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Fifteen Cents

Hills extends hours for tax payments

FARMINGTON HILLS.—Property owners can no longer pay local taxes at area banks, but the City of Farmington Hills has extended office hours for those who wish to pay in person.

The treasurer's office in the city hall, Eleven Mile at Orchard Lake, will be open from 8:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. Fridays until Aug. 31. Aug. 31 is the last day local property taxes can be paid without penalty.

Finance Director Richard Reingold said collection by banks was convenient for property owners but caused increased costs for the city.

BANK COLLECTION caused a "backlog of paper work in the back room" at city hall, Reingold said. Accountants were doing work which would be done by clerks if the taxes were collected over the city hall counter.

About 15 per cent of the total tax payments were made at banks, Reingold estimated. The banks who participated received no payment for the service, other than the use of the money while it was in the process of being transferred.

Banks made money on the collection, he said, because of their greater ability to combine deposits into amounts which would be profitably invested. Farmington Hills also invests

tax collections for short periods of time, overnight or over a weekend, if enough money has been accumulated to meet minimum requirements.

The extended hours at city hall, Reingold said, are equivalent to bank hours. The hours were added, he said, to make up for possible inconveniences caused by ending bank collection.

Paying by mail is still the easiest way, Reingold said, but there are residents who must on paying in person. About one-third of the tax bills on property are paid by lending institutions rather than owners, he said.

The collecting period ending Aug. 31 is the first for the new split payment system agreed to with the Farmington School District and the municipalities which collect taxes for it. FIFTY PER CENT of the school tax bill is due by Aug. 31. The rest is due in December.

Reingold said there has been good acceptance of the new payment system. Split payments save the school district several hundred thousand dollars a year in interest because the district borrows money to meet bills until the taxes are collected.

Reingold said there have been some "one-time" dislocations, especially among those on fixed incomes or marginal incomes.

"Most think it's right even if it causes problems," Reingold said.

The split payments increase the July bill but will decrease the December one, he said. The July bill now has a total of 26.825 mills in the Farmington School District, six mills in the Clarencville School District and 7.325 in the Walled Lake School District.

Of the July total, six mills is Farmington Hill's tax rate, 19.5 is the Farmington School District's and 1.325 is the Oakland Community College rate.

Some tax bills will be higher because of special assessments, Reingold said, but most special assessments are billed in December.

The December bills will have the rest of the Farmington School District levy, Oakland County Schoolcraft College tax, county intermediate school tax, Clarencville and Walled Lake schools, and most special assessments.

A key fact in paying taxes, Reingold said, is the parcel identification number. It is printed above the street address on tax bills. It should be written on the payment check to insure proper credit.

A copy of the tax bill should be taken or sent to the treasurer's office also. It will be validated and returned to the taxpayer.

11th annual Festival events begin

Farmington's eleventh annual Founders' Festival has the bulk of its events scheduled to begin today, with features from carnivals to continuous entertainment.

Festival events scheduled to begin today and continuing through Sunday include the Elks' ox roast in the Downtown Shopping Center, entertainment in the showmobile in the Downtown Center, Crafters' Corners at the Masonic Temple, Grand River at Farmington Road, and a series of meals served at the Masonic Temple.

Events beginning tomorrow include the Jaycee Rodeo at Twelve Mile and Farmington Road. Other Friday events are a pet show, jazz concert, police displays, variety show and a concert by the community band.

Saturday's events include a national baton-twirling contest, a mini-marathon, the parade on Grand River beginning at 10 a.m., the League of Women Voters' bus tour, and a fireworks display at 10 p.m. in the Our Lady of Sorrows parking lot at Shawwassee and Power Road.

The festival committee have announced several minor changes in the announced events, and a major addition of plans for the annual softball tournament.

The community jazz band concert will be held in the city park before the fireworks display, rather than in the Downtown Center. The bicycle parade which precedes the Sunday in the Park events has been moved from 1 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. Bicyclers will

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Going for the crown

She has 18 competitors in the beauty, talent and brains contest that will lead to selecting Miss Farmington 1975. The 19 beauties groom

and display a multitude of talent along the way. See Page 1B.

Floral colors decorate downtown Farmington

By MARTHA MAHAN

FARMINGTON—Next year, of course, it will be red, white and blue, but this year downtown Farmington is a profusion of floral color.

