

**20**

Spring/Summer  
2026

# CHECKING IN WITH **FERNDALE**

*The official newsletter of the City of Ferndale*



FERNDALE

# WHAT'S IN THIS ISSUE

## PUBLIC WORKS

National Public Works Week - 2  
Trash and Recycling Delays - 2  
Yard Waste Season - 2  
Sidewalk Improvement Program - 2  
Water and Sewer Construction - 2

## SUSTAINABILITY

Tree Planting Program - 3  
Residential Compost Program - 3  
Recycling Drop-Off Station Day - 3

## PARKS AND RECREATION

What's New at our Parks? - 3  
Events - 4  
Sports - 4  
Programs - 4  
Ferndale Senior Group - 4  
Feedback Survey - 5

## FINANCE

Property Taxes - 5  
July Board of Review - 5

## COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

SeeClickFix - 5  
Permit Center - 5

## CITY CLERK

Tuesday, August 4, 2026, Primary Election - 6

## POLICE

National Police Week - 7  
Touch a Truck - 7  
Safety Town - 7  
Vacation Watch - 7  
Block Parties - 7  
Get Connected - 7

## FIRE

International Firefighters' Day - 8  
Home Safety - 8  
Open Burn Permits - 8  
Spring/Summer Safety Tips - 8

## EVENTS

2026 Spring/Summer Events - 9

## CITY LEADERSHIP

Message from the City Manager - 10

## SEEN ON SOCIAL

Celebrating an Engagement! - Back Cover

**On the cover:** The beauty is in the bloom! Spring is finally here, so take a moment to appreciate the return of color and growth.

## 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](mailto:information@ferndalemi.gov)

For accessibility assistance relating to these or other City of Ferndale materials, please email [information@ferndalemi.gov](mailto:information@ferndalemi.gov).



[ferndalemi.gov](http://ferndalemi.gov)



[Facebook.com/Ferndale.Michigan](https://www.facebook.com/Ferndale.Michigan)



[Facebook.com/FerndaleParksandRec](https://www.facebook.com/FerndaleParksandRec)



[Facebook.com/FerndalePoliceMI](https://www.facebook.com/FerndalePoliceMI)



[Facebook.com/FerndaleSpecialEvents](https://www.facebook.com/FerndaleSpecialEvents)



[@FerndaleMich](https://www.instagram.com/FerndaleMich)

# PUBLIC WORKS

## NATIONAL PUBLIC WORKS WEEK

National Public Works Week will be celebrated from Sunday, May 17, to Saturday, May 23, 2026. The theme this year is Rooted in Service, Powered by Community. This theme shows the strong base of the Public Works Department's work and how it helps shape our community into a place where people can live with meaning and opportunity. Some of their work is easy to notice, but much of it happens quietly behind the scenes. Thanks to their efforts, Ferndale keeps growing, and the connection between their work and our community gets stronger. The City truly appreciates everything the DPW does.



[ferndalemi.gov/public-works](https://ferndalemi.gov/public-works)



[dpwservice@ferndalemi.gov](mailto:dpwservice@ferndalemi.gov)



521 E. Cambourne



248-546-2519

## TRASH AND RECYCLING DELAYS

Trash and recycling pickup will be delayed on Memorial Day, Monday, May 25, 2026. Please put your containers out one day later for the rest of the week. Saturday, July 4, 2026, will not be affected.

## YARD WASTE SEASON

Yard waste season runs until mid-December. Yard waste, like grass clippings, leaves, small sticks, and weeds, is picked up every week on your regular trash day. Please put it in a reusable container with a label (available at City Hall and the DPW Yard) or in paper yard waste bags.

## SIDEWALK IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

The 10-year Sidewalk Improvement Program will continue in 2026 to keep sidewalks safe and easy to use. The City is divided into ten areas, and two are inspected each year. Areas of the sidewalk that are cracked, uneven, sunken, or unsafe will be marked for replacement. The cost of replacement is charged to the property owner at a fixed rate per sidewalk section. The work is done in late summer and early fall, after the required notices and public meetings.

