



**Bryan K. Barnett, Mayor**

## A Message from the Mayor

### Rochester Hills 1984 – 2014 Thirty Years of Excellence

This year, Rochester Hills not only celebrates its 30<sup>th</sup> birthday, but also the fact that for nearly two centuries, individuals continue to choose Rochester Hills as the preeminent place to live, work, and raise their families. No matter the era or challenge, our city has remained committed to our residents, and the growth and success continue. From humble beginnings, Rochester Hills is now the 15<sup>th</sup> largest city in Michigan and we proudly welcome hundreds of new families every year.

Commitment to the many resources that make for an exceptional quality of life for those who live here is what makes Rochester Hills so desirable. Whether it is a breathtaking view of the Clinton River or a majestic fall ride along the Paint Creek Trail, our dynamic parks system offers easy access to recreational activities that the whole family will enjoy.

With award winning schools and exceptional post-secondary institutions, we are a city committed to lifelong learning and proudly boast that over 50% of Rochester Hills residents have a bachelor's degree or higher. Because of our commitment to education, more and more companies are choosing

*“No matter the era or challenge, our city has remained committed to our residents”*

*Continued Page 2*

## Inside This Issue

Out & About in Rochester Hills	3
A Message from the Fire Chief	4
A Message from the Sheriff	5
Veterans Memorial Pointe News	6
Clerk's Department Updates	8
Building Department Updates	10
Public Service Department Updates	14
Parks and Forestry Updates	18
Rochester Hills Museum	22
Tax & Ordinance Information	24
Election Information	25
City Council	26



## Rochester Hills CONNECT



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Rochester Hills as the place to invest and grow their business. In fact, we've welcomed over 100 new high tech companies and 5,400 high tech jobs since the start of my administration.

Furthering our commitment to quality of life, the city is investing in improvements to our roads, parks, facilities, and services all designed to improve your living experience in Rochester Hills. While we may not enjoy construction season, I encourage you to be patient with our team as they work diligently on nearly a dozen different projects throughout the city to improve our infrastructure.

How, you may ask, do we continue to grow despite the economic challenges that many other communities face? Well, that takes commitment as well - to be fiscally responsible and tremendously proactive and resourceful with your tax dollars. With innovation and excellence as our guideposts, Rochester Hills is now proudly recognized regionally as the environmental, collaborative, and fiscally responsible leader in Southeast Michigan.

Thank you for being a part of thirty years of growth and innovation. We remain committed to our residents' satisfaction and I remain personally dedicated to making Rochester Hills the preeminent place to live, work, and raise your family.

God Bless,




*Spencer Park*



*Our naturally beautiful family atmosphere*

# Hills Herald

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**BRYAN K. BARNETT, Mayor**

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## Rochester Hills Leading the Way in Fiscal Responsibility

- ✓ Ranked in the top 5% of Michigan municipalities for financial stability.
- ✓ Both Standard & Poor's and Fitch's Rating Agency awarded Rochester Hills the coveted municipal AAA Bond Rating.
- ✓ Our Financial Summary Report and Performance Dashboard enable residents to easily review our finances, economic strength, public safety, quality of life, and community partnerships. These documents simplify the budget process in a very easy to read and understandable format, and promote transparency and accountability to our residents.
- ✓ Our Fiscal team has won 17 budget awards in recent years for innovation and transparency.
- ✓ One of only six municipalities in the state to receive all three awards from the Government Finance Officers Association.
- ✓ At the request of the US Conference of Mayors in Washington, Mayor Barnett presented to our nations Mayors on the topic of "Five Things Financially Responsible Mayors Should Know."
- ✓ Rochester Hills recognized as a national benchmark for excellent financial management.

## Out & About in Rochester Hills



*The first "Paint a Plow" program was a tremendous success! Spearheaded by DPS Director Allan Schneck, this awesome program showcased our beautiful city and our talented students. Although the plows look amazing, we're still happy to put them away for a while!*



*The Rochester Hills Fire Department celebrated the swearing in of their new Chief, Sean Canto. Chief Canto brings years of experience and expertise to the department. Join us in welcoming our new Fire Chief and his beautiful family!*



*YES! Rochester Hills residents voted to allow the repurposing of Green Space Millage funds to include stewardship as the next phase of protecting our natural resources. Naturalist Lance DeVoe is pointing out something very interesting to a group of young nature lovers.*



*Mayor Barnett was on hand to help cut the ribbon at the new branch of Flagstar Bank, located at S. Adams Road and Marketplace Circle.*

*Let the "Battle for the Jug" continue! Oakland University and Rochester College hockey teams formed a new rivalry this past season. OU came out on top this year, and we can't wait to see what next year brings.*

*There's nothing like a good old fashioned rivalry to keep things interesting.*



*Mayor Barnett was very pleased to wish Marye Miller bon voyage as she cruises into retirement after 40 years at the helm of OPC. If you see Marye out and about, be sure to wish her well.*

# Rochester Hills Fire Department

## *A Message from Chief... Sean Canto*



As Fire Chief, public safety is my top priority. With summer approaching, the Fire Department would like to pay special attention to child safety and how we can keep our kids safe. Our Public Education Specialist has included a list from

KidsAndCars.org that we think you will find both informative and helpful. In addition, we have included a list of safety programs, classes, and services offered by the Rochester Hills Fire and Emergency Medical Services Department. Please contact our Public Education Specialist Nancy Butty at 248-841-2705 for additional information.

The Rochester Hills Fire and Emergency Medical Services Department continues to strive to be the best by providing more than just emergency services. Please contact us if you are interested in any of the following services, programs, or classes:

- Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) classes—for a complete listing of the 2014 classes, visit our website at [www.rochesterhills.org](http://www.rochesterhills.org).
- Child car seats save lives. Is your child's car seat installed properly? If you're not sure, make an appointment with one of our four certified car seat technicians to ensure that it is and learn more about the safety of your child when traveling in an automobile. An appointment is required and can be made by calling 248-656-4720.
- Scouts of America station tours and basic first aid classes are available. For a complete list of the 2014 classes, visit our website at [www.rochesterhills.org](http://www.rochesterhills.org) or call 248-841-2705. Registration is required to attend class.
- **Smoke alarms are the single most valuable device for saving lives at the time of a fire. Protect your family, home, and pets and practice the prevention of fires; but should the unthinkable happen, be prepared by having the protection of early warning.** Call for an appointment to have your home evaluated to ensure you have an adequate number of **working** alarms, or to have new alarms installed or batteries replaced. Appointments can be made by calling 248-841-2705.

The Rochester Hills Fire and Emergency Services Department hosts numerous community programs throughout the year. Check our website often for upcoming events.

## Safety Tips

from

[KidsAndCars.org](http://KidsAndCars.org)

- Never leave children alone in or around cars; not even for a minute.
- Put something you'll need like your cell phone, handbag, employee ID, or briefcase on the floor board in the back seat to ensure ALL items are retrieved including the children upon reaching your destination.
- Get in the habit of always opening the back door of your vehicle every time you reach your destination to make sure no child has been left behind. This will soon become a habit. We call this the "Look Before You Lock" campaign.
- Keep a large stuffed animal in the child's car seat when it's not occupied. When the child is placed in the seat, put the stuffed animal in the front passenger seat. It's a visual reminder that anytime the stuffed animal is up front you know the child is in the back seat in a child safety seat.
- Make arrangements with your child's daycare center or babysitter that you will always call if your child will not be there on a particular day as scheduled.
- Keep vehicles locked at all times, even in the garage or driveway, and always set your parking brake.
- Keys and/or remote openers should never be left within reach of children.
- Make sure all child passengers have left the vehicle after it is parked.
- When a child is missing, check vehicles and car trunks immediately.
- If you see a child alone in a vehicle, get involved. If they are hot or seem sick, get them out as quickly as possible. Call 911 or your local emergency number immediately.
- Be especially careful about keeping children safe in and around cars during busy times, schedule changes, and periods of crisis or holidays.
- Use drive-thru services when available (restaurants, banks, pharmacies, dry cleaners, etc.)
- Use your debit or credit card to pay for gas at the pump.

For additional information about ways to keep children safe in and around vehicles, visit the website [www.KidsAndCars.org](http://www.KidsAndCars.org).

# Oakland County Sheriff's Office



## *A Message from Sheriff...Michael Bouchard*

### Frauds Targeting Seniors

Studies have shown that senior citizens are more at risk to be targeted by telemarketing frauds than any other age groups, and fraudulent telemarketers direct anywhere from 56 to 80 percent of their calls at older people. These con artists believe that senior citizens are vulnerable and more susceptible to their tricks. Keep these tips in mind:

- Offers “too good to be true” usually are. Ask to receive the “unbelievable deal” or the “amazing prize offer” in writing so you can read it carefully before making a commitment.
- **Never give out your personal information over the phone or Internet unless you have initiated the call. Legitimate business callers will never ask you for this information over the phone.**

- If a caller asks you to pay for an offer in advance or asks for your credit card number or Social Security number, tell the person *you do not give out personal information over the telephone.*
- Remember that legitimate telemarketers will not be turned off if you use these techniques. They will appreciate dealing with an educated consumer.

Review our list below so you can identify a potential fraud to look out for:

**Health Care/Medicare/Health Insurance Fraud** - In these types of scams, perpetrators may pose as a Medicare representative to get older people to give them their personal information, or they will provide bogus services for elderly people at makeshift mobile clinics, then use the personal information they provide to bill Medicare and pocket the money.

