



# Our Community Newsletter



Spring 2006

## SMART – Suburban Mobile Authority for Regional Transportation

Public transportation in Farmington Hills is currently provided by SMART, a bus system that serves communities in southeast Oakland County, eastern Wayne County, and Macomb County. Farmington Hills has been a part of the SMART system since 1995 and is located on the western edge of the service area, representing the “end of the line” for several SMART routes.

SMART is funded through a .6 mill levy (approximately \$2.6 million per year for four years) voted on by all of the communities that are in the transportation system. The Farmington Hills City Council had the choice to “opt out” of SMART and start a separate Farmington Hills system that would allow for transfers to the remaining SMART routes, or stay a part of the SMART system. After extensive study, at its meeting on January 23, the Farmington Hills City Council voted to stay a part of the SMART bus system. The 4 – 3 vote, however, sent a strong message that change is needed.

“The City Council faced the decision of staying with SMART, knowing that the system needs improvement, or opting out and creating an alternate transportation system,” said Mayor

Vicki Barnett. “The choice to remain with SMART has prompted a review of the system and a call for greater accountability and more responsible use of taxpayer funds. We are committed to providing public transit in the most cost effective way.”

If voters approve the SMART millage renewal in an August vote, the next four years will provide a time for study and exploration to determine if a larger, more regionalized solution to transit can be established. The City Council will also closely watch how a neighboring community that “opted out” will provide service through other means to those who use public transit.

Not many issues that City Council deals with have such overriding concerns, complex issues, and intergovernmental involvement. City Council deliberations raised a lot of important questions that will get answered over the next few years. The City Council welcomes public input and hopes that open communication will create positive changes in the transportation system in Farmington Hills.

So, stay tuned and let us know what you think.

## Popular FIRST Aid Program Returns March 7, 8, and 11

The Farmington Hills Citizen Corps Council for Emergency Preparedness (CCCEP) is once again presenting their popular FREE FIRST Aid program. Classes will be offered on Tuesday, March 7 or Wednesday March 8 from 6:30 - 9:00 p.m., or Saturday, March 11 from 10 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. at the Costick Center in Farmington Hills. All three sessions will cover the same information.

Participants will learn how to:

- Use the 9-1-1 system
- Perform rescue breathing
- Help someone who is choking
- Control bleeding
- Provide burn first aid
- Use a defibrillator
- Recognize symptoms of a heart attack
- Put together a 72-hour disaster preparedness kit



The CCCEP is sponsoring the program with support from Botsford General Hospital, Community EMS, the Farmington Area Commission on Aging, Farmington Hills Fire Department, Farmington Hills Police Department, and the Farmington Public Safety Department. To register, call 248-473-1800.

## Beautification Commission to honor best landscapes

Beautification Commissioners will be out this summer looking for the very best landscapes in Farmington Hills. The Farmington Hills Beautification Commission seeks to recognize property owners who invest extra time and effort in improving the appearance of their buildings and grounds. Commercial, industrial and office properties, places of worship, shopping centers, organizations, schools, and subdivision, condominium, and apartment entrances are all eligible to receive awards.

Landscapes will be judged for design, originality, maintenance, and appropriateness to purpose and location. Participants will be honored at a Beautification Awards Ceremony in the fall, which will include a video presentation of the top landscapes and award winners.

If you'd like your landscape considered, contact the Farmington Hills Beautification Commission, c/o Farmington Hills Planning Office, 31555 W. Eleven Mile, Farmington Hills, MI 48336, call Charmaine Kettler-Schmult at (248) 871-2543, or e-mail [ckettler@ci.farmington-hills.mi.us](mailto:ckettler@ci.farmington-hills.mi.us).

## New Fire Station and Community Center officially dedicated this spring



This spring, the City's newest Fire Station and Community Center (located on Grand River one block east of Middlebelt) will be officially dedicated with an Open House and ribbon-cutting ceremony. The new two-story fire station, one of five stations serving Farmington Hills, offers needed additional space for firefighters and their equipment. The Community Center will house after-school youth programs and senior adult, cultural arts, and recreation programs. It will also provide a meeting place for area residents' and homeowners' associations.

