



## Free Community **FIRST** Aid training

We all hope that we never have to use emergency first aid, but being prepared “just in case” could save a life. To help our citizens learn how to handle an emergency until professional help arrives, the popular **FIRST** Aid program is being offered again this fall.

Free **FIRST** Aid training sessions will be held on the following dates at the Costick Center:

Wednesday, October 12 • 6:30-9:00 p.m.

Thursday, October 13 • 6:30-9:00 p.m.

Saturday, October 15 • 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

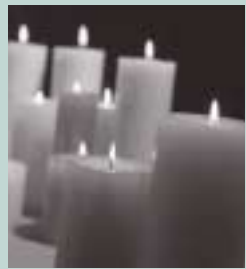
The **FIRST** Aid program features a simple format and useful information including:

- How the 9-1-1 system works
- Recognizing when someone is not breathing
- Performing rescue breathing

- Helping someone who is choking
- Bleeding control
- Burn first aid
- Defibrillator use
- Recognizing a heart attack
- Helping someone with no pulse
- How to put together your own 72-hour disaster preparedness kit

The program is sponsored by the Farmington Hills Citizen Corps Council for Emergency Preparedness (CCCEP), with support from Botsford General Hospital, Community EMS, the Farmington Area Commission on Aging, Farmington Hills Fire Department, Farmington Hills Police Department, and the Farmington Public Safety Department. To register, call 248-473-1800.

### Fire Prevention Week reminds us to “Use Candles with Care”



In honor of Fire Prevention Week, October 9 – 15, the Farmington Hills Fire Department encourages you to follow this year’s theme and “Use Candles with Care.” Statistics show that candle fires are one of the few types of home fires that have increased dramatically over the past decade.

Here are a few tips for safe candle use:

- Use sturdy candle holders that won’t tip over or burn.
- Burn candles on uncluttered surfaces.
- Keep lit candles at least one foot away from curtains, mattresses, and other combustibles.
- Trim candle wicks to one-quarter inch before lighting.
- When lighting candles, keep your hair and clothing away from the flame.
- Extinguish candles when they burn to within two inches of their holder.

For more information on Fire Prevention Week activities, please call the Farmington Hills Fire Department at 248-871-2820.

## Halloween

## safety tips

The Farmington Hills Police Department offers the following tips to help make Halloween a safer and happier time for everyone:

- Make sure children are accompanied by an adult or responsible teenager.
- Instruct children never to eat anything until they are home and treats have been examined. Wash and cut fruit before eating. Throw away anything unwrapped.
- Check wrappers for signs of tampering.
- Call the police if any treats look suspicious.
- Make sure children’s costumes fit properly and they can see well.
- Have children trick or treat in their own neighborhood on well-lit streets. Daylight hours are best.
- If children are out after dark, make sure they carry flashlights.
- Have children use sidewalks, if possible. If there are no sidewalks, walk on the left side of the street facing cars.

- Know which friends your children are out with and which route they are taking.
- Leave a porch light on so children know it’s okay to visit your home.

The Farmington Hills Police Department Crime Prevention Section is available to answer questions, offer additional tips, and provide free business and residential security surveys. For more information, please call 248-871-2750.



## Fall yard waste *Pickup*

As you do your final yard cleanups, please be aware that yard waste pickup ends on December 16. (Please note: This date has been extended for your convenience.) After that date, yard waste cannot be picked up in accordance with our contract and state laws governing yard waste disposal.

Please choose from the following options:

- Use paper yard waste bags, available at ten for \$4.00 from either City Hall or the DPW (checks only please, the DPW cannot accept cash.) Leaves in plastic pumpkin bags will *not* be picked up.
- Put yard waste in garbage cans with yard waste stickers available free at City Hall or the DPW. Garbage cans that are larger than the 32-gallon limit or weigh more than 60 pounds will *not* be emptied.
- Mulch leaves into your lawn with a mulching mower rather than placing them at the curbside. Mulch can also be placed around shrubs and plants to protect them during the winter.

## Put your emergency information on “ICE”

The Fire Department is encouraging all citizens to put emergency contact information on ICE (which stands for “In Case of Emergency”) and keep it with them at all times so that a relative or close friend can be contacted quickly in the event of an emergency.

Citizens can keep this information with them in several ways:

- Store two or more emergency phone numbers under “ICE” in your cell phone address book; first responders will recognize this common term as your emergency contact numbers. For example, you might store your first contact as ICE1 Dave, if Dave is the first person who should be notified in an emergency.
- If you do not carry a cell phone with you, keep a business-sized card in your purse or wallet under the heading ICE or In Case of Emergency.
- Wear a medical necklace or ID band that contains critical health and emergency information.

Make sure that your emergency contacts have all your medical information with them, including prescription drugs you may be taking. Senior citizens can get a free “file of life” form for recording critical medical information from the Costick Center or by calling 248-473-1830.



# FOCUS

## Water & Sewer Rate Change

Each year on July 1, the Detroit Water & Sewerage Department updates their rates for the 125 communities that use their water and sewer service, including Farmington Hills.

Residents are billed four times annually for the actual amount of water used, which is measured in lots of 1,000 cubic feet of water. As of July 1, water rates increased 72 cents from \$19.39 to \$20.11 per 1,000 cubic feet of water with a minimum bill of \$32.18 per quarter. Sewer rates increased \$1.10 from \$17.75 to \$18.85 per 1,000 cubic feet of water with a minimum bill of \$30.16 per quarter. Minimum bills are necessary to share in the cost of operating and maintaining the water and sewer systems. Residents without City water will pay a flat rate for sewer of \$94.25 per quarter.

Each year's rate change helps to fund major improvements in Detroit's century-old water system, which is one of the largest in the world. The improvements are designed to provide residents with safer drinking water and cleaner rivers. Planned improvements include building a new water works plant which will use a process called "ozonation," instead of chlorine. Ozonation is equally as effective as chlorine in killing bacteria but is less harmful to the environment and to consumers. Detroit will also replace and update equipment at its waste water treatment facility and build retention basins to prevent the discharge of raw sewage into the Detroit and Rouge Rivers.

