling \$2,500 for the purchase of texts



#### At Irving A. Robbins Middle School:

- Ms. Valdez was awarded a \$7,963 grant to use digital art and animation to foster inclusivity and belonging



These 2020 teacher-initiated grant awards, totaling over \$10,400, are in addition to the \$10,000 contribution that FPSF made earlier this year to Farmington Public Schools for the purchase of Chromebooks and related items.



## Student Achievement— Recognizing Excellence

We applaud the diverse talents and fine efforts of Farmington's students. This year the Farmington community—businesses and many families of former Farmington students—have generously donated \$118,050 in scholarships and awards to our scholars, leaders, musicians, athletes, artists, mathematicians, scientists, writers, linguists, and community volunteers. Academic and leadership awards are listed here. Congratulations to all of our many scholarship winners from the Class of 2021 and to our outstanding students from all of the Farmington Public Schools.

### Class of 2021

- **National Merit Scholarship Finalists**—Savi Agarwal, Joyce Fang, Darren Lee, Justine Wang
- **2021 National Merit Commended Students**—Lilly Feng, Pranav Harihara Subramanian, Nithin Joshy, Emma Lee, Angela Sadlowski, Mingda Sun, Catherine Ware, Jerry Zhang
- **Superintendent's Award**—*Richard Podgorski*
- **Board of Education Student Leadership Awards**—*Isabella Suffredini, Seth Frank*
- **FHS Principal's Award**—*Mercy Adekola*
- **FHS Salutatorian**—*Angela Sadlowski*
- **FHS Valedictorian**—*Jerry Zhang*
- **FHS Scholar Artist**—*Lindsay Fiedler*
- **FHS Scholar-Musician**—*Elisabeth Williams*
- **FHS Scholar-Athletes**—*Kylee Ficks, Jerry Zhang*
- **CIAC Award of Excellence**—*Jack Calcavecchia, Jacob Smith, Alison Godfrey, Ashley White*
- **Outstanding Achievement in Math**—*Angela Sadlowski*
- **Outstanding Students in Health/PE & Wellness**—*Brenna Graves, Joseph Guglielmo*
- **Outstanding Achievement in Computer Science**—*Seth Frank*
- **Outstanding Student in Physics**—*Jerry Zhang*
- **Outstanding Student in Environmental Science**—*Bryce Adib*
- **Outstanding Student in History**—*Lily Feng*
- **Outstanding Student in Social Studies**—*Quynh To*
- **Outstanding Student in Spanish Award**—*Natalie Wong*
- **Outstanding Student in French Award**—*Olivia Pare*
- **DAR Good Citizenship Award**—*Mercy Adekola*



## A Year of Achievements

### 2021 Teacher of the Year 2021 Staff Member of the Year



Farmington's Teacher of the Year, Christopher Loomis, was announced at the annual convocation meeting held on August 26, 2020. On being recognized as Farmington's Teacher of the Year, Mr. Loomis stated, "I am honored and humbled to be selected as the Farmington's Teacher of the Year. At FHS I work with so many outstanding teachers, special education teachers, school counselors, social workers, school psychologists, paraprofessionals, and administrators that have all been instrumental in any success I've experienced as an educator. This recognition is not mine alone, but I view it as one that is for everyone that I have worked with at FHS over the years. I am inspired by everyone I'm around each day at FHS and amazed at what we accomplish together. The impact students have had on my career has profoundly shaped my life on both professional and personal levels. Our students are the reason I am excited to walk into FHS each day and am hopeful for the future of our country. Lastly, the unwavering support I receive from my wife to pursue all of my passions as an educator is the reason for any success I've had in my life and my career."

Mr. Loomis has taught in Farmington Public Schools for eleven years.



Farmington's Staff Member of the Year, Mr. Foreman, was also announced at the annual convocation meeting held on August 26, 2020. On being recognized as Farmington's Staff Member of the Year, Mr. Foreman stated, "I am genuinely honored to have my work recognized. When I came here in 1982, I had no idea that I would find a permanent home here. I love what I do. Of course there have been frustrations and challenges, but at the end of the day it's been the kids that have kept me engaged and enthused. When a student joins my program, one of the first things we talk about is the concept of symbiosis. I assure them that, in our role of serving the school community, we will all learn from one another, and that the process will be ongoing. For myself, I can't think of anything I'd rather do than work with kids. I've been lucky."

Mr. Foreman has served as a dedicated staff member in the Farmington Public Schools for thirty-seven years.

### Congratulations to Farmington High School's outstanding athletes:

**Baseball, Boy's and Girl's Golf, Tennis (B/G), Girl's and Boy's Lacrosse and Boy's Volleyball, Track and Field (B/G) all qualified for the State tournaments in spring.**

**Boy's Volleyball made it to the quarterfinals of the state tournament.**

**Boy's Lacrosse won the CCC North Division league championship, as well as qualifying for the state tournament.**

**\* Due to the COVID-19 pandemic the CIAC, our state athletic governing body, declined to sponsor both Fall and Winter tournaments in Fall 2020 and Winter 2020-21. League tournaments were also cancelled.**

### Congratulations to Irving A. Robbins Middle School scholar-leaders:

#### Scholar-Leaders

Sreenidi Bala &  
Michkael McKenzie

#### Superintendent's Award

Mary Hannan





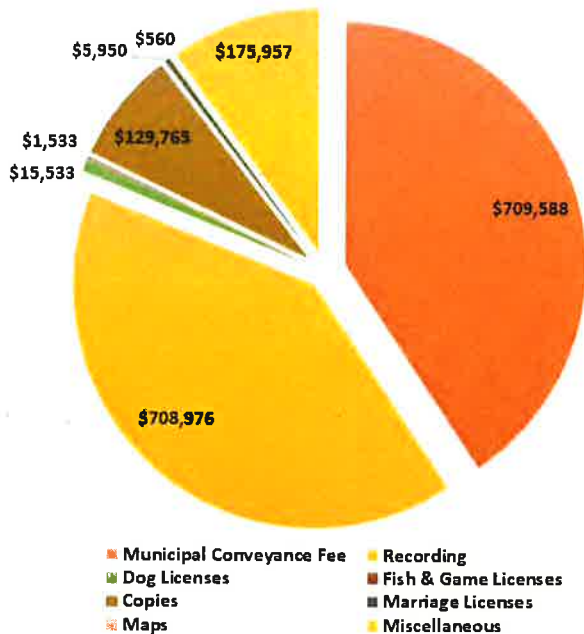
# Town Clerk

*"The mission of the Town Clerk's office is to accurately maintain the records of the Town of Farmington, in a manner that allows easy access for the public and other Town of Farmington Departments."*

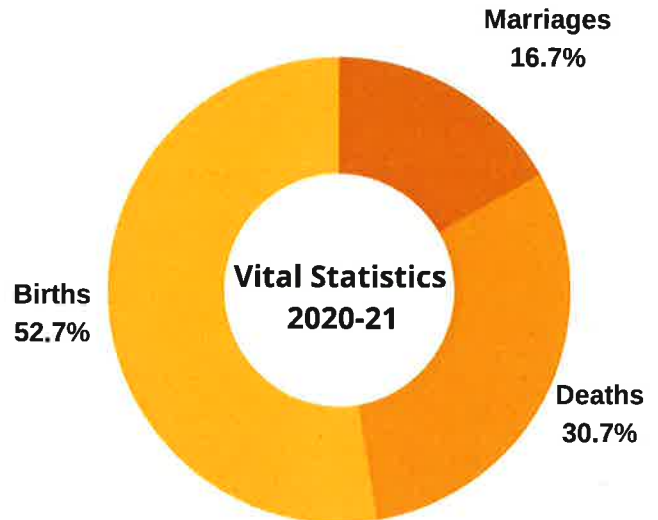
The Town Clerk is the Records Manager, Clerk of the Council, Registrar of Vital Statistics and Freedom of Information Liaison for the Town of Farmington, providing assistance to all Town of Farmington Departments.

The Town Clerk's Department processes, indexes and records all land transactions, including deeds, mortgages, liens, and maps; all vital statistics of births, marriages and deaths; and official documents, including Town Council Minutes, Town Meeting Minutes, veteran discharges, and election results. The Town Clerk's Department is responsible for election processes, including pre- and post-election responsibilities and the issuing of all absentee ballots. The Town Clerk's office processes licenses for fish and game, dogs, marriages and various permits.

During the **2020-2021 fiscal year**, revenue totaling **\$5,206,977** was collected in the Town Clerk's Office, and remitted as follows: **\$3,459,135** in conveyance taxes to the State of Connecticut, and the following to the Town Treasurer, for fees and local conveyance tax:



**Total to Town Treasurer: \$1,747,862**



**Births: 187 Farmington residents**  
**Deaths: 258 Farmington residents**  
**Marriages: 168 Farmington residents**

\*The numbers regarding vital statistics are approximate because further information is still being received from other Connecticut municipalities.

