



FARMINGTON HILLS FOCUS

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Ofc. Devin Hunt, Ofc. William Bornheimer, Ofc. Jillian Booker, Ofc. Madison Kean, Ofc. Mark Mostek, Chief Jeff King, Ofc. Kyle Witherspoon, Ofc. Bradley Lavin, Ofc. Nathan Weston, Ofc. Liam McCrimmon, and Ofc. Spencer Hilden

► New Officers Hired

Over the past few years, the Police Department has lost numerous officers through retirements, resignations, and promotions. As a result, the Department has been running well short of its budget authorized staffing level of 106 officers. To address this staffing shortage Chief King, working with the City's Human Resources Department, authorized and implemented an aggressive recruiting and hiring program.

In early 2020, Administrative Bureau officers and command staff attended numerous job fairs throughout the State of Michigan focusing on State Colleges and Universities. Staff also recruited directly from four metro Detroit police academies, specifically: the Wayne County Regional Police Academy, the Washtenaw Community College Police Academy, the Oakland Community College Police Academy, and the Macomb Community College Police Academy.

The Department's recruiting efforts recently culminated in one of the largest group hiring of police officers in the Department's history. On December 7, 2020, the Police

Department swore in ten new officers, hired directly after graduation from local police academies. The new officers were ranked at the top of their respective police academy classes and were recognized for demonstrating leadership qualities and excelling in academics and physical fitness.

Seven of the new officers possess bachelor's degrees and one also possesses a master's degree. Three of the new officers have served in our nation's armed forces. One officer attained the rank of Captain in the Marine Corps before being honorably discharged, one officer serves as a Second Lieutenant in the Army Reserves, and one Officer attained the rank of Specialist in the Army, serving a combat role in Afghanistan, prior to being honorably discharged.

The following is a list of the Police Department's newly hired officers:

- Officer Mark Mostek graduated from Macomb Township's Dakota High School in 2015. He then attended Central Michigan University where he

earned a Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice. Officer Mostek was hired by the Farmington Hills Police Department in 2020 as a Police Service Aide. He recently graduated from the Wayne County Regional Police Academy where he earned the following awards and scholarships: Code of Ethics Award, David Quinn Scholarship, Patrick O'Rourke Scholarship, Iron Man Award for Top Male in Physical Fitness, and the Larry Nehasil Scholarship.

- Officer Kyle Witherspoon graduated from North Farmington High School in 2014. He then attended Western Michigan University where he earned a Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice. Officer Witherspoon was hired by the Farmington Hills Police Department in 2020 as a Police Service Aide. He is a recent graduate of the Wayne County Regional Police Academy.
- Officer Madison Kean graduated from Livonia Franklin High School in 2016. She then attended Eastern Michigan University

where she earned a Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice. Officer Kean was hired by the Farmington Hills Police Department in 2019 as a Police Service Aide. She recently graduated from the Wayne County Regional Police Academy where she earned the following scholarships: the Patrick O'Rourke Scholarship and the Stephen Thomas First Responders Scholarship.

- Officer Jillian Booker graduated from River Rouge High School in 2004. She then attended the United States Naval Academy where she earned a Bachelor's Degree. Officer Booker continued her education earning a Master's Degree in Nutritional Education from American University. She served in the United States Marine Corps where she attained the rank of Captain and received an honorable discharge. Officer Booker recently graduated from the Wayne County Regional Police Academy where she served as the Class Captain and earned the following awards and scholarships: Class Leadership Award, Top Academic Award, First Place Kehrl Academic Excellence Award, Iron Woman Award for Top Female in Physical Fitness, the Larry Nehasil Scholarship, Law Enforcement Education Program (LEEP) Scholarship, MCOLES Outstanding Recruit Winner, and Chief's Award.
- Officer Bradley Lavin graduated from Catholic Central High School in 2017. He then attended Schoolcraft College where he earned an Associate Degree in

Criminal Justice. Officer Lavin has worked as a Police Cadet for the City of Royal Oak, the City of Milford, and the Michigan State Police. He is a recent graduate of the Oakland Community College Police Academy.