**Funeral & Cemetery Scams** - Scammers read obituaries and call or attend the funeral service of a complete stranger to take advantage of the grieving widow or widower. Claiming the deceased had an outstanding debt with them; scammers will try to extort money from relatives to settle the fake debts.

**Money Scam** - The con artist tells the individual that he/she has found a large sum of money and is willing to split it if the person will make a “good faith” payment by withdrawing funds from his/her bank account. Often, a second con artist is involved, posing as a lawyer, banker, or some other trustworthy person.

**Fake Accident** - The con artist gets the victim to wire or send money on the pretext that the person’s child or another relative is in the hospital and needs the money.

**Sweepstakes & Lottery Scams** - The person is told they have won a lottery or sweepstakes of some kind and they need to make some sort of payment to unlock the supposed prize. Often, seniors will be sent a check that they can deposit in their bank account. Once deposited, it will take a few days before the (fake) check is rejected. The senior will lose the money they sent to unlock the prize.

**The Grandparent Scam** - Scammers will place a call to an older person. They will say something along the lines of, “Hi Grandma, do you know who this is?” When the unsuspecting grandparent guesses the name of the grandchild the scammer most sounds like, the scammer has established a fake identity. Once the fraud artist has done this, he will usually ask for money to solve some unexpected financial problem (overdue rent, payment for car repairs, etc.) to be paid via Western Union or MoneyGram, which don’t always require identification to collect.



# 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 \$55.00. 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 \$55 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.

# Memorial Day Parade

*Where: Mount Avon Cemetery at Third Street in the City of Rochester*

*Date: May 26, 2014 ~ 9:15 am – 12:00 pm*

Please join us. The opening ceremony begins at 9:15 am at Mt. Avon Cemetery, City of Rochester. The parade begins at 10:00 am from the cemetery to Veterans Memorial Pointe (corner of Avon and Livernois) for the closing ceremony in Rochester Hills.

This year, our Parade Grand Marshall is Toni Denton. In 2010, Ms. Denton was the first ever female veteran to receive the Veteran of the Year Award.

Ms. Denton joined the military in 1980, and in 1998 returned to the U.S. to attend college full time. She graduated from Rochester College in 2001 with bachelor's degrees in business management, and youth and family ministry.

Ms. Denton is active in the Disabled American Veterans and has held several offices including one year as chapter service officer, three years as adjutant, and she has served many years as chaplain. She is a strong advocate for veterans and a sincere believer in veterans helping veterans.

Please join us in honoring Ms. Denton this Memorial Day.

This year marks the 50th Anniversary of the start of the Vietnam War and special tribute is being paid to recognize and honor Vietnam Veterans.

Our Rochester Hills employee and former Veteran of the Year, Ed Leafdale, asks that we please take a moment on this Memorial Day to reflect on a generation of Baby Boomers who served in Vietnam. Over three million young men and women left their homes to go to a place that most of them had never heard of, let alone had been able to locate on a map. Most of these young people had never traveled more than a family vacation away from home. The cost was great to this generation, with more than 58,000 lives lost of which the average age was just 19 years. There was unimaginable and unspeakable torture suffered by the Vietnam Prisoners of War, and the Vietnam Veterans carry many seen and unseen war scars. Plus – let us not forget the 1600+ missing in action that still need to be accounted for and brought home.

Vietnam Veterans came home unnoticed because it was a war the public grew tired of and wanted to ignore. There were no welcome home parades for these veterans. Their service to our nation was as great as any other service men and women during time of war. Their call to duty was heroic - drawing inspiration from their fathers and forefathers who had fought before them.

Please show these patriots the respect and support of a grateful nation on this Memorial Day. Take a moment to reflect with solemn reverence upon this generation of veterans as they go into the autumn of their lives. Now, more than ever, it is time to right the wrong and welcome home these Vietnam Veterans. For additional information, please call Terri Williams at 248-651-8137 or Ed Leafdale at 248-841-2655 .

## Eagles Landing ~ Eagle Scout Projects at Veterans Memorial Pointe

Eagles Landing is an exciting new amenity coming to Veterans Memorial Pointe. Veterans Memorial Pointe, located on the southeast corner of Livernois and Avon, has been the site of many outstanding Eagle Scout projects throughout the years, and the newest, Eagles Landing, promises to be equally outstanding. Eagles Landing, which will be located on the southwest corner of Livernois and Avon, across from Veterans Memorial Pointe, will be a resting stop area and launch site for canoeists and kayakers on the Clinton River.



*The Clinton River at Veterans Memorial Pointe*

Boy Scout Adam Kewior from Troop 40 is working on his Eagle Scout Badge, and as his project he has designed a canoe and kayak rack with a picnic table rest area. Paddle sportsmen and women will surely appreciate this new addition to the beautiful and peaceful Veterans Memorial Pointe!

Adam is in the early stages of the planning process and is currently seeking help to raise funds to cover the cost of this project. His hope is to have it completed and ready to use this summer. If you would like more information including how to help fund this project, please call Ed Leafdale at 248-841-2655.



*Vietnam Veterans Memorial ~ Washington DC*

# Updates from Our Clerk's Department

Ensure democracy ~ Serve your community ~ Earn extra income



The Rochester Hills City Clerk's Office is looking for people to continue the time-honored tradition of working the polls on Election Day. The Clerk's Office is currently hiring Election Inspectors for the August 5, 2014 and November 4, 2014 elections. Inspectors will be stationed at one of our 32 precincts throughout the city and will be responsible for opening the precinct on Election Day, ensuring that voters are registered and are voting in the proper precinct, assigning ballots, and closing the polls.

Election Inspectors are paid for working on Election Day and also receive additional payment for attending mandatory training prior to Election Day. However, many of our inspectors enjoy serving for other reasons: a sense of pride, civic duty, and the social aspects. They realize that Election Inspectors are the backbone of our democracy. The City Clerk's Office can't staff 32 precincts on Election Day; we need Election Inspectors to make our elections run smoothly! Many of our inspectors work at the same precincts and with the same fellow inspectors year after year. They often maintain friendships outside of the polling place and look forward to seeing their neighbors every Election Day.

Election Inspectors must be at least 18 years old and be a qualified and registered elector of the state of Michigan. Inspectors are allowed to serve in a community other than their own. Election Inspector applications are available at the Clerk's Office or on our website: <http://www.rochesterhills.org/elections>.

If you have any questions, please contact the Rochester Hills City Clerk's Office at 248-656-4630.

## Did you misplace your water bill? You can find a copy on our website

1. Go to [www.Rochesterhills.org](http://www.Rochesterhills.org)
2. On the home page, scroll to the bottom, click on "Manage Your Water Bill"
3. Create a User Name and Password
4. Enter your account number and you can view your bill

## Top 5 reasons to switch to paperless Water and Sewer Bills

1. Environmental impact; smaller carbon footprint
2. Same day notification to view your water bill
3. Great security; water bill not lost in the mail
4. Access your water bill and bill history anywhere
5. Better organization; fewer papers at your home

paperless  
billing

## Passports

Did you know you can apply for your passport in person in the Clerk's Office Monday - Friday from 8:30 am - 4:00 pm.

For more information on the process, and the necessary documentation, please visit our website at [www.rochesterhills.org](http://www.rochesterhills.org) or click [here](#) to be directed to the site.



## Rochester Hills Government Youth Council Hosts 5k Run/Walk on June 14, 2014 to Benefit Blessings in a Backpack

Michigan Property Maintenance and GLT International are sponsoring the Rochester Hills Government Youth Council's (RHGYC) 5k Run/Walk to benefit local charity, Blessings in a Backpack. The event will be held on Saturday, June 14, 2014 at Bloomer Park, located at the north end of John R Road north of Avon Road. The 5k Run/Walk will wind through the park's scenic cross-country trails and will once again be chip timed.

Blessings in a Backpack is a program offered to students in Rochester Community Schools who qualify for the free and reduced lunch program. The program provides six nutritious meals that are distributed in school on Friday to feed the student over the weekend. There are an unprecedented number of families in need right here in Rochester Hills.

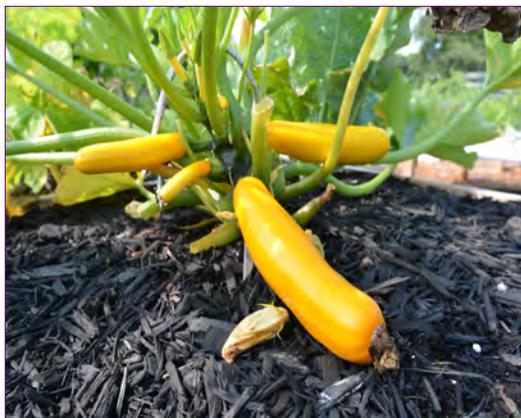
Please join the RHGYC in their fund raising efforts for this very worthy organization. Sponsors and donors are also encouraged and welcome.

Entrance forms for runners and sponsors of the 5k are available in the Youth Council area of the city's website at [www.rochesterhills.org](http://www.rochesterhills.org) along with a link to online registration. Participants submitting entries by June 1, 2014 will receive a Race T-shirt. After June 1, T-shirts will be available for entrants while supplies last. For more information on the RHGYC and the 5k, contact Charnele Sanders, Rochester Hills Youth Council Liaison at 248-656-4630.

The Rochester Hills City Council has established the Rochester Hills Government Youth Council (RHGYC) to promote youth involvement in local government through active participation and the mutual exchange of ideas and experience.



