



THE FARMINGTON TOWN LETTER

Town Hall, 1 Monteith Drive, Farmington, CT 06032
www.farmington-ct.org

A Note From Our Town Council Chair

"Summertime is always the best of what might be." - Charles Bowden

The summer season appears to be in full force; the Community and Recreational Services' concert series has begun, the Kolp Community Garden program is well underway, and Westwoods Golf Course is in full swing.

In April, the Town Budget, the 1928 Building Project, and Road Reconstruction Bonds all passed at referendum by a 2 to 1 margin. This was a particularly difficult budget process due to the state-mandated revaluation. I would like to thank the voters for approving the retention and renovation of the 1928 Building. This historic building will serve as an excellent Town Hall for generations to come.

If you've been to the municipal campus recently, I'm sure you've noticed the incredible progress being made on the construction of the new high school. In May, the Farmington High School Building Committee hosted a "Topping Off" Ceremony, where a ceremonial steel beam was placed to symbolize the completion of the structural phase of the project. Over the summer, the widening of Monteith Drive and installation of underground utilities will be completed. The project remains on schedule and on budget.

The Economic Development Commission recently hosted a ribbon cutting ceremony to display the Unionville Pocket Park, which includes newly installed bike racks, benches, and wayfinding signage to local trails, restaurants, and businesses around Unionville.

On behalf of the Town Council, I want to congratulate the Farmington High School Class of 2023 and their families. Fortunately, the weather was perfect for the graduation ceremony.

Finally, I hope everyone is able to enjoy the outdoors this summer by taking advantage of our parks, Rails-to-Trails and waterfront. When doing so, please be mindful of waste. Carry out what you bring in and pick up what others have forgotten.

Thank you and be well,

C.J. Thomas, Town Council Chair



FHS Building Committee Update



The FHS Building Committee celebrated the ceremonial end to the structural steel phase of the new FHS at the "Topping Off" Ceremony on May 13th. This was an opportunity for State Representatives, the Town Council, the Board of Education, the school district, and the community to recognize the progress on the project to date while reflecting on the exciting opportunities this state-of-the-art structure will provide for learning and community engagement in the future. This event represented the first introduction of the building to the public and set the stage for an exciting ribbon-cutting ceremony upon the building's completion.

Upcoming work:

The widening of Monteith Drive and installation of underground utilities, including power, data, water, and gas from Route 4, will be completed during the Summer of 2023. On the interior, classroom wings will receive interior walls and all mechanical rough ins (electrical, plumbing, and HVAC) while brick and exterior windows and glass entryways are installed. In other areas like the gym, cafeteria, and auditorium, builders will be completing the concrete slab on the deck, roofing, and exterior walls.

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

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

Farmington Police Department: The Dog Days of Summer



Officer Kyle Mortensen and **K-9 Ozzy** have been partnered together since September of 2020 and working patrol since Ozzy was certified in January of 2021 through the North American Police Work Dog Association. K-9 Ozzy is Officer Mortensen's second K-9 partner as he was originally partnered with K-9 Ryker from 2014-2019. K-9 Ozzy is a three-year-old Belgian Malinois originally from the Czech Republic. He is a dual-purpose police K-9 capable of patrol related duties such as suspect and missing person tracking, building searches, evidence recovery, suspect apprehension, and handler protection. K-9 Ozzy is also certified in locating narcotics and is trained to find heroin, fentanyl, cocaine, and methamphetamine. K-9 Ozzy and Officer Mortensen are currently assigned to the patrol division and respond to calls for service in addition to responding to specific calls where K-9 Ozzy's unique skill set is needed. In addition to the more than 700 hours spent in their initial K-9 academy training, the pair spends 16 hours a month training with the Capital Region K-9 training group and routinely train during their patrol shifts when time allows.