## WATER AND SEWER CONSTRUCTION

The City replaces the nearly 100-year-old water main under the streets every year to stop broken pipes, water outages, road damage, and costly emergency repairs. In 2026, water main replacement will take place on Woodward Heights (west of the railroad tracks) and Jarvis Street.

The City also upgrades sewer pipes to prevent backups and extend the lifespan of the system. The 2026 Sewer Improvement Program will use a special pipe-lining technique to reinforce older sewer pipes found during the 2023 camera inspections. Since this work focuses on pipes by condition, the locations will vary across the city.

## LEAD SERVICE LINE REPLACEMENT

The City is continuing its Lead Service Line Replacement Program, a \$40 million project scheduled to run through 2037. So far, about 2,350 lead pipes have been replaced across the city. Around 150 more replacements are planned for 2026 as staff and City Council finalize a funding plan.

This year, DPW will focus on identifying unknown service lines and updating our records. Residents can help by using the online tool to report the types of pipes in their homes at [bit.ly/ferndaleisl](https://bit.ly/ferndaleisl).

# SUSTAINABILITY

## TREE PLANTING PROGRAM

DPW will continue to grow and care for Ferndale's urban trees by planting about 100 new trees throughout the city. In addition to planting in neighborhoods, more trees will be added at Martin Road Park to boost its tree cover. Each year, these new trees provide more shade, help manage stormwater, and strengthen our neighborhoods.

## RESIDENTIAL COMPOST PROGRAM

Join your neighbors in making Ferndale greener by signing up for the Residential Compost Program. This program helps reduce landfill waste, greenhouse gas emissions, pests, rodents, and odors. When your food scrap container is full, you can drop it off in the designated bins at Geary Park, Martin Road Park, Ferndale City Hall, Kulick, Withington Park, or Wilson Park. To see what items are accepted and to sign up, visit [bit.ly/ferndalecompost](https://bit.ly/ferndalecompost).

## RECYCLING DROP-OFF STATION DAY

Good news, the next Recycling Drop-Off Station Day event is here! Gather your recyclables and bring them to the DPW Yard at 521 E. Cambourne on Saturday, May 16, 2026, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. You can see the full list of accepted items at [bit.ly/4chRPJJ](https://bit.ly/4chRPJJ).



# PARKS & RECREATION

## WHAT'S NEW AT OUR PARKS?

### MARTIN ROAD PARK

Martin Road Park will be under construction this spring for two major projects:

- A new Martin Road Park Service Building will be constructed near the Splash Pad, featuring a concession stand, public restrooms (including a family restroom), and outdoor seating. It will provide staff support for the Splash Pad, ample access to restrooms, loan equipment to the public, and offer concession items for park visitors.
- The playground to the west of the softball field will be expanded to replace old infrastructure, including new playground pieces like slides, climbing structures, and swing sets. The majority of the park will stay open during construction.

3



[ferndalemi.gov/government/services/sustainability](https://ferndalemi.gov/government/services/sustainability)



[information@ferndalemi.gov](mailto:information@ferndalemi.gov)



300 East Nine Mile Rd



248-546-2525



[bit.ly/ferndaleamilia](https://bit.ly/ferndaleamilia)



[recreation@ferndalemi.gov](mailto:recreation@ferndalemi.gov)



Incubizo, 1938 Burdette St



248-544-6767



[facebook.com/ferndaleparksandrec](https://facebook.com/ferndaleparksandrec)

## PARK RESTROOMS

All park restrooms will be open from Friday, May 8, to Wednesday, September 30, 2026. The bathrooms close in the fall and winter due to cold weather.

