



Argos, the Police Department K-9

VOTE on Tuesday, November 3, 2015

Maintain the High Quality of Life in Farmington Hills

Public Safety Millage RENEWAL

Over 40 Public Safety positions are funded by the Millage RENEWAL

Fall/Winter 2015

City Council

Mayor – Barry Brickner
Mayor Pro Tem – Ken Massey

Michael Bridges
Randy Bruce
Valerie Knol
Richard Lerner
Samantha Steckloff

Acting City Manager
Dave Boyer

The Focus newsletter can also be found at www.fhgov.com. Go to Quick Links on the home page and click on Newsletter. Click on the "+" button on the toolbar to increase the magnification of the entire page.



Register online for classes and programs at https://recreg.fhgov.com. 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-Friday, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Resident Concerns Contact Us By Email

Contact us by email at www.fhgov.com. The inquiry form requires you to fill in your contact information for a follow up. Inquiries are automatically routed to the responsible department and follow up typically occurs within 24 hours, Monday through Friday. Direct more specific or complex inquiries to the appropriate department or call 248-871-2400.



Maintain Excellence in Public Safety



One of Michigan's Safest Cities

Fast Facts

- The Farmington Hills Emergency Dispatch Center (one of the busiest in Oakland County) received over 40,000 9-1-1 calls in 2014 - an average of 111 per day, which increases yearly.
In the past five years, there has been a 27% increase in run volume in response to emergency incidents.
Fire Fighter/Paramedics respond to over 8,700 annual incidents, the majority being medical emergencies with many requiring advanced life support and transport to a trauma center.
Police respond to over 27,000 annual incidents.
According to C. Q. Press Safe City Rankings, Farmington Hills (the 14th largest City in the State) consistently ranks among the top five Safest Cities in Michigan and is the 40th Safest City in the Country.



Record Low Levels of Crime

Did you know?

- In 2014, burglaries, auto thefts, and larceny from autos had the lowest numbers ever recorded in the City's 42-year history.
Part A crimes (the 20 most serious categories) are at the lowest level in 24 years.
Increased public education efforts, including school assembly programs, were presented to over 6,000 students in 2014.
The City's Neighborhood Watch Program was revitalized with 118 Neighborhood Watch programs now active.
Police Officers and Fire Fighters have undertaken new training programs focusing on seniors, mental health, and diversity.
Inspection of local businesses for fire safety code compliance continues to increase.
The Crime Prevention Program was reinstated with technicians providing free residential and business security inspections.
Farmington Hills Public Safety services are rated among the finest in Michigan and in the Nation due to high standards of training that reinforce solid core skills.
The City coordinates with the Michigan State Police Division of Homeland Security for disasters and emergency preparedness.
Farmington Hills reduces public safety costs through mutual aid agreements and shared services with other cities.



Calculate Your Investment in the Public Safety Millage RENEWAL

To determine your investment in this Public Safety Millage, as in year's past, multiply your home's assessed value x .0014764:

Your home's fair market value = \$150,000
Your home's assessed value = \$75,000
Multiply \$75,000 x .0014764 = \$110.73 annually

The Public Safety Millage RENEWAL, if approved in the Election on November 3, 2015, will be effective on your July 2016 tax bill.

YOUR TAX DOLLAR
The Public Safety Millage RENEWAL will be contained in the "City" portion of the total property taxes. If renewed, only four cents of every tax dollar collected will pay for this Public Safety Millage.
County 13.95% Education 57% City 29.05%
Includes images of a dollar bill and coins.

Maintain Staffing Levels in the City's Award-Winning Public Safety Team
Includes logos for Farmington Hills Police and Fire-Rescue, and a dedication statement: 'The Farmington Hills Police and Fire Departments remain dedicated to their mission statements, which include a commitment to "...the delivery of superior public safety services without prejudice or partiality.''

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

POLICE DEPARTMENT



Larceny from Autos

After recording the lowest number of larceny from autos in City history last year, thefts are up 40% through the summer of 2015 with 90% of the thefts from unlocked cars. Police officers arrested several persons this year who shared that they never risk breaking into locked cars. Help keep our City safe and take a bite out of crime – lock your doors and keep valuables out of sight!

School Safety Information

This year in Michigan, over 800,000 students will ride the bus to school each day. The Police Department's Traffic Safety Section reminds parents, students, and motorists to use extra caution with the school year underway. Students should wear bright clothing or reflective materials, especially in the dark early mornings, and should walk to their bus stop on the sidewalk, or if one is not available, as far to the side of the road as possible. They should remain aware of their surroundings at all times and not assume that an approaching motorist sees them. Motorists should be aware of the increased foot traffic and always stop for school busses loading or unloading students when their red flashing lights are displayed. To avoid vision obstructions near bus stops, vehicles should not be parked within an intersection, crosswalk or within 20 feet of a crosswalk, or within 30 feet of a stop sign. Staying alert is the key to having a safe and successful school year.

If you have any concerns regarding school bus safety, bus stops, or other school transportation issues, please call the Farmington Public Schools Transportation Department at 248-489-3700. Any concerns or reports about traffic safety may be directed to the Farmington Hills Police Department Traffic Safety Section at 248-871-2630.

