Farmington Hills residents now receive free weekly curbside collection of unwanted clothing provided by Simple Recycling.

**CITY CLERK’S OFFICE**

**Presidential Election – November 8**

Deadlines to remember:
- **Tuesday, October 11, 2016 – Last Day to register to vote in the November 8, 2016 General Election** (City Clerk’s Office is open until 6:30 p.m. You may register at your County or local Clerk’s Office or any Secretary of State Branch Office.)
- **Saturday, November 5, 2016 until 2 p.m. – Last day to request an absent voter ballot to be mailed.** The City Clerk’s Office is open from 8:30 a.m. until 1 p.m. on this date for election related business only.
- **Monday, November 7, 2016 until 6 p.m. – Last day to request an absent voter ballot in person.** Voters are not allowed to leave with the ballot on this day and must vote the ballot in at City Hall. Please be sure to bring Photo ID.

**EXTENDED HOURS PROVIDED FOR ELECTION RELATED BUSINESS**
- **Saturday, October 29**
  - 8:30 a.m. – noon
- **Tuesday-Friday, November 1 – 4**
  - 7:30 a.m. – 6:30 p.m.
- **Saturday, November 5**
  - 8:30 a.m. – 2 p.m.

**Take advantage of these extended hours and don’t wait until the last minute to get your absent voter ballot!**

If you are obtaining your absent voter ballot in person, **don’t forget to bring your Photo ID.** Per Michigan Election Law, if you are unable to provide your photo ID, you will be required to complete an Affidavit of Person Not in Possession of Photo ID and your ballot will be processed as a challenged ballot.

**DO YOU KNOW?**

You are eligible for an absent voter ballot if you meet one of these requirements:
- 60 years of age or older.
- Expect to be absent from your community for the entire time the polls are open on Election Day.
- Physically unable to attend the polls without assistance of another.
- Cannot attend the polls because of the tenets of your religion.
- Have been appointed an election inspector in a precinct other than the precinct in which you reside.
- Confined to jail awaiting arraignment or trial.

If you qualify for an absent voter ballot, you can download an application from www.fhgov.com or call the City Clerk’s Office at 248-871-2410.

**FINANCE DEPARTMENT**

**Fast Facts about Your Property Taxes**

After tax bills are mailed, amounts will be available at www.fhgov.com. Click on the Resident or Business tab and then click on Property Tax Inquiry and follow the instructions.

If you use online bank payments (not recommended), mail the payment to: Treasurer’s Office, 31555 W. Eleven Mile, Farmington Hills MI 48316. 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 are not forwarded by the Post Office to new addresses. If you file with the Post Office, unless it is a temporary forwarding only, 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.

**2017 Property Tax Calendar**

- **February 10** – Due date for the filing of affidavits to exempt personal property with a true cash value of $50,000 or less.
- **February 14** – 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.
- **March 13 – 15** – Board of Review meetings.
- **June 1** – Last day to file Primary Residence Exemption affidavit, for the entire tax year.
- **Early June** – Budget public hearing where City Council sets City tax rate.
- **June 30 – Summer tax bills mailed.**
- **August 31** – Last day to pay summer property taxes without penalty.
- **September 14** – Last day for eligible persons to file for summer tax deferral.
- **November 1** – Last day to file Primary Residence Exemption affidavit, for winter taxes only.
- **November 30** – Winter tax bills mailed.
- **December 31** – Taxable status set for coming year’s bill.


**Local Road Directed Special Assessment Policy**

In April 2015, the Farmington Hills City Council adopted the Local Road Directed Special Assessment Policy. This policy was adopted in order to establish a minimum local (neighborhood) road pavement condition. Local roads that are below the policy’s minimum condition are considered a threat to safety and a detriment to the City at large. These roads are placed onto a five-year capital improvement program and prioritized based on a number of variables, such as public interest, proximity to schools, and number of properties benefiting from the improvement.

Local road projects identified on the capital improvement program are then scheduled for public hearings and ultimately reconstructed through a special assessment, with annual payments placed on the homeowner’s tax bill. The costs of the improvement are shared, with 80% paid by the benefiting property owners and 20% paid by the City, as prescribed by City Charter.

Additional information, including an FAQ sheet and project maps, can be found at www.fhgov.com under the Government tab. Click on Department of Public Services, then Roads.

