



Our Community Newsletter



Summer 2005

Community NEWS & NOTES

River Day is June 4

The City's annual River Day will take place Saturday, June 4. Activities include a creek cleanup at Memorial Park (Eleven Mile and Middlebelt) and a rain garden planting at Eight Mile and Inkster. Participants receive a free t-shirt and a picnic lunch. To register, call Tracy Slintak, Environmental Coordinator at (248) 871-2860.

Cops for Kids Run/Walk June 11

The Farmington Hills Police Department will host its 16th annual 10k and 5k run/walk for Muscular Dystrophy on Saturday, June 11. The entry fee is \$20 and includes a t-shirt, food, and drinks. The race begins at Oakland Community College's Orchard Ridge campus at 9 a.m., but come early for juice and bagels. For a registration form, call (248) 871-2707 or send an email to mwayman@ci.farmington-hills.mi.us.

City auction set for June 18

The City of Farmington Hills will hold its annual auction on Saturday, June 18 at 9:30 a.m. in the Police Department parking lot. Municipal and police property such as televisions, jewelry, computers, bicycles and office furniture will be auctioned off to the highest bidder. A public preview of the items will take place at 9 a.m. Sales tax will be charged. All items must be removed by the awardees by 1 p.m. that day or forfeited. The Police Department is located at 31655 W. Eleven Mile Road. For more information, call (248) 871-2426.

Volunteers sought for Pies on the Grand

The City of Farmington Hills Senior Division will host its 2nd annual blueberry pie extravaganza during the Farmington Area Founders Festival July 14-16. Enthusiastic volunteers are needed to bake, package, and sell pies. The pies will be baked July 12-14 from 1-5 p.m. at the Costick Center. All proceeds from the pie sales will support the Senior Transportation Program, which provides affordable rides for area older adults to medical appointments, pharmacies, grocery stores, etc. To volunteer, please call (248) 473-1854.

Kids: Stay safe with a free helmet

The Farmington Hills Police Department's helmet giveaway program continues this summer, providing a free helmet to any Farmington Hills child under 16. Helmets can be picked up at the Police Department command desk (11 Mile just west of Orchard Lake Road). Children must be accompanied by a parent or guardian and proof of residency is required.

Farmington Hills t-shirts and polos available

Show you're proud to live in Farmington Hills with a t-shirt or polo with the Farmington Hills logo on it. The t-shirts are just \$5 and the polo shirts are \$20. You can get your shirts at the Treasurer's Office in City Hall at the corner of Eleven Mile and Orchard Lake Road. T-shirts are also available at the Costick Center, 28600 W. Eleven Mile.

Be prepared for emergencies

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) offers several free publications that can help you and your family be prepared in the event of an emergency. Call (800) 480-2520 for details.

Attention neighborhood newsletter editors

Looking for news for your neighborhood newsletter? For the latest news and information, including special events, road construction projects, recycling information, and more check out the City of Farmington Hills website at www.ci.farmington-hills.mi.us or contact Beverly Church at (248) 871-2509 or email her at bchurch@ci.farmington-hills.mi.us.

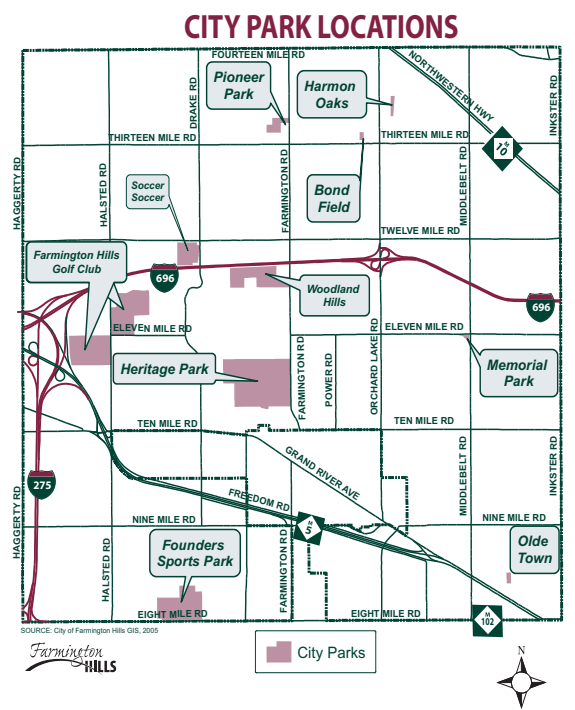
City park maps now available on the web

Residents can now get detailed maps of their favorite local parks online. The new park maps include Heritage, Founders Sports Park, Pioneer, Woodland Hills, Olde Town, Soccer Soccer, Bond Field, and Harmon Oaks Parks.

