

HOLLY HILL FARMS

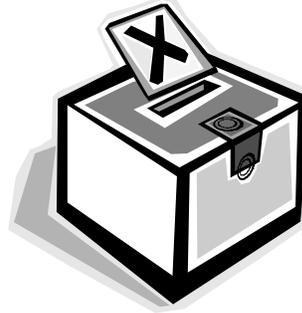
FALL 2011 Newsletter



www.hollyhillfarms.org

Newsletter

TWO CITY MILLAGE REQUESTS ON NOV 8 BALLOT: 1.7 MILL INCREASE FOR PUBLIC SAFETY AND .5856 MILL RENEWAL FOR LIBRARY OPERATIONS



Public Safety Millage: According to the city, this millage increase is necessary to maintain existing public safety service levels. Since 2007, police department employment has been reduced by 24 civilian and 16 police officer positions, and 23 community policing programs, 19 fleet vehicles and 5 motorcycles have been eliminated. Farmington Hills now has 1.3 police officers per 1000 residents compared to the state average of 1.9 and the national average of 2.3. Fire department employment has been reduced by 4 full time firefighters, fire prevention inspections have been reduced and school education programs have been eliminated. More information is available from City Manager Steve Brock at 248-871-2500.

Community Library Operations Millage: According to the community library, the .5856 mills up for renewal represent 37% of the overall library budget and failure to renew this millage would reduce the budget by \$2.1 million. Due to declining property values, the library revenues declined by \$1.2 million in 2010. In response, the library has already reduced staff and personnel expenditures. Weekend hours have also been reduced. A wage freeze has been in effect since 2009; hours have been reduced for library pages and substitute librarians; employee benefits have been reduced. The library has renegotiated vendor contracts to reduce costs; streamlined operations for greater efficiency; and reduced costs for telecommunications and utilities. More information regarding this proposal is available at the Farmington Community Library website: www.farmlib.org

CITY APPROVES SUB ROAD RECONSTRUCTION

On September 12th, the Farmington Hills City Council voted to proceed with the road reconstruction in our subdivision. The Council's action was in accordance to the City's procedures following the submission of a petition signed by a majority (78 of 138) homeowners in Holly Hill Farms requesting that the roads be reconstructed. Separately, the Council also approved reconstruction of Minglewood street in the Glenbrook (cont'd page 2)

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**Don't Forget to Vote on
Nov 8!**



CITY APPROVES SUB ROAD RECONSTRUCTION (Cont)

Subdivision immediately south of Holly Hill Farms. The reconstruction will occur next summer and will be done in phases. Residents will be able to use their drive ways except for short periods of time when they may be blocked by equipment.

The HHFA Board of Directors will be forming a new committee at its October 18th meeting to work with the City during this project. If you are interested in serving on the committee, contact our President, Harold Larsen, 248-737-3923.

If a homeowner here is on a fixed income and cannot afford the price of this project, assistance may be available from the City. Please contact the City Clerk at 248-871-2410 for more info.

If you have any questions regarding the road reconstruction, please contact, our Association President, Harold Larsen 248-737-3923.

ROAD RECONSTRUCTION COMMITTEE COMPLETES WORK

Earlier this year, the Holly Hill Farms Association's Board of Directors formed a Road Reconstruction Committee and authorized them to conduct a petition drive, in accordance to the City's procedures. Committee members went door to door to explain the road reconstruction proposal and request homeowner support for the initiative. Members made repeat calls at several homes to ensure all owners had the opportunity to express their opinions. Petitions were returned to the city by the July 5, 2011 deadline. The committee was co-chaired by Kathy Sterbling and Sandra Hines-Kuhn and included residents Ryan Blodi, Aman Awan, Dan O'Reilly, Irv Miller, Russ Russinoff, Betty Lurie, Jim Sokoloff, Holly Smolinski, Julie Skene, Bob Kuhn, Jon Putti, Joe Sterbling, Harold Larsen, and Ana and Ray Pastor. The HHFA Board would like to thank Kathy, Sandra and the other committee members for their time, hard work and successful completion of the petition drive.

JOB WELL DONE ON OUR ANNUAL CLEAN-UP DAY!

Thanks goes to the volunteers who worked very hard cleaning up the entrances, boarder along Middlebelt and the ditches in the subdivision on Saturday, April 30th from 9a to noon. Several bags of trash and branches were collected. Also, trees were trimmed and logs removed.

Coffee and doughnuts were served even though it was difficult to get the volunteers to take a break. A "good time" was had by all.

Volunteers: Paul Smolinski, Aaron Hurd, Sandra Hines-Kuhn, Vivian Huff, Carrie Richardson, Sally Breining, Doug Haynes, Ryan & Bree Blodi, Dan O'Reilly, Joe Sterbling, Ric Morrison, Julie Skene, Harold Larsen and Bob Kuhn.