**CREATIVE CENSUS**

The Cultural Arts Division, with support from the Farmington Area Arts Commission and the Farmington Community Arts Council, created the first Farmington/Farmington Hills Creative Census to reach individuals and organizations active in visual arts and crafts, arts administration and education, dance, design, film, literary arts, music, theatre, and performing arts. Collected data will allow the City to connect with area artists and develop pertinent creative programs. To participate in the census, which closes December 31, go to www.farmingtonarts.org/creative-census.
POLICE DEPARTMENT

“Lock It or Lose It”

After recording the lowest number of Larceny from Autos (LFA) in Farmington Hills’ history two years ago, thefts from vehicles have become a common occurrence with nearby communities experiencing the same problem. Police officers have arrested several persons who call themselves “car hoppers” or “car surfers.” They prowl neighborhoods while must are asleep, moving from one unlocked car to another, filling backpacks with purses, wallets, laptops, iPhones, and other valuables. The “Lock it or Lose it” campaign encourages residents to help reverse this trend. Lock your car, keep valuables out of sight, park near outdoor lights when possible, and report any suspicious persons and vehicles to the Police Department.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Car Seat Safety Inspections

The Farmington Hills Fire Department can help make sure that your child is safely protected. Nationally-certified child safety seat technicians inspect all types of child car seats for proper installation and provide product recalls at monthly events held on designated Saturdays or Sundays by appointment only from 8 a.m. to noon at Fire Station #4 located at 28711 Drake Road. Car seat inspections are free, take about half an hour, and are open to the public. Participants do not have to be Farmington Hills residents. Watch for details about upcoming car seat safety inspection events at www.fhidem.gov.com.

PUBLIC SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Wondering What Can Be Recycled?

Visit mracos.org and use the recycling directory search bar to type in keywords and get recycling, composting, reuse or disposal instructions. The recycling directory is also available as a free mobile smartphone app; from your App Store or Google Play, search for “Recycling Authority.

Curbside Clothing Recycling

Beginning in September, single-family households in Farmington Hills became a part of the free Simple Recycling curbside clothing recycling program. Residents can simply fill the green bags with unwanted clothing, textiles and other household items and set them out for collection on the same day as the weekly trash and recycling collection. Simple Recycling Inc. will collect the full green bags and leave replacement bags behind.

Once collected, the items are sorted and graded by condition. Top quality materials are sold to local thrift stores, while items deemed not resalable in the U.S. are exported as second-hand clothing to local thrift stores, while items deemed not resalable in the U.S. are exported as second-hand clothing and recycled into rags, fiber and other materials. Items that require shutting down the system and hours of manual removal of the bags each day.

Recycle More and Recycle Right!

Please DO This: It’s Important Because:

NO plastic bags in recycling carts or in the recycling drop-off containers. Plastic bags wrap around the moving gears and parts of the sorting equipment, causing jams that require shutting down the system and hours of manual removal of the bags each day.

NO foam products (Styrofoam). Foam products are NOT recyclable with RRASOC’s program.

KEEP proton tanks and pressurized containers such as oxygen tanks! Helium tanks, and aerosol cans that aren’t empty, OUT of the recycling cart and trash containers.

When using a recycling cart, please close the cart with the “street side” imprint towards the street and the hinge toward your house.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The aim of the Economic Development Department is to help companies in Farmington Hills take advantage of growth opportunities and overcome obstacles. Help is available to find matching grants to expand international sales, to seek alternative lenders for help with property improvements, and to explore Brownfield programs that help buyers and investors assess and remediate properties. If you have a business in Farmington Hills or are thinking of locating here, call 248-871-2506 for assistance with capital, talent management, and more.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

A Neighborhood Watch Meeting will be held at the Gotzkwick Center, 28600 West Eleven Mile Road, on Thursday, November 3 at 7 p.m. Police Chief Chuck Nebus and Department officers will discuss how the Department trains officers to serve and protect our community. Residents will also have an opportunity to meet new Crime Prevention Technician Monica Kollar who coordinates the Neighborhood Watch program.

City residents have benefited from record low levels of crime in recent years. While crime rates have plunged, the number of Neighborhood Watch groups has nearly doubled — there are currently 118 Farmington Hills Neighborhood Watch groups. Areas with active Neighborhood Watch associations generally experience fewer crimes and residents enjoy an added sense of security.

Neighbors watching out for one another are encouraged to call the police when they observe suspicious persons and crimes. Superior policing, crime prevention programs, and community support help keep Farmington Hills one of Michigan’s safest communities.