School Liaison Officer Program

For over 25 years, the Farmington Hills Police Department, in cooperation with the Farmington Public Schools, has assigned school liaison officers to act as a law enforcement resource to all public and private schools within the City. These officers investigate incidents that occur on school property; serve as resources for school administration, staff, and students; and provide a link between the students and the Police Department.

Student safety is a high priority of the police department and the liaison officers assist in developing procedures and practices within the school district that create a safe learning environment. Liaison officers monitor and evaluate "lock down, take cover" drills throughout the school district. Liaison officers participate in anti-bullying programs and also receive specialized training in drug recognition and juvenile law. The City of Farmington Hills Police Department School Liaison Officers maintain working offices at both North Farmington and Harrison High Schools and can be contacted either through their assigned school or through the Police Department at 248-871-2600.

Liaison officers are also involved in the State wide "OK2SAY" program, which is designed to empower students, parents, school personnel, community mental health service programs, and law enforcement to share and respond to student safety threats. The goal of OK2SAY is to stop harmful behavior before it occurs by encouraging students to report threatening behavior to caring adult authorities who can help. Featuring a comprehensive communication system that facilitates tip submissions through telephone, text, website, e-mail, and multimedia technologies, OK2SAY enables Michigan residents to confidentially report student safety threats to trained program operators, who forward tips to local law enforcement agencies, school officials, or community mental health programs for a timely response.

Submit a tip to OK2SAY:

Submit tips 24/7 with multimedia attachments by:

Phone: 855-565-2729

Text: 652729 (OK2SAY)

Email: ok2say@mi.gov

Web: www.mi.gov/ok2say

Download: The OK2SAY app is available in the App stores for iPhone and Android.

Georgetown University Energy Prize

The Farmington Community is off to a strong start, currently placing fifth out of 50 competitors for the \$5 million Georgetown University Energy Prize. Although this early ranking could change, it illustrates that the Greater Farmington Community has a real shot at bringing the \$5 million prize home. You can help by "putting your energy where it counts!" For competition updates, visit www.sustainablefh.com.

Economic Development

Do you own a business in Farmington Hills? Are you looking for capital or hiring new employees? The Economic Development Department can help your business grow by connecting you with valuable resources through the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC), Oakland County, and the Federal government. One example is Community Ventures, which can provide your business with up to \$5,000 for each eligible new hire. Go to <http://www.mitalent.org/community-ventures/> for details.

Watch for information on Tech248 meet-ups where tech entrepreneurs can network with potential new employees. Go to www.mitech248.com for details on upcoming events. For more information on Economic Development, click on the Business tab at www.fhgov.com.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Annual Fire Prevention Open House

Friday, October 2, 3 - 7 p.m., Fire Station Five, 31455 Eleven Mile Road at Orchard Lake Road in the City Hall Complex.

Kids can dress up in firefighters' gear, meet Sparky the Fire Dog, practice Stop, Drop and Roll, visit the Fire Safety House, and hop into a fire truck. Information booths will be staffed by Beaumont Hospital—Farmington Hills, the Farmington Hills Police Department, and the Farmington/Farmington Hills Emergency Preparedness Commission.



Smoke Alarm Safety

- Install smoke alarms inside every bedroom, outside each sleeping area, and on every level of the home, including the basement.
- Larger homes may need additional smoke alarms to provide enough protection.
- For the best protection, interconnect all smoke alarms so when one sounds, they all sound.
- An ionization smoke alarm is generally more responsive to flaming fires and a photoelectric smoke alarm is generally more responsive to smoldering fires. For the best protection, both types of alarms or combination ionization and photoelectric alarms (also known as dual sensor alarms) are recommended.
- Smoke alarms should be installed away from the kitchen to prevent false alarms. Generally, they should be at least 10 feet from a cooking appliance.
- Smoke alarms have a maximum service life of 10 years when properly maintained. Replace all smoke alarms before they are 10 years old.
- Test all smoke alarms monthly.
- Consider purchasing and installing a new 10-year 9 volt battery and only change your battery once.
- Through its Smoke Alarm Installation Program, the Fire Department wants to ensure that all residents are provided with early warning in the event of a fire. If your home is not properly protected, contact Fire Prevention at 248-871-2820.

Change your clock; change your smoke alarm battery. This year remember to change your clock and battery on Sunday, November 1, 2015.

Heating Safety

- Keep anything that can burn at least three feet away from heating equipment, like the furnace, fireplace, wood stove or portable space heaters.
- Have a three-foot "kid-free zone" around open fires and space heaters.
- Never use your oven to heat your home.
- Have a qualified professional install stationary space heating equipment, water heaters or central heating equipment according to the local codes and manufacturers' instructions.
- Have heating equipment and chimneys cleaned and inspected every year by a qualified professional.
- Remember to turn portable heaters off when leaving the room or going to bed.
- Install and maintain carbon monoxide (CO) alarms to avoid the risk of CO poisoning.
- Always use the right kind of fuel, as specified by the manufacturer, for fuel burning space heaters.
- Make sure the fireplace has a sturdy screen to stop sparks from flying into the room. Ashes should be cool before putting them into a metal container. Keep the container a safe distance away from your home.

