18 Fall 2025

CHECKING IN WITH FERNDALE

The official newsletter of the City of Ferndale





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SEEN ON SOCIAL

SOCRRA Recycling Closer Look - Back Cover

On the cover: Meet the DPW leaf pickup truck, your trusty companion cruising through the neighborhood on collection day. Each fall, the program gathers an impressive 10,000 cubic yards of leaves. Grab your rakes and review the leaf pickup schedule on page three.

STAY CONNECTED

Ferndale City Hall 300 East Nine Mile Road Ferndale, Michigan 48220

Current Hours:

Monday - Thursday 8:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Closed to the public on Fridays



248-546-2525



information@ferndalemi.gov

For accessibility assistance relating to these or other City of Ferndale materials, please email information@ferndalemi.gov.



ferndalemi.gov



Facebook.com/Ferndale.Michigan



Facebook.com/FerndaleParksandRec



Facebook.com/FerndalePoliceMI



Facebook.com/FerndaleSpecialEvents



@FerndaleMich



@FerndalePolice

CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE

A MESSAGE FROM THE CITY MANAGER

Ferndale residents and friends,

The past year has brought significant changes to the City of Ferndale. We've updated our leadership team and made improvements in how the City runs. Thank you to everyone in Ferndale for your support as we navigated these changes and continued to learn and grow together.



Colleen O'Toole City Manager

I appreciate the conversations I have had with many local residents about their experiences with the City. As a newcomer, these discussions have been crucial in helping me understand the community's values and how we can improve as an agency. For those I have not yet met, I encourage you to reach out. While we may not have an immediate solution to every challenge, listening to your concerns and questions is essential to finding answers.

Our goal is to provide you with the best possible service and ensure that our work is both efficient and meaningful. These ideas are summed up in our mission statement and core values. If you haven't seen them before, here they are:

- Mission Statement: Stewards of progress, anticipating needs, engaged with the community, and serving with excellence
- Core Values: Integrity, Inclusiveness, Innovation, and Inspiration

In the weeks ahead, we will continue to fill critical vacancies to ensure continuity of operations. As we do so, we are focused on finding talent that shares our vision and values. Meaningful change is rarely simple or swift, but our team is enthusiastic about what the future holds.

As the year ends, we're excited to share our "Reflections and Resolutions" with you again. It's a chance for our staff to celebrate what we've achieved and set new goals for next year. Keep an eye out on social media, the City's website, and the following winter edition of this newsletter.

I wish you and your loved ones a great holiday season!

All the best.

Colleen O'Toole

City Manager cotoole@ferndalemi.gov

PUBLIC WORKS

LEAF PICKUP MAP

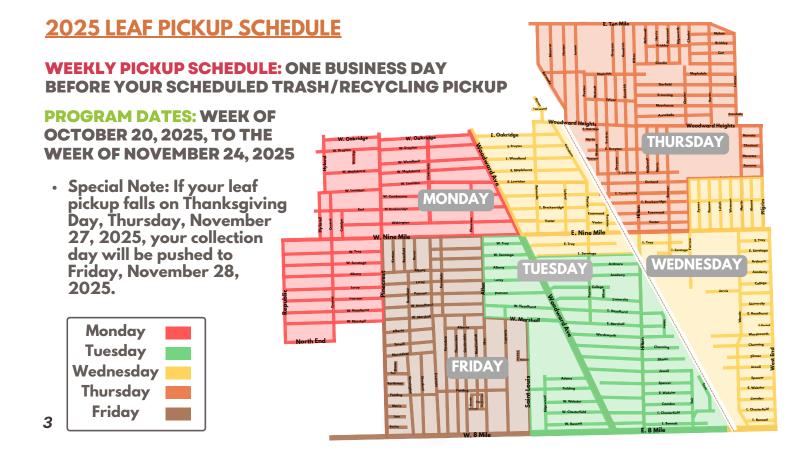
Fall leaf pickup is here! This year, the Public Works Department (DPW) will collect leaves weekly for the entire City, one business day before your normal trash pickup day. This change will make the collection more efficient and streamlined. The program begins the week of October 20, 2025, and ends the week of November 24, 2025.



