



As part of the ground source heat pump system at City Hall, 40 geothermal wells were drilled, with each one 285 feet deep and a total of more than 5.85 miles of tubing used.

**FALL/WINTER 2009
ELECTION ISSUE**

CITY COUNCIL

Jerry Ellis
Mayor

Randy Bruce
Mayor Pro Tem

Nancy Bates

Barry Brickner

Michael Bridges

Ken Massey

Cheryl Oliverio

CITY MANAGER

Steve Brock

Each issue of the Focus newsletter can also be found on the City website at www.fhgov.com.

Go to Quick Links on the home page and click on Newsletter.



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CITY HALL REVITALIZATION

Construction is underway on the City Hall Revitalization Project, which will create a more energy and operationally efficient building. In addition to these benefits, the Revitalized City Hall will be a valuable asset to the community and help set the stage for more environmentally friendly building practices throughout Farmington Hills. The project will be seeking LEED Certification at the Gold Level (learn more about LEED at www.usgbc.org/leed/)



While construction is underway, the entrance to City Hall is located on the south side of the building with parking available in the lot between City Hall and Fire Headquarters. Thanks for your patience and cooperation during the project!

The revitalized City Hall will be an educational asset to the City and region by showcasing green technologies. The goal is to inspire the implementation of similar technologies throughout the community. City Hall updates are available at www.fhgov.com and on cable Channel 8 or stop by and have a look!

City Hall Revitalization Green Technology

Ground Source Heat Pump Systems are the most energy efficient heating and cooling technology as defined by the Department of Energy. This system will provide both heating and cooling at a lower cost.

Daylighting will be supplied by large amounts of glass, translucent panels, skylights, and solar tubes. These technologies will decrease City Hall's reliance on artificial lighting and will lower electricity costs.

Energy Efficient Lighting will be employed along with occupancy and daylight sensors to decrease lighting loads and electricity costs.

Solar Energy will be used to create electricity and provide the heating for domestic hot water. This allows City Hall to eliminate the use of natural gas and employ renewable energy.

Cool Roofs enhance roof durability and reduce both building cooling loads and the urban heat island effect. City Hall will use reflective roof surfaces as well as a green roof, which will also help reduce storm water runoff.

Native Landscaping will reduce the need for irrigation.

Rain Gardens and Pervious Pavers will reduce storm water runoff and recharge ground water.

Performance Contracting

Earlier this year, Chevron Energy Solutions conducted a comprehensive energy analysis at 15 of the City's facilities. The City will be implementing a performance contract where over \$160,000 will be saved annually by upgrading lighting, building control systems, ice control technologies, a solar hot water heater for the Zamboni at the Ice Arena, and Energy Star computer programming. With a performance contract, Chevron Energy Solutions will be guaranteeing the savings and performance of the energy project.

Sustainable Farmington Hills

The Green Efforts Committee is engaged in community awareness and educational activities involving environmental sustainability and energy efficiency and will be launching www.sustainablefh.com later this year. This new website will provide valuable information regarding the City's sustainability programs, projects, and progress and will also provide various informational tools and resources. For more information, contact Nate Geinzer, Management Assistant, at ngeinzer@fhgov.com or 248-871-2500.

Fire Department

Winter is almost here. Are you prepared for an emergency?

If a storm, power outage or other disaster altered your life for a few days, would you be prepared? The Fire Department works very closely with the Emergency Preparedness Commission throughout the year attempting to get citizens prepared for such events, and to have the mindset that they can take care of themselves during trying times.

When a disaster strikes, emergency personnel will be overwhelmed with responses to accidents, power lines down, fires, and other life-threatening emergencies. This is the time when we are hoping residents will have a 72-hour kit and will be able to take care of themselves and their family for a few days. Consider one kit for your home and another for your vehicle.

Every household and family has certain specific needs to consider, but here are some basic supplies:

HOME KIT

- ✓ First aid kit
- ✓ Flashlights with extra batteries
- ✓ Water – One gallon per person, per day
- ✓ Battery operated radio with extra batteries
- ✓ Dust mask – One for each person, N95-type mask is preferred
- ✓ Latex or cotton gloves
- ✓ Matches/lighters
- ✓ Distress whistle
- ✓ Manual can opener/cooking utensils
- ✓ Copies of important documents
- ✓ Cash/coins in a waterproof container
- ✓ Extra keys for your house and car
- ✓ Rain ponchos
- ✓ A sleeping bag for each person
- ✓ Change of clothing and appropriate footwear
- ✓ Sanitation supplies (garbage bags, toilet paper, soap, towelettes, feminine products, diapers)
- ✓ Medication/prescription copies
- ✓ Knife and tool kit
- ✓ Cell phone and charger
- ✓ Eye wear/contacts
- ✓ Non-perishable food – Enough for each person for three days
- ✓ Cooking and eating utensils
- ✓ Notebooks, pens, pencils
- ✓ Items for pets, infants

Depending on special needs or considerations within your family, you may add items to this list.

CAR/VEHICLE KIT

- ✓ First aid kit
- ✓ Flashlight
- ✓ Extra reading glasses if needed
- ✓ Roadside assistance kit – Flares and booster cables
- ✓ Blanket
- ✓ Knife
- ✓ Rope and/or chains
- ✓ Matches/lighter
- ✓ Gloves or mittens
- ✓ Maps
- ✓ Toilet paper
- ✓ Snack food or energy bars

Being prepared is the key to surviving an emergency. If you need immediate help, dial 911, but if you can provide basic needs to your family, emergency personnel can help those truly in need.

For more information about winter/fire safety contact the Fire Department at 248-871-2800. The Emergency Preparedness Commission can be reached by calling 248-871-2417.

