



ANNUAL REPORT 2007

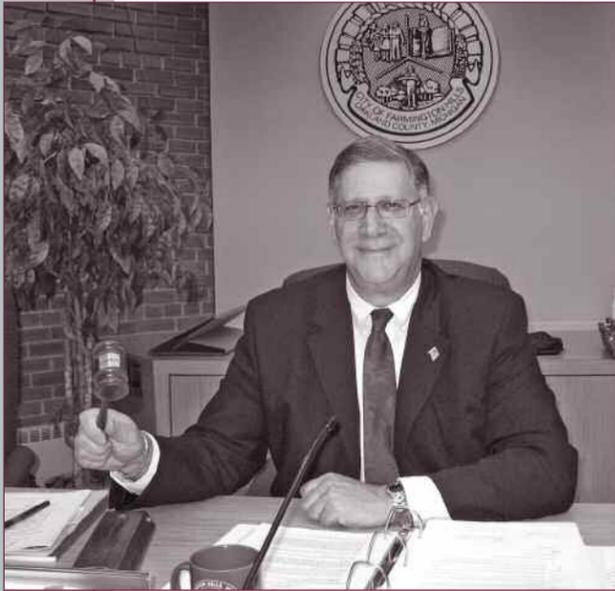
**CITY COUNCIL**

- Jerry Ellis  
*Mayor*
- Nancy Bates  
*Mayor Pro Tem*
- Barry Brickner
- Randy Bruce
- Ken Massey
- Cheryl Oliverio

**CITY MANAGER**

- Steve Brock

## MESSAGE FROM YOUR MAYOR



*Farmington Hills Mayor Jerry Ellis*

I invite you to read our 2007 Annual Report. I think you will agree that even in these often difficult times, the City of Farmington Hills is vibrant and strong. The accomplishments of the past year speak for themselves - new building permits, new recreational and cultural programs, advances in public safety, and strides in environmental projects are among the highlights.

As we look ahead, our future is bright. We will continue to maintain our high quality of life and the many excellent services that we enjoy. We will focus on the key to success, which lies in strong economic development. We will strive to establish an environment that will retain current employers, and attract new businesses and commercial opportunities.

We will remain fiscally responsible in the face of a challenging economy.

With a long-range view, our Boards and Commissions will examine areas in need of revitalization and our City Council will explore the cost-savings produced by shared services.

While facilitating economic growth, facing financial challenges, and being fiscally responsible are all of vital importance, so too is the need to maintain our diverse and attractive neighborhoods. Our neighborhoods are home to the City's greatest asset of all - our residents. We are committed to providing our residents with the quality of life that has made us the great City we are today. We are also committed to providing a secure future for the next generation that will call Farmington Hills home.

Jerry Ellis  
*Mayor*

## Police Department

The Police Department's many accomplishments for 2007 include:

- Farmington Hills was named by Morgan Quinto Press as the 19th Safest City nationwide, among the 378 cities surveyed. In 2006, Farmington Hills was 14th nationwide in the 75,000 - 100,000 population group and second in Michigan for the same population group, which included 15 cities surveyed in the state.
- The Police Department teamed up with the Engineering Division to process traffic crashes that involve serious injuries or fatalities. A GPS-based engineering device used for taking surveys was found to provide quick and highly accurate measurements needed for traffic crash investigations. A cash award for Excellence in Traffic Safety from the Michigan Association of Chiefs of Police (MACP) provided funding for the measurement device, which will soon be in use at traffic crash scenes and other outdoor crime scenes.
- A detective was assigned to the Oakland County Auto Theft Unit (ATU), a multi-jurisdictional task force that includes officers from Farmington Hills, Hazel Park, Waterford, Pontiac, and the Wayne and Oakland County Sheriff's Departments. Funded by a grant from the Auto Theft Prevention Authority, last year the ATU conducted 853 investigations resulting in 311 arrests. Nearly 500 stolen cars, parts, and other equipment were recovered with a total value of \$5.6 million. The ATU's efforts have resulted in a 9.2% reduction in auto theft in Farmington Hills in the past year.
- The Police Department, in partnership with the Fire Department, the Emergency Preparedness Commission, the Senior Division and the Commission on Aging, developed the Senior Safety Program, providing seniors with information on crime, scams, and personal safety. The program was first offered in September at the Costick Center and has since been presented at several facilities throughout the community.
- The Police Department hosted many educational meetings including the Eighth Annual Crime Prevention Kids Club Detective School and the Twelfth Annual Civilian Police Academy, which once again provided an inside look at the department. During the fall, the department collaborated with Limited Brands, a parent company to a number of retail stores, to present an Organized Retail Crime seminar, providing attendees from both the private and public sectors with retail crime trend information.



