Fire Department
Change Your Clocks, Change Your Batteries

As we “fall back” one hour on Sunday, November 4, the Fire Department urges you to participate in the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC)/Energizer Battery national campaign to “Change Your Clocks, Change Your Batteries” by replacing the batteries in all battery-operated smoke alarms. It’s also a great time to check each alarm with a vacuum attachment (dust and spiders can cause false activations) and to establish an emergency exit plan for your family.

No Ice Is Safe Ice

It’s impossible to judge the safety of ice based on its appearance, thickness or the daily temperature, especially when it’s covered with snow. Ice in one area can be one inch thick, while it’s over a foot thick just a few feet away. Risks rarely outweigh the benefits of being on the ice. But if you do venture out, keep these tips in mind:

- Avoid alcohol when venturing on the ice.
- Beware of snow-covered ice.
- Never go onto the ice alone.
- Keep pets off the ice.
- Wear a life jacket.
- Never drive on ice.

Remember, whether a friend, family member or pet falls through the ice, DO NOT attempt to make a rescue yourself. Dial 911 immediately! Firefighters have the proper training and equipment to make a rescue.

The Farmington Hills Fire Department conducted a ‘turkey burn’ demonstration of what can happen when a partially thawed turkey is placed in a turkey fryer.

Holiday Fire Safety

Holidays are a great time to enjoy the season, but every year we hear about fire fatalities involving deep fryers, Christmas trees or candles left unattended. All of these can be avoided by using common sense and reading manufacturers’ instructions.

Turkey Fryers – Large fires can be caused when fryers tip over or are overfilled with oil that spills onto the burner and causes it to engulf in flames. Partially frozen turkeys contain a lot of water — water and hot oil is a recipe for disaster! Also, fryers have no thermostatic controls, so the units have a tendency to overheat the oil or the points of combustion. Follow these safety tips when using a turkey fryer:

- Never use a turkey fryer on a wooden deck or inside a garage. Keep a portable fire extinguisher nearby.
- Never leave the fryer unattended.
- Turkeys must be thoroughly thawed and also be very careful when adding extra liquids such as marinades into your bird.
- Keep a portable fire extinguisher nearby.
- If your fryer catches fire and you can’t extinguish it, dial 911 immediately!

Christmas Trees – Use safety precautions with both artificial and fresh-cut trees. When exposed to an open flame, artificial trees will be completely consumed in less than a minute and will produce thick black, toxic smoke. Fresh cut trees will need to be watered every day. Follow these safety tips with your Christmas tree:

- Purchase a durable tree stand and don’t place your tree in an area that blocks an exit.
- Be sure trees are placed at least three feet from heat sources including vents, electrical outlets, and fireplaces.
- Always use lights approved for indoor use. Follow directions on how many light strings may be attached to one another. Replace damaged lights and don’t overload circuits.
- Turn off all lights when leaving home or when going to bed.
- NEVER place a candle on any tree.

Continue on page 2

Police Department
Senior Safety Program

Last year, approximately 18% of the City’s population was at least 60 years of age and they unfortunately represented between 8 to 9% of all reported victims of crime. By the year 2050, the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments estimates that our population aged 65 or older will grow to 29%. Working closely with the growing population is a critical element in ensuring their safety and the well-being of our entire community. Recognizing this growing need, the City has developed a new community policing program appropriately called the Senior Safety Program.

Initiated by the Police Department, the program partnered the Police and Fire Departments, the Emergency Preparedness Commission (EPC), the Commission on Aging, and the City’s Senior Division. Conceived and designed to provide our seniors with useful and needed information, it is also used to form and strengthen the relationship between our seniors and a variety of City departments.

The first session of the Senior Safety Program was presented on September 11 to a receptive and appreciative audience.

Conducted in a mini-seminar format, session one of the program provided attendees with current data and cautions regarding fraud and scams, a criminal activity that continues to be a cause for concern for our seniors. Additionally, a general overview of the report filing and investigative process helped those who may have never reported a crime to understand the need for exposing such activity and addressed what can be expected once a complaint has been filed.

Presentations from the Emergency Preparedness Commission and the Fire Department also gave information on the mission and goals of the EPC, preparing for emergencies, the File of Life, residential Knox-boxes, and injury prevention.