Since beginning their partnership together, the pair have had several successful deployments perhaps most notably, last August when K-9 Ozzy was deployed to apprehend a suspect that had several outstanding arrest warrants for numerous charges including assault on police officers. The suspect engaged officers in a motor vehicle pursuit before bailing out on foot and quickly being taken down by K-9 Ozzy. In May of 2023, K-9 Ozzy apprehended a suspect who had attempted to flee from police in a stolen motor vehicle. Ozzy located the suspect a short time later in a wooded area nearby. Officer Mortensen and K-9 Ozzy will be participating in their third annual Dream Ride K-9 Challenge on August 26th at the Farmington Polo Club. K-9 Ozzy took first place in the obstacle course last year.

K-9 Nash was born in January of 2022 and trained by Puppies Behind Bars, a non-profit organization that trains incarcerated individuals to raise puppies as service dogs for first responders and war veterans, as well as explosive detection canines for law enforcement. K-9 Nash was trained as a service dog with approximately 90 commands. Around half of these commands are used by his handler, **Officer Anthony Ruggiero** to assist with Officer wellness, victim services, and community relations. K-9 Nash and Officer Ruggiero were paired together in February of 2023 and are assigned to the youth division as School Resource Officers. K-9 Nash has quickly made a huge impact in all the schools in town. K-9 Nash puts smiles on the faces of students and faculty as soon as they see him. Since he is working in a comfort dog capacity, he is allowed to be petted and he receives hundreds of pets at work daily.

When K-9 Nash is not on duty he loves playing fetch, hiking, swimming, and playing with other dogs. His favorite time of the day is when he meets up with his buddy and fellow Farmington Officer, K-9 Ozzy. Despite their very different personalities and vastly different job duties, K-9 Ozzy and K-9 Nash have already developed a great bond and recently marched side by side in the Farmington Memorial Day parade. The two routinely socialize at the police department or various locations around town. They enjoy chasing the ball together or just chasing each other around. Each K-9 serves a unique but essential role for the Farmington Police Department and get along seamlessly while doing so.

Farmington Volunteer Fire Department



The Town of Farmington Fire Department is looking for volunteers of all backgrounds and skill sets, to join their ranks. Those interested are asked to contact Director of Fire and Rescue Services, Tom Fitzgerald at fitzgeraldt@farmington-ct.org.

UPCOMING FREE CPR DATES

Wednesday, September 6th from 7 PM - 9 PM
Wednesday, December 6th from 10 AM -12 PM

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.

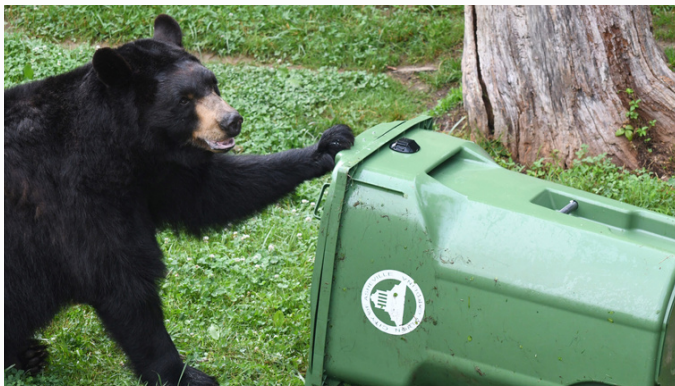


MARK YOUR CALENDAR

October 7, 2023 - Household Hazardous Waste Collection, Simsbury Public Works Facility, 66 Town Forest Road, Simsbury, CT (8:00am-1:00pm)

October 16-20, 2023 - Town-Wide Bulky Waste Collection

Bears, Trash & Recycling



In New England, the bears and other wild animals are something that we all have to deal with on a daily basis, however, we cannot work around their schedule for trash and recycling pickups.

The trash and recycling trucks start as early as 5 a.m. so carts must be at the curbside prior to 5 a.m. (or the night before your normal pickup day) or you run the risk of missing your pickup and will have to wait until your next scheduled pickup day.