### DUAL METERS

Some residents may want to consider the City's Dual Meter Program. This allows a property owner to have a second water meter installed to measure water which is directed exclusively to an outside connection such as a sprinkler system or swimming pool and does not enter a sanitary sewer. (Whether or not you take advantage of the dual meter program, we ask that lawn watering take place between 11:00 A.M. and 3:00 P.M. to avoid peak hours of normal household use.)

If you install a dual meter, the sewage rate will be billed only on the amount of water that enters the sewer system through your home. Sewage fees would not be charged on the water that flows through the second meter for outside use only.

Installing a second water meter costs about \$710. This includes \$410 for the meter and permit charges and approximately \$300 for plumbing costs, which will vary depending on the complexity of the changes required at your home.

If you would like a worksheet to evaluate whether a second meter would be cost effective for you, please call the Department of Public Services at 248-871-2530 or visit [www.ci.farmington-hills.mi.us](http://www.ci.farmington-hills.mi.us) and click on Government, then Public Services.

Questions on water and sewer issues can be directed to the Operation & Maintenance Division of the Oakland County Drain Commissioner's Office at 248-858-1110 or the City's Department of Public Services at 248-871-2530.

## Recycling *notes*

### Recycle your old cell phone

In honor of *America Recycles Day*, held annually on November 15th, why not dig out that old cell phone and put it to good use? The Senior Division is taking donations of inactive working cell phones to reprogram for emergency 911 use for area senior citizens. Drop off old cell phones at the Costick Center front desk. Include the car charger or AC/DC recharging unit, erase any phone numbers or personal information, and make sure your account has been completely terminated. For more info, call 248-473-1800.

### Recycle your Christmas tree

Drop off your Christmas trees for recycling at Glen Oaks Golf Course from Dec. 26 through Jan. 8 from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. at the east end of the clubhouse parking lot, 30500 W. 13 Mile, just east of Orchard Lake Road. Trees must be free of all decorations, lights, and tinsel. For more info, call 248-858-0906. Trees can also be placed at the curbside, but they'll be collected by the garbage truck and go in with the regular trash.

### Recycle your holiday cards

Toss your holiday cards loosely in your recycling bin or place them with newspapers in a brown paper bag. All greeting cards are accepted except for ones with glitter or metallic paper — these can't be recycled and should go in with regular trash. You can also put junk mail, office paper, loose leaf paper, manila folders, and even paperback books in your recycling bin. For a copy of the Curbside Recycling Guidelines, call 248-871-2850 or visit [www.ci.farmington-hills.mi.us](http://www.ci.farmington-hills.mi.us).

## Senior Division Activities for Adults 50 & Better

An interesting variety of affordable classes and activities awaits you in the Senior Division this fall. There are fitness, educational, enrichment, and leisure programs for all adults **50 & Better**. Stop by the Costick Center, Conway Hall, or call 248-473-1830 for more information.

### Evening and weekend programs

All evening programs require registration prior to the first class.

- Two 5-week series of *Yoga* are scheduled from 5:30 – 6:30 pm, from Oct 18 – Nov 15; and Nov 22 – Dec 20. Cost of a 5-week series is \$25 for residents and \$30 for non-residents, or a \$6 drop-in fee per visit.
- Issues for women in midlife and beyond are discussed in *Vital Woman*. Three 2-week sessions on Monday evenings from 5:30 – 7 pm, October through December. Cost of 2-week sessions is \$10 for residents and \$12 for non-residents.
- *Behind the Scenes: Police Academy*, a 6-week course in police operations and investigative techniques is offered by the Farmington Hills Police Department on Tuesday evenings from 7 – 8:30 pm from Oct 11 – Nov 15. Farmington Hills residents only. No fee.

### Speaker series and classes

- **Stay Safe: Fire Safety Awareness**, Oct. 4, 10:30 am. Improve your home's fire safety. The Farmington Hills Fire Department will teach the proper use of smoke alarms, escape planning, and how to prevent fires. No fee.
- **Healthy Cooking**, Oct 6, Nov 3, Dec 1, 2 pm. A creative new series of cooking classes – *Cooking For One, Soups & Salads, and Healthy Holiday Favorites* presented by Oakland County Health Department nutritionist. Fee is \$5 per class.
- **For Your Health: Women's Perspective on Prostate Cancer**, Oct 11, 10:30 am. Learn about prostate cancer and how to convince the men in your life of the importance of early detection and treatment. No fee.
- **Fall Garden Clean Up**, Oct 18, 10:30 am. Learn proper end-of-season lawn care, how to winterize fragile perennials and shrubs, improve soil conditions, and more with Liberty Street Gardens. Fee is \$5.
- **Buying & Selling on the Internet**, Nov 7, 14, 21, 1 pm. Learn to navigate the auction marketplace where people buy and sell everything. Must know basic computer skills. Fee is \$15 for the 3-week session.
- **Stress and Relaxation**, Nov. 8, 10:30 am. Henry Ford Center for Integrative Medicine provides techniques that promote feelings of peace, health, and ways to restore balance to the body. Fee is \$5.
- **55 Alive/Mature Driving Class**, Nov 9 & 10, 10 am – 2:30 pm. Comprehensive driver refresher course for older motorists. Must attend both days. May entitle you to reduction in auto insurance. Fee is \$12.

### Special events and parties

Enjoy dinner, games, entertainment, dancing, prizes, and more. Register at least one week prior to the event.

