



Riley Skate Park  
under construction

SPRING/SUMMER 2009

**CITY COUNCIL**

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Mayor
- Randy Bruce  
Mayor Pro Tem
- Nancy Bates
- Barry Brickner
- Michael Bridges
- Ken Massey
- Cheryl Oliverio

**CITY MANAGER**

Steve Brock

Each issue of the Focus newsletter can also be found on the City website at [www.fhgov.com](http://www.fhgov.com).

Go to Quick Links on the home page and click on Newsletter.



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Development  
Road Construction

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Cultural Arts | Ice Arena

## CITY HALL REVITALIZATION—PARDON OUR DUST!

Work on the City Hall Revitalization Project is scheduled to begin in July. We apologize for any inconvenience you may experience when you visit City Hall over the next year and a half. We appreciate your understanding and thank you in advance for your patience while the project is underway.



Available parking at City Hall will be decreased throughout the summer months due to construction, so please allow extra time to find a space. All Departments will remain at the City Hall campus to serve residents. To receive construction project updates, go to [www.fhgov.com](http://www.fhgov.com) and sign up for the General News listserv. Go to the Quick Links dropdown menu, click on Mailing Lists/Listserv, and follow instructions on how to enroll.

### City Hall Revitalization Project - Top Ten Benefits to the Taxpayer

1. Great value during this current competitive construction market.
2. Due to prudent financial planning, there will be no interest expense, which typically doubles the cost of a project over 20 years.
3. Reduced operational costs.
4. More and better public space.
5. Full ADA accessibility.
6. Greater ease of use inside and out.
7. Structurally sound and energy efficient building.
8. Stronger community image.
9. Increased productivity of City Hall staff.
10. Environmentally sustainable project.

## Fire Department

### HOME FIRE SAFETY CHECKLIST

The Farmington Hills Fire Department recommends that you take a few minutes to go through the tips on this Fire Safety Checklist.

#### COOKING SAFETY

- ✓ Do you always stay in the kitchen when food is cooking on the stove?
- ✓ Are stove tops and counters clean and uncluttered?
- ✓ Are pot holders within easy reach of the stove?
- ✓ Are pot handles turned inward so they can't be bumped?
- ✓ Are curtains and other flammable items away from the stove?
- ✓ Is your stove, including the oven and the broiler, kept clean of grease?
- ✓ Is there a "kid free" zone of three feet around the stove when a grown-up is cooking?

#### HOUSEHOLD SAFETY

- ✓ Do you extinguish candles when you leave the room?
- ✓ Do you clean the lint filter after every use of the dryer?
- ✓ Are lighters and matches kept out of the reach of children?
- ✓ If you smoke, is "No Smoking in Bed" a rule in your home?
- ✓ If you keep gasoline for use in a power mower, is it stored in a clearly labeled red gasoline safety-type can?
- ✓ When you employ babysitters, do you instruct them carefully on what to do in case of a fire?

#### HEATING SAFETY

- ✓ Are propane tanks and other fuels stored outside your home?
- ✓ Has your chimney been inspected and cleaned in the past year?
- ✓ Has your furnace been serviced by a professional in the past year?

#### ELECTRICAL SAFETY

- ✓ Are extension cords used safely and not placed under carpets or across doorways?
- ✓ Are electrical cords in good condition, without cracks or frayed areas?
- ✓ Are there enough electrical outlets in every room to avoid the need for multiple attachment plugs and long extension cords?
- ✓ Are kitchen appliances, such as the coffee maker, toaster oven, and microwave plugged into separate outlets?

