



FALL/WINTER 2007

**CITY COUNCIL**

Vicki Barnett  
*Mayor*

Barry Brickner  
*Mayor Pro Tem*

Nancy Bates

Randy Bruce

Jerry Ellis

Ken Massey

Cheryl Oliverio

**CITY MANAGER**

Steve Brock

## Fire Department

### *Change Your Clocks, Change Your Batteries*

As we “fall back” one hour on Sunday, November 4, the Fire Department urges you to participate in the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC)/Energizer Battery national campaign to “Change Your Clocks, Change Your Batteries” by replacing the batteries in all battery-operated smoke alarms. It’s also a great time to clean each alarm with a vacuum attachment (dust and spiders can cause false activations) and to establish an emergency exit plan for your family.

### *No Ice Is Safe Ice*

It’s impossible to judge the safety of ice based on its appearance, thickness or the daily temperature, especially when it’s covered with snow. Ice in one area can be one inch thick, while it’s over a foot thick just a few feet away. Risks rarely outweigh the benefits of being on the ice. But if you do venture out, keep these tips in mind:

- Avoid alcohol when venturing onto the ice.
- Beware of snow-covered ice.
- Never go onto the ice alone.
  - Keep pets off the ice.
  - Wear a life jacket.
  - Never drive on ice

Remember, whether a friend, family member or pet falls through the ice, DO NOT attempt to make a rescue yourself. Dial 911 immediately! Firefighters have the proper training and equipment to make a rescue.

*The Farmington Hills Fire Department conducted a “live burn” demonstration of what can happen when a partially thawed turkey is placed in a turkey fryer.*



### *Holiday Fire Safety*

Holidays are a great time to enjoy the season, but every year we hear about fire fatalities involving deep fryers, Christmas trees or candles left unattended. All of these can be avoided by using common sense and reading manufacturers’ instructions.

**Turkey Fryers** – Large fires can be caused when fryers tip over or are overfilled with oil that spills onto the burner and causes it to engulf in flames. Partially frozen turkeys contain a lot of water — water and hot oil is a recipe for disaster! Also, fryers have no thermostatic controls, so the units have a tendency to overheat the oil to the point of combustion. Follow these safety tips when using a turkey fryer:

- Never use a turkey fryer on a wooden deck or inside a garage or home.
- Fryers should be used on a firm, flat surface to prevent them from tipping over.
- Never leave the fryer unattended.
- Turkeys must be thoroughly thawed and also be very careful when adding extra liquids such as marinades into your bird.
- Keep a portable fire extinguisher nearby.
- If your fryer catches fire and you can’t extinguish it, dial 911 immediately!

**Christmas Trees** – Use safety precautions with both artificial and fresh-cut trees. When exposed to an open flame, artificial trees will be completely consumed in less than a minute and will produce thick black, toxic smoke. Fresh cut trees will need to be watered every day. Follow these safety tips with your Christmas tree:

- Purchase a durable tree stand and don’t place your tree in an area that blocks an exit.
- Be sure trees are placed at least three feet from heat sources including vents, electrical outlets, and fireplaces.
- Always use lights approved for indoor use. Follow directions on how many light strings may be attached to one another. Replace any damaged lights and don’t overload circuits.
- Turn off all lights when leaving home or when going to bed.
- NEVER place a candle on any tree.

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## Police Department

### *Senior Safety Program*

Last year, approximately 18% of the City’s population was at least 60 years of age and they unfortunately represented between 8 to 9% of all reported victims of crime. By the year 2030, the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments estimates that our population aged 65 or older will grow to 29%. Working closely with this growing population is a critical element in ensuring their safety and the well-being of our entire community. Recognizing this growing need, the City has developed a new community policing program appropriately called the Senior Safety Program.

Initiated by the Police Department, the program partnered the Police and Fire Departments, the Emergency Preparedness Commission (EPC), the Commission on Aging, and the City’s Senior Division. Conceived and designed to provide our seniors with useful and needed information, it also served to form and strengthen the relationship between our seniors and a variety of City departments. The first session of the Senior Safety Program was presented on September 11 to a receptive and appreciative audience.

Conducted in a mini-seminar format, session one of the program provided attendees with current data and cautions regarding fraud and scams, a criminal activity that continues to be a cause for concern for our seniors. Additionally, a general overview of the report filing and investigative process helped those who may have never reported a crime to understand the need for exposing such activity and addressed what can be expected once a complaint has been filed.

Presentations from the Emergency Preparedness Commission and the Fire Department also gave information on the mission and goals of the EPC, preparing for emergencies, the File of Life, residential Knox-boxes, and injury prevention.

Although first presented at the Costick Activities Center, the Senior Safety Program was developed with mobility in mind. The program will be offered at locations throughout the community in the months to come. Program topics will be updated quarterly, which will allow for timely and seasonal presentations. For more information on the Senior Safety Program, call the Crime Prevention Section at **248-871-2750**.

## Fall Construction Projects

- **Fourteen Mile from Middlebelt to Inkster** – Resurfacing and repair work will continue until late October or early November.
- **Middlebelt at Ten Mile** – This Road Commission project to widen and reconstruct the intersection includes the replacement of the large culvert under Middlebelt south of Ten Mile and the upgrade of the traffic signal with new left turn signals. It will continue into late fall.
- **Maple at Farmington** – This Road Commission project to construct a modern roundabout at the intersection will continue into the winter.

### *Holiday Garbage Pickups*

**Thanksgiving** – No collection Thursday, November 22. Monday through Wednesday – Regular collection. Thursday and Friday – Collection delayed one day.

**Christmas Day and New Year’s Day** – No collection Tuesday, December 25 and Tuesday, January 1. Monday both weeks – Regular collection. Tuesday through Friday both weeks – Collection delayed one day.

**Martin Luther King Day and Presidents’ Day** - Collection takes place on the *regularly scheduled* day. City offices closed Monday, January 21 and Monday, February 18.

*Garbage is not collected on New Year’s Day, Memorial Day, Fourth of July, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day, and Christmas Day. For details, go to [www.fhgov.com](http://www.fhgov.com)*

## HERITAGE WEEK

### *Get to Know Your Neighbors Workshop*

Explore race and culture in the community.  
Wednesday, October 10  
Maxfield Training Center  
2:30 – 4:30 p.m.

