

FARMINGTON HILLS FOCUS

Fall/Early Winter 2022

THE CITY OF FARMINGTON HILLS SEEKS VOLUNTEERS TO SERVE ON BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Are you looking for an opportunity to get involved in your community and make a difference?

Several Boards and Commissions currently have vacancies for members and alternates, who serve when members are unable to attend meetings:

- Arts Commission
- Assessment Board of Review
- Beautification Commission
- Brownfield Redevelopment Authority
- Building Appeals Board
- Commission on Aging
- Commission on Children, Youth and Families
- Commission on Community Health
- Committee to Increase Voter Participation
- Economic Development Corporation
- Emergency Preparedness Commission
- Fire Board of Appeals
- Grand River Corridor Improvement Authority
- Historical Commission
- Historic District Commission
- Housing Rehabilitation Loan Board
- Innovation, Energy and Environmental Sustainability Committee
- Mayor's Youth Council
- Multicultural Multiracial Community Council
- Parks and Recreation Commission
- Planning Commission
- Retirement Board of Trustees
- Water System Advisory Council
- Zoning Board of Appeals

How to Apply: If you're interested in serving, please fill out the application form on the City website at www.fhgov.com. All submissions will be reviewed by the Mayor, who then officially nominates Boards and Commissions members pending City Council approval.

If serving on a Board or Commission 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.

Detailed descriptions of Boards and Commissions can be found on the City website under the Government & Business tab. Click on Boards and Commissions to see a listing of vacancies and an application form for prospective members. Please note that residency requirements may vary.

Halloween Safety Tips

Police Chief Jeff King encourages everyone to have a fun and safe Halloween. Extra officers will be on duty during trick-or-treat hours and uniformed officers will distribute candy on Halloween night from their marked vehicles when conducting subdivision patrols.

The Police Department knows that everyone loves a good scare on Halloween, but not when it comes to our trick-or-treaters!

Please follow these important tips:

Walk Safely

- Cross the street at corners, using traffic signals and crosswalks.
- Look left, right, and left again and keep looking as you cross.
- Put electronic devices down, keep heads up, and walk, don't run, across the street.
- Make eye contact with drivers before crossing in front of them.
- Always walk on sidewalks or paths. If there are no sidewalks, walk facing traffic as far to the left as possible.
- Watch for cars turning or backing up. Never dart into the street or cross between parked cars.

Keep Costumes Both Creative and Safe

- Decorate costumes and bags with reflective tape or stickers and choose light colors.
- Use face paint and makeup instead of masks, which can obstruct a child's vision.
- Have kids carry glow sticks or flashlights to help them see and be seen by drivers.
- When selecting a costume, make sure it is the right size to prevent trips and falls.

Trick or Treat with an Adult

- Children under the age of 12 should not be alone at night without adult supervision.
- If kids are mature enough to be out without supervision, they should trick-or-treat in groups and stick to familiar, well-lit areas. Review the route ahead of time and agree on a specific time for returning home.
- Only go to homes with a porch light on and never enter a home or car for a treat.
- Make sure candy is inspected before eating and do not eat anything with unsealed or torn wrappers.



Officer Bradley Lavin gives candy to trick-or-treaters at Police Headquarters.

Drive Extra Safely on Halloween

- Slow down and be especially alert in neighborhoods. Children are excited on Halloween and may move in unpredictable ways.
- Take extra time to check for kids at intersections, medians, and curbs.
- Enter and exit driveways and alleys slowly and carefully.
- Eliminate distractions inside your car; concentrate on the road and your surroundings.
- Drive slowly, anticipate heavy pedestrian traffic, and turn your headlights on earlier in the day to spot children from greater distances.
- Popular trick-or-treating hours are 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. so be especially alert during those hours.

The Farmington Hills Police Department will give away Halloween candy to trick-or-treaters on Monday, Oct. 31 from 6-9 p.m. at Police Headquarters located at 31655 W. Eleven Mile Road. While you're there, pick up your FREE blinking safety light available to all residents, while supplies last.