Although first presented at the Cottick Activities Center, the Senior Safety Program was developed with mobility in mind. The program will be offered at locations throughout the community in the months to come. Program topics will be updated quarterly, which will allow for timely and seasonal presentations. For more information on the Senior Safety Program, call the Crime Prevention Section at 248-871-2750.

Fall Construction Projects

- Fourteen Mile from Middlebelt to Inkster – Resurfacing and repair work will continue until late October or early November.
- Middlebelt at Ten Mile – This Road Commission project to widen and reconstruct the intersection includes the replacement of the large culvert under Middlebelt south of Ten Mile and the upgrade of the traffic signal with new left turn signals. It will continue into late fall.
- Maple at Farmington – This Road Commission project to construct a modern roundabout at the intersection will continue into the winter.

Fall Garbage Pickups

Thanksgiving – No collection Thursday, November 22. Monday through Wednesday – Regular collection. Thursday and Friday – Collection delayed one day.

Christmas Day and New Year’s Day – No collection Tuesday, December 25 and Tuesday, January 1. Monday both weeks – Regular collection. Tuesday through both weeks – Collection delayed one day.

Martin Luther King Day and Presidents’ Day – Collection takes place on the nearest scheduled day. City offices closed Monday, January 21 and Monday, February 18.


Heritage Week

Get to Know Your Neighbors

Workshop
Capitalize race and culture in the community
Tuesday, October 10
Maxfield Training Center
2:30 – 4:30 p.m.

Movie and Discussion
Thursday, October 11
Maxfield Training Center
5 p.m.
The Namesake
7 p.m. – Discussion
Building Division

Hiring a Contractor

If you plan to hire a contractor to perform home improvements or repairs, please consider the following suggestions:

✓ A licensed contractor should have a pocket card issued by the State of Michigan for work costing more than $600.00. Ask to see it. (Salespeople are also required to be licensed and 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.

✓ 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. In this case, you assume the responsibility for the work performed and you may be liable for injuries or property damage. If you have concerns, you are welcome to bring the contractor’s proposal to the Building Division for review.

Check Your Chimney

As winter approaches, many residents will replace aging furnaces with newer, more energy-efficient models. 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 that surrounds the clay flue liner. With cold temperatures, this water vapor 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 questions.

Foreclosure Prevention

In today’s economy, a reduction in income or an increase in variable rate mortgage payments may place families at risk of losing their homes to mortgage foreclosure or tax forfeiture. The Oakland County Community and Home Improvement Division, a U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)-approved Housing Counseling Agency, has highly trained, experienced housing counseling professionals who may be able to help you keep your home and also address other credit or budget situations that impact your ability to pay your monthly mortgage payments or yearly taxes. Oakland County counseling services are free and they can provide you with unbiased recommendations. For more information, call 248-858-5402.

Zoning Division - Pest Control

As in any City, we have occasional reports of rodents being sighted in our community. Code inspectors work diligently with local businesses and residents to eliminate these fast-breeding pests. It is much easier, however, to prevent infestations than to treat them after the fact. Follow these tips to help keep these 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.

Rodents thrive where food is plentiful. Here are some ways to eliminate food and water sources:

✓ Keep all garbage in metal or plastic trash containers with lids tightly on. Replace containers that are not in good condition.

✓ Pick up and properly dispose of pet waste immediately.

✓ Don’t throw birdseed on the ground, instead use feeders that are placed at least four feet off the ground and frequently pick up all spilled seed. Better yet, switch to suet cakes.

✓ Eliminate water leaks and standing water.

✓ Store bulk food or grain in rodent-proof containers.

For more information regarding any zoning issues, call the Zoning Division at 248-871-2250.

Planning Department

The City has been making an effort to use native plants in all landscaping projects including roadside trees, the restored entrance to Heritage Park, and City Hall. If you’re on your way to City Hall from Eleven Mile or from the District Court parking lot, take a look at these plantings. Native plants are those that have grown in the area since the 1800’s. Because they’ve survived here for a long time, they can handle extreme weather better than many introduced plants. They also need less water when they are established, which provides a cost savings, and they require less fertilizers and insecticides, which is better for the environment. Local birds and bugs rely on these plants for both food and shelter.

Recycling Reminders

Recycle your old cell phone

To join in the efforts on America Recycles Day, held annually on November 15, simply bring your old cell phone (in working condition, please!) to the Costick Center front desk and include the car charger or AC/DC recharging unit. Phones will be reprogrammed and given to area senior citizens for emergency 911 use. Please remember to erase any personal information and make sure your account has been terminated. Your cell phone donation is tax-deductible. For more info, call 248-473-1800.