### *Movie and Discussion*

Thursday, October 11  
Maxfield Training Center  
5 p.m. – *The Namesake*  
7 p.m. – Discussion

### *Heritage Festival*

Sunday, October 14  
12:30 – 5:30 p.m.  
Costick Center  
28600 West Eleven Mile Road  
Multicultural entertainment, food, displays, live music, and children’s activities.

All activities are FREE. Sponsored by the Farmington/Farmington Hills Multicultural Multiracial Community Council. For more info, visit [www.mcmr.org](http://www.mcmr.org).

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## Building Division

### Hiring a Contractor

If you plan to hire a contractor to perform home improvements or repairs, please consider the following suggestions:

- ✓ A licensed contractor should have a pocket card issued by the State of Michigan for work costing more than \$600.00. Ask to see it. (Salespeople are also required to be licensed and to carry a pocket card.)
- ✓ A licensed contractor is required to establish a physical place of business and display their license in a prominent location.
- ✓ Do not pay the entire contract price in advance; withhold the final payment until the work has been completed.
- ✓ Beware of prices that are good "today only."
- ✓ If the contract price includes the cost of a permit, ask for a copy and make sure it is posted on site.
- ✓ Contact the Building Division at **248-871-2450** to confirm that all inspections have been approved.

If you hire an individual on a per hour basis, they are your employee and are not required to be licensed. In this case, you assume the responsibility for the work performed and you may be liable for injuries or property damage. If you have concerns, you are welcome to bring the contractor's proposal to the Building Division for review.

### Check Your Chimney

As winter approaches, many residents will replace aging furnaces with newer, more energy-efficient models. If your home has a masonry chimney, a metal chimney liner must be installed along with the new furnace. High-efficiency furnaces generate flue gases that are much cooler than older models and contain high levels of water vapor that can condense on the inside of a masonry chimney and eventually saturate the brick that surrounds the clay flue liner. With cold temperatures, this water vapor can freeze and cause the brick to "pop" or disintegrate. The metal chimney liner is designed to prevent this from happening. White, salt-like stains on the brick are a sign that damage is occurring. Contact the Building Division at **248-871-2450** if you have questions.

#### Foreclosure Prevention

In today's economy, a reduction in income or an increase in variable rate mortgage payments may place families at risk of losing their homes to mortgage foreclosure or tax forfeiture. The Oakland County Community and Home Improvement Division, a U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)-approved Housing Counseling Agency, has highly trained, experienced housing counseling professionals who may be able to help you keep your home and also address other credit or budget situations that impact your ability to pay your monthly mortgage payments or yearly taxes. Oakland County counseling services are free and they can provide you with unbiased recommendations. For more information, call **248-858-5402**.

## Zoning Division - Pest Control

As in any City, we have occasional reports of rodents being sighted in our community. Code inspectors work diligently with local businesses and residents to eliminate these fast-breeding pests. It is much easier, however, to prevent infestations than to treat them after the fact. Follow these tips to help keep these pests away from your property:

- Keep grass mowed, including tall grass and weeds along fence lines.
- Remove unnecessary items, junk, and debris from your property.
- Store wood and lumber above the ground (recommended height is 18 inches.)
- Seal any holes, cracks or openings at least three feet from building masonry or foundation.

Rodents thrive where food is plentiful. Here are some ways to eliminate food and water sources:

- Keep all garbage in metal or plastic trash containers with the lids tightly on. Replace containers that are not in good condition.
- Pick up and properly dispose of pet waste immediately.
- Don't throw birdseed on the ground, instead use feeders that are placed at least four feet off the ground and frequently pick up all spilled seed. Better yet, switch to suet cakes.
- Eliminate water leaks and standing water.
- Store bulk food or grain in rodent-proof containers.

For more information regarding any zoning issues, call the Zoning Division at **248-871-2520**.



### Join 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**.

## Planning Department

The City has been making an effort to use native plants in all landscaping projects including roadside trees, the restored entrance to Heritage Park, and City Hall. If you're on your way to City Hall from Eleven Mile or from the District Court parking lot, take a look at these plantings.

Native plants are those that have grown in the area since the 1800's. Because they've survived here for a long time, they can handle extreme weather better than many introduced plants. They also need less water when they are established, which provides a cost savings, and they require less fertilizers and insecticides, which is better for the environment. Local birds and bugs rely on these plants for both food and shelter.



*Native purple cone flowers were planted in the median on Northwestern Highway.*

## Recycling Reminders

### Recycle your old cell phone

To join in the efforts on America Recycles Day, held annually on November 15, simply bring your old cell phone (in working condition, please!) to the Costick Center front desk and include the car charger or AC/DC recharging unit. Phones will be reprogrammed and given to area senior citizens for emergency 911 use. Please remember to erase any personal information and make sure your account has been terminated. Your cell phone donation is tax-deductible. For more info, call **248-473-1800**.

### Recycle your Christmas tree

Drop off your Christmas tree for recycling at Glen Oaks Golf Course from Dec. 26 through Jan. 13, seven days a week, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the east end of the clubhouse parking lot at 30500 West Thirteen Mile Road, just east of Orchard Lake. Trees must be free of all decorations, lights, and tinsel. For more info, call **248-858-0906** or go to [www.oakgov.com/parksrec](http://www.oakgov.com/parksrec). Christmas trees placed at the curbside will be collected by the garbage truck and put in with the regular trash.

### Recycle your holiday cards

Toss your old holiday cards loosely in your recycling bin or place them with newspapers in a brown paper bag. All greeting cards are recyclable except those with glitter or metallic paper – put these in with your regular trash. You can also put junk mail, office paper, loose leaf paper, manila folders, and paperback books in your recycling bin. For a copy of the Curbside Recycling Guidelines, call **248-871-2850** or go to [www.fhgov.com](http://www.fhgov.com).

### Holiday Fire Safety *continued*

**Candles** – Fires caused from candle misuse are on the rise. Christmas Day will mark the peak day of the year for home candle use, followed by Christmas Eve and New Year's Day. The month of December will have almost double the number of fire incidents related to candle use than the average month. If you use candles, follow these safety tips:

- Never leave a candle unattended or in reach of children or pets.
- Place your candles in non-tip candle holders.
- Keep candles away from combustible materials such as curtains, Christmas trees, furniture or decorations. Don't place them where they may get knocked over.
- Keep candles away from drafts, vents or other air currents such as ceiling fans. Drafts can cause the flame to blow onto other combustible items nearby.
- Trim candlewicks before lighting. Longer wicks cause uneven burning and drippings.
- Never use a candle as a light during a power outage or when checking pilot lights or fueling equipment such as a kerosene heater or lantern. Use a flashlight.
- Always extinguish all candles when leaving a room or going to sleep.

