



THE FARMINGTON TOWN LETTER

Town Hall, 1 Monteith Drive, Farmington, CT 06032

www.farmington-ct.org

A Note From Our Town Council Chair

"Winter is the season of recovery and preparation." – Paul Theroux

As we do every January, we will now begin the upcoming fiscal year's budget process. Early in this process, the Town Council typically sets budget targets to assist in the creation of the budget. On February 28, 2023, the Town Council will hold a public hearing on the Town Manager's Capital Budget and in March, the Town Council will hold multiple budget meetings to review and make modifications.

On April 3, 2023, a public hearing will be held to discuss the Town Council's financial recommendations and on April 17, 2023, we will hold the Annual Town Meeting to review the budget. The process concludes on April 27, 2023, with the Town referendum vote on the budget. If you're interested in finding out more about the budget process, please visit: <http://bit.ly/3XHkvCF>

As a result of two successful referendums, a new Farmington High School is being constructed adjacent to the existing building. As part of that project, the majority of the existing High School is slated to be demolished in the summer of 2024. The 1928 section of the existing high school is considered a landmark by many residents and visitors to Farmington. For that reason, we conducted a town wide survey in the spring of 2022 to determine if there was support from the community to retain the building. The results of the survey indicated that 77.8% of respondents supported retaining the 1928 Building.

After extensive review of the needed space for the Town, it was determined that Town Hall operations could be moved to the 1928 Building. This would yield greater efficiencies to town residents and staff alike, consolidating the majority of town services to one area. The design plan would accommodate town hall offices, meeting space, record retention storage needs, and a multipurpose recreational facility to meet the need for additional gym space and recreational programs. In addition, One Monteith Drive would become the Town Hall Annex providing space for community use, social service programs, additional town storage and an expanded Regional Probate Court.

If the project is approved by voters at referendum the Town Council determined that federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds would be used. As a result, at the January 24th public meeting, the Council voted to set a total budget of \$16 million dollars, while utilizing \$7 million dollars of ARPA funds, bringing the Net Municipal Cost to a maximum of \$9 million dollars. The Town Council also instructed the 1928 Building Committee to continue to explore potential cost savings. This project is expected to go to a referendum vote in the spring of 2023. To stay current with this project, please visit the project's website at: <https://www.1928building.org/>.

We look forward to engaging with our residents during the budget and the 1928 project discussions. To keep current with both the FY 2023-2024 Municipal Budget and the 1928 Building Project please visit their websites.

We certainly have a busy season ahead and encourage your participation as we work on important projects for our town. Please do not hesitate to contact me at thomascj@farmington-ct.org if you have any questions or concerns.

Be Well,

C.J. Thomas, Town Council Chair

2023 Budget Schedule

Below is the 2023 Town Council meeting schedule for upcoming budget meetings, workshops, Annual Town Meetings and Referendums.

- **February 28, 2023 - Capital Budget Presentation**, 6:00 pm, Town Hall Council Chambers/Zoom
- **March 14, 2023 - Public Hearing on Town Manager's Recommended FY 23-24 Budget**, 7:00 pm, Town Hall Council Chambers/Zoom
- **March 15, 2023 - Town Council Budget Workshop**, 4:00 pm, Town Hall Council Chambers/Zoom
- **March 16, 2023 - Town Council Budget Workshop**, 4:00 pm, Town Hall Council Chambers/Zoom
- **March 18, 2023 - Town Council Budget Workshop**, 9:00 am, Town Hall Council Chambers/Zoom
- **March 20, 2023 - Town Council Budget Workshop (if needed)**, 4:00 pm, Town Hall Council Chambers/Zoom
- **March 21, 2023 - Town Council Budget Workshop (if needed)**, 4:00 pm, Town Hall Council Chambers/Zoom
- **April 3, 2023 - Public Hearing on Town Council's FY 23-24 Proposed Budget**, 7:00 pm, Town Hall Council Chambers/Zoom
- **April 17, 2023 - First Annual Town Meeting**, 7:00 pm, FHS Auditorium/Zoom
- **April 27, 2023 - First Budget Referendum**
- **April 28, 2023 - Town Council Meeting (only if first Referendum fails)**, 4:00 pm, Town Hall Council Chambers/Zoom
- **May 1, 2023 - Second Annual Town Meeting (if needed)**, 7:00 pm, FHS Auditorium/Zoom
- **May 11, 2023 - Second Referendum (if needed)**

From the Office of the Town Clerk, Maureen Frink



Fishing licenses are available in our office, and online at portal.ct.gov/DEEP/Fishing/CT-Fishing.