BUYERS AND SELLERS ENCOURAGED TO USE SAFE TRANSACTION ZONES

Do you buy, sell, or trade items on Facebook Marketplace, Craigslist, or other online sites? The Farmington Hills Police Department encourages you to use the designated Safe Transaction Zones at Police Headquarters when meeting with a stranger.

Safe Transaction Zones include the lobby of Police Headquarters at 31655 West Eleven Mile Road, and a parking spot in front of the building clearly marked with signs and green pavement stripes. These locations are monitored by security cameras with officers in close proximity 24/7. Please note that Police Department employees cannot serve as witnesses or get involved in purchase negotiations, and the parking lot may not be used to store vehicles or property.

Officers recently responded to a Facebook Marketplace larceny complaint from a 12-year-old resident who met a seller in a local parking lot to purchase a PlayStation. The seller gave the boy an empty box and fled the scene with \$170. Fortunately, a group of kindhearted police officers turned this bad situation around. One officer donated his own PS4 and other officers purchased gift cards and a wireless gaming headset for the young crime victim. The incident ended with investigators identifying and arresting the suspect who committed the larceny.

“The Police Department reminds everyone to focus on their personal safety and always trust their instincts,” said Chief Jeff King. “Meeting in a Safe Transaction Zone reduces the odds of criminal victimization and eliminates the need to give a stranger your address.”

For further information on the Safe Transaction Zones, contact the Police Department Command Desk at 248-871-2610.

KEYLESS IGNITION CAR THEFTS

Keyless ignition systems are intended to enable a driver to start a vehicle with the push of a button in conjunction with a key fob. A low-frequency signal is transmitted to the car’s computer system that validates the correct signal so you can push a button to unlock the car doors and start the engine.

Unfortunately, criminals are taking advantage of this convenience and using technology called a relay box to steal your vehicle. This relay box manipulates the electronic key fob so criminals can pick up and amplify the signal coming from inside your home and transmit it to a device they are holding. Once this process is completed, your vehicle is unlocked, and the criminals can drive away.

Follow these tips to decrease your chance of becoming a crime victim:

- Make sure your key fob is kept away from doors and windows.
- Check the car manual to see if you can switch off your key fob at night.
- Purchase a Faraday bag that blocks all radio frequency signals to place your car keys in when you’re at home.



› Faraday pouches made of flexible metallic fabric can be found at most department stores or online retailers for around \$20, depending on the size.

FIRE DEPARTMENT



Fire Marshal Jason Baloga

▶ CHANGE YOUR CLOCKS AND SMOKE ALARM BATTERIES ON SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 6

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 daylight savings time to standard time on Sunday, November 6, 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; 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 with 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 248-871-2800.

▶ FIRE DEPARTMENT VEHICLES NOW CARRY AUTISM SENSORY AND COMMUNICATION BAGS

The Farmington Hills Fire Department is once again demonstrating compassion, commitment to the community, and dedication to providing innovative emergency medical services.

To better serve all members of the community, every responding fire vehicle now carries special Autism Sensory and Communication Bags equipped with tools to help Firefighter/Paramedics when they treat someone on the autism spectrum.

The Autism Sensory and Communication Bags contain items such as fidget spinners, squishy toys, play-doh, and earmuffs designed to help calm the patient by reducing sensory stimuli and providing a sense of comfort. Members of the Fire Department are also equipped with emotion cards to help patients express their feelings and needs. Specialized training provides staff members with helpful strategies and tips for interacting with autistic individuals.

The Fire Department participated in a "First Response Fights Autism" fundraiser where firefighters received pledges for a workout competition. This collaborative effort with Five Lakes Crossfit, located in Farmington Hills, provided the funding for the donation of the Autism Sensory and Communication Bags. The event was originally created by Crossfit 8 Mile and the Southgate Fire Department, then spread to other departments throughout the metro Detroit area.



