



FARMINGTON HILLS Michigan FOCUS

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

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City of Farmington Hills
Michigan - Municipal
Government

Police Department

Meeting for All Residents and Neighborhood Watch Groups November 20 at City Hall

On Wednesday, November 20 at 7 p.m., a meeting will be held for all residents and Neighborhood Watch groups in the Council Chambers at Farmington Hills City Hall, located at 31555 West Eleven Mile Road. Police Chief Chuck Nebus will present the Police Department's Annual Report and will discuss recent events and accomplishments within the agency. Crime Prevention Technicians Monica Kollar and Heather Bowman will share updates about the Police Department's Neighborhood Watch program. If you and your neighbors are interested in starting a Neighborhood Watch group, call the Crime Prevention Section at 248-871-2750 or email crimeprevention@fhgov.com.

Historic Crime Reduction

In 2018, the City recorded the lowest Part A total crime offenses in the City's 45-year history. These Part A offenses account for 23 of the most serious crimes, with all-time record lows in armed robberies, burglaries, larceny from autos, and auto thefts.

Part A crime in 2018 was 16% lower than 2017 and was 49% lower compared to 10 years ago. The 2018 Part A total was 59% lower, with over 3,000 fewer crimes, than in 1997 when Farmington Hills was named as the Safest City in Michigan by Morgan Quitno Press, a research and publishing company that compiles crime statistics.

Recently, SafeHome.org and Reviews.com named Farmington Hills as the Third Safest City in Michigan for communities with populations greater than 50,000. AreaVibes.com ranked Farmington Hills the Safest City in Michigan with a population over 80,000, and SecurityChoice.com ranked Farmington Hills as the Fifth Safest City in the Country to Retire.

According to Police Chief Chuck Nebus, the key ingredient to the City of Farmington Hills Safest City status is a successful partnership between police officers, residents, and City officials. The 2018 Annual Report, featuring crime data and illustrations of the Department's "Community Connections" Policing Program is available on the Police Department section of the City website at www.fhgov.com. Click on the Government tab, then go to the Police section and click on Annual Report.



New Drone Unit

The Police Department has created a new Small Unmanned Aircraft System (sUAS) Unit, more commonly known as a Drone Unit, one of only a small number that exist in metro Detroit. Officers must achieve FAA Remote Pilot Certification status in order to pilot the Police Department's drone. When called upon, these pilots will use the drone to assist officers as they search for missing persons, document accident and crime scenes, and work in coordination with the K9 Unit and patrol officers to locate and arrest fleeing suspects. The drone also has the capacity to assist first responders in a search and rescue capacity in the event of a natural disaster.

The Police Department drone has already been put to good use assisting other City departments. Recently, the drone was used to assist the Fire Department in surveying active fire scenes and chemical spills, and the Engineering Division used the drone to assess flooded roadways, observe construction projects, and monitor real-time traffic issues related to patterns and volume. The drone was purchased using monies seized under the authority of state forfeiture laws from persons involved in illegal drug activity.

Fire Department

Smoke Alarms Save Lives!

Smoke alarms that are properly installed and maintained play a vital role in reducing fire deaths and injuries. In 2018, death by fire increased statewide by 62% over the previous year, with four of those deaths in Farmington Hills.

The good news is that the first quarter of this year showed a 29% decrease in home fire fatalities across the state. If there is a fire in your home, smoke spreads fast and you need smoke alarms to give you time to get out. Smoke alarms provide early warning, which is vital to having any chance of surviving a fire.

Here's what you need to know about smoke alarms:

- Install smoke alarms in every sleeping room and outside each separate sleeping area.
- Install a smoke alarm on every level of the home.
- Smoke alarms should be interconnected; when one sounds, they all sound.
- Large homes may need extra smoke alarms.
- Test your smoke alarms at least once a month. Press the test button to make sure the alarm is working.
- Today's smoke alarms are more technologically advanced to respond to a multitude of fire conditions and to mitigate false alarms.
- When a smoke alarm sounds, get outside and stay outside.
- Replace all smoke alarms in your home every 10 years. The Farmington Hills Fire Department recommends 10-year lithium battery operated smoke alarms.

