



the

Farmington Town Letter

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

A NOTE FROM OUR TOWN COUNCIL CHAIR

This winter's above average snowfall and some rainy weeks have done wonders to lessen the drought warning in Farmington. That being said, I am sure we are all looking forward to the warmer weather ahead. Our Public Works Department has begun the process of clearing winter debris, preparing our roads for repair projects, and getting our athletic fields ready for the spring outdoor activities.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Town employees who continuously go above and beyond their respective duties to ensure that Town residents continue to receive exceptional services. For instance, the Public Works Department continues to oversee projects to improve Farmington's infrastructure. Our Rails-to-Trails system is in its final stage of completion with the expansion of the trail from Red Oak Hill Road to the town line of Plainville. The bridge over Route 6 will be installed in the late summer. Many local roads were paved or reconstructed during the recent paving season, and additional roads are scheduled for paving as soon as the weather permits.

Thanks to our favorable business environment, Farmington continues to have a robust diverse business community, attracting Fortune 500 headquarters' relocations, creative entrepreneurs, independent retail shops, national retailers, and three new restaurants in Town. Even though the State's significant budget challenges affect every community, Farmington continues to experience steady growth. The future holds promise for redevelopment opportunities in Farmington Center and several of our manufacturing plants are planning expansions.

After reviewing multiple conceptual designs, the Farmington High School Building Committee selected "Option D1" as the preferred concept for Farmington High School and move the project forward into the Schematic Design Phase. The Committee intends to recommend this option to the Board of Education and Town Council for approval in anticipation of a June 2017 referendum. Community members may review the proposed plans and features of "Option D1" on the FHS Building Project website at www.fhsbuildingproject.org.

This year's Annual Clean-Up Day is scheduled for Saturday, April 29. Last year's Clean-Up Day produced a total of 5,000 pounds of trash. Many thanks to the wonderful volunteers for their hard work who make these Clean-Up days possible. The Town of Farmington whole-heartedly believes that volunteers are the true fabric of our community. From elected and appointed boards and commission members to the volunteer Fire Department, this Town cares for its community with its strong volunteer base. Farmington's volunteers make this a wonderful community in which to live, work, and play. Thank you to all who contribute to our town through volunteerism.

Lastly, I encourage you to stay informed and involved during this year's budget process, particularly during the Annual Town Meeting on April 17, and the Referendum Vote on April 27. 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.

Sincerely,

Nancy W. Nickerson

Town Council Chair

The Farmington Bicycle Advisory Committee has published an online survey for participation by residents, businesses, and commuters. The Town would like to receive input from as many as possible as to their bicycle abilities, frequency, and travel behavior. In addition, the survey allows users the option to provide comments as to any amenities or improved access to potential destination points. The survey can be located through the Town of Farmington Home Page <http://www.farmington-ct.org/home> or directly at: <http://www.farmington-ct.org/government/bicycle-committee/bicycle-survey>.

TOWN OF FARMINGTON
HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTIONS FOR 2017

The Town of Farmington is happy to announce that we are working with the Towns of Avon, Canton, Granby and Simsbury to provide Household Hazardous Waste Collections. The collections will run from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and will be open to all residents from Avon, Canton, Farmington, Granby and Simsbury. Farmington residents will no longer be able to participate in any of the MDC household hazardous waste collections.

There will be three (3) collection dates that Town of Farmington residents can attend:

- April 29, 2017 – at Farmington High School, 10 Monteith Drive, Farmington, CT.
- June 17, 2017 – at Simsbury Public Works Facility, 66 Town Forest Road, Simsbury, CT.
- October 28, 2017 - at Simsbury Public Works Facility, 66 Town Forest Road, Simsbury, CT.

On the same dates and locations listed above, there will also be FREE collections for the residents of Avon, Canton, Farmington, Granby, and Simsbury:

- Electronics Recycling collection
- Used Motor Oil collection
- Personal document shredding **Special hours: 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. or until the truck is full** (please limit yourself to 2 boxes)

Below are some frequently asked questions related to Household Hazardous Waste disposal. For more specific information, please contact Farmington Highway & Grounds at 860-675-2550.

Acceptable items:

- ☺ Fluorescent and compact light bulbs
- ☺ Batteries – common household batteries including rechargeable batteries & car batteries
- ☺ Lawn care chemicals – fertilizers, pesticides, herbicides, fungicides
- ☺ Switches or items containing Mercury – thermometers, thermostats, motion detectors
- ☺ Household cleaners – acids, adhesives, aerosol cans, ammonia, drain cleaner, disinfectants, moth balls, etc.
- ☺ Chemicals from the garage or workshop – antifreeze, ant/bug spray or bait, brake fluid, old gasoline, oil based and latex paints, lighter fluid, polyurethane, pool chemicals, road flares, transmission fluid, power steering fluid, wood stain, etc.