## Community Garden a Huge Success at Wabash Park



Just one year ago the Community Garden at Wabash Park was in the planning stages. Now it is a beautiful and fruitful reality!

In 2013, we sprouted fresh herbs, flowers and vegetables in Rochester Hills' very first community garden. Residents of both Rochester Hills and Rochester gardened in Wabash Park for exercise, education, health benefits, therapeutic reasons, and more.

The benefits of a Community Garden go beyond enhancing the gardener's intake of nutritious fruits and vegetables. Reduction in family food budgets, stress relief, exercise, fostering community spirit through interaction with fellow gardeners and neighbors are just a handful of the harvested rewards.

All plots have been reserved for the 2014 growing season. If you would like to reserve a plot next year, be sure to call early.

For details, visit the city webpage at [www.rochesterhills.org](http://www.rochesterhills.org) or call Dinosaur Hill at 248-656-0999.

### ~ VOLUNTEERS NEEDED ~

If you are interested in gardening and were not able to reserve a plot, Raising Rochester, a local charity that grows and harvests food for the Rochester Area Neighborhood House Food Pantry is looking for volunteers to tend and maintain their plots. Located throughout the city, these plots provide nutritious food to people in need and volunteers are needed and appreciated. We have many volunteer opportunities to choose from. To find out how you can help, please visit [www.raisingrochester.net](http://www.raisingrochester.net). Individuals, families, and groups are welcome!



# Rochester Hills Building Department

## Check Your Deck

May is National Building Safety Month. It is also a good month to take a look at the outside of your home to see how this past long hard winter has affected the exterior of your home and wood 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 age and lack of maintenance. 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 an annual inspection of your deck surface, railing, under-structure, and all connectors.

- ⇒ 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.
- ⇒ 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.
- ⇒ 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.
- ⇒ Clean the surface of your deck to remove dirt, debris, and mildew which can make your deck slippery and cause premature decay. Apply a new coat of stain or sealer to 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.

You can find a more detailed deck evaluation checklist on the North American Deck and Railing Association's website at [www.NADRA.org](http://www.NADRA.org). Also, check out the Building Department website for our new "Check Your Deck" video that 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](http://www.rochesterhills.org).



## Don't Just Dive In...Check Your Swimming Pool for Safety First!

With summer just around the corner, your Rochester Hills Building Department would like to remind you to give your swimming pool and surrounding area a quick safety check before the fun starts. As you prepare for summer, you might want to run through this simple checklist of items to ensure your family and friends can enjoy your pool safely:

- ⇒ 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.
- ⇒ Check the outside electrical outlet near the pool. This outlet should be a ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI) with both "test" and "reset" buttons. Test your outlet for defects and if it is defective it should be replaced before using your pool. Also, please remember that an extension cord should never be used around your pool.
- ⇒ Check to make sure all fencing around the pool is intact and any gate latches are functional. A self-closing gate will also help to make sure that little ones don't gain access to the pool without adult supervision.
- ⇒ If you or your guests have young children and a door that leads directly to your pool area, you should have an alarm on that door that will sound when it is opened.

By following these simple, easy steps before the swimming season starts, you can ensure that you, your family, and your friends will enjoy the summer's fun without any accidents.



## Spring Cleaning Includes Your Yard

As the weather improves, we all start having thoughts of opening our doors and windows to get rid of that old stale air and do some serious spring cleaning.

Springtime is also time to start taking stock in the outside of our houses and yard areas to see how they survived the winter.

Some things to look for include:

- Trash or debris that may have been blown into the yard or deposited by snow piles
- Downed branches
- Pile of leaves that may have blown into corners
- Damaged gutters and downspouts that may have been damaged by winds
- Shutters, storm windows or doors, and house paint that may have been damaged by the elements
- Fences damaged by downed branches or ice
- Any other exterior wear and tear that wasn't there in the fall

In addition, the Ordinance Compliance Division of the Building Department has developed a "*Guide to Neighborhood Living*" that can be obtained at our service counter or at [www.rochesterhills.org](http://www.rochesterhills.org). This guide outlines some of the "do's and don'ts" of property maintenance.

The City of Rochester Hills encourages all residents to take an active role in seeing that our city is kept clean, well maintained, and a beautiful place to live, work, and play. By doing a little spring cleaning, you can do your part to help!

## Pathway Maintenance

Rochester Hills residents are fortunate to have many miles of pathways to walk, jog, or bicycle on. It is important that these pathways are safe and kept clear of vegetation that may encroach or overhang the pathway.

The area between the pathway and the road is owned by Rochester Hills and maintained by the Forestry Department. The surface itself is inspected and maintained by the Department of Public Service. The area of vegetation on the residential side of the pathway is owned by the resident adjoining the pathway and it is the homeowners responsibility to keep trees and shrubs from blocking the pathway.

As in past summers, Ordinance Compliance Inspectors will patrol the pathways to identify properties that have private vegetation encroaching or overhanging a city pathway. Please keep vegetation beside the pathway cut back at least one foot. Trees that overhang the pathway must be trimmed a minimum of 10 feet above the pathway.

City staff members are very thankful for residents who take a proactive roll in keeping their trees and shrubs from presenting a hazard to those who use our pathways.

We are keeping pathway travel safe together. Thanks!!



## 2014 NO HAZ PROGRAM - The Right Thing to Do

Are you disposing of your household hazardous waste in the proper way?

You can get rid of your household hazardous waste (HHW) and do something good for the environment by taking your unwanted HHW to one of the NoHaz collection events during 2014.

NO HAZ- North Oakland County Household Hazardous Waste Consortium-is a group of government bodies representing twelve communities, including Rochester Hills, who have come together to cooperatively provide a safe, convenient, and cost effective method of handling residential household hazardous waste. Residents from any NO HAZ member community may participate in any collection event scheduled for 2014. No appointment is necessary, allowing participants to bring their HHW to any one of the events between the hours of 8:00 am and 2:00 pm.

For Rochester Hills residents, the \$10.00 per car fee is payable at the door on the day of the event.

To learn more about the NO HAZ, and get a list of acceptable and unacceptable materials, please visit their website at [www.nohaz.com](http://www.nohaz.com) or call the hotline at 248-858-5656.



### 2014 NO HAZ Collection Events

**Saturday, May 31, 8:00 am - 2:00 pm**  
**Oxford Middle School**  
**1420 Lakeville Rd., Oxford**

**Saturday, June 21, 8:00 am - 2:00 pm**  
**Oakland University, Rochester Hills**  
**2200 Squirrel Road, Rochester Hills**  
**Foundation Hall Parking Lot**

**Saturday, August 23, 8:00 am - 2:00 pm**  
**Oakland Community College**  
**Highland Lakes Campus**  
**7350 Cooley Lake Road, Waterford**  
**Enter from Hospital Road**

**Saturday, September 20, 8:00 am - 2:00 pm**  
**Friendship Park, Orion Twp**  
**3380 W. Clarkston Rd., Orion Twp.**



## Program Overview

Recognizing that community members are the strength and support that makes Rochester Hills an exceptional community, these awards are designed to honor those in our city whose actions unify and inspire others by way of exemplary service and extraordinary acts of volunteerism. They are those who make a notable effort to improve the quality of life of those around them.

To nominate an individual or group, please complete the nomination form below. For additional information, please visit [www.rochesterhills.org](http://www.rochesterhills.org) or contact the office of Mayor Bryan K. Barnett at 248-656-4664.

### Award Categories

**Individual** Dedicated Rochester Hills residents who significantly improve the lives of those around them, enhance the quality of life in the community, or have addressed some need of importance in the area are to be honored. These individuals may be of any age and represent any component of the community.

**Family** Rochester Hills families who work together in order to improve the lives of others in the community would be prime candidates for this award category. Recipients may be grandparents, brothers, sisters, or empty nesters – any family that performs unspoken acts of kindness or other unique examples of community service are to be recognized.

**Local Business** Employees and/or business owners from for-profit establishments located in Rochester Hills are recognized for reaching out and serving the community exceptionally.

**Community Organization** Groups of volunteers in the community serving with any non-profit, governmental or civic organization are to be honored for community service that significantly impacts and strengthens the community.

## Community First Nomination Form

Please complete the nomination form below by providing specific examples of how your nominee has contributed to improving the quality of life to those in the community or around them.

Please select a category:      Individual      Family      Local Business      Non-Profit

Nominee Information:

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Years living/doing business in Rochester Hills: \_\_\_\_\_

Nomination Narrative: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Nominated by: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

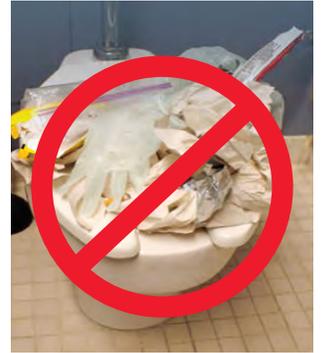
Please submit to Mayor Bryan K. Barnett, Office of the Mayor, 1000 Rochester Hills Drive, Rochester Hills, MI 48309

## Department of Public Services

### Don't Rush to Flush ~ Help Keep Our Waterways Clean

In today's world of convenience many products we use are disposable. Unfortunately, some of these products end up in the sewer. We have products that claim to be flushable but many of these products don't degrade in the sewer like toilet paper does. Products like flushable wipes combine with other non-flushable items like dental floss to create a rag mop looking collection that can and does plug the sewers and the sewage pumps.

