



The new roundabout at 14 Mile/Orchard Lake Road/Northwestern Highway was officially opened in September 2015.

## Annual Report 2015

### City Council

Mayor – Ken Massey

Mayor Pro Tem – Valerie Knol

Michael Bridges

Randy Bruce

Richard Lerner

Theresa Rich

Samantha Steckloff

City Manager – Dave Boyer

The Focus newsletter can also be found at [www.fhgov.com](http://www.fhgov.com). Go to the Government tab on the home page and click on Newsletter. Click on the "+" button on the toolbar to increase the magnification of the entire page.



Register online for classes and programs at <https://recreg.fhgov.com>. If you have an account, follow the prompts to register. If you're new, create an account by registering online or in person at the Costick Center, Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

## Resident Concerns Contact Us By Email

Contact us by email at [www.fhgov.com](http://www.fhgov.com). The inquiry form requires you to fill in your contact information for a follow up. Inquiries are automatically routed to the responsible department and follow up typically occurs within 24 hours, Monday through Friday. Direct more specific or complex inquiries to the appropriate department or call 248-871-2400.



## MESSAGE FROM YOUR MAYOR

Greetings neighbors! As we reflect on the past year and also consider the upcoming one, I am happy to report that the City is strong and moving in a positive direction.

In a recent ranking, the e-newsletter "24/7 Wall Street" named Farmington Hills the 14th Best City in America. We received this based on variables such as low crime rates, schools, employment growth, access to restaurants

and attractions, inclusion, educational attainment, and housing affordability. The City is financially sound, AAA-bond rated, and property values are rebounding. We also live in the Second Safest City in Michigan. We look forward to continuing this momentum during the next year.

Looking at 2015, we saw a number of changes such as the departure of our long-time City Manager Steve Brock. While he will be missed, City Council hired Dave Boyer as our next City Manager and we know that he will do a great job for our community. In May, State Proposal 1 on revenues for road funding was defeated. This emphasizes the importance of our local road millage so that the City can improve and maintain local roads to ensure safety and protect

property values. Our voters also supported the millages for public safety and schools, two critical components of a strong City that our residents had the foresight to ensure. Thank you! On City Council, voters re-elected Randy Bruce and Richard Lerner and added our newest member, Theresa Rich. Finally, the Northwestern Connector project (Orchard Lake and 14 Mile roundabout) has been completed and opened.

Looking forward to 2016, the completion of the roundabout will now allow for economic development in the Orchard Lake & 14 Mile area that has been waiting for the finalization—the ribbon was cut in mid-November at a new hotel on Northwestern Highway. The upcoming year will see more economic investment with development in the 12 Mile and Farmington Road area. Google, new hotels, the Corridor Improvement along Grand River, and other investments will expand the business tax base and improve our property values. Speaking of investment, a \$160 million expansion and renovation of Beaumont Hospital-Farmington Hills will break ground, which means one of our City's largest employers will be able to provide enhanced services.

Farmington Hills is a great community. That is not to say we have no challenges, but we are in good shape to meet these new opportunities and more. Please join me in thanking former Mayor Barry Brickner for his dedication and service on behalf of our City. I would also like to thank the citizens for giving me the opportunity to serve as Mayor and I look forward to working with City Council and our excellent City staff.

**"The Best Way To Predict Your Future Is To Create It."** Together we will do just that.

Mayor Ken Massey

## CITY CLERK'S OFFICE

The City Clerk's Office administered three Elections in 2015, including the Special Statewide Election held on May 5, a Special School Election for Clarenceville School District held on August 4 (Precinct 27 only), and the City General Election held on November 3, where electors voted on the Mayor and City Council, a Public Safety Millage Renewal, and millage proposals for the Farmington Public School District and Schoolcraft Community College.

At the City General Election, longtime Council member Kenneth Massey was elected Mayor, Council members Randy Bruce and Richard Lerner were re-elected, and Theresa Rich was newly elected to City Council. The Mayor and City Council members were sworn in to office on November 9. The Mayor and Council selected Valerie Knol to serve as the new Mayor Pro Tem for the next year. Valerie Knol was sworn in to office on November 23.

The Farmington Hills City Clerk's Office was one of the first Clerk's Offices in Oakland County to pilot the state-wide birth and death registry systems. The Clerk's Office has continued to use the systems after the pilot program that enables the City to offer state-issued birth records to people who were born in Farmington Hills upon request. The Electronic Death Registry System

(EDRS) allows funeral homes to electronically file death records with communities that are using the system throughout the state. Both systems continue to grow with more facilities coming on board.

### 2015 Clerk's Office Stats-at-a-Glance:

Ballots Cast (Voter Turnout)	
May 5, 2015	19,849 (33.06%)
August 4, 2015- Precinct 27 only	148 (5.88%)
November 3, 2015	14,477 (24.01%)
Business License Renewals/Registrations issued:	30
Permits issued (special events, seasonal, peddler/solicitor):	153
Request for Public Records (FOIA) processed:	194
New Voter Registrations processed:	5,301
Copies of Birth Records processed:	721
Copies of Death Records processed:	1,133

## FIRE DEPARTMENT

The Farmington Hills Fire Department is a combination department comprised of both Paid Call and Career Fire Fighters. The Fire Department continues to provide fast, efficient, and cost-effective services, despite another 3% increase in incidents compared to last year.

