

The Bridge

City of Farmington Newsletter

2012 City Budget “Planning for the Future”

by Finance Director, Teresa Walters

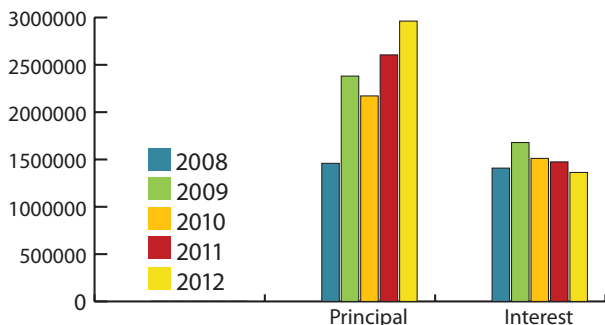
What is the Focus of the 2012 Budget?

The main focus of this year’s budget discussions has revolved around planning for the future. For many years, the City has attempted to keep their portion of the resident’s property tax bill low. However, in an effort to continue to provide essential services to the residents without increasing taxes, large amounts of debt have accumulated.

How Much do we Spend on the City of Farmington’s Debt Each Year?

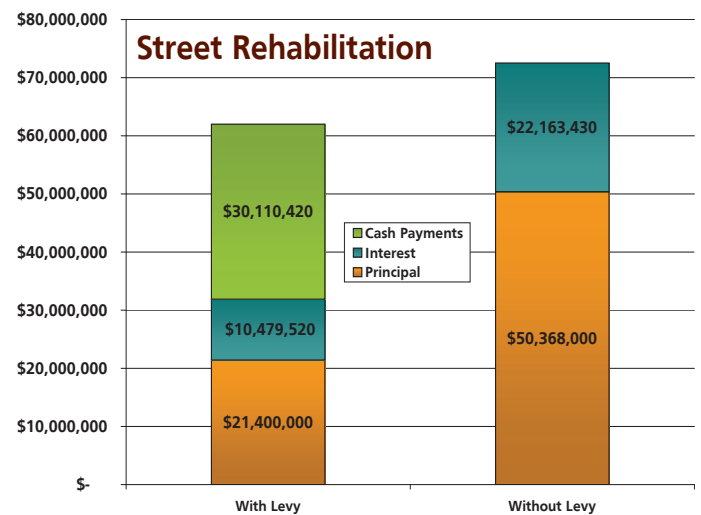
In 2012, the City will pay over \$1.3 million in interest payments on our debt. The chart below illustrates how much interest the City has paid over the last five years. Through many productive discussions and work sessions beginning in April, a preliminary budget was adopted on September 6, 2011, which included funding for several plans that will eliminate the City’s debt over time. The budget can be reduced but not increased before it is finalized on December 5, 2011.

Debt Service Annual Expenditure Trend



How Much do we Bond Each Year?

The City currently does not have a plan for equipment replacement, seal coating, street rehabilitation, fire equipment replacement, trail maintenance, park redevelopment, computer equipment, or building maintenance. With no plan for future purchases, the City will pay more by bonding.



How do we Prevent This in the Future?

By planning for future purchases, we can reduce (and eventually eliminate) the interest we pay by borrowing. The chart above shows a comparison of what it would cost the City to increase the levy now to pay for future street rehabilitation vs. not increasing the levy and bonding for the complete purchase as we have in the past. By increasing our levy, we will save over \$10.5 million in street rehabilitation! We could save even more if we plan for other purchases.

(Budget continued on page 2)



Planning for The Future

How Much will it Cost me?

The average homestead property in Farmington (\$190,200 in value) will see a tax levy increase of approximately \$81 in 2012 with the average non-homestead property seeing an increase of approximately \$293. The plan calls for additional (smaller) tax levy increases in seven of the next 11 years as well to fund projects in each of the categories.

Where will the Money go?

The increase in levy will go to cover the following:

Category	2012 Cost
Seal Coating	\$350,000
Equipment Replacement	\$150,000
Street Rehabilitation	\$400,000
Fire Equipment Replacement	\$30,000
Trail Maintenance	\$15,000
Park Redevelopment	\$25,000
Computer Equipment	\$20,000
Building Maintenance	\$20,000
Total	\$1,010,000

How do we Know the Money will be used for This Plan in the Future?

The money will be put into a capital project fund with the reserves committed by the Council to be used for future planning within each of those categories. Council hopes to set an example for future councils by advising officials to look ahead when planning instead of putting together a budget that is the most convenient for the coming year.

What has Council Done to cut Costs This Year?

The Council has directed staff to look at all contracts to see if we can save money. Staff found the following ways to save money while achieving the same or better results:

Category	Savings per year
New Cleaning Contract	\$31,000
Pilot Knob Liquor Store Lease	\$72,000
Audit Contract	\$12,890
Bond Refunding	\$13,000
Long-term Disability Insurance	\$3,200
City News & Recreation Guide	\$13,186
Total	\$145,276

What Else has Impacted the Budget?

The 2011 legislative session produced changes to the Market Value Homestead Credit program that will have an impact on every property in Farmington. The Market Value Homestead Credit is being replaced with the Market Value Homestead Exclusion. The new program replaces a credit property owners received on their tax statements with a reduced taxable market value for homestead properties with values under \$413,800. The end result of this program change is a tax increase for most properties in the state with a large share of the increase being placed on non-homestead properties including commercial and industrial properties. This law change will result in a tax increase for most Farmington property owners even if the City does not increase the tax levy.

