



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

Fall is a period of transition; a new school year begins, the weather gets cooler, the leaves turn and the clocks are set back. We begin to prepare for the holidays, the winter months and a new year. Farmington's Town employees work diligently season after season to provide exceptional services and programs to our residents. I would like to take this opportunity to thank them for their hard work, especially on the projects that commenced this past spring and summer.

The Public Works Department has been busy creating, implementing and overseeing projects to improve Farmington's infrastructure. Our Rails to Trails system is in the process of expansion to include a trail from Red Oak Hill to the Town of Plainville. Many local roads were paved or reconstructed during the recent paving season. Our Water Pollution Control Facility upgrade that was approved in last November's election is well underway.

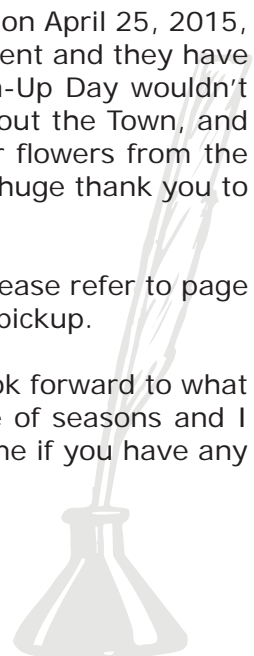
Throughout the past year, Farmington has maintained its strong commercial base, attracted some notable businesses and moved forward on some key development and planning initiatives. The Town was awarded three grants totaling \$795,000 to replace and repair sidewalks in downtown Unionville and Route 177 and to design an attractive gateway into Town that encourages small business and pedestrian connectivity. Close to 500 Farmington residents participated in workshops aimed to develop strategies and goals for the gateway improvement project. The active participation by so many residents exemplifies Farmington's strategic vision, a community commitment to the betterment of the entire Town. This is a very exciting opportunity and I encourage everyone to review the information regarding the Farmington Center Planning Project, which is available on the Town website at www.farmington-ct.org.

The 2015 Annual Clean-Up Day was another great success. The Clean-Up Day, held on April 25, 2015, produced a total of 2,302 pounds of trash. Our Green Efforts Committee hosts this event and they have done outstanding work promoting environmentally friendly practices in Town. Clean-Up Day wouldn't be possible without our wonderful volunteers who picked up trash and litter throughout the Town, and I thank you for all your hard work. I also hope everyone saw the beautiful summer flowers from the Beautify Farmington Flower project in Unionville and Farmington. I'd like to extend a huge thank you to our sponsors and local businesses for supporting this great program.

Lastly, our bi-annual Bulky Waste Collection will take place October 19-23, 2015. Please refer to page 3 in this newsletter for more information on what can and cannot be included in the pickup.

I am so proud of all that Farmington has accomplished during this past year and look forward to what is in store for our Town this upcoming fall and winter. I hope you enjoy the change of seasons and I remind you to vote on November 3rd. As always, please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,
Nancy W. Nickerson
Town Council Chair



COMMUNITY SERVICES UPCOMING PROGRAMS

Caring for an elderly relative & need support?

Are you caring for and/or assisting an elderly parent, spouse, family member, or friend? Farmington Community Services provides a resource specialist for seniors, families, and caregivers. Martha Taylor in our Community Services Department offers information regarding available programs, services, resources and support for seniors living in Farmington and Unionville. Please contact Martha at 860-675-2390 with any questions or concerns.

Join us on Thanksgiving Day!

Join us on November 26th for our annual Thanksgiving Day Gathering at the Farmington Community & Senior Center. The event will feature a drop-in brunch from 11:30 am to 12:30 pm and a full Thanksgiving meal from 1:00 pm to 2:00 pm. Reservations are required for the meal only. Participants, volunteers, and donors needed. Call 860-675-2390 for more information.

Annual Holiday Giving Programs

Farmington Community Services is gearing up for our Holiday Giving Programs. We are seeking volunteers to join us in supporting our low-income residents and families. We offer three programs – Thanksgiving Meal Baskets, Holiday Meal Baskets, and Adopt-a-Family. Please contact Community Services at 860-675-2390 if you are interested in donating or if you feel you could benefit from these programs.

BURGLARY PREVENTION TIPS FROM THE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Protect yourself and your neighbors, report suspicious persons and vehicles!