Fishing season opens on the second Saturday in April, each year. This year, the second Saturday will be **April 8th**.

Absentee Ballots for the Budget Referendum will become available at the Town Clerk's office on **Tuesday, April 18th**. Please note, Absentee Ballots CANNOT be mailed due to time restraints.

The Clerk's Office is open Monday-Friday, 8:30am-4:30pm. You may stop in at any time, or call 860-675-2380 should you need our services. You may also visit our webpage at farmington-ct.org/departments/town-clerk which is full of helpful information.

Town Planning and Zoning Commission News

The Town Plan and Zoning Commission (TPZ) approved a town-wide six-month moratorium on single-family and multi-family residential developments for the purpose of creating a pause to allow the TPZ and staff time to research and discuss regulation options as they relate to Farmington's Affordable Housing Plan.

This is NOT a moratorium on Building Permits. These discussions are taking place during the regularly scheduled TPZ meetings and are noted as Work Session on the TPZ agenda. These work sessions are currently in progress and are being held to review and discuss potential changes to the zoning regulations that would promote the development of more affordable housing options within our community.

Any proposed changes to the regulations as a result of these work sessions will be reviewed through the usual Public Hearing process. We understand that access to affordable housing is a critical issue for many residents, and we want to work together to find solutions that will benefit everyone. The work sessions are open to the public to listen and gain information.

We encourage all interested community members to email Shannon Rutherford (Rutherfords@Farmington-ct.org) or Garrett Daigle (Daigleg@Farmington-ct.org) for more information regarding these discussions or to offer comments regarding this topic.

Stormwater Runoff Pollution: PET WASTE



Pet waste left in our yards and communities can have many adverse effects on the environment, as it is full of harmful bacteria and excess nutrients.

Besides the fact pet waste is a neighborhood nuisance, it can make people sick, especially children who are more likely to come into contact with it while playing. Pet waste left on lawns can also kill or damage grass and other plants. When you fail to clean up after your pet, the poop left on sidewalks and lawns is both unpleasant and a nuisance. But it can become an even bigger problem when it rains and is carried by stormwater into nearby rivers, lakes and streams. When pet waste is washed into lakes or streams, the waste decays, uses up oxygen degrading water quality and affecting fish. It also contains nutrients that encourage weed and algae growth.

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

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



BE THE SOLUTION TO WATER POLLUTION NOTHING BUT RAIN DOWN THE DRAIN.

Improper household waste disposal leads to water pollution, land pollution, air pollution, loss of biodiversity and exposes residents to health risks.

When improperly disposed, chemical wastes find their way into waterbodies through surface runoff and seepage into groundwater. These polluted waters are unsuitable for recreation, consumption as drinking water, agriculture or any other economic activity due to its adverse health effects.

*Additionally, many of us have mercury containing products at home: thermometers, thermostats, fluorescent lights, CFLs, barometers, and electrical switches and relays. It is important that any device containing mercury be disposed of at the **Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event**. Mercury is a heavy metal that can be toxic to humans and wildlife or cause serious neurological or reproductive disorders.*



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

March 25, 2023 - Household Hazardous Waste Collection, Farmington High School, 10 Monteith Drive, Farmington, CT (8:00am-1:00pm)

April 24-28, 2023 - Town-wide bulky waste collection

June 10, 2023 - Household Hazardous Waste Collection, Simsbury Public Works Facility, 66 Town Forest Road, Simsbury, CT (8:00am-1:00pm)

Town-Wide Bulky Waste Collection Service



The next Town-wide bulky waste collection will begin on Monday, April 24, 2023 and will be picked up on your normal trash pickup day during the week of April 24-28, 2023.

During the week of **April 24-28, 2023** all Farmington residents who pay for town trash service, by the Town's contractor (Waste Material Trucking Company) are asked to leave their bulk items curbside **the night before** their regular collection day.

	Acceptable Bulky		Unacceptable Bulky
**Large Furniture			Recyclable materials
**Appliances			Building materials
**Tires and Rims			Lumber/Plywood
**Plumbing Fixtures			Concrete Items
Carpet / Padding			Propane Tanks
Misc. Household Items			Paint (Latex or oil-based)
			TVs, PCs or Laptops
			Fencing

**** 2 Item Per Household Maximum**

For a full list of acceptable and unacceptable items please visit the Town website: www.farmington-ct.org/departments/highway-grounds/bulk-waste-collection

Used Motor Oil Disposal

Effective January 29, 2023, the Town of Farmington Highway Division will begin accepting used motor oil again from Farmington and Unionville residents.

