



THE FARMINGTON TOWN LETTER

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

A Note From Our Town Council Chair

On Monday, August 26th the doors to the new Farmington High School were opened to the public for the first time for a ribbon cutting ceremony and open house, marking a significant milestone in the Farmington High School building project. With students now occupying the new school, the FHS Building project will move onto Phase III which includes renovation of the 900 wing of the former Farmington High School and demolition of the remaining building. Phase IV, the final phase, will include site work of the municipal campus.

Residents who were unable to attend the ribbon cutting and open house will have the opportunity to participate in guided tours of the new facility on Saturday, October 26th from 9AM-3PM. Registration for tours will be required and will be limited to 20 individuals per tour group. For more information about the Farmington High School Project's progress and timeline, and to register for a tour on October 26th, please visit: <https://fhsbuildingproject.org/>.

I'd like to thank our Public Works Department for their hard work throughout the Spring and Summer months, overseeing paving and construction projects to improve Farmington's infrastructure. With Fall here now, they'll be shifting their focus to Fall leaf collections. The first round of Fall leaf collections is slated to begin October 28, 2024. A collection of all the Town's public streets will be completed at least twice, weather permitting.

While on the subject of Fall cleaning, our bi-annual Bulky Waste Collection will be taking place October 14 -18, 2024. Please refer to page three in this newsletter for more information and visit the Highway Department webpage for a full-list of acceptable items.

Keep in mind that Tuesday, November 5th is election day. I encourage all eligible residents to get out and exercise your right to vote. Page two of this newsletter contains information regarding this year's voting process.

Let's take this time to appreciate our beautiful surroundings, participate in outdoor activities, and support our local businesses. Whether you're hiking through our scenic trails, participating in community gatherings, or enjoying a warm drink at your favorite café, fall in Farmington is an excellent time for connection and celebration.

JP Capodiferro

Joe Capodiferro, Town Council Chair

Farmington Veterans Day Ceremony



On Monday, November 11th, 2024 the Town will be hosting a public ceremony in honor of Veterans Day.

The ceremony will be held at the Veterans Memorial Monument, located at the front of Farmington Town Hall, 1 Monteith Drive at 11:00 a.m.

Any questions regarding the ceremony should be directed to Farmington Veterans Memorial Committee Chair, Paul Krause (USMC) at (910) 376-5454.

ELECTION DAY IS TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 5TH 6:00AM - 8:00PM AT YOUR REGULAR POLLING PLACE

This is the first presidential election in CT where early voting will be available. You can vote early in person in the 2-week period leading up to the election from Monday 10/21 through Sunday 11/3.

Early Voting will be held in the Town Hall Pavilion located in the rear lot of Town Hall (1 Monteith Drive):

Monday 10/21 through Monday 10/28 | 10:00 AM- 6:00 PM

Tuesday 10/29 | 8:00 AM - 8:00 PM

Wednesday 10/30 | 10:00 AM - 6:00 PM

Thursday 10/31 | 8:00 AM - 8:00 PM

Friday 11/1 through Sunday 11/3 | 10:00 AM - 6:00 PM

For additional information, please visit <https://www.farmington-ct.org/departments/registrar-of-voters> or call the Registrars of Voters at 860-675-2367.

ABSENTEE BALLOTS:

Absentee Ballots are available in the Town Clerk's office starting on October 4, 2024 for the November election.

Voters must complete an application before receiving a ballot. The application may be downloaded from our website (<https://www.farmington-ct.org/departments/town-clerk/absentee-ballots>), picked up at the clerk's office, or you may visit myvote.ct.gov/getmyab.

BALLOT BOX:

The Ballot Box will be opened on October 4 and is located in front outside of Town Hall. Ballots may be left in the ballot box or mailed to the Clerk's office.

Completed ballots must be received by 8:00 p.m. on November 5, 2024. You may hand deliver your completed ballot to the clerk's office on or before November 4, 2024.

Please call the Town Clerk's office at 860-675-2380 with questions or concerns.

