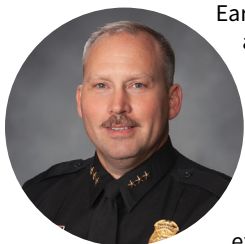


# FARMINGTON HILLS FOCUS

*Heritage Park*

## POLICE DEPARTMENT

### ▶ NEW FARMINGTON HILLS POLICE CHIEF JEFF KING



Earlier this year, the City of Farmington Hills announced the selection of Jeff King as the new Chief of Police. He replaced former Police Chief Chuck Nebus who retired after more than 40 years with the Police Department including ten years as Chief.

Chief King has over 24 years of police experience with the City of Farmington Hills including 12 years of supervisory and executive experience in law enforcement and emergency management. Chief King previously served as the Assistant Police Chief overseeing the Administrative Bureau, and has also served as a Commander in the Administrative Bureau, as an Investigations Lieutenant, Patrol Lieutenant, Traffic Section Sergeant, and Patrol Sergeant in the Operations Bureau.

During his time with the City, Chief King has overseen the Department budget, developed recruitment initiatives, implemented Department-wide training focusing on Fair and Impartial Policing Practices, overseen advances in technology, and coordinated Oakland County Homeland Security training events.

Chief King holds a bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice from Concordia University and a master's degree in Leadership from Central Michigan University. In addition, he is a graduate of the Northwestern University School of Police Staff and Command.

He is a member of the Michigan Association of Chiefs of Police and the Oakland County Association of Chiefs of Police, and is also the Police Department liaison to the Farmington/Farmington Hills Optimist Club, Farmington Youth Assistance, the Farmington Area Interfaith Association, and serves in an advisory capacity with several other community organizations. Chief King has served as an Assistant Director at the Oakland Police Academy where he taught courses in numerous subjects including Traffic Crash Investigations and Arrest Procedures.

Chief King is known for creating a supportive work environment and for encouraging the professional development of all staff members. His focus on training, modernization, and recruitment puts the City's Police Department in a strong position going into the future.

## ► POLICE DEPARTMENT RECRUITMENT EFFORTS

The Farmington Hills Police Department is currently seeking outstanding candidates to join the Department as Police Officers, Dispatchers, and Police Service Aides.

The City's Police Department is the 11th largest municipal Police Department in the State of Michigan. Currently the Department is staffed with 106 sworn police officers and supported by an additional 35 civilian employees. The Department's Communications Section is the largest city-operated Dispatch Center in Oakland County, taking in over 100 calls to 9-1-1 daily and dispatching more than 45,000 calls for service annually.

The Department's Operations Bureau consists of over 60 uniformed patrol officers, and an Investigative Division that is composed of over 20 investigators divided into two squads. Specialized assignments within the Department include: Directed Patrol Unit, Canine Unit, Honor Guard, Traffic Unit, Evidence Technician Unit, Field Training Unit, Small Unmanned Aircraft System (sUAS) Drone Unit, and more.

The Department also has officers assigned to specialized task force positions throughout the metro Detroit region. Farmington Hills investigators are assigned to the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA, Detroit),

South Oakland Narcotics Intelligence Consortium (SONIC, West Bloomfield), Auto Theft Unit (ATU, Oakland County Sheriff's Office), Narcotic Enforcement Team (NET, Oakland County Sheriff's Office), and SWAT Team (Oakland County Sheriff's Office).

The City of Farmington Hills is the 14th largest city in the State of Michigan and the second largest city in Oakland County. Farmington Hills boasts a diverse population of over 80,000 residents and spans almost 34 square miles. The City has earned the reputation of being a well-run, desirable place to work.

For more information, go to the City website at [www.fhgov.com](http://www.fhgov.com) and click on Employment.

