



# THE FARMINGTON TOWN LETTER

Town Hall, 1 Monteith Drive, Farmington, CT 06032  
[www.farmington-ct.org](http://www.farmington-ct.org)

## A Note From Our Town Council Chair

On January 2, 2024, I was sworn in as the new Town Council Chair. Six other members of the Town Council were sworn in that evening as well. I am sure that I speak for each member of the Council in saying thank you for putting your trust in us and we will do our best to earn it over the next two years.

We are hitting the ground running in January with a review and update of the 2024-2026 Strategic Plan. The Strategic Plan is a living document intended to be modified, amended, and updated to reflect the needs and interest of our community. It is our guide to the decisions and actions we will make throughout our term. The Strategic Plan can be found at: <https://www.farmington-ct.org/government/town-council/town-council-document-central>. On behalf of the Town Council, I encourage your thoughts, comments, and participation at our Town Council meetings this January. The agenda schedule can be found at <https://www.farmington-ct.org/government/town-council>.

I encourage you to stay informed and involved during this year's budget process, particularly during the Annual Town Meeting on April 15, 2024 and the Referendum Vote on April 25, 2024. Although the vote is months away, Town Council budget meetings begin on February 27, 2024, with a public hearing on the Town Manager's Capital Budget. In this newsletter, you will see a complete budget schedule. I speak for the entire Town Council in saying that we welcome your input and hope that you will actively participate in the budgetary process.

As many of you know, we have two large infrastructure projects taking place. The first is the construction of a new High School and the second is the renovation of the 1928 portion of the existing High School into the new Town Hall. I am pleased to report that both projects are moving along according to schedule. Information regarding both projects can be found on their respective websites: [www.FHSBuildingProject.org](http://www.FHSBuildingProject.org) and [www.1928building.org](http://www.1928building.org).

Please take the time to review this newsletter for more relevant information affecting the Town and you, as residents. In addition, if you are considering volunteer service for our Town, please visit the "Job/Volunteer Openings" page found on the Town's homepage - [www.farmington-ct.org](http://www.farmington-ct.org).

I look forward to serving the Town of Farmington as Chair for the next two years. Please do not hesitate to contact me at [Capodiferroj@Farmington-ct.org](mailto:Capodiferroj@Farmington-ct.org) if you have any questions.

**Joe Capodiferro**

Town Council Chair

## 2024 Budget Schedule

Below is the 2024 Town Council meeting schedule for upcoming budget meetings, workshops, Annual Town Meetings and Referendums.

- **February 27, 2024 - Capital Budget Presentation**, 6:00 pm, Town Hall Council Chambers/Zoom
- **March 12, 2024 - Public Hearing on Town Manager's Recommended FY 24-25 Budget**, 7:00 pm, Town Hall Council Chambers/Zoom
- **March 13, 2024 - Town Council Budget Workshop**, 4:00 pm, Town Hall Council Chambers/Zoom
- **March 14, 2024 - Town Council Budget Workshop**, 4:00 pm, Town Hall Council Chambers/Zoom
- **March 16, 2024 - Town Council Budget Workshop**, 9:00 am, Town Hall Council Chambers/Zoom
- **March 18, 2024 - Town Council Budget Workshop (if needed)**, 4:00 pm, Town Hall Council Chambers/Zoom
- **March 19, 2024 - Town Council Budget Workshop (if needed)**, 4:00 pm, Town Hall Council Chambers/Zoom
- **April 1, 2024 - Public Hearing on Town Council's FY 24-25 Proposed Budget**, 7:00 pm, Town Hall Council Chambers/Zoom
- **April 15, 2024 - First Annual Town Meeting**, 7:00 pm, FHS Auditorium/Zoom
- **April 25, 2024 - First Referendum**
- **April 26, 2024 - Town Council Meeting (only if first Referendum fails)**, 4:00 pm, Town Hall Council Chambers/Zoom
- **April 29, 2024 - Second Annual Town Meeting (if needed)**, 7:00 pm, FHS Auditorium/Zoom
- **May 9, 2024 - Second Referendum (if needed)**

## Mailbox Survival

Snow thrown against a mailbox is often sufficient to cause damage to a less than perfect installation. Moisture content of the snow varies between storms, the higher the moisture content, the heavier the snow will be. This snow, mixed with the snowmelt caused by salt and traffic, may be ten-times as heavy.