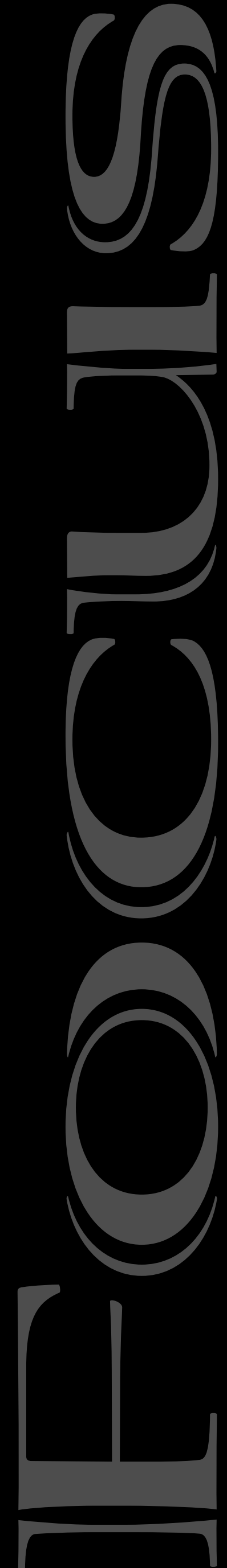
## Come to the City-wide Open House on May 21

Come join the fun and learn about the City at the second annual City-wide Open House on Sunday, May 21 from noon to 4 p.m.

The City-wide Open House showcases the Police Department, Fire Department, and other City departments in one big event. Highlights will include:

- Fire engines, police cars, DPW trucks
- Tours of City Hall, Police Headquarters, Fire Station, and 47th District Court
- SWAT, K-9, and fire safety demonstrations
- Moonwalk, games, and prizes
- Information on all kinds of fun City programs for kids, families, and seniors.

Mark your calendar! Come early and enjoy “Breakfast with a Firefighter” at 9:30 a.m. with donations going toward Farmington Hills youth programs. For information, call 248-871-2500.



# FOCUS

## FIRE DEPARTMENT *Carbon Monoxide Awareness*

Did you know that carbon monoxide poisoning is a year-round problem? The Fire Department encourages the use of carbon monoxide detectors in every home not only during the winter but throughout the entire year. Unfortunately, statistics show that only about 25% of American homes currently have carbon monoxide detectors.

Carbon monoxide is an invisible, odorless gas that's a byproduct of fuels such as gasoline, wood, coal, propane, oil, and methane. It can be produced whenever fuel-burning appliances, tools or engines malfunction or are used improperly. Vehicles such as cars, trucks, tractors, and lawn mowers are also sources of carbon monoxide.

Early symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning mimic the flu and include headache, nausea, dizziness, and fatigue. Carbon monoxide poisoning kills more than 200 people each year and sends about 10,000 people to hospital emergency rooms.

To keep your family safe, you should install at least one battery-powered or electric (with battery backup) carbon monoxide detector on every floor and in sleeping areas. Test the device monthly by pressing the test/reset button.

Install fuel-burning appliances properly, inspect them annually, and operate them according to the manufacturer's instructions. Don't block or seal shut chimneys, exhaust flues, or appliance ducts. Don't leave your car running in an attached garage or carport, even with the garage door open. Don't operate gas-powered tools or engines, like generators, indoors or in spaces attached to your home.

If your carbon monoxide detector activates in the alarm mode, exit your home immediately and call 9-1-1 from a cell phone or neighbor's house. Many times your alarm will chirp or beep once. If this happens and there are no signs or symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning, consult the alarm's manual. If the alarm still continues to chirp or beep, call the Fire Department using the non-emergency number at 248-871-2600.