Open Burning

- Open burning (campfires, etc.) is only allowed when following specific guidelines on the site of a single family dwelling using an approved semi-enclosed device that can be purchased from a local retailer.
- When choosing a location for your burn area, make sure it is at least eight feet away from any surfaces that could easily catch fire, such as wooden decks and patio furniture. Likewise, you do not want it to be underneath any electrical or utility service wires.
- Only seasoned fire wood may be burned, at no time is the burning of yard waste allowed. Please consult Section 12-14 of the City municipal code for guidelines or call Fire Prevention at 248-871-2820 for clarification.

Recycling 101

In 2015, the City of Farmington Hills recycled 43% of its waste - the national average is 34% and the statewide average is only 14%!

Participating in curbside recycling provides economic and environmental benefits to our community. Quality material, however, is the key to the overall success of the recycling program. Unacceptable materials and contaminants reduce the end-market quality and value of the recyclables.

Unacceptable items such as garden hoses, plastic grocery bags, disposable diapers, needles, yard waste, and food waste all cause significant problems in the recycling process. These items decrease the value of the recycled material, expose employees to health and safety issues, and reduce the productivity of the recycling facility.

REMINDERS:

- Only recyclable items go in the recycling cart. Follow the reference list of allowable materials printed on the cart lid or at www.rrrasoc.org.
- Don't pile extra items next to the recycling cart. Only recyclable items that are in the cart will be recycled.
- Don't put any plastic bags or garbage in the recycling cart.

Remember to have all trash, recycling, and yard waste to the road edge by 7 a.m. on the assigned pickup day. The waste hauler's schedule can change from week to week due to staffing and equipment issues.

For more information, call the DPW at 248-871-2850 or visit www.fhgov.com.



PLANNING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Storm Damage to Trees

- Storms can damage property and trees during any season. Wind, rain, snow and ice can damage branches or even uproot a whole tree. Homeowners may have a tough decision whether to salvage or remove a damaged tree.
- Look for hazards – Trees and branches can be unstable and utilities may be disrupted. Professional tree removal/trimming companies will be required if hazardous conditions exist and a certified arborist may be necessary to ensure a safe removal. For information, go to the International Society of Arboriculture website at <http://www.isa-arbor.com>.
- Beware of the quick fix – Be cautious with contractors who pressure you to take the tree down right away. The contractor may not know how to trim or remove hazardous trees. Don't rush into an agreement only to end up damaging property further.
- Evaluate the tree – Careful observation is necessary to determine the extent of storm damage. A tree that loses large branches could have other underlying issues such as rot in the trunk or an unstable structure. Check out the National Arbor Day Foundation's basic assessment of whether to "keep" or "cut." Go to www.arborday.org and look up "Tree Recovery for Homeowners."
- Find out about local regulations – City regulations may apply to tree removals if more than two trees larger than about 6" in diameter (measured 4" off the ground) are planned for removal and the trees do not show significant damage. Contact the Planning Office at 248-871-2540 about required permits.

Housing Rehabilitation Program

Home Repair Loans

Homeowners may be eligible for loans to replace roofs, windows, furnaces, septic fields or hot water tanks through funding provided by the U.S. Housing and Urban Development Office (HUD). To qualify for this program, 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 \$54,150. For information, call the Community Development Office at 248-871-2543 or go to www.fhgov.com and look under Housing Rehabilitation.

Planning Office

The Planning Commission will be reviewing the City-wide Master Plan this calendar year. The purpose of a Master Plan is to provide a long-range guide for land use development and redevelopment that best reflects the goals of the community and its residents while promoting the health, safety, and welfare of the people both living and working in Farmington Hills. The current Master Plan, available for viewing at www.fhgov.com, was adopted by the Planning Commission in 2009. Since its adoption, the Planning Commission has worked to implement many of the plan's goals.

Historic District Commission

The Historic District Commission (HDC) safeguards the City's heritage by working to preserve the 73 existing designated historic properties and sites. The HDC believes that increasing awareness and telling the "story" of the buildings and sites is an effective way of promoting preservation. The HDC produced a series of videos that highlight historic buildings and sites that can be viewed on the City's YouTube channel, via www.fhgov.com. To view an interactive map with information on the City's historic districts, go to the HDC web page under the Planning and Community Development Department section of City's website at www.fhgov.com.

Zoning Division- Fall/Winter Home Checklist

- **Exterior** – Seal any holes, cracks or openings at least three feet up from the foundation. Examine windows for leaks or drafts. Caulk all areas as needed.
- **Swimming pool** – Take appropriate measures to close your pool until next spring.
- **Yard clean-up** – Remove any piles of leaves, tree and garden debris, and grass clippings. Store ladders, lawn mowers, tools, patio furniture or other yard objects indoors to prevent weather damage and avoid harboring rodents.
- **Trash** – Keep in containers with tight-fitting lids. Dispose of pet waste daily.
- **Firewood storage** – Keep wood stacked above the ground, the recommended minimum height is 18 inches.
- **Snow removal** – Be considerate! Don't place snow directly on your neighbor's property and don't block their view along the driveway by piling snow too high. Please ask your contractor to do the same.

Questions? Call the Zoning Division at 248-871-2520.