**REMEMBER** - Every home should have working smoke alarms, a carbon monoxide detector, and a portable fire extinguisher, and every family should have an escape plan in the event of an emergency.

## Fall and Winter Programs for Adults 50 & Better

The Center for Active Adults offers a variety of fitness programs, classes, and special events at the Costick Center on Eleven Mile Road, between Middlebelt and Inkster. Call **248-473-1830** for information on dates, times, and fees.

### EVENING ACTIVITIES

**Let's Dance** - ballroom dance classes, 7-week sessions. Oct. - Dec.

**Yoga** - 7-week sessions. Oct. - Dec.

**The Write Stuff** - 2-part writing workshop. Oct. 3 & 10

**The Roundabouts are Here** - Learn a bout these new intersections. Oct. 24

### VITAL WOMAN

**Reiki** - Japanese technique for stress reduction and relaxation. Oct. 22

**Holiday Treats** - Prepare a festive dessert and appetizer. Nov. 12

### LIFELONG LEARNING AT LONGACRE

**Newspapers vs. the Web.** The fate of newspapers in an online world. Oct. 10

**U.S. Immigration.** Discuss a major issue confronting our nation. Oct. 24

**The Spirituality of Aging.** Gain insight with a theologian. Nov. 28

### FARMINGTON HILLS BALLROOM DANCE

All ages and skill levels invited. DJ, 50/50 raffles, door prizes, refreshments. Complimentary dance class one hour

before the dance. Oct. 19, Dec. 21, Jan. 18, Feb. 15, Mar. 21, and most 3rd Fridays.

### FLU SHOTS

**Flu shot clinic** Tuesday, Nov. 13, 9 a.m. - noon. Recommended for persons 65 or older, for those younger with medical problems, and for those who live or work with high-risk individuals. Medicare/Medicaid covers the cost. Bring a picture ID with your current address and Medicare/Medicaid card. For those without Medicare/Medicaid, there is a cash fee.

### CLUBS & GROUPS

Call **248-473-1830** for more information, dates, and times.

Creative Crafters, For Men Only, Mah Jongg, NEW! Philately (Stamp Collecting) Group, Pinochle Group, Photography Club, Red Hat Society, Sojourn Bears, NEW! Writers Group, Quilters

### HOLIDAY EVENTS & PARTIES

Enjoy meals, games, entertainment, dancing, prizes, and more. Purchase tickets at least one week prior to event, \$8 per person.

Halloween Party - Oct. 26  
Stars & Stripes Forever Veterans Celebration - Nov. 9  
Thanksgiving Party - Nov. 15  
Holiday Party - Dec. 14  
Welcome to the New Year Party - Jan. 11  
Valentine's Party - Feb. 8  
St. Paddy's Day Party - Mar. 7

### PROGRAMS & SPEAKERS

**Pain Control Alternatives** - Oct. 2

**Avoid ID Theft** - Oct. 16

**Downsizing - Reduce Your Possessions** - Oct. 25

**Holistic Cancer Treatments** - Oct. 30

**AARP Senior Driver Safety Program** - Nov. 7 & 8

**Liver Wellness** - Nov. 20

**Newcomer Welcome Tour - Residents only.** Jan. 17

**Annual Spelling Bee** - Feb. 6. Call **248-473-1822** for more info.

### SERVICES

**Support Groups** include Caregivers, a new Grief Support Group, First Step Stroke, and a Low Vision Group.

**The Home Chore Program** assists with minor home repair and small chores. Legal Advice consultations available by appointment only.

**Nutrition Program** provides Onsite Congregate Meals, nutritional liquid supplements, and Home Delivered Meals Monday through Friday.

**Senex** offers an Adult Respite Care day program for the frail and/or dependent elderly.

**Transportation Service** is available or residents 55 & better, Mon. - Fri., 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m., by appointment only.

**Prescription Drug** assistance available from onsite counselors by appointment.

**9-1-1 Emergency Cell Phone Program.**

**Telephone Reassurance** - daily contact phone call.

**Focus Hope** - monthly commodity food program offered to those who qualify.

If you or someone you know can use these services, call **248-473-1830** for info.

## FALL YARD WASTE PICKUP

Yard waste pickup will continue on your regular garbage day through the week of November 26. If you can't mulch leaves back into your lawn, choose from the following options for yard waste disposal:

- Use brown paper yard waste bags. Leaves in plastic bags or decorative pumpkin bags will not be picked up.
- Put yard waste in garbage cans with yard waste stickers available free at City Hall or the DPW. Cans larger than 32 gallons or weighing more than 60 pounds will not be emptied, due to worker safety issues.

After the week of November 26, yard waste cannot be picked up in accordance with the City's contract and with Michigan laws governing yard waste disposal. Call the DPW at **248-871-2850** if you have questions.

*Please note: Don't pile leaves and other yard waste next to a creek or river. The nutrients from decomposing plant materials enter the water and cause excess algae growth, which uses up oxygen needed for fish and other aquatic life.*

## Fall Household Hazardous Waste Day October 13

Did you know that fluorescent light bulbs are considered hazardous waste? They contain mercury that gets released when the bulbs are broken. Used bulbs should be stored in the original box or other container until you can take them to a Household Hazardous Waste Day.

The last Household Hazardous Waste Day of the year will be held Saturday, October 13 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Recycling Authority at 20000 W. Eight Mile Road, just east of Evergreen in Southfield. Residents of Farmington Hills, Farmington, Novi, Southfield, South Lyon, Walled Lake, and Wixom are all eligible to attend with proof of residency.

Along with household hazardous waste and computer equipment, up to 100 pounds of personal documents can be taken in for on-site shredding and old mercury thermometers can be traded in for free digital ones.

For a complete list of accepted/non-accepted items, call **248-208-2270** or go to [www.rrrasoc.org](http://www.rrrasoc.org). While you're on RRRASOC's website, you can sign up for Household Hazardous Waste Day e-mail reminders so you'll know when to clean out the garage this spring!