- The Department provides advanced life support (paramedic) services at all medical emergencies, extinguishment of fires, vehicular accidents, hazardous materials incidents, incidents involving utilities, and other types of incidents.
- Members of the Department serve as Emergency Manager and Assistant Emergency Manager, working closely with the Michigan State Police Division of Homeland Security, and also serve as liaisons to the award-winning Emergency Preparedness Commission.
- The Department has representation on numerous regional boards and committees and active involvement in various community benefits and fundraisers.

- Fire Department representatives serve as leaders and members on a variety of response teams implemented through mutual aid agreements with neighboring fire departments. Specialized Hazardous Materials and Urban Search and Rescue Teams are a consortium of fire fighters highly trained for the specific response discipline.

### • Fire Prevention efforts include:

**Fire Prevention** – Fire Inspectors complete commercial building and residential/home safety inspections, test life safety systems, consult on emergency and evacuation planning, and offer a smoke alarm installation program.

**Fire Investigation** – Fire Investigators explore the origin and cause of all fires that occur in the City. Fire investigation is a joint effort with specially-trained police officers.

**Public Education** – In the past year, 116 public education events were conducted impacting over 11,500 community members. Fire safety and fire prevention education is provided to the business community and also through fire

station tours, truck displays, school visits, and community events. Events such as the Marshmallow Fly & Fry, Hay Day, and the Costick Center Health Fair reached over 5,500 children and adults. Other highlights included the October Fire Prevention Open House attended by over 500 people. The School Fall Assembly program was presented 28 times to students and staff, over 5,000 children and adults received fire safety messages.



Fire Fighter/ Paramedic Stan Bailey and other members of the Fire Department conducted a kitchen fire safety demonstration at this fall's Fire Prevention Open House.

## POLICE DEPARTMENT

### Crime Rate Down Again

- You don't usually hear the words "crime" and "good news" used together, but they fit nicely when describing some of the low levels of crime in 2015. For example, last year saw the lowest total number of burglaries in the City's history. In 2015, that total number decreased by 29% for a new all-time low! In 2014, we recorded the lowest number of auto thefts in the City's history. In 2015, that number decreased by 11% to set another new all-time low! Part A crimes (the 20 most serious crime categories) were down 6% from 2014, and are down 36% over the past 10 years.
- The Police Department continues to work in partnership with residents to make Farmington Hills one of the safest communities in the country. This is evident in the expansion of community-based programs like Neighborhood Watch, which now includes 118 neighborhoods and subdivisions. Our Safe City rankings and extraordinary decreases in the crime rate are made possible by the outstanding work of police officers, proactive crime fighting strategies, specialized police units, and most importantly, the trust and support of our citizens.

### Giving Back

- Along with other City employees, Farmington Hills Police personnel are committed to giving back to the community. During 2015, Police personnel participated in student scholarships; food, shoe and clothing drives; softball and hockey charity fundraisers; shopping with cops; gift card donations to needy children; blood drives; cancer walks; and more. The Farmington Hills Police Benevolent Association, which includes Farmington Hills Fire Fighters, made generous donations to community causes.

### Police Source One Training

- Training is one of the benchmarks of professional policing. Farmington Hills is one of a select number of Michigan police agencies finishing its first year of computer-based interactive training. Officers receive email assignments on a variety of topics requiring them to query the Police Source One website and view training. Officers must pass written tests that are tracked and credited on their training records. Police Department training officers can also create their own training sessions featuring Department policies, such as Use of Force, Police Pursuits, and Community Relations. All officers must still attend annual traditional training sessions taught by experts in law, firearms, medicine, forensics, civil rights, and other important topics.

### Use of Naloxone (Narcan)

- Communities across the country are seeing an increase in heroin and other opioid drug use across all social and economic lines. This has led to an increase in calls for medical assistance and an increase in accidental deaths. Communities throughout Michigan and Oakland County are being impacted by the increased abuse of these drugs. Often law enforcement officers find themselves the first to arrive on the scene of a drug-related medical emergency.
- In an effort to combat this growing issue and to increase overdose survivability, Farmington Hills police officers will soon join Farmington Hills paramedics and emergency medical technicians, who are already equipped with Naloxone, a drug used to treat those who have overdosed on heroin or other opioid drugs. Naloxone, administered by nasal spray to an individual who has overdosed, blocks the effects that opioids have on the brain, its effects are often almost instantaneous. The Farmington Hills Police Department, in partnership with Oakland County Community Mental Health, has been training and equipping all officers with this lifesaving drug.

The Focus is printed on recycled paper with a 30% post-consumer waste content.



Please recycle this newsletter when you are done with it.

# SPECIAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT

## Cultural Arts

Over 3,000 people attended the free Stars in the Park Concerts, which welcomed new performers including Jai Ho (A Musical Extravaganza), Kari Holmes & The Modern Day Drifters, and Sonic Freeway. Sponsor Mercedes Benz Financial Services added two raffle drawings for a one-week driving experience in a Mercedes.

The Detroit Institute of Arts Inside|Out program brought seven high-quality reproductions of masterpieces from the DIA's collection to the streets of Farmington and Farmington Hills. DIA Away, a mobile interactive classroom, had its best attendance to date at Art on the Grand 2015, which had an estimated 60,000 in attendance and hosted 100 artists from around the country.

The Public Art Program at City Hall brought in 84 new pieces from 32 artists. The Festival of the Arts, which had over 1,500 visitors and participants, exhibited the Farmington PTA Reflections artwork for the first time with 144 pieces submitted by 66 area high school students.

In the spring, the Youth Theatre presented Disney's Mary Poppins. With a cast of 136, the play sold out four of the six performances. Auditions for the fall production of The Wizard of Oz brought in 168 people – up 31% from last year. Art, music, and theatre summer camps brought in 471 participants. The three most sought-after camps were Art Adventure, Camp Creative Full Day, and Rising Stars.

## Recreation

In July, over 400 people attended the official opening of the Riley Archery Range, and more than 2,600 people have taken up a bow since then. The archery range offers open hours, classes, leagues, group lessons, private lessons, camps, and birthday parties.

The Nature Center had another record-breaking year - over 21,000 general visitors and over 3,000 youth participated in programs and camps. The first STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) program for middle school and high school students was started with a grant from the Bosch Community Fund. Over 50 students participated in the summer leadership program focusing on real-life STEM-based careers. In partnership with Oakland Community College, Lawrence Technological University, DTE and the MSU Extension, students conducted field science research and participated in robotics activities during the two-week program.

Summer Camps had more than 3,500 youth participants in week-long art, music, theatre, nature, safety town, and sports camps, plus STEM, archery, and private swim lesson camps were added. More than 20,000 people attended favorite annual events including the Daddy/Daughter Dance (over 800 in attendance), the Great Farmington Hills Campout (over 400 campers), Hay Day, Splash Bash, Earth Day, Pizza Palooza, Marshmallow Fly & Fry (over 1,200 participants), Turkey Shoots, and the Holiday Shopping Expo. Over 2,000 youth participated in soccer, basketball, flag football, karate, tennis, and gymnastics. Fields were used at full capacity through Recreation Division programs, NFWB and SFBI Baseball Associations, Farmington Soccer Club, and other community organizations. The Heritage Park Splash Pad had over 100,000 visits during the summer. At the Costick Center pool, over 100 participants took advantage of open swim times each week, and during the summer 150 lifeguards were trained.

Stay connected via the monthly newsletter (email [specialservices@fhgov.com](mailto:specialservices@fhgov.com) with the subject "Newsletter"), join us on Facebook, go to [www.fhgov.com](http://www.fhgov.com) or watch your mailbox for the seasonal Activities Guide. For more information, call 248-473-1800.



Nature Center Adventure Camp

## Ice Arena

In 2015, the Detroit Red Wings and Little Caesars Hockey announced a partnership with the Farmington Hills Hockey Association. The new official name will be the Little Caesars Farmington Hills Hockey Association (LCFHHA). This collaborative effort strengthens a longstanding relationship and creates a variety of efficiencies, including educational programs for coaches, shared practices, and outreach efforts. The LCFHHA serves over 450 players annually.

Each year, the world's largest hockey equipment retailer holds a sale at the Ice Arena. In 2015, over 20,000 people attended. The Ice Arena also hosted the following events:

- 19th Annual Ice Show
- Total Package Hockey (TPH)
- Future Pro Goalie School
- Mannino Hockey
- Laura Stamm Power Skating
- Power Tech Skating School

On-ice activities, serving all ages, include:

Hockey Beginner Instructional Programs, Public Skating Sessions, Figure Skating Club, Youth Hockey Teams, High School Hockey Teams, High School Figure Skating Teams, Junior Hockey Teams, Adult Hockey Leagues, Hockey Schools, Youth Center Ice Time, Ice Soccer, and Learn-to-Skate Instructional Programs, which had 207 students enrolled in 2015.

The Ice Arena celebrated National Skating Month with an open house where participants enjoyed free open skate and skate rentals, snacks, and giveaways. Around 150 kids and adults attended with help available from Figure Skating Club coaches. Enhancements to the facility include colorful banners on light poles, representing Arena offerings.

For more information, visit [www.fhice.com](http://www.fhice.com) or call 248-478-8800.



Farmington Hills Ice Show 2015

## Youth and Family Services

For 19 years, the Youth and Family Services Division has provided students in grades 5 – 8 with the opportunity to participate in the After School Program and enjoy swimming, music and dance education, basketball, ice skating, and field trips. Over 600 youth members get homework help, and participate in programs that give them team-building and leadership skills; 45 of these students are members of the Mayor's Youth Council.