- Officer Nathan Weston graduated from Gull Lake High School in 2014. He then joined the United States Army. Officer Weston served combat tours in Afghanistan prior to his honorable discharge from the Army as a Specialist. He worked as a corrections officer for the Wayne County Sheriff's Department in 2020 and resigned from this position upon his acceptance to the police academy. Officer Weston is a recent graduate of the Washtenaw Community College Police Academy.
- Officer William Bornheimer graduated from Voorhies High School (NJ) in 2001. He then attended Michigan State University where he earned a Bachelor's Degree in Hospitality and Hotel Management. Officer Bornheimer worked for several years as the General Manager of several luxury hotel properties in New York City and metro Detroit before choosing to pursue law enforcement as a new career. He is a recent graduate of the Washtenaw Community College Police Academy where he served as the Class President.
- Officer Liam McCrimmon graduated from Catholic Central High School in 2015. He then attended Bowling Green State University where he earned a Bachelor's

Degree in Criminal Justice. Officer McCrimmon has worked as a security officer for the Detroit Tigers. He is a recent graduate of the Wayne County Regional Police Academy.

- Officer Devin Hunt graduated from Howell High School in 2015. He then attended Eastern Michigan University where he earned a Bachelor's Degree in Public Safety Administration. Officer Hunt is a member of the United States Army National Guard where he has attained the rank of Second Lieutenant. He currently is assigned to the Michigan Army National Guard 1-125 Infantry HHC. Officer Hunt is a recent graduate of the Washtenaw Community College Police Academy.
- Officer Spencer Hilden graduated from South Lyon East High School in 2013. He then earned an Associate Degree in Criminal Justice from Washtenaw Community College. Officer Hilden has previously worked for the Belleville Public Schools and South Lyon Public Schools. Officer Hilden is a recent graduate of the Washtenaw Community College Police Academy where he served as the Class Vice President.

All ten police officers are currently assigned to the Patrol Division of the Operations Bureau where they will be subject to an intensive training and evaluation process in the Department's Field Training Program.

► FARMINGTON HILLS RANKED AS SECOND SAFEST CITY IN MICHIGAN



Munetrix[®]



Farmington Hills is the Second Safest City in Michigan according to Munetrix, a data analytics solutions provider serving municipalities and public school districts nationwide. Munetrix created its 2020 Safest Cities in Michigan list using an analysis of publicly available data provided by Michigan State Police and the U.S. Census Bureau.

The Munetrix list looks at total crime data for Michigan communities with a population of more than 50,000. Based on the numbers of total crimes committed in Michigan's cities, relative to each city's total population, Farmington Hills ranked as the #2 Safest City in Michigan. Statistics continue to show a trending decrease in crime overall in Farmington Hills.

Learn more at www.munetrix.com.

▶ OFFICER RYAN YUDT AND K9 DOZER - NOTEWORTHY CANINE DEPLOYMENTS



Farmington Hills Police Department K9 Officer Ryan Yudt and his partner Dozer look forward to seeing members of the public again after the end of the pandemic. But in the meantime, they have remained busy and involved in some important police work.

Officer Yudt and his K9 Dozer are certified by the National Association of Professional Canine Handlers (NAPCH) and the K9 Advanced Training Facility (K9ATF). They are certified in Narcotic Detection, Tracking, Apprehension and Aggression, Obedience, Area/Article Searches, and Building Searches. In addition to the nearly

300 hours of training Officer Yudt and K9 Dozer initially received, they are also required to attend annual training and certify regularly in these areas of expertise.

A typical day of training for Officer Yudt and K9 Dozer consists of tracking, narcotic detection, searching for persons in buildings, and much more. Training is designed to expose Officer Yudt and K9 Dozer to unique and challenging scenarios in a controlled environment, better preparing them for their daily duties in the City of Farmington Hills.

Here are just a few examples of Officer Yudt and K9 Dozer's recent work for the Police Department:

- **Missing Child Track** - To assist in locating a missing child, Officer Yudt and K9 Dozer responded to the scene and actively tracked the presence of human odor. This led officers to the missing child who was lost and did not know how to get back home. Due to the successful track completed by the K9 Team, the child was returned home unharmed, approximately 45 minutes after being reported missing.
- **Unlawful Entry** - Officer Yudt and K9 Dozer responded to an alarm activation and checked exterior doors and windows, soon discovering an unlocked entry door. No vehicles were observed in the parking lot, leading Officer Yudt to believe that anyone inside the building would not be authorized. Officer

Yudt made several announcements instructing anyone inside to come out. These announcements went unanswered. Officer Yudt deployed Dozer to search for anyone hiding. After a short time, Dozer barked and scratched at a door indicating someone might be inside. The subject was detained, and it was learned the person had gained entry to hide out in the building. Dozer's ability to search buildings allows Officers to check large structures quickly and provide protection to responding Officers by warning them of hiding suspects.

