This. Is. Rochester Hills! da da da...da da da
I sincerely hope our residents don’t tire of hearing good news - because we might be pushing it this year!
I have to start by bragging about our team - the amazing employees here in Rochester Hills who strive to exceed your expectations each and every day. While I know no team is perfect… I would put our successes this year against any city in America.
Speaking of teams,...I absolutely love this time of year, largely because of my love of football – high school, college, and even our semi-pro Detroit Lions! So, in the spirit of fall football, here’s my ESPN SportsCenter - Top Ten Reasons to be Proud of Rochester Hills this fall!

“... so, here’s my ESPN SportsCenter Top Ten Reasons to be Proud of Rochester Hills this fall!”

Bryan K. Barnett, Mayor

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10. Innovation Hills has begun – the lakes have been dug and the dream is underway. The coolest new park in Southeast Michigan is officially under construction!

9. Our first ever inter-generational playground is here! Thanks to a grant from our friends at AARP, Rochester Hills’ newest playground in Bloomer Park is built and ready for our amazing seniors to enjoy.

8. Rochester Hills was named one of the top ten places in the nation for small business! Any time you make Top 10 in the country there’s reason to celebrate, and with all the small businesses here in Rochester Hills, we’ve got plenty of places to celebrate!

7. Unanimous passage of our annual City budget by City Council for the fourth straight year! This might not sound super sexy, but have you seen anything pass unanimously out of Washington or Lansing lately? Thank you to the Rochester Hills City Council and City staff.

6. Oh, and the City’s budget remains balanced and does NOT raise your taxes in 2019.

5. Or in 2020.

4. Or in 2021!

3. The Germans are coming…and they’re bringing more jobs! This month we announced a new $58 million high-tech company coming to town bringing hundreds of new high-paying jobs.

2. Which leads to point 2 – our unemployment rate is just 2.7%, one of the lowest in the state.

1. Fall is here! Now, granted, we can’t take credit for the seasonal changes, but we can for some of the amenities where you can celebrate it like the Paint Creek and Clinton River Trails, the Stonewall Pumpkin Festival, and the Village at Christmas. These are “must-dos” for the coming months.

It’s easy to see why we are rightfully a little pumped around here. Our team is firing on all cylinders and we are being recognized as respected leaders in nearly all fields relating to good, efficient, and innovative local government.

So, rather than getting bogged down in what can be wrong with government, I encourage you to check out our city to see what is right about local government. We hope you share the same pride we do when you say you live in Rochester Hills.

It remains my sincere honor to serve as your mayor. Now, let’s get out there and enjoy our community! Thank you and God Bless.
City Receives Grant from AARP to Build Inter-Generational Play Area in Bloomer Park

Construction is underway on the City’s first multi-generational play and activity area. Located within Bloomer Park, it will feature outdoor fitness equipment and amenities specifically designed and curated for people age 50+. This area is being funded by a grant secured through the AARP Community Challenge, a program designed to make communities livable for people of all ages. The opportunity came to the City through its affiliation with the U.S. Conference of Mayors.

As part of the application process, AARP received 1,600 submissions from municipalities and non-profit groups across the country. From those, they selected 129 to receive a grant in 2018. Rochester Hills was recognized as only one of two organizations in the nation to obtain the highest grant award of $30,000. Mayor Barnett commented, “We were thrilled to receive this news. We’re thankful for AARP’s continued commitment to helping communities like Rochester Hills be great places to live for everyone.”

The equipment in this area will focus on stretching, flexibility, mobility and safety, all proven to be critical to maintaining good physical health, muscle coordination and strength for older adults. The equipment will facilitate assisted squats, assisted pull-ups and push-ups, cardiovascular endurance, leg raises, ankle push-ups and basic stretching exercises. The apparatus will be placed on a 30’ x 65’ concrete pad for accessibility and stability. Importantly, a large children’s playground is located near this new area, allowing kids, parents and grandparents to enjoy the park simultaneously.

The site we’ve selected is especially friendly for adults 50+, with ample nearby parking, nearby restrooms, paved paths, benches, and a grilling and picnic area. Funds from the grant will also allow us to upgrade a drinking fountain close by. We expect the area to be ready for use by mid-November.

Special thanks go to the City’s Parks & Natural Resources and Building/Facilities Departments who are overseeing the construction of this new area and, of course, to our friends at AARP.

Breaking Ground in Innovation Hills

Residents, community leaders, and city staff gathered on August 30 to break ground on Innovation Hills, Rochester Hills’ first new park in 25 years. Located at 2800 W. Hamlin Road, Innovation Hills encompasses over 100 acres of undeveloped woodlands, wetlands, and prairie habitat. Attendees enthusiastically toured the grounds and viewed the latest concept drawings.

The vision for the park matches the motto of the City: innovative by nature. Thoughtful and creative design will ensure that the natural beauty may be accessed and enjoyed by everyone. “Innovation Hills will be a place that provides an exceptional natural recreational experience for park users of all ages and abilities,” shared Mayor Barnett as he addressed the crowd.

The community has overwhelmingly supported the development of Innovation Hills. Donations from local businesses, organizations, and residents have already exceeded $1 million, and many were in attendance. Additionally, Mayor Barnett announced the State of Michigan awarded the City a $500,000 “Talent and Economic Development Grant” for Innovation Hills. Everyone is working together to create a legacy based on natural beauty for the residents of Rochester Hills.

Support Innovation Hills and follow the progress online at rochesterhills.org/innovationhills.
Rochester Hills Public Library - Relevant and Resourceful

The world is now literally at our finger tips, and with access to so much information and technology, institutions that were once considered vital are losing their relevance. We’ve all seen iconic retail stores close their doors, and traditional services like taxis and the post office struggle to compete. The library is among the institutions whose relevance has been questioned in the digital age. But as the director of one of the state’s busiest libraries I am proud to say Rochester Hills Public Library has stayed ahead of trends and technology, and has established itself as essential in the communities we serve.

This is because libraries are innovative by nature, and in some cases have even set the course for digital changes. Rochester Hills Public Library (RHPL) was among the first in Michigan to become an Internet provider. I even remember when I had to make the ‘big’ decision as to whether or not we’d switch from VHS to DVDs. Our library and libraries across the country were able to make these progressive decisions because we’re not driven by profit, but by our will to offer the very best library service to the community we serve.

Rochester Hills Public Library provides lifelong learning opportunities, instills a love of reading, and offers equal access to information. We serve as a community town square, where over 45,000 monthly visitors enjoy innovative ways to learn and socialize through a variety of programs including concerts, summer reading challenges, parent-child workshops, and weekly lectures.

We have a community bookmobile, six mini-branches in senior living facilities, and for homebound seniors we offer a delivery service. We have an entire digital collection of e-books, movies, music and magazines available online. Our databases include language learning and genealogy software, and consumer reports RHPL library card holders can access from anywhere in the world. In-house we offer a makerspace where users can utilize our Adobe software like Photoshop, our 3-D printers and our VHS to DVD converter. We have laptops, WI-FI and wireless hot spots for when you’re on the go.

We are also fortunate to have a highly trained staff of caring librarians. Our librarians are experts in information technology so when you’re looking for reliable resources for news or research they can help you determine the credibility of the sources. We’re a certified Family Place Library™, which means we work with parents and caregivers to lay the foundation for reading skills in their young children. Caregivers have the opportunity to work with our Childhood Development Specialist Wendy Lehman. Our youth staff offers caregiver training, story times, gross motor play, explorer zones, and preschool fairs.

We are fortunate to have one of the most supportive communities imaginable, and that is demonstrated through our statistics: we have over 70,000 card holders, 2 million check outs a year, and over 30,000 people per year attending our programs. I want to say thank you to those patrons who see our value and utilize our services, you are the reason we’re here and have stayed relevant throughout the changing times. Please keep coming!

Every strong community needs a town square, a place for everyone, with something for everyone, and as long as we maintain our commitment to serving you, we can’t be replaced.
Have Fun and Be Fit this Fall at the OPC!

Every day in Michigan over 350 people celebrate their 65th birthdays which means that the OPC is growing its membership all the time! And along with all the new members, the course offerings are expanding too. Members are encouraged to try exercise classes which provide countless benefits to those 50+, including improved flexibility and mobility, weight loss, disease prevention, and a boosted mood. In fact, the National Institute of Aging found that physical activity is the number one contributor to longevity. This fall, fitness opportunities include Drums & More, Archery, Men’s Hockey Club, Qigong & Tai Chi Basics, Hard Core Strength and a variety of aquatic classes to cultivate a healthy lifestyle at any age!

Physical health is not the only focus of the OPC. Mental health plays a key role in personal well-being for older adults. By participating in social groups and keeping their minds active, adults over 50 are more likely to report a positive outlook on life. In October, the Scrapbooking Fundraiser will engage the left and right brain combining creativity, organization, and socialization with like-minded people. The marathon scrapbook event is October 20 from 9:00 am – 9:00 pm.

On November 3, the entire community will have the opportunity to shop handcrafted items from local artisans at the annual Artisan Market. From 9:00 am - 4:00 pm shoppers can find unique pottery, jewelry, and crafts, perfect for one-of-a-kind holiday gifts. For more information and how to register visit opcseniorcenter.org.

The OPC provides more than daytime activities, they also have special evening programs throughout the year. Cliff Erickson, an acoustic musician who’s opened for the likes of Ringo Starr, America, and The Beach Boys, will entertain audiences in a night club style show on October 18 from 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm. Another local favorite, Mark Tisdel, will serenade audiences on November 15 at 7:00 pm. His wide repertoire is unparalleled! Information on both of these performances can be discovered in the OPC’s monthly newsletters.

The activities and services of the OPC are designed to allow adults to “age in place” by encouraging social engagement, independence, and healthy lifestyles. Every weekday, volunteers deliver Meals on Wheels to home-bound seniors and provide a wellness check which means that they can live at home longer. The transportation program transports seniors from their homes to doctor appointments, church, grocery shopping and more providing independence when it otherwise might have been lost. Other supportive services are also available to older adults including Adult Day Service, support groups, information and referral services and more. Hot nutritional lunch time meals are also provided at OPC Monday through Friday.

Rochester Hills residents 50+ are automatically members, just register or take a tour at 650 Letica Drive, Rochester. For a full listing of offerings visit, opcseniorcenter.org or call 248-656-1403 ext 0. Thank you and we look forward to seeing you there.
Planning and Economic Development

Planning for the Future - Rochester Hills Moves Forward with Master Plan Process in 2018

What can the city do to preserve and enhance things that make the community livable and productive, while managing and guiding development and redevelopment? The City of Rochester Hills Planning and Economic Development (PED) Department has been asking this question and more throughout the year as it has worked on updates to the city’s Master Plan.