Police Appreciate Community Support

Positive police and community relationships are necessary ingredients for a safe city, and are a Police Department top priority. Farmington Hills Police Officers are grateful for the strong public support and trust from local citizens. Your officers wish to say thank you for your support and for the many ways residents, businesses, schools, and faith communities have expressed their appreciation for the police. Farmington Hills Police officers remain committed to the community and to the delivery of superior police services without prejudice or partiality.

Neighborhood Watch Meeting Highlights Police Training

If you are interested in starting a Neighborhood Watch group, please call the Crime Prevention Section at 248-871-2750 or email crimeprevention@fhgov.com.

Officer Kevin Clark receives an appreciative hug from a young resident.

The Police Department sends out NIXLE emergency notifications regarding certain crime occurrences, missing or endangered persons, and hazardous conditions. Sign up for free NIXLE text or email alerts at www.nixle.com.

Change your smoke alarm battery.

This year remember to change your smoke alarm battery.

When using a recycling cart, place the cart with the handles facing away from trash containers.

NO foam products (Styrofoam). Foam products are NOT recyclable with RRASOC’s program.

Keep propane tanks and pressurized containers such as oxygen tanks, helium tanks, and aerosol cans that aren’t empty, OUT of the recycling cart and trash containers.

When using a recycling cart, please close the cart with the “street side” imprint towards the street and the hinge toward your house.

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Most people keep poison ivy in mind during summer, but there’s a big risk of exposure during fall cleanups when cutting branches or raking leaves. Poison ivy can climb shrubs or trees and blend easily into other vegetation. Watch for leaves that turn red in the fall and roots that have a “hairy” appearance. Poison ivy contains an oily resin called urushiol, found in all parts of the plant. This oil can cause skin rashes and is easily spread on clothing, shoes, tools or pet fur. Repeated exposure can increase the body’s reaction and some highly sensitive people may even require hospitalization.

Be extremely careful how you remove poison ivy. Do not ever burn any parts of the plant as the oils will become airborne and can affect breathing passages and lungs. Put on protective clothing including long pants, long sleeve shirts, gloves, and closed toe shoes. Do not put the plants in home compost or set out for municipal compost pickup; poison ivy plants should be bagged for trash pick-up. Additional information is available through the MU Extension Service at www.msuextension.org or call Charmanne Kettler-Schmutz in the Community Development Office at 248-871-2543.

Planning Office
Several large vacant or underutilized commercial and office spaces now have new tenants and owners, accompanied by capital reinvestment at these sites. Highlight include the $16,000 square foot office/research building located at Drake Road and I-96. Formerly occupied by the Dana Corporation, the building is now home to Sumitomo, an international high-tech research and development company. ZF TRW will be occupying an entire building in the Arboretum office complex nearby. The 100,000 square foot former Sam’s Club building on Haggerty Road north of Grand River received façade, parking lot, and interior renovations and is now the new home of the Harley-Davidson superstore, dealership, and service center, with a craft brew pub and additional retail uses planned for the site in the future.

Yard and Garden
• Drain hoses and shut off valves
• Close swimming pools and remove stagnant water
• Keep trash in cans with tight fitting lids, dispose of pet waste daily
• Remove piles of leaves, trees and garden debris
• Store ladders, lawn mowers, and tools inside to prevent damage and avoid harboring rodents
• Store firewood in racks at least 18 inches off the ground
• Remove any inoperable vehicles and store inside

Fire Hydrants
Removing snow around fire hydrants greatly assists the Fire Department. It is important that fire hydrants be visible and accessible at all times.

Safety Reminders
In addition to driving defensively and carefully in inclement weather, please follow these important safety reminders:
• Discourage children from playing on snowbanks near the road.
• When following a snow plow truck, please stay a safe distance behind the truck.
• Snow should not be plowed or shoveled into the roadway.

Salt/Sand Barrels
The City places 55-gallon drums filled with a salt/sand mixture at intersections and hills upon written request from homeowner groups. If your association is interested in having barrels placed within your subdivision, please send a letter with a clear description or sketch of the location, to the Division of Public Works, 27245 Hafted, Farmington Hills, Michigan, 48331. It is important to obtain the approval of the property owner adjacent to the selected location, given that spilled salt may burn the grass.

Be a Good Neighbor
Many people require assistance after a snowstorm. The elderly and disabled often need help removing snow from their driveways. If you know of a neighbor that needs help, please give them a hand.