WANT TO VOTE THIS YEAR BUT NOT SURE HOW?

**Check your
REGISTRATION
and find your
POLLING PLACE**

Call the REGISTRARS
OF VOTERS in your
town or go to
MyVote.CT.gov/lookup



**Need to REGISTER
or UPDATE your
REGISTRATION?**

Call the REGISTRARS OF
VOTERS in your town
or go to
MyVote.CT.gov/register



**Check if you are
eligible to VOTE by
ABSENTEE BALLOT**

APPLY ONLINE or
CONTACT YOUR CT
TOWN CLERK for an
Absentee Ballot at
MyVote.CT.gov/absentee





MARK YOUR CALENDARS

October 14-18, 2024 - Town-wide bulky waste collection

October 19, 2024 - Household Hazardous Waste Collection, Simsbury Public Works Facility, 66 Town Forest Road, Simsbury, CT (8:00am-1:00pm)

October 28, 2024 - Fall Leaf Collection begins

HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

The only three (3) Holidays observed for Trash & Recycling pick-ups are:

Thanksgiving Day • Christmas Day • New Year's Day

There will be a one-day delay starting with the Holiday.

Town-Wide Bulky Waste Collection Service

The next Town-wide bulky waste collection will begin on **Monday, October 14, 2024** and will be picked up on your normal trash pickup day during the week of **October 14-18, 2024**.

During the week of **October 14-18, 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.

For a full list of acceptable and unacceptable items please visit the Town website:

www.farmington-ct.org/departments/highway-grounds/bulk-waste-collection.

Tunxis Mead Compost Area

The Tunxis Mead Compost Area (located at the end of Tunxis Mead Road) is open on Wednesdays and Saturdays from 8AM-12PM, weather permitting.

Winter Hours: Effective Wednesday, December 18, 2024, the Tunxis Mead Compost Area will be open on Wednesdays only from 8:00AM - 12:00PM, weather permitting.

Saturday hours will resume on April 5, 2025.

Fall Leaf Collection



The Fall 2024 Leaf Collection is scheduled to begin on **Monday, October 28, 2024**.

Leaf Collection Schedule for Residents on Town-owned Public Roads only (no businesses, Condo Associations, etc.). Please note some helpful hints during the leaf collection season:

- Leaves are to be raked to the street edge, NOT on the road surface or on sidewalks. If you place the leaves on the roadway surface you are in violation of CT General Statutes (CGS) 19a-335 - "Nuisance on Highway" and this is enforceable by the police.
- You may see a Crew out earlier than October 28th, however, this is a Crew testing out the leaf machines only. Please do not worry as this is not considered part of the first round.
- We are not able to give a specific date or time when the crews will be at your house due to a variety of factors (amount of leaves out, equipment, personnel, weather, etc.). Please continue to put your leaves at the curbside until we post a notice on our website letting you know when the final collection will begin.
- If you're concerned about your leaves blowing back into your yard or your neighbor's yard, consider wetting them down or covering them with a tarp.
- Please be sure your leaf piles have leaves only. No sticks, stones, grass clippings, ornamental grasses, or brush, as these items can damage the leaf collection equipment. Anything other than leaves will result in your piles not being picked up.
- The trash collection service is not responsible for leaf collection and will NOT pick up leaves. Do not put leaves in your trash or recycling cart.

A collection of all the Town's public streets will be completed at least twice, weather permitting.

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.

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)

News from the Farmington Libraries

Visit the Main and Barney Libraries this fall for vacation reads, books, games and more. Free entertainment from the library helps rainy days go by faster and can make car trips seem shorter! Visit us online from wherever you are to borrow books, audiobooks, movies, and television shows.

Our event calendar is full! Join us for art exhibits, musical performances, movies (classic films and Studio Ghibli favorites), lectures, craft activities, story time, and more. Both locations feature free events for library patrons aged 0 to infinity.

Make something! Our Maker space features a 3D printer, a wood engraving machine, Cricut machines, a sewing machine, and more. And our Library of Things has a plethora of maker tools to explore a new hobby or build on existing passions.