**The Neighbors App brings community members together to share information and updates with each other and with law enforcement.**

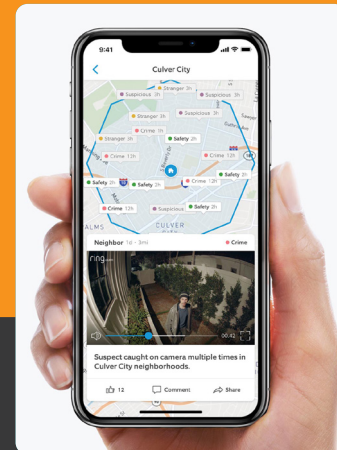
## NEIGHBORS APP BY RING

The Police Department has partnered with the Neighbors App by Ring to participate in a "Virtual Neighborhood Watch" program. The Neighbors App brings community members together to share information and updates with each other and with law enforcement. The app provides an online location for residents to post safety alerts and videos of issues related to crimes that were recorded with their own personal home security systems. The Neighbors App is free and you do not need to own a Ring doorbell to download the app or receive crime and safety alerts.

This technology is already being used by numerous Farmington Hills residents who have voluntarily shared their videos and provided information to the Police

Department. This cooperation between residents and police officers has led to the apprehension of several suspects who were shown committing crimes on video captured by residents' home security systems.

The Neighbors App provides the Police Department with another tool in seeking important crime and safety information from residents. Added to highly effective traditional investigative techniques, information provided by the app can help with identifying and apprehending suspects involved in mail delivery thefts, larceny from vehicles, residential break-ins, and more. The Police Department welcomes the opportunity to work further with local residents to help keep Farmington Hills neighborhoods safe.



## ▶ FALL NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH MEETING AT CITY HALL

Keep an eye out for information on the Neighborhood Watch meeting to be held this fall at City Hall. Police Chief Jeff King will host the gathering of residents and members of Neighborhood Watch groups in the Council Chambers at Farmington Hills City Hall, located at 31555 West Eleven Mile Road. Chief King and Crime Prevention Technician Monica Kollar will discuss recent events and accomplishments within the Department and also share crime updates.

**For details, go to [www.fhgov.com](http://www.fhgov.com) or contact the Crime Prevention Section at 248-871-2750 or [crimeprevention@fhgov.com](mailto:crimeprevention@fhgov.com).**



Farmington Hills Fire Marshal Jason Balaga

## ▶ CHANGE YOUR CLOCKS & SMOKE ALARM BATTERIES ON SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2020

The Farmington Hills Fire Department reminds you to change your smoke alarm batteries when you change your clocks on Sunday, November 1, 2020. All residents are encouraged to protect their families and their homes by adopting this simple, life-saving habit of changing smoke alarm batteries when they change their clocks from daylight savings time back to standard time.

## FIRE DEPARTMENT

The peak time for home fire fatalities is between 6 p.m. and 6 a.m. when most families are sleeping. Almost two-thirds of deaths resulted from fires in homes with either no smoke alarms or non-working smoke alarms with missing or dead batteries or disconnected wires. Home fires typically allow as little as one to

two minutes to escape from the time the smoke alarm sounds. A working smoke alarm provides critical extra time needed to get out safely.

If you need a smoke alarm, the Farmington Hills Fire Department has a free smoke alarm installation program that has installed hundreds

of smoke alarms over the past 20 years. Fire Prevention staff members are committed to making sure that all homes in the City have working smoke alarms. For information about the free smoke alarm installation program, contact the Fire Prevention Division at 248-871-2820.

One of these rooms is  
**safer** than  
the **other**.

**CLISE**<sup>®</sup>  
BEFORE YOU DOZE

[CloseYourDoor.org](http://CloseYourDoor.org)



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are trademarks of UL LLC.

Fire is getting faster. A closed door helps stop the spread of fire. Close before you doze, it could save your life.

## ► **Close Before You Doze!**

A Closed Door Can Be the Difference Between Life and Death in a Fire

Fires burn faster today as a result of modern construction and synthetic home furnishing materials, so this led to a reexamination of safety messaging regarding sleeping with doors closed and closing doors behind you in the event of a fire.

The Underwriters Laboratories Firefighter Safety Research Institute started the “Close Before You Doze” campaign when they found that simply **closing your bedroom door** could have a potentially lifesaving impact. A room with an open door showed temperatures over 1,000 degrees Fahrenheit, while a room with a closed door had temperatures at only 100 degrees Fahrenheit. A closed door slowed

the spread of smoke, heat, and fire and kept room conditions survivable for a longer time.

