

The City of Rochester Hills

Hills Herald

News & Information

Fall 2009



Bryan K. Barnett, Mayor

Welcome to the new look of the Hills Herald! We are proud to launch our inaugural online version as we move into a new era of communication with our residents.

As we celebrate our 25th year as a city, we pause to reflect on those individuals and those ideas that have made Rochester Hills one of the “top 100 places to live” in the United States. We invite you to view our 25th Anniversary video at www.rochesterhills.org to relive some fantastic Rochester Hills memories.

As we reflect on where we have been, I am even more excited about where we are going. I want to highlight, in this inaugural edition of the online Hills Herald, our advances in resident communication. We are faced with the challenge of how to connect with 70,000 residents! Whether it’s an announcement of a new business moving to the area, or local events and news, it is our responsibility to keep our community connected. This is a challenge that we have taken head-on!

I am proud today to announce three new programs to reinforce “*community connectivity.*” The most recent addition has been Nixle, which allows us to send you trustworthy and important neighborhood-level public safety and community notifications by web, e-mail, and text messages. I encourage you to read the article on page 8 to find out more details about this *completely free, simple and trusted* way to get the latest traffic, weather and other information that affects residents of Rochester Hills.

In August, we launched the city’s Facebook Fan Page, and to date we average more than 10 new fans a day! This has provided us with an opportunity to connect with our city’s followers on a whole new level, ultimately changing the way we do business with our residents, students, senior citizens, and visitors.

“I am proud today to announce three new programs to reinforce community connectivity.”

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Finally, with the new look of the Hills Herald E-Newsletter, we are able to not only save costs during tight budgetary times, but also reduce the city's volume of paper consumption, and deliver more timely information with the new distribution on a quarterly basis.

Yes, we have come a long way in the past 25 years. Can you imagine stringing together a sentence with the words, Nixel, Facebook and online magazine in 1984? (We were just starting to use cell phones, learning what the World Wide Web was, and how to use a CD player). In today's fast changing world of social media, we have two choices, embrace the change and use it appropriately, or ignore it and hope traditional avenues to communicate will suffice. Taking our lead from our forward thinking city fathers, we have chosen to embrace these changes and become regional leaders in social media marketing and new technologies.

So welcome to the new Rochester Hills, and experience the new power of social media! We are still the same friendly people here at City Hall and invite you to stop by at your convenience. However, rest assured that you can now stay up to date with important information and community events in your community. Whether you are in your pajamas here in Rochester Hills or logged in from vacation in the Caribbean, we hope you will get and stay connected!

Finally and more importantly, as we head into Thanksgiving, let's take time to remember all we have to be truly thankful for. Despite the economy, we are a blessed community in a blessed nation. Have a memorable and safe fall season!

God Bless,

Bryan K. Barnett, Mayor

“Despite the economy, we are a blessed community in a blessed nation.”

What's your Hills IQ?

We challenge you to take your best guess, then flip to page 9 to see how well you have done!

1. What percent of residents do you think also work in Rochester Hills?
2. To date, how many tons of materials have been recycled since the launch of Recycle Rewards ?
3. The Rochester Hills parks reached record-breaking numbers in attendance this summer! How many visitors do you think we hosted at our parks this year?
4. How many pumpkins were carved at the Annual Pumpkin Festival at the Rochester Hills Museum?
5. Rochester Hills is hometown to what Olympic Gold Medalist?
6. Who is the largest Employer in the City of Rochester hills?
7. Rochester Hills was voted one of the “Top 100 Best _____” in 2009 by Relocate-America?





DEER AWARENESS

The City of Rochester Hills is making every effort to caution motorists of increased deer activity and the greater potential for deer to dart across roadways during the late fall and early winter.

Deer Feeding Ban

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

Don't Veer for Deer!

To prevent deer/vehicle crashes, please observe the deer crossing signs and be on the lookout for deer by the roadways. Deer/vehicle crashes are a year-round problem, but deer herds are most active in the spring and during the fall mating season (Oct. 15- Dec. 15). Motorcyclists are especially vulnerable, with 80% of motorcycle/deer crashes resulting in an injury or fatality. According to [SEMCOG](#)'s brochure:

WHAT YOU CAN DO

- ◆ Stay aware, awake, alert, and sober
- ◆ Always use your safety belts
- ◆ Heed deer crossing and speed limit signs
- ◆ If you see one deer, slow down – chances are there are others nearby
- ◆ Be especially alert for deer at dawn and dusk
- ◆ Flashing your high-beam headlights or honking your horn won't deter deer