PUBLIC SERVICES DEPARTMENT

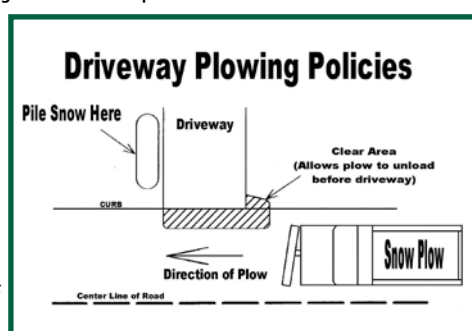
Winter Reminders

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 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" before each winter to check to see if it is in need of repair.

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 salt/sand mixture 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, with a clear description or sketch of the location, to the Division of Public Works, 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.

---Division of Public Works 248-871-2850---

Holiday Garbage/Recycling/Yard Waste Pickups

Thanksgiving – No collection Thursday, November 26. Monday through Wednesday – regular collection. Thursday and Friday – collection delayed one day, with Friday's collection occurring on Saturday.

Please note: **The last yard waste pickup will occur the week of November 30 - December 4, 2015.** Starting the week of December 7, yard waste will not be picked up until the program resumes in April 2016.

Christmas Day and New Year's Day – No collection on Friday, December 25, or Friday, January 1. Collection will be delayed one day for Friday pick-ups, with Friday's collection occurring on Saturday.

Martin Luther King Day and President's Day – Collection takes place on the regularly scheduled day. City offices closed Monday, January 18 and Monday, February 15.

Fall Leaf Collection

Residents and homeowners are reminded that the City of Farmington Hills does **not** operate a leaf collection program. Leaves **must not** be raked into the street gutter next to your home. Leaves in the right-of-way can obstruct storm drainage and cause storm water to pond in the roadway. City code requires that all yard waste should be placed in brown paper yard waste bags or 32-gallon containers (marked with a "Yard Waste" sticker free from City Hall or the DPW) and placed at the curb for regular yard waste pickup **through the week of November 30 - December 4, 2015.**

Voluntary Water Shutoff

The City provides a water shutoff service to residents who are on vacation or away for an extended period. For a \$150 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.

Rental Property Owners – Important Information

If you are a landlord, it is your responsibility to verify that tenants are paying their quarterly water bills. Water service invoices are always sent to the address of the property that is receiving the service. Delinquent water invoices are then rolled onto property taxes if unpaid. If you own the property, you may request in writing that a duplicate bill be sent to your address as well as to the service address.

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

Like us on Facebook
Farmington Hills
Special Services Department

You Tube
Search: Farmington Hills
Digital Channel 8.1

FARMINGTON HILLS
SPECIAL SERVICES Michigan
Visit us online, 24/7
www.fhgov.com

31555 W. Eleven Mile Road | Farmington Hills, MI 48336

FARMINGTON HILLS
Michigan

SPECIAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Youth & Family Services

The After School Program is celebrating its 20th anniversary!

Throughout the years, over 12,000 youth in grades 5 – 8 have had a fun and safe place to go after school Monday through Friday. The After School Program is free to Farmington Hills/Farmington residents after the purchase of a photo ID card for \$50 at the Costick Center, 28600 West Eleven Mile Road. For more information, call 248-473-1841.

- **NEW Fitness Program** – Thanks to a grant from the Michigan Recreation and Park Association (MRPA), youth members will be walking, jumping rope, and playing games under the supervision of trained staff while using pedometers to track progress.
- **NEW Gaming Program** – Thanks to a grant from Bright House Networks and Best Buy, a pilot program taught by gaming professionals will show youth members how to create games while experiencing interactive team-building.
- **Back by popular demand** – Outdoor Nature Program, Girl Power, Boys to Men, and Club Z Tutoring!
- **Save the Date** – **Annual Community Thanksgiving Feast, Wednesday, November 11** at the Costick Center with turkey dinner and all the trimmings free to residents of Farmington Hills/Farmington.

Cultural Arts Division

The Cultural Arts Concert Series continues its season with performances at the Farmington Players Barn Theatre. Tickets may be purchased at <https://recreg.fhgov.com> or charged by phone at 248-473-1848.

- **November 6 & 7 – ABBACADABRA**, the ULTIMATE ABBA tribute band performs in Farmington Hills for the first time! Enjoy your favorite hits performed in authentic dress to live music. Friday, Nov. 6: 7:30 PM (\$28/all ages), Saturday, Nov. 7: 4 PM (\$25/all ages), 8:30 pm (\$28/all ages). Discounted tickets for groups of 10 or more. Call 248-473-1848 for more information.
- **January 23 – An Evening of Armenian Music & Culture**. Enjoy traditional Armenian folk music performed by the Ara Topouzian Ensemble along with a gallery of artwork from Metro Detroit area Armenian artists. 7:30 PM (\$15 all ages). Proceeds from this concert support community Cultural Arts Programming.
- **Save the date! Blackthorn in Concert**, March 11 & 12.

Youth Theatre – The Farmington Hills Youth Theatre will present “The Wizard of Oz” Nov. 20-22 and Dec. 4-6 at the Costick Center. Two casts of 100+ young actors in grades 1 – 12 bring this classic to life. Purchase tickets - \$10 each, ages three and under free, by calling 248-473-1848, at <https://recreg.fhgov.com> or at the door.

