



the

Farmington Town Letter

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

TOWN COUNCIL RECOMMENDED BUDGET FY 2012/2013

	FY11/12 Adopted Budget	FY 12/13 Town Council Recommended	Dollar Change	% Change
EXPENDITURES				
Education	\$53,978,296	\$55,462,700	\$1,484,404	2.75
Town	24,160,220	24,710,825	550,605	2.28
Debt Service	8,703,570	8,361,617	(341,953)	(3.93)
Capital Improvements	780,000	1,800,000	1,020,000	130.77
Total	\$87,622,086	\$90,335,142	\$2,713,056	3.10
GRAND LIST				
Real Estate	3,335,279,123	3,344,945,163	9,666,040	0.29
Personal Property	187,712,020	182,471,680	(5,240,340)	(2.79)
Motor Vehicles	204,364,120	220,379,060	16,014,940	7.84
Total	\$3,727,355,263	\$3,747,795,903	\$20,440,640	0.55
REVENUES				
Other Property Taxes	\$845,000	\$985,000	\$140,000	16.57
Licenses and Permits	516,380	517,000	620	0.12
Fines and Penalties	36,000	45,800	9,800	27.22
Interest	120,000	90,000	(30,000)	(25.00)
Grants	5,663,736	6,012,769	349,033	6.16
Service Charges	1,232,800	1,208,200	(24,600)	(2.00)
Other	214,000	208,454	(5,546)	(2.59)
Fund Balance	500,000	-	(500,000)	(100.00)
Total	\$9,127,916	\$9,067,223	\$(60,693)	(0.66)
TAX & MILL RATE				
Tax Levy	\$78,975,170	\$81,748,919		
Mill Rate	21.27	21.90		
Mill Rate Change	0.81	0.63		
% Change	3.97%	2.95%		
Avg Residential Assessment	\$258,899	\$258,899		
Real Estate Taxes	\$5,507.58	\$5,669.92		
Dollar Increase	\$210.39	\$162.34		
Percent Increase	3.97%	2.95%		

Every \$100,000 of assessed value = \$2,190 in taxes

A NOTE FROM OUR TOWN COUNCIL CHAIR

I'm very honored to be back on the Town Council serving as Chairman. Since this is my first newsletter, I'd like to take this opportunity to inform you about some of the Town's most recent initiatives and challenges and to tell you what to expect this year.

The Town is still recovering from two unprecedented storms. Both Hurricane Irene and Storm Alfred tested the mettle of the Town and its residents to the fullest. I'm proud to conclude that everyone rose to the test. Our Town serves as a model for others. The Town's Emergency Operations Center was activated for both events. Pre-established emergency plans were enacted for both storms and all resources were activated. During Irene, Police and Fire personnel evacuated residents because of flood waters. During Alfred Town and Board of Education staff and volunteers worked around the clock to meet the needs of our residents.

During Alfred our shelter at FHS was open for 10 straight nights and serviced 2,267 people. On two nights the shelter serviced 350 people and over 600 dinners were served. Town and Board of Education employees, volunteers from the Town and others worked extraordinarily hard to help the Town and one another during Alfred.

Town leadership conducted an extensive debriefing both to learn from the response and to improve upon it for future events. On February 15 the Town sponsored a reception to thank all volunteers, businesses and employees for their participation in both storms.

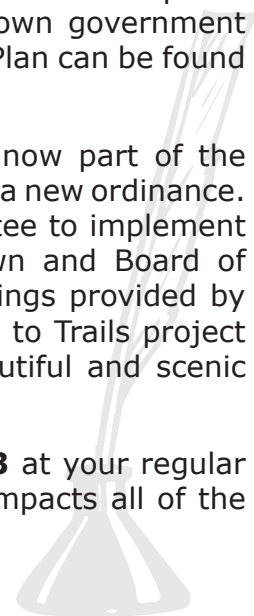
The Town collected over 115,000 cubic yards of brush following Storm Alfred. Storm clean up associated costs are approximately \$2.4 million with \$1.8 million of that for brush alone. Roughly 75% of the expense will be reimbursed by FEMA. Both Russ Arnold, Town Engineer, and Joe Swetcky, Finance Director, are to be commended for their diligence in recommending that the Town bid for tree removal services independent of the state contract for services. This move saved the Town roughly \$1.8 million. Further, the Town used Town personnel to monitor the brush clean-up process, which also saved significant dollars.