- **Halloween Party** – Fri., Oct 28
- **Stars & Stripes Forever Veterans Celebration** – Fri., Nov 11
- **Thanksgiving Party** – Wed., Nov 16
- **Holiday Party** – Fri., Dec 16

### Special programs and services

- Mark your calendar for the Oakland County Health Department's **Flu Shot Clinic** Nov. 3 from 9 am – noon. Bring a picture ID and your Medicare/Medicaid card. A flu shot is recommended yearly for those over age 65, those with medical problems or those who live or work with high risk populations. Cash fee of \$7 for those without Medicare/Medicaid.
- See the **Claudel & Rodin *Fateful Encounter* sculpture exhibit at the Detroit Institute of Arts** in a self-guided audio tour on October 26 from 11:30 am – 3:30 pm. The outing includes lunch at the Costick Center, Conway Hall, the visit to the DIA and transportation. Cost is \$20.
- Reservations are now being taken for many **travel destinations**. Trips abroad, domestic vacations, day trips, short overnight trips, and show trips are offered throughout the year. Call for information and availability.
- Relax and enjoy a great classic or a contemporary blockbuster on the last Monday of each month at 12:30 pm at our new **Movie Mondays**. Includes lunch, movie, popcorn, and drink. Fee is \$4.
- Stimulate your mind on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 1pm at **Brain Boosters**. Enjoy puzzles, games, challenges, and preparation for the annual Spelling Duel.
- What do men do in those "men only" meetings? Find out in a casual group, **For Men Only**, on the 3rd Friday of each month at 9:30 am. Includes continental breakfast, projects, speakers, and activities.
- **Support Groups** available include **First Step Stroke, Vision Impaired, Caregivers, and Diabetes** groups. Call 248-473-1830 for information.

### SKATING NEWS:

**FREE** Skating Open House  
October 15 • 11:30am - 1:20pm • Instructors will be on hand to evaluate skaters.

Learn to Skate Classes (Session 2)

October 24 - January 7 • Enrollment begins October 17

Learn to Skate Classes (Session 3) • January 9 - March 4

Enrollment begins January 2

10th Annual Ice Show – May 2006 • Registration information is available October 11.

You must either be enrolled in Learn to Skate (Sessions 2-4)

or Figure Skating (Sessions 2-5) to participate.

### HALLOWEEN SKATING PARTY:

Come join us for a Halloween skating party on Saturday, October 29! Enjoy games, prizes and Halloween treats, plus a contest for the cutest, scariest, and most creative costumes. For information, call 248-478-8800.

# ELECTION 2005

## Candidate for Mayor



### Vicki Barnett

First elected to City Council in 1995 and Mayor in 2003, Vicki is known for her easy style and approachability. Always interested in hearing from residents, she welcomes their input on all issues. Her past accomplishments include: the purchase of the Costick Center for senior activities; model after-school programs for teens; expanding the city's park system to include a nature preserve, world-class soccer fields and an 18-hole golf course and cultural arts programs; building a full-time fire station; forming the Citizen Corps Council for Emergency Preparedness (CCCEP) to teach residents how to care for themselves and neighbors during crises; innovative environmental workshops; requiring new developments be compatible with surrounding neighborhoods; and assisting Police Chief Dwyer, Sheriff Bouchard and other officials in building a countywide public safety communications network to keep our community safe.

A long-time member of SEMCOG's Economic Development Council, Vicki knows that meeting current economic and budget challenges requires revitalizing existing business and commercial districts. She therefore established a Redevelopment Committee, part of her Economic Master Plan, to keep our Farmington Hills vibrant and sustainable.

Vicki holds a Masters Degree in Business Administration and is a financial consultant. She is the City's delegate to SEMCOG (Southeastern Michigan Council of Governments) and serves as Vice Chair of its Data Center Advisory Council, is a board member of the National League of Cities and the Michigan Municipal League and is involved in many community organizations. A resident of Farmington Hills since 1981, Vicki and her

husband, Mark Steckloff, have two children, Samantha (21) and Jordan (20).

#### What do you hope to accomplish as mayor?

Establishing a Redevelopment Committee and completing an Economic Master Plan remain among my top priorities. Our city is almost completely built and remaining land parcels require special attention. In addition, redevelopment and enhancing our commercial areas will keep our city vibrant and attract new businesses. I also want to continue expanding our cost-saving initiatives through intergovernmental cooperation. We share many programs with Farmington, have completed several projects in conjunction with Southfield, and I look forward to building on the relationships I have established with Livonia, West Bloomfield and Novi.

#### What vision do you have for Farmington Hills that is not currently being addressed?

As former Vice Chair of the National Task Force on Interoperability (for the National Institute of Justice), I remain committed to providing for the safety of our residents. While this next item is currently being addressed, I would like to expand the educational role of our Citizen Corps Council for Emergency Preparedness so that all of our citizens can be trained in basic first aid and CPR. I want to establish a low-power radio station to provide emergency information and news in addition to regular daily programming.

Environmental issues are also among my top concerns. I would like to pursue expanded curbside recycling programs to include pickups in apartment and condominium complexes, and citywide annual pickups for electronic and toxic materials. And, although we are very proactive concerning drainage issues and have offered some educational forums on the subject, we should also offer regular programs to residents who live near creeks regarding proper maintenance and limiting use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides.

## ELECTION INFO

On Tuesday, November 8, Farmington Hills voters will decide on:

- One Mayor position for a 2-year term
- Three City Council positions for 4-year terms.

There will be no questions or proposals on the November 8 election ballot. Polls are open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

#### Note precinct changes

The City of Farmington Hills has made several precinct changes in order to better accommodate voters and to address federal Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements. Precincts 6, 14, 15, 17, and 26 have all been affected. Please refer to the precinct map in this issue to view the new boundaries and to verify where your voting precinct is located.

If you are affected by the change, watch for your new Voter ID Card coming in the mail soon. Please remember to destroy your old Voter ID Card.

**Don't wait to verify your voter information if you have moved or have any questions about your voting precinct. Election Day is too late to make any changes or corrections, so call 248-871-2410 now!**

#### New voting equipment

Your voting system has a new look. The State of Michigan has implemented a statewide, uniform optical scan voting system through federal grant funds in order to comply with the new Help America Vote Act (HAVA) laws. The City of Farmington Hills received new tabulating equipment to replace the optical scan units the City purchased 16 years ago. We will be using the new tabulating scanners for the City general election on November 8. Voters will now fill in ovals to cast a vote, instead of connecting an arrow.