For more information about smoke alarms, visit the National Fire Protection website at <https://www.nfpa.org/Public-Education/By-topic/Smoke-alarms>.

The Fire Department partnered with MI Prevention and the State Fire Marshal's Office and obtained grant funding for a "Smoke Alarm Blitz." A team of 23 firefighters installed 488 smoke alarms and 15 carbon monoxide alarms. The alarms were installed in homes determined to be at high risk or where residents had requested the service.

Carbon Monoxide

Often called the invisible killer, carbon monoxide is an odorless, colorless gas created when fuels, such as gasoline, wood, coal, natural gas, propane, oil, and methane, burn incompletely. In the home, heating and cooking equipment that burn fuel are potential sources of carbon monoxide. Vehicles or generators running in an attached garage can also produce dangerous levels of carbon monoxide. A person can be poisoned by a small amount of CO over a longer period of time or by a large amount of CO over a shorter amount of time. For more information, go to the National Fire Protection website at <https://www.nfpa.org/Public-Education/By-topic/Fire-and-life-safety-equipment/Carbon-monoxide>

HUMAN RESOURCES NOW HIRING

The City of Farmington Hills Human Resources Department is currently hiring for several full and part-time positions in various City departments. To find out more about these positions, go to www.fhgov.com and click on Employment.

Close Before You Doze

Sound fire prevention advice has always been to keep your bedroom door closed while sleeping. The spread of a fire's toxic smoke and gases are significantly delayed in reaching you in your bedroom if the path to you is blocked by closing your bedroom door. Underwriters Laboratories Firefighter Safety Research Institute provides compelling reasons why this is a good idea. For more information, go to <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bSP03BE74WA>

Have a Family Escape Plan

Knowing what to do in the event of a fire will help increase your chances of a successful escape. The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) provides sound advice on how you and your family can be prepared to act quickly. For more information, go to <https://www.nfpa.org/Public-Education/By-topic/Safety-in-the-home/Escape-planning>.

You may call Farmington Hills Fire Prevention at 248-871-2820 with any questions or for more information on any of these safety-related messages.



City-Wide Open House Sunday, September 22 - Noon to 4 p.m. Farmington Hills City Hall Campus 31555 W. Eleven Mile Road

- Climb inside fire trucks, police cars, and snowplows.
- Watch a K-9 demonstration with Dozer, the City's police dog.
- Enter to win a street sign with your name on it.
- Bounce in a moonwalk and more!

Watch for details at www.fhgov.com and the City Facebook page.

Farmington Area Bleeding Control Coalition "Stop the Bleed" Campaign

In April 2013, the American College of Surgeons created a Joint Committee to institute a national policy that would enhance citizen survivability from mass casualty events. In 2015, the "Stop the Bleed" grassroots campaign was launched, which encourages civilian bystanders to become trained to act as immediate responders.

Although this initiative was born of the Sandy Hook and Boston Marathon tragedies, the facts show that approximately 60,000 Americans die of hemorrhage every year. Beaumont Farmington Hills Trauma Services joined forces with the Farmington Hills Fire Department, the Emergency Preparedness Commission, and the local nonprofit Bystander Response and created the new Farmington Area Bleeding Control Coalition. In 2017, this group brought the Stop the Bleed program to the community through education and training programs and through acquiring Stop the Bleed kits that contain tourniquets, bandages, gauze, and additional first aid supplies.



The Farmington Area Bleeding Control Coalition has now trained over 5,000 people, including most City staff members, on techniques to control and or stop life-threatening bleeding. Stop the Bleed kits are accessible to the public and are located alongside the AEDs in City buildings, as well as a growing number of businesses and schools. Smaller kits have also been placed in many City vehicles.