Art Exhibits/Gift Sales – The Costick Center’s City Gallery features the Great Lakes Beadworkers Guild Oct. 13 – Nov. 13. The Michigan Weavers Guild exhibit is Nov. 20 – Jan. 8 and their annual clothing and home item sale is Nov. 21 in the Costick Center Lobby.

Art Classes – The Heritage Park Stables Studio offers Pottery for Kids, and Step by Step Drawing for children and teens. For students ages 17+: Basic Drawing, Exploring Ceramics, Pastels, Oil Painting, Watercolor Studio, Digital Photography classes, Mosaic Décor, plus a one-day Colored Pencils workshop.

Music Classes and Lessons – Group and individual lessons are available in acoustic, electric or bass guitar; piano (ages 8+ through adult), Kelly Kirby piano (ages 5 - 7), and violin.

For more information, call 248-473-1856/59.

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

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 248-871-2543

Planning 248-871-2540

Zoning 248-871-2520

Police Department

Non-emergency 248-871-2600

Public Services Department 248-871-2530

Engineering Division..... 248-871-2560

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 Division 248-473-1830

Youth & Family 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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Address: 31555 W. Eleven Mile Road | Farmington Hills, MI 48336

Recreation Division

Play, Explore, Learn, Live!

Visit the new open air Riley Archery Range with eight shooting lanes and shooting distances of 10 - 30 yards and programs for people of all ages and abilities.

Check out the Nature Center for exhibits, photo displays, hands-on activities, and programs including pre-school classes, Junior Naturalist Club, night hikes, hay rides, scout programs, and more.

Sign up for classes including dance, tennis, gymnastics, adult fitness (Zumba, yoga, Z-box, Zumba-toning, cardio boxing), martial arts, dog training, babysitter training, youth basketball leagues, flag football leagues, and soccer leagues.

- **Oct 17** – Boo Bash in Heritage Park
- **Oct 24** – Halloween Archery Shoot and Zombie Shoot at the Riley Archery Range
- **Nov 21** – Thanksgiving for Nature in Heritage Park
- **Nov 21** – Archery Turkey Shoot at the Riley Archery Range
- **Nov 23** – Annual Turkey Basketball Shoot at the Costick Center
- **Dec 1** – 23rd Annual Holiday Lights Ceremony at Fire Station #5/ City Hall
- **Dec 3** – Stories & Cookies with Santa at the Longacre House
- **Dec 12 & 13** – Breakfast with Santa at the Longacre House
- **Dec 6** – Natural Wreath Making Workshop at the Nature Center
- **Dec 12 & 13** – Holiday Shopping Expo at the Costick Center (with Santa)
- **Jan 22** – Inside Out (Live Animal Show) at the Costick Center
- **Feb 6** – Chili Golf Open at Farmington Hills Golf Club
- **Feb 5 & 6** – Daddy/Daughter Dance at the Costick Center

Some programs/events require advance registration, call 248-473-1800 for info or click on the Special Services Activities Guide at www.fhgov.com.

Ice Arena

Celebrating 20 years of service to the Farmington Hills community

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

The FHIA is now the home of the Little Caesars Farmington Hills Hockey Association (LCFHHA), which serves 750 players at all skating levels and offers house and A, AA, and AAA travel teams. The LCFHHA hosts one of eight locations for the Little Wings Youth Hockey Clinics, as well as the international TimBits development program. Also residing at the FHIA are the Farmington Hills Figure Skating Club, the Farmington Falcons, and Farmington United Flyers high school boy's hockey teams, and high school figure skating teams from United Farmington and Mercy.

For more information, visit www.fhice.com or call 248-478-8800.



Aquatics

Congratulations to the swimmers in the first Costick Crocodiles Swim Meet, which had 12 events with 70 participants. The Costick Crocodiles Swim Team will practice at the Costick Center year round; swimmers are eligible to join if they can swim a full length of the pool. Practices focus on stroke performance, conditioning, and preparation for a swim team atmosphere.

The pool will be the host site this fall for new activities including Stroke Clinics, Dive Days, Homeschool Swim Lessons, and Women Only Swim Hour. Session two of Fall Swim Lessons starts the week of October 26. There will be parent-child, preschool, beginner to advanced youth, and also adult classes. Register online at <https://recreg.fhgov.com> or at the Costick Center front desk.

Important dates:

Pumpkin Patch Pool Party – October 10, 2 - 4 p.m.

Float Day – November 21, 2 - 4 p.m.