Please follow these procedures:

- Rake your leaves, free of debris, to the curb by 7:00 a.m. on the day of your scheduled pickup.
- Do not pile leaves on the easement between the curb and the sidewalk.
- Move vehicles out of the way if possible to help keep the process efficient.
- Leaves piled high for too long can cause a parking hazard.
- If you miss a pickup, please wait until the following week to rake your leaves to the curb.
- Yard waste items like sticks, rocks, and grass do not belong in the leaf pickup pile. However, you
 can combine everything in your yard waste, which must be placed in a labeled container or a
 brown kraft bag.
- Please note: DPW will issue warnings for any leaves at the curb by Monday, December 1, 2025.

 After this point, leaves can be mixed with yard waste until the week of Friday, December 19, 2025.



TRASH AND RECYCLING DELAYS

The following holidays impact weekly curbside garbage and recycling collection:

- Thanksgiving Day, Thursday, November 27, 2025
- Christmas Eve, Wednesday, December 24, 2025
- New Year's Eve, Wednesday, December 31, 2025

Containers should be put out one day late for the rest of the week.

SNOW REMOVAL AND EMERGENCIES

We're hoping the snow stays away, but just in case, let's prepare for winter weather. Residents and property owners are required to shovel their sidewalks within 24 hours of snow accumulation. This is important not only for you and your loved ones, but for anyone who needs to use the sidewalks safely on foot, by wheelchair, by bicycle, or with pets. The Public Works Department plows streets according to the Winter Maintenance Guide. Learn more about snow removal at bit.ly/ferndalesnowremoval.

In severe weather, the Public Works Department may declare a snow emergency. All vehicles must move off the streets to the dedicated snow emergency parking lots. Learn more about how to prepare for a snow emergency at bit.ly/ferndalesnowemergencies.

WINTER MAINTENANCE GUIDE

This guide identifies how City of Ferndale streets are cleaned in a snow emergency. Streets are divided into priorities and are cleaned in accordance with the schedule below.







2 EMERGENCY ROUTES



3 SIDEWALKS AND CROSSWALKS



4 ALL OTHER STREETS



SUSTAINABILITY

RAIN BARREL CARE

WINTERIZING AND PREPARING

If you purchased a MIRAINBARREL kit from our municipal sale, it's time to winterize it. Start by emptying the barrel and leaving the spigot open. Then, disconnect the hose from your downspout diverter and cap the connection on the diverter.

If you cut your downspout to dump directly into a barrel, replace the cut section for the winter

ferndalemi.gov/government/
services/sustainability

zerowaste@ferndalemi.gov

300 East Nine Mile Rd

248-336-4236

instead of using a diverter. Ensure water routes are away from your house's foundation and walkways to prevent slip hazards. A severed downspout will not fit back together where it was cut. The existing downspout will need to be crimped to fit inside the severed piece. The water side always goes inside. You will need needle-nose pliers or a crimping tool.

Next, prepare your rain barrel for winter. Drain the barrel and clean out any algae that may be inside. Leave the spigot open and make sure water cannot get back in. If possible, move your barrels inside to reduce UV fatigue. Be careful when moving the barrel to avoid breaking off parts, such as the spigot. These tips will protect your investment in water conservation for years. Check out bit.ly/rainbarrelDIYtips for instructions.

HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS

PUMPKIN PLOP

Give your pumpkins a final hurrah! Drop off your fall pumpkins between Wednesday, October 29, 2025, and Friday, November 7, 2025, at the dumpsters in the Kulick lot or at the southeast corner of Martin Road Park. Only real pumpkins are welcome—leave the plastic impostors at home.





HOLIDAY HEAVE

Soon, our homes will be filled with colorful paper and shiny bows. When the celebrations wind down, please dispose of those empty boxes, wrapping paper, and gift bags by dropping them off at the special dumpsters located in the Kulick lot, Martin Road Park, or City Hall between Monday, December 22, 2025, and Monday, January 5, 2026.

FREE WILDFLOWER SEEDS

Bring your landscape to life with a vibrant wildflower mix, designed to nurture pollinators, boost biodiversity, and help manage stormwater naturally. Transform your Planned Natural Landscaping program with the support of Oakland County Parks and Recreation and the Oakland County Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area. Reach out to the Zero Waste Manager to claim your free seed packets and start growing a greener future.

