



Farmington Hills Medic Unit and Fire Rescue Vehicle



# FOCUS

The Farmington Hills Focus is produced by the City of Farmington Hills. Articles are submitted by City department directors to highlight upcoming events, provide important news, and update residents on City projects and programs. Editor: Gillian Pines, gpines@fhgov.com

T: (248) 871-2500  
F: (248) 871-2501

City Hall  
31555 W. Eleven Mile Rd.  
Farmington Hills, MI 48336

City of Farmington Hills,  
Michigan - Municipal  
Government

## Police Department

### Farmington Hills Enjoys Historic Drop in Crime

The Police Department is proud to report that the City of Farmington Hills continues to be one of the safest communities in the State of Michigan. The most serious crime categories (referred to as Part A Crimes), continued to decline in Farmington Hills in 2018, seeing an overall decrease of 16%. This total Part A crime is the lowest in the City's 45-year history.

Crime comparisons of note for 2018 are:

- Robbery - decline of 44%
- Burglary - decline of 29%
- Auto Thefts - decline of 48%
- Larceny from Automobiles - decline of 41%

Police Chief Nebus attributes this continued decrease of crime in Farmington Hills to the excellent work and commitment of Police Department personnel and the extraordinary partnership with the community. This partnership allows the officers to provide citizens with superior police services and ensure a safe community in which to live, work, and visit.



### Summer Safety Reminders

Between January and September of 2018, the National Safety Council reported that 48 children died as a result of being left inside vehicles in high temperature conditions.

The Police Department would like to remind

parents and caregivers that the National Safety Council advises that the interior temperature of a vehicle can rise 20 or more degrees in just ten minutes. This creates a dangerous situation for anyone left inside the vehicle during summertime conditions.

Even on relatively mild days, temperatures inside vehicles still can reach life-threatening levels in minutes, and cracking the window doesn't help. The Police Department urges anyone who observes a child, vulnerable adult or pet left inside a vehicle during high heat conditions to call 9-1-1 immediately.

**Never leave your child, vulnerable adult or pet inside a hot vehicle - not even for a minute!**

## Vehicle Safety Tips for Parents and Caregivers:



Photo: Shutterstock

- Stick to a routine and avoid distractions to reduce the risk of forgetting a child.
- Keep car doors locked so children cannot gain access.
- Teach children that cars are not play areas.
- Place a purse, briefcase, cellular phone or even a left shoe in the back seat to force you to take one last glance.
- Set a calendar reminder on your electronic device to make sure you dropped your child off at daycare; develop a plan so you will be alerted if your child is late or a no-show.

## Additional Summer Reminders:



Photo: Pexels

- Leash Law - All dogs are to be secured on no more than a 15-foot leash when they are off their owners' property, unless specifically inside a city dog park. Owners must be reasonably in control of their dogs while on a leash or while on their property.
- Solicitors - Residents are encouraged to contact the Farmington Hills Police Department to investigate solicitors whenever their legitimacy is in question or their conduct violates State Law or City Ordinance.
- Home Security Measures - Residents are reminded to close and secure all access points to their residences when not at home. This includes entry doors, windows, garage doors, and vehicle doors.
- Pool Safety - Residents are reminded to secure any access to pools or Jacuzzi tubs when not supervised. Do not use foam or air-filled toys such as noodles, kick boards or arm bands as flotation devices. These toys are designed for play, not to keep children safe in the water.

## **Emergency Preparedness - A.L.I.C.E. Training**

The Farmington Hills Police Department presented an A.L.I.C.E. (Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, Evacuate) training course for the Houses of Worship in the Cities of Farmington Hills and Farmington in December 2018.


A.L.I.C.E. is a nationally-recognized training course that provides response options to citizens who are faced with an active assailant incident. Adat-Shalom Synagogue hosted the training, which was attended by 277 members of the 63 various religious Houses of Worship in our community. The Farmington Hills/Farmington Area Interfaith Association and the Farmington Hills Police Department coordinated the event, with assistance from members of the Farmington Hills Fire and Farmington Public Safety Departments.