**Please note:** Latex paint is NOT accepted because it's not considered hazardous waste. If the can is full, splash some out onto newspapers then add sand or kitty litter to the paint left in the can. The remaining paint will solidify in a few days. When it's solid, place it out with your trash, keeping the lid off.

## Water & Sewer Rates Changed July 14, 2007

Each year, the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department updates their rates for the 125 communities that use their water and sewer service, including Farmington Hills.

Residents are billed four times each year for the actual amount of water used, which is measured in lots of 1,000 cubic feet of water. As of July 14, water rates increased \$1.40 from \$20.89 to \$22.29 per 1,000 cubic feet of water with a minimum bill of \$35.66 per quarter. Sewer rates increased \$1.04 from \$19.19 to \$20.23 per 1,000 cubic feet of water with a minimum bill of \$32.37 per quarter. Minimum bills are necessary to share in the cost of operating and maintaining the water and sewer systems. Residents without City water will pay a flat rate for sewer of \$101.15 per quarter.

Just as in past years, this year's rate change will help fund major improvements in Detroit's century-old water system, which is one of the largest in the world. The improvements are designed to provide residents with safer drinking water and cleaner rivers. Ongoing projects include a new water works plant that will be built using a process called "ozonation" to kill bacteria instead of chlorine. Ozonation is as effective as chlorine in killing bacteria but is less harmful to the environment and to consumers. Detroit will also replace and update equipment at its waste water treatment facility and build retention basins to prevent the discharge of raw sewage into the Detroit and Rouge Rivers.

## Streetlight Outages

Help Detroit Edison expedite the repair and maintenance of streetlights in our community by reporting outages and requesting repairs. If you spot an outage, call the DPW at **248-871-2850**, Monday through Friday from 8:30 - 4:30 with the following information:

- Specific streetlight location such as nearest crossroads or a nearby business. Whether the pole is wooden or metal.
- The streetlight pole number. For metal poles, it's located at the base. For wooden poles, it's located approximately eight feet up from the base.
- Details such as whether the light is off during the night, turns on and off at night, or stays on during the day.

If a pole has been knocked down or there's an emergency, call Detroit Edison directly at **800-477-4747**.

## Fall Fertilizing

Fall is the most important time to fertilize your lawn. It promotes deep, healthy root systems and helps to minimize weeds and diseases. Spring fertilizer applications can actually harm your lawn by promoting more blade growth than root growth and by making your lawn more susceptible to drought. A single application of slow-release fertilizer in the fall may be enough to provide a great foundation for the spring growing season.

## CITY DIRECTORY

<b>Emergency Calls Only</b>	
Fire Department .....	9-1-1
Police Department .....	9-1-1
<b>Assessing</b> .....	248-871-2470
<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
<b>Fire Department</b>	
Non-emergency .....	248-871-2800
<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>	
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 or tune into Cable Channel 8.



## Ghoulish Groups



### Wanted For Haunted Hike

The outdoor trails of Heritage Park will come alive with creatures of the night as the Recreation Division hosts their annual Haunted Hike. You'll travel over a quarter mile trail that takes you through seemingly safe fields and woods. But be ready for your heart to race as ghouls and goblins lurk in the darkness waiting for their prey. This event is recommended for individuals 7 years old and up.

Thursday, Oct. 25 7:30 to 9 p.m. – \$5 per person  
 Friday, Oct. 26 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. – \$7 per person  
 Saturday, Oct. 27 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. – \$7 per person

The Recreation Division is looking for groups with creative imaginations to develop stations for the Heritage Park Haunted Hike that will make everyone scream and give them chills. Each group is provided with \$200 to help offset any expenses.

*Interested? Call Andy Lang at 248-473-1803 by October 9. You will receive an information packet and be asked to submit a proposal detailing the "haunting experience" your group (minimum of five participants per station) will provide.*

## Ice Arena

During fall and winter, the Farmington Hills Ice Arena offers Learn to Skate classes for all ages and skill levels as well as specialized classes and individual instruction for figure skating and hockey. Classes are offered in eight-week intervals. Call the ice arena at **248-478-8800** for details. Upcoming special events include:

- Holiday Exhibition - December 8
- Skate with Santa - December 15
- It's Great to Skate FREE Clinic - January 5

## Parks & Recreation Master Plan

The Farmington Hills Special Services Department has begun preparing an updated Parks & Recreation Master Plan. The Master Plan is basically a "road map" to give direction for the next few years regarding parks, recreation, cultural arts, and leisure time in our community. In the very near future, a phone survey, focus groups, and a public workshop will be conducted to obtain feedback. Residents will be asked about the quality of life in our community, how they would rank the programs and services currently offered, and in what direction they would like to see the community proceed. For more information about the Master Plan, call **248-473-1810**.

## YOUTH & FAMILY SERVICES

The After School Program is running for the 11th year with over 250 middle school children ages 11-15 participating daily. Program offerings include Club Z Tutoring, Girl Power, Guy Time, Junior Optimist, scrapbooking, cooking classes, arts and crafts, and more. New this year are the Zap Zone Laser Tag League and Bowling League. The Costick Center, Warner Middle School, Ice Arena, YMCA, and the Jon Grant Center are filled with youth participating in safe, educational, and fun activities after school between 2:00 and 5:30 p.m. This program is free to Farmington/Farmington Hills residents after the purchase of a photo ID for \$5.00. For more info, call **248-473-1841**.

## Cultural Arts Division

### Festival of the Arts to be Showcased at National League of Cities

The Farmington Area Festival of the Arts was one of 40 innovative local programs selected to be in the 2007 "City Showcase" at the upcoming National League of Cities (NLC) Annual Congress of Cities Conference in New Orleans, November 13 to 17. The Showcase celebrates innovative local programs from around the country, offering City leaders a chance to share ideas and experiences with the more than 4,000 delegates attending the conference.

### CONCERTS AND PERFORMANCES

Tickets for all performances may be purchased at the Costick Center or call **248-473-1848** to charge by phone. Limited availability at the door on the nights of the performances.