Pool Closed – November 26, December 24 & 25

FARMINGTON HILLS
Michigan
focus

For the latest info on Farmington Hills, visit www.fhgov.com or tune into Cable Channel 8.1

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE

Election Deadlines And Reminders:

Please remember to vote in the City General Election scheduled for November 3, 2015. The ballot will include the following Offices and Proposals:

- The Office of Mayor - one to be elected for a 2-year term
- The Office of Council Member - three to be elected for a 4-year term
- Charter Amendment for Public Safety Millage Renewal
- Farmington Public Schools Operating Millage Renewal (Precincts 1-4 and 7-26 only)
- Schoolcraft Community College District Operating Charter Millage Proposition (Precinct 27 only)

Deadlines to remember:

- **Monday, October 5, 2015** – Last Day to register to vote in the November 3, 2015 General Election (City Clerk's Office is open until 4:30 p.m.) You may register at your County or local Clerk's Office or any Secretary of State Branch Office.
- **Saturday, October 31, 2015 until 2 p.m.** – Last day to request an absent voter ballot to be mailed. The City Clerk's Office is open from 8:30 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. on this date for Election related business only.
- **Monday, November 2, 2015 until 4 p.m.** – Last day to request an absent voter ballot in person. Please be sure to bring Photo I.D. Voters are not allowed to leave with the ballot on this day and must vote the ballot in person at City Hall.

You may contact the City Clerk's Office at 248-871-2410 for an absent voter ballot application or download the form from the City's website. Sample ballots, precinct information, and maps can all be found on the City's website at www.fhgov.com.

New Drive-Up Drop Box

The City has installed a new drive-up drop box for Election materials and tax payments only, which is located in front of the Police Station next to the Federal Post Office mail boxes. Absent voter applications and/or absent voter ballots and tax payments may be deposited in the drop box 24/7. This drop box will be closed during non-Election cycles.

The drop box on the wall at the south entrance to City Hall is still available. This is not a drive-up, so please park and walk your materials to this drop box.

Ballot Proposals

Charter Amendment - Public Safety Millage

Shall the Farmington Hills City Charter be amended to renew and continue the previous voter authorized levy of 1.4764 mills over the Charter tax rate limit for a period of ten years from the current expiration of June 30, 2016 (resulting in the authorization to collect an estimated \$4,556,909 in the first year if approved and levied), which taxes are to be used only for purposes of fire and police staffing and equipment to maintain and improve the public safety functions of the Fire and Police Departments?

Operating Millage Renewal Proposition

This proposal would allow the renewal of the mills previously levied by the Board of Education of the Farmington Public School District for general operating purposes which expires with the District's 2015 tax levy. Under this proposal, the District would be authorized to levy no more than 13.5735 mills on principal residences (owner-occupied homes), and the School District would receive revenues at the full foundation allowance permitted by the State.

As a renewal of the authority which expires with the 2015 tax levy, shall the limitation on the amount of taxes which may be imposed on taxable property in the Farmington Public School District, County of Oakland, Michigan be increased by 18.00 mills (\$18.00 per \$1,000 of taxable value) to the extent such property is not statutorily exempt, and of which not more than 13.5735 mills (\$13.5735 per \$1,000 of taxable value) may be imposed on principal residences, for ten (10) years, the years 2016 to 2025, inclusive, to provide funds for operating expenses of the School District? If approved, this millage would raise an estimated \$40,598,398 for the District in 2016.

Schoolcraft Community College District Operating Charter Millage Proposition

Shall the total charter tax rate limitation previously approved by the electors of Schoolcraft Community College District, Michigan, on the amount of taxes which may be assessed against all taxable property within the community college district be increased by 0.6 mill (\$0.60 on each \$1,000 of taxable valuation) for a period of 10 years, 2016 to 2025, inclusive, to be used for operating purposes of the community college district and all other purposes authorized by law; if approved, the estimate of the revenue the community college district will collect in 2016 is approximately \$8,000,000?

Election Day is Tuesday, November 3, 2015

FINANCE DEPARTMENT

2016 Property Tax Calendar

February 10 – Due date for the filing of affidavits to exempt personal property with a true cash value of \$80,000 or less.

February 16 – Last day to pay winter property taxes without penalty. The due date is extended beyond February 14 due to the weekend and the Presidents' Day holiday.

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

Late February – Change of assessment notices mailed.

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

March 14 – 16 – Board of Review meets.

June 1 – Last day to file Primary Residence Exemption affidavit, for the entire tax year.

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

June 30 – Summer tax bills mailed.

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

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

November 1 – Last day to file Primary Residence Exemption affidavit, for winter taxes only.

November 30 – Winter tax bills mailed.

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



Fast Facts about Your Property Taxes

- After tax bills are mailed, amounts will be available at www.fhgov.com. Go to Online Services, then Property Tax Inquiry, then click on the link to Visit the Online Property Inquiry & Tax Payment System. Click on Current Taxes, then Tax Information Search, then search by Owner Name, Address, or Parcel 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 by the Post Office to new addresses on file with the Post Office, unless it is a temporary forwarding only. 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.*

The City of Farmington Hills Citizen's Guide and Performance Dashboard can be found on the City's website at www.fhgov.com/Government/Reference/Reports/CitizensGuideAndPerformanceDashboard.aspx

Adults 50 & Better

The City of Farmington Hills Adults 50 & Better Division provides a variety of speakers, fitness programs, classes, services, and special events at the Costick Center. For a schedule of activities, see the monthly "Messenger" newsletter on the City website at www.fhgov.com or call 248-473-1830 for information, dates, and times.