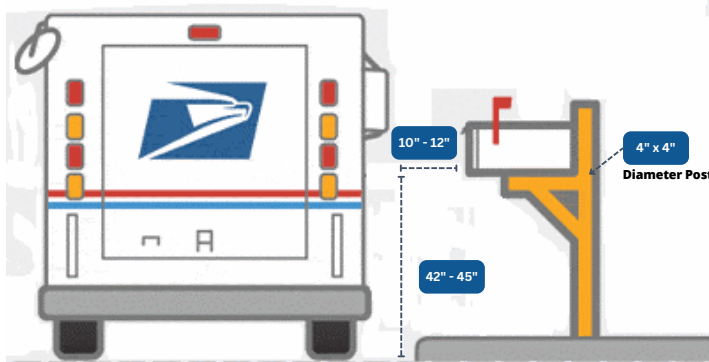
### Help Us Help You:

Inspect your mailbox post for age, cracks, dry rot, and deterioration at the bottom where the post goes into the ground. Posts with cracks, dry rot, or deterioration at the bottom are likely to fail when wet snow from the snowplow trucks hits them.

Keep in mind that the larger the mailbox, the more square inches of area is exposed to the force of the snow. A larger, sturdier post and mount are needed to support the load. Decorative posts turned on a lathe to make them round in places reduce the strength of the post. They will not withstand the twisting torque motion causing a split along the grain of the wood starting at the support arm or at one of the narrowest points.

Heavy snow coming off the plow blade will often knock over and damage mailboxes that haven't been adequately mounted or braced; or those mailboxes whose doors have been left open. Also private contractors, homeowners clearing snow, errant motorists, etc., damage mailboxes. The Town will not compensate for mailboxes in these situations.

Mailboxes are to be installed 42" to 45" above the gutter line and 10" to 12" behind the edge of the road or face of curb, allowing the plow to clear snow to the road edge. The Town will not be responsible for additional paper boxes or decorations placed or installed below the required mailbox height.



The Town will compensate for a damaged mailbox when the Director of Public Works, or his designee, determines that a plow physically hit the mailbox. This determination is made by observation of cut marks, paint off the plow blade, etc. In the event a mailbox or post is physically struck by the Town Highway Department snow plow/truck, it will be repaired or replaced, only if the mailbox was installed properly. The repair or replacement by the Highway Department will be with a standard Post Office-approved mailbox and/or a pretreated 4" x 4" square wooden post. No mailbox or post will be repaired or replaced if the force of snow thrown by plows caused damage.

## Farmington Police: Winter Driving Tips

As the winter months bring unpredictable weather, the Farmington Police Department wants to share these essential tips for safe traveling through snowy and icy conditions.



**1. Slow Down:** Icy roads demand reduced speeds. Allow for extended braking distances.

**2. Clear Your Vehicle:** Before driving, clear your vehicle completely of snow and ice to enhance visibility and prevent hazards. State law requires that operators remove any accumulated ice or snow from such motor vehicle, including the hood, trunk, and roof of such motor vehicle, so that any ice or snow accumulated on such vehicle does not pose a threat to persons or property while the vehicle is being operated on any street or highway of this state. The fine for failing to do so is \$120. Be sure to clear ALL of the snow from your vehicle including the roof!

**3. Winter Tires:** Consider investing in winter tires for improved traction on slippery roads.

**4. Maintain Distance:** Keep a safe following distance to account for unexpected stops and slides.

**5. Use Headlights:** Increase visibility by turning on your headlights, even during daylight hours.

**Farmington Police Officers are monitoring the roads for traffic safety and will stop and ticket those not in compliance.**



Town of Farmington ordinance 169-27 requires that the owner of any building or land bordering upon any street or public place within the Town where there is a paved sidewalk shall clear the sidewalks of all snow and ice within 24 hours after the snow or ice condition was established. Failing to do so can result in a fine of up to \$100. A supply of sand/salt mix is available at the Highway Garage and each firehouse.

By adhering to these tips and respecting Connecticut General Statutes and Town Ordinances, drivers and pedestrians can contribute to safer road conditions during the winter months.



# MARK YOUR CALENDAR

**April 20, 2024 - Household Hazardous Waste Collection**, Farmington High School, 10 Monteith Drive, Farmington, CT (8:00am-1:00pm)

**April 22-26, 2024 - Town-wide bulky waste collection**

**June 8, 2024 - 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 22, 2024 and will be picked up on your normal trash pickup day during the week of April 22-26, 2024.

During the week of **April 22-26, 2024** all Farmington residents who pay for town trash service, by the Town's contractor (Waste Material Trucking Company) are invited to leave their bulk items curbside the night before their regular collection day. Separate bulk trucks will pick up tires; appliances and metal items; and clean/dry mattresses and boxsprings. These items should be separated from regular bulk items and four feet (4') from the Town of Farmington approved Trash and Recycling Carts. Small bulk items should be bundled, boxed or bagged. Tires should be removed from their rims. The weight for all acceptable items is limited to the manual lifting by two persons. Six feet (6') is the maximum length.

