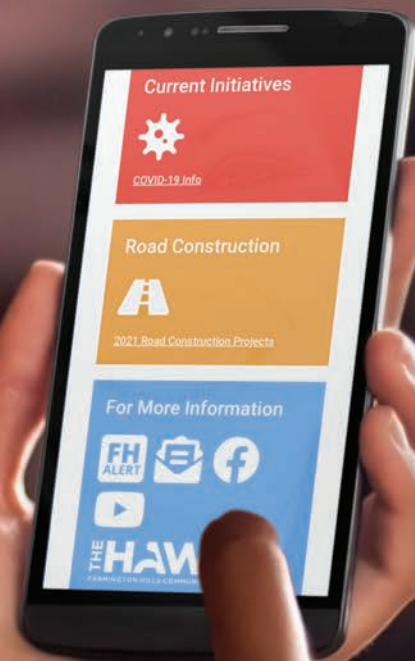


# FARMINGTON HILLS FOCUS



Fall-Early Winter 2021

## ► Stay Informed and Involved!

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

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

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

**Facebook** – Click on the Facebook icon at [www.fhgov.com](http://www.fhgov.com) and follow the news feed for all the latest updates on City events and programs.

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

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

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

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

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

## ► Don't Be a Scam Victim!

The Farmington Hills Police Department wants to alert residents that scammers may try to take advantage of you. Scammers might get in touch by phone, email, postal mail, text, or social media. Learn how to protect your money and your identity. Don't share personal information such as your bank account number, Social Security number, or date of birth. Don't fall victim to these common scams:

### Romance Scams

You meet someone special on a dating/gaming website. They start talking to you by email/phone. They profess their love for you, but they live far away and can't see you in person. They start asking for money. Follow these tips so that you do not become a victim:

- Don't play games online (word games, puzzles, etc.) with people you don't know.
- If you do play online games, don't share personal information online.
- Don't accept a friend request from an unknown individual on your personal social media account.
- Never send money to people you don't know.
- Make your profile picture an inanimate object or your favorite pet.
- Tell a friend or family member about this relationship.

### Lottery/Sweepstakes Scam

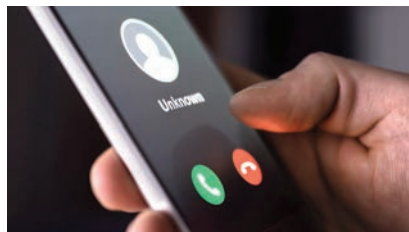
Have you received a piece of mail, a phone call, text message, or an email stating that you won a prize? These easy tips could prevent you from becoming a victim:

- If you have never played the lottery, be suspicious. You can't win the lottery if you didn't buy a ticket.
- No authentic lottery tells winners to put up their own money to collect a prize.
- Before you send money, do your research!

### Grandchild Scam

You receive a phone call that says: Grandma/Grandpa, I need money for bail. STOP and HANG UP! This caller will say anything to make it seem that you are speaking to your grandchild. Scammers are good at pretending to be someone that they are not. Try these easy steps if you receive this call:

- Hang up and call your grandchild or another family member.
- If you don't hang up, ask the caller a personal question that only you and your grandchild would know the answer to (pet name, a family trip, an injury). Get personal!
- Do not send payments via Western Union (or other overnight carriers) or gift cards.
- If the caller tells you not to tell anyone, STOP and HANG UP!



### Charity/Disaster Relief Scams

If you receive a phone call, text message, and/or e-mail asking for a donation from a charitable organization make sure you research the company before making a contribution.

- NEVER make a decision under pressure.
- Only give to established charities.
- Do your research. Visit the Better Business Bureau to check the charities ratings: [www.give.org](http://www.give.org)

Anyone who believes they were scammed is asked to make a report with their local police department. If you have any information regarding these scams, please call the Farmington Hills Police Department Command Desk at 248-871-2610.