2022 Dates of Interest	
April 18	Annual Town Meeting
April 19	Absentee Ballots available at the Town Clerk's Office for the Budget Referendum
April 28	Budget Referendum
June 1	Dog registration begins for the 2022-2023 year
June 30	Last day to register a dog without a penalty fee
September 30	Last day for Veterans to file discharge papers with the Town Clerk to receive abatement for the next tax year
October 7	Absentee Ballots become available for the Gubernatorial Election
November 8	Election Day



# Tax Collector

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*"The Tax Collector's office is responsible for the billing and collection of real estate, business/personal property, motor vehicle (regular and supplemental) taxes, sewer usage and waste collection charges and special assessments."*

The collection results for the 2020-2021 fiscal year are as follows:

	Collectible	Collected	Refunds	Outstanding
Current taxes	\$103,775,076	\$103,780,899	\$136,854	\$131,031
Back taxes	\$476,896	\$218,562	\$9,162	\$267,496
Current sewer usage	\$4,945,467	\$4,697,473	\$2,417	\$250,411
Current waste collection charges	\$1,699,132	\$1,695,006	\$1,390	\$5,516
Back sewer usage and waste collection	\$262,125	\$255,786	\$3,134	\$9,473
<b>SUB TOTAL</b>	<b>\$111,158,696</b>	<b>\$110,647,726</b>	<b>\$152,957</b>	<b>\$663,927</b>
Current interest and fees	-	\$220,203	\$0	-
Current sewer/waste interest and fees	-	\$75,695	\$0	-
Back tax interest and fees	-	\$29,175	\$9	-
Back special service interest and fees	-			-
<b>SUB TOTAL</b>		<b>\$110,972,799</b>	<b>\$152,966</b>	
Sewer Assessments	\$867,716	\$726,702	-	\$141,014
Interest on assessments	-	\$39	-	-
General fund collections	-	\$1,859,089	-	-
Advanced payments - taxes	-	\$3,003,952	-	-
Advanced payments - sewer/waste	-	\$467,408	-	-
<b>TOTAL COLLECTIONS</b>		<b>\$117,029,989</b>		

- 99.87 % of the outstanding taxes on the current grand list was collected.
- 96.15 % of the sewer usage and waste collection was collected.

Updated technology has greatly improved our ability to allow Farmington taxpayers and the general public, access to tax information at any time, day or night.

This has greatly reduced routine inquiries and allowed us to redirect our focus on collections. We look forward to future advances, that will offer even more convenience to our taxpayers.

***Faced with an ever-changing economic climate, Farmington taxpayers continue to meet their fiscal responsibilities and support town services.***



# Registrars of Voters

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*"The entire Town of Farmington is in the 5th U.S. Congressional District. Farmington incorporates all of the 21st State Representative District and a segment of the 19th. Portions of Farmington are included in the 5th and 6th State Senate Districts."*



Farmington has two local voting districts, four polling locations, and seven precincts as follows:

- **District 1, Precincts 1,2,3,4**  
**Polling Location: Irving Robbins School**
- **District 1, Precinct 5**  
**Polling Location: West Woods School**
- **District 2, Precinct 6**  
**Polling Location: Community/Senior Center**
- **District 2, Precinct 7**  
**Polling Location: Farmington High School**

To register to vote in Farmington, one must meet these requirements:

- **Be a United States Citizen,**
- **Be a resident of Farmington,**
- **Be 17 years of age, turning 18 by Nov 2, 2022,**
- **Be completely released of confinement and parole, if a past felon.**

If you wish to check the status of your voter registration, you may use the "look up tool" at the web site of the CT Secretary of the State: [www.sots.ct.gov](http://www.sots.ct.gov).

If you need to register or change your current registration, you may do so at the website: [www.voterregistration.ct.gov](http://www.voterregistration.ct.gov).

## ELECTION DATA

Date	Number of Votes Cast	% Of Eligible Voters
State Election – November 2018	12,835	66.4%
Budget Vote – May 2019	1,273	6.5%
Town Election – November 2019	6,835	35.3%
Presidential Election – November 2020	16,304	79.9%
Budget Vote-May 2021	1,464	7.3%

Farmington Registrars are:

**Edward J. Leary (R) - 860-675-2378**  
**Barbara Brenneman (D) - 860-675-2379**

*If you have questions, please call one of the numbers above.*

# Community and Recreational Services

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*"The Community and Recreational Services Department continues its mission to manage resources, provide wholesome programming and coordinate opportunities to achieve creative solutions, for a healthy community."*



The department provides programming in three essential areas: supportive services, recreational activities and community engagement.

The Community and Recreational Services Division is organized into seven divisions: Housing, Transportation, Recreation, Westwood Golf Course, Youth, Senior, and Social Services. The department also provides staff leadership to the Racial Equality Taskforce, Human Relations, Housing Authority, Juvenile Review Board, Fair Rent Commission, Local Interagency Service Team (L.I.S.T), and FOCUS, the local prevention council for teenage substance abuse prevention. Additionally, the department serves as a staff liaison for several community groups, including Farmington Food Pantry, Farmington Community Chest, Unionville Improvement Association, Citizens Coalition for Equal Access, Services for the Elderly, and numerous sports leagues and organizations.

The department provides administrative oversight for (1) The Staples Homestead, which houses the offices of the Fire Administration and Community Services; (2) The Youth Annex Buildings, which house the drop-in teen center and recreation programs, as well as the Board of Education's alternative high school; (3) The Community & Senior Center; (4) The Stonehouse, which houses three affordable housing units; (5) 8 and 10 Mountain Road, which house four affordable housing units; (6) 184 Town Farm Road, which is the town-owned affordable house; and (7) Maple Village Senior Housing Complex.

All seven divisions of the Community and Recreational Services Department provide supportive services and recreational activities, to community residents. Our Community Enhancement services are those larger offerings and advocacy building, within the entire Farmington/Unionville area. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the Community & Recreational Services team worked continuously to reach out to affected members of the community and meet the needs of the unemployed, the isolated, and the essential.

Many residents were very thankful for these interactions, and claimed they were the highlight of their day! Staff also mobilized to go over shelter management, residents at-risk, emergency response, and community outreach, in the event of large-scale weather issues, power outages, and storm preparation. The department staffed and operated a charging shelter for a few days, due to storm power outages. This past fiscal year, our service to the town included:

**Transportation:** Our Dial-A-Ride program provided uninterrupted service during the shutdown; adapting our guidelines based on recommendations from the Farmington Valley Health District. By limiting rides to one person per van, for essential services only (medical, grocery stores, banks, etc.) the program was able to expand service to members and non-members, for necessary appointments and trips in neighboring towns. Collection of membership fees was delayed, to be as inclusive as possible, and ensure all senior residents access to medical care and nutritional services.

The Dial-A-Ride vans ran for 3,371 hours and drove 41,960 miles, throughout the year; the miles driven were a 41% increase over previous years. The Connecticut Department of Transportation awarded the program \$62,043 in supplemental funds, allowing us to increase transportation opportunities.

**Social Services (Supportive Services):** The Supportive Services division continues to experience an increase in community need. Approximately 4,800 hours of casework was provided to families, youths, individuals, and elderly residents. These services are offered to residents experiencing financial, physical, and psychosocial hardships. A social worker is available to assess the needs, advise on available options, support, and serve as an advocate. While many services are offered through Social Services, additional assistance is provided through a system of networking, advocacy, and referral.

As the pandemic unfolded and services continued to be modified, staff from all divisions of Community Services assisted the Supportive Services, in assessing community needs. Hundreds of calls were made to check on elderly residents in isolation, and those who may have been adversely affected by the pandemic. Casework was provided virtually to families, youths, individuals, and the elderly.



Again this year, the Farmington Community Chest generously allocated \$15,000, to the direct aid fund that our Supportive Service staff administers. This funding was instrumental in assisting residents facing housing and emergency needs. Currently, supportive services staff are working with over 500 households needing assistance; ranging from a simple food pantry application to complex case management oversight.

Staff continues to collaborate with the Farmington Food Pantry, through approval of clients, operations, guidance, and support to individuals and families, during shopping hours. Since March of 2020, Community Services staff and volunteers have personally packed and delivered food packages, to provide for low-income residents in isolation or quarantine, who rely on food pantry support.

Our Annual Holiday Giving Program looked very different this year. Due to the pandemic, we made the difficult decision to distribute gift cards, instead of matching sponsors with families. Annual food drives, normally hosted with the Farmington Police Department and Fire Departments, were canceled, to minimize contact and help keep the community safer. This year, we collected monetary and gift card donations to Stop and Shop, for the Thanksgiving and Winter holiday meals. Gift cards to Amazon, Walmart, and Target were distributed to 220 children, for the purchase of holiday gifts, in place of sponsors shopping for gifts, based on the child's wish list. The total cost of our Annual Holiday Giving Program was \$38,725.00. Due to an outpouring of community support, we raised enough funding to fully support this annual program. We wouldn't have been able to do this without the generosity of our neighbors.

Though the department could not host large-scale Community Service Days, volunteers were engaged in one-on-one safe activities, like grocery shopping, running errands, and virtual visiting with seniors and disabled residents in town. More than 50 new volunteers were recruited, throughout the shutdown, providing over 300 hours of community service.

**Youth Services:** Staff in the Youth Services Division work with parents, schools, police, and the community to provide support and services, which promote positive youth development.

The drop-in Teen Center continues to be a hub of activity, for our local youth. Teen Center activities continued as needed, throughout the pandemic, following guidelines set forth by the State of Connecticut and Farmington Valley Health Department. Recognizing that social isolation and distance learning has a profound effect on the mental health of young people, Youth Services staff met with at-risk teens, in outdoor settings, to provide counseling whenever possible.

The Farmington Juvenile Review Board (JRB) provides first-time offenders with a non-judicial process, in lieu of going to court. Eight youths were diverted from court and referred for services, that included substance abuse treatment, counseling, and community service. Farmington Community Services was again awarded a grant from the Connecticut Youth Services Association for the JRB to provide clinical support services to clients. This continues to allow us to better service youths in crisis, and to spend critical time with young clients and their families.

The Farmington Community Chest generously granted funds again this year to provide children from low-income families an opportunity to attend Summer camp. 33 students benefited, from a camp experience, through the Community Chest's generosity.

**Senior Services:** The Senior Center provides a variety of health and wellness activities for its members, promoting lifelong learning, social interaction, and mental and emotional well-being.