## *Methamphetamine Test Kit now available* **at Farmington Hills Police Department**

In response to growing methamphetamine use in Michigan, the Police Department has now added a methamphetamine drug testing kit. Recent studies show that 12.3 million Americans age 12 and over (or 5.2% of the country's population) have tried methamphetamine at least once.

Through the Law Enforcement Against Drugs (L.E.A.D.) Program, in-home drug testing kits are available free to Farmington and Farmington Hills residents. Each kit comes with directions on administering and evaluating the test, and includes drug treatment and referral information. More than 500 drug testing kits have been distributed since the program began.

The L.E.A.D. program offers kits which test for:

- marijuana
- cocaine
- morphine
- ecstasy
- alcohol
- methamphetamine
- a four-panel test (marijuana, cocaine, opiates, morphine/heroin)

To obtain a free test kit, go to the Farmington Hills Police Department's Records Section, Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. For more information, call Police Records at 248-871-2720.

## Popular Tree Offer Returns

The cities of Farmington Hills and Farmington have teamed up with Steinkopf Nursery to offer ten different varieties of 8' to 10' tall trees to local residents and businesses at the reduced price of \$188 per tree. Due to the effects of the Emerald Ash Borer, there is a great need to plant new trees.

Fill out the coupon below and mail it with payment to Steinkopf Nursery. The price includes sales tax, delivery, planting, and a one-year guarantee. For information, call Charmaine Kettler-Schmult at 248-871-2540 or Steinkopf Nursery at 248-474-2925.

**Resident Tree Sale** Choose tree(s) from list below:

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pin Oak               | <input type="checkbox"/> Little Leaf Linden |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ivory Silk Lilac Tree | <input type="checkbox"/> New Bradford Pear  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cleveland Select Pear | <input type="checkbox"/> Sweet Gum          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Red Sunset Maple      | <input type="checkbox"/> Red Oak            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tulip Tree            | <input type="checkbox"/> Sugar Maple        |

Total: \_\_\_\_\_ trees x \$188 per tree = \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone number \_\_\_\_\_

Mail this coupon to Steinkopf Nursery, 20815 Farmington Rd., Farmington Hills, MI 48336 to reserve your trees while supplies last.

## *Rubbish and Recycling* **REMINDERS**

### Memorial Day garbage delay

Garbage and recycling will not be picked up on Monday, May 29 due to the Memorial Day holiday. All pickups will be delayed by one day during that week with Friday's collection on Saturday. Please have it at the curbside by 7:00 a.m. Please note: in the interest of worker safety, containers must be limited to a 32 gallon and 60 pound capacity. Oversized containers will **not** be emptied. Questions? Call the DPW at 248-871-2850.

### Bulk pickup

*Refrigerator and freezer doors **must** be removed* when these bulk items are placed at the curbside. Leaving doors on is a safety risk to neighborhood children who may be able to get into the appliance but not get safely out. Pickup of normal household bulk items, such as appliances, furniture, or bedsprings, takes place on your regularly scheduled garbage day. You don't have to call in advance, just place the bulk item at the curbside with the regular trash.

### Household Hazardous Materials Drop-off Days

#### *Farmington Hills – Saturday, May 6*

Household Hazardous Materials (HazMat) are products in your home that are corrosive, toxic, flammable or reactive. If you're not sure if an item is hazardous, read the label for words such as *poison, toxic, corrosive, flammable or ignitable*. For a full list of items accepted at HazMat Day, go to the City's website at [www.ci.farmington-hill.mi.us](http://www.ci.farmington-hill.mi.us) or call RRRASOC at 248-208-2270. *(The following items are not accepted: latex paint, unknowns, commercial waste, fire extinguishers, and smoke detectors.)*

Participants should remain in their cars while technicians unload hazardous materials. All containers should be labeled, should not hold more than five gallons or weigh more than 50 pounds, and should be placed in a box with a sturdy bottom and put on the floor or in the trunk. A drivers' license or other proof of residency is required to participate. Personal document shredding will be available at all events. SECURE EcoShred will shred up to 100 pounds of sensitive documents per household with Certificates of Destruction available upon request.

