CITY HALL UPDATE

- The Farmington Hills City Hall Revitalization Project is being completed on time, under budget, and is scheduled to be finished in late fall 2010.
- City staff members are set to move in late spring to the new addition on a temporary basis while the older parts of the building are renovated.
- When the City Hall Revitalization Project is completed, the building will have a consistent look, a user-friendly layout, and will be fully ADA accessible.
- The project will achieve LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Certification at the Gold Level. Learn more about the LEED rating system on the U.S. Green Building Council website at www.usgbc.org/leed.
- Farmington Hills City Hall will serve as an example for sustainable, energy efficient building practices due to the use of new green technology.
- Nearly six miles of underground tubing linked to 40 wells will supply the heating and cooling to the building.
- The combined use of glass, translucent panels, and skylights will provide greater amounts of daylight and will reduce energy use and demand.
- Stormwater runoff will be reduced on site through the use of pervious pavement, rain gardens, and green roofs.
- To receive e-mail about the City Hall Revitalization Project, go to www.fhgov.com, click on Quick Links, and select Mailing Lists/Listserv. Choose the City Hall Revitalization Project listserv and enter your e-mail address.
- Project updates are available at www.fhgov.com or questions may be directed to City Manager Steve Brook at 248-871-2510.

Fire Department

Swimming Pool Safety

The Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) reported that there were over 275 drowning deaths of children under five and an estimated 2,100 children treated in hospital emergency rooms last year for submersion injuries. These incidents usually occur in familiar settings; 89% happened in the family’s own pool or one owned by a friend or relative.

Submersion incidents happen quickly – a child can drown in the time it takes to answer the phone. Survival depends on rescuing someone quickly, and starting the breathing process, even when they’re still in the water. Seconds count in preventing death or brain damage.

Take these critical steps to protect children from drowning:

- Prepare for an emergency - have rescue equipment (life rings, poles, etc.) and a phone near the pool at all times.
- Install an alarm for the entrance gate to your pool to let you know when kids are attempting to enter or leave the area.
- Learn CPR.
- Check local ordinances regarding fencing requirements.
- In above-ground pools, remove ladders when the pool is not in use.
- Instruct babysitters about pool hazards and emphasize the need for constant supervision, staying off the phone, and limiting guests in the pool area.
- If a child is missing, CHECK THE POOL FIRST! Every second counts - check the entire pool area, the bottom, and under any inflatable toys.
- Floatation devices are not to be used in place of competent adult supervision.
- Remove all toys in and around the pool area when not in use.
- Toys attract children to the pool.
- Just because a child has had swimming lessons, don’t assume no one should be in or around the pool area. This is NOT competent adult supervision.
- Don’t drive away from the scene of a crash. Under most circumstances, drivers involved in crashes must be reported to a police department when total damages exceed $1000.
- Under normal circumstances, drivers involved in crashes must exchange information including name, address, vehicle registration number, and vehicle owner’s name and address. Some drivers may not feel safe giving this information to the other driver. If this is the case, the law also allows this information to be given directly to a police officer. If you refuse to exchange information with the other driver, please explain the circumstances to the police officer.
- Don’t drive away from the scene of a crash. Under most circumstances, you are required to notify the police that a traffic crash has occurred. The Farmington Hills Police will take all reports of traffic crashes and will respond to crashes that occur on the roadway to investigate them at the scene. Drivers may respond directly to the station to report the crash, if all parties agree to this option. There are some situations where a driver may not want to stay at the scene of a crash, such as when an aggressive driver is involved and there are safety concerns. In this case, drivers should notify the police as soon as possible that they have not remained on the scene.

CITY CLERK’S OFFICE - Door to Door Soliciting

- Submissions may post “No Soliciting” signs at entrances to the entire subdivision.
- State Law dictates that solicitation cannot be prohibited in Farmington Hills, but licensed solicitors must adhere to City ordinance requirements.
- Contact the Police Department as soon as possible if you have problems with a solicitor or if they come to your door before 10 a.m. or after 8 p.m. are not licensed. Please be ready to identify the solicitor by name or associated group for follow-up contact.