#### SMOKE ALARMS/HOME ESCAPE

- ✓ Do your children know how to use the 9-1-1 system and do they know their address?
- ✓ Does your home have smoke alarms on every level including the basement, and outside each sleeping area?
- ✓ Have you replaced your smoke detector if it is 10 years old or older?
- ✓ Do you push the test button monthly to make sure batteries are working in all of your smoke alarms?
- ✓ Are all of the exits in your home clear of furniture, toys, and clutter?
- ✓ Does your family have a home fire escape plan that includes two exits, usually a door and a window, from each room?
- ✓ Has your family picked a safe place to meet outside after you exit your home?
- ✓ Have you and your family practiced a home fire drill within the last six months? (Try one tonight!)

Some information used courtesy of the National Fire Protection Association.

## Police Department

### Thefts from Vehicles

With warmer weather, people often leave car windows or sun roofs open, but unfortunately this is an invitation to would-be thieves. Leaving valuables in plain sight or keys in unlocked cars can be costly. Here are a few reminders about vehicle security:

- Always roll up your windows and lock your car.
- Lock your valuables in the trunk, store them out of sight, or take them with you.
- Before leaving your workplace, lock your laptop or valuables in your trunk in case you have to make a stop. You don't want thieves to see you put valuables in the trunk.
- When possible, park your car in a closed and secured garage.
- Make sure all windows are closed when the vehicle is unoccupied.
- After dark, park in a well-lighted area.
- If you have a car alarm, be sure to set it.
- Don't leave your vehicle registration, proof of insurance or other personal identification in your vehicle. These items should be carried on your person.
- Do not hide spare keys in or under the vehicle.
- Avoid leaving your vehicle in public parking lots for extended periods of time.

For more information, call the Crime Prevention Section at 248-871-2750.

### Internet Safety

The Farmington Hills Police Department encourages parents to educate themselves about the Internet and technology in order to better monitor their children and teach them how to make wise, safe choices. The Internet continues to create new concerns for law enforcement. One such concern is the creation, sharing, and online posting of sexually explicit personal photos.

The Police Department has recently investigated cases involving children, some as young as 12, taking digital photos of themselves with cameras, cell phones or web cams. With the click of a button, they share photos instantly via email or by posting them to Facebook or MySpace. Once photos are sent, the sender loses control over where they appear and recipients can use them or share them inappropriately. The result can be an extremely public embarrassment for the person in the photos.

Under Michigan law, sexually explicit or nude photos of children under the age of 18 can be considered child sexually abusive material. It is a crime to possess, produce, promote, and distribute child sexually abusive material. Sometimes these photos are used by the recipient to blackmail the sender. Also, online predators continuously search for these types of images, which can open the door to a child falling prey to inappropriate online solicitations or worse.

For more information, call the Investigative Bureau at 248-871-2770.

### Police Department's "Cops for Kids" Run - June 6

The Farmington Hills Police Department will host its 20th Annual Run/Walk for the Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA) on Saturday, June 6 at the Orchard Ridge Campus of Oakland Community College in Farmington Hills. Registration starts at 8 a.m. and the run begins at 9 a.m. The event includes a 10K race, a non-competitive 5K run, and a free one-mile fun run for kids. The \$20 entry fee includes a t-shirt, food, drinks, and a donation to MDA. Over the past 19 years, the Police Department has raised more than \$106,000 to benefit MDA. For more information or to pre-register, call 248-871-2703 or e-mail [mrichardson@fhgov.com](mailto:mrichardson@fhgov.com).

## BEAUTIFICATION COMMISSION AWARDS



The 2008 Beautification Commissioners' Award went to the Wedgwood Commons Subdivision entrance.

The City of Farmington Hills Beautification Commission presents annual awards to businesses, offices, and subdivision or condominium entrances with attractive and well-maintained landscapes. Judges visit nominated sites to look for landscape variety, imaginative use of color, and overall property maintenance. Nomination forms are available at [www.fhgov.com](http://www.fhgov.com) or call the Planning Office at **248-871-2543** to have a form mailed. Judging takes place from June through August. Awards will be presented at the 2009 Beautification Commission Awards Ceremony on October 22.

