

Winter/Early Spring 2022

Stay Informed and Involved!

Want to be in the know about all the latest happenings in the City of Farmington Hills? There are many different ways to get detailed information on a range of topics that are important for residents to know:

Website – Go to the City website at **www.fhgov.com** for all the Latest News updated daily. Click on the Resident tab for information on everything from dog licenses to passports. Click on the tiles for employment listings, public notices, City Council meeting agendas, the City calendar, and more.

City eNewsletter – Get direct emails when you register for the City eNews at **www.fhgov.com**. Go to the Resident tab, click on News and Information, then eNews/Listserv. Follow the links to subscribe to the City eNews, Road Construction Updates, Election News, and more.

Facebook – Click on the Facebook icon at **www.fhgov.com** and follow the news feed for all the latest updates on City events and programs.

FH Alert - Click on the FH Alert icon at **www.fhgov.com** to subscribe to time-sensitive notifications about emergencies including road closures, missing persons, and evacuations of buildings or neighborhoods.

YouTube – Click on the YouTube icon at **www.fhgov.com** and subscribe to the City of Farmington Hills YouTube Channel to view videos on public safety, cultural arts, the Nature Center, City Council meetings, and more.

Contact Us – Click on the Contact Us tile at **www.fhgov.com** for the names and phone numbers of City employees in different departments. Follow the link to report a concern and fill out the required information.

The Hawk – Click on The Hawk icon at **www.fhgov.com** and link to the special website for The Hawk/Farmington Hills Community Center to find out about fitness passes, book a party room, and register for classes.

If you do not have access to a computer, call 248-871-2400 or stop by Farmington Hills City Hall located at 31555 W. Eleven Mile Road. Regular hours of operation are Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

LARCENIES FROM AUTOMOBILES

The Farmington Hills Police Department warns residents that Larcenies from Automobiles (LFA) are on the rise. At least 70% of LFAs are committed on unlocked vehicles. Locking your vehicle and removing any valuable items such as purses, wallets, money, electronics, and firearms is strongly advised.

Remember to remove your garage door opener when parking your vehicle in your driveway. Garage door openers give intruders access to a residence. It is also recommended that you lock the interior door that connects your garage to your home. If the door is left unlocked someone with a garage door opener can gain entry into vour home.

If you must store any items in your car, the Police that they be locked in the trunk of your vehicle out of plain sight. Common places where larcenies from autos are committed include daycare centers, schools, parks, gyms, and even your own driveway! Criminals are opportunists and are targeting unsuspecting people who leave items in their cars while they go about their daily tasks.





Tips When Calling 9-1-1

- Stay calm. Do not get frustrated at the questions being asked by the dispatcher. Do not raise your voice or yell. Stay calm and state your emergency.
- **Do NOT hang up.** The 9-1-1 operator will call you back. If someone calls 9-1-1 and doesn't speak, emergency services will be dispatched. If the dispatcher makes contact with the caller and still feels there may be a problem, an officer will be sent to the location to verify that there is not an issue.
- Turn your speakerphone off when calling **9-1-1.** A "speaker" setting will pick up all the surrounding noises and conversations that may be happening around you. The call will be quicker and easier for all parties to understand if you do not use this option.
- Teach your children how to call 9-1-1. Be sure they know what 9-1-1 is, how to dial from a cell phone, and to trust the 9-1-1 call taker. Your child should know their own name, parent's name, telephone number, and most importantly, their address.
- **Dispatcher tip:** Keep a piece of mail with your address on it and place it in an easy to see location such as the refrigerator. This information can be helpful to adults and children who may forget this information in a stressful situation.

How Do I Make a 9-1-1 Call?

In an emergency, dial 9-1-1 on your phone. It's a FREE call. You can use any kind of phone: push button, rotary, cellular/wireless, cordless, or pay phone. Per federal law, you must be able to dial 9-1-1 from any phone and from any cell phone even if the service has been cancelled.

What Information Will Be Asked?

- Location of your emergency (exact address, intersection, or landmark).
- Type of emergency.
- Your name and callback phone number in case the dispatcher needs more information.

Why Does a Dispatcher Need Me to Stay on the Line?

- To ensure your safety and the safety of those involved.
- In case a medical condition changes (for better or worse). Dispatchers can provide immediate assistance with instructions to help until medical crews arrive.
- To provide current and accurate information to the responding units.