In other matters, the Town Council agreed upon and prioritized its strategic goals for this year and next. Over six years ago the Council enacted and implemented the Town's first ever Strategic Plan. The plan was created after having done a comprehensive survey of all Town residents about their priorities for the Town. The plan served as the underpinning for all the goals and objectives for Town government for the last six years. Further, it has served as the basis for the Council's policy decisions over that period. This year, the Council made it a goal to re-survey our residents regarding their priorities for the Town. The intent is to update the Strategic Plan so that it continues to perform its function and so that Town government appropriately responds to what citizen's value. The entire 2012-2013 Strategic Plan can be found at <http://www.farmington-ct.org> in the Town Government sub-section.

The Town recently seated a new Inland Wetlands Commission, which is now part of the Conservation Commission. This function has been separated from the TPZ under a new ordinance. Also, the Council approved a recommendation from the Green Efforts Committee to implement a nearly \$3.5 million performance contract involving various prioritized Town and Board of Education capital projects which will literally pay for themselves with the savings provided by their implementation. Lastly, the Town completed the final phase of the Rails to Trails project between Route 4 in Farmington and the Burlington line. This is a truly beautiful and scenic stretch. You should check it out!

The 2012-2013 Town Budget Referendum will be held on **Thursday May 3** at your regular polling place. This is a significant opportunity for you to vote and the vote impacts all of the services provided to you by the Town and Board of Education.

Regards, *Jeffrey Hogan* - Town Council Chairman



IMPORTANT BUDGET DATES

April 23 (Mon.) 7:00 p.m.	Annual Town Meeting Farmington High School
May 3 (Thurs.) 6:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.	Referendum Vote Regular Polling Place
May 4 (Fri.) 4:00 p.m.	Special Town Council Meeting (if needed) Council Chambers
May 7 (Mon.) 7:00 p.m.	7:00 p.m. Second Town Meeting (if needed) Farmington High School
May 17 (Thurs.) 6:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.	Second Referendum Vote (if needed) Regular Polling Place
May 22 (Tues.) 7:00 p.m.	7:00 p.m. Town Council Meeting - set tax rate Council Chambers

ELDERLY AND DISABLED HOMEOWNER'S PROPERTY TAX RELIEF PROGRAM

The Town of Farmington offers property tax relief programs to elderly and disabled homeowners who meet certain age, income and residency requirements. These programs provide a credit directly against the taxes that would otherwise have to be paid. Applications for both tax relief programs are available from the Town Assessor's Office.

The deadline for filing an application is May 15, 2012.

Provisions of the programs are: For the elderly tax credit program, the applicant or spouse must have been 65 years of age prior to December 31, 2011; they must reside on the property for more than 182 days per year; and, they must not be delinquent in paying their property taxes to the town.

For the disabled program, the same requirements apply; however there is no age requirement. Instead the applicant must provide proof of disability. The maximum income levels for both programs are: *Married: \$45,500; Single: \$38,300*

Proof of all income including Social Security benefits is required from each applicant.

The Town also offers an Elderly Tax Freeze Program for taxpayers who are eighty (80) years of age and older. Please contact the Assessor's Office for more information or with any questions. Tel# (860) 675-2370

SIGN UP FOR THE EVERBRIDGE NOTIFICATION SYSTEM TODAY

Everbridge Notification System is up and running. Go to www.farmington-ct.org and sign up today.

Sign up for Emergency Alerts and Community Notifications. Everbridge allows you to use multiple means of communication for the both Emergency Alert System and the Community Notification System. In addition to your home phone you can add mobile phones, Voice over IP landlines, e-mail and/or text messaging to be included to receive messages from both the Emergency Alert and Community Notification System. You can also choose the order in which you receive the notification. These systems allow the Town to easily and swiftly communicate with residents and interested parties through all of today's available technology.