In addition to pledging to “Close Before You Doze,” the Fire Department recommends that you install smoke alarms in every sleeping room and outside each separate sleeping area. For the best protection, make sure all smoke alarms are interconnected so that when one smoke alarm sounds, they all sound.

A fire during the past year at a Farmington Hills collision shop emphasized the importance of closed doors. Upon arrival, fire crews discovered heavy black smoke within the structure. Most of the damage

was in an office area, but many of the interior doors were closed, which stopped the fire from spreading throughout the building. “The damage could have been far worse but closed doors and working smoke alarms saved the business and potentially saved the lives of those who may have entered and those who responded,” said Fire Marshal Jason Baloga.

To see the dramatic difference a closed door can make, go to <https://youtu.be/bSP03BE74WA>

# CLERK'S OFFICE

## ▶ 2020 ELECTION INFORMATION

### **Tuesday, November 3, 2020 – Presidential Election**

#### **Important Deadlines**

- Monday, October 19 – Last day to register to vote in any matter other than **in-person** at your local Clerk's Office.
- Tuesday, October 20 through November 3 until 8 p.m. – A person may register to vote **in-person** at their local Clerk's Office with proof of residency.
- Friday, October 30 at 5 p.m. – Deadline to request an absent voter ballot to be mailed via First Class mail.
- Saturday, October 31, 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. City Clerk's Office open for Election-related business.
- Monday, November 2 until 4 p.m. – Last day for registered voters to request an absent voter ballot **in-person** at the Clerk's Office. Photo ID or completion of an Affidavit Not in Possession of Photo ID is required.

## ▶ PERMANENT ABSENT VOTER APPLICATION

A signed application is required for all Elections in order to receive a ballot. To automatically receive an absent voter application prior to each Election, contact the City Clerk's Office at 248-871-2410 or email a request to [permlist@fhgov.com](mailto:permlist@fhgov.com) to be placed on the permanent list. Please include your name, registered address, and a contact number.

Dual Absent Voter Ballot applications covering both the August and November Elections were mailed to voters on the permanent application list in late May. If you selected to receive a ballot for both August and November, the November ballot will be mailed at the beginning of October.



## ▶ 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 also to notify Associations of important information impacting their neighborhood. Please 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 send in updates when officers and contact information changes.



## 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](http://www.fhgov.com) and click on Employment.



# FINANCE DEPARTMENT

## ► 2020 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  
02**

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.

## TREASURY/ASSESSING OFFICE REMINDERS

- Summer property tax bills were mailed around June 30, 2020 and may be paid without penalty through August 31, 2020. 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 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.

**For more information, call the Treasurer's Office at 248-871-2480.**

# PUBLIC SERVICES DEPARTMENT



City of Farmington Hills Water Tower

## ► DPW FORESTRY CREWS TRIMMING TREES IN PUBLIC RIGHT-OF-WAY

The City is fortunate to have a large number of beautiful trees in residential neighborhoods. Many of these trees, however, are located within the public right-of-way near the edge of the road, which can cause problems with vehicles.

As trees mature, their lower branches often hang over the roadway and interfere with vehicles as they travel past. These branches can cause damage to the City's fire trucks, snow plows, and road maintenance vehicles, plus cause problems with private vehicles such as trash haulers, delivery trucks, and

mail trucks. Additionally, overhanging branches can interfere with people riding bicycles and cause harm to pedestrians.

Every year, the City takes action to maintain safe two-way travel on neighborhood streets. During the winter months when leaves are off the trees, the Division of Public Works sends their forestry crews into local neighborhoods to trim and prune any trees that are creating issues with vehicles. The City's expert staff conducts this work with precision so that when leaves are out in the spring, the pruning

will be professional looking and often unnoticeable.

Residents are also welcome to take a proactive approach and prune these overhanging limbs themselves.

Homeowners should also be aware of any landscaping that may obstruct sight lines at intersections or hide fire hydrants. Please ensure that there are clear views by all intersections and fire hydrants to enhance the safety of the neighborhood.