Throughout the year, the Senior Center adapted to the ever-changing COVID guidelines, and provided programs through numerous outlets, including in-person, outside events, radio, Zoom, and telephone conversations. The town seniors were thrilled to connect with their peers, and enjoyed being able to interact with their friends and neighbors. Staff became creative in programming ideas and maintaining social distancing, while creating safe opportunities for our senior citizens. The building was also a vaccine site for the Farmington Valley Health District, and we were proud to have one of the highest senior vaccination rates, in the area. Staff also accompanied Unionville Urgent Care's vaccinators, to reach out to homebound residents.

The Community Services Department continues to contract with Services for the Elderly, to manage the meal programs, for \$10,900 each year. Additionally, the town allocates \$25,000 to Services for the Elderly, for the recipients of Meals on Wheels and congregate meals.

**Recreation:** Our Recreation Division provides wholesome recreation and leisure activities, for the enjoyment of all residents in the community. Recreation & leisure programs promote good health, friendships, and opportunities for sharing family time. Farmington Recreation continues to improve lives, one activity at a time.

Despite the ongoing pandemic, the Recreation Division had one of their most successful years, offering a variety of programs including dance, tennis, martial arts lessons, youth soccer, youth lacrosse, youth football and cheerleading, youth and adult running, and the most successful REC Summer Camp, in nearly twenty years. In addition, our Recreation Division offered dozens of sport-specific camps and clinics, with local coaches.

There were 848 additional receipts processed over the fiscal year 2020, totaling 5,168 enrollments in Farmington Recreation-sponsored programs, for the fiscal year 2021.

**Housing (Housing Authority):** The Housing Authority, created by Ordinance 65, effective May 1972, was implemented to further affordable housing opportunities, within the Town of Farmington. It also investigates alternative solutions and initiatives, regarding affordable housing.

The Housing Authority met three times throughout the year, discussing issues of affordable housing, the Federal Section VIII rental subsidy program, the Cooperative Ownership Program, and Maple Village.

To increase its affordable housing stock, the Town of Farmington began a program in 1981, known as the Plan for Cooperative Ownership. To make the purchase of single-family homes more affordable, to homebuyers of low to moderate-income, the Town of Farmington rented land lots to individuals, who qualified under selection criteria.

The Executive Director of the Housing Authority, who is also the Director of Community & Recreational Services, is responsible for the administration of Maple Village, a 40-unit elderly housing complex, located in Unionville, on Maple Avenue Extension. The complex, built in 1975, houses individuals over the age of 62 and disabled adults. The yearly Management Plan (budget) for Maple Village was approved. The Housing Authority continued to participate in the State's Rental Assistance Program, for elderly tenants, in Authority operated housing. The town receives a state grant, for resident coordinator services, which allows us to provide assessment, case management, and program coordination. The coordinators provided over 300 visits/contacts to residents, under this program. Additionally, the Authority administers 90 HUD Section VIII vouchers, which provide rental subsidies, for individuals who qualify, with low income. The program is classified as a High Performer.

The town owns seven affordable rental units, of different sizes. The units are financially maintained, through rental funds.

The Authority also maintains landlord/tenant disputes, including complaints and/or rent increases.

**Westwoods Golf Course:** Westwoods Golf Course is a short and enjoyable 18-hole course, designed to demand accuracy and consistency. The Town-owned facility features a 30-stall driving range and practice green, and is a welcoming course, for golfers of all levels.

Westwoods continues to provide quality lessons for our youth, as well as adults and families. This past season was particularly successful, offering a recreational outlet for isolating members of the community. Westwoods staff efficiently modified operations, to follow the health and safety guidelines, set forth by the State of CT and Farmington Valley Health Department. Residents and non-residents enjoyed safe, spaced-out play, grab-and-go refreshments, and additional sanitation stations. Westwoods Golf Course went into the Summer promising to end the season, beyond our expectations.

## **Community Partnerships/Enhancements/Programs:**

This past year, numerous programs and events were planned, to bring community members together. While some of our events looked a little different, hundreds of residents were able to interact via Zoom, in person, or outside. To truly create an inclusive and cohesive community, our department partners with numerous agencies and organizations.

The Human Relations Commission (HRC) met five times, throughout the fiscal year. At each meeting, the chair arranged for a guest speaker to do a brief spotlight, on their services, to provide all the commissioners, with a great overview, of organizations serving our community. Speakers included: Color of Justice, Youth Services, Anti-Defamation League, Jewish Community Relation Council, and an overview of the Town's Social Services. In December, the HRC presented at the Town Council Meeting, for Human Rights Day. The commission completed a needs assessment, and developed goals to work on, through the next fiscal year, including Awareness of HRC, Public Education of Programs and Services, Networking, and grievance training on ADA and conflict.

Throughout the summer, we planned 10 concerts, to be held on the hill, in front of the high school. While the weather didn't completely cooperate, we were still able to host all 10 bands, between date changes and combining shows. The Farmington Library and New Horizons Village each hosted a concert. A special thank you to Farmington Motor Sports, who brought in our "stage" each week, and to Canteen 52, of the CERT team, that provided refreshments and meals, at bargain prices.

In July of 2020, the Town Council established a task force, to examine and create a plan to develop strategies and community partnerships, to address racial inequality, educate residents and increase awareness about Black Lives, by identifying areas of improvement in the community and to recommend an action plan, to eliminate factors that lead to inequality. The Racial Equality Taskforce began meeting in August, and spent their first few months learning more about the functions of the Town; throughout the fiscal year, the taskforce met 16 times. On January 12, 2021, the Taskforce presented its Action Plan to the Town Council. At that meeting, the Town Council voted unanimously to approve their Action Plan.

The Action Plan included numerous goals and objectives, in six target areas, including community conversation/education, town services and initiatives, healthcare equality, diversity in education, community policing, and business development. Since then, the Taskforce has continued to meet regularly, has identified Level 1 and priority goals, within the Action Plan, and has established working groups, to address them. Over the course of the year, the taskforce has hosted four Community Conversations, amended the town's strategic plan, to include zero tolerance for racism, developed an initial framework for a webpage, held workgroup meetings to discuss training and recruitment strategies for the town, made recommendations to the Board of Education, developed several new initiatives to increase networking and relationships, between youth and police, collaborated on a listing of resources for black-owned businesses, and submitted a potential proposal for an equity and inclusion consultant.

In a year with so many unknowns, changes, and challenges, Farmington Community Services Department was still able to provide Supportive Services to residents in need, offer numerous recreational opportunities, as well as network and create community partnerships. Our entire department is thankful to be part of a community that values the spirit and willingness to help others!



# Farmington Food Pantry

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***"Since 2006, the Farmington Food Pantry has been sponsored by, and located in, Amistad Hall, on the campus of The First Church of Christ, in Farmington, CT. The Pantry is funded solely through donations and staffed entirely by volunteers."***

The Farmington Food Pantry, Inc. is a 501©(3) tax-exempt organization, operating in Amistad Hall, on the campus of First Church of Christ Farmington. Our mission is to provide a "respectful, empowering environment, where supplemental food and personal care items are available, to individuals who need assistance in Farmington." The Pantry is funded solely through donations and staffed entirely by volunteers. The Pantry was founded in 2006, on a "Client Choice" model, and all clients are pre-qualified by social workers, from the Farmington Community & Recreational Services department.

In response to the on-going coronavirus (COVID-19) health emergency, our Client Choice format changed in mid-2020, to optimize the safety of our clients and volunteers. From March 2020 – July 1, 2021, pre-packed food bags were distributed to clients, through a curbside, drive-up pantry, staffed by dedicated pantry volunteers. With our regular food donation drop off locations closed, we received and purchased nearly 100% of our food from Foodshare and other wholesale and retail sources. The pantry was able to make this transition, to a model that involved purchasing such a large percentage of our food, because of the very generous monetary donations received from Farmington residents, via check and the secure and convenient PayPal link on our website ([www.ffpct.org](http://www.ffpct.org)). Significant monetary and produce contributions were also made by Farmington Community Chest, The Farmington Food Truck, local businesses and local farms. These donations, along with partnerships with First Church of Christ Farmington and the Farmington Community & Recreational Services Department, truly made it possible for the pantry to continue helping our food insecure Farmington neighbors, despite the challenges of COVID-19.



On July 1, 2021, the pantry resumed operating within the Client Choice format, in temporary space, within First Church of Christ Farmington. The temporary space is larger and allows safer interaction between clients and volunteers, with regards to COVID protocols. The pantry continues to follow the guidelines set by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, as well as work closely with the Farmington Valley Health District and the Farmington Community & Recreational Services staff, to ensure the highest standards of safety, for our clients and volunteers. Although the fire house on Main Street is not currently accepting pantry food donations, due to COVID restrictions, a new food donation drop off location has been established, in the lobby of Farmington Town Hall. Food donations can also be dropped off at 75 Main Street, in the lobby of Amistad Hall/First Church of Christ, during Church office hours.

As always, none of our work would be possible without the generous support of the Farmington community. Together we can, and will, end hunger in Farmington!