Firefighter/Paramedic Kayla Geffert shows the contents of the Fire Department's Autism Sensory and Communication Bags.

LEARN THE SOUNDS OF SAFETY



If there's a beep or chirp coming from your smoke or carbon monoxide alarm, what does it mean? Knowing the answer can save your life, your home, and your family! Make sure everyone in the household understands the sounds of the smoke and carbon monoxide alarms and knows how to respond.

What is Your Alarm Telling You?

Smoke Alarms

- A continued set of three loud beeps means smoke or fire. Get out, call 9-1-1, and stay out!
- A single chirp every 30 or 60 seconds means that the battery is low and must be changed.
- All smoke alarms must be replaced after 10 years.
- Chirping that continues after the battery has been replaced means the alarm is at the end of its life and must be replaced.

Carbon Monoxide (CO) alarms

- A continuous set of four loud beeps means carbon monoxide is present in your home. Go outside, call 9-1-1, and stay out!
- A single chirp every 30 or 60 seconds means the battery is low and must be replaced.
- CO alarms also have end of life sounds that vary by manufacturer. This means it's time to get a new CO alarm.
- Chirping that continues after the battery has been replaced means the alarm is at the end of its life and must be replaced.



Hear a Beep, Get on Your Feet! Hear a Chirp, Make a Change!

HOLIDAY GARBAGE & RECYCLING COLLECTION

Labor Day - Monday, September 5, 2022: Monday – No collection scheduled. Collection one day behind Tuesday – Saturday.

Thanksgiving Day - Thursday, November 24, 2022: Regular collection Monday – Wednesday. Thursday – No collection scheduled. Collection one day behind Friday – Saturday.

Christmas Day - Sunday, December 25, 2022: Regular collection Monday – Friday. No delays in pickup.

New Year's Day - Sunday, January 1, 2023. Regular collection Monday – Friday. No delays in pickup.



FARMINGTON HILLS

ALERT

Sign up today
at fhgov.com 

Get notified about emergencies
and important community news.



CITY WIDE OPEN HOUSE

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2022*

12-3 PM | City Hall Campus, 31555 W. Eleven Mile Road

*Rain date Sunday, October 9, 2022



FINANCE DEPARTMENT

REMINDERS FROM THE TREASURER'S OFFICE

- Winter property tax bills will be mailed around November 30, 2022 and may be paid without penalty through February 14, 2023. 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.
- 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.

For questions about your property assessment or taxable value, call the Assessing Division at 248-871-2470.

▶ PROPERTY TAX CALENDAR

**aug
31**

LAST DAY TO PAY SUMMER PROPERTY TAXES WITHOUT PENALTY.

**sep
14**

LAST DAY FOR ELIGIBLE PERSONS TO FILE FOR SUMMER TAX DEFERRAL.

**nov
1**

LAST DAY TO FILE PRIMARY RESIDENCE EXEMPTION AFFIDAVIT, FOR WINTER TAXES ONLY.

**nov
30**

WINTER TAX BILLS MAILED.

**dec
31**

TAXABLE STATUS SET FOR COMING YEAR'S BILL.

OPTIONS FOR PAYING TAXES

- Visit the City website at www.fhgov.com and click on the Tax Assistance icon at the bottom of the main page to view payment options.
- Pay 24/7 via the drop box in front of the Police Department at 31655 W. Eleven Mile Road. Please do not place cash payments in the drop box. You may request a receipt and must include a self-addressed 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.

Questions about your taxes? Call the Treasurer's Office at 248-871-2480.

PROCESSING PASSPORTS BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

The Finance Department at Farmington Hills City Hall, located at 31555 W. Eleven Mile Road, accepts passport applications by appointment only from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon, Monday through Friday. To schedule an appointment, go to www.fhgov.com/passports and choose a date by clicking on the Farmington Hills Passport Appointment Calendar.

The City is a passport acceptance facility and does not issue passports. Visit www.travel.state.gov for other passport acceptance facility locations and times, to obtain application forms, and to find answers to questions regarding passport applications.