The maps detail the park facilities and amenities including trail locations, playgrounds, picnic shelters, parking areas, and points of interest. The Founders Sports Park map also displays the layout of the City's first disc-golf course and field numbers for the park's eight baseball and six soccer fields. Detailed information on Heritage Park's extensive trail system displays routes, mileages, and surface types of the park trails.

Each park map is available in the popular Adobe portable document format (PDF). The maps were produced in a page-sized format for easy downloading and printing. In addition to the individual maps, visitors to the website can also access a new citywide parks map that includes links to each park as well as the Farmington Hills Golf Club.

To check out the latest park maps, visit www.ci.farmington-hills.mi.us/community/parksandfacilities/parks.asp. You'll also find lots of other useful maps on our website, including a City map, voter precinct map, waste collection map, Costick Activities Center map, zoning map, and more. Go to www.ci.farmington-hills.mi.us/community/maps.asp.



Summer construction

UPDATE

It's that time of year again – lots of sunshine, lots of warmth, and lots of orange barrels! To improve your City roads, sidewalks and sewers, several construction projects will get underway this summer that will affect the flow of traffic. You may want to try alternate routes through the City if you commonly travel these roads:

- Eleven Mile Road west of Inkster Road – Concrete replacement, starting in May.
- Twelve Mile Road from Orchard Lake Road to Middlebelt Road – Widening and resurfacing starting in June.
- Freedom Road from Orchard Lake Road to Grand River Avenue – Resurfacing starting in June.
- Twelve Mile Road from Middlebelt Road to Inkster Road – Resurfacing starting in mid-summer or early fall.

Sidewalk projects will also be underway in the following locations:

- Drake Road from Hampstead Boulevard to West Lyman Road.
- Nine Mile Road from Polo Club Drive to Haggerty Road.
- Farmington Road north of Thirteen Mile Road.
- Thirteen Mile Road from Valley Bend Drive to Halsted Road.

A sanitary sewer overflow project will involve the excavation of the following roads:

- Skye Drive from Chapelweigh Drive to Briarwyke Drive.
- Appleton Drive from south of Briarwyke Drive to Arden Park Drive.

Additional projects now in the planning stages may start after July 1, subject to budget approval. These include:

- Farmington Road from Twelve Mile Road to Thirteen Mile Road – resurfacing.
- Nine Mile Road from Halsted Road to Drake Road – resurfacing.
- Folsom Road from Nine Mile Road to Orchard Lake Road – resurfacing.

If you have any questions about summer construction projects, please call the Engineering Division at 248-871-2560.



FOCUS

Summer Youth Center gears up for another exciting summer

The Summer Youth Program for kids ages 11-15 begins June 20 at the Farmington Hills Ice Arena and runs eight weeks, ending August 12 with a party at Red Oaks Water Park.

This year, working parents will again have the opportunity to drop their children off at the Ice Arena any time from 7:30 a.m. to 10 a.m. The fee for the drop-off program is \$7/day or \$30/week if paid in advance, or \$10/day for same-day drop-off.

The fee for the Ice Arena Summer Program is \$100 for 8 weeks with additional fees for any of the 24 field trips that are planned. If your child is planning on participating in any of the field trips, please register early to avoid the \$5 service fee for late registrations. Field trips will include horseback riding, fencing at the Renaissance Fencing Club, a tour of Ford Field, a Detroit Tigers game, water parks, and much more.

To sign up, stop by the Costick Center during regular business hours or call (248) 473-1841.

Keep you home protected while you're away this summer

If you are planning a trip this summer, be sure to protect your home while you're gone. The chances of your home being broken into are higher while you're away. A house that looks vacant is an easy target for the professional burglar or the casual thief. Whether you go away for the weekend or a month, extra precautions should be taken to prevent crime.

Burglars look for evidence that you're not at home. Before you take off for fun in the sun, take a few additional minutes to follow the suggestions on this checklist to keep your home safe while you're gone.