- **Narcotic Seizure** - Officer Yudt and K9 Dozer assisted a DEA Task Force Group in executing a search warrant at a residence in a neighboring community. Together they were tasked with searching the residence for hidden narcotics where they found a concealed shoebox that contained 497 grams of heroin with an estimated street value of \$75,000.
- **Armed Robbery Track** - Officer Yudt and K9 Dozer were called to assist Southfield police officers in their search for an armed robbery suspect who fled on foot from the scene of the crime. Officer Yudt deployed K9 Dozer who actively tracked the presence of human odor leading to the suspect who was then arrested.
- During 2019, Officer Yudt and K9 Dozer were utilized a total of 165 times for school demonstrations, building searches, tracking, narcotic detection, and much more.

Farmington Hills Police K9 Dozer wants to remind everyone to mask up and stay safe! Dozer can't wait for the day when he can visit with all the residents of Farmington Hills again.



▶ FREE DETERRA AT-HOME DRUG DISPOSAL POUCHES AVAILABLE TO RESIDENTS

The Farmington Hills Police Department and the Farmington Public Safety Department have partnered with Beaumont's Healthy Farmington-Farmington Hills Coalition to offer residents an easy way to dispose of unneeded or expired medications safely and conveniently at home. Residents may receive one free Deterra pouch per person from the Farmington Hills Police Department at 31655 W. Eleven Mile Road and the Farmington Public Safety Department at 23600 Liberty Street.

Using a simple three-step process, the Deterra Drug Deactivation System permanently deactivates any medication including opioids. Each Deterra pouch has a water-soluble inner pod containing activated carbon. Drugs are placed in the pouch, warm water is added, then the pouch is sealed, shaken, and disposed of in the regular trash. Each pouch deactivates 45 pills, six ounces of cream or liquid, or six patches, rendering them inert and non-retrievable. As a safety precaution, Deterra should be kept out of the reach of children and pets as the medication is deactivated.

Deterra is safe for the environment and helps keep drugs out of the water system. It is recommended that drugs NOT be disposed of in toilets or sinks since pharmaceuticals have reportedly been found in sewage, surface water, and ground water. Most importantly, Deterra helps keep unneeded medications away from teens and young adults. The National Safety Council reports that teens are more likely to abuse prescription drugs than illegal street drugs, with 70% of them getting drugs through friends or relatives.

The Farmington Hills Police Department and the Farmington Public Safety Department also participate in Operation Medicine Cabinet, where anyone may use the drop box in the lobby available 24/7 to dispose of prescription pills. Participants are asked to leave their names with officers at the Command Desk, who will deposit the pills in an envelope before putting them in the drop box. Operation Medicine Cabinet does not accept liquids, creams, or patches, which can all be disposed of in the Deterra pouches.



To learn more about Deterra, go to www.deterrasystem.com or watch a YouTube video at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VIRxmAMWKOU>.

This program was made possible through support from the Beaumont Greater Farmington Youth Substance Abuse Coalition. For more information, contact Kari Woloszyk at 313-244-1412 or Kari. Woloszyk@beaumont.org.

FH ALERT

Sign up to receive emergency notifications right on your phone.

Sign up today @ fhgov.com

FIRE DEPARTMENT

► Look Before You Lock!

YOU Can Prevent a Tragedy and Keep Kids Safe

The Farmington Hills Fire Department and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) remind everyone to Keep Kids Safe - Look Before You Lock! Every year, children die of heatstroke because they were left or became trapped in a hot car. Parents, caregivers, and bystanders all play a role in helping to make sure another tragedy doesn't happen.



Know the Facts

- A child's body temperature rises three to five times faster than an adult's. When left inside a hot vehicle, a child can die within minutes.
- Heatstroke begins when the core body temperature reaches about 104 degrees; a core body temperature of about 107 degrees is lethal.

Prevent Hot Car Deaths

- Never leave a child in a vehicle unattended, even if the windows are partially open or the engine is running and the air conditioning is on.
- Make it a habit to check your entire vehicle — front and back — before locking the door and walking away. Train yourself to Park, Look, Lock, or always ask yourself "Where's Baby?"
- Ask your childcare provider to call if your child doesn't show up for care as expected.
- Place a personal item like a purse or briefcase in the back seat as another reminder to Look Before You Lock.
- Write a note or place a stuffed animal in the passenger seat to remind you that a child is in the back seat.