Where can I Find More Information?

The City Council scheduled three public open houses to include residents in the budget process.

The final open house is Monday, November 14, 2011 from 6:00 - 8:00pm at City Hall. Residents can stop by any time during the meeting.

Check the City's website for budget and open house information. Like the City on facebook®, sign up for text or email messages via twitter and nixle to receive the information directly at www.ci.farmington.mn.us.

If you are not able to attend the open house please contact any one of the following City staff and Councilmembers:

Mayor Todd Larson
651-262-7652 tlarson@ci.farmington.mn.us

Councilmember Christy Fogarty
651-460-8057 cfogarty@ci.farmington.mn.us

Councilmember Julie May
651-319-1656 jmay@ci.farmington.mn.us


Councilmember Terry Donnelly
651-463-7282 tdonnelly@ci.farmington.mn.us

Councilmember Jason Bartholomay
651-819-0219 jbartholomay@ci.farmington.mn.us

Administrator, David McKnight
651-280-6801 dmcknight@ci.farmington.mn.us

City Engineer, Kevin Schorzman
651-280-6841 kschorzman@ci.farmington.mn.us

Finance Director, Teresa Walters
651-280-6880 twalters@ci.farmington.mn.us



Electronic Tax Statements
Sign up to receive property tax statements, property value and truth-in-taxation notices and save time, paper and money. Visit www.dakotacounty.us and search *electronic tax statement* to sign up.

Development News

Ribbon Cuttings

Pizza Hut • 19645 Pilot Knob Road • 651-460-8880



The Vice President of Border Foods Companies, Fred Burner cut the ribbon on August 13, to mark the opening of the new location.

Border Foods Companies opened its latest restaurant in Farmington. The company is a locally owned franchisee of Taco Bell, Pizza Hut, WingStreet, Au Bon Pain and Sonic Drive-In restaurants currently owning over 160 locations throughout Minnesota, Iowa, Wisconsin and Wyoming. "The new Farmington Pizza Hut is the second Minnesota location with a new brand design," said Fred Burner, Vice President of Operations at Border Foods companies. "We're thrilled to open our doors and start serving the Farmington community all of their favorites from Pizza Hut and WingStreet." Farmington's Pizza Hut is a carry-out and delivery restaurant. For more information, visit www.cavingstogo.com.

Farmington Liquors • 18358 Pilot Knob Road • 651-280-6920



Liquor Operations Manager, Randy Petrofske and Store Manager, Dave Trihus held the ribbon as City Administrator, David McKnight cut the ribbon at the Pilot Knob Store event.

The Pilot Knob store celebrated a grand-reopening and ribbon cutting on Wednesday, September 21. The store recently underwent a reorganization after the City discontinued renting the former "Wine Cellar" space. The store has maintained inventory while using less space. Thus, not only reducing costs but also reducing utility costs.

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Successful Local Business Recognized

Aerospace Fabrication & Materials, LLC in Farmington was among seven Dakota County businesses recognized for their achievements at the Business Excellence Awards by the Dakota County Regional (DCR) Chamber of Commerce on September 22, 2011. This year's theme was Job Creators, Today's Hero's.

Each year businesses that have gone above and beyond are honored by the DCR Chamber of Commerce.

Aerospace Fabrication & Materials was honored for their role in creating jobs during tough economic times. Businesses are the backbones to our economy, they are the job creators," Keynote speaker Rick King of Thomson Reuters remarked.

In December 2005, Aerospace Fabrication & Materials opened its state-of-the-art manufacturing facility in Farmington. Currently, Aerospace employs 94.

Please join us in congratulating Aerospace Fabrication & Materials as Farmington's 2011 Dakota County Regional Chamber Business Excellence Award recipient!



Aerospace Fabrication & Materials, LLC is located at 5147 208th Street in Farmington.

Commercial Rehabilitation Grant Program

Grant funds are available to assist local businesses and/or property owners who are making qualified improvements to eligible commercial properties that **eliminate conditions that are detrimental to public health and safety**. The following are examples of qualified improvements: correcting code violations, code improvements, and the correction of handicap accessibility issues. The intent of the grant program is to prevent the deterioration of commercial structures and discourage blight, encourage projects that correct code violations and to eliminate accessibility restrictions.

Requirements of the program include, but are not limited to the following:

- Applicant providing a 1:1 dollar match
- Solicitation of competitive bids
- Davis-Bacon Wage Act (payment of prevailing wages to contractors)

Grant program details are available on the City's website, or contact Tina Hansmeier, at 651-280-6821 thansmeier@ci.farmington.mn.us

Business grant programs are funded with Community Development Block Grant [CDBG] funds received from the Dakota County Community Development Agency [CDA]. The CDA is the distributor of these funds on behalf of the Federal Department of Housing and Urban Development [HUD].

Farmington EXPO

Featuring local businesses and organizations.

Saturday, January 28, 2012

9:00am - Noon

Farmington High School

Contact Community Education for more information, 651-460-3203.

A Season for Saving

Each year fires occurring during the holiday season claim the lives of over 400 Americans, injure 1,650 more, and cause over \$990 million in damage.

According to the U. S. Fire Administration (USFA), there are simple life-saving steps you can take to ensure a safe and happy holiday. By following some of the outlined precautionary tips, individuals can greatly reduce their chances of becoming a holiday fire casualty.

Preventing Christmas Tree Fires

Special fire safety precautions need to be taken when keeping a live tree in the house. A burning tree can rapidly fill a room with fire and deadly gases.