Recycle your Christmas tree

Drop off your Christmas tree for recycling at Glen Oaks Golf Course from Dec. 26 through Jan. 13, seven days a week, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the east end of the clubhouse parking lot at 3100 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.oakgov.com/parksrec. Christmas trees placed at the curbside will be collected by the garbage truck and put in with the regular trash.

Recycle your holiday cards

Toss your old holiday cards loosely in your recycling bin or place them with newspapers in a brown paper bag. All greeting cards are recyclable except those with glitter or metallic paper – put these in with your regular trash. You can also put junk mail, office paper, loose leaf paper, manila folders, and paperback books in your recycling bin. For a copy of the Curbside Recycling Guidelines, call 248-871-2850 or go to www.Obgov.com.

Holiday Fire Safety – continued

Candles – Fires caused from candle misuse are on the rise. Christmas Day will mark the peak day of the year for home candle use, followed by Christmas Eve and New Year’s Day. The month of December will have almost double the number of fire incidents related to candle use than the average month. If you use candles, follow these safety tips:

✓ Never leave a candle unattended or in reach of children or pets.

✓ Place your candles in non-tip candle holders.

✓ Keep candles away from combustible materials such as curtains, Christmas trees, furniture or decorations. Don’t place them where they may get knocked over.

✓ Keep candles away from drafts, vents or other air currents such as ceiling fans. Drafts can cause the flame to blow onto other combustible items nearby.

✓ Trim candlewicks before lighting. Longer wicks cause uneven burning and drippings.

✓ Never use a candle as a light during a power outage or when checking pilot lights or fueling equipment such as a kerosene heater or lantern. Use a flashlight.

✓ Always extinguish all candles when leaving a room or going to sleep.

REMEMBER — Every home should have working smoke alarms, a carbon monoxide detector, and a portable fire extinguisher, and every family should have an escape plan in the event of an emergency.

Join the City Listserv

Go to www.Obgov.com, click on Quick Links, then Mailing List/Listserv, then select the lists you’d like to join. You’ll be emailed the latest City news, road construction updates, and notices about cultural arts or ice arena activities. For more info, call 248-871-2430.
FARM Fälle und Kosten 14.07.2007

FALL FARM HOUSE WASTE PICKUP

Yard waste pickup will continue on your regular garbage day through the week of November 26. If you can’t mulch leaves back into your lawn, choose from the following options for yard waste disposal:

- Use brown paper yard waste bags. Leave white plastic bags and decorative pumpkins will not be picked up.
- Put yard waste in garbage cans with yard waste stickers available free at City Hall.
- Use brown paper yard waste bags. Leaves in plastic bags or decorative
- The streetlight pole number. For metal poles, it’s located at the base. For wooden poles, it’s located approximately eight feet up from the base.

The last Household Hazardous Waste Day of the year will be held Saturday, October 13 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Recycling Authority at 20000 W. Eight Mile Road, just east of Evergreen in Southfield. Residents of Farmington Hills, Farmington, Novi, Southfield, South Lyon, Walled Lake, and Wixom are all eligible to attend with proof of residency.

Did you know that fluorescent light bulbs are considered hazardous waste? They contain mercury that gets released when the bulbs are broken. Use bulbs should be stored in the original box or other container until you can

Fall Household Hazardous Waste Day October 13

Did you know that fluorescent light bulbs are considered hazardous waste? They contain mercury that gets released when the bulbs are broken. Use bulbs should be stored in the original box or other container until you can

Fall Fertilizing

Fall is the most important time to fertilize your lawn. It promotes deep, healthy root systems and helps to minimize weeds and diseases. Spring fertilizer applications can actually harm your lawn by promoting more blade growth than root growth and by making your lawn more susceptible to drought. A single application of slow-release fertilizer in the fall may be enough to provide a great foundation for the spring growing season.

