



FARMINGTON HILLS Michigan

focus

The City Hall Revitalization Project was awarded LEED® Gold Certification by the U.S. Green Building Council.

Fall/Winter 2011

City Council

Mayor - Jerry Ellis

Mayor Pro Tem - Michael Bridges

Nancy Bates

Barry Brickner

Randy Bruce

Ken Massey

Cheryl Oliverio

City Manager - Steve Brock

Each issue of the Focus newsletter can also be found on the City website at www.fhgov.com. Go to Quick Links on the home page and click on Newsletter.



Register online for classes and programs at <https://recreg.fhgov.com>. Or go to www.fhgov.com, click on Quick Links, then Recreation Online Registration.

If you have an account, follow the prompts to register. If you're new, create an account by registering online or in person at the Costick Center, Monday thru Friday, 8:30am-4:30pm.

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Millage Facts 2011

Steve Brock, City Manager

Fiscal stability and providing quality services have always been the mainstay of the City of Farmington Hills. The Mayor, City Council, and administration take the responsibility of balancing the budget each year very seriously, making sure that we've done all we can to keep costs low while still ensuring that we provide a community that is safe, attractive and affordable.

No doubt these are challenging times for most of us and that includes your City. With property value decreases has come less revenue, which funds the delivery of police and fire services. The City has cut back expenditures for the past several years by millions of dollars. State shared revenue has also been cut back and more cuts are imminent as the State reworks its financial situation.

We have fewer employees (down to 327 from 400), the lowest of any full-service city in the area of our size and population. The City has tapped its fund balance to balance the budget and fiscal projections performed by our Finance Department indicate that, if we keep going as we are, even with more cuts, we will be in a deficit situation in just a few years. Also, our Police and Fire Departments report that run volumes for both Police and Fire Rescue are up. While we remain a safe place to live, work and play, we are stretched thin given the cutbacks of the last few years.

After much thought and fiscal analysis, I recommended to the City Council that they place a proposed new Public Safety Millage on the ballot in the November 8th Election. (The full Power Point presentation is on www.fhgov.com, along with the full budget for all funds.) They agreed to ask you to consider an up to 1.7 mill increase in the current overall local tax rate of 10.11 for Public Safety expenditures for each of the next 10 years. 1.7 mills raises about \$5.5 million and would keep service levels just about as they are for the next five years. If property values recover more than expected, a lesser millage rate could be applied. That would be decided through the annual budget process.

Perhaps the biggest question is "What does this mean to your pocketbook?" On an average home with an SEV of \$100,000 (market value of \$200,000), the amount would be \$160 per year. It is important to note that most tax bills will still go down next year, even with this proposed increase.

If you have any questions about the millage proposal or any other matter of City business, please feel free to contact me at your convenience at 248-871-2510 or at sbrock@fhgov.com. If you'd like me or someone else to attend a gathering of two or more to discuss the facts and implications of this matter, we're glad to oblige. Thank you for taking the time to learn all you can about this important issue for our fine City.



Fire Department – Celebrate the Holidays Safely

Here are some simple fire precautions that will ensure a safe and happy holiday season for you and your family.

Celebrate safely – Whenever possible, use flame-retardant or non-combustible materials when decorating your home. Encourage smokers to smoke outside of the home and place butts and ashes in deep, sturdy ashtrays. If allowed to smoke inside the home, check under furniture cushions and other places for butts which may have fallen out of sight.

Decorative lighting – Only use lights with the label of an approved testing lab such as U.L. or FM, and follow suggested recommendations for use. Some lights are for indoor use, while others may be for outdoor use. Throw away lights which have cracked or frayed cords, or loose sockets. Do not overload electrical outlets, and try not to use extension cords. Turn off all decorative lighting when leaving the home or going to bed at night. Never use electrical lighting on metal trees.

Candles – Place candles securely in non-tip candle holders. Keep away from Christmas trees, decorations, curtains or any other combustible or flammable materials. Never place real candles in windows or near an exit. Never leave candles unattended or within reach of children. Be sure all candles are extinguished before leaving the house or going to bed.

Heating hazards/fireplaces – Keep the fire in a fireplace small, and use a screen or doors to keep sparks from flying into the room. Never leave children alone in a room where a fireplace is actively burning. Never burn paper or trash in a fireplace as embers may float up your chimney and land on your roof or a neighbor's roof. Remove ashes in a metal container and never store ashes indoors, including in your garage.

Furnace – Have it checked and inspected by a qualified contractor at least once a year (usually before the heating season). Clean as needed or when you may suspect a problem.

Space heaters – These need a minimum three feet of clearance away from anything that can burn, such as newspapers, furniture or even walls, and should not be used as a replacement for a permanent heat source. Liquid fueled heaters are strongly discouraged for indoor use, and are the cause of many fatalities during the winter.

Christmas trees – If using an artificial tree, follow the manufacturer's safety guidelines. A home can be completely filled with smoke within 30 seconds if an artificial tree catches on fire, thus reducing your chances of a successful escape.

If using a live tree, follow these suggestions: Make sure there is a fresh cut on the trunk | Keep away from fireplaces, heaters, direct sunlight, live flames, heat registers and exit pathways | Check all lights and replace if damaged | Do not overload electrical outlets | Turn off all lights when away from the house or when going to bed | Never place candles on a tree Be aware of children or pets near the tree | Check water level every day

Every home should have working smoke alarms, carbon monoxide detectors, a portable fire extinguisher, and ALWAYS have an escape plan in place in the event of an emergency.

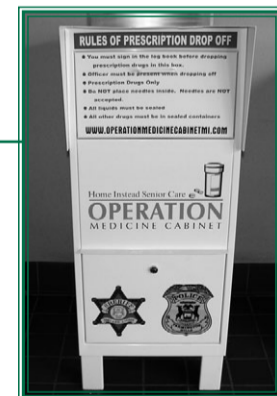
Police Department – Operation Medicine Cabinet

Through Operation Medicine Cabinet, Farmington Hills residents can now dispose of unused, unneeded or expired medications at a prescription drop box located in the lobby of the Police Department. Operation Medicine Cabinet is a joint program sponsored by the Farmington Hills Police Department, Oakland County Sheriff's Department, Home Instead Senior Care, and the Farmington/Farmington Hills Community Coalition.