Selecting a Tree for the Holiday

- Needles on fresh trees should be green and hard to pull back from the branches, and the needle should not break if the tree has been freshly cut.
- The trunk should be sticky to the touch. Old trees can be identified by bouncing the tree trunk on the ground. If many needles fall off, the tree has been cut too long, has probably dried out, and is a fire hazard.

Caring for Your Tree

- Do not place your tree close to a heat source, including a fireplace or heat vent. The heat will dry out the tree, causing it to be more easily ignited by heat, flame or sparks. Be careful not to drop or flick cigarette ashes near a tree. Do not put your live tree up too early or leave it up for longer than two weeks. Keep the tree stand filled with water at all times.

Disposing of Your Tree

- Never put tree branches or needles in a fireplace or wood burning stove. When the tree becomes dry, discard it promptly. The best way to dispose of your tree is by taking it to a recycling center or having it hauled away by placing it at the curb with your garage collection (see page 6).

Holiday Lights

- Inspect holiday lights each year for frayed wires, bare spots, gaps in the insulation, broken or cracked sockets, and excessive kinking or wear before putting them up. Use only lighting listed by an approved testing laboratory.
- Do not link more than three light strands, unless the directions indicate it is safe. Connect strings of lights to an extension cord before plugging the cord into the outlet. Make sure to periodically check the wires – they should not be warm to the touch.
- Do not leave holiday lights on unattended.

Holiday Decorations

- All decorations should be nonflammable or flame-retardant and placed away from heat vents.

Candle Care

- Avoid using lit candles. If you do use them, make sure they are in stable holders and place them where they cannot be easily knocked down. Never leave the house with candles burning.
- Never put lit candles on a tree. Do not go near a Christmas tree with an open flame - candles, lighters or matches.

Never put wrapping paper in a fireplace: it can result in a very large fire! Finally, as in every season, have working smoke alarms installed on every level of your home, test them monthly and keep them clean and equipped with fresh batteries at all times. Know when and how to call for help. And remember to practice your home escape plan.

Source: www.usfa.fema.gov

Fire Department's Annual Turkey Bingo Fundraiser



Fire Station 1
21625 Denmark Ave.
Saturday, November 12
7:00–11:00 pm

- Door Prizes drawn throughout the evening
- Refreshments served
- Buy a dauber at the door, or bring your own!

Proceeds from the fundraiser will benefit the Farmington Fire Department Relief Association.

Fire Department members will visit neighborhoods to sell raffle tickets. Tickets can be purchased in advance by calling 651-280-6941 or 280-6951.

The fire department takes this opportunity to thank the community for its ongoing support.

Toys for Town

Help make this holiday season special for children in our community.

Please bring a new, unwrapped toy to a drop-off location listed below

November 14 - December 16:

Anchor Bank
Farmington Lanes
Boeckman Middle School
Castle Rock Bank
City Hall
Dodge Middle School
Savers Choice
Farmington High School
Farmington Library
Farmington Vet Clinic
Police Department
Rambling River Center
Round Bank
Tan Ambitions

Monetary donations are accepted, we can do the shopping for you! Mail or drop off a monetary donation at the Police Department or City Hall.

Volunteers are needed to wrap gifts on December 17. Please call the Police Department for details, 651-280-6700.

Center Fundraisers

**SAL Omelet Breakfast
American Legion
10 North Eighth Street
Sunday, November 13
8:30am–Noon**

Join us for this build your own all you can eat omelet breakfast including toast, cheesy potatoes, fruit cocktail and coffee. Tickets \$8.00/Seniors & Veterans and \$10.00/Adults.

Volunteers are needed to assist with busing tables and/or make toast. Call 651-280-6970.

**Steak Fry
Veterans of Foreign Wars
421 Third Street
Saturday, January 21
5:00–8pm**

Proceeds from the omelet breakfast and the steak fry benefit the Rambling River Center.

Secret Holiday Shop

This is the perfect time and place for children to buy a gift for someone special. The Holiday Shop has gifts for all ages and we'll do the wrapping!

The Holiday Shop is for children of all ages – No Parents Allowed*

**Rambling River Center
325 Oak Street
Saturday, December 3
9:00 am – Noon**

The shop will offer gifts ranging from 50¢ - \$6.50. Children will purchase gifts with tickets (each ticket is \$1).

Send a shopping list including names and how much to spend on each person. Registration is not needed.

If you are 14 years of age or older and interested in volunteering at the shop, we need you! Please contact the Recreation office at 651-280-6854.

**Volunteers will assist shoppers who need help. Parents are encouraged to shop Downtown Farmington while their children are at the Holiday Shop.*

City Outdoor Rinks



Open on December 16

(weather permitting)

The City has a long history of flooding outdoor rinks. During this time staff has learned the complicated recipe for creating outdoor ice.

To begin with, temperatures must stay consistently below 20 degrees for at least 7 days for ground conditions to

remain cold enough to allow the water that is flooded on the ground to freeze. Initial flooding begins with many small layers of water to build a base of ice. If too much water is used during the first flooding process the ice tends to freeze unevenly.

Once the base of ice is created, flooding is completed in the early morning hours on a daily basis. If the weather conditions are right and the temperature remains cold for an extended period of time, the rinks can be ready for skating in about 7-10 days. In comparison, the Schmitz-Maki Arena ice can be created in about 3-4 days because ideal conditions can be created artificially indoors.