### It's Tree Planting Time!

To ensure the long-term success of a new tree, consider these guidelines before making a purchase:

- Location
- Adequate space for the tree to grow above and below the ground
- Available light
- Soil conditions (Soil tests available through MSU Extension Service can be found at local hardware stores and garden centers.)
- Readily accessible water source

A number of local nurseries have hardy trees available, including Steinkopf Nursery on Farmington Road, which has set aside a number of deciduous trees available to Farmington Hills residents for \$198 each. The trees are 8-10' tall (1 1/2" caliper) and varieties include Pin Oak, Little Leaf Linden, Red Sunset Maple, Cleveland Select Pear, Tulip Tree, Sweet Gum, Sugar Maple, and Red Oak. The price includes sales tax, delivery, planting, and a one-year guarantee. For more info, call Steinkopf Nursery directly at **248-474-2925**.

Remember, your work is not done when you've planted the new tree. Watering is the most essential element to success. Trees need at least 1" of water per week if there is no rain and more frequent waterings in hot, windy weather. Lawn sprinklers may not direct water to the new root ball, so check the soil under the mulch -- if the soil is dry, it's time to water. Keep watering through the fall and taper off when cool temperatures persist. Questions? Call Charmaine Kettler-Schmult in the Planning Office at **248-871-2540**.

**FYI** – A mature leafy tree produces as much oxygen in a season as 10 people inhale in a year. Trees also act as giant filters and clean the air by intercepting airborne particles, reducing heat, and absorbing such pollutants as carbon monoxide, sulfur dioxide, and nitrogen dioxide.

### Special Services Department Wins MRPA Awards

The Department of Special Services was the recipient of three awards at the 2009 Michigan Recreation & Park Association's Annual Conference. The Great Farmington Hills Campout received the *Innovative Recreation Programming Award*; the Riley Skate Park website received the *Marketing Showcase Award for Website*; and the Cultural Arts Division was awarded the *Marketing Showcase Award for Special Brochure/Flyer* for the poster created to promote the annual Festival of the Arts.

### GREEN EFFORTS COMMITTEE – ONE YEAR LATER

During the past year, the Farmington Hills Green Efforts Committee has successfully focused its efforts on energy efficiency and recycling for many of the City's facilities. A performance contracting firm was also chosen to make energy efficient improvements in City buildings, which will be paid for through the resulting energy cost savings.

The Green Committee also wants to help local businesses and residents save energy, resources and the best kind of "green" -- MONEY -- so watch for suggestions in upcoming monthly tips, publications, and special events. If you have ideas for the City's Green Efforts Committee, contact Nate Geinzer at [ngeinzer@fhgov.com](mailto:ngeinzer@fhgov.com).

**FYI** - If every American home replaced just one light bulb with an ENERGY STAR qualified bulb, it would save enough energy to light more than three million homes for a year, save more than \$600 million in annual energy costs, and prevent greenhouse gases equivalent to the emissions of more than 800,000 cars. ENERGY STAR qualified compact fluorescent lights use about 75% less energy than standard incandescent bulbs and last up to 10 times longer. They also save about \$30 or more in electricity costs over each bulb's lifetime.



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## Department of Planning & Community Development

### BUILDING DIVISION

#### Tips for Hiring a Contractor for Home Improvements or Repairs:

- A licensed contractor should have a pocket card issued by the State of Michigan. Ask to see it.
- Salesmen are also required to be licensed and carry a pocket card.
- A licensed contractor is required to establish a physical place of business and prominently display their license.
- Don't pay the entire contract price in advance. Withhold the final payment until work is completed and approved by the Building Division.
- Beware of prices that are good "today only."
- If the contract price includes the cost of a permit, ask for a copy and make sure it's posted on site.
- Call the Building Division at **248-871-2450** to confirm that all inspections have been approved.
- If you hire an individual on a per hour basis, they are your employee and aren't required to be licensed. Be aware that you assume responsibility for the work performed and may be liable for injuries or property damage.
- You may bring the contractor's proposal to the Building Division for review.