### Events [bit.ly/ferndaleamilia](https://bit.ly/ferndaleamilia)

What	When	Where
<b>Geary Park Skate Jam</b>	Saturday, June 6, 2026   11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.	Geary Park
<b>Pajama Movie in the Park</b>	Thursday, June 11, 2026   6:00 p.m.	Detroit Curling Club at Martin Road Park
<b>Park It! Night</b>	Thursday, July 16, 2026   6:00 p.m.	Harding Park
<b>Pure Pro Wrestling</b>	Saturday, July 18, 2026   7:00 p.m.	Ferndale High School Gym
<b>Movie on the Hill</b>	Thursday, August 13, 2026   8:00 p.m.	Martin Road Park

### Sports [bit.ly/ferndaleamilia](https://bit.ly/ferndaleamilia)

What	When
<b>Summer NFL Flag Football</b>	Registration opens Monday, May 25, 2026
<b>Fall Youth Soccer</b>	Registration opens Monday, July 27, 2026
<b>Fall Adult Softball</b>	Registration opens Monday, July 27, 2026

### Programs [bit.ly/ferndaleamilia](https://bit.ly/ferndaleamilia)

What	When	Where
<b>Summer Camp</b>	Weekly sessions from Monday, June 15, to Friday, August 14, 2026	Edison School and Webb Elementary School
<b>Water Aerobics</b>	Saturdays at 10:30 a.m. and 11:45 a.m.	Ferndale High School
<b>Adult Learn to Swim</b>	Saturdays at 1:00 p.m. and 2:10 p.m.	Ferndale High School

## FERNDALE SENIOR GROUP

The Ferndale Senior Group has several fun trips planned for spring and summer.

- Mackinac Island Grand Experience: Tuesday, May 12, to Friday, May 15, 2026
- Diamond Jack River Boat Tour: Thursday, July 16, 2026
- Outdoor Adventure Center Brunch and Learn: Tuesday, August 4, 2026

Sign up for the Ferndale Senior Group at [bit.ly/41DkbZT](https://bit.ly/41DkbZT) or email [apardo@ferndalemi.gov](mailto:apardo@ferndalemi.gov).

# FEEDBACK SURVEY

We want to hear from you! Please take a quick 2-minute survey to help us shape the 2026 recreation programs for the City of Ferndale Parks & Recreation Department. Your responses are anonymous and will be grouped with others to guide future plans. You can take the survey at [bit.ly/4cp4gDj](https://bit.ly/4cp4gDj) or scan the QR code.



## FINANCE

### PROPERTY TAXES

#### SUMMER

Summer tax bill balances will be available on Wednesday, July 1, 2026, and will be mailed out by the first week of July. If you do not receive yours in the mail by the end of the second week of July, please email [taxbilling@ferndalemi.gov](mailto:taxbilling@ferndalemi.gov) to request a copy.

Residents can pay online at [bsaonline.com/?uid=512](https://bsaonline.com/?uid=512), by phone at 947-282-5306 (no partial payments), by mail, or in person at City Hall. If you do not escrow your taxes, the City offers eight installments. Payment coupons will be mailed along with your tax bill. Installment payments that are not made by the due date are subject to interest and penalties.

### JULY BOARD OF REVIEW

The July Board of Review Meeting will be held in City Council Chambers. Dates will be announced on the City's website, [ferndalemi.gov](https://ferndalemi.gov). Please call the City of Ferndale Assessing Team at **248-546-2525 Ext. 121** or email [assessor@ferndalemi.gov](mailto:assessor@ferndalemi.gov) for more information.

## COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

### SEECCLICKFIX

Spotted something in the City that needs fixing? Help keep Ferndale safe and beautiful by reporting it easily at [bit.ly/ferndalescf](https://bit.ly/ferndalescf) with SeeClickFix.

### PERMIT CENTER

Are you planning a summer project? Make sure you have the right permit before you begin. Visit [ferndalemi.gov/permit](https://ferndalemi.gov/permit) to get started and keep your project moving forward.



