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.

As part of the Town’s long term paving program the Highway & Grounds Department completed road repairs on the following roads this year: Pinnacle Road, Old Pinnacle Road, Pinnacle Ridge Road, Suncrest Lane, Oakland Avenue, Maple Avenue, Beech Street, Crescent Avenue, Bungalow Hill, Mountain Lane, Mountain Spring (Talcott to Old Mountain), Fieldstone Run, Hidden Oak, School Street-Unionville, Mill Street, Platner Street, Chaffee Lane, and Westview Terrace. Northeast Road, John Steele Road, Old Mountain Road (Ely to previous project limit west), Paperchase Drive, Walnut Farms Drive, and Kent Lane are scheduled to be paved by the end of fall, weather permitting.

You may have noticed a new pedestrian bridge over Route 6 for trail users on the Farmington Canal Heritage Greenway. The new trail section of our Rails to Trails system, from Red Oak Hill to the Town of Plainville, has been completed. This 2.4 mile multi-use trail is a valuable amenity to the region and to our residents here in Farmington.

In May, the Farmington Town Council amended and adopted the Town of Farmington Strategic Plan. The Strategic Plan is the most important planning document for the Town of Farmington, as it guides elected and appointed officials on matters of policy, finance, and operations to ensure that the needs of Farmington citizens are being heard and met. The updated Strategic Plan document can be accessed at www.farmington-ct.org under the Government Tab.

The Town Council also appointed the following new committees, who have been diligently working throughout the summer months: The Farmington High School Community Survey Ad Hoc Committee, the Farmington High School Facility and Financial Ad Hoc Committee, and the Farmington Village Center Committee. Meeting schedules, minutes, and agendas for each committee are posted on the Town of Farmington website under the government tab. All Farmington residents are encouraged to attend meetings and participate in the process.

Our bi-annual Bulk Waste Collection will take place October 15-19, 2018. Please refer to page 4 in this newsletter for more information on what can and cannot be included in the pickup. Farmington residents will have the opportunity to participate in a Household Hazardous Waste, Electronics, Shredding collection in Simsbury on November 3rd. Please refer to page 5 in the newsletter for more information.

I am proud of all that Farmington has accomplished during this past year and look forward to what is in store for the Town this fall and upcoming winter. Don’t forget to keep up to date with events, businesses, and local happenings on the Economic Development Commission’s community engagement website, ExploreFarmington.com. I hope you enjoy the change of seasons and I remind you to vote on November 6th. As always, please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,
Nancy W. Nickerson
Town Council Chair
2018 Farmington Care Fair
Join Farmington Community & Recreational Services for our annual Farmington Care Fair this October 17th from 2:00 – 4:00 PM and 6:00 – 8:00 PM at the Community & Senior Center. This event exhibits a wide range of information on senior services, products, and resources in the health, housing and financial industries for seniors & caregivers. We are currently registering vendors to be a part of this successful event, which attracts over 300 local residents each year. Please contact the Farmington Senior Center at 860-675-2490 for more information.

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.

Join us on Thanksgiving Day!
Join us on November 22nd for our annual Thanksgiving Day Gathering at the Farmington Community & Senior Center. The event will feature a full Thanksgiving meal from 12:00 pm to 2:00 pm. Reservations are required. Participants, volunteers, and donors needed. Call 860-675-2390 for more information.

Emergency Services
Farmington Community Services works with members of CERT (see below) to reach and assist residents in need during times of severe weather, state-of-emergency, or prolonged loss of electricity. The department maintains a list of elderly, disabled or otherwise impaired residents who are a priority for services and well-being checks during these times. This list is updated annually. If you or someone you know should be included on this list, please call 860-675-2390.

POLICE DEPARTMENT CERT TRAINING COURSE

The Farmington Police Department will be hosting a Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) basic training course in February 2019. The CERT program is designed to educate citizens and provide basic training in the event that a natural disaster or major incident causes first responders to be unable to meet the high demand for their services. CERT volunteers are trained in several categories such as disaster preparedness, fire suppression, medical operations, light search and rescue, disaster psychology, and team organization. The basic training is beneficial to any citizen that takes it. This individual will be better prepared before, during, and after a disaster. Citizens who have completed CERT training will be better equipped to help themselves, their families, their neighbors, and the community during a major incident.

At the completion of the course, participants will be given the opportunity to apply to become a member of the Farmington Community Emergency Response Team. Members of the CERT team assist first responders in several ways. CERT members are called to conduct traffic control at planned events and emergency incidents. They assist other agencies with search and rescue operations and they staff the emergency shelter. The CERT team also operates a mobile canteen trailer which is prepared to respond to emergency scenes to provide rehab services to first responders and members of the community.