This training is a continuation of the Emergency Preparedness efforts offered by the Farmington Hills Police Department, which include emergency preparedness presentations, security assessments, and A.L.I.C.E. training sessions. In addition to this recent course, the Farmington Hills Police Department has presented A.L.I.C.E. training to all City employees, Farmington Public School District staff, and all private schools.

Additional A.L.I.C.E. training has been presented to the City's Neighborhood Watch groups and licensed daycare facilities. The Police Department is currently finalizing an A.L.I.C.E. training course to be presented to the public and business community on an annual basis as a commitment to increasing the emergency preparedness levels of the community and its citizens.

  
**You Tube** City of Farmington Hills

 Channel 203 Channel 99



## Fire Department



### Severe Weather and Tornado Safety

Michigan averages 16 tornadoes annually with most occurring April through August between 3 and 9 p.m. (although tornadoes have been known to occur any time of the day or night.) The average Michigan tornado is on the ground less than ten minutes and travels about five miles.

A *Tornado Warning* means a tornado has been sighted or is strongly indicated by radar.

A *Tornado Watch* means there is a strong possibility of a tornado developing in the area. A tornado has not been seen, but conditions are very favorable for one to occur at any moment.

Local Warning Sirens in Oakland County are activated when the National Weather Service issues a Tornado Warning or a Severe Thunderstorm Warning. When sirens are activated, a three-minute tone indicates a tornado has been sighted or is strongly indicated on radar and/or a severe thunderstorm with 70 mph winds or greater is in the area. Seek shelter immediately and listen to the radio or television for more information.

**It is important to know that the sirens in Oakland County are an “outdoor” warning system, and are not intended to be heard indoors.** All residents are encouraged to have a weather radio for indoor warning; these devices will wake you if you are sleeping.

Regular testing of the sirens will occur at 1 p.m. on the first Saturday during the months of March through November. The exception is on Saturday, April 6 when the regular testing is replaced by a mid-week siren test on Wednesday, March 27, 2019 at 1 p.m. during Severe Weather Awareness Week. Sirens are not activated in December, January or February.

### Emergency Preparedness

The Farmington Hills/Farmington Emergency Preparedness Commission (EPC) urges residents and businesses to have an “all hazards plan.” Detailed information about weather emergencies, disaster planning, emergency kits, and more can be found at <https://www.oakgov.com/homelandsecurity>.

**As always, any time that you have a life safety emergency, call 9-1-1.**

## Fire Department Offers Classes in CPR/AED, First Aid and Tourniquet Training

The Farmington Hills/Farmington Emergency Preparedness Commission (EPC), in cooperation with the Farmington Hills Fire Department, will offer American Heart Association Heartsaver® classes, featuring instruction in CPR/AED (Automated External Defibrillator), First Aid, and “Stop the Bleed” Tourniquet Training from 5:30 to 10 p.m. on selected dates throughout the year. The classes are open to the public and will be held in the upstairs training room at Fire Station #4 located at 28711 Drake Road.



Lt. Dan Wecker of the Farmington Hills Fire Department teaches CPR/AED classes.

“Stop the Bleed” is a national awareness campaign that encourages bystanders to become trained, equipped, and empowered to help in a bleeding emergency before professional help arrives. Participants will receive hands-on training in applying wound pressure and using tourniquets.

The fee for the class and materials is \$10 for residents of Farmington Hills/Farmington and \$20 for non-residents. If you require an American Heart Association Certificate of Training, there will be an additional \$20 fee for both residents and non-residents. Paper certification cards are no longer available. Participants will now receive an email with instructions on how to register for an “eCard” that can be printed or accessed online.

*Please note – all class participants who are seeking to achieve the Certificate of Training must be physically able to perform CPR/AED, which requires kneeling on the floor and using your arms and hands to perform continuous chest compressions.*

Participants must register and pay fees one week in advance to ensure the proper student to instructor ratio. Registration will be confirmed via email after the fee is received. Individuals who show up without paying the fee seven days in advance will be asked to wait and register for a future class. Participants must be at least 12 years old.

Registration for the class will now be taken via email only. To register, contact Sara West at [swest@fhgov.com](mailto:swest@fhgov.com).