Over the past decade we have seen an increase in the amount of flushable and non-flushable items in the sewers in Rochester Hills. These items cause damage to personal and public property by clogging up pipes and pumps. This damage can be avoided by simply disposing of items in the garbage can rather than the toilet.



#### Don't Rush to Flush:

- Baby wipes and diapers
- Rags and towels
- Cotton swabs
- Syringes
- Candy and other food wrappers
- Aquarium gravel or kitty litter
- Rubber items such as latex gloves
- Cigarette butts
- Sanitary napkins
- Underwear
- Dental floss

### Mayor Barnett Inducted into the Michigan Green Hall of Fame

During the 2014 Michigan Earth Day Fest, Mayor Barnett was awarded the MI Green Hall of Fame Award which recognizes the dedication and achievement of some of Michigan's most significant green leaders.

Mayor Barnett was selected for a number of reasons, perhaps most notably his green leadership initiative in the successful implementation of the Recycling Rewards Program. Rochester Hills became the first community in the State of Michigan, and in fact the entire Midwest, to offer the incentive based recycling program called Recyclebank. This innovative recycling program has established Rochester Hills as a green leader in the State of Michigan.

In addition, he was proud to join a delegation participating in the Transatlantic Climate Bridge Initiative, Sustainable Planning, Sustainable Cities in Germany, and currently chairs the Southeast Michigan Council of Government's Green Infrastructure Task Force.

"Since I was just a young boy, I dreamed of one day being inducted to the Hall of Fame," says Mayor Barnett on his nomination into the MI Green Hall of Fame. "Admittedly, I was hoping for something a bit more glamorous like Cooperstown, but all joking aside, I am truly proud of Rochester Hills and our dedication to innovative green programs like Recyclebank."



### Greater Rochester Area Relay For Life

The 16th Annual Greater Rochester Area Relay For Life is coming to Rochester Hills! The event will be held at Stoney Creek High School beginning June 21 at 9:00 am and lasting until 9:00 am on June 22. Relay For Life is a 24-hour family fun event where teams camp out, walk around the track, play games, and make new friends while raising awareness and money to support programs and services of the American Cancer Society. Highlights of the event are the Survivor Walk, where cancer survivors and their caregivers are recognized and applauded, and the Luminary Ceremony where we take time to reflect, remember, and honor the people who have lost their fight against cancer.

In Southeast Michigan alone, 62 people per day, or approximately 23,000 people per year, find out that they have cancer. Please come out and help us as we work to put an end to this disease. To find out more about the Greater Rochester Area Relay, please visit [www.relayforlife.org/rochestermi](http://www.relayforlife.org/rochestermi).

Everyone is welcome – stop by day or night.

In memory of those who have passed, in honor of those who have survived and to help future patients – we walk, talk, and work to raise funds in hope of finding a cure for cancer.



# Rochester Hills Department of Public Services

Persevering through the snowiest winter in Michigan history into what is shaping up to be a very busy construction season will continue to test our patience, but the investment in our infrastructure is much needed and will be worth the temporary inconvenience.

The Avon Road rehabilitation project from Adams to Livernois is the first project to kick off the construction season. This \$3.5 million dollar project stretches two miles along Avon Road and includes: hot mix asphalt base crushing, shaping and resurfacing, shared-use path, earth excavation, aggregate base, storm sewer, drainage, pavement repairs, concrete curb and gutter, sidewalk with ramps, and signal upgrades. The project will be delivered in two phases:

Phase 1: Crooks to Livernois with a time period from April 16 to July 1

Phase 2: Adams to Crooks with a time period from July 2 through the end of September

To maximize the leveraging of available funds, we are utilizing the Tri-Party program which means Rochester Hills, Oakland County, and the Road Commission of Oakland County each contribute one third to the city's share of road work. By taking this progressive approach, we will only be responsible for 12.5% of the entire project cost. This project is another great example of how we utilize our funding to not only address the safety and ride quality of the road surface, but to take the opportunity to incorporate non-motorized pathway additions and underground infrastructure improvements.

Our commitment to safe, reliable, and good quality roads and infrastructure does not end with the delivery of the Avon Road project. We will have a very robust construction season and the following projects are slated for delivery throughout this year:



- ⇒ Tienken Road (Livernois to Rochester Road) - **Reconstruction**
- ⇒ Bloomer Road (Windridge Boulevard to the westerly city limits) – **Gravel to Paved**
- ⇒ Sheldon Road (Placid Circle to Mead Road) – **Gravel to Paved**
- ⇒ 2014 Concrete Program – **Concrete Removal & Replacement**
- ⇒ 2014 Hot Mixed Asphalt Program – **Mill & Resurface**
- ⇒ Sanitary Sewer Rehabilitation Project, Rouge Grant – **Non-Destructive Repairs (Sewer Lining, Grouting and Spot Repairs) to prevent ground water infiltration**
- ⇒ Christian Hills West – **Water Main Replacement and Road Resurfacing**

To build upon our effective communication of these projects, we are launching a new & innovative interactive map. The map will allow you to view all construction projects within the city. If you would like more information on a specific project, you can “click” the project to garner a host of information. Please visit: <http://www.rochesterhills.org> to utilize the map and gain additional insight into construction within Rochester Hills.

To sum things up, thank you for your patience and understanding as the 2014 construction season begins. If you have questions, or would like additional information, please contact the Department of Public Services at 248-656-4685. We are making every attempt to keep our roads safe, enhance our vibrant character, and incorporate amenities that continue to make Rochester Hills the premier community of choice to live, work, and raise a family.

## A note from Mayor Barnett...



I ask you to join me in thanking the men and women of the Department of Public Services for an incredible job this year. Facing the most intense winter in over 150 years, you never know exactly how it's going to pan out. Our team did a fantastic job delivering services, clearing the streets, salting the roads, and making the streets as passable as possible despite the record breaking circumstances.

In addition, the DPS clerical staff did an outstanding job assisting residents with concerns and questions regarding snow removal.

Please help me congratulate the dedicated DPS staff for surviving the worst winter in history in this region, and for keeping Rochester Hills moving forward!

# Timing Really is Everything.....

Do your part...

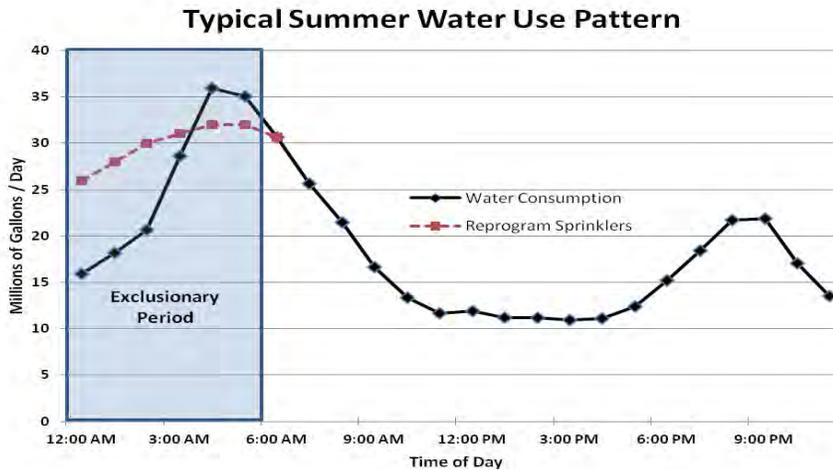


Once again, spring is upon us, and our businesses and residents are turning on their lawn sprinkler systems for the summer season. As you may know, the City of Rochester Hills has an **Outdoor Watering Ordinance** which restricts the use of automatic landscape irrigation systems to the hours of midnight through 5:00 am only. Since the ordinance was adopted, the city has received excellent support from our businesses and residents in adhering to the ordinance which has resulted in a **shift in our peak hour water usage from 7:00 am to 5:00 am.**

It is important to understand that daytime outdoor watering contributes to a large portion of the city's peak water usage and is used by Detroit Water and Sewerage Department (DWSD) to set customer wholesale water rates. **Higher peak usage during**

**daytime peak demands results in higher water rates.**

**When our peak hour usage shifted to DWSD's exclusionary period (12:00 pm to 5:00 am), we leveled out our Peak Hour factor, which resulted in sustaining wholesale water rates.**



Although the city has been successful in sustaining DWSD's rate increases, there is always room for improvement and it can be achieved by making a few minor adjustments to the starting times of automatic or programmable irrigation systems. Based on historic hourly consumption data provided by the DWSD, we have attributed our 4:00 am peak consumption to users having programmed their systems to start watering at 4:00 am. Again, we know this because the DWSD takes pressure readings at the top of the hour and has observed sudden pressure drops in their distribution system as the majority of sprinkler systems start up at this time.

**We ask businesses and residents to delay your system watering start by 15, 30, or 45 minutes past the top of the hour.**

This strategy will decrease the sudden pressure drops within the DWSD delivery systems to Rochester Hills providing more consistent pressures to our customers. Additionally, by evoking this pressure management strategy DWSD will not have to build additional pressure booster pump stations or invest in other system improvements which could adversely affect rates.

Sticking with the theme of timing, by staggering the start of your automatic or programmable sprinkler system as well as starting them earlier we can have a positive effect by reducing our "off-peak" demand which we feel will help us sustain current water rates from the DWSD.