*Paid-on-call firefighter recruits are engaged in the physical agility testing portion of the hiring process.*

## Fire Department

In 2007, the Fire Department responded to over 7,000 calls for emergency assistance, making this the busiest year in Department history. Also during 2007:

- The Department hired two full-time career firefighter/paramedics and will hire approximately 30 paid-on-call firefighters, who will begin a rigorous and extensive training academy in fire suppression, prevention, and medical emergency procedures.
- The Department transitioned from an aging aerial platform ladder truck to purchasing three new Quints (fire engine/ladder combination apparatus.) The new trucks were delivered in the fall and placed into service after members completed a training course. The trucks were assigned to Stations 2, 4, and 5.
- Firefighters accommodated requests for public fire education programs, tours, and visits, and also introduced the new fire safety trailer to the community. The trailer is used for both children and adults to promote kitchen safety and teach proper escape techniques from a burning home using theatrical smoke to obscure vision. The trailer was purchased with federal grant funds. Approximately 20,000 people have been impacted by these programs.



### Get automatic e-mails about the City of Farmington Hills!

Join hundreds of other residents who have signed up for the City Listserv. Go to [www.fhgov.com](http://www.fhgov.com), click on Quick Links, then Mailing List/Listsers, then select the lists you'd like to join. You'll be e-mailed the latest City news, road construction updates, and notices about cultural arts or ice arena activities. For more info, call 248-871-2430.

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Planning & Development

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## CULTURAL ARTS DIVISION



At Festival of the Arts, art enthusiasts “Bonded” during “ARTS 007,” a fun-filled week of events at the Costick Center. Highlights included displays of student, community, and professional artwork along with musical performances and art demonstrations. Our own Festival of the Arts was recognized this year by the National League of Cities (NLC) and featured in the Showcase Exhibition at the NLC Annual Conference in New Orleans in November.

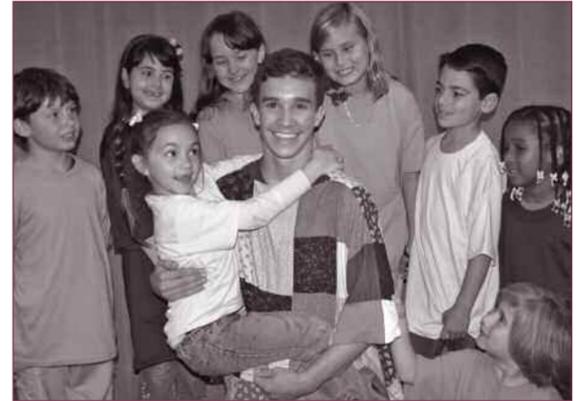
The new Farmington Hills Youth Choir was created and had their debut performance with the Farmington Community Chorus in December. This popular program gives children the opportunity to perform together beyond the usual school setting. The Next Stage, another performance program, teaches vocal instruction and stage techniques.

The Farmington Hills Youth Theatre will offer its tenth play this spring. Due to increased interest, the Youth Theatre added a new performance opportunity specifically for younger actors. In November, the Youth Theatre presented “Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat,” the largest production yet, with 144 children and adults in two casts. Funds from Youth Theatre productions paid for new lighting equipment and curtains for the Costick Center’s stage.

