

21

Fall/Winter
2026

CHECKING IN WITH FERNDALE

The official newsletter of the City of Ferndale



FERNDALE

Photo Credit: Pierce Manufacturing

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SEEN ON SOCIAL

Spurt Industries Tour - Back Cover

On the cover: Training is heating up! Check out how the Ferndale Fire Department completes fire hose training with this awesome action shot.

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.
Fridays: Closed

 **248-546-2525** (new phone tree!)

 information@ferndalemi.gov

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



ferndalemi.gov



bit.ly/ferndale-enewsletter



Facebook.com/Ferndale.Michigan



Facebook.com/FerndaleParksandRec



Facebook.com/FerndalePoliceMI



Facebook.com/FerndaleSpecialEvents



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



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

PUBLIC WORKS

LEAF PICKUP SEASON

Fall leaf pickup is here! The Public Works Department (DPW) will collect leaves weekly for the entire City, one business day before your normal trash pickup day. The program begins the week of October 19, 2026, and ends the week of November 23, 2026.

Please follow these procedures:

- Rake your leaves to the curb by 7:00 a.m. on the day of your scheduled pickup. Yard waste items like sticks, rocks, and grass do not belong in the leaf pickup pile.
- 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 and avoid parking hazards.
- If you miss a pickup, please wait until the following week to rake your leaves to the curb.

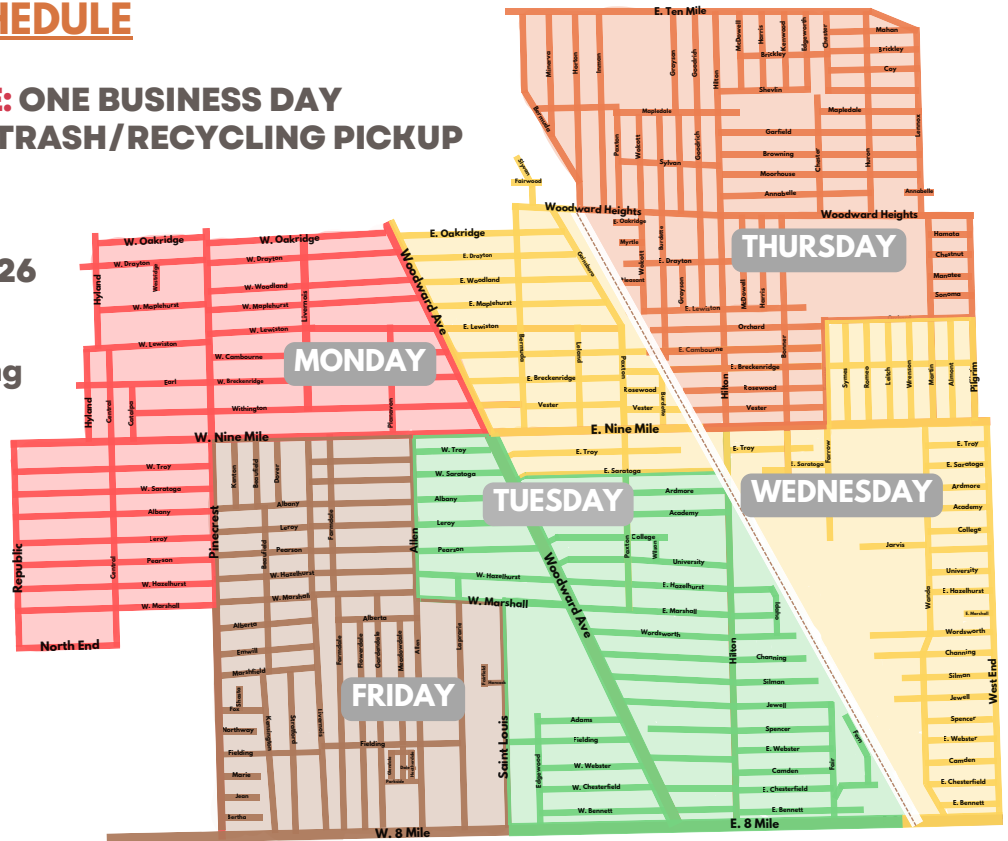
2026 LEAF PICKUP SCHEDULE

WEEKLY PICKUP SCHEDULE: ONE BUSINESS DAY BEFORE YOUR SCHEDULED TRASH/RECYCLING PICKUP

PROGRAM DATES: WEEK OF OCTOBER 19, 2026, TO THE WEEK OF NOVEMBER 23, 2026

- **Special Note: If your leaf pickup falls on Thanksgiving Day, Thursday, November 26, 2026, your collection day will be pushed to Friday, November 27, 2026.**