To learn more about water consumption and best management practices associated with your usage, please visit our Website. We truly appreciate our environmentally conscientious "Green" water users as we're about to enter another "Green Season." By working together, we make the City of Rochester Hills the preeminent place to work, live and raise a family.



# Rochester Hills App ~ Free and Convenient

Whether you live here, work here, or play here, get up to the minute information free and at your fingertips.

## Report a Concern:

Let us know what's going on in the city right from your Smartphone. You can even attach a photo and it will automatically map your location.

## Trails:

The Trails feature shows you where you are and provides helpful landmarks such as Dinosaur Hill, parking lots and bathrooms.

## Calendars:

The app offers three calendars to keep you informed about what's happening in the Parks, at Public Meetings and in the Community.

## Notify Me:

Sign up for specific notifications regarding everything from Elections, to Ordinance Updates, to Job Opportunities.

## And more!



# Rochester Hills ~ How We've Grown



*Avon Township Hall 1880*

The earliest settlers to the Rochester Hills community were visionary, resourceful, hard working, family oriented, and community minded – just like the residents of today! From a population of 129 in 1820, we have blossomed to a vibrant community of over 72,000 residents and growing!

Our earliest pioneers faced huge challenges – muddy roads, poor bridges, and a hatred of taxes – so as some things change some things remain the same! Our pioneers were keenly involved in the education of their children which was easier to do when they were all in one room. Today, the school district has over 14,800 students in nearly two dozen buildings across the city.

What did people do for fun? For fun, residents jumped off the Bloomer Park Ski jumps with contestants from Denmark, Sweden, and Norway. Today, you can enjoy the sledding hills or Velodrome at Bloomer Park with residents and visitors who are looking to get outside.

Community health has certainly changes. Doctors in the 1840s set up detours around our community to keep those with cholera out of town. Today, with Crittenton Hospital we have a world class medical facility that keeps our community healthy and happy.

Our technology has had a few major updates. Three meetings were held by the Avon Township council in 1858 while today residents are networked to City Hall and able to view meetings, minutes, budgets, and more from the comfort of their hand held device.

Rochester Hills has evolved from a backwoods, primitive setting in 1823 to a spectacular community today boasting manufacturing, shopping, education, and residential housing. It has all the features that the pioneers had hoped it would!



*Bloomer Park - Then and Now - Always a great way to get outdoors*

*Rochester Hills City Hall 2014*



## Collaboration, Partnership Lead to City's New Park

Located on Hamlin Road between Crooks and Adams Roads, lies 70 acres of undeveloped woodlands that will soon provide another opportunity for residents to get out and experience the natural features and amenities offered by Mother Nature, right in your own backyard.

This spring, the city will break ground on the first new park development in Rochester Hills in nearly 20 years, and the first Environmental Park in Southeast Michigan.

“Given the recent economic challenges, the development of Riverbend Park wasn't even feasible for the foreseeable future due to funding. It was a unique collaboration with Lawrence Technological University (LTU) that got the ball rolling,” stated Mayor Bryan K. Barnett.

In 2012, through a partnership with LTU, 20 graduate students from the Land Use Planning class launched a study to develop concept designs for Riverbend Park as their class project. After a series of information gathering sessions with Ed Anzek, Rochester Hills Planning & Economic Development Director, and Mike Hartner, Parks & Forestry Director, students were divided into four teams. Equipped with a tent, sleeping bags and notepads, students were given 24 hours to conduct an onsite field study.

After months of research, analysis, and draft designs, each team presented their final concept to the Rochester Hills Planning Commission and city staff.

“This collaboration provided a unique opportunity for students to gain real-world experience, and it was ultimately their design concepts that served as a catalyst for the city's first environmental park,” stated Mayor Bryan K. Barnett.

While all of the student's designs may not be incorporated into the final design of Riverbend Park, the partnership was a win-win for students and the administration.

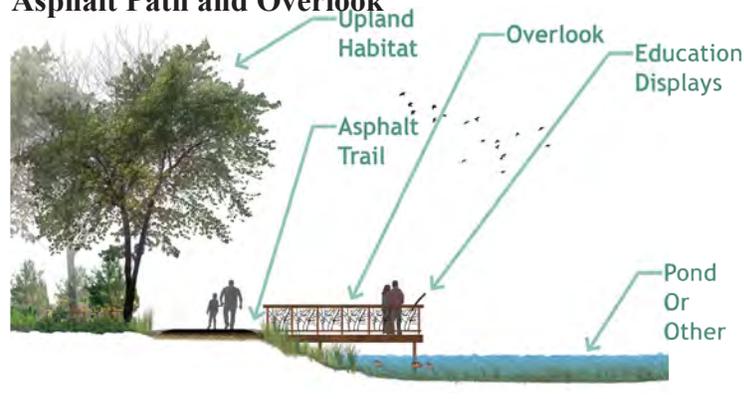
The stars have seemed to align making the development possible. Thanks to a generous \$1 million private donation by the Steve and Vivian Stolaruk Foundation, the city will soon break ground. Balancing the desire of the donor and the needs of the community, Riverbend Park will have a unique focus that will serve dual purposes, to improve the health and quality of life for residents by offering new passive recreational activities, while protecting and preserving the ecological features and wildlife habitats.

“This is a great partnership with the city and I look forward to the ground breaking this spring,” stated Stolaruk.

### Riverbend Park Master Plan

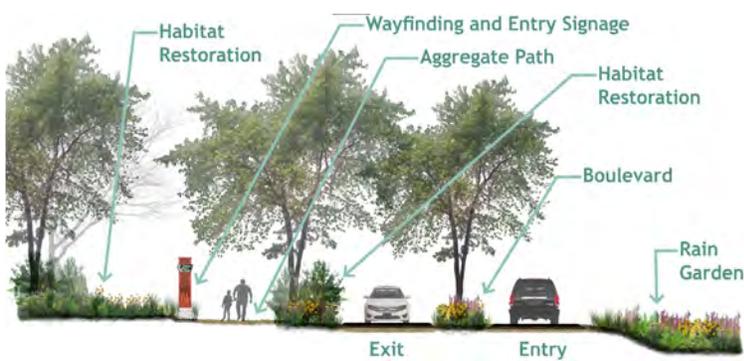
#### Exhibit A

#### Asphalt Path and Overlook



#### Exhibit B

#### Entrance Boulevard and Rain Garden



## 2014 Rochester Hills To Do List

1. Take a slide down the Slip n' Slide at Wet n' Wild Wednesdays at the Rochester Hills Museum
2. Experience the Clinton River by Canoe or Kayak Paddlepalooza is Saturday, May 31
3. Check out the Apple Pulp Car at Yates Cider Mill & Get a Donut, or two, or a Dozen! (Ever wonder what the train track is behind the mill? It is used to haul the apple pulp, of course!)
4. Friday Night Races at the International Velodrome at Bloomer Park Visit [www.IVBP.org](http://www.IVBP.org) for details
5. Take a dip in Carter Lake at Spencer Park
6. Hit the trails! Spanning from Rochester Hills to Lake Orion, The Clinton River and Paint Creek Trails can take you anywhere
7. Festival of the Hills Fireworks at Borden Park on June 25, 2014
8. Shop and dine at The Village of Rochester Hills

# Rochester Hills Parks and Forestry Updates

## Rochester Hills Parks – Your Place to Play and Relax

Summer is a favorite season of many, well known for vacations and beautiful weather. It's a time for families to come together, for friends to plan road trips, and for couples to get away on a romantic retreat. It's the time when flowers are in full bloom, birds are chirping, and the sun happily shines in blue skies. Yes, summer really does have it all!

So how do you make the most of such a delightful season? Get outdoors of course! And as luck would have it, Rochester Hills Parks not only showcase the beauty of the outdoors and the simple solace of nature, but also offer loads of activities.

Whether you would rather cool off with a refreshing dip in Carter Lake, hike along a wooded trail, gather family and friends for a picnic, or discover a piece of Rochester Hills' history, summer fun is just a short distance from home and waiting for you to enjoy in the beautiful parks and trails of Rochester Hills!

Visit [www.rochesterhills.org](http://www.rochesterhills.org) to begin making your summer plans.



### Borden Park Batting Cages

The Batting cages at Borden Park (located at the corner of Hamlin and John R) are open for the season and can be used on a \$1 per token basis. Each token gives you about 12 pitches. Batting cages can also be reserved by the hour for \$25.00 per hour per cage. For more information, [click here](#). To make an hourly reservation, call Borden Park at 248-656-4797 at least 72 hours in advance.

### Proper Mulching Techniques

Mulching is one of the most beneficial practices a homeowner can use for better tree health.

Mulches are materials placed over the soil surface to maintain moisture and improve soil conditions. Mulching is one of the most beneficial acts a homeowner can do for the health of a tree. However, improper mulching materials and practices may have little, or even negative, impact on the trees in your landscape. [Click here for complete article or visit our website under Forestry Articles of Interest.](#)

### Oak Wilt

*Adapted from Michigan State University Cooperative Extension publications*

If you're considering getting tree trimming done this spring or summer, be sure to keep in mind that some species of trees are best pruned while they are still "dormant" (before new growth begins in the spring). This is especially true of oak trees due to the danger of oak wilt. [Click here for complete article or visit our website under Forestry Articles of Interest.](#)

## Spencer Park Bass Tournament



Sponsored By: **meijer**

- **Sunday, June 8<sup>th</sup> 2014**
- Open to all ages and skill levels - Bring your fishing pole and lures!
- Registration from 10:00 -1:00
- Tournament runs from 11:00 -3:00
- T-shirts to first 50 contestants ages 12 and under
- Casting Contest open to all kids ages 12 and under
- Prizes awarded for several categories
- No fee to compete in Tournament (Park Vehicle Entry Fee required)
- Michigan's Free Fishing Weekend! (No fishing license required)

For information, call 248.656.4657 or email Park Ranger Chris Parsell at [parsellc@rochesterhills.org](mailto:parsellc@rochesterhills.org)

## Keep our Public Pathways Safe

There are nearly 234 miles of asphalt pathways and sidewalks located on public road right-of-way in the City of Rochester Hills. The city's Forestry Division handles the maintenance of trees and shrubs growing on these right-of-ways that encroach onto pathways and sidewalks. However, all encroaching vegetation originating from adjacent private property is the responsibility of the property owner to maintain.