Police Department

Traffic Crash Safety Tips

Driving carries many obligations and responsibilities – first, and most important, is to obey all laws. One ever-present aspect of driving is the chance of being involved in a traffic crash (they’re not called “accidents” anymore). Due to advances in new technology, cars are safer than ever - anti-lock brakes, airbags, and stability controls have saved many lives and reduced injuries. Nevertheless, experts have yet to engineer a better driver; humans make mistakes. Even though automotive defects are big news stories, driver error is the cause of most crashes.

If you are in a traffic crash, please remember these tips to ensure your safety:

- Stay in your vehicle and move it off the roadway, if possible. Secondary crashes often occur, so all vehicles should be moved to a safe location. Don’t just drive away – traffic crashes must be reported to a police department when total damages exceed $1000.
- Under normal circumstances, drivers involved in crashes must exchange information including name, address, vehicle registration number, and vehicle owner’s name and address. Some drivers may not feel safe giving this information to the other driver. If this is the case, the law also allows this information to be given directly to a police officer. If you refuse to exchange information with the other driver, please explain the circumstances to the police officer.
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BEAUTIFICATION COMMISSION AWARDS
The Beautification Commission presents annual awards to businesses, offices, and subdivisions/condominium entrances with attractive, well-maintained landscapes. Judges look for variety, use of color, and overall property maintenance. Nomination forms are available after May 1 at www.fhgov.com or call the Planning Office at 248-871-2543. Judging takes place June-August. Awards will be presented at the 2010 Beautification Commission Awards Ceremony on Oct. 7.

It’s Tree Planting Time!
Follow these guidelines when considering a tree purchase:
• Location
• Adequate space for the tree to grow above and below the ground
• Available light
• Soil conditions (Soil tests available through MSU Extension Service can be found at local hardware stores and garden centers.)
• Readily accessible water source

Steinkopf Nursery in Farmington has deciduous trees available to Farmington Hills residents for $198 each, which includes sales tax, delivery, planting, and a one-year guarantee. The trees are 8-10” tall (1½” caliper) and include Pin Oak, Little Leaf Linden, Red Sunset Maple, Cleveland Select Pear, Tulip Tree, Sweet Gum, Sugar Maple, and Red Oak. For details, call Steinkopf Nursery at 248-474-2925.

FYI – Get garden design and plant care tips at the MSU Extension Service website www.msue.msu.edu.

Clerk’s Corner – Homeowners Association Board Members
Please contact the Clerk’s Office at 248-871-2414 or dalleen@fhgov.com with new Board Members’ info after each Board Election so that the City’s contact list can be updated.

2010 ELECTION SCHEDULE
August 3, 2010 – Primary Election
November 2, 2010 – General Gubernatorial Election
Visit www.fhgov.com for detailed election information, precinct maps, and locations.
You must be registered to vote 30 days prior to Election Day in order to be eligible to cast a ballot. If you move to a new community, you must re-register under your new address in order to vote. You may register at the City Clerk’s Office, County Office-Elections Division or any Secretary of State’s Office. Forms are also available online. NOTE: If you are under 60 and register to vote by mail rather than at one of the offices listed, you are not eligible to vote absentee ballot for your first Election and must vote in person at the polls. Students attending college outside of their jurisdiction or out of state would automatically be mailed to all persons who requested to be placed on the permanent list by early to mid June 2010. This will be a DUAL APPLICATION that will provide you the opportunity to request a ballot for both the August and November Elections. Applications will be available at www.fhgov.com after June 1, 2010.

STUDENTS – TEACHERS – ORGANIZATIONS – We’re looking for Election Inspectors for the upcoming November 2, 2010 Gubernatorial Election. Students who are at least 16 years of age are eligible. Teachers, here is an opportunity to get yourself and your students involved in the Election process!

FYI – Great fundraiser idea -- why not consider having members of your group or organization sign up as Election Inspectors and pool your earnings? It’s an easy way to raise a lot of money in one day!

HOUSING DISCRIMINATION NOTICE
Housing discrimination is prohibited by law. If you have a housing discrimination complaint, contact the Michigan Department of Civil Rights at 313-456-3700.