Often a burglar will drive or walk through a subdivision looking for a home that appears unoccupied. This can be determined by clues such as an open garage without cars, an accumulation of mail or newspapers, packages of dry cleaning left at the front door, or notes stuck on the door. The burglar will then approach the residence and ring the doorbell. If a resident answers, the burglar may pretend to be lost and ask for directions.

If you have someone approach your home in this manner, call the police immediately. Try to get a description of the person and any involved vehicle, along with a license plate number if possible to pass on to the police. The police will verify the story and offer any necessary assistance.

Promptly notify Police dispatch at 860-675-2400 or in the event of an active burglary, 911.

Get to Know Your Neighbors: Neighbors watching out for each other is the basic concept of neighborhood patrolling. Know the neighbors on all sides of you and learn what vehicles belong there.

Secure Your Home: Secure your home when you leave even for short periods of time. Deny the burglar the opportunity to make you a victim by securing all doors and windows before you leave!

Keep Your Garage Door Closed: Garage burglaries

often occur during the day. The thief simply walks into an open garage, removes what they want and is gone in a minute or two.

How to Increase the Odds of Getting Your Property Back in the Event that it is Stolen: While we hope that you do not become the victim of a crime, we would like to be able to identify your property should we locate it during an investigation. We often see property suspected to be stolen, but are unable to establish the identity of the rightful owner. When that happens, one of two things occur. We may not be able to seize the property, and must leave it with the suspects, or we seize the property and are unable to identify the rightful owner.

These problems are common and are a significant source of frustration for both law enforcement and crime victims. Making sure this doesn't happen is simple by following these steps:

- Take an inventory of your belongings.
- Note the make, model, color, size and serial number.
- Photographs and videos also work well.

Engrave your belongings. Depending on the amount of room on the article to be engraved you might consider the standard engraving format, which is to engrave your Connecticut operator's license number. Other options would be your last name, your initials or the name of your business.

REMINDER FROM YOUR FIRE MARSHAL'S OFFICE

Halloween is an annual opportunity to conjure and create natural and mental imaginative illusions. With the simple precautions listed below, we can all share the intentions of this celebration and prevent a needless tragedy:

1. Use battery-operated devices for the illumination of pumpkins, etc. (open flame and candles are extremely dangerous);
2. Costumes and clothing should not be material that is highly flammable or susceptible to heat or open flame;
3. When trick or treating, wear clothing which will reflect light or is of a light color, and children should be accompanied by an adult and carry a flashlight.

Have fun and be safe!



BULKY WASTE COLLECTION

The next Town-wide bulky waste collection will begin on Monday, October 19, 2015, and will be picked up on your normal trash pickup day during the week of October 19th through October 23rd.

During the week of October 19, 2015, all residents who have trash collection by the Town's contractor are invited to leave their bulky items curbside the night before their regular collection day. Separate bulk trucks will pick up tires, appliances, and metal items. These items should be separated from regular bulky items and four feet (4') from the Town of Farmington approved Trash & Recycling carts. Small bulky items should be bundled, boxed, or bagged. Tires should be removed from their rims. The weight for all acceptable items is limited to manual lifting by two persons. Six feet (6') is the maximum length.

ACCEPTABLE ITEMS LIMITED TO 2 PER HOUSEHOLD:

- Large Furniture: couches, overstuffed chairs, box springs and mattresses (a mattress & a box spring together are considered 1 piece of large furniture).
- Appliances: Doors must be removed.
- Tires/Rims: Car / bicycle tires only - Tires must be removed from rims.
- Plumbing Fixtures: i.e. - Sinks, tubs, and toilets
- Carpet/padding: Must be rolled and taped or tied. Maximum length of roll limited to 6 feet.
- Smaller pieces of furniture.
- Misc. Household items: MAXIMUM OF 10 BAGS

RESTRICTIONS:

- Weight for all acceptable items is limited to manual lifting by two (2) persons.
- Length for all acceptable items is limited to 6 feet.