### Moonlight, Martinis and Murder

Sat., Oct. 6, 7:30 p.m.  
 Longacre House  
 Interactive Mystery Theater including hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar.  
 Tickets - \$40

### Western Jazz Quartet

Fri. Nov. 9, 7:30 p.m.  
 Costick Center  
 Jazz Quartet-in-Residence at Western Michigan University  
 Tickets - \$18 adults, \$15 seniors/students

### Detroit Chamber Winds

Mon., Dec. 10, 7:30 p.m.  
 Farmington Players Barn  
 Holiday Brass  
 Tickets - \$19 adults, \$16 seniors/students

### Farmington Community Chorus

Dec. 14 & 15, 8 p.m.  
 Mercy High School  
 Holiday Concert  
 Tickets may be purchased in advance by calling 810-632-4067.

### Michigan Opera Theatre

Sat., Feb. 9, 7:30 p.m.  
 Farmington Players Barn  
 Love Songs from the MOT  
 Tickets - \$18 adults, \$15 seniors/students

### Blackthorn

March 13, 14 & 15, 7:30 p.m.  
 Farmington Players Barn  
 Celtic Music  
 Tickets - \$16 adults, \$14 seniors/students

### SPECIAL EVENTS

#### Heritage Festival - Many Faces, One Future

Oct. 14, 12:30 - 5:30 p.m.  
 Costick Center  
 Colorful costumes, ethnic foods, entertainment, displays, and hands-on children's activities. FREE

#### Traditional English Afternoon Teas

Oct. 23, Nov. 13, Dec. 14 & 18, 1-3 p.m.  
 Longacre House  
 Presentation from Ann Pettersson of "All Things Victorian" with three-course tea menu.  
 Tickets - \$20 residents, \$25 non-residents  
 Call **248-473-1870** for details.

### Farmington Hills Youth Theatre

"Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat"  
 Nov. 15 & 16, 7 p.m.  
 Nov. 17 & 18, 1 p.m. and 5 p.m.  
 Costick Center  
 Tickets - \$10 at the door, children 3 and under are free.

### CLASSES, WORKSHOPS AND LESSONS

**Vocal workshop** - Oct. 13 by THE NEXT STAGE, a group of professional performers. Call **248-473-1859** for details.

Art classes available in face and figure drawing, fashion illustration, watercolor, ink, ceramics, pastels, oils, and photography, along with Middle Eastern Belly Dancing, Motown Ballroom Dance, acoustic guitar, and piano lessons. Call **248-473-1859** for details.

## ☆ 2007 ELECTION SCHEDULE ☆

City General Election - Tuesday, November 6, 2007

Electors will vote on the following offices:

- One (1) Mayor position (two-year term)
- Three (3) City Council positions (four-year terms)

**Note:** There will be no questions or proposals on the November 6 election ballot.

### IMPORTANT: PRECINCT 1 AND 2 LOCATION CHANGES

The City of Farmington Hills has made two Precinct Changes in order to provide better parking areas and building access for voters. They are:

#### PRECINCT 1 – NEW LOCATION

**WARNER MIDDLE SCHOOL**

30303 W. FOURTEEN MILE ROAD

This precinct has been relocated from Fairview Elementary School.

#### PRECINCT 2 – NEW LOCATION

**UNITED ORCHARD METHODIST CHURCH**

30450 FARMINGTON ROAD

This precinct has been relocated from North Farmington High School.

If you are affected by one of these changes, you should have received a letter and new voter ID card in the mail. Please remember to destroy your old voter ID card. If you did not receive a new ID card and you are registered in Precincts No. 1 or 2, please contact City Hall at **248-871-2418**.

**SPECIAL REMINDER: Don't wait to verify your voter information. If you have moved or have any questions about your voting precinct, etc. Election Day is too late to make changes or corrections! Please call 248-871-2418 now.**

### NEW LAW PASSED REQUIRING PHOTO ID AT THE PRECINCTS

As a result of a Michigan Supreme Court Ruling, photo identification is required for all electors voting in the precincts in the upcoming November 6, 2007 election. If you do not have photo ID, you will still be able to vote; however, you will be required to complete and sign an affidavit of identity, which will delay your voting process. PLEASE REMEMBER TO BRING YOUR DRIVER'S LICENSE OR STATE-ISSUED ID WITH YOU ON ELECTION DAY. If you do not have a driver's license, you may receive a state ID at no cost at any Secretary of State Branch office. Watch for further information on this issue on Cable Channel 8, the City website, in press releases, and state-wide public service ads.

### 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

Michigan Election Law requires that an application be completed for each election for which an absentee ballot is needed. Applications are available at the City Clerk's office, by calling the City Clerk's Office at **248-871-2410** or on the City website at [www.fhgov.com](http://www.fhgov.com).

The last day that an absentee ballot can be mailed out is Saturday, November 3, 2007. City Hall will be open to issue absentee ballots from 8:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. on that day. PLEASE NOTE THAT BY LAW WE ARE NOT PERMITTED TO ISSUE OR GIVE A BALLOT TO ANYONE OTHER THAN THE VOTER NAMED ON THE APPLICATION TO RECEIVE A BALLOT. (This includes a spouse, other family member, etc.)

Applications for absentee ballots were automatically mailed in early September to persons who are 60 years of age or older or disabled persons who have previously requested an application.



### CANDIDATE FOR MAYOR

#### JERRY ELLIS

Jerry Ellis has been a community leader for over 20 years. First as a member and Chairman of the Parks and Recreation Commission, and then as a City Council member for the last 11 years. He was Mayor Pro Tem in 2000 and 2004.

Ellis serves as Chairman of the Southwest Oakland Cable Commission and as Chairman of the Farmington Hills Redevelopment Committee. He is the Council liaison to the Chamber of Commerce and the Economic Development Corporation.

