



Police Department Safe Transaction Zone parking spot.

FARMINGTON HILLS Michigan FOCUS

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

T: (248) 871-2500
F: (248) 871-2501

City Hall
31555 W. Eleven Mile Rd.
Farmington Hills, MI 48336

City of Farmington Hills,
Michigan - Municipal
Government

Police Department

Police Department Safe Transaction Zones

The Farmington Hills Police Department is making its parking lot and lobby available as Safe Transaction Zones.

The Police Department parking lot is located at 31655 West Eleven Mile Road, in front of the main entrance, and the lobby is located inside the front of the building. Both locations are available for use as Safe Transaction Zones by residents who are buying, selling or trading items from strangers. A special sign marks the designated Safe Transaction Zone parking spot.

Police Department employees cannot serve as witnesses or become involved in any purchase negotiations, but Police Officers will be in close proximity if needed. Please note that the Police Department parking lot may not be used to store vehicles or property.

Meeting strangers in a safe location reduces the odds of criminal victimization and eliminates the need to give a stranger your address. Regardless of the meeting location selected, daylight transactions are always the safest. The Police Department

reminds you to focus on your personal safety and to trust your instincts at all times.

For further information, please contact the Police Department Command Desk at 248-871-2610.

Police Department Earns Prestigious Accreditation

The Farmington Hills Police Department recently achieved full accreditation status with the Michigan Association of Chiefs of Police (MACP) and is one of the first 10 local police agencies in Michigan to achieve full accreditation status.

Accreditation is a progressive and time-proven way of helping law enforcement agencies calculate and improve their overall performances. The foundation of Accreditation lies in the voluntary adoption of standards containing a clear statement of professional objectives. Accreditation required the Police Department to conduct a thorough self-



analysis to determine which of their existing operations already meet some of the standards and/or how the procedures can be adapted to meet the standards and professional objectives.

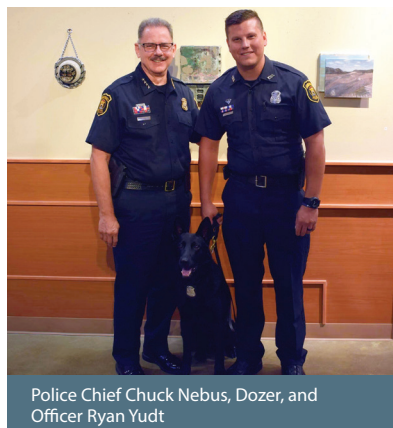
Chief Nebus and Assistant Chief Mike Ciaramitaro, the Department's Accreditation Manager, appeared before the Michigan Law Enforcement Accreditation Commission at an Accreditation Hearing in June. The Commission voted to approve Farmington Hills for accreditation, which affirms that the Department voluntarily met "Best Practice Standards" and complied with 105 MACP required professional standards. In order to retain accreditation, the Department must submit annual reports attesting to continued compliance. Accreditation must be renewed every three years.

MACP Directors Robert Stevenson (retired Livonia Chief of Police) and Neal Rossow (retired Flat Rock Chief of Police) presented the MACP Accreditation Award at the Farmington Hills City Council Meeting on August 27, 2018.



City Manager Dave Boyer, Assistant Police Chief Mike Ciaramitaro, Council Member Samantha Steckloff, Mayor Pro Tem Richard Lerner, Mayor Ken Massey, Police Chief Chuck Nebus, Assistant Police Chief Dan Rodriguez, Council Member Michael Bridges, Council Member Theresa Rich, Council Member Valerie Knol, and Assistant Police Chief Jeff King

New Police K9 Team



Police Chief Chuck Nebus, Dozer, and Officer Ryan Yudt

At a Farmington Hills City Council meeting this past summer, the Police Department introduced the City's new K9 team. Officer Ryan Yudt, a seven-year veteran of the Department, and his new partner Dozer were certified as a K9 team for law enforcement service in June 2018. Dozer is a purebred German Shepard from

Jessen, Germany. He is certified as a multi-purpose police K9 and will be used in locating people and evidence, as well as narcotics detection.

Fire Department

Car Seat Safety Inspections



Firefighter/Paramedic Sergeant Jarod Foshag

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 and booster seats for proper installation, as well as possible product recalls. Inspections are held monthly on designated Saturdays or Sundays **by appointment only** from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Fire Station #4

located at 28711 Drake Road. Car seat inspections are free, take about 30 to 45 minutes to complete, 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.fhgov.com.