CITY ELECTION SCHEDULED FOR TUESDAY, NOV 8, 2011

Voters will be electing a mayor, city council members and school board members and deciding two millage proposals on Nov 8, 2011. New voters must register by Oct 11. Nov 5 is the last day to request an absentee ballot for delivery by mail. Holly Hill Farms is located in the 11th Precinct and residents vote at the Higmeadow School.

HHF SPRING POND FUN DAY & BAKE SALE A SUCCESS

Over 50 neighbors, including 15 children, and friends attended our annual HHF Spring Pond Fun Day & Bake Sale on Saturday, June 11, 2011. Attendees had a good time paddling canoes, paddle boats, fishing, talking with neighbors, etc. The food was very good and the bake goods were out of sight. About \$300 was raised which will be used to help maintain the ponds. The association paid for the notices but no association money was used for other expenses.



A big thank you goes to the Putti and Sterbling families who hosted the event. Our Annual Winter Pond Fun Day is planned for next January. We hope you will join us in these future activities. If you have any ideas for social activities, contact our president, Harold Larsen, 1-248-737-3923.

The "Pondies" would like to thank the other residents of Holly Hill Farms for their financial support of pond maintenance and dedication to the beauty of our subdivision.

VOLUNTEERS NEED FOR "TRAFFIC COMMITTEE"

The Board of Directors is planning to establish a "Traffic Committee" at its October 18th meeting. The committee will be working with the City, Minglewood homeowners and the School District in an effort to improve the traffic situations. Residents, who are interested in serving on the committee, should contact our President, Harold Larsen, 248-737-3923.

TREASURER'S INTERIM REPORT

Of the 138 lots in Holly Hill Farms, 122 have paid their 2011 maintenance fee of \$90. 8 lots have not paid their 2009 maintenance fee and are now delinquent. Liens have been placed on these delinquent properties. 104 lots have paid their \$10 social fees for 2011.

This year's snow plowing and salting expenditures are projected at \$6,785, above the \$6,075 budget due to a higher than expected number of salt applications. Overall expenditures for the association are projected to be within our 2011 budget. Please contact Ken Snodgrass, 248-851-7618 if you have any questions or comments regarding Association finances.

HHFA SEMIANNUAL MEETING SUMMARY

The meeting was called to order by President, Harold Larsen, 7:40p, at # 2 Firehouse. All the Board members were present and about 25 members.

Dennis Nichols, Regional Fire Chef, gave a presentation about our fireperson and paramedic training program and benefits. Any person interested in participating in the program should contact the city fire department.

The minutes of the November 9 and May 4 semiannually meetings were accepted. Ken provided and updated Treasurer's Report which indicated the expenses and income are within the budget. The budget has been modified by the Board to include a \$500 line item for expenses associated with the Road Reconstruction project. Ken noted that we only have one home in foreclosure which is down from the high of about five in recent years.

The Maintenance Committee reported that the entrance signs will be refinished, the sprinkler system turned on and repaired, if needed, and grass will be mowed, fertilized and sprayed. A major clean-up was held on April 30th. Harold Larsen has been hired to mow and maintain the grass areas.

Ken reported that nominations are being accepted until August 1 for our Home and Garden Beautification Award. See included article. Ken has volunteered to continue maintaining the areas by the entrance signs. The city has given us beautification awards for the past two years for our entrance areas.

Harold reported that an effort has been made to insure that every home receives our newsletter with is delivered two times a year. The last newsletter was delivered a month or so ago. If you did not receive one, contact Harold Larsen, 28-737-3923.

Our annual Spring Fun Day and Bake Sale is scheduled for Saturday, June 13, 12:30 – 4p at the Putti's back yard. All residents and friends are invited. Hot dogs, hamburgers, etc. will be sold with the profits going to help maintain the ponds.

Betty Lurie reported that some members are looking in how our website could be improved. If you have suggestions, contact Betty 248-851-1732.

Sandra Hines-Kuhn and Kathy Sterbling, co-chairpersons of the Road Reconstruction Committee, discussed the progress of the petition drive to obtain the needed 70 signatures to have the roads reconstructed. The drive has just started and needs to be completed by July 5. About 27 signatures have been collected to date. Bob Kuhn gave a power point presentation which summarized the issues, costs, timeline, etc.

The Board of Directors Non-officers election was held with the current non-members elected by unanimous consent. The Non-officers elected were: Irv Miller, Aaron Hurd, Bob Kuhn, Russ Russinoff and Kathy Sterbling. Their efforts are greatly appreciated by all.

The meeting adjourned at 9p with our next meeting scheduled for November, 2011.

Thanks for your support of Holly Hill Farms!