Rules/Regulations:

- Used motor oil will only be accepted from Farmington and Unionville residents.
- Drop off location will be at Farmington Highway & Grounds, located at 544 New Britain Avenue, Unionville, however, you must go to the Highway Office to show a photo ID first. If you own property in Farmington but do not have a Farmington address on your ID, please bring a copy of your tax bill.
- Hours of drop off will be: Monday through Friday, 9am - 12pm (no holidays).
- Motor oil must be dropped off in a sealed container no larger than 5 gallons. We cannot empty your containers, so please be sure to bring your used motor oil in a container that can be left.
- Any motor oil left without prior approval from the Highway Office will be considered illegal dumping and subject to fines. Cameras have been installed in various locations.

2023 Household Hazardous Waste, Electronics, Shredding Collections

The Town of Farmington is happy to announce that we are working with the Towns of Avon, Canton, Granby, Simsbury, and Suffield to provide Household Hazardous Waste Collections.

Collections will run from 8:00am - 1:00pm, and will be open to all residents of Avon, Canton, Farmington, Granby, Simsbury, and Suffield.

2023 Dates and Locations:

March 25, 2023 - Farmington High School
10 Monteith Drive, Farmington, CT

June 10, 2023 - Simsbury Public Works Facility
66 Town Forest Road, Simsbury, CT

October 7, 2023 - Simsbury Public Works Facility
66 Town Forest Road, Simsbury, CT

On the same date and location listed above, there will also be **FREE** collections of:

- Electronics Recycling
- Used Motor Oil
- Personal Document Shredding - until the trucks are full (please limit yourself to 2 boxes)

Any questions or concerns, please contact Farmington Highway & Grounds Division at 860-675-2550.

From the Office of the Town Assessor



Homeowners' Elderly/ Disabled Tax Relief Program

The State of Connecticut is providing a property tax credit program for Connecticut owners in residence of real property, who are elderly (65 and over) or totally disabled, and whose annual incomes do not exceed certain limits.

Credit amounts are based on a graduated income scale. The applicant's 2022 total income must not exceed \$40,300 for unmarried persons, and \$49,100 for a married couple. For married couples, income for both husband and wife must be counted.

The Town of Farmington also provides a local option benefit. Credit amounts are based on a graduated income scale. The income limit for this program is \$61,100 for both single and married homeowners. In addition to the state requirements, the applicant must have been a taxpayer of the Town of Farmington for a period of three years immediately preceding taxpayer's receipt of tax benefits and is not delinquent in the payment of property taxes as of June 30th, the end of the most recent fiscal year.

Applications may be made with the Farmington Assessor's Office between February 1 and May 15th. One application is filled out for both programs.

Applications are available within the Town Assessor's Office, or online at farmington-ct.org/departments/assessor-s-office/forms.

For more information please call 860-675-2370.

Additional Veteran Exemption



The application period for the Additional Veteran Exemption is **February 1-October 1**.

The applicant's 2022 total income must not exceed \$40,300 for unmarried persons, and \$49,100 for a married couple. For married couples, income for both husband and wife must be counted.

Applications are available online on the assessor's page at the Town of Farmington website, or you may call or visit the Assessor's Office to get an application.

Farmington Police Department: School Bus Stop Safety

It's important to always drive safely, but the Farmington Police Department wants to take this opportunity to remind drivers that the winter brings additional challenges for motorists navigating the roads while students are commuting to or from school. One additional challenge to the morning commute is the position of the sun can cause severe sun glare. The sun's position behind a stopped bus can make it difficult to see that the bus is stopped, and children are crossing the road. It is important that motorists decrease their speed, eliminate distractions, and navigate the roadways safely, especially when students are waiting for the bus.

Parents are reminded to monitor students closely as they wait for bus or when they are coming home. Students should not play near the road or be permitted to sit on the road's curbing as it is too close to the travel lane. Students should wear clothing that increases their visibility to passing motorists. Students should wait until the bus and all other traffic has come to a complete stop before entering the roadway.