Everyone Can Help — Including Bystanders

- If you see a child alone in a locked car, get them out immediately and call 911. A child in heat distress should be removed from the vehicle as quickly as possible and rapidly cooled.
- Always lock your car doors and trunk year-round, so children can't get into unattended vehicles.
- Store car keys out of a child's reach and teach children that a vehicle is not a play area.

The Farmington Hills Fire Department asks everyone to follow these tips and learn how to help prevent a tragedy.

► OPEN BURNING RESTRICTIONS IN THE CITY OF FARMINGTON HILLS

Many people enjoy the ambiance of an outdoor campfire, but please be aware that the City ordinance only allows for small recreational fires at single family homes. These fires must be contained in a semi-enclosed device approved for burning and only seasoned firewood can be used. There must be a reasonable clearance between the fire and power lines or any structures, and a source of water or a portable fire extinguisher must be kept nearby. Never use flammable liquids such as gasoline to start a fire!

The Farmington Hills Fire Department reminds residents that spring cleanup does not include the burning of yard waste. In accordance with the City Ordinance, open burning of yard waste is strictly prohibited since it can easily lead to a variety of unintended and unfortunate accidents ranging from personal injury to property loss. In addition to yard waste, the City also prohibits the burning of dimensional lumber or any other construction materials.

If the Fire Department does have to respond to your home due to problems with an open burn, you may be ticketed or you may receive a cost recovery invoice to cover costs associated with responding to your violation.

Some open burn fires may require a written permit from the Fire Department. Campfires and other outdoor fires used by educational, religious, charitable, or governmental agencies for recreational purposes or ceremonial occasions may be allowed, provided that no noxious odors or smoke are generated and there has been prior approval from the Fire Department. Applications for fire permits may be made through the Fire Prevention Division by calling 248-871-2820 during regular business hours.

Tips on Proper Disposal of Hot Ashes and Coals

Did you know that ashes and coals from fires and grills can remain hot enough to start a fire for many days after you think the fire is out? Fire Department investigations have determined that multiple home fires in Farmington Hills have been caused by the improper disposal of ashes or coals.

The exact amount of time needed for complete extinguishment and cooling depends on many factors such as how hot the fire was, what materials were burning, or how much unburned fuel remains. To be extra safe, treat all ashes and coals as if they are hot, even if you think they've had enough time to cool. Follow these recommendations from the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA):

- If possible, allow ashes and coals to cool for several days in the area where you had the fire. These devices are designed to contain heat safely.
- When it's time to dispose of ashes or coals, transfer them to a metal container and wet them down.
- Keep the metal container outside your home and away from any combustibles until the refuse is hauled away.
- DO NOT place any other combustible materials in the metal container.
- DO NOT ever use a combustible container.

If you have questions regarding open burning or the disposal of ashes and coals, please call the Fire Prevention Division at 248-871-2820.

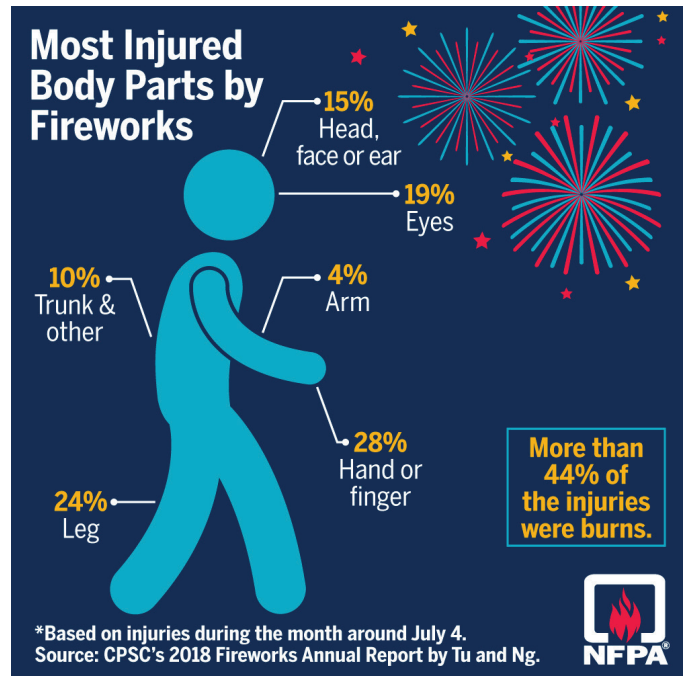
City of Farmington Hills Fireworks Ordinance

The current City of Farmington Hills Fireworks Ordinance states that fireworks may only be discharged during the following times:

- New Year's Eve to New Year's Day – 11:00 a.m. on December 31 to 1:00 a.m. on January 1
- The weekend before Memorial Day – Saturday and Sunday, 11:00 a.m. to 11:45 p.m.
- June 29 through July 4 – 11:00 a.m. to 11:45 p.m. each day
- July 5, but only if that date is a Friday or Saturday – 11:00 a.m. to 11:45 p.m.
- The weekend before Labor Day – Saturday and Sunday, 11:00 a.m. to 11:45 p.m.