IF A CRASH IS UNAVOIDABLE

- ◆ Don't swerve! It is safer to strike the animal rather than hit a tree, telephone pole, or other vehicle
- ◆ Brake firmly
- ◆ Hold onto the steering wheel
- ◆ Stay in your lane
- ◆ Bring your vehicle to a controlled stop

AFTER A CRASH

- ◆ Pull off the road, turn on your emergency flashers, and be cautious of other traffic if you leave your vehicle
- ◆ Don't attempt to remove a deer from the roadway because an injured deer's sharp hooves can easily hurt you
- ◆ Report the crash to the nearest police agency and your insurance company

***During this active deer season, remember to:
Buckle Up, Stay Alert, and Slow Down***

Building Department Updates



HOME FORECLOSURES

Keeping an eye on your safety and property values

It is no secret that times are tough on the “Home” front here in Michigan and in Rochester Hills.

Home foreclosures continue to rise and the impact is being felt throughout the community. These vacant foreclosed homes are a concern to those who live nearby. Vacant homes can quickly fall into disrepair, lots become over grown, and these vacant properties begin to adversely affect the property values of neighboring property. They may also begin to attract a criminal element.

The Mayor and City Council are very aware of the concerns of residents, and their desire to keep the neighborhoods clean and safe. The Building Department’s three Ordinance Inspectors proactively

patrol and inspect each of the current 473 listed foreclosed homes in their assigned area every month. They perform a thorough walk around inspection of the exterior of the house and property, searching for blight violations and making sure all the doors and windows are secure.

This year, Ordinance Compliance inspectors have completed 3185 inspections on foreclosed properties and have aggressively enforced any violations to ensure the property remains in good condition. The inspectors have also initiated the demolition of nearly a dozen dilapidated buildings this year.

The Ordinance Inspectors will remain vigilant; however, if you have any concerns about a neighboring property that is vacant, or you observe a possible violation that the inspectors have not seen, please call the Rochester Hills Building Department at 248-656-4615.

Pathway Safety

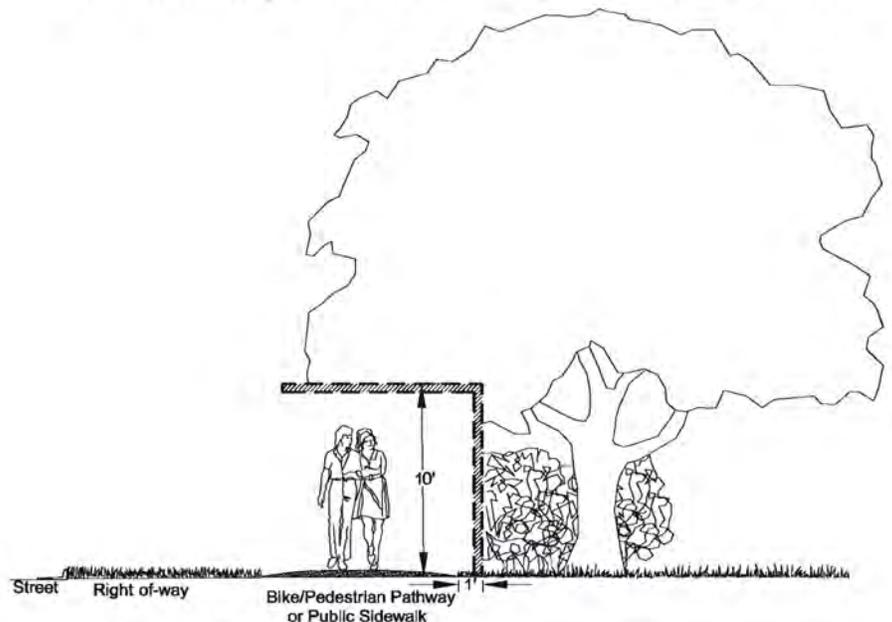
We hope you have enjoyed the summer and had the opportunity to take advantage of the scenic pathways throughout our beautiful city.

City staff monitors the pathways to make sure your walk, ride or run is safe and enjoyable. Those who have property adjacent to the pathway may have had a visit from our inspector. The inspector is making sure no trees or bushes are encroaching on the pathway. Property owners adjacent to the pathway are required to maintain private trees and bushes at least one foot off the edge of the pathway to a height of 10’.

