A Message from the Mayor

Each spring, I have the opportunity to share our city’s success through my State of the City Address by highlighting the growth and accomplishments we achieved during the previous year, and outlining our plans for the future. This year, in celebration of our 35th Anniversary, we went “Back to the 80s,” to the year we became a city. We brought in the incredible talents of Oakland University’s Gold Vibrations, the United Shore Dance Crew, and Deborah’s Stage Door dancers to help us tell our story in our own unique way. Renowned DJ, Joey Radio, kept the 80s tunes spinning as we celebrated another banner year in Rochester Hills.

I feel so blessed to be able to share a litany of good news with our residents, beginning with the results of the recent survey conducted by Oakland University’s Public Affairs Research Laboratory where 97% of Rochester Hills residents stated they are satisfied or very satisfied with Rochester Hills as a place to live! Truly incredible!

In other great news, we were rated as the 6th Safest City in the United States and the safest in the State of Michigan, based on data provided by the FBI! We were named the 8th Best City in the United States to Start a Small Business. Our

We are experiencing the very best years in our history and have achieved the enviable position of setting the bar for excellence in local government!

Continued on page 2
Department of Public Services Fleet was rated #47 in the country - out of a pool of 30,000 fleets. In public safety, we were rated in the top 5% of cities in the U.S. for fire protection and the top 5% of Michigan municipalities for financial stability. These are just a few of the notable recognitions our team racked up this year. I can honestly say, I truly believe you are living in the best city in Michigan and we have the numbers that back this bold statement up.

Looking forward, we are taking on two of the biggest projects in our city’s history by renovating the Auburn Road Corridor and developing Innovation Hills - without raising your taxes - because we know to stay the most innovative place in America we must keep investing in ourselves.

On a personal note, in a few short weeks, I will achieve the highest honor in my profession when I assume the Presidency of the United States Conference of Mayors, and with it, the title of America’s Mayor! This is a dream come true for me and will give me an unprecedented platform to share with the world the passion of our people, the work ethic of our community, and the innovation and success our city has enjoyed.

Very few areas in government are free from polarization, and it can feel impossible to turn the political dialogue around from the drain it seems to be circling. I have a different opinion. I believe that as mayors, our constituents and communities demand we get along, we solve problems, and we do so with kindness and civility. I intend to model that nationally as I work with leaders from both parties. I look forward to adding my voice, and the collective voice of Rochester Hills’ residents, to the national discussion and to strongly advocate for the values and interests of our residents at the highest level.

And while it is an honor to serve as America’s Mayor, my heart and soul belong to my home town. Being Mayor of Rochester Hills is, and continues to be, my dream job and I am grateful to serve in the preeminent place to live, work and raise a family.

As USCM President, I will add my voice, and the collective voice of Rochester Hills’ residents, to the national discussion and strongly advocate for the values and interests of our residents at the highest level.
The 2019 Rochester Hills State of the City Event
Hosted by Mayor Bryan K. Barnett

A rockin’ and rollin’
great time was had by all
as Mayor Barnett took
us back to the 80s. With
so much to celebrate,
and so many talented
people there to lend
a hand, it truly was a
night to remember!
Step Out of Your Comfort Zone and Try Something New with OPC!

A full and exciting life can be achieved at any age! OPC is proud to offer countless classes and programs that get older adults up and active. Members and local residents 50+ are encouraged to try one of many new exercise classes like Aqua Yoga, Boxfit, Core Strength, Dance for Parkinson’s, and Tai Chi. Fitness and personal health goals are easily attained with like-minded individuals and instructors who keep classes interesting, fresh and challenging at every level.

Participants celebrated the Great Outdoors by participating in the annual OPC 5K Run/Walk Fundraiser for Meal on Wheels on Saturday, June 1. The event began at OPC and proceeded along the Clinton River Trail and back. This event benefited the OPC’s Meals on Wheels program, which provides daily meals for homebound seniors. Last year, the OPC Nutrition Department prepared, served and delivered 121,257 home delivered and site meals. Refer to the OPC newsletter for other great outdoors activities.

MOW is more than just a nutritious meal. It’s a kind word, a friendly face, and a wellness check provided by the volunteers who deliver the meal directly to the door of a Rochester Hills resident. The impact of these meals is more than just numbers. Local recipient, Katy shared her Meals on Wheels experience, “I enjoy getting the meals because I know I am guaranteed one hot nutritious meal each day. The volunteers are so friendly and provide a bright spot in my day!” Its personal notes like this one that proves the importance of supporting older adults through every phase of life.

Enrich your life! Just as our bodies need physical exercise to keep them in the best possible shape, listening to music promotes overall health. Attend the Henry Ford Big Band Concert and Ice Cream Social on July 8 from 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm. The band will perform memorable tunes from the big band era, the Beatles, Leonard Bernstein, Chuck Mangione, Stevie Wonder, and a special musical tribute to our armed forces. The Top Chef event on August 15 from 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm will highlight 12 local senior living facilities as they faceoff to see who will be a 2019 Top Chef. The evening will include sampling of delicious offerings from the Top Chefs, cool beverages and much more.

Classic Car Show on July 27 will be a complimentary morning (9:00 am - 1:00 pm) event for both spectators and car enthusiasts with a DJ, music, and breakfast refreshments in the OPC’s upper parking lot. Come early stay late! If you have a classic car you’d like to show off call 248-608-0295.

The many services offered at OPC are designed to allow adults to “age in place” by encouraging social engagement, independence, and healthy lifestyles. Supportive services available include Transportation, Adult Day Service, support groups, information & referral services and more. Find out why “OPC is a great place to be 50+!” Rochester Hills residents 50+ are automatically members; just register, take a tour at 650 Letica Drive, Rochester, or visit www.opcseniorcenter.org for a full listing of offerings, or call 248-656-1403 ext. 0.
Rochester Hills Public Library Receives Donation to Revitalize Youth Room

Rochester Hills Public Library has an entirely reimagined youth area, with new Alice in Wonderland themed furniture, an elaborate 11 foot tall tree, and an updated Infant & Toddler Explore Area. The update was made possible by the generosity of new Rochester residents, former Chrysler CEO Tom LaSorda and his wife Doreen.

“The support from the LaSordas is very meaningful,” said Library Director, Christine Lind Hage. “The redesign provides a comfortable place for elementary aged children to read and study, advancing our mission to serve as a community town square.”

In addition to the youth area makeover, the LaSordas provided funds to create a new Infant & Toddler Explore Area.

“This is the perfect place for our youngest patrons—ages two and under—to play and discover their world,” said Youth Services Manager Betsy Raczkowski. “Research has shown that young children learn and develop through play; you might say that play is a young child’s work.”

The Explore Area has hands-on learning activities to promote the five practices of early literacy-reading, writing, talking, singing, and playing. Activities include a crawl through tunnel, spinning gears, chimes, mirrors, peek-a-boo windows, different textured surfaces, a climbing area, and an infant sized bookshelf.

“This is an exciting and welcome addition to our already very popular Explore Zone. The space features numerous play and learning opportunities for young children, however, we did not have a designated space or many toys for infants and young toddlers. This new Infant & Toddler Explore Area fills that gap,” said Raczkowski.

“What Rochester Hills Public Library does for its patrons is tremendous, an updated Youth Room and new Explore Area is a crucial component in helping librarians and caregivers lay the foundation for reading,” said Doreen LaSorda. “We are happy to be able to help provide our library with the tools they need to continue offering their incredible services.”

Innovation Hills
A Park in Progress

The park and the excitement are building - we cannot wait to share the most innovative park in Southeast Michigan with you!

Waterwall - sponsored by Chief Financial

Concrete curbing defines pathways for paver installation

Workers from Timmer Construction setting up forms for concrete that will hold the sitting wall around Waterfall Pointe

Installation of glow stone on pond overlook. Bryan, pictured left in blue, said “This is a first! In my 30 years of concrete work I’ve installed just about everything you could think of into concrete, but I’ve never installed glow stone.”

People from Pieperzak Construction and Timmer Construction setting up tree stencil on concrete overlook.
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.

Memorial/Eagle Scout Brick Order Form

Please print clearly or type all information

Purchaser's Name______________________________________________________________
Address:________________________________________________________City______________
State_____________Zip_________
Phone:_______________________________________________________________________

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:

☐ 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.
Oakland County Sheriff’s Office

Swimming Safety Tips for a Safe Summer

Swimming is a great recreational sport that can be enjoyed by people of all ages. But it’s important to know how to be safe while you’re in the water. In the United States, drowning is the second-leading cause of unintentional death in children ages 1-14, according to the CDC.

From Memorial Day through Labor Day 2017, at least 163 children younger than age 15 fatally drowned in swimming pools or spas, according to media reports compiled by the USA Swimming Foundation, a Pool Safely campaign partner. Of the 163 reports, 112 of the victims, or nearly 70 percent, were children younger than age five.

The American Red Cross offers these important swimming safety tips you should be aware of before you head out to the pool or beach:

» Swim in designated areas supervised by lifeguards. Always swim with a buddy; do not allow anyone to swim alone.
» Never leave a young child unattended near water and do not trust a child’s life to another child; teach children to always ask permission to go near water.
» Have young children or inexperienced swimmers wear U.S. Coast Guard-approved life jackets around water, but do not rely on life jackets alone.
» Maintain constant supervision.
» Make sure everyone in your family learns to swim well. Enroll in age-appropriate Red Cross water orientation and learn-to-swim courses.
» If you have a pool, secure it with appropriate barriers. Many children who drown in home pools were out of sight for less than five minutes and in the care of one or both parents at the time.
» Avoid distractions when supervising children around water.
» If a child is missing, check the water first. Seconds count in preventing death or disability.
» Have appropriate equipment, such as reaching or throwing equipment, a cell phone, life jackets and a first aid kit.
» Know how and when to call 9-1-1 or the local emergency number.
» Protect your skin. Limit the amount of direct sunlight you receive between 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. and wear sunscreen with a protection factor of at least 15.
» Drink plenty of water regularly, even if you’re not thirsty. Avoid drinks with alcohol or caffeine in them.
» Enroll in Red Cross home pool safety, water safety, first aid and CPR/AED courses to learn how to prevent and respond to emergencies.
It is interesting that people begin working together and as conversations progress with co-workers that individuals begin to learn about the personal lives of one another. Finding those common threads of existence is how we build community. Recently, in the Rochester Hills Fire Department a similar situation has played out involving a unique group of firefighters. Over the course of the past year the members of C-shift, through discussions and conversations, were found to have five Eagle Scouts among the 13 personnel on the shift. This fact, in of itself, is rather unusual considering all of the individuals actually work together on the same daily shift schedule.