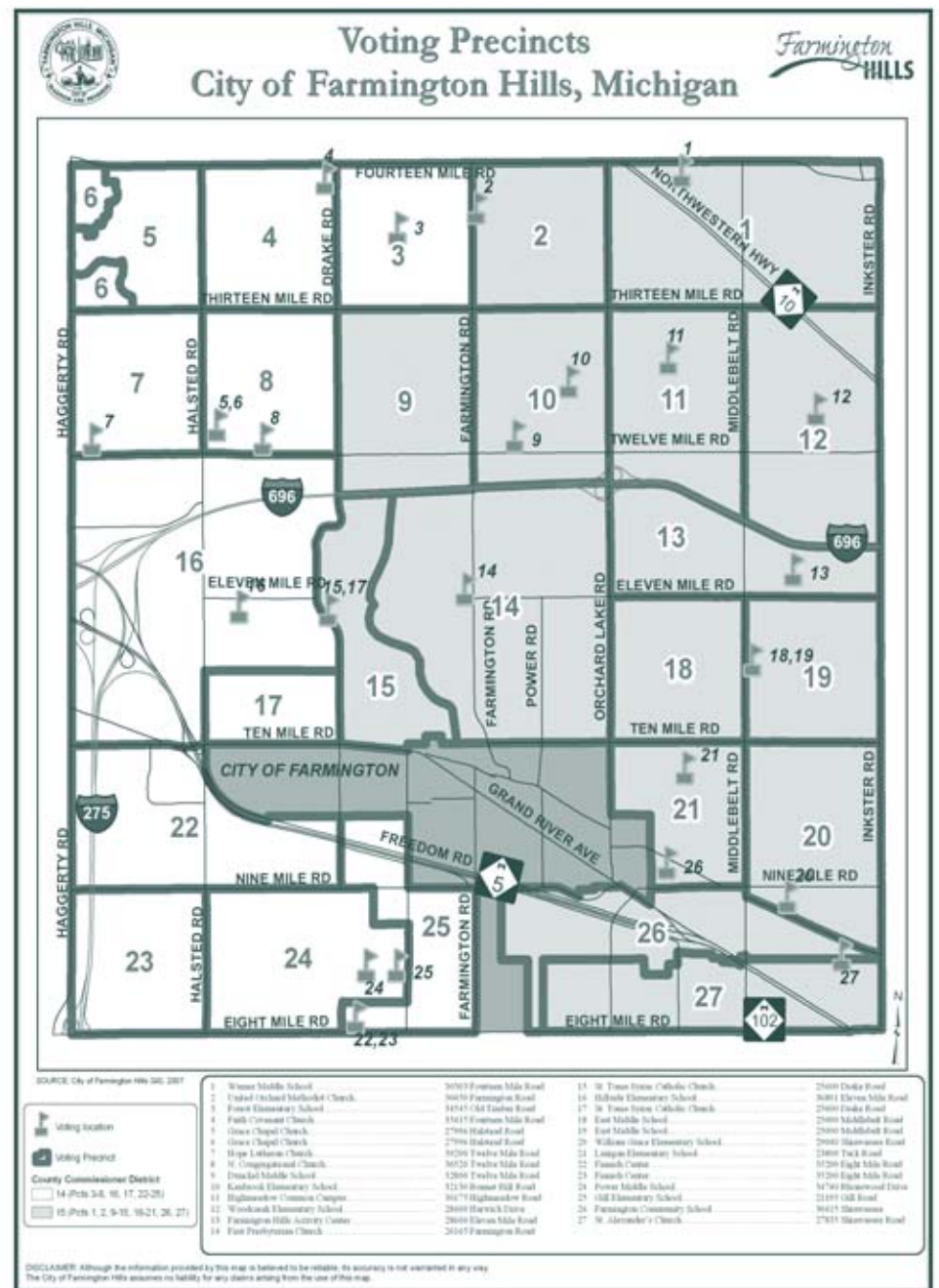
For five years he served on the Board of the Oakland County Community Mental Health Authority. He previously served on the 47th District Court Facilities Committee, the Year 2000 Committee, and was President of NFWB Baseball.

Ellis is a strong advocate for fiscal responsibility, senior citizens, and youth services. He believes that by redeveloping commercial properties and attracting new businesses, the City can continue to provide quality services without raising taxes.

Ellis initiated the Redevelopment Committee, drafted our cellular tower ordinance to keep towers out of our neighborhoods, and successfully fought developers who wanted to drill for gas in Farmington Hills. He worked to establish the Senior Adult Nutrition Program that has served over 1,000,000 meals to our seniors.

In 2005, The Observer newspaper wrote, "Farmington Hills citizens should be grateful that Ellis, a strong leader who is thorough, decisive, respected and certainly well-qualified, wants to continue serving on the council."

Ellis, an attorney, has been practicing commercial law for 38 years. He and his wife Mary are 32-year residents.



### Are You Registered to Vote?

You must be registered to vote 30 days prior to Election Day in order to be eligible to cast a vote. You can register to vote at any Secretary of State Branch office, at your local city clerk's office, at the county clerk's office or by mail. Registration forms are available on-line. They must be printed, completed, and returned to the local clerk's office postmarked by October 9, 2007 in order to be eligible to vote November 6.

Please be aware that if you mail your voter registration form, you are not eligible to vote by absentee ballot in your first election; you must vote in person. This does not apply to anyone 60 years of age or older.

### Drop Box Available for Ballots

There's no need to park and enter City Hall to pay your taxes or drop off your absentee ballots or absentee ballots applications. Just put them in the green drop box located on the traffic island south of Eleven Mile between City Hall and the Police Station. It's fast, convenient, and the box is emptied several times a day.



### What issue do you see as the most important in the Sustainability Study and why?

The most important thing to come out of the Sustainability Study was to increase the community's awareness that a community's sustainability is dependent upon its ability to attract and encourage good redevelopment.

The report supports the City's commitment to the environment. It points out our social sustainability as evidenced by our good schools, our excellent public safety departments, our sensitivity to our seniors, and our quality cultural and youth programs.

In Farmington Hills, 65% of local tax revenue is derived from residential property values. To continue to sustain ourselves economically, we must maintain those property values and refresh and renew our commercial properties. We will keep this a desirable community by providing a safe nurturing environment and upgrading our business districts to better serve the needs of community residents.

### What are your ideas for maintaining current businesses and attracting new businesses to the City?

We have to be known as a "creative city" with educated residents that are technologically proficient and welcoming to all. We also have to be known as a "business friendly" city.

The City has an economic development coordinator, who along with our Economic Development Corporation, calls on our businesses to let them know we care that they are here and we are here to help them if we can.

Over the last number of years, using this strategy, we have brought dozens of foreign corporations with thousands of jobs to Farmington Hills. We now have approximately 150 foreign corporations located in the City.

We must continue to encourage these businesses to let their customers and suppliers know of the benefits of locating in Farmington Hills. These businesses can continue to be our goodwill ambassadors to the worldwide business community.