To maintain a proper skating surface throughout the season, rinks are flooded daily until the end of the season. The following amounts of water are used to create and maintain outdoor ice rinks:

- 8,000-10,000 gallons of water to create a 1 to 2 inch ice base
- 600,000-800,000 gallons of water to maintain the outdoor hockey and pleasure rinks which is equivalent to approximately 32,000 ten-minute showers

The Rambling River Park location offers an indoor restroom and the North Creek Park offers a portable toilet adjacent to the warming house. On-duty staff is provided at two warming houses. The City's Park Maintenance staff maintain three outdoor hockey rinks and six pleasure rinks at the following locations:

Rink Location	Hockey	Pleasure	Lights	Warming House
Rambling River Park	2	1	Yes	Yes
North Creek Park	1	1	Yes	Yes
Hill Dee Park	0	1	No	No
Tamarack Park	0	1	No	No
Farmington Elementary School	0	1	No	No
Meadowview Elementary School	0	1	No	No

Warming Houses Open December 16 - February 20, 2012

Both warming houses provide on-duty staff during the following hours:

- Monday - Friday from 4–9:00pm
- Saturday from Noon–9:00pm
- Sunday from Noon–8:30pm
- The Martin Luther King & Presidents' Day Holidays from Noon–9:00pm
- No School Days from Noon–9:00pm
- Christmas Eve from Noon–3:00pm and Christmas Day closed
- New Year's Eve from Noon–6:00pm and New Year's Day from Noon–9:00pm

Information about outdoor rinks, warming houses and weather related cancellations is available at www.ci.farmington.mn.us or call the Parks and Recreation office at 651-280-6850.

Dakota County Residents Detoxify

On Saturday, September 10, 2011, 581 vehicles dropped off household hazardous waste (HHW) at the HHW Drop-off Event in Farmington. Workers collected 16,000 pounds of latex paint, 600 gallons of used oil, and nearly 1500 fluorescent bulbs.

Unwanted chemicals are considered HHW when their disposal poses an environmental or health threat. People who dispose of HHW in the trash, down the drain, or on the ground can contaminate our water and soils or harm trash collectors.

If you can't use up hazardous household chemicals or give the items to someone who will, hazardous items and electronics are accepted year-round at Dakota County's Recycling Zone in Eagan.

Visit www.dakotacounty.us and search "Recycling Zone" for more information.

One Size Fits All - Not Really!



A number of factors affect how much garbage you generate. Farmington garbage customers can choose the size cart that best fits their needs. Is the size you have working for you? If you frequently have more garbage than will fit in your cart, here are a few options that could even save you money (2011 rates):

- 30 gallons - \$46.00/per quarter
- 60 gallons - \$55.00/per quarter
- 90 gallons - \$64.00/per quarter
- 120 gallons - \$76.50/per quarter (2-60s)
- 180 gallons - \$95.50/per quarter (2-90s)

Call 651-280-6883 to change your service; you can change your cart size once a year without paying a service fee. Residents are encouraged to recycle, which is beneficial to the environment and can help reduce garbage service needs.

A Winter Reminder for Businesses

Businesses are responsible (per City code) for keeping garbage enclosures clear of snow for garbage and recycling collection, as well as snow and ice removal (within 12 hours of the ceasing of its accumulation) of their parking lots and walkways that are on or abut the property. Snow from private property must be stored on the property or hauled away.

Holiday Garbage and Recycling Schedule

Holidays affect garbage and recycling collection days. The City observes the following holidays, with collection service occurring on the business days below:

Holiday Observed	Normal Service Day	Alternate Service Day
Veteran's Day	Fri., Nov. 11, 2011	Mon., Nov. 14, 2011
Thanksgiving Day	Thurs., Nov. 24, 2011	Wed., Nov. 23, 2011
Day after Thanksgiving	Fri., Nov. 25, 2011	Mon., Nov. 28, 2011
Christmas Eve Day	Fri., Dec. 23, 2011	Thurs., Dec. 22, 2011
Christmas Day	Mon., Dec. 26, 2011	Tues., Dec. 27, 2011
New Years Day 2012	Mon., Jan. 2, 2012	Tues., Jan. 3, 2012
Martin Luther King Day	Mon., Jan. 16, 2012	Tues., Jan. 17, 2012
Presidents Day	Mon., Feb. 20, 2012	Tues., Feb. 21, 2012

Garbage and recycling collection will follow the regular schedule for the rest of the week.

Christmas Tree Pickup

Is scheduled the week of January 9, 2012. Place BARE Christmas trees at the curb on your regular day for FREE collection that week. Questions? 651-280-6900.

You Can Find it on the City Website

The holiday garbage and recycling collection schedule and map, as well as a list of other recycling programs are available on the website.

Sign up for social media on the website and receive timely notices for garbage and recycling collection, events and more.

Follow Us nixle

Like us on facebook[®] and sign up for messages via texts or emails through nixle and twitter, www.ci.farmington.mn.us.

Recycle Your Holidays

You probably have at least one—a strand of holiday lights that no longer works. Don't toss those old holiday lights in the trash! Instead, recycle your broken or unwanted holiday lights and extension cords free with a unique holiday light recycling program. Every part of the string or cord is recycled, even the little light bulbs (cord adapters and battery packs are not accepted). This program employs over 200 individuals with developmental disabilities at vocational centers throughout Minnesota.

Holiday lights will be accepted locally during the holiday season at Pellicci's ACE Hardware in Farmington (call 651-463-4777 for dates and times) and year-round at The Recycling Zone in Eagan.