## Public Services Department

### Hazardous Materials Drop-Off Day Saturday, May 4, 2019

In cooperation with Oakland Community College, the City will hold its annual HazMat Day on Saturday, May 4 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the OCC Orchard Ridge Campus in the northeast parking lot off Orchard Lake Road in lot #3. Residents of Farmington Hills, Farmington, Novi, South Lyon, Southfield, Walled Lake, Milford, Milford Township, and Wixom are all eligible to participate with a driver's license or other proof of residency. Containers must be labeled, not hold more than five gallons or weigh more than 50 pounds, and be placed in a sturdy box on the floor or in the trunk. Farmington Hills residents may also go to any of the other regional HazMat events listed at [www.rrrasoc.org](http://www.rrrasoc.org).

For a full list of accepted/unaccepted items, please visit [www.rrrasoc.org](http://www.rrrasoc.org) or call 248-208-2270.

### 2019 Spring/Summer – Road Construction Projects



#### Major Roads

Halsted Road (I-696 to 12 Mile) – Reconstruction  
Power Road (10 Mile to 11 Mile) – Reconstruction  
9 Mile Road (Hawthorne to Middlebelt) – Reconstruction  
Halsted Road (Grand River to 11 Mile) – Resurfacing

#### Local Roads

Bridgeman Street – Reconstruction  
Greening Street Area – Reconstruction  
Hemlock, Medbury, Geraldine, and Omenwood – Reconstruction  
Sunnydale Street and Lundy Drive – Reconstruction  
Flemings Roseland Park, Tarabusi Roseland Gardens, and portions of Farmington Acres – Reconstruction  
Pleasant Valley Farms 1 & 2 and Old Homestead East – Reconstruction

#### New Sidewalks

9 Mile Road – Complete sidewalk segment between Hawthorne and Middlebelt (north and south sides)

#### MDOT – Michigan Department of Transportation

Drake Road Bridge over M-5 – Rehabilitation  
Grand River Bridge over M-5 – Rehabilitation  
M-5 (I-275 to Purdue) – Resurfacing

#### RCOC – Road Commission for Oakland County

Seeley Drain Culvert – Repair under Haggerty Road

To receive periodic updates via email, go to [www.fhgov.com](http://www.fhgov.com). Click on the Government tab, then News & Information - eNews/ListServ, then click on the link to subscribe to either the general or project specific road construction listservs.

## Prevent West Nile Virus

- Eliminate standing water in toys, buckets, flower pots, tires, pet water bowls, unused pools, birdbaths, clogged rain gutters, and other containers to reduce areas where mosquitoes breed. (Creeks and retention areas that are healthy and running are not considered a prime area for mosquito breeding.)
- Use insect repellent, but follow manufacturers' guidelines and don't use on children younger than two.
- Wear protective clothing such as long sleeves and pants.
- Fix or install window and door screens to help mosquito-proof your home.

For more information, go to [www.michigan.gov/westnilevirus](http://www.michigan.gov/westnilevirus).

## Clerk's Office

### Legislative Changes Impacting Elections

With the passing of Proposal 3 and other legislative actions in November 2018, here are some of the changes that may affect you as a voter:

#### Registering to vote

- All qualified individuals will automatically be registered to vote when performing a driver's license or personal identification card transaction at a Secretary of State branch office, unless the person declines.
- The deadline to register to vote at a Secretary of State branch office, by mail or on-line, is now 15 days prior to an Election.
- After the 15-day deadline and through 8 p.m. on Election Day, individuals may register to vote **in-person** at their local city or township clerk's office, with proof of residency.



#### Voting by absent voter ballot

- Any voter may now request an absent voter ballot for any Election; no reason is needed as was previously required by law. If you wish to be placed on the permanent absent voter list to automatically receive an absent voter **application** for each Election, please call the City Clerk's Office at 248-871-2410 or email [permlist@fhgov.com](mailto:permlist@fhgov.com).
- The deadline to request an absent voter ballot to be mailed to a voter is **5 p.m. on the Friday before** the Election.

## 2019 Election Dates

The only Election scheduled at this time is the City General Election to be held on Tuesday, November 5, 2019.