Visual art programs continued to grow in 2007, with more instructors teaching in the beautiful Stables Studio at Heritage Park. A new children’s art camp that features photography, story telling, drawing, and music, will be expanded this summer.

Other events included Mystery Theater at the Longacre House, a Western Jazz Quartet performance, and the return of the Michigan Opera Theatre. Summer concerts in Heritage Park brought back old favorites and added new performers such as Chris Roach, a British country singer now headed to Nashville. Traditional English teas at the renovated Longacre House, a perfect setting for these events, consistently sold out and will feature new historical topics for next year’s presentations.

*Back row: Patrick Vietor (Farmington Hills), Arianna Heyman (Farmington Hills), Mallory Bengry (Southfield), Lauren Alo (West Bloomfield), Matthew Blackman (Novi), Leila Corbin (Farmington Hills). Front row: Sierra Willnus (Farmington Hills), Aaron Pollard (Farmington Hills), Hannah O’Malley (Farmington).*



## SENIOR DIVISION

The Senior Division meets the needs of a broad age group ranging from evening programs for those still in the work force to community-based services for those requiring home-delivered meals, liquid nutrition, chore services, outreach, or transportation services.

Significant accomplishments for 2007 included:

- Meals on Wheels provided 70,290 meals and the Congregate Meal Program provided 19,368 on-site meals.
- Specialized Transportation and Dial-a-Ride cab provided 35,074 rides, including an unprecedented number of wheelchair rides.
- Lifelong Learning at Longacre highlighted topical issues of interest.
- Vital Woman focused on maintaining vitality during midlife and beyond.
- Grief Support offered a healthy first step in the healing process.
- Healthy Lifestyles, in partnership with Botsford Hospital, addressed medical, nutrition, fitness, and wellness topics with a special focus on diabetes.
- Friday Evening Ballroom Dance offered lessons, dancing, prizes, and refreshments.
- Movie Mondays and Movies at the Grant offered first-run movies twice monthly.
- Senior Safety Seminars, presented by the Police Department, Senior Division, Fire Department, Emergency Preparedness Committee, and Commission on Aging, promoted safety topics such as identity theft, home safety, frauds, scams, and more.

## PARKS AND GOLF DIVISION

The renovation of the Longacre House included re-landscaping to prepare the elegant home for visitors. Lush gardens now add to the charm of the historic setting and provide a beautiful backdrop for photos.

The Farmington Hills Golf Course had a banner year with 45,000 plus rounds played and the Pine Tree Grille at the Clubhouse is now open year-round.

Many projects are on the horizon for 2008, including a new performance pavilion for the amphitheater at Heritage Park and the ground-breaking for the Riley Skate Park at Founders Sports Park.

## FACILITIES

Three unique facilities are the primary sites for the Department’s programs, services, classes, special events and rentals:

**Costick Activities Center** – The 70,000 square foot facility includes a 25-yard swimming pool, gymnasium with stage, large commercial kitchen, and meeting rooms ranging in size from 500 square feet to over 7,000 square feet. Over 250,000 guests passed through Costick’s doors in 2007.

**Longacre House** – This restored, historic home, built in 1869, offers a charming and elegant setting for weddings, parties, receptions, business meetings, banquets, and social gatherings. The newly landscaped entryway and gazebo provide a very attractive outdoor event site. Over 15,000 guests experienced the wonderful charm and exquisite beauty of Longacre House in 2007.

**Jon Grant Community Center** – The nearly 5,000 square foot Jon Grant Community Center delivers comfortable meeting space, the latest in high-tech equipment, and a 2,000 square foot Rec Room known as the Fire Pit. Over 10,000 guests visited the Grant Center in 2007.

A recent survey indicated that 99% of customers who rented a City facility for a special event said that they would do it again. We hope to see you walk through our doors in 2008!