If you live or own property along the pathway, we encourage you to help us keep the pathway safe. Take a look and make sure your trees and bushes are trimmed to provide the proper clearances to keep everyone safe. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Building Department at 248-656-4615.

Thank you for your assistance. We hope to see you on the pathway!

City of Rochester Hills Bike Pathway and Sidewalk Vegetation Maintenance





Summer Seasonal Help Wanted Mark Your Calendar!

The City of Rochester Hills will begin accepting applications on December 14, 2009 for Various Summer Seasonal Positions (Spring through Labor Day). If applying for a position in parks, you must be able to work a flexible shift, 40 hours a week. During the summer months, our parks, Borden, Bloomer and Spencer, are open seven days a week, evenings and holidays.

To be considered for a position that requires driving, applicant must have a current Michigan driver's license with no more than 4 points on record.

Positions, locations and requirements are:

PARK ATTENDANT- Parks: Working concession stand, permit booth, boat rental, batting cages, maintenance of parks, public relations, driving, etc. Minimum age 18 or High School Graduate.

LIFEGUARD – Spencer Park: Beachfront lifeguarding, park maintenance, public relations, back-up for concession stands, etc. Minimum age 16. Red Cross Certification or equivalent is to be submitted with application.

SEASONAL LABORER –Parks or DPS: Lawn mowing/trimming, painting, shovel work, building maintenance, tree maintenance, driving etc. Minimum age 18.

INTERNSHIP – City Hall: Second year engineering college student, Civil Engineer, GIS or Land Surveying preferred, driving. Minimum age 18. Copy of current transcript is to be submitted with application.

Seasonal Applications can be downloaded from our website (www.rochesterhills.org) or obtained from our Human Resources Department. Completed applications can be dropped off, mailed, or faxed to:

Human Resources Department
City of Rochester Hills
1000 Rochester Hills Drive
Rochester Hills MI 48309-3033
Fax (248) 656-4739.
Human Resources Hours: Monday – Friday 8:00 am – 5:00 pm

EOE

It is the policy of the City of Rochester Hills to hire qualified individuals with limiting conditions in accordance with all applicable state and federal laws. Applicants having a limiting disability requiring some special accommodation to participate in the exam process, as described above, must notify the Human Resources Dept. of that fact at the time of application, or at least one week prior to test date.

Rochester Hills Fire Department



A Message from Chief.... ***Ron Crowell***

The Rochester Hills Fire Department recommends cleaning dryer exhaust vents at least once a year. A study by the US Fire Administration revealed that dryer fires cost over \$88 million annually in property damages, cause over 400 fire related injuries and an average of 15 people lose their lives each year. To prevent becoming a part of these statistics, practice the following:

Good Practices

Actually inspect the termination port of the dryer and the wall or roof jack. Look for birds nest or clogged openings. Most importantly, feel for proper exit velocity of the air leaving the vent and look at or feel the interior walls of the duct.

If you suspect clogged or partially clogged exhaust ducting, it is likely you need to have them cleaned. Dryer vent cleaning improves the safety and efficiency and depending on the venting circumstances, should be cleaned or inspected every 6-12 months.

- Make sure your flex transition hose is not kinked or crushed. The space behind your dryer should be sufficient to provide adequate room for the flex transition hose to bend with minimal deflection and restrictions.
- Dryer vent cleaning is a very real commercial trade and the contracted work is sometimes described as Routine and Problem Cleaning.
 - Routine cleaning is done from the outside by sending an air-propelled “jet-snake” through the vent. It blows air 360 degrees backwards, blasting the lint loose and blowing it outside. The lint is caught in a special bag.
 - Problem Cleaning is performed when an individual dryer is not drying clothes fast enough. They disconnect and pull the dryer out, install a large blower on the vent, and blow, brush, vacuum and/or dismantle - whatever it takes to get the vent clean.
- Look in your Yellow Pages under Duct Cleaning or search the Internet.
- The use of the white vinyl flex pipe is all but completely prohibited, both by building departments and appliance manufacturers. Some municipalities allow or do not discourage the foil covered vinyl flex, but almost all appliance manufacturers insist on the use of the aluminum flexible pipe.
- Keep the exhaust duct as straight and short as possible. Exhaust systems longer than the manufacturer’s recommendations can extend drying times, affect appliance operation and may encourage lint build-up on pipe lining.
- When running the clothes dryer, be careful not to over-dry. Running your dryer too long not only wastes energy but can also damage your clothes. We recommend using an automatic setting, such as “less dry” rather than a timed setting.
- Clean lint filters regularly. Cleaning the lint filters on your washer and dryer will save energy, improve performance, and minimize fire hazards.