Police Department

Drive Safely, DO NOT TEXT!

With school well underway, there is increased traffic in the mornings and afternoons. Kids are waiting on corners for buses and walking to and from school and it's darker both in the morning and the evening.

These driving conditions alone are enough to challenge even the most seasoned drivers, but when you add a cell phone, it truly becomes a safety issue. Some cities have enacted ordinances to prohibit cell phone use while driving and many are also considering enacting ordinances to prohibit text messaging, too.

Texting while driving has become a very serious problem. Driving safely requires that you pay attention to not only your own driving, but also to other drivers around you -- texting will distract you from both.

Driving requires gross motor skills. Steering and using the pedals requires the use of hands, arms, and feet, all while watching the road. But texting while driving requires fine motor skills, which means using your fingers to type out messages. This is extremely dangerous because it causes you to take your eyes and your focus off the road. Drivers must always pay attention and expect the unexpected. Nowadays, it's wise to be alert for another driver looking down at a cell phone and typing out a message, rather than watching where they're going.

Driving safely means always paying attention to what's going on around you: Drive the speed limit. Stop at stop signs. Don't accelerate through yellow lights. Leave plenty of room between you and the car in front of you. And remember -- it's very important to keep your hands on the wheel and your eyes on the road, not on your cell phone!

Be a Part of the Visioning Process!

Are you interested in being a part of the City's 2020 Visioning Process? If you'd like to participate in this community-wide planning process to establish a vision for the future economic vitality of Farmington Hills, please contact City Manager Steve Brock via e-mail at sbrock@fhgov.com or call 248-871-2510.

WHAT IS KILLING THE PINE TREES?



Pine tree with diplodia tip blight.

The City has heard from residents about dead Scots Pine trees and Austrian Pine trees. The two most likely causes for this are Diplodia Tip Blight and Pine Wilt Disease.

Diplodia Tip Blight symptoms include sap oozing from infected needles and the tips and lower branches of the pine trees turning yellow. The best control for this fungal disease is to keep the trees as healthy as possible. Water during dry times and prune and destroy the infected branches, cones and twigs during the dry fall season to slow the spread of the fungus. Talk to a landscape professional about treatments.



Dead Scots pine tree.

Pine Wilt Disease typically affects trees that are 20 years old or more. Needles on one branch turn yellow, the disease spreads quickly to other branches and within three to four months the tree is dead. The best way to control the spread of Pine Wilt Disease is to remove dead trees as soon

as possible; there is no cure once the tree is infected. It is important to keep trees watered during dry times and fertilized in the fall. Tree care professionals can assist with injections that can reduce the chance of the disease occurring.

More information is available at the MSU extension diagnostic services at www.pestid.msu.edu.

Pest Control

Like most cities, Farmington Hills has occasional reports of rodent sightings. Code inspectors work diligently with local businesses and residents to eliminate these fast-breeding pests. It's much easier, however, to prevent infestations in the first place. Follow these tips to help keep rodents and other pests away from your property:

- Keep grass mowed, including tall grass and weeds along fence lines.
- Remove unnecessary items, junk, and debris from your property.
- Store wood and lumber above the ground (recommended height is 18 inches.)
- Seal any holes, cracks or openings at least three feet up from the foundation.
- Keep all garbage in metal or plastic trash containers with tight lids.
- Pick up and properly dispose of pet waste immediately.
- Use birdfeeders that are placed at least four feet off the ground and pick up all spilled seed, or switch to suet cakes.
- Eliminate water leaks and standing water.
- Store bulk food or grain in rodent-proof containers.

Please note: When using any rodenticide, it is very important to place the poison in areas completely inaccessible to pets. If a pet ingests poison intended for rodents, potentially serious or even life-threatening illness can result. If your pet is poisoned, time is critical for successfully treating the accidental poisoning. Call your veterinarian or the Animal Poison Control Center at 1-888-426-4435. (A consultation fee may apply.) Be prepared to state your pet's breed, age, weight, and any symptoms. Keep the product container with you to assist in identification so the appropriate treatment recommendations can be made.

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

Fall 2009 and Spring 2010 Road Construction

Halsted Road from Twelve Mile Road to south of Fourteen Mile Road – The City has a road repair project beginning in early October using a Federal Stimulus grant. This project will repair the concrete road surface through most of the fall, with some final landscaping restoration taking place in early spring 2010. Only southbound traffic will be allowed during construction. Northbound traffic will be detoured to either Thirteen Mile or Fourteen Mile Roads via Drake Road.

Nine Mile Road from Gill Road to Farmington Road – The City has a road repair project beginning in early October. This project will repair the concrete road surface through most of the fall. Eastbound traffic will be maintained and westbound traffic will be detoured to Freedom Road. Work is expected to be completed by early November.

Orchard Lake Road from Eight Mile Road to Grand River – The Road Commission for Oakland County's road repair project is well underway. This is also a Federal Stimulus project. It is expected to be completed by early November.

Inkster Road from Nine Mile Road to Eleven Mile Road – The City of Southfield will begin a resurfacing project in spring 2010 using a Federal Stimulus grant. The road will be closed to through traffic during construction.

Middlebelt Road from Eight Mile Road to Eleven Mile Road – The Road Commission for Oakland County will begin a resurfacing project in spring 2010 also using a Federal Stimulus grant. The road will remain open to traffic during the construction.