**FYI** – Bricks are the oldest manufactured building material still in use. Egyptians used bricks over 7,000 years ago.

### HOUSING DISCRIMINATION NOTICE

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

### ZONING DIVISION

Follow City of Farmington Hills regulations to keep neighborhoods looking good!

- Grass must be cut before it reaches eight inches in height.
- Outdoor storage of unlicensed or inoperable vehicles is prohibited.
- Pet owners must keep all lawns and pet runs free of animal waste and uneaten food.
- Firewood storage is generally limited to two face cords, stored above ground in an orderly manner. Firewood storage in front yards is prohibited.
- Trash containers are required to be watertight with handles and tight-fitting lids. Trash should be put at the curb no earlier than 6 p.m. the day prior to pickup; empty trash containers should be removed from the curb within twelve hours after pickup.

Questions? Call **248-871-2520**.

### Spring/Summer 2009 Road Construction

The following roads will be under construction during the spring and summer in Farmington Hills:

**Halsted Road south of Fourteen Mile Road** - Asphalt resurfacing for 1,500 feet immediately south of Fourteen Mile. Work scheduled for May.

**Grand River from Farmington Road to Grove** – The City of Farmington will undertake a streetscape project. Work scheduled from May to early July, then August to September. Work will be halted for the Founders Festival in mid-July.

**Halsted Road between Eleven Mile and I-696** - Asphalt resurfacing of the existing pavement while the I-696 Bridge is closed for replacement. Work scheduled for June or July.

**Nine Mile Road between Gill and Folsom** - Concrete patching and then surface diamond grinding to smooth road and improve rideability. Work scheduled for June or July.

**Orchard Lake Road from Eight Mile to Grand River** – The Road Commission for Oakland County will resurface the pavement. Work scheduled for July.

**Drake Road from Nine Mile north to Lytle Road** - Concrete repair and asphalt resurfacing. Work scheduled for July.

**Halsted Road from Twelve Mile to south of Fourteen Mile** - Concrete patching and then surface diamond grinding to smooth road and improve rideability. Work scheduled for late summer or fall.

In addition, the Michigan Department of Transportation will undertake several projects on I-696 and will repair several bridges this summer. For more info, visit [www.michigan.gov/mdot](http://www.michigan.gov/mdot) then click on Major Projects Under Construction.

To receive emails from the City regarding road construction projects, go to [www.fhgov.com](http://www.fhgov.com). Click on Quick Links and choose Mailing Lists/ListServ, then click on General Construction News Mailing List and enter your email address.

All project dates are tentative pending weather conditions and contractor schedules.

## FERTILIZER EDUCATION

- ✓ Mow regularly and mulch your grass clippings, which are a good source of nitrogen so fertilizer use can be reduced.
- ✓ Increase the organic matter of the soil to greater than 5% by raking in compost.
- ✓ Select earth-friendly fertilizers with low or no phosphorus, 50% or more of the nitrogen in slow-release form, and pesticide free. Look for the bright green "Earth Friendly Fertilizer" label at participating retailers.
- ✓ Sweep up fertilizer from paved surfaces and put it into the lawn. Fertilizer left on sidewalks and driveways can easily wash into storm drains and head to rivers and lakes.
- ✓ Leave a "no fertilizer" 25' buffer zone near lakes and rivers. Instead of turf grass, plant native grasses, tall wildflowers or shrubs to trap pollutants and discourage Canadian geese.
- ✓ Use light, frequent lawn watering to reach the roots of the grass.
- ✓ Request the Healthy Lawn Care Option if you use a lawn care company. For a list of companies endorsed through the Michigan Green Industry Association, visit [www.landscape.org](http://www.landscape.org) or call **248-646-4992**.