✓ 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
<b>** 2 Item Per Household Maximum</b>	Fencing

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

## Tunxis Mead Compost Area

Tunxis Mead is open year-round Wednesdays from 8:00AM-Noon, weather permitting. Gate closes promptly at 12:00PM.

April 6, 2024 will be the opening day for Saturdays, weather permitting.

Residents may bring brush, leaves, and pallets to the Compost Area at no charge. Also allowed: clean lumber and plywood (NO pressure-treated, stained, or painted wood). This material is ground up to make bark mulch. Stumps and grass clippings are not allowed. A photo I.D. showing your Farmington address is required.

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

**Residential Tickets are available for purchase at the Highway & Grounds Division of Public Works, located at 544 New Britain Ave, Monday-Friday 8:00AM-4:00PM**

- Passenger Vehicles .....1 Ticket per Load = \$8.50
- Small Trailer (towed) .....2 Tickets per Load = \$17.00
- Van/pickup under 3/4 ton.....3 Tickets per Load = \$25.50

## 2024 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.

### 2024 Dates and Locations:

**April 20, 2024 - Farmington High School**  
10 Monteith Drive, Farmington, CT

**June 8, 2024 - Simsbury Public Works Facility**  
66 Town Forest Road, Simsbury, CT

**October 19, 2024 - 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.**

# Recycling 101



We all have those items lying around the house that we aren't sure how to dispose of... *Can I recycle it? Can it go in the trash? Is there a special disposal process?*

CT DEEP has a great website to help answer these questions: <https://bit.ly/DEEPrecycling101>

Or simply type: 'CT DEEP What do I do with' into your search engine and the website will be the top option. It provides helpful, up to date information on how to dispose of any household item.

Dispose of all items properly to avoid water, land, and air contamination.

## Simple Recycling is no longer servicing CT

Effective December 1, 2023 Simple Recycling has discontinued services in Connecticut.

Residents looking to donate gently used clothing and household goods should consider local options such as:

**Salvation Army, Big Brothers Big Sisters, Goodwill or Savers**

# Fire & Rescue Services



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](mailto:fitzgeraldt@farmington-ct.org).



## UPCOMING FREE CPR DATES

**Wednesday, March 6 from 10am-12pm**

Brought to you 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](https://bit.ly/FarmingtonCPR).

# Only Rain Down the Drain

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

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

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

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

## WAYS YOU CAN PREVENT STORMWATER RUNOFF POLLUTION

- 1. Never dump anything down the storm drains.** Homeowners should be aware of any illicit connections or discharges they may have to the storm drain system. Any pollutants that enter the storm drains will be washed into nearby wells, storm drains, streams and lakes, and rivers
- 2. Take your car to the car wash,** where wash water is filtered and recycled, instead of washing it in the driveway. If you must wash at home, wash your car on a grass or gravel surface and use a small amount of soap.
- 3. Check and/or repair fluid leaks** in your cars and recycle motor oil and other automotive fluids.
- 4. Dispose of paint and items from other household improvement projects appropriately**

Disposal Resources:

- <https://www.farmington-ct.org/departments/highway-grounds/household-hazardous-waste>
- <https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP/Waste-Management-and-Disposal/What-Do-I-Do-With>

**Any questions or concerns, please contact the Planning Division at 860-675-2325 or [stormwater@farmington-ct.org](mailto:stormwater@farmington-ct.org)**

<https://www.farmington-ct.org/departments/engineering/stormwater>

# From the Office of the Town Clerk, Maureen Frink

## UPCOMING IMPORTANT DATES:

**Tuesday, April 2, 2024** - Presidential Primary

*Early voting will be held. More information will be available on the Town's website in the coming months.*

**Monday, April 15, 2024** - First Annual Town Meeting

**Tuesday, April 16, 2024** - Absentee Ballots become available at the Town Clerk's Office.

*Absentee ballots CANNOT be mailed due to time restraints*

**Thursday, April 25, 2024** - First Town Referendum

**Monday, April 29, 2024** - Second Town Meeting, *if needed*

**Thursday, May 9, 2024** - Second Town Referendum, *if needed*

### Fishing Licenses

Fishing licenses are available in our office, and online at [portal.ct.gov/deep/fishing/ct-fishing](https://portal.ct.gov/deep/fishing/ct-fishing).

Opening day is Saturday in April 13, 2024.