WHEN TO CALL 911:

- Trouble breathing or unable to breathe
- Symptoms of heart attack
- Fainting or dizziness
- Bleeding that will not stop
- Severe or persistent vomiting
- Sudden, severe pain anywhere in the body
- Serious medical emergencies that you believe are life threatening or may become life threatening

WHEN NOT TO CALL 911:

- You need transportation to a doctor's appointment
- Getting a scraped knee bandaged
- Needing a prescription to be filled
- For a sprained or twisted ankle
- For transportation to another area of the city
- Whenever the injury is not life threatening



Wireless Carriers Discontinuing Support of 3G Devices in 2022

Farmington Hills Police Chief Jeff King wants the public to know that the end of 3G wireless connectivity is rapidly approaching. Wireless carriers will discontinue support of 3G devices in 2022. When this occurs, 3G devices will not only be disabled from normal use, but they will also be unable to dial or call 9-1-1. Common 3G cell phone models include TracFones, Jitterbugs, and flip phones. If you or a loved one have been keeping a 3G device for 9-1-1 purposes only, eventually it will no longer work at all.

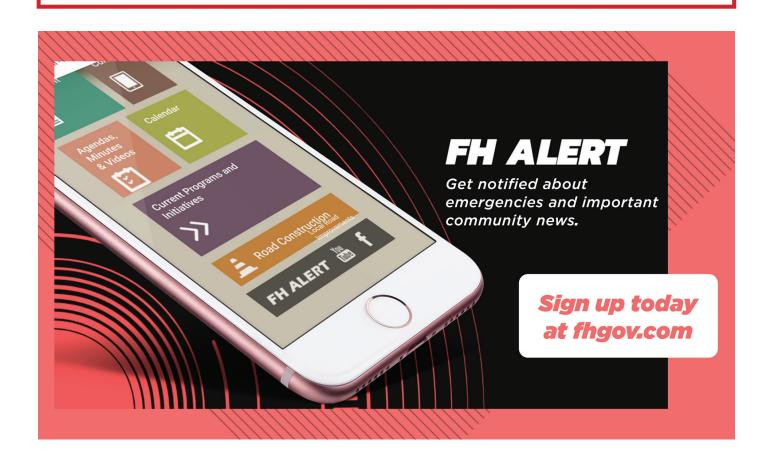
HOW DO YOU IDENTIFY IF YOU HAVE A 3G DEVICE?

- Check the phone's IMEI (International Mobile Equipment Identity)
 - o IMEI should be available on a smartphone in the "About" tab of Settings.
 - o IMEI is available via the phone's keypad by pressing *#06#.
- Once you have your IMEI number, go to www.imei.info.
- This site will provide details on the phone and its network; 3G networks use frequencies at 900Mhz or 2100Mhz.

ADDITIONAL LINKS FROM MAJOR WIRELESS CARRIERS:

- Verizon www.verizon.com/about/news/3g-cdmanetwork-shut-date-set-december-31-2022
- AT&T www.att.com/support/article/wireless/ KM1324171

Chief King asks everyone to check their cellular device and the devices of their loved ones to ensure that you'll always be able to reach 9-1-1 in the event of an emergency.



FIRE DEPARTMENT

MINGTON HILLS FIRE RESCUE

Fire Marshal Jason Baloga

► CHANGE YOUR CLOCKS AND SMOKE **ALARM BATTERIES ON SUNDAY,** MARCH 13

The Farmington Hills Fire Department and the National Fire Protection Association urge all residents to change their smoke alarm batteries when changing their clocks from standard time to daylight savings time on Sunday, March 13, 2022. "It's an easy, inexpensive, and proven way to protect your family and your home," said Fire Marshal Jason Baloga.

Almost two-thirds of home fire deaths occur in homes with no smoke alarms or non-working smoke alarms. All smoke alarms should be tested monthly to check for missing or dead batteries or disconnected wires.

Smoke alarms should also be checked to see if they are outdated; since 2002 all smoke alarms must have the manufacture date marked on the outside. If your smoke alarm doesn't show a manufacture date or if you've had it for more than ten years, it needs to be replaced. The Fire Department recommends purchasing new smoke alarms with 10-year lithium batteries.

If you need assistance acquiring a smoke alarm, the Farmington Hills Fire Department has a free smoke alarm installation program for residents. For information, contact the Fire Prevention Division at 248-871-2820.

► KEEP SNOW AND ICE AWAY FROM FIRE HYDRANTS

After big snowstorms, fire hydrants can become blocked, inaccessible or snow covered, and the Farmington Hills Fire Department is asking for your help. Whether you're a homeowner, business owner or snow removal company, the Fire Department is asking everyone to do their part to assure that fire hydrants are visible and accessible.