A Master Plan is a big-picture, long-range document that guides policy and decision-making about how land in the city is used for housing, transportation, commerce, and recreation. Through 2018, the city’s PED Department and the Planning Commission has worked with the city’s planning consultants, Giffels Webster, to understand and explore existing trends and projections on how the city’s population and marketplace may change over the next 10-20 years. With public input, the city has revised the goals of previous planning documents to align with current projections and trends, and identified appropriate land use and implementation strategies that support current and future residents and businesses.

There are a few opportunities left for community input. These opportunities are posted on the city’s webpage, rochesterhills.org/MasterPlan. There, the community can review the draft plan and comment on specific items via our interactive story map. A public hearing will be held in late 2018/early 2019 with adoption to follow.

Planning and Economic Development Trip to Germany Brings Investment to Rochester Hills

What does Rochester Hills, Michigan USA and Lüdenscheid, Germany have in common? Among having similar population counts, rolling hills and a strong community commitment to science and culture, both cities are proud to host Kostal Kontakt Systeme’s (KKS) growing global engineering and manufacturing operations.

KKS designs and manufactures reliable plug connectors, primarily for the automotive industry. Recently, KKS announced it plans to invest $58.6 million to construct a new North American Headquarters and production facility along M-59 in Rochester Hills. No stranger to the City of Rochester Hills, KKS has operated in a leased facility on Hamlin Road for seven years. The company has outgrown its 80,000 square foot facility and thus last year began looking at options. Pamela Valentik, Economic Development Manager for the City of Rochester Hills, shared the process of assisting with creating such a list, “I was delighted when I got the call from KKS sharing that future growth required them to start planning for a larger facility. KKS has been an outstanding corporate citizen and we certainly didn’t want to lose them.”

The City has experienced tremendous success in attracting foreign direct investment to the area and that market needed to become a key focus in the City’s economic development efforts. In 2014, Ms. Valentik participated in a delegation to Germany to discuss business investment in Oakland County, specifically Rochester Hills, and in 2017, celebrated the grand opening of the newly constructed, 120,000 square foot Technical Center for German-based company, Jenoptik.

Mayor Barnett stated the importance of retaining strong, growing companies comes from solid relationships with its leadership. “It’s an old marketing strategy but a good one – customer retention is just as critical as new attraction. That’s why we invest in building relationships with our existing companies and their leadership. If their business is growing, we want to partner with them to support their growth.”

KKS is under the ownership of the KOSTAL Group. Started in 1912 in Lüdenscheid, Germany, the KOSTAL Group is comprised of five independent business units operating in 21 countries. What makes this company incredibly unique is its family heritage as its current Chairman and CEO, Andreas Kostal is the 4th generation to run the company and expand its reach.

Holger Lettmann, President and CEO of Kostal Kontakt Systeme, Inc. in America shared why the 16 acres of vacant land near Adams Road with M-59 frontage is proving to be the ideal location, “This location affords us to build a state-of-the-art facility that will house all engineering, sales, production and distribution operations servicing the North American market. The first phase will be to construct 130,000 square feet, but this land provides us the opportunity to grow to 300,000 square feet. The facility will employ 206 to start but plans include to grow up to 600 jobs at this KOSTAL campus.” Kostal Kontakt Systeme, Inc. is beginning the site planning process now, with plans to occupy the facility in 2020.
Established in 1979, The Rochester Hills Historic Districts Commission (HDC) and ordinance follow the State of Michigan Public Act 169 of 1970. The Commission consists of nine community members who help to protect the exterior of historic buildings located throughout our community and within our two historic districts at Stoney Creek and Winkler Mill Pond.

Established on March 30, 1835, Avon Township was a rural, wilderness area. Our community was settled because of the three powerful water sources we had that could operate the gears of a mill – Paint Creek, Stoney Creek, and the Clinton River. The water-powered mills were the first commercial businesses in our community and relied on moving water for their source of power. Early mills provided the basic necessities of life in a rural area – food (grist mills), clothing (woolen mills), and shelter (saw mills). The forests that the first pioneers thought would last for centuries were completely cut in Avon Township within the first 25 years of settlers arriving in 1817.

The Clinton River drops 129 feet from Adams to Dequindre Roads, providing a source of power for at least eight mills in our community.

Yates Cider Mill, located at Avon and Dequindre Roads, is the last remaining operating water-powered mill in Avon Township, which also makes it the oldest business—158 years old in 2018. Documents reference a barn on the mill site as early as 1818, with a mill reference from 1848 describing the use of water power for the mill. This is probably the mill built by the Winegar brothers. Originally owned by John (1798-?) and Elizabeth Wood Sipperly (Sipperley) (1807-1885), the Sipperlys had at least seven children, with John listed on the 1850 Federal Census as a farmer. The eighty-four acre property was sold to Caroline S. Yates (1835-?) on April 14, 1863 for eight hundred dollars.

A new building was constructed in 1863 as a lumber mill. In 1869 it was operating as a saw and grist mill. A cider mill, added in 1876, pressed a variety of fruits, including grapes, for local farmers. The current building was constructed in 1894. The original wooden dam of 1863 was replaced in 1975. A twenty-six inch water turbine from James Leffel and Company was added in 1894, with a water-powered cider “screw” press, which provided fifty tons of pressure, installed in 1924. Each pressing uses four thousand pounds of apples, with thirty-six apples producing one gallon of cider, and each pressing making two hundred to two hundred-fifty gallons. The original turbine and press continue in use. The undershot waster wheel on the outside of the building was built by Charles Posey in 1961.

Cider was an important source of nutrients for early farmers. Besides providing vitamins in their diet, cider was a safe drinking liquid due to the presence of contaminated water due to domestic farm animals, as a cooking liquid it improved the diets of farmers, and it could be distilled and sold year-round.

Harry Yates sold the mill to Charles Posey in 1959, with Mike and Katie Posey Titus buying the mill from her grandfather in 2006. At some point, a short-lived sorghum mill was added downstream—the exact location is unknown.

A State of Michigan Historic marker was added out front in 2017. Today, you can still enjoy a glass of cider from the same equipment that made cider more than 100 years ago.
The good news is that the general life expectancy has increased over previous years but the bad news is that the older adult population continues to be the largest risk category for fire and fall injuries and deaths. Many of the Members of the RHFD are trained in specialized disciplines of Technical Rescues. We have members who have been trained to advanced levels of Trench Collapse Rescue, Confined Space Rescue, Swift Water Rescue, Building Collapse Rescue, Advanced Rope Rescue, Ice Rescue, and Industrial Machinery Rescue. Some of our members have even been trained at the Federal (FEMA) level in various types of rescues.

The RHFD has a Heavy Rescue Truck, Rescue 1, at Fire Station #1. The Rescue is well equipped to initiate most any Technical Rescue until our MABAS team(s) arrive to support our operation. Some of the equipment on Rescue 1 includes Rope Rescue equipment, Confined Space Rescue, Heavy Machinery/Industrial Rescue, Vehicle Extrication, Water Rescue and more. Rescue 1 can also act as a Command Post for a Technical Rescue Operation as its cab is equipped with a work station for information gathering, communication equipment and accountability systems. RHFD has a variety of support vehicles, including boats and off-road utility vehicles, to assist with water rescues and off-road rescues.

Rest assured that the RHFD is fully capable and ready to respond if and when the call comes in for a Technical Rescue.
Recognizing Scams

Every year thousands of people are defrauded by telephone scams. Scam artists use many ways to trick you into sending money or giving out personal information. Some may be very friendly and claim to know people you work with or are known to you. With the evolution of the Internet it has become easier for scam artists to locate information about you to gain your trust. Remember never give out any personal information over the phone. You can always hang up and verify the legitimacy of the phone call by contacting the agency on your own. Below are several common telephone scams for you to be aware of so you can protect yourself from these unscrupulous scam artists.

**Internal Revenue Service Telephone Scam**

Victims are told they owe money to the IRS which must be paid immediately. If the victim refuses, they are threatened with arrest and even sometimes deportation. Usually the scammers will request the victim obtain pre-paid gift cards to pay a fraudulent unpaid debt. The IRS does not conduct business over the phone and rest assured the IRS will not call and ask for payment. Some characteristics of this type of scam include:

- Scammers may spoof an IRS phone number to make it appear the call is coming from the IRS.
- Background noise on the phone to mimic a call site.
- Scammers may already have the last four digits of the victim’s social security number or other personal information.
- If the victim refuses to cooperate, the scammer hangs up and calls back pretending to be from a local police agency threatening arrest. Once again on a spoofed number.

**Grandparents Scam**

Victims receive a call from a person claiming to be their grandchild explaining they are in trouble or hardship. The scammer requests money to be sent to them by way of a wire transfer or gift cards - many times, in some other states or countries. There are incidents where the scammer will claim to be a lawyer, police officer or some other person acting on behalf of a grandchild. Don’t take the bait! A five-minute online search can yield the phone number of the law firm, police station or organization so you can call back to verify the information. Don’t take the information at face value; hang up and call your grandchild to verify the information. Characteristics of this type of scam include:

- Not knowing your grandchild’s name, may just say this is your favorite grandson
- Requesting money be wired to a location for help with an alleged crisis
- Spoofed phone number that appears to be from a legitimate organization
- Sense of urgency for money to be transferred immediately

**Police Officer Scam**

In this scam, a person receives a phone call from someone claiming to be with Law Enforcement. The caller states that the person they are calling has warrants for their arrest. The person is then instructed to go and purchase Green Dot money cards or similar items and to give the caller the code number on the back of them. There have also been cases where the caller is instructed to wire money through Western Union or Money Gram. The caller is threatened with arrest if they don’t immediately comply. Once the caller receives the code, the money is transferred from the Green Dot card to an unknown account and it cannot be recovered after this point. Characteristics of this type of scam include:

- Phone number spoofed to look like its coming from an official Law Enforcement agency
- Uses actual names of police officers
- Threats to send police officers to arrest you
Rochester Hills Building Department
Maintaining Your City Buildings and Properties

The Building Department’s Facilities Division has been busy this past summer, and it looks to be a busy fall and winter.

This summer, multiple maintenance projects were completed at city buildings and parks. The schoolhouse addition at the Rochester Hills Museum at Van Hoosen Farm brought the schoolhouse back to its original 1950s condition. The Van Hoosen Cemetery is getting a much-needed storage barn and the new Fire Station 4 is scheduled for completion in November of this year.

