



# Our Community Newsletter

Summer 2006



## PROTECTING YOUR HOME and Our Community

We all want to protect our homes and belongings from thieves, but sometimes we don't know the best way to go about it. Home security can be confusing — alarm systems, lighting, landscaping, keys, and locks are all matters to consider. Equally important, homeowners should take a serious look at what they can learn about their neighborhood and how they can increase security and decrease the threat of crime.

Most police departments monitor specific crime statistics to determine if patterns are occurring. Are there more break-ins in one section of the city or in a particular neighborhood? Are break-ins on the increase? What time of day or night are the majority of break-ins being reported? These indicators can be useful in directing and assigning police resources.

Breaking and entering statistics are closely examined by the Farmington Hills Police Department. Statistics show that as of the end of March, residential break-ins have decreased more than 30% from 2005. Additionally, all breaking and enterings (residential and commercial) are down over 10% for this same time period. Historically, burglaries have been on a steady decline for the past 20 years. It sounds amazing, but in 1984 there were more than 930 burglaries reported. In 2004, this number was down to 240. We did see an increase in 2005, which is why we are so pleased to again see the downward trend in 2006.

What can you do to help? Become an active part of your community. Use the resources that the Farmington Hills Police Department makes available. Participate in community policing through the services and programs that educate and empower residents with regard to home security.

- Neighborhood Watch groups are one of the best ways to increase security because they bring neighbors together and increase their knowledge of City services. There are currently more than 130 neighborhoods participating in the Farmington Hills Neighborhood Watch Program.
- Did you know that the Police Department offers free home security surveys? Trained technicians will come out and assess your residence and make recommendations to increase the physical security of your home.
- Several multi-unit residential complexes belong to the Crime Free Multi-Housing Program that organizes residents of apartment communities, and the management teams who operate them, in an effort to prevent crime and develop a positive and cooperative relationship with the Police Department.

For additional information on Neighborhood Watch, Security Surveys, Crime Free Multi-Housing or any of the other 51 community policing programs available through the Farmington Hills Police Department, contact the Crime Prevention Section at 248-871-2750.

## Grilling SAFETY TIPS



Summer is a great time to celebrate, have picnics, and get together for a cookout with family and friends. But before you fire up the barbecue, please follow these tips to ensure that your picnic will be safe and successful:

- Use gas and charcoal BBQ grills outdoors only. If used indoors or in any enclosed spaces such as tents, they pose a fire hazard and can expose occupants to toxic gases and potential asphyxiation.
- Position the grill well away from siding, deck railings, eaves, and overhanging branches.
- Place the grill a safe distance from lawn games, play areas, and foot traffic.
- Keep children and pets away from the grill area. Declare a three-foot "safe zone" around the grill.
- Put out several long-handled grilling tools to give the chef plenty of clearance from heat and flames when flipping burgers.
- Remove grease or fat buildup in trays below the grill so it cannot be ignited.
- Do not use grills within 10 feet of a house or any other building.

### Charcoal Grills

- Purchase the proper starter fluid and store the can out of reach of children and away from heat sources.
- Never add charcoal starter fluid when coals or kindling have already been ignited, and never use any flammable or combustible liquid other than charcoal starter fluid to get the fire going.

### Gas Grills

- Check the gas cylinder hose for leaks before using it for the first time each year.
- Apply a light soap and water solution to the hose to quickly reveal bubbles of escaping propane. The smell of gas can also signal a leak.
- If you determine your grill has a gas leak and there is no flame going, turn off the gas tank and grill. If the leak stops, get the grill serviced by a professional before using it again. If the leak does not stop, call the fire department.
- If you smell gas while cooking, immediately get away from the grill and call 9-1-1. Do not attempt to move the grill.
- Use only equipment bearing the mark of an independent testing laboratory. Follow the manufacturer's instructions on how to set up the grill and maintain it.
- Never store gas cylinders in buildings or garages. If you store a gas grill inside during the winter, disconnect the cylinder and leave it outside.