Motorists are required to stop for any stopped school buses with their red lights flashing, this includes multi-lane roadways like Farmington Ave (RT 4), even when the students are boarding the bus from the same side of road.

Farmington Police Officers are monitoring traffic safety on school bus routes and will stop and ticket drivers who fail to stop for a stopped school bus.

The fine for passing a standing school bus is **\$475** for the first offense and a misdemeanor **summons to court** for a subsequent offense.

For more information, visit the Farmington Police Department website at: farmington-ct.org/departments/police-department.

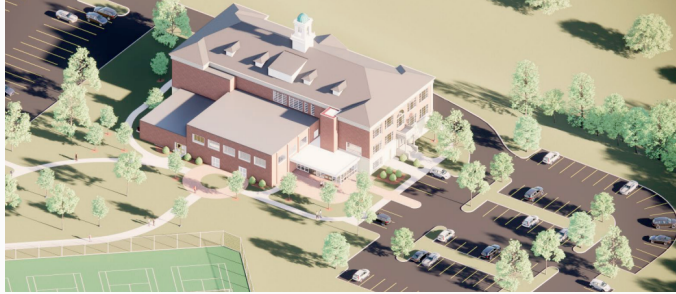
UPCOMING FREE CPR DATES

Wednesday, March 1st from 10am-12pm

Brought to by the Town of Farmington Fire Department. Training sessions will be held in the Yates Room at the **Farmington Police Department, 319 New Britain Ave, Unionville, CT 06085**.

To register, please visit bit.ly/FarmingtonCPR.

1928 Building Update



On January 24, 2023, the 1928 Building Committee, and Project Architect, made a presentation to the Town Council that recommended that the 1928 Building be renovated into a new Town Hall and the existing Town Hall become the Town Hall Annex. They also presented design and cost estimates.

At the meeting, the Town Council agreed to the recommendation and voted to set a total project budget of \$16.0 million. The Council also agreed to use \$7.0 million in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds for the project. This would bring the cost of the project to Farmington taxpayers to \$9.0 million.

The Town Council directed the Building Committee to continue to explore opportunities for potential cost savings and to complete the schematic design in anticipation of a spring 2023 referendum.

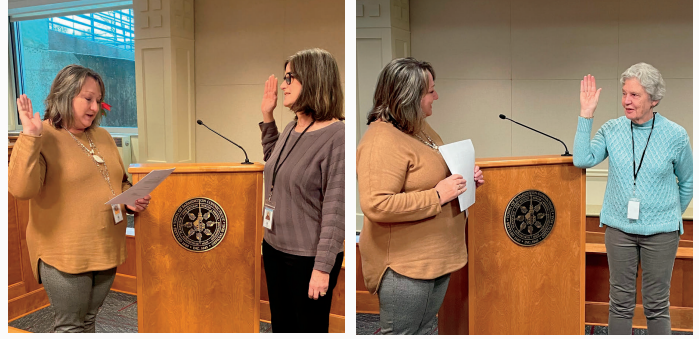
The Town Council discussed that renovating the 1928 section of the existing Farmington High School into town offices will save a landmark building and create badly needed space for town offices and non-profits.

During their discussions, the Town Council determined that this project should be done in conjunction with the new Farmington High School project for several reasons. First, when the existing high school is demolished in the summer of 2024, two of the four walls of the 1928 building will be exposed to outside elements and in need of masonry repairs and restoration. If the Town did not undertake the project in conjunction with the demolition of the existing high school, the Town would need to build temporary wall(s) and make structural modifications which would be costly and would eventually need to be removed for the permanent walls. Second, using the ARPA funds would significantly reduce the cost of this project to Farmington taxpayers but those funds must be committed by December 31, 2024, or the funds must be returned to the Federal government. Lastly, doing this project in conjunction with the new Farmington High School project will result in cost savings and synergies with the site work, utilities, paving and landscaping work. It was determined that if the 1928 building is to be saved; from a financial and structural standpoint, both projects should be done in conjunction with one another.

The 1928 Building Committee usually meets on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month at 4:30pm. Meetings are in person and are streamed over Zoom.

Please visit the Building Committee's website, www.1928building.org, where you'll be able to review meeting minutes and agendas, find project updates and submit comments or questions to the committee. You can also subscribe to receive updates from the committee as well as the "Chair Report", which is available after every 1928 Building Committee meeting.