UNACCEPTABLE ITEMS:

- NO Recyclable items: i.e. cardboard, rigid plastic items (toys, buckets, coolers, etc)
- NO Building Materials: i.e. Lumber (Clean lumber with no nails/hardware/NOT pressure treated or painted, bring to Tunxis Mead Compost Area. Unclean lumber, call CWPM @ 860-829-0714), shingles, sheetrock, brick, stone, concrete, ceramic tile, and other construction items. For a fee residents can bring most building materials to CWPM in Berlin 829-0714.
- NO Plywood
- NO Pallets: (residents may bring to the Tunxis Mead Compost Area during the hours of operation.)
- NO Stumps or lawn debris
- NO Motor Vehicle Parts or Batteries: Motor vehicle batteries and used motor oil in small quantities are the only two items that are accepted at the Highway Division of Public Works. Any other Hazardous Material left will be considered illegal dumping.
- NO Propane Tanks: They can be brought to most retailers that fill the tanks. A small fee is usually charged.
- NO Paint (latex or oil-based): For more details on paint recycling, please visit www.paintcare.org or call 855-724-6809.
- NO Televisions, Computers (desktop or laptop), Monitors, Printers, Keyboards: These items must be brought to a recycling center. Green Monster e-cycling located at 150 Brook Street, West Hartford accepts CED's as well as other electronic items for recycling. Please call 860-816-2281 or visit their website at: www.GMEcycling.com
- NO Hazardous Waste products: (Oil based paints, pesticides, and petroleum products). For dates and location information, please call the MDC at 860-278-3809 or visit their website at: www.themdc.com.



NOTES FROM THE REGISTRARS OFFICE

Statewide elections will take place on Tuesday, November 3, 2015. Mail-in voter registrations must be postmarked by October 27, 2015 in order to be added to our voter list. Our office is open Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 9AM-2PM for in person registrations. On Saturday, October 17, 2015 the Registrar's office will be open from 10AM-2PM for new registrations or to change an existing registration. In person registration will close at 8:00 PM on Tuesday, October 27, 2015. Additional information and a link to online registration is available at www.farmington-ct.org.

To register to vote in Farmington you must be a United States Citizen, be a resident of Farmington, be 17 years of age (becoming 18 by election day), and be completely released of confinement and parole if a past felon.

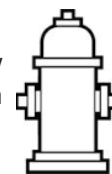
Please call the Registrars of Voters office at: 860-675-2379 with any questions.

REQUEST FROM FIRE DEPARTMENT

Immediate access to a fire hydrant during a fire is critical in order to establish a water supply to extinguish a fire. The Town of Farmington Fire Department recommends that all property owners and occupants assure that fire hydrants on or near their property are readily accessible to fire fighters.

The Fire Department offers the following recommendations to property owners and occupants for clearing their own hydrants:

1. Snow, ice, brush or other impediments should be regularly removed from the fire hydrant in a 4' radius in all directions around the hydrant.
2. A 3' wide path from the hydrant to the street should remain clear to allow fire fighters to access the fire hydrant.
3. Fire hydrants should be cleared of snow and ice within 24 hours after each storm.



REMINDER FROM THE WATER POLLUTION CONTROL FACILITY

It's a Toilet, Not a Trashcan!

Toilets are only meant for one activity, and you know what we're talking about! When the wrong things are flushed, results can include costly backups on your own property, and in the Town's sewer system. They also cause problems at our wastewater treatment plant. That's why it's so important to treat toilets properly and flush only your personal contributions to the Town's wastewater treatment plant. Some of these items are also controversially labeled as "flushable":

Don't flush any items like:

- *Baby wipes and diapers*
- *Paper towels*
- *Cleaning/disinfecting wipes*
- *Cotton swabs*
- *Syringes*



- *Candy and other food wrappers*
- *Cleaning sponges*
- *Plastic items of any description*
- *Kitty litter*
- *Rubber items such as latex gloves*
- *Cigarette butts*
- *Sanitary napkins*
- *Hair*
- *Underwear*
- *Disposable toilet brushes*

Kitchen Clean Up

Rinsing Fats, Oils, and Grease (FOG) and food waste down your drains also results in problems in our pipes and sewer system. Although fats, oils, and grease in a warm liquid may appear harmless as they flow easily down the drain; as the liquid cools, FOG solidifies and separates from the water and sticks to the inside of pipes. Over time, layers of FOG build up and form restrictions, blockages and accumulations in our sewers and pump stations. Allow grease and oil to cool and pour it into a container, or wipe it out of pots, pans and dishes and dispose of it in the garbage. Run a web search for "Fatberg" for some interesting reading.

Also make use of the Drug Collection Unit available at the Police Department to dispose of unused medications.