## Summer 2006 Road CONSTRUCTION

- **Grand River from Halsted to Tuck** – The Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) will be repairing and resurfacing this section of road. Work is scheduled to be completed during nighttime and weekends without closing the roadway.
- **Grand River between Power and Orchard Lake** – MDOT will be replacing the bridge over the Rouge River beginning in early June and continuing through September. This section of Grand River will be closed and impassable to traffic. Detour routes will be posted.
- **M-5 from Halsted to west of Middlebelt** – MDOT will be repairing and resurfacing this section of road. Work is scheduled to be completed during nighttime and weekends without closing the roadway.
- **Halsted from Eight Mile to Nine Mile Road** – The City will be reconstructing this mile of road beginning in early June. It will be closed to through traffic until late August. A detour route will be posted with access maintained for abutting properties and subdivisions.
- **Nine Mile between Inkster and Beech** - The City of Southfield has closed and begun the reconstruction of the bridge over the Rouge River. The project is scheduled to last into September. A detour route is posted.
- **PROPOSED Inkster from Shiawassee to Nine Mile** - The City of Southfield will be reconstructing this section of road this summer.
- **PROPOSED Nine Mile from Drake to Gill** – The City is proposing to repair and resurface this section of road beginning in mid-summer. Work will be completed by fall without closing the road but an alternate route is advised.
- **PROPOSED Nine Mile from Middlebelt to Inkster** - The City is proposing to repair and resurface this section of road beginning in mid-summer. Work will be completed by fall without closing the road but an alternate route is advised.
- **PROPOSED Folsom from Orchard Lake to Tuck** - The City is proposing to repair and resurface this section of road beginning in mid-summer. Work will be completed by fall without closing the road but an alternate route is advised.

# FOCUS

## Rubbish & Recycling REMINDERS

### GOT BINS? Recycling for New Residents

If you're new to Farmington Hills, you may not know that our residents recycle more than 30% of their household waste through curbside recycling and composting programs. In 1991 when the recycling program first started, green recycling bins were issued to all single family homes in Farmington Hills. Now, bins are delivered only to newly constructed homes as they become occupied.

When a home changes owners, the bin is supposed to stay with the house. Unfortunately, many bins get lost or packed up when someone moves. So, the City offers replacement bins for \$10.00 at the Treasury Department in City Hall. (Separately, lids are available for \$3.00 and containers for \$7.00.)

Recycling is picked up on the same day as your regular garbage and should be out at the curbside by 7:00 a.m. For a Curbside Recycling Guidelines sheet with a detailed list of what can be recycled, visit our City website at [www.ci.farmington-hills.mi.us](http://www.ci.farmington-hills.mi.us) or call the DPW at 248-871-2850.

If you already have a green bin and aren't using it, dust it off and join your fellow Farmington Hills residents who diverted **over 10,000 tons** of recyclables and yard waste from the landfill last year. By the way, if one bin isn't enough for all your recycling needs, you're welcome to purchase an additional bin and put both out at the curb on your pickup day.

### Yard waste bags no longer offered

After the current supply is gone, the City of Farmington Hills will no longer sell yard waste bags. Yard waste bags were first offered to residents when yard waste guidelines were new and bags were hard to find. They are now easily available for competitive prices at retail outlets throughout the City.

Brown paper yard waste bags actually decompose along with yard waste to become part of the finished compost. From early April through the end of November, compost is available free to residents (no commercial usage is allowed) at the compost pickup facility at 12 Mile and Drake. Please bring your own containers and your driver's license as proof of residency if a park ranger is present. Compost can be used with soil in flower beds, as a top soil for new sod or seed, or on lawns instead of chemical fertilizers. If you have questions about compost or yard waste, call the DPW at 248-871-2850.

### Holiday Garbage Delays

Garbage collection will **not** be scheduled on Tuesday, July 4th due to the Independence Day holiday. Garbage will be picked up one day late the rest of that week with Friday's collection made on Saturday. Regular pickup will occur on Monday, July 3rd.

Garbage collection will **not** be scheduled on Monday, September 4th due to the Labor Day holiday. Garbage will be picked up one day late that entire week with Friday's collection made on Saturday.

To ensure pickup, please have your garbage at the curbside by 7:00 a.m. For future reference, there are six holidays during the year when garbage collection is not scheduled: New Year's Day, Memorial Day, Fourth of July, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day, and Christmas Day. If you have questions about garbage, recycling, or yard waste, call the DPW 248-871-2850.