Department of Planning & Community Development

ZONING DIVISION
Help Keep our City a Great Place to Live!
• Property owners are responsible for cutting grass, weeds, and noxious growth as often as necessary before it reaches eight inches in height.
• Outdoor storage of improperly licensed vehicles is prohibited.
• Pet owners must keep all outdoor areas free of animal waste.
• Trash containers are required to be watertight with handles and tight-fitting lids. Trash must be put at the curb no earlier than 6 p.m. on the day before pickup. Emptiy trash containers must be removed from the curb within 12 hours after pickup.
• Trash and rubbish must be removed from the premises to prevent health and safety hazards.
• Shrubbery, trees, or other vegetation cannot block a driver’s view at intersections.
• Compost piles are regulated by size, location, and composition.

FYI – Residents and Homeowners Associations are encouraged to help the City keep an eye on vacant properties. Please call the Zoning Division at 248-871-2520 if there are concerns about maintenance of the property, grass cutting or trespassing.

Incentives for a More Sustainable Farmington Hills
The City is enlisting the help of citizens and businesses to build a more sustainable Farmington Hills. Through the new energy efficiency incentive program, financial incentives are available for comprehensive energy audits and the installation of energy efficient equipment such as furnaces, water heaters, heat pumps, insulation, and more. Incentives are also available for renewable technologies including solar photovoltaic systems and solar hot water heaters.

As of March, the City has sent out incentive checks totaling more than $7,000 representing a total investment of over $100,000. This work represents estimated energy savings of over 54,000 kWh, 450 MCF, and 46 tons of greenhouse gas emissions. Funding for this program is through the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant received last fall by the City.

If you are thinking about investing in the energy efficiency of your home or business, why not know where the best investment opportunities are? A comprehensive energy audit requires a thorough investigation of your building. This work should include the physical inspection of your energy equipment, building envelope, and tests such as a blower door test. Your annual utility bills are also examined to identify usage trends and costs.

All data is collected and analyzed to provide you with a comprehensive list of energy conservation opportunities. This will also show you how upfront investment can pay for itself through energy savings and the expected return on investment. This is a great tool to develop an energy investment strategy for your home or business that’s based on needs and financial opportunities.

For more information, visit www.sustainablefh.com. This website provides valuable information regarding the City’s sustainability programs, projects, and progress, plus Green Efforts Committee initiatives. Watch for more details on how you can share your energy and environmental success stories.

Questions? Contact Nate Geenzer, Management Assistant, at ngeenzer@fhgov.com or 248-871-2500.

Treasurer’s Office Reminders
• Summer property tax bills are mailed around July 1 and may be paid without penalty through August 31.
• Tax bills are mailed to the address of record and not forwarded by the post office.
• 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 bill or any changes for late payment.
• Every property should receive a bill, even if the bill is to be paid via an escrow account.


West Nile Virus – Follow the Three R’s!
• REDUCE areas where mosquitoes breed. Eliminate standing water in tars, buckets, tires, unused pools, bird baths, and other containers.
• REPEL against mosquitoes. Use insect repellants - follow manufacturers’ guidelines and don’t use on children younger than two. Wear protective clothing such as long sleeves and pants.
• REPORT the location of any dead bird. Call the Oakland County Health Division at 877-577-5641

Eliminate standing water on your property. Creeks and retention areas that are healthy and running are not considered a prime area for mosquito breeding. For more info, go to www.oakgov.com/health or www.michigan.gov/westnilevirus.
Public Services Department

FERTILIZER EDUCATION
✓ Mow regularly and mulch nitrogen-rich grass clippings so fertilizer use can be reduced.
✓ Rake in compost and increase the organic matter of the soil to greater than 5%.
✓ Select pesticide-free, earth-friendly fertilizers with low or no phosphorus, and 50% or more of the nitrogen in slow-release form. Look for the “Eco-Friendly Fertilizer” label at participating retailers.
✓ Fertilizer left on sidewalks and driveways can easily wash into storm drains and head to rivers and lakes. Sweep it up and put it into the lawn.
✓ Leave a “no fertilizer” 25’ buffer zone near lakes and rivers. Plant native grasses, tall wildflowers or shrubs to trap pollutants and discourage Canadian geese.
✓ Use light, frequent lawn watering to reach the roots.
✓ Request the Healthy Lawn Care Option if you use a lawn care company. For a list of companies endorsed through the Michigan Green Industry Association, visit www.landscape.org or call 248-646-4992.