Gas Vs. Electric Dryer Cleaning

Though only 20% of dryers sold to homeowners today are heated by gas, they are touted as being more efficient to run. However, they pose some safety liabilities that should prompt owners to follow a more rigorous maintenance schedule including more frequent dryer exhaust system cleaning.

In addition to normal dryer exhaust and moisture from clothes, gas dryers also emit the byproducts of combustion. Dryers may also be located in an area where they share air with gas water heaters, furnaces or boilers. An abundance of gas fumes in the air in such areas, combined with the lint in the ventilation, can add-up to a dangerous mix if the dryer exhaust system is not thoroughly and professionally cleaned regularly.

In addition, carbon monoxide may start to build-up if there is blockage in the dryer ventilation system.

If you have any questions regarding any possible fire hazards in your home, please call the Rochester Hills Fire Prevention Division at 248-656-4717.



Information for your safety.....

**As a reminder, leaf burning in the City of Rochester Hills is prohibited.
Recreational fires are permissible with compliance of the following guidelines:**

Recreational Fire Permits

An annual permit is required for recreational fires.

Recreational fire permits may be obtained from the Fire Department Administrative Offices during normal business hours. (Monday through Friday, 8:00am to 4:00pm excluding holidays).

The fee for an annual burning permit shall be \$25.00.

(No permit is required for outdoor fireplaces, which are the commercially purchased outdoor fireplaces).

Information: 248-656-4717.

Recreational Fires

A recreational fire may be allowed, on detached residential properties with a valid permit, all year long from 8:00am until midnight.

Size and duration - not to exceed three (3) feet in diameter, or three (3) feet in height. Shall burn no longer than three (3) hours.

Fuel - dry seasoned firewood, ignited with a small quantity of paper.

Definition

Recreational Fire - Burning of materials where the fuel being burned is not contained in an outdoor fire place, barbecue grill, or barbecue pit; for pleasure, religious, ceremonial, cooking or similar purposes.

Violation

Any violation of these open burning regulations shall be a municipal civil infraction. The violator may be responsible for restitution, and the Fire Department may void the permit and prevent the issuance of any further permits.

The burning of leaves is prohibited in Rochester Hills.

ALL OTHER BURNING IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED

Sound the Alarm

Every year thousands of people die from fires in the home. Although we tend to feel the safest in our homes, the majority of fire deaths occur in the very place we are most secure.

- 83 percent of all civilian fire deaths occurred in residences.
- There were 3,675 civilians that lost their lives as the result of fire.
- There were 17,925 civilian injuries that occurred as the result of fire.
- Fire killed more Americans than all natural disasters combined.
- Most fatal fires occur in residential buildings between 11 p.m. and 6 a.m. when occupants are more likely to be asleep.

A Johns Hopkins University study, funded by the United States Fire Administration, found that **75 percent of residential fire deaths and 84 percent of residential fire injuries could have been prevented by fire alarms.**

The home is where we are at the greatest risk and where we must take the most precautions. Most deaths occur from inhaling smoke or poisonous gases, not from the flames. Most fire victims feel that fire would “never happen to them.”

The Rochester Hills Fire Department takes fire safety and prevention very seriously. In an effort to ensure that every home in Rochester Hills has working fire alarms, the Rochester Hills Fire Department will supply and install a fire alarm in your home at no cost to you. If you have any questions or would like to make an appointment to have a fire alarm installed in your home, simply call 248-841-2705.

Are You Insured?

Did you know that when your dwelling or business has a fire, your insurance coverage may do one of the following things?

- Cover the cost to board up windows and secure the building after the fire
- Provide or cover the cost for a place to stay until repairs can be made
- Cover the cost for cleaning or replacement of clothes and all household items including televisions, stereo systems, appliances, and anything else that may have been damaged
- Rebuild your home to as-new condition
- Even cover the cost of food that may be damaged by smoke, or water firefighters use to extinguish the fire

One should never say, "It will never happen to me." I speak from experience since I had a small fire occur in my kitchen a few years ago. This fire was considered a "protein" fire (slow burning and emitting a translucent haze) resulting from cooking oil. It required all rooms where the smoke travelled to be repainted, carpeted, cookware replaced and much more. The estimated cost to repair the damage was over \$20,000. Being a homeowner with insurance, I was only responsible for a \$500 deductible.

I encourage residents and business owners to