### Propane Tank Disposal

Summer grilling means an increase in the usage and disposal of propane tanks. It's best to empty a propane tank by using up the contents, but if a tank still contains propane, it must be disposed of safely. Here are some disposal options:

Divert your tank from the landfill. For a fee of \$5 per tank (partially full or empty), Progressive Lift Truck at 33900 Nine Mile Road in Farmington will take the tank and refurbish it for reselling. For further info, call 248-477-0650.

Place the tank at the curbside with your normal trash. Place it upside down with the valve in the full open position to empty any remaining propane.

Take the tank to a Hazardous Materials Drop-off Day. Tanks will be accepted either full or empty at all HazMat collection sites.

If you have questions, call the DPW at 248-871-2850.

## Tips for a Healthy Lawn

You can have a healthy lawn and also be environmentally responsible. Lawn care experts offer the following tips:

- Select slow-release and low or no-phosphorus fertilizers.
- Have your soil tested to make sure you're using the proper fertilizer.
- Mow your grass high to promote root growth and shade out weeds.
- Leave a no-fertilizer buffer zone of 10 - 25 feet if your property is next to water.
- Sweep up fertilizer from paved surfaces and put it back onto the lawn. Do not sweep it into the storm sewer where it heads straight to the local waterway.
- Avoid weed and feed combinations which add unnecessary herbicides, spot treat weeds instead.
- Rake a half-inch of compost into your lawn to add nutrients and build fertile soil instead of using fertilizers.

For more tips on environmentally-friendly lawn care, visit [www.healthylandscapes.com](http://www.healthylandscapes.com).

## Clerk's Office

### DOOR TO DOOR SOLICITORS:

Summer is the season for door-to-door solicitors. Any person conducting door-to-door solicitation must be licensed with the City and have picture identification (either from the City or the group they sponsor); except for those groups that are exempt from licensing provisions (only allowed under certain criteria such as persons soliciting within three miles of their residence for educational, charitable (501.C.3), religious or youth organizations including Jehovah Witnesses, Girl/Boy Scouts, Lions Club, Knights of Columbus, newspaper distributors, etc.)

Persons may solicit between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. only. We ask that exempt parties also adhere to these hours. There are certain environmental and political groups that are exempt from the City's licensing provisions, however, they are still required to have picture ID and are asked to comply with local time requirements.

If you do not wish to have solicitors come to your door, you may post a "No Soliciting" sign on your property. Solicitors are not permitted to solicit on property with a "No Soliciting" sign.

Please be advised that State law dictates that we cannot prohibit solicitation in Farmington Hills, but licensed solicitors must adhere to City ordinance requirements. If you experience an adverse situation with a solicitor or have any complaints, please contact the Police Department and/or the City Clerk's Office and be able to identify the party's name and group they are associated with, if possible.

### 2006 ELECTION SCHEDULE

Primary Election	Tuesday, August 8, 2006
General Gubernatorial Election	Tuesday, November 7, 2006

### NEW ELECTION EQUIPMENT

The City received new election equipment last fall through a grant from the State and Federal Government. This optical scan technology is similar to what has been used for the last 15 years. The biggest change is that instead of connecting an arrow to cast a vote, you will now fill in an oval. All other processes remain the same. If you would like to see the new equipment prior to the election or actually cast a sample ballot, stop by City Hall and we'll be happy to assist you in this process.

### ARE YOU REGISTERED TO VOTE?

You must be registered 30 days prior to Election Day in order to be eligible to vote. If you move to a new community, you must re-register under your new address in order to vote.

### ABSENTEE VOTER BALLOTS

You are eligible for an absentee ballot if you meet any of the following criteria:

- 60 years of age or older
- Physically unable to attend the polls without assistance of another
- Appointed as a precinct worker in a precinct other than your own
- Expect to be absent from the community in which you are registered on election day
- Cannot attend the polls because of the tenets of your religion
- Cannot attend the polls because you are confined to jail awaiting arraignment or trial

### Important Note especially for students away at college or residents temporarily out-of-state:

Please be aware that if you register to vote by mail, you are **not eligible** to vote by absentee ballot in your first election and must vote in person. This does not apply to anyone 60 years of age or older. If you have any questions about your eligibility for an absentee ballot, please call the Clerk's Office at 248-871-2418.