The Fire Department offers a class each month that teaches CPR, AED, and Stop the Bleed tourniquet training. Groups may also contact any other members of the Farmington Area Bleeding Control Coalition to enquire about training opportunities. The Coalition is always in need of citizens who would like to become trained in Stop the Bleed techniques and learn more about emergency preparedness.

Clerk's Office

2019 Election Information

Tuesday, November 5, 2019 City General Election Vote for Mayor and City Council Members

Important Deadlines

- Monday, October 21 – Last day to register to vote in any matter other than in-person at your local Clerk's Office.
- Tuesday, October 22 through Tuesday, November 5 until 8 p.m. – A person may register to vote **in person** at their local Clerk's Office with proof of residency.
- Friday, November 1 at 5 p.m. – Deadline to request an absent voter ballot to be mailed.
- Saturday, November 2 from 8:30am - 4:30pm – City Clerk's Office open for Election-related business.
- Monday, November 4 until 4 p.m. – Last day for registered voters to request an absent voter ballot **in person** at the Clerk's Office. Photo ID or completion of an Affidavit Not in Possession of Photo ID is required.

Permanent Absent Voter Application List

Recent legislation now allows voters to receive an absent voter ballot for any Election **without having to provide a reason**. A signed application is still required for all Elections in order to receive a ballot.

To automatically receive an **absent voter application** prior to each Election, contact the City Clerk's Office at 248-871-2410 or email a request to permlist@fhgov.com to be placed on the permanent 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 also to notify Associations of important information impacting their neighborhood. Please submit updated contact information to 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 HOMES BY EARLY OCTOBER

Finance Department

Treasury/Assessing Office Reminders

- Summer property tax bills were mailed around June 28, 2019 and may be paid without penalty through September 3, 2019. Thereafter, late penalties are assessed progressively up to 7% by the following February. Postmarks are not accepted by the City.
- Tax bills are mailed to the address of record and not forwarded by the post office, except for **temporary** forwarding orders.
- Changes of mailing address should be filed with the Assessor's Office.
- By law, failure to receive a property tax bill does not waive the tax bill or any charges for late payment.
- Every property should receive a property tax bill, even if the tax bill is to be paid via an escrow account. If you have any questions about your property taxes, call the Treasurer's Office at 248-871-2480.
- If you have any questions regarding your property assessment or taxable value, call the Assessing Division at 248-871-2470.



2019 Property Tax Calendar

September 3, 2019 – Last day to pay summer property taxes without penalty.

September 13, 2019 – Last day for eligible persons to file for summer tax deferral.

November 1, 2019 – Last day to file Primary Residence Exemption affidavit, for winter taxes only.

November 29, 2019 – Winter tax bills mailed.

December 31, 2019 – Taxable status set for 2020 tax bill.

Public Services Department

Adopt-A-Highway Program

Are you looking for a community service project for your organization, group or family? Then consider helping to keep our City beautiful by “adopting” I-696 or I-275 through Farmington Hills and cleaning litter and roadside debris from the side of the highways. The Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) hosts an Adopt-A-Highway program designed to help keep the state’s highway roadsides clean and attractive. Participants adopt both sides of a two-mile section of state highway roadside and clean the areas three times per year over a two-year period. The three annual cleanup times are mid-April, mid-July, and late September. More information is available at https://www.michigan.gov/mdot/0,1607,7-151-9621_11041_14408---,00.html. Help keep Farmington Hills beautiful!

Holiday Garbage/Recycling/Yard Waste Pickups

Yard waste pickup will end during the week of December 9, 2019.