Department of Planning & Community Development BUILDING DIVISION

Tips for Hiring a Contractor:

During fall and winter, many residents will hire a contractor to perform home improvements or repairs. Here are some helpful tips:

- A licensed contractor should be able to produce a "pocket card" issued by the State of Michigan – ask to see it. Salesmen are also required to be licensed and are required to carry a pocket card.
- A licensed contractor is required to establish a physical place of business and display their license in a prominent location.
- Do not pay the entire contract price in advance. Withhold the final payment until the work has been completed and approved by the Building Division.
- Beware of prices that are good "today only."
- If the contract price includes the cost of a permit, ask for a copy and make sure it is posted on site.
- Contact the Building Division at 248-871-2450 to confirm that all inspections have been approved.
- If you hire an individual on a per hour basis, they are your employee and are not required to be licensed, however, you assume the responsibility for the work that is performed and you may be liable for injuries or property damage.
- You may bring your proposal from the contractor to the Building Division at City Hall for review and comment.

REPLACING YOUR FURNACE

Are you planning to replace your old furnace with a newer, more energy efficient model this winter? Here are a few things to keep in mind:

- ✓ If your home has a masonry chimney, a metal chimney liner must be installed along with the new furnace.
- ✓ High-efficiency furnaces generate flue gases that are much cooler than older models and contain high levels of water vapor that can condense on the inside of a masonry chimney and eventually saturate the brick.
- ✓ With sub-freezing temperatures, the water vapor trapped in the brick of the chimney can freeze and cause the brick to "pop" or disintegrate. The metal chimney liner is designed to prevent this from happening.
- ✓ White, salt-like stains on the brick are a sign that damage is occurring.

Contact the Building Division at 248-871-2450 if you have any questions about furnace replacement.

Unlicensed/inoperative motor vehicles

The Zoning Division receives complaints about unlicensed or inoperative motor vehicles. To reduce the negative impact on the community, residents are asked to follow the City ordinance – in any residential area, currently unlicensed or inoperative motor vehicles can only be parked in a completely enclosed building. Questions? Call the Zoning Division at 248-871-2520.

Storage of recreational equipment and trailers

The Zoning Division receives complaints about the storage of recreational equipment or trailers. The term "recreational equipment" includes:

travel trailers	pick-up campers or coaches
motorized dwellings	tent trailers
boat and boat trailers	snowmobiles
horse trailers	dune buggies
other similar equipment	

At a residential property, you cannot store unlicensed recreational equipment, except in a completely enclosed building. The parking and storing of licensed recreational equipment is permitted under certain conditions relating to height, yard coverage and setback regulations. If you have questions, please call the Zoning Division at 248-871-2520 and call your subdivision association regarding their specific requirements.

FALL HISTORIC STRUCTURE SURVEY

The Historic District Commission works to safeguard the heritage of Farmington Hills by preserving districts in the city that reflect elements of the cultural, social, economic, political or architectural history of the City. Currently, 73 historic districts are designated in Farmington Hills, and the commission works to recognize and designate additional historic districts every year.



The Mark Arnold House circa 1837

On Saturday, November 14, the Historic District Commission will conduct the 2009 survey of potential historic structures. The Commission will observe homes that are 50 years of age or older to determine if they may qualify as historic. Photos may be taken from the road, but no access to private property will be necessary. The survey will focus on the area north of Eleven Mile Road, south of Twelve Mile Road, and between Farmington Road and Haggerty Road. If you are the owner of a home that may be historic, please contact Patti Nicholson, staff liaison for the Historic District Commission, at 248-871-2544.

Fast Facts about Your Property Taxes

- ✓ After tax bills are mailed, amounts will be available at www.fhgov.com. Go to quick links, property inquiry, current taxes. Enter property address or parcel ID 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 won't be forwarded to new addresses on file with the Post Office. 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.*

2010 Property Tax Calendar

February 16 – Last day to pay winter property taxes without penalty
 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
 Mid March – Board of Review meets
 May 1 – Last day to file Primary Residence Exemption affidavit
 Early June – Budget public hearing where City Council sets City tax rate
 June 28 - 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 28 - 30 – Winter tax bills mailed
 December 31 – Taxable status set for coming year's bill

Holiday Garbage/Recycling/Yard Waste Pickups

Thanksgiving - No collection Thursday, November 26. Monday through Wednesday - regular collection. Thursday and Friday - collection delayed one day.

PLEASE NOTE: *The last yard waste pickup is during Thanksgiving week, November 23-28. Starting the week of November 30, yard waste will not be picked up until the program resumes in the first full week of April 2010.*

Christmas Day and New Year's Day - No collection Friday, December 25 and Friday, January 1. Monday through Thursday both weeks - regular collection. Friday both weeks - collection delayed one day.

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

Pickups do not occur on New Year's Day, Memorial Day, Fourth of July, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day, and Christmas Day. For details, go to www.fhgov.com.

Holiday Recycling

Recycle your holiday cards and wrapping paper with your newspapers and junk mail in a brown paper bag in your green recycling bin. Please note: Cards and wrapping paper with glitter or metallics should go in with your regular trash.



Recycle your Christmas tree at Glen Oaks Golf Course from December 26 through January 10, seven days a week from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the east end of the clubhouse parking lot at 30500 West Thirteen Mile Road, just east of Orchard Lake. Trees must be free of all decorations, lights, and tinsel. For more info, call **248-858-0906** or go to www.DestinationOakland.com. Christmas trees placed at the curbside will go in with the regular trash, so please try an earth-friendly alternative.

Recycling Reminders

Farmington Hills residents can now recycle all narrow neck plastic bottles with any number on the bottom. Caps and labels can be left on. Also, plastic grocery bags and retail bags are accepted (bundled together), drink boxes are accepted, pizza boxes can be tossed loose in the bin, and scrap metal such as pots and pans, bakeware, and more can be placed in your recycling bin. For a copy of the Curbside Guidelines, go to www.fhgov.com or call **248-871-2850**.