The Summer Drop-In program had over 120 youth members who enjoyed activities at the FH Ice Arena Club 2nd Floor and were offered 26 field trips including the Zip Line at the Howell Nature Center, kayaking and fishing at Proud Lake, and a trip to the waterpark every Friday. Members grew a vegetable garden with grant funds from Peace, Love and Planet and labor and materials from Steinkopf's Nursery and Best Buy.

The After School Program, under the direction of Todd Lipa, was recognized with a national award from USA Networks and Brighthouse. Todd received a \$5,000 check, which was dedicated to the SAFE (Suicide Awareness For Everyone) and Youth programs.

A \$10,000 grant from MRPA's Come Out and Play program provided over 250 youth members and staff with a pedometer to monitor steps after school and on weekends. Courtesy of the Farmington Hills PKC Group, Busch's, Gordon Foods, and the Senior Division, 500 people enjoyed the Fourth Annual Community Thanksgiving Feast and another 300 people received Thanksgiving dinner through Meals on Wheels. PKC Group employees also made it possible for 90 community families to receive Thanksgiving baskets.

## Golf Club

It was a great year for the golf club with over 41,000 rounds played (up from 39,349 rounds in 2014), 39 leagues, 89 outings, 35 trees planted, and the 13th tee restored. February's Chili Golf Open was a great way to break up the winter blues, with chili and prizes for the 65 participants who golfed an average of ten holes in the snow. For the last two years, LOC Credit Union has sponsored this event, and lunch is provided in partnership with Greek Islands Bar & Grill.

The Farmington Hills Golf Club is a beautiful course offering 18 championship holes, measuring 6,413 yards with manicured bent grass tees, fairways, and greens surrounded by trees, ponds, and gentle rolling hills. A Driving Range is open daily from 7 a.m. until 10 p.m., weather permitting, from early spring until late fall. It features 32 stations and two practice greens. Golf lessons to help improve your game are available for all skill levels from qualified instructors. For tee times and lesson schedules, call 248-476-5910 or visit [www.fhgolfclub.org](http://www.fhgolfclub.org).

Stop by the Clubhouse and visit the pro shop or have a meal at the Greek Islands Restaurant, a full-service bar and grill with a huge outdoor patio providing great views of the course. For restaurant special events, banquets, and offsite catering, call 248-957-6734.

## Facilities & Parks

The Farmington Hills Special Services Facilities Division provides essential space for recreational, cultural and intergenerational activities. Our goal is to ensure safe, clean and attractive environments at all of the varied use public buildings, so that residents of all ages can completely enjoy their experience.

The Costick Center had over 390,000 visits in 2015. The 70,000 square foot facility includes a gym with a stage, a large commercial kitchen, and meeting rooms ranging in size from 500 to 7,500 square feet. Changes include pool upgrades, new hallway carpeting, and upgraded registration software.

The Longacre House, which features a charming gazebo and beautifully landscaped gardens, hosted over 150 weddings, showers, and special events. The 46th Annual Fashion Show raised \$7,500 to continue Longacre House renovations including a complete lower floor interior painting, air conditioning upgrades, and dining room floor replacement. Visit [www.longacrehouse.org](http://www.longacrehouse.org) for rental details.

The Jon Grant Community Center offers a nearly 5,000 square foot event space that hosted baby and wedding showers and birthday parties last year. It also features a 2,000 square foot recreation room (the "Fire Pit") used by the City's award-winning After School program.

Heritage Park saw public restroom improvements, additional parking spots, pavers in front of the Stables Art Studio; and a berm between the Longacre House and the south area of the park.

With support from the Bosch Community Fund, the Founders Pond was stocked, fishing equipment was purchased, an aeration system was added, and a pond management plan was created. The Parks Division completed demolition of the old Longacre House Amphitheatre structure. Cleanup, restoration, and signage were undertaken along with the new playground at Olde Town Park.

For more information about parks or facilities rentals, call 248-473-1846.

## Adults 50 & Better

The Adults 50 & Better Division provides residents 50 years of age and better with programs and services designed to foster independent and healthy lifestyles. Innovative programs target aging baby boomers, as well as older adults, with physical, social, educational, and recreational activities. Programming includes community based services, such as home meal delivery, outreach, transportation, and referral services.

### Significant accomplishments for 2015:

- The Outreach program served over 4,800 seniors. Over 160 seniors received individual assistance with Medicare Part D Prescription Drug coverage. About 210 seniors received holiday assistance, and 900 seniors with low income received food assistance.
- The Senior Transportation program, in partnership with SMART, provided over 35,000 rides for older adults and people with disabilities. The program provides an average of 480 rides each week to medical appointments.
- AARP tax preparers provided tax assistance to over 600 seniors.