The City Clerk's Office has one of the new units available for anyone interested in seeing how it operates or testing a sample ballot. Feel free to stop by and take a look at this new technology which will be used in our precincts on November 8.

#### Are you registered?

You must be registered 30 days prior to election day in order to be eligible to vote. Please be aware that if you mail in your registration form, you are not eligible to vote by absentee ballot in your first election and must vote in person. This does not apply to anyone 60 years of age or older.

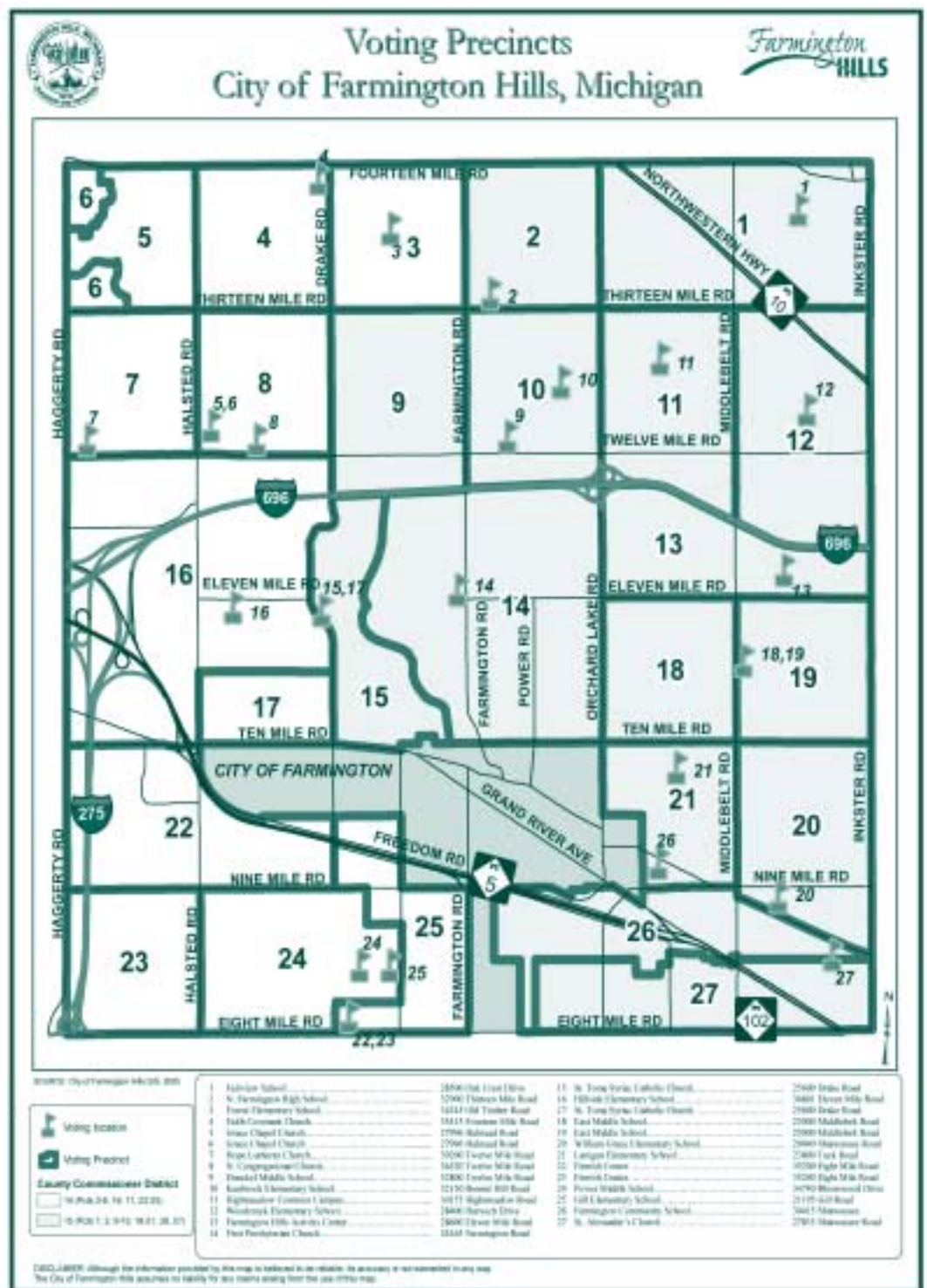
#### Absentee ballots

You are eligible for an absentee ballot if you meet any of the following criteria:

- 60 years of age or older
- Physically unable to attend the polls without assistance
- Appointed as a precinct worker in a precinct other than your own
- Expect to be absent from the community in which you are registered on election day
- Cannot attend the polls because of the tenets of your religion
- Cannot attend the polls because you are confined to jail awaiting arraignment or trial.

Michigan Election Law requires that an application be completed for each election where an absentee ballot is needed. To request an application for an absentee ballot, contact the City Clerk's Office at 248-871-2410. The last day to receive an absentee ballot is **Saturday, November 5, 2005**. City Hall will be open to issue absentee ballots from 8:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. on that day. **PLEASE NOTE THAT BY LAW WE ARE NOT PERMITTED TO ISSUE AND HAND A BALLOT TO ANYONE OTHER THAN THE VOTER NAMED ON THE BALLOT.**

Applications for absentee ballots were automatically mailed in mid-September to persons who are 60 years of age or older or handicapped persons who have previously requested an application.



# VOTE Tuesday, November 8

## Candidates for City Council

(Four candidates running for three council positions)

Biographies and responses submitted by candidates.

Placement of candidate profiles on this page selected at random.



### Michael R. Bridges

Michael R. Bridges' personal history may well be a prototype of the American success story. It is a story of his journey from janitor to successful businessman and now candidate for the Farmington Hills City Council.