Please shovel a path to the hydrant from the road, broom off any snow accumulation, and clear a five-foot area around the hydrant. This will help firefighters get to the hydrant quickly so they can protect both people and property.



Keep snow and ice 5 feet away from fire hydrants.

In case of fire, firefighters need to be able to get to the hydrants quickly to protect people and property.







FIRE DEPARTMENT PARTICIPATES ▶ IN ANNUAL ICE RESCUE TRAINING

Every winter, members of the Farmington Hills Fire Department take part in Ice Rescue Training on a local frozen lake. This specialized training provides Farmington Hills residents with an extra measure of safety, knowing that experts are available if anyone ventures onto the ice under dangerous conditions.

All 105 of the Department's Firefighter/Paramedics and EMTs receive annual training in cold-water rescue procedures. They learn about the characteristics of ice formations, and complete hands-on training that teaches them how to medically manage emergencies including cold-water drowning, frostbite, and hypothermia.

After attending virtual lectures, participants embark on several outdoor training sessions at Novi's Lakeshore Park on the south side of Walled Lake. Fire Department personnel wear ice rescue suits, use specialized ice rescue equipment, and take part in planned simulations. These scenarios require split-second decision making, continuous communication with the victim whenever possible. and coordinated tactics that get rescuers onto the ice as quickly as possible.

As part of the simulation, the victim is secured to the rescuer's rope system so firefighters on the shore can pull both to safety. Once safely ashore, the victim is immediately placed in an advanced life support ambulance, treated accordingly, and transported to a local hospital for further stabilization.

"Approximately 60% of people requiring ice rescue were themselves attempting a rescue only minutes before," said Fire Department Training Officer Lt. Jim Etzin. "If the ice wasn't strong enough to hold that person, it's not going to hold you. Do NOT go onto the ice to attempt a rescue yourself." Etzin stresses the importance of never assuming that ice is safe unless the thickness is known. He adds that children, people with special needs, and pets should never have unsupervised access to bodies of water. seemingly frozen or not.

Farmington Hills Fire Chief Jon Unruh emphasizes the most important point, "If someone falls through the ice, call 911 immediately." Then let the trained experts from the Fire Department take care of the rescuing.

For more information, call the Fire Department at 248-871-2800.



FHFD Ice Rescue Team left to right: Senior Firefighter Stan Bailey. Firefighters James Chesney and Todd Maki, Sergeant Nick Hippler





ARE YOU LOOKING FOR AN OPPORTUNITY TO GET INVOLVED IN YOUR COMMUNITY AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

How to Apply: Anyone interested in serving the community should submit a letter of interest with the name of the specific Board or Commission, along with a resume, to CMO@fhgov.com. All submissions will be reviewed by the Mayor, who then officially nominates Boards and Commissions members following City Council approval.

If you are interested in serving on a Board or Commission but it doesn't currently fit into your schedule, you are welcome to submit a letter of interest to be added to a list for future consideration.



Descriptions of each Board or Commission can be found on the City website under the Government tab at

www.fhgov.com/Government/Boards-Commissions.aspx. Residency requirements vary.

Several Boards and Commissions currently have vacancies for members and alternates, who serve when members are unable to attend meetings. Please consider volunteering for one of the following available positions:

- **Arts Commission** (one member and one alternate)
- **Beautification Commission** (one member and two alternates)
- **Brownfield Redevelopment Authority** (one member)
- Commission on Aging (one alternate)
- Commission on Children, Youth and Families (one member)
- **Committee to Increase Voter Participation** (three members and two alternates)
- **Economic Development Corporation** (one member)
- **Emergency Preparedness Commission** (one member and one alternate)
- Grand River Corridor Improvement Authority (two members: vou must be a resident or business owner in that area)
- Historic District Commission (one member)
- **Zoning Board of Appeals** (one alternate)



► PROPERTY TAX CALENDAR



WINTER PROPERTY TAX BILLS MAILED.



LAST DAY TO PAY WINTER PROPERTY TAXES WITHOUT PENALTY.



DUE DATE FOR THE FILING OF AFFIDAVITS TO EXEMPT PERSONAL PROPERTY WITH A TRUE CASH VALUE OF \$80,000 OR LESS.



PERSONAL PROPERTY STATEMENTS DUE TO ASSESSOR (BUSINESS ONLY).