- Take any valuable items or extra cash to your bank for storage in a safety deposit box. Consider placing valuables such as cameras, art objects etc. in an upstairs closet and secure them with a strong padlock. You may also want to make a video of these items and store it off of the premises.
- Notify your newspaper carrier to discontinue delivery until you return.
- Arrange for your post office to hold your mail for you, or have a trusted neighbor pick it up for you.
- Set electrical timers to turn lights on and off during the evening hours to give the house an occupied appearance. Do the same with a radio talk show to give the appearance that someone is in the home.
- Ask a friend, relative or neighbor to watch your house for you and give them a key. Take their telephone number with you so you can check with them during your trip. Be sure they know how you can be contacted in case of an emergency.
- Repair any broken locks or windows.
- Notify the Police Department of your trip. They will keep a record of your departure and return dates as well as your contact person and telephone number in case of an emergency. The Farmington Hills Police Department vacation hotline number is (248) 871-2762.
- Turn down the volume control on your telephone so that it cannot be heard ringing unanswered from the outside.
- Leave window shades and drapes on the main floor in regular daytime position, so that neighbors and police can see into your home.
- If you are leaving a car or vehicle parked in the drive, be sure it is locked and does not have a garage door opener in it. It would be even better if your neighbor could occasionally move the car's position in the driveway.
- Don't pull your car right up to the garage door. Instead, lock your garage door from the inside with a pad-lock.
- Take a few minutes before you leave to check every window and door in your home. Make sure each one is closed and locked, including the basement and garage. Make sure the last person out of the front door locks it! Take a brief walk around the house and try the doors and windows on the ground floor. You may find something you missed.

Now go on vacation and have a great time!

No garbage pickup on the 4th of July

Garbage and recycling pickups **will not** take place on Monday, July 4th and collection will be delayed by one day for the remainder of that week. Monday's route will be picked up on Tuesday; Tuesday's route will be picked up on Wednesday; and so on with Friday's collection made on Saturday.

To ensure pickup throughout the year, all garbage needs to be at the curbside by 7 a.m. and must comply with the City's trash can size limit of 32 gallons. Oversized containers put out at the curbside will **not** be emptied.

For future reference, there are only six holidays that delay the garbage and recycling schedule: New Year's Day, Memorial Day, Fourth of July, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day, and Christmas Day. No other holidays affect the pickup schedule.

Summer programs for adults 50 AND BETTER

Perk up a summer day with an activity sponsored by the City of Farmington Hills Senior Division located at the Costick Center, 28600 11 Mile Road between Middlebelt and Inkster. Area adults 50 and better are invited to stop by and join us for a trip, program or activity.

- Hear the latest financial news in today's market from **Rick Bloom**, Farmington Hills attorney/CPA and longtime newspaper columnist, at a luncheon **Investment Seminar** on June 8 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Cost is \$5.
- Join us for a boxed lunch and **Walks in the Park** on June 7 and 22 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in beautiful Heritage Park. Bring a camera and wear comfortable shoes. Cost is \$6 per walk.
- Could you be at risk for **Type 2 Diabetes**? Learn signs, symptoms, how to reduce risk and how to live with diabetes on June 21 from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. No fee. A diabetes support group, in partnership with Botsford General Hospital, will begin July 11th.
- Discover **Tiny Treasures** – exquisite, unique art pieces no larger than 9 inches – at **Breakfast with the DIA**, June 28 from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. Register by June 24. Cost is \$5.
- Celebrate the 4th of July at the **Independence Day Party** on July 1 from 11 a.m. to 3:15 p.m. Enjoy a good, old-fashioned ice cream social, patriotic entertainment, dancing to a live band, raffles & prizes and a special lunch, too. Purchase tickets by June 24. Cost is \$6.
- Learn proper foot care, common problems, and treatments with podiatrist, Dr. Kenneth Lawrence, at **Foot Aches** on July 12 from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. Register by July 8. No fee.
- **Hypertension** is the "Silent Killer." Learn the causes, preventions and how to monitor this condition on July 19 from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. Oakland County Health Dept. No fee.
- **Visit with a Pharmacist** who will provide information and answer questions about over-the-counter and prescription drugs and their interactions. August 8, 10:30 – 11:30. Pre-register. No fee.
- Take a look at **Hot Topics in Women's Health** on August 11 from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Learn to stay healthy in midlife and beyond. Register by Aug 9. No fee.
- Watch for a new **Men's Club** on the 3rd Friday of each month beginning Sept. 16 at 10 a.m. with a representative from Home Depot as the speaker. Call (248) 473-1822 for information.
- A variety of day trips, overnight trips, show trips and trips abroad are available through the Senior Division. Current destinations include Classics at the Civic, a Tiger game at Comerica Park, Greenfield Village, the Detroit Zoo, Huron Country Playhouse, Saugatuck, Diamond Jack's Downriver Cruise, "Singin' in the Rain," the Labor Day Bridge Walk, Trains across Colorado and more. For information call (248) 473-1862.

