

Hills to change its schedule for garbage pickup

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

No one can remember the last time the garbage pickup schedule in Farmington Hills was changed. So the change that's scheduled for Monday, Nov. 5, is historic in its own way.

The change coincides with the start of the city's new refuse collector, Waste Management of Michigan.

"In order for them to be the most efficient, the routes have to be changed because of the growth in the west side of the city," said Karen Birkholz, Farmington Hills recycling coordinator.

Not all single-family houses in Farmington Hills will have a new garbage day but there's enough change in the schedule that city officials are putting homeowners on notice through the city's October newsletter and a special flyer to be mailed this month. Farmington's schedule will not change.

There is an old adage: There are some core city responsibilities and the rest are all helpful but not necessary. Garbage is one of the core services, Farmington Hills public services director Tom Bilal said.

THE CHANGES are described in a map which shows what day a

particular area will be garbage collection day. Homeowners are reminded that garbage must be placed on the curbside on their particular collection day by 7 a.m., Birkholz said.

Bulk items, such as furniture or refrigerators may be put on the curbside with other garbage. Previously, homeowners had to call in advance to have the items picked up. "Now residents just simply put it out on the regular day. There is no size limitation," Birkholz said.

Yard waste must be placed in bags or bundles. Limbs and branches are limited to a maximum six inches diameter and 4-feet in length. "They must be tied in bundles not to exceed 60 pounds," Birkholz said.

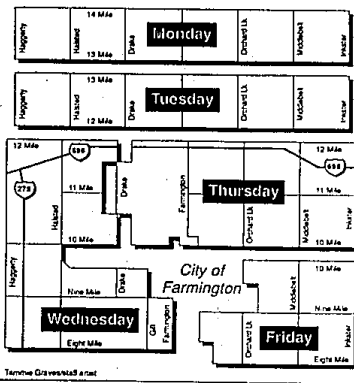
If your garbage day falls on a holiday, garbage will be collected the following day. For example, if the holiday is Friday — your garbage day — collection will automatically fall to Saturday.

Holidays on which there is no garbage collection are New Year's Day, July 4th, Thanksgiving, Memorial Day, Labor Day and Christmas Day.

Farmington Hills and Farmington have a new six-year joint solid waste collection and disposal contract with Waste Management of

Taking out the trash

Monday, Nov. 5 marks the beginning of a new garbage pickup schedule in Farmington Hills. Residents are requested to have their trash at the curb by 7 a.m. on collection day.



Michigan. The new contract began in September for Farmington, Nov. 5 for Farmington Hills.

THE NEW COMPANY will begin curbside recycling July 1, 1991, in both cities. Until then, residents may continue to use the two recycling centers, one in Farmington at the Department of Public Works building on Nine Mile, west of Farmington Road, Farmington Hills' center is also at the DPW building, 27245 Halsted Road,

south of 12 Mile.

Residents can drop off newspapers, glass jars and bottles (clear, green and brown), tin cans, aluminum, batteries (automotive and household), motor oil and two types of plastic containers.

The first type is polyethylene terephthalate or PET and high density or HDPE. Increasingly, products have these initials on them for recycling purposes. High density plastic includes laundry containers, excluding bleach containers.

Hills man guilty of embezzlement

By Susan Buck
staff writer

A Farmington Hills man who pleaded guilty to embezzling 11 pension plan checks totalling \$207,000 will be sentenced in U.S. District Court in late December.

Ronald Collis, 45, a certified public accountant formerly with Collis, Kopmeyer and Hoag, pleaded guilty to embezzling money from the Acme Insulations Inc. Profit Sharing Retirement Plan and Trust, an employee pension plan covered by the federal Employee Retirement Income Security Act.

Collis entered a guilty plea Oct. 9 before U.S. District Judge Lawrence Zatkoff.

Collis was a partner in the Birmingham accounting firm. He did the accounting work for and was an advisor to the pension plan of Acme Insulations, a Grand Rapids business.

Collis, a seven-year employee, left the firm in August 1989. The firm has since been renamed Kopmeyer, Hoag & Co. Collis relinquished his partnership and now has no association with it.

UNDER THE plea agreement, the court could give Collis a sentence of up to 21 months in prison — the midpoint of what can be given under sentencing guidelines for the crime.

In order to preserve its national

reputation, the accounting firm made full restitution to the people involved, according to Gary Kopmeyer, Collis' former business partner. Collis, in turn, made full restitution to the company, Kopmeyer said.

The company has been in Birmingham since 1984, but has roots that go back to 1942, he said.