## WINTER DRIVING TIPS

Between 2015 and 2019, there were 402 fatalities and 2,699 serious injuries on icy, snowy, or slushy roads in Michigan, according to the Michigan State Police. And while it's easy to blame the weather, every driver can take responsibility for winter driving safety by following a few simple tips.

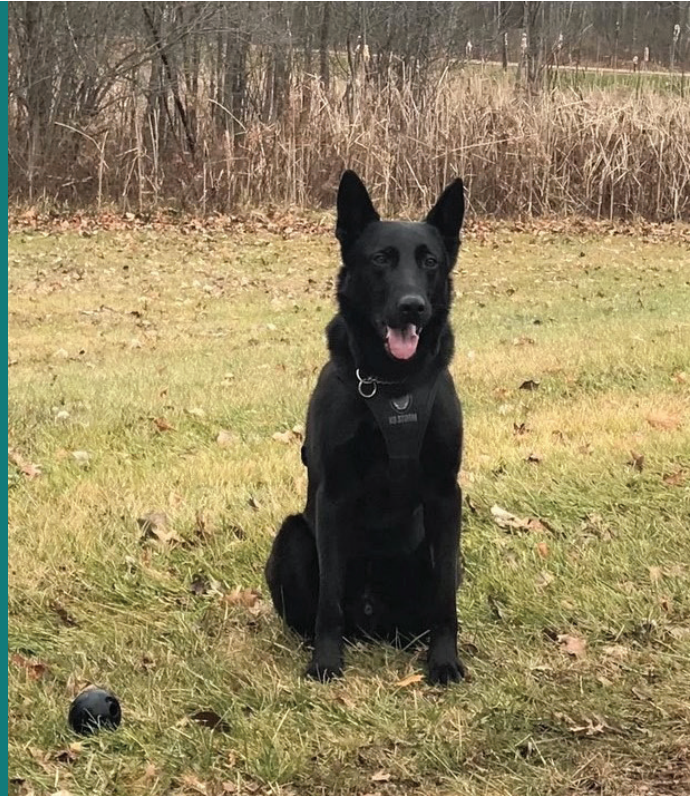
The Farmington Hills Police Department offers these recommendations on how to make the roads safer for everyone this winter:

- Stay home if possible; only go out if necessary. Even if you can drive well in bad weather, it's better to avoid taking unnecessary risks by venturing out.
- Drive slowly. Always reduce your speed to account for lower traction when driving on snow or ice.
- Accelerate and decelerate slowly. Apply the gas slowly to regain traction and avoid skids. Don't try to get moving in a hurry and take time to slow down for a stoplight. Remember: It takes longer to slow down on icy roads.
- Increase your following distance to five to six seconds. This increased margin of safety will provide the longer distance needed if you must stop.
- Know your brakes. Whether you have antilock brakes or not, keep the heel of your foot on the floor and use the ball of your foot to apply firm, steady pressure on the brake pedal.
- Don't stop if you can avoid it. There's a big difference in the amount of inertia it takes to start moving from a full stop versus how much it takes to get moving while still rolling. If you can slow down enough to keep rolling until a traffic light changes, do it.
- Don't power up hills. Applying extra gas on snow-covered roads will just make your wheels spin. Try to get a little inertia going before you reach the hill and let that inertia carry you to the top. As you reach the crest of the hill, reduce your speed, and proceed downhill slowly.



## ► DOZER CELEBRATES HIS THREE-YEAR WORK ANNIVERSARY WITH THE POLICE DEPARTMENT

In 2018, Police Officer Ryan Yudt traveled to Ohio and met his K9 partner Dozer for the first time. In the three years since then, they have worked as a team serving the residents of Farmington Hills. Officer Yudt and Dozer have apprehended criminals, uncovered narcotics, and found lost children. As the pandemic lifts and people are vaccinated, Dozer looks forward to more opportunities to greet residents at community events. Happy Anniversary, Dozer - we wish you many more!