RESIDENTIAL COMPOST PROGRAM

Join your neighbors in making a greener Ferndale with the Compost Program! Sign up at bit.ly/ferndalecompost to help reduce landfill waste, greenhouse gas emissions, and the presence of pests, rodents, and those pesky odors. Simply drop off your filled food scrap container at any of the following convenient locations: Geary Park lot, Martin Road Park lot, Ferndale City Hall, Kulick lot, Withington Park lot, or Wilson Park.

- What's Good: Food scraps, coffee grounds and filters, meat, bones, eggshells, and BPI-certified compostable products.
- What's Bad: Pizza boxes (different than pre-2024 policies), plastic grocery bags or plastic packaging, compostable products not labeled as BPI-Certified compostable (labeled as compostable or certified, such as TUV Austria, produce stickers)

PARKS & RECREATION

PARKS PARTICIPATION

- Visit a park, attend an event, or play a sport
- · Volunteer or lend a helping hand
- Join the Parks and Recreation Commission
- · Share your passion on social media
- Get to know the department: Call 248-544-6767, email recreation@ferndalemi.gov, or visit bit.ly/ferndaleamilia

EVENTS

FERNDALE FALL FESTIVAL

Saturday, October 4, 2025 | Detroit Curling Club 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Join Ferndale Parks and Recreation for a whirlwind of activities, including hay rides, pony rides, roller skating, carnival games, dazzling prizes, hands-on crafts, face painting, pumpkin painting, a magical trick-or-treat trail, lively music, and surprises for all ages, while supplies last.

A wristband is required for entry. Visit bit.ly/fprfallfestival to purchase a wristband for \$10 per person. Children ages one and under are admitted for free.





SANTA AT SCHIFFER AND PARADE

Saturday, December 6, 2025 | 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Wilson, Geary, and Schiffer Parks

Step into the magic of the season and help us welcome Jolly Old Saint Nick to Ferndale at this year's Santa at Schiffer celebration. Santa's festive journey begins at 1:00 p.m. in Wilson Park, followed by a 1:30 p.m. stop at Geary Park, where he'll spread cheer with Christmas carols,



candy canes, and plenty of photo opportunities. At 2:00 p.m., the holiday fun continues as Santa settles into Schiffer Park, the heart of Downtown Ferndale. Enjoy hands-on holiday crafts, joyful music, letters to the North Pole, s'mores by the fire, photos with Santa, and a live DJ spinning festive tunes. This merry event is free and open to everyone.

FERNDALE SENIOR GROUP

The Ferndale Senior Group welcomes everyone 55 and older to join a vibrant community filled with activities and new friendships. For just \$15 a year, you can connect, explore, travel, and enjoy memorable moments together. Gatherings take place every second and fourth Wednesday at 11:00 a.m. at the Hazel Park Recreation Center, 620 West Woodward Heights Blvd. Members receive a bi-monthly newsletter, and Ferndale residents can snag a discounted annual parking pass for only \$10.

Are you looking for adventure? Join the Senior Group for their next outing to the lively "Dames at Sea" Luncheon Show at the OPC Social & Activity Center in Rochester. For just \$24, enjoy a delicious lunch, dessert, and a fantastic show. Travelers aged 50 and above can start planning for the unforgettable Mackinac Trip as part of the mParks Grand Experience Spring 2026. Registration includes transportation, lodging, meals, activities, and more. Mark your calendar—registration opens in November.

If you or a loved one needs assistance with resources, would like to participate in storytelling or chair yoga, or learn more about the SMART Bus, please contact Alicia Pardo at **apardo@ferndalemi.gov.**

WHAT'S NEW AT OUR PARKS?

In 2025, Martin Road Park and Wilson Park underwent significant improvements, thanks to the strong support of our community and generous grant funding. We added ADA-accessible walking paths, upgraded playgrounds, new pavilions, basketball and pickleball courts, shaded seating areas, improved landscaping, and more. These changes have really improved our parks and the Ferndale community.