Voluntary Water Shutoff
The City provides water shutoff service to residents on vacation or away for an extended period. For a $150 fee, water service can be shut off at the stopbox (the valve used to access water service) and then turned back on upon request. This will save money and prevent costly repairs, if your water service is off for at least three months, the normal quarterly minimum charge will be waived. Turning off water service will help prevent freezing of the internal plumbing and meter, which could cause significant water damage to your home. To schedule an appointment to shut off your water, call the Oakland County Water Resources Commissioner’s Office at 248-858-1110.

Zoning Division Fall/Winter Checklist

Exterior
• Repair blistering or peeling paint
• Repair and seal driveway
• Clean gutters and downspouts
• Caulk windows and weather strip doors
• Prune trees and shrubs
• Change summer screens to storm windows/doors and storm screens inside

Yard and Garden
• Drain hoses and shut off valves
• Close swimming pools and remove stagnant water
• Keep trash in cans with tight fitting lids, dispose of pet waste daily
• Remove piles of leaves, trees and garden debris
• Store ladders, lawn mowers, and tools inside to prevent damage and avoid harboring rodents
• Store firewood in racks at least 18 inches off the ground
• Remove any inoperable vehicles and store inside

Fill the Mailboxes
Curbside mailboxes may become blocked by plowed snow. The U.S. Post Office has a policy regarding access to mailboxes, which requires snow to be removed enough to allow mail trucks to drive up to the mailbox for delivery. This is the responsibility of the postal customer. During snow plowing operations, weak or damaged mailboxes are sometimes knocked down by the weight of snow thrown by snow plows. To ensure that your mailbox is sturdy enough to survive the winter season, it is a good idea to “shake your mailbox” before each winter to check if it needs to be repaired.

HOLIDAY GARBAGE/RECYCLING/YARD WASTE PICKUPS

Thanksgiving – No collection Thursday, November 24. Monday through Wednesday – regular collection. Thursday and Friday – collection delayed one day, with Friday’s regular collection occurring on Saturday.

Christmas Day and New Year’s Day – There will be no collection for the current collection day since the holiday falls on a Sunday.

Martin Luther King Day and Presidents’ Day – Collection takes place on the regularly scheduled day. City offices will be closed on Monday, January 16 and Monday, February 20.

PUBLIC SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Fall/Winter 2016

Georgetown University Energy Prize

Only three months left in the Greater Farmington Area Energy Prize Challenge. Do your part to help the community take home the $5 million prize! • Swap-out five incandescent bulbs for LED bulbs and save $75 annually, plus save time by not replacing bulbs as often.

• Install a smart thermostat and save an average of 10–12% on heating and 15% on cooling costs. Plus Consumers Energy and DTE Energy are offering $100 rebates.

• Schedule a home energy audit with EcoSmart Homes or Blanket Insulation at a cost of only $50 for all Farmington/ Farmington Hills residents. Learn more at www.sustainablefh.com or check out www.facebook.com/GFEnergyPrize.

PUBLIC SERVICES DEPARTMENT Winter Reminders Division of Public Works 248-871-2850

Snow Plowing Operations
Major roads and school bus routes receive the highest priority, they are plowed and salted following any accumulation of snow or ice. Local (subdivision) streets are plowed following accumulation of four inches or more of snow. The City rotates which neighborhoods are plowed first after each snow event.

Snow Buildup at the End of Driveways
Snow plows are angled to the right for plowing from the center line of the street to the curb, making the deposit of snow at the end of driveways a byproduct of plowing operations. You may alleviate some of this accumulation if you clear the area to the right of your driveway before plow comes down your street. The City is unable to return to clear this deposit at the end of driveways and is unable to prevent this from occurring at over 23,000 driveways city-wide.

Mailboxes
Curbside mailboxes may become blocked by plowed snow. The U.S. Post Office has a policy regarding access to mailboxes, which requires snow to be removed enough to allow mail trucks to drive up to the mailbox for delivery. This is the responsibility of the postal customer. During snow plowing operations, weak or damaged mailboxes are sometimes knocked down by the weight of snow thrown by snow plows. To ensure that your mailbox is sturdy enough to survive the winter season, it is a good idea to “shake your mailbox” before each winter to check if it needs to be repaired.

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SPECIAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Register for classes at https://recreg.fhgov.com or at the Costick Center front desk at 28600 W. Eleven Mile Road. For more information, please call 248-473-1800.

ADULTS 50 & BETTER

Fitness programs, classes, workshops, clubs, and parties at the Costick Center. For a schedule, see the Special Services Activities Guide, the monthly “Messenger” newsletter at www.fhgov.com or call 248-473-1830.