Please keep in mind that it is unlawful to discharge fireworks on public property (including public streets), school property, church property, or the private property of another without express written permission.

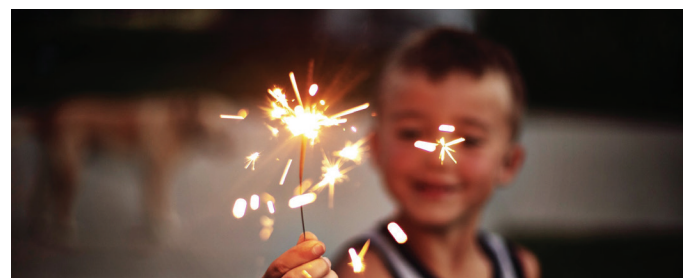
It is also unlawful to discharge fireworks of any type while under the influence of alcohol or drugs. An individual who violates this ordinance may be issued a municipal civil infraction, which is punishable by a civil fine of \$1,000 for each violation. Additionally, it is unlawful to discharge fireworks if a fireworks ban has been implemented by the Fire Chief due to dry conditions.



► FIREWORKS SAFETY

The Farmington Hills Fire Department does not advocate the use of fireworks by non-trained professionals due to safety reasons; however, if individuals choose to use fireworks, here are some safety rules to follow:

- Use fireworks outdoors in a clear area only.
- Always keep a bucket of water or a working water hose nearby.
- Only use fireworks as intended. Don't try to alter them or combine them.
- Never relight a dud firework; wait a minimum of 20 minutes, pick it up with a long-handled tool, and then soak it in a bucket of water.
- Spectators should keep a safe distance from the fireworks handler and the handler should wear safety glasses.
- Alcohol and fireworks do not mix. Have a designated adult fireworks handler.
- Do not use homemade fireworks or illegal explosives.
- Never allow children to play with or ignite fireworks.
- Read and follow all instructions on the label.
- Dispose of used fireworks in a metal container kept outside
- Never place used fireworks in a combustible box or store them inside the home or garage.





FINANCE DEPARTMENT

► CITY OF FARMINGTON HILLS 2021 SUMMER TAXES

Reminders from the Treasurer's Office

- The City of Farmington Hills 2021 Summer Tax Bills will be mailed on or about June 30, 2021. They are payable from July 1, 2021 through August 31, 2021 without penalty. Postmarks are not accepted by the City. Payments received at the City after August 31, 2021 are subject to a 4% penalty that will be added starting September 1, 2021 along with 1/2% interest per month.
- Every property should receive a property tax bill, even if the tax bill is to be paid via an escrow account. If you do not receive a summer property tax bill by July 15, or if you have any questions about your property taxes, call the Treasurer's Office at 248-871-2480.
- By law, failure to receive a tax bill does not waive tax or penalty. Tax bills are mailed to the address of record and not forwarded by the Post Office unless it is a temporary forwarding order only. Changes of mailing address should be filed with the Assessor's Office.
- Applications for deferment of 2021 summer taxes for qualified persons are available on the City website at <http://www.fhgov.com/Government/Departments-Divisions/Finance/Property-Taxes.aspx> or at the Treasurer's Office. Applications must be filed by September 14, 2021.

Options for Paying Taxes

- NEW! Pay by electronic check (eCheck) at <https://www.fhgov.com/Government/Departments-Divisions/Finance/Tax-Payment-Options.aspx>. (\$3 fee for payments up to \$10,000; \$10 fee for payments over \$10,000.) Paying by electronic check is highly recommended if you want your payment to be received at the time of your choosing. You will receive confirmation of payment from the processing company which will serve as your receipt.
- Pay 24/7 via the drop box located next to City Hall in front of Police Headquarters at 31655 W. Eleven Mile Road or via the drop box/slot on the wall at the south entrance to City Hall at 31555 W. Eleven Mile Road. You may request a receipt and must include a self-addressed stamped envelope. Please do not place cash payments in the drop box.
- Pay by mail to Treasurer's Office, 31555 W. Eleven Mile Road, Farmington Hills, MI 48336. You may request a receipt and must include a self-addressed stamped envelope. Checks are accepted as conditional payment. If checks are not honored by the bank, a \$30 fee is applied, and taxes are considered unpaid and subject to any and all penalties.