► **For further information about tree trimming, contact the DPW at 248-871-2850.**

## ▶ CURBSIDE RECYCLING

**The following items may be placed into your curbside recycling cart without being sorted:**

Plastic containers with lids including all narrow-neck and wide-mouth plastic bottles and containers marked with #1, #2, #4, #5 #6 (NO Styrofoam), #7

Bulky #2 plastics including cat litter buckets, large plastic pails, and molded kids' furniture

Newspaper, magazines, and catalogs

Junk mail, office paper, and phonebooks

Cardboard and boxboard including pizza boxes, shipping boxes, and food boxes; flatten as needed

Plastic-coated paper cartons for milk and juice; remove caps and straws but do not flatten

Glass bottles and jars, all colors are accepted; lids are also accepted

Household metals including empty cans, foil, pans, and small scrap metal

**Items NOT accepted in your curbside recycling cart:**

Plastic bags

Polystyrene foam (Styrofoam)

Shredded paper

Plastic and metal clothing and coat hangers

Plastic cutlery and straws

Batteries

Facial tissue, toilet paper, paper towel, and napkins

**Preparation of items to be recycled:**

Rinse containers to keep odors and pest problems at a minimum.

Labels do not need to be removed.

Keep caps on plastic bottles and containers.

Place all recycling items loose into your cart.

Don't put items in plastic bags; this makes more work for employees who sort materials at the Recovery Facility.

Flatten cardboard or paperboard boxes to make more space in your cart.



## ▶ SHREDDED PAPER IS **NOT** RECYCLABLE

Shredded paper should NOT be placed in your recycling cart. When shredded paper is put into paper bags then goes into the recycling cart, those bags tear open and the shredded paper contaminates other recyclables.

Even if shredded paper is placed in plastic bags, it is still not recyclable. The plastic bags are also not recyclable because they get caught in the machinery, which decreases efficiency and increases maintenance costs at the recycling facility. Thank you for recycling, but please place shredded paper in with your regular trash!

## 2020 HOLIDAY COLLECTION SCHEDULE GARBAGE/RECYCLING/YARD WASTE

### LABOR DAY - MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2020

Monday - No collection scheduled

Collection one day behind Tuesday - Saturday

### THANKSGIVING - THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 2020

Regular collection Monday - Wednesday

Thursday - No collection scheduled

Collection one day behind Friday - Saturday

### CHRISTMAS DAY - FRIDAY, DECEMBER 25, 2020

Regular collection Monday - Thursday

Friday - No collection scheduled

Collection one day behind - Friday collected Saturday

### NEW YEAR'S DAY - FRIDAY, JANUARY 1, 2021

Regular collection Monday - Thursday

Friday - No collection scheduled

Collection one day behind - Friday collected Saturday

### PLEASE NOTE:

Yard waste pickup will end during the week of December 7 with the last pickup day on Friday, December 11, 2020.





## ▶ SNOW PLOW PROGRESS MAP

For real-time information on City of Farmington Hills snow plowing operations, go to [www.fhgov.com](http://www.fhgov.com), click on the Government tab and then click on Reference/Map Gallery. Scroll down to the Snow Plowing Progress Map to see the current progress of snow plowing efforts after a winter storm.

## ▶ WINTER REMINDERS FROM THE DIVISION OF PUBLIC WORKS

### **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 rotates 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 center line 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 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 policy 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, give it a good shake to see if it needs to be repaired.

### **Safety Reminders**

In addition to driving defensively and carefully in inclement weather, please follow these important safety reminders: Discourage children from playing on snowbanks 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.

### **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.

### **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 Road, 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!

# PLANNING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

## 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 \$62,800. For information, call the Community Development Office at 248-871-2543 or go to [www.fhgov.com](http://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](http://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).

## WINTERIZE YOUR HOME

The City's Zoning Division offers tips on how to get your property ready for the cold weather:

- Clean gutters after all the leaves are down.
- Make sure that rainwater isn't pouring down and emptying at the corner of your house and 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 also 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 and damaged or dangling limbs that may come down; also keep trees trimmed well away from the house so limbs don't fall on your roof during a winter storm.
- Walk around your home and look up at your soffit and fascia to make sure there aren't any holes that allow critters to enter.
- 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.
- Cover your garbage cans with tight fitting lids to keep the animals out.
- Pick up dog droppings on a daily basis to maintain a clean yard and keep rodents away.

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