

Lunch + Legislation #11

What's Up With...

Local Legislation



Mon. Sept. 13, 12:00pm, via Facebook Live

Note Change of Date Due to Labor Day Holiday



**Attorneys
for Animals**

CELEBRATING 25 YEARS OF ANIMAL ADVOCACY

Counties, Cities, Townships

- Wildlife Killing Contests
 - Fur Sales Ban
 - Deer Cull
 - Mute Swans
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Background

- Can lead to state law
 - Opportunity for policy statement
 - Easier to lobby local officials
 - Potential to organize advocates and others around local issue
 - Who represents you
 - ❖ at-large
 - ❖ district
 - ❖ ward
 - [Great \(free\) Resource: MuniCode](#) (cities, townships)
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Wildlife Killing Contests

- Kalamazoo County, June 2021
 - Washtenaw County, July 2021
 - Not “anti-hunting” measures
 - Proclamations
 - ❖ Opposing
 - ❖ Asking MI policy makers to ban them (Kalamazoo)
 - ❖ Forwarding resolution to County representatives in Lansing requesting they advocate for a state-wide ban (Washtenaw)
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Photo by [NSPD Studios](#) from [Pexels](#)

Fur Sales Ban

- Ann Arbor City Council, August 2021
 - Passed Unanimously
 - Ban is 1st in Midwest city; 1st in fur-producing state
 - Passed Unanimously
 - Sponsor: “Furriers need to go the way of the buggy-whip makers”
 - Policy statement: animal suffering, environmental impact, public health that go against city’s values
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SAFE DEER MANAGEMENT IN OAKLAND COUNTY



The Farmington Hills City Council is creating a coalition of communities in Oakland County to develop a plan for deer management as an attempt to reduce deer-vehicle crashes and protect landscaping. We want this coalition to know that we do not support lethal measures, as there are safe and effective

NONLETHAL strategies to promote respectful coexistence between people and deer.

Reduce Deer-Vehicle Collisions By... Cutting back brush where deer travel, using temporary flashing deer crossing warning signs, reducing speed limits in certain locations, building fencing along roads, and creating a county-wide safe driving education program. There is also ongoing successful research results on fertility control, such as PZP immunocontraception (which we need to persuade the MDNR to permit).

Protect Landscaping By... Learning from experts and resources that provide information on how to deer-proof one's landscaping. The city can link to these resources on their website and invite an expert to offer a workshop for the residents of Oakland County. Additionally, we need to inform citizens of the deer feeding ban and enforce it. Some of the resources include:

- City of Ann Arbor, Deer Resistant Gardening, <https://bit.ly/38T7yhL>
- Deer Resistant Gardening, stoptheshoot.org/landscaping
- Sandy Baker, "The Deer Doctor," Workshop

WHAT CAN YOU DO: Please take action today! Let City Officials know that you do not support a deer cull and that you want the coalition to utilize nonlethal strategies for deer management.

Call/Send Emails City Officials:

- City of Farmington Hills, (248) 871-2400, <https://www.fhgov.com/Government/Mayor-and-Council.aspx>
- Vicki Barnett, Mayor, vbarnett@fhgov.com
- Jackie Boleware, Mayor Pro Tem, jboleware@fhgov.com
- Michael Bridges, Council Member, mbridges@fhgov.com
- Valerie Knol, Council Member, vk nol@fhgov.com
- Ken Massey, Council Member, kenmassey@fhgov.com
- Mary Newlin, Council Member, mnewlin@fhgov.com
- Matthew Strickfaden, Council Member, mstrickfaden@fhgov.com
- Gary Mekjian, City Manager, (248) 871-2510,
- Joseph Valentine, Assistant City Manager, (248) 871-2502

Deer Cull

- City of Farmington Hills: summer 2021 and ongoing
- Next date: September 21, 2021
- Note: effort to create coalition of Oakland County Communities to address deer-car collision problem
- Lethal management often preferred method

WHY KILLING DEER IN THE CITY IS A BAD IDEA

INEFFECTIVE: Deer culling has been proven an ineffective method of deer herd reduction. Remaining deer have less competition and more food. They adapt fast and become stronger, resulting in increased reproduction rates (see 'Compensatory Rebound Effect'). In addition, once the population drops temporarily, other deer from surrounding neighborhoods will immigrate into less densely populated green areas to forage for food. A 1-year cull will become a never-ending annual and costly slaughter without a significant reduction in deer-vehicle accidents or damage to landscaping.

UNSAFE: Culling in densely populated areas IS a safety hazard for residents, their families, their animal companions and other wildlife. Stray bullets can travel miles. Accidents involving the police force in a culling operation have happened in nearby communities such as Flint, MI. Wounded deer, from bullets or arrows, jumping into traffic are an additional hazard.

UNNECESSARY: Significant reduction of deer-vehicle crashes in high accident areas can be achieved with a combination of non-lethal methods such as improved signage, speed limit reduction, proper landscaping of road sides, lighting, etc., as well as with responsible motorist behavior.

COSTLY: Communities where culling has been implemented have become a direct contributor to deer overpopulation and have spent year after year and hundreds of thousands of dollars in taxpayers money on a vicious circle of killing that has failed to significantly reduce deer-vehicle crashes.

THE SOLUTION:

Let the city know that we do not support a deer cull in Farmington Hills or Oakland County. We want the coalition to use nonlethal deer management strategies because they are safe, cost-effective, and successful long-term measures.



To get involved contact: safefarmingtonhills2021@gmail.com

THANK YOU!

Deer Cull (con't)

Residents for Safe Deer Management Action Alert/Call to Action:

- **ATTEND and SPEAK OUT!:** Farmington Hills Education Session for Nonlethal action.
- **When:** Tues. September 21st from 6:30pm - 8:30pm
- **Where:** The Hawk Farmington Hills Community Center, 29995 Twelve Mile Rd., Farmington Hills, MI 48334
- **What:** MI Department of Natural Resources will be speaking to provide information on the current situation and to share options available for deer management. There will be time for public comments and a Q&A at the end.



Photo by [Pavel Danilyuk](#) from [Pexels](#)

Mute Swans

- Genoa Township, MI (ongoing)
- DNR considers them “invasive”, prohibits them from being rehabilitated and has system whereby local government or residents can petition to have DNR “remove” them
- July 2021: Township responds to complaints by lake property owners and passes resolution authorizing DNR “removal” anywhere in township
- August 2021 and continuing: local, national activist stage protest:
 - ❖ DNR action not backed by science
 - ❖ Swans being demonized and are simply responding to jet skiers, noise that threaten them
 - ❖ Call to Action:
<https://www.idausa.org/campaign/wild-animals-and-habitats/latest-news/swan-killing/>

Not Only Wildlife

- Companion animals: retail sales bans, community cats, maximum number of pets allowed
 - Urban Farming
 - Circus Bans and other restrictions on entertainment
 - Many local governments have Animal Ordinances covering a wide range of issues
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Thank you!



- Comments, questions, ideas for future episodes? Info@attorneysforanimals.org
- Missed an episode? [Check out our library.](#)
- ***Next Lunch + Legislation: Monday, October 4, noon***



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for Animals**

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