- Over 12,000 participants enjoyed 14 different health and fitness classes including strength training, pickle ball, tai chi, yoga, Zumba, and Feldenkrais.
- The Senior Nutrition program provided 105,000 meals to homebound individuals and guests in the senior dining hall; 165 seniors received a home-delivered meal daily. Over 180 volunteers donated time to serve food, pack meals, and deliver for Meals on Wheels.
- In May, 130 adults 50 & better celebrated National Senior Health and Fitness Day with free fitness classes and a mini-health fair offering balance and memory screening, blood pressure testing, and nutritional information.
- Over 3,700 participants attended the Valentine's Dance, Law Day, Total Wellness Fair, Old Fashioned Barn Dance, Mardi Gras Bingo, Opening Day, Travel Shows, and Holiday Parties.
- There are 16 clubs to join, including book discussion groups, photography, cycling, brain games, Wii sports, computer forums, quilters, hiking, Mah Jongg, Sojourn Bears, bridge, and pinochle.

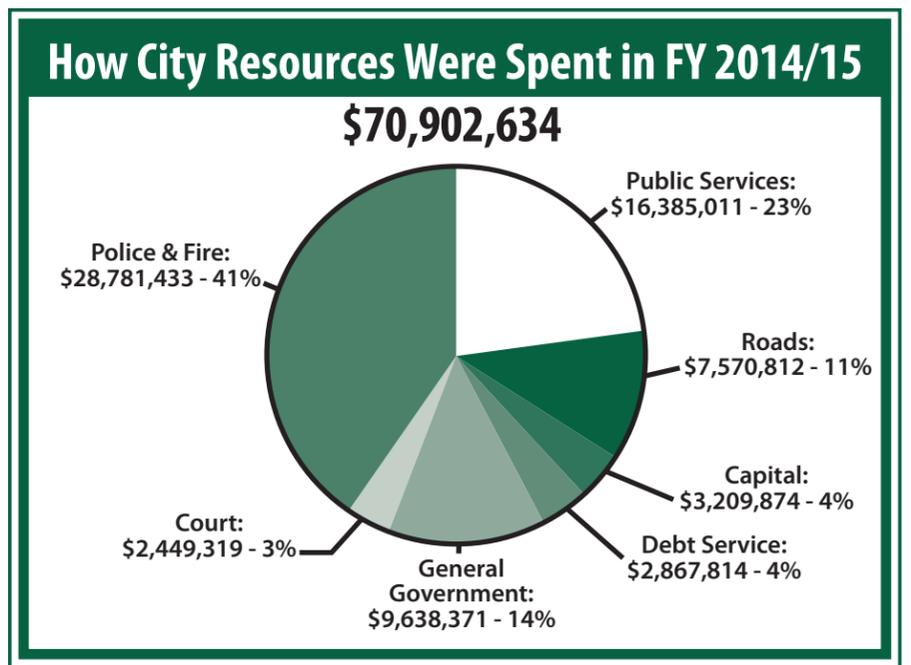
For more information, call 248-473-1830.

# FINANCE DEPARTMENT

- The Treasury Division is responsible for billing and collecting property taxes (twice annually), not only for the City of Farmington Hills but also as a collection agent for the local school districts, Oakland County, Oakland Community College, the District Library, the State of Michigan, and other governmental authorities. During FY 2014/15, the Treasury Division issued approximately 57,300 tax bills and collected, deposited, and remitted in excess of \$141 million of property taxes, assessments, and fees. The Treasury Division is also responsible for billing, collecting, and accounting for non-property tax receipts, and investing idle funds in compliance with the City's Investment Policy.
- The Assessing Division is responsible for the annual preparation of property assessment rolls for approximately 27,900 real property and 3,000 personal property parcels, whether they are taxable or not. Assessment rolls are maintained by field inspections of building permits issued by the City, as well as reviews of existing assessment records. The Assessing Division continually monitors and complies with the professional requirements of assessment administration and updates its records with the State of Michigan, including the filing and recording of all property transfer affidavits. The Assessing Division also establishes special assessment districts for the City.
- The Accounting Division is responsible for paying vendors and employees, reconciling bank accounts, and producing the City's Budget and Annual Financial Reports on a timely and accurate basis. The Accounting Division complies with all Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) and financial reporting standards set by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) to ensure a clean annual audit opinion from the City's Independent Auditor.
- The Administration Division is responsible for the overall management of the Department, including the management/administration of the City's Debt, General Liability and Property Insurance, Retirement System, and Passport Application Acceptance function.

### Recent accomplishments/awards highlight the excellent job done by the City's Finance Department:

- The City received an Unqualified Audit Opinion for the FY 2014/15 Audit, the 30th consecutive year the City has received a "clean" financial audit opinion.
- The City received the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting from the Government Finance Officers' Association (GFOA), for the City's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2014 – 16 years in a row.
- The City received the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award from the GFOA – 29 years in a row.
- The City maintained its AAA bond rating from Standard & Poor's and its Aa1 bond rating from Moody's.
- The City of Farmington Hills Citizen's Guide and Performance Dashboard can be found on the City's website at [www.fhgov.com/Government/Reference/Reports/CitizensGuideAndPerformanceDashboard.aspx](http://www.fhgov.com/Government/Reference/Reports/CitizensGuideAndPerformanceDashboard.aspx)



# ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The City routinely works with local businesses to connect them with resources that can help with overcoming obstacles and creating growth opportunities. These resources can help businesses access credit, train employees, find new markets, and more.

