



# Gates Mills Fire Department

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## NEWS FROM THE CHIEF!

Well, it's time to get ready for summer vacations that we all look forward to. Every year many of our residents leave home for out-of-town trips and vacations. But what happens if while you are away, your fire alarm system malfunctions and sends a false fire alarm signal? The fire department will respond to your home and perform an *exterior* check for smoke and/or flames. But how can we effectively check a basement or upper floor?

The answer is simple: JOIN THE KEY PROGRAM! Contact one of the Gates Mills Town Hall Coordinators (Char or Dorothy) at (440-423-4405) and provide them with a key to your home. A Police Officer will bring this key to your house whenever there is a fire or burglar alarm reported. Utilizing your key, the fire department will be able to check your entire house for smoke or fire without breaking doors or windows. Also, the Police Department will be able to check your home thoroughly for signs of an intruder.

*Summer means that it's time for the **FIRE HYDRANT MAINTENANCE PROGRAM!!!***

Every year, the fire department must test the fire hydrants for proper operation. All 709 fire hydrants must be flushed (which means opening the hydrant to flow water) and then all three hose connections are lubricated. This continued maintenance of the water system is required to assure that if needed, there will be sufficient water to fight fires. This program also helps keep fire insurance rates down.

Fire hydrants will be flushed throughout the summer on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm. Sometimes the increased amount of water moving through the pipes will disturb sediments such as dirt, small stones and rust making the water look dirty or cloudy. If this happens the best way to clear it up is to run your water until it returns to normal.

Once the flushing and lubrication is completed, fire hydrants that need to be repainted will get a fresh coat of green paint and a new reflective band. Thank you for your support of this critical program.

Have a great summer!