The Rochester Hills Facilities Division was there in force to ensure the groundbreaking ceremony at Innovation Hills was a huge success. These are just a few of the many projects we are working on to make sure all our City of Rochester Hills buildings and properties are looking sharp, clean, safe, and are comfortable for you and your family to enjoy.

Preparing for Winter

Fall has arrived, and soon the winter months will be upon us. As you enjoy the last warm days of this year and prepare to button up for the winter, the Ordinance Compliance inspectors have a few friendly reminders.

If you plan on storing your recreational vehicle on your property, it may be stored in the rear yard, at least five feet from the side and rear property line. Recreational vehicles, including utility trailers, are not allowed to be permanently stored in the front yard. Side yard storage requires the unit be at least 10 to 15 feet from the side property line, depending on your zoning district.

If you have been working on the yard and have brush piles or leaves, remember the last day for yard waste pickup for our single family homes is December 13, 2018. As you know, open burning is no longer allowed in the City of Rochester Hills, so yard waste material must be disposed of properly.

Finally, if you have sidewalks in front of your house, take the time to tune up the snow blower or locate the snow shovel so you will be ready for the snow. Property owners must remove snow and ice from their sidewalks within 48 hours after the snow has fallen and must maintain them free from ice at all times.

Don’t Forget About That Sidewalk

It is going to happen. Here in Michigan you can count on it for sure, and it is not long after autumn leaves fall before it occurs…the arrival of snow. The kids hope it is enough to call off school so they can sleep in and then dive into some wintertime fun. If you have a home with a sidewalk out front, that snow means it is time for a little extra exercise.

Rochester Hills has an Ordinance that requires all interior subdivision sidewalks in front of your house be cleared of all snow and ice within 48 hours after a snow event and remain cleared at all times. This is intended to help prevent a slip and fall accident in front of your home, and also provide a place for the neighborhood kids to walk to school or the bus stop.

Wintertime is not the only time homeowners with sidewalks out front need to be diligent. Overgrown landscaping and low-hanging trees need to be maintained so they do not block the sidewalk. The Ordinance also requires homeowners to repair severely cracked or deformed sidewalks that present a trip hazard. If you have a sidewalk that is damaged and you need help to determine if it needs repair, contact the Department of Public Services Engineering Division at 248-656-4640.

For a complete reading of homeowner responsibilities related to sidewalks, please go to Municode.com, and follow the path Library/Michigan/Rochester Hills and search Chapter 94-141.

Thank you for your efforts to keep the sidewalks in our community clear and safe for everyone to use.

If you have questions for the Ordinance Inspectors, please contact the Building Department at 248-656-4615.

Fall/Winter 2018
Smoke Alarms Can Save Your Life

Do you have them in good working order in your home?

Did you know that:

- Roughly half of home fire deaths result from fires in the small percentage of homes with no alarms.
- Homes with smoke alarms (whether or not they are operational) typically have a death rate that is 40-50% less than the rate for homes without alarms.
- A 2004 U.S. telephone survey found that 96% of the households surveyed had at least one smoke alarm.
- In one-quarter of the reported fires in homes equipped with smoke alarms, the devices did not work. Households with non-working smoke alarms now outnumber those with no smoke alarms.
- Why do smoke alarms fail? Most often because of missing, disconnected or dead batteries.

Source: NFPA’s “U.S. Experience with Smoke Alarms and Other Fire Detection/Alarm Equipment.”

The State of Michigan adopted rules requiring smoke alarms in homes. These rules affecting older homes are in part in response to the tragic deaths of an entire family in Pontiac in 2003. That home did not have and was not required to have any smoke alarm installed.

These rules apply to homes and apartment buildings built prior to November 6, 1974. That is the date of the first building code in the State of Michigan that required smoke alarms in homes. These rules require the following:

- Smoke alarms in each sleeping room, outside each separate sleeping area near the bedrooms, and on every floor of the home including the basement.
- Power supply for smoke alarms supplied by 110 volt wiring with a battery back up or by a battery capable of providing power for at least 5 years.

The Rochester Hills Building Department, as a regular part of our permit and inspection activities, will be checking existing homes for the required smoke alarms.

If your home has smoke alarms, check this out; Studies show that approximately 40% of the smoke alarms do not work. This is for the most part due to old age, or dead or missing batteries. A smoke alarm, like any home appliance, should be updated and maintained.

If your home has smoke alarms, you should consider when you last updated them. It is recommended that they be replaced every 10 years. Here are some other tips to make sure your smoke alarms are working properly:

- Test your smoke alarm monthly.
- Replace batteries once a year or as soon as you hear the alarm “chirping” to warn of a low battery.
- Do not disable smoke alarms even temporarily. If your smoke alarm is sounding “nuisance alarms” try relocating it further from the kitchen or bathrooms, where cooking fumes and steam can cause the alarm to sound.
- Consider upgrading to smoke alarms with “long-life” 5-10 year batteries.
- Replace smoke alarms that are over 10 years old.

Please contact the Rochester Hills Building Department at 248-656-4615 or email us at building@rochesterhills.org, if you have any questions.

Job Prospects

I love my job; great place to work; the hours fit my schedule …

Sound good to you? Whether you just want to work a couple hours each day or maybe you need to earn money next summer for school, bring your talents to the City of Rochester Hills as a:

Crossing Guard - Ensure safe crossing of students at school locations throughout the City

Seasonal Employee - Enhance our Parks or Public Services in a variety of positions

If we’ve caught your attention, and we hope we have, check us out further at rochesterhills.org and click on Job Opportunities or call Human Resources at 248-656-4708. We’re always looking for great folks to join our team.
Home Energy Saving Tips

Everyone is watching how they spend their dollars these days, looking for ways to tighten the budget and get by with a little bit less. Check out the energy saving tips compiled by the Building Department and see what you may be able to do to reduce costs.

No-Cost or Low-Cost

- Lower your thermostat at night and whenever no one is home. Close off and don’t heat unoccupied rooms. If you consistently set your thermostat back at night 10° Fahrenheit (F), you may reduce your heating bill by 10-20%.
- Lower the thermostat and dress warmer. As little as 1° to 3° (F) makes a noteworthy difference in energy consumption.
- Setting your air conditioner 5° (F) higher will save up to 20% on cooling costs.
- Reduce air conditioning costs by using fans, and closing windows, doors and shades during the day. Most ceiling fans use less energy than a light bulb.
- Lower the temperature on your water heater to 120° (F). Turn it to the lowest setting when away.
- When washing clothes, use warm or cold water and rinse with cold. About 90% of the energy used in a clothes washer goes to water heating.
- Wash full loads of dishes. Reduce energy and water use.
- Install faucet aerators and low-flow showerheads. Showers use less hot water than baths; also consider taking shorter showers. This can reduce water heating costs by 50% and save up to $300.00 per year.
- Set refrigerator temperatures between 37°- 40° (F). Clean the coils. Keep the refrigerator stocked; it takes more energy to cool an empty refrigerator.
- Shut off lights, computers and other electronic appliances when you’re not using them. Many computer monitors have a sleep mode setting which, when activated, greatly reduces energy consumption.
- Unplug electronics, battery chargers and the equipment when not in use. Combined, these small items can use as much power as your refrigerator.
- Install foam gaskets behind electric-outlet and switch-plate covers.
- Close your fireplace damper and seal the opening shut when not in use.
- Examine and adjust, if necessary, weather stripping, door sweeps, and thresholds.
- Make sure to maintain your clothes dryer. Make sure the vent is clear and clean the lint filter after every load.

Steps that cost more, but pay for themselves in two years or less:

- Install an automatic setback thermostat that adjusts room temperature according to your daily schedule.
- Install do-it-yourself storm windows that cost less than $1/sq.ft., such as flexible vinyl glazing.
- Use motion sensors or timers for outdoor lighting. You’ll still have security and save energy.
- Replace incandescent light bulbs with compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs). You will save 75% off your lighting costs.
- Replace furnace filters. The dirtier they are, the harder the fan furnace works. Clean filters are essential for heat pumps; airflow is critical and can add years to the life of your heat pump.
- Add water heater tank and hot water pipe insulation especially if in an unheated space. Don’t cover the thermostat or, for natural gas models, the air inlets.
- Replace that old toilet with a new water saver and you will see a savings in your water bill.

Home energy improvements that pay for themselves in two to five years:

- Increase attic insulation to R-49.
- Insulate floors over unheated spaces to R-22.
- Insulate and seal ducts in attics, crawl spaces, garages and other unheated areas-potential big energy savings!

Home improvements that take more than five years to pay for themselves:

- When it is time to replace a home appliance, purchase an energy-efficient model. These appliances cost more initially, but you will save both money and energy over its entire life.
- Energy Star® clothes washers save energy, water, and detergent.
- Look for and purchase Energy Star® labeled electronic goods, and lighting bulbs and fixtures.
- Furnaces, heat pumps, air conditioning and water heaters all have high efficiency models available and should be considered when replacing these appliances.
- Invest in commercially installed storm windows or insulated glass.
- Install a fireplace insert or wood stove in the fireplace.

Energy Saving Tips

[Image: Checkmark pencil with green background]
Parks and Natural Resources

Veterans Memorial Pointe Memorial Brick Order Form

Buying a Memorial Brick is a simple way to leave your mark of remembrance. This is your opportunity to become a part of something special in our city. By buying a brick, you or your loved one will become a part of this memorial forever and you will help us maintain this place of honor. The price of each brick is $75.00. All proceeds will go toward the upkeep of Veterans Memorial Pointe.

Inscription Information

Please print clearly -- one character per box. Include spaces where necessary. There is a limit of 12 characters per line, including spaces. Bricks will be inscribed exactly as shown.

The Memorial Bricks are meant to be a lasting tribute to a friend or loved one. Once the bricks are placed, they cannot be relocated.

If you have not had the opportunity, please visit Veterans Memorial Pointe. While it is always beautiful, it is especially lovely at this time of the year. Veterans Memorial Pointe is located on the southeast corner of Livernois and Avon.

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**Memorial/Eagle Scout Brick Order Form**

*Please print clearly or type all information*

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**NOTE:** Price of $75 includes 24 characters, including spaces. Additional characters may be added for $1/character. Please print the following information. In honor of:

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☐ Check box if this is an Eagle Scout.

☐ Check box if person spent time in the service. A star will be added to their brick at no extra charge. Please fill out this Brick Order Form and mail with a check made payable to:

**Community Foundation of Greater Rochester / VMP**

PO Box 431
Rochester, MI 48308-0431

*(Please note on check: Veterans Memorial Pointe Fund)*

Upon receipt of your check and order form, you will be sent an acknowledgement letter. Bricks are installed in the park twice a year in late October and May.