Born in Jackson, Michigan, one of eight children, Bridges worked as a janitor full time to finance his college education. The long hours paid off. He earned an Associate Degree in the Arts from Jackson Community College and a Bachelor of Arts

degree in business from Spring Arbor College. Mike was promoted to Residential Energy Consultant, Public Affairs Advisor and finally, Region Community Services Administrator at Consumers Power Company. He then joined Johnson and Johnson, where he serves as a Special Training Representative.

The driving force behind his success: A passion for his family, a passion to succeed, and a passion to serve the community. He was motivated to pursue public service throughout his life and worked diligently to make that a reality. With a successful business career and a close-knit family, he can finally live that dream.

Bridges has participated in numerous community organizations including the Farmington Area Commission on Aging, the Chamber of Commerce, Economic Development Council, PTA, Optimist Club, Junior Achievement, and the North Farmington West Bloomfield (NFWB) Youth Football League. He currently serves on the City's Zoning Board of Appeals, the Financial Strategies Committee for the Farmington Public Schools, and on the Board of Directors for the Farmington YMCA.

He and his wife, Deborah, have two children, Michael Chad, 12, and Chauncey, 8.

#### **What do you hope to accomplish as a City Council member?**

Given the state of our economy, our cities are under more financial pressures than ever before. Their ability to thrive—as Farmington Hills has—requires creative leaders who have the courage and commitment to assure that our community enjoys continued prosperity.

I will make sure police and fire departments, along with garbage collection and snow removal, will not be impaired by required belt-tightening. But I will explore, given additional cutbacks in state revenues, the possibility of shared services in low-profile but essential services. We can achieve economies of scale by joining other neighboring communities to finance these services. We need not “go it alone.”

#### **What vision do you have for Farmington Hills that is not currently being addressed?**

While assuring fiscal responsibility in the midst of financial pressures, I will work to not only maintain Farmington Hills' reputation as a good city in which to raise a family, but to improve on that reputation.

We have an enviable history of doing many things right. That is why this city has enjoyed the utmost stability. But the future will demand even more of us. It will demand improved services, increased cohesiveness, and better communications for even more effective service. We must make the best use of the resources we have and we need to seek new ways to achieve our community's goals. I am very optimistic about our city especially if we work together—as we always have—as a community.



### Cheryl Oliverio

Cheryl Oliverio has been a Farmington Hills Council member for 12 years, and is seeking re-election. She has been a resident for 18 years, and has four sons and one grandson. Oliverio has been employed at Bob Sellers Pontiac as the Warranty Administrator for 11 years.

During her years as a Council member, Oliverio has worked to balance the City budget despite funding cuts, yet continued to provide quality services to the residents. These are difficult economic times, and Farmington Hills needs to do more with less.

The most important issues to Oliverio are public safety and quality of life. Oliverio has worked with other Council members and staff to decrease the response time for our Fire Department and increase police presence in our neighborhoods. The residents of Farmington Hills voted for two public safety millages, and we now have a fire station that is staffed 24 hours, and more police officers on the roads. We also have a new citizen-friendly courthouse.

Over the years, parks and recreation has filled many needs in the community. Due to Oliverio's involvement, there is now an ice arena, quality baseball diamonds and soccer fields, an 18-hole golf course, nature park, top-notch senior programs, and much more.

Oliverio is currently the Council liaison to the Parks and Recreation Commission, Historical and Historical District Commission and the Citizen Corps Council for Emergency Preparedness. Cheryl is running for re-election because she believes she is a strong voice for the community and has the experience needed to deal with the challenges ahead.

#### **What do you hope to accomplish as a City Council member?**

My job as a Council member is to keep the city running as efficiently and effectively as possible. We need to provide as many municipal services to our residents, without raising taxes. These are very difficult economic times, and we must become less dependent on state and federal funds. In addition, our city is maturing, and redevelopment has become vitally important for Farmington Hills to maintain a strong manufacturing and technological base in our community.

#### **What vision do you have for Farmington Hills that is not currently being addressed?**

We have started addressing Homeland Security, but I would like to see it expanded. This changing world brings to us complicated decisions in terms of how we deal with challenges. Whether it is another major power outage, a natural disaster, or a terrorist attack, we as a city need to make sure our community is as prepared as possible. We need to broaden our emphasis in this area of public safety.



### Nancy Bates

After a two-year absence to tend to family responsibilities, Nancy Bates again offers her services to the citizens of Farmington Hills. Bates previously served on Council for fourteen years, five of those years as mayor after being elected by an overwhelming majority. Bates was also strongly endorsed by both the Northwest Gazette and the Farmington Observer in both mayoral elections.

While in office, Bates initiated the Commission for Children, Youth and Families, the Mayor's Youth Council, the Citizen Corps Council for Emergency Preparedness, and the Volunteer Center. Bates said, “The more citizens involved in government the better. These volunteer services save many thousands of taxpayer dollars and create a more informed, connected community.”

Bates also is one of the founders and trustees of the Farmington Hills/Farmington Community Foundation. This foundation has contributed thousands of tax-free dollars to support the After School Youth Program and various other worthy community projects.

Bates' vast public service experience includes serving as Chair of SEMCOG's Transportation Committee, Vice Chair of the National League of Cities Human Development Committee, and Charter Member of the Institute for Children, Youth and Families. Bates was invited to testify in Washington D.C. on funding for youth programs. She also worked in Lansing as a Legislative Assistant for then-Representative Jan Dolan.

“This is a challenging time for government at all levels. I believe my experience, institutional memory, broadly-based background and proven leadership will be valuable assets for Farmington Hills residents,” states Bates.

#### **What do you hope to accomplish as a City Council member?**

Using my fourteen years of experience to review and offer input on budgets.

I will continue working on I-275 Living Wall Sound Attenuation, which I initiated while serving as mayor.