Many property owners have trees and shrubs planted close to pathways and sidewalks for screening and other purposes. Although the majority of property owners keep their vegetation maintained, some do not. To insure the safety of pedestrians and bicyclists, all vegetation must be cleared from at least 1 ft. off the edge of the pavement, to a height of at least 8 ft.

When encroaching vegetation compromises public safety, the city may notify the property owner to trim back their trees and shrubs by a specified date. If the required trimming is not completed by that date, a violation notice may be issued and a work order initiated for the Forestry crew to clear the vegetation. Should this happen, the cost of the work may then be assessed to the property owner.

Over the last 20 years, miles of pathway and sidewalk have been added in the city, with no corresponding increase in maintenance staff. Our citizens regularly use these pathways and their safety is a priority. Therefore, we are advising all property owners with vegetation adjacent to these pathways and sidewalks to maintain the safety standards as shown in the diagram.

Properly maintained pathways are an asset for the entire community. Please be a responsible citizen and help keep our sidewalks and pathways safe.

Please contact the Forestry Division at 248-656-4673 for further information.

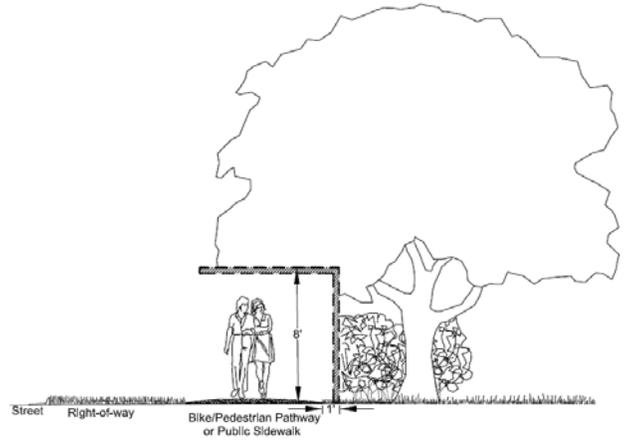
## The Right Street Trees Made Easier

Planting the right trees in the right locations along city streets provides environmental benefits and improves the "livability" of our city. To encourage this, the city has established a "**Cooperative Tree Planting Program.**"

Citizens or businesses may have a tree planted on the public right-of-way adjacent to their property for **50%** of the estimated cost to the city. The city's contribution will come from the city's Tree Fund. The trees will be planted, maintained, and guaranteed for one year by the city's landscape contractor. The Forestry Division works with the purchaser to determine the specific location within the city's street tree ordinance guidelines.

Street trees are planted every spring and fall (spring planting occurs in late April/early May, fall planting in November). Quantities are limited, so interested property owners should order early. September 5, 2014, is the deadline for ordering trees for the Fall 2014 planting.

An order form may be obtained by [clicking here](#), or visiting the city website. For more information, please contact the Forestry Division at 248-656-4673.



- Property owners must maintain private trees/shrubs at least 1' off the edge of the bike path or sidewalk to a height of 8'. If not maintained by the property owner, city crews are authorized to trim to a distance of 3' off the edge to a height of 10'. The city may assess the cost of the work to the property owner.
- New plantings can be no closer to a bike path or sidewalk than the following distances:
  - 5' for high-branched trees (shade trees) and shrubs.
  - 10' for low-branched trees (evergreens and ornamentals.)
- A permit is required for planting in the city right-of-way (available free from the Forestry Division.)

## BE AWARE . . . . .

One of the items that Governor Snyder mentioned in his State of the State speech was the potential threat posed by the Asian Longhorned Beetle (ALB). These insects have not been found in Michigan yet, but were discovered east of Cincinnati in June 2011.



The beetle prefers maple trees, especially Norway maple. Their feeding activity will eventually cause the death of the tree. Currently, the only effective control is to remove infested trees and destroy them by chipping or burning.

Adult beetles can be observed from May-October, with July the most likely month. They occur mostly in urban trees, less often in woodlands.

There is a great deal of information available online at the MSU Extension website at [www.msue.anr.msu.edu/](http://www.msue.anr.msu.edu/)

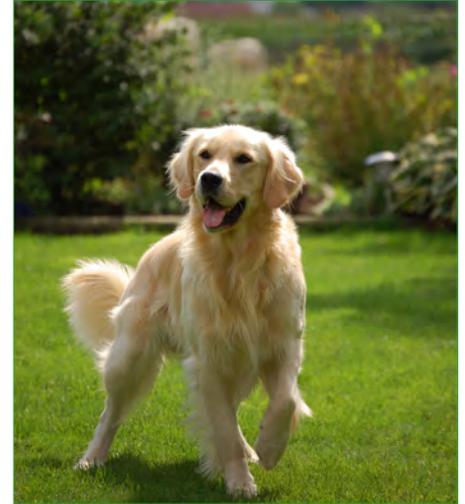
Become aware, be observant, and report suspected ALB observations to the MDNR, MSU, or Rochester Hills Parks & Forestry.

# Self-Serve 2014 Dog License Renewal at City of Rochester Hills Three-Year License Now Available!

## • Top 5 Reasons to License Your Dog •

It's the LAW • Licensed pets that go missing have a better chance of being found • It proves your ownership • It indicates your dogs rabies shots are up-to-date • Fees go toward the support of the Oakland County Pet Adoption Center

Through Friday, May 30, 2014, Oakland County's yearly dog license may be renewed for the non-delinquent fee at the City Treasury Department. To better assist you, our dog licensing is self-service and located at the Treasury counter. Please bring the postcard renewal reminder that was sent to you by Oakland County Animal Control. Your dog's current rabies vaccination certificate **signed by the veterinarian** MUST be presented when you apply for the license. If your dog has a 3-year vaccination ending in either year 2016 or 2017, you may purchase a 3-year license. If you recently acquired a dog or are a new resident, you have a 30-day grace period to license your dog. If you purchase your license here, checks are made payable to the "City of Rochester Hills". Visit the Treasury Department's Dog License page at [www.rochesterhills.org](http://www.rochesterhills.org) for more information regarding animal licensing. Questions may be directed to the Treasury Department at 248-656-4675 or [treasury@rochesterhills.org](mailto:treasury@rochesterhills.org).



## How Green is Your Lawn?

Are you in the habit of applying fertilizer or paying someone to fertilize your lawn every spring?

Did you know that when fertilizer is applied improperly it may pollute the Clinton River and its tributaries? Though we all want to have green and luscious lawns this spring and summer, we also need to be aware of the potential hazards our lawn care practices may cause.

When too much fertilizer is applied, it washes off easily and becomes very harmful to the environment. This is especially true when a rainstorm comes. Rain can wash fertilizer straight into the storm drain. Most storm drains empty into our lakes, rivers and streams.

Some tips to keep in mind:

- If a fertilizer warns of keeping children and pets off the lawn for 24 hours, it would be wise to discontinue its use all together.
- Using a slow release fertilizer is effective as it spreads over time and is less likely to drain away.
- Note that when you water and mow your lawn properly, you may not need much fertilizer.
- If you must fertilize, stick to earth-friendly fertilizers and do it sparingly.

For a list of earth friendly fertilizers visit: <http://www.crowc.org/stormwater-protection/>

For home lawn care tips visit: <http://turf.msu.edu/home-lawn-articles> or <http://healthylandscapes.org/>

For a list of lawn professionals who participate in the **Healthy Lawn Care Program for Watershed Protection** visit [http://www.landscape.org/healthylawncare\\_pro.html](http://www.landscape.org/healthylawncare_pro.html)

For more information on the Clinton River and its watershed visit [www.crowc.org](http://www.crowc.org).



## Protecting Our Water Resources

One of the ways to ensure the protection of our lakes, rivers, and streams is to get out and enjoy them! Whether it is kayaking down the Clinton, fishing in Paint Creek, or biking along the Clinton River Trail there are plenty of activities that you can pack into a day or even an entire weekend. Visit the Clinton River Watershed Council's recreation resource page at [www.crw.org/recreation](http://www.crw.org/recreation) to help you plan your exploration of our watershed.

Don't forget the seven simple steps to help keep our river and streams clean for us and future generations.

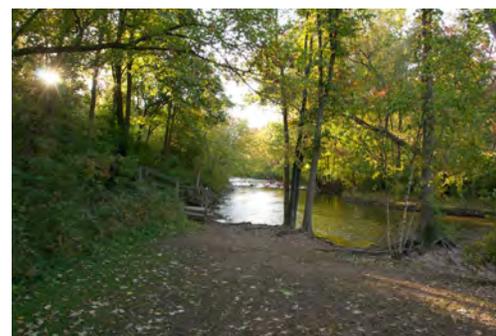
- Help keep pollution out of storm drains
- Fertilize carefully
- Carefully store and dispose of household cleaners, chemicals, and oil
- Clean up after your pet
- Practice good car care
- Choose earth friendly landscaping
- Save water

For more information on the seven simple steps, please visit: [www.semcog.org/OursToProtect\\_7SimpleSteps](http://www.semcog.org/OursToProtect_7SimpleSteps).