Senior Division

FALL AND WINTER PROGRAMS FOR ADULTS 50 & BETTER

The Center for Active Adults offers a variety of fitness programs, classes, and special events at the Costick Center. Call **248-473-1830** for information, dates, times, and fees.

EVENING ACTIVITIES

Fernando's Ballroom – Mon. East Coast Swing I & II, 6 -7 p.m.; Viennese Waltz I, 7 - 8 p.m., Nov. 9 – Dec 21.

Back to Ballroom – Tues. Tango I, 7- 8 p.m., Nov 3 – Dec 15.

Yoga – Tues. 5:30 - 6:30 p.m., Nov 3 – Dec 15; and Thurs. 5:45 – 6:45 p.m., Oct 29 – Dec 17.

Tai Chi – Wed. 6:30 - 7:30 p.m., Nov. 4 – Dec. 16.

VITAL WOMAN

Home Décor 101 – Develop your own personal style; tips on furniture placement, accessories, fabric & finish choices. Nov 2, 6 – 7 p.m.

Holiday Safety Tips – Be prepared; improve personal and home safety for the holidays. Dec 7, 6 – 7 p.m.

LIFELONG LEARNING AT LONGACRE

Brain Neurobics – Discover what effects brain health, Oct 14, 10 – 11 a.m.

The Spirituality of Aging – Explore this concept, gain insights, look at increasing spiritual needs, Anita Herman, PhD. Oct 28, 10 – 11a.m.

Choosing Children's Books – Engage a child's imagination and wonder. Fun & informative discussion, Nov 18, 10-11 a.m.

Brain Aging – How to maintain cognitive abilities, Dec 2, 10 – 11 a.m.

FARMINGTON HILLS BALLROOM DANCE

All adult ages and skill levels invited. DJ, 50/50 raffle, door prizes, refreshments. Complimentary dance lesson at 7 p.m., dance 8 – 10:30 p.m. Most third Friday evenings. Oct. 16, Dec. 18, Jan. 15, Feb. 19, Mar. 19, \$10.

HOLIDAY EVENTS & PARTIES

Enjoy meals, games, entertainment, dancing, prizes, and more. Purchase tickets at least one week prior to event, \$8 per person. After deadline, \$10.

- * Halloween Party – Oct. 30
- * Stars & Stripes Forever Veterans Celebration – Nov. 6
- * Thanksgiving Party – Nov. 19
- * Holiday Party – Dec. 11
- * Valentine's Party – Feb. 12
- * St. Paddy's Day Party – Mar. 12

ITALIAN CULTURE CLUB

Explore the richness of the Italian culture each second Thursday of the month at 10 a.m. Features conversation and different aspects of Italian life such as music and food.

PROGRAMS

Movie Mondays – Oct. 26 & Nov 30

Driver Safety Program, AARP, driver refresher course, 10 a.m. – 2:30 p.m., Nov. 11-12

SPEAKERS BUREAU/PROGRAMS

Maintaining Independence – Oct. 20

Managing Diabetes – Nov. 3

Sleep Well – Nov. 17

Controlling Chronic Pain – Dec. 1

Breakfast with the DIA – Dec. 8

Osteoporosis: What You Need to Know – Dec. 15

Shredding for Safety – Dec. 15 & Mar. 16

Newcomer Welcome Tour – Jan. 21

Solving the Mystery of Probate Court – Mar. 23

TAX ASSISTANCE

AARP trained tax consultants will be available for tax assistance from early February through April 13. Appointments and walk-ins accommodated.

WOMEN'S & MEN'S 50+ SOFTBALL

Registration for softball teams in the Oakland County 50+ league begins in January, 2010. Play begins in late May.

HOLIDAY SHOPPING EXPOS AT THE COSTICK CENTER

Thursday, November 5, 5 - 8 p.m.

Saturday, December 5, 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Over 60 vendors, crafters, and area businesses offering toys, jewelry, candles, clothing, holiday displays, greeting cards, makeup, and more! The event is free, food and refreshments will be available. Vendors and crafters - call **248-473-1805** to reserve your 4' x 8' space with a 6' table for a \$40 fee per space.

Try New Online Registration for Recreation Programs!

The Department of Special Services is now offering online WebTrac registration for select classes and programs. Simply go to the City's website at www.fhgov.com and click on Recreation Online Registration listed under Quick Links.

If your family has registered for a program in the past, you will already have a household account and you may just follow the prompts to register. If your family is new to the City's recreation programs, you'll need to create a household account by registering either online or in person at the Costick Center, located at 28600 W. Eleven Mile Road, on Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Please note that all newly created online household accounts will require a two business day approval process that includes verifying residency.

Watch your mailbox in late November for the Winter/Spring Activities Guide featuring lots of great programs, services, and events. Resident registration for Winter/Spring programs begins on December 8 and non-resident registration begins on December 15. If you have questions, please call **248-473-1800**.

Listserv

To receive up-to-date information by e-mail regarding the City Hall Revitalization Project, go to www.fhgov.com, click on the "Quick Links" pull-down list, and choose "Mailing Lists / Listserv." Choose the City Hall Revitalization Project listserv and enter your e-mail address. Project updates will also be available on the City's website at www.fhgov.com or questions may be directed to City Manager Steve Brock at **248-871-2510**.



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Farmington Hills, MI 48336

FALL/WINTER 2009

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Cultural Arts Division Fall Programs and Events

Concert Series and Youth Theatre

Watching your mileage? Enjoy wonderful live performances close to home. Tickets may be purchased at the Costick Center or call **248-473-1848** to charge by phone. Limited availability at the door on the nights of the performances. Call **248-473-1870** for more information.