CHANGE OF ASSESSMENT NOTICES MAILED.



LAST DAY TO PAY SUMMER AND WINTER PROPERTY TAXES AT CITY HALL.



BOARD OF REVIEW MEETS.

OPTIONS FOR PAYING TAXES

- Pay by electronic check (eCheck) at https://www.fhgov.com/ Government/Departments-Divisions/Finance/Tax-Payment-Options.aspx. (\$3 fee for payments up to \$10,000; \$10 fee for payments over \$10,000.) Paying by electronic check is highly recommended if you want your payment to be received at the time of your choosing. You will receive confirmation of payment from the processing company, which will serve as your receipt.
- Pay 24/7 via the drop box located next to City Hall in front of Police Headquarters at 31655 W. Eleven Mile Road or via the drop box/slot on the wall at the south entrance to City Hall at 31555 W. Eleven Mile Road. Please do not place cash payments in the drop box. You may request a receipt and must include a selfaddressed stamped envelope.
- Pay by mail to Treasurer's Office, 31555 W. Eleven Mile Road, Farmington Hills, MI 48336. You may request a receipt and must include a self-addressed stamped envelope. Checks are accepted as conditional payment. If checks are not honored by the bank, a \$30 fee is applied, and taxes are considered unpaid and subject to any and all penalties.

For questions about your taxes, call the Treasurer's Office at 248-871-2480.

REMINDERS FROM THE TREASURER'S OFFICE

- Winter property tax bills will be mailed around November 30, 2021 and may be paid without penalty through February 14, 2022. Thereafter, late penalties are assessed at 4% for February and are transferred to Oakland County in March with additional fees. Postmarks are not accepted by the City.
- Tax bills are mailed to the address of record and not forwarded by the post office, except for temporary forwarding orders.
- Changes of mailing address should be filed with the Assessor's Office. Address forms can be found on the City website at https://www.fhgov.com/government.

- By law, failure to receive a property tax bill does not waive the tax bill or any charges for late payment.
- Every property should receive a property tax bill, even if the tax bill is to be paid via an escrow account. If you have any questions about your property taxes, call the Treasurer's Office at 248-871-2480.
- If you have any questions regarding your property assessment or taxable value, call the Assessing Division at 248-871-2470.

CLERK'S OFFICE



Peddlers + Solicitors

Spring typically brings out more door-to-door peddlers/solicitors. Persons peddling door-to-door selling goods or services must be licensed with the City and have photo identification issued by the City Clerk's Office. Persons may only peddle/solicit between the hours of 10 a.m. and 8 p.m.

There are certain groups that are exempt from the City's licensing provisions, however they should be able to provide photo ID from their respective organizations and are asked to comply with local time requirements. Youth groups such as Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts or other similar youth organizations are also exempt if they are soliciting within three miles of their residence.

For questions on licensing, contact the City Clerk's Office at 248-871-2410.

If you do not wish to have peddlers/ solicitors come to your door. please consider posting a "No Peddling/No Soliciting" sign on your property. Peddlers/solicitors are not permitted on property with these signs. Similar signage may also be posted at subdivision entrances.

Please be advised that State Law dictates that peddling/soliciting cannot be prohibited within the City, however licensed peddlers/solicitors must adhere to City ordinance requirements. Complaints regarding any peddler/solicitor should be directed to the Police Department at 248-871-2600. It is helpful if you can provide the name and/or organization for which the person was peddling/soliciting and your address or subdivision name.

STAY INFORMED! UPDATE YOUR HOMEOWNER ASSOCIATION CONTACTS



Do you belong to your homeowner association? Stay informed about important developments that may affect your subdivision by updating your officers' names and contact information on the City Clerk's Homeowner Association list.

Please email your new information to cgraham@fhgov.com or fax it to the City Clerk at 248-871-2411. Please remember to do this annually or when there is a change in leadership.

2022 ELECTION INFORMATION

Please stay tuned to the **Clerk's Office Elections** page on the City website www.fhgov.com for important Election updates, deadlines, and information.



PUBLIC SERVICES DEPARTMENT

DITCH AND STORM DRAIN MAINTENANCE

Many neighborhoods in Farmington Hills have open ditches and enclosed storm pipes along their side and rear yards. These help collect storm water runoff from private properties, common areas, stream crossings, and roadside ditches and move the water downstream to other streams or on-site detention ponds and basins. These ditches and pipes are essential to maintaining the flow of storm water through the City without flooding. Additionally, the ditches along the road edge were constructed to keep the roadbed dry and lengthen the life of the road itself.