Support groups

Ongoing support groups in the Senior Division include **Low Vision Support** Group on the 1st Wednesday of the month at 1 p.m. and **First Step Stroke Support** Group every Tuesday at 1 p.m. Watch for new monthly support groups for diabetes on the 2nd Monday each month beginning July 11 and a caregiver group on the 3rd Wednesday each month beginning July 20.

Mackinac Island/Grand Hotel

Don't miss this opportunity to step back in time to the elegant era of the Grand Hotel on Mackinac Island for the annual autumn senior trip October 2-5. This year's 4-day trip includes round-trip transportation, accommodations at the nationally known Grand Hotel with full breakfasts and 5-course dinners, a champagne "Night at the Emmys" banquet, baggage handling, taxes, tips, carriage tours, nightly dancing, movies, historical lectures, contests, discounts and more. Cost is \$625 per person, based on double occupancy. Call (248) 473-1862 for information and availability.

Tips for a Healthy Lawn

You can have a healthy lawn and also be environmentally responsible. Lawn care experts offer the following tips:

- Select slow-release and low- or no-phosphorus fertilizers.
- Have your soil tested to make sure you're using the proper fertilizer.
- Mow your grass high to promote root growth and shade out weeds.
- Leave a no-fertilizer buffer zone of 10-25 feet if you live next to water.
- Sweep up fertilizer from paved surfaces and put it back onto the lawn.
- Avoid weed and feed combinations which add unnecessary herbicides; spot treat weeds instead.
- Rake a half-inch of compost into your lawn to add nutrients and build fertile soil.

For more tips on environmentally-friendly lawn care, visit www.healthylandscapes.com.

Cultural arts programs heat up this summer

“Stars in the Park” free summer concert series

The City’s popular free summer concert series begins on June 16 at Heritage Park with a wide variety of great live music, from award-winning Brazilian jazz to rockin’ oldies. Come join us! The “Stars in the Park” concerts take place at 7:30 p.m. till dusk at the Heritage Park outdoor amphitheatre. Bring a blanket or lawn chair and picnic dinner. Rainout location for most concerts is the Costick Center. The series includes:

June 16	Farmington Community Band
June 23	PRime Vocal Jazz (6 voices backed by a swing band)
June 30	Brazilian Love Affair with Sheila Landis (Brazilian jazz)
July 7	Shepard’s Folly (Celtic music)
July 14	No concert scheduled
July 21	Steve King & the Dittilies (rockin’ oldies)
July 28	Farmington Community Jazz Band
August 4	Ray Kamalay & His Red Hot Peppers with Walter White
August 11	Farmington Community Chorus

Art on the Grand, July 14-16 in downtown Farmington

Visit the fine arts section of the Farmington Founders Festival in downtown Farmington’s shady Memorial Park this summer. Art on the Grand 2005, presented by the City of Farmington Hills’ Cultural Arts Division, features fine artwork by both local artists and artists from across the country including jewelry, photography, pottery, paintings, glass and more! Enjoy browsing the art sales booths while listening to live music performances; get your picture taken with wandering entertainers, take the kids to the hands-on, free art activity tent or get their faces painted by Lovely the Clown. Art on the Grand takes place Thursday through Saturday, July 14-16. Hours are 10 a.m.-9 p.m. daily. The event is sponsored by Judge Asset Management.