## RECREATION DIVISION

Last year, more than 300,000 program participants took part in 2,400 classes available through the Recreation Division. If you weren’t one of them, we’d like to invite you to try one of our many fun programs such as the Great Farmington Hills Camp Out, Youth Flag Football League, Girl’s High School Field Hockey, Heritage Park Haunted Hike, Italian Language Classes or a dip in the Costick Center Pool. The Recreation Division has also been active in spearheading outdoor facility development with the realization of the Riley Skate Park scheduled for ground breaking in spring 2008.

Residents’ suggestions are always welcomed. Let us know about new classes you’d like to see by calling **248-473-1800**. We’re creating a community through People, Programs and Parks and we want you to be a part of it.

## YOUTH AND FAMILY SERVICES

In 2007, approximately 2,000 children took part in the After-School Youth Programs, bringing the total number of participants to approximately 8,900 since the centers opened 12 years ago. The after-school program continues to grow with the Jon Grant Youth Center completing its first full year of operation. These programs provide educational and recreational opportunities in a safe, fun environment.

The programs offer members the opportunity to grow and learn life skills. Programs include Club Z! Tutoring, Community Safety Seminars, Junior Optimist Club, Health Classes, Scrap Booking Classes, and Tai Kwon Do, to name just a few. In addition, we look forward to new bowling and Zap Zone Leagues and fun field trips.

The eight-week Summer Youth Center Program had over 100 members attending the Drop-In Center and over 50 families taking advantage of the Early Drop-Off program, tailored to working parents. The summer field trip program offered 23 opportunities for members to visit Great Escapes, Zap Zone, the water park, and the Wade Show Carnival, plus bowling and horseback riding.

## ICE ARENA

With over 2,000 skaters stepping onto the ice for Figure Skating, Learn To Skate, and Youth and Adult Hockey, 2007 proved that skating is just as popular today as it was when the Ice Arena opened in 1994.

The 12th Annual Ice Show featured Learn To Skate and Figure Skating members showcasing their skill and talent to audiences of about 600. The Learn To Skate program helped over 200 youth and adults gain more confidence in their skating skills.

The Fourth Annual “It’s Great to Skate” Clinic was attended by over 200 skaters. The Farmington Hills Hockey Association had a terrific year, ending with their First Annual Game Festival Day, with over 300 in attendance. The event featured give-away items, a silent auction, and a raffle, plus hockey games all day! The Farmington Hills Ice Arena also hosted the Second Annual Family Carnival this past August where more than 3,000 people enjoyed carnival rides, games, food, and live bands.

Throughout the summer, day camp was offered for children ages 6 to 12, and throughout the year Open Skate, Drop-In Hockey, Mid Day Skate, Parent/Tot Skate, and Adult Skate are offered. For more info on ice arena programs, visit [www.fhgov.com](http://www.fhgov.com) and sign up for the Ice Arena Listserv.



## The Department of Planning & Community Development

### BUILDING DIVISION

- 20 single family homes and more than 82,000 square feet of new commercial development were constructed for a total value of over \$8,428,844.
- Permits were issued for \$4,434,130 in home improvements and \$21,088,425 in commercial renovations.
- 32 substandard buildings were demolished as part of ongoing revitalization efforts.
- 112 properties, including both commercial and residential structures, were identified as needing major repairs with follow-up to eliminate code deficiencies. Currently, of the 112 properties, 43 permits remain open, nine permits have expired, and 60 permits have been finalized.

### COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

- New sidewalk construction was approved with Community Development Block Grant funding along the north side of Thirteen Mile Road between Middlebelt and the Baptist Manor. Construction is scheduled for the summer of 2008.
- The Housing Rehabilitation Program assisted 30 lower-income homeowners with improvements such as roofs, siding, and furnaces.
- Over 500 volunteers participated in Rebuilding Together to help ten homeowners with yard work, painting, and other general repairs.
- The City purchased an old trailer park and is cleaning up the site.

### Rebuilding Together



### PLANNING OFFICE

- Roadside beautification and new landscape projects were undertaken throughout the City.
- The 22nd Annual Beautification Awards Ceremony recognized landscape design and originality. Top awards went to Illuminating Concepts, Sisters of Mercy Regional Community of Detroit Campus, and Hitachi Automotive Products.
- The Planning Office is coordinating an update of the City's Master Plan for Future Land Use. This important land use document was last adopted by the Planning Commission in 1996. The new plan will focus on maintaining our residential areas and encouraging redevelopment opportunities in our commercial areas, utilizing information from the City's Sustainability Study.