## Yard Waste Pickup

To dispose of leaves, grass, shrub clippings, twigs, and plant materials, follow these options:

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

Small limbs (six inches in diameter or less) and brush should be tied in bundles that don't exceed four feet in length and don't weigh more than 60 pounds per bundle. Any brush or twigs placed in cans or bags should not stick out above the top of the container. Also, large quantities of dirt or sod are not accepted for pickup.

**FYI** - *Leaves and grass dumped by a river or stream can add excess nutrients to the waterway when they decompose, which can kill fish and other aquatic life forms.*

## Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Drop-Off Days

**Farmington Hills – Saturday, May 2, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. – Costick Center**

Products in your home that are corrosive, toxic, flammable or reactive are considered Household Hazardous Waste. For a list of acceptable items, call RRRASOC at **248-208-2270** or go to [www.rrrasoc.org](http://www.rrrasoc.org). (These items are not accepted: latex paint, unknowns, commercial waste, fire extinguishers, and smoke detectors.)

All containers must be labeled, not hold more than five gallons or weigh more than 50 pounds, and be in a sturdy box on the floor or in the trunk. Paper shredding is also available at all HHW events with a 100-pound or three-box limit per household. A drivers' license or other proof of residency is required to participate. Residents of Farmington Hills, Farmington, Novi, Southfield, South Lyon, Walled Lake, and Wixom may participate in any of the events listed below:

### Wixom

Saturday, April 11  
10 a.m. - 1 p.m.  
Department of Public Works  
2041 Charms Road

### Southfield

Saturday, April 18  
Saturday, October 3  
9 a.m. - 2 p.m.  
Behind RRRASOC Recycling Center  
20000 W. Eight Mile Road, one block east of Evergreen

### Farmington Hills

Saturday, May 2  
9 a.m. - 2 p.m.  
Costick Center  
28600 Eleven Mile Road

### Novi

Saturday, September 26  
9 a.m. - 2 p.m.  
Novi Civic Center  
45175 W. 10 Mile Road

**FYI** – *To get rid of latex paint, add kitty litter or sand to paint left in the can. When the paint is dry, put the can at the curbside with the lid off for pickup with regular garbage.*

## Holiday Garbage Delays

Garbage, recycling, and yard waste will not be picked up on the following holidays:

**Memorial Day – Monday, May 25.** All pickups delayed by one day during that week with Friday's collection on Saturday.

**Independence Day – Saturday, July 4.** PLEASE NOTE: SINCE THE FOURTH OF JULY FALLS ON A SATURDAY, THERE IS NO CHANGE IN THE PICKUP SCHEDULE. Collection will be on a regular schedule Monday through Friday.

**Labor Day - Monday, September 7.** All pickups delayed by one day during that week with Friday's collection on Saturday.

Please have your garbage at the curb by 7:00 a.m. and limit containers to a 32 gallon and 60 pound capacity. Questions? Call the DPW at **248-871-2850**.

## Clerk's Corner

**Homeowners Association Board Members** should call the Clerk's Office at **248-871-2414** or e-mail [dallen@fhgov.com](mailto:dallen@fhgov.com) with new Board Members' names and contact info after each Board Election. The Clerk's Office compiles a list of Homeowners Associations' contact info for new residents and to use in contacting subdivisions about upcoming projects.

**2009 Election Schedule** - November 3, 2009 – City General Election

**Affidavits and Nominating Petitions** for the November 3, 2009 City General Election are available at the Clerk's Office for the following offices:

Mayor - One (1) to be elected for two (2) year term.

Council Member - Three (3) to be elected for four (4) year terms.

The deadline for filing Affidavits and Nominating Petitions for Mayor or City Council is **Tuesday, August 25, 2009 at 4:00 pm at the Farmington Hills City Clerk's Office**, 31555 Eleven Mile Road. Pursuant to law, no filings may be accepted after 4 p.m. on that day.

FARMINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT:

Two (2) Members of the Board of Education – 4 year terms through 11/2013

Two (2) Members of the Board of Education – 6 year terms through 11/2015

The deadline for filing Affidavits and Nominating Petitions for the Farmington Public School Board of Education is **Tuesday, August 11, 2009 at 4:00 pm at the Oakland County Elections Division**, 1200 N Telegraph Road, Pontiac, **248-858-0564**. Pursuant to law, no filings may be accepted after 4:00 p.m. on that day. A \$100 nonrefundable fee may be filed by the candidate in lieu of petitions.

## Reminders from the Treasurer's Office

- Summer property tax bills are mailed around July 1 and may be paid without penalty through August 31.
- Tax bills are mailed to the address of record and not forwarded by the post office.
- Changes of mailing address should be filed with the Assessor's Office.
- By law, failure to receive a property tax bill does not waive the bill or any charges for late payment.
- Every property should receive a bill, even if the bill is to be paid via an escrow account.

Questions? Call **248-871-2480**.

## FARMINGTON HILLS RECYCLES A RECORD AMOUNT

Farmington Hills and other member communities of the Resource, Recovery and Recycling Authority of Southwest Oakland County (RRRASOC) recycled or composted a record 37.3% of solid waste in 2008. The total amount of waste sent to landfills declined more than 7% from 2007 to 2008, while waste that was recycled or composted rose by more than 4%.

New curbside guidelines that took effect October 1, 2008 allowed more items to be recycled, including all plastic bottles, pizza boxes, and drink boxes. To learn more about Farmington Hills' curbside recycling program, visit [www.rrrasoc.org](http://www.rrrasoc.org) or call **248-208-2270**.

**FYI** - *According to the Environmental Protection Agency's WARM (Waste Reduction Model), the recycling that occurred in RRRASOC communities last year equaled the conservation of 807,501 gallons of gasoline, 16,544 barrels of oil, and one year's worth of electricity for 942 households, plus the preservation of 49 acres of forest.*

## West Nile Virus Update

West Nile Virus season is here once again, so protect yourself and your family by following the Three R's:

**REDUCE** areas where mosquitoes breed. Eliminate standing water collected in toys, buckets, tires, unused pools, clogged roof gutters, birdbaths, and other containers.

**REPEL** against mosquitoes. Use insect repellants - follow manufacturers' guidelines and do not use on children younger than two years old. Wear protective clothing such as long sleeves and pants.

**REPORT** the location of a dead bird. Call the Oakland County Health Division at **877-377-3641**.

All property owners are also urged to eliminate standing water on their property. Creeks and retention areas that are healthy and running are not considered a prime area for mosquito breeding. For more info, go to [www.oakgov.com/health](http://www.oakgov.com/health) or [www.michigan.gov/westnilevirus](http://www.michigan.gov/westnilevirus).

**FYI**- *There are approximately 3,000 species of mosquitoes worldwide. About 300 of these species can be found in the United States.*

## CITY DIRECTORY

<b>Emergency Calls Only</b>	
Fire Department .....	9-1-1
Police Department .....	9-1-1
<b>Central Services/Purchasing</b> .....	248-871-2430
<b>City Clerk</b> .....	248-871-2410
<b>City Hall</b> .....	248-871-2400
<b>City Manager's Office</b> .....	248-871-2500
<b>Council Newsline</b> .....	248-871-2511
<b>District Court</b> .....	248-871-2900
<b>Farmington Community Library</b> .....	248-553-0300
<b>Finance Department</b> .....	248-871-2440
Assessing .....	248-871-2470
Treasury .....	248-871-2480
<b>Fire Department</b>	
Non-emergency .....	248-871-2800
<b>General Information</b> .....	248-871-2400
<b>Human Resources</b> .....	248-871-2490
<b>Planning Department</b>	
Building .....	248-871-2450
Community Development and Housing Rehabilitation .....	248-871-2549
Planning .....	248-871-2540
Zoning .....	248-871-2520
<b>Police Department</b>	
Non-emergency .....	248-871-2600
<b>Public Services Department</b> .....	248-871-2530
Public Works .....	248-871-2850
<b>Special Services Department</b>	
Costick Center .....	248-473-1800
Cultural Arts Division .....	248-473-1856
Golf Club .....	248-476-5910
Ice Arena .....	248-478-8800
Jon Grant Center .....	248-871-2849
Longacre House .....	248-477-8404
Nature Center .....	248-477-1135
Parks & Golf Maintenance .....	248-473-1890
Recreation .....	248-473-1800
Senior Adult Program .....	248-473-1830
Youth and Families Services .....	248-473-1841
<b>Volunteer Center</b> .....	248-473-1813