What is the Emergency Alert Notification System?

The system allows the Police and Fire Departments to quickly send out an emergency alert to residents in any affected geographic area in town. The current database includes only traditional wire-line telephone (the "land line" phone you may have in your home). If you want the system to send alerts to other communication devices that you use, you will have to provide your contact information by logging into the system on the Town of Farmington's web site at www.farmington-ct.org. Simply click the Citizen Alert button on the front page.

What is the Community Notification System?

This system allows residents to receive information on upcoming events and general information from various Town Departments. Interested persons can sign up to receive notifications in the following categories:



General Government

Meeting dates and agenda of Farmington government bodies as well as announcements of special public hearings, referenda and other related news releases.

Town News

Town and library events and happenings, voting information, tax collection information and other town sponsored events.

Public Safety (non-emergency)

Road closures, crime alerts, Police/Fire seminars and educational opportunities, snow bans and various other public safety related events.

Recreation

Registration periods, special events, program cancellations and brochure availability. Westwoods Golf course information.

Public Works

Road paving projects and schedules, other infrastructure improvements, Water Pollution Control information, leaf pick up, waste and recycling collection information and updates, compost area news and other related public works information.

Community Services

Program information, charity campaign events, and deadlines for program applications. Notifications will include youth services, social services, senior services, transportation, and the Farmington Housing Authority.

Business & Economic Development

Business and economic development events, programs and significant happenings. It will also be used to announce publications such as the E-News.

To receive Community notifications you will have to log into the system on the Town's website (www.farmington-ct.org) and register for the categories of your choice. The system will only work with your participation. Help us to keep your families safer and more informed. Sign Up Today!



Help show the country Farmington's commitment to recycling and sustainability! This summer, the Town of Farmington will be participating in Recyclebank's 50 State Challenge. Recyclebank is an organization committed to motivating and inspiring a more sustainable lifestyle. It incentivizes green actions by rewarding those who recycle with points that can be redeemed for discounts and deals at local and national businesses. All residents have to do is keep track of the things they recycle, and get rewarded for doing so. On average, Recyclebank participants earn more than \$125 in rewards each year, just for recycling.

The 50 State Challenge, sponsored by SC Johnson & Son, Inc., challenges one town from every state to work with residents to increase its residential recycling rates. The top performing towns, based on participation percentage, will be awarded prizes, including the potential to win the top prize of a \$100,000 grant for a green community project. Farmington was chosen to be Connecticut's participant because of its demonstrated commitment to the cause of environmental sustainability and green efforts. The contest will officially begin on July 1, 2012, and will run for 180 days. Residents should watch their mail in June for registration instructions and further information about the contest from Recyclebank. For more information about Recyclebank in general, visit www.recyclebank.com.

TOP DOG CONTEST

The Farmington Town Clerk's office is holding a "Top Dog" contest. Join the fun by entering your best friend for a chance to wear Farmington Dog License Number 1 free of charge for 2012-2013.

TO PARTICIPATE:

- ✓ The dog must be currently registered in Farmington or under 6 months of age.
- ✓ A photo of your dog no larger than 4x6 inches is required.
- ✓ On the back of the photo list the name of the dog, and the owner's name, address and phone number.
- ✓ Send the photo to the Farmington Town Clerk, 1 Monteith Drive, Farmington, CT 06032-1053 before May 25, 2012.

LICENSING INFORMATION: The Town Clerk's Office reminds dog owners that renewal and new licenses are issued during the month of June. License renewal post cards will be mailed the end of May to all dog owners currently licensed. Questions-please call the Town Clerk's Office at 860.675.2380.

DOGS AND MORE DOGS...