WILSON PARK

Dog Park Memberships:

- Several amenities like fenced play areas, sitting areas, water stations, waste stations, and more
- One-time safety course, vaccine and licensing records, and \$40 fee (\$65 for non-residents) are required

HARDING PARK

In-Line Skating Rink:

- Prosepective transformation with a new playing surface, entrances, benches, walking paths, and landscaping
- Help the City reach our goal to match grant funding at <u>patronicity.com/harding</u>

SPORTS

WHAT

WHAT	WHEN	WHERE	MORE
Little Eagles Basketball	 Registration open now Games run from January to March Practices and games are throughout the week and weekend 	Hazel Park and Ferndale High School Gymnasiums	 Co-ed league available for children from Kindergarten to sixth grade Girls' league available for grades third through fifth Part of the Quad-City League
Quad-City Soccer League	 Select weeknights and weekends Time, dates, and locations TBD by the coach 	Local surrounding fields	Players will need cleats, socks, shin guards, shorts/pants, and a water bottle
Fall Adult Softball	 Registration open now Games are primarily on Tuesdays and Thursdays 	Martin Road Park	 Co-ed and men's leagues Team fee is \$650 Team manager registrations available
Aquatic Programs	Saturday mornings	Ferndale High School Pool	 Includes water aerobics, lap swim, and adult learn- to-swim sessions Instructors and lifeguards on duty

WHEDE

MODE

SPECIAL PROGRAM: INTRO TO CURLING

WHEN

With the Winter Olympics coming up soon, the Detroit Curling Club is offering a beginner curling session for students. Students will learn about the rules and the basics of throwing the stone and sweeping the ice before playing a game. Students should wear clean athletic shoes, a helmet, and warm clothes. All other equipment will be provided. You can sign up at **bit.ly/ferndaleamilia**.

- Who: Little Rocks (ages 6-10), U18 (ages 11-18)
- When: Sunday, November 16, 2025, Sunday, November 23, 2025, and Sunday, December 7, 2025
- Where: Detroit Curling Club, 1615 E. Lewiston
- Time: 1:00-2:00 p.m.
- Cost: \$30.00

GET SIGNED UP!

Hit the court, have fun, develop a skill, and be a team player. Register for all of the sports above at bit.ly/ferndaleamilia. For questions or concerns, please contact Marcus Johnson at mjohnson@ferndalemi.gov.



ELECTIONS

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2025, GENERAL ELECTION

The General Election is on Tuesday, November 4, 2025. Voters will choose their candidate for Mayor and two City Council positions.

For more information about how to vote in Ferndale, visit **mi.gov/vote**.



IMPORTANT DATES: FALL 2025

Monday, September 29

The City Clerk's Office will mail out absentee voter ballots to all who requested them by this date.

Monday, October 6

If you applied for a mail ballot and have not received it by this date, contact the City Clerk's Office.

Tuesday, October 21 (Through 8:00 p.m. on Election Day)

Beginning October 21, the only way to register to vote is in person at the City Clerk's Office with proof of residency.

Saturday, October 25 to Sunday, November 2

In-person Early Voting is available for voters from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on all days except Thursday, October 30, which is available from 12:00 to 8:00 p.m. In-person Early Voting for all elections will take place at the Hazel Park Community Center, located at 620 West Woodward Heights Boulevard in Hazel Park, MI 48030, and the Waterford Oaks Activity Center, located at 2800 Watkins Lake Road in Waterford, MI 48328.

Friday, October 31, by 5:00 p.m.

This is the deadline to request an absentee ballot be mailed to you.

Saturday, November 1

City Hall is open on Saturday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. for voting purposes only.

Monday, November 3, by 4:00 p.m.

This is the deadline to request an absentee ballot in person if you aren't already registered to vote.

Tuesday, November 4: Election Day

The polls are open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Find your polling location at **bit.ly/46wc4Pe**. Absentee ballots must be received by 8:00 p.m.

FINANCE

PROPERTY TAXES

WINTER

The winter property tax season begins on Monday, December 1, 2025. Paper bills will be mailed out in late November and arrive by Monday, December 15, 2025. Online bills will be available for viewing starting Monday, December 1, 2025. Winter taxes are due no later than Saturday, February 14, 2026. Payments received from Sunday, February 15, 2026, to Saturday, February 28, 2026. will incur a 3% penalty.



SUMMER

Summer: Payments toward an installment plan for summer taxes must be received no later than the last day of each month through February 2026.