Please note: The City of Farmington Hills CANNOT process passport RENEWAL of a 10-year ADULT passport that was issued less than 15 years ago. These must be prepared and mailed by the applicant. Visit www.travel.state.gov for the correct form to use and renewal instructions.



REQUIREMENTS FOR A U.S. PASSPORT BOOK OR PASSPORT CARD

For in-depth information, visit www.travel.state.gov or call the National Passport Information Center at 1-877-487-2778 (TDD/TTY: 1-888-874-7993).

- 1. Completed application.** Do not sign until you are asked to do so. Application must be completed in BLACK INK only; corrections or white-out are not allowed. Passport applications can be obtained at the City's Finance Department or at www.travel.state.gov.
- 2. Valid driver's license or state ID.** If your ID is from out-of-state, a second form of ID is required. If the applicant is under 16, the ID will be from the parents; both parents and the child must be present. Applicants who are 16 and 17 only need one parent with them.
- 3. Proof of citizenship:**
 - a. An ORIGINAL birth certificate with raised seal and filing date. The filing date must be within one year of birth. It should state the date filed or date received by the local registrar and must include both parents' names. Hospital issued certificates are not acceptable.
 - b. A previous U.S. passport. If the applicant is under 16 years old and has a previous U.S. passport, they are required to submit their original birth certificate in addition to the passport.
 - c. An original Certificate of Naturalization. If the child is claiming citizenship under a naturalized parent, the child's green card must also be provided. ORIGINAL PROOF OF CITIZENSHIP MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE APPLICATION AND WILL BE RETURNED TO YOU BY THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE.
- 4. One passport photo** (2" x 2", white background, no glasses). The City of Farmington Hills does not take passport photos.

- 5. Payment:**
 - a. Each application must have a separate check or money order made payable to the U.S. Department of State. See fee chart below or visit www.travel.state.gov for current fees.
 - b. Each application will require a \$35 acceptance/execution fee paid to the City of Farmington Hills in cash, check or money order made payable to City of Farmington Hills, or debit card (fee). For expedited processing, there will be an additional fee of \$26.95 for overnight postage.

FEES TO THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE

FOR U.S. PASSPORT BOOK: (Necessary for travel by air.)
\$130: 10 year Passport Processing Fee – ages 16 or older.
\$100: 5 Year Passport Processing Fee – ages 15 or younger.

FOR U.S. PASSPORT CARD: (Valid for travel by land or sea between U.S. and Canada, Mexico, Bermuda, & the Caribbean ONLY.)
\$30: 10 Year Passport Processing Fee – ages 16 or older.
\$15: 5 Year Passport Processing Fee – ages 15 or younger.

FOR EXPEDITED PROCESSING:
Additional \$60.00 plus the fee for overnight delivery return service of \$18.32.

For more information, visit www.travel.state.gov or call the Finance Department at 248-871-2449.

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE

2022 ELECTION INFORMATION

Tuesday,
November 8,
2022

State General
Election

UPDATE YOUR HOMEOWNER ASSOCIATION CONTACTS



The City Clerk's Office maintains a list of Homeowner Associations with contact information to provide to new residents and to notify Associations of important information impacting their neighborhood. Please submit updated contact information to cgraham@fhgov.com or fax it to the City Clerk at 248-871-2411. Please be sure to send in updates when officers and contact information changes.

▶ IMPORTANT DATES AND DEADLINES TO REMEMBER:

- Monday, September 26 – First day to request an absent voter ballot in person at the City Clerk's Office.
- Thursday, September 29 – Mailing of absent voter ballots will begin to voters who have already submitted an absent voter ballot application to the Clerk's Office.
- Monday, October 24 – Last day to register to vote in any manner other than in person at your local Clerk's Office.
- Tuesday, October 25 through Tuesday, November 8 until 8 p.m. – A person may register to vote in person at their local Clerk's Office with proof of residency.
- Friday, November 4, 5 p.m. – Deadline for voters to request an absent voter ballot to be mailed via first class mail.
- Saturday, November 5, 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. – Clerk's Office will be open for Election related business.
- Monday, November 7, 4 p.m. – Deadline for registered voters to request an absent voter ballot in person at the Clerk's Office. Ballots must be voted in person at the Clerk's Office.
- Tuesday, November 8 until 8 p.m. – A person registering to vote in person at the Clerk's Office may obtain and vote an absent voter ballot with proof of residency or vote in person at their proper polling location. Polling locations are open from 7 a.m. - 8 p.m.