Community Development Block Grants (CDBG), which we have used so effectively, are in jeopardy and should be a major priority in discussions with our elected officials in Washington. The CDBG dollars have accomplished much to stabilize and increase home values and the quality of life for our citizens. I will strongly lobby for guidelines to be established that will stop any abuses and continue to fund communities that are doing it correctly.

While serving as delegate to Southeastern Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG), a year-long study was done in regard to regionalization, or the combining of services and the restructuring of tax bases to accomplish stability in struggling cities. Communities were unwilling to share their tax base with less prosperous communities. I completely agree and would fight any efforts to share our tax base. There are ways to accomplish tax effective cooperation with other cities. I would recommend each department do an internal audit to determine if we have any resources that are not being fully utilized and make those available for a fee to other communities.

#### **What vision do you have for Farmington Hills that is not currently being addressed?**

My vision is to continue to be a family-friendly community. I believe we should be wise in seeking new non-residential partners, which are needed to support our tax base and diligent in assisting redevelopment in areas that could become blighted.



### Jerry Ellis

Jerry Ellis was first elected to the City Council in 1996. He is seeking his fourth term on the Council. He was Mayor Pro Tem in 2000 and 2004.

Ellis, who was Chairman of the Parks & Recreation Commission, is a strong advocate for fiscal responsibility, senior citizens, and youth services. He drafted our cellular tower ordinance that has kept the towers out of our neighborhoods, and successfully fought developers who

wanted to drill for oil and gas in Farmington Hills. He worked to establish the Senior Adult Nutrition Program that has served over 1,000,000 meals to our seniors.

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

In 1990, Ellis was the recipient of the Farmington Area Jaycees “Distinguished Citizen Award” for service to the community. He and his wife, Mary, have resided in Farmington Hills for over 30 years.

Mr. Ellis is a senior member of the Farmington Hills law firm of Couzens, Lansky, Fealk, Ellis, Roeder & Lazar, P.C. He has been an attorney for over 35 years. In 2003, Ellis was recognized for outstanding legal ability, devotion to the public, and support of the public service ideals, when he was appointed as a “Fellow” of the Michigan State Bar Foundation.

#### **What do you hope to accomplish as a City Council member?**

I expect to keep Farmington Hills' tax rate among the lowest in Oakland County, while maintaining our first-class services, including police, fire and EMS.

I expect that the newly-formed Redevelopment Committee, which I proposed, will make a substantial contribution towards maintaining the City's vitality and tax base by encouraging the redevelopment of unused or underutilized commercial properties.

I expect to continue to provide a wide array of services to our seniors (including the Senior Adult Nutrition Program that has served over 1,000,000 meals to Farmington Hills senior citizens), continue to operate our after school facilities for our youth, and maintain our parks, golf course and ice arena. I expect to accomplish all of this in a fiscally responsible manner by watching and reducing costs, and maintaining our strong tax base.

#### **What vision do you have for Farmington Hills that is not currently being addressed?**

I envision Farmington Hills as a community that draws back the young adults (with or without families) that grew up here and moved away. We must create jobs, provide affordable housing, and create entertainment and shopping venues that appeal to young adults.

Since we are virtually 100% developed, we have to look to freshen up and/or redevelop existing properties to maintain our vitality and strong tax base. A safe affordable Farmington Hills that can offer good paying, satisfying jobs will always be a desirable place to live.

## FALL OFFERINGS from the Cultural Arts Department

### Michigan Opera Theatre Soloists Perform "Broadway Revue" October 29!

Hear the marvelous voices of Michigan Opera Theatre (MOT) soloists performing your favorite Broadway songs on October 29 at 7:30 pm. This special concert will take place in the wonderful acoustics of the Farmington Players Barn Theatre. MOT artists Maria Cimarelli, Betsy Bronson, Karl Schmidt, and Mark Vondrak will serenade you with your favorite music from Broadway's greatest composers. Tickets are \$16 adults, \$14 seniors/students, and are on sale now at the Costick Center. Call 248-473-1857 to charge by phone. A limited number of tickets may be available at the door.



### "Holiday Brass" Concert December 12 at Farmington Players Barn



the Costick Center. Call 248-473-1857 to charge by phone.

### Farmington Community Chorus Holiday Concert, Dec. 16 & 17

The 26th annual holiday concert by the Farmington Community Chorus will be held at Mercy High School Auditorium on Friday and Saturday, Dec. 16 and 17, beginning at 8 pm. Directed by Steve SeGraves and accompanied by Susan Garr, the Chorus entertains audiences with ensemble and solo singing, dancing, and talented instrumentalists. Tickets are available beginning in November from Chorus members, at the Costick Center or through the FCC ticket line at 810-632-4067.

### "Late Nite Catechism 2" Comes to the Costick Jan. 28

Two years ago, the Cultural Arts Division presented "Late Nite Catechism", and the audience raved! Don't miss the hilarious sequel, "Late Nite Catechism 2—You Feel Guilty Because You Are Guilty" at the Costick Center on January 28 at 7:30 pm. Join "Sister" as she conducts catechism classes on penance, guilt, and the Ten Commandments, along with fun-filled audience participation. Ticket prices include the comedy show, table seating, hors d'oeuvres; cash bar. Tickets: \$25 (all seats). Table reservations accepted for table of 10 (tickets purchased together).

Call 248-473-1857 to buy yours today; also available at the Costick Center during business hours.

### Blackthorn Returns for Three Shows – March 9, 10 & 11!

The rollicking Irish music of Blackthorn will fill the Farmington Players Barn on Thursday, March 9; Friday, March 10; and Saturday, March 11 beginning at 7:30 pm. This popular group returns to delight you with a full range of moving and hilarious Irish songs, delivered with their own special blend of tight harmony and skilled musicianship. Tickets: \$15 adults, \$12 seniors/students. Tickets go on sale in December at the Costick Center; get them early, last year's two shows were sold out! Call 248-473-1857 to charge by phone.