Based on a little research, Bryan Wendell identified that since the Boy Scouts of America started in 1912, only 2.01% of boys entering the scouting program successfully earn the organizations highest rank (Wendell, 2015). By this account having five come together on this one small shift is rather amazing. As I pondered this, I began to question how many other people were involved in scouting. Boy Scouts or Girl Scouts, and earned their Eagle Scout or the Gold Award for Girl Scouts. For a comparison, looking at the Girl Scout website, they indicate less than 6% of girls entering the program go on to complete their Gold Award (Girl Scouts of the USA, 2016). As a point of reference, a quick survey was sent to all city employees in Rochester Hills. The results of 91 respondents were compiled, showing there were 45 people that participated in a scouting program or approximately 50%. Amongst these 45 employees, six Eagle Scout (five from the Fire Department & one from Engineering) and one Gold Award (DPS/Engineering) recipients were employed by the City of Rochester Hills. This result indicates 15% of those employees surveyed earned their respective highest award. Once again an interesting fluke within the City of Rochester Hills to have such a high concentration.

When looking at the individuals within the Fire Department, each completed his Eagle Scout Project for the local community in which they lived. In 1986, I worked on improvements to the community park in Clawson, refurbishing markers and electrical service distribution used by the July 4th celebration vendors. Nick Birchmeier created an outdoor United States geography map and teaching area at New Lothrop Elementary School to aid teachers in instructing young students. Phil Thomas worked with the Rochester Hills Museum at Van Hoosen Farm, improving the property by working on designing and constructing an outhouse at the one room school house. Chris Ogg completed his project at Veteran’s Memorial Pointe in 2010, by adding a seat wall for veterans and other guests to sit on while enjoying the site. Finally, in 2013, Ricky Dvorak created a Veteran’s Memorial at Ridgelawn Cemetery in Oxford, installing flag poles and benches to honor veterans.

Both scouting organizations require individuals to identify areas of need within their local communities and then require the scout to review what the project will require for materials, labor and costs to make the identified improvements. Once this is done and approved, the scout arranges for the project cost through fundraising, and they must manage the project to completion. Upon finalizing the project, a report is prepared detailing how the project turned out, showing all the steps from start to finish, explaining what they learned and would like to improve on. This project is only one step in a series of rank advancements, multiple badges that must be earned, leadership within their organization, as well as ongoing assessments and evaluations that individual scouts go through during their scouting experience. The culmination for a Boy Scout involves a final Board of Review where a panel of not less than six adults essentially interview the candidate on their scouting career and their project, before determining if the individual should earn the highest rank within the Boy Scouts.

The Boy Scouts Vision Statement states, “…prepare every eligible youth in America to become a responsible, participating citizen and leader…” (Boy Scouts of America, 2018). These few employees of the City of Rochester Hills, embody this vision of scouting in the work they continue to do for this community. They are the front line people, “…who make the world a better place.” (Girl Scouts, 2016-2018), ensuring high quality services to all those they interact with. The seven individuals likely have had significant impact in their lives through their scouting experience and continue to live by the values of scouting. Both organizations use the same Motto, “Be Prepared”, and also use the same slogan “Do a good turn daily.” Both the Boy and Girl Scout Law, include the line “…To help other people at all times…” What better way than to serve, than to work for people?

In closing, I am extremely proud of my fellow firefighters, especially those I work with that have earned the rank of Eagle Scout, and the work we continue to provide for the citizens and businesses here in Rochester Hills. I hope, as Mayor Barnett often says, each of you enjoys Rochester Hills as the preeminent place to live, work and raise your family, and the fact that the people serving you have a great sense of community pride and concern where they work and who they serve.

Article references available upon request by emailing hillsherald@rochesterhills.org
Our Outstanding Eagle Scout Firefighters

Rogers Claussen
- Earned Eagle March 1987
- Obtained 27 Merit Badges
- Eagle project – Replaced or refurbished posts surrounding the city park and then prepped and painted electrical distribution boxes at the city park for use by the 4th of July vendor area at the park for the City of Clawson,
- Scout with Troop 1616 (Royal Oak) and then transferred to Troop 1093, in Clawson

Nick Birchmeier
- Earned Eagle June 1999
- Obtained at least 21 Merit Badges
- Eagle project – Sealed parking lot and then painted a map of the U.S. for teaching outside of the classroom at New Lothrop Elementary School, Saginaw
- Scout with Troop 90 in New Lothrop

Chris Ogg
- Earned Eagle December 2010
- Obtained 23 Merit Badges
- Eagle project – Built 35’ retaining wall seating area at Rochester Hills Veterans Memorial Pointe
- Scout with Troop 125 in Rochester

Ricky Dvorak
- Earned Eagle December 2013
- Obtained 27 Merit Badges
- Eagle project – Constructed a Veteran’s Memorial, including 3 flag poles, and marble benches at the Ridgelawn Cemetery in Oxford
- Scout with Troop 36, and then transferred to Troop 108 in Oxford

Phil Thomas
- Earned Eagle September 1998
- Obtained 23 Merit Badges
- Eagle project – Phil’s project worked with Pat McKay at Van Hoosen Museum and Farm building and refurbishing the outhouse at the of the one room school house.
- Scout with Troop 60 in Rochester Hills

Scouting Facts

**BSA Mission Statement:** The mission of the Boy Scouts of America is to prepare young people to make ethical and moral choices over their lifetimes by instilling in them the values of the Scout Oath and Law.

**BSA Scout Oath:** On my honor I will do my best, to do my duty to God and my country, and to obey the Scout Law; To help other people at all times; To keep myself physically strong, mentally awake and morally straight.

**BSA Scout Law:** A Scout is; Trustworthy, Loyal, Helpful, Friendly, Courteous, Kind, Obedient, Cheerful, Thrifty, Brave, Clean, and Reverent.

**BSA Vision Statement:** The Boy Scouts of America will prepare every eligible youth in America to become a responsible, participating citizen and leader who is guided by the Scout Oath and Law.

**GS Mission:** Girl Scouting builds girls of courage, confidence, and character, who make the world a better place.

**GS Scout Law:** I will do my best to be honest and fair, friendly and helpful, considerate and caring, courageous and strong, and responsible for what I say and do, and to respect myself and others, respect authority, use resources wisely, make the world a better place, and be a sister to every Girl Scout.

**GS Scout Promise:** On my honor, I will try: To serve God and my country, To help people at all times, And to live by the Girl Scout Law.
Rochester Hills Building Department

Check your Deck

Many people think that a wood deck is relatively maintenance free; power wash and put a little stain on every few years and you’re good to go, right? Not quite, as your wood deck ages, the maintenance needs to go further than washing and staining. We’re talking about the structural issues that affect the safety of your deck. Each year we hear of deck failures around the country. In the past 10 years, more than 30 people have been killed and over 800 reported injured from deck collapses. Some may be from faulty construction, but many decks fail due to a lack of maintenance and age. Did you know that wood decks have an average service period of 10 to 15 years before needing repair or rebuilding? To make sure your deck is safe, you or a qualified contractor should do a thorough inspection of your deck surface, railing, under-structure, and all connectors annually.

Let’s walk through some items you or your contractor should check:

**Check all wood to make sure it is sound and not decaying.** This may include the deck surface boards, wood railing, posts, beams and floor joists that support the decking material. Also, pay special attention to the ledger board which may connect your deck to the house. This is an area known for trapping water and causing premature decay. Failure at the ledger board is one of the main causes of deck collapse, so make sure the ledger board is properly connected with bolts to the inside of the structure. In no case should nails be used to connect the ledger board to your home. Check the flashing at the ledger board to make sure it is in good shape and doing its job of keeping water from entering through the exterior wall of your home.

**Take a look at all the fasteners and connectors.** This includes all of the nails, bolts, screws, and metal hangers, angles, or similar connectors. Tighten all loose connectors. If any fasteners are corroded, you should consider replacing them. In some cases, bolts installed through a post or ledger board don’t look bad on the surface, but once removed they are found to be deteriorated to half the diameter or less in the middle of the post! If your deck is over ten years old, it would be a good idea to remove a bolt at a post and the ledger board and take a look; you might be surprised at what you find.

**On the top of the deck** you need to check all guardrails, handrails, and stairs to make sure they are sturdy and secure. Take a hold of each spindle and make sure it is secure. Loose rails can be the cause of many injuries when they fail. Check the connection of your stair at the top and bottom and remember to keep stairs clear of planters, debris, and toys.

**Cleaning the surface of your deck** is also important to remove dirt, debris, and mildew which can make your deck slippery and cause premature decay. Applying a new coat of stain or sealer will protect your deck from future weather damage.

**To ensure your safety,** if you find repairs to your deck are necessary make sure you get a building permit and have the necessary inspections completed. Our certified and registered inspectors will make sure all the repairs are done properly so you and your family are safe.

You can find a more detailed deck evaluation checklist on the North American Deck and Railing Association’s website at www.NADRA.org. Also check out the Building Department website for our “Check Your Deck” video that shows you some of the key points to inspect on your deck. For those who prefer to leave these inspections and construction details to the experts, you can find a list of registered contractors on our website at www.rochesterhills.org.

Hope you have a safe and enjoyable summer.

**Construction Guidebooks**

The Building Department has created a series of guidebooks to help permit applicants understand what is needed when building a new home, an addition, a swimming pool, accessory structure (garage, etc.), a deck, or finishing your basement.

The books guide a homeowner or contractor through the city’s requirements, provide forms for each type of project, and include sample plot plans and other drawings to aid the property owner in planning and completing a project. Manuals are available online at www.rochesterhills.org and in Building Department.
Backyard Safety

What a great time of year – Spring and Summer – getting out in the yard, opening up the pool, firing up the grill, relaxing on the deck and enjoying the warm weather. Before you get too relaxed, it might be a good time to take a safety inventory of your backyard. When is the last time you checked the fencing and gates around your pool to make sure they are working properly? How old is that grill you are using? Is it safe where you are grilling? And where are you storing the gasoline for the lawnmower?

The Building Department has compiled a list of important safety tips for you to consider as you get out into your yard. In addition to deck safety outlined below, please consider:

Hot Tub and Pool Safety

Check to make sure all your fencing around the pool is intact and any gate latches are functional, to make sure that little ones don’t gain access to the pool without adult supervision. Unfortunately, over 300 children under the age of five die each year from accidental pool drowning.

If you have a door from your home that leads directly to your pool area, and you have young children, you should have an alarm on that door that will sound when the door has been opened. These inexpensive alarms attach to the door and “beep” loudly when the door is moved. This simple addition can stop a potential tragedy from happening.

All pool and hot tub drains (suction outlets) must have a cover or gate that meets industry standards for suction fittings marked with “VGB2008” indicating compliance with the latest codes.

Make sure you have an approved safety cover for your hot tub that is installed and functioning properly.