The proper disposal of unwanted medications ensures the safety of children and pets, prevents medication abuse, and protects the environment. The disposal of old prescriptions also helps prevent mixing up medications or using expired drugs.

On a single day, residents have dropped off as much as 219 pounds of prescription drugs. This means that these unwanted medications were kept out of landfills and kept out of our waterways.

Prescription Drug Collection Guidelines: Bring drugs in Ziploc bags | Only prescription drugs will be collected | Liquids must be sealed Prescription ointments and creams must be sealed | You will be required to sign a log-in sheet | Needles will not be accepted



The Operation Medicine Cabinet prescription drop box is available for your convenience 24 hours a day, 365 days a year in the lobby of Police Headquarters at 31655 Eleven Mile Road.

City Hall Revitalization

The City Hall Revitalization Project was awarded LEED® Gold Certification by the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC). The USGBC's LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) is the foremost program for the design, construction, and operation of green buildings. By using less energy, LEED-certified buildings save money for businesses and taxpayers, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and contribute to a healthier environment for residents, staff, and the community.

In a comparison of June/July 2011 energy data to June/July 2007 energy data taken from the old City Hall building, figures show:

- A more than 30% reduction in energy use.
- A 70% reduction in total energy costs.
- A 79% reduction in energy costs per square foot.

The City Hall Revitalization Project continues to provide real savings and benefits to the community. The City continues to lead the way toward a more sustainable future.



The newly revitalized City Hall features solar panels used to produce electricity.

Department of Planning & Community Development

Zoning Division

As winter approaches, here's a checklist to help take stock of your property:

Exterior – Seal any holes, cracks or openings at least three feet up from the foundation to keep rodents from entering.

Swimming pool – Take appropriate measures to close it until spring.

Yard clean-up – Remove piles of leaves, tree debris, grass clippings and garden debris. Store ladders, lawn mowers, tools, patio furniture or other yard items indoors to prevent weather damage, keep your yard clean, and prevent rodent infestation.

Trash – Use containers with tight-fitting lids and pick up pet waste daily.

Firewood storage – Keep wood stacked above the ground (recommended height is 18 inches).

Garage/moving/estate sale signs – If you're having one last sale, remember to keep signs out of the City's right-of-way and take them down when the event is over.

Snow Removal – The City does not enforce residential snow removal, but please be considerate of your neighbors when clearing your property. Don't block their view along the driveway by piling snow too high and ask your contractor to do the same.

Questions? Call Zoning at 248-871-2520.

Natural Gardens

Ever thought about converting a lawn area to a more natural garden? Or putting native plantings in a neglected area of your yard? There are resources available through the Community Development Office. The application to certify a natural area in transition is called the Lawn Grass and Noxious Vegetation Exemption. The form outlines the three criteria essential for a successful project - Goal, Purpose and Management Plan - and is available at www.fhgov.com or by calling 248-871-2543.

Zero Interest Winterization Loans

The City is offering help to qualified homeowners who plan to winterize their houses. Zero Interest Winterization Loans may be used for home improvement projects such as adding insulation or replacing windows, roofs or furnaces. Funding for this program is provided by the U.S. Housing and Urban Development Office through the Community Development Block Grant. To qualify for the loans, applicants must have owned and occupied a home in Farmington Hills for at least one year. The family must also meet Federal income guidelines; for example, a family of four must have a gross income of less than \$56,800.

Income guidelines, applications, and program details are available at www.fhgov.com. Click on Quick Links and choose Housing Rehabilitation Program or call the Community Development Office at 248-871-2543.

Fast Facts about Your Property Taxes

After tax bills are mailed, amounts will be available at www.fhgov.com. Go to Quick Links, and then click on Property Inquiry, then Current Taxes. Enter property address or parcel ID number.

- If you use online bank payments (*not recommended*), mail the payment to: Treasurer's Office, 31555 W. Eleven Mile, Farmington Hills MI 48336. The remittance portion of the tax bill is not included with online payments. If we can't identify the property involved, the check will be returned and the unpaid tax will be subject to all penalties and interest for late payment.
- The original copy of the tax bill is mailed to the owner of record. If property taxes are paid through an escrow account, the paying agent receives a separate notification. Original copies of the tax bill should be retained for income tax purposes.
- Property tax bills are mailed to the address of record. Changes of address must be filed with the City in writing. Tax bills are not forwarded to new addresses on file with the Post Office. Temporary seasonal changes may be filed with the Treasurer's Office, but permanent changes must be filed with the City Assessor. Failure to receive a tax bill does not waive the tax or any penalties for late payment.

2012 Property Tax Calendar

February 14 – Last day to pay winter property taxes without penalty

Late February – Change of assessment notices mailed

Mid March – Board of Review meets

Early June – Budget public hearing where City Council sets City tax rate

August 31 – Last day to pay summer property taxes without penalty

November 28-30 – Winter tax bills mailed

February 20 – Personal property statements due to assessor (business only)

Last day of February – Last day to pay summer or winter property taxes at City Hall

May 1 – Last day to file Primary Residence Exemption affidavit

June 28-30 – Summer tax bills mailed

September 15 – Last day for eligible persons to file for summer tax deferral

December 31 – Taxable status set for coming year's bill

Historic District Commission

The Lambert Sellers Barn, located at 29980 West Ten Mile Road, is the newest addition to the Historic District Commission's inventory of historic structures. The barn is estimated to have been constructed in the late 1930's to early 1940's, just before the outbreak of World War II. The family initially intended to use the barn to house ponies, and to construct their home after the barn was completed. However, due to resource rationing in support of the war effort, they were forced to use the barn as their home. The Lambert Sellers eventually completed the construction of their home when the war ended. There is little evidence that the barn was ever actually used for its originally intended purpose of housing ponies.