### Art Exhibits

#### City Gallery:

Costick Center lobby, 8:30 am-4:30 pm weekdays and during special events.  
September 6-October 21 Eva Boicourt, multicultural textiles  
October 28-December 16 Gail & Robert Piepenburg with daughters  
Jessica & Leah Yurasek, mixed media

#### Art in the Corridor:

Farmington Hills City Hall (Eleven Mile at Orchard Lake) and Farmington City Hall (Liberty at Grand River), during business hours.  
September 26-November 11 Multicultural Exhibit  
November 16-January 10 City Employee Photo Exhibit

### "Dear Edwina, Junior" Youth Theatre Performs November 3-6

Young actors in Grades 1-12 will perform this Broadway Junior version of the hit musical about an advice columnist on November 3-6 at the Costick Center. Auditions for the spring Youth Theatre performance will take place January 12. For more information, contact the Cultural Arts Division at 248-473-1857/1859.

### New Classes for Kids, Teens, Families— Enrolling Now!

Kelly Kirby Kindergarten Piano returns with classes for beginners (ages 5-7), intermediate, and advanced students. Young Rembrandts Preschool Drawing classes (ages 3-1/2 to 5) utilize a unique drawing method to improve children's fine motor skills and ability to focus and stay on task. Telling Tall Tales Together is a new Friday night workshop for families to participate together in retelling wonderful memories as fun and dramatic tales that can be passed down for generations. Call the Cultural Arts Division at 248-473-1857/1859 for a program brochure/registration form today!

### New Cultural Arts Classes for Adults and Teens

Learn the basics of watercolor or acrylic painting, learn how to create monotype prints of your watercolor drawings, or explore ceramics making. Call the Cultural Arts Division at 248-473-1857/1859 for more information.

## Fall Household Hazardous Waste Drop-off Day

There is one remaining HazMat day on Saturday, October 15 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at RRRASOC (Resource Recovery and Recycling Authority of Southwest Oakland County) in Southfield at 20000 W. 8 Mile Road, just east of Evergreen.

Personal document shredding will be offered for bank statements, medical records, and tax documents. Participants may bring up to 100 pounds of material in any type of container. All documents will be shredded on site and a *Certificate of Destruction* will be provided.

Participants can also bring in an old mercury thermometer for proper disposal and get a new digital thermometer free as a replacement.

HazMat items such as used computer equipment, oil-based paints (NO latex paints, these can be dried with kitty litter or sawdust and put out with the regular trash), household and automotive batteries, motor oil, pesticides, herbicides, cleaners, and other household chemicals may all be dropped off. Residents of Farmington Hills, Farmington, Southfield, Novi, Wixom, Walled Lake, South Lyon, and Lyon Township are all eligible to participate and must show proof of residency at the drop-off site. For a complete list of accepted/non-accepted hazardous materials, please go to [www.ci.farmington-hills.mi.us](http://www.ci.farmington-hills.mi.us) or call RRRASOC at 248-208-2270.

## Snow and Ice Control Policies

DPW workers provide snow and ice control services for a *300-mile* network of major roads, school bus routes, and subdivision streets. Major roads and school bus routes receive the highest priority and will be plowed and salted following any accumulation of snow or ice. Local streets, however, are plowed only if the accumulation of snow reaches *four or more inches*. If the accumulation is less than four inches, subdivision streets are spot salted on hills, curves, and intersections.

To supplement the City's plowing, individual homeowners or associations can request that the City place 55-gallon drums filled with a mixture of sand and salt at intersections and hills. For information on requesting sand and salt barrels, please call the DPW at 248-871-2850.

## 47th District Court Sobriety Court Program Targets Drunk-Driving Offenders

Farmington and Farmington Hills residents charged with drinking and driving offenses are now eligible to attend Sobriety Court. The program is designed to increase public safety by addressing the root cause of drunk driving – the alcohol dependent offender. Sobriety Court participants typically have their jail sentence suspended pending their successful completion of the program. Sobriety Court began in May 2005 and so far, six defendants have been accepted into the program.

The four-phase program includes up to 24 months of intensive probation supervision and includes drug and alcohol testing, treatment, and frequent courtroom status reviews with the judge. Incentives and sanctions are used to keep defendants progressing to successful completion, and hopefully a new start on life.

Cases are expedited through the court process, so accountability and treatment issues are addressed closer to the time of the offense. A team approach is used with input from prosecutors, defense attorneys, treatment providers, police, probation officers, and judges.

The Court secured a \$40,000 grant to fund the program from the State Court Administrative Office for state fiscal year 2004-05. The mission of Sobriety Court is to protect society and reduce crime by targeting substance abuse and addiction through intervention, treatment, and offender accountability.

Please clip and save: ✂

## Holiday Garbage Collection Schedule

**Thanksgiving:** Garbage, recycling, and yard waste will *not* be picked up on Thursday, November 24 due to the Thanksgiving holiday. Collection will be *one day behind* with Thursday's pickup on Friday and Friday's pickup on Saturday.

**Christmas Day:** Since Christmas Day falls on a Sunday this year, garbage and recycling will *not* be picked up on Monday, December 26. **Collection will be one day behind for the entire week with Friday's collection scheduled for Saturday.** Please note: Holiday wrapping paper is not recyclable and should go in with regular trash. Aluminum holiday cookie tins and lids, however, are recyclable and can be put in your green bin.