Unacceptable items:

- | | |
|--|---|
| ☺ Ammunition and/or explosives (including gunpowder) | ☺ Propane Tanks for gas grills |
| ☺ Asbestos | ☺ Appliances |
| ☺ Business Waste – (collection is for residential waste only) | ☺ Smoke detectors |
| ☺ Cement | ☺ Tires |
| ☺ Empty Containers – A container is considered empty when no more than one inch or 3% (by weight) of material is left in the container, these can be disposed of in the regular trash. | ☺ Used Oil Filters |
| ☺ Fire extinguishers | ☺ Ice melt – Ice melt is not hazardous and can be disposed in the regular trash |
| ☺ Freon | ☺ Latex Driveway Sealer (Genite) – Driveway sealer is not hazardous; solidify then throw in the regular trash |
| ☺ Medicine/Drugs/Needles/Syringes | ☺ Marine Flares – Pyrotechnic flares cannot be accepted at the Collection because they are categorized as explosives. |

How can I get rid of latex and oil-based paint?

Recycle your leftover paint through *PaintCare* – it's **FREE**

Starting 7/1/13, a Connecticut Law requires the paint and coating industry to develop a financially and environmentally sustainable solution to manage postconsumer architectural paint. Under the new program, the paint industry will make paint recycling more convenient by setting up drop-off sites throughout the state where consumers can take their paint. *PaintCare* will also conduct outreach and education about buying the right amount and using up remaining paint. For drop off locations and program information, please go to: <http://www.paintcare.org/connecticut/index.php>



“Pitch In” at the Town-Wide Clean-Up

SATURDAY, April 29th, 8am to 1pm

Register your group and pick up trash bags, gloves, and refreshments at...
Farmington Firehouse – 76 Main St., Farmington
Farmington Main Library – 6 Monteith Dr., Farmington
Tunxis Hose Firehouse – 11 School St., Unionville
Tunxis Mead Playing Fields

Sponsored by: The Town of Farmington Green Efforts Committee

With contributions from:

- * Dunkin’ Donuts of Unionville * George’s Pizza * Gallery Salon *
- * Farmington Miniature Golf and Ice Cream Parlor * Highland Park Market *
- * Naples Pizza * * Stop & Shop of Unionville * Taprock Beer Bar and Refuge *

For more information and suggestions call: 860-677-6094

Enter a team and compete in the **“Heaviest Haul” Competition.**

Winners will be recognized in four categories:

- Families & Individuals
- Civic Organizations
- School Groups, Youth Sports Teams and Scout Troops
- Businesses

Competition Rules:

- Only trash that is brought to official Clean-Up centers on 4/29/17 8am-1pm will be weighed & posted
- Trash may be collected from 4/22-4/29
- Any single item weighing more than 25 lbs. will be counted as 25 lbs.

To volunteer to clean one of the many “dirty spots” in town go to Sign Up Genius at:

<http://tinyurl.com/Farmington-Cleanup>

PRE-ORDER A COMPOST BIN OR RAIN BARREL



To pre-order a Compost Bin or Rain Barrel go to <http://enviroworld.us/farmington>
 The Town of Farmington is hosting an on-line sale for Compost Bins and Rain Barrels. There will be samples to view on April 29th at the Main Library Clean-Up Day check-in location. There will be informational pamphlets on composting and using rain barrels and information on purchasing your own compost bin or rain barrel at all Clean-Up Day check-in locations. The last day to pre-order is May 26th and delivery will be June 10th.

FARMINGTON BICYCLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Farmington Bicycle Advisory Committee has published an online survey for participation by residents, businesses, and commuters. The Town would like to receive input from as many as possible as to their bicycle abilities, frequency, and travel behavior. In addition, the survey allows users the option to provide comments as to any amenities or improved access to potential destination points. The survey can be located through the Town of Farmington Home Page <http://www.farmington-ct.org/home> or directly at: <http://www.farmington-ct.org/government/bicycle-committee/bicycle-survey>.



FARMINGTON HIGH SCHOOL BUILDING COMMITTEE INFORMATION

The Farmington Town Council established the FHS Building Committee in January 2016 to resolve deficiencies in the high school identified by the Board of Education through several studies and reports. After reviewing multiple conceptual designs, on March 1, 2017, the Farmington High School Building Committee voted to approve “Option D1” as the preferred concept to address the needs of the Farmington High School facility and move the project forward into the Schematic Design phase. The committee anticipates a town wide referendum in June 2017, upon approval from the Board of Education and Town Council.

