



May 21, 2020

Dear Farmington Residents,

Our community has done a great job of working together and adjusting to many of the challenges to everyday life that COVID-19 has brought. We have rung bells, held remote birthdays, worn masks, socially distanced, and generally supported each other in a manner that should make us all proud.

As we start seeing the easing of some “stay home stay safe” directives, we must remember that this virus is still strong and in our community. The Farmington Valley Health District is continuously monitoring Farmington’s statistics, please visit www.fvhd.org for the latest statistics for Farmington and the Farmington Valley.

It is with this in mind that we would like to update the community on some important changes regarding the town’s response to COVID-19 and important happenings around town as we enter Phase 1 of the State’s reopening plan.

Memorial Day Parade

The Memorial Day Parades have been cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. We know that our annual parades in Farmington and Unionville are one of the highlights of our Town calendar. While we won’t be able to celebrate and honor those who gave the ultimate sacrifice to our nation in the traditional manner, a ceremony will be broadcasted on Memorial Day at 11:00 am on our Town website www.farmington-ct.org. The ceremony will also air on Comcast Channel 95 and 1090 and Frontier Channel 6061 on Monday. For more details please refer to the Town’s website.

Budget - FY 2020-2021

The budget process as outlined in the Town of Farmington Charter was modified by executive orders issued by Governor Lamont. There was an explicit restriction on holding the Annual Town Meeting and the budget referendum. Therefore, the Town Council was charged with setting the budget and tax rate for FY 2020-2021. At the May 12, 2020 Town Council public meeting held through Zoom, the Council adopted the FY 2020-2021 Town of Farmington Budget. The adopted budget has a 0% tax increase. As such, the tax rate will remain at 27.97 mills and the Solid Waste Service Charge will remain at \$235. More information about the FY 2020-2021 Adopted Budget can be found on the Town’s website – www.farmington-ct.org





Tax Deferment Program

On Tuesday, April 21, 2020, the Farmington Town Council unanimously approved a Tax Deferment program for taxpayers and businesses adversely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Under this program, eligible taxpayers (businesses, nonprofits, and residents) can obtain a deferment of three months on taxes of real property, personal property or motor vehicles, sewer and waste charges and assessments that are levied between April 1, 2020 and July 1, 2020. For example, payment on taxes normally due on July 1, 2020 can be deferred until October 1, 2020 without penalty.

Eligible taxpayers are those that attest to or document to the Town of Farmington, that they have experienced significant adverse economic impact due to COVID-19 and/or those that document they are providing relief to those significantly negatively affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Information regarding the tax deferment program, including the guidelines and required documentation is available at www.farmington-ct.org on the Tax Collector's Office web page.

Farmington High School Building Committee Update

Due to the uncertainty regarding the economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Farmington High School Building Project will not be on the November ballot. The project is on a temporary pause. During this pause the Building Committee will continue to work with its consultants to complete the schematic design and work on other open items. The Building Committee will continue to meet on a regular basis to evaluate new information and respond accordingly, communicate as necessary, and work closely with the Town Council and the Board of Education to prepare for a new referendum date.

Update on Closures and Business Reopening

Governor Lamont recently announced that schools will be closed for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year. Distance learning continues at all academic levels in the Farmington Public Schools. Graduation plans have been announced for the senior class and graduation will take place on June 11 at the Farmington Polo Grounds. The ceremony will be unique and the seniors will be recognized for this well-deserved milestone accomplishment.

On Wednesday, May 20th, the Governor's first phase of reopening Connecticut businesses began. Eligible phase 1 businesses include restaurants, offices, retail stores, outdoor museums, and zoos. Locally, we've established a streamlined process to guide and certify restaurants and retail shops to open safely and successfully. Now, more than ever, it's important to support our local





businesses. To find out which restaurants are offering outdoor dining, and the hours of operation for the Westfarms Mall and other retail shops, please visit www.ExploreFarmington.com and check out the Explore Farmington Local Guides; this will help you find great options, to Shop Local, Eat Local and Stay Local.

Town facilities remain CLOSED to the public, except for the Town Clerk's Office (please call 860-675-2380 in advance.) Town Staff continue to work on site or remotely during normal operating hours. Residents are advised to interact with the Town online, via email, over the phone, or through US Mail. A full list of service offerings can be found on the Town webpage on the COVID-19 page. The link to the listing is: <https://www.farmington-ct.org/home/showdocument?id=17913>

As we enter phase 1 reopening and gear up for phase 2, we will update residents on the opening of Town facilities to the public. When it is safe to do so, town services will gradually reopen. Currently, please enjoy the Town's passive recreation amenities on the trails system or play a round of golf at Westwoods Golf Course.

Social Distancing

As we move to reopen, social distancing is more important than ever. Please always remember to maintain six feet between each other, avoid gatherings of more than five people, and wear a face covering when in close proximity to others. You should have a face covering with you whenever you leave your home. Continue to practice preventative actions such as washing your hands, avoiding touching your face, and disinfecting surfaces to help stop the spread of germs. Social distancing is a necessary and effective measure to slow the spread of COVID-19; it will also help stop any flare ups of the virus as we try to slowly reopen.

Continue to visit our [COVID-19 website](#) for the latest updates as we all work together to keep our community healthy and safe.

As we all continue to be respectful to others, we will get through this unusual time together.

Sincerely,

C.J. Thomas
Town Council Chair

Kathleen A. Blonski
Town Manager