#### **Wixom**

Saturday, April 8, 2006 • 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Wixom Department of Public Works • 2057 Charms Road

(Wixom Road north to Charms (North of Maple) left on Charms)

#### **Southfield**

Saturday, April 22, 2006 & Saturday, October 14, 2006 • 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

behind RRRASOC Recycling Center • 20000 W. 8 Mile Road

(enter via Mapleridge, north off of 8 Mile, just east of Evergreen Road)

#### **Farmington/Farmington Hills**

Saturday, May 6, 2006 • 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Costick Center • 28600 Eleven Mile Road (use Gate 4)

(between Middlebelt and Inkster Roads)

#### **Lyon Township**

Saturday, June 3, 2006 • 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Lyon Township Park • 58000 Grand River (just west of Milford Road)

#### **Novi**

Saturday, September 23, 2006 • 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Novi City Hall • 45175 W. 10 Mile Road (between Novi and Taft Roads)

### Spring yard waste pickup resumes Monday, April 3

The following three options are available for yard waste disposal:

1. Place yard waste in a trash can (32 gallon limit) with a "Yard Waste" sticker (available free from City Hall or the DPW).
2. Put yard waste in brown paper yard waste bags. A pack of ten is available for \$4 from City Hall or the DPW (checks only please at the DPW).
3. Use a mulching mower and recycle leaves and grass clippings back into the lawn.

Small limbs (six inches in diameter or less) and brush should be tied in bundles that don't exceed four feet in length and don't weigh more than 60 pounds per bundle. Any brush or twigs placed in cans or bags shouldn't stick out above the top of the container. Also, large quantities of dirt or sod are not accepted for pickup.

Compost is available free of charge to residents (no commercial usage is allowed) at the compost pickup facility at the Soccer Park at 12 Mile and Drake from early April through the end of November. You'll need to bring your own containers and your drivers' license for proof of residency if a park ranger is present.

## Summer Day Camps

The Recreation Division is currently registering children ages 3 – 12 for Summer Day Camps located at Heritage Park, Founders Sports Park, Costick Center, and the newly constructed Fire Station #3. Camps run Monday - Friday from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. with extended care available from 7:30 – 9:30 a.m. and from 3 – 6 p.m. Camp themes include nature, sports, science, and general activities. Go to the City's website at [www.ci.farmington-hills.mi.us](http://www.ci.farmington-hills.mi.us) and link to the Special Services section to learn more.

## Cultural arts events

For information or to order tickets, call 248-473-1857.



**Blackthorn – Rollicking Irish Music!**  
Farmington Players Barn  
Thursday, March 9,  
Friday, March 10,  
and Saturday, March 11 - 7:30 p.m.

Tickets: \$15 adults, \$12 seniors/students.

### Farmington Hills Youth Theatre -

#### *Alice in Wonderland* Musical

Costick Center Stage  
Friday, March 31 - 7 p.m.  
Saturday, April 1 and  
Sunday April 2 - 2 p.m. and 5:30 p.m.  
Friday, April 7 - 7 p.m.  
Saturday, April 8 and  
Sunday April 9 - 2 p.m. and 5:30 p.m.

Tickets: \$8 general admission, \$6 seniors (55+). Advance tickets available or purchase at the door approximately 1/2 hour before performances.

### 2006 Festival of the Arts

Costick Center – April 26 - 30  
Friday, April 28 - Art After Dark  
Saturday, April 29 - Starry Night Gala  
Tickets: Available late March.  
Sunday, April 30 - Family Festival Day (free admission)

The 11th annual Festival of the Arts features activities, displays, and performances. Presented by the Farmington Community Arts Council, the City of Farmington Hills Special Services Department, and the Farmington Public Schools.

### MSU Professors of Jazz Concert

Costick Center – Friday, May 12 - 7:30 p.m.  
Tickets: \$17 adults, \$14 seniors/students.  
The jazz group features talented musicians from Michigan State University.