Monday	Red
Tuesday	Green
Wednesday	Yellow
Thursday	Orange
Friday	Brown



ferndalemi.gov/public-works



dpwservice@ferndalemi.gov



521 E. Cambourne



248-546-2519

DPW will issue warnings for any leaves at the curb by Monday, November 30, 2026. After this point, leaves can be mixed with yard waste until the week of Monday, December 14, 2026.

YARD WASTE SEASON

Yard waste season runs until the week of Monday, December 14, 2026. 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 sticker (available at City Hall and the DPW Yard) or in paper yard waste bags.

TRASH AND RECYCLING DELAYS

The following holidays impact weekly curbside garbage and recycling collection. Containers should be put out one day late for the rest of the week.

- Labor Day, Monday, September 7, 2026
- Thanksgiving Day, Thursday, November 26, 2026
- Christmas Day, Friday, December 25, 2026
- New Year's Day, Friday, January 1, 2027

SEELICKFIX

Have an issue to report around the City? Visit bit.ly/ferndalescf to issue an official report.

SNOW REMOVAL AND EMERGENCIES

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 and park in driveways or the dedicated snow emergency parking lots. Learn more about how to prepare for a snow emergency at bit.ly/ferndalesnowemergencies.

SUSTAINABILITY

RESIDENTIAL FOOD SCRAP COMPOST PROGRAM

Join your neighbors in making Ferndale greener by signing up for the Residential Food Scrap Compost Program. This program helps reduce landfill waste, greenhouse gas emissions, pests, rodents, and odors.

When your container is full, please drop it off in the designated bins at City Hall, the Kulick lot, or Geary, Martin Road, Withington, and Wilson Parks. Visit bit.ly/ferndalecompost to learn more and sign up.



ferndalemi.gov/government/services/sustainability



information@ferndalemi.gov



300 East Nine Mile Rd



248-546-2525

SEASONAL EVENTS



Oh my gourd, it's the **PUMPKIN PLOP!**

Give your pumpkins a final hurrah! Drop off your pumpkins between Friday, October 30, and Monday, November 9, 2026, 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.

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HOLIDAY HEAVE

CLEAN UP YOUR PAPER AND CARDBOARD!

The festive season is just around the corner! Once the celebrations wind down, bring your empty boxes, wrapping paper, and gift bags to the special dumpsters at the Kulick lot, Martin Road Park, or City Hall between Wednesday, December 23, 2026, and Saturday, January 2, 2027.



PARKS & RECREATION

WHAT'S NEW AT OUR PARKS?

MARTIN ROAD PARK

A new Martin Road Park Service Building is being built near the Splash Pad. It will feature a concession stand, public restrooms (including one for families), outdoor seating, and storage.

The playground west of the softball field will expand to include new slides, climbing areas, and swings. Most of the park will be open during construction.



bit.ly/ferndaleamilia



recreation@ferndalemi.gov



Incubizo, 1938 Burdette St



248-544-6767



facebook.com/ferndaleparksandrec

HARDING PARK

Thank you to those who supported the Harding Rink Rollout Grant Project. Together, we raised \$29,566! Every donation, along with every share, conversation, and word of encouragement, helped build momentum for this project. We look forward to future improvements to the inline rink starting this fall.

PARK RESTROOMS

Parks restrooms are open from Friday, May 8, to Monday, October 5, 2026. The bathrooms close in the fall and winter due to cold weather.