"It was what I call a slam-dunker," said Bill Wharton, who investigated the case for the Office of Inspector General of the U.S. Department of Labor. "There was no question about it."

"He set himself up as a trustee, an intermediary," Wharton continued. "There was chicanery involved with the process. He set himself up where he had access to the funds. He established the means."

PAMELA LOOMIS of the Consumer Assistance Compliance Division, Bureau of Commercial Services in the Department of Licensing and Regulation, said that Collis, who received his license July 29, 1971, is considered in good standing until he is sentenced in late December. The licensing board will then decide whether or not to lift his license, Loomis said.

Collis could not be reached. His Birmingham attorney, Richard Lustig, did not return phone calls.

A spokesman for Acme Insulations, said that the company has no comment.

House candidates agree on abortion rights

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

Democrat Barry Brickner of Farmington Hills says it's the law in him that makes him pro-choice. On the same side of the fence, Republican State Rep. Jan Dolan believes the abortion issue will never be resolved.

Both pro-choice candidates in the Nov. 6 election also believe in

the need for right-to-life legislation — and the sooner the better.

"I believe in the right of privacy and the rights of the decisions of the individual," said Brickner, who faces first-term legislator Dolan in the bid for the State House seat, 69th District.

Brickner, a Bingham Farms attorney, believes the abortion issue should land in the state Legislature because he sees it as a possible

state's rights issue. Dolan, 63, says it's purely a personal decision. She says she all too well remembers when women would have to leave the country for abortions.

"Someplace in the world it was available. 'It's not a decision that should be made in government,' said Dolan, who adds that unlike many legislators she does not sit on the fence on the abortion issue. "It will never be resolved."

BRICKNER, 39, believes the state Legislature should adopt the Roe vs Wade Supreme Court decision, which allows abortions. In turn, Brickner believes the courts should stop overriding that landmark decision. For both candidates, the right of free choice also applies to a person's right to determine the course of their own medical treatment, or termination of medical treatment.

"I'm in favor of people signing affidavits expressing their willingness to termination of medical treatment," Brickner said. "I believe there should be a document requesting cessation of treatment. Let nature take its course."

Dolan agrees. She supports the use of Living Wills, which allow an individual to express their desires for or against treatment. But in Michigan, those requests can be



averted because there is no legislation providing for such documents. "Until it's law, a third cousin can come in and challenge it," Dolan said.

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Mayor: More work needed on Hills 1989 code of ethics

By Susan Buck
staff writer

Ethics. That six-letter word has reared its head once more in Farmington Hills city government.

An indignant Mayor Jean Fox has angrily taken out her pen to suggest changes to what some call a weak 1989 ethics code. She plans to submit a proposal to council members at their Nov. 12 meeting. Until then, Fox is mum about her suggestions.

Fox's action was prompted by a six-part series on ethics in government in the Detroit News. Ben Marks, a Farmington Hills city council member, was featured as one of several public officials in the suburbs who have close ties to business interests in their cities.

In 1985, the night he was first sworn in as a Farmington Hills council member, Marks twice voted to

approve low-interest loans to a company headed by business partner Melvin Rosenhaus.

Since then, Marks has sometimes been criticized for his financial relationships with some builders and developers.

NOW, FOX WANTS to resurrect the city's former ethics code committee. The present code of ethics does not deal with campaign ethics and contributions. Both Fox and Aldo Vagnozzi, mayor pro-tem, tried unsuccessfully last year include guidelines for political contributions in the ethics code.

Marks said Tuesday that he is not afraid of, nor will he back away from, any discussion of ethics. "Everything that was alluded to in that article has already been discussed in the local paper, the Farmington Observer," Marks said.

"The people of Farmington Hills know that I am a builder. I have no problem with people looking at it or inquiring about it. I'm not at all apprehensive."

Marks said that political contributions are a way of life. "Nobody can buy a vote for \$100," Marks said. Nobody buys a vote. Why aren't they picking on the judges and the unions? Why pick on that segment (builders) of the economy. Nobody hides it. You vote your conscience. Don't be selective and parochial. Everybody has taken money from a builder. Even Jean Fox took money, \$25, from a builder — me."

FOX AGREED that Marks gave that amount at her 1987 fund-raiser. "We're not talking about \$25," Fox said. "This trivializes the problem in the eye of the public. We're talking

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Penny in the brook

Karla Fischer of Livonia tries to keep her children — Matt, (left), 3, and Jeff, 4 — dry as they attempt to fish a penny out of the stream in the Farmington City Park. Karla was raised in the Farmington area and said she intends to move back next month.



SHARON LAMITEUX/staff photographer