Heating Safety

- Keep anything that can burn at least three feet away from heating equipment such as the furnace, fireplace, wood stove or portable space heaters.
- Have a three-foot "kid-free zone" around open fires and space heaters.
- Never use your oven to heat your home.
- Have a qualified professional install stationary space heating equipment, water heaters or central heating equipment according to the local codes and manufacturer's instructions.
- Have heating equipment and chimneys cleaned and inspected every year by a qualified professional.
- Remember to turn portable heaters off when leaving the room or going to bed.
- Install and maintain carbon monoxide (CO) alarms to avoid the risk of CO poisoning.
- Always use the right kind of fuel, as specified by the manufacturer, for fuel burning space heaters.
- Make sure the fireplace has a sturdy screen to stop sparks from flying into the room. Ashes should be cool before putting them into a metal container. Keep the container a safe distance away from your home.
- Test smoke alarms at least once a month.

Open Burning

- Open burning (campfires, etc.) is only allowed when following specific guidelines, on the site of a single family dwelling using an approved semi-enclosed device that can be purchased from a local retailer.
- When choosing a location for your burn area, make sure it is at least eight feet away from any surfaces that could easily catch fire, such as wooden decks and patio furniture, and not underneath any electrical or utility service wires.
- Only seasoned firewood may be burned, at no time is the burning of yard waste allowed.
- For clarification on safety guidelines, please call Fire Prevention at 248-871-2820 or consult the City Charter/Code of Ordinances located at www.fhgov.com under the Government tab. Click on Charter/Code of Ordinances, then click on Chapter 12 – Fire Prevention and Protection.

Clerk's Office

Update Homeowner Association Contacts

The City Clerk's Office maintains a list of all Homeowner Associations with contact information. This enables the City to provide contact information to new residents and also to notify associations of upcoming developments, such as road projects, that may affect subdivisions. Please submit updated contact information annually, or as contact information or officers change, to jmunoz@fhgov.com or fax it to the City Clerk at 248-871-2411.

Door-to-Door Peddlers/Solicitors

Persons peddling door-to-door selling goods or services must be licensed with the City and have photo identification issued by the City Clerk's Office. Persons may only peddle/solicit between the hours of 10 a.m. and 8 p.m.

There are certain groups that are exempt from the City's licensing provisions, however they still should be able to provide photo ID from their respective organizations and are asked to comply with local time requirements. For questions on licensing, contact the City Clerk's Office at 248-871-2410.

If you do not wish to have peddlers/solicitors come to your door, consider posting a "no peddling/no soliciting" sign on your property. Subdivision associations may also decide to post similar signage at subdivision entrances. Please be advised that State Law dictates that peddling/soliciting cannot be prohibited within the City; however licensed peddlers/solicitors must adhere to City ordinance requirements. The permit process requires applicants to submit a background check for review by the Police Department.

The Police Department reminds residents that you do not have to open your door for a stranger. If the person is peddling, ask them to display their City-issued ID. Call the Police Department at 248-871-2600 if you have concerns. It is helpful if you can provide the name and/or organization that the person was representing and also your address or subdivision name.

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 an 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 natural byproduct of plowing operations. You may help alleviate *some* of this accumulation if you clear the area to the right of your driveway before a snow plow comes down your street. *The City is unable to return to clear this deposit at the end of your driveway and is unable to prevent this from occurring at over 23,000 driveways 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 see if it needs to be repaired.

Fire Hydrants

Removing snow around fire hydrants greatly assists the Fire Department. It is important that fire hydrants are 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, please stay a safe distance behind.
- Snow should not be plowed or shoveled into the roadway.

Planning & Community Development



Salt/Sand Barrels

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

Be a Good Neighbor

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

Holiday Garbage, Recycling and Yard Waste Pickups

Thanksgiving – No collection Thursday, November 22. Monday through Wednesday – regular collection. Thursday and Friday – collection delayed one day with Friday's collection occurring on Saturday.

Please note: THE LAST YARD WASTE PICKUP WILL OCCUR DURING THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 10 - 14. Starting the week of December 17, yard waste will not be picked up until the program resumes in April 2019.

Christmas Day and New Year's Day – No collection Tuesday, December 25 or Tuesday, January 1. Tuesday through Friday – collection delayed one day with Friday's collection occurring on Saturday.

Martin Luther King Day and President's Day – Collection takes place on the regularly scheduled day. City offices are closed on Monday, January 21, 2019, and on Monday, February 18, 2019.



