

# Making way

## Residents asked to clear snow from fire hydrants

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Farmington Hills fire officials are asking residents to go on a reconnaissance mission: Find the hydrant in the snow drift.

On Friday, Deputy Chief Peter Baldwin and others tried to locate a three-foot tall fireplug on Newmarket Street to no avail. Heavy snow and plowing have left many hydrants missing in action.

"It was like trying to find a needle in a haystack," Baldwin said. Farmington Hills has 6,000 hydrants, which supply water during to firefighters during blazes. If a fire crew cannot find a hydrant,

**If residents or property owners are not sure, they can phone the fire department's non-emergency number at 426-4400 to help identify a hydrant location.**

they might be able to tap into another one 500 feet away if they're lucky.

Otherwise, firefighters would be limited to the 500 gallons of water carried on their trucks. To extinguish a large house fire, firefighters use upwards of 5,000 gallons, 10 times of what is available on a fire engine.

Since the heavy snowfall, fortunately there have been no large fires.

"It's an awareness issue, really," Baldwin said. "People don't realize it's a problem... until it is problem."

If residents or property owners are not sure, they can phone the fire department's non-emergency number at 426-4400 to help identify a hydrant location. Kids are also encouraged to "adopt a hydrant" and maintain it.

Homeowners are asked to create a small path to a hydrant so it may be seen and used during a fire. In short of that, they can use a wooden stake to simply mark the fireplug's location.

Apartment complex managers are legally responsible for uncovering buried hydrants. Fire officials remind apartment owners lives

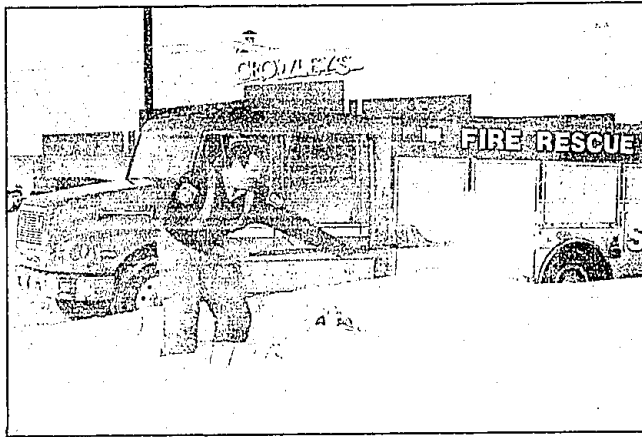


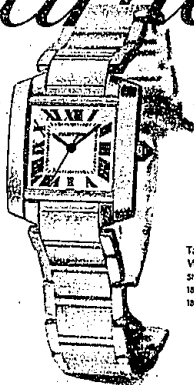
PHOTO BY PETER BALDWIN

**Shovel:** Farmington Hills Firefighter Bruce Belsky digs out a fire hydrant on 12 Mile. Residents are urged to do the same, especially those buried under mounds of snow.

and millions in property depend on hydrants being available.

Commercial property managers are urged to bring back snow removal services to uncover hydrants that have been inadvertently submerged in white stuff because of plowing.

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## Schools remind about 'Sled Hill' rules

Farmington Public Schools want to remind winter sports enthusiasts about rules for the Shiawassee "Sled Hill." Officials stress that skis, toboggans and snow boards are strictly prohibited. Following are the rules:

1. Sled at your own risk.
2. Use designated returns.
3. Maximum of two persons per sled.
4. Alcohol and horseplay prohibited.

5. Tobogganing prohibited.
6. Skiing and snow boards prohibited.
7. Appropriate sleds only.

Also, the district lists several examples of sledging devices

that should not be used on the hill: toboggans, cafeteria trays, plastic bags, cardboard boxes, snowboards and other devices that would pose a danger to other sledgers.

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### AGENDA

**Farmington Hills City Council**  
City Hall, 474-6118  
7:30 p.m. Monday, Jan. 18

Agenda items include:  
■ Proclamation in honor of Martin Luther King Day  
■ Consider adopting resolution in support of clean water initiatives

■ Consider adopting resolution in support of Eight Mile Road Boulevard Association enhancement of bus passenger loading areas

■ Public hearing on use of single-family housing cluster option in an RA-1B district to build 14 attached condominiums on southwest corner of 13 Mile and Middlebelt roads.

■ Public hearing on use of single-family housing cluster option in an RA-1B district to build 12 attached cluster housing units on the southeast corner of 13 Mile and Middlebelt roads.

■ Consider approval of right of way agreement between city and Nextlink

■ Consider approval of continuation of city's Consumer Protection Committee

■ Consider appointment of city's MML legislative coordinator

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