# Fire Department

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***"The Town of Farmington Fire Department includes the East Farmington, East Farmington Station #2 (Oakland Gardens), Farmington, Tunxis Hose, and Southwest Fire Stations, which provide Fire, Rescue, and Emergency Medical Services, throughout the Town of Farmington."***

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The fire department is a "combination department," which means that it is staffed by a combination of approximately 110 Volunteer Fire Fighters, five Administrative Volunteers, one Part-Time Firefighter, and nine Career Firefighters. **During Fiscal Year 2020-2021, the Fire Department responded to 1,069 fire and 2,381 medical emergencies, for a total of 3,450 calls for service, down 254 calls, from the previous fiscal year. Firefighters completed 411 training events, totaling 1,850 hours, maintaining skills and competencies.**



The current COVID-19 pandemic continues to impact the United States, and we continue to navigate through it. As a community, we have worked together and leaned on each other to ensure we get through this healthy and safe. As an emergency service organization, we had to ensure we provided the essential services to the community, while protecting our firefighters. From the beginning, the Town of Farmington Fire Department was extremely proactive, with the immediate adoption of policies and procedures to protect our first responders. This also included the securing of much-needed PPE (personal protective equipment), when responding to the various calls for service, while contending with COVID-19. We were able to secure a federal grant to assist in the purchase of PPE, as well as what was supplied to us, from the State of Connecticut. We were able to maintain a stable supply, through optimizing techniques, that ensured we always had protection in place, and readily available. We continue to monitor the situation, and have provided all the protections for our first responders, including vaccinations, testing, and PPE.

The fire department is always actively recruiting volunteers, due to the vital role they have in the emergency services that we provide to the community. Anyone who lives or works in Farmington, is at least 18 years of age, and has a high school diploma or GED, can apply to be a Volunteer Firefighter.

Non-Farmington residents may apply, if they live within 5 miles of a fire station, or if they work in town and have written permission from their employer, to respond to emergencies, during work hours. The fire department will provide all equipment and training associated with being a volunteer firefighter, as well as incentives.

The fire department is also actively recruiting Fire Cadets. The Fire Cadet Program is designed to encourage residents, between 14 and 17 years of age, to become familiar with the responsibilities of volunteer firefighters. It provides a facet to demonstrate to young people the importance of service to the community, through involvement in the volunteer fire department, and to develop a working knowledge of First Aid, Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation, and the safe working practices associated with the fire service.

We currently have eight cadets, who meet regularly, under the supervision of a Cadet Coordinator and Cadet Advisors. These cadets are the foundation of our organization, and will soon be regular firefighters, within the community.

The fire department apparatus fleet consists of five engines, two Engine/Tankers, one Engine/Rescue, one Heavy Rescue, one Ladder/Platform, five medical units, one Brush Truck, one Gator, three Water Rescue Trailers and three utility vehicles. Last year's budget approved the purchase of a new ladder, which is slated to be delivered in October/November of 2021.

The Town of Farmington Fire Department maintains an Apparatus Replacement Plan, which rotates its larger apparatus every 20 -25 years, and the utility fire apparatus every 10 years. This plan is reviewed yearly, to ensure it still represents apparatus needed to service the town.





The fire department is in the process of completing a communication upgrade, for all mobile and portable radios. A majority of the radios in service are over 20 years old and considered obsolete, which ultimately means they are not repairable by our vendor, as well as not reliable for use by our firefighters. The need to replace our obsolete communications equipment, as well as increase the number available to ensure all firefighters operating on the fire ground have access to a radio, is paramount to firefighter safety. The Communications Plan is proposed in four phases, to distribute the cost over a number of years, while still ensuring this much needed upgrade.



The fire department continues to issue quarterly newsletters, to ensure residents and businesses of Farmington are aware of what is occurring in the Town of Farmington Fire Department. We have spotlighted members from throughout the department, so the community can see who we are and where we come from. As a primarily volunteer fire department, it is important that we recognize the work and dedication our firefighters provide, to the Town of Farmington. We continue to highlight topics of interest, as well as notable incidents that have occurred within the community. As a public safety organization, we want to ensure transparency with residents, so they are aware of the topics, within the fire department.

The Town of Farmington Fire Department purchased three LUCAS Compression devices. These devices allow for continuous high-quality chest compression, increasing the effectiveness of CPR, during a cardiac arrest. For over 15 years, the LUCAS Chest Compression System has been helping lifesaving teams around the world deliver high performance, guidelines-consistent chest compressions, to cardiac arrest patients in the field, on the move and in the hospital. These devices will allow our firefighters to ensure consistent, high-quality compressions, with fewer interruptions, compared to manual CPR, leading to higher compression ratios and increased blood flow to the heart and brain.

When having to move a patient or even during transport, the effectiveness of chest compressions can be compromised and not as effective. These units will enhance a comprehensive approach to resuscitation, which has been shown to increase Return of Spontaneous Circulation (ROSC). These three devices will be placed on the medical units assigned to the three main fire stations, in the Town of Farmington.



**American Heart Association**

life is why™

The fire department provides instruction on American Heart Association courses for Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) and First Aid. More than 350,000 cardiac arrests occur outside the hospital, each year. Instructors within the department provide Community CPR instruction quarterly, at no charge, at the Yates Room, located in the Farmington Police Department. These courses are instrumental in teaching members of the public the necessary skills to recognize a cardiac arrest, get emergency care on the way quickly, and provide CPR, until a high level of medical care arrives. These courses also incorporate the use of an Automated External Defibrillator (AED). The use of an AED, within three to five minutes after a collapse, greatly increases the chance of survival. For every minute that passes without CPR or defibrillation, the chance of survival of a victim decreases by 7 to 10 percent. The Town of Farmington is a HEARTSafe Community, which is a community that has documented the "Chain of Survival" links, to address cardiac emergencies, for its citizens. These links include early access to emergency care, early CPR, early defibrillation, and early advanced care. The Town of Farmington Fire Department also is available to instruct at businesses, schools, and daycares, in order to ensure this vital training is maintained, within our community. Please contact us if you are interested.



**Please visit your local fire station, or email Amber Rush, Police Management Assistant, at: [rusha@farmington-ct.org](mailto:rusha@farmington-ct.org), for more information about becoming a volunteer, or to inquire about any of the services offered by the Town of Farmington Fire Department.**

# Police Department

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***"The Farmington Police Department works in cooperation with the community, to preserve and improve the quality of life, making the Town a safer, more pleasant place to live, work and visit"***



The Farmington Police Department was excited to welcome its newest Police Officers into the family. John (Jack) Finn and MacKenzie Capizzi started the POSTC Police Academy program on January 8, 2021. They were both selected, after an intensive recruitment process, consisting of written and physical tests and several oral boards.



The Police Department was also anxiously awaiting the arrival of its newest member of the K-9 Team, K-9 Ozzy, who will be working alongside Officer Mortensen. K-9 Ozzy began basic training on September 21, 2020. K-9 Ozzy is doing a terrific job, following in the footsteps of Officer Mortensen's previous partner, K9 Ryker, who sadly passed in January 2021.

As always, the Farmington Police Department was heavily involved, in helping to raise awareness and support, for the Special Olympics. The Torch Run tradition was a success, and a fun "Angels for Athletes" challenge was done this year.



The Farmington Police Department saw a steady increase in auto thefts (56 this fiscal year vs 31 last fiscal year). As a result, numerous awareness campaigns and neighborhood meetings, to have residents lock their car doors and bring in valuables, were initiated, to try to deter such thefts.

**The Farmington Police Department  
Invites You to Attend a  
NEIGHBORHOOD CRIME PREVENTION  
COMMUNITY MEETING**



Join us for an informative  
Community Discussion  
on how to prevent crimes  
in your neighborhood and  
minimize the possibility of  
becoming a victim of crime.



# Farmington Libraries - Since 1901

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*"Public libraries, which have been part of the social safety net for more than 150 years, are vital to the health and wealth of our communities and the staff and I are proud to say that the Farmington Libraries are continuing that tradition."*

## Message from the Director

Despite the challenges of the past year, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, I am pleased to say the Farmington Libraries weathered the storm by implementing a phased-in reopening plan, including curbside pickup and grab-and-go services, until we were able to fully reopen to the public on June 1, 2021, when normal holds pickup resumed. Library staff worked tirelessly to continue to serve the needs of local residents, both in-person and remotely, throughout the pandemic.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, our usage figures for most of FY2021 were significantly impacted, including the total number of visitors to the Libraries, the total number of programs we offered (most of which were virtual programs that were offered via Zoom or Facebook Live), our total program attendance (including virtual attendance), as well as the substantial increase in the number of information requests our Adult Services, Teen and Children's staff handled in-person, as well as via phone, email and online chats. Since we restricted in-library access to both the Main and Barney Libraries, starting in March 2020, due to COVID-19, this hybrid service model is reflected in the usage figures below, for FY2021 (July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021), as well as in the ones for FY2020 (July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020):

Usage	FY2021	FY2020	FY2019	FY2018
*Total number of walk-in visitors	44,770	167,296	225,467	221,225
Total number of programs	733	1,015	1,300	1,259
Total program attendance	16,988	20,404	26,937	25,864
Total information requests	75,000	41,629	53,161	39,870
Total electronic resources checked out	47,167	45,105	30,296	21,489
**Total curbside items picked up	N/A	21,180	N/A	N/A
***Total in-lobby items picked up	99,427	N/A	N/A	N/A

## Children's Services: Kids Care Club

Our Kids Care Club has made items throughout the pandemic for the elderly in our community, and it is still going strong! Senior Center staff commented: "Services for the Elderly of Farmington was so excited to share these special crafts with our homebound seniors. Each card that was so thoughtfully made, brightened the day of our seniors. We have received many calls to share their thanks with your wonderful children. Many have put them on their refrigerators to remind them of your kindness. Thank you for taking the time to share your talent and care with our seniors!!!"

Families with children also contacted us again and again to offer their appreciation for programs we created that they could do from home, due to the impact of the pandemic.

Here is some wonderful feedback we received:

"Thank you for hosting this program...In these times when we aren't able to take part in so many activities, it's heartening to see beautiful artwork can still flourish."

"We're so fortunate to have these remarkable children's librarians! Their programs enrich our children and let us make such dear friends."

"You guys are doing an awesome job and please know the activities and ideas are a true godsend!"