## ► STORAGE UNIT THEFT PREVENTION TIPS

The self-storage industry has become very large and increasingly popular. According to recent statistics, the United States has more than 50,000 facilities and roughly 2.3 billion square feet of rentable storage unit space.

When placing valuable items in storage, you'll want to make sure they're safe. The Farmington Hills Police Department offers these tips to prevent storage unit theft:

- Keep labels on boxes generic (kitchen, living room, garage etc.)
- Buy a disc lock or a padlock with a shorter shackle.
- Visit the unit at least twice per month if possible.
- Place the most valuable or sentimental items in the back of unit.

- Keep an inventory of the items being stored; take photos of unique or high value items.
- The renter should be the only person with a key to the unit.
- If you notice suspicious activity while at the storage facility, contact your

local police department and inform storage facility management.

To report any suspicious activity, contact the Farmington Hills Police Department at 248-871-2600. In an emergency, dial 911 immediately.



# FIRE DEPARTMENT



Fire Marshal Jason Baloga

## ► CHANGE YOUR CLOCKS AND SMOKE ALARM BATTERIES ON SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 7

The Farmington Hills Fire Department and the National Fire Protection Association urge all residents to change their smoke alarm batteries when changing their clocks from daylight savings time to standard time on Sunday, November 7, 2021. "It's an easy, inexpensive, and proven way to protect your family and your home," said Fire Marshal Jason Baloga.

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

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

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

## ► PREPARE YOUR VEHICLE FOR WINTER

As colder temperatures arrive, the Farmington Hills Fire Department recommends that you winterize your vehicle. Follow these tips to get your car or truck ready for winter:

- Top off the windshield washer fluid and use a formula designed for winter.
- Test your battery to see if it's corroded or needs to be replaced.
- Always maintain proper tire pressure when temperatures fall.
- Rotate your tires and replace any that show wear and tear; consider getting a set of winter tires.
- Have your brakes inspected and serviced at the start of the season.
- Replace your wiper blades if needed.
- Always keep your gas tank more than half full. Empty space in a gas tank can cause moisture to build up, which can freeze and damage your car.

When severe weather is predicted, or if you are going on a trip, be sure to equip your vehicle with the following emergency supplies, kept in a storage bin:

- Flashlight with extra batteries
- Windshield scraper
- Jumper cables
- Fire extinguisher
- Shovel
- Blanket/heavy clothes
- Flares
- Bottled water/snacks
- First aid kit
- Tow chain or rope
- De-icer
- Anti-freeze

Winter-proofing your vehicle can prevent a breakdown or even an accident. It's worth the time, effort, and expense now to prepare for the cold weather ahead!







## ► Carbon Monoxide Poisoning

Carbon monoxide is often called the “silent killer” because it is an invisible, odorless, and colorless gas. Home heating equipment (furnaces, hot water heaters, fireplaces, dryers) and cooking equipment are the typical sources of carbon monoxide. Starting your car or operating generators in an attached garage can also produce dangerous levels of carbon monoxide. If you plan to warm up your vehicle on cold mornings, pull it out of the garage and away from your home.

According to the CDC, over 400 people die every year in the U.S. from accidental carbon monoxide poisoning and approximately 50,000 people visit the emergency department. The dangers involved depend on several variables. Infants, pregnant women, and people with conditions that limit their ability to use oxygen (emphysema, asthma, or heart disease) may be affected by lower levels of carbon monoxide more than a healthy adult.

High levels of carbon monoxide can be fatal and can cause death within minutes. Carbon monoxide enters the body through breathing and symptoms can often be confused with the flu or food poisoning. You may experience shortness of breath, nausea, dizziness, or headaches.