In other news, new historic markers have been installed at the Eli Stodgell House (29240 Spring Street) and the Boorn-Halsted House (28325 Halsted). Check out these new markers as well as all of the other historic markers located throughout the City to learn some fun and interesting facts about the history of the community. A complete listing of Farmington Hills historic sites along with a location map can be found at www.fhgov.com/Community/HistoricDistrict.asp.



The Lambert Sellers Barn

Housing Discrimination Notice

Housing Discrimination is prohibited by law. If you have a housing discrimination complaint, contact the Michigan Department of Civil Rights at 313-456-3700.

Holiday Garbage/Recycling/Yard Waste Pickups

Thanksgiving – No collection Thursday, November 24. Monday through Wednesday – regular collection. Thursday and Friday – collection delayed one day.

Please note: The last yard waste pickup will occur on your regularly scheduled garbage day during the week ending on Friday, December 2. Starting the week of December 5, yard waste will not be picked up until the program resumes in April 2012.

Christmas Day and New Year's Day – There will be no delay in the collection schedule. Collection will take place on your regularly scheduled day.

Martin Luther King Day and President's Day – Collection takes place on the regularly scheduled day. City offices closed Monday, January 16 and Monday, February 20.

Holiday Recycling

Recycle holiday cards and wrapping paper with newspapers and junk mail in a brown paper bag in your green recycling bin. But please put cards and wrapping paper with glitter or metallics in with your regular trash.

Recycle Christmas trees at Glen Oaks Golf Course from December 26, 2011 – January 20, 2012, 7 days a week, 9am-4pm at the east end of the clubhouse parking lot at 30500 West 13 Mile Road, just east of Orchard Lake. Trees must be free of all decorations, lights, and tinsel. There is no charge to drop off trees. Large quantities from commercial lots will not be accepted.

Youth & Family Services – After School Program

The After School Program serves over 325 middle school youth per day in a safe and fun atmosphere. For the first time in the program's 15-year history, fifth grade students were welcomed and the transition was very successful! Youth Centers offer indoor and outdoor activities, arts and crafts, concessions, homework help, video games, and many other activities. New offerings include the Diversity Program for fifth and sixth graders and Introduction to Video Creation. The Girl Power program will again offer an overnight stay at the Proud Lake recreation area. Youth & Family Services is working with Best Buy and the Lomas Brown Foundation (*former Detroit Lions football player*) on the LEAP Program (*Learn, Earn And Play*), offering academic and personal growth through computer work and team sports. The Youth Program is free to Farmington/Farmington Hills residents after the purchase of a photo ID for \$35. For more information, call 248-473-1841.



Watch for the snowshoeing program to be offered again this winter!

An Ounce of Prevention – Anti-Icing Program

To save costs and keep roads safe during winter, the Division of Public Works manufactures and applies salt brine or a salt brine/sugar beet juice blend to dry roadways in advance of winter storms. This prevents snow and ice from bonding to the road surface and provides better tire traction for more efficient plowing, plus reduces salt usage and lessens negative impact on the environment.

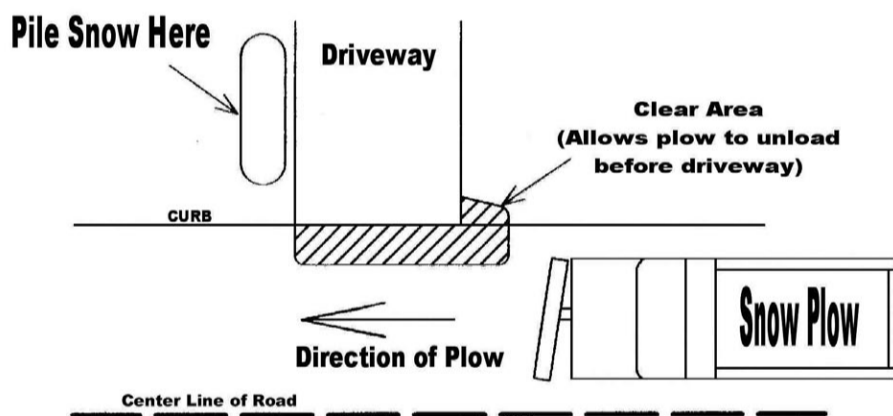
Results include 30% less salt usage, a significant reduction in corrosiveness, fewer emergency call-ins (overtime), and better snow and ice control. This program showcases the City's commitment to reduced costs and increased environmental sustainability:

- A blend of salt brine mixed with beet juice is effective at much lower temperatures than salt brine alone and cuts corrosiveness by 70%.
- The beet juice is a 100% liquid organic Michigan sugar beet byproduct.
- Anti-icing may be applied one to three days ahead of a winter storm with salt brine or three to five days ahead with the beet juice blend, if no rain is in the forecast.
- The anti-icing activity is evident in multiple dark lines along the dry road surface. This material will remain in place and begin working as soon as snow and ice accumulate.
- Anti-icing won't melt off all the snow (1" or greater), but it will melt off a dusting. Its main purpose is to act as a de-bonding agent.

The Division of Public Works is a national leader in anti-icing technology and received the 2011 American Public Works Association Excellence in Snow and Ice Control Award for the City's innovative snow and ice removal program.



Driveway Plowing Policies



WINTER REMINDERS

Division of Public Works 248-871-2850

Snow Plowing Operations

Major roads and school bus routes receive the highest priority; they are plowed and salted following any accumulation of snow or ice. Local (subdivision) streets are plowed following accumulation of four inches or more of snow. The City makes a practice of rotating which neighborhoods are plowed first after each snow event.

Snow Buildup at the End of Driveways

Snow plows are angled to the right for plowing from the centerline of the street to the curb, making the deposit of snow at the end of driveways a natural byproduct of plowing operations. You may help alleviate some of this accumulation if you clear the area to the right of your driveway (while facing your home) before a snow plow comes down your street. The City is unable to return to clear this deposit at the end of your driveway and is unable to prevent this from occurring at over 23,000 driveways City-wide.