### ABSENTEE BALLOT APPLICATIONS HAVE A NEW LOOK!

Applications for absentee ballots now have a fold-over version so the voter can simply complete the application and then fold the form over and adhere with a small piece of tape. Postage is still required if you are mailing the form back to us, but you no longer need to put it in an envelope.

Applications for absentee ballots for the August Primary and November Gubernatorial Elections will automatically be mailed to ALL persons who are 60 years of age or older and to handicapped persons who have requested an application. This is a dual application that covers **both** the August and November Elections. Please be sure to check the appropriate boxes indicating the election(s) for which you would like an absentee ballot and return the application either in person or by mail to the City Clerk's Office any time after May 25, 2006. You may have already received this application. If not, it will be coming to you shortly.

### DROP BOX REMINDER

There is a drive-up drop-box for all election materials located in the median (west of the Federal mail boxes) on Eleven Mile Road between Police Headquarters and City Hall. This box is green and has the City logo on the front. Avoid parking, walking, and inclement weather by using the drop box, which is emptied several times a day.

### PASSPORTS

New legislation takes effect at the end of December 2006 that requires passports for travel anywhere outside of the U.S., including Canada. Yes, this means from Detroit to Windsor! The City Clerk's office now processes passport paperwork, which is then sent to the Federal government for issuance. Complete details on obtaining a passport can be found on the City's website at [www.ci.farmington-hills.mi.us](http://www.ci.farmington-hills.mi.us) or by calling the City Clerk's office at 248-871-2410.

## Cultural arts programs heat up this summer

### “Stars in the Park” free summer concert series begins in June

This summer’s *Stars in the Park* series features many new and exciting groups as well as community favorites. From Caribbean music to oldies to jazz, there will be something for everyone. The *Stars in the Park* concerts take place on Thursdays at 7:30 p.m. at the Heritage Park outdoor amphitheatre. Bring a blanket or lawn chair and picnic dinner. Rainout location for most concerts is the Costick Center. There is no concert on July 20.

- JUNE 15 Farmington Community Band  
The area’s own 65-piece band performs a variety of favorites.
- JUNE 22 Murphy’s Law - New this year!  
An eclectic mix of rock, country, jazz, and pop.
- JUNE 29 Roots Vibration - New this year!  
A musical “Caribbean force” that sizzles with energy.
- JULY 6 Rock and Soul - New this year!  
Favorite rockin’ oldies that will have you dancing on the lawn.
- JULY 13 Mark Nilan & Alfie Zappacosta - New this year!  
Mark Nilan is an Academy Award-winning musician, composer and musical technician; Alfie Zappacosta is Canada’s number one smooth jazz superstar.
- JULY 27 Farmington Community Jazz Band  
Musicians from the FCB perform your favorite jazz standards.
- AUG. 3 Jeremy Kittel Acoustic Trio  
The U.S. Scottish Fiddling Champion is back from performances with the DSO and at Lincoln Center. An eclectic combination of Celtic and jazz music.
- AUG. 10 Farmington Community Chorus  
More than 80 voices, backed by talented instrumentalists, perform a mix of pop, jazz, and classical vocal music with a love theme.



### Art on the Grand, July 21-23 in Downtown Farmington

Art on the Grand returns this summer to the Farmington Founders Festival in a newly expanded location on Grand River, west of Farmington Road in Memorial Park. Art on the Grand features the works of both local artists and artists from around the country, in a wide variety of media including painting, fiber, jewelry, photography, wood, sculpture, glass, and ceramics. An interactive art fair, Art on the Grand offers its visitors the opportunity to stroll the artwork while enjoying live musical performances, a free art activity tent for children, artist demonstrations, and artistic face painting by Lovely the Clown. For details, call the Cultural Arts Division at 248-473-1857.