Some helpful reminders:

- Always bag trash to keep trash cart clean and allow trash to flow out freely. Break down larger items so they don't get hung up in the trash cart.
- Wash/clean regularly with ammonia or disinfectant cleaner to deter animals. Febreze or Airwick stick-ups can also be placed under the lid to help deter animals.
- Carts should be placed within 6 feet of curb, 4 feet away from other objects, and with the front of the cart facing the street. Do not place carts in the roadway.
- Do not overstuff carts - lids must be closed. Please cut recyclable boxes to fit into the recycling cart allowing lid to close.
- No grass clippings, branches, or lawn debris.
- Do not leave anything on the side of the carts - only items **inside** the cart will be picked up.
- No bulk items, construction debris, hazardous items, or flammable materials in cart.
- No plastic bags, soiled pizza boxes, styrofoam, or other foam plastics in the recycling cart.

For trash and recycling collection routes, and recycling week A and B street listings, please visit:
www.farmington-ct.org/departments/highway-grounds/trash-and-recycling

Town-Wide Bulky Waste Collection Service



The next Town-wide bulky waste collection will begin on Monday, October 16, 2023 and will be picked up on your normal trash pickup day during the week of October 16th-20th.

During the week of **October 16-20** 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

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.

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)

Town Planning and Zoning Commission News

The Capital Region Council of Governments (CROCOG) is the regional planning organization for the 38 Towns that comprise the Greater Hartford Region, including Farmington and many of our neighboring valley communities. CROCOG is beginning work on the 2024-2034 Regional Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD), which will help guide plans and policies for the next 10 years, including guiding Farmington's POCD update around 2028. CROCOG is currently seeking input from residents to understand how people feel about their individual communities and the region as a whole. The survey can be accessed by scanning the QR Code below and will run through the end of July.



10 Ways to Prevent Stormwater Runoff Pollution

- Use fertilizers sparingly and sweep up driveways, sidewalks, and gutters
- Never dump anything down storm drains or in streams
- Vegetate bare spots in your yard
- Compost your yard waste
- Use least toxic pesticides, follow labels, and learn how to prevent pest problems
- Direct downspouts away from paved surfaces; consider a rain garden to capture runoff
- Take your car to the car wash instead of washing it in the driveway
- Check your car for leaks and recycle your motor oil
- Pick up after your pet
- Have your septic tank pumped and system inspected regularly

Historic District Property Owner Reminder



Considering updating or changing exterior features of your home or property? Please reach out to the Planning Division at 860-675-2325 to determine if a Certificate of Appropriateness is required.

From the Office of the Town Assessor



Additional Veteran State & Local Benefits

The application period for the additional veteran property tax 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.

From the Office of the Town Clerk, Maureen Frink



Dog licensing is held in June each year. You may stop into the Clerk's office with your payment or mail it in anytime in June. There is a \$1.00 late fee monthly thereafter (envelopes must be postmarked by June 30, 2023 to avoid the penalty). Altered dogs cost \$8.00 and unaltered dogs cost \$19.00. Proof of surgery is required upon initial licensing. Updated Rabies certificate may be required as well.

Election day is on Tuesday November 7, 2023 from 6:00 a.m. through 8:00 p.m.

Absentee Ballots will become available on **Friday, October 6, 2023**.

To vote by absentee ballot, you must first complete an application for the ballot. You may obtain the application by any of the following methods:



- **At the Town Clerk's office**
- **By calling the clerk's office (860-675-2380)**
- **By emailing (frinkm@farmington-ct.org)**
- **From the Town of Farmington website www.farmington-ct.org under the department of the Town Clerk**

The last day for Veterans to file his/her DD214 at the Clerk's office to receive a tax exemption effective for the following year must be filed prior to **September 30, 2023**.

Farmington Bicycle Advisory Committee: Share the Road



The Town of Farmington Bicycle Advisory Committee would like to remind everyone of the State of Connecticut Law requiring motorists to allow at least three feet of separation when overtaking and passing a cyclist.