Recycle Your Holidays is a seasonal program created by the Recycling Association of Minnesota.

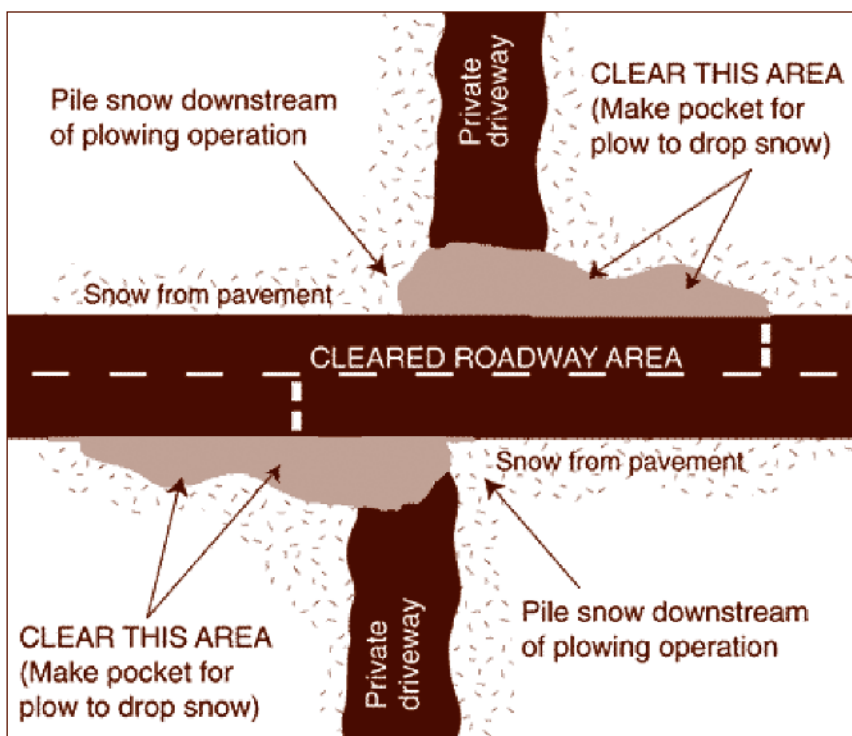
Winter Hazards

Snow in Driveways

It is against City Code for anyone to remove snow from driveways, walks and parking areas onto public streets. Dumping or plowing snow onto a roadway can create a slippery area, frozen rut, or bump, which can be hazardous to vehicles and pedestrians.

One of the most frequent concerns expressed by the public is the snow deposited in driveways. To minimize your inconvenience when a snowplow comes along after you've cleared your driveway, consider this tip: place as much snow as possible from the end of your driveway downstream in the direction of traffic. Next, clear an area upstream from your driveway to form an open "pocket".

Much of the snow pushed by the plow truck will empty into this pocket and less will wind up in your driveway entrance. To be effective, the pocket needs to be maintained throughout the winter.



Avoid Sod Damage

Mark your curb with bright orange stakes. Stakes are free to residents and are available at the Maintenance Facility (between 8am and noon) and City Hall (8:00am-4:30pm).

Municipal Services will repair or replace sod damaged by plows and reported by June 1, 2012. Sod damaged by salt, sand or deicing chemicals will not be repaired or replaced.

Mailbox Replacement

City policy allows mailbox replacement when there has been direct contact with City snow removal equipment.

Please call 651-280-6900 as soon as you notice mailbox or sod damage by City snow removal equipment.

Winter Parking Restrictions

No parking is allowed on any street, highway, alley or public parking area between 2:30am and 5:30am or after a 2" or greater snowfall until the streets are plowed.

A Snow Plow - Cool!

Kids love snow. Keep your children safe by reminding them not to play on or around snow piles along streets and in cul-de-sacs. Snow removal operations can be in effect at any time during the winter, so there is no safe time to play in these piles. Encourage children to use park facilities or backyards for their snow activities.

The City of Farmington's snowplow fleet will be out in force keeping our roadways safe again this winter. Driving too close to snow removal equipment can be extremely dangerous. Visit the City's website for snow plow safety tips.

Happy Simpler Holidays

Here are a few ways to simplify the gift-giving season.

Earth-friendly gifts

- Don't buy waste. Give thoughtful gifts that mean something rather than buying something of little value to your friends or family.
- Give an experience. Buy a gift certificate for a class or event that you know they'll love.
- Make coupons for loved ones that they can cash in for a lunch on you, chores around the house, or other favors they would appreciate.
- Use old books, maps, magazines or comics to wrap the gifts.

Reducing Waste at Parties

- When hosting, use reusable serving ware rather than plastics or paper.
- Provide recycling receptacles for your guests to use.
- Send invitations by email instead of using paper invites.
- Save boxes, packing material, wrapping paper, bows, and gift bags for future use.

The Reduce Resolution

Pick one new thing to recycle. Visit www.RethinkRecycling.com for ideas.

Natural Resources

Ask US and Tell US



Ask US

Use the **Ask US** link on the City's website at www.ci.farmington.mn.us to email City staff with service requests, questions and concerns. Click on the question mark on the right-hand side of the home page. The City will send you an email reply letting you know when we received it and that it was routed to the appropriate staff.



Tell US

Take the **Tell US** survey to provide City staff with feedback that will help improve customer satisfaction. Visit the City's website and click on the **Tell US** link and share your comments and suggestions!

Stormwater Survey

Over the past few months, the City conducted a stormwater survey. Surveying residents annually about stormwater is required and provides focus for educational efforts. The information below relates to the questions asked in the survey.