The City's Division of Public Works maintains the roadside ditches, culverts under the road, and pipes under the driveways that are in the public right-of-way. The maintenance of pipes and ditches located in side yards and rear yards is the responsibility of the individual homeowners.

If you have any questions regarding your storm sewer or ditch, please contact the DPW at 248-871-2850.

To keep pipes and ditches functioning properly and to avoid unnecessary flooding, routine maintenance should occur:

- Do not place yard waste materials in the ditches or pipe inlets.
- Do not obstruct the flow of water with landscaping.
- Watch for slow flow after a storm that may indicate a broken pipe or obstructions such as roots or soil.
- Occasionally clean and inspect the pipes.

The City has several thousand catch basins and pipe inlets, making it impossible to keep every one of them cleaned off before every storm. If homeowners keep these covers and inlets clean of debris when they see it accumulating, many roads and yards would be spared unnecessary flooding.

► HOLIDAY GARBAGE/RECYCLING/YARD WASTE COLLECTION SCHEDULE

New Year's Day - Saturday, January 1, 2022: NO CHANGE IN PICKUPS

Martin Luther King Day - Monday, January 17, 2022: NO CHANGE IN PICKUPS

Presidents' Day - Monday, February 21, 2022: NO CHANGE IN PICKUPS

Memorial Day - Monday, May 30, 2022: No collection scheduled on Monday. One day delay all week with Friday's pickup taking place on Saturday.

Please note: Yard waste pickup will end on your regularly scheduled collection day during the week of December 13, 2021. Yard waste pickup will resume the week of April 11, 2022.

► WINTER/EARLY SPRING REMINDERS



DETENTION POND MAINTENANCE

Many homeowner associations are responsible for the maintenance of the storm water detention ponds in their subdivision. It is recommended that detention ponds be inspected and maintained annually to avoid major repairs and maintenance costs. The homeowner association should be maintaining the pond's inlets and outlets, managing plant overgrowth, and removing debris. Practicing good housekeeping can enhance the detention pond and minimize long term maintenance. Associations needing more information can call the Public Services Department at 248-871-2530 or refer to the manual found on the Alliance of Rouge Communities website at www.allianceofrougecommunities.com.

DISPOSAL OF TREE LIMBS AND LOGS

Large tree limbs and logs (larger than 6" in diameter) are not picked up as part of the normal curbside trash or yard waste removal. If a contractor or landscaping firm is responsible for cutting or trimming the trees, then the removal of the wood and debris should be included in their contract.

Additionally, if storms bring down trees on private property, it is the homeowner's responsibility to cut up and remove the tree debris. Smaller branches and logs can be bundled and placed at the curb to be picked up with the normal yard waste. The larger limbs and wood must be removed by the homeowner or their contractor.

If the property owner is responsible for the cutting or trimming, then call the DPW at 248-871-2850. You will be given contact information and the current Waste Management phone number to call for a special request pickup and a cost quote.

RECYCLE YOUR CARTONS

Cartons are made of paper with a thin layer of polyethylene (plastic) – all recyclable components. Do not flatten your cartons before recycling them, they can be sorted more efficiently at the Materials Recovery Facility in their more recognizable 3D form.

Not every carton, however, can go in your recycling cart, some packaging may contain non-recyclable materials. Ice cream and Goldfish cartons have coatings that cannot be separated from the paper by the processors, and these should go in with your regular garbage.

The Recycling Authority (RRRASOC) encourages you to recycle cartons to conserve natural resources, protect the environment, reduce landfill waste, and save energy. Visit **www.rrrasoc.org** for more information about what goes into the recycling cart.



REDUCE YOUR USE OF PLASTIC BAGS

To reduce your reliance on single-use plastic bags, try reusable produce bags for a more sustainable shopping experience. They're made of washable mesh, cotton, or canvas, depending on the brand. They can be purchased locally from a variety of stores and are available online. Buy a large pack and share it with family or friends!

PLANNING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

ZONING DIVISION - COLD WEATHER CHECKLIST



WINTERIZE YOUR HOME

- Exterior Seal any holes, cracks, or openings at least three feet up from the foundation. Examine windows for leaks or drafts. Caulk all areas as needed.
- Swimming Pool Take appropriate measures to close your pool until next spring.
- Yard Clean-up Remove any piles of leaves, tree debris, grass clippings, and garden debris. Store ladders, lawn mowers, tools, patio furniture or other yard objects indoors for the winter to avoid weather damage and make your yard less likely to harbor rodents.
- Trash Keep in containers with tightfitting lids. Dispose of pet waste daily.
- Snow Removal Be considerate!
 Don't place snow directly on your neighbor's property and don't block their view along the driveway by piling snow too high. Please ask your contractor to do the same.