Mailboxes

Curbside mailboxes may become blocked by plowed snow. The U.S. Post Office has a policy regarding access to mailboxes, which requires snow to be removed enough to allow the mail trucks to drive up to the mailbox for delivery. This is the responsibility of the postal customer.

During snow plowing operations, weak or damaged mailboxes are sometimes knocked down by the weight of snow thrown by snow plows. To ensure that your mailbox is sturdy enough to survive the winter season, it is a good idea to "shake your mailbox" to check for stability and to see if it needs to be repaired.

Fire Hydrants

Removing snow around fire hydrants greatly assists the Fire Department. It is important that fire hydrants be visible and accessible at all times. Homeowners and business owners are asked to shovel a clear path to the hydrant from the road, clear all snow from at least a three foot area around the hydrant, and to sweep off snow that may build up on the hydrant itself. Landscaping around the hydrant also needs to be cleared.

Safety Reminders

In addition to driving defensively and carefully in inclement weather, there are several important safety reminders to remember:

- Discourage children from playing on snow banks near the road.
- When following a snow plow truck, please stay a safe distance behind the truck.
- Snow should not be plowed or shoveled into the roadway.

Salt/Sand Barrels

The City places 55-gallon drums filled with a mixture of sand and salt at intersections and hills upon written request from homeowner groups. If your association is interested in having barrels placed within your subdivision, please send a letter, along with a clear description or sketch of the location, to the Division of Public Works at 27245 Halsted, Farmington Hills, Michigan 48331. It is important to obtain the approval of the property owner adjacent to the selected location, given that spilled salt may burn the grass.

Be a Good Neighbor

Many people require assistance after a snowstorm. The elderly and disabled often need help removing snow from their driveways. If you know of a neighbor that needs help, please give them a hand.



The Focus is printed on recycled paper with a 30% post-consumer waste content. Please recycle this newsletter when you are done with it.

Voluntary Water Shutoff

The City of Farmington Hills provides a water shutoff service to residents who are on vacation or away for an extended period. For a \$90 fee, your water service can be shut off at the stopbox (the valve the City has installed to access water service) and then turned back on upon request. This will save you money and prevent costly repairs:

- If your water service is off for at least three months, the normal quarterly minimum charge will be waived.
- Turning off water service will help prevent freezing of your internal plumbing and meter, which could cause significant water damage to your home.
- To schedule an appointment to shut off your water, call the Oakland County Water Resources Commissioner's Office at 248-858-1110.

Modern Roundabouts

Are you still driving miles out of your way to avoid the intersections in Farmington Hills with roundabouts? If you'd like some pointers on driving a Modern Roundabout, go to the Road Commission for Oakland County website at www.rcocweb.org and type "Modern Roundabouts" in the search box. Scroll down through the list of choices and click on the "video" option. Two short videos provide information on roundabouts and offer helpful driving tips -- "Getting to Know Roundabouts" or "Modern Roundabouts: A Safer Choice."

ICE ARENA

The Farmington Hills Ice Arena offers activities for the whole family including Learn-to-Skate, Open Skate, Drop-In Hockey, Mid-Day Skate, Adult Skate, Figure Skating, and Youth and Adult Hockey.

The Ice Arena is also home to the Farmington Hills Hockey Association (FHHA), which serves 500 players at all skating levels and offers house and travel teams, plus the international TimBits development program. The Ice Arena is also home to the Farmington Falcons, Farmington Flyers, and the Farmington Hills Figure Skating Club.

Mark your calendar:

Learn to Skate – Session IV begins October 31, 2011

Learn to Skate – Session V begins January 7, 2012

f Find us on Facebook
 Search for: Farmington Hills Special Services Department

Save time...
REGISTER ONLINE!
<https://recreg.fhgov.com>

FARMINGTON HILLS
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www.fhgov.com

31555 Eleven Mile Road | Farmington Hills, MI 48336

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 Michigan

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Fall/Winter 2011

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Cultural Arts

CONCERTS & YOUTH THEATRE

Tickets are now available online at www.recreg.fhgov.com, by calling 248-473-1848 or at the Costick Center. A limited number of tickets are available at the door on performance nights. For more info, call 248-473-1870.

Three Men and a Tenor – Back for Two Nights! | Friday, October 28 and Saturday, October 29, 7:30pm | Farmington Players Barn Theatre
 Tickets – \$19 adults, \$17 seniors & students

Disney's "Aladdin, Jr." – Farmington Hills Youth Theatre | Thursday, November 17, 7pm | Friday, November 18, 7pm
 Saturday, November 19, 1pm & 5pm | Sunday, November 20, 1pm & 5pm | Costick Center | Tickets – \$10 at the door, 3 and under free
Reserve tickets in advance by calling 734-634-4678.

Holiday Brass – Detroit Chamber Winds and Strings | Tuesday, December 13, 7:30pm | Farmington Players Barn Theatre
 Tickets – \$19 adults, \$17 seniors & students

Farmington Community Chorus Holiday Concert – Friday, December 16 & Saturday, December 17, 8pm | Mercy High School Auditorium
 Tickets – Advance, \$12; \$15 at the door, available at www.farmingtonchorus.com

Farmington Hills Youth Choir Holiday Concert – Thursday, December 22, 7:30pm | Farmington Players Barn Theatre | Tickets – \$5 at door

From Broadway to Hollywood with the MOT – Saturday, January 14, 7:30pm | Farmington Players Barn Theatre
 Tickets – \$19 adults, \$17 seniors & students

Blackthorn – Friday, March 9 and Saturday, March 10, 7:30pm | Farmington Players Barn Theater | Tickets – \$19 adults, \$17 seniors & students

SPECIAL EVENTS

Traditional English Afternoon Teas: Enjoy a special theme with each tea, held on Tuesdays, 1-3pm | Historic Longacre House | Tickets – \$25
November and December teas are sold out. Sales for February – June teas will begin December 6.

Michigan Weavers Winter Market: Michigan Weavers Guild | Saturday, November 19, 10am-5pm | Costick Center Lobby

Classes, Workshops, Camps and Lessons: For children, youth and adults in theater, pottery, youth choir, sculpture, drawing, ceramics, pastels, oil painting, outdoor photography, watercolor, wool felting, and dance. Group and individual music lessons available in acoustic vocal, guitar, violin, and piano. Call **248-473-1859** or **248-473-1870** for details or visit Community/Cultural Arts at www.fhgov.com.