EVENTS



bit.ly/ferndaleamilia

What	When	Where
Fall Festival	Saturday, October 3, 2026 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.	Detroit Curling Club at Martin Road Park
Santa at Schiffer	Saturday, December 5, 2026 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.	Wilson, Geary, and Schiffer Parks

SPORTS



bit.ly/ferndaleamilia

What	When
Little Eagles Basketball	Registration opens October 2026, seasons runs from January to March 2027
Winter eSports	Winter 2026-2027, dates to be announced soon!

PROGRAMS



bit.ly/ferndaleamilia

What	When	Where
Water Aerobics	Saturdays at 10:30 and 11:30 a.m. October 17 to November 21, 2026	Ferndale High School
Adult Strength and Tone	Monday evenings at 5:00 and 6:00 p.m. October 19 to November 23, 2026	Ferndale Free Methodist Church

FERNDALE SENIOR GROUP

Stay in the know about upcoming trips and programming by registering as a Ferndale Senior Group member. Membership is \$15 annually and comes with a free parking pass for off-street metered lots in the city. Sign up for the Ferndale Senior Group at bit.ly/41DkbZT or email apardo@ferndalemi.gov.

FEEDBACK SURVEY

Help shape the future of Ferndale Parks & Recreation by sharing your ideas in our quick 2-minute survey. Your anonymous feedback will help inspire future programs. Take the survey at bit.ly/4cp4gDj or scan the QR code.



FINANCE

PROPERTY TAXES

WINTER

Winter property taxes are available on Tuesday, December 1, 2026. Paper bills will be mailed the first week of December. Payments are due on Sunday, February 14, 2027, and will incur a 3% penalty if paid from Monday, February 15 to Sunday, February 28, 2027. However, due to City Hall weekend and holiday closures, only in-person payments will be extended to Tuesday, February 16, 2027, with no interest.

SUMMER

Summer payments under installment plans must be received by the last business day of the month.

DECEMBER BOARD OF REVIEW

The December Board of Review is on Tuesday, December 15, 2026, in City Council Chambers. Disabled Veteran's Exemptions or Poverty/Hardship applications must be received by Tuesday, December 1, 2026. To reach the Assessing Team, call **248-546-2525 Ext. 121** or email assessor@ferndalemi.gov.



ferndalemi.gov/government/finance



taxbilling@ferndalemi.gov
waterbilling@ferndalemi.gov



300 East Nine Mile Rd



248-546-2525 Option 4

COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

GRASS AND WEEDS

The grass and weeds ordinance remains in effect through Saturday, October 31, 2026. 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.



ferndalemi.gov/economicdev



codeenforcement@ferndalemi.gov



300 East Nine Mile Rd



248-546-2525 Option 3

CITY CLERK

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2026, GENERAL ELECTION

The General Election is on Tuesday, November 3, 2026. Voters will choose their candidate for Governor/Lt. Governor, Attorney General, Secretary of State, US Senate, US House, and other positions. Voters will also make decisions on various proposals.



ferndalemi.gov/cityclerk



clerk@ferndalemi.gov



300 East Nine Mile Rd



248-546-2525 Option 8

IMPORTANT DATES: FALL 2026

Monday, September 28

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

Tuesday, October 20 (Through 8:00 p.m. on Election Day)

Beginning October 20, the only way to register to vote is in person at the City Clerk's Office with proof of residency.

Saturday, October 24 to Sunday, November 1

In-person Early Voting is available for voters from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on all days except Thursday, October 29, 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, October 30, by 5:00 p.m.

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

Saturday, October 31

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

Monday, November 2, by 4:00 p.m.

This is the deadline to request an absentee ballot in person if you are already registered to vote.

Tuesday, November 3: 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.

VOTE BY MAIL

Avoid lines and vote by mail! All registered voters can vote by mail/absentee ballot. Request a mail ballot online at mi.gov/vote, scan the QR code, or visit the City Clerk's Office. Return your ballots as early as possible to allow time for signature verification corrections. Use the ballot dropboxes, drop them off at the City Clerk's Office, or return them for free by mail (no postage required). The ballot dropboxes are outside City Hall, at the top of the second-floor stairs in City Hall, and at the entry/exit of The dot parking garage.