In the interest of worker safety, trash containers must be limited to a 32-gallon size (60 lb. maximum). Wheeled varieties are available in the acceptable size. **OVERSIZED CONTAINERS WILL NOT BE EMPTIED.**

Housing Rehabilitation Program - Home Repair Loans

Funding for zero-interest, deferred home repair loans is provided by the U.S. Housing and Urban Development Office (HUD). Homeowners may be eligible for loans to replace roofs, windows, furnaces, septic fields or hot water tanks. To qualify, applicants must own and occupy a home in Farmington Hills and the family must meet Federal income guidelines. A family of four, for example, must have a gross income of less than \$56,700. For information, call the Community Development Office at 248-871-2543 or go to www.fhgov.com, and search for Housing Rehabilitation Program.

Zoning Division – Winter Home Checklist

- Exterior – Seal any holes, cracks or openings at least three feet up from the foundation. Examine windows for leaks or drafts and caulk areas as needed.
- Swimming Pool – Take appropriate measures to close and cover the pool.
- Yard Clean-up – Remove any leaf piles, grass clippings, and tree and garden debris. Store ladders, tools, patio furniture or other yard items indoors. Clean and stow your lawn mower. Stored items won't get damaged by the cold weather and a clean yard is less likely to harbor rodents.
- Firewood Storage – Keep firewood stacked above the ground; the recommended height is 18 inches, which helps to deter rodent habitats.
- Snow Removal – The City does not enforce residential snow removal, but please be considerate of your neighbors when clearing your property. Don't block their view along the driveway by piling snow too high, and ask your contractor to do the same.
- Gutters - Clean gutters so that they are free of leaves and other debris. This can help to preserve your roof and assist with drainage.

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



Sign up for NIXLE emergency notifications from the Police Department via text or email at www.nixle.com

Housing Discrimination Notice

Housing discrimination is prohibited by law. Everyone has a right by law, to rent, purchase or obtain financing or insurance for housing without discrimination based upon RACE, COLOR, SEX, NATIONAL ORIGIN, RELIGION, AGE, MARITAL, FAMILIAL or DISABILITY STATUS. Both State of Michigan and Federal laws apply to the actions of owners, real estate brokers or agents, apartment managers, cooperatives, condominiums, mortgage lenders, appraisers or residential insurers, and they prohibit, with few exceptions, any differences in treatment based on any of the protected characteristics. For more information on housing discrimination, visit www.hud.gov/fairhousing. If you have a housing discrimination complaint, contact the Michigan Department of Civil Rights at 313-456-3700 or the HUD hotline at 1-800-669-9777 or 1-800-927-9275 (TTY).

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 Road, Farmington Hills MI 48336. The remittance portion of the tax bill is not included with online payments. *If the City 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 on 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.*



HUMAN RESOURCES NOW HIRING

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

2019 Property Tax Calendar

February 14 – Last day to pay winter property taxes without penalty.

February 20 – Due date for the filing of affidavits to exempt personal property with a true cash value of \$80,000 or less.

February 20 – Personal property statements due to assessor (business only.)

Late February – Change of assessment notices mailed.

February 28 – Last day to pay summer or winter property taxes at City Hall.

March 11 – 13 – Board of Review meets.

June 3 – 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 28 – Summer tax bills mailed.

September 3 – Last day to pay summer property taxes without penalty (due to August 31 being on the Labor Day holiday weekend.)

September 16 – 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 29 – Winter tax bills mailed.

December 31 – Taxable status set for coming year's bill.

The City of Farmington Hills Citizen's Guide and Performance Dashboard can be found on the City website at www.fhgov.com. Click on Government/Reference/Reports and then click on the document "Citizens Guide and Performance Dashboard."



Recycling Reminders

Wondering What Can Be Recycled?

Visit rrrasoc.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.”

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. Recycle plastic bags at local grocery and big box retailers. Look for collection containers in lobbies or service areas.	Plastic bags wrap around the many 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.
Place recyclables loose in your recycling cart or in the recycling drop-off site containers.	Recyclables placed in plastic bags are removed from the sorting lines and thrown away. This is done for the safety of employees.
NO foam products (Styrofoam).	Foam products are NOT recyclable with RRRASOC's program.
Keep propane tanks and pressurized containers such as fire extinguishers, oxygen tanks, diving tanks, helium tanks, and freon/refrigerant tanks OUT of the recycling cart and trash containers.	<p>These containers are dangerous in the waste stream. They can cause fires, explosions, serious injury or death if put into compactor trucks, recycling centers, and other waste management equipment.</p> <p>Many retailers, including AmeriGas and Blue Rhino, will take the five-pound steel propane tanks, often at no charge. Tanks can often be returned to the point of purchase or to another local dealer, regardless of their condition and functionality. Tanks can also be taken to Household Hazardous Waste events.</p>
When using a recycling cart, place the cart with the “street side” imprint toward the street and the hinge toward your house.	This allows the cart and its contents to be easily emptied into the recycling truck.