“The Music Man Jr.” - Farmington Hills Youth Theatre
The delightful American classic, in a family-friendly performance.
Thursday and Friday, Nov. 19 and 20, 7 p.m.
Saturday and Sunday, Nov. 21 and 22, 1 p.m. & 5 p.m.
Tickets - \$10 at the door, 3 and under free
Reserve tickets in advance by calling **734-634-4678**

Detroit Chamber Winds “Holiday Brass”
Detroit Symphony and Michigan Opera Theatre Orchestra members perform traditional favorites.
Monday, Dec. 7, 7:30 p.m.
Farmington Players Barn Theater
Tickets - \$19 adults, \$17 seniors and students

Farmington Community Chorus “Our Family Album”

Our own community chorus, over 80 voices strong.
Friday and Saturday, Dec. 11 and 12, 8 p.m.
Mercy High School Auditorium
Tickets - \$12 in advance, \$15 at the door
Purchase tickets by calling **810-632-4067**

Michigan Opera Theatre Night Out at the Barn

Wonderful select soloists – hilarious and moving!
Saturday, January 23, 7:30 p.m.
Farmington Players Barn Theater
Tickets - \$19 adults, \$17 seniors and students



Detroit Chamber Winds Holiday Brass

SPECIAL EVENTS

“All Hallow’s Eve Party” at Longacre House
Friday, October 30, 8 p.m. – midnight
Costumes, open bar, treats, and spooky fun for ages 21 and up
Tickets - \$30 per individual, \$50 per couple
Call **248-473-1848** to reserve tickets.

Traditional English Afternoon Teas at Longacre House
Oct. 13, Nov. 10, Dec. 4 and 8, 1 – 3 p.m.
Each tea has a special theme, call **248-473-1870** for details.
Tickets - \$20 residents, \$25 non-residents

Classes, Workshops and Lessons

Classes and lessons are available in pottery, drawing, batik, figure drawing and fashion illustration (beginning and intermediate), drawing faces, exploring ceramics, pastels, oil painting, outdoor photography, watercolor, sculpture, and collage. Dance classes include Middle Eastern Belly Dancing and Motown Ballroom Dance. Music lessons are available in acoustic guitar, violin, Celtic fiddle, and piano. Call **248-473-1859** or **248-473-1870** for details or visit Cultural Arts at www.fhgov.com.

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
Council Newsline	248-871-2511
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	248-871-2549
Planning	248-871-2540
Zoning	248-871-2520
Police Department	
Non-emergency	248-871-2600
Public Services Department	248-871-2530
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 Program	248-473-1830
Youth and Families Services	248-473-1841
Volunteer Center	248-473-1813

10th Annual Heritage Week -

“Tour the World in Your Hometown”

Wednesday, October 14, 7 p.m.
“Ask Not” movie and discussion
Civic Theater – Downtown Farmington
Fee to be determined

Thursday, October 15, noon
“Tour the World in Three Courses” Cooking Show
Longacre House
Tickets - \$17, call 248-473-1800 in advance

Friday, October 16, 6 – 9 p.m.
International Coffee, Desserts, Entertainment
Longacre House
FREE admission

Saturday, October 17, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
History Day at the Warner Mansion –
Downtown Farmington
FREE Admission

Sunday, October 18, 5 p.m.
“A Taste of Wisdom” Potluck Dinner
North Farmington Congregational Church
\$5 per person, \$25 per family
Call 248-978-6664 for reservations

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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For the latest info on Farmington Hills, visit www.fhgov.com or tune into Cable Channel 8.

Recreation Division Events

Fall and winter in Farmington Hills brings a variety of events for the entire family, as well as a long list of exciting programs. Some of the special events and programs to look for in the Farmington Hills Department of Special Services Fall 2009 brochure include:

Digital Halloween Road Rally October 24
Holiday Shopping Expos November 5 and
December 5
Breakfast with Santa December 12
Holiday Drop & Shop December 19
Holiday Break Day Camp December 28 - 30
Youth Basketball Registration Deadline is
December 1

Early Education Programs, Dance Classes, Hay Rides, Live & Local, and a whole lot more!

For information on programs and events, call 248-473-1805 or click on the latest Special Services brochure on the main page of the City’s website at www.fhgov.com.

YOUTH & FAMILY SERVICES – After School Program

The After School Program continues to serve over 250 middle school youth per day in a safe and fun atmosphere. The opening of the Prince of Peace (POP) Center last year proved to be a great success welcoming students from Dunkel and Warner. All Youth Centers offer indoor and outdoor activities, arts and crafts, concessions, homework help, video games and many other activities. New offerings include a pompon clinic, CPR and First Aid training classes. The Career Explorers program gives middle school youth an opportunity to visit community businesses and to start thinking about their future careers. If you know of an area business interested in participating, call **248-473-1841**.

The Youth Program is free to Farmington/Farmington Hills residents after the purchase of a photo ID at the discounted price of \$10.00 for new members or after the payment of a \$20.00 renewal fee for returning members. For more information, call **248-473-1841**.

2009 ELECTION INFORMATION

ELECTION DATE

Tuesday, November 3, 2009 – General Election

OFFICES ON THE BALLOT

Farmington Hills :

- Mayor – Vote for 1 – two-year term
- City Council – Vote for 3 – four-year terms

Farmington Public Schools:

- Vote for 2 - Members of the Board of Education – four-year terms through 11/2013
- Vote for 2 - Members of the Board of Education – six-year terms through 11/2015

DO YOU KNOW WHERE TO VOTE? It is very important that you know where your voting precinct is located prior to Election Day. YOU MUST VOTE IN THE PRECINCT IN WHICH YOU ARE REGISTERED. If you appear at the wrong precinct, you will be directed to the correct voting location. All voting locations close at 8:00 p.m. No person is permitted to vote after that time. Please call the Clerk's Office for your location or refer to the precinct map.