Brown Trout

photo courtesy CRWC



The river at Yates Cider Mill

## 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.

**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](#)  
[Michigan Department of Community Health](#)  
[Center for Disease Control](#)



# 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 [www.rochesterhills.org/museum](http://www.rochesterhills.org/museum) or call the staff at 248-656-4663.

## Upcoming Events

### Garden Walk

Thursday, June 19, 10 - 6

This is the premier garden event in our community featuring private gardens.

Tickets available on line at [www.rochesterhills.org/museum](http://www.rochesterhills.org/museum)

\$ 10 Museum Members - advance

\$ 12 Public - advance

\$ 14 Day of the event



### Wet and Wild Wednesdays

*Performers, Slip 'n Slides, Fire Truck, and Children's Garden*

*No advanced registration necessary*

Museum members are free!

Public - \$ 3 per person

12 - 1 Entertainment

1 - 2 Slip 'n Slides, fire trucks, and creek wading

July 2, July 9, July 16, July 23, July 30



## Day Camps

### Terrific Tuesdays in the Garden -

#### Parent-Child Program

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

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

June 24, July 1, July 8, July 15,

July 22, July 29, Aug 5

### Little House by the Creek Day Camp

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

June 26, July 17, July 31

### Outdoor Explorer Day Camp at Bloomer Park

Ages 7-12: 10:00 - 3:00

July 10, July 24

### Adventure Camp at Bloomer Park

Ages 11-15: 10:00 - 3:00 with an overnight on Aug 6

Aug 4 - Aug 7

### Little House in the Village Writer's Camp

Ages 9-12: 10:00 - 3:00

Aug 18 - Aug 21

### Rochester Grangers Vintage Baseball

Enjoy baseball the way it was meant to be played in 1862 at 1:00 pm at the Museum! Please bring your own chair. Admission is free!

May 10, May 18, June 12 at 6:30 pm, June 21, July 20

## 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 bordered by Stoney Creek or right alongside Stoney Creek amidst 16 acres of beautiful gardens and grounds. Indoor wedding ceremonies can take place in the 1927 Calf Barn.

Receptions can take place alongside Stoney Creek, tented or open air, or inside our 1927 Dairy Barn or our newly-restored 1927 Calf Barn.

Please visit our website [www.rochesterhills.org/wedding](http://www.rochesterhills.org/wedding), contact us at 248-656-4663, or by email at [rhmuseum@rochesterhills.org](mailto:rhmuseum@rochesterhills.org) for pricing and availability or to make an appointment to visit our site.



## Environmental Program at the Museum

### Fascinating Frogs & Toads at Riverbend Park

Sat, May 31 1:00 - 2:30 pm

### Fishing 101 at the Museum

Sat, June 28 1:00 - 2:30 pm

### Talking About Turtles at the Museum

Sat, July 26 1:00 - 2:30 pm

### Water World at the Museum

Sat, Aug 16 1:00 - 2:30 pm

Admission is free for members of the Rochester Hills, \$3 for students and seniors, and \$5 for adult. Register for these programs by calling 248-656-4663 or emailing [rhmuseum@rochesterhills.org](mailto:rhmuseum@rochesterhills.org).



## Become a Member Today

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

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

For more information, please visit the Museum website at [www.rochesterhills.org/museum](http://www.rochesterhills.org/museum) or call the staff at 248-656-4663.



## Summer Taxes Due September 15, 2014

### SAVE TIME WITH THE CONVENIENCE OF RECURRING AUTOMATIC TAX BILL PAYMENT!

The 2014 Summer Property Tax bills will be mailed out by mid-June and are due on Monday, September 15, 2014. (The due date is delayed one day as the 14th falls on a Sunday.) Postmarks will **not** be honored, so please allow the recommended **5 business days** for first class postal delivery. After September 15, 2014, interest of 1% will be added to the unpaid balance of the summer tax bill and an additional 1% will be added on the first day of each month thereafter. On February 17, 2015 a 3% penalty will be added to the balance of all unpaid 2014 property taxes. **Please note:** If all or part of your 2013 property taxes went delinquent (were unpaid as of March 1, 2014) a notification may appear on your 2014 summer tax bill. This is a Michigan state law requirement.

We offer Recurring Automatic Bill Payment for property taxes and currently have over 600 taxpayers signed-up for this convenient service! This service allows you to choose for your payment dates either the summer and winter tax dues dates or the summer tax due date and the last business day of December. For those enrolled in this service, your 2014 Summer Tax payment will take place on September 15, 2014. For an enrollment form and our other convenient payment options, please visit Treasury Department's Payment Options page:

[rochesterhills.org/paytaxes](http://rochesterhills.org/paytaxes)  
[rochesterhills.org/index.aspx?NID=516](http://rochesterhills.org/index.aspx?NID=516)  
or the following QRcode



Summer tax deferral, which defers the summer tax payment due date of your principal residence to February 15, 2014, is available for qualified residents. For additional information please visit the Treasury Department's Summer Tax Deferral page [rochesterhills.org/index.aspx?NID=504](http://rochesterhills.org/index.aspx?NID=504) or contact the Treasury Department at 248-656-4675.

Questions can be directed to the Treasury Department at 248-656-4675 or [treasury@rochesterhills.org](mailto:treasury@rochesterhills.org).

## Peddlers, Solicitors and Itinerant Merchant Ordinance Changes

Spring and an upcoming election are sure to mean solicitors and those canvassing for politicians or organizations may be in your neighborhood and knocking on your door. Below is updated information on our Peddlers, Solicitors and Itinerant Merchant ordinance.

On June 17, 2013, City Council adopted changes to the ordinance to clearly define the hours, expiration dates, and requirements for solicitors. The following changes went into effect:



- 1. The fee per application is \$75.00.** The previous fee was \$25.00.
- 2. The duration of the permit is 90 days.** Permits were previously valid for one year with an expiration date of March 31.
- 3. The hours allowed for solicitation are from 9:00 am to 7:00 pm during daylight savings time which will run this year until November 3, 2014. When daylight savings time is not in effect the hours are from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm which will run from November 4, 2014 to March 8, 2015.** Previously, solicitation could occur between 8:00 am and 6:00 pm, or sunset, whichever is later.
- 4. A background search will be conducted on each applicant through the Michigan State Police Internet Criminal Access Tool (ICHAT). If applicants are not residents of Michigan an attempt will be made to conduct a search in their home state if permitted by law.** The previous ordinance was out of date regarding this issue.

These changes affect solicitors generally selling goods or services, however, there may also be charitable, political, or religious organizations going door-to-door in our community. These organizations have slightly different requirements based on their rights to freedom of speech.

Those that fall under a charitable, political, or religious category do not receive a badge from the Clerk's office, nor do they pay a fee, go through any background check, or have to provide information about their political goals and activities. However, such organizations are asked to inform us when they will be in the community. The hours they may solicit are also different. They may knock from 8:00 am to 9:00 pm. Residents may contact the Clerk's office if they have questions regarding these organizations.

The one requirement all solicitors should follow is that of "Posted Property". If your property or neighborhood is posted as "No Soliciting" anyone traveling door-to-door should not approach your home.

As always, the best safety advice is to not open your door to strangers. If you see a suspicious vehicle or person in your neighborhood, do not hesitate to call the Oakland County Sheriff. **The dispatch number for the Sheriff's office is 248-858-4950.**

The complete ordinance can be found at [municode.com](http://municode.com), Chapter 78 Peddlers, Solicitors and Itinerant Merchants. For questions the Clerks office can be reached at 248-656-4630.

## Your Vote is Your Voice Primary Election August 5 General Election November 4

Franklin D. Roosevelt said, “*Nobody will ever deprive the American people of the right to vote except the American people themselves and the only way they could do this is by not voting.*” One of the greatest rights we have as American citizens is the right to choose the individuals we want to represent us in office.

In order to be qualified to vote in Michigan, you must be a U.S. citizen, at least 18 years of age by election day, and a resident of Michigan and the city or township where you are applying to register to vote. You must register at least 30 days before the election by mail; at your county, city, or township clerk’s office; or by visiting any Secretary of State branch office.

If you have never voted in Michigan and register by mail, you must appear in person to vote in the first election in which you wish to participate. This requirement does not apply if (1) you personally hand deliver the mail registration form to your county, city or township clerk’s office instead of mailing the form (2) you are 60 years of age or more (3) you are disabled or (4) you are eligible to vote under the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act.

Absentee voter ballots are available for all elections. They provide voters with a convenient method for casting a ballot when they are unable to attend the polls on Election Day.

As a registered voter, you may obtain an absentee voter ballot if you are:

- Age 60 years old or older
- Unable to vote without assistance at the polls
- Expecting to be out of town on election day
- In jail awaiting arraignment or trial
- Unable to attend the polls due to religious reasons
- Appointed to work as an election inspector in a precinct outside of your precinct of residence

All of these forms are located on the Clerk’s page of the City of Rochester Hills website, [www.rochesterhills.org](http://www.rochesterhills.org). They may also be obtained by calling our office at 248-656-4630, emailing us at [clerksoffice@rochesterhills.org](mailto:clerksoffice@rochesterhills.org), or visiting us at 1000 Rochester Hills Drive. The Clerk’s Department looks forward to servicing all of your election needs.