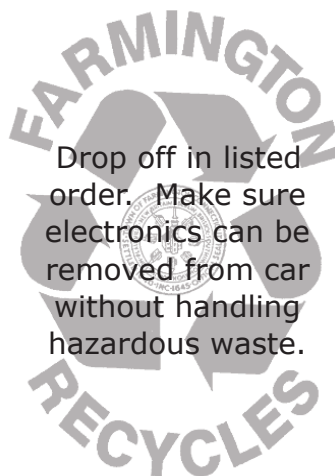


With spring in the air, just a friendly reminder that if you are a dog owner, you must keep your dog on a 6 ft. or less leash while on Town-owned property. This includes all rails-to-trails. Also, please be courteous and remember to pick up after your pet.

HIGHWAY & GROUNDS

MARK YOUR CALENDARS SATURDAY APRIL 28TH ONE STOP - SPRING CLEANING Monteith Drive

1. Electronics Recycling
Farmington Town Hall Parking Lot
8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
2. Household Hazardous Waste
Farmington High School Parking Lot
8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
3. Personal Document Shredding
Farmington Library Parking Lot
8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
4. Join Town-Wide Clean-Up
Farmington Library Parking Lot
8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.



Drop off in listed order. Make sure electronics can be removed from car without handling hazardous waste.

For information regarding bulky waste collection, street sweeping, waste and recycling collections, electronic recycling collection, the Tunxis Mead Compost Area and, the new recycling program, please visit the Town of Farmington website at <http://www.farmington-ct.org/>. Please call the Highway & Grounds Division at (860) 675-2550 with any other questions.

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION DAY
SATURDAY, APRIL 28, 2012
LOCATION: Farmington High School
10 Monteith Drive - 8:00am - 1:00pm

Sponsored by Farmington Conservation Commission and Inland Wetlands Commission and
The Metropolitan District Commission (MDC)

COMMON ACCEPTABLE HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTES	
New Items	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alkaline, rechargeable and button batteries – please separate by type • Small camping size propane tanks • Fluorescent Bulbs, including Compact Fluorescent Bulbs (CFL) Bulbs – wrap bulbs to protect from breakage, bulbs contain mercury • Fire extinguishers
Garage & Workshop:	Gasoline, Antifreeze, Oils Based Paint, Turpentine, Transmission Fluid
Household:	Drain Cleaners, Disinfectants, Oven Polishes, Ammonia, Unfinished Aerosols, Mercury Thermometers, Thermostats and Switches
Yard & Hobby:	Pesticides/Herbicides, Cleaning Solvents, Glues, Kerosene, Pool Chemicals

For more information go to: www.themdc.com/hazwaste_collection.shtml

NOTE: Car batteries and waste oil will be accepted at this collection. **Car batteries and waste oil ONLY are also accepted at the Farmington Highway Garage on New Britain Avenue any business day between 6:00am and 2:30pm.** Waste oil must be brought in a sealed, non-returnable container no larger than 2 gallons.

UNACCEPTABLE ITEMS
Empty Containers, Latex Water-Based Paint* , Explosives, Large Propane Tanks for gas grills, Tires, Medicines/Drugs, Smoke Detectors and Electronics**
Electronics WILL be collected on the same day at the Farmington Town Hall , 1 Monteith Drive, just down the hill from the Farmington High School. Please go to electronics FIRST, and load your car so that electronics can be removed without handling the hazardous materials.

* Latex or water based paint can be disposed of in the regular trash after the paint has been allowed to dry. Latex paint can also be dried by adding kitty litter or a paint solidifier available at many hardware stores.

IMPORTANCE OF PROPER DISPOSAL:

Hazardous materials must be disposed of by specially licensed companies. These wastes **CANNOT** be collected during bulk pickup and must **NOT** be left at the Highway Department or any other location. Improper disposal puts people at risk for injury and increases the possibility of contamination. Separating household hazardous waste from your regular trash is only the first step towards proper disposal. **Please** take the extra step to dispose of them properly at a scheduled Household Hazardous Waste Collection. If you cannot make this collection, MDC will be sponsoring several future Household Hazardous Waste Collection Days in other towns that you may attend. For more information call (860) 278-3809 or go to: http://www.themdc.com/househols_hazwaste.shtml.



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