[ferndalemi.gov/government/finance](https://ferndalemi.gov/government/finance)



[taxbilling@ferndalemi.gov](mailto:taxbilling@ferndalemi.gov)  
[waterbilling@ferndalemi.gov](mailto:waterbilling@ferndalemi.gov)



300 East Nine Mile Rd



248-546-2525



[ferndalemi.gov/economicdev](https://ferndalemi.gov/economicdev)



[information@ferndalemi.gov](mailto:information@ferndalemi.gov)



300 East Nine Mile Rd



248-546-2525

# CITY CLERK

## TUESDAY, AUGUST 4, 2026, PRIMARY ELECTION

The August Primary Election is on Tuesday, August 4, 2026. Voters will nominate candidates to represent the major political parties for the November General Election, in addition to two local ballot proposals.

### LOCAL BALLOT PROPOSALS

The first ballot proposal will ask voters to amend the City Charter to change how the Police and Fire Retirement System (PFS) is managed. If approved, it would allow the City to adopt an ordinance to combine the PFS with the General Employee Retirement System (ERS). This would not change any retiree benefits, but instead would increase the overall funded ratio and dramatically reduce the pension payment obligations from the General Fund.

The second ballot proposal will ask voters to amend the Charter by removing outdated language regarding the duties of the Civil Service Board. These responsibilities are currently carried out by the Human Resources Department, and the continued operation of the board is considered redundant and inefficient.

For more information, please view the presentation from the Monday, February 23, 2026, City Council Meeting at [bit.ly/3OKcka0](https://bit.ly/3OKcka0).



[ferndalemi.gov/cityclerk](https://ferndalemi.gov/cityclerk)



[clerk@ferndalemi.gov](mailto:clerk@ferndalemi.gov)



300 East Nine Mile Rd



248-546-2525

## IMPORTANT DATES: SUMMER 2026

### Monday, July 6

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

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

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

### Saturday, July 25 to Sunday, August 2

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

### Friday, July 31, by 5:00 p.m.

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

### Saturday, August 1

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

### Monday, August 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, August 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](https://bit.ly/46wc4Pe). Absentee ballots must be received by 8:00 p.m.

# POLICE

## NATIONAL POLICE WEEK

National Police Week is from Sunday, May 10, through Saturday, May 16, 2026. It is observed annually to acknowledge the dedication, courage, and hard work of police officers. The City remembers and honors officers who have fallen in the line of duty, and extends a sincere thank you to the Ferndale Police Department for your service to the community.

## TOUCH A TRUCK

Have you ever wanted to see a Police, Fire, or Public Works vehicle up close? Come to the Ferndale Police Department's Touch a Truck event at the City Hall parking lot on Saturday, May 16, 2026, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Tour the station, explore the trucks, and enjoy a hot dog or some ice cream. Thank you to Fair Ferndale, the Ferndale Youth Association, Second Chances Animal Resources, and our neighboring cities for your support.

## SAFETY TOWN

May is Bike Month, and the Police, Fire, and Parks and Recreation Departments are working together to help everyone learn about bike safety. Families are invited to Garbutt Park on Thursday, May 21, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. for the Safety Town Bike Rodeo. You can get your bike licensed, watch safety demonstrations, learn some first aid, enjoy giveaways, and grab free snacks. Roll your bikes over and join this free event!

## VACATION WATCH

Are you leaving town for a summer vacation? The Police Department can help keep an eye on your home while you are gone. To sign up, just fill out the application at [bit.ly/ferndalevacationwatch](https://bit.ly/ferndalevacationwatch).

## BLOCK PARTIES

The Police Department loves to participate in block parties around the City. If you would like to host a block party and invite the Police Department, please email [information@ferndalemi.gov](mailto:information@ferndalemi.gov).

## GET CONNECTED

7 Follow FPD on Facebook at [facebook.com/FerndalePoliceMI](https://facebook.com/FerndalePoliceMI) to see the latest department updates.