## Teen Services: A "well-read" young woman

One of our teen patrons eagerly participated in our Summer Reading Program in 2021, despite the impact of COVID-19, which meant many of our teen programs were held virtually. This young High School student completed many of the activities we offered and was able to earn quite a few books as a result. As with many of our teen patrons, this young student continues to take advantage of all of the resources the Libraries offer and is the epitome of a "well-read" young woman!

## Adult Information Services: The Unionville sisters

All throughout the pandemic, the Adult Information Services staff have been corresponding via email with two sisters who call themselves the "Avid readers from Unionville." We have been supplying the sisters with their book requests and recommendations of new authors. To their delight, we always added a few surprise titles they didn't ask for. Not only did they ask us for books, but they made sure to check in with us to see how we were doing and to remind us to take care of ourselves. The Unionville sisters truly believe in the power of libraries and reading and so do we! Here are a few quotes from the wise Unionville sisters: "Books give us joy!"

"Supplying books to the needy is a corporal work of mercy and we appreciate your efforts in distributing them COVID-free."

"A big Thank You for the team @ the Farmington Libraries for the fantastic job you are doing for hungry readers. If you could only imagine the role books have during this virus. Without them, our lives would be boredom."

"It was a thoughtful gesture to print out a list of books for us. We are so lucky to have librarians who anticipate reads for book lovers. Also, we are grateful for your efforts to serve us during this pandemic. You are counted among the caregivers, keeping our minds active. A big THANK YOU!"



## Equity, Diversity and Inclusion

One of the new initiatives the Board of Trustees, the staff and I took this past year was our focus on integrating equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI) into our services and collections. This initial effort included applying for and receiving a \$17,500 grant, from the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving in order to engage our Board and staff on issues relating to equity, diversity and inclusion. Thanks to support from the Hartford Foundation, as part of Phase One of our work, we retained consultants Treda Collier Dickenman and Dr. Martha Brackeen-Harris, to facilitate a series of training sessions, relating to EDI, for the Board and staff. These discussions will provide a foundation on which to develop future programs, collections and services that meet the diverse needs of all those who live and work in the Farmington community.

Phase Two will include doing a 'diversity audit' of our collections in order to ensure that all of our print and non-print collections for children, teens and adults include a wide array of subjects and authors, representing an increasingly diverse array of perspectives, cultures and ethnicities. During these turbulent and polarized times, the mission of public libraries to provide unfettered access to information, to serve the needs of those who have been marginalized or underrepresented, and to create lifelong learning opportunities for everyone, regardless of their race, class or economic status, is critically important. Public libraries, which have been part of the social safety net for more than 150 years, are vital to the health and wealth of our communities and the staff and I are proud to say that the Farmington Libraries is continuing that tradition.

## Strategic Planning

In the coming year, the Board of Trustees, the staff and I, along with some community representatives, will be developing a new strategic plan for the Libraries. This effort could not come at a better time, on the heels of the pandemic, which will have profound and lasting impacts on the way all of us will behave and work in the future. It is safe to say that the pandemic will continue to affect how libraries will operate in the future, including the need to provide "hybrid" programs and services that will allow library patrons to decide how they would like to interact with their local library and get access to its collections and services. More about our strategic planning efforts will be shared on our website, located at [www.farmingtonlibraries.org](http://www.farmingtonlibraries.org), as our work progresses.

## New Website Launched!

Speaking of our website, I am pleased to announce that the Libraries launched a new website on September 28, 2021! Please bookmark our new site and add it to your list of go-to sites, for information about what's happening at the Main Library and the Barney Library in the coming year, including programs for children, teens and adults, both virtually and in-person! This new, mobile-friendly site packs in a lot of information in a much more intuitive, user-friendly and graphically-oriented site, which will include ongoing updates and notices about new programs, products and services.

As we look ahead, we are also planning to rejoin Library Connection, Inc. (LCI), the library consortium that we used to be a member of before we left to become a Koha site. There are significant advantages of being members of the consortium, including allowing patrons to discover and easily access the holdings of all of the 41 main libraries and branches in the network, including those in neighboring communities. While this move will not happen until January 2023, the library staff and I will be working closely with the staff at LCI in the coming year in order to plan for a smooth transition. More information about this important move will be announced on our website and in future issues of our online library newsletter and we will announce training sessions on using the new online catalog as we get closer to the migration.

One of the pleasures of being a Library Director is working with and collaborating with a group of talented, forward-looking and service-oriented people, who share a sense of common purpose. Here is a list of the new Trustees and staff who joined the Libraries this past year, all of whom deserve our thanks for their dedication and support of our mission, to serve your library and information needs:

## New Library Trustees:

- Norma Hartley
- Kate Martorelli

## New Library Staff:

- Shana Shea, Publicity, Marketing & Web Presence Librarian
- Sage Gentry, Teen Services Librarian
- Amy Pittman, Lending Services Assistant
- Niru Patil, Lending Services Assistant
- Lila Guillet, Barney Library Assistant
- Noreen Dakin, Barney Library Assistant
- Pam Paul, Barney Library Assistant
- Steve Dunn, Facilities Assistant
- Jo-Ann Silverio, Lending Services Assistant
- Mindy LaBoy, Lending Services Assistant
- Molly Gerace, Library Greeter

All of us at the Farmington Libraries, including the Farmington Village Green and Library Association Board, the Library's Board of Trustees, our dedicated staff, the Friends of the Libraries and our wonderful volunteers, are grateful for the opportunity to serve as the community's hub of informational, educational, cultural and recreational resources. We are proud of the work we did this past year, despite the challenges of the pandemic, and we look forward to serving you and your family's needs in the coming year and contributing to the health and vitality of the Farmington community.

Respectfully,

**Christopher J. Lindquist**  
Executive Director

## **Adult Information Services**

### **Caroline Ford, Assistant Library Director & Head of Adult, Teen & Branch Services**

The Information Services department experienced a significant increase in "must-read" suggestions from friends this past year! Neighbors and friends shared their favorite authors and titles with each other as they grew tired of watching TV, especially since everyone was stuck inside, suffering from cabin fever, due to the pandemic! The Information Services team also provided personalized recommendations of books and movies for adult and teen readers.

### **Information Services Highlights:**

- We experienced a 48% increase in e-books and e-audiobook usage this past year.
- 687 people participated in 49 Maker programs in FY2021.
- Library staff introduced new online resources, including Consumer Reports and Value Line, for home access.
- We purchased 10 wi-fi hotspots for loan, enabling patrons to get free wireless connectivity from home or for use when travelling.
- Over 109 people participated in our Adult Summer Reading program; adult patrons logged 103 book reviews and participated in 399 activities, including attending a library-sponsored program or supporting a local business.
- Library staff created a new Library of Things that includes non-traditional items for loan, including things like a microscope, outdoor games such as giant Jenga, a portable Karaoke machine and much more.
- We added Spanish language books and a Criterion Collection of foreign and independent movies, to our circulating collection.
- We created a number of Crafting Kits in order to allow patrons to try their hand at homemade crafts such as soap making, knitting and jewelry making.

### **Farmington Room Highlights:**

- The Farmington Room at the Main Library, which contains our local history materials, reopened in the Fall and is now open every Wednesday from 1:00 to 4:00 pm, or by appointment.
- The Adult Services staff is continuing to add all of the items in our local history and archival collections to the Libraries' digital catalog, allowing patrons easier access.
- We also joined the Connecticut Digital Archive (CTDA) in order to provide online access to more of our unique local history collections, allowing us to scan and digitize our valuable historical materials and upload them to the CTDA. This project will be ongoing and will allow both researchers and casual historians to discover some of our unique historical treasures.



## **Teen Services**

### **Anna Downing, Teen Services Assistant**

In March 2020, all of our programming went virtual due to the pandemic. I think it is fair to say there was a bit of a learning curve! We were not able to offer many Teen programs in the Spring of 2020, however, we came back strong in the Summer of 2020, with a robust schedule of virtual programs, including grab-and-go crafts, a book launch, and inter-town programming. This past school year, we settled into a routine: a full series of Teen Snack-and-Go Crafts, virtual gaming, SAT practice tests, and trivia nights were offered. We learned a lot about teen services this past year. Two of our biggest takeaways were that teens love snacks: we hit our stride with Teen Snack-and-Go Crafts! Since November 2020, all 15 of the craft bags we put together were picked up every week. We also discovered that teens don't particularly like Zoom-based programs, particularly after spending much of their classroom time online. While our live Zoom programs were not a huge hit with most of our teen readers, we were very pleased with our Summer program attendance, which is traditionally the time of year when high school students are looking for fun things to do.

As a result of the pandemic, we also scheduled a full line up of virtual programs, including crafting, volunteering, gaming, and STEM activities. Our Teen Summer Reading program has recovered quite well from the previous year's slump, due to the pandemic. 164 teens registered for the annual Summer Reading program series in the Summer of 2021 and we "sold" hundreds of items from our teen store, allowing those who participated to "purchase" books with their reading vouchers.

In addition, we found a silver lining to the events of this past year! We were able to accelerate a number of the Teen Space projects we had postponed, including weeding our fiction and non-fiction collections and creating in-shelf displays. We also spruced up the display walls in the teen area with a fresh coat of paint, installed a new message board teens could use, re-arranged some of the furniture, and we worked with local public school teachers to revise our Summer Reading collection! All in all, it was a year of learning, growing and finding ways to stay connected in new and interesting ways!



## **Children's Services**

### ***Ericka Bajrami, Director of Children's Services***

Despite the pandemic, the Farmington Libraries Kids' Place was a hub of activity this past year, and we continued to serve the educational, cultural, and recreational needs of the Farmington community and beyond, for children ages birth through 12, their caregivers, and individuals who work with children.