EVENING ACTIVITIES
Let’s Dance - ballroom dance classes, 7-week sessions. Oct. - Dec.
Yoga - 7-week sessions. Oct. - Dec.
The Write Stuff - 2-part writing workshop. Oct. 5 & 19
The Roundabouts are Here - Learn a bout these new interactions. Oct. 24
VITAL WOMAN
Holiday Treats - Prepare a festive dessert and appreciate. Nov. 12
LIFELONG LEARNING AT LONGACRE
The Spirituality of Aging. Gain insight with a theologian. Nov. 28
FARRINGTON HILLS BALLROOM DANCE
All ages and skill levels invited. DJ. 50/50 raffles, door prizes, refreshments. Complimentary dance class one hour before the dance. Oct. 19, Dec. 21, Jan. 18, Feb. 15, Mar. 21, and most 3rd Fridays.
FLU SHOTS
Flu shot clinic Tuesday, Nov. 15, 9 a.m. - noon. Recommended for persons 65 or older, for those younger with medical problems, and for those who live or work with high-risk individuals. Medicare/ Medicaid covers the cost. Bring a picture ID with your current address and Medicare/Medicaid card. For those without Medicare/Medicaid, there is a cash fee
CLUBS & GROUPS
Call 248-473-1830 for more information, dates, and times.
Creative Crafters, For Men Only, Mah Jongg, NEW! Philately (Stamp Collecting) Group, Pinochle Group, Photography Club, Red Hat Society, Sojourn Bears, NEW! Writers Group, Quilters
HOLIDAY EVENTS & PARTIES
Enjoy meals, games, entertainment, dancing, prizes, and more. Purchase tickets at least one week prior to river, $8 per person.
HALLOWEEN Party – Oct. 26
Starr & Stipes Forever Veterans Celebration – Nov. 9
Thanksgiving Party – Nov. 15
Holiday Party – Dec. 14
Welcome to the New Year Party – Jan. 11
Valentine’s Party – Feb. 8
St. Paddy’s Day Party – Mar. 7
PROGRAMS & SPEAKERS
Pain Control Alternatives – Oct. 2
Avoid ID Theft – Oct. 16
Downstomring – Reduce Your Possessions – Oct. 25
Holistic Cancer Treatments – Oct. 30
AARP Senior Driver Safety Program - Nov. 7 & 8
Liver Wellness – Nov. 20
Newcomer Welcome Tour – Residents only Jan. 17
Annual Spelling Bee – Feb. 6. Call 248-473-1832 for more info.
SERVICES
Support Groups include Caregivers, a new Grief Support Group, First Step Stroke, and a Low Vision Group.
The Home Chore Program assists with minor home repair and small chores. Legal Advice consultations available by appointment only.
Nutrition Program provides Onsite Congregate Meals, nutritional liquid supplements, and Home Delivered Meals Monday through Friday.
Senex offers an Adult Respite Care day program for the frail and/or dependent elderly.
Transportation Service is available to residents 65 & better, Mon. – Fri., 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., by appointment only.
Pension Drug assistance available from onsite consultation by appointment.
9-1-1 Emergency Cell Phone Program.
Telephone Reassurance - daily contact phone call.
Focus Hope - monthly commodity food program offered to those who qualify.

Please note: Don’t pile leaves and other yard waste next to a creek or river. The nutrients from decomposing plant materials enter the water and cause excessive algae growth, which uses up oxygen needed for fish and other aquatic life.

Flourishing Fall Program

The Fall Festival offers a variety of fitness programs, classes, and special events at the Costick Center on Eleven Mile Road, between Middlebelt and Inkster. Call 248-473-1830 for information on dates, times, and fees.

FALL/YEAR 2007 3

FALL 2007/WINTER 2007
Ghoulish Groups

The outdoor trails of Heritage Park will come alive with creatures of the night as the Recreation Division hosts their annual Haunted Hike. You’ll travel over a quarter mile trail that takes you through seemingly safe fields and woods. But be ready for your heart to race as ghouls and goblins lurk in the darkness waiting for their prey. This event is recommended for individuals 7 years old and up.

Thursday, Oct. 25 7:30 to 9 p.m. – $5 per person
Friday, Oct. 26 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. – $7 per person
Saturday, Oct. 27 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. – $7 per person

The Recreation Division is looking for groups with creative imaginations to develop stations for the Heritage Park Haunted Hike that will make everyone scream and give them chills. Each group is provided with $200 to help offset any expenses.

Interested? Call Andy Lang at 248-475-1803 by October 9. You will receive an information packet and be asked to submit a proposal detailing the “haunting experience” your group (minimum of five participants per station) will provide.