Labor Day – Monday, September 2, 2019

Monday – No collection

Tuesday – Saturday – Collection one day behind

Thanksgiving Day – Thursday, November 28, 2019

Monday – Wednesday – Regular collection

Thursday – No collection

Friday & Saturday – Collection one day behind

Christmas Day – Wednesday, December 25, 2019

Monday & Tuesday – Regular collection

Wednesday – No collection

Thursday – Saturday – Collection one day behind

New Year’s Day – Wednesday, January 1, 2020

Monday & Tuesday – Regular collection

Wednesday – No collection

Thursday – Saturday – Collection one day behind



In the interest of worker safety, trash containers must be limited to a 35-gallon size (60 lb. maximum). Wheeled varieties are available in the acceptable size. **OVERSIZED CONTAINERS WILL NOT BE EMPTIED.**

Curbside Clothing Collection from Simple Recycling

Simple Recycling is a FREE residential curbside pickup service that takes unwanted clothing, shoes, accessories, and household discards including kitchenware, tools, toys, and books from every single-family household in Farmington Hills. Simply fill the orange bags with unwanted items and set them out for collection on your weekly trash and recycling day. Simple Recycling will collect the full orange bags and leave new replacement bags behind.

Collected items are sorted and graded by condition. Top quality materials are sold to local thrift stores, while items deemed not resalable in the U.S. are exported as second-hand clothing. The remainder is recycled into rags, home insulation fiber, carpet padding, and textile applications in the automotive industry.




For more information, contact Simple Recycling at 866-835-5068 or www.simplerecycling.com.



Recycling Reminders

- Don't put unacceptable materials in the recycling cart. Follow the list of allowable materials on the cart lid or at www.rrrasoc.org.
- Type a keyword in the recycling directory search bar at www.rrrasoc.org to find out how to recycle or dispose of an item.
- The recycling directory is available as a free app from the App Store or Google Play; search for “Recycling Authority.” You may now also enable the RRRASOC Recycling Directory on Alexa.
- Only recyclable items that are IN the cart will be recycled. Please don't pile extra items next to the recycling cart.
- To ensure pickup, all trash, recycling, and yard waste should be at the curbside by 7 a.m. on the assigned pickup day.

Questions? Call the DPW at 248-871-2850 or visit www.fhgov.com.


 City of Farmington Hills 
 

Proper Sharps (Needles) Disposal

Sharps should be disposed of in an FDA-approved container. If one is not available, you can make one from an empty household container with these characteristics:

- Made from sturdy, rigid plastic such as a used laundry detergent bottle
- Will not tip over
- Has a cap that does not puncture easily
- Does not have any leaks

When the container is three-quarters full, place the cap on it and tape it shut. Write "SHARPS" on the outside and place it in your household garbage. Sharps containers should NEVER go in your curbside recycling bin or to a drop-off recycling location. Used sharps and their containers are NOT recyclable; they pose a serious hazard for workers at Material Recovery Facilities.

For more information, go to safeneedledisposal.org, [Michigan Department of Environmental Quality](#), or [The US FDA](#).

Winter Reminders

Division of Public Works 248-871-2850



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 snow accumulation of four inches or more. 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 Citywide.

Mailboxes - Curbside mailboxes may become blocked by plowed snow. The U.S. Post Office requires snow to be removed enough to allow 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 can be knocked down by the weight of thrown snow. To make sure your mailbox is sturdy enough to survive the winter, give it a shake to see if it needs to be repaired.

Fire Hydrants - To assist the Fire Department, remove snow around fire hydrants so that they are always fully accessible.

Safety Reminders - In addition to driving defensively and carefully in bad weather, please follow these safety reminders:

- Don't let children play on snowbanks near the road.
- Stay a safe distance behind when following a snow plow truck.
- Don't plow or shovel snow 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. 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 who needs help, please give them a hand!

Planning & Community Development

Housing Rehabilitation Program Home Repair Loans

Funding for zero-interest, deferred home repair loans is provided by the U.S. Housing and Urban Development Office (HUD). Homeowners may be eligible for loans to replace roofs, windows, furnaces, septic fields or hot water tanks. To qualify, applicants must own and occupy a home in Farmington Hills and the family must meet Federal income guidelines. A family of four, for example, must have a gross income of less than \$61,050. For information, call the Community Development Office at 248-871-2543 or go to www.fhgov.com, and search for Housing Rehabilitation Program.

Housing Discrimination Notice

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