

Get out your rakes; town's leaf pick-up set

Farmington residents will have two chances in the next month to have their leaves collected at curbside by the City of Farmington Department of Public Services.

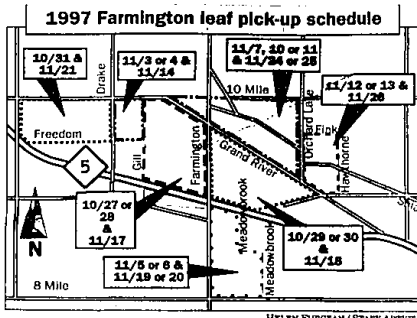
Kevin Gushman, of the DPS, said the pick-up program will begin on Monday, Oct. 27 and will continue until Wednesday, Nov. 26. Gushman emphasized that residents who live on curbed streets should move piles of leaves to the area between the street and sidewalk, and not put them in the street.

Leaves in the street can plug up drains, and cause potential flooding and safety problems.

For those living on streets without curbs, leaves should be kept out of ditches — also to prevent flooding.

Instead, piles should be raked to the edge, or shoulder area, of the road. Gushman said people can also put leaves out in properly labeled trash cans and biodegradable paper bags, if they wish. Meanwhile, twigs and branches should be kept separate from leaves. Each resident will have two

scheduled leaf pick-ups (see map), but it's "weather permitting and as long as we don't have any severe mechanical failure," Gushman said. There also might be unscheduled, additional pick-ups. For more information about leaf pick-up dates, call the DPS at (248) 473-7250. — Tim Smith



Shake a rake: People are well into the raking leaves phase of fall. City of Farmington will be picking up bags of leaves during the next couple of weeks.

Grand River-Shiawassee intersection nears completion

BY TIM SMITH

Decisions by the Farmington Downtown Development Authority on which improvement projects to put on the coming year's budget are on hold until December.

But the time is now for one road leading into downtown.

On Friday, barring unforeseen last minute problems, the new,

left-hand-turn lane on Grand River between Drake and Shiawassee roads will be open, said Farmington City Manager Frank Lauff.

The turn lane is only part of the soon-to-be-completed Michigan Department of Transportation project. A traffic signal is in place at the re-made intersection of Grand River-Shiawassee. Landscaping along the half-mile stretch has also been added.

With more than a week to go until the planned Oct. 24 opening, construction crews still had to lay a 2- to 3-inch asphalt cap on top of the 3- to 4-inch base, and then stripe it, Lauff said.

What the extra lane means is improved safety and convenience for motorists, as well as for Grand River businesses such as The Greenery, where entering and exiting parking lots is nothing short of impossible during rush hour traffic.

"We're real happy," Lauff said. "We're going to have that left-hand-turn lane all the way

down. It will be better access."

It will allow for safer driving, too.

"All of those left-hand turns weren't safe in the past, because they were stopping in a through-lane of traffic," Lauff said. "And, having a signal up is important. It will provide gaps in traffic that didn't exist before."

Meanwhile, Lauff said the DDA tabled an agenda item at its October meeting to decide which downtown improvement projects would make the budget. Some of these suggestions were made at a public meeting in

September.

At the DDA's 8 a.m., Nov. 12 session, architect John Grissim will give a report about what projects might be worth pursuing. The DDA could conceivably ask Grissim to fine tune his recommendations, possibly including some of the public input.

Lauff said final approval might then take place at the DDA meeting in December. He added that the city council will see the proposal, but only as a courtesy.

"This does not require city council approval," he said.

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Across Homeowners Association president. "You can't talk about a bigger difference."

Farmington Hills City Council members tabled the request in March, but removed the issue from the table at Monday's meeting. Council also tentatively set up a public hearing Nov. 10.

But — and the 'buts' are a reoccurring theme on this issue — the two sides agreed to meet in last ditch attempt to reach some sort of compromise.

City Manager Daniel Hobbs' suggestion that the two sides mediate through a process called "alternative dispute resolution" has been unsuccessful.

"This is another twist," said Valley at the Oct. 13 council meeting.

The city council acted to untangle the matter in order to get both sides to compromise, said Mayor Aldo Vagnotzi.

"The way I see it, it's not a zoning issue anymore," said Terry Sever, Hills councilman. "It's whether we can get to the point where the two parties can agree on something and for council to make it happen."

Steven Schafer of Phoenix Land Development said he's wants to "get some dialogue going," but has been rebuffed by the homeowners.

HighMeadow homeowners are a bit leery of the mediation process Hobbs proposed to both sides, Valley said. For one, attorneys are allowed to attend sessions and that, she said, doesn't make things fair for a homeowners association. "We don't have any attorneys," Valley said.

Mediation would have been private; the study session is a public forum.

"You have three types of zoning going on with different densities and different rules; it's hard to talk... talk about what?" Valley asked.

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AGENDAS

Farmington City Council
City Hall, 474-4700
8 p.m., Monday, Oct. 20

Agenda items include:

- Consideration to schedule public hearing on 1998-99 Community Development Block Grant Program.
- Consider approval of change orders No. 7-11 and final payment to the Larson Company for the Underground Storage Tank Removal Project.

City Hall, 474-6115
7:30 p.m., Monday, Oct. 20

Removal Project.

- Consider approval of payment No. 1 to Innovative Environmental Solutions, Inc. for environmental testing and reporting on the Underground Storage Tank Removal Project.

Farmington Hills City Council
City Hall, 474-6115
7:30 p.m., Monday, Oct. 20

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SPOTLIGHT ON Orthodontics
by Josephine Finazzo, D.M.D.

INHERITED CHARACTERISTICS

While aging grandparents may dwell over the fact that their grandchildren inherited their mother's eyes or their father's nose, the orthodontist is primarily concerned with such inherited characteristics as facial structure, tooth size, and the size of the jaw. The relationship between jaw and tooth size is critical because, if a child inherits her father's large teeth and her mother's small jaw, the teeth may become overcrowded for lack of room. Unless this problem is addressed, it can lead to disruption of tooth eruption patterns or even partial impaction of some teeth. It also can result in an abnormal bite (malocclusion) which can be both unsatisfactory and deleterious to health.

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THE CRYSTALLINE ARTHRITIS CONDITIONS

Many of you have seen someone with an attack of gout. The person's pain is intense. The joint affected usually is the foot which is red as if on fire and often swollen as far up the limb as the ankle. It is hard to believe that the foot is not broken or infected. The cause of this condition is a crystalline substance in the blood identified as uric acid. Once you have seen an episode of gout, you are ready to spot the next episode of an exquisitely painful, swollen, and red foot, as a repeat attack of gout. It may be easy to make the diagnosis, but often you will be wrong. There are a number of other crystals that look like gout and act like gout but are not gout. The distinction between causes of a red, swollen, and markedly painful foot is important. Gout has specific treatment, particularly in preventing repeat attacks. These other crystals (calcium pyrophosphate and calcium hydroxy apatite) do not respond to the medications effective in preventing gout. Identification of the substance causing your crystalline arthritis requires the drawing of fluid from the swollen joint, and analyzing that specimen under a polarizing microscope. This microscope incorporates blue and yellow filters that bring out the crystal underlying the attack. Until your physician has this information he cannot be certain of the diagnosis and clear on the appropriate treatment.

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