The Division also offers:

**Home Delivered Meals**

Over 150 homebound residents receive hot lunches delivered to their door. To be eligible, you must be homebound, 60+ years old, a resident of Farmington/Farmington Hills, or be an unpaid caregiver if under 60 years old. Non-homebound individuals can call 248-473-1825 about Private Pay delivery service.

**Seneca Adult Day Program**

This program serves seniors with functional needs by providing educational activities, socialization, and peer support. It promotes independence, postpones deterioration, and eliminates or delays the need for institutional care, thus offering respite for caregivers. Open Monday – Friday, 9:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. Fall or half days available. For details, call 248-473-1872.

**Senior Transportation**

As a SMART Community Partner, the program provides transportation for medical appointments, hospital and nursing home visits, shopping, and errands. Sponsors 55+ and residents with a disability over 18 years old from Farmington/Farmington Hills. For details, call 248-473-1843.

**Conway Café**

Low cost lunches offered Monday – Friday, 12 – 12:30 p.m. at the Costick Center. Donation of $2.75 for adults 60+ or $5 for under 60. Order lunches by 11:30 a.m. For more information, call 248-473-1825.

**AQUATICS**

The Costick Center pool offers leisure swim, exercise, and instruction with low-cost lessons for children and adults, both residents and non-residents, including parent-child, preschool, beginner to advanced youth, and adult classes. The Women Only Swim Hour is from 1 – 2 p.m. on Sundays. The Costick Crocodiles Swim Club meets Tuesdays and Thursdays from 7 – 8 p.m. Session 2 of Fall Swim Lessons starts the week of October 24. The pool also hosts School Swim Lessons, Emergency Care & Safety Institute, CPR/AED certification, and First Aid Training. The pool may be reserved for private parties with hourly rental fees. For more information, call 248-473-1834.

Pumpkin Patch Pool Party – October 28, 5 – 7 p.m.
Pool Closed – October 31 after 3 p.m., November 24 – 25, December 24 – December 31 – January 1

**YOUTH & FAMILY SERVICES**

After School Program

Now in its 21st year serving over 13,000 youth after school! This year the program welcomes Farmington/Farmington Hills youth in 6th – 8th grade during after school hours Monday – Friday. Homework help, tutoring, plus indoor/outdoor activities including nature exploration, arts and crafts, swimming, ice skating, and basketball are all offered. New this year is “Identify,” a program focused on developing the personal gifts of each child. Five locations are available – Costick Center, Ice Arena, Jon Grant Center, Waverly, and newly added Dunckel. All Youth Centers are open 2:15 – 5:30 p.m. The After School Program is free to Farmington/Farmington Hills residents after the purchase of a photo ID for $50 at the Costick Center. For more information, call 248-473-1841.

Wednesday, October 19 – Half Day – Wind's Apple Orchard Trip
Friday, November 18 – Half Day – Ice Arena Ice Dance

**ICE ARENA**

Open Skate, Drop-In Hockey, Mid-Day Skate, Adult Skate, Figure Skating, Youth and Adult Hockey, Home to the Little Caesars Farmington Hills Hockey Association (LCFHHA). Learn to Skate USA programs - fun for all ages and levels as certified instructors help skaters build skills. For session dates/class info, go to www.fhice.com or contact skating directors Barb Miller at bmiller@fhgov.com or Sheri Combs at scombs@fhgov.com or call 248-478-8800. The Ice Arena is closed Nov. 24, Dec. 25 and Jan. 1.

**CULTURAL ARTS DIVISION**

For more information, call 248-473-1805/59.


Nov. 12, 7:30 p.m. – Matt Watroba, folk music and great storytelling. Tickets: $15, all ages.

Jan. 14, 7:30 p.m. – Young Classical Musician Showcase, including award-winning violinist Susie Lee. Tickets: $10 all ages.

March 3 & 4 at 7:30 p.m. – Blue Ribbon. Tickets: $23, senior/student $21.


Exhibits/Gift Sales – City Gallery, Costick Center lobby – Michigan Weavers' Guild Winter Market, Dec. 10, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.


Music Classes and Lessons – Group/Individual lessons in violin, acoustic, electric or bass guitar, piano (ages 8 – adult), Kelly Kirby piano (ages 5 – 7).

**Public Art Program** – Regional artists are invited to submit work for consideration as part of the 2017/2018 Biannual Public Art Program at Farmington Hills City Hall. Please make submissions at http://tinyurl.com/FH-PublicArtProgram. If you are unable to apply online, email Staci Hayman at shayman@fhgov.com or call 248-473-1870.