As of Sunday, March 1, 2026, any unpaid tax balances will be considered delinquent and turned over to the Oakland County Treasurer for collection. Visit BSA at **bit.ly/ferndaleBSA** to verify your balance and other tax information or reference your paper bill. Payments can be made online, by phone at 866-873-9157 (only partial payments), by mail, in-person at the City Hall front counter, or by drop box.

DECEMBER BOARD OF REVIEW

The December Board of Review Meeting is on Tuesday, December 9, 2025, in City Council Chambers. Poverty/Hardship Applications must be received by Tuesday, December 2, 2025. Call the City of Ferndale Assessing Team at **248-546-2525 Ext. 121** for more information.

COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

SEECLICKFIX

the City? Visit <u>bit.ly/ferndalescf</u> to issue an official report.

GRASS AND WEEDS

The grass and weeds ordinance remains in effect through Friday, October 31, 2025. Until then, please keep your grass and weeds trimmed to a height of seven inches or less, as outlined in City code. All property owners are required to follow this policy.

Looking for an alternative? Transform your yard into a planned natural landscape that welcomes pollinators and wildlife, helps manage stormwater, and can even lower your costs. Discover how at **bit.ly/ferndalepnl.**

POLICE

VACATION WATCH

Heading out of town for the holidays? Enjoy peace of mind knowing an officer can keep an eye on your home. Simply complete the Vacation Watch Form at bit.ly/ferndalevacationwatch. Be sure to route packages to an alternative location, or have someone pick them up and store them.

HOLIDAY POLICE SAFETY



- ferndalemi.gov/government/police
- demmi@ferndalepolice.org
- 310 East Nine Mile Rd.
- 248-541-3650 (non-emergency)
- Facebook.com/FerndalePoliceMI
- There are no set trick-or-treating hours. Activity generally occurs between 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.
- If in doubt, throw it out. Discard candy that looks suspicious.
- Remove tripping hazards from your porch or walkways.
- Check outdoor lights and replace burned-out bulbs.
- Keep pets in safe areas away from trick-or-treaters.
- · Avoid houses that don't have lights on.
- Remember to look both ways before crossing the street.
- Eliminate distractions while driving through neighborhoods.
- Take extra time to check for pedestrians while driving.
- Teach children these safety tips!





WINTER HOLIDAYS 🔆 * * * * * *

- Track packages and deliveries, install a doorbell camera, and select a secure drop-off location. Sign up for delivery notifications to stay informed about when they arrive.
- Shop on trusted websites, use secure payment methods, and monitor your bank accounts for unauthorized charges.
- Be cautious of gift card scams that request your payment details.
 Scams increase during busy holiday seasons.
- Drive sober or get pulled over. Be responsible at holiday gatherings: avoid drinking and driving, or have a designated driver.
- Stay alert in parking lots, and be sure to park in a well-lit area.
- Drive carefully on icy roads. Keep your distance, go slow, and always keep an emergency kit in your car.

In an emergency, always call 911. To report suspicious activity, please call the Police Department's nonemergency line at **248-541-3650**.

FIRE

OPEN HOUSE

Saturday, October 4, 2025 | Fire Station 2 1070 E. Nine Mile Road | 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Ever wondered what goes on behind the doors of a Fire Station? Step inside for a close-up look at gleaming fire trucks, hands-on life-saving gear, and exciting activities, including on-site CPR training, fire blanket demonstrations, a fire prevention trailer, and battery collection.











248-546-2510 (non-emergency)

Our firefighters can't wait to kick off Fire Prevention Week and meet the Ferndale community.

FIRE PREVENTION WEEK

Get ready to power up your safety during this year's NFPA Fire Prevention Week, from Sunday, October 5, 2025, to Saturday, October 11, 2025. The theme, "Charge into Fire Safety™: Lithium-Ion Batteries in Your Home," spotlights the importance of choosing, charging, and recycling lithium-ion batteries wisely. Discover essential tips at nfpa.org/events/fire- prevention-week.