The Farmington Hills Fire Department recommends that you follow these tips to stay safe and prevent carbon monoxide poisoning:

- A carbon monoxide alarm is not a substitute for a smoke alarm. Both should be installed in your home.
- Install carbon monoxide alarms in a central location outside each sleeping area to provide early detection and warning.
- Know the difference between the sound of your carbon monoxide alarm and your smoke alarm.
- Like smoke alarms, carbon monoxide alarms should be tested monthly.
- Never use an oven to heat your home.
- Fuel-burning appliances should be inspected by a professional contractor every year before colder weather sets in.
- After a snowstorm, make sure your vents for the dryer, furnace, stove, and fireplace are clear of any snow buildup that can affect proper venting.

If your carbon monoxide alarm sounds, turn off any fuel-burning appliances, immediately move to an area with fresh air, and call 9-1-1. Never ignore a carbon monoxide alarm!

## Home Heating Equipment



Have fuel-burning heating equipment and chimneys inspected by a professional every year before cold weather sets in. When using a fireplace, open the flue for adequate ventilation. Never use your oven to heat your home.



# FINANCE DEPARTMENT

## ▶ 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 01** LAST DAY TO FILE PRIMARY RESIDENCE EXEMPTION AFFIDAVIT, FOR WINTER TAXES ONLY.

**nov 30** WINTER TAX BILLS MAILED.

**dec 31** TAXABLE STATUS SET FOR COMING YEAR'S BILL.

## OPTIONS FOR PAYING TAXES

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

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

## REMINDERS FROM THE TREASURER'S OFFICE

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





**FREE ADMISSION**

# CITY WIDE OPEN HOUSE



**SUNDAY  
OCTOBER 3  
12-3PM**

**CITY HALL CAMPUS  
31555 W. ELEVEN MILE RD.  
FARMINGTON HILLS**



**PLAY  
EXPLORE  
LEARN  
LIVE**

- // BOUNCE HOUSE
- // FACE PAINTING
- // SAFETY HOUSE
- // FREE HOT DOGS  
CHIPS & WATER

- // KID CRAFTS
- // FUN GAMES
- // JAIL CELL TOURS
- // DOZER THE  
POLICE DOG

- // DRIVING SIMULATORS
- // FIRE ESCAPE LADDER
- // BOMB SQUAD VEHICLE
- // FIREFIGHTER  
OBSTACLE COURSE

Presented by:



Call Us: **248-871-2500**

**...AND MORE**



# CLERK'S OFFICE

## 2021 ELECTION INFORMATION

### Tuesday, November 2, 2021 – City General Election

Mayor – Vote for One (Two-Year Term)

City Council Member – Vote for Three (Four-Year Term)

Public Safety Millage Renewal

### ▶ IMPORTANT DATES AND DEADLINES TO REMEMBER

- Monday, September 20 – First day to request an Absent Voter Ballot in-person at the Clerk's Office. Mailing of absent voter ballots will begin to voters who have already submitted an absent voter ballot application to the Clerk's Office.
- Monday, October 18 – Last day to register to vote in any matter other than in-person at your local Clerk's Office.
- Tuesday, October 19 through Tuesday, November 2 until 8 p.m. – A person may register to vote **in-person** at their local Clerk's Office with **proof of residency**.
- Friday, October 29, 5 p.m. - Deadline for voters to request an absent voter ballot to be mailed via first class mail.
- Saturday, October 30, 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. City Clerk's Office will be open for Election related business.
- Monday, November 1, 4 p.m. – Deadline for registered voters to request an absent voter ballot in-person at the Clerk's Office. Ballots must be voted **in-person** at the Clerk's Office.
- Tuesday, November 2 until 8 p.m. - A person registering to vote **in-person** at the Clerk's Office may obtain and vote an absent voter ballot with proof of residency or vote in-person at their proper polling location. Polling locations are open from 7 a.m. – 8 p.m.

Please visit [www.fhgov.com](http://www.fhgov.com) for sample ballots, absent voter ballot applications, and more!