For questions about paying your taxes, call the Treasurer's Office at 248-871-2480.

For questions about your property assessment or taxable value, call the Assessing Division at 248-871-2470.

▶ DOG LICENSES

Licenses are required for all dogs four months of age or older. Dog licenses may be purchased at the Treasury Division January 1 to November 30 with proof of rabies vaccination. Proof of neutering is required for the neutered/spayed discount. New animals over four months of age may be licensed at non-delinquent rates if the license is purchased within 30 days of acquisition. The City does not require that cats be licensed. For questions regarding dog licenses, please contact Oakland County Animal Control at 248-858-1070 or the City of Farmington Hills Treasury Division at 248-871-2480.

Cash, checks and credit cards (additional 3% third-party fees apply, \$2 minimum) are the acceptable methods of payment at the City of Farmington Hills Treasurer's Office.

You can also purchase your dog license with credit card payments by visiting Oakland County Animal Control's website at: <https://www.oakgov.com/petadoption>.



One Year:	January 1 - June 1	Delinquent One Year:	June 2 - November 30
Spay / Neutered	\$10.50	All	\$33.00
Male / Female	\$18.00		
Senior* Spay / Neutered	\$9.75		
Senior* Male / Female	\$16.50		

Three Year:	January 1 - June 1	Delinquent Three Year:	June 2 - November 30
Spay / Neutered	\$28.50	Spay / Neutered	\$51.00
Male / Female	\$51.00	Male / Female	\$66.00
Senior* Spay / Neutered	\$26.25	Senior* Spay / Neutered	\$49.50
Senior* Male / Female	\$46.50	Senior* Male / Female	\$63.00

*Senior (pet owner) = 65 years old or over

An Oakland County license must be purchased within 30 days of:

- Purchasing or acquiring a new dog
- A puppy turning four months of age
- Moving into Farmington Hills

Pets need to be licensed because:

- It's the law since 1919
- Licensed pets have a better chance of being found
- It proves ownership
- Fees support Oakland County Pet Adoption Center

Need a replacement dog tag?

Contact Oakland County Animal Control at 248-452-9890 and they will mail you a replacement dog tag.



For information about the William Grace Dog Park, located at 29040 Shiawassee Road, go to www.fhgov.com and click on the Activities tab, then click on Dog Park for rules and regulations, hours, and fees.

CLERK'S OFFICE

▶ DOOR-TO-DOOR PEDDLERS/SOLICITORS



Spring typically brings about more 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. Youth groups such as Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts

or other similar youth organizations are also exempt if they are soliciting within three miles of their residence. 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, please consider posting a "No Peddling/No Soliciting" sign on your property. Peddlers/solicitors are not permitted on property with these signs. Similar signage may also be posted 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. Complaints regarding any peddler/solicitor should be directed to the Police Department at 248-871-2600. It is helpful if you can provide the name and/or organization for which the person was peddling/soliciting and your address or subdivision name.

▶ STAY INFORMED! UPDATE YOUR HOMEOWNER ASSOCIATION CONTACTS



Do you belong to your homeowner association? Stay informed about important developments that may affect your subdivision by updating your officers' names and contact information on the City Clerk's Homeowner Association list.

Please submit your new information to jmunoz@fhgov.com or fax it to the City Clerk at 248-871-2411. Remember to do this annually or when there is a change in leadership.



HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT NOW HIRING FOR SEASONAL POSITIONS!

During the spring and summer, the City hires a large number of employees in a variety of positions from part-time (20 hours) to temporary full-time (40 hours). Positions include landscaping, road work, parks and golf course maintenance, building attendants, camps, lifeguards, and several recreation programs. Hourly pay rates range from \$9.87 to \$16.00 based on qualifications and job responsibilities. Open positions are advertised on www.fhgov.com and the City's Facebook page or contact the Human Resources Department at 248-871-2490 for an application.

PUBLIC SERVICES DEPARTMENT



▶ SAFE DRINKING WATER - IT'S EVERYONE'S RESPONSIBILITY!