Check the outside electrical outlet near the pool. This outlet should be a ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI) with both “test” and “reset” buttons. To test this outlet, simply push the “test” button and listen for a “click”. You can then push the “reset” button to restore power to the outlet. If you don’t hear a “click”, your GFCI may be defective and should be replaced right away before using your pool. (Also, please remember that an extension cord should never be used around your pool.)

Check the electrical connections to all of the equipment, including the filter pump, pool lights, etc. Don’t forget to check the bare bonding wire that connects all the metal parts of the equipment together to make sure it is in good shape and that there are no loose connections.

Grill Safety

Place the barbeque grill away from siding, deck railings and out from under eaves and overhanging branches. It is also unsafe to use grills in a garage, porch or enclosed area that could trap carbon monoxide. Never grill on top of anything that can catch on fire.

When grilling, have a fire extinguisher, a garden hose or at least 4 gallons of water close by in case of fire.

Keep children away from fires and grills. Establish a safety zone around the grill and instruct the children to remain outside of the zone. A chalk line works great for this purpose. Never leave the grill unattended.

Have a safe Spring and Summer and give us a call at 248-656-4615 or email building@rochesterhills.org if you have any questions.

Is Your Wood Deck Safe?

Have Peace of Mind with a Free Safety Inspection

The Rochester Hills Building Department is offering free wood deck safety inspections. Call us now at 248-656-4615 to get your name on the list.

We will send out our State of Michigan registered and International Code Council (ICC) certified Building Inspector who will perform a safety inspection of your deck. The inspector will inspect your deck using their experience and an existing deck inspection checklist. Once the inspection is completed, they will provide you with a list of any concerns found.

They will also provide you a list of deck contractors that have worked in Rochester Hills over the past year just in case you are looking for someone that can help you with the repairs.

The next step is up to you; but to show you it truly is about your safety, we are also offering free building permits for any necessary repairs to go along with your free safety inspection.

If you would rather have a contractor perform the safety inspection, or want to do it yourself, please read our “Check Your Deck” article.

We look forward to hearing from you.
Residential Addressing
Helping to Identify your Home
With the growing trend of online shopping comes an increase in delivery vehicles looking to drop off a purchase. That is just one reason having a clearly displayed address is important. It is even more important to properly display your address so Sheriff Deputies, Firefighters, and EMS personnel responding to a call for help can find you quickly.

The City of Rochester Hills ordinance requires that all residential homes properly display an address. The following applies to residential homes:
• The address shall be expressed in digits and shall be placed on a horizontal line or a diagonal line no more than 45 degrees from horizontal.
• The digits shall be conspicuously placed so that the street address number is plainly visible from the street from which the address is derived. The address must be displayed immediately above or adjacent to the main entrance.
• The digits shall be a minimum of 3 inches in height and made of durable and clearly visible material.
• The digits shall be mounted so that they contrast with the background they are mounted on.
• Addresses displayed at vertical or more than a 45 degree angle shall also display an address on the mailbox at the roadside. Houses situated more than 75 feet from the roadway must also display an address on the roadside mailbox or a separate sign or sign post.

Please take a moment to double check that the people who need to find you are able to locate your address on your home. Take a walk in their shoes, step to the side of the road or pull up in front of your house and see what they see.

Can you clearly see your address?
Is it near the front door where they would look for it?
If not, please follow the ordinance guidelines to help others easily identify your home.

Home Occupations Ordinance
This ordinance covers both occupations that are carried on in the home as well as Bed and Breakfast establishments. Home businesses are allowed in residential districts R-1, R-2, R-3, and R-4 with the following conditions:

The business:
• Does not create a nuisance to the surrounding neighborhood.
• Does not become more than an incidental function of the use of the dwelling for residential purposes.
• Does not draw truck traffic other than a delivery by a truck no more frequently than an average of once a week.
• Does not employ paid assistants or employees other than those living at the premises.
• Does not cause more than a nominal increase of traffic.
• Does not cause the erection or maintenance of any signs other than signs allowed on vehicles under Municode Section 138-10.308.
• Does not take place outside of the dwelling and/or accessory buildings, so as to be a nuisance or is not in keeping with the residential nature of the surrounding area.

Bed and Breakfast
A bed and breakfast establishment must meet the requirements of the Home Occupation section and shall conform to the following additional requirements:
1. No more than four sleeping rooms, and no more than 25 percent of the total floor area of the dwelling unit, shall be available for rent to transient guests.
2. Each sleeping room used for the bed and breakfast operation shall have a separate smoke detector, and each floor of the premises shall have a fire extinguisher. All are to be kept in proper working order in compliance with applicable state law.
3. Adequate off-street parking shall be provided on site.
4. The maximum stay for any transient guest shall be 13 consecutive days.

The goal is to keep the residential nature of the subdivision and not have a business activity take away from the peace of the neighborhood. If done correctly, the home occupation or bed and breakfast should not be noticed.

You can find a complete copy of the home business ordinance at Municode Article IV, Section 138-4.415.

Landscaping Materials Staged in the Public Right of Way
Rochester Hills homeowners are real pros at improving their property. This includes dressing up the landscaping around the house with maybe a patio, a stone walkway or perhaps some rock retaining walls and a pool. Some folks are Do It Yourself types but some jobs require professional contractors.

It is important for homeowners to know that, for safety reasons, staged materials like sand, dirt, stone or demolition debris in the street for any amount of time is not allowed. Not only is it a safety hazard for motorists attempting to maneuver around the road obstruction, but materials may also wash into the city storm sewer and cause problems with the system that could create backups or contaminate our springs and rivers.

City inspectors who observe this type of obstruction in the street will notify the homeowner or contractor of the violation and require the materials be removed within two hours. If the material is not removed, arrangements will be made with our Department of Public Service team to remove the material at the homeowner’s expense. This can be very costly, so please be aware and advise your contractor.
Planning & Economic Development

Rochester Hills Gets to Work on Implementing Recently Adopted Master Plan

After a year of collaborative research, study and community engagement, the City of Rochester Hills formally adopted its 2018 Master Plan earlier this year. The Master Plan is the City’s big-picture, long-range document that will guide policy and decision-making about how land is used for housing, transportation, commerce, and recreation over the next 10 to 20 years. As part of that effort, several recommendations were made for specific actions the City can take to achieve that vision. Working with consulting firm Giffels Webster, the City has begun the process of implementing those recommendations. City staff and consultants have begun to explore ordinance updates to encourage the development of smaller lot housing in a new zoning district (R-5), which is intended to increase the variety of housing options offered throughout the City. Revisions to the City’s Tree Preservation Ordinance are also well underway. The ordinance, originally created in the 1980s to better preserve the City’s valued tree cover, will be given a modern update, incorporating the best practices in the field to balance the protection of a valued asset with continued development in the City.

The Planning and Economic Development Department has also begun an extensive effort to explore amendments to promote mixed-use redevelopment in the City’s Brooklands area. This effort will support the road and streetscape improvements the City is constructing this summer as part of the Auburn Road project. An open house to update interested parties and residents on the construction effort as well as to collect input on proposed ordinance changes was held in early April. Materials from the open house can be viewed at www.RochesterHills.org/BrooklandZoningDistrict. Comments on the new district are encouraged and can be sent to planning@rochesterhills.org.

The public can review the Master Plan Update at www.RochesterHills.org/MasterPlan. Hard copies are also available at City Hall.

Rochester Hills Historic Districts Commission and Parks Department Provide Early Leadership for Museum

The Rochester Hills Museum at Van Hoosen Farm was initially established on March 30, 1979, when Avon Township accepted the gift of the Van Hoosen Farmhouse from Michigan State University (MSU).

This gift followed an enthusiastic community petition drive asking MSU to donate the Van Hoosen Farmhouse as opposed to selling it, as had previously been done with other portions of the Van Hoosen Farm property. These petitions are currently in the archives of the Rochester Hills Museum.

Initially, the Rochester Hills Historic Districts Commission (HDC) provided oversight for the Museum. They worked with Alice Serrell – longtime friend and employee of the Van Hoosen family – who was still living in the farmhouse. She was able to provide extensive history of the family as well as documentation on the furnishings and the construction of the Van Hoosen Farmhouse and the surrounding Stoney Creek Village Historic District.

Management of the Museum moved to the City’s Parks Department, which has provided oversight since 1993. The growth of the Museum complex followed the growth of Avon Township (City of Rochester Hills). The Museum’s growth in building, site, and archival material is a result of the support of various Mayors and City Council members as well as our community, who have donated extensive private funding and thousands of volunteer hours of support. The Museum story is unique to America and we are honored to preserve and promote it.


Additional information about the Rochester Hills HDC can be found on the City website.
Investment in the Brooklands: Auburn Road Corridor Redevelopment

History of the Brooklands

Long before M-59 was constructed and Rochester Hills was a city, Auburn Road was a major thoroughfare for people and goods traveling from Utica to Rochester. Detroit factory workers looking for a balance of city and country living for their families found themselves looking at Avon Township and in the early 1900s a subdivision was formed near Auburn and Dequindre - the Brooklands. A grid system of businesses along Auburn with connecting streets to small residential lots to the north and the south took shape and a community of its own was formed. Over the years, as Avon Township transitioned to the City of Rochester Hills, the City saw expanded, more affluent commercial and residential development. However, the Brooklands remained unchanged and while it maintained its reputation for affordable family housing and its own sense of pride (NASCAR racer Brad Keselowski is proud to be from the Brooklands), the area has seen minimal new investment.

Working to Make Auburn Road Redevelopment a Reality

On three separate occasions, Rochester Hills has studied the area for potential redevelopment. Looking at road improvements, walkability, artistic features and business attraction opportunities, many ideas have been considered, but little has been implemented. Over the past two years, city staff have worked diligently with OHM Advisors to complete a detailed design and engineering study of the project.

Rochester Hills received input from over 200 people through numerous public events and meetings with businesses and corridor property owners. The first item of business was for Rochester Hills to take over jurisdiction of this stretch of Auburn Road from MDOT and secure $1.5 million in grant and turnback funding for the project. The priority to improve road traffic safety led to designing a two-lane boulevard, which includes a landscaped median running along the corridor with two roundabouts located at Harrison and Gerald and reducing the speed limit to 25 mph.

The lack of consistent curbs, sidewalks and defined parking spaces made the corridor dangerous for drivers and pedestrians alike. Thus, the plan calls for a concrete curbed asphalt road with parallel parking lanes on each side of the road. The corridor will also showcase 20-foot wide sidewalks with street lights, trees, benches, charging stations and decorative signage. Most driveways to businesses will be removed to make way for these sidewalks and streetscape, thus vehicle access for businesses will shift to a newly paved, two-way alley system that will run behind the businesses. Parking was a concern for future redevelopment.