During much of the past year, our room was closed to browsing due to COVID-19, but we were able to meet the needs of our patrons by providing curbside service, pulling hundreds of books each day for easy, contactless pickup. Not only were we able to pull requested titles, but we also provided suggestions for families who needed help selecting materials, a service that we are always happy to offer no matter what the circumstances!

Our circulating collection consists of books, magazines, video games, music, DVDs, audiobooks, toy bags, and kits, including early learning and storytelling backpacks, phonics bags, STEM activities, and more. New educational kits (including a microscope and math and literacy activities) were added to the collection this year and have been very popular with our patrons. Our Wonderbook collection (books with built-in audio components) grew and circulated heavily this past year, and we introduced Launchpads – child-friendly tablets pre-loaded with learning apps, videos, games, and more.

Programming is a huge part of our children's services, and we met this past year's challenges with creativity and flexibility, in order to connect with our community, despite the limitations due to COVID restrictions.

### **Here are some programming highlights:**

- We continued to offer our storytime programs and special events through virtual Zoom meetings, email packets, videos, and Take & Make bags; in addition, we hosted some in-person drive-by events, such as our popular Popsicle Parade and Trick or Treating events.
- We continued our Dial-a-Story service, and we recorded new picture book stories, relaxation stories, poems, jokes & riddles, as well as Polish stories each week, for families to call in and enjoy.
- In addition to our staff-led programming, we even brought in some special event presenters, such as a baby sleep specialist, picture book author Janet Lawler, illustrator Rick Stromoski, the CT Homeschool Alliance, storyteller Ann Shapiro, Riverside Reptiles, and Tanglewood Marionettes.
- Our annual Summer Reading Adventures program was completely virtual during the Summer of 2020. Even though we were not able to hand out incentives or allow kids to spin the prize wheel, hundreds of children participated in our online reading programs, logging over 9,000 reading days!



Throughout the year, we continued our partnerships with local community organizations. Through our Kids Care Club, each month children created cheerful items, to be distributed through Services to the Elderly, to senior citizens in our community. We assembled a Storywalk for Winding Trails' annual Fairy Houses weekend, in the Fall. We also created a series of children's mindfulness videos called "Just Breathe," which were distributed to the schools and families in our community, to help find some calm during the pandemic (which attracted over 600 views)! It was truly wonderful connecting with our community, in so many fun and creative ways!

Despite the challenges, we were able to present over 270 programs for children birth – 12 with over 9,200 participants, 3,300 video views, and 2,000 Dial-a-Story participants. Over 3,600 activity bags were distributed, throughout the year! The Children's Services staff was thrilled to be able to provide much-needed entertainment, stress relief and skill-building activities for the children, parents and caregivers of our community, during a very challenging year, that was like no other in our history!

We currently are fully open to browsing and have introduced some outdoor programming this year. Looking forward, we have plans to introduce small-group indoor programming in addition to our virtual and take-and-make events. Additionally, the children's staff has been meeting with Deanna Dewey of 4DDesign to create plans for updating the Kids' Place, at the Main Library. New paint, a new Tween Space, more kid-sized furniture, and some rearranging will help us to better serve all the families that visit our space.



## **Lending Services & Collection Management**

### **Karen Cerasoli, Manager of Lending Services**

It's fair to say that this past year, 2020-2021, was a bit different than the norm, for the staff in Lending Services! Starting in July 2020, all of the Libraries' circulating items were returned to the outside book drop, instead of inside the Libraries, due to COVID-19 restrictions. The materials were then brought to our Community Room, at the Main Library, and quarantined for a period of time, before they were checked back in. This procedure was being followed at libraries in Connecticut and throughout the nation, based on strict health and safety protocols. Holds and requested items were checked out, bagged, and put on tables for our patrons to "Grab and Go." As the months passed, our curbside service migrated to "in-lobby" service and four tables of books and materials waiting for patrons to pick up quickly became eight tables! Our "Hellos" to the patrons were quick with brief conversations and bright smiles, even though they were obscured by face masks! As the months got warmer, we were fortunate to be able to open the Main and Barney Libraries, more as part of a phased-in reopening plan, and more of our patrons were able to come in and browse our shelves. We were finally able to restore normal holds pickup and our normal hours of service on June 1, 2021.

### **Highlights for Lending & Collection Management:**

- Nearly 45,000 people physically came inside the Main Library in FY2021.
- 119,462 items were checked out to patrons, during that time period.
- We also issued 560 new library cards to patrons.
- Since all of the Libraries' departments were offering virtual programs, the Lending Services staff helped by providing Virtual Knitting programs and Crafternoon programs, which were wildly popular!
- Lending Services staff continued to process materials that were returned quickly and efficiently, so that our patrons would have something new to read "hot" off the shelves.
- Lending Services staff also answered slightly under 5,000 questions this past year, including questions about curbside pickup, department requests and questions about our operating hours.

## **Technology Services**

### **Harry Trider, IT Coordinator**

FY2021 was both challenging and productive in terms of our Technology Services. While we were not able to offer in-person technology programs and training opportunities to our patrons, due to COVID-19 restrictions, we did accomplish a great deal in terms of technology and equipment upgrades and our overall technology infrastructure.

### **Here are some of the highlights of the past year:**

- Wireless network upgrades at the Main Library: Library staff completed the process of purchasing and installing 14 new wireless access points at the Main Library, which provides significantly improved Internet connectivity, both inside and out of the library.
- Technology offerings added to our Library of Things: Patrons are now able to borrow various technology items from our Library of Things including, but not limited to: new Samsung galaxy tablets, used for the dual purpose of e-readers or a tablet that can be checked out and used on the go; 10 new T-Mobile hotspots, that allow patrons the ability to access high-speed internet connectivity outside of the library; an electricity usage monitor, for use in home outlets, and more.
- The Adult Information Services staff continued to work on revamping our Makerspace this past year. As of this writing, we are planning for a grand re-opening that will include new equipment for patron use, a more accessible table inside the Makerspace, and improved equipment for programming. Please stay tuned!
- We successfully migrated all of our patron and staff workstations and laptops to Microsoft Office 365, which includes increased security and communication features.
- The Library's Technology Committee also worked on the following initiatives this past year:
  - The ongoing development of a 3-year Technology Plan for the Libraries.
  - Developing and implementing a multiyear replacement schedule for public and staff PCs and related technology equipment.
  - The review and adoption of various technology-related policies for increased security, including password management, a VPN policy for allowing staff to work from home, etc.
- Another major accomplishment was the launch of the Libraries' new website ([www.farmingtonlibraries.org](http://www.farmingtonlibraries.org)) on September 28, 2021! This new, more graphic and user-friendly website was the result of a 6-month collaborative effort between the Libraries and Library Market, our website design firm, which helped us create a more flexible and modern design and migrate all of our content to our new website.
- Our Adult Information Services staff is in the process of purchasing new laptops that patrons will be able to borrow, outside of the Main Library, as well as use in-house, using a new self-service Laptop Kiosk, that will be located in the main lobby.
- Library staff also began using an internal ticketing system, to track tech-related issues reported in the library, in order to track and prioritize equipment replacement needs.
- Finally, Library staff purchased a new PC and flat-bed scanner, for the Library's Farmington Room, which will help us with our ongoing efforts to digitize our local history materials and upload them to the Connecticut Digital Archives (CTDA).



## Barney Library

### **Caroline Ford, Assistant Library Director & Head of Adult, Teen & Branch Services**

The Barney Library provided exemplary library services to the Farmington community this past year. Barney Library staff welcome everyone to enjoy a cozy space by the fire, to read and relax, in our main reading room.

### Adult Services

- We continued to serve homebound patrons and those at local assisted living facilities, through our Outreach Services this past year.
- We continued to offer the librarian-led Novel Ideas adult book group and we enjoyed meeting outside on nice Summer days!
- We provided a variety of "Take and Make" crafts for adults that allowed people to make crafts at home, including wreaths, dip-dyed napkins and suncatchers.
- Perennial favorites, The Kerry Boys, performed in August 2021, on the Barney Library lawn, as part of the Libraries' Germany Music Series.
- Rhonda Denét and the Silver Fox Songs Trio played their unique brand of jazz and R&B, on the Barney Library lawn, in September 2021.
- Library staff added jewelry kits for adults, so they could make their own creations at home.
- The Barney Library also added Wednesday evening hours and is now open from 11:00 am to 7:00 pm, on Wednesdays.
- The Barney Library welcomed three new part-time Library Assistants, to the Library.
- The Library staff partnered with the First Church of Christ to bring a five-part series called Healing Arts on the Green, to the Barney Library lawn. Activities in the series, which grew out of a desire to support the mental health and well-being of local residents during the pandemic, included meditation and Quigong.



### Children's Services @ The Barney Library

- The Barney Library staff offered an array of interactive and well-received virtual and in-person outdoor programs, for children this past year, including early literacy programs, "Barney-in-a-Bag," as well as a "Movers and Groovers Virtual Dance Party."
- A number of enthusiastic children participated in our famous Bubble Day and Chalk our Walk outdoor programs.
- The Barney Kids Book Club and Craft continued to help foster a love of reading this past year.





# Services for the Elderly

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***"Services for the Elderly of Farmington, Inc. is a nonprofit agency whose mission is: To assist older citizens with maintaining their desired home lifestyle, relative to meals, transportation, socialization, home medical equipment and maintenance."***

Services for the Elderly was established in 1965 by two Farmington women, Hope Emery and Dorothy Sinclair, who saw the need to help the seniors in our community. Our small nonprofit provides Meals on Wheels, Congregate Meals, Medical Transportation, Friendly Shopping, a Medical Equipment Program, "It's Good To Get Out" and "Forget-Me-Not" programs and an A.A.R.P. Tax Assistance program.