Yard Waste Pickup
To dispose of leaves, grass, shrub clippings, twigs, and plant materials, follow these options:
- Place yard waste in a trash can with a “Yard Waste” sticker available from City Hall or the DPW. The City of Farmington Hills limits trash can size to 32 gallons. Oversized containers put out at the curbside will not be emptied.
- Put yard waste in brown paper yard waste bags.
- Use a mulching mower and recycle grass clippings into the lawn; use grass and leaves as a natural mulch to fertilize plants, or create your own back-yard compost pile. For guidelines on home composting, call the DPW at 248-871-2850.

Small limbs (six inches in diameter or less) and brush should be tied in bundles that cannot exceed four fees in length and don’t weigh more than 50 pounds per bundle. Any brush or twigs placed in cans or bags should not stick out above the top of the container. Also, large quantities of dirt or sod are not accepted for pickup.

Holiday Delays for Garbage, Recycling, and Yard Waste Pickup
Garbage, recycling, and yard waste will not be picked up on the following holidays:
- Memorial Day – Monday, May 31. All pickups delayed by one day during that week with Friday’s collection on Saturday.
- Independence Day – Sunday, July 4. PLEASE NOTE: SINCE THE FOURTH OF JULY FALLS ON A SUNDAY, THERE IS NO CHANGE IN THE PICKUP SCHEDULE. Collection will be on a regular schedule Monday through Friday.
- Labor Day – Monday, September 6. All pickups delayed by one day during that week with Friday’s collection on Saturday.

FYI – To receive construction updates, go to www.fhgov.com, click on Quick Links, Mailing Lists/Announcements, then General Construction News Mailing List and enter your e-mail address. For more info about ongoing MDOT projects, go to www.michigan.gov/mdot and click on Major Projects under Construction.

Farmington Hills Golf Club
This beautiful course boasts 18 challenging holes (measuring 6,413 yards) with manicured bent grass tees, fairways and greens surrounded by trees, ponds, and gently rolling hills. The Clubhouse includes a full-service restaurant, pro shop, and a huge outdoor patio that provides great views of the course. The Driving Range is open daily from 7 a.m. until 10 p.m., weather permitting, from early spring until late fall. It features 52 stations, grass tees, and two practice greens.

For tee times, call 248-476-5910 or visit www.fhgolfclub.org.

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Spring/Summer 2010 Road Construction
All project dates are tentative pending weather conditions and contractor schedules.
- Orchard Lake Road from 12 Mile to 13 Mile – The Road Commission for Oakland County (RCOC) will rehabilitate the existing pavement. April – August.
- Inker Road from 7 Mile to 11 Mile – The City of Southfield will rehabilitate the existing roadway. April – late summer.
- Middlebelt Road from 8 Mile to 11 Mile – The RCOC will resurface the existing pavement as well as add improvements. Work between 8 Mile Road and 10 Mile Road (Phase 1): April – July. Work between 10 Mile Road and 11 Mile Road (Phase 2): July – August.
- Grand River Avenue from Ten Mile Road to Haggerty – Rehabilitation of the existing pavement. Mid-June – early September.

The Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) is currently rebuilding and resurfacing three bridges in the Novi area including eastbound I-96 over CSX Railroad, westbound I-96 over CSX Railroad, and the northbound M-5 ramp to westbound I-96.

MDOT is currently reconstructing the southbound Novi Road entrance ramp to westbound I-96 and the eastbound I-96 exit ramp to Novi Road.

FYI – To receive road construction updates, go to www.fhgov.com, click on Quick Links, Mailing Lists/Announcements, then General Construction News Mailing List and enter your e-mail address. For more info about ongoing MDOT projects, go to www.michigan.gov/mdot and click on Major Projects under Construction.