## ☆ Vote Tuesday, November 6 ☆

### CANDIDATES FOR CITY COUNCIL

Biographies and responses submitted by candidates. • Placement of candidate profiles on this page selected at random.



#### **BARRY L. BRICKNER**

Mayor Pro Tem Barry Brickner and his wife Cheryl have lived in Farmington Hills for over 24 years, where they raised their two daughters, Kelly and Shawn. Mr. Brickner was elected twice to the City Council and has had the privilege of serving the people of Farmington Hills on Council for the past eight years and as a Planning Commissioner for four years before that. He is seeking re-election to his third term.

Mr. Brickner is the council liaison to the Voter Participation Committee and the Eight Mile Boulevard Association (8MBA). In his second term on council, he became the Chairman of the 8MBA. He now sits on the executive committee of

the 8MBA as the immediate past president. He is a member of the Farmington Hills Brownfield Redevelopment Authority and is the alternate delegate to the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG).

As a councilperson, he is a member of the Michigan Municipal League and the National League of Cities, where he sits on the Internet, Technology and Communications Steering Committee.

While on council Mr. Brickner has worked with the Chamber of Commerce, Council of Homeowners, American Red Cross, Rebuilding Together (formerly Christmas in April), Rouge River Rescue, and gift distribution with the Goodfellows.

Mr. Brickner has been in the general practice of law for 31 years. He has given lectures for and had articles published by the American Bar Association, State Bar of Michigan, the Oakland County Bar Association, and the Institute for Continuing Legal Education.

#### *What issue do you see as the most important in the Sustainability Study and why?*

Becoming proactive in encouraging reinvestment and redevelopment in the City. Revitalizing underutilized commercial properties in the City will aesthetically improve the properties, increase usability and enhance the tax base. Changing our zoning ordinances in the commercial districts to allow for mixed use or overlay zoning plus the use of Corridor and Brownfield legislation can give property owners the tools that they need to rehabilitate their properties. The redevelopment of commercial properties is necessary for the future sustainability of our City.

#### *What are your ideas for maintaining current businesses and attracting new businesses to the City?*

A safe environment, good housing, good schools, proximity to customers and cultural amenities are some of the factors business leaders seek in a community. They also seek a City that is willing to work with their business in planning, zoning, permitting, and in some instances tax abatement issues. The council has developed a policy for reviewing requested tax abatements and I have participated in adapting changes in the policy to correspond to an evolving market and to protect the interests of our citizens. This policy along with the hard work of the Economic Development Corporation and the Economic Development Coordinator has made us quite successful in attracting and maintaining businesses.

Changes in the City's commercial zoning ordinances to allow for mixed use development and increased density on existing property will encourage businesses to expand existing facilities or look at Farmington Hills for redeveloping available but obsolete facilities.



#### **JOHNNY ORAM**

Johnny Oram carries enormous amount of experience in all levels of government from local, state, and federal that will allow him to see the bigger picture of not just what needs to be done, but if it can be done. Johnny Oram's public service spans more than 15 years starting back in California when he worked as a legislative assistant for a U.S. Senator, in Hawaii as an advisor to a Hawaii State Representative, a campaign aide to a Presidential Candidate, and a campaign manager for a State House candidate.

Having moved to Michigan in 1999, Johnny Oram continued his public duty by working as a campaign advisor to a District Judge in Bloomfield Hills, to being an advisor to a County Commissioner in Farmington Hills, and to being a Chief of Staff to several State Representatives in Lansing.

Johnny Oram was Lead Negotiator in securing \$3,000,000.00 in grant money for an economic development project in Detroit; helped pass anti-steering legislation that prohibited auto insurance companies from steering policy holders to repair shops who have special relationships with the industry. Oram drafted a bill to create a hearing bureau to adjudicate environmental matters; and, Johnny Oram helped get three school kids reinstated after they were wrongfully expelled from a charter school.

Johnny is married to Sandra. He is President of Altor, Inc., an international consulting firm. He has two brothers, Scott, a filmmaker, and Bobby, a 14-year U.S. Army Veteran who is in law enforcement.

#### *What issue do you see as the most important in the Sustainability Study and why?*

The issue of mentioning the need to increase property taxes in order to maintain sustainability is one that should not be hastily considered without looking at alternative ways to sustain the economic viability of our City. Residents aren't happy with ever-increasing property taxes given the fact that economic growth has slowed, the local real estate market is sluggish, and new construction is down. Residents are concerned with the tax burden that is being imposed on them, particularly the elderly. Citizens need tax relief now, especially in this tough economy.

#### *What are your ideas for maintaining current businesses and attracting new businesses to the City?*

Taxation should be for maintaining the vibrancy of our community, helping those that cannot help themselves, and for supporting City services, such as education. However, when governments step in and tax us and give those tax dollars to corporations, I say no. Therefore, in order to attract business into Farmington Hills I propose a proactive agenda. The City has a fundamental interest in the state of our education system. Everything derives from education. We must, as a City, and City leaders, see to it that our schools are second to none. Our children are our future and are important. Business needs to grow. What is more important than their future workers? We need to cultivate workers of the future. We need programs of health, which will help keep our citizens healthy, and our local businesses' laborers healthy, thus cutting health care costs. We need programs that will make Farmington Hills an innovator, a world class City, with a vibrant business community.



#### **KEN MASSEY**

Ken Massey was elected to the City Council in 2003. He served as Mayor Pro Tem in 2006. Massey, whose resident-centric perspectives were honed while serving as President of the Council of Homeowner's Associations, is a charter member and current chair of the Emergency Preparedness Commission (EPC) and council liaison to the Commission on Aging. He is a member of the National League of Cities Public Safety and Crime Prevention steering committee as well as serving on the Botsford Hospital Board.

Serving on council is an extension of his community service focus. As an Eagle Scout, paramedic, homeowner representative, and council member he has continued to bring a passionate and logical approach to community service. Educationally, Ken holds a scientific doctoral degree and is the Director of Clinical Operations for Micro-Dose Life Sciences.

As a member of council, Ken is very proud of the accomplishments of the EPC in the training of several thousand residents in first-aid and self defense, making us one of the safest and most prepared cities in the nation. During his term on council, our infrastructure has seen completion of Drake Road Sidewalk, many main storm drain replacements, and the repaving of Halsted. The SMART bus system was debated, resulting in a more responsive system. All accomplished while holding the line on property taxes.