Art Exhibits: Visit Farmington Hills City Hall to see the new Public Art Program exhibit featuring over 70 pieces of art in a wide variety of media including glass, sculpture, photography, painting, fiber, and wood. In addition, the City Gallery in the Costick Center Lobby hosts a variety of exhibits throughout the year featuring talented artists and designers. For a detailed schedule, go to the art exhibit page at Community/Cultural Arts at www.fhgov.com.

City Directory

Emergency Calls Only	
Fire Department	9-1-1
Police Department	9-1-1
Central Services/Purchasing	248-871-2430
City Clerk	248-871-2410
City Hall	248-871-2400
City Manager's Office	248-871-2500
Council Newsline	248-871-2511
District Court	248-871-2900
Farmington Community Library	248-553-0300
Finance Department	248-871-2440
Assessing	248-871-2470
Treasury	248-871-2480
Fire Department	
Non-emergency	248-871-2800
General Information	248-871-2400
Human Resources	248-871-2490
Planning Department	
Building	248-871-2450
Community Development and Housing Rehabilitation	248-871-2549
Planning	248-871-2540
Zoning	248-871-2520
Police Department	
Non-emergency	248-871-2600
Public Services Department	248-871-2530
Public Works	248-871-2850
Special Services Department	
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 Maintenance.....	248-473-1890
Recreation	248-473-1800
Senior Adult Program	248-473-1830
Youth & Families Services	248-473-1841
Volunteer Center	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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Adults 50 & Better

The Center for Active Adults offers a variety of speakers, fitness programs, classes, and special events at the Costick Center. For a schedule of activities, see the monthly newsletter "The Messenger" on the City website at www.fhgov.com or call **248-473-1830** for information, dates, and times.

FRIDAY FILMS

Enjoy a delicious lunch, recently released film, popcorn and beverage on most third Fridays. Advance tickets prior to the day \$5/\$7 after.

FIRST FRIDAY BALLROOM & BUFFET

Enjoy ballroom dancing, a delicious buffet, and music by the Mike Wolverton Band most first Fridays each month, 3-6 pm. All levels of dance, couples and singles welcome. Scheduled dates: November 4, December 2, January 6, February 3 and March 2. Purchase tickets by Monday before the event for \$9/\$10 after. Resident member discount \$8.

A CELEBRATION OF VETERANS

The Senior Division, selected by the National Department of Veterans Affairs as a Regional Site for the celebration of Veterans Day, will honor our local veterans at the Stars & Stripes Forever Veterans Recognition Celebration on Friday, November 11, from 11am-3pm. The event features an honor guard ceremony, keynote address, recitation of veterans' names, special luncheon, and an afternoon of dancing to the Mike Wolverton Band. Tickets \$8 by November 7/\$10 after.

HOLIDAY EVENTS & PARTIES

Enjoy meals, entertainment, dancing, prizes, and more. Purchase tickets at least one week prior to event for \$8 per person/\$10 after.
 Devil's Night Delight Costume Party – October 28
 Turkey, Pumpkins, and Bingo, Oh My! – November 17
 Deck the Halls Holiday Party – December 16
 Roses are Red Dance Party – February 10
 O'Dublin Dance Party – March 16

SHREDDING FOR SAFETY

Protect your identity, de-clutter your files, and recycle! Bring up to four paper grocery bags of documents to be shredded in the Costick Center parking lot. Drive up only, enter Gate 3. No magazines, junk mail or trash! Event for adults over 50 in our community. December 13 and March 13, 9am-12pm.

WOMEN'S & MEN'S 50+ SOFTBALL

Registration for softball teams in the Oakland County 50+ league begins in January, 2012. Play begins in late May.

GOLF LEAGUES

Registration for the men's, women's and couples' golf leagues begins in February at the Costick Center. League play begins the first week in May at the Farmington Hills Golf Club.

Recreation Division

The Nature Center in Heritage Park is a great place to visit in fall and winter with exhibits, photo displays, hands-on activities, and programs including pre-school classes, outdoor yoga, labyrinth walks, Walk with a Doc (the first program of its kind in Michigan), night hikes, scout programs, a Junior Ranger Program, and more.

Come to Hay Ride Central at the Nature Center on Friday nights through November 4 for a hay ride and s'mores (*private hay rides are also available by calling 248-477-1135*). The Nature Center is open Monday – Saturday, 10am-5pm, Sundays, noon-5pm., and during special events.

New fall Recreation programs include archery, dog training, forest fitness, Explore Hunting, and Rush Camp. Fall classes include dance, tennis, gymnastics, cheerleading, martial arts, cardio boxing, Zumba, babysitter training, Scout Saturdays, and youth basketball leagues, flag football leagues, and soccer leagues. Birthday parties are also offered at the Nature Center and at the Costick Center or at the pool or gym. Plus, stay in shape this winter at the Costick Center pool!

More Fall Events:

- Thanksgiving for Nature – November 19 (Heritage Park)
- The Annual Turkey Shoot – November 21 (Costick Center)
- Holiday Lights Ceremony – November 29 (City Hall)
- Live & Local – December 3 (Costick Center)
- Farmington Hills Craft & Vendor Expo (with Santa) – December 9 & 10 (Costick Center)

For more information, call **248-473-1800** or click on the 2011 Fall Special Services brochure at www.fhgov.com.

LONGACRE HOUSE EVENTS

Antique Appraisal – Friday, Oct. 28, 9am-5pm | \$7/ item
By appointment only.

Breakfast with Santa – Saturday, December 10, 9am | \$10/child
 Saturday, December 17, 9am | \$10/child (*resident pricing*)

Gingerbread Houses – Wednesday, December 7, 6-9pm | \$24
 Thursday, December 8, 6-9 pm | \$24 (*resident pricing*)

Pre-registration is required for all events.
 Reserve the date for your upcoming wedding, theme party, reception, business meeting, banquet or special event at the Longacre House, located at 24705 Farmington Road, just north of Ten Mile. Call **248-477-8404** or visit www.longacrehouse.org for further information.