Please visit the City's website www.fhgov.com for sample ballots, absent voter ballot applications, and more!

Permanent Absent Voter Application List

Prior to each Election, a signed absent voter application must be submitted to the City Clerk's Office in order to receive a ballot. To automatically have an absent voter application mailed to you, contact the City Clerk's Office at 248-871-2410 or email a request to permlist@fhgov.com to be placed on the permanent absent voter application list. Please include your name, registered address, and a contact number.

Absent Voter Ballot Mailing

The City Clerk's Office will deliver absent voter ballots to the local post office on September 29, 2022 for all applications received by that time.

Voters who have not yet applied can submit their application by mail, drop box, fax to 248-871-2411, email to FHClerk@fhgov.com or in person at the City Clerk's Office. Starting September 26, 2022, a voter applying in person at the City Clerk's Office will be able to receive their ballot that same day. If you plan to come in person, please bring photo ID. If you do not have photo ID, you will need to complete an affidavit to receive your ballot.

Options for returning your ballot:

- By mail in the return envelope provided with return postage added.
- Utilizing one of the two drop boxes at City Hall – the drive-up drop box in front of the Police Station or the drop box/slot on the wall at the south entrance to City Hall.
- In person to the City Clerk's Office located inside City Hall at 31555 W. Eleven Mile Road.

To track your ballot, go to mvic.sos.state.mi.us/Voter/Index and fill in the required fields on the "Search for Your Voter Information" form.



PUBLIC SERVICES DEPARTMENT

LET'S ALL DISPOSE OF FATS, OILS AND GREASE (FOG) PROPERLY

Never pour kitchen fats, oils, and grease (FOG) down your sink drain. Pouring or washing FOG down your kitchen drain can build up and block pipes, which is costly to you and the Rouge River. FOG enters sewer pipes through restaurant, residential, and commercial sink drains. Once in the sewer, FOG sticks to the inside of the pipe, thickens, and can eventually block the entire pipe.

Blockages in sewer pipes can send sewage backwards and up through floor drains and toilets into homes or businesses, and/or out of manholes into streets and rivers. These sewage overflows pollute our homes, businesses, and our environment. Cleanup costs can be expensive, and the cost can be much higher if your home has a septic system.

Preventing sewer backups from FOG blockages saves residents and business owners money and protects the water quality of the Rouge River. Residents and business owners can help control the problem by properly disposing of fats, oils, and grease.

For more healthy habits you can practice at home or work to protect water quality in the Rouge River, visit www.allianceofrougecommunities.com/watershed.html.

Practice and share these healthy habits with your family, friends, and neighbors:

- DO pour or scrape greasy or oily food waste into a container or jar and allow grease to cool or solidify in the container before throwing in the trash.
- DO use a paper towel or a scraper to remove residual grease from dishes and pans prior to washing.
- DO mix liquid vegetable oil with an absorbent material such as cat litter or coffee grounds in a sealable container before throwing it in the trash.
- DO keep drains clean by pouring 1/2 cup baking soda down the drain followed by 1/2 cup vinegar, wait 10 to 15 minutes and then rinse with hot water.
- DO NOT pour fats, oils or grease down drains or garbage disposals.
- DO NOT use hot water to rinse grease off cookware, utensils, dishes, or surfaces.