Rochester Hills received two generous donations of properties on Eastern and Harrison and purchased property on Emmons to make way for our first-ever, city-owned parking lots. When complete, the corridor will offer over 150 free parking spaces to support the commercial corridor. In addition, to complete the project, a pocket park will be located on Auburn Road at Emmons. The plaza will feature a grassy
mound for climbing and running, tables and seating for families to enjoy lunch or an ice cream cone, and the City’s first splash pad for all ages to enjoy. Fiber optics lighting and plenty of beautiful trees and plantings will also make the corridor attractive. The City will also maintain an open area for corridor events.

The $12 million project is already underway with the start of the road and alley construction. This phase of the project is expected to be completed in November, 2019. During construction, one lane of traffic will be maintained, travelling westbound. All businesses will be open. The final phase – the plaza and artistic features along the corridor, will be completed in spring 2020.

The Market Potential for Auburn Road Redevelopment

In its 35 years as a City, Rochester Hills has experienced explosive growth with 74,000 residents and 1,600 businesses, we regularly land on lists of top-ranked cities across the U.S. for our sense of community. Rochester Hills recently adopted a new Master Plan which plans for smart growth that supports housing and economic needs.

The Brooklands is the City’s best concentration of residential homes with a commercial corridor. Its proximity to schools, M-59, Beaumont Hospital, and diverse places of worship provide a cozy neighborhood. Some vacant and under utilized properties along the corridor allow for future new or redevelopment.

You will not find a corridor filled with fast food drive-ins and high-priced national retailers, but you will find a true entrepreneurial ecosystem of independent businesses, many with a long history along the corridor, providing a true node of products and services to support the community.

The Auburn Road/Brooklands is already seeing new life with five new businesses opening along the corridor in the past year and inquiries for new development on vacant lots, which include mixed residential and commercial use. New families are moving in, and young professionals preparing to buy their first home in Rochester Hills are looking at the Brooklands. A neighborhood built on pride makes the Auburn Road/Brooklands community a perfect place for new families. This is the most unique transformational redevelopment in Rochester Hills and we encourage you to explore this corner of our community.

Thank you for your interest in our exciting Auburn Road/Brooklands project and we look forward to seeing you there!

**OPEN FOR BUSINESS!**

Visit the corridor and support these businesses during construction.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Allstate Insurance/ Collins Insurance Agency</th>
<th>Designer Fashion Wear – NEW</th>
<th>Pizza One – NEW OWNERSHIP</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Auburn Animal Hospital</td>
<td>Domenic’s Coins &amp; Collectibles</td>
<td>Sonaar Driving School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Auto Rite Car Sales</td>
<td>Giggles Hair &amp; Nail Salon</td>
<td>State Farm/Mazzola Insurance Agency</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bloomix Flowers &amp; Gifts - NEW</td>
<td>Grooming by Peggy</td>
<td>Sunoco Gas Station</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bozana’s Liquor</td>
<td>Johnny Black’s Public House</td>
<td>Total Trailer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brain Freeze</td>
<td>Little Caesars Pizza – NEW OWNERSHIP</td>
<td>Tralise Salon – NEW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chadd’s Bistro</td>
<td>Marathon Gas Station</td>
<td>Vicious Ink Tattoos &amp; Piercings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crystal Cauldron</td>
<td>MetroPCS – NEW OWNERSHIP</td>
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<td></td>
<td>North Shack</td>
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Rochester Hills Parks and Natural Resources

New Programs Available to Get Outdoors!

The City of Rochester Hills Parks and Natural Resources Department is excited to continue with its extensive offerings for the community to get outdoors. The Outdoor Engagement team invites residents of Rochester Hills and the surrounding area to enjoy the parks, trails, rivers, hills and general beauty that the city has to offer through outdoor adventure and programs for all ages.

Some of their annual programs took place earlier this spring, including Sap-to-Syrup, where every spring you can enjoy learning about the maple syrup making process as well as enjoy a pancake breakfast. Another favorite is the Antler Amble where Outdoor Engagement staff leads a guided walk through a city park in search of dropped antlers from whitetail deer. Other popular returning programs coming up include our Night Hike & Campfires, Fishing for Beginners, Kayaking 101, and River Float.

This summer we also have some newer opportunities that we are excited to offer. One that we are particularly excited about is a hiking program where we are partnering with Ascension Providence Rochester Hospital to offer a series of Wellness Hikes that focus on families, seniors, and nutrition. These hikes will not only be led by our naturalists through our parks, but we will also be joined by a health professional from the hospital to guide us through healthy life choices, appropriate exercise, how to get your heart pumping and good diet choices. Additionally, this year we will be offering Fly Fishing 101 with Orvis, Kayaking down the Clinton, and new this year an Outdoor Adventure Camp for kids 9-12 years old. During this three-day camp, we’ll spend time looking for creatures in the river, woodlands and ponds while learning how we’re all connected to the natural world. Wilderness skills such as fire building and debris huts will also be taught, among many other fun activities.

You can register for programs and learn more about what the Outdoor Engagement team has to offer by visiting our city’s website at rochesterhills.org/outdoors.

West Nile Virus

What is the West Nile Virus? West Nile Virus is a commonly found flavivirus. The virus can infect humans, birds, horses and some other mammals. In a small number of people infected by the virus, the disease can be serious, even fatal.

Where does the West Nile Virus come from? West Nile Virus is most often spread to humans by the bite of an infected mosquito. The mosquito species most likely to carry the West Nile Virus is Culex Pipiens. This mosquito’s natural habitat is tree holes that are often filled with water and organic matter. Any feature that replicates this natural habitat will likely provide a home for this mosquito’s family.

What can I do to help? Keeping your property free of mosquito breeding opportunities is the most effective way to help in the elimination of West Nile Virus. This can be accomplished by emptying the water from containers, empty flower pots, water-filled tires and children’s swimming pools and toys; changing the water in bird baths around the home once a week; and cleaning clogged eave troughs to allow free flow of runoff.

What is the City doing to help? Since 2003 Rochester Hills has participated in an active West Nile Virus Abatement Program. Each year the Department of Public Service and Parks Department crews clean out our catch basins that are ideal breeding habitats for Culex Pipiens. Once the catch basins are cleaned, a larvicide briquette is dropped in. The larvicide prevents the emergence of adult mosquitoes from the standing water deep inside the basins, lasts the entire summer and specifically targets mosquitoes in our area that are known to carry the virus. Grant funding from Oakland County covers a portion of the costs associated with this abatement program.

This year we will have Insect Repellant Spray for personal protection and Mosquito Dunks for treatment of ponds on your property. The spray and dunks will be available at the Parks & Natural Resources counter at City Hall beginning May 1, 2019 until they are gone (one per Rochester Hills address).

Where can I get more information? The websites links below are packed with information on the West Nile Virus and the elimination of mosquito breeding conditions.

Michigan Department of Environmental Quality
Oakland County Health Department
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
Keep an Eye Out for These Threats to Our Trees

We have all seen how devastating an invasive pest or disease can be to our trees and woodlots as we have observed in the past with Emerald Ash Borer and Dutch Elm disease. Both are examples of where specific tree species have been wiped out throughout our state, and these incidences have highlighted the importance of promoting diversity in tree planting and also the importance of being vigilant in trying to stay ahead of these types of threats. With this in mind, below are two current threats we would like to highlight; one of which the city has and continues to address and the other that has yet to be confirmed in our city, but has been observed nearby.

Gypsy Moth - Gypsy moths are monitored by the City’s Forestry Unit through fall egg mass surveys. This moth, which spends a portion of its life as a caterpillar that feeds on tree leaves, cannot only be a pest but also a threat to trees that it severely defoliates. Due to natural controls, gypsy moths within Rochester Hills have not been at concerning levels throughout the community since the City’s last spray in 2004. Over the past decade, gypsy moths throughout the city have been kept in check with little to no threats observed. However, in 2018, an increase in resident calls triggered a city-wide egg mass survey to be conducted to help determine the extent of gypsy moth populations and better identify areas that may be a threat to our community tree canopy and need treatment in 2019. If you suspect you are seeing gypsy moth activity, larvae, or egg masses, please call us and help us target our future survey efforts for 2020 recommendations. To learn more check out our Gypsy Moth webpage at rochesterhills.org/gypsymoth.

Oak Wilt - If you’re considering trimming trees this spring / summer, be sure to keep in mind that some tree species are better off being pruned during the dormant season. This is especially true of oak trees due to the danger of oak wilt. Oak wilt is a fungal disease that ultimately causes leaves to wilt and fall from the tree. Once infected, they often tolerate the disease for a number of years before dying, however, it can kill trees within weeks. Oak wilt can be spread underground through root systems and by sap-feeding beetles that carry the fungus from infected oaks to fresh wounds on healthy oaks. Fresh wounds such as those caused by pruning, construction activity, or storm damage must be present for the insect to infect a healthy tree. Therefore, do not cut, prune, or otherwise wound oaks in the spring and early summer, generally from April through November. If an oak is damaged during warm weather, immediately apply pruning sealer or tree paint over the wound. Oak wilt disease has been detected in Michigan for many years, but outbreaks in new areas are cause for concern (Michigan State University Extension.)

Become aware, be observant, and report Gypsy Moth and suspected Oak Wilt observations to the Rochester Hills Parks & Natural Resources.

Fall 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 fall 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 September 6, 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, Coffeetree, Tuliptree, Serviceberry, Oak, Baldcypress, 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: www.rochesterhills.org/treelist

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
Coexisting with Deer this Spring and Summer

“If you discover a fawn, the mother is almost always nearby. Enjoy them from a distance but take care not to disturb the fawn.”

With spring comes gardening and with gardens come deer activity! Every year, deer browsing around your home can wreak havoc on your garden and landscaping. It is important to take a multi-faceted approach when trying to keep deer from eating the plants in your garden. This includes planting species that are “deer resistant.” Plants that have prickly foliage, plants with furry leaves, and/or plants with strong scents or tastes are less likely to be eaten. Along with planting these types of plants; repellents, barriers, and scare tactics can be an effective approach to help keep deer out, especially when being persistent.

Even if you do not have a garden, it’s by no means uncommon to see deer in your backyard. White-tailed deer fawns are born in the spring, typically May and June. Does (female deer) are very protective of their fawns and can be overly aggressive towards humans and pets. It is important to note that the does leave newborn fawns for long periods of time, usually returning at dawn and dusk to nurse them. This strategy helps keep the fawn safe from detection. If you discover a fawn, the mother is almost always nearby. Enjoy them from a distance but take care not to disturb the fawn.

Visit www.rochesterhills.org/deer to learn more on deer and the City’s Deer Management Advisory Committee.