[ferndalemi.gov/government/police](https://ferndalemi.gov/government/police)



[demmi@ferndalepolice.org](mailto:demmi@ferndalepolice.org)



310 East Nine Mile Rd.



248-541-3650  
(non-emergency)



[Facebook.com/FerndalePoliceMI](https://Facebook.com/FerndalePoliceMI)



THANK YOU TO OUR COMMUNITY PARTNERS!



Fair Ferndale  
rooted in community



# FIRE

## INTERNATIONAL FIREFIGHTERS' DAY

International Firefighters' Day is on Monday, May 4, 2026. It's a special time to thank the firefighters who serve Ferndale and to recognize the important work they do to keep us safe. The City sincerely appreciates and values the lifesaving efforts of the Ferndale Fire Department.



[ferndalemi.gov/fire](https://ferndalemi.gov/fire)



[information@ferndalemi.gov](mailto:information@ferndalemi.gov)



Fire Station 1: 1635 Livernois  
Fire Station 2: 1070 E. Nine Mile

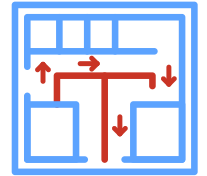


248-546-2510  
(non-emergency)

## HOME SAFETY

### CREATING A HOME ESCAPE PLAN

The Fire Department encourages you to keep your home safe by creating a home escape plan in case of an emergency. Practice the plan with your loved ones so everyone knows how to get out safely. You can watch a helpful video from the National Fire Protection Association at [bit.ly/4slAMXt](https://bit.ly/4slAMXt).



### VIRTUAL HOME SAFETY INSPECTIONS

The Fire Department offers a free virtual home safety inspection through a short survey. You can fill out the survey at [bit.ly/4sBW9cO](https://bit.ly/4sBW9cO) or scan the QR code.



## OPEN BURN PERMITS

Before you start your summer campfires, be sure to apply for a permit first. You can apply online for the Open Burn Permit at [bit.ly/ferndaleopenburnpermit](https://bit.ly/ferndaleopenburnpermit). The permit costs \$25 and lasts until the end of 2026. Please follow safety rules when having a backyard fire.

## SPRING/SUMMER SAFETY TIPS



**Heat:** Don't forget to hydrate! Water is the best way to prevent dehydration, and electrolytes help replenish nutrients and fluids. If your home does not have air conditioning, visit a cool place like a library or local business. Keep an eye on your loved ones and pets in hot weather.



**Fireworks:** Instead of using fireworks at home, consider attending a professional public display. If you have fireworks nearby, keep them away from children and pets. To treat a burn, immerse it in cool water for 3-5 minutes, cover it with a clean, dry cloth, and seek medical attention.



**Rags:** Dispose of rags with paint and chemical stains carefully. Oils in oil-based paints and stains release heat as they dry, which can cause a fire hazard if the heat is trapped.



**Grills:** Inspect grills before use to prepare for the season. Clean out nests, spider webs, or other debris. For propane grills, check the gas tank hose for leaks before use. Place grills away from structures and flammable items.

# EVENTS: SPRING/SUMMER 2026



## MAY

Saturday, May 2, to Sunday, May 3 - **Cinco de Mayo Festival**  
Monday, May 4 - **International Firefighters' Day** (page 8)  
Sunday, May 10 to Saturday, May 16 - **National Police Week** (page 7)  
Saturday, May 16 - **Recycling Drop-Off Station Day** (page 3)  
Saturday, May 16 - **Touch a Truck** (page 7)  
Sunday, May 17 to Saturday, May 23 - **National Public Works Week** (page 2)  
Monday, May 25 - **Memorial Day Parade + City Hall Closed in Observance of Memorial Day + Martin Road Splash Pad Opens**  
Saturday, May 30 - **Ferndale Pride**