For information and additional order forms, please call the Community Foundation of Greater Rochester at 248-608-2804 or the Mayor's Office at 248-656-4664.
Tree Maintenance Reminder

The Rochester Hills Natural Resources Division has an ongoing street tree maintenance program conducted by Forestry staff and contracted crews. Under this program, trees and shrubs that impede the passage of vehicles along streets, or pedestrians on pathways, interfere with safe sight distance requirements, or pose a hazard to the right-of-way will be addressed on a cyclical basis.

Although some work will occur in various locations throughout the city, the main emphasis of the 2018-2019 program will be in the northwestern portions of the city.

The adjacent property owner is responsible for removing encroachments/obstructions when trees/shrubs growing on private property interfere with the use of streets or pathways, as required by ordinance specifications. Property owners may be notified regarding what action is required of them or what action will be taken by the City. No notification will be given for maintenance/pruning to be performed on trees and shrubs growing on city right-of-way.

Anyone with questions about the program or its requirements can contact the City Arborists at 248-656-4673.

Christmas Tree Recycling

Under contract with the City of Rochester Hills, Green For Life will collect discarded Christmas trees curbside that are devoid of any ropes, lights, metal, plastic or other hangers during Christmas week and the following three weeks. Trees measuring greater than six feet tall must be cut in half prior to placement at curbside. Green For Life will deliver the trees they collect to a compost site rather than a landfill or disposal facility.

In addition, the City of Rochester Hills will once again allow its residents to dispose of natural Christmas trees by dropping them off at the Clinton River Watershed Council on the following dates and times ONLY:

- Saturday, January 5, 2019 10:00 am - 4:00 pm
- Sunday, January 6, 2019 10:00 am - 4:00 pm
- Saturday, January 12, 2019 10:00 am - 4:00 pm
- Sunday, January 13, 2019 10:00 am - 4:00 pm

Clinton River Watershed Council is located at 1115 W. Avon Road (south side of Avon Road, just west of Livernois Road)

Christmas trees will be accepted subject to ALL of the following conditions. No exceptions to these conditions will be made.

- Residents of Rochester Hills may drop off trees during the announced days and hours only.
- Trees shall be dropped off at the designated area only.
- The trees will be processed through a wood chipper; therefore only natural Christmas trees will be accepted. All non-woody material, e.g., lights and wires, ornaments, rope, garland, stands and braces, bagging, etc. must be removed before drop off.
- No mass or commercial disposal is permitted.
- No trash or other woody debris disposal is permitted.

Recycle The Tree!
Rochester Hills Veterans Day Ceremony

The annual Veterans Day Ceremony will be held at Veterans Memorial Pointe on Sunday, November 11 starting at 11:00 am sharp. Guest speakers will be Bryan K. Barnett, Mayor of Rochester Hills, and Post Commanders from our local VFW, DAV and American Legion Posts. City Council President Mark Tisdel will lead the national anthem.

“On Veterans Day, we honor ALL American veterans, both living and dead. In fact, Veterans Day is largely intended to thank LIVING veterans for dedicated and loyal service to their country. November 11 of each year is the day that we ensure veterans know that we deeply appreciate the sacrifices they have made in their lives to keep our country free.” ~ US Military

We welcome you to join us as we recognize and honor the men and women who serve and have served in our armed forces.

Rochester Hills Parks Outdoor Fun

The City of Rochester Hills Parks and Natural Resources Department will continue to offer programs designed to encourage outdoor participation throughout the winter.

Well-attended summer programs like Kayaking, River Float, Fishing for Beginners, and Night Hike and Campfire will be followed by our fall and winter lineup. Winter programs are kicking off in December with “Winter Wildlife”. Popular annual programs including Snow Fort and Campfire, Sap-to-Syrup, and Antler Amble will also be scheduled as we get into the new year.

A new program added by popular demand will take a closer look at “Making Maple Syrup.” At this event attendees will hike into the sugar bush at Bloomer Park, collect sap from the tap and take part in the boiling operation. A “sweet” time will be had by all!

In addition to our outdoor engagement programs, residents can explore more of the outdoors by joining our Green Space Advisory Board in outdoor walks on our green spaces. These “Second Saturday Green Space Hikes” continue until December and include a nice walk in one of the city’s Green Space properties to see some of the natural features the city has protected.

You can learn more about what the Outdoor Engagement team has to offer at the city’s website at rochesterhills.org/outdoors.
Spring 2019 Free Street Tree Planting Program

The City of Rochester Hills is offering free street trees to Rochester Hills property owners and businesses in 2019. The first 250 property owners and businesses to register this winter/spring may have a tree planted on the public right-of-way adjacent to their property. The trees will be planted, maintained, and guaranteed for one year by the City’s landscape contractor. The Forestry unit of the Parks and Natural Resources Department will work with the property owner to determine the specific location following the City’s street tree ordinance guidelines. Orders must be received by the first Saturday in March, 2019.

All trees are 2-inch caliper (stem diameter) and approximately 8-10 feet tall. The following tree species are normally available (not all varieties are suitable for all locations): Hornbeam, Hackberry, Beech, Honeylocust, Coffeeetree, Tuliptree, Serviceberry, Oak, Baldeypress, Linden, Hybrid, Elm. (Note: Due to over-planting, Red Maples and Flowering Pears are no longer offered.)

Other varieties are sometimes available. Please contact the Parks & Natural Resources office at 248-656-4673 for any additional information or visit our website at: rochesterhills.org/trees

Name: _____________________________________________
Address: ___________________________________________
Phone: _____________________________________________
Preferred Species (please indicate first and second choices): ___________________________________________

Mail order form to: City of Rochester Hills, Forestry Division
1000 Rochester Hills Drive
Rochester Hills, MI 48309-3033
Email: forestry@rochesterhills.org

Be aware...

There are two new invasive threats to our trees that are yet to be found in Michigan, but are knocking at our door! Being on the lookout now is the best way to get ahead of the issue before it becomes a devastating problem.

The Spotted Lanternfly has been found in Pennsylvania and New York and could spread to Michigan soon. It has the potential to seriously damage agricultural and forestry industries. This pest feeds on a wide range of tree species.

Meanwhile, the Asian Longhorned Beetle has been quarantined to small pockets in New York, Massachusetts, and Ohio (near Cincinnati). If the beetle escapes quarantine, it has the potential to be the most damaging and costly invasive insect North America has experienced as it also impacts a wide range of species, including Maples.

If you spot either insect, try to capture it in rubbing alcohol or soapy water to preserve it. Alert the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, MDA-Info@michigan.gov or phone the MDARD Customer Service Center, 800-292-3939. Also contact the Parks & Natural Resources office at 248-656-4673 or email forestry@rochesterhills.org. One of the best ways residents can prevent the spread of dangerous invasive insects is to use local firewood. Firewood should never be transported more than 50 miles, although some experts say 10 miles is a safer limit.

There are two new invasive threats to our trees that are yet to be found in Michigan, but are knocking at our door!
Fall Healthy Lawn Care Tips

While most people know that spring and summer are important seasons for taking care of their lawns, did you know that the fall is just as important? Here are a few tips for fall lawn care that will help keep your lawn healthy all year long and will help protect water quality.

**Mowing Your Lawn** - Three inches is the rule! Keep your lawn three inches high during the fall. It will help hold moisture in the plant, reduce stress and shade out weeds.

**Mulch Your Leaves** - Did you know that leaves can help enrich your lawn’s soil? Those colorful leaf "bits" provide much-needed organic matter for your soil. As leaves fall onto your lawn, chip the leaves into smaller pieces by running over them several times with your lawn mower.

**Feed in the Fall** - Fall is generally the most important time of the year for applying fertilizers. Be sure to test your soil if you haven’t done so recently and use your soil test results to determine proper application rates. Over fertilizing is worse for your lawn and the environment that under fertilizing. If you haven’t tested your soil -- do it now!

The Clinton River Watershed Council promotes the fertilizer recommendations set by the South Oakland County Healthy Lawn and Garden Technical Committee and the Partners for Clean Water recommend the following types of fertilizer:

- Low or no phosphorus. (5:1 Nitrogen to Phosphorus ratio)
- Slow-release nitrogen (At least 50% of the nitrogen should be slow-release. Avoid quick-release and water-soluble fertilizers.)
- Pesticide/herbicide free (Separate spot treatment is recommended.)

**Help Your Lawn “Breathe”** - A part of having healthy lawns and healthy waterways is having a lawn that allows air, water and nutrients to reach down into the soil. Air is needed by organisms that help to break down organic matter and produce nutrients that the grass roots need. Having less compacted soil will also allow water to soak into the ground and help plant roots grow stronger and deeper into the soil.

**Time to Patch** - Seed or sod bare patches of lawn to prevent soil from washing into our lakes and streams and to keep the soil from becoming compacted. When re-seeding your lawn, loosen the soil in the area with a rake or hoe, apply a thin layer of compost, and then apply the appropriate variety of grass seed and water evenly and regularly.

**Pest and Weed Problems** - Homeowners who follow healthy lawn care practices will have fewer weed and pest problems. If you must treat for weeds or other pest problems, make sure you know exactly what plant or pest you are trying to eliminate and use a product designed to treat that specific problem.

**Cut Back In Spring, Not Fall** - Many perennial plants and ornamental grasses provide vital fall and winter food sources and shelter for native wildlife through the winter. They also provide “visual interest” in your landscape and protect soil from wind erosion. Consider leaving these plants standing instead of cutting them back in the fall. Those that need to be cut to promote new growth can be cut back in the spring.

**Mulch!** - If your mulch is a little thin or absent, add more to flower beds and any other areas where grass and weeds are unwanted. Three inches of double-shredded hardwood or shredded leaf mulch will also help to retain soil moisture, prevent soil erosion, and enhance soil quality.

For additional information, please visit: hrwc.org/homeownerresources/lawn-fertilizer/

Surveying for Gypsy Moths

The invasive European Gypsy Moth Caterpillars had an unexpected population increase in 2018 in many places throughout the state, including some locations right here in Rochester Hills. Dry springs in 2016 and 2017 limited the effectiveness of a crucial fungus (Entomophaga Maimaiga) that had previously held their populations in check. In the pockets of the heaviest infestation, several oaks were fully defoliated. A healthy, well-maintained tree can survive one or two years of full defoliation from Gypsy Moth Caterpillars, so Forestry asks residents to monitor the health of their oaks and consider professional advice if their tree seems weak.