## Update Homeowner Association Contacts

The City Clerk's Office maintains a list of all Homeowner Associations with contact information. This enables the City to provide contact information to new residents and also to notify Associations of upcoming developments, such as road projects, that may affect certain subdivisions. Submit updated contact information to [jmunoz@fhgov.com](mailto:jmunoz@fhgov.com) or fax it to the City Clerk at 248-871-2411. Please be sure to do this annually or as officers and contact information changes.

## Door-to-Door Peddlers/Solicitors

Spring typically brings out 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 still should be able to provide photo ID from their respective organizations and are asked to comply with local time requirements. 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, consider posting a "no peddling/no soliciting" sign on your property. Subdivision associations may also decide to post similar signage to 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. The permit process requires applicants to submit a background check for review by the Police Department.

The Police Department reminds residents that you do not have to open your door for a stranger. If the person is peddling, ask them to display their City-issued permit or other ID from their organization. Call the Police Department at 248-871-2600 if you have concerns. It is helpful if you can provide the name and/or organization that the person was representing and also your address or subdivision name.

## Finance Department

### Dog Licenses



Photo: Unsplash

Licenses are required for all dogs four months of age or older. One-year and three-year dog licenses may be purchased at the Treasury Division with proof of rabies vaccination. From January 1 through June 1, the cost is:

- \$10.50 one-year/\$28.50 three-year for spayed/neutered dogs (\$9.75 one-year/\$26.25 three-year if the owner is age 65 or older).
- \$18 one-year/\$51 three-year for male/female dogs (\$16.50 one-year/\$46.50 three-year if the owner is age 65 or older).

After June 1, the license is considered delinquent and the annual cost is \$33 for all dogs. New animals over four months of age may be licensed at non-delinquent rates if the license is purchased within 30 days of acquisition. The City does not require cats to be licensed.

For questions regarding dog licenses, contact Oakland County Animal Control at 248-858-1070 #5 or [www.oakgov.com/petadoption](http://www.oakgov.com/petadoption) or contact the City of Farmington Hills Treasury Division at 248-871-2480.

*For information about the William Grace Dog Park, located at 29040 Shiawassee Road, go to [www.fhgov.com](http://www.fhgov.com) and click on the Activities tab, then click on Dog Park for rules and regulations, hours, and fees.*

## HUMAN RESOURCES NOW HIRING FOR SEASONAL POSITIONS

During the spring and summer, the City hires a large number of employees in a variety of positions from part-time (20 hours) to temporary full-time (40 hours). Positions include landscaping, road work, parks and golf course maintenance, building attendants, camps, lifeguards, and several recreation programs. Hourly pay rates range from \$9.45 (the new minimum wage as of April 1, 2019) to \$15.50 based on qualifications and job responsibilities. Open positions are advertised on [www.fhgov.com](http://www.fhgov.com) and the City's Facebook page or contact the Human Resources Department at 248-871-2490 for an application.



## Treasury/Assessing Office Reminders

- Summer property tax bills are mailed around July 1 and may be paid without penalty through August 31. Thereafter, late penalties are assessed progressively up to 7% by the following February. 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. If you do not receive a summer property tax bill/statement by the end of the first week of July, or 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.

## Planning & Community Development

### Zoning Division

Paying attention to City regulations helps keep neighborhoods in Farmington Hills looking clean and fresh.

- Grass must be cut before it reaches eight inches in height.
- Outdoor storage of unlicensed or inoperable vehicles is prohibited; they must be in a garage.
- Pet owners must keep all lawns and pet runs free of animal waste and uneaten food.
- Firewood storage is limited to two face cords, stored above ground in an orderly manner. Firewood storage in front yards is prohibited.
- Trash containers are required to be watertight with handles and tight-fitting lids. Trash should be put at the curbside no earlier than 6 p.m. on the day prior to pickup.
- Compost piles are regulated by size, location, and composition.

### Housing Discrimination Notice

Housing discrimination is prohibited by law. For more information on housing discrimination, visit [www.hud.gov/fairhousing](http://www.hud.gov/fairhousing). If you have a housing discrimination complaint, contact the Michigan Department of Civil Rights at 517-335-3165 or the HUD hotline at 1-800-669-9777 or 1-800-927-9275 (TTY).



### Spring Plant and Seed Swap

The Beautification Commission's 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Plant and Seed Swap will be held on Saturday, May 18 at Heritage Park 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.