From the Office of the Registrar of Voters



Left: Beth Kintner, Democratic Registrar of Voters being sworn in
Right: Ann Newbury, Republican Registrar of Voters being sworn in

In January, Farmington's new Registrars of Voters were sworn in. **Beth Kintner (D)** and **Ann Newbury (R)** started their term on January 3rd and have been busy getting settled into their new roles.

In Connecticut, Registrars of Voters:

- Register all voters
- Maintain the lists of active and inactive voters
- Appoint, train, & supervise all poll workers
- Conduct elections/recounts
- Conduct an annual canvass of voters to ensure accuracy of the voter registry

The Registrars' office is open Tuesday, Wednesday, & Thursday from 9am - 2pm. You may reach your Registrar by phone at (860) 675-2367, or by email:

kintnerb@farmington-ct.org,
newburya@farmington-ct.org.

Voter registration is available online and in person.

For new registrations or to make changes, please visit: <https://voterregistration.ct.gov/OLVR/prefix.do> or stop by in-person at Town Hall, Monday through Friday, 8:30am - 4:30pm, either in the Registrars' office or the Town Clerk's office.

If you are interested in working at the polls on a referendum or election day, please contact the Registrars' office!

YOUR COMMUNITY NEEDS YOU!



The Town of Farmington Fire Department is looking for volunteers of all backgrounds and skill sets, to join their ranks. If you're interested, please contact Director of Fire and Rescue Services, Tom Fitzgerald at: fitzgeraldt@farmington-ct.org.

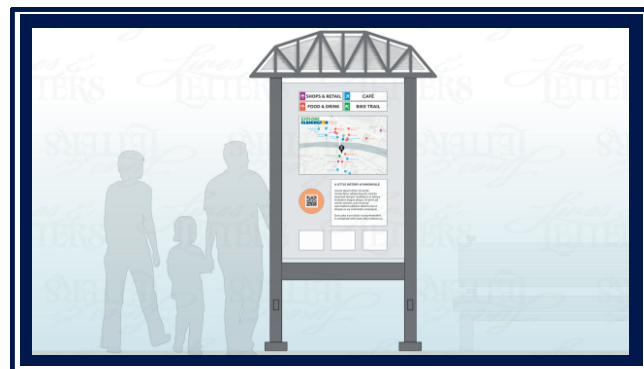


THE FARMINGTON TOWN LETTER

Town Hall, Farmington, CT 06032-1053
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Economic Development News



One of the Town's greatest outdoor assets are the many trails found throughout Unionville and Farmington, used year-round by both visitors and residents alike.

Based on several recommendations from the Bicycle Advisory Committee, we embarked on a project to add directional signage and amenities to further enhance the trail user's experience and guide trails users to the many amenities found in Unionville Center.

Last May, the Town was awarded an AARP Communities Challenge Grant to fund the installation of two directional signs at the Trail intersection on Route 177. In addition to the directional signs, the grant, along with a sponsorship from Ion Bank, funded additional amenities to be installed at the pocket-park on the corner of Route 177 and New Britain Avenue. Amenities include two benches, a bike rack, and an informational kiosk. The kiosk will include a map of Unionville Center, with historical context of the area. A QR code will be installed on the kiosk so users can access an interactive "You are Here Map" as well as various Unionville Historic Walking Tours on their phone.

Visitors and residents will be excited to find so many options to shop, eat, drink, and experience near the trails in Unionville Center. Watch for details about the Pocket-Park's 2023 Spring Ribbon Cutting.

FHS Building Committee Update



The continued challenges of our economic environment resulted in bids coming in 5% higher than expected due to the increased cost of labor and materials.

As a result, a town-wide referendum was held on December 8, 2022, and taxpayers approved an additional \$9.7M appropriation for the FHS Building Project. This additional appropriation is offset by the increased reimbursement rate from the State of Connecticut (approximately \$14.4M) and enables the committee to cover the construction budget overage and add prioritized items that were previously cut back into the project.

Sitework excavation, backfill activities, and concrete placements for foundation footings and walls began in December of 2022. Steel installation activities began in February, and a "Topping Off" ceremony is being planned for the Spring, where individuals will have an opportunity to sign the final beam before it is placed.

The FHS Building Committee continues to meet every other Wednesday, at 5:00pm.

Please visit fhsbuildingproject.org for meeting information and project updates.



EXPLORE FARMINGTON

Explore Farmington your way!
Subscribe to our bi-weekly event emails for business and community updates, and more!

@ExploreFarmington
www.explorefarmington.com