A Celebration Of Veterans

Adults 50 & Better will honor local veterans at Stars & Stripes Forever Veterans Recognition Celebration on Friday, November 6, 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. 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. Stars & Stripes Forever is sponsored by American House. Tickets \$8 by November 2/\$10 after. Complimentary admission for veterans who reside in Farmington Hills/Farmington. Must register by November 2.

SENEX Adult Day Program

SENEX is a social and recreational day program dedicated to serving seniors with functional needs in our community. Open Monday – Friday, 9:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. Participants may attend full or half days. For more information, call 248-473-1872.

Shredding For Safety

Protect your identity, de-clutter, and recycle! Bring up to four paper grocery bags of documents to be shredded in the Costick Center parking lot. Drive up only. No magazines, junk mail or trash! Residents 50 or older only. December 8, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Barn Dance

Enjoy an old-fashioned barn dance with a caller, great grub, and refreshments on Friday, February 26 from 7 - 11 p.m. Line dancing, square dancing, and just plain dancing! Dinner, dancing, and refreshments included in the ticket price. 21 and older welcome. \$20 tickets by Feb. 22 deadline, \$23 after. Purchase tickets at the Costick Center or online at <https://recreg.fhgov.com>.

Michael Bridges Candidate for Mayor

Michael Bridges is seeking the office of Mayor of Farmington Hills. He was first elected to the Council in 2008 and re-elected in 2009 and 2013. Prior to his election to the city council he had served on many community organizations including the Heritage Hills Homeowners Association; the Farmington PTA Council; the Zoning Board of Appeals; the Area on Aging Commission, and Transit Riders United. He currently serves as the City Liaison for the Pension and Retirement Board, for the Children, Youth and Family Commission and for the Farmington YMCA Board. He is also Farmington Hills' alternate delegate to SEMCOG.

Michael received a B.A. from Spring Arbor University with a major in Business Administration, and is currently employed by Novartis Corporation. He and his wife Deborah have been married for 23 years, and have lived in Farmington Hills for 17. They have two sons, Michael and Chauncey, who attended Farmington Public Schools.

Michael is seeking the office of Mayor to ensure that Farmington Hills continues to be a safe city that attracts new families and businesses. Some of his accomplishments include early advocacy for a city manager evaluation process, as well as for a joint committee consisting of Farmington Public Schools and the cities of Farmington and Farmington Hills. If elected, his priorities would include maintaining Farmington Hills' AAA bond rating, its safe city designation and its excellent city services. He will also seek to increase constituents' access to local government and their elected officials.



Randy Bruce Candidate for City Council

Randy Bruce is running for reelection to a fourth term on City Council. He has also served as Mayor Pro-Tem in 2004, 2008 and in 2014. He was 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 building of the water tower, which is now saving rate payers over three million dollars annually; and development of one of the area's first dangerous animal ordinances. He has helped balance 12 city budgets, and during his tenure on council, the city's bond rating increased from AA to AAA, one of the few in Michigan. 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 and continue to make Farmington Hills a destination for families and businesses. He also feels that experienced leadership is critical to the continued success of our city, so that we can continue to meet the many ongoing challenges of keeping our city the place that people want to live and work.

Randy is a 29-year resident of the city, and earned BS, MA and PhD degrees from Wayne State University in Detroit. He is the owner of Aspire Rehabilitation Services, which provides neurorehabilitation services to survivors of brain and spinal cord injuries.



Richard Lerner Candidate for City Council

Richard Lerner was first elected to City Council in 2011 and is seeking re-election. He is a longtime volunteer in our community. Prior to joining City Council, he served on the Farmington Hills Parks and Recreation Commission. Richard has been a scout leader, soccer coach, a founder of the Farmington Ski Club, served on Farmington Public Schools Advocates for Excellence in Education committee, and the Boards of Directors of the Optimist Club and Zieger Health Care Corporation. He is currently Vice President of the Inter-Agency Council, Project Manager for the Memorial Day Parade, Farmington Area Goodfellows IT Manager, serves on Michigan Municipal League Legislative Finance Committee, and the Boards of Directors of the Xemplar Club and Quaker Valley Farms Association. He is the City Council Liaison to the Parks and Recreation Commission and the Committee to Increase Voter Participation.

Richard is a graduate of the Maxwell School of Public Policy at Syracuse University, with a degree in Economics. He worked for Alco Standard and Mead Corporation in various sales and management capacities in New York City, Connecticut and Michigan before starting his own business in 1993. He owns companies specializing in Business Process Optimization and Project Management Training and Consulting, and IT Support Services including Web Presence Design and Management. He and his wife Maureen built their home in Farmington Hills in 1996, and have two teenage children enrolled in Farmington Public Schools. Richard and his children are USSF Certified Soccer Referees and enjoy working together at our local fields.



William A. Miller Candidate for City Council

William A. Miller III is a candidate running for Farmington Hills City Council, born and raised in Michigan, is a hard working Business Representative for the International Union of Operating Engineers Local 324. He started his career in Local 324 as a Crane Operator before becoming a Business Representative. William is married to his lovely wife Sarah Miller and has a daughter Ava.

William has volunteered in helping feed meals to families in need, assisted with the Goodfellows, is a member of the Sons of the American Legion and has helped with our veterans, belongs to a small group of men who volunteer to help those in need with small residential projects, is the President of the Warner Upper Elementary PTA and was appointed as a Commissioner on the Farmington Hills Parks and Recreation Commission in 2013 and is still a Commissioner.