FARMINGTON HILLS
 Michigan
focus

Facts about the Farmington Hills Police and Fire Public Safety Millage

Police Department Cutbacks

FY 2007/08 - FY 2011/12

Personnel Reductions

- 40 full-time employees: 16 police officers & 24 civilian employees
- 23% employee reduction

Transferred to Patrol - (Positions eliminated)

- 3 detectives | 2 traffic officers | 1 school liaison officer | 1 crime prevention officer

Eliminated Services/Vehicles

- 23 Community Policing Programs (*Neighborhood Watch Groups declined by 33%*)
- Crime Prevention Section
- Special Response Team
- 19 fleet vehicles
- 5 motorcycles

Notable Statistics

Police Officers per 1,000 Population:

- National Average - 2.3 | Midwest Average - 1.6 | Michigan Average - 1.9 | F.H.P.D. Average - 1.3

Fast Facts

Farmington Hills is a 33.4 square mile community with a population of approximately 80,000. It is the 14th largest city in Michigan.

Public Safety Dispatch (Five Year Average)

9-1-1 Phone Calls: 34,998 per year | 96 per day

Non-Emergency Phone Calls: 105,536 per year | 289 per day

Police Department (Five Year Average)

Calls for Service: 28,649 per year | 78 per day

Arrests: 3,424 per year | 9 per day

Traffic Crashes: 3,021 per year | 8 per day

Burglaries: 319 per year | .87 per day

Fire Department

	2006	2010
Incidents	6668	7278
Training Hours	33,000	24,083
Inspections	1,427	514
Career Firefighters	44	41
Paid Call FF	80	73

Your 2010 Tax Dollar

County: 13.36% | Education: 61.54% | City: 25.10%

The public safety millage is contained in the "City" portion of the total property taxes. Currently, only four cents of every tax dollar pays for public safety services.

Fire Department

Due to the increase in run volume and decrease in personnel, ancillary functions have been reduced.

- FHFD no longer provides fall education programs at schools (*ended in 2007*).
- FHFD no longer participates in bike parades and public venue opportunities.
- Decreased fire prevention inspections coupled with aging buildings may result in increased fires.

Farmington Hills Fire Department Facts:

- The combination department is comprised of both full-time and paid call personnel.
- There are five stations strategically located within the City. The only station that is staffed 24/7 is Station #5 at 11 Mile and Orchard Lake. The remaining stations are staffed Monday - Friday during the daytime. During nights, weekends and holidays, paid call personnel are alerted to emergencies.
- The FHFD provides Advanced Life Support (ALS) services to the community.
- The Department has been part of the Western Wayne County Hazardous Materials Response Team since 1987 and the Urban Search and Rescue Team since 2007. Both of these teams provide needed services at a substantially reduced cost for the City.
- The FHFD provides the most cost-effective service compared to other similarly sized communities with comparable services.

Ballot Question

Charter Amendment - Public Safety Millage

Shall the Farmington Hills City Charter be amended to allow an additional special tax rate for public safety functions of the Fire and Police Departments by authorizing the City to levy a new additional millage in the amount of 1.7 mills, for 10 years, starting with the July, 2012 levy (*resulting in the authorization to collect an estimated additional \$5,270,000 in the first year if approved and levied*), the taxes to be used by the City only for purposes of fire and police staffing and equipment to maintain the current levels of City public safety services?

Calculate Your Cost

To determine your cost of this public safety millage, multiply your home's assessed value x .0017.

Example: Home's fair market value = \$150,000 / Home's assessed value = \$75,000

Multiply \$75,000 x .0017 = \$127.50

It is estimated that taxable values will decrease on average by 5.6% in 2012, therefore in this example, the homeowner will see a \$167.68 reduction in total property taxes in 2012 without the proposed new public safety millage. Even with the proposed new 1.7 public safety millage, the homeowner in this example will see a net \$40.18 reduction in total property taxes from 2011 to 2012. The new public safety millage, if approved by the electorate, will be effective on the July 2012 tax bill.

Determining Your Cost of the Public Safety Millage

This is a proposed new public safety millage, meaning that funds will be dedicated exclusively to the City's Police and Fire Departments. This new public safety millage would be over and above the existing 1.4764 public safety millage in effect since 2006, which is due to expire in 2015. The existing public safety millage was proposed in 2005, assuming that property values would continue to generate tax revenue roughly equivalent to keep up with the annual inflation rate.

The proposed new millage is 1.7 mills.

City Clerk's Office – 2011 Election Information

ELECTION DATE - Tuesday, November 8, 2011 – General Election

OFFICES ON THE BALLOT: Mayor – Vote for One – Two-Year Term | City Council – Vote for Three – Four-Year Terms

Farmington Public School District (Precincts 1 - 4 and 7 - 26): Vote for Two – School Board Members – 6-Year Terms through 12/31/2017 | Vote for One – School Board Member – 4-Year Term through 12/31/2015
Vote for One – School Board Member – Partial Term ending 12/31/2015

Clarenceville School District (Precinct 27 only): Vote for Two – School Board Members – 4-Year Terms through 12/31/2015

PROPOSALS: Charter Amendment – Public Safety Millage | Library Millage Renewal *Sample Ballots are available at www.fhgov.com*

ARE YOU REGISTERED TO VOTE? Don't wait until Election Day to find out – Call the Clerk's Office today! Voters must be registered 30 days prior to Election Day in order to be eligible to cast a vote. The deadline to register for the November 8th Election was Tuesday, October 11, 2011. If you move to a new community, you must re-register under your new address.

You must also be: A citizen of the United States • A resident of the State of Michigan and will be at least a 30-day resident of your city or township by Election Day • At least 18 years of age by Election Day

DO YOU KNOW WHERE TO VOTE? You must vote in the precinct in which you are registered. If you appear at the wrong precinct, you will be directed to the correct voting location to cast your vote. Keep in mind that all voting locations close at 8pm and no one is permitted to vote after that time. Your voting precinct number is shown on the left side of your Voter I.D. Card in red letters. On the right side is the voting location for that precinct for all elections. Maps for each precinct and a general map are on the City website at www.fhgov.com.

