



City of Farmington, Michigan

Twitter: @FarmingtonMich



City requests community help to ensure viable future

Notes from the City Manager David Murphy

"I have a call to action for you"

We are seeking residential and business input on the City's Future Financial Course. A two-part Community Forum will take place on April 26 and May 16 at 6:30 p.m. at the Maxfield Education Center, 32789 West 10 Mile Road in Farmington. Residents and business owners are encouraged to participate.

The City of Farmington strives to provide a high level of service at a competitive cost to its residents and businesses.

In January, Farmington was recognized for those efforts by Time/Money Magazine when the publication named Farmington/Farmington Hills the best place to live in Michigan. And in March, the National Council for Home Safety and Security listed Farmington in the top 30 safest cities in Mich.

This high level of city services has been maintained even while the cost to residents and businesses in terms of property taxes has fallen on average 18.6 percent over the last 10 years. (You can check the change in your tax bill by going to the following website: <https://accessmygov.com/?uid=1647>, click on the link for Current Tax Search, search by address, select your property, and review your Tax History). Continuing to provide the same level of services with declining revenues has come at a real cost: we've basically done it by spending down our fund balance (our "savings account"), which over the past 10 years has shrunk to less than half of its pre-2008 levels. We've now reached the point where it's clear that revenues will not grow at a rate necessary to sustain our historic levels of services. Something

has to give—either the level of services/expenditures must be reduced, or we must look at some form of revenue increase.

The source of most of the City's revenues for both operations and capital improvements comes from property taxes. With the Great Recession, property tax values have plummeted, and will not return to previous levels for many years – and that's IF property values continue to increase. While over the past 10 years the cost of providing City services has risen a modest .833 percent per year, our total revenue has increased at only .026 percent per year. As a result, the City's expenditures now exceed revenue on a yearly basis – hence the need to dip into fund balance each year. Obviously, this is not sustainable!

We estimate the average yearly shortfall will be about \$300,000 going forward. At this rate, the City's savings account of \$2-plus million will disappear in seven years. (It's a best practice for small governments to have a fund balance equal to or above 25 percent of their operating expenditures. For Farmington, this amounts to \$2 million.) Potential courses of action include raising revenue (i.e. property taxes), reducing expenditures (i.e. eliminating services), or a combination of the two.

The City of Farmington is interested in your opinion on the current and future levels of city services in light of these financial limitations. Without proper funding, the City's ability to continue to provide the high level of service that the community expects will be affected and the City will not be able to invest in the infrastructure needed to sustain our community and its property values.

Election inspectors needed for 2018 elections

The City of Farmington is hiring Election Inspectors for the August 2018 Primary and for the November 2018 General Elections. This is a compensated position for the full day of the election (6 a.m. to 9 p.m.) and one training session prior to Election Day.

For more information and to download the application, please visit www.farmgov.com, City Services section, under the City Clerk and Election tabs. You can

also stop in at the Clerk's Department at City Hall or contact Mary Mullison at 248-474-5500 ext. 2228 or mmullison@farmgov.com.

Appointments are made approximately six weeks before each Election Day, so if you would like to be considered for the August election, please apply before June 15, 2018. Application deadline to work the November election is September 14, 2018.

Water & sewer bills can now be emailed

The City of Farmington is now offering the option for residents and business to have their water and sewer bills emailed to them, rather than mailed. To sign up for paperless billing, please complete the authorization form located at: <http://www.farmgov.com/How-Do-I/Forms-and-Permits.aspx>

Absent Voter Ballot Applications

Absent Voter Ballot Applications will be sent out to those on the Permanent Absent Voter List the first week of June. These applications can apply to both the August and November elections, and are available on the City website: www.farmgov.com

Protecting your oak trees from Oak Wilt

Oak Wilt has been confirmed in Oakland County, and it continues to spread, killing thousands of trees in our state each year. If you have oak trees in your landscape, it is important to take steps to prevent your trees from becoming infected.

To prevent your trees from becoming infected, avoid pruning in the highest risk period of the year, during the warm growing season. Schedule all pruning of oak trees in the lowest risk time, between November 1 and March 14 -typically the cold season months when sap beetles are not active. Any injury from construction or storm damage should be sealed immediately with latex paint, pruning seal, or clear shellac. Any stumps from removed oak trees should also be sealed immediately.

Oak wood from an infected oak should be sealed to the ground under a tarp for one year allowing it to dry out but limiting the beetle's access. Otherwise, the wood should be immediately chipped, buried or burned to avoid spreading Oak Wilt disease.

Oak Wilt is a fungal disease that causes the water-carrying vessels of the tree to become blocked, which make the leaves wilt, begin to turn brown and drop. Red Oak trees die within one to two months. White Oak trees decline more slowly.

Oak Wilt is spread by sap beetles who carry spores of the Oak Wilt fungus landing on fresh wounds of an oak tree. It is also spread through root grafts between healthy and infected trees.

Infected Red Oaks will initially show an off-green coloration in the upper portion of the tree's crown. As the disease progresses, leaves turn brown and fall in large numbers before the onset of autumn or natural seasonal leaf-drop. Commonly, infected trees are almost completely bare within weeks of the first symptoms.

If you suspect a tree is infected, contact a certified arborist immediately. They can take measures to protect surrounding trees. This involves severing root grafts between the infected and healthy trees, as well as possible fungicide treatments.

For more information see: MichiganOakWilt.org

Farmington Department of Public Services spring updates

It's pothole season

While driving the streets of Farmington, be sure to report any potholes to The City of Farmington Public Services Department by calling: 248-473-7250. Public Services crews are working diligently to repair these.

Yard Waste collection

Yard waste collection will begin on Monday, April 2. Acceptable containers for yard waste are trash cans (up to 32 gallon) with a yard waste decal facing the street or a kraft paper landscape bag. For more details go to: www.farmgov.com, Public Services, Yard Waste Collection.

Farmington Spring & Summer Events

Ladies Night Out

April 26, 5 - 9 p.m.
Downtown Farmington

Springtime Spectacular

Governor Warner Mansion Fundraiser
Thursday, May 3, 11 a.m.
Glen Oaks Country Club

Farmington Farmers & Artisans Market

Saturdays, May 19 through Oct. 27 from 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Riley Park and Sundquist Pavilion

Governor Warner Mansion Porch Parties commence

May 17, 6 - 8 p.m.

Lunch Beats

Wednesdays, June 6 through August 8 at noon
Riley Park and Sundquist Pavilion

Rhythz in Riley Park, free concerts in the park

Fridays, June 8 through August 24 from 7 - 8:30 p.m.
Riley Park and Sundquist Pavilion

Art on the Grand

June 2 - 3
Downtown Farmington

Farmington Area Founders Festival

July 20 - 23
Downtown Farmington

Farmers Market to open May 19

The Farmington Farmers & Artisans Market opens its 25th season Saturday, May 19 with Flower Day. A special opening ceremony will take place at 9 a.m. featuring a drum line, color guard and the market tradition - the singing of our national anthem. All are welcome to help the market "Swing into Spring" with Swing Farmington who will be offering free swing lessons. The market will operate every Saturday from 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. through October 27. Come experience "Saturday life in a Michigan small town..." Follow weekly market happenings on Facebook and at farmingtonfarmersmarket.com



Each year the City receives revenue from the State of Michigan from the State's City, Village, and Township Revenue Sharing (CVTRS) program. In order to be eligible to receive this revenue, the City must complete a Certification of Accountability and Transparency, a Citizen's Guide to the City's Finances, a Performance Dashboard, a Debt Service Report, and a Projected Budget Report. These items can be found on the City's website at www.farmgov.com.