### Farmington Community Chorus Spring Concert

Detroit Country Day School, Seligman Performing Arts Center, Beverly Hills  
Friday, May 12 and Saturday, May 13 - 8 p.m.  
Tickets: \$12 in advance; \$15 at the door. Available in early April from Chorus members, from the Costick Center or through the FCC ticket line at 810-632-4067. The 26th annual spring concert entitled "Three Little Words" will be directed by Steve SeGraves and accompanied by Susan Garr.

### Art Exhibits

**City Gallery** - Costick Center lobby  
8:30 a.m.- 4:30 p.m.  
Weekdays and during special events

Feb. 17- April 1  
*Focus on the Mission*  
Black and white photography by area students - presented by Focus Hope

April 10 – May 9  
Cultural Arts Division Instructors

May 16 – June 30  
Geoff Merrill paintings

## Cultural arts classes

Dozens of fun cultural arts classes for kids and adults will be offered this spring. Kids can also sign up for summer art camps, including Youth Theatre camps. Watch your mailbox for registration information or call 248-473-1857.

## Spring Senior Activities

Longer days and warmer weather bring the return of spring activities to the Farmington Hills Center for Active Adults at the Costick Center. **Adults 50 & Better** are invited to stop by and join us for the following fun activities:

- **Dance exercise** class with Broadway flair, instructor Jeanette Domol, 6-week series begins March 2, 1 - 2 p.m. \$15 for series, \$3 drop-in.
- **Daytime ballroom dance lessons**, 6-week fox trot series begins March 3, 11 a.m. – noon. \$25 for series, \$6 drop-ins.
- **Wearin' o the Green St. Paddy's Day Party**, March 10, 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. \$7 per person, tickets available until March 6.
- **Downsizing** workshop with Theresa Brune of Simplify It, March 14, 10:30 a.m. \$5.
- **Legal Matters**, learn about elder law and probate, March 22, 11 a.m. \$5 with lunch.
- **Movie Mondays**, great classics or contemporary blockbusters, March 27 and April 24, 12:30 p.m. \$4 includes lunch, movie, snacks, beverage.
- **Emergency Preparedness**, for natural, environmental, and physical emergencies, March 28, 10:30 a.m. No fee.
- **Michigan Garden Design**, presented by Free Press columnist and MSU Master Gardener, Janet Macunovich. April 4, 10:30 a.m. \$5.
- **Project Healthy Living**, annual health fair from the Farmington Area Commission on Aging in cooperation with Botsford General Hospital, April 7, 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. A variety of no-cost and low-cost tests are available.
- **Adult 50 & Better golf leagues – men, women and couples.** Registration is now underway. Play begins in May at the Farmington Hills Golf Club.

### Evening Programs

- **Yoga**, wear loose, comfortable clothing. 8-week series begins March 7, 5:30 p.m. \$40 residents, \$48 non-residents for series.
- **Back to Ballroom**, 8-week Rumba series begins March 7, 7:30 p.m. \$40 residents, \$48 non-residents for series.
- **Tap Dance**, 8-week series begins March 8, 6 p.m. \$40 residents, \$48 non-residents for series.
- **Stretch, Flex & Tone**, wear loose clothing and bring a mat. 8-week series begins March 9, 5:30 p.m. \$40 residents, \$48 non-residents for series.
- **Country Western Couples Flow Dancing**, two skill levels, both 8-week series begin March 9, Advanced 6:30 p.m, Beginners 8 p.m. \$40 residents, \$48 non-residents for series.
- **Vital Woman**, current topics for today's midlife woman. March 13 – **Get Organized, What to Keep & How to Store It**, March 27 – **When to Call a Mechanic and How to Speak "Mechanicese,"** April 10 – **Continuing or Changing Careers**, and April 24 – **Interior Paint - Color Trends**, 5:30 p.m. \$5 per session.
- **Softball Skills Clinic**, April 19 – May 10, 6:30 p.m. Designed for Women's Softball but open to all. \$8 residents, \$12 non-residents for series, \$3 drop-ins.
- **Women's Softball Team**, Oakland Women's 50+ Softball League, practices on Sundays, May 14 – Aug 13, 6 p.m. Games on Tuesdays, May 16 – Aug 15, 6:45 p.m. All skill levels welcome. \$35 residents, \$40 non-residents.