### Can Your Grease to Prevent Sewer Backups

Did you know that cooking grease is the number one cause of home sewer backups? Pouring grease down the drain can cause buildups and blocked sewer pipes. The Oakland County Drain Commission (OCDC) offers the following tips for safe disposal of grease:

- Never pour grease down any sinks, toilets, or drains.
- Pour grease into a metal can for disposal after it congeals.
- Use strainers to catch food scraps and then empty strainers into the trash.
- Wipe cookware and dishes before washing.
- Don’t rely on garbage disposals, they grind greasy food into smaller pieces but still send it down the drain.
- Running hot water after pouring grease down the drain doesn’t work. Grease eventually cools, congeals, and coats the pipes, which leads to blockages.
- Soaps that claim to dissolve grease simply break it up and pass it down pipes where it can clog sewer lines in another area.

Putting grease down the drain is a problem not only in homes, but also in restaurants, schools, hospitals, and other places where food is produced. By following the OCDC’s tips, costly and potentially dangerous bacteria-laden sewer backups can be avoided. For more information or to receive a *Can Your Grease* brochure, call the OCDC at 248-858-1128.

#### Police Department Run for Muscular Dystrophy on June 17

The Farmington Hills Police Department will host its 17th annual 10k race, 5k run/walk, and a free one-mile kids’ fun run for Muscular Dystrophy on Saturday, June 17. The event is open to both law enforcement personnel and the public. The entry fee is \$20 and includes a t-shirt, food, and drinks. The race begins at Oakland Community College’s Orchard Ridge campus at 9 a.m., but come early for juice and bagels. For more information or to pre-register, call the Police Operations Bureau at 248-871-2620 or e-mail [rnemisto@ci.farmington-hills.mi.us](mailto:rnemisto@ci.farmington-hills.mi.us).

#### Free Helmets from the Police Department

The Farmington Hills Police Department is once again sponsoring a helmet giveaway program this summer. A free helmet will be provided to any Farmington Hills child under 16. Helmets can be picked up at the Police Department command desk on Eleven Mile Road just west of Orchard Lake Road. Children must be accompanied by a parent or guardian and proof of residency is required.

## Summer programs for adults

### 50 AND BETTER

Brighten up a summer day with an activity sponsored by the City of Farmington Hills Senior Division located at the Costick Center, 28600 Eleven Mile Road between Middlebelt and Inkster. Area adults 50 & better are invited to stop by and join us for a trip, program or class. For information, call 248-473-1830.

- Learn about Alzheimer’s disease and its legal, emotional and practical considerations at a workshop to help caregivers make the right decision on June 7 from 6 – 8:30 p.m. Pre-register by June 6. No fee.
- Join us for a boxed lunch and a Walk in the Park on June 13 from 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. in beautiful Heritage Park. Bring along binoculars or a camera and wear comfortable shoes. Pre-register by June 12. Fee is \$4.
- People over age 65 take 33% of all prescription drugs. For Your Health – Use Medicines Wisely teaches us about medication safety on June 20 at 10:30 a.m. Pre-register by June 19. No fee.
- Kick off the summer season on June 21 from 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. with a Grand Ol’ Party for grandparents and families. Enjoy a barbecue lunch, a swim in the pool, crafts, games, and prizes. Pre-register by June 19. Fee is \$5 adult, \$3 child.
- Create beautiful blooms at Punched Paper Flowers on August 8 at 10:30 a.m. Pre-register by August 7. Fee is \$5.
- Join us on September 27 from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. for a Health Screening Day provided in cooperation with Oakland Community College and the mobile nursing unit. A variety of tests will be available.
- The 2nd annual Harvest Dance will be held on September 29 from 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. Enjoy a day of entertainment, games, prizes, dancing, and lunch.
- Calling All Dancers. We have several dance classes for those who would like to learn some new moves, get a good workout, and have a great time. Try Shall We Dance for ballroom, Dance Exercise for a Broadway Flair, Tap Dance or Line Dance. Times vary. Series or drop-ins.