The FHS Building Committee meets bi-weekly at 4:30 PM in the FHS Library. Meetings are open to the public and all community members are invited to participate. Information including meeting and event schedules, minutes and agendas, reference documents, and plans and renderings of “Option D1” are available on the project website at www.fhsbuildingproject.org.










the Farmington
Town
Letter
Town Hall
Farmington, CT 06032-1053

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Permit #17

NOTES FROM PAULA RAY, TOWN CLERK

TOP DOG CONTEST: The Farmington Town Clerk's office will be holding a "Top Dog" drawing. Join the fun by entering your best friend for a chance to wear Farmington Dog License Number 1 free of charge for 2017-2018.

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 between May 1st and June 3rd.
-  A drawing will be held on June 1, 2017 at 10:00 a.m. in the Town Clerk's Office to determine Farmington's Top Dog.



DOG LICENSING INFORMATION: The Town Clerk's Office reminds dog owners that renewal and new licenses are issued during the month of June. Please call the Town Clerk's Office at 675-2380 or email rayp@farmington-ct.org with any questions.

REMINDER: Opening day for fishing is April 8, 2017 by the State of Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection. Licenses are available online from the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection www.ct.gov/deep/fishing and at the Town Clerk's office.

ABSENTEE BALLOTS FOR THIS FALL:

The date of the Municipal Election this fall is November 7, 2017. College students and anyone that will be out of town at election time are encouraged to fill out their absentee ballot applications before leaving town. Applications will be kept on file in the Town Clerk's office and ballots will be issued on October 6, 2017, which is the first day regular absentee ballots are available.

MS4 PLAN -- STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

The existing Town of Farmington CTDEEP Permit for the Discharge of Stormwater from Small Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4) will expire on June 30, 2017. CT DEEP has issued a new permit which is effective July 1, 2017. The Town of Farmington has developed a *DRAFT* MS4 Plan in compliance with the new MS4 Permit. The *DRAFT* Plan requires a 90-day comment period to solicit and receive public comments on the report. The report can be viewed by accessing the Town of Farmington Home Page <http://www.farmington-ct.org/home>, or directly using the following link <http://www.farmington-ct.org/home/showdocument?id=6749>. A hard copy is also available for viewing in the Engineering Division at the Town Hall.

You can also access the Town's new Storm Water Website Page utilizing the following link: <http://www.farmington-ct.org/departments/engineering/stormwater>. Information will be frequently added, so please continue to visit the page for useful information that you can do to help prevent stormwater runoff from polluting our waters.



TOWN COUNCIL RECOMMENDED BUDGET FY 2017/2018

		FY 16/17 Adopted Budget	FY17/18 Town Council Recommended Budget	Dollar Change	% Change
<u>EXPENDITURES</u>					
Education		62,686,075	64,172,641	1,486,566	2.37
Town		28,229,371	28,860,794	631,423	2.24
Debt Service		6,827,369	7,315,700	488,331	7.15
Capital Improvements		2,856,900	2,398,000	(458,900)	(16.06)
	Total	\$100,599,715	\$102,747,135	\$2,147,420	2.13
<u>GRAND LIST</u>					
Real Estate		3,129,962,090	3,140,510,560	10,548,470	0.34
Personal Property		213,845,102	221,970,453	8,125,351	3.80
Motor Vehicles		231,013,836	233,478,558	2,464,722	1.07
	Total	\$3,574,821,028	\$3,595,959,571	\$21,138,543	0.59
<u>REVENUES</u>					
Other Property Taxes		1,175,000	1,200,000	25,000	2.13
Licenses and Permits		694,500	648,000	(46,500)	(6.70)
Fines and Penalties		40,000	39,000	(1,000)	(2.50)
Interest		85,000	150,000	65,000	76.47
Grants		5,850,171	4,145,382	(1,704,789)	(29.14)
Service Charges		1,327,543	1,357,290	29,747	2.24
Other		30,000	27,000	(3,000)	(10.00)
Westwoods Contribution		332,990	335,030	2,040	0.61
	Total	\$9,535,204	\$7,901,702	\$(1,633,502)	(17.13)

TAX & MILL RATE

Tax Levy	\$91,776,511	\$95,553,433	Every \$100,000 of assessed value = \$2,668 in taxes
Mill Rate	25.78	26.68	
Mill Rate Change	0.68	0.90	
% Change	2.7%	3.50%	
Avg Residential Assessment	\$232,074	\$232,074	
Real Estate Taxes	\$5,981.97	\$6,191.54	
Dollar Increase	157.05	209.57	
Percent Increase	2.7%	3.50%	