William realized the community needs a voice in the city and would ask residents to email him with any concerns or issues they have (william.a.milleriii@gmail.com). William's view of a council member is to be a voice for the people in the community.

William is not looking to use our city as a stepping stone, he is looking to invest in our city to maintain/improve our quality of life.

As a challenge to himself, William felt that it was important to talk to the community and get their approval to run for City Council. He supports the Police and Fire Departments, as well as small businesses.



Ken Massey Candidate for Mayor

Ken Massey is running for, and excited about, serving as your next Mayor in our community. Mayor Pro Tem Massey has proudly served for 12 years on council. His exemplary public service includes Eagle Scout, paramedic, Past President of Farmington Area Council of Homeowners Associations, Founder and Chair of Farmington SAFE (Suicide Awareness for Everyone), Chairman of the Board of Botsford Hospital, member of the Emergency Preparedness Commission, and serves at the National level as a member of the National League of Cities Public Safety steering committee.

Professionally, Ken holds a scientific doctoral degree, and is actively working to build our area's economy in his role as Sr. Director of Venture Development at Wayne State University, and service on area economic development organizations.

Massey exhibits a passionate, logical, data-driven and deliberative approach to decisions. He demonstrates leadership with an understanding of the community and its challenges. He listens to the residents in order to understand all viewpoints as governance requires leaders that can critically evaluate each situation and reach consensus.

As a lifelong resident, Ken is passionate about leading Farmington Hills. Our next Mayor must be capable of bringing people together, solving issues and representing our city regionally, and beyond. Ken has a track record of getting the job done. He will work to keep our streets safe, promote economic growth and ensure tax dollars are spent wisely. That's why Mayor Brickner and most council members, current and past, your police officers, firefighters, and many residents support him. Visit www.ken-massey.com.



Theresa Rich Candidate for City Council

Theresa Rich says moving to Farmington Hills 23 years ago was one of the best decisions she and her husband made. She is running for Council to ensure a strong community that is welcoming to all. Her message has three parts:

Public Safety: She will make sure public safety has the resources to keep our community among Michigan's safest.

Senior Citizens: The City must enable seniors to stay in their homes and live with dignity as independently as they wish. Theresa's priority is providing services to serve our growing population of older residents.

Plan for the Future: What our city will be in ten years starts today. Theresa will push for best practices to maintain our strengths and provide topnotch city services for all of our residents. She will protect the environment and prioritize community health/well-being.

Theresa has a long record of service. She is on the Girl Scouts for Southeastern Michigan Advisory Council and the F/FH Arts Commission, the Oakland County Schools Board of Education Vice President and the Oakland Schools Education Foundation Board Secretary. She served on the FH/F Foundation for Youth & Families; the Commission for Children, Youth & Families; the Committee to Increase Voter Participation; and was the Heritage Hills Homeowners' Association president.

Theresa Rich is an attorney and holds a PhD in business. She has worked at General Motors for 30+ years. She is married to Brian Rich. Their children, Zachary and Alyson, attend public Michigan universities.

For more, go to www.ElectTheresaRich.com.



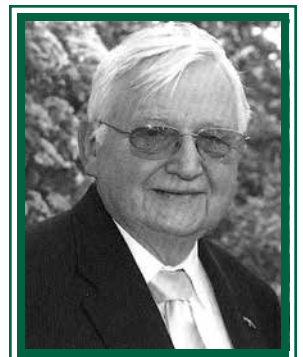
Al Zaparackas Candidate for City Council

Al Zaparackas, a professional engineer who graduated from Wayne State University in 1963 and retired from Ford Motor Company after 36 years, is seeking a seat on the Council.

Al Zaparackas' involvement in politics began in college. In 1976, he was a Congressional candidate for U.S. Representative in the 18th Congressional District. He was elected and served as Vice Chairman for Nationalities for the Michigan Republican Party, advisor to Governor Milliken for Nationalities, and candidate for Oakland County Commissioner from the 13th and 14th Districts. He is the Honorary Council for Lithuania in Detroit, producer of Lithuanian Melodies Radio Program aired every Sunday at 8:30 a.m. on WNZK-690 AM, and a Board member of the Baltic Jesuits.

A resident of Farmington Hills since 1976, he is married to Yolanda Bauza Zaparackas, LFD, owner of Val S. Bauza Funeral Home in Detroit. Three children, Audrey Bauza, Nicole Peters and Liana Schlissel, attended and completed Farmington Hills Schools, Wooddale, Dunkel, and North Farmington High School. Grandparent to Aidan, Alex, Sophia, Sadie, and Donovan.

Al Zaparackas, as the only senior candidate, combined with his education, experience in family affairs, politics, business, and diplomacy, provides the voter with a candidate to represent the seniors and his neighbors on the Council to debate the issues for safety, schools, roads, redevelopment projects on 12 Mile Road, and the roundabout at 14 Mile and Orchard Lake Road, to support the Council's programs that prevent tax increases, and to maintain the AAA bond rating.



*Biographies and photos submitted by candidates.
Placement of candidate profiles on this page
selected at random.*