### Furnace Maintenance Tips

Spring is actually the ideal time to do some maintenance on your furnace so it's ready for next winter. Save money and increase your heating system's efficiency by following these simple maintenance tasks to ensure that your natural gas or propane-fueled furnace is in peak condition:

- Turn off the power switch and shut off the gas, then vacuum the burners and the furnace base. Vacuum everywhere you see dust. Look for signs of soot, which often indicates poor combustion. Also, clean all vents with a vacuum and dust off all registers.
- Change the furnace filter regularly to extend the longevity of your furnace.
- Check the thermostat and change the battery if needed. Upgrading to a smart thermostat will provide energy efficient savings and greater home comfort.
- Once the furnace has received the appropriate maintenance, it's time to ensure the furnace is operating efficiently. Monitor the furnace and its performance daily.
- Pay attention to odd smells and sounds, cold air blowing or short cycling. If you encounter any of these problems, call your HVAC expert immediately.
- Make sure to schedule annual furnace inspections with your HVAC contractor. Creating a maintenance plan prior to your furnace malfunctioning will avoid unforeseen expenses.
- Install a carbon monoxide detector now so that you'll be ready to monitor indoor air quality next winter.



# Recycling Reminders

## Wondering What Can Be Recycled?

Visit [rrrasoc.org](http://rrrasoc.org) and use the recycling directory search bar to type in keywords and get recycling, composting, reuse or disposal instructions.

## Recycle More & Recycle Right!

- **Don't put unacceptable materials in the recycling cart.** Follow the reference list of allowable materials on the cart lid or listed at [www.rrrasoc.org](http://www.rrrasoc.org). Unacceptable items include garbage, garden hoses, plastic grocery bags, disposable diapers, needles, yard waste, and food waste.
- **Don't pile extra items next to the recycling cart,** only recyclable items that are *in* the cart will be recycled.
- **Help beautify the City!** Store recycling carts and garbage cans inside the garage or house between collection days. Containers may also be stored in the side or rear yards, but please don't store them in front yards.
- **Put all trash, recycling, and yard waste at the curbside by 7 a.m.** on the assigned pickup day. All containers must be placed at the curb or edge of the street in front of your home no earlier than 6 p.m. on the evening before your collection day and must be retrieved no later than 12 hours following collection.
- **Keep recycling and garbage containers clean** to prevent bins from attracting rodents.
- **Check out the "Recycling Widget" on the City website** to learn where to recycle, compost or properly dispose of a range of items. Go to [www.fhgov.com](http://www.fhgov.com), click on the Resident tab, click on Recycling, and then use the search box at the top of the page.
- **Use your smartphone to access the "Recycling Directory"** from RRRASOC (Resource Recovery and Recycling Authority of Southwest Oakland County) available as a free mobile app. Go to the App Store or Google Play and search for "Recycling Authority."

Questions? Call the DPW at 248-871-2850 or visit [www.fhgov.com](http://www.fhgov.com)



## Holiday Garbage, Recycling and Yard Waste Pickups

Collection will not be scheduled on the following holidays: Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, and New Year's Day.

### Memorial Day – Monday, May 27, 2019

Monday – No collection scheduled  
Collection one day behind Tuesday – Saturday

### Independence Day – Thursday, July 4, 2019

Regular collection Monday – Wednesday  
Thursday – No collection scheduled  
Collection one day behind Friday – Saturday

### Labor Day – Monday, September 2, 2019

Monday – No collection scheduled  
Collection one day behind Tuesday – Saturday

### Thanksgiving Day – Thursday, November 28, 2019

Regular collection Monday – Wednesday  
Thursday – No collection scheduled  
Collection one day behind Friday – Saturday

### Christmas Day – Wednesday, December 25, 2019

Regular collection Monday – Tuesday  
Wednesday – No collection scheduled  
Collection one day behind Thursday – Saturday

### New Year's Day – Wednesday, January 1, 2020

Regular collection Monday – Tuesday  
Wednesday – No collection scheduled  
Collection one day behind Thursday – Saturday

**Please note: Yard waste pickup will start during the week of April 8, 2019 and end during the week of December 9 with the last pickup day on Friday, December 13.**