## JUNE

Monday, June 1 - **Raising of the Rainbow Flag**  
Saturday, June 6 - **Geary Park Skate Jam** (page 4)  
Thursday, June 11 - **Pajama Movie in the Park** (page 4)  
Thursday, June 18 - **Raising of the Juneteenth Flag**  
Saturday, June 20 to Sunday, June 21 - **Market Days**

## JULY

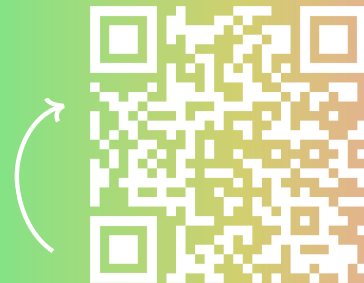
Sunday, July 12 - **Nine on Nine Concert**  
Thursday, July 16 - **Park It! Night** (page 4)  
Saturday, July 18 - **Pure Pro Wrestling** (page 4)  
Sunday, July 19 - **Nine on Nine Concert**  
Sunday, July 26 - **Nine on Nine Concert**

## AUGUST

Sunday, August 2 - **Nine on Nine Concert**  
Tuesday, August 4 - **Election Day** (page 6)  
Sunday, August 9 - **Nine on Nine Concert**  
Thursday, August 13 - **Movie on the Hill** (page 4)  
Saturday, August 15 - **Woodward Dream Cruise**  
Sunday, August 16 - **Nine on Nine Concert**  
Sunday, August 23 - **Nine on Nine Concert**  
Sunday, August 30 - **Nine on Nine Concert**

## DOWNTOWN FERNDALE

Spring has sprung in Downtown Ferndale! Grab a PATIO Zone cup, stroll over to a Nine on Nine Concert, and see what our local businesses have to offer. Explore unique shops, try local food, and support the businesses that help our City stand out. For updates, visit [downtownferndale.com](https://downtownferndale.com) or follow @downtownferndale on Facebook, Instagram, and TikTok.



Learn more about these events and other information by visiting [linktr.ee/ferndalemich](https://linktr.ee/ferndalemich) or scan the QR code!

All events are subject to alteration or cancellation. Visit [ferndalemi.gov/calendar](https://ferndalemi.gov/calendar) for a calendar of events.



9 Memorial Day Parade



Geary Park Skate Jam



Movie on the Hill



Woodward Dream Cruise

# CITY LEADERSHIP



**Raylon Leaks-May**  
Mayor  
[rleaksmay@ferndalemi.gov](mailto:rleaksmay@ferndalemi.gov)



**Laura Mikulski**  
Mayor Pro Tem  
[lmikulski@ferndalemi.gov](mailto:lmikulski@ferndalemi.gov)



**Rolanda Kelley**  
Councilmember  
[rkelly@ferndalemi.gov](mailto:rkelly@ferndalemi.gov)



**Eddie Sabatini**  
Councilmember  
[esabatini@ferndalemi.gov](mailto:esabatini@ferndalemi.gov)



**Vacant Position**  
*(to be appointed by Ferndale  
City Council in May 2026)*

## MESSAGE FROM THE CITY MANAGER

As of April 2026, Donnie Johnson has resigned from City Council due to changes in his professional role. City staff and I wish him all the best and thank him for his service to the community.

I look forward to introducing a new Councilmember in the next edition.

Always feel free to reach out and connect at [cotoole@ferndalemi.gov](mailto:cotoole@ferndalemi.gov).



## SEEN ON SOCIAL



The City of Ferndale sincerely congratulates Caitlin Nowland and Colin Engel on their engagement!

From Colin:

*"Given that we regularly visit fun, funky Ferndale for great food and excellent experiences, it felt like the right place to propose...it was a special night in a special place we will remember forever."*

We are overjoyed that they chose Ferndale as the backdrop for this beautiful moment, and we wish them all the best for a wonderful future together.

Photos taken by Adelaida Forella of Forellafilms  
Instagram: @forellafilms  
Website: forellafilms.com