City Forestry staff has started the 2018 gypsy moth egg mass survey this fall that will extend into winter to identify gypsy moth presence and to make recommendations moving forward for the city and residents. After January, our Natural Resources Division encourages residents to remove egg masses that they can safely reach and destroy them by placing them in soapy water for 24 hours or under several inches of soil.

Eggs will begin to hatch once the weather warms in late April or early May. If you notice significant numbers of caterpillars next spring, please contact the Parks & Natural Resources office at 248-656-4673 or email forestry@rochesterhills.org, as we look to continue these egg mass surveys for the next several years.

Gypsy Moth Caterpillar. Jon Yuschock, Bugwood.org
Gypsy Moth and Egg Masses. Karla Salp, Washington State Department of Agriculture, Bugwood.org
October is Deer Awareness Month

Deer Feeding Ban

Efforts to decrease the large deer population, traffic hazards, deer/human interaction, the spread of deer-related diseases, and damage to private property resulted in City Council passing a citywide ban on feeding deer in Rochester Hills in 2008. It is unlawful to place on the ground, or within 5 feet of the ground, any fruit, berries, grain, vegetables, nuts, salt or other edible materials that may attract or feed deer unless such materials are covered or protected in a way to prevent deer from feeding on them.

Don’t Veer for Deer!

With the arrival of fall comes an increase in deer activity, and motorists should be more aware of the greater potential for deer to dart across roadways. To prevent deer/vehicle crashes, please be on the lookout for deer by the roadways. Deer/vehicle crashes are a year-round problem, but deer are most active in the spring and during the fall mating season (Oct. 15- Dec. 15).

Flashing your high-beam headlights or honking your horn won’t deter deer. When startled by an approaching vehicle, they can panic and dart out from any direction without warning.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

• Stay aware, alert, sober and always use your safety belt.
• Observe deer crossing signs and posted speed limits.
• Observe “High Deer Crash Area, Use Caution” message boards that the city places in deer/vehicle collision hotspots throughout the City from October through December.
• If you see one deer, slow down. Chances are there are others nearby and be especially alert for deer at dusk and dawn.

IF A CRASH IS UNAVOIDABLE

• Don’t swerve! Brake firmly, hold on to the steering wheel, stay in your lane and bring your vehicle to a controlled stop.
• Pull off the road, turn on your emergency flashers and be cautious of other traffic.
• Don’t attempt to remove a deer from the roadway and report the crash to the nearest police agency.

AFTER A CRASH

• Pull off the road, turn on your emergency flashers, and be cautious of other traffic if you leave your vehicle.
• Don’t attempt to remove a deer from the roadway because an injured deer’s sharp hooves can easily hurt you.
• Report the crash to the nearest police agency and your insurance company.
• Visit our website at rochesterhills.org/Deer to learn more.

- NOTIFY ME -

NO ONE LIKES EMERGENCIES, BUT HERE IS THE BEST WAY TO STAY INFORMED WHEN THEY OCCUR!

Our Emergency Notification System is called NOTIFY ME. It notifies residents immediately when emergency situations occur through text messages and/or email. You can also be notified when the City Council meets, when City Committees meet, when Press Releases are issued, and more!

TO ENROLL, JUST FOLLOW THESE EASY STEPS:

1. On our website, rochesterhills.org, click NOTIFY ME under the Quick Links column on the home page.
2. Enter your email address and click the SIGN IN button.
3. If you want to receive TEXTS, please check that box and enter your mobile phone number.
4. Scroll the list and click the email and/or text icons in each category to be notified as updates occur.
5. You will receive an email asking you to confirm your email address. Respond to the email to finalize your enrollment.

SIGN UP TODAY!

Timely and accurate emergency information can make a critical difference!
Winter Taxes Due February 14, 2019

Enroll in our Automatic Tax Bill Payment Service and give yourself a little more time to enjoy nature’s beauty!

The Winter Tax amounts are now available at rochesterhills.org/taxlookup

The 2018 Winter Property Tax bills will be mailed out mid-November and are due on Thursday, February 14, 2019. Postmark will not be honored so please allow, as the post office recommends, 5 business days for first class postal delivery. Payments placed in the City drop box - located in front of our visitor parking lot - by midnight on February 14, 2019 will be considered on-time. Also, payments placed by midnight February 14 via credit card or our electronic payment system (system will state payment date as 2/15/19 or 2/19/19) will also be considered on-time. On February 15, a 3% penalty will be added to the unpaid balance of all 2018 property taxes. Please note: If your 2017 property taxes or any amount of your 2017 property taxes went delinquent (were unpaid as of March 1, 2018) a notification may appear on your 2018 tax bills. This is a State law requirement. Beginning March 1, 2019 unpaid 2018 property taxes become delinquent and must be paid to the Oakland County Treasurer with additional late fees.

We offer Recurring Automatic Bill Payment for property taxes (and water/sewer bills) using your specified checking or savings account. Do yourself a favor, and sign-up for this convenient and time-saving service! This service allows you to choose either the Summer and Winter Tax due dates or the Summer Tax due date and the last business day of December for the Winter Tax. For those enrolled in this service, your 2018 Winter Tax payment will take place either on Monday, December 31, 2018 or the due date of Thursday, February 14, 2019 - whichever you designated. Enrollees who provide an email address will receive an email reminder of the pending payment withdrawal approximately 2-weeks prior to the withdrawal dates. Also, the tax bill will indicate your enrollment in automatic payment and the withdrawal date. For an enrollment form and our other convenient payment options, please visit Treasury Department’s Payment Options page rochesterhills.org/paytaxes. Note: For those who prefer to initiate an electronic tax payment, we will continue to provide our no-fee user-initiated electronic payment system at eps.mvbanking.com. Access code is 3130.

rochesterhills.org/paytaxes
or scan this QRcode

2019 Dog License Renewal at City Treasury Department

Three-Year License Now Available!

Fees go toward the support of the Oakland County Pet Adoption Center

State law requires all dogs four months and older to be licensed. The primary purpose of the dog license is to ensure that the pet is current with their rabies vaccination. To obtain a dog license, a current rabies vaccination certificate is required. The 2019 dog licenses will be available for renewal this December. If you have a rabies certificate valid through 2021, you have the option to purchase a three-year dog license for 2019.

Dog licenses can be purchased online through Oakland County’s site at oakgov.com/petadoption or at the City of Rochester Hills Treasury Department. The 2019 dog licenses can be purchased at the City’s Treasury Department for the non-delinquent fee beginning Monday, December 3, 2018 through Friday, May 31, 2019. If you plan to renew the license at the City in December, please contact us at 248-656-4675 to verify we have received the dog licenses from the County. For more information you may visit the City’s website at rochesterhills.org/doglicense.
A Tour of the Clinton-Kalamazoo Canal
Saturday, October 27  9:00 am – 4:00 pm
$12 – Museum Members  $18 – Public
Program includes a boxed lunch.
Registration required by October 24 via PayPal at rochesterhills.org/musprograms

Michigan’s first internal improvement in 1837 was a proposed canal that was supposed to run through the Rochester community! Join us for a tour of the remains of the Clinton Kalamazoo Canal – our answer to the Erie Canal. As you retrace its route from Mt. Clemens to Rochester, you will be able to walk along parts of the canal, where some portions still contain water, see remains of one of the locks, and learn the history of this manmade waterway that endured as a millrace long after its use for transportation ended.

Carpooling starts and ends at the Rochester Hills Museum at Van Hoosen Farm, 1005 Van Hoosen Road, Rochester Hills. Guests can also join the tour at 10:00 am at the Clinton Township Hall in the Historic Village at Romeo Plank and Canal Road, just south of the Clinton-Macomb Library.

Veterans Day Program – Invading Russia: The Polar Bear Expedition
Thursday, November 8  7:00 p.m.
Admission Free for Members and Veterans, $5 Public Registration Required - Light refreshments provided
When Godfrey Anderson was drafted for duty in the United States Army during World War I, he had no idea he would also become part of a military adventure that would find him doing battle with Bolshevik revolutionaries in the frozen reaches of northern Russia. Arriving in England after a brief “boot camp” training period, Anderson became one of the 5,000-man American contingent assigned to join British troops in an expedition to prevent Allied materials in Archangel, Russia from falling into the hands of the Bolsheviks. This fighting group – known as The Polar Bears - were mostly from southeast Michigan.

The Museum is excited to welcome Gordon Olson, author of A Michigan Polar Bear Confronts the Bolsheviks, who will share the story of the 5,000-troop contingent that hailed from Michigan.

Smart Towns Program
Smart Towns is a lifelong learning program led by educational, non-profit organizations in Rochester, Rochester Hills and Oakland Township. The Smart Towns ‘partners’ work together to provide a unique series of programs exploring one theme for one year. The 2018 theme is Agents of Change.
Old-Fashioned Christmas

**Saturday, December 15**  Noon – 3:00 pm
$5 members $8 nonmembers in advance $10 at the door
Register online: rochesterhills.org/musprograms

Join us for old-fashioned holiday fun! Check in at the 1927 Dairy Barn. While in the Dairy Barn, don’t miss the special quilt exhibit featuring historic buildings of Rochester created by the Art Quilt Guild Oakland. Guests can then visit the All Aboard! Model Train display that will fill the Calf Barn. Farm wagons transport guests to all Museum buildings for musical entertainment, crafts, snacks, theatre groups, and even chestnuts roasting over an open fire!

**All Aboard! Model Railroad exhibit presented by the Stoney Creek Model Railroad Club**

**November 23 – December 29**
Saturdays and Sundays Noon - 3:00 pm and additional days through the holidays. Check the Museum website for all dates at rochesterhills.org/musprograms

The Stoney Creek Model Railroad Club has been planning this model train exhibit for one year and can’t wait to share it with the public. The Calf Barn will be filled with modules that have been painstakingly built in scale and show locations near and far. A scavenger hunt through the exhibit adds to the fun! This wonderfully detailed exhibit, *All Aboard!* is a perfect family outing during the holiday season.

**Historic Buildings of Rochester Exhibit presented by the Art Quilt Guild Oakland**

**November 9 – December 29**
Fridays and Saturdays Noon - 3:00 pm and additional days through the holidays. Check the Museum website for all dates at rochesterhills.org/musprograms

Historic buildings on Rochester’s Main Street are reproduced in quilt form in this wonderfully detailed exhibit. The quilter-artists use many techniques including traditional quilting, applique and photo transfer. Take a walk down Main Street during the holiday season!

Planning a Wedding or Special Event?