POLICE

CITIZENS ACADEMY

The Ferndale Police Department has a unique in-person opportunity to get to know the Department. In this four-week course, citizens receive hands-on instruction on many aspects of law enforcement, including patrol, investigations, SWAT, policy, philosophy, and operations. This free program takes place in the fall. More details to come! Please tune in to the Police Department's Facebook and City website for more information.



ferndalemi.gov/government/police



information@ferndalemi.gov



310 East Nine Mile Rd.



248-541-3650
(non-emergency)



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

SEASONAL POLICE SAFETY TIPS

HALLOWEEN

-  There are no official trick-or-treat hours. Activity typically occurs between 5:30 and 8:30 p.m.
-  Consider avoiding costumes that could be seen as insensitive or offensive to others based on race, gender, sexual orientation, culture, religion, ability, or other aspects of identity. The City wants everyone to feel welcome and have fun this Halloween.
-  Take care of yourself and watch out for others. Most of all, have fun and enjoy some candy!

TRICK-OR-TREATING SAFETY

- T**ake time to plan a route before you leave.
- R**emove tripping hazards from your porch or walkways.
- I**f in doubt, throw it out. Discard candy that looks suspicious.
- C**heck outdoor lights and replace burned-out bulbs.
- K**eep pets in a separate area.
- OR**
- T**ake a flashlight or light source with you.
- R**emember to look both ways before crossing the street.
- E**liminate distractions while driving through neighborhoods.
- A**void houses that don't have lights on.
- T**each children these safety tips.

Traveling for the holidays? Here are some tips for leaving your home unattended.

Set timers for all indoor and outdoor lights. 

Have a trusted friend or neighbor pick up mail, flyers, and packages. 

Put a radio or television on for volume. 

Ask a neighbor to park a car in your driveway. 

You can also request to be on the **Vacation Watch List**, which allows Ferndale Police officers to keep an extra eye on your home while you're away. Visit bit.ly/ferndalevacationwatch to sign up. 

WINTER HOLIDAYS

-  Buy from trusted websites, use safe ways to pay, and check your bank accounts for any charges you didn't make.
-  Watch out for gift card scams that ask for your payment information. Scams increase during busy holiday times.
-  Be responsible at holiday parties. Do not drink and drive.
-  Be aware of your surroundings and park in areas with good lighting.
-  Drive slowly and carefully on icy roads. Keep a safe distance between cars, slow down, and always carry an emergency kit in your car.

FIRE

FIRE PREVENTION WEEK

Fire Prevention Week is from Sunday, October 4, to Saturday, October 10, 2026. The theme is "Charge Into Fire Safety: Safe Charging is a Superpower." It shows how simple charging habits can lower the risk of lithium-ion battery fires to keep everyone safe. Learn more at nfpa.org, and check out the safety tips below!



ferndalemi.gov/fire



information@ferndalemi.gov



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



248-546-2510
(non-emergency)

SEASONAL FIRE SAFETY TIPS



Cooking: Pay attention to cooking and set a timer. Keep children and pets out of the area. Remove flammable items like food packages, oven mitts, wooden spoons, trays, or towels away from heat sources. Use turkey fryers outside, away from wooden decks or garages.



Decorating: Use battery-operated candles rather than real ones. Keep decorations away from heat sources, like fireplaces, wood stoves, or space heaters. Discard any lights with frayed or pinched wires. Turn off lights when not in use. Be sure to water real holiday trees regularly.

VIRTUAL HOME SAFETY INSPECTION

The Fire Department offers a free virtual home safety inspection through a short survey. You can fill out the survey at bit.ly/4sBW9cO.

HOME ESCAPE PLAN

If a fire breaks out in your home, be sure everyone knows what to do and how to exit safely by making a home escape plan. Visit bit.ly/4hxQmTG for an instructional video or scan the QR code.