HOLIDAY FIRE SAFETY

COOKING



- Remove anything from stovetops that could catch fire, such as food packages, oven mitts, wooden spoons, trays, or towels.
- · Keep an eye on your food as it cooks, roasts, simmers, or bakes.
- Set a timer and always turn off the burners before leaving the kitchen.
- Select a safe, child-free area for hot drinks and food.
- Only use turkey fryers outside, away from wooden decks or garages.



- Decorate with battery-operated candles.
- Keep decorations away from heat sources, such as fireplaces, wood stoves, or space heaters.
- Discard light strands with frayed or pinched wires.
- Turn off lights before going to bed or leaving the house.
- · Give your real holiday tree a daily drink to keep it fresh and safe from fire hazards.

EVENTS: FALL 2025



OCTOBER

Friday, October 3 - Ferndale High School Homecoming Parade

Saturday, October 4 - Fall Festival (page 6)

Saturday, October 4 - Fire Department Open House (page 12)

Sunday, October 5 - Fire Prevention Week Begins (page 12)

Monday, October 20 - Leaf Pickup Season Begins (page 3)

Saturday, October 25 - Downtown Ferndale Trick-or-Treating

Wednesday, October 29 - Pumpkin Plop Begins (page 5)



Tuesday, November 4 - **General Election** (page 9)

Friday, November 7 - **Pumpkin Plop Ends** (page 5)

Saturday, November 15-16 - Jingle and Mingle Holiday Underground Market

Monday, November 24 - Leaf Pickup Ends (page 3)

Thursday, November 27 - City Hall Closed in Observance of Thanksgiving Day



Saturday, December 6 - Santa at Schiffer (page 7)

Tuesday, December 22 - Holiday Heave Begins (page 5)

Wednesday, December 24 - City Hall Closed in Observance of Christmas Eve

Thursday, December 25 - City Hall Closed in Observance of Christmas Day

Wednesday, December 31 - City Hall Closed in Observance of New Year's Eve

Thursday, January 1, 2026 - City Hall Closed in Observance of New Year's Day

DOWNTOWN FERNDALE

Downtown Ferndale is buzzing with energy for the fall season. Check out what's new and exciting:

- We've secured \$300,000 to give our signs and sidewalks a fresh new look! Stay tuned for meeting details and bring your creative ideas to the table.
- Put on your most creative costume and join us for Downtown Trick-or-Treating on Saturday, October 25, 2025, from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m.
- As you read on page 7, Santa Claus is coming to town on December 6, 2025, from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.
- Make your holiday shopping special by supporting local gems! Discover amazing restaurants, shops, and services that are perfect for everyone on your list. Find inspiration at downtownferndale.com or follow @downtownferndale on Facebook, Instagram, and TikTok.

Please note, all events are subject to alteration or cancellation. Visit ferndalemi.gov/calendar for a calendar of events.



Fire Department Open House









FERNDALE



CITY COUNCIL



Raylon Leaks-May Mayor <u>rleaksmay@ferndalemi.gov</u>



Laura Mikulski Mayor Pro Tem Imikulski@ferndalemi.gov



Donnie JohnsonCouncilmember
djohnson@ferndalemi.gov



Rolanda Kelley Councilmember rkelley@ferndalemi.gov



Greg Pawlica
Councilmember
qpawlica@ferndalemi.qov

JOIN A BOARD OR COMMISSION

Scan the QR code or visit **ferndalemi.gov/government/boards-commissions** to apply for available board and commission volunteer opportunities.



For questions, please reach out to the City Clerk's Office at clerk@ferndalemi.gov.

The City of Ferndale wishes you a happy holiday season! We thank you for your support this past year and look forward to seeing what 2026 brings for us all.

SEEN ON SOCIAL









Photos taken by Reilly Coleman, Communications Manager

It might not be pretty, but this view offers a powerful reminder of the impact our trash and recycling habits have on the planet.

These pictures were taken at the SOCRRA Recycling Facility in Troy. SOCRRA is the City's recycling and waste provider, and its work benefits Ferndale and many neighboring communities.

Never forget: every item you toss makes a difference. Follow a few simple steps to ensure your garbage and recycling end up where they belong, and help the staff by sorting them correctly the first time

Please visit <u>ferndalemi.gov</u> or go to <u>socrra.org</u> for more information. Be sure to check out the Waste Wizard tool, which allows you to search for the item you're looking for and find the proper disposal method.