Cross Connection Control Inspections Prevent Contamination

The Oakland County Water Resources Commissioner's Office (WRC), in conjunction with the City of Farmington Hills, performs annual routine Cross Connection Control inspections at homes and businesses to help protect and maintain safe drinking water. These required annual inspections help eliminate and prevent contaminants from entering the public water system via the reversal of normal water flow direction, known as "backflow."

Whenever a potable (drinkable) water system connects with a non-potable environment, reverse pressure or backflow may occur. This can be caused by water main breaks, hydrants opened for firefighting, power outages, or undersized piping. These situations can cause water powered sump pumps, underground lawn sprinklers, boilers, fire sprinklers, swimming pools, or even outside hose spigots to force potentially contaminated water back into the drinkable water supply if left unprotected.

To stop this potential contamination of drinkable water, backflow prevention devices are required where drinkable water connects to sources of non-drinkable water. Regular inspections of these backflow prevention devices ensure the protection of public drinking water.

To prevent cross connection and backflow with potential contamination at your home or business:

- Examine the connections where water flow could suddenly reverse.
- Install inexpensive hose connection vacuum breakers on outside spigots (also called hose bibbs).
- Install backflow prevention devices that reduce pressure on lawn sprinklers, swimming pools, boilers, and fire sprinkler systems.

If an inspection by WRC staff shows that you have an unprotected cross connection with potential contamination

of drinking water, you will receive a letter informing you of any required backflow prevention device installations and/or testing approximately 30 days prior to the due date. Any repairs, installation, and/or testing are the responsibility of the homeowner or business and must be performed by a certified tester. Many backflow prevention devices must be tested annually to ensure that internal seals, springs, and moving parts are working properly and not in need of repair.

For more information, go to oakgov.com/crossconnection or contact the WRC at:

- Residential customers: 248-858-1431
- Commercial customers: 248-858-9387
- Via email at wrcrossconnection@oakgov.com

▶ MAINTAINING A SAFE WATER SYSTEM IN FARMINGTON HILLS

Maintaining and ensuring safe and high-quality drinking water has always been a priority in the City of Farmington Hills.

As the provider of drinking water in Farmington Hills, the Great Lakes Water Authority (GLWA) continues to provide unquestionable water quality throughout the region. They remain committed to ensuring our water supply not only meets but exceeds all regulatory standards by testing the water multiple times daily. In addition, the Oakland County Water Resources Commissioner (WRC) has licensed water operators that are required by the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) to monitor lead and copper in the City's water system.

Farmington Hills compiles an Annual Water Quality Report with data received from samples collected by the Great Lakes Water Authority, the Water Resources Commission, and water customers. This Consumer Confidence Report is available on the City website at www.fhgov.com.

To further demonstrate its commitment to water quality, the City has recently created a new Water System Advisory Council. The group meets twice annually to review water quality testing results and work toward educating residents of potential lead in drinking water and the associated health risks.

Residents can be assured that there is NO lead and copper found in the source water and no known lead service lines (the pipe that connects your home to the street's watermain) in the Farmington Hills water system. But water quality is a shared responsibility between the City and its residents. The plumbing inside each home is privately owned and maintained by the homeowner.

If lead is found to be present in drinking water, it is typically from the corrosion of materials and/or components associated

with lead service lines or plumbing inside the home. Especially if you have an older home, it is suggested that you verify the type of plumbing material you may have in your own home.

Regardless of the plumbing material in your home, if you have water quality concerns you can take steps to reduce your exposure to any possible associated health risks:

- Consider replacing older plumbing fixtures that may contain lead. Faucets, fittings, and valves sold before 2014 may contain higher levels of lead, even if marked "lead-free." Fixtures sold after January 2014 are required to meet a "lead-free" definition and only contain 0.25% or less lead.
- The longer that water sits in your home's pipes, the more particles it may contain. Before using water for drinking or cooking, flush the pipes. Run water for 30 seconds to two minutes until it becomes cold or reaches a steady temperature.
- Use cold water for drinking and cooking rather than water from the hot water tap, since metal dissolves more easily into hot water.
- Use only cold water for preparing baby formula or use water that is bottled or run through a lead-reducing water filter.
- Remove and clean your faucet aerator (the screen on the end of your faucet) at least every six months and after any plumbing work. The aerator collects lead and other particles that can affect your water.

For more information about drinking water quality, contact the WRC at 248-858-0958 or email WRCwater@oakgov.com.