In 2015, the City welcomed several new businesses from small retail establishments to large multinational firms. Just a few of the great new dining places are Wicked Table, Tim Hortons, and Old Detroit Burger Bar. Chrysler Financial Services expanded its operations by bringing in their Executive Team from New Jersey, and Infinity Contact (a Google partner) leased over 70,000 square feet of space in the City. Five different hotel projects were also either started or completed during the past year.

The Economic Development Director partnered with the Greater Farmington Area Chamber of Commerce and educated small businesses on the excellent resources available through the Oakland County One Stop Shop and the Michigan Economic Development Corporation. Local companies were also encouraged to connect with Farmington Public Schools to support Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) programming.

# DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

## Building Division

The Farmington Hills Building Division consists of four Inspector/Plan Reviewers, two clerks and one Building Official. In 2015, the four inspectors performed 9,135 inspections and 1,239 plan reviews. The Building Division issued 4,829 permits with revenue of \$1,082,841.

Some of the larger projects completed this year include:

- Petco - Orchard Lake Road
- Gentherm - Haggerty Road
- Burger King - Orchard Lake Road
- Holiday Inn Express - Northwestern Highway
- Google - Farmington Road
- Allstate Insurance - Executive Drive
- Oakleaf Medical - Ten Mile Road
- BP Gas Station - Grand River at Halsted
- The Demolition of the Alexander Hamilton Building on Hamilton Court

Two large projects that should start this year include the parking structure at Beaumont Hospital – Farmington Hills (formerly Botsford) and the Courtyard Manor Hotel, the first of three hotels on the site of the demolished Alexander Hamilton Building.

In comparison, during 2014, 5,169 permits were issued, 9,724 inspections were performed with revenue of \$1,289,983. These inspections included the completion of the Millennium Medical Group, an interior alteration of the entire first floor of the Millennium Building on Northwestern Highway, and the completion of three separate subdivisions consisting of 130+ homes.

The City of Farmington Hills permit fees have not changed since 2008 and are below the recommended national average.

## Community Development

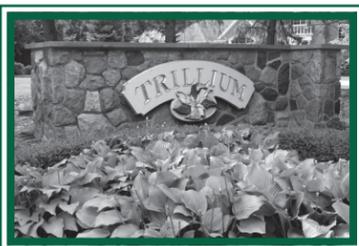
- The Housing Rehabilitation Program assisted 15 low income homeowners with improvements. Work included six homes with replacement roofs, one water connection, and two new furnaces.
- The Community Development Office funded the installation of the new playground equipment and walkways at Olde Towne Park with Community Development Block Grant funds.
- The City of Farmington Hills joined a partnership with Oakland County Home Improvement Division to offer additional opportunities for residents to receive zero interest loans for home improvements. Two homes have received assistance through this program.
- The Community Development office supported Rebuilding Together to assist eight homeowners with yard work, painting, and other general household repairs.
- The 30th Annual Beautification Commission Awards Ceremony recognized beautification efforts throughout the City. Top awards went to Botsford Commons Senior Community, located on Folsom east of Orchard Lake Road, which was awarded the *Greater Farmington Area Chamber Award* for their clean and well-maintained landscape; and to Trillium Subdivision, located off Drake south of Twelve Mile, which was awarded the *Beautification Commissioners' Award* for the subdivision entrance's colorful plantings and maintenance efforts.



Olde Towne Park's New Look



Botsford Commons – Greater Farmington Area Chamber Award



Trillium Subdivision – Beautification Commissioners' Award

## Zoning Division

- Over 13,500 code violations were investigated in order to enforce City Ordinances and keep Farmington Hills a desirable city. The primary focus continues to be blight abatement and property maintenance. There has been an emphasis on issues such as peeling paint, uncovered trash containers, and other code violations. Court-ordered blight cleanup was initiated for properties where owners were non-compliant.
- High grass and illegal signs continue to be a source of complaints and enforcement action. The grass complaints on foreclosed and/or vacant properties, however, have diminished due to property owners taking preemptive measures before the formal enforcement process is needed.
- Education on property maintenance requirements is provided through handouts and letters.
- The Zoning Board of Appeals heard 38 cases at 12 meetings appealing Code and Zoning requirements.

## Planning Office & Historic District Commission

The Planning Office processed 22 site plan proposals in 2015 – twelve commercial projects, three new residential developments, four parking lot expansions, two special land use requests, and one for a place of worship. The Planning Commission reviewed three Planned Unit Development proposals including one for a major expansion to the Beaumont/Botsford Hospital campus, and another for the redevelopment of the former Alexander Hamilton site as a hotel complex. Six lot split proposals and one amendment to the zoning ordinance were processed. The Planning Commission also adopted the annual city-wide Capital Improvements Plan, which helps guide the City Council in prioritizing and budgeting capital projects.

In 2016, the Planning Commission will continue to work to implement the Grand River Corridor Vision Plan established by the Farmington and Farmington Hills Corridor Improvement Authority. The Planning Commission will do this by considering the adoption of the vision plan as part of the City's Master Plan for Future Land Use. The Planning Commission will also consider the creation and adoption of over-lay zoning districts for the two remaining focus areas identified in the vision plan for the Grand River corridor.