The Rochester Hills Museum at Van Hoosen Farm is the perfect location for your wedding ceremony and reception, graduation party, or other special event. Outdoor wedding ceremonies can take place at the garden gazebo located under a maple and walnut grove bordered by Stoney Creek or right alongside Stoney Creek amidst 16 acres of beautiful gardens and grounds. The 1927 Calf Barn is a unique location for an indoor wedding ceremony or reception. Up to 130 guests will enjoy your reception in this restored, historic barn. Start your history at the Rochester Hills Museum at Van Hoosen Farm!

Please visit our website rochesterhills.org/museum. For additional information or to schedule an appointment, contact Jenna Raschke at raschkej@rochesterhills.org or 248-841-2674.

Now is the perfect time to become a member of the Rochester Hills Museum at Van Hoosen Farm. As a museum member, you receive:

- Free admission to the many special events, lectures, and tours
- Invitations to member-only events and exhibit openings
- One-year subscription to the Museum Visitor newsletter.
- Preregistration period for classes, lectures, and special events
- Unlimited general admission to the:
  - 1840 Van Hoosen Farmhouse
  - 1850 Red House
  - 1927 Van Hoosen Dairy Barn
  - “A Lively Town: The History of the Greater Rochester Area 1817-1952” exhibit
  - Well-designed and informative temporary exhibits
  - Helping protect and restore our local community history

Visit cfound.org/rochester-hills-museum to see membership types, prices, and how to pay online.
This year has been another very productive year with the delivery of several significant infrastructure projects along with millions invested in routine maintenance. Although there has been inconvenience, your patience and understanding has allowed us to improve the high quality of life in Rochester Hills by maintaining and investing in our infrastructure. Whether it is working countless days and nights to clear snow from the over 280 miles of roadway under the City’s jurisdiction, assisting thousands of customers a year, or developing and administering over $18 million dollars of public infrastructure projects in 2018, we really have had a banner year. Here are some highlights from 2018:

**Major Construction Projects of 2018**
- $6.191 million – Hamlin Road reconstruction from Squirrel to Adams
- $843,000 – Hamilton Drain Rehabilitation
- $436,397 – Water Main replacement project at Adams High School
- $2.828 million - South Blvd resurfacing from Adams to Crooks
- $2.026 million – Water Booster Station replacement project
- $1.031 million Pathway Program
- $1.624 million Asphalt Rehabilitation Program
- $3.053 million Concrete Rehabilitation Program

The continuous infrastructure investment has resulted in 89% of all city roads being rated in either Good or Fair condition.

As Fall approaches, we are finishing up construction projects and preparing for another Winter season. Recognizing seasonal events such as construction and winter have probably inconvenienced you a time or two, I would be remiss if I didn’t recognize the great teamwork that resides within our Department of Public Services (DPS). Your support of our DPS team helps us provide safer roads, reliable water and sewer utilities, enhance our vibrant character and incorporate amenities that continue to make our City the premier community of choice to live, work and raise a family. Our past, current and future success would not be achieved without your support. Thank you again for your patience and understanding throughout the 2018 Construction Season.

### Ice/Snow Removal

Winter brings with it lots of fun outdoor activities, like sledding, ice skating and skiing. But winter also means mounds of snow to shovel and layers of slippery ice to remove from our sidewalks and driveways. We often attempt to make the job easier by using various products to melt the snow and ice. Even if the surface you are applying a deicer to is relatively far from a street or stream, much of the product will not soak into the soil because the ground is frozen. However when the ice melts, the salt and chemicals dissolve and flow into street drains that lead directly into the Clinton River and Lake St. Clair.

Here are some tips that can help protect the Clinton River and Lake St. Clair:

- **Shovel early and often, or hire a snow removal company to clear it for you.** When it comes to snow removal, there is no substitute for muscle and elbow grease! Deicers work best when only a thin layer of snow or ice must be melted.
- **Reduce your use of deicing products.** The most important step in deicing is to physically remove as much snow and ice as possible before applying a deicer.
- **Reduce deicer use by limiting access to your home to one entrance.** For every doorway that isn’t used, there will be less deicer washing into your street’s catch basin.
- **Avoid fertilizers.** Fertilizers, including those with urea (carbamide, ammonium, carbonyl diamide, etc.) don’t contain chlorides but they contain nutrients. Potassium chloride (Potash) is another fertilizer used to combat snow and ice. Potassium chloride typically costs 3-5 times as much as sodium chloride and doesn’t work as well at low temperatures.
- **Limit your use of sand. Sand doesn’t melt ice!** Sand provides traction. When sand is washed off of our driveways and sidewalks into storm drains, it ends up in our lakes, rivers and streams, increasing the amount of sediment there. Leave sand usage to municipalities that apply sand on roads to help maintain traction.

Here are some alternative deicers to try:

- **Calcium magnesium acetate (CMA)** has fewer adverse environmental impacts than salt and doesn’t cause corrosion. CMA is recommended for environmentally-sensitive areas but is a little more expensive.
- **Bare Ground** is a deicer that is available at your local hardware store. This product is a bit more expensive up front but it’s a natural and biodegradable product.
- **Another alternative is Safe Step which is safe for children, pets, and your lawn.** It melts until -10°F and helps to keep ice from refreezing 2 ½ times longer than other deicers. This is available at most hardware stores.
Winter Operations – SNOW REMOVAL in Rochester Hills

The City of Rochester Hills maintains over 280 miles of major and local roads including 620 cul-de-sacs. Department of Public Services (DPS) employees from the Roads/Pathways and Water/Sewer Divisions work collectively to effectively and efficiently remove snow from our road network. Additionally, over 95 miles of pathways are cleared of snow after the roadways are clear and safe. The City has 16 Plow Trucks, two Road Graders and 14 4x4 pickups in its inventory when needed to combat a snow event. To enhance our snow removal capabilities on pathways the City is adding two Utility Terrain Vehicles to make clearing more efficient and less destructive to pathway borders.

The City is divided into six routes with two plow trucks assigned to each route. The routes begin on the East and West sides of the City and progress towards the middle. The City of Rochester Hills has identified two levels of snow and ice control priorities:

**Category 1: Snowfall of less than 4 inches**

**MAJOR ROADS & EMERGENCY ROUTES** – 38 miles of major roads that are traveled by the most vehicular traffic as well as emergency vehicles. These roads are plowed and salted on a 24-hour basis, 7 days a week as needed.

**LOCAL ROADS** – cleared only during normal business hours and after major roads have been cleared.

**Category 2: Snowfall of 4 or more inches throughout the City**

**MAJOR ROADS & EMERGENCY ROUTES** – 38 miles of major roads that are traveled by the most vehicular traffic as well as emergency vehicles. These roads are plowed and salted on a 24 hour basis, 7 days a week as needed.

**LOCAL ROADS** – 242 miles of local roads are plowed and salted on an as-needed basis, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

How you can help:

- Remove vehicles from the street during a snow storm.
- Do not put garbage cans in the road.
- Do not blow or shovel snow into the street.
- Be patient and allow enough time to safely travel.
- Report concerns to 248-656-4685.

To gain greater insight into our operations, I encourage you to visit the City website at rochesterhills.org

**HOW TO MINIMIZE THE CHANCES OF SNOW BLOCKING YOUR PRIVATE DRIVE**

[Diagram showing how to minimize snow blocking on private drives]
CITY OF ROCHESTER HILLS NOTICE OF ELECTION
FOR THE NOVEMBER 6, 2018 GENERAL ELECTION

To the Qualified Electors of the City of Rochester Hills, Oakland County, Michigan

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a General Election will be held in the City of Rochester Hills, Oakland County, Michigan on Tuesday, November 6, 2018 from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. for the purpose of nominating candidates for the following offices:

**STATE**
- Governor/Lt. Governor, Secretary of State, Attorney General
- U.S. Senator, Representative in Congress

**CONGRESSIONAL**
- State Senator, Representative in State Legislature

**LEGISLATIVE**
- Member of the State Board of Education, Regent of the University of Michigan,
- Trustee of Michigan State University, Governor of Wayne State University

**STATE BOARDS**
- County Commissioner
- Justice of Supreme Court, Judge of Court of Appeals – 2nd District Incumbent Position,
- Judge of Court of Appeals – 2nd District Incumbent Position Term Ending 01/01/2021,
- Judge of Circuit Court – 6th Circuit Incumbent Position,
- Judge of Circuit Court – 6th Circuit Non-Incumbent Position,
- Judge of Circuit Court – 6th Circuit New Judgeship,
- Judge of Probate Court Incumbent Position,
- Judge of District Court – 52nd District, 3rd Division Incumbent Position,

**COUNTY**
- Oakland Community College Board of Trustees Member

**JUDICIAL**
- Rochester Community School District Board Member,
- Avondale School District Board Member

And for the purpose of voting on the following proposals

**STATE**
- PROPOSAL 18-1 – A PROPOSED INITIATED LAW TO AUTHORIZE AND LEGALIZE POSSESSION, USE AND CULTIVATION OF MARIJUANA PRODUCTS BY INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE AT LEAST 21 YEARS OF AGE AND OLDER, AND COMMERCIAL SALES OF MARIJUANA THROUGH STATE-LICENSED RETAILERS
- PROPOSAL 18-2 – A PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT TO ESTABLISH A COMMISSION OF CITIZENS WITH EXCLUSIVE AUTHORITY TO ADOPT DISTRICT BOUNDARIES FOR THE MICHIGAN SENATE, MICHIGAN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND U.S. CONGRESS, EVERY 10 YEARS
- PROPOSAL 18-3 – A PROPOSAL TO AUTHORIZE AUTOMATIC AND ELECTION DAY VOTER REGISTRATION, NO-REASON ABSENTEE VOTING, AND STRAIGHT TICKET VOTING; AND ADD CURRENT LEGAL REQUIREMENTS FOR MILITARY AND OVERSEAS VOTING AND POST-ELECTION AUDITS TO THE MICHIGAN CONSTITUTION

Full text of the proposals may be obtained from the Rochester Hills City Clerk's Office or on our website at: [www.rochesterhills.org/elections](http://www.rochesterhills.org/elections)
The polling places for the November 6, 2018 General Election are as follows:

Precinct # 1  Faith Church, 160 W Hamlin Rd
Precinct # 2  Bellbrook, 873 W Avon Rd
Precinct # 3  Meadows School, 1435 W Auburn Rd
Precinct # 4  North Hill Elementary School, 1385 Mahaffy
Precinct # 5  Reuther Middle School, 1430 E Auburn Rd
Precinct # 6  Avon Clubhouse, 2600 W Auburn Rd
Precinct # 7  West Middle School, 500 Old Perch Rd
Precinct # 8  VanHoosen Middle School, 1339 N Adams Rd
Precinct # 9  Rochester High School, 180 S Livernois
Precinct #10  Brewster Elementary School, 1535 Brewster Rd
Precinct #11  Reuther Middle School, 1430 E Auburn Rd
Precinct #12  Hamlin Elementary School, 270 W Hamlin Rd
Precinct #13  Deerfield Elementary School, 3600 Crooks Rd
Precinct #14  West Middle School, 500 Old Perch Rd
Precinct #15  St. Mary’s of the Hills, 2675 John R
Precinct #16  Brooklands Elementary School, 490 E. Auburn Rd
Precinct #17  Meadow Brook Elementary School, 2350 Munster
Precinct #18  Rochester Adams High School, 3200 W Tienken Rd
Precinct #19  Long Meadow Elementary School, 450 Allston
Precinct #20  Brooklands Elementary School, 490 E. Auburn Rd
Precinct #21  Hart Middle School, 6500 Sheldon Rd
Precinct #22  St. Luke’s Church, 3980 Walton Blvd
Precinct #23  Samaritas, 2566 Walton Blvd
Precinct #24  Rochester Hills Offices, 1000 Rochester Hills Dr
Precinct #25  Rochester Adams High School, 3200 W Tienken
Precinct #26  VanHoosen Middle School, 1339 N Adams
Precinct #27  St. Mary’s of the Hills, 2675 John R
Precinct #28  Hampton Elementary School, 530 Hampton Circle
Precinct #29  Rochester Adams High School, 3200 W Tienken Rd
Precinct #30  St. Mary’s of the Hills, 2675 John R
Precinct #31  Reuther Middle School, 1430 E Auburn Rd
Precinct #32  Hart Middle School, 6500 Sheldon Rd

All polling places are handicap accessible. Braille and audio versions of voting instructions are available.

Absentee ballots are available at the Rochester Hills City Clerk's Office, 1000 Rochester Hills Drive, Rochester Hills, Michigan 48309. The Clerk's Office is open daily from 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

The Clerk's Office will be open on Saturday, November 3, 2018 from 8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m., which is the deadline for requesting an absentee ballot which will be mailed.

Questions concerning the Primary Election should be directed to the City Clerk's Office at 248- 656-4630.

Tina Barton, City Clerk
City of Rochester Hills
1000 Rochester Hills Drive
Rochester Hills, MI 48309
248-656-4630
Rochester Hills City Council

Mark Tisdel - President - At Large

Resident Legislative Input

Every actionable Agenda Item that is resolved by a vote of the City Council has, very likely, been first voted upon by a resident-driven Board, Commission or Committee. There are thirty (30) different Boards, Commissions and Committees made up of appointed residents, City employees and City Council Members. NOTE: On average, each City Council Member sits on seven (7) different resident-driven Boards, Commissions and/or Committees.

Whether it’s managing the deer population, approving a liquor license, considering a conditional use / wetlands / tree removal permit or supporting any number of organizations that work with area youth, the issue is first reviewed—and recommendations voted upon—by a resident-driven Board, Commission or Committee. In all, some one hundred thirty (130) residents serve our City in this policy review capacity. Often, this is thankless work that involves hours of preparation and meetings attendance.

I can’t do anything about the hours of preparation and meetings, or the difficulty—and sometimes public scrutiny—of the work performed by these civic-minded residents. I can, however, do something about the “thankless” part of their efforts.

These resident-driven review / recommendation efforts are an integral part of our City’s policy making process. It should provide great comfort to every Rochester Hills resident to know that a half-dozen or more fellow residents have reviewed, questioned, deliberated and voted upon policy changes prior to being considered by City Council.

So, here is a big THANK YOU to all the Rochester Hills residents who currently serve on a policy Board, Commission or Committee. Please review the list below (hope I didn’t miss anyone) and offer these individuals your own expression of gratitude the next time you see them.

Ed Anzek
Peter Arbour
Monique Balaban
Deborah Barno
Hayden Bearre
Peter M. Beightol
Hannah Bennett
Thomas Blackstone
Roche (Rock) Blanchard
Mallory Boyd
Penny Brady
Werner Richard (Rick) Braun, III
Deborah Brnabic
Jeremy Brown
Kristin Bull
Patrick Butler
Christina Calderwood
Jason Cline
Gerald Carvey
Bill Chalmers
Denise Chambers
Don Cline, Jr.
Ernest W. Colling, Jr.
Linda Conat
John Dalton
Michael Damone
Allen R. Decker
Gerard Dettloff
Annice (Anne) Marie Dieters-Williams
Sean Donovan
Jeff Duperon
Michael E. Ellis
LaVerne Farmer
Dr. Steven Fite
Kathleen Fitzgerald
Michele Gage
Tim Gauthier
Josephine Geraci
Garry Gilbert
Julie Granthen
Jayson Graves
Daniel Hauser
Orville Hoksch, Jr.
Greg Hooper
Jessica Hrynkiw
Dr. Rodney Hulbert
Scott Hunter
Philip Hurst
Maya Iyer
Darlene Janulis
Beverly Jasinski
Robert Justin
Nicholas O. Kaltsounis
Jonathan Karr
Michael Kaszubski
Ann Kochanski
Kenneth Koluch
David Koski
Ken Krajewski
Philip Leach
Lynn Loews
Kelly Lyons
Jean Malatesta
James Handy Mallon
Sailor Mayes
Chris McCracken
Thomas McDonald
Michael McGuire
Michael McGunn
Susan McKinnon
Carl Moore
Heidi Morris
Eugene Mroz
Johannah Muenk
James B. Nachtmann
Zena Nasiri
Thomas Neveau
Gary Nicks
John Paille
Rophin Paul
Stan Paurazas
Anna Peary
Dahlvin Peterson
Noah Peterson
Samantha Phillips
Vern Pixley
Zoe Pizzuti
Thomas Pozolo
Linda Raschke
David Reecie
Steve Reina
Nancy Ritter
Julie Rogalski
Katharine Rogers
Ana Sahu
Keith Sawdon
C. Neall Schroeder
Ryan Schultz
Dr. Heath Sellick
Mark Sera
Stephan Slavik
Aden Smith
Ryan Smith
Nancy Soisson
Micheline Sommers
Richard Stamps
Del Stanley
Terry Stephens
Tom Stephens
Jon Strunk
Scott Struzik
Jason Thompson
Sofia Tiberio
Charles (Chip) Tischer
Thomas Turnbull
Natalie Vaglia
Pawel Vijayakumar
Dr. Tate Vo
Ronald Vogt
LaVerne Webster
Audrey Weber
Suzanne White
Suzanne Wiggins
Dana Williams
Therice Williams
Kenneth Wissbrun

Thank you
Every so often I find myself completely overwhelmed. And it is usually entirely self-inflicted. So, on those days when I find myself playing “chicken” with my own calendar (waiting to see which events and appointments get re-scheduled or can be re-scheduled, so I can make the ones I really need to be at), I always try to remind myself of my personal goals. From a parental perspective, it is to raise a socially aware, economically self-sufficient being who will launch successfully and consistently make good decisions. From a marital perspective, it is to ensure that no matter what craziness is going on, my husband knows he, and us, are a priority. From a City perspective, it is to keep things moving in the right direction, and make improvements and decisions along the way which benefit all of us. With my goals in mind, choosing which events and meetings to go to, or not go to, becomes relatively easy.

In terms of City priorities over the last few months, there was the budget. Which really deserves to be in all caps because it is the most important part of my job on Council. When it came to THE BUDGET this year, I managed to pare my review down to 10 hours and 46 inquiries to staff, so that by the end my budget books looked like this:

While our discussions at Council meetings on THE BUDGET were succinct, the discussions, inquiries and preparation beforehand were somewhat monumental. Importantly, the work that Council and staff had been doing over the previous 12 months allowed us to keep our millage rate the same, and not need an increase in taxes to keep current service levels stable and continue to make capital improvements despite increasing costs.

Admittedly, there have also been a few “pinch me because this is such a great opportunity” moments. One highlight was discussing local business needs with Japanese Consul-General Wada and City business leaders. Another, was getting the opportunity to catch-up with Secretary of State Ruth Johnson (if you are wondering who is on the far right, it is our own City Clerk, Tina Barton). Also, and because there is always more to learn, I recently had the privilege to attend the Michigan Municipal League (MML) Convention and learn more about the recreational marihuana proposal, creating sustainable retail districts, fostering an inclusive community environment, and the future of connected and automated vehicles. Here is a link to the MML program if you would like to know more: blogs.mml.org/wp/events/files/2014/06/2018-Convention-Program-Final.pdf. On a more personal note, this September, I began the Michigan Excellence in Public Service Series. I hope to bring back some of what I learn to the City.

One event I look forward to every year is the City’s September 11 Remembrance Ceremony. Fire Chief Canto and his exemplary department continue to make this ceremony more poignant every year. It is a time to reflect, remember, be sorrowful, and be grateful.

Lastly, my job as a hockey mom would not be complete without a picture of my son in net and the scoreboard after his last shut out.

If you are headed to a local hockey rink and need a recommendation on where to eat, let me know. My husband and I have found a few gems where we sneak in a pre-game date night dinner.

As always, it is my pleasure and honor to serve you. If you need assistance, please contact me at moritas@rochesterhills.org. You can find updates on what I am doing on Facebook at: facebook.com/StephMoritaforCityCouncil/ and on Twitter at: twitter.com/StephMorita.
Hello, residents! It is really starting to feel like Fall out there which tells me that one of my all-time favorite seasons is coming up… voting season! By the time you receive this, voting registration will have closed (October 9); however, if you are registered to vote, I encourage you to do so! If you would like to see your sample ballot so you are prepared for voting on November 6, please visit: rochesterhills.org. The polls open at 7:00 am and close at 8:00 pm on voting day. The link above, provided by our fabulous Clerk’s Department, will also show you where you are supposed to go and give you a wealth of information regarding elections. I want to give a very special thank you to Master Municipal Clerk and Director Tina Barton and Deputy Clerk Leanne Scott, as well as our entire Clerk’s Department at Rochester Hills who always go above and beyond to make sure our elections run smoothly. Please consider giving them a call to say “thank you” for the MASSIVE amount of work that they put in to ensure that we have fair and free elections. This is no easy feat and we are so very blessed to have the team that we do in Rochester Hills!