More information about the FEMA Community Emergency Response Team program can be found at https://www.ready.gov/community-emergency-response-team. Citizens interested in attending the basic CERT training course and/or volunteering for the Farmington CERT Team are asked to contact Sergeant Kory Vincent at VincentK@Farmington-CT.org.
CT State elections will take place on November 6, 2018 at our usual polling places:

| District 1 precincts 1,2,3,4 | Irving Robbins School |
| District 1 precinct 5         | West Woods School    |
| District 2 precinct 6         | Community / Senior Center |
| District 2 precinct 7         | Farmington High School |

If you wish to check the status of your voter registration you may use the “look up tool” at the web site of the CT Secretary of the State: www.sots.ct.gov. If you need to register or change your current registration you may do so with www.voterregistration.ct.gov

Mail in registrations must be postmarked by Oct 30, 2018 in order to be added to our voter list for the November 6, 2018 election. The Registrar of Voters office is open Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 9AM to 2PM. Limited registration at the Registrar’s office will close at 12 Noon Monday Nov 5, 2018.

Election Day Registration (EDR) will be available only at the Registrar’s office in Town Hall.

Absentee ballot applications are available through the Town Clerk’s office weekdays from 8:30AM- 4:30PM. Absentee Ballots will be mailed after October 5, 2018.

To register to vote in Farmington one must meet these requirements:

1. Be a United States Citizen
2. Be a resident of Farmington
3. Be 17 years of age, becoming 18 by Nov 6, 2018
4. Be completely released of confinement and parole if a past felon.

Call with questions: 860-675-2378 or 860-675-2379

2018 TOP DOG OF FARMINGTON

Viktoria

Viktoria is a 9 year old black Miniature Schnauzer. She loves running a lot and as far as she can. She also loves chasing chipmunks! She hides everything under the bed from clothes to dog toys.

Is your backyard frequently wet? Do you have a brook or stream that runs through or near your property? If so, you may need a permit with the Inland Wetlands Commission before you clear parts of your property. Call the wetlands staff at 860.675.2325 to discuss your project before you start work. We are happy to help you determine if a permit is needed and discuss ways to protect the wetlands and streams. Remember, most stormwater in town eventually flows to the Farmington River!


10 THINGS YOU CAN DO TO PREVENT STORMWATER POLLUTION

- **Never** dump anything down the storm drain.
- Use fertilizers sparingly and sweep up driveways, sidewalks, and roads.
- Vegetate bare spots in your lawn.
- Use a mulching lawn mower in lieu of bagging.
- Consider Integrated Pest Management techniques for lawn and landscaping care.
- Direct downspouts away from paved surfaces and consider the use of Rain Gardens.
- Take your car to the Car Wash
- Repair fluid leaks in your vehicles.
- Pick up after your pet. Dispose of pet waste in the garbage, not the woods and wetlands.
- Proper Septic System Maintenance.

Visit the Town of Farmington Stormwater website for additional information:

http://www.farmington-ct.org/departments/engineering/stormwater
The next Town-wide bulky waste collection will begin on Monday, October 15 and will be picked up on your normal trash pickup day during the week of October 15-19, 2018.

During the week of October 15, 2018, all Farmington residents who have trash collection 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. The weight for all acceptable items is limited to the manual lifting by two persons. Six feet (6’) is the maximum length.

**Mark your calendar for the next Spring Town-wide Bulky Waste Collection, which will be April 22-26, 2019**

**ACCEPTABLE ITEMS - LIMITED to 2 PER HOUSEHOLD:**

- Large Furniture: 2 MAX - i.e. Couches, overstuffed chairs, box springs and mattresses (a mattress and a box spring are considered 1 piece of large furniture). **If possible, please try to keep mattresses & box springs dry so they can be recycled**
- Appliances: 2 MAX - Doors must be removed (State of Connecticut Regulation)
- Tires and Rims: 2 MAX - Car and bicycle tires only. Tires must be removed from rims.
- Plumbing Fixtures: 2 MAX - i.e. Sinks, tubs and toilets.

**OTHER ACCEPTABLE ITEMS:**

- Carpet/padding: Must be rolled, and taped or tied, 6’ maximum length.
- Smaller pieces of furniture.
- Misc. Household Items: MAX 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 six (6) feet.