Ice Arena

During fall and winter, the Farmington Hills Ice Arena offers Learn to Skate classes for all ages and skill levels as well as specialized classes and individual instruction for figure skating and hockey. Classes are offered in eight-week intervals. Call the ice arena at 248-478-8800 for details. Upcoming special events include:
- Holiday Exhibition - December 8
- Skate with Santa - December 15
- It’s Great to Skate FREE Clinic - January 5

Parks & Recreation Master Plan

The Farmington Hills Special Services Department has begun preparing an updated Parks & Recreation Master Plan. The Master Plan is basically a “road map” to give direction for the next few years regarding parks, recreation, cultural arts, and leisure time in our community. In the very near future, a phone survey, focus groups, and a public workshop will be conducted to obtain feedback. Residents will be asked about the quality of life in our community, how they would rank programs and services currently offered, and in what direction they would like to see the community proceed. For more information about the Master Plan, call 248-473-1810.

YOUTH & FAMILY SERVICES

The After School Program is running for the 11th year with over 250 middle school children ages 11–15 participating daily. Program offerings include Club 2 Tutoring, Girl Power, Guy Time, Junior Optimist, scrapbooking, cooking classes, arts and crafts, and more. Now this year are the Zap Zone Laser Tag League and Bowling League. The Costick Center, Warner Middle School, Ice Arena, YMCA, and the Joan Grant Center are filled with youth participating in safe, educational, and fun activities after school between 2:00 and 5:30 p.m. This program is free to Farmington/Farmington Hills residents after the purchase of a photo ID for $5.00. For more info, call 248-473-1841.

Focus

Focus is produced by the City of Farmington Hills and mailed residents three times a year. Articles are submitted by City department directors. We welcome your comments. Editor: Gillian Pines Address: 31555 W. Eleven Mile Rd., Farmington Hills, MI 48336 Phone: 248-471-2500 Fax: 248-471-2501 Website: www.fhgov.com E-mail: gpines@fhgov.com

For the latest info on Farmington Hills, visit www.fhgov.com or tune into Cable Channel 8.
Jerry Ellis has been a community leader for over 20 years. First as a member and Chairman of the Parks and Recreation Commission, and then as a City Council member for the last 11 years. He was Mayor Pro Tem in 2000 and 2004.

Ellis serves as Chairman of the Southwest Oakland Cable Commission and as Chairman of the Farmington Hills Redevelopment Committee. He is the Council liaison to the Chamber of Commerce and the Economic Development Corporation. He is a member of the Board of the Oakland County Community Mental Health Authority. He previously served on the 47th District Court Facilities Committee, the Year 2000 Committee, and was President of NFRA's Board.

Ellis is a strong advocate for fiscal responsibility, senior citizens, and youth services. He believes that by redeveloping commercial properties and attracting new businesses, the City can continue to provide quality services without raising taxes.

Ellis initiated the Redevelopment Committee, drafted our cellular tower ordinance to keep towers out of our neighborhoods, and successfully fought developers who wanted to drill for gas in Farmington Hills. He worked to establish the Senior Adult Nutrition Program that has served over 1,000,000 meals to our seniors.

In 2003, The Observer newspaper wrote, “Farmington Hills citizens should be grateful that Ellis, a strong leader who is thorough, decisive, respected and certainly well-qualified, wants to continue serving on the council.”

Ellis, an attorney, has been practicing commercial law for 38 years. He and his wife Mary are 32-year residents.
What issue do you see as the most important in the Sustainability Study and why?

The Sustainability Study, a very insightful document—a sort of blueprint for planning the future of Farmington Hills—does address social, environmental and unsustainable aspects of our city and interrelated social and environmental challenges.

In the future of Farmington Hills, we must develop comprehensive policies to ensure that we make progress in all but at the expense of any of the three. It should be short sighted and counterproductive to favor one area because, frankly, you cannot achieve the goals of any of the three without the others. Therefore, we have to be committed to social and environmental goals and objectives, financial stability becomes somewhat meaningless.

What are your ideas for maintaining current businesses and attracting new businesses to the City?

We need to be creative, imaginative and reform-minded to have a vibrant business environment.

Who are your ideas for maintaining current businesses and attracting new businesses to the City?

Randy is currently seeking re-election to his second term on City Council. He has a long history of community involvement, beginning as the president of the Farmington Hills community for the past eight years and as a member of the Planning Commission for four years before that. He is seeking re-election to his second term on City Council.

What issue do you see as the most important in the Sustainability Study and why?

What are your ideas for maintaining current businesses and attracting new businesses to the City?

What are your ideas for maintaining current businesses and attracting new businesses to the City?