For registration or information, call 248-473-1830. The Senior Division is located in the Costick Center, 28600 Eleven Mile Road, one-quarter mile east of Middlebelt Road. Enter through Gate 4.

### FARMINGTON HILLS WALK FOR MEALS

The Senior Division will host their 3rd annual morning *Walk for Meals* on Saturday, May 20th from 8:30 a.m. until noon in Heritage Park. A pre-registration fee of \$10, or a same-day registration fee of \$15, includes the walk, continental breakfast, and door prizes. Together we can fill the gap in needed funds for this vital service. Thank you for your support! For additional information, call 248-473-1830.

## Golf Course

2006 will represent the Farmington Hills Golf Club's first full year as an 18-hole golf course. We look forward to seeing you on the links as soon as weather permits!

If you want to brush up on your skills, the self-serve driving range is located in the heart of the golf course and stays open from 7 p.m. until dark. Mats and grass tees are available. For information, call 248-473-1800.



## Environmental Education

**Earth Day Celebration at Heritage Park Nature Center - April 22, 11a.m. to 4 p.m.**  
Topics: How to Create a Backyard Habitat, Rain Gardens, Healthy Lawn Care, Earth-Friendly Fertilizers, Nature Crafts, Story Time, Clean Water, Native Fish of the Rouge River, Frogs and Toads of the Rouge Watershed, and Recycling. \$5 fee for *Critters of Michigan* presented by the Howell Nature Center, all other events free. Call 248-871-2860 for info.

### Rouge Rescue 20th Anniversary!

The Annual River Day/Rouge Rescue will be held on Saturday, June 3, with work and play activities planned at various Rouge River sites to be announced. This year's event marks 20 years of efforts to clean and restore the Rouge River and other local waterways. Participants receive a free t-shirt and picnic lunch. To pre-register, call 248-871-2860. For a listing of Rouge Rescue locations in other communities, call the Friends of the Rouge at 313-792-9900.

### Detention Pond Workshop

- Q. *Do you know why there's a pond in your subdivision?*
- A. *Subdivisions built in Farmington Hills since the late 1960's are required to have a detention pond to store or "detain" storm water runoff. If these detention ponds are neglected, problems such as plant growth and silt build-up can prevent the pond from absorbing water and may lead to flooding in the subdivision. Overgrown ponds can also attract geese and become a prime breeding ground for mosquitoes.*

Proper maintenance of these detention ponds is the responsibility of the homeowners' association. If you're a member of a homeowners' association or a concerned resident, you'll want to attend the Detention Pond Maintenance Workshop on Wednesday, April 5 at 7 p.m. in City Hall. You'll learn about:

- Pond ownership and responsibilities
- How detention ponds work
- How to avoid expensive repairs

To pre-register, please call 248-871-2530.



## A Decade of Skating Memories – May 19 & 20

The Farmington Hills Ice Arena and Figure Skating Club will present the 9th Annual Ice Show, *A Decade of Skating Memories*, on Friday, May 19 at 7:30 p.m. and on Saturday, May 20 at 4:00 p.m. at the Farmington Hills Ice Arena. The show will feature the Ice Arena's Learn to Skate students and Figure Skating Club participants. Music by the decades and favorites from past shows will be featured. Come and enjoy this family event – the kids will steal your heart! It's traditionally a sell-out, so get your tickets early. For ticket information, call the Ice Arena at 248-478-8800 or the Costick Center at 248-473-1800. Tickets will be on sale one month prior to the show at both locations.