This organization works with over 140 volunteers, who generously give up their time to make a difference in the life of a senior. 2020-2021 staff included a full-time Executive Director, a part-time Medical Equipment Consultant and a part-time Office Assistant, who was a student at Farmington High School. Services for the Elderly is governed by a volunteer Board of Directors, from the community.

Our programs are financially supported primarily through United Way of Central and Northeastern Connecticut, the Town of Farmington, Hartford Foundation for Public Giving, Farmington Community Chest, Farmington Bank Community Foundation, the Unionville Lions Club, Allstate, The Rotary Club of Farmington, service groups, churches, businesses, fundraising events and individuals.

Several fundraisers were planned throughout the year, to include the Subaru "Share the Love" Event, our semi-annual appeal in July and November, a "March for Meals" campaign in March and the "Birdies for Charity" fundraiser, through the Travelers Championship, in June. Each of these fundraisers help support our various programs, aimed at assisting the aging in our community. Services for the Elderly of Farmington remains committed to providing seniors basic needs services, that have been a staple in the community, for more than 50 years.

**The following services were provided in the fiscal year 2020-2021:**

**Meals On Wheels Program:**

18,574 meals, birthday bags and thoughtful gifts were delivered by our committed volunteers this past year, to our homebound. A hot meal and a cold bag meal were provided with each day of food requested, by our clients. We were able to provide seven days worth of food, making the deliveries on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. These meals were offered on an income-based sliding scale. We have also had wonderful volunteers making "Reassurance Calls," to assist in providing additional socialization and safety checks to our clients.

**Services for the Elderly of Farmington**  
**321 New Britain Ave., Unionville, CT 06085**  
**860-673-1441/services@farmingtonseniors.org/**  
**[www.farmingtonseniors.org/](http://www.farmingtonseniors.org/)**  
**[facebook@farmingtonseniors](https://www.facebook.com/farmingtonseniors)**

**Congregate Meal Program:**

1,530 meals were served by Services for the Elderly of Farmington volunteers on Mondays and Fridays, throughout the year. This program has been offered as a "Grab & Go" meal, since the beginning of the pandemic. These meals not only provided nutrition, but allowed for socialization and identified individuals that needed additional support services, during COVID-19.

**Medical Transportation Program:**

Our Medical Transportation was suspended until June of 2021, following state COVID-19 safety guidelines. This program was restarted on June 21, 2021. Services for the Elderly has also become an essential information resource, for ride services in the community, during the FY 2020-2021. This program allows Farmington and Unionville seniors a ride to a routine medical appointment, at no charge, twice a month.

**Friendly Shopping Program:**

290 grocery shopping trips were made by SFE volunteers, that have been matched with clients, to obtain the necessary staples for their kitchens.

**"It's Good To Get Out"/Forget-Me-Not" Programs:**

The "It's Good To Get Out" program stayed connected to provide friendship to our senior women, even though they could not meet in groups this past year. The "Forget-Me-Not" program delivered over 728 special gifts to 80 seniors this past year. We are grateful to the Farmington Community Chest, for providing funding for special gifts, to remind seniors that they are thought of throughout the year. We were also able to deliver 965 "Thinking of You" cards to our participants. We delivered holiday greens and Memorial Day plants, made and donated by the Farmington Garden Club. Birthday bags also made a special delivery to our Meals on Wheels clients, on their special days. We have created a wonderful partnership with the Farmington Libraries Kids Care Club this past year. Our special librarians created craft ideas that our community children shared with our seniors monthly. Our "Reassurance Calls" continued to prove necessary. These calls provided socially-distant companionship, identified needs and allowed for additional safety checks.

**Job Bank Program:**

85 individuals requested information from our Job Bank. This list connects people and agencies, that for compensation, will perform various tasks for the elderly in our community. This may include companion and homemakers, cleaning services, repair persons and much more.

## **Tax Assistance Program:**

252 tax returns were filed by A.A.R.P. trained volunteers. Services for the Elderly worked with the Farmington Valley Health Department, A.A.R.P. and the Town of Farmington again this year, to provide a safe tax preparation service to 303 clients. This vital program not only afforded our seniors the ability to have their taxes done at no charge, but maintained strict safety protocols to, again, protect our loved seniors. Thank you to Jeff Bellingham and his team of dedicated A.A.R.P. tax advisors, for their hard work!

## **Senior Sense Newsletter:**

Services for the Elderly of Farmington's "Senior Sense" newsletters were circulated to 11,440 Farmington and Unionville residents, in July and December of 2020. This newsletter allowed Services for the Elderly to communicate our programs and services, as well as provide essential contact information to our community.

## **Medical Equipment Program:**

For the Fiscal year 2020-2021, Services for the Elderly loaned out 1,021 pieces of donated essential medical equipment, to individuals in the Farmington Valley and Greater Hartford area. We were also able to give out countless packages of disposable personal hygiene products, to individuals in need. Services for the Elderly is a partner with Orphan Grain Train and has helped to donate over 765 medical assistive items nationally and worldwide, in 2020-2021. We continued to adhere to strict procedures, to help maintain the safety of our clients, both donating and borrowing equipment.

We are very appreciative to the Town of Farmington, for providing financial assistance over the year to our Meals on Wheels and Congregate Meal programs. This assistance allowed for residents, regardless of their financial status, to obtain essential nutrition, to maintain good health, as our clients remain at home.



## **2020-21 Highlights**

- In November 2020 through January 2021, our organization participated in the Subaru "Share the Love" Event, with the assistance of Mitchell Subaru, who has been another great community partner.
- In December 2020, our seniors were fortunate to be able to attend a "Holiday Drive-Through Congregate Meal!" Our friends at Favarh helped make signs and decorations, while a very talented Farmington High School student, Sonali Patel, played the cello for our seniors. A wonderful time was had by all!
- Beginning in February 2021, our talented A.A.R.P. Tax Volunteers assisted 303 clients with their tax returns, while adhering to strict COVID-19 safety guidelines. This service was offered at no charge to our seniors.
- Although our March for Meals campaign was, again, heavily impacted this past year, we know our community was banded together to continue to provide meals to our homebound. Our Town Manager, Kathy Blonski, and Town Council Chair, C.J. Thomas, helped Services for the Elderly of Farmington deliver vital nutrition, safety, and socialization this past year and we are grateful of their continued support.
- In June 2021, we were excited to, again, be able to participate in the Travelers Birdies for Charity event. It was a "hole-in-one" for our small nonprofit! Thank you, Travelers!

Services for the Elderly of Farmington is privileged to work with so many dedicated volunteers and community members supporting our seniors!

**Nicole Bardeck, R.N., B.S.N.**  
Executive Director





*"The Farmington Land Trust's mission is to protect open space, in perpetuity, through acquisition, stewardship, education and advocacy."*

It is with great pleasure that I report on our 50th year, a year filled with much success, growth and outreach, all of which was made possible, in spite of the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, by the extraordinary talent and efforts of you, our members, our board and the many dedicated volunteers. Thank you! This year was marked by increased community outreach, financial strength, and organizational effectiveness. We continue to advance our brand, with a singular focus on our mission, to preserve open space through acquisition, stewardship, education and advocacy.

Many of our planned events had to be canceled because of the restrictions on gatherings and the importance of social distancing, due to the pandemic. However, our Development Committee, led by Cate Grady-Benson, could not be stopped, from once again throwing a marvelous party! They came up with a cleverly organized event for our Preserving our Legacy fundraiser. "Let the Games Begin" was a Zooming, entertaining and informative event, catered in individual homes and, in addition, it was a financial success. Could that be topped? Well yes, by "Owl About EVE-ning," an owl informative spoof, produced by Steve Silk and starring Diane Tucker and Owlivia, with supporting cast (all board members), which premiered to a hooting and approving Zoom audience, later in the year.

**Officers for 2020 - 2021:**

**Lisa Johnson, President;**

**Evan Cowles, Vice-President;**

**Jon Estrellado, Treasurer;**

**Francie Brown Holmes, Secretary; and**

**Cate Grady-Benson, Interim Executive Director.**

**Directors: Patricia Boye-Williams, Jim Calciano, Sally Chaves, Peter Dorpalen, Jessica Harrison, Steve Nelson, Elizabeth Sheridan, Steve Silk and Jennifer Villa.**

**Richard Kramer, Director Emeritus**

**Robert Hannon, Ex-officio**

The Land Trust office is located in the Canal House at 128 Garden Street. Office hours are M-W-F, from 9:00 am - 12:00 pm.

Farmington Land Trust board meetings are held on the 3rd Thursday of each month at 5:00 pm, currently via Zoom, except for the month of April, when our Annual Member Meeting is held. **Contact information:**

**Farmington Land Trust, Inc.**

**PO Box 1, Farmington, CT 06034**

**(860) 674-8545**

**office@farmingtonlandtrust.org**

**www.farmingtonlandtrust.org**



This past year, we completed our 2020-2025 Strategic Plan. One of the important elements of the plan is realization of the opportunity that the Wilcox-Bushley Homestead and the adjoining West District Nature preserve offer, for environmental education, in service to the schools and the community of Farmington. The contents of the Homestead, which the Land Trust inherited with the passing of Mary Bushley, presented an historical treasure trove, dating to the 18th century. Led by Evan Cowles, board members and volunteers, with assistance from archivist Sandra Markham and other appraisers, set about to sort, organize, document and store the important artifacts from the house, to preserve them so that when completed, the Homestead can tell the story of the Wilcox-Bushley family, in that place.