### Permanent Absent Voter Application List

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

### UPDATE YOUR HOMEOWNER ASSOCIATION CONTACTS



The City Clerk's Office maintains a list of Homeowner Associations with contact information to provide to new residents and to notify Associations of important information impacting their neighborhood. Please submit updated contact information to [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.

**WATCH FOR  
ADDITIONAL  
INFORMATION  
IN THE SPECIAL  
ELECTION EDITION  
OF THE FOCUS  
NEWSLETTER  
THAT WILL BE IN  
MAILBOXES BY  
EARLY OCTOBER.**





# PUBLIC SERVICES DEPARTMENT

## ► DPW CREW PREPARES FOR WINTER

Throughout the late fall, the hard-working employees at the City's Division of Public Works (DPW) get ready to ensure that residents and visitors will drive on safe streets free of snow and ice this winter. Snowplow trucks are serviced and ready to go and snowplow drivers free up their schedules in preparation for working long hours during the night and early morning after winter storm events.

Crews also prepare the special mixture of beet juice and salt brine that's used

to "stripe" the City's main roads before the snow falls and ice builds up. The beet juice, a byproduct from making table sugar, helps salt brine work at lower temperatures to treat icy or snow-packed surfaces. This mixture is also less corrosive and more environmentally friendly than traditional road salt.

The brine mix is stored in large tanks at the DPW and loaded into specially equipped trucks that spray the mixture onto road surfaces before storms arrive. The City

of Farmington Hills has been using the beet juice and salt brine mixture to fight icy road conditions since 2005. Our DPW has won awards and received national recognition as a leader in promoting this cost-saving practice that recycles a farming byproduct, protects our waterways from excess salt, and keeps roads safer for our residents.



Specially equipped trucks spray the brine mixture onto road surfaces.

## 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 an 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 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, it is a good idea to give it a hard shake to see if it needs to be replaced.

## 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.

## 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.

## 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 for you to spread between road crew treatments. 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!

## SNOWPLOW PROGRESS MAP

For real-time information on City of Farmington Hills snow plowing operations, go to the City website at [www.fhgov.com](http://www.fhgov.com) and click on the Government tab, then click on Reference/Map Gallery and scroll down to the Snow Plowing Progress Map. This displays the current progress of snow plowing efforts after a winter storm and shows the sections of the City where snow plowing is underway or completed. You can also enter your address to see if snow plowing is in progress on your street.







## ▶ HOW RECYCLING WORKS

### ▶ PREPARING YOUR RECYCLABLES

As technology improves, less preparation is needed before placing your recyclables in your cart. Here are some recycling preparation tips:

- Containers should be rinsed to help keep odors from attracting pests.
- Labels do not need to be removed.
- Caps can remain on plastic bottles and containers.
- Cardboard or paperboard boxes should be flattened to create more space.
- All items should be loose in your bin/cart. Do NOT place any items in plastic bags. Bags are not opened and will end up going to the landfill.

### ▶ ITEMS NOT ACCEPTED IN YOUR CURBSIDE RECYCLING CONTAINER:

- Plastic bags
- Polystyrene foam (Styrofoam)
- Plastic and metal clothing and coat hangers
- Plastic cutlery and straws
- Facial tissue, toilet paper, paper towel, napkins
- Batteries
- Shredded paper
- Household trash

Recycling is the process of taking a product at the end of its useful life and using all or part of it to make another product. Sounds simple enough, right? You put your recycling in a cart to be taken away and poof...it's recycled.

Unfortunately, it's not that simple. Most people don't really know what happens to their toilet paper rolls, milk jugs, and soup cans once they are picked up/dropped off.

**Collection** - In our communities, we have what is known as single stream recycling. Single stream recycling refers to a collection system that allows homeowners to place all their recycling together in a curbside cart. Be sure that you are only putting acceptable items in your cart.

On your collection day, your curbside cart is picked up by your city's contracted hauler. Once collected, the recyclables will be delivered to the RRRASOC Material Recovery Facility in Southfield. The trucks empty the recyclables inside the building on the tipping floor.