## City Directory

Emergency Calls Only	
Fire Department . . . . .	9-1-1
Police Department. . . . .	9-1-1
Central Services/Purchasing . . . . .	248-871-2430
City Hall . . . . .	248-871-2400
City Manager's Office. . . . .	248-871-2500
Assessing . . . . .	248-871-2470
City Clerk . . . . .	248-871-2410
District Court . . . . .	248-871-2900
Farmington Comm. Library . . . . .	248-553-0300
Finance Department . . . . .	248-871-2440
Fire Department	
Non emergency . . . . .	248-871-2800
Human Resources . . . . .	248-871-2490
Council Newslite. . . . .	248-871-2511
Police Department	
Non emergency . . . . .	248-871-2600
Public Services Department. . . . .	248-871-2530
Public Works . . . . .	248-871-2850
Planning Department	
Planning . . . . .	248-871-2540
Building . . . . .	248-871-2450
Community Development and Housing Rehabilitation . . . . .	248-871-2549
Zoning . . . . .	248-871-2520
Special Services Department	
Costick Activities Center . . . . .	248-473-1816
Cultural Arts Division . . . . .	248-473-1856
Ice Arena . . . . .	248-478-8800
Nature Center . . . . .	248-477-1135
Parks & Golf . . . . .	248-426-1505
Recreation . . . . .	248-473-1800
Golf Club . . . . .	248-476-5910
Senior Adult Program . . . . .	248-473-1830
Treasurer's Office . . . . .	248-871-2480
Volunteer Center. . . . .	248-473-1813
Youth and Families . . . . .	248-473-1841

## City Council

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

## City Management

- Steve Brock  
*City Manager*
- Dana Whinnery  
*Assistant City Manager*
- Teri Arbenowske  
*Assistant to the City Manager*

## Your Comments

# FOCUS

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

Editor: Gillian Pines  
 Mail: FOCUS  
 31555 W. Eleven Mile Road  
 Farmington Hills, MI 48336  
 Phone: 248.871.2500  
 Fax: 248.871.2501  
 Website: [www.ci.farmington-hills.mi.us](http://www.ci.farmington-hills.mi.us)  
 E-mail: [gpines@ci.farmington-hills.mi.us](mailto:gpines@ci.farmington-hills.mi.us)

For the latest information about Farmington Hills, tune into cable Channel 8.

# Youth & Family Services After School Youth Centers

Farmington Hills has four FREE After School Youth Centers (at the Costick Center, Ice Arena, Warner Middle School, and the YMCA) that offer a fun, exciting, well-supervised environment for middle schoolers that's drug, alcohol, and tobacco-free. The only cost to be a member is \$5.00 for a photo ID. A wide variety of activities are offered such as Bowling Trips, First Aid Classes, Pom-Pon Classes, Intergenerational Activities, Substance Abuse Prevention Programs, and much more. Come check us out and join in the fun! Call 248-473-1841 for specific details on hours and programs at each center.

An Open House and Tour for all incoming 6th graders will be held on May 11 at 4:30 p.m. starting at the Costick Center. If your child is entering 6th grade in the fall, watch for a flyer to come home this spring or call 248-473-1841 for information.

Our fifth Youth Center will open in the new Fire Station on Grand River near Middlebelt and will provide Farmington and Farmington Hills residents attending Clarenceville Middle School and others throughout the community with a safe place to go after school.

The eight-week Summer Drop-In Center at the Farmington Hills Ice Arena starts on June 19 and ends on August 11. Check out the Special Services Spring/Summer Brochure for details.

### Fundraisers

The *Reverse Raffle Dinner Dance*, presented in partnership with the Farmington/Farmington Hills Exchange Club, will be held Saturday, April 1 from 6 - 11:00 p.m. at the Farmington Hills Manor. This year's *Come to the Islands* theme will feature food, dancing, and raffles (big prizes of \$500 for 3rd place, \$1,000 for 2nd place, and \$1,750 for 1st place winners.) If you hold the key that opens the Pirate Treasure Chest you win a weekend at Mission Point Resort on Mackinac Island!