In 2015, the Historic District Commission (HDC) reviewed and approved seven applications for Certificates of Appropriateness and two Notices to Proceed for work on historic structures. The process of designating one home constructed in 1956 as an example of mid-century modern architecture was initiated. An open house was held offering the opportunity for owners of designated historic buildings to view the information pertaining to their property contained in the HDC files. Prints of the historic 1825 Map of the Surveyed Part of the Territory of Michigan have been made available for purchase by the public. The map can be viewed in its new location across from the Community Room in City Hall.

A new online interactive Historic Structures Map provides information on the designated historic districts within the City. Go to [www.fhgov.com](http://www.fhgov.com) and click on the Maps section under the Business tab. A historic home tour is planned for May of 2016.



### Energy Prize Update

Early performance rankings in the Georgetown University Energy Prize Competition are in. With the Greater Farmington Community ranked in the bottom 25%, they send a clear message – the community has a lot of work to do. Join Bill Buster, our Energy Saving Superhero, in his efforts to fight Energy Hog. There is a \$5 million prize at the end of this epic battle! For more information, visit [www.gfaenergyprize](http://www.gfaenergyprize).

Save time...  
**REGISTER ONLINE!**  
<https://recreg.fhgov.com>

**Like us on Facebook**  
Farmington Hills  
Special Services Department

**You Tube**  
Search: Farmington Hills  
Digital Channel 8.1

**FARMINGTON HILLS**  
SPECIAL SERVICES Michigan  
Visit us online, 24/7  
[www.fhgov.com](http://www.fhgov.com)

31555 W. Eleven Mile Road | Farmington Hills, MI 48336

**FARMINGTON HILLS**  
Michigan

**focus**  
Annual Report 2015

## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICES Engineering Division – Construction Projects

FH: Farmington Hills; RCO: Road Commission for Oakland County; WRC: Water Resources Commission

### Completed in 2015

#### Roads

Lytle Road Resurfacing - Gill Road to Drake Road (FH)  
Gill Road Resurfacing - Nine Mile Road to Lytle Road (FH)  
Drake Road Resurfacing - Howard Road to 12 Mile Road (FH)  
Orchard Lake/14 Mile/Northwestern - Roundabout (RCOC)  
Bristol Lane and Bristol Court - Road Rehabilitation (FH)  
Woodbrook Subdivision - Road Rehabilitation (FH)

#### Traffic Signals

10 Mile and Power - Signal Modernization  
and Pedestrian Facility Upgrade (FH)

#### New Sidewalks

14 Mile Road (South Side) - East of Claymore to Harmony Road (FH)  
Halsted Road (West Side) - Riverbend to Windwood (FH)  
8 Mile Road (North Side) - Lujon to Connaught (FH)

#### Water Mains

Farmington Road Water Main - South of Glen Valley  
to Raphael  
Grand River Homes Subdivision Phase I - Water  
Main Replacement, including Middlebelt,  
Tulane and Albion  
Muer Cove Water Main - New Installation

#### Sanitary Sewer

Middlebelt Transport & Storage Tunnel -  
Work started Dec. 2014 and continuing (WRC)

#### Drainage

Replacement of Biddestone Culvert  
Replacement of Westmeath Crossing of the  
Main Ravines Drain  
Replacement of Commerce Drive Culvert Crossing

## DPW - Building Expansion

In recent years, the City has won awards for its innovative use of brine to pre-treat pavement in an effort to fight snow and ice while also reducing costs, increasing efficiency, and lessening environmental impacts.

It takes approximately 9,000 gallons of liquid to anti-ice the City's 171 lane-miles of major roads prior to a winter storm, and it takes over 11 hours to refill the storage tanks. As brine usage increased, the City needed both greater production capability and more storage capacity.

In 2015, City staff worked with design experts at Fishbeck, Thompson, Carr & Huber (FTCH) and with the Oakland County Water Resources Commission to construct a state-of-the-art 10,000 square foot addition to the existing DPW facility. This new containment area now stores over 30,000 gallons of brine, 18,000 gallons of blending product, and 6,000 gallons of test product, with additional space for future storage expansion. The expansion includes an automated salt brine and blending system capable of producing over 6,000 gallons of salt brine per hour, a tremendous improvement over the old system. The new building also allows for indoor, weather-protected storage of the City's winter maintenance equipment during the off season.