- Two grants were received from the State of Michigan Department of Natural Resources, which funded the planting of 200 trees along major roads and in City parks. These new trees replaced many that were lost due to the Emerald Ash Borer.
- The Northwestern Highway median landscaping continued to improve with the maturation of ornamental grasses and perennials. The median also had 44 additional trees installed to add landscaping interest. The City used native plants in this landscaping project, as it did at the restored entrance to Heritage Park and also at City Hall. Native plants are those that have grown in the area since the 1800's and can handle extreme weather better than many introduced plants. They need less water when established, which provides a cost savings, and require less fertilizers and insecticides, which is better for the environment.

### ZONING DIVISION

- Over 16,000 code violations were investigated to help enforce City ordinances and keep Farmington Hills a beautiful and desirable community. The primary focus was on blight abatement.
- Education and public outreach were provided on ordinance requirements through flyers and handouts, which went to neighborhood associations and local newspapers.
- The Zoning Board of Appeals heard 83 cases (eight cases were withdrawn) at 14 meetings.

## Finance Department

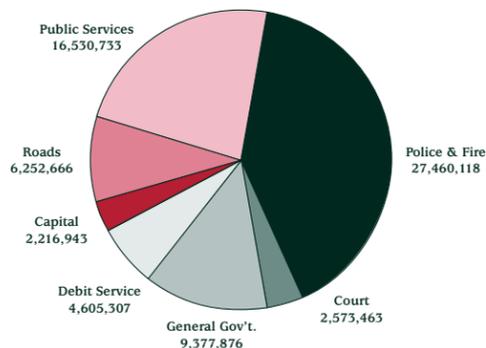
This year, the City's Finance Department:

- Produced a brochure in the Assessing Division explaining the effect of Proposal A and the current housing market.
- Continued the three-year Assessing Division project to convert to electronic sketches of all properties in the City resulting in drawings that are more accurate and easier to update.

Recent awards highlight the excellent job done by the City's Finance Department:

- Distinguished Budget Presentation Award from the Government Finance Officers' Association – 22 years in a row.
- Certificate of Achievement of Excellence in Financial Reporting from the Government Finance Officers' Association of the United States and Canada (for the City's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2006) – 9 years in a row.

HOW YOUR TAX DOLLARS WERE SPENT IN 2006-07  
\$68,799,033



### YOUR 2007 TAX DOLLAR

Based on Farmington Schools Homestead Rate

School District	County	Education *	City
Farmington	13.61 %	60.33 %	26.06 %
Walled Lake	15.14 %	55.86 %	29.00 %
Clarenceville	15.78 %	54.21 %	30.01 %



\*Farmington Schools - Oakland Intermediate Schools - Oakland Community College

## City Clerk's Office

The Clerk's Office conducted the May Election with only school board candidates on the ballot. Since that time, the Farmington School District has agreed to elect school board members on the same ballot as Mayor and City Council candidates at the odd-year November elections. Voters will no longer have to vote separately in May for school board candidates and taxpayers will save approximately \$60,000 in election costs.

At the City General Election, held November 6, voters elected new Mayor Jerry Ellis for the next two years and re-elected incumbent City Council members Barry Brickner, Randy Bruce, and Ken Massey, each for a new four-year term. Council member Nancy Bates was elected the Mayor Pro Tem for 2008.

The new Michigan Supreme Court ruling that all voters must show photo identification at the polls prior to receiving a ballot was implemented on November 6. The law stipulates that any voter who does not have photo identification with them at the polls may complete an affidavit and still be allowed to vote. Fortunately, there were no issues with this and no affidavits were needed by Farmington Hills voters. This new requirement will continue to be promoted as we look ahead to 2008, which will be a very intense election year.