Guide to Rochester Hills Parks & Natural Resources

Your Rochester Hills Parks and Natural Resources Department has compiled a comprehensive guide to all parks and natural resource services in our city. The booklet includes park, trail, and museum descriptions, locations and amenities. It also details Forestry and Outdoor Engagement services and a list of popular seasonal events for you to get involved outdoors. Complimentary copies are available at the Parks & Natural Resources Department or in the Mayor’s Office.

The brochure was designed to provide you with a snapshot of the beautiful and varied locations Rochester Hills has to offer, giving you quick next steps to participate and connect with our outdoor and historic treasures.

In Rochester Hills we believe in building connections throughout our community through history and the outdoors.

We invite you to join us as we connect to our past, plant a free street tree in your yard, and walk, ride, play and swim through our parks, trails and green spaces.

Stagger Your Start
Don’t Water on the Hour!

Did you know that by staggering the start time of your automatic or programmable sprinkler system, and following the City’s Outdoor Watering Ordinance, you can help us keep our current water rates from our supplier, the Great Lakes Water Authority in check?

The Outdoor Watering Ordinance states you can only use your automatic programmable sprinkler systems during the hours of 12:00 midnight through 5:00 am.

Since the ordinance was adopted, the city has had excellent support from our businesses and residents in following the ordinance - which has resulted in a shift in our peak hour water usage. Peak water usage is what determines the rate we pay for water.

We ask that you help even further by delaying your system watering start time by 15, 30 or 45 minutes past the hour. By taking this simple step, you will help eliminate peak usage and higher water rates!

Remember, by adhering to the Outdoor Watering Ordinance and Staggering the Start time of your automatic sprinkler system - everybody wins!

Thank you for all you’re doing to help manage our water rates!
Innovation Hills: Restoring Our Wetlands and Native Vegetation

Over this past winter and early spring, the City has been busy with invasive species control and stewardship on our Green Spaces and within some of our parks. The majority of these efforts have been focused on Innovation Hills; both north and south of the river! In both the Green Space and park, the existing wetlands are dominated by impenetrable Buckthorn, an invasive species. However, throughout these areas, there existed small pockets of high quality and rare habitats with desirable native plants. Unfortunately, the surrounding Buckthorn was not only outcompeting these native species for nutrients, light, and moisture, but it also created degraded conditions for other wildlife, with the continual threat of spreading.

In addition to the ecological impacts of invasive species such as Buckthorn, this thick stand of scrub created obstructions for visual aesthetics and maintenance as we look to create trails and access throughout the natural features. To address these concerns, the city has been working to cut and treat all the Buckthorn. With the species dominating the site, this removal can look a bit dramatic at first, but in no time, efforts will quickly start to promote the establishment and expansion of diverse, native grasses, flowers, shrubs, and trees throughout. This will create higher quality habitat that can be used by a diverse number of animals and provide a great resource and setting for those using the trails/boardwalk throughout our park and Green Space.

Smoking Prohibited in Thelma G. Spencer Park

An important reminder of park regulations

Smoking throughout Spencer Park has been banned. This ban has been put in place to protect the large volume of users we get at the beach in close quarters, including children in bare feet. City Council approved this new ordinance last year on April 9, 2018 in to order promote community connection, recreation, exercise, beauty, nature, and wellness and to protect the safety, health, and welfare of park users.

“Smoking” means the burning, inhaling, exhaling, or carrying of any lighted bidi, bong, cigar, cigarette, cigarillo, hookah, kretek, plant, pipe, weed, or other lighted tobacco product or device. “Smoking” also includes the use of an e-cigarette.

The smoking ban went into effect on April 16, 2018 and will be strictly enforced by Park staff and the Oakland County Sheriff’s Department.
Rochester Hills Department of Public Services

As spring turns into summer, it brings another busy construction season with welcomed investment into infrastructure within Rochester Hills.

The largest and most prominent projects of this construction season will be along the Auburn Road and Livernois Road corridors. The Auburn Road project limits are between Culbertson & Dequindre Road with an estimated project cost of over $12,000,000. The scope of work on Auburn Road includes the removal and replacement of the entire driving surface, the incorporation of on-street parking, the paving of the alleyways, and enhancement aesthetics that will beautify as well as make the corridor more pedestrian friendly. The Livernois Road project entails road reconstruction between Avon Road to just north of Walton Boulevard with an estimated construction cost of $5,600,000. The Livernois Road project was originally scheduled to be delivered in 2021 when federal funding was obligated for the project; but knowing the road condition was deteriorating at an accelerated rate, Rochester Hills approached the Road Commission for Oakland County (RCOC) and proposed an advance construct in 2019. The RCOC agreed to the proposal with the condition that the City provide the $3,600,000 Federal portion of the funding and then be reimbursed in 2021. Due to the City’s strong financial position and knowing the road was in desperate need of repair, the City agreed and the project is being delivered two years earlier than expected.

Both projects will impact traffic due to how the projects have to be staged in order to perform the proposed work and complete them in a condensed time frame. The projects will be constructed with only one direction of travel allowed. The Livernois project will maintain north bound traffic while the Auburn Road project will maintain east bound traffic.

To complement the aforementioned projects and to continue the City’s commitment to safe, reliable, quality roads and infrastructure, the following projects are slated for delivery throughout this year:
- Adams Road (Hamlin Road to Gunn Road) – Mill and resurfacing
- 2018 Concrete Program – Concrete removal and replacement in various locations
- 2018 Hot Mixed Asphalt Program – Mill and resurfacing in various locations
- John R Road at South Boulevard – Intersection improvements
- Walton Boulevard (Squirrel Road to Adams Road) – Mill and resurface
- Avon Creek Phase IV – Stream, aquatics and fishery improvements
- John R Road and School Road – Mill, resurfacing, paving of gravel road and pathway construction

In total, the 2019 construction season will deliver over $30,000,000 of public infrastructure projects that will not only preserve public safety, health and welfare, they will improve mobility, as well as reliability and dependability of our infrastructure.

To enhance our communication of significant projects and/or project milestones, we are using our social media outlets (Facebook and Twitter) and a Constant Contact app as other proactive resources for public notifications. Also, please visit our interactive construction map that provides up-to-date information on all construction projects within the city. The map can be found on our website at rochesterhills.org/constructionmap and on your smartphone by downloading our free Mobile App and selecting Road Work.

We would like to thank you for your patience and understanding during the 2019 construction season. While we know construction can be inconvenient, the completion of these projects will provide safer roads, enhance our vibrant character, and incorporate amenities that continue to make Rochester Hills the preeminent place to work, live, raise a family and TRAVEL in.

Experience the Beauty of Natural Grasses

As spring turns into summer, the thought of yard work and mowing comes to mind. With many budgets getting stretched to their limits, perhaps now is a good time to rethink some mowing practices. For subdivisions with open water basins, perhaps not mowing so much of the open space property would help save on operational costs. While it is true that city ordinances require that adjoining property lines still have a certain buffer maintained through mowing, the rest of the property could be mowed on a less frequent basis or not at all. No mow buffers around open water basins will not only help with algae growth reductions and pond longevity, it will also discourage the amount of geese that call your basin area home. Ten to fifteen feet of natural areas around the basin will have taller grasses and forbs which is a great deterrent for geese congregation. Several mowed areas to the waters edge can still be placed so people can get their feet wet, catch bugs or just be content with the views.

The vast array of fauna that will begin to inhabit these areas will also be to your benefit. Dragonfly and damselfly will soon be evident. Birds, frogs and all types of other beneficial creatures will start showing up, all to help keep those mosquitoes away.

For individual residential lawns, mowing the grass to a height of four inches will not only help knock out weeds, it will produce a thicker lawn that is more drought resistant and healthy.

This saves you money while helping to improve the environment; one of the few times where doing nothing is a good thing.

For more informational yard tips, please visit www.socwa.org.
August 6, 2019 Temporary Precinct Relocations and Consolidations

Happy Summer! It is that time of year in Michigan that we endure the brutally cold winter in order to enjoy the other seasons that are so magnificent. Along with the warmer temperatures comes construction. This summer, the Rochester Community Schools will be undergoing extensive construction at schools that we use as polling locations. We have 32 precincts, five of those precincts will be temporarily relocated for the August 6, 2019 Primary Election. Below is a list of the five precincts, where they are currently located and where they are being temporarily relocated to for the August election only. Notices will be sent to all affected electors and signage will be placed at all locations indicating the change in location. Electors will return to voting at their regular polling locations for the November General election.

Precinct #4 Rochester High School, 180 S. Livernois (previously North Hill Elementary)
Precinct #10 Rochester Adams High School, 3200 W. Tienken Road (previously Brewster Elementary)
Precinct #17 West Middle School, 500 Old Perch (previously Meadow Brook Elementary)
Precinct #21 Rochester High School, 180 S. Livernois (previously Hart Middle School)
Precinct #32 Rochester High School, 180 S. Livernois (previously Hart Middle School)

We have chosen to consolidate precincts where there are multiple precincts housed at the same location. The following locations will have consolidated precincts:

4 & 9  21 & 32  8 & 26
10 & 18  25 & 29  7 & 14
16 & 20  5, 11, & 31  15 & 27

Please see the chart at right for precinct number and location correlation.

As a reminder, Proposal 3 brought several changes to our election process. One significant change is that a voter can request an absentee ballot without providing a reason. If your summer schedule looks busy, please take advantage of the absentee process and submit an application for an absent voter ballot.

You may confirm your voter registration at the Michigan Voter Information Center: www.mi.gov/vote. You may also visit our website for more election-related information: www.rochesterhills.org.

Additionally, we are always seeking Election Inspectors to work our elections. We especially need workers with technical skills. You may obtain an application at www.rochesterhills.org/DocumentCenter. These are paid positions.

Please contact our office if you have any questions at 248-656-4630.

Tina Barton, MMC, CMMC
Rochester Hills City Clerk

Colors denote locations with consolidated precincts and yellow highlight denotes relocated precincts

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 Rochester High School, 180 S Livernois (prev. North Hill Elem)
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 Rochester Adams H.S., 3200 W Tienken Rd (prev. Brewster Elem)
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 Brookland Elementary School, 490 E Auburn Rd
Precinct #17 West Middle School, 500 Old Perch (prev. Meadow Brook Elem)
Precinct #18 Rochester Adams H.S., 3200 W Tienken Rd
Precinct #19 Long Meadow Elementary School, 450 Allston
Precinct #20 Brookland Elementary School, 490 E Auburn Rd
Precinct #21 Rochester High School, 180 S Livernois (prev. Hart Middle School)
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 Rd
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 Rochester High School, 180 S Livernois (prev. Hart Middle School)

If a precinct relocation change is required, notice will be sent to all affected voter households prior to elections. If a relocation is permanent, new voter identification cards will be sent to all affected voters.
2019 Mayor’s Choice Reflections Winners

For 50 years, National PTA’s Reflections program has helped students explore the arts and express themselves. Hundreds of students from the Rochester Community School District submitted visual artwork, photographs, videos, musical compositions and dance choreography with their artistic interpretation of this year’s theme, “Heroes Around Me.”