#### *What issue do you see as the most important in the Sustainability Study and why?*

The prime issue is ensuring the long-term financial stability of the City. This will be accomplished through well-considered zoning, redevelopment, protection of residential areas, environmentally appropriate ordinances, and provision of cultural opportunities. The current council, working with City staff, repeatedly delivered a balanced budget, no tax increases, AA-bond rating, and services that resulted in a designation as one of the safest cities and 29th most desirable City rating. Given the economic climate of the State, the next few years will present economic challenges to our City and we must be proactive and flexible to protect the investment in the community made by our citizens.

The most controversial issue, merging the City with Farmington, needs to be addressed. A life-long resident of the City, Massey knows this has been an issue since the days of Farmington Township. There is much emotion surrounding the issue that can only be addressed by completing an unbiased study to gain economic facts on which to base decisions. The citizens of the communities must drive this decision.

#### *What are your ideas for maintaining current businesses and attracting new businesses to the City?*

Farmington Hills has long had a stable balance of residential and business citizens on which to balance our tax base. Working jointly with our business community and organizations such as the Chamber of Commerce and Economic Development Commission, we need to ensure that the City is responsive to doing business and promoting growth. Part of the answer comes from the land use planning process and then council acting on suggestions. The City also has a responsibility to work with State legislators, as our influence permits, to improve the business climate of the State in general.



#### **MICHAEL BRIDGES**

Michael R. Bridges' personal history may well be a prototype of the American success story. His professional history has taken him from janitor to successful businessman to candidate for the Farmington Hills City Council

Born in Jackson, Michigan, one of eight children, Bridges worked as a janitor to finance his college education, earning an Associate Degree in the Arts from Jackson Community College and a Bachelor of Arts in business from Spring Arbor College. He worked several years for the Consumers Power Company before joining Johnson and Johnson, the world's largest comprehensive health care service company where he is a senior sales representative.

Bridges has a passion for his family, a passion to succeed and a passion to serve the community. He has given of his time and energy to numerous community endeavors, participating in:

The Farmington Area Commission on Aging, the Chamber of Commerce, the Economic Development Council, PTA, Optimist Club, Junior Achievement, the North Farmington West Bloomfield Youth Football League, the Financial Strategies Committee for the Farmington Public Schools, and the Board of Directors of the Farmington YMCA. Presently, he is the chairman of the Zoning Board of Appeals and a member of the Crime Prevention Advisory Board.

He and his wife, Deborah, have two children, Michael Chad, 14, and Chauncey, 10.

#### *What issue do you see as the most important in the Sustainability Study and why?*

The Sustainability Study, a very insightful document—a sort of blueprint for planning the future of Farmington Hills—deals with financial, social and environmental sustainability. All three are intertwined and interrelated.

In planning the future of Farmington Hills, we must develop comprehensive policies to assure that we make progress in all but not at the expense of any of the three. It would be shortsighted and counterproductive to favor one area because, frankly, you cannot achieve the goals of any of the three without equal progress in the others.

Obviously, we need to sustain our financial strength. Without that we cannot sustain our social or environmental goals. However, if we ignore or give only cursory attention to social and environmental goals and objectives, financial stability becomes somewhat meaningless.

#### *What are your ideas for maintaining current businesses and attracting new businesses to the City?*

It is imperative that we are creative, imaginative and reform-minded to have a vibrant business environment. Among other actions, we need to

- Streamline permit and licensing procedures to encourage rather than frustrate businesses.
- Develop flexible zoning policies to promote mixed-use development, and, overall, establish a zoning atmosphere that sends a message that we are open to new ideas.
- Review present ordinances to see if they hinder business development. We may have ordinances and policies that are not conducive to business development.
- Create a business retention program that tells business owners that we are grateful for their commitment to Farmington Hills.

We have the talent, brains, business acumen, and overall an attractive business environment. We must use these precious resources to our best advantage.



#### **RANDY BRUCE**

Randy Bruce is currently seeking re-election to his second term on City Council. He has a long history of community involvement, beginning as the president of his homeowners' association, to serving eight years on the Zoning Board of Appeals and then being elected to City Council in 2003. He is a licensed psychologist, who specializes in treating individuals with traumatic brain injuries and spinal cord injuries, as well as children and families. He earned B.S., M.A., and Ph.D. degrees from Wayne State University in Detroit, and has a daughter who is a senior at Harrison High School.

Randy also serves on the 47th District Sobriety Court Advisory Committee, and is the council liaison to the Cultural Arts Commission and the Children, Youth, and Families Commission. He is a board member of the Farmington Youth Assistance, and is also on the Human Development Steering Committee for the National League of Cities.

Randy feels one of his key accomplishments is raising a wonderful daughter, despite all the challenges facing children now in our society. He is also proud of the work he has been able to do on behalf of the citizens, such as helping to keep taxes low, while keeping a very high level of City services. He feels that Farmington Hills is a wonderful place to live and to work, and he is running for re-election because he wants to continue to manage growth in a positive manner, and to try to implement many of the suggestions put forth in the sustainability study to keep the city competitive well into the future.

#### *What issue do you see as the most important in the Sustainability Study and why?*

I see the issue of increasing shared services with our sister city of Farmington, and possible merger, as one of the most important issues raised, and this needs more study. We will continue to face mounting economic pressures in this state, and we must be ready to meet these challenges and not try to play "catch-up" when we are facing decreases in state shared revenue, or other economic downturns. Combining more City services with Farmington may result in significant cost savings for both cities, and this needs to be explored further which is what Oakland County is currently studying on our behalf.

#### *What are your ideas for maintaining current businesses and attracting new businesses to the City?*

We must work to keep our ordinances up to date, which allow businesses to operate efficiently without unnecessary "red tape." This also includes streamlined and efficient City processes so that business can expand or move into the City without being delayed or hampered by processes that are too slow and cumbersome, which can cost businesses time and money, and that can lead to them moving to other areas. We must keep our infrastructure up to date, and provide good roads and public services that allow business to lure top level employees to live and work in our City. We will continue to do everything that we can to keep our tax rate one of the lowest in Oakland County, which also is a very attractive feature for our City.