FOG buildup in sewer pipes requires your local public works staff to go to the site and remove the blockage. Cleaning FOG buildup from sewers increases maintenance costs for you and everyone else in your community. Keep our environment clean and avoid unnecessary maintenance costs by keeping fats, oils, and grease out of our sewers.

▶ FALL/EARLY WINTER REMINDERS



Employees from the City's Division of Public Works unclog a culvert pipe following a recent severe storm.

PREVENT FLOODING — CHECK YOUR STORM DRAINS AND DITCHES THIS FALL

Employees at the City's Division of Public Works want to remind you that along with colder temperatures, autumn brings rainstorms and falling leaves that can clog your storm drains and culverts.

Storm drains, culverts, and ditches are all part of the storm water system that collects and transports the water when it rains. They are essential for preventing rainwater from backing up during severe storms and flooding your street, your property, and even your basement.

Your gutters and the rest of your property need somewhere for the water to drain during heavy rains or snow thaws. Some storm systems have a catch basin with an underground pipe that leads to your street's main storm drain, others have open ditches and culverts. It is essential that both types of systems are kept free of leaves and other debris to function properly.

You may not realize your storm drain is clogged until there's a heavy rainfall and the drain isn't working properly. To protect your home and neighborhood, it's a good idea to inspect your storm water drainage system regularly. This will prevent problems and ensure that excess water is being safely channeled through the drainage system.

Follow these steps to make sure your storm drain or culvert is free of clogs:

- Remove all trash, leaves, dirt, mud, sticks, twigs, and other debris from the storm drain grates and the ends of the culvert pipe.
- Clear away any vegetation growing around the storm drain or pipe opening.
- Rake up leaves and debris on your property that could potentially cause clogs.
- Put yard waste in a bin or container.
- Keep a tight lid on your trash cans, especially during windy days.
- Trim your trees so dead branches don't find their way into the storm drains and culvert pipes.
- Keep up with routine cleaning before the next storm occurs.

If you have any questions, call the DPW at 248-871-2850 or visit www.allianceofrougecommunities.com/watershed.html.



"GREEN" GIFT WRAP

Wrapping paper creates a lot of waste every year at the holiday season, and many types of wrapping paper are not recyclable because of glitter, plastics, and other non-paper additives.

Here are some tips for going "green" when you wrap your holiday gifts:

- Wrap with reusable materials such as fabric that can be repurposed or re-gifted. If your gift includes a blanket or a piece of clothing, use that as the gift wrap.
- Avoid fancy wrapping paper and use newsprint or packing paper.
- Paper bags from grocery stores are reusable, and recyclable. Staple them closed to make it difficult to peek in!
- Use paper gift bags. They are reusable and also recyclable if they don't contain glitter, plastics, foil, or fabric handles.

WINTER CURBSIDE RECYCLING COLLECTION TIPS

As the snow falls and outside tasks become more difficult, here are some winter curbside recycling collection tips that will help drivers run their routes more efficiently:

- Keep your carts clear of snow and ice with lids closed and accessible to the trucks.
- Don't place carts on snowbanks. Clear an area near the curb so that the cart can rest flat.
- Do not put carts on the street, as this may cause carts to be blocked by vehicles or damaged by snowplows.
- If an overnight storm is expected, set your carts out the night before.



PLANNING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT



GET YOUR HOME READY FOR WINTER

Here are some items for your “to-do” list to help get your property ready for cold weather:

- Clean gutters after all the leaves are down.
- Make sure rainwater isn't pouring down and emptying at the corner of your house and getting into the basement.
- Seal masonry and repair any broken joints or cracks in walkways, steps, and stonework.
- Make sure you have a good shovel and some salt, and service your snow blower to prepare for the first snow storm.
- Make your house more energy-efficient by adding insulation and caulking around windows and doors.
- Repair any cracked or broken windows.
- Hire a chimney sweep to clean and service your chimney and inspect your fireplace.
- Order firewood, and then keep it stacked at least 18 inches above ground to keep critters away.
- Walk around your yard to look for rotting trees or damaged or dangling limbs that may come down. Keep trees trimmed well away from the house so limbs don't fall on your roof during a storm.
- Walk around your home and look up at your soffit and fascia to make sure there aren't any holes that will allow critters to get in.
- Get your furnace inspected and change your furnace filters.
- Test your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors.
- Shut down your sprinkler system and drain outside faucets.
- Before you put equipment away for the season, drain the gas out of the lawn mower and pressure washer.
- Cover your patio furniture.