**New Year's Day:** Since New Year's Day falls on a Sunday this year, garbage and recycling will *not* be picked up on Monday, January 2. **Collection will be one day behind for the entire week with Friday's collection scheduled for Saturday.**

**Martin Luther King Day and President's Day:** City offices are closed in observance of these holidays, but garbage pickup will take place on your **regularly scheduled pickup day.**

If you have questions about garbage or recycling, please call the DPW at 248-871-2850 or visit [www.ci.farmington-hills.mi.us](http://www.ci.farmington-hills.mi.us)

## City Directory

Emergency Calls Only	
Fire Department . . . . .	9-1-1
Police Department . . . . .	9-1-1
Central Services/Purchasing . .	871-2430
City Hall . . . . .	871-2400
City Manager's Office . . . . .	871-2500
Assessing . . . . .	871-2470
City Clerk . . . . .	871-2410
District Court . . . . .	871-2900
Farmington Community Library	553-0300
Finance Department . . . . .	871-2440
Fire Department	
Non emergency . . . . .	871-2800
Human Resources . . . . .	871-2490
Council Newsline . . . . .	871-2511
Police Department	
Non emergency . . . . .	871-2600
Public Services Department . .	871-2530
Public Works . . . . .	871-2850
Planning Department	
Planning . . . . .	871-2540
Building . . . . .	871-2450
Community Development and	
Housing Rehabilitation . . .	871-2549
Zoning . . . . .	871-2520
Special Services Department	
Costick Activities Center . .	473-1816
Cultural Arts Division . . . .	473-1856
Ice Arena . . . . .	478-8800
Nature Center . . . . .	477-1135
Parks & Golf . . . . .	426-1505
Recreation . . . . .	473-1800
Golf Club . . . . .	476-5910
Senior Adult Program . . . .	473-1830
Volunteer Center . . . . .	473-1813
Youth and Families . . . . .	473-1841

## City Council

Vicki Barnett  
*Mayor*  
Randy Bruce  
*Mayor Pro Tem*  
John Akouri  
Barry Brickner  
Jerry Ellis  
Ken Massey  
Cheryl Oliverio

## City Management

Steve Brock  
*City Manager*  
Dana Whinnery  
*Assistant City Manager*  
Teri Arbenowske  
*Assistant to the City Manager*

## Your Comments

# FOCUS

is produced by the City of Farmington Hills and mailed to residents four times a year. Articles are submitted by City department directors. We welcome your comments.

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For the latest information about Farmington Hills, tune into cable Channel 8.

# Farmington Hills Civilian Police Academy

### Did You Know?

- The Farmington Hills Police Department began operations in the Masonic building in downtown Farmington on April 1, 1949.
- Evidence technicians use Super Glue to enhance fingerprints on surfaces that are difficult to process.
- The Police Department uses the Michigan Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS), a statewide database containing 1,666,689 fingerprint records and over 44,000 fingerprints taken from the scenes of unsolved crimes.
- Police traffic reconstruction experts use lasers and computer aided drawing programs to map and recreate accident scenes.

If this information piqued your interest, you may be a good candidate for the Farmington Hills Police Department's Civilian Police Academy. In a collaborative effort with the Special Services Department, the Civilian Police Academy is designed to give "recruits" a behind-the-scenes look at police

operations and investigative techniques. Each class is presented by members of the Police Department and includes photographs, displays, instruments, and reviews of actual cases. Citizens attending the academy will also tour both the Police Department and the 47th District Court. The Civilian Police Academy provides citizens the opportunity to explore many facets of police work and allows members of the police department to share their knowledge and expertise. A representative of the 47th District Court also presents information about criminal proceedings, the court, and its interaction with police departments. The Academy will meet on Tuesday evenings from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. from October 11th to November 15th. "Recruits" must be Farmington Hills residents who are at least 30 years of age. For more information, call the Crime Prevention Section at 248-871-2750. To register, call the Special Services Department at 248-473-1830.

## Community NEWS & NOTES

### Hills hosts Halloween Haunted Hike

Join us for a spine-chilling self-guided Halloween walk through the haunted hills and woodlands of Heritage Park, Oct. 20-22 from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. The Haunted Hike is not recommended for children under 7. Cost is \$5 and tickets can be purchased at Heritage Park the evening of the event. If scaring others is more to your liking, we need groups to create and host scary stations. Call 248-473-1802 for more information.

### "Fall back" and change your batteries

The Farmington Hills Fire Department reminds you to change the batteries in your smoke detectors when you turn your clocks back one

hour on October 30. A working smoke detector more than doubles a person's chances of surviving a home fire. More than 90 percent of homes in the United States have smoke detectors, but one-third are estimated to have worn-out or missing batteries.

### 13th annual Holiday Lights ceremony

Come and enjoy the fun and festivities at the 13th annual Holiday Lights ceremony on Tuesday, Nov. 22 from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at City Hall (corner of 11 Mile and Orchard Lake Rd.). The trees at City Hall will be illuminated and Santa will be on hand. Refreshments will be served at the fire station after the ceremony.

## Property information now available online

Farmington Hills property owners can now get property tax information, assessed and taxable value, sales history, building details and even a picture of their property online through the new Online Property Inquiry System.

The information is available by logging onto [www.ci.farmington-hills.mi.us](http://www.ci.farmington-hills.mi.us), selecting "property inquiry" from the Quick Links menu, and following the instructions. You will be able to select from several online services (such as "property and land search"). Once you enter a property address, name, or parcel identification number, you can find out:

- The property's assessed value, taxable value, and tax payment history;
- Land information, such as acreage and land value;
- Building information, such as year built, square footage, and sales history;
- Property photos;
- What comparable properties in your neighborhood or other neighborhoods have sold for.

If you have any questions about the system or your property information, please call the City of Farmington Hills Assessing Department at 248-871-2470.

## City needs on-call firefighters

Do you want to make a difference in your community? The City of Farmington Hills Fire Department is currently taking applications for paid on-call firefighters.

The Fire Department will have an informational meeting on October 10th at 7:00 p.m. at Fire Department Headquarters, 31455 W. Eleven Mile Road. Basic qualifications include:

- 18 years of age or older
- High school graduate
- Good physical condition, capable of performing fire fighting tasks
- Valid Michigan driver's license with a good driving record
- No criminal convictions
- Satisfactory employment record
- Strong desire to serve your community
- Willingness to respond on weekends and weekday evenings.

No prior training or experience is required. If you have questions, please contact Assistant to the Fire Chief, Robert Rebtoy at 248-871-2807 or [rrebtoy@ci.farmington-hills.mi.us](mailto:rrebtoy@ci.farmington-hills.mi.us).



City of Farmington Hills

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