PHOTO ID IS REQUIRED. Photo ID is required for voting, however, if you do not have proper photo ID, you may be able to vote by completing an Affidavit.

ABSENT VOTER BALLOT APPLICATIONS. If you wish to be placed on the permanent absent voter list, please e-mail permlist@fhgov.com or call **248-871-2416** and an application will be mailed to you prior to each election. Applications for November have been mailed to all persons currently on our list. Anyone needing an application for the November 3rd Election can contact the City Clerk's Office at 248-871-2410 or download an application from the city's website at www.fhgov.com.

ABSENTEE VOTER BALLOTS. You are eligible for an absentee ballot if you meet any of the following criteria:

- Are 60 years of age or older
- Are physically unable to attend the polls without assistance of another
- Are appointed as a precinct worker in a precinct other than your own
- Expect to be absent from the community in which you are registered on election day
- Cannot attend the polls because of the tenets of your religion
- Cannot attend the polls because you are confined to jail awaiting arraignment or trial

CITY HALL CONSTRUCTION – BALLOT DROP BOX. Due to construction at City Hall, the green drive-up drop box for election materials previously located in the median between City Hall and the Police Station has been relocated to the walkway in front of the Police Station. You may wish to return your ballot by mail or bring it to the City Clerk's Office. The south entrance to City Hall is the only accessible entrance for residents at this time. Parking is available in the lot between City Hall and Fire Headquarters or at the 47th District Court. There will also be a drop box at the south entrance just inside City Hall.



**CANDIDATE FOR MAYOR
JERRY M. ELLIS**

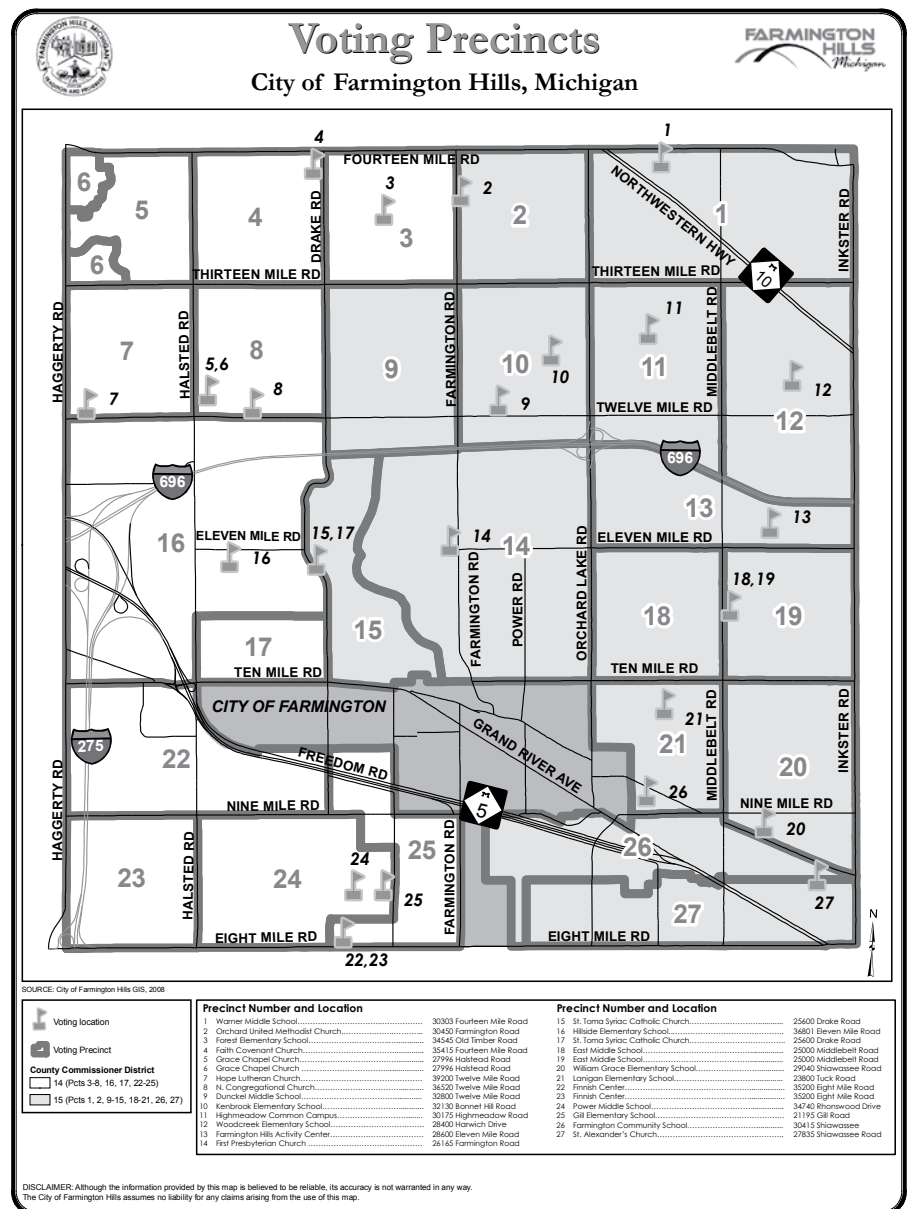
Jerry M. Ellis is running for re-election as Mayor of Farmington Hills. He was first elected Mayor in November 2007. He was elected to City Council in August 1996 and was re-elected in November 1997, November 2001, and again in November 2005. He served as Mayor Pro Tem in 2000 and again in 2004.