Summer art camps for kids

The Cultural Arts Division is offering several new art camps for children this summer. Kids can learn about art and create fabulous projects in the “Time Travel Art Camp” June 20-24 or June 27-July 1, or in the “Art Around the World Camp” in August. They can learn the basics of drawing in the “Step by Step Drawing Camps” August 1-5, or learn to draw zoo animals, superhero cartoons, dolls or teddy bears in the July drawing camps with Young Rembrandts. Fees, times and class days vary by course.

Storytelling Camp

A new offering this year is our Storytelling Camp with professional storyteller Karen Bonni Czarnik. Learn how to tell stories that entertain your listeners – it’s a great introduction to the world of storytelling. June (ages 7-10) and July (ages 10-14) morning classes are offered.

Summer Youth Theatre camps

In conjunction with Sky’s the Limit Productions, the Cultural Arts Division is offering three theatre camp sessions this year for both beginners and seasoned actors. At theatre camp, kids will have fun while learning dance, acting, mime, improvisation, blocking and all the technical aspects of theatre. At the end of the camp, all participants will perform a live show. Two two-week camps will be held June 13-24 and August 1-12 for kids who will be entering grades 4-8. A one-week camp for children entering grades 1-3 will be held July 11-15. Classes take place at the Farmington Players Barn Theatre.

Great classes & workshops for adults & kids!

Kids ages 5 and up will be introduced to music in Beginning Violin classes held in June at the Costick Center. Kids and adults (ages 12+) can learn to play guitar in Beginner’s Acoustic Guitar on Saturday mornings. And adults can learn to play piano, make jewelry, learn to belly dance or participate in a storytelling workshop.

Art exhibits

City Gallery: Costick Center, 11 Mile just east of Middlebelt, open during business hours.

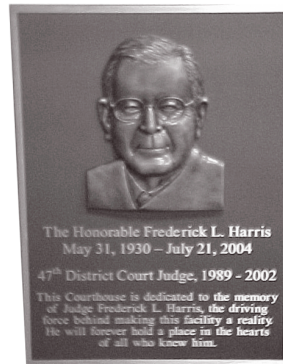
June 9-July 22	Regina Dunne – paintings
August 1-31	Jacob Nothstine – photography

Art in the Corridor: Farmington Hills & Farmington City Halls, during business hours.

June 1- July 29	Paintings by Patri O’Connor
August 1-September 16	Bruce Miller – natural photography

For more information or to register for a program, please call (248) 473-1857 or stop by the Costick Center, 28600 W. Eleven Mile, between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

Judge Fred Harris honored at Court dedication



On May 9, the judges and staff of the 47th District Court held a ceremony honoring the late Judge Fred Harris and dedicating the new 47th District Courthouse to his memory. Judge Harris served the Court from May 1989 until his retirement at the end of 2002.

Recognizing the security and service deficiencies of the old courthouse on Ten Mile Rd., Judge Harris worked tirelessly during his tenure on the bench to gain support for the construction of a new courthouse facility. Construction on the new courthouse began in July 2001, but the facility was not completed until June 2003, six months after his retirement. Fortunately, Judge Harris had the opportunity to preside as a visiting judge in the new courthouse many times after his retirement until his death in July, 2004.

At the dedication ceremony, a plaque was unveiled with Judge Harris’ likeness and it is now mounted inside the front entrance to the facility. It will serve forever as a fitting tribute to a great judge and community leader.

Election news

On Tuesday, Nov. 8, residents will go to the polls to elect a Mayor and City Council members. More details about this election will be sent to you this fall. Please note that the last day to register to be eligible to vote is Tuesday, October 11, 2005.

Precinct changes

Prior to the May 3 election, new voter ID cards were sent to all registered voters in Farmington Hills. This was because the City is now responsible for administering school elections and voters no longer go to separate voting locations for school elections but vote at their municipal precinct for all elections.

We anticipate additional precinct changes prior to the November election; therefore, you may receive another voter ID card in the mail within the next couple of months. Please review it carefully because your precinct number and/or location may have changed.

Door-to-door solicitors

It is that time of year when we can anticipate more knocks on the front door from solicitors. City ordinance requires that any person conducting door-to-door solicitation must be licensed with the City and have picture identification (either from the City or the group they sponsor) except for those groups that are exempt from licensing provisions. Those exempt include persons soliciting within three miles of their residence for educational, charitable (501.C.3), religious or youth organizations (e.g. school-related activities, Jehovah Witnesses, Girl/Boy Scouts, Lions Club, Knights of Columbus, Newspaper distributors, etc.). Certain environmental and political groups are also exempt; however, they are still required to have picture ID.