**Sorting** - After the recyclables are at the MRF on the tipping floor, they are loaded into an infeed hopper by a front loader to begin the sorting process. The hopper feeds the recyclables onto a conveyor system that carries the materials to various sorting stations where manual or mechanical sorting takes place. There are many stations to the sorting process where the different types of material are separated from one another.

**Baling and Shipment** - After the material is sorted, it is loaded into bunkers before being sent to the baler for compacting, except for glass which is loaded directly into trailers from its bunker.

Once a bunker is full, the sorted material is emptied onto a conveyor system and fed into the baler. Finished bales are placed in storage until they can be loaded onto trucks and shipping containers that deliver the baled product to end markets.

**Manufacturing** - Trucks loads of material from the MRF are sold and shipped to facilities such as paper mills, secondary processors, and manufacturers throughout the U.S., North America, and the rest of the world.

Materials made from paper such as office paper, cardboard and newspaper are shipped to paper mills to make new paper products. Aluminum cans are recycled into new aluminum cans. Bales of steel are melted down and made into new steel products. Plastic processors and manufacturers use the recycled plastic to make a variety of new products including plastic bottles and containers, carpeting, and fleece clothing.

For more information, go to the Recycling Authority website at [www.rrrasoc.org](http://www.rrrasoc.org).



## ▶ GO GREEN AT THE HOLIDAYS!



The holiday season is often called the most wonderful time of year, but it's also the most waste-filled! From Thanksgiving to New Year's, the amount of waste generated increases by 25%. Here are some tips for going "green" at the holidays:

### **Gift wrapping – Over 50,000 trees are used annually to make wrapping paper that's thrown away after one use. Alternatives include:**

- Magazine pages
- Old maps
- Newspapers or comics
- Reusable tins, baskets, or bags
- Tea towels or scarves

### **Cards – Over 2.6 billion holiday cards are sold each year! To reduce waste:**

- Send an e-card.
- Buy cards made from recycled materials.
- Recycle holiday cards (ones with glitter or metallic designs are not recyclable).
- Reuse old cards as gift tags.

### **Reduce, reuse, or recycle:**

- Reuse tissue paper, gift bags, and cards each year.
- Recycle wrapping paper that's free of glitter and metallic designs.
- Reuse wrapping paper by carefully unwrapping gifts.
- Reduce the need for wrapping and ask for unwrapped gifts in the future.
- Give reusable gifts like water bottles, bamboo silverware, or canvas bags.

### **Give experiences instead of things:**

- Make homemade goodies together like bread, jam, cookies, or freezer meals.
- Give plants, trees, or seeds to plant together in next year's garden.
- Make a gift of your time by doing errands, chores, home repairs, or babysitting.
- Give year-round gifts like memberships or passes to a zoo, gym, or spa.
- Organize future visits to state parks or museums.
- Give event tickets or gift certificates to local restaurants.

For more green tips, go to [www.rrrasoc.org](http://www.rrrasoc.org) or call 248-208-2270.

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

For the holidays listed below, there will be a delay in curbside collection of trash, recycling, or yard waste. All other holidays throughout the year will not affect curbside collection schedules. Please note that if your regularly scheduled collection day is Friday, collection will take place on Saturday.

**Labor Day** - Monday, September 6, 2021: Monday - Friday routes on a one-day delay.

**Thanksgiving Day** - Thursday, November 25, 2021: Thursday and Friday routes on a one-day delay. No delay Monday - Wednesday.

**Christmas Day** - Saturday, December 25, 2021: No change in pickups.

**New Year's Day** - Saturday, January 1, 2022: No change in pickups.

**Please note:** Yard waste pickup will end on your regularly scheduled collection day during the week of December 13-17, 2021.