Jerry currently serves as Chairman of the Southwestern Oakland Cable Commission (SWOCC) and has been a SWOCC Commissioner since 1999. He is the Council liaison to the Economic Development Corporation and the Farmington/Farmington

Hills Chamber of Commerce. He is also the SEMCOG Delegate and Eight Mile Boulevard Association Alternate Delegate.

He has served as a Board Member of the Oakland County Community Mental Health Authority, and has served on the 47th District Court Facilities Committee, the Year 2000 Committee, the Farmington Hills Ice Arena Committee, and served on the Farmington Hills Parks and Recreation Commission for ten years, including three as Chairman. In 1990, he was the recipient of the Farmington Area Jaycees Distinguished Citizen Award for service to the community.

Jerry graduated from Michigan State University in 1965 with a bachelor's degree in Economics and graduated from Detroit College of Law in 1968. He has also attended the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University. Jerry has been a practicing attorney for over 40 years and is a senior member of the Farmington Hills law firm of Couzens, Lansky, Fealk, Ellis, Roeder & Lazar, P.C. He is a 34-year resident of Farmington Hills.



CANDIDATES FOR CITY COUNCIL

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



NANCY BATES

Nancy Bates was first elected to Council in 1989. In 1993 she was elected Mayor by the City Council. In 1999 and 2002 she was elected Mayor by a huge majority of the voters.

Nancy has outstanding legislative experience and worked in Lansing as a legislative assistant for six years. She owned and operated Heatcheck Energy Products and founded ARTSTART PRE-SCHOOL.

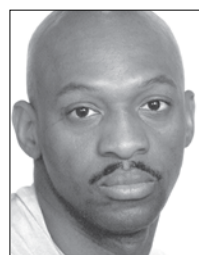
While Mayor, Nancy initiated the Commission for Children, Youth and Families, which resulted in a \$387,000 grant being awarded for the after-school program. Ms. Bates is a founder of the Community Foundation, which has given thousands of tax-free dollars to local worthy projects.

Nancy formed the Citizen Corps Council for Emergency Preparedness following 9/11, the Mayor's Youth Council and the Community Volunteer Center. She believes in involving citizens in the governmental process.

Nancy was the organizing chairperson for the Commission on Aging and a charter member of the Arts Commission. She chaired the Transportation Committee for SEMCOG and was called to Washington to testify on the value of after-school youth programs.

Nancy is a recipient of the Governor George Romney "Volunteer of the Year" award and the only elected official to receive the state award for "Service to Children." She was one of four finalists in the national selection of "Woman of the Year in Municipal Government."

Nancy Bates has vast institutional knowledge, proven leadership, legislative background, creative problem solving strategies and valuable experience, which will help guide future decisions with a steady hand and wise choices.



AKIL HASHIM

Akil Hashim is seeking an office with the City Council. He has been working at CVS Pharmacy over nine years, and has a degree in Business Administration, and is currently working on a second degree in Management. He's a Persian Gulf War Veteran, a war hero, who believes life is all about helping people. Surviving the war and obtaining a degree are a couple of his greatest accomplishments.

Akil is running for public office because he has a passion for helping people. He said, residents expressed it was their loyalty to council that they have been voting for, even though they didn't feel represented. Akil wants to be a representative of the people and insure that they have good housing, neighborhood security, street cleaning, safety, and jobs for local residents. He wants to help implement programs to help senior citizens with medication and bills, which is one reason he wants to give up \$600 of his pay for the first six months to help senior citizens. He wants to make sure our school system has a good fitness and health program. He wants to make Farmington Hills be a place everyone wants to come to, but no one wants to leave. Building up the city, and offering good schools, safe environment, housing, security, and services are just a few ways this can be accomplished.

Akil has been married nine years, and has three sons, and he likes reading, playing chess, and shooting pool with his sons.

continued...

CANDIDATES FOR CITY COUNCIL

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



ROBERT MASON

Mason is a dynamic executive with global successes in strategy, organizational development and restructuring for public and private entities. He positively impacted thousands at local, state and federal levels this year by:

- Helping *families keep their homes* through launching a \$50M stabilization fund.
- Creating a plan and negotiating its acceptance with SOM and Detroit, to eliminate a \$4.7M sewage debt as Treasury's *Emergency Financial Manager*.
- Providing guidance to the *Auto Task Force*, House and Senate leaders on reconfiguring the auto industry.
- Being selected to support *NASA's restructuring* per Presidential mandate; reinvigorating their \$18B budget.
- Leading the administration of a Michigan municipality's \$27M pension fund in less than 60 days to *preserve retiree's benefits*.

A current Planning Commissioner, Mason recently became a trustee for the Foundation for Youth and Families; which has contributed thousands of dollars to support the After School Youth Program and many other community projects.

Mason's vast public service experience includes serving as a City Councilmember and on the Police Benevolent Association.

"This is an extremely difficult time for all levels of government. My broad sector experience, specific skills for challenging situations, and proven leadership will be valuable assets moving forward," states Mason.

A graduate of Michigan's MBA program, Mason holds a MSc. from Madonna and an engineering degree from Lakehead.

Mason is campaigning on:

- Providing residents with the highest quality service at the lowest costs
- Attracting global business to Farmington Hills

For more information visit www.RobertMason.org



MICHAEL BRIDGES

Michael Bridges' personal history may well be a prototype of the American success story. His personal history has taken him from janitor to successful business man. In 2008, Michael was elected to the Farmington Hills City Council. Following his election to the city council, Bridges has been very active. Such as proposing initiatives to save taxpayer dollars, for example, 1) Reinvigorated employee suggestion system. 2) Propose expanded discussions with the Farmington Public Schools regarding possible collaborative agreement involving property management and vehicle maintenance. 3) Study the possibility of joining with other similar size cities in a cooperative effort to purchase dental insurance, life insurance and vision care for our employees and retirees.