Youth & Family Services
Call 248-475-1841 for details
- April 30 - Early Release Day - Zap Zone! $20/person. Bus departs Ice Arena at 1 p.m. returns approx. 4 p.m.
- May 20 - 4:30 – 8 p.m. – After School Program Youth Center Tutor Tour and pizza party for all incoming 5th and 6th Graders. $5/person. Start at Costick Center, see POP Center and Ice Arena Youth Center.
- Summer Drop-In Center, 10 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. Ice Arena 2nd Floor $275 - 8-week program. M - Th, June 28 – Aug. 20. (Fridays - optional waterpark field trips.) Summer membership fee includes all indoor/door activities. For incoming 5 – 6 graders and current 6 - 8 graders. Please register at the Costick Center to be a Youth Member of the After School Program ($35 per year) before you sign up for the Summer Drop-In Center.

PARKS
Watch this spring for the opening of the new Splash Pad at Heritage Park featuring a water play area that includes spray, splash, and sprinklers. Get up, get out, and play at one of the City’s beautiful parks! For a map of area parks, go to www.fhgov.com.

Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Drop-Off Days
Farmington Hills – Saturday, May 1, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. – Costick Center
Corrosive, toxic, flammable or reactive products in your home are considered Household Hazardous Waste (HHW). For a list of items accepted at the Drop-Off, call RRRASOC at 248-208-2270 or go to www.rrrasoc.org.
Containers must be labeled, not hold more than five gallons or weigh more than 50 pounds, and be in a sturdy box on the floor or in the trunk. On-site paper shredding of sensitive documents is also available at all HHW events with a 100-pound limit per household.

Drivers’ license or other proof of residency is required to participate. Residents of Farmington Hills, Farmington, Novi, Southfield, South Lyon, Walled Lake, and Wixom may participate in any of these events.

FyI – Don’t bring latex paint, unknowns, commercial waste, fire extinguishers, and smoke detectors – they aren’t accepted at Hazmat Day.

Farmington Hills Golf Club
This beautiful course boasts 18 challenging holes (measuring 6,413 yards) with manicured bent grass tees, fairways and greens surrounded by trees, ponds, and gently rolling hills. The Clubhouse includes a full-service restaurant, pro shop, and a huge outdoor patio that provides great views of the course. The Driving Range is open daily from 7 a.m. until 10 p.m., weather permitting, from early spring until late fall. It features 52 stations, grass tees, and two practice greens.

For tee times, call 248-476-5910 or visit www.fhgolfclub.org.
Cultural Arts Division

Farmington Hills Youth Theatre – Disney’s “Cinderella Kids,” Costick Center
Over 150 children in two casts
Thursday and Friday, April 29 & 30 at 7 p.m.
Saturday and Sunday, May 1 & 2 at 1 p.m. and 5 p.m.
Tickets $10, children 3 and under free
To purchase tickets, call 734-654-4678

Daimler Financial Services
“Stars in the Park” Free Concert Series
Thursdays at 7 p.m. Heritage Park Amphitheater
Rain-out site – Costick Center
For information, call 248-475-1888.
June 17 Parrots of the Caribbean
June 24 Farmington Community Band
Our own 65+ piece band
July 8 Rock ’n Soul
Oldies and more
July 22 Jeremy Kisel
Award-winning Jazz/Celtic/Folk performer
July 29 Farmington Community Big Band
Jazz, pop, & more
August 5 Austin Scott
A singer who makes everyone love country!
August 12 Farmington Community Chorus
Pop, jazz, and classical vocals
August 19 Saline Piddlers
The amazing premier U.S. youth fiddling group
Art on the Grand - June 5 & 6
Grand River Avenue in downtown Farmington.
Art for sale from around the country featuring paintings, glass, pottery, jewelry, photography, plus children’s activities, beer/wine tent, food, and strolling entertainment.
For more info on Cultural Arts programs, call 248-475-1870/1857.

ICE ARENA
Come to the 14th Annual Ice Show “Book on Down the Ice” on Friday, May 7 at 7:30 p.m. and Saturday, May 8 at 4 p.m. The event showcases Skating Club members, Fantasia Synchronized Teams, and Learn to Skate students. Purchase tickets at the Ice Arena or Costick Center. $8 adults (19 & up), $6 Seniors 65 & up and Students (6-18). FREE for children five and under. Questions? Call 248-478-8800.