- A watershed is an area of land that drains to a given river, lake or wetland. Everyone lives in a watershed, because all water goes somewhere.
- Water that enters storm drains in the street is not treated before it is discharged into rivers, wetlands, lakes and ponds.
- Drinking water comes from stormwater runoff – it either percolates into the ground and is brought up through wells, or makes its way to a major river and is treated and sent to your tap.

To see the survey in its entirety, check out the City's homepage at www.ci.farmington.mn.us.

Water is Fascinating and Essential to our Survival

Fascinating Fact: Of all the water in the world, 97% is in the oceans and about 1.7% is locked up in ice and snow. Icecaps and glaciers hold the majority of the Earth's freshwater.

Conserving water is good for all of us. Using less water means less energy is used to treat it, pump it, and distribute it. By conserving water, you are helping maintain our natural resources.

Be a drip detective. Check all your faucets, toilets, and appliances for water leaks and fix them. A leaky faucet that fills an 8-oz. container in less than 30 minutes could waste as much as 1,225 gallons of water each year.

Source www.awwa.org and www.epa.gov/watersense

Pollution Prevention Day



Natural Resource Specialist, Jen Dullum instructed children about how the actions of each individual can effect water quality. See more P2 Day photos on the City's website and the facebook® page.

Pollution Prevention Day (P2) was held on Friday, September 16 at Rambling River Park. Approximately 550 fourth grade students spent the day rotating through 5 sessions and learning how to be good stewards of the Earth.

All of the teachers that responded to the survey indicated that they felt the sessions were educational and motivated the students to talk with their families about what they learned.

Here are a few comments from the teachers:

- "Thank you for a super fun and educational day!"
- "Nice job again. Loved the variety this year."
- "Thank you so much for continuing to do this year after year."
- "I know it's a lot of work for you to put it all together, but it is very much worth it. Great sessions and presenters."

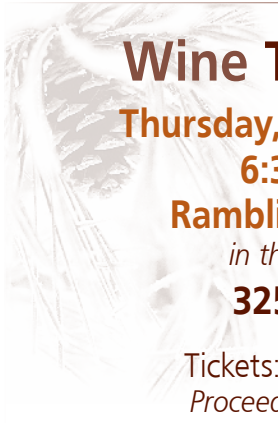
In addition to assisting the teachers in meeting Minnesota Academic Standards and being a good partnership between the City and the School District, this educational event fulfills a portion of Dakota County's Landfill Abatement Funding requirements.

Tree Trimming

City Staff will be out trimming boulevard trees during the next few months. Postcards were sent to properties in the trimming rotation, although other sites are done on an as need basis and adjacent property owners may not be notified in advance.

In accordance with City Ordinance boulevard trees must maintain a ten-foot clearance above any walkway and fourteen feet above the roadway. These requirements provide clearance for pedestrians, snow removal equipment and solid waste vehicles. A City boulevard is the area between property lines on either side of all streets. City boulevards do not have to be adjacent to a sidewalk or trail.

For more information about boulevard trees visit www.ci.farmington.mn.us/Departments/NaturalResource/Trees.html



Wine Tasting Event

Thursday, November 3, 2011

6:30 - 8:30 pm

Rambling River Center

in the Banquet Room

325 Oak Street

Tickets: \$5.00 at the door.

Proceeds benefit the Center

Visit store locations and the City's website for information about events and sales.

www.ci.farmington.mn.us

**What You Spend Here Stays Here.
Why Shop Anywhere Else?**

STORE LOCATIONS:

109 Elm Street

651-280-6930

18350 Pilot Knob Road

651-280-6920



Photo by Susan Eck



Warrior to Citizen

The Warrior to Citizen Campaign is a group of citizens dedicated to engaging local communities by organizing family support, providing community education and recognizing service members and their families.

Farmington's Annual Patriotic Days Celebration

Farmington High School • Thur., Nov. 3 • 6 pm

Hold the date! Free pork chop dinner and patriotic program to follow including a special recognition of World War II Veterans. For more information contact at 651-460-2248.

Monthly Veteran Dinners

The Church of the Advent • Mon., Nov. 7 • 6 pm

St. Michael's Church • Mon., Dec., 5 • 6 pm

All veterans are welcome. The monthly dinners are free of charge for veterans. RSVP one week prior to the dinner at 651-460-2248. Transportation may be available upon request.

Warrior to Citizen Meetings

Farmington City Hall • 430 Third Street • 6:30-8 pm

Meetings are open to the public on the fourth Tuesday of each month. Contact Annette Kuyper at 651-460-2248 for information or visit <http://farmingtonw2c.org>.



Come to know

Farmington Library

508 Third Street • 651-438-0250

www.dakotacounty.us/library

Library Hours: Mon. - Wed.: 12-8:30 pm; Thu.- Sat.: 10 am-5:30 pm

Children's Program Highlights

Storytime for Babies	10:30-11:15 am	Thurs., Nov. 3
Books & Beyond: Over the River & Through the Woods	10:30-11:30 am	Thurs., Nov. 10
Waggin' Tales: Read to a therapy dog	10:30-11:30 am	Sat., Nov. 19 Sat., Jan. 21
Craft: Ornaments for the Farmington Holiday Tree	1:00-3:00 pm	Sat., Nov. 19
Polar Bear Sculpture with Abrakadoodle**	1:00-2:00 pm	Mon., Dec. 5

Teen Program Highlights

Make & Take: Pop-Up Greeting Cards	3:30-5:30 pm	Mon., Nov. 28
Learn to make pop-up greeting cards for the holidays.		
Omiyage with the Textile Center**	3:30-5:30 pm	Thurs., Dec. 8
Make gift cards and bags in the kawaii Japanese style.		
Teen Cupcake Contest*	3:30-4:30 pm	Fri., Jan. 27
Do your cupcakes have what it takes to win? Enter your cupcake recipe and find out.		