#### Evening Programs

- Stay current on issues that matter to women during midlife and beyond in Vital Woman. On Monday, June 5 from 5:30 – 7 p.m., Karen Peper from Providence Hospital will talk about everything women need to know about stroke risks, symptoms, and prevention. Pre-register by June 2. Fee is \$5.
- Focus on inner awareness and body alignment with a Yoga class. Tuesday nights from 5:30 – 6:30 p.m. Series or drop-in. Next series begins June 27.
- Gain skill, confidence, and poise on the dance floor in Back to Ballroom offered on Tuesday nights with Ron & Linda Hiveley, 7:30 – 8:30 p.m. Features popular ballroom dances, the Waltz, and the Tango. New series, June 27.

### OZONE ACTION TIPS: Do Your Share for Cleaner Air!

During the summer, you’ll often hear that it’s an “Ozone Action” day which means that high ozone levels make the air unhealthy to breathe. Ozone Action days are usually sunny with blue skies, little or no wind, and temperatures above 90 degrees.

Ozone occurs naturally in the earth’s atmosphere, but becomes a problem when high amounts reach ground level. Often called smog, ground level ozone is formed when pollutants from vehicles, industry, and consumer products react chemically or “bake” in the hot summer sun.

High ozone levels can make it more difficult to breathe comfortably and can trigger allergies and asthma attacks. High risk individuals include children, the elderly, those with respiratory problems, and anyone who works or plays strenuously outdoors.

On Ozone Action days, you can make a difference by reducing harmful pollutants and making the air safer and easier to breathe:

- Avoid refueling vehicles or refuel only after 7:00 p.m.
- Limit car usage by carpooling or combining errands.
- Get an engine tune-up to increase efficiency.
- Avoid unnecessary idling and accelerate slowly.
- Delay mowing your lawn or using other gas-powered equipment.
- Avoid using oil-based paint, solvents, and aerosol products.

### PIES on the Grand

Calling all pie bakers, packers, and sellers! Join other enthusiastic volunteers for our Third Annual Blueberry Pie Extravaganza from July 19 – 23rd. Proceeds will go to support the Senior Transportation Program.

- Pies will be baked at the Costick Center on July 19 – 21 from 1 – 5 p.m.
- Pies will be sold on July 21 – 23 (times will vary) at the Farmington Area Founders Festival at the site of Art on the Grand.

Call the Senior Division at 248-473-1830 if you’d like to be part of this great event or if you’d like to get your pie order in early.

### Ice Arena

Beat the heat by doing something cool – spend some time this summer at the Farmington Hills Ice Arena! Learn to Skate Classes are offered throughout the summer for all ages and abilities and open skating is available at various times throughout the week. The Special Services Summer 2006 Program Schedule lists specific dates and times for all skating opportunities. Let ice arena staff help you host your next big event — birthday party packages include room usage and skating during open skate times. Call 248-478-8800 for more information.

## 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.

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

## Practice the Three R's to protect against *West Nile Virus*

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is again recommending that people practice the *Three R's* to protect themselves against West Nile Virus. While WNV is still a cause for concern in our area, it's important to remember that it's easily preventable. The CDC recommends that you follow these simple steps:

- **REDUCE** areas where mosquitoes breed. Eliminate standing water that collects in toys, buckets, tires, unused pools, clogged roof gutters, birdbaths, and other containers.
- **REPEL** against mosquitoes. Use insect repellants (follow manufacturers' guidelines and do not use on children younger than 2 years of age.) Wear protective clothing such as long sleeves and pants.
- **REPORT** dead crows to the Oakland County Health Division at 877-377-3641. For more info on West Nile virus, visit their website at [www.co.oakland.mi.us/health](http://www.co.oakland.mi.us/health).

City workers have treated all City-owned storm water catch basins (a common breeding ground) with a slow-release larvicide known to kill mosquitoes. All property owners are urged to evaluate water on their own property for mosquito breeding areas. There are many private storm sewer structures located in driveways, backyards, side yards, and subdivision open spaces which can be easily treated with a drop-in larvicide available from local retailers.

## Important information about your property taxes

*Tax bills are not forwarded.*

Tax bills are tied to the property, not to the addressee, so they're sent to the address that's on record with the City and are not forwarded by the post office. If you'd like to receive your tax bill at a different address, please let the City Treasurer's office know. If you do not receive your tax bill because you haven't notified the City of a new address, this doesn't waive the tax or any penalty for late payment.