LEARN TO SKATE - Group instruction for all levels, ages 3 and up. Session V begins May 10 and Session VI begins June 21. Learn-to-Skate Camps run July 12 - 15 and August 9 - 12. Open Skating is offered most days of the week. Check out the schedule at www.wihce.com or call 248-478-8800.

FARMINGTON HILLS BALLROOM DANCE
Experience the excitement of ballroom dancing on Fridays May 21 and Aug. 20, 8 - 10:30 p.m. DJ, raffles, door prizes, refreshments, $10 per person. Free dance lessons at 7 p.m. Enjoy a 50’s Swing Dance, Blast From the Past, on June 18 with a Lindy lesson at 7. All skill levels welcome, 18 years & older.

SENIOR DIVISION
The Center for Active Adults offers programs, classes, and special events at the Costick Center. Call 248-475-1830 for more info or go to www.fhgov.com.

MOTHER’S DAY LUNCHEON & FASHION SHOW Celebrate mothers, grandmothers, and daughters on May 6, noon - 1:30 p.m. Enjoy a selection of teas and sweets as well as beauty tips, prizes, and gifts. Fee $15 by April 30, $15 after. Resident discounted fee $12 by April 30, $12 after.

CLASSIC & CUSTOM CAR SHOW - New! Rods, customs, and classics on display. Swap meet, live broadcast of “Oldies” WPLQ radio show, family friendly concessions, kids’ activities, and contests. June 19, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

PIES ON THE GRAND Enjoy fresh blueberry pies during the seventh annual blueberry pie extravaganza. Volunteers needed for baking, packing, and selling. Pies baked at the Costick Center. July 15 - 15 and sold July 15 - 17 or until sold out. Pies and blueberry cookies available during the Farmington Area Founders Festival. All proceeds support Senior Division Transportation. To pre-order, call 248-475-1830.

FREE TOTAL WELLNESS FAIR, ADULTS 50 & BETTER The Third Annual FREE Wellness Expo will be held September 11, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Featuring interactive exhibits on exercise, holistic healing, relaxation, financial planning, healthy cooking, plus health screenings, chair massages, and more. Enjoy vendor give-aways and hourly door prizes!

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

Recreation Division

Summer Camps - June - August
Over 3,000 kids each year attend licensed day camps and specialty camps weekly at Heritage Park, the Costick Center or the Ice Arena. Visit www.fhgov.com.

Great Farmington Hills Campout - June 12 - 13
Camp out in your own backyard or at Heritage Park! Visit www.F2H.org.

Thrive Music Festival - June 26, noon - 10 p.m.

Skateboarding in Riley Skate Park
Open 8 a.m. - 9 p.m., Mon. - Sun.
Featuring Skate Camp for both skilled and unskilled skateboarders, competitions, and visits from special guests. Visit www.rileyoutpark.com.

Nature Center - Open 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., Mon. – Fri. and noon - 5 p.m., Sat. - Sun.
Sign up for a program or just stop by the Nature Center in Heritage Park. Check out the live bee display, see butterflies or go on a scavenger hunt.

Longacre House Events
Call 248-477-8040 for details
Brunches – On Mother’s Day and Father’s Day, add 18 holes of golf with a cart at the Farmington Hills Golf Club for only $20!
• Mother’s Day – Sunday, May 9, 1 p.m. - $50, $20 for children 10 & under, 3 & under free
• Father’s Day – Sunday, June 20, 1 p.m. - $30, $20 for children 10 & under, 3 & under free

Longacre Porch Parties – Join neighbors and friends for food, games, and prizes.
• May 21 – 6 - 8 p.m. Ice Cream Social Drop in/Self per person
• June 18 – 6 - 8 p.m. Backyard Barbecue Drop in/Self per person
• July 25 – 6 - 8 p.m. Michigan Made Drop in/Self per person, ages 21 + only
• August 20 – 6 - 8 p.m. Hawaiian Luau Drop in/Self per person