Don't have a library card? Stop into the Main Library at 6 Monteith Drive or the Barney Library at 71 Main Street to sign up for a card today. It is free and with over 200,000 physical items in over 10 languages and access to thousands of digital materials, there is something for everyone.

Visit our library website www.farmingtonlibraries.org to learn more.

From the Office of the Town Assessor

Veterans with a disability rating from the Veterans Administration should file their most recent rating letter with the assessor's office. This will help to ensure that they are getting all of the exemption amount that they are entitled to.

The exemption for service-connected disability rating does not require service in time of war to qualify, but the honorable discharge (DD-214 or similar) must have been submitted to the town clerk's office for recording.

For more information, please visit: www.farmington-ct.org/departments/assessor-s-office.

Upcoming Free CPR Classes

CPR

Wednesday, December 4, 2024 (10am-12pm)

Wednesday, December 4, 2024 (7pm-9pm)

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.

FLIS Scholarship, Buy-A-Brick Fundraiser



The 1928 Building Committee is pleased with the response to the "Buy-a-Brick" fundraiser to generate funds for the Stephen A. Flis Scholarship. Community members are able to purchase a brick with a custom message which will be placed by the main entrance of the renovated 1928 Building, which will serve as the new Town Hall.

This initiative serves as both a community-driven effort and a lasting tribute to Stephen A. Flis. Mr. Flis served as Farmington's Town Manager from 1955-1985. His scholarship seeks to provide financial assistance to Farmington residents who exhibit a track record of Community Service and wish to make it a career. Every year, the scholarship is given to a deserving Farmington student seeking a Graduate and/or Undergraduate Degree in Public Administration or Public Service.

Residents and businesses are able to purchase two options:
4" x 8" for four lines of text - \$100
8" x 8" for six lines of text - \$200

For more information, or to purchase a brick, visit:
www.1928building.org/buy-a-brick



1928 Building Committee

CIVIL BID PACKAGE (FOR SITEWORK):

The 1928 Building Committee selected J. Iapaluccio, Inc. to serve as the sitework contractor for the 1928 Building Project. J. Iapaluccio, Inc. was the low bidder and is also the sitework contractor for the Farmington High School Building Project. Having the same contractor working the entire construction site is advantageous because the firm is already familiar with the site and because coordination between two sitework contractors will not be required.

RENOVATION BID:

The Renovation Bid Package was released in August. The deadline for bids to be received is October 15, 2024. It is anticipated that the 1928 Building Committee will award the Renovation Bid Package to a contractor at their October 22, 2024, meeting. If pricing comes in higher than the estimates, the Value Engineering Subcommittee will meet to reconcile the costs.

Farmington High School Building Project



On August 26, 2024 the Farmington community gathered to celebrate the grand opening of the new Farmington High School, a state-of-the-art facility designed to enhance the educational experience for our students. The ribbon-cutting ceremony marked a significant milestone for the town, showcasing a commitment to modern education and innovative learning environments.

Local officials, including school administrators, community leaders, and students attended the event, which featured speeches highlighting the school's advanced design and its potential to transform educational practices. The new high school boasts cutting-edge classrooms, a black box performing center, modern robotics lab, and comprehensive athletic facilities, all aimed at providing a well-rounded educational experience for Farmington students.

The project, which reflects years of planning and community support, is expected to serve as a hub for educational excellence in the region. With a focus on collaboration, creativity, and critical thinking, the new high school is designed to prepare students for future challenges in an ever-evolving world.

This significant investment in education underscores Farmington's dedication to nurturing the next generation and enhancing the quality of life within the community. The new Farmington High School stands as a testament to the collaborative effort between the town and its residents, promising a bright future for local students.

For those unable to attend the summer ribbon-cutting and open house, there will be tours available on Saturday, October 26th. More information, including tour registrations are available on the back cover of this newsletter.

Green Efforts Committee: West Woods Compost Project

If It Grows It Goes...