Last month, City Council adopted the 2019 Annual Budget. This was the first Rochester Hills budget that I have been involved with as a city council member, and I was beyond impressed with the level of consideration and detail that each department put into preparing their budget for council’s review. Our “CFO,” Joe Snyder, pulls the entire package together and answers any questions that city council may have. For instance, I had asked “Why is the budget for this decreasing/increasing?” Mr. Snyder will provide me the answer so that I can make the best financial decision for our city. I feel blessed to not only have the expert guidance of Mr. Snyder, but also to work with six other city council members who do their due diligence, and comb through every page of our budget. I am pleased to say that the annual budget reflects the goals of City Council which were put together after gathering data from our residents. To see our City Council “Goals and Objectives” and our city budget, please visit: rochesterhills.org/ArchiveCenter/ViewFile/Item/1017.

Finally, I wanted to share with you that I went to the Michigan Municipal League Convention in September and earned my “Citizen Planner” certificate from MSU Extension. This course helped me to better understand land use, which is a crucial function of city planning. One of the most important parts of my job as a council member is to ensure that our zoning matches the needs of our city, and this course has brought me even more understanding on this topic. Our city’s Planning and Economic Development Director, Sara Roediger, has also been a terrific resource for me entering this position, and I am grateful for her expertise. Ms. Roediger works tirelessly to ensure a balanced land use that meets the needs of our city. Rochester Hills is updating our Master Plan as we speak! To lend your voice and become involved, please visit: rochesterhills.org/masterplan.

Becoming part of the Rochester Hills government team has been one of the greatest honors of my life. Thank you so much for being part of what makes this city so wonderful! I am here to serve you, so if you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please don’t hesitate to contact me at: mccardellj@rochesterhills.org. I hope to see you at a meeting or event sometime! For text, email, and/or phone alerts on city meetings, emergencies, and more, please sign up for “Notify Me” at: rochesterhills.org. Have a wonderful Autumn/Voting season, and Happy Holidays!
Jim Kubicina - District 2

For me, this year has gone by in a blur. Do you realize that Thanksgiving is just around the corner next month? Thanksgiving was always one of my favorite holidays for a variety of reasons. First, it was two days off from school. Secondly, there is all that great food, turkey, dressing, pumpkin pie, cranberry sauce and on and on. Also, Christmas was coming and fast. Well, did you ever wonder how Thanksgiving got started?

In 1621, the Plymouth colonists and Wampanoag Indians shared an autumn harvest feast that is acknowledged today as one of the first Thanksgiving celebrations in the colonies. For more than two hundred years, different days of thanksgiving were celebrated by individual colonies and states.

In 1863, President Lincoln set Thanksgiving as an official holiday to be celebrated on the fourth Thursday of November every year.

In 1939, President Franklin D. Roosevelt agreed to move the annual Thanksgiving holiday to the third Thursday of November. Why? To help the economy by making the Christmas shopping season a little bit longer.

I now have a different perspective on this holiday. I still love it, but for different reasons. I am extremely thankful for many things. Let me start by introducing my family. First, there’s my wife Linda.

Some wise man once said “happy wife, happy life.” I can attest to that sage advice. Linda and I have been married for 37 wonderful years. We were blessed to have two children, a son Jimmy and a daughter Julie.

They both are graduates of Rochester High School. My daughter lives in Wyandotte with her husband Steve and sons James and Liam. My son Jimmy lives in Fort Mill, South Carolina with his wife Abigail, daughter Rebekah, and sons Benjamin and 4-month-old Joseph.

I almost forgot to mention how thankful we are for our dog Sophie. At age 15, she is now deaf and blind, but still very lovable.

I am also very thankful to live in Rochester Hills, one of the best cities in America. It’s a real pleasure to serve on this council with so many talented people. Also, I enjoy working with the city staff. Our city employees are the most knowledgeable and helpful. I don’t hesitate to go ask them for help on any problem. I am thankful for both the Sheriff’s Department and our Fire/EMS departments. We are so lucky to live in the safest city in Michigan.

Let me be the first to wish all of you a very Happy Thanksgiving.

The Kubicina Family and their little dog, Sophie.

The 2018 Festival of the Hills was a Spectacular Success

Please join us in offering our sincere thanks to our generous sponsors for making the Festival of the Hills a night to remember!
Susan Bowyer, PhD - District 3

It has been a busy summer! An increasing number of residents have been enjoying our parks and trails. We had great weather for all of the walks and races that were held this year: Discovery Hike, OPC 5K, Home Town Hustle, Paint Creek Trail Labor Day Walk, and Brooksie Way. If you weren’t able to get out on the trail this year, I hope to see you next year. In 2019 the Paint Creek Trail will be resurfaced and hopefully the bridge between Dutton and Silverbell will be replaced in spring. Please bear with the inconvenience this may create.

Looking back at the great projects started this year: Auburn Road Corridor, Livernois Road, Hamlin Road, Pathway connections and Innovation Hills, I realize how truly vibrant our city is going to be. The Auburn Road Corridor Project is in full swing. The revitalization that will occur in this area will be spectacular. Our Planning Department along with DPS have been working tirelessly, planning this project for a smooth completion by the end of 2019. Livernois and Hamlin Roads were two of the worst roads in our city. They were in such poor condition that you would felt like the teeth were shaken out of your head as you drove down these roads. Since these are not City roads, we are at the mercy of MDOT and the Oakland County Road Commission for maintenance. Thankfully, the repair of Livernois this year has already improved the driving experience, until next spring, when we can rip it all up and construct a long-lasting road. We thank Senator Knollenberg for helping Rochester Hills acquire funds ($1.35 million) from the State of Michigan for road repairs on Livernois and South Blvd.

Our newest jewel, Innovation Hills, is under development. Construction is in full swing creating ponds, mounds, paths and paving the parking lot. The park is closed while construction equipment is moving earth (September 3 - October 31). When this phase of the development is complete, the park will look more like the images posted on our website. Look forward to an exciting experience visiting this new park with sensory gardens, playgrounds, ponds, waterways, and pathways, which will enhance the natural beauty of the area!

It is that time of the year again when daylight fades earlier. Be alert as deer are out and foraging for food at these times (dusk and dawn). Please slow down on the roads at these times as the deer move quickly when they jump on to the roadways. You will again see flashing signs in high traffic deer-car accident crash areas. Remember DON’T VEER FOR THE DEER!

As always, I will do my utmost to listen to your views and comments, resolve any issues you may have, and strive to work with the City and Council on your behalf. Please contact me by phone 248-841-2645 or email bowyers@rochesterhills.org, if you have any concerns, and let me know what I can do to help!

City Council Contact Information

Mark Tisdel - President
At Large
Voicemail – 248-841-2644
Email – tisdelm@rochesterhills.org

Stephanie Morita - Vice President
District 1
Voicemail - 248-841-2643
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Jenny McCardell - At Large
Voicemail – 248-841-2646
Email – mcardellj@rochesterhills.org

Dale Hetrick - At-Large
Voicemail – 248-841-2649
Email – hetrickd@rochesterhills.org

Jim Kubicina - District 2
Voicemail - 248-841-2647
Email – kubicinaj@rochesterhills.org

Susan Bowyer, PhD - District 3
Voicemail – 248-841-2645
Email – bowyers@rochesterhills.org

Ryan Deel - District 4
Voicemail – 248-841-2648
Email – deelr@rochesterhills.org

Mark Your Calendar

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<td>Thanksgiving</td>
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<td>Christmas</td>
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When you get elected to City Council, your goal is to leave the city in better shape than when you took office. I think one of the lasting legacies this council will leave for future generations is the Auburn Road Corridor Project. On September 24, 2018, City Council adopted a budget that includes $9,650,000 in improvements for the Auburn Road Corridor; a plan 20 years in the making.

Auburn Road between Dequindre and Culbertson, commonly known as the Brooklands, is one of the oldest areas in the city and has long been identified as prime for redevelopment. In 1999, the city developed the Olde Towne Urban Design Strategy. The plan may have been a bit ahead of its time and for various reasons was put on hold and never came to fruition.

In 2016, the city created a steering committee to address the Auburn Road Corridor, made up of business owners, land owners, residents, Planning Commission members, City Council members and city staff. The city also sought input from residents at an open house at the Department of Public Services building in October 2016.

In January 2017, the city adopted the Auburn Road Corridor Plan, with a primary goal of strengthening the area in terms of walkability, safety, and commercial development (restaurants, boutiques, entertainment venues, etc.). In December 2017, at my very first meeting on city council, the city retained preliminary engineering services for the project.

Throughout 2018, the city worked with local property owners and businesses to actively implement the recommendations of the plan. In May, following months of discussions and negotiations with the Michigan Department of Transportation, City Council voted to acquire jurisdiction of two miles of Auburn Road, from Dequindre to Rochester Road, from the State of Michigan. In August, SEMCOG’s Transportation Alternatives Program awarded the city $500,000 to help develop Auburn Road. On August 13, City Council accepted a donation of three parcels of land on Eastern and approved the purchase of a parcel of land on the northeast corner of Emmons and Auburn Road to develop public parking. On August 16, the city held an open house at the Department of Public Services Building to provide residents with an update on the project’s progress and to solicit input from residents on the proposed streetscape features.

After three years of planning, in 2019 we will see this project come to fruition. Construction is scheduled to take place in three phases between April and October. Upon its completion, improvements to the Auburn Road Corridor from Culbertson Avenue to Dequindre Road will include on-street parking, improved pedestrian walking zone areas with ADA upgrades, lighting, median boulevard islands, two roundabout intersections, storm water upgrades, landscaping and streetscaping. In the end, we will bring much needed improvements to Brooklands, while maintaining the history and character of the neighborhood.

I have a great sense of pride when I look back on what we have accomplished toward this project in such a short period of time. None of this would be possible without our hard working and dedicated city staff, who have invested countless hours into this project. I am looking forward to taking my family for a stroll on Auburn Road and enjoying the new amenities.
Join the Village and the City of Rochester Hills to "Light the Village" on Friday, November 16. Enjoy the sights and sounds of the season and the excitement of the City of Rochester Hills Holiday Lights Display! Gather around the stage in Fountain Park at 7:00 pm to help us celebrate the simple joys of the holidays. Mayor Bryan Barnett will lead the countdown for Santa’s arrival and children’s eyes will sparkle when they flip the magical switch to illuminate the Village’s 25-foot Christmas tree. Be sure to look to the sky for an extra special display of lights sure to delight both the young and the young at heart. It’s the perfect way to kick off the season, and it’s only at the Village of Rochester Hills. Our 2018 event is generously sponsored by:

The Village of Rochester Hills ~ Tree Lighting Ceremony 2018