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

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For the latest info on Farmington Hills, visit www.fhgov.com or tune into Cable Channel 8.

## Senior Division

The Center for Active Adults offers a variety of programs, classes, and special events at the Costick Center. Call **248-473-1830** for more information on registration, times, and fees.

### EVENING VITAL WOMAN SERIES

Monday evenings 6 p.m.  
*Facing Financial Challenges* – June 8  
*Sew Beautiful* – June 29  
*Menopause: Symptom Relief* – August 3

### LIFELONG LEARNING AT LONGACRE

Wednesdays 10 a.m.  
*Ecology of the Rouge* – June 17  
*Creative Aging* – July 1  
*Parenting Grandchildren* – August 5

### EVENING PROGRAMS

**Fernando's Ballroom** – Mondays, May 11 – June 29, 6-7 p.m., Foxtrot I & II; 7-8 p.m., Samba I & II; July 13 – Aug. 24, 6-7 p.m., Tango I & II; 7-8 p.m., Cha Cha I & II.

**Back to Ballroom** – Tuesdays, May 5 – June 23, 7-8 p.m., Beginning Hustle; 8:15-9:15 p.m., Intermediate Hustle; July 14 – Aug 25, 7-8 p.m., Beginning Waltz; 8:15-9:15 p.m., Silver Waltz.

**Yoga** – Tuesdays, 5:30 p.m. & Thursdays, 5:45 p.m. Seven-week sessions at Longacre House.

**Women's Softball Season** – Starts May 3

**Men's Softball Season** – Starts May 3

**Partnering with Your Doctor** – June 3. Educational program for caregivers of dementia patients.

**Play Date** – June 11, 6:30 p.m. Brain games: exercise your brain with Wii and board games. Refreshments included.

**Reel Talk** – June 17, 4 p.m. Film discussion group. American Comedies – Rolling with the Punchlines.

### MOTHER'S DAY LUNCHEON & FASHION SHOW

Celebrate mothers, grandmothers, and daughters at a spring luncheon and fashion show on May 7, noon-1:30 p.m. Enjoy a selection of teas and sweets as well as cosmetic tips, prizes, and gifts. Tickets \$12, register by May 4.

### PIES ON THE GRAND

Sixth annual blueberry pie extravaganza. Volunteers needed for baking, packing, and selling. Pies baked at the Costick Center July 15-17 from 1:30-4:30 p.m. Enjoy blueberry pie and blueberry cookies at Art on the Grand during the Farmington Area Founders Festival, July 17-19. All proceeds support Senior Division Transportation. For more information, call **248-473-1830**.

### FREE TOTAL WELLNESS FAIR: ADULTS 50 & BETTER

The Second Annual FREE Wellness Expo will be presented by the Senior Division on Tuesday, September 22, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Costick Center. See healthy life interactive demonstrations and exhibits, plus exercise, holistic healing, relaxation, financial planning, healthy cooking demos, health screenings, chair massages, and tips on "going green." Enjoy vendor give-aways and hourly door prizes!