...into the cafeteria compost bin. That's the rule 600+ students at West Woods Upper Elementary School learned from their science module, Human Impact on Earth's Spheres.

They studied how composting happens, read and talked about where garbage goes, learned how long it takes to break down and what that process does to our water, soil, and air.

They also learned how expensive garbage is. Since the trash to energy plant in Hartford closed several years ago, many towns have had to ship garbage out of state. Food scraps make up a large of our waste stream, and its weight adds a lot to shipping costs.

Working with elementary science curriculum specialist, Tara Vazquez, along with cafeteria employees, custodians, science teachers and the administration, students decided to put their lessons into practice. Today, the cafeteria is home to two sorting stations featuring bins labeled Compost, Recycling, and Trash. Students finish their lunch then toss what's left on their trays where it belongs.

This past May, they saw the results of one month's effort. 3,000 pounds of food and paper were turned into compost, a soil amendment rich with nutrients that gardeners and farmers love.

What wasn't produced?

CO2 emissions equivalent to those generated by charging 34,702 cell phones or burning 32 gallons of gas or driving 708 miles in the average car.



How does the process work?

Daily, West Woods' cafeteria fills up at least one bucket slightly smaller than the blue recycling bins many of us drag out to the side of the road.

Blue Earth, a Hartford compost company, picks up the bins once a week and carts the future compost to Southington's Quantum Biopower. Here, in a sort of super charger digester, bacteria quickly break down the waste. The result is compost and biogas, mainly methane, which is used to power the building and several others.

Who knew garbage had such benefits?

Bicycle Advisory Committee: Learning Hand Signals

Unlike driving a car or operating a motorcycle, there's no license for riding a bicycle on the road. For this reason, it is important for bicyclists to use proper directional hand signals to communicate with drivers when they're about to turn or stop. Just as with cars, signaling — to turn, stop, or slow down — can give others time to anticipate your movements and react. Hand signals are a crucial skill, intuitive to learn, easy to use and will help keep bicyclists safe on the road.



LEFT TURN

Extend your left arm out sideways with all fingers extended or use your index finger to point left.



RIGHT TURN

Extend your left arm out sideways bent at a 90-degree angle at the elbow joint, hand pointing upward and the palm of hand facing forward.



ALTERNATIVE RIGHT TURN

Extend your right arm out sideways with all fingers extended or use your index finger to point right.



STOPPING OR SLOWING

Extend your left arm out sideways bent at a 90-degree angle at the elbow joint, hand pointing upward and the palm of hand facing forward.

For more information about bicycle safety, visit: farmington-ct.org/government/bicycle-committee.

Farmington Police: Halloween Safety Tips



As Halloween approaches, we know many families are gearing up for a night of fun and festivities. To ensure everyone has a safe and enjoyable trick-or-treating experience, we've put together some important safety tips. Together, we can keep our community safe while celebrating this festive occasion! We hope these tips help everyone have a safe and enjoyable Halloween. Happy Halloween!

1. Use Sidewalks Whenever Possible. When out and about, please stick to sidewalks. They provide a safe pathway away from traffic. If there are no sidewalks, remember to walk facing oncoming traffic, so you can see any vehicles approaching. Children should be reminded to look both ways before crossing streets and to use crosswalks. It's essential to wait for a clear gap in traffic before crossing, as excited trick-or-treaters can sometimes forget to stay aware.

2. Light Up the Night. As dusk settles in, visibility becomes crucial. We recommend equipping children with flashlights or glow sticks. Brightly colored costumes or those with reflective materials can help ensure they are seen by drivers.

3. Trick-or-Treat in Groups. Safety is always better in numbers! We encourage families to go out in groups. This not only makes for a more enjoyable experience but also enhances safety for everyone involved. Adults should accompany younger children to keep a close eye on their safety.

4. Prioritize Costume Safety. When selecting costumes, please consider safety first. Choose flame-resistant materials and ensure that costumes fit well to avoid tripping hazards. If masks are worn, make sure they have clear eye holes and are well-ventilated.