Remember, in one way or another:

ALL DRAINS LEAD TO THE RIVER

a note from...PAULA RAY, TOWN CLERK

Absentee ballots for the November 3, 2015 Municipal Election are available starting October 2, 2015 by mail or at the Town Clerk's office. To accommodate voters, the Town Clerk's office will be open extended hours on Tuesday, October 22, 2015 until 7:00 pm for voting by absentee ballot.

In order to vote by absentee ballot, you must first complete an absentee ballot application. You may obtain an application for an absentee ballot at the Town Clerk's office, online from the link contained in the Town Clerk's section of the Town of Farmington website, www.farmington-ct.org under the Absentee Ballot heading, or by calling 860-675-2380 or emailing rayp@farmington-ct.org.

If you have any questions about voting by absentee ballot, please call the Town Clerk's office 860-675-2380.

PERSONAL PROPERTY DECLARATIONS

The Assessor's Office would like to remind businesses that Personal Property Declarations must be filed on or before November 2, 2015 in order to avoid a 25% penalty.

If you have not received a form, you may contact the Assessor's Office to request one. A declaration form is also available on the Town of Farmington website. Please go to the Assessor page under "Forms".

As always, if you have any questions regarding this or any other Assessor-related matter, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Tel#: 860-675-2370

Email: BartaC@farmington-ct.org

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.

The time to inspect your mailbox is before snowstorms; i.e. shake and rattle your mailbox to 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. Also, per our inspection, your mailbox will not be fixed if there is evidence of any pre-existing damage.

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.

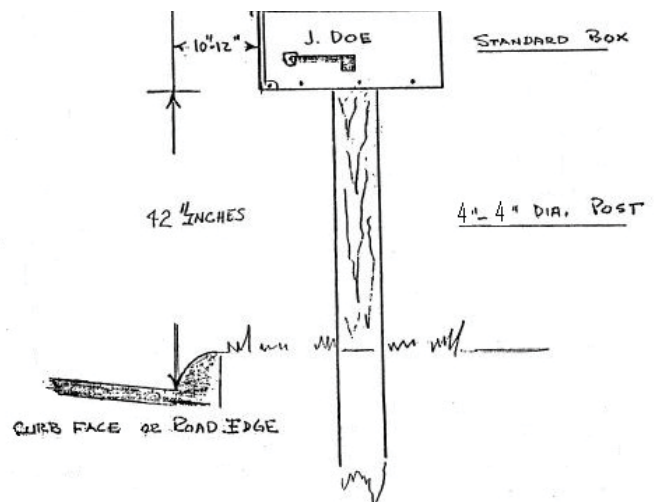
Decorative posts turned on a lathe to make them round in places reduce the strength of the post. They will not withstand the twisting torque motion causing a split along the grain of the wood starting at the support arm or at one of the narrowest points. Also, any and all mailboxes and posts made out of plastic will NOT be replaced.

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. See sketch of a typical mailbox installation below:



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT UPDATE



The beautiful summer flowering baskets and the winter kissing balls located on Farmington Bridge and in Unionville Center are enjoyed by all. They were recently mentioned in a Hartford Courant article entitled "Ten Ways you know you are from Farmington." The baskets are made possible thanks to many generous local sponsors.



If you're a past sponsor or would like to be a new supporter of our beautification efforts, please contact Rose Ponte, Economic Development Director at:

860-675-2395 or visit our website for more information at:
http://www.farmington-ct.org/docs/FYI/Sponsorship_levels_2015.pdf

DIRECT ENERGY PROGRAM ENDING

Over the past few years, the Town of Farmington has sponsored Direct Energy to provide our residents with an optional energy supply program. However, the Town of Farmington will be ending their sponsorship of the electric supply program currently in place with Direct Energy. As of January 31, 2016 there will no longer be a Town-sponsored residential electric supply program. This is because Direct Energy may no longer be the most competitive rate. The Town is no longer sponsoring one energy program over another and we encourage residents to research electric suppliers.

If you wish to research electric suppliers, go to <http://www.energizect.com/compare-energy-suppliers>. This web site shows Eversource's (CL&P) Standard Service generation rates, as well as all of the fixed and variable rates offered by licensed suppliers with information on how to sign up with them. Please compare each plan carefully so as to fully understand each supplier's offering. As it may take a month or two to make a supplier change, you should look to make new supply arrangements in November. All the information you need is available on this web site.

If you are a Direct Energy customer and you do nothing, you will stay with Direct Energy at their rate effective February 1, 2016.



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