ABSENT VOTER BALLOT APPLICATIONS: Applications for absent voter ballots for the November 8, 2011 Election were mailed to ALL persons who requested to be placed on the City's permanent absent voter list. If you are eligible and wish to be placed on the permanent absent voter list, please call 248-871-2410 or e-mail permlist@fhgov.com.

ABSENT VOTER BALLOTS: You are eligible for an absent voter 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

STUDENTS AWAY AT COLLEGE: If you registered to vote by mail, you are not eligible to vote by absent voter ballot in your first election and must vote in person. If you have any questions concerning your eligibility for an absent voter ballot, please call 248-871-2414.

REMINDER - Michigan Election Law does not permit a ballot to be issued to anyone other than the person named on the application. Therefore, a ballot cannot be given to anyone for delivery to another, including husband/wife, member of same family, etc.

VOTING ACCESSIBILITY – INSTRUCTIONS IN ALTERNATIVE FORMAT: To comply with voting accessibility requirements, voting instructions will now be provided on cassette tapes. Any voter, who would like to use this alternative format to obtain voting instruction, should contact the City Clerk's Office prior to Election Day at 248-871-2410 to make arrangements to listen to the cassette tape at the Clerk's Office or request that it be made available at your polling location.

ELECTION INSPECTORS NEEDED: If you are interested or know someone who may be interested in working as an Election Inspector, contact Diane Behrend at 248-871-2413 for an application or visit the City website at www.fhgov.com. You must be a registered voter in Oakland County. Election Day is a very long day and attention to detail is vital. The City is seeking energetic people who are enthusiastic about participating in the election process and can devote the time required. Election Inspectors will earn \$140 for the day, plus an additional \$15 for attending the required training sessions. The City Clerk's Office is also looking now for qualified Inspectors for 2012, which is a Presidential Election Year.

Barry Brickner – Candidate for Mayor

Barry Brickner is running for Mayor of Farmington Hills. He was elected to the City Council in November 1999, November 2003, and November 2007. He served as Mayor Pro Tem in 2001 and 2007. Prior to his election to City Council, he served for four years on the Farmington Hills Planning Commission. He is currently a member of the Commission for Energy and Environmental Sustainability, the Brownfield Redevelopment Authority, and serves as Council liaison to both the Committee to Increase Voter Participation and to the Eight Mile Boulevard Association, where he is a Past Chairman. He also serves as the alternate delegate to the Southeastern Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG) and is a member of the National League of Cities (NLC) Information Technology and Communications Steering Committee.



Barry participates in the annual River Day event, and the Rebuilding Together event. He also participates in the Eight Mile Boulevard Clean Team, the Bowl-a-thon for the Special Olympics, the Relay for Life Cancer Walk, Art on the Grand, and regularly donates blood to the Red Cross in the City blood drives.

A practicing attorney for over 35 years, Barry has lived in Farmington Hills with his wife Cheryl since 1983. He and Cheryl have two grown daughters, Kelly and Shawn.

Among his goals as Mayor is to maintain the quality of services that the citizens of Farmington Hills have come to expect. He also wants to maintain the spirit of cooperation that the City Council has exhibited over many years.

William Huber – Candidate for City Council

William Huber is seeking a position on the Farmington Hills City Council. Bill has been a resident for the past 14 years and is concerned about the direction that Farmington Hills has taken since he has lived in this community.



Having a lengthy background in both business consulting and as the owner of a successful building and remodeling company in Farmington Hills, Bill is keenly aware that accountability is an essential element in developing a successful business; he is convinced that the same principle must apply to local government. He is dedicated to making sure that our tax dollars are spent wisely and is committed to making government decisions transparent allowing citizens to make informed decisions. His goal is to enhance the growth and stability of our community and is dedicated to making decisions that adhere to the concept that “it has to be fair across the board.”

Bill is looking forward to bringing his business experience and ethic of financial accountability to the Council by making sure that the residents of Farmington Hills are well informed as to “where the money is going” and to insure that efficiency, honesty and fairness are always a top priority.

Richard Lerner – Candidate for City Council

Richard Lerner is a candidate for Farmington Hills City Council. He is a Commissioner for Farmington Hills Parks & Recreation Department, and serves on the Board of Directors of the Xemplar Club, Optimist Club and Quaker Valley Farms Association. He is Vice President of the Inter-Agency Council and the Dunkel and East Ski Club, and is a Farmington Area Goodfellow.



Richard graduated from Syracuse University at age 20 with a degree in Economics, where he also attended the MBA program. He held various sales and management positions at Alco Standard and Mead Corporation, becoming an expert in logistics, distribution and operational efficiencies. The companies took him from New York City to Connecticut and Michigan, before he left to start his own business in 1993.

Richard has managed eight-figure budgets and helped companies reorganize and develop robust, lean processes; down-sizing, right-sizing and expanding in varying economic climates. Over the past 18 years, he has started three businesses in Michigan, which continue to operate today. He understands how to control spending, operate on a tight budget, and be successful.

Richard and his wife Maureen moved to Farmington Hills in 1998. Together they own businesses involved in IT Consulting, Business Process Optimization & Project Management Training and Consulting, and Internet Presence Management. Their two children attend Farmington Public Schools, where Richard leads the Junior Optimist program. This year, 220 Junior Optimists in grades K-8 in eight schools performed over 1,600 hours of community service, supporting 13 charitable organizations. For more information, visit www.richardlerner.net.

Randy Bruce – Candidate for City Council

Randy Bruce is running for reelection to a third term on City Council. He has also served two terms as Mayor-Pro-Tem in 2004 and 2008. Prior to being on City Council, Randy served on the Zoning Board of Appeals for eight years. Randy was also a member for seven years on the Human Development Steering Committee of the National League of Cities, serving as vice-chair and chair from 2008 through 2010.