HOUSING REHABILITATION PROGRAM HOME REPAIR LOANS

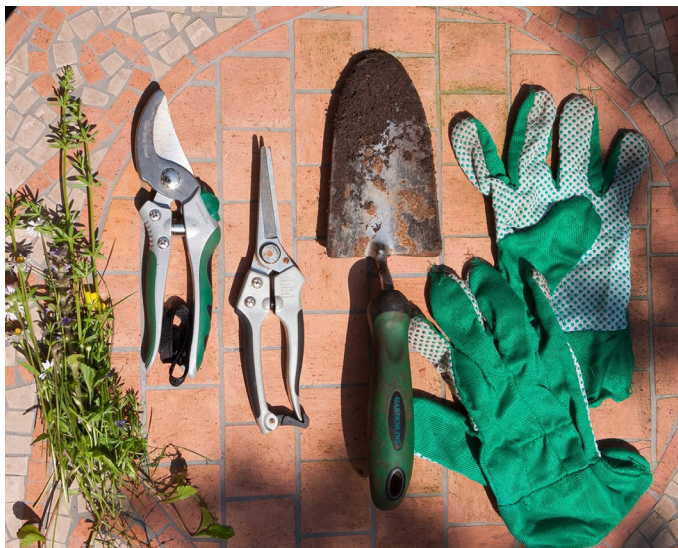
Funding for zero-interest, deferred home repair loans is provided by the U.S. Housing and Urban Development Office (HUD). Homeowners may be eligible for loans to replace roofs, windows, furnaces, septic fields, or hot water tanks. To qualify, applicants must own and occupy a home in Farmington Hills 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, and search for Housing Rehabilitation Program.

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).

For more information, contact the Community Development Office at 248-871-2543.



FALL PLANT + SEED SWAP COMING TO HERITAGE PARK

The Beautification Commission's Fall Plant and Seed Swap will be held on Saturday, September 17 from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. – rain or shine – at the Heritage Park Nature Center parking lot, located off Farmington Road between Ten and Eleven Mile Roads. Every year, both amateur and Master Gardeners come prepared with gloves, wagons, and favorite plants and seeds to exchange. The Beautification Commission, Garden Club members, and Master Gardeners will all be available to answer questions and provide refreshments. For more information, call Charmaine Kettler-Schmult in the Community Development Office at 248-871-2543.

SPONGY MOTH - A NEW NAME FOR AN OLD PEST

The pest previously known as the Gypsy Moth (scientific name *Lymantria Dispar*) has a new name – the Spongy Moth. This pest is known for defoliating trees and causing a nuisance in the summer when caterpillars are actively consuming leaves.

The City of Farmington Hills has had damage from this pest for over 30 years. The impact has been seen in specific areas of the community and addressed by the Division of Public Works with ground spraying when the pest population increases.

The best time for action is in fall and winter when the moths lay eggs in spongy egg masses that can be destroyed prior to hatching. Reducing the next year's population can be accomplished by scraping the spongy egg masses into a bucket of soapy water and soaking them for 24 to 48 hours to kill the eggs. Please note that moving any local firewood to new areas is discouraged since this can transport tree diseases and pests to new locations.

Residents concerned about spongy moths should contact the DPW at 248-871-2850 to register their location and get advice on what they can do to reduce the infestation.

For additional information, go to the Michigan State Extension Service Integrated Pest Management website page at https://www.canr.msu.edu/ipm/invasive_species/gypsy-moth/index.



Adult Female Moth



Spongy Moth Eggs



HUMAN RESOURCES 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.