Mayor Barnett had the privilege of choosing one artist to receive a special Mayor’s Choice Award. This year he selected Van Hoosen Middle School sixth grader Addy Kannisto for her Visual Arts piece, “The Hero Next to Me.” In her colorful painting she depicts firefighters, police officers and nurses in action. Her artwork is meant to be a thank you to these important heroes in our community who risk their lives to save others.

Mayor Barnett also recognized Adams High School senior Kayla Coen with an Honorable Mention for her composition and performance of a vocal piece titled “Heroes.” The lyrics of Kayla’s beautifully arranged song describe family members and friends as personal heroes around us. Kayla has a lovely voice and a bright future as a musician. Congratulations to these two talented and ambitious young ladies!

“The Hero Next to Me” by Addy Kannisto

Assessing

What Happened to the Taxable Value of my New Home?

Have you recently purchased your home or other property? Are you aware of how the sale impacts the taxable value and your property taxes? New homeowners are often surprised by the increase in the property taxes on their new home in the year following their purchase.

The year after you purchase your home, the Taxable Value is uncapped. The State Equalized Value (aka Assessed Value) becomes that year’s Taxable Value.

Taxable Value is the amount that your property taxes are calculated on. In 2019, over 90% of all real properties have a gap between their State Equalized Value and Taxable Value. Therefore, when one of these properties sell, the Taxable Value becomes uncapped and the new Taxable Value is adjusted to equal the State Equalized Value. The year after the uncapping occurs the Taxable Value will be recapped and all subsequent years will not increase greater than the rate of inflation or 5% whichever is less, adjusted for any losses or additions, until the property transfers again.

When an individual purchases a property, the first year of taxes is based on the capped Taxable Value. Mortgage companies often base the taxes collected monthly and placed in escrow on the capped Taxable Value which can result in an escrow shortage.

To demonstrate what may happen after a purchase, assume a property sells on 2/1/2018 for $200,000.

Assume the 2018 values:
• 2018 State Equalized Value = $100,000
• 2018 Taxable Value = $80,000
• 2018 Principle Residence Taxes = $2,566
• New home owners pay the 2018 taxes based on capped Taxable Value

The 2019 values (assuming a 5% increase):
• 2019 State Equalized Value = $105,000
• 2019 Taxable Value = $105,000
• 2019 Principle Residence Taxes = $3,368; an increase of $802
• In this example, the State Equalized Value and Taxable Value would be the same due to the uncapping as a result of the property transfer.

New property owners should be aware of when an uncapping occurs, so that they are financially prepared for the change in taxes. Often new property owners do not become aware of the change in the taxes until their mortgage company notifies them that there is a shortage in their escrow account and that they owe money that they were not prepared for.

Please contact the Assessing Department at 248-656-4605 if you have questions.
Summer Taxes Due September 16, 2019
City Offers Automatic Tax Bill Payment Service
Reduce your Stress!

In mid-June 2019 Summer Property Tax bills will be mailed. This year’s summer tax is payable without interest or penalty through Monday, September 16, 2019 as the normal due date of September 14 falls on the weekend. The City does not honor postmarks, so please allow, as the post office recommends, at least five 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 September 16 are considered on-time. On September 17, 1% interest will be added to any unpaid balance and an additional 1% interest will be added on the first day of each month thereafter. On February 15, 2020, a 3% penalty will be added to any unpaid balance. Please note: If your 2018 property taxes were not paid in full as of February 28, 2019 a notification may appear on your 2019 tax bills. This is a State Law requirement.

Please note that our previous electronic payment service has been replaced by an improved E-check system that provides the current balance due and can be accessed by phone (IVR) or online. This E-check system utilizes either your checking or savings account at no charge to the user. To pay by phone call 1-833-440-3763 or online at rochesterhills.org/payments and choose E-check as your payment method. This system may be utilized through midnight EST on the due date for on time payments.

We offer Recurring Automatic Bill Payment for property taxes and to date have over 1,000 taxpayers signed-up for this convenient service! This service allows you to choose as your payment dates 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 questions regarding this service, please call 248-841-2581. For those enrolled in this service, your 2019 Summer Tax payment will take place on Monday, September 16, 2019. For an enrollment form and our other convenient payment options, please visit Treasury Division’s Payment Options or the following QRcode.

Summer tax deferment, which defers the summer tax bill due date for a principal residence to February 14, 2020, is available for qualified residents. Additionally, Oakland County may extend the deferment for both summer and winter taxes to April 30, 2020. For more information, please visit the Treasury Division’s Summer Tax Deferment page or contact the Treasury Division at 248-841-2580.

Please direct general questions to the Treasury Division at 248-656-4675 or treasury@rochesterhills.org.

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2019 Dog License Renewal at City Treasury Department

As of June 1, dog license fees in Oakland County are based on the delinquency rate of $33.00. Licenses are necessary and can be purchased in our Treasury Department.

State law requires all dogs to have a current rabies vaccination and current dog license. Per City Ordinance, no owner can keep more than three dogs so we will not issue more than three dog licenses to an owner. If you have more than three dogs, you must apply for a kennel license and kennels cannot be located in the residential districts of our City. City Treasury staff will be happy to renew/issue your dog’s license.

If renewing in person, please bring the postcard renewal reminder mailed to you by Oakland County Animal Control, as this will expedite the process. You must present your dog’s current rabies vaccination certificate signed by the veterinarian when applying for the license. If your dog has a 3-year vaccination ending in either year 2021 or 2022, you may purchase a 3-year license.

Residents with recently acquired dogs or new residents have a 30-day grace period to license their dog. If purchasing your dog license at the City please make your check payable to the “City of Rochester Hills”. Visit the Treasury Department’s Dog License page for more information regarding animal licensing. Please direct questions to the Treasury Department at 248-656-4675 or treasury@rochesterhills.org.
Rochester Hills Museum at Van Hoosen Farm

Need a guest speaker? Or a unique meeting location? Check out the Rochester Hills Museum. The Museum complex includes the 1927 Dairy Barn, 1840 Van Hoosen Farmhouse, 1850 Red House, 1848 Stoney Creek Schoolhouse, and 16 acres of gardens and grounds bordered by Stoney Creek. Museum staff can provide programs and lectures on a wide variety of historical and environmental topics from Mills, Stoney Creek Village, Leaders, Legends, and Liars, Community History, and more. It’s a great place for scout groups, schools, and more!

Need a place to host a party? The Museum provides a perfect location for weddings, receptions, birthdays, meetings, and more! Check out the Museum website at rochesterhills.org/museum or call the staff at 248-656-4663.

Upcoming Events

Rochester Grangers Vintage Base Ball - Visit rochestergrangers.org for a complete 2019 schedule. No advanced registration required

Enjoy the 21st Season of the Rochester Grangers Vintage Base Ball Club. This is a recreated club that existed in our community in the 1870s – playing base ball, as gentlemen, according to the rules of the time. Admission is free – bring your own blanket or chair.

Garden Walk
Thursday, June 20: 10:00 am – 5:00 pm
Rain or shine
Co-hosted by the Rochester Hills Museum and the Rochester Garden Club

Enjoy beautiful gardens throughout our community as well as the Rochester Hills Museum, the Open Aire Market, Educational Presentation and, of course, the fabulous “Cookie Room” with an amazing variety of delicious homemade cookies!

Open Aire Garden Market on the Museum grounds 10:00 am – 4:00 pm
DIY Demonstration 11:00 am in the Calf Barn
Ticket cost: $12 – in advance $16 – day of the walk
Tickets can be purchased on line at www.rochesterhills.org/musprograms

Pedal the Past - Historic Bike Tour with Rochester Hills Public Library
Thursday, June 27 6:00 – 9:00 pm (Register for 1 time slot only)

The Rochester Hills Museum and Rochester Hills Public Library have joined forces once again to bring you another biking history tour! During this unique, family friendly 4-mile ride, you will learn the exciting history of places you pass every day and visit sites that you may have never noticed before. A bike helmet is strongly encouraged.

Admission is free but advanced registration required on the Rochester Hills Public Library website. Visit calendar.rhpl.org

Planning a Wedding?

The Rochester Hills Museum at Van Hoosen Farm is the perfect location for your wedding ceremony and reception. Outdoor ceremonies can take place at our garden gazebo located under a maple and walnut grove amidst 16 acres of beautiful gardens and grounds. Indoor wedding ceremonies and receptions can take place in the 1927 Calf Barn.

Please visit our website, contact us at 248-656-4663, or by email at rhmuseum@rochesterhills.org for pricing and availability or to make an appointment to visit our site.
**Day Camps**

Register for all programs at rochesterhills.org/musprograms

**Terrific Tuesdays in the Garden**

Parent-Child Program

Members $5 - Non-members $7

Ages 3-5: 10:00 - 11:00 am

Ages 6-10: 1:00 - 2:30 pm

June 25, July 16, July 23, July 30, August 6, August 13

Terrific Tuesdays in the Garden provides children with the opportunity to use all five senses while learning the basics of gardening. There is a new theme each week and children enjoy stories, crafts, activities and snacks. Children ages 3 to 5 years and their caregivers learn how plants grow, how butterflies and ladybugs help, and that we eat food and plants from every letter of the alphabet and every color of the rainbow. Children ages 6 to 10 years learn more about horticulture, botany and entomology through literature, activities, crafts and snacks.

**Wet and Wild Wednesdays**

Each Wednesday July 3 - 31

12:00 noon - 2:00 pm

No advanced registration required

Museum Members are free, non-members $3/person ages 2 and up

Enjoy entertainment in the gazebo from Noon – 1:00 pm and water fun from 1:00 - 2:00 pm

Our exciting performers:

July 3  Kevin Devine

July 10 Gemini

July 17 Tom Plunkard

July 24 Joel Tracey

July 31 JaZaM

**Fairies on the Farm**

Saturday, August 22:

10:00 am – 1:00 pm and 2:00 pm – 5:00 pm

The Rochester Garden Club and the Museum are partnering to present this special day of imagination and fun with fairies on the Van Hoosen Farm. Pre-register at www.rochesterhills.org/musprograms

**Little House by the Creek Day Camp**

Members $30  Non-members $35

Ages 7-11: 10:00 am - 3:00 pm

July 18, July 25

Each session ends with campers exploring the “shimmering” creek of Bertha Van Hoosen’s childhood after a day of doing some of her favorite chores, attending the schoolhouse that she loved, harvesting fruits and vegetables and visiting the final resting place of the Taylor-Van Hoosen family.