While on City Council, Randy has spearheaded several issues including the development of one of the area’s first dangerous animal ordinances, a noise ordinance, and development of the city website. He has helped balance eight consecutive city budgets, despite the harsh economic times and falling revenue reimbursements from the state and property tax declines. Despite these challenges, he has also fought to maintain first class city services and keep Farmington Hills one of the safest cities in the state and in the country. Randy wants to continue this work over the next four years, because he feels that during these very challenging times, experienced leadership is critical to the continued success of our city, so we can continue to meet the many ongoing challenges that are a result of the current economy.

Randy is a 25-year resident of the city and earned BS, MA and PhD degrees from Wayne State University. Currently, Randy is the Director of Neuropsychological Services for Special Tree Rehabilitation, which provides rehabilitation services to individuals with brain and spinal cord injuries.

Ken Massey – Candidate for City Council

Ken Massey is seeking re-election to City Council. Serving on council since 2003 (Mayor Pro Tem 2006 & 2010) exemplifies Ken’s community service focus. As an Eagle Scout, paramedic, homeowner representative and council member, Ken has continued to bring a passionate and logical approach to community service. Professionally, Ken holds a scientific doctoral degree and is the Managing Director for Micro-Dose Life Sciences, a Biotech company in Farmington Hills.



He represents our community as a member of the Emergency Preparedness Commission (EPC), Botsford Hospital Board and nationally as a member of the National League of Cities Public Safety and Crime Prevention steering committee. Expanding the work of the EPC and suicide prevention task force strengthen and empower our residents and sense of community.

Massey exhibits leadership with an understanding of the community and the challenges we face. Ken would like to continue the work and programs started in the last few years. Additional examples include, sensible redevelopment, use of the Corridor Improvement Authority and implementation of our updated Master Plan will drive our economic vitality in the direction that our community wants and deserves.

Based on the recent citizen survey results, it is clear that our residents feel their city is providing the correct level of services, in appropriate areas and these must be continued to keep our great community not just financially solvent but vibrant and a desirable place to live. That takes leaders who can critically evaluate each situation and make data-driven, logical decisions. For information: www.ken-massey.com.

Seth Doyle – Candidate for City Council

Seth is seeking a seat on Farmington Hills City Council. Seth believes he has the necessary leadership and vision to ensure that Farmington Hills continues to be one of the best cities in Michigan to live, work and play. He particularly appreciates the sense of spirit and cooperation alive in the city today which results in residents, business leaders and government entities working together with the common goal of improving the community.



As a council member Seth will 1) support business development 2) demand high-quality public services 3) ensure government transparency 4) work to keep taxes down and utilize taxpayers’ dollars in the most prudent manner possible 5) work closely with the Farmington Hills School Board to ensure the very best education for our students and 6) maintain strong ties with our homeowners associations and other citizen organizations. He believes that maintaining strong ties with the residents and listening closely to their views is a critical part of serving as an elected official. He intends to attend each council meeting as well as meet with residents on an ongoing basis. He wants to hear what you have to say and work to effectively and expediently resolve any problem involving the delivery of city services or any other city matter.

Seth worked for the Detroit Fire Department for 25 years. He retired in January 2011. Seth holds a Law Degree from the Detroit College of Law and currently practices probate law.

Erik Lindquist – Candidate for City Council

Erik Lindquist pledges to utilize his creative energy, unmatched experience, and top-notch leadership ability on City Council, to continue providing Farmington Hills residents with appropriate services.



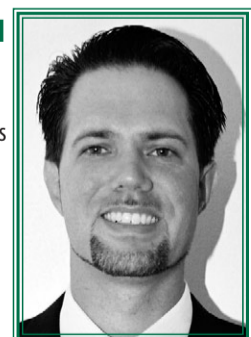
Lindquist’s level of experience with the City and its residents is unparalleled among the new prospects for City Council. In 2007, Lindquist answered the public call for Boards and Commissions volunteers. He was promptly appointed to the Zoning Board of Appeals, where he currently serves as Vice Chair. This background gives Lindquist a unique perspective on the City’s interaction with residents. He’s explored our great neighborhoods, and acknowledges the top-notch services delivered by a dedicated staff of City employees. They have made significant sacrifices in the past four years, during which time the Council has dealt with dramatic reductions in revenue and now, increased withholding of shared revenue funds by the State government.

Lindquist is very active and involved in the community, most recently volunteering to serve food for the South Oakland Shelter through St. Clare of Assisi and St. Alexander here in Farmington Hills. He is a volunteer and member of the Finnish Center Association, Farmington Family YMCA, and the Eight Mile Boulevard Association. Based on his expertise, the City of Farmington selected Erik Lindquist for its Civic Theatre Committee, where he advised the Farmington City Council with direction for that city’s movie house.

Lindquist is a procurement contracts attorney, graduate of Colorado State University and California Western Law School, and admitted to the State Bars and Federal District Courts in Michigan and California.

Christopher A. Trotter – Candidate for City Council

Christopher A. Trotter knows what it takes to keep a city thriving. At sometime or another we believe we have reached the highest point; the summit is ours for the taking only to be faced with another challenge. Times are tough; working together we can bring about change. Who will be the voice of the people? Christopher will be that voice, by keeping schools strong and businesses competitive. Christopher is a proud husband and father, and a local businessman who believes in serving the community.



Christopher comes from two generations that served in the Farmington Hills Public Schools. He believes in building the next generation through education. He is in tune with the City’s proposals and millages; supporting small businesses and public works. Christopher is committed to bringing new ideas promoting economic growth and public safety. These are key issues voiced by the residents of Farmington Hills.

Christopher is a member of the UAW and the IBEW. For over a decade, he has served at his church on committees. Christopher has volunteered his services to the City; keeping it beautiful by cleaning up storm damages. Christopher puts all his energy to work for this great city. Are we ready for the challenge? Are we prepared to continue improving our city? There are so many opportunities to look forward to. Challenge the summit to the highest point, knowing one day it will pay off. Vote Christopher A. Trotter for City Council.