*Classes are free; registration is required. Registration begins at 10:00 am two weeks prior to start date of class.

**This project was funded with money from Minnesota's Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund.

Adult Programs

Computer Classes*

Digital Camera Basics	6-8 pm	Tues., Dec. 13
Microsoft Publisher 2010	6-8 pm	Wed., Jan. 18
Computer Basics	2-4 pm	Tues., Jan. 31
Microsoft Excel 2010 for Job Seekers	10 am-noon	Sat., Feb. 11
Microsoft Word 2010	6-8 pm	Mon., Feb. 27

Author Al Zdon*

War Stories, Volume II
1:30-2:30 pm Tues., Nov. 8
35 new stories of Minnesota veterans who fought in wars.

Author Chuck Frederick*

Spirit of the Lights
2-3 pm Sat., Dec. 3
Inspirational stories of individuals who traveled to an annual light display and experienced healing, grace and community.

Cultural Exchange:

One Family's Experience
6:30-8 pm Tues., Feb. 7
Discover the international and intercultural education presented by student exchange.

Council Highlights and Notices

City Council Meetings

September 6, 2011

- Swore-in David McKnight as City Administrator.
- Accepted donations from John and Madonna Tutewohl and Dorothy Pettis for the Rambling River Center Improvement Project.
- Approved an appeal of the Zoning Board of Adjustment's decision to allow a play area onsite for Magnificent Me Daycare.
- Approved the 2012 Preliminary Tax Levy and Budget.

September 19

- Presented the Allina Life Saver Award to several Police Officers, First Responders, Paramedics and DCC dispatch for saving the life of a Farmington resident.
- Accepted Jeff Krueger's resignation from the Water Board.
- Approved amendments to the Business Reinvestment Grant Program.
- Set October 10, October 25, and November 14 for the 2012 Budget Open House.

October 3

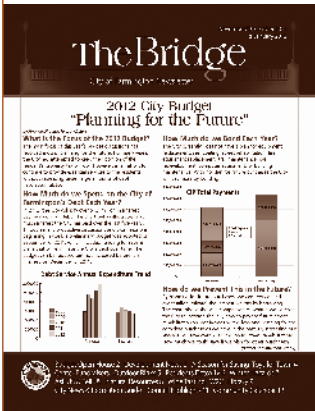
- Proclaimed October as Community Planning Month.
- Approved a Taxicab License for Helping Hearts In Home Care.
- Adopted the assessment roll for the Walnut Street reconstruction project.

October 17

- Introduced Ted Novak, promoted to Building Maintenance Worker.
- Approved a policy to jointly negotiate a cable franchise renewal with Apple Valley and Rosemount.
- Approved the City insurance contribution for non-bargaining employees.
- Approved certifying delinquent municipal service accounts to the County Auditor.
- Approved the 2012 fee schedule effective January 1, 2012.
- Approved a comprehensive plan amendment and rezoning for 104 Oak Street and 407 1st Street.
- Approved printing services for a combined City News and Recreation Guide through Cannon Valley Printing and mailing services through Midwest Mailing.
- Approved the 2011-2012 High School Hockey Game Contract with Farmington High School.
- Approved a new billing method for the street light utility.

Notification of Waste Destination

Pursuant to the MN Waste Management Act Amendment Bill, all waste haulers are required to notify their customers annually of where their waste is being hauled. The City of Farmington currently hauls waste to RRT Processing Solutions in Empire Township, and Pine Bend Landfill in Inver Grove Heights.



Council Approves New Publication

A new quarterly *City News and Recreation Guide* will replace the City's *The Bridge* and *Recreation Guide* publications. The City Council approved a Request for Proposal (RFP) process to receive proposals for commercial printing and mailing services for the new publication on June 20, 2011.

Council approved the results of the RFP on October 17.

Cannon Valley Printing and Midwest Mailing proposals

This is the final issue of The Bridge. Look for the first issue of the City News and Recreation Guide in mid-February.

were selected and as a result the City will save \$13,186.00 in printing and mailing costs. Residents will receive the first issue of the guide in February.

Applicants Needed for City Board and Commission Appointments

The City's elected government body has five citizen advisory boards and commissions whose input and recommendations on issues are important to them. City Council and staff appreciate these volunteers and the time and effort they invest in making our community a better place to live. Vacancies include:

Heritage Preservation Commission

2 - three-year terms 2/1/12 – 1/31/15
Meets the fourth Tuesday, (bimonthly) 6:00 pm

Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission

1 - three-year term 2/1/12 – 1/31/15
Meets the second Wednesday (monthly) 6:00 pm

Planning Commission

3 - two-year terms 2/1/12 – 1/31/14
Meets the second Tuesday (monthly) 7:00 pm.

Rambling River Center Advisory Board

3 three-year terms 2/1/12 – 1/31/15
Meets the second Monday (monthly) 9:30 am

Water Board

1 three-year term 2/1/12 – 1/31/15
Meets the fourth Monday (monthly) 7:00 pm

All terms begin on February 1, 2012. Interviews will be conducted in January.