PIPE MATERIALS USED IN SERVICE LINES



To check if plumbing materials in your home may contain lead, follow these steps:

- Use the flat edge of a screwdriver to scratch any corrosion built up on the pipe, then place a magnet on the scratched area. If the magnet DOES stick, the pipe is made of galvanized steel.
- If the magnet DOES NOT stick and the scraped area is copper in color (similar to the color of a penny), the pipe is made of copper; if the pipe is white, gray, red or blue in color and feels like plastic, the pipe is plastic.
- But if the magnet DOES NOT stick and the pipe is shiny silver in color, the pipe may be made of lead.



DON'T BAG YOUR RECYCLABLES KEEP RECYCLABLES LOOSE



▶ DON'T BAG YOUR RECYCLABLES

All recycling should be loose, NOT bagged, when placed in your recycling container. Keep these types of plastic bags out of your recycling:

- Trash bags
- Bread or food bags
- Ziploc bags
- Dry cleaner bags
- Grocery bags

Other plastic items that are not recyclable include:

- Plastic food wrap (cling wrap)
- Bubble wrap
- Candy and granola bar wrappers
- Chip bags
- Pet food bags

To keep recycling available and cost efficient, please follow all recycling guidelines. If you have questions about what you can recycle, go to www.RRRASOC.org.

Help keep bagged recyclables out of the recycling process. Keep recyclables loose and always follow the guidelines found on the lid of your recycling cart.

▶ 2021 HOLIDAY GARBAGE/RECYCLING/ YARD WASTE COLLECTION SCHEDULE

For the holidays listed below, there will be a delay in curbside collection of trash, recycling, or yard waste. All other holidays throughout the year will not affect curbside collection schedules. If your regularly scheduled collection day is Friday, collection will be on Saturday.



Memorial Day - Monday, May 31, 2021: Monday - Friday routes on a one-day delay.

Independence Day - Sunday, July 4, 2021: No delays.

Labor Day - Monday, September 6, 2021: Monday - Friday routes on a one-day delay.

Thanksgiving Day - Thursday, November 25, 2021: Thursday and Friday routes on a one-day delay. No delay Monday - Wednesday.

Christmas Day - Saturday, December 25, 2021: No delays.

New Year's Day - Saturday, January 1, 2022: No delays.

Please note: Yard waste pickup will start during the week of April 12, 2021 and end during the week of December 13, 2021.

▶ 2021 SPRING/SUMMER ROAD CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

Major Road Paving Projects

11 Mile Road (Middlebelt Road to Inkster Road)

Local Road Paving Projects*

Stone Creek and Westlake Subdivision (Phase 2)

Heritage Hills (Phase 1)

Parkhill Boulevard

*Additional projects may be added dependent on bid pricing.

Water Main Replacement Programs

Richland Gardens Subdivision Area

PLANNING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

SPRING HOME MAINTENANCE



Keep neighborhoods in Farmington Hills looking fresh and help keep property values high by regularly maintaining your home. Review this checklist to see what projects you can tackle now that spring is here.

❑ Roof – Inspect your roof on a ladder or use binoculars to check for damaged or missing shingles and signs of rusting, cracking, or leaking or call a professional to help you assess the damage.

❑ Gutters – Clear all leaves and debris out of gutters and downspouts, and if they're sagging, reattach or replace them. Use caulk to seal holes and prevent leaking, and make sure downspouts face away from the foundation for proper drainage.

❑ Concrete – Look for cracks in the driveway, walkways, or pool deck and fill them with concrete filler or silicone caulk. If damage is severe, you may need to replace concrete areas.

❑ Faucets – Inspect hose faucets for freeze damage. Make sure water is flowing freely and pipes aren't damaged.

❑ Air Conditioning – Remove debris from around the cooling unit and change the filters to increase efficiency. Spring is the ideal time to schedule a professional HVAC tune-up.

❑ Deck – Check for stains, discoloration, warping, and rusty or loose nails. Make sure the railings and stairs are safely secured and replace any rotting boards.

❑ Woodwork – Refurbish wood structures such as fences, railings, and trellises since they are prone to rot and decay.

❑ Sprinklers – Check if the system is working properly and look for leaks or broken sprinkler heads. Adjust them so they spray the grass rather than the house, sidewalks, or porches.

❑ Windows – Check for cracks and repair glass as necessary. Use a window screen repair kit to fix holes or tears that bugs can get through.

❑ Landscaping – Clear out debris, trim overgrowth, and plan fresh additions to your garden to spruce up your home.

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).

► 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 \$62,800. For information, call the Community Development Office at 248-871-2543 or go to www.fhgov.com, and search for Housing Rehabilitation Program.