Tickets are on sale now for the *Rubber Duck Race* on Sunday, July 23 in Shiawassee Park. Call 248-473-1894.

*Thank you for supporting our fundraisers to help keep the After School Youth Centers available to all our Farmington and Farmington Hills middle school students and to also help support many other youth projects and senior adult programs throughout our communities. If you'd like to help out, call us at 248-473-1841.*

## Barbara Hafey Receives Community Service Award

*Recreation Supervisors Bryan Farmer and Cathy O'Rourke-Wendrick are shown with Volunteer of the Year Barbara Hafey who was presented with a Community Service Award for her outstanding volunteerism by the Michigan Recreation and Parks Association at their 2006 awards ceremony held this January in Lansing.*



## Help Wanted!

During the spring and summer, the City hires employees in a wide variety of positions from part-time (20 hours) to temporary full time (40 hours) in landscaping, road work, and park maintenance. The Recreation Division also offers the following summer positions: camp counselor, safety town instructor, summer fun center counselor, lifeguard, scorekeeper, or referee. (Applications for Recreation Division jobs should be turned in to the Costick Center by March 24. All other applications can be turned in to the Human Resources Department.)

Open positions are advertised on the City website at [www.ci.farmington-hills.mi.us](http://www.ci.farmington-hills.mi.us), in the local classifieds, or you can call the Human Resources Department at 248-871-2490 for information about available openings. You can pick up an employment application at the Human Resources Department or go to the City's website to print one out.

Hourly pay rates range from \$6.00- \$10.00+ and are based on qualifications and job responsibilities. Seasonal jobs often provide excellent training for future career opportunities. Working for the City of Farmington Hills is a great way to invest in your community and your future!

## ELECTION UPDATE

Voters will go to the polls on Tuesday, May 2 to vote on the following:

- Members of the Board of Education (all four-year terms) for the Clarenceville (two members), Farmington (two members), and Walled Lake Consolidated (two members) school districts;
- Millage proposal for the Farmington Public School District.

To be eligible to vote in the May 2 election, you must be registered by Monday, April 3, 2006. You may register to vote at the Farmington Hills City Clerk's Office, the County Clerk's Office-Elections Division, or at any Secretary of State's Office. Absentee voter applications will automatically be mailed out in March to all voters age 60 or older and to those who asked to be included on our permanent absentee voter list.

To receive an absentee voter ballot application, call the City Clerk's Office at 248-871-2410 or download an application after March 1 from the City's website at [www.ci.farmington-hills.mi.us](http://www.ci.farmington-hills.mi.us). Mail applications to the City Clerk, City of Farmington Hills, 31555 W. Eleven Mile Road, Farmington Hills, Michigan 48336. The last day to request an Absentee Voter Ballot for the May 2 election is Saturday, April 29. The City Clerk's Office will be open that day from 8:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m.

## Pay property taxes online or by phone

Pay property taxes online or over the phone using a credit card with the City's new Online Property Inquiry System. Go to [www.ci.farmington-hills.mi.us](http://www.ci.farmington-hills.mi.us), select *property inquiry* from the Quick Links menu, and follow the instructions. After you select *tax information search*, enter a property address, name, or parcel identification number, then select *pay now*.

To pay by phone, call 1-800-272-9829, follow the voice prompts and use *jurisdiction code 3294*.

Both phone and online payment services are provided through a third party that charges a 3% convenience fee. Please note that credit cards cannot be accepted at City Hall.

To find out the amount of property tax paid on *any* parcel, go to [www.ci.farmington-hills.mi.us](http://www.ci.farmington-hills.mi.us), select *property inquiry* from the Quick Links menu, and follow the instructions. Information may be accessed using parcel ID numbers or owners' names.

For more information about property taxes, call the Treasurer's Office at 248-871-2480.



City of Farmington Hills

31555 Eleven Mile Road  
Farmington Hills, MI 48336

Spring 2006

Presorted  
Standard  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Permit No. 36  
Farmington Hills  
Michigan 48334