The restoration of the Homestead is a multilayer challenge. Preservation Connecticut has offered essential assistance in meeting this challenge, with guidance on restoration and securing project funding. Preliminary details for the renovation of the homestead are moving forward as well, with site plans and architectural drawings being prepared.

Stewardship continues to be a critical part of protecting the land. The generous support of our contributors, to the Adopt-A-Parcel program, has been an enormous benefit. Thanks to this funding and other resources, we are dedicating more each year, to the maintenance of our properties. This year, we completed additional trails at our West District Nature Preserve. The Girl Scouts spent a day learning about and clearing invasives there and a magnificent Bee Hotel, for wild bees, was erected by another scout, on the west side of the Wilcox-Bushley Homestead, for her Gold Award project.

I am delighted to welcome Meghan Naujoks, as our new Development Assistant. Meghan will provide administrative assistance to our development efforts, and report to our Interim Executive Director, Cate Grady-Benson.



### **A Tribute to Liz Dolphin, Our Late Executive Director**

It is with deep sorrow that I write of the passing of our Executive Director, Elizabeth Dolphin. Liz was a friend. She was a wonderful person and skilled professional, dedicated to land conservation, who was respected and loved by those with whom she worked. After receiving a degree in Zoology, from Ohio Wesleyan, and a Master's in Resource Management, from Antioch, Liz found her professional home in Farmington, as Assistant Town Planner, in 1987.

Ever with an eye to conservation of the land, it was only natural that she was appointed liaison to the Town Land Acquisition Committee, originally the Open Space Acquisition Committee, when it was established in 1999, as a collaborative effort between the Conservation Commission and the Farmington Land Trust. After retiring from the Planning Department in 2015, Liz continued as consultant to the LAC.

In 2019, it was our good fortune that Liz agreed to come on board as our fifth Executive Director. Liz's accomplishments regarding the acquisition of town open space are extraordinary: over 50 properties acquired, totaling more than one thousand acres, with \$4.8 million, 20% of purchase price, funded by the State, through grants she wrote. Liz also played a central role in almost every environmental initiative in town, and was ever vigilant to achieve the best environmental outcome, in every transaction approved by the Town's planning department, during her tenure.

It's impossible to adequately honor Liz and all that she has done for land conservation, with these few words. She will remain forever in our hearts and memory, as will her contributions to the environment, as evidenced by the open spaces and land she helped save, throughout Farmington.

— **Richard Kramer, Past President**

***\*Donations may be made to the Elizabeth Dolphin Birding Trail and memorial, dedicated in her memory, by the Farmington Land Trust. Please make donations to: [www.farmingtonlandtrust.org/memorial-donations](http://www.farmingtonlandtrust.org/memorial-donations).***

FARMINGTON LAND TRUST

## Wilcox-Bushley Homestead Capital Campaign



A FUTURE FOR OUR FARM





# Farmington Valley Visiting Nurse Association

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***"The Farmington Valley VNA, Inc. has concluded the first full year of community services, while amidst the public health emergency of the COVID crisis. Health care needed many adjustments, as services were still required, but doing business posed challenges."***

Personal Protective Equipment was obtained, stored and a stockpile is now in place, so that all services can be done safely and within present guidelines. Our clinical staff are 100% vaccinated, for the current pandemic and will remain up-to-date regarding all national and federal guidelines, for best care practices. The Farmington Valley VNA partnered successfully with the Farmington Valley Health District and were able to provide the first ever Drive-through Influenza Vaccination clinics, testing our capacity to provide mass vaccinations in safe, socially-distanced models. This enabled us to successfully administer over 20,000 COVID vaccines, within the valley, making our part of the state above others, with close to 100% vaccination status, for the populations at highest risks. To date, we continue to respond to community needs, with the Health District as partners, administering COVID vaccinations to local businesses, as well as to those that are Homebound. To a large extent, business has gone back to normal, with services such as this enabling a better chance of equitable care, for all Farmington residents.

Routine services such as Blood Pressure Clinics and Blood Glucose testing have resumed, giving some residents that extra level of clinical monitoring, that they find difficult to do alone at home. The Health Supervision program, that has been funded through the Town of Farmington, allowing for clinical nursing visits to residents, has seen remarkable growth in utilization, with a 600% increase. In the prior year, six health supervision visits could be made, while this year, our community nurse made 38 visits. The value cannot be understated, as these visits often help prevent hospitalization, with the timely identification of medical needs and direct connections to medical care, directed by the Community Nurse. In addition to this service, town and donor funds were utilized to support a new level of home visit, not charging patients or residents in Farmington. At times and with the request of Social Services, our nurses made Wellness Visits to people that may have been identified as concerning. They often were individuals, known to some, isolated, homebound, and possibly with ailing health. Social Services needed additional support and our Nurses went out to assess what services might be needed, offering comfort and compassionate care for many, helping prioritize where the best help could come from.



To be a good community partner with the Town of Farmington, the VNA also tries to support other programs, teaming up this year with the Services for the Elderly, sponsoring their December 2020 Senior Sense newsletter. We also took part in the Farmington local Health Fair, and we will continue to assist when called upon to provide CPR certification programs and Hepatitis vaccinations to first responders.

The Farmington Valley VNA will continue to work together, with our partners at the Department of Social Services, the Senior Center, and the Farmington Valley Health District to be ready to face the challenges of today, as well as tomorrow. We continue as a preferred provider working closely with the University of CT John Dempsey Hospital, often the medical center that best meets the needs of the residents of Farmington. It is our mission and goal to always be there, when you need us most.

**For additional information about the Farmington Valley VNA and its programs, please call 860-651-3539, or visit our website at [www.farmingtonvalleyvna.org](http://www.farmingtonvalleyvna.org).**



# Farmington Community Chest

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*"The Farmington Community Chest (FCC) is a nonprofit organization founded in 1931 to improve the health, wellbeing, and community life of all residents of Farmington, through funding various organizations and initiatives."*



***In this past fiscal year, FCC raised over \$115,000 from individuals, businesses, our annual fundraising event and our yearly contribution, from our major contributor, Hartford Foundation for Public Giving.***

These funds then went directly to support nonprofit organizations that are in line with our current funding priorities of basic human needs, educational programming and community enhancements.

Over the last year, the impact of our dollars directly benefited our community. Summer camp scholarships were awarded to 33 school age children and direct aid was provided to qualifying families in our neighborhoods. Of special note this year, Unionville Museum received an award of \$5,000, for a new addition to the building, which included a handicapped access bathroom and a galley kitchen, with a small storage area. Additional funding of \$12,000 was awarded to the Farmington Food Pantry, to support their COVID-19 relief efforts, and increased food purchases. Farmington Senior Center was awarded a grant of \$9,000, to improve community classes, expand the fitness & wellness center, as well as outdoor seating improvements. Finally, Farmington Community Services received a grant of \$2,500, for the annual holiday program, which provided for 20 families and 30 children.

Due to the risks associated with coronavirus, FCC's annual Farmington Cares Day was once again postponed, but the \$4,000 budgeted for its service projects was redirected to a local family, to make the home handicap accessible, with the addition of a wheelchair ramp.

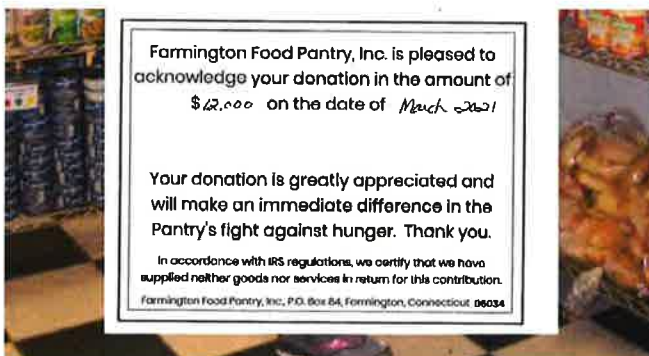


For 90 years, the Farmington Community Chest has supported and strengthened our community. We are proud of our positive impact on the quality of life, for all residents and look forward to growing with our community, as we continue to seek opportunities to financially support our community's evolving needs.

In November, the Farmington Community Chest will start its annual donation drive. Letters will be mailed requesting donations, so that we can continue in our tradition of supporting our local nonprofits, in providing quality services and programs, that directly impact basic human needs, educational programming and community enhancement.

**Please consider donating. Donations can be made on our website at: [www.farmingtoncommunitychest.com](http://www.farmingtoncommunitychest.com), as well as through AmazonSmile, while doing your online shopping this holiday season. Farmington Community Chest is also an option during the United Way Campaign and through employer matching gift programs.**

***This is another wonderful way to show your support for Farmington Community Chest and the many organizations that receive support through FCC. Please join us in strengthening our community!***



MOTION:

Agenda Item N-7

To approve the following property tax refunds.

<b>Name</b>	<b>REASON</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>
CCAP	Assessor adjustment	\$163.15
Acar Leasing	Assessor adjustment	\$832.03
Daigle Realty	Assessor adjustment	\$1,378.27
Goldberg Maurice	Assessor adjustment	\$70.21
Ion Bank	Over Payment	\$5,913.40
Jp Morgan	Assessor adjustment	\$2,314.16
Leblanc Gerald	Over Payment	\$575.00
Lereta	Assessor adjustment	\$2,115.10
Loree James	Assessor adjustment	\$1,164.79
Mary Lansing	Over Payment	\$3,319.20
Nelson Stephen	Over Payment	\$9.00
Northwest Community Bank	Assessor adjustment	\$2,390.66
Oswiecki Brian	Assessor adjustment	\$85.18
Perotti John	Assessor adjustment	\$155.93
Srinivasan Arungam	Assessor adjustment	\$52.06
Stambaugh Thomas	Over Payment	\$556.00
Total	Assessor adjustment	\$21,094.14