## Recreation Division Events

### Thrive Music Festival and Carnival – August 20-23

The Farmington Hills Thrive Music Festival and Carnival at Founders Sports Park features music, food, and fun for all ages. Over 50 musicians, bands and entertainers perform throughout the weekend with activities, games, and carnival rides for the entire family. For more info, visit [www.thrivefest.com](http://www.thrivefest.com).

### Great Farmington Hills Campout – June 6-7

Get your family outdoors during the Third Annual Great Farmington Hills Campout. Camp out in your own backyard or at Heritage Park! For more info, visit [www.F2H.org](http://www.F2H.org).

### Riley Skate Park opens in Summer 2009 at Founders Sports Park!

Both skilled and unskilled skateboarders can sign up for Skateboard Camp. Competitions and visits from special guests will happen throughout the summer. For more info, visit [www.rileyskatepark.com](http://www.rileyskatepark.com).

**FYI** - As early as the 1930s, kids attached roller skates onto two-by-fours, but it wasn't until 1958 that the modern skateboard was developed.

## Cultural Arts Division

### 14th Annual Festival of the Arts – "Passport to the Arts"

April 23-26 – Costick Center  
 Over 200 pieces of art for exhibit and sale, community displays, and more. Events include:

**Friday, April 24 – Art After Dark** – 7-10 p.m.  
 Wine tasting, delicious food from Whole Foods Market, live jazz, and fine art. Tickets are \$20 in advance, \$25 at the door

**Saturday, April 25 – Motor City Brass Band** – 7 p.m.

**Sunday, April 26 – Free Family Festival** – noon to 5 p.m.  
 Live performances, hands-on art projects, food, and demonstrations

### Farmington Hills Youth Theatre

"Annie, Jr." at the Costick Center  
**Thursday and Friday, May 7-8** at 7 p.m.  
**Saturday and Sunday, May 9-10** at 1 p.m. and 5 p.m.  
 Tickets \$10, children 3 and under free  
 To purchase tickets, call 734-634-4678

### DaimlerFinancial Services "Stars in the Park"

Free Concert Series  
**Thursdays** at 7:30 p.m. – Heritage Park Amphitheater (Rain-out site – Costick Center)

- June 18** – Farmington Community Band
- June 25** – Night Moves – Bob Seger Tribute Band
- July 9** – Rock 'n Soul – Oldies, pop and more
- July 23** – FCB Jazz Band – A jazz "Big Band"
- July 30** – Grievous Angel – From Folk to Blues
- August 6** – Farmington Community Chorus
- August 13** – The Bomb Squad – '70's & '80's favorites
- August 20** – Motown Review starring Serieux
- August 27** – Uprizin' – Rhythms of the Caribbean

### Art on the Grand 2009

**July 17-19** – Downtown Farmington on Grand River  
 Visit the fine art section of the Farmington Founders Festival! Art for sale from around the country including paintings, glass, pottery, jewelry, and photography. For more info on Cultural Arts programs, call **248-473-1870**.

### FARMINGTON HILLS BALLROOM DANCE

Experience the romance, passion, and excitement of ballroom dancing. All ages and skill levels are welcome. Fridays May 15, June 19, August 21, 8-10:30 p.m. DJ, raffles, door prizes, refreshments. \$10 per person. Free dance lessons at 7 p.m.

## ICE ARENA

The Farmington Hills Figure Skating Club presents the 13th Annual Ice Show "Skating through the Seasons" on Friday, May 8 at 7:30 p.m. and Saturday, May 9 at 4 p.m. This event showcases Skating Club members, Fantasia Synchronized Teams, and Learn to Skate students. Tickets are available at the Ice Arena or the Costick Center. \$8 adults (18 & older), \$6 seniors (62 & older), \$6 students (6-17) and children 5 and under are free. Questions? Call **248-478-8800**.



Learn to Skate for the Whole Family offers group instruction for all skating levels ages three through adult. Session V begins May 11, registration begins April 27. This five-week session is a great way to learn about the FUNdamentals of skating.