IMPORTANT BUDGET DATES

April 17 Monday	7:00 p.m. Annual Town Meeting (FHS Auditorium)
April 27 Thursday	Referendum Vote
April 28 Friday	4:00 p.m. Special Town Council Meeting (if needed)
May 1 Monday	7:00 p.m. Second Town Meeting (if needed)
May 11 Thursday	Second Referendum Vote (if needed)
May 23 Tuesday	7:00 p.m. Town Council Meeting - set tax rate

WHERE TO VOTE IN TOWN (POLLING PLACES)

District 1, Precinct 1, 2, 3, 4 - Irving Robbins Middle School, 20 Wolf Pit Rd., Farmington
 District 1, Precinct 5 - West Woods Upper Elementary School, 50 Judson Lane, Farmington
 District 2, Precinct 6 - Community/Senior Center, 321 New Britain Ave., Unionville
 District 2, Precinct 7 - Municipal Campus (High School, Library or Town Hall), Monteith Dr., Farmington

See other side for Voting Resolutions and Explanatory Text

APRIL 27, 2017 REFERENDUM VOTE

TOWN OF FARMINGTON EXPLANATORY TEXT -- APRIL 27, 2017 REFERENDUM VOTE

1. "SHALL THE BUDGET FOR THE TOWN OF FARMINGTON PRESENTED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL AND RECOMMENDED BY THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING FOR FISCAL YEAR 2017-2018 BE APPROVED?"

YES

NO"

A budget, as recommended by the Farmington Town Council at a meeting held on April 3, 2017, and to be presented and discussed at the Annual Town Meeting to be held Monday, April 17, 2017, shall be submitted under the ballot heading above to vote on voting machines of persons qualified to vote in town meetings of the Town of Farmington on Thursday, April 27, 2017, between the hours of 6:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m.

The budget as recommended by the Town Council is on file and available for public inspection in the office of the Town Clerk.

Electors shall vote at their regularly assigned polling places, as follows: Electors residing in the First Voting District and assigned to polling places 1-1, 1-2, 1-3, and 1-4 shall vote at Irving A. Robbins Middle School, 20 Wolf Pit Road, Farmington, Connecticut; and those assigned to polling place 1-5 shall vote at West Woods Upper Elementary School, 50 Judson Lane, Farmington, Connecticut. Electors residing in the Second Voting District and assigned to polling place 2-6 shall vote at the Community & Senior Center, 321 New Britain Avenue, Unionville, Connecticut; and those assigned to polling place 2-7 shall vote at the Municipal Complex, Monteith Drive, Farmington, Connecticut. Voters qualified to vote at town meeting who are not electors shall vote at their respective polling place at Irving A. Robbins Middle School, West Woods Upper Elementary School, the Community & Senior Center, or the Municipal Complex. Absentee ballots will be available from the Town Clerk's office.

REMINDERS FROM THE ASSESSOR'S OFFICE

ELDERLY and TOTALLY DISABLED TAX RELIEF PROGRAMS

REVALUATION 2017

Applications for the Elderly and Totally Disabled State and Town Homeowner programs are available in the Assessor's Office through May 15, 2017. Applicants must be 65 years of age by December 31, 2016 or totally disabled, no age limit, to qualify. Income levels for the State program cannot exceed \$35,200 for a single person and \$42,900 for a married couple. The Town program income limits are \$41,200 for a single person or \$48,900 for a married couple. You may download an application from the Town of Farmington website; go to the Assessor's Page, under "FORMS", or you may come to the Assessor's Office in the Town Hall. Please be sure to bring your Federal Tax Return, if you file one, and your Social Security Statement (SSA 1099) when applying. If you do not file a tax return, you must provide proof of all forms of income, including your 1099 statement, pension benefits, interest, dividends, etc.

The Additional Veteran Program requirements are the same as the elderly programs. However if the applicant is 100% disabled, the income maximum is \$18,000 for a single person, and \$21,000 for a married couple, *excluding* Social Security.

If you have any questions regarding these programs, please contact the Assessor's Office at 860-675-2370.

The Town of Farmington has contracted Tyler Technologies to conduct the State-Mandated revaluation effective October 1, 2017. The purpose of a revaluation is to maintain equity throughout town. Since fair market value is affected by a number of factors including location, desirability and supply and demand, all properties are reviewed for accuracy in value.

Our ultimate goal is to estimate fair market value of every property as of the assessment date, which is October 1, 2017.

Employees of Tyler Technology will be seen around town, taking photos and/or conducting inspections of Commercial/Industrial properties and recent building permits. They are wearing name tags, and their vehicles are registered with the Assessor's Office and the Farmington Police Department.

If you have any questions or concerns about this process, please feel free to contact the Assessor's Office.