Licensed solicitors may solicit between the hours of 10 a.m. and 8 p.m. We ask that exempt parties also adhere to these hours. If you do not wish to have solicitors come to your door, you may post a “no soliciting” sign on your property.

If you have a concern about a particular solicitor, please contact the Police Department at (248) 871-2600 or the City Clerk’s Office at (248) 871-2410. If possible, please identify the solicitor’s name and the group with whom he or she is associated.

Practice the Three R’s to protect against West Nile Virus

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is once again recommending that people practice the “Three R’s” to protect themselves against West Nile Virus. While West Nile Virus is a cause for concern in our area, it’s easily preventable when you follow these steps:

- **Reduce areas where mosquitoes breed.** Eliminate standing water that collects in children’s toys, buckets, tires, unused pools, clogged roof gutters, birdbaths, and other containers. Healthy wetlands, running water in creeks and tributaries, or non-stagnant water in backyard ponds or retention areas are *not* considered mosquito breeding areas.
- **Repel against mosquitoes.** Use insect repellants (please follow manufacturers’ guidelines and do not use on children younger than 2 years of age.) Wear protective clothing such as long sleeves and pants.
- **Report dead crows** to the Oakland County Health Division at (877) 377-3641. For more info on West Nile virus, visit their website at www.co.oakland.mi.us/health.

City workers have treated all City-owned storm water catch basins (a common breeding ground) with a slow-release larvicide known to kill mosquitoes. All property owners are urged to evaluate water on their own property for mosquito breeding areas. There are many private storm sewer structures located in driveways, backyards, side yards, and subdivision open spaces which can be easily treated with a drop-in larvicide available from local retailers.

City Directory

Emergency Calls Only	
Fire Department	9-1-1
Police Department	9-1-1
Central Services/Purchasing . .	871-2430
City Hall	871-2400
City Manager's Office	871-2500
Assessing	871-2470
City Clerk	871-2410
District Court	871-2900
Farmington Community Library	553-0300
Finance Department	871-2440
Fire Department	
Non emergency	871-2800
Human Resources	871-2490
Council Newsline	871-2511
Police Department	
Non emergency	871-2600
Public Services Department . .	871-2530
Public Works	871-2850
Planning Department	
Planning	871-2540
Building	871-2450
Community Development and	
Housing Rehabilitation . . .	871-2549
Zoning	871-2520
Special Services Department	
Costick Activities Center . .	473-1816
Cultural Arts Division	473-1856
Ice Arena	478-8800
Nature Center	477-1135
Parks & Golf	426-1505
Recreation	473-1800
Golf Club	476-5910
Senior Adult Program	473-1830
Volunteer Center	473-1813
Youth and Families	473-1841

City Council

Vicki Barnett
Mayor
Randy Bruce
Mayor Pro Tem
John Akouri
Barry Brickner
Jerry Ellis
Ken Massey
Cheryl Oliverio

City Management

Steve Brock
City Manager

Dana Whinnery
Assistant City Manager

Teri Arbenowske
Assistant to the City Manager

Your Comments

FOCUS

is produced by the City of Farmington Hills and mailed to residents four times a year. Articles are submitted by City department directors. We welcome your comments.

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For the latest information about Farmington Hills, tune into cable Channel 8.

County tax payment schedule to change

Last fall, state lawmakers adopted legislation that changed how your annual county taxes are collected. Here is the schedule:

- In 2005, one-third of the county's annual millage will be collected with your summer taxes (July), with the remainder collected with your winter taxes (December);
- In 2006, two-thirds of the millage will be collected in July, with the balance in December.
- Finally, in 2007 and each year after, the entire millage amount will be billed in July.

For example, residents who pay \$300 yearly in county taxes will see the following county tax amounts on their tax bills:

Summer taxes 2005	\$100
Winter taxes 2005	\$200
Summer taxes 2006	\$200
Winter taxes 2006	\$100
Summer taxes 2007	\$300
Winter taxes 2007	\$0

This plan will allow the county to set up a special reserve fund to make up for cuts by the state

legislature in state revenue sharing that comes back to cities and counties.