In order to serve, you must be 18 years old, a U.S. citizen and a resident of Farmington. Applications are available on the City's website www.ci.farmington.mn.us, at City Hall, or call 651-280-6803. Applications are due by December 30, 2011.

Utility Billing Automatic Payment Plan

Farmington residents and businesses are billed quarterly for utilities (water, storm water, sanitary sewer, street light and garbage). The City utility bill provides customers with information about their utility charges in an easy to read format. Residents and businesses can pay their utility bills automatically from checking or savings accounts.

What is an Automatic Payment Plan

You can pay your utility bill from your checking or savings account automatically – no checks to write, stamps to buy, or late payments. It's a free service.

How do I sign up?

Complete and return the attached authorization form, and include a voided check (for checking accounts) or deposit slip (for savings accounts).

How soon will the payment plan begin?

The next billing cycle after we receive your authorization form. We bill quarterly.

Continue to pay your bill as usual until the message "DO NOT PAY – AUTOMATIC WITHDRAWAL ON DUE DATE" appears on the bottom of your bill.

You can enroll at any time

Call 651-280-6883, and we will send you an authorization form. The form is also available on the City website, under For Residents/Utility Billing Information.

How can I be sure my bill has been paid?

Your monthly bank statement will clearly reflect the automatic payment.

What if I have a question about my bill?

Call the Utility Billing Department at 651-280-6883.

Is there a charge for this service?

No. The City does not charge you for the automatic payments.

What if I change banks or accounts?

Call us at 651-280-6883. We'll send you a new authorization form to complete.

What if I try the automatic payment plan and don't like it?

You can cancel your authorization for automatic payments at any time by notifying us in writing but once you've enjoyed the convenience of the automatic payment plan, we doubt you'll want to go back to paying the hard way.

When will the payment be transferred from my checking or savings account?

It will be transferred on the due date.

Automatic Payment Plan Authorization Form

Please enroll me/us in the City of Farmington's Automatic Payment Program.

I/we authorize the City to collect payment of my/our utilities bill by initiating debit entries (deductions) to the bank account shown on the attached voided check (for checking account) OR deposit slip (for savings account).

I/we understand that this authorization will continue in force unless discontinued by my/our written request.

Please complete the form below and attach the voided check or deposit slip. Mail or drop off the form at City Hall.

Farmington City Hall
Attention: Utility Billing
430 Third Street
Farmington, MN 55024

Utilities Account Number:

(1) Signature

(2) Signature

Phone Number

Date

Check One:

Checking Savings

Drop Box Locations for Non-Automatic Bill Pay Customers

- Near the Maintenance Facility, 19650 Municipal Drive
- City Hall (back parking lot), 430 Third Street
- Savers Choice, 115 Elm Street (as you exit the store on the left near the Charter box)

Questions? Call the Utility Billing Department at 651-280-6883.



City of Farmington

430 Third Street
Farmington, MN 55024
651-280-6800

Presort Standard
U.S. POSTAGE
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Farmington, MN
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The Bridge

Connecting with our Residents

This publication is published
bimonthly by the City of Farmington.

Please contact Danielle Cahlander
at dcahlander@ci.farmington.mn.us
or 651-280-6807, with questions or
suggestions regarding this publication.

Postal Customer

Mayor

Todd Larson

Council Members

Christy Jo Fogarty

Jason Bartholomay

Julie May

Terry Donnelly

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The City of Farmington's 2012 Community Calendar Coming Soon!

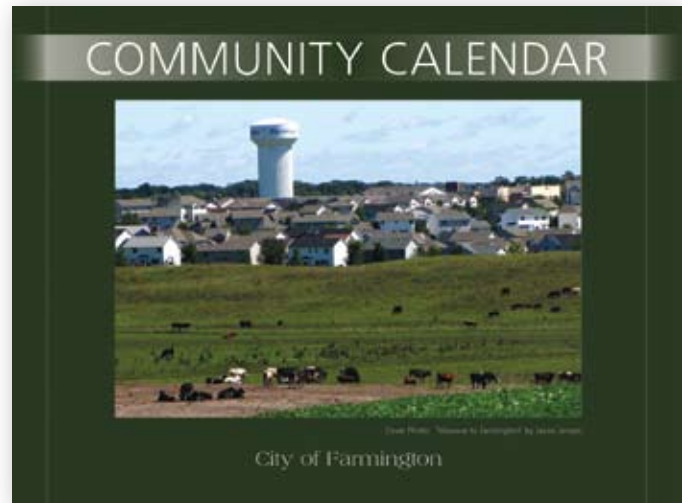
The Community Calendar features photos selected from the City's **EXPOSE Farmington Photo Contest**. The entries were submitted by amateur photographers who live or work within City limits, or attend Farmington schools. The photos reveal what the photographers find special about Farmington. Residents and businesses will receive the calendar in December, 2011.

Throughout the calendar are business sponsors. Please join us in expressing our appreciation to these local advertisers for their support in the production of this calendar.

REMINDER: Take photos year round, the deadline for the **EXPOSE Farmington Photo Contest - 2013** calendar contest is August 20, 2012.

Questions? Call 651-280-6905

Funding for the calendar is partially provided by the Dakota County Board of Commissioners and the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency.



Look inside the calendar to find:

- City Meetings
- City Observed Holidays
- Garbage and Recycling Collection
- Curbside Cleanup dates
- City Contact Information
- Water Use Restrictions
- Parking Restrictions
- and More!