- Drive Cautiously
- Reduce speed when encountering cyclists
- Don't tailgate, especially in bad weather
- Recognize hazards cyclists may face and give them space
- Pass with care. Keep at least 3 feet of space between your vehicle and a cyclist. It's the law.

• You may cross the center line to pass a cyclist if it's safe. Vehicles may overtake and pass pedestrians, bicycles, and other obstacles even in a marked no-passing zone, provided such overtaking and passing may be conducted safely, with adequate sight distance and without interfering with oncoming traffic.

From the Office of the Registrar of Voters

The Registrar of Voters office is open Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. You may reach your Registrar by phone at (860) 675-2367, or by email:

(D) kintnerb@farmington-ct.org
(R) newburya@farmington-ct.org

Voter registration is available both 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, 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., either in the Registrars' office or the Town Clerk's office.

Those interested in working at the polls on a referendum or election day, should contact the Registrars' office.

1928 Building Update



On April 27, 2023, Farmington voters approved the appropriation of \$16,000,000 (an anticipated net project cost of \$9,000,000) for the renovation of the 1928 Building to become the Farmington Town Hall. The project was approved at referendum by a 2:1 margin. Thank you to the Farmington voters for your support of this exciting project!

The Committee will continue through the design development phase this summer through the Fall of 2023. After that phase is complete, the construction documents phase will begin and last through the winter. Bidding is anticipated to occur by next Spring (2024) and once a General Contractor is selected, construction will begin in the Summer of 2024 and be complete in the Spring of 2025. The 1928 Building Committee will continue to work directly with the Farmington High School Building Committee as these projects will run concurrently through 2025.

We encourage everyone to stay informed on the progress of the 1928 Building Project. Please visit the project website at www.1928building.org.

From the Office of the Tax Collector

The first installment of real estate and business/personal property taxes is due July 1st and payable no later than the first business day of August.

Motor vehicle taxes and special service charges (waste collection and/or sewer usage) are due July 1st and are payable in full no later than the first business day in August.

To avoid a penalty, payment for the first installment must be postmarked, hand delivered or paid online by the first business day of August.

Payments made after the first business day of August will incur interest at the rate of 1.5% per month calculated back to the July 1st due date (interest charge in August is 3%; 1.5% for July, 1.5% for August).

The Tax Office is open M-F, from 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.



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In Partnership With:



THE FARMINGTON LIBRARIES



OSG INDUSTRIES, INC.



A Division of Northwest Community Bank



2023 Summer Concert Series

June 22 **MASS-CONN-FUSION**

Strawberry Festival Motown and R&B

June 29 **LOCOMOTION**

Ice Cream Social Hits For All Ages

July 6 **NIGHT SHIFT**

Firefighter's Carnival 60s, 70s & 80s Hits

July 13 **CENTERLINE**

Rock & Roll, Country, Blues

July 20 **WEDNESDAY BOWLING LEAGUE**

50s & 60s Hits

July 27 **BALL IN THE HOUSE**

R&B, Soul, Pop A Capella

Aug 3 **CHANGES IN LATITUDES**

Premier Jimmy Buffet Tribute Show

Aug 10 **SIDEWAYS**

Country Music

Aug 17 **RAVE ON**

50s, 60s, Rock & Roll

Aug 20 **POSTPONED PALOOZA**

Save this date for rescheduled shows!

Aug 24 **STEVE ELCI & FRIENDS**

Family Show

Music & Entertainment for the Whole Family

THURSDAY NIGHTS

June 22 - Aug 24

6:30 - 8:30PM

Town Hall Complex
2 Monteith Drive
Farmington

Food Available for purchase
Farmington CERT Truck on site July 13, 20 & 27

August will feature a variety of vendors announced weekly



EXPLORE FARMINGTON

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

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www.explorefarmington.com