**UNACCEPTABLE ITEMS:**

- NO RECYCLABLE MATERIALS: i.e. cardboard, plastics food/beverage containers, etc.
- NO EXTRA/REGULAR HOUSEHOLD TRASH: i.e. food scraps, weekly trash items, etc.
- NO Building Materials: i.e. shingles, sheet-rock, brick, stone, concrete, ceramic tile, or wood flooring.
- NO Lumber (Clean lumber with no nails/hardware/NOT pressure treated or painted can be brought to the Tunxis Mead Compost Area during normal hours of operation; For Unclean Lumber, call CWPM @860-828-1162).
- 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 materials left will be considered illegal dumping and subject to fines.
- NO Propane Tanks
- NO Televisions, Computers (desktop or laptop), Monitors, Printers, or Keyboards
- NO Hazardous Waste Products
- NO Paint (latex or oil-based)

Additional information can be found on the Town website: www.farmington-ct.org. Any questions or concerns, please contact the Farmington Highway & Grounds Division of Public Works - 860.675.2550.
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 is one (1) final collection date for 2018 that Town of Farmington residents can attend:

- **NOVEMBER 3, 2018** - at Simsbury Public Works Facility, 66 Town Forest Road, Simsbury, CT.

On the same date and location 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)
- Asbestos
- Business Waste – (collection is for residential waste only)
- Cement
- Fire extinguishers
- Freon
- Marine Flares – Pyrotechnic flares cannot be accepted at the Collection because they are categorized as explosives.
- Ice melt – Ice melt is not hazardous and can be disposed in the regular trash
- Latex Driveway Sealer (Genite) – Driveway sealer is not hazardous; solidify then throw in the regular trash
- Medicine/Drugs/Needles/Syringes
- Propane Tanks for gas grills
- Appliances
- Smoke detectors
- Tires
- Used Oil Filters

**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
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:

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.
WATER POLLUTION CONTROL FACILITY UPDATE

Construction to upgrade the Town’s Water Pollution Control Facility has been ongoing for over 2½ years. The facility is on track to be completed by the Fall of 2019 as originally planned. Approximately 75 percent of the facility is complete with the majority of new tanks and equipment now in service. The last phase of the project will include the renovation of sludge handling facilities, odor control equipment, completion of building renovations and final site restoration of paved areas and landscaping. The upgraded facility will have more capacity, an improved discharge water quality by removing nitrogen and phosphorus, and will treat our wastewater more reliably and efficiently.

FREE CPR TRAINING FROM YOUR FIRE DEPARTMENT

Family and Friends CPR: This video-based course teaches CPR and relief of choking in adults, children and infants. Use of an AED (Automated External Defibrillator) is also included in the training, and participants receive a student manual for ongoing reference. Family and Friends CPR is designed for members of the general public who would like to learn basic CPR, including families with children or elderly relatives, community groups, and those who do not need a course completion card.

- **Wednesday, December 12th 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.**

If you would like to sign up for this upcoming class at the Senior/Community Center and learn these valuable skills, go to:


REQUEST FROM OUR 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.

REQUEST FROM YOUR FIRE MARSHAL

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!
Monday September 24, 2018 marked the 20th anniversary of the tragic murder of Agnieszka Ziemlewski in Farmington. Agnes or Niki as her friends knew her, was walking in the MDC Reservoir property, as she often did, when she was shot at close range and killed just 100 feet from the gate at Old Mountain Road in Farmington. A tree was planted in the spot where Agnes lost her life at just 25 years old and still stands today as a reminder of the life lost. The case remains unsolved, but is constantly being reviewed by Farmington Detectives who follow-up on all investigative leads and tips.

Over the years several agencies have played a role in the investigation and Farmington PD held a press conference at the spot of Agnes’s murder. All agencies involved in the investigation were invited to show a presence at the press conference and a prepared statement was presented by Chief Paul J. Melanson. The agencies represented included Farmington PD, West Hartford PD, CT State Police, Hartford PD, MDC Police, OCME, FBI, GA14 Hartford Superior Court and the CT Crime Lab.

The maximum reward offered under CT General Statutes ($50,000) is being offered in this case through the Governor’s Office for any information leading to the arrest and conviction of the suspect(s) responsible for Agnes’s murder. It is our belief that the suspect remains in the Connecticut Community and people have information that can help law enforcement capture the responsible individual(s). It is never too late to come forward and provide any information you may have regarding this case. We will not give up on this case. Every day we are gathering more information from the community to move this case forward and the continued community assistance is appreciated.

Farmington PD has set up a designated phone line and email address for people to share information with us. Please reach out! Tip Line: (860) 673-8266 and justice4agnes@farmington-ct.org

Respectfully Submitted, Captain Colin F. Ryan, Executive Officer