Bridges is running for re-election because he believes he has the necessary experience, community involvement, leadership and vision to maintain the City of Farmington Hills' excellent quality life.

Born in Jackson, Michigan, one of eight children, Bridges worked as a janitor to finance his college education, earning an Associate Degree in the Arts at Jackson Community College and a Bachelor of Arts from Spring Arbor College.

Bridges has a passion for his family, a passion to succeed and a passion to serve the community. He has given of his time and energy to numerous community endeavors participating in: The Farmington Area Commission on Aging, Farmington Public Schools Financial Strategies Committee, Farmington PTA Council, Zoning Board of Appeals, Board of Directors Farmington YMCA and the Crime Prevention Advisory Council. He is currently the Council Liaison to the Pension Board.



CHERYL OLIVERIO

Cheryl Oliverio is seeking re-election to the Farmington Hills City Council. She has been a member of the council for 16 years and a resident of the city for 22 years. Cheryl has been employed at Sellers Buick since 1993 as the warranty administrator.

As a member of council, Cheryl has worked diligently to keep Farmington Hills a city where people want to live, work and play. She, along with other councilmembers and staff have provided high-quality public services, which include police and fire, advance-life-support services, garbage pick-up and recycling, and well-maintained water and sewer systems. She also helped form the Green Efforts Committee, to look at ways Farmington Hills can be more environmentally conscious and the Emergency Preparedness Commission, to help residents become more prepared for any kind of emergency.

Cheryl played a major role in expanding recreation in Farmington Hills, which is important for quality of life. With her support the city built an ice arena, skate park, baseball diamonds, soccer fields and an 18-hole golf course. She worked to increase recreational and cultural programs in the city, including the after-school program for middle school children. With the economy the way it is, Cheryl has looked at ways to cut back on expenses and change how the city does things, which resulted in many cost savings. She has also worked to increase the tax base by providing assistance to new and existing businesses so they become viable and successful.

Cheryl has four sons, three grandsons and one granddaughter.



MARY M. JOHNSTON

Education: B.A. Sociology Oakland University

Community Advocate:

Treasurer, Earth Alive, the first ever effort to protect the environment in this city. The proceeds were used by scouts who worked at the recycling station in order to buy camping equipment. The voluntary effort ended when the city took over curbside recycling.

Co-leader of Girl Scout Troop #921 at Nardin Park Methodist Church – a horseback riding troop.

Co-Director of The Safe Energy Coalition of Michigan, a group of concerned citizens who monitored conditions at the Fermi 2 nuclear power plant.

One of the founding members of Don't Waste Michigan working to protect Michigan from becoming the host state of seven states' nuclear waste. It was among one of the most successful citizens' efforts in Michigan.

After 30 years of community activism at the state and national level, local issues began to surface. It is clear that a homeowners' perspective is needed on the city council.

As a mother of two this work as a community advocate began as a way to protect children and then extended itself to encompass a much broader community. As a concerned citizen it now involves working as a city council member to improve the lives and the environment for all of those who live in the City of Farmington Hills.

Hobbies: reading history, writing poetry, walking



JOE MANTEY

Joe Mantey is running for City Council. He has served on the city's Planning Commission since 2004. Before that, Joe was on the Zoning Board of Appeals. He has continuously served the City for the last nine years.

After graduating from the University of Michigan, Joe earned his graduate degree in economics from the University of California at Davis. He is an economist and teaches at OCC. He also consults on the cost-

benefit analysis of infrastructure investments around the nation and serves on the editorial board of the National Floodplain Management and Liability Reporter.

Joe is running for office to bring his financial expertise to the City Council as revenues are expected to decline over the next few years.

He has contributed to the community in many ways over the years. He is a member of the Safe Routes to School Committee at Beechview Elementary School. Joe has been on the Friends of the Rouge Public Involvement Taskforce since 2002. In the past, Joe served on the Economic Development Committee for Downtown Farmington and coached Destination Imagination teams at both Alameda and Wooddale Elementary.

Joe and his wife, Dr. Kendra Schwartz, have been together for over 30 years. Kendra is a Professor in the School of Medicine at Wayne State University. Their daughter, Julia, graduated from Farmington High and is a senior at the University of Iowa. Their son, Mitch, plays trombone in the Marching Band at Farmington High.

You can find more information at his website: www.JoeMantey.org



NORENE (BARTOS) YUSKOWATZ

Norene has two degrees from OCC: Commercial and Graphic Arts, and Associates in Science-Dental Hygiene. She's practiced dental hygiene locally, since 1985 and has been a YMCA fitness instructor and trainer over 25 years.

Norene has been active in the community since moving here in 1978 starting in her children's grade school to high school. She was membership chair several years for the North Farmington all school booster club, the representative on the high school community forum, and the FPS Mission 2007 committee.

Norene was on the Council of Homeowners Association Board over twelve years (including president) involved in the cell tower ordinance, the PUD for 14 Mile/Orchard Lake/Northwestern, and the golf course expansion. She is on the board of the YMCA and chaired the Strong Kids campaign in 2006. Currently she is president of her own homeowner's association and the vice-chair of the nationally recognized FH/F Emergency Preparedness Commission.

Norene is married to Mike and has three grown children, five grandchildren, and several family members live and work in Farmington Hills. Three grandchildren attend FPS. She's volunteered for Hospice of Michigan since 1995, being recognized in 2000 on National Philanthropy Day. This spring she was given the Gold Award from the Senior Commission on Aging. She wants to be elected to Council to promote and protect the community she cares so much about.

ELECTION DATE
Tuesday, November 3, 2009 – General Election