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**Become a Member at the Rochester Hills Museum Today!**

There are SO many great reasons to become a member of the Rochester Hills Museum at Van Hoosen Farm! You receive notice of classes, programs, and current research and discoveries as well as unlimited free admission to the Museum exhibits during public open hours, and discounts in our Museum store...but the BEST reason to become a member is that your support keeps this community treasure alive. Your membership allows us to preserve our buildings, provide exceptional programs, and create new exhibits. Your generosity has a far and lasting reach into this community.

Membership benefits include:

- 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
- 10% discount in Museum store

The Rochester Hills Museum at Van Hoosen Farm is now a member of the National Association of Reciprocal Museum/NARM, which is an affiliation of arts, cultural and historical institutions located throughout North America, and one of the largest reciprocal membership programs in the world! We are excited to open up our newest membership category, Traveler, which will allow members at this level to receive access to reciprocal benefits such as free admission and shop discounts at over 900 institutions listed with this great organization.

Where will your Traveler Membership take you? Visit NARM’S website at www.narmassocation.org and click on NARM’s map to discover all the possibilities…

**New Exhibits for the Museum!**

The Museum has been working with the exhibit design firm, Flutter and Wow! on new exhibits for the Dairy Barn and the plans have been finalized. The exhibits include focused attention on the Taylor and Van Hoosen Families and the remarkable women from this farm as well as exhibits on local history, area businesses, new interactives, online archives, community feedback wall, selfie locations, Instagram opportunities and much, much more. The floor plan of the Dairy Barn will change as the reception desk is downsized and moved, the Museum store is relocated, the log cabin room gets a new focus and a silo gets a makeover. Fabrication will take several months.
Rochester Hills City Council

Mark Tisdel - President - At Large

What Can We Do for You?

I have enjoyed a close friendship with now-State Representative Mike Webber since the 2011 campaign for Rochester Hills City Council At Large. Mike was—and has been—very generous with his experience and wisdom. Since serving as our Representative in Lansing, Mike has invited me to sit in on a number of his district “office hours” meetings. In January, while participating in one of Mike’s office hours sessions, I had the opportunity to speak at length with two residents. We covered a wide range of topics that became rather philosophical. One of the ladies asked me, “what can we do to make your job at City Hall easier?” Well, the question caught me off guard a bit. It was the first time, in seven years, that someone had directly asked about my needs or those of the City Council.

The first thing I thought of—but did not directly associate with the two women in front of me—was to reach out to Council Members with questions rather than accusations. Too often, residents will begin a request for assistance by describing the City’s indifference, delinquency or even total incompetence relative to an obviously frustrating issue or concern. My stated point led to the discussion of a behavioral trait called “the illusion of explanatory depth”, e.g., believing one understands a complex system with greater precision than is actually possessed.

City Council Members are fortunate to be supported by tenured professional engineers, urban planners with advanced degrees, a respected city attorney, award-winning purchasing manager, award-winning City Clerk and staff, and our City’s longest-serving Mayor. In addition, we appreciate the support of our outstanding Assessing and Fiscal teams, Public Safety teams, DPS staff, Parks and Natural Resources members, and our Building Department that includes highly skilled building, ordinance, and facilities personnel. We depend on the knowledge of human resources and MIS staff as well.

It is our job to effectively communicate the information we’ve been given and to guide residents to a successful resolution—or at least better understanding—of their concern(s). This duty is complicated if the initial discussions begin with accusations. If a presumption of fault or incompetence has already been accepted it may be difficult to “hear” any information that contradicts the preconceived conclusions.

Recently, City Clerk Tina Barton, at my request, forwarded a five-minute video by American Enterprise Institute President, Arthur Brooks, titled “Disagree Better, Not Less.” Mr. Brooks lays out three relatively simple rules for engaging in productive disagreements:

1. “Never try to insult someone into agreement.” This seems relatively self-explanatory but, at times, individuals may be more interested in scoring points with their peers or displaying their own knowledge rather than resolving a problem. Insulting someone into agreement “almost never works.”

2. “Never assume the motives of other people.” It’s relatively easy to dismiss someone when it is assumed they come to the table with a self-serving motive.

3. “Use your values as a gift not as a weapon.” If we begin any discussion or disagreement from a self-appointed position of superiority then progress seems unlikely. Why would anyone accept the “inferior” beliefs being espoused by someone else?

“No one rises to low expectations.”—Les Brown, motivational speaker. If you start with confrontation, insults and/or mistrust, the person you’re asking for help has no reason to believe you can be satisfied. Rising to an expressed assumption of incompetence dulls anyone’s desire to pursue excellence.

Jonathon Haidt, PhD, Social Psychologist at NYU says, “What we believe drives what we perceive.” How can we successfully resolve any issue if we enter the project believing the other party is ignorant, devious or inferior?

Serving as an At-Large Member for seven years, and now in my fourth year as Council President, has been a great honor and wonderful experience. I’ve always said our City’s elite status in the state of Michigan starts with its residents. I want to thank the two gracious ladies that exchanged their thoughts and opinions with me during Representative Webber’s January office hours. Their willingness to seek a better understanding of how they could assist our Council Members was a thoughtful, open and unguarded affirmation of their experience. I’ve always said our City’s elite status in the state of Michigan starts with its residents. I want to thank the two gracious ladies that exchanged their thoughts and opinions with me during Representative Webber’s January office hours. Their willingness to seek a better understanding of how they could assist our Council Members was a thoughtful, open and unguarded affirmation of their appreciation for our City. ALL of us can do a better job of opening ourselves to the information and beliefs held by others. None of us is good enough at listening.

Thank you for electing me, twice, to serve our City. I am (as I age) increasingly aware of my own shortcomings and am earnestly seeking improvement.

City Council Contact Information

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There are two separate quotes that I firmly believe in. The first is, “Well-behaved women seldom make history,” from Pulitzer Prize winning historian Laurel Thatcher Ulrich. The second, from Erma Bombeck, is, “Housework, if you do it right, will kill you.” The first, I believe, does not mean that only those who behave badly get recognition, but instead is an acknowledgement that a quiet adherence to always doing the right thing does not get the recognition it deserves. The second pretty much speaks for itself, and ironically is an acknowledgement that always doing the right thing can be deadly.

My guess is that you are probably wondering what in the world this has to do with City Council. Rochester Hills City Council is, in essence, the City’s well-behaved housekeeper. And we go about our work quietly (for the most part), meeting after meeting, making sure infrastructure and park construction moves forward, that we have the ability and equipment to protect our residents, and that our bills are being paid properly and our accounts are in order. We plan for the City’s future and make sure we have the means to accomplish those plans. We quietly tend to the City’s housework and resident concerns, all in a manner that is becoming not only to our office, but also to this great and wonderful City that we have the privilege of representing. We do this for the benefit of our residents, property owners and those who work here.

But getting into the details, understanding the budget, preparing for and making every Council, Committee and Inter-local Board Meeting can be exhausting. Prioritizing family, work and Council is a challenge which requires faith, understanding and commitment to, and from, all three. Certainly not doing it right can cause distress. And while I do not aspire to be the ill-behaved Councilmember, Council-work done right, requires asking uncomfortable questions, pressing staff for explanations, and challenging administrative decisions. I can only hope that I am not only known at City Hall for the trouble I cause, but also for the care I take to always try to do the right thing.

At times it feels like walking a tightrope across the Grand Canyon, while also shouting, “Nothing to see here folks, just the normal routine!” The idea is to push forward enough, but not too much, to traverse the expanse, land on the other side, still intact with an improved City that better serves our residents, continues to be fiscally responsible, and provides an improved quality of life for those that work and live here. But an unexpected gust of wind while walking that tightrope can be extremely problematic, and makes the ability to balance family, work and Council essential. While I believe in what Erma Bombeck said, I have absolutely no desire to prove her right. And I have to give thanks to everyone, and especially my husband, son, other Councilmembers, the Mayor, and City Staff who step up, pitch in, find levity in imperfections and get the right things done.

I am writing this in April, while the budget process is already in full-swing. The City’s Budget is Council’s #1 housekeeping priority. Our Capital Improvements Plan (CIP) Committee, of which I am a part, met a few weeks ago. Imagine 15-20 department heads, integral staff, and select residents, discussing for several hours how the City’s capital projects should be prioritized. The Draft CIP was approved (with a few modifications) by Planning Commission, and can be viewed here or by visiting the City’s website. Our Strategic Planning (which sets the City’s overall near and long-term goals) and Human Resources Technical Review (pay rates) Committees have met or are scheduled to meet in the near future, both of which are part of our budgeting process, and must meet before Council gets the City’s draft budget in August and then discusses it. We try every year to do this right with no negative headlines, and while the City continues to seamlessly fund its health, safety, welfare and quality of life priorities. Being well-behaved has its benefits, one of which is not being notorious.

I was “schooled” by my 14-year old after he read this. He remarked that “people” should be our #1 priority, with an argument that had a “government for the people, by the people” Abraham Lincoln quote in it. Well, Ms. Virginia Holloway at West Middle School, you should be proud. He’s been listening over the last two years he has been in your class, and he apparently heard you too. So yes Drew, you are correct and I am proud to say that “people” are the City’s #1 priority from every point of contact with City staff to City Council making sure the City’s Strategic Plan puts the welfare of our citizens first. City Council’s housekeeping duties ensure people are treated with respect and receive the City services they expect and rely upon.

As always, it is my pleasure, privilege and honor to serve you. If you need assistance, please contact me at moritas@rochesterhills.org. You can also find my City related updates on Facebook and on Twitter.

P.S. For those of you who were wondering, the Moritas finally got three successive clutches of eggs.

Mark Your Calendar

City Offices will be closed:
- July 4 & 5, Independence Day
- September 2, Labor Day

Other Dates to Note:
- June 26, Festival of the Hills
- September 14, Last day to pay summer taxes without interest or penalty

Elections:
- August 6 - Primary
- November 5 - General
I have lived in Rochester Hills now for 30 years. You would think that I would know all the cool spots around the area by now. Well, I was pleasantly surprised to learn about Dutton Farm on March 25th. Mayor Barnett invited City Council to come in a little early on a council night to see some really cool artwork. Several beautiful paintings were on display at city hall, and we all got to meet the two beaming artists, Becca and Katie. They graciously answered our questions about particular works of art and posed for pictures with council members. I met founder Michele Smither and CEO Jenny Brown. Jenny is the daughter of Michele. They were motivated by love for Michele’s other daughter Rebecca to start Dutton Farm. I soon found out that there is a whole lot more to Dutton Farm than just developing artists.