## Rochester Hills Roads: Protecting Your Investment *Our Neighborhoods! Our Roads!*

Dear Fellow Residents: The Rochester Hills Police & Road Funding Technical Review Committee has studied and recommended funding options to maintain and improve our local roads, which are primarily residential streets. Previously we recommended and residents approved the re-purposing and extension of two expiring Debt Millages for the funding of Local Road maintenance.

This past winter was the most severe in our history and we all remember dodging potholes for months. Therefore, the Committee has recommended the re-purposing and extension of the .2972-Mill Green Space millage, which was originally approved by voters in 2005 and expires at the end of Fiscal Year 2015. The Green Space Committee has endorsed this proposal as they have achieved their funding requirements.

City Council has approved a ballot proposal for voter approval of this re-purposing on the August 2014 election ballot. If approved, this new dedicated Local Road millage will generate approximately \$914,850 in additional Local Road maintenance funding starting in FY 2016 with no increase in taxes to residents.

Please take time to review this information and vote at the August 5 election. Our local roads require your support for adequate funding.

Sincerely,

The Rochester Hills Police & Road Funding Technical Review Committee



*Resolved, that the Rochester Hills City Council hereby approves placing the following Proposal on the August 5, 2014 Primary Election ballot:*

### BALLOT PROPOSAL PROPOSAL TO RE-PURPOSE EXPIRING GREEN SPACE MILLAGE FOR LOCAL ROADS

In 2005, City of Rochester Hills voters authorized a special millage for ten (10) years of up to 0.3 mills to provide funding to permanently preserve green spaces and natural features within the City. The Headlee Amendment has reduced the maximum rate of that millage to .2972 mills, and it is due to expire after final levy for fiscal year 2015. It is proposed that upon expiration of the green space millage, it should be re-purposed and replaced with a tax levy of up to .2972 mills for 5 years, beginning in fiscal year 2016 and continuing through fiscal year 2020, inclusive, to be used for local roads and streets.

Shall the City of Rochester Hills re-purpose and replace the expiring green space millage of .2972 mills with a tax levy of up to .2972 mills (\$0.2972 per \$1,000 of taxable value) on the taxable value of all property assessed for taxes in the City for 5 years, beginning in fiscal year 2016 and continuing through fiscal year 2020, inclusive, to be used for maintenance, repair, rehabilitation and reconstruction of local roads and streets and to provide a source of matching funds to support special assessment and grant programs for local roads? This will generate an estimated \$914,850 in tax revenues if levied in full in the first year.

# Rochester Hills City Council

*Michael Webber*

*At-Large*



As always, I look forward to the spring and summer because of the many events that make our community great. In particular, Julia, our son James, and I look forward to walking in the Memorial Day parade, participating in Heritage Days, and the Festival of the Hills; and being a part of Relay for Life.

This past winter and spring brought many great events to our community that I was honored to participate in - including the Rochester Chamber Community Outlook Luncheon, the State of the City address, the Inter-Service Club Dinner, and the Rochester Area Prayer Breakfast. On a personal note, our son James turned one year old this spring.

As I have done in the past in the *Hills Herald*, I would like to provide you with a legislative update of what is going on within our city government. It has been an honor to represent you on City Council and I continue to work toward solutions for our community.

As a member of the OPC Governing Board, this is a year of transition for the organization. After over forty years, our Executive Director and founder Marye Miller is retiring. I certainly have a lot of respect for what Marye has done for our senior population in the Rochester area. The OPC is seen as a model in both the state and nation for senior programs and services. With the growing senior population in the Rochester area and region, these programs will be needed more than ever. We have Marye's vision to thank.

The governing board has embarked on a path to find a new director to lead the OPC going forward. We hired a firm to help us locate and screen interested candidates from across the nation. In April the board held interviews which were open to the public. I expect that we will name an executive director in May. I look forward to working with this new person.

One of the biggest concerns facing our city, region, and state are road repairs. In addition to some major road projects that our city is working with the county on, our city government was able to budget nearly \$5 million dollars to fix local neighborhood roads in 2014. Because of responsible, multiple year budgeting, our city has been able to budget more money each year that I have been on the council for local road repairs. This has been done without increasing the overall tax rate. Our city staff has identified the areas that need the most repairs and are planning these projects for this summer and fall.

As a member of the Public Safety and Infrastructure Technical Review Committee, I have worked with committee members to find solutions to these major issues facing our city. With regard to local road funding, the committee this year is recommending that the city repurpose the expiring Green Space millage towards local roads. This repurposing would be in line with other repurposed, expired millages that have gone towards local roads in order to fund one of our greatest needs. Again, this was done without raising the overall tax rate.

The city will face a busy construction season on main roads this summer and fall. The resurfacing project on Avon Road between Adams and Livernois is already under way. The continuation of last year's Tienken Road project, this year between Livernois and Rochester, will also take place this summer. As you will recall, this project has been in the works for a long time. While this will fix a part of Tienken Road, I recognize that the sections between Adams and Livernois also need a lot of work. We continue to work with the county to find solutions for that project. Please be advised of these road projects when getting around town, with updates through the city web site and email.

Speaking of staying informed with city happenings, the city recently launched a smart phone application that you can download for free that will give information on meetings, roads, contact information etc. The neat feature is to take a picture of a pothole with your phone and send it through the application to the city for action. This is just another way that you can stay connected with what is happening in the city and help us to make Rochester Hills even better.

As always, I remain committed to representing you to the best of my ability. I welcome your phone calls and emails. I wish you and your family the very best this summer.

## Mark Your Calendar

### City Offices will be closed:

- ◇ Monday, May 26, Memorial Day
- ◇ Friday, July 4, Independence Day
- ◇ Monday, September 1, Labor Day

### Other Dates to Note:

- ◇ Monday, May 26, Memorial Day Parade
- ◇ Friday, May 30, Last day to renew dog licenses at the non-delinquent rate
- ◇ Wednesday, June 25, Festival of the Hills
- ◇ Tuesday, August 5, Primary Election
- ◇ Monday, September 15, Last day to pay summer taxes without interest or penalty



## *Stephanie Morita* *District 1*

By my calendar spring has arrived, but the view out my window this April 15<sup>th</sup> - says differently. It has been a long, snowy winter and the change of season is welcome. However, the arrival of spring brings new challenges. During the winter we were worried about snow and ice – during the spring we have to contend with the dreaded proliferation of orange barrels. In District 1, this means back-ups throughout spring and summer on Adams Road due to the Avon Road construction project. Also, please look for orange barrels in your neighborhoods as the city works on our local streets.

Also, there is the upcoming May 30 deadline to purchase dog licenses for the year without having to pay the delinquent fee. The Morita household is a busy place, and the arrival of spring is always my reminder to get our two smallest members into the veterinarian for their yearly check-ups and vaccines – and then go get their licenses. If you have not

purchased your dog's license for the year yet, you can do so at the City Treasurer's office or through Oakland County Animal Control (<https://courts.oakgov.com/opls/>).

Spring also means yard clean-up and winter damage assessment. This year I noticed extensive damage to our rose bushes and arborvitae – not from the snow and ice, but from our four-legged woodland friends (or enemies depending on your point of view). Hopefully they ate just enough to survive the winter, but not so much that I lose bushes. Luckily, our trash hauler began seasonal yard pick-up on April 1 and will haul away branches and if necessary, bushes too.

We also have more than usual cement, brick, and exterior siding damage that will have to be worked on. If you think you will have to do any digging for your repairs, please call 1-800-MISS-DIG or put in a web request at [http://newtin.missdig.org/newtinweb/missdig\\_e-locate.html#divLogIn](http://newtin.missdig.org/newtinweb/missdig_e-locate.html#divLogIn) to have your utilities marked before you begin. Also, please call the City's Building Department to make sure you don't need a permit, and if you do need one – get one. While the permitting process can add additional expense and time to your project, it also provides some assurance that your project has been completed properly and safely.

Since this is my first contribution to the *Hills Herald*, I thought you may be interested in what I have been working on beyond attending City Council meetings. The non-exhaustive, no particular order list includes: Avondale Youth Assistance Board of Directors, Paint Creek Trailways Commission, oil and gas issues and ordinances, responding to resident emails, Oakland County Road Commission Adams Road improvements, Brownfield Redevelopment Authority and the revised Brownfield Incentives Program, resident meetings concerning oil and gas issues, attending Homeowners Association meetings, projects with Sister City Auburn Hills, resident meetings on local street traffic concerns, learning about State issues that affect our City finances, and lastly and most importantly – assisting our residents when needed.

Thank you for putting your trust in me, I hope to serve you well. And while I would also like to say I am looking forward to my first spring round of golf at our city course Pine Trace, I'm not sure I will have time to fit it in.

### ***City Council Contact Information***

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# Festival of the Hills

June 25, 2014

Borden Park ~ Rochester Hills

Free Admission - 6:00 pm

*Join our celebration of freedom including  
family games presented by the Rochester Avon Recreation Authority,  
music by the Best Party Band in Michigan, Mel Ball and Colours,  
and our amazing **FIREWORKS** display.*

Arrive early. Avoid the rush. Bring a blanket. Enjoy the show!