5. Inspect Candy. Once you're back home, we advise parents to inspect all treats before allowing kids to indulge. Discard any unwrapped or suspicious items, ensuring that everything is safe to eat.

6. Be Considerate of Neighbors. Respect the homes you visit by only going to those that are participating in trick-or-treating. Be courteous to neighbors who may not be participating.

7. Never Drink and Drive. If you're sipping a potion, drinking something BOO-ZY, or indulging in a witch's brew, don't get behind the wheel. Call a sober friend, rideshare, or use public transportation to get home safely. Buzzed Driving Is Drunk Driving. (NHTSA, 2024)

Farmington Community Services Holiday Events

NOV
23

THANKSGIVING FOOD DRIVE *Co-sponsored by the Farmington Police Dept.*

This event supports low-income families in Farmington and Unionville by providing all the essentials for a complete Thanksgiving meal. Interested donors can participate by sponsoring one or more families through our office or by contributing at the Annual Thanksgiving Food Drive.

Stop & Shop, 1799 Farmington Avenue, Unionville
9:00AM - 2:00PM

NOV
28

COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING DINNER *Community & Senior Center* 321 New Britain Avenue, Unionville

Please join us as Farmington Community Services hosts its Annual Town-wide Thanksgiving Day Dinner Gathering!

12:00PM - 2:00PM*

Participants, volunteers, and donors needed. Please contact Community services at 860-675-2390 to make your reservation or for more information.

**Reservations are required*

DEC
13

STUFF-A-CRUISER TOY DRIVE *Co-sponsored by the Farmington Police Dept.*

Help make holiday wishes come true at the Annual FCS and FPD Toy Drive. This event helps provide toys, clothes and lots of good cheer to more than 200 local children. Donations can also be dropped off at the Staples House. To sponsor a child, please contact Farmington Community Services at 860-675-2390.

Walmart, 255 West Main Street, Avon

DEC
21

WINTER HOLIDAY FOOD DRIVE *Co-sponsored by Tunxis Hose & Farmington Fire Depts.*

This event offers Farmington and Unionville residents in need all the essentials for a complete holiday meal. Interested donors can participate by sponsoring one or more families through the FCS office or by contributing at the two annual food drive locations.

Stop & Shop, 1799 Farmington Avenue, Unionville
Highland Park Market, 204 Main Street, Farmington
9:00AM - 2:00PM

Beautify Farmington Kissing Balls



The holiday season is fast approaching, and it's time to get our town ready to shine! Soon, we'll be installing the festive holiday kissing balls in Unionville Center and the DiPietro Bridge. The Beautify Farmington program invites you to join in this effort to make our community warm and welcoming during this special time of the year.

We encourage everyone—businesses, residents, and friends of Farmington—to consider participating in this worthwhile program. Official sponsorship levels are available at choosefarmington.com/beautify-farmington-program - but remember, every little bit helps! Your support ensures that Farmington will be dressed in holiday spirit, creating a festive atmosphere for all to enjoy.

Let's come together to beautify Farmington and make this holiday season unforgettable!

For more information and sponsorship details, please visit our website.

Farmington Community Services is currently accepting applications for our Annual Holiday Giving Program.

This program provides assistance to qualified Farmington/Unionville residents with a Thanksgiving meal, Winter Holiday meal and gifts for children up to age 18. For more information, to be a sponsor or to apply for the program, please contact Sandra Bryant at 860.675.2390 or email communityservices@farmington-ct.org



TOWN OF FARMINGTON

Town Hall, Farmington, CT 06032-1053
www.farmington-ct.org

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FARMINGTON HIGH SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE

Saturday, October 26
9:00AM-3:00PM

The Farmington High School Building Committee is pleased to invite Town residents to view the newly constructed Farmington High School on Saturday, October 26th between 9:00am-3:00pm.

Guided tours will be available in 30-minute increments.

Please note, advanced registration is required and will be limited.

For more information and to register for a tour slot, please visit:

[fhsbuildingproject.org/
october-open-house](https://fhsbuildingproject.org/october-open-house)
or scan the QR code.