The Clerk's Office continues to focus on the imaging of all City records, adding information to the City website, making voting more accessible to all, and providing new and better services for the citizens of Farmington Hills.

**Special Recognition:** City Clerk Kathy Dornan is a member of the Michigan Municipal League Legislative Committee and is in her second year as a member of the Board of Directors of the International Institute of Municipal Clerks.

### Did You Know?

- ✓ Farmington Hills has approximately 120 miles of rivers and streams.
- ✓ In 1900, Farmington Township had a population of 1,223. In the 2000 census, the population was 82,111.
- ✓ The Farmington Hills Police Department started on April 1, 1949 with the hiring of the first Farmington Township police officer.
- ✓ Fire Chief Richard Marinucci is the longest serving Chief in Farmington Hills Fire Department history and, with 23+ plus years of service, has been Chief longer than any other Fire Chief in Southeastern Michigan.
- ✓ The Country Oaks Subdivision of Farmington Hills, in cooperation with the Farmington Hills Golf Course, provided troops in the Middle East with over 15,000 golf balls so that they could enjoy a respite from the rigors of war.
- ✓ 77% of registered voters in Farmington Hills voted in the 2004 Presidential Election versus the national average of only 51%.
- ✓ The Division of Public Works currently maintains a network of more than 58 miles of major streets and 243 miles of paved and unpaved local streets.

## CITY DIRECTORY

<b>Emergency Calls Only</b>	
Fire Department .....	9-1-1
Police Department .....	9-1-1
<b>Central Services/Purchasing</b> .....	248-871-2430
<b>City Clerk</b> .....	248-871-2410
<b>City Hall</b> .....	248-871-2400
<b>City Manager's Office</b> .....	248-871-2500
<b>Council Newslines</b> .....	248-871-2511
<b>District Court</b> .....	248-871-2900
<b>Farmington Community Library</b> .....	248-553-0300
<b>Finance Department</b> .....	248-871-2440
Assessing .....	248-871-2470
Treasury .....	248-871-2480
<b>Fire Department</b>	
Non-emergency .....	248-871-2800
<b>General Information</b> .....	248-871-2400
<b>Human Resources</b> .....	248-871-2490
<b>Planning Department</b>	
Building .....	248-871-2450
Community Development and Housing Rehabilitation .....	248-871-2549
Planning .....	248-871-2540
Zoning .....	248-871-2520
<b>Police Department</b>	
Non-emergency .....	248-871-2600
<b>Public Services Department</b> .....	248-871-2530
Public Works .....	248-871-2850
<b>Special Services Department</b>	
Costick Center .....	248-473-1800
Cultural Arts Division .....	248-473-1856
Golf Club .....	248-476-5910
Ice Arena .....	248-478-8800
Jon Grant Center .....	248-871-2849
Longacre House .....	248-477-8404
Nature Center .....	248-477-1135
Parks & Golf .....	248-473-1880
Recreation .....	248-473-1800
Senior Adult Program .....	248-473-1830
Youth and Families Services .....	248-473-1841
<b>Volunteer Center</b> .....	248-473-1813

**Focus** is produced by the City of Farmington Hills and mailed to residents three times a year. Articles are submitted by City department directors. We welcome your comments.

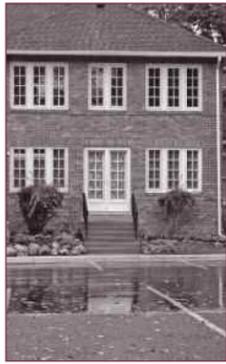
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For the latest info on Farmington Hills, visit [www.fhgov.com](http://www.fhgov.com) or tune into Cable Channel 8.

## Department of Public Services

### City of Farmington Hills Goes "Green"



Porous pavement, an innovative new technique for dealing with stormwater runoff and water pollution, was used in a section of the Longacre House parking lot. Porous pavement allows stormwater to drain down to the underlying soil, which helps remove pollutants and stops water from flowing into catch basins and storm sewers that head to detention areas or into creeks and streams.