FIREWOOD STORAGE

Improperly stored firewood can be a haven for rodents or other pests.
Therefore, the City has adopted the following regulations for the storage of firewood in residential areas:

- The outside storage of more than two face cords is prohibited unless approved by the Planning and Community Development Department.
- Firewood must be stored on a structure that is at least three inches above the ground, not more than 40 inches in height, and not more than 10 feet in length.
- Firewood must be stacked in a compact and orderly manner.
- Storage of firewood in the front yard is prohibited.
- Storage of firewood is permitted only for use by the dwelling contained on the lot or parcel.
- Storage of firewood is prohibited on vacant parcels.

For more information, contact the Zoning Division at 248-871-2520.

HOUSING DISCRIMINATION NOTICE

Housing discrimination is prohibited by law. Everyone has a right, by law, to rent, purchase or obtain financing or insurance for housing without discrimination based upon RACE, COLOR, SEX, NATIONAL ORIGIN, RELIGION, AGE, MARITAL, **FAMILIAL or DISABILITY** STATUS. Both State of Michigan and Federal laws apply to the actions of owners, real estate brokers or agents, apartment managers, cooperatives, condominiums, mortgage lenders, appraisers, or residential insurers, and they prohibit, with few exceptions, any differences in treatment based on any of the protected characteristics.

For more information on housing discrimination, visit www.hud.gov/fairhousing. If you have a housing discrimination complaint, contact the Michigan Department of Civil Rights at 313-456-3700 or the HUD hotline at 1-800-669-9777 or 1-800-927-9275 (TTY).

► HOUSING REHABILITATION PROGRAM HOME REPAIR LOANS

Funding for zero-interest, deferred home repair loans is provided by the U.S. Housing and Urban Development Office (HUD). Homeowners may be eligible for loans to replace roofs, windows, furnaces, septic fields, or hot water tanks.

To qualify, applicants must own and occupy a home in Farmington Hills and the family must meet Federal income guidelines. A family of four, for example, must have a gross income of less than \$64,000.

For information, call the Community Development Office at 248-871-2543 or go to www.fhgov.com/Government/Departments-Divisions/Planning-and-Community-Development/Community-Development-Office/Housing-Rehabilitation-Program.aspx.

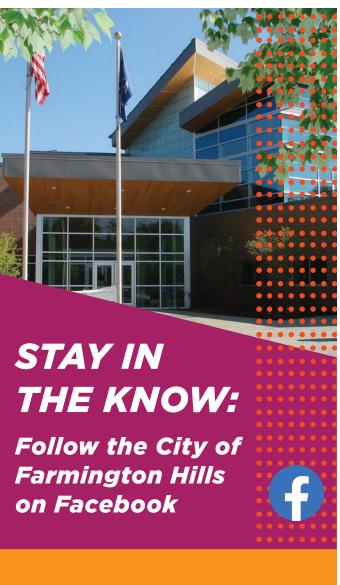


SPRING PLANT AND SEED SWAP **COMING IN MAY TO HERITAGE PARK**

Get your garden ready for spring with the Farmington Hills Beautification Commission's Annual Spring Plant and Seed Swap coming in May! The event takes place every year - rain or shine at the Heritage Park Visitor's Center parking lot, located at 24915 Farmington Road between Ten and Eleven Mile Roads. Watch the City website at www.fhgov.com and the City Facebook page for the date and more details.

Every year, both amateur and Master Gardeners bring plants from their gardens, eager to swap them for new and sometimes exotic species. Come prepared, bright and early, with gloves, wagons, pots, plants, and seeds to trade with other gardeners!

The Beautification Commission, Garden Club members, and Master Gardeners will all be on hand to answer questions. For more information, call Charmaine Kettler-Schmult in the Community Development Office at 248-871-2543.



CITY OF FARMINGTON HILLS NOW HIRING!

The City of Farmington Hills Human Resources Department is currently hiring for several full and part-time positions in various City departments. To find out more about these positions, go to www.fhgov.com and click on Employment or stop by the Human Resources Department located upstairs in Farmington Hills City Hall at 31555 W. Eleven Mile Road on the corner of Orchard Lake Road.