FIRE DEPARTMENT OPEN HOUSE

Ever wondered what it's like inside a fire station? Join us for the Fire Department Open House on Saturday, October 3, 2026, from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. at Fire Station 2, located at 1070 E. Nine Mile Road. Explore the station, view hands-on fire safety demos, learn CPR, see how a fire blanket works, practice with a fire extinguisher, and enjoy treats and refreshments while meeting your Ferndale firefighters.



FERNDALE FIRE DEPARTMENT OPEN HOUSE

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2026 | 4:00 TO 6:00 P.M.
FIRE STATION 2 | 1070 E. 9 MILE RD



WE HAVE EXCITING ACTIVITIES PLANNED!



FIRE PREVENTION TRAILER



CPR TRAINING



FIRE EXTINGUISHER TRAINING



FIRE BLANKET DEMONSTRATION



TREATS AND REFRESHMENTS



AND MORE!

EVENTS: FALL/WINTER 2026



SEPTEMBER

Monday, September 7 - **City Hall Closed in Observance of Labor Day**

Monday, September 7 - **Martin Road Splash Pad Closes**



OCTOBER

Saturday, October 3 - **Fall Festival** (page 4)

Saturday, October 3 - **Fire Department Open House** (page 8)

Sunday, October 4 - **Fire Prevention Week Begins** (page 8)

Monday, October 19 - **Leaf Pickup Season Begins** (page 2)

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

Friday, October 30 - **Pumpkin Plop Begins** (page 3)

NOVEMBER

Tuesday, November 3 - **General Election** (page 6)

Monday, November 9 - **Pumpkin Plop Ends** (page 3)

Wednesday, November 11 - **City Hall Closed in Observance of Veterans Day**

Saturday, November 14, to Sunday, November 15 - **Jingle and Mingle Holiday Underground Market**

Monday, November 23 - **Leaf Pickup Ends** (page 2)

Thursday, November 26 - **City Hall Closed in Observance of Thanksgiving Day**

DECEMBER

Saturday, December 5 - **Santa at Schiffer** (page 4)

Monday, December 14 - **Yard Waste Season Ends** (page 2)

Wednesday, December 23 - **Holiday Heave Begins** (page 3)

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

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

All events are subject to alteration or cancellation.

Visit ferndalemi.gov/calendar for a calendar of events.

Get connected by visiting linktr.ee/ferndalemich or scan the QR code!



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Fall Festival



Fire Department Open House



Jingle and Mingle



Santa at Schiffer

CITY LEADERSHIP



Raylon Leaks-May
Mayor
rleaksmay@ferndalemi.gov



Laura Mikulski
Mayor Pro Tem
lmikulski@ferndalemi.gov



Rolanda Kelley
Councilmember
rkelly@ferndalemi.gov



Eddie Sabatini
Councilmember
esabatini@ferndalemi.gov



Nina LaSalle
Councilmember
nlasalle@ferndalemi.gov

MESSAGE FROM THE CITY MANAGER

I would like to welcome Councilmember Nina LaSalle, our new temporary Council appointment. Councilmember LaSalle will fill a Council vacancy through December 2027. She brings a wealth of knowledge in public sector finance and grants to the role that will benefit the community moving forward.

To learn more about other updates or for any questions please feel free to connect with me at cotoole@ferndalemi.gov.



SEEN ON SOCIAL



This past June, Ferndale City staff members got the opportunity to tour the Spurt Industries SOCRRRA site in Rochester Hills. It was an inspiring and educational experience, and we want to share what we learned and saw with you!

We appreciate Spurt for their enthusiasm in connecting with Ferndale as a partner and showing us how much we contribute to the wonderful world of composting! Shoutout to Doug Keto, Spurt's soil scientist, for giving us such a fun and informative tour. From getting up close and personal with the compost throughout all stages to seeing the equipment they use, we learned how the SOCRRRA site processes ALL of Ferndale's organic waste. Ferndale is proud to partner with Spurt Industries and help build a more sustainable future.



Spurt is a family-owned and operated manufacturer in Southeast Michigan that produces compost, planting soil, and custom soil from native ingredients, perfect for sustainable landscaping. You can learn more about Spurt Industries and how to get involved at spurtindustries.com or by calling 248-930-9382.