Dutton Farm was founded in 2010 as a non-profit whose purpose is to provide meaningful engagement and educational opportunities to adults with developmental disabilities. I like to call them differently able. Michele Smither and her daughter Jenny Brown organized a team that could help advocate for and carry out their mission of “Empowering and supporting adults with disabilities to live a life of purpose, inclusion and dignity.” Dutton Farm gives hope to adults, their families and to their community that persons with disabilities can contribute.

Dutton Farm is a 501(C)3 serving not only the Rochester Area community but also the tri-county area. Dutton Farm offers the following programs:

- Adult Education- Dutton Farm provides guidance for adults with disabilities as they choose meaningful life engagement, training and prevocational opportunities.

- Workforce Development- Dutton Farm advocates for the rights, inclusion and full participation of all adults with developmental disabilities. The workforce development team helps participants to create a plan, determine a suitable job, identify job vacancies within the private sector, secure and retain such jobs as they become available. Several participants have found suitable jobs in our community thanks to the training they received at Dutton Farm.

- Community Involvement- Each adult education participant is offered opportunities to go into the community and be involved in activities that align with their individual learning goals. Some of the participants have successfully volunteered at the OPC on various programs.

- Summer Camp, run from June 17 - August 29

- Dutton Farm Market- was born when it became obvious that the participants needed help in finding employment. The Market focuses on the strengths of its participants, to create handmade bath and body products. The Market is committed to employing 50% of its workforce with people who have a diagnosed developmental disability. Today the Farm Market features the following products: Lip balm, body balm, beard balm, sugar scrub, bar soap, liquid pump soap, candles, bath salts and spritzes.

- Dutton Farm is an awesome place that I knew nothing about before March 25th. They are such a bright light in our community. They dream of a day to employ 100% of its workforce with people who have a diagnosed developmental disability.

Becca is very proud to now be working in the Market as a Barista, serving tea and coffee.
I thought it would be a good idea as the newest member of the Rochester Hills City Council to use my first article in the Hills Herald to introduce myself. My name is David Walker. My wife, Kelly, and I have been married for 34 years. We met in high school in a small town in Ohio where both of our parents still reside. We moved to Michigan in 1985 just after we got married and have lived in Rochester Hills since 1987. We have one daughter named Samantha.

I currently work as a real estate agent for Brookview Realty located in downtown Rochester next to Lipuma’s Coney Island. Kelly is a lead teacher in a local daycare facility caring for toddlers.

Prior to being appointed to city council, I served on the Rochester Regional Chamber Board for eight years and still serve on the Chamber Foundation Board. I am passionate about the Chamber of Commerce and help out in any way I can, such as an Ambassador volunteer at Ribbon Cutting Ceremonies, or a commentator for the Rochester Area Hometown Christmas Parade, as well as an emcee at the Sunrise Pinnacle awards ceremony, just to name a few.

I am so proud to be working with such a talented and hardworking group of people at City Hall. The city council members, our mayor, and the entire city staff are all extremely dedicated to serving the residents of the city and all have welcomed me into the new role with their time and support.

This has been an interesting experience for me being appointed to city council. In the words of previous councilman Greg Hooper: “I NEVER planned to get into politics.” When the vacancy occurred I was asked to consider serving and my response was that I am too busy with work and life and that was somebody else’s seat to fill. After reflecting on those comments and looking at some of the ‘somebody else’ who were serving me at the Federal, State and Local levels, I decided that I needed an attitude adjustment because if everyone took my line of thinking we would end up with ‘somebody else’ serving us…”

I am looking forward to representing the residents of the City of Rochester Hills as your council member at-large. If you have any thoughts or concerns you would like to share with me, please email me at walkerd@rochesterhills.org or call or text my city cell at 248-260-8874.

When people with developmental disabilities have an equal opportunity to pursue a life of dignity and purpose, perfectly matched to their unique abilities and desires. I would like to encourage Rochester Area residents and civic leaders to get to know Dutton Farm, if you don’t already know them. You can call them and arrange a tour.

Ways to Support Dutton Farms

- Special Events, sign up for a newsletter on line to stay in touch.
- Rebecca Smither Scholarship Fund, when you donate to the scholarship, you are inviting an adult with disabilities to become an honorary part of your workforce, while providing the funding needed to help them continue to gain valuable skills through our Adult Education and Workforce Development programs. The intention of the scholarship is to create a working relationship between participants of Dutton Farm and businesses within the community who value a diverse and inclusive workforce.
- Volunteer on location to help with various tasks
- Give back, in the form of donations and grants

Dutton Farm contact information:
Address: 2290 Dutton Rd. | Rochester | MI | 48306
Phone: 248-608-4173
Email: office@duttonfarm.org
Website: http://duttonfarm.org/
https://www.facebook.com/Duttonfarm
Susan Bowyer, Ph.D. - District 3

Wow it finally feels like spring! I am ready to get out and enjoy the fresh air and watch nature bloom. I hope you can get outside and enjoy the natural areas as well. Not sure where to go to enjoy the outdoors? Well, remember we have 12 beautiful parks in our city: Nowicki, Tienken, Avon Nature Center, Veterans Memorial Pointe, Innovation Hills, Avondale, Wabash, Thelma Spencer, Earl Borden, Helen Allen, Yates, Bloomer. We also have two trails: Clinton River Trail and Paint Creek Trail. Paint Creek Trail will be resurfaced this summer (same surface material) and the bridge between Silverbell and Dutton will be replaced. So, check on Paintcreektrail.org for updates. If you are adventurous please join the Green Space Advisory Board members for hikes in our Green Spaces, on the second Saturday of each month starting around 10:00 am. We will be discovering the area around City Hall, as well as the other seven Green Spaces: Ruby, Rivercrest, Harding, Cloverport, Clear Creek, Childress and North of Innovation Hills. The Green Spaces will never be developed so please feel free to explore them - please leave the dogs at home.

The Outdoor Engagement Programs planned for the summer are VERY exciting, there is so much to choose from: fishing, campfires, hiking, daycamps, kayaking and river floats, so come on out and have an exciting adventure this summer. Each year there are lots of great 5K (3 mile) run/walks planned around our city in the summer months. I have already registered for several of them. Watch my announcements during the City Council meetings for the current list.

It is that time of the year when the deer are having their babies! If you see a baby fawn hidden in the grass, please leave it there. The mother deer is not far away. She hides her baby while she is foraging and comes back to feed and check on the baby often. These baby fawns do not need to be rescued. If someone does move a baby, please put her/him back as soon as possible. If you are not sure what to do please call our Parks and Natural Resources Department at 248-656-4673.

Kathy Losinski, the Director of Neighborhood House, gave a GREAT presentation on April 8th. The Rochester Area Neighborhood House is a nonprofit human service organization to assist our neighbors during times of hardship. They collaborate with the community and other social service providers to help our neighbors in financial crisis. Sudden job loss, divorce and death of a spouse are circumstances that can change lives. Neighborhood House recognizes the basic need of our residents and responds. They assist families and individuals move toward long-term success through: financial assistance, food, clothing, bike program, transportation services, and educational classes. Neighborhood House believes that neighbors helping neighbors is the model of a strong community. They were there for me when I was in graduate school and went through a divorce. Neighborhood House allowed me to focus on my future and that of my sons.

I went to Neighborhood House for food at the Food Pantry and clothes for the two of us at the Clothes Closet. My son was growing up fast and growing out of clothes quickly. Their staff works with individuals and families on budgeting, counseling, job coaching, resume building, parenting classes and computer skills to help our neighbors to self-sustainability. I appreciated the help my son and I received from them. This is a great place if you are able to volunteer your time or donate food, clothes, or money. Please check out their web site for opportunities www.ranh.org.

Please contact me by phone 248-310-8232 (voice message) or email at bowyers@rochesterhills.org, if you have any questions or concerns, and let me know what I can do to help!

As always, I will do my utmost to listen to your views and comments, try to resolve any issues you may have, and strive to work with the City and Council on your behalf.

Enjoy Our Beautiful City!
Ryan Deel - District 4

Spring has arrived and summer is nearly here in Rochester Hills! My twins, Jack and Brennan, are counting the minutes to summer vacation! We have had a wonderful year so far! If you saw a movie at Emagine Theaters over the holidays, there’s a good chance you saw my family on the big screen before the movie with Jay Towers, Allyson and Chelsea of 100.3 FM’s morning team. We had a lot of fun filming it and the boys enjoyed seeing themselves on the big screen!

I have the honor of serving as the city council liaison to the Rochester Hills Youth Government Council. Last year, my wife Melinda approached me with an idea to showcase the many cultures in our community. The next day, Leanne Scott from the clerk’s office mentioned a similar idea. Under the theory that “great minds think alike,” I decided we should try to make it happen.

In August 2018, I pitched the idea to students on the Youth Government Council and they enthusiastically embraced the idea. With the support of Genisys Credit Union and the Mayor’s Advisory Committee on Diversity and Inclusion, the Youth Council hosted the Cultural Togetherness Food and Entertainment Event at City Hall on February 27, 2019. We sampled the rich cultures of our city through food and entertainment. We enjoyed Indian, Greek, Italian, Middle Eastern, Mexican, Polish and African American delicacies. We were entertained with an Indian dance performance, African drummers, a Mariachi band and the Motor City Irish Dancers. It was a wonderful event and everyone had a great time! I am so incredibly proud of the work the students did to make this event a reality.

The Auburn Road Corridor Redevelopment project is underway! Construction has begun and we can expect work to continue through fall and into next year. The City has a dedicated page on its website to the project, where you can find project updates and subscribe to a weekly e-mail newsletter with construction updates. You can navigate to the page through the Planning and Economic Development Department.

On April 11, 2019, we had a great turnout at the DPS Garage Open House for the Auburn Road Redevelopment project. I was able to speak with many residents and it is clear the excitement is really building for this project. The project involves the complete reconstruction of Auburn Road, the addition of a center median, two roundabouts, on-street parking, public parking lots, improved pedestrian facilities, sidewalks, streetscape enhancements, landscaping, lighting and a plaza featuring the City’s first splash pad! I want to express my appreciation and thanks to our City staff for reaching out to residents throughout the process and incorporating their ideas into the project.

Rochester Hills is currently working to draft a new mixed-use zoning district and related zoning standards for the Brooklands area and is soliciting input as to the types of uses residents would like to see in that area. The Planning Commission will make a recommendation as to a new zoning ordinance for the Auburn Road Corridor, which will promote private development.

It is a very exciting time in Rochester Hills with the Auburn Road Corridor project, Innovation Hills Park and the new businesses going in at Winchester Center at Avon and Rochester Roads. I am extremely proud of what we as a City have accomplished so far this year and am looking forward to what is to come.
Festival of the Hills

June 26, 2019
6:00 pm - 11:00 pm
Borden Park
John R & Hamlin
Free Admission

Presented by
Ascension Providence Rochester