*Tax amounts are available online.*

After tax bills are mailed out, the amounts are available at [www.ci.farmington-hills.mi.us](http://www.ci.farmington-hills.mi.us). Simply select property inquiry from the quick links menu and then follow the instructions. Information can be accessed using either the parcel ID numbers or the owners' names.

*Do not send online bank payments to the P.O. Box address.*

If you're paying your tax bill online, please be sure to send the payment to the Treasurer's Office at 31555 W. Eleven Mile, Farmington Hills MI 48336, not to the P.O. Box address listed on the tax bill. Online payment is not recommended because it often results in a delay in the payment reaching the Treasurer's Office.

*All property owners receive a bill.*

The original copy of the tax bill is mailed to the owner of record. In cases where property taxes are paid through an escrow account, the paying agent receives a separate notification. Please retain all original copies of the tax bill for income tax purposes.

## Tune in to WQEP AM 1650

The City of Farmington Hills has installed a new Emergency Advisory AM radio system purchased with funds from a Department of Homeland Security grant. Farmington Hills Radio is provided as a service to the community to inform listeners about emergency preparedness, emergency weather conditions, and other City information. The radio station can be found at AM 1650.

Hundreds of communities across America operate their own Emergency Advisory Radio Stations specifically to tell area residents and motorists what to do during Amber alerts, school incidents, flash floods, industrial accidents, terror threats, earthquakes, hurricanes, tornadoes, and other types of emergencies. Through public-safety-managed radio broadcasts, listeners will receive up-to-the-minute reports, alerts, and instructions with a timeliness and detail that make these types of broadcasts invaluable, especially when disaster strikes. During non-emergency times, the station will be used to inform motorists of street repairs, public notices, upcoming events, and visitor information.

## Youth and Family Services

**New Jon Grant Community Center Opens**

This spring marked the opening of the new Jon Grant Community Center in Fire Station #3 on Grand River just east of Middlebelt. The new Center features a computer room, two pool tables, a big screen TV, a ping pong table, bubble hockey, and more! It provides the fifth location in Farmington Hills to offer a free After School Youth Program. The Center's after school program will get underway when the school season begins. For more information, call the Youth and Family Services Division at 248-473-1841.

**Summer Drop-In** – From June 19 through August 11, the Farmington Hills Ice Arena offers a summer drop-in program where your Farmington Hills/Farmington middle-schooler can go to enjoy safe, fun, indoor and outdoor activities. Check out the Special Services Summer 2006 Program Schedule for details and cost information or call 248-473-1841.

### Rouge Rescue 20th Anniversary!

The Annual River Day/Rouge Rescue will be held Saturday, June 3 from 9 a.m. until noon at the creek in Memorial Park at the corner of Eleven Mile and Middlebelt Roads. This year's event marks 20 years of efforts to clean and restore the Rouge River and other local waterways. Participants will receive a free t-shirt and picnic lunch. To pre-register, call 248-871-2860. For a listing of other Rouge Rescue locations, call the Friends of the Rouge at 313-792-9900.

### The ducks are coming!

The Rubber Duck Race, hosted by the Farmington Hills/Farmington Community Foundation, will be held at 4 p.m. on Sunday, July 23 in Farmington's Shiawassee Park to wrap up the Farmington Area Founders Festival. There will be food, games, rides, and fun for all. This year, 15 prizes will be given away with a grand prize of \$100 shopping per week for 52 weeks from Busch's Market. Tickets are available now at the Costick Center and City Hall. Please call the Duck Hotline at 248-473-1894 for more information.

The Decoy Duck Race will be held at 3:00 p.m. on the same date and location. As a \$200 sponsor, you receive a decoy duck to decorate, 10 Rubber Duck Tickets, and a yard sign on the river. As a \$500 sponsor, you receive a decoy duck to decorate, 10 Rubber Duck Tickets, a yard sign on the river, and your company's name on the Start and Finish banner over the river. Prizes will be awarded to 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place Decoy Duck Race winners.



City of Farmington Hills

31555 Eleven Mile Road  
Farmington Hills, MI 48336

Summer 2006

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