## Public Safety Millage Passed in November Election – Thank You!

On behalf of all Farmington Hills Fire and Police personnel, we wish to express our appreciation for the passage of the recent Public Safety Millage Renewal. The Public Safety Millage funds approximately 25% of the total annual public safety budget, including 40 public safety positions. These funds are critical to maintaining staffing levels, ensuring prompt response to emergencies, and continuing current levels of service. Police and fire personnel remain dedicated to the delivery of superior public safety services without prejudice or partiality. Thank you for helping us serve and protect, and thank you for playing a role in keeping Farmington Hills one of the safest cities in Michigan.  
*Police Chief Charles Nebus and Fire Chief Corey Bartsch*

\*\*\*\*\* ECRWSS \*\*\*\*\*  
Local Residential Customer

Presorted Standard  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Permit No. 36  
Farmington Hills  
Michigan 48334

## City Directory

### Emergency Calls Only

Fire Department.....9-1-1  
Police Department.....9-1-1

**Central Services/Purchasing** .....248-871-2430

**City Clerk** .....248-871-2410

**City Hall** .....248-871-2400

**City Manager's Office** .....248-871-2500

**District Court** .....248-871-2900

**Farmington Community Library** .....248-553-0300

**Finance Department** .....248-871-2440

Assessing.....248-871-2470

Treasury.....248-871-2480

### Fire Department

Non-emergency.....248-871-2800

**General Information** .....248-871-2400

**Human Resources** .....248-871-2490

### Planning Department

Building.....248-871-2450

Community Development and  
Housing Rehabilitation.....248-871-2543

Planning.....248-871-2540

Zoning.....248-871-2520

### Police Department

Non-emergency.....248-871-2600

**Public Services Department** .....248-871-2530

Engineering Division.....248-871-2560

Public Works.....248-871-2850

### Special Services Department

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 Division.....248-473-1830

Youth & Family Services.....248-473-1841

**Volunteer Center** .....248-473-1813

## HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

- Over the past 23 years, the City has received the Michigan Municipal League Workers' Compensation Loss Control Achievement Award 19 times. In 2015, Farmington Hills was once again among the lowest workers' compensation claims and best safety records in the state. Being serious about safety produces low claims, lowers the City's costs, and saves tax dollars. This impressive record can be attributed to the City Council and administration providing employees with resources needed to safely do their jobs. The Farmington Hills Safety Committee also deserves credit for reviewing each safety-related incident and offering recommendations for improvement.
- Participation in the Fit for Life Employee Wellness Program increased significantly in the past year with employees making lifestyle improvements, participating in wellness activities, and attending educational Lunch 'n Learns. In September, 15 City employees joined the 12-week Weight Watchers At Work program and the group lost a total combined weight of over 120 pounds. This was an accomplishment both for participants and the City, since a healthier workforce increases productivity, reduces turnover, and lowers long-term healthcare costs.
- Human Resources processed almost 900 employment applications, replacing many retiring employees. HR works to ensure that internal promotions are balanced with employees hired from the outside to help retain institutional knowledge while bringing in fresh ideas.
- In 2015, several diverse candidates were placed in significant positions, an accomplishment that is aligned with the City's goal to increase the percentage of minorities within the workforce. This was achieved by collaborating with various Metro Detroit organizations and also seeking internal employee referrals.
- The City elected to change Flexible Spending Account (FSA) plan administrators, which will save about half the annual costs of offering this benefit.



In July 2015, City Manager Steve Brock retired after more than 25 years of service to the City. Dave Boyer, previously Assistant City Manager and Director of Special Services, was hired as the new City Manager. He was selected following a nationwide recruitment and hiring process managed by the City's Human Resources Department.

## Middlebelt Transport and Storage Tunnel Project

The Oakland County Water Resources Commissioner's Office, in cooperation with the City of Farmington Hills, is leading the construction of the Middlebelt Road Transport and Storage Tunnel Project. The project, which began in late 2014, is scheduled to be completed in late 2016. It involves building a 7,600-foot-long, 9-foot diameter tunnel under Middlebelt Road from just north of I-696 to 13 Mile Road. The tunnel will temporarily store excess water during heavy rain storms, to reduce the likelihood of residential sanitary sewage overflows.

## Pilot Goat Program

The City of Farmington Hills began a trial project using goats for nuisance plant management. "Pilot" and "Co-Pilot" are two goats acquired at no cost to the City. They worked at City Hall eating weeds all summer and fall. They are being cared for over the winter by a local farmer and will return in the spring. The Department of Public Services is evaluating the effectiveness of using eco-friendly goats in lieu of herbicides and controlled burns.



Pilot the goat is shown hard at work in his "vegetation management" job. He was kept securely penned on the City Hall campus and monitored daily by City staff.

## CENTRAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT

The Central Services Department manages purchasing, information technology (IT), telecommunications, and mail services. During the past year, the department issued 51 formal bid solicitations for various products and services. Cooperative bidding, where two or more governments share procurement contracts, continues to be a high priority. The City of Farmington Hills was the lead agency on cooperative contracts for rock salt and on Fire Medics Vehicles and Fire Rescue Vehicles. Central Services/Information Technology focused on computer upgrades, a City website update, and converting microfilm and microfiche files to network-based digital images.



## We're All Ears!

We want to know what you think about Farmington Hills. The City is doing a survey about resident satisfaction. To make your voice heard, go to [www.fhgov.com](http://www.fhgov.com) and click on the Resident tab, then go to Surveys to answer a five-minute questionnaire.

**FARMINGTON HILLS**  
Michigan  
**focus**