In late June 2005, summer property tax bills will be mailed to all Farmington Hills property owners and their escrow agents. The summer bill is payable until August 31, 2005 without interest or penalty. Payments can be made by mail in the envelope provided with the tax bill, at the Treasury Dept. at City Hall, put in the drop box at City Hall, or at local bank branches of Standard Federal and Metro Bank.

A summer tax deferral, which defers the summer tax payment due date to February 15, 2006, is available for qualified residents. In order to qualify, your total household income for the 2004 calendar year must not have exceeded \$25,000 and you must either be a senior citizen, paraplegic, quadriplegic, eligible military serviceman or woman, eligible veteran, eligible widow or widower, blind person or totally and permanently disabled.

Deferral applications are available in the Treasurer's Office and must be submitted by August 31, 2005. Please call the Treasury Department at (248) 871-2480 if you need a summer tax deferral application mailed to you or have any property tax questions.

Have a fire-safe summer

The Farmington Hills Fire Department encourages you to exercise fire safety while grilling this summer. Whether you use charcoal, wood, gas or electricity for grilling, a moment's inattention can spell disaster. To ensure safe cookouts, please follow these safety tips:

- Keep grills away from combustibles, including the outside of your house, balcony or garage.
- Check gas hose connections to make sure gas is not leaking from your gas grill. Apply soapy water to hoses and connections to reveal any leaks.
- Only use grilling equipment bearing the mark of an independent testing laboratory. Follow the manufacturer's instructions on how to set up the grill and maintain it.
- Never store propane cylinders in buildings or garages. If you store a gas grill inside during the winter, disconnect the cylinder and leave it outside.
- Enforce a "kid-free zone" of three feet around the grill.
- Never add charcoal starter fluid when coals or kindling have already been ignited, and never use any flammable or combustible liquid other than charcoal starter fluid to get the fire going.
- Keep the grill clean.

Gas-fueled grills caused an estimated 600 home structure fires and 3,200 home outdoor fires in 2001 in the U.S., the latest information available. Charcoal-fueled or other solid-fueled grills caused an estimated 400 home structure fires and 200 home outdoor fires.

Placing combustibles too close to the grill and leaving cooking unattended are the two leading causes for charcoal grill home fires. Half of all gas grill and charcoal grill home fires begin on an exterior balcony or unenclosed porch. Barbeques and similar appliances are not permitted on balconies in apartments, townhouses or similar multi-family buildings.

Composting tips

Yard waste is collected in your weekly curbside pickup and then taken to a processing facility where all your leaves, grass clippings, flowers, shrub trimmings, and other plant materials break down and become nutrient-rich compost. Your brown paper yard waste bags actually decompose right along with the plant materials (that's why you can't put yard waste out in plastic bags that don't degrade.)

From April through November, compost is delivered to the pickup facility at 12 Mile and Drake in the Soccer! Soccer! Park. Compost is available free of charge from dawn to dusk to residents only (no commercial usage is allowed). You'll need to bring your own containers and be prepared to show your driver's license for proof of residency if a park ranger is on duty.

Please note: To ensure pickup, yard waste must be placed in a metal or plastic 32 gallon container with a yard waste label (available at the DPW or City Hall), or a brown paper yard waste bag (available in packs of ten for \$4 at City Hall or the DPW — checks only please at the DPW).

The ducks are coming!

The 1st Annual Rubber Duck Race will be held on July 16, 2005 during the Founders Festival. Hosted by the Farmington Hills/Farmington Community Foundation, it will be a "quacktacular" event. The family fun, games and entertainment begin at 2 p.m. at the river in Shiawassee Park in Farmington.

There will be two duck races: The Corporate Duck Decoy Race will begin at 3 p.m., and the big event, the Rubber Duck Race, will begin at 4 p.m.

You can buy a Rubber Duck ticket for \$5 or have your group/organization sell the tickets, and receive 25 percent of the sales. The remaining 75 percent goes to the Community Foundation for distribution to youth and senior programs and community organizations here in Farmington and Farmington Hills. This means 100% comes back to our community!

First prize in the Rubber Duck Race is \$100 a week in groceries for one year, compliments of Busch's market. There will be nine other lucky prize winners.

For more information, please call the Duck Hotline at (248) 473-1894.



City of Farmington Hills

31555 Eleven Mile Road
Farmington Hills, MI 48336

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