There are the marigolds and blue ageratum around the concrete platform and two large pines on the grounds of the old Masonic Temple.

There are rhododendron and flowering shrubs.

And there is a big new rose garden.

All appeared like magic last weekend when Mrs. Betty Holm, chairman of the City of Farmington Beautification Committee, led her crew in creation of a rainbow mini-park on the Temple grounds.

Still to come is a garden of butterfly begonias in back of the Temple. Once the Farmington Festival parade is over, flowers from the committee's float will be transferred to the floral park.

Close to 2,000 blooms were put into the ground Friday and Saturday

They included a background of large marigolds, fronted by smaller marigolds and surrounded by the blue ageratum. The rose garden was planted Monday.

Besides refurbishing the classic appearance of the 140-year-old Temple, Mrs. Holm is busy planning to dress up the inside of city hall "where there is not much daylight."

"The planters there had a couple of sick-looking plants and some artificial ones," she said, "and it was all pretty sad."

So she's brightening and cheering up the first floor with plants from the Holms' private greenhouse.

"When they begin to droop, I can take them home and freshen them up in the greenhouse," she explained, "and once a month or so I can bring in blooming plants."

Other recent committee projects included helping out with the downtown Farmington Center and the program to paint fire hydrants into patriotic figures.

Mrs. Holm still is enthusiastic, too.

about her committee hosting the Southeast Conference of Beautification Committee's quarterly meeting in June.

The Farmington committee presented the governor's wife, Mrs. William Milliken, with an ivy topiary as a "thank you" for her speech.

"I have a really terrific vice chairman in Jo Ann McShane," Mrs. Holm said. "She's really an enormous help."

Mrs. Holm also is happy about having replaced "those ugly concrete

planters" which used to line the streets and which were "placed so close to the curbs that car doors banged against them."

"We put petunias in planters and placed them back on the grounds around the trees," she said.

Beautification of the Temple grounds has been realized not only through the hard work of her committee, Mrs. Holm said, but through the generosity of Farmington residents.

Of accident victim

Youth honored for rescue

Livonia, Westland and Farmington Hills persons were honored Monday night by Livonia Police Department for getting involved and helping someone in trouble.

Two received "exceptional service awards" from Mayor Edward McNamara and Chief Robert Turner.

The winners were Raymond Cogo, 17, of 3154 Bennett, Livonia; Kenneth Coffey Jr., 26, of 37061 Jefferson Court, Farmington Hills; and Steve Ross, of 817 August, Westland, who received a citizenship award.

Cogo, who graduated from Stevenson High School last month, and Coffey were cited for helping two drivers

involved in a car crash March 30 on Merriman south of Six Mile.

The two, in separate cars, rescued a driver from a car which had burst into flames and assisted the other driver before calling officers. The two also helped policemen who arrived to handle the accident follow-up.

Ross, absent from the ceremony in

Livonia City Hall, was honored for his actions last fall and received a departmental citizenship award.

Ross witnessed an attempted kidnapping and illegal driving away of the victim's car. The kidnaper fled after being approached by another person. He remained on one scene and helped policemen make the arrest.

Pet show entries are due Friday

As part of the Farmington Founders' Festival, a pet show will be held 3 p.m. Friday, July 25, at the Farmington Plaza Shopping Center.

Each contestant may enter only one category in the show, but another member of the family may enter the same pet in a different category, using a separate entry blank.

All contestants must be 14 or younger. Trophies will be awarded for first place with second and third place earning ribbons. The first place winner in each category will compete for a trophy to be awarded to the "best pet in the show."

Categories include shaggiest pet, two most evenly matched pets (twin class), largest pet, pet with waggiest tail, most talented pet (30 seconds to perform) and pet with the busiest tail.

Also smallest pet (no ants or insects), pet with the longest ears, most unusual pet, most original costume (pet and owner), pet with the craziest haircut and the most articulate pet (speaks the loudest).

Entry forms may be obtained from any Farmington Plaza merchant and must be turned in to "Pets 'N' Particulars" prior to noon on Friday, July 25.



KENNETH COFFEY JR. (left) and Raymond Cogo received service awards from the Livonia police department for rescuing two drivers injured in an auto accident. (Staff photo)

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