# PLANNING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

## BUILDING DIVISION NOW OFFERS PERMIT APPLICATIONS ONLINE



Are you thinking about making changes or updates to your home? The City's Building Division has made the process easier for homeowners and contractors with permit applications now available online for several home improvement categories.

Instead of heading to City Hall or calling the Building Division, you can now apply for a permit conveniently and quickly 24/7 through the streamlined online process. To apply for a permit, go to the City's Online Permit Application page at [www.bsasonline.com/?uid=316](http://www.bsasonline.com/?uid=316) and click on Apply for a Permit in the Services column. Contractors will need to obtain an account number with the BS&A municipal services system before applying.

**For more information, call the Building Division at 248-871-2450 or email [bdinspectrequest@fhgov.com](mailto:bdinspectrequest@fhgov.com).**

Homeowners and contractors may now apply and pay for these simple permits online:

- Building – Reroof
- Building – Window Replacement (within existing openings; includes entry/patio doors)
- Electrical
- Mechanical
- Mechanical – New or Replacement Air Conditioning (site plan required)
- Plumbing
- Fences

After applying online, you will receive an email confirming that your permit application is being reviewed by Building Division staff. Once your application is approved, you will be emailed a payment link. You can pay the permit fee via credit card (eChecks are not accepted) with a 3% or \$2 minimum fee. Only individual project permits are offered, whole project permits are not available. More permit categories will be added as the online system expands.

## 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.

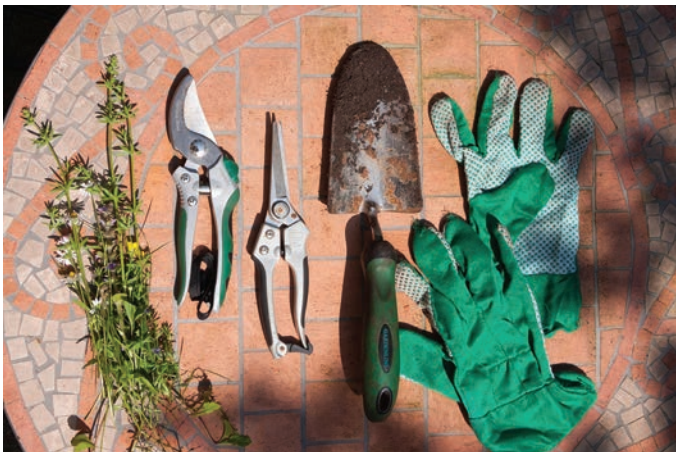
For more information on housing discrimination, visit [www.hud.gov/fairhousing](http://www.hud.gov/fairhousing). If you have a housing discrimination complaint, contact the Michigan Department of Civil Rights at 313-456-3700 or the HUD hotline at 1-800-669-9777 or 1-800-927-9275 (TTY).

## ▶ 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.



## FALL PLANT AND SEED SWAP SEPTEMBER 18 AT HERITAGE PARK

Wrap up your garden this fall with the Farmington Hills Beautification Commission's Fall Plant and Seed Swap on Saturday, September 18 from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. The event takes place – rain or shine - at the Heritage Park Visitor's Center parking lot, located off Farmington Road between Ten and Eleven Mile Roads.

Every year, both amateur and Master Gardeners come armed with plants from their gardens, eager to swap them for new and sometimes exotic species. Come prepared, bright and early, with gloves and your favorite labeled plants and seeds to exchange. The Beautification Commission, Garden Club members, and Master Gardeners will all be on hand to answer any questions. For more information, call Charmaine Kettler-Schultz in the City's Community Development Office at 248-871-2543.

A photograph of the City of Farmington Hills building, a modern structure with large glass windows and a blue sky. The image is overlaid with a purple and pink graphic featuring a grid of orange dots. A Facebook logo is visible in the bottom right corner of the graphic.

**STAY IN  
THE KNOW:**  
*Follow the City of  
Farmington Hills  
on Facebook*

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## CITY OF FARMINGTON HILLS NOW HIRING!

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