The Costick Center bioswale, located along the south side of the parking lot, is another "green" way that the City is improving water quality. The native plants soak up stormwater and remove pollution from the parking lot runoff. As an added bonus, the bioswale now attracts birds and butterflies.

Native plants bloomed at City Hall, along Northwestern Highway, Drake Road, Eleven Mile Road, and at the Heritage Park pond. Watch for news about an upcoming workshop on designing native plant landscapes at [www.fhgov.com](http://www.fhgov.com).

The City-Wide Open House provided information on recycling and healthy lawn care practices, plus each participant received a free river birch sapling to plant at home. Be sure to check out the 2008 City-Wide Open House on Sunday, May 18.

"Green" Farmington Hills residents kept over 3,000 tons of recyclables out of the landfill in 2007. Visit [www.fhgov.com](http://www.fhgov.com) or call the DPW at 248-871-2850 for a complete list of what can go in your green bin.

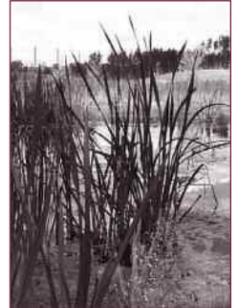
Over 1,300 vehicles made drop-offs at the City's 2007

Household Hazardous Waste Day. The 2008 event will be at the Costick Center on Saturday, May 3.

There are approximately 2,000 septic systems in use in the City and last March over 80 people attended a septic system maintenance workshop held at the Costick Center. For information on how to properly maintain your septic system, call Environmental Coordinator Tracy Slintak at **248-871-2555**.

The City received two grants and planted 200 trees on City property, replacing some of those that were lost to the Emerald Ash Borer.

The Farmington Hills Golf Club is on its way to becoming a Michigan Turfgrass Environmental Stewardship Certified Golf Course. This comprehensive environmental management program recognizes golf properties that increase compliance with environmental laws and prevent pollution.



City workers attended the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG) Partners for Clean Water training to learn how daily operations can help improve water quality. Topics included landscaping, goose control, and road maintenance.

Frog and toad lovers attended a workshop at City Hall in March and participated in the Frog and Toad Survey sponsored by Friends of the Rouge. Workshops will be held in 2008 on February 12 in Novi, February 26 in Bloomfield Township, March 1 in Livonia, and March 5 in Canton. For more information, visit [www.therouge.org](http://www.therouge.org) or call **313-792-9621**.

## Road Construction Projects



This past summer was busy with cooperative ventures between the City, the Road Commission for Oakland County (RCOC), and the Michigan Department of Transportation.

Many of our major roads were resurfaced including:

- Nine Mile from Middlebelt to Tuck
- Halsted from Grand River to Eleven Mile
- Fourteen Mile from Middlebelt to Inkster
- Power from Ten Mile to Rocky Crest

Traffic signals were installed at:

- Gill and Colfax
- North Farmington High School driveway on Farmington Road

The Ten Mile and Middlebelt intersection was widened and resurfaced and Halsted at Eight Mile was widened.

The City of Farmington resurfaced Shiawassee from Farmington to Orchard Lake.

Major progress was also made on the Northwestern Connector Project with the installation of two new roundabouts on Maple Road at Drake and Maple Road at Farmington. Work will continue in 2008 with the installation of a roundabout at Farmington and Fourteen Mile. The City is coordinating the resurfacing and installation of a center left turn lane on Fourteen Mile Road, both east and west of Farmington Road, with the RCOC's roundabout project. While this area is under construction, Farmington Road also will be resurfaced south of Fourteen Mile.

At Rouge Rescue, always held the first Saturday in June, 40 volunteers helped clean the creeks at Founders Park and planted a buffer along a section of the pond. For information on Rouge Rescue 2008, call **248-871-2555** or visit [www.therouge.org](http://www.therouge.org).

The City remains an active member of the Alliance of Rouge Communities, which helps communities in the Rouge River watershed improve water quality, comply with EPA stormwater permits, and find cost-effective solutions to protecting our waterways.