## Green Efforts Committee



In the spring of 2023, 5th grade students at West Woods Upper Elementary collaborated with the Farmington Green Efforts Committee to create signs to be placed at Farmington Public Schools to raise awareness around the DEEP regulations for idling of vehicles and school busses. Students designed posters, which were reviewed by a panelist made of Green Efforts Committee Members, elected officials, and Town Staff. Out of all the submissions, eight finalists were selected and made into metal signs. The signs were installed over the summer at all Farmington Public Schools, except the high school due to ongoing construction.

**The DEEP regulations limit the idling of vehicles and school busses to no more than three minutes, except under the following circumstances:**

- While stuck in traffic
- Defrosting, heating and cooling equipment to ensure the safety and/or health of the driver and passengers
- Auxiliary equipment such as refrigeration units, pumps or lifts
- While undergoing maintenance
- In order to reach the manufacturer's recommended operating temperature
- While the ambient temperature is less than 20 Degrees Fahrenheit

# News from the Farmington Libraries



## THE FARMINGTON LIBRARIES

**Sunday Hours** begin at the Main Library on January 2. January through March, the main library is open most Sunday afternoons from 1 – 4 PM. Visit our website for information on our winter programming, with special Sunday events each month. The Main Library closes at 8 PM Monday – Thursday.

**Mark your calendars!** Our annual Maker Fair will be at the Main Library on Sunday March 24th. We will have demonstrations, hands-on activities, vendors, and treats throughout the afternoon. Come explore all the Farmington Libraries have to offer while building, learning, and exploring with your neighbors.

You can find more information about library programming, new books, hours, and locations on our website.

We look forward to seeing you soon at the libraries!

## Services for the Elderly of Farmington Inc.



Services for the Elderly is a Nonprofit, 501(c)3 Organization separate from the Town of Farmington. We were established in 1965 by two Farmington women, Hope Emery and Dorothy Sinclair, who saw the need to help seniors in the community. The organization is designed to complement the wonderful programs provided by the Town of Farmington. Our programs are designed to help our fellow citizens remain connected to the community while remaining at home. Through our over 120 volunteers and our two dedicated staff members, we provide such services as Meals on Wheels, twice weekly Congregate Meals at the Senior Center, Friendly Shopping, Medical Transportation, A "Forget Me Not Program" and a Medical Equipment Program that makes medical equipment available to people of all ages.

If you wish to volunteer your time, talent or resources they will be most welcome.

**Services for the Elderly of Farmington, Inc.**  
321 New Britain Avenue, Unionville, Ct 06085  
860-673-1441 [services@farmingtonseniors.org](mailto:services@farmingtonseniors.org)



# THE FARMINGTON TOWN LETTER

Town Hall, Farmington, CT 06032-1053

[www.farmington-ct.org](http://www.farmington-ct.org)

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## FHS Building Committee Updates



The FHS Building Project continues to make significant progress on the municipal campus and the new building. On the site, the widening of Monteith (Town Hall Side and Center Islands) is nearing completion. The installation of underground utilities, including power, water, and gas from Route 4 running up Monteith, is complete. On the new high school building exterior, brick masonry and roofing work is complete, with roof metal panel siding in progress. Window installation is progressing around the building towards the gymnasium and will continue to the Auditorium and main entrance side of the school. The interior wall and door framing and mechanical, electrical, and plumbing work are underway inside the building. Interior masonry work is in full progress, and interior finish work is occurring in the classroom wings.

The Farmington High School Building Committee remains committed to delivering a project on time and within budget. We are at the one-year construction mark for the new building, and to date have not experienced any significant cost or schedule impacts.

As always, we appreciate your continued engagement with this important community project.

## 1928 Building Updates

The 1928 Building Project recently completed the design development phase, this represents a significant milestone in the process towards transforming the 1928 Building into the Farmington Town Hall.

After the design development phase is completed, the Project Architect will begin the construction document phase which is the last step in the design process before putting the project out to bid. Bidding is likely to occur in the Spring of 2024, and a General Contractor will be brought onboard to begin construction. It is anticipated that construction will begin in the Summer of 2024 and will be completed in the Spring of 2025.

We encourage you to stay informed. Please visit [www.1928building.org](http://www.1928building.org) for the latest project updates.



Please join us for a Retirement Party honoring **Town Council Chair, C.J. Thomas**  
Jan. 19, 2024 - 5:30 p.m. - Farmington Gardens  
tickets & info at: [www.farmington-ct.org](http://www.farmington-ct.org)  
or call the Town Manager's Office 860-675-2350  
A portion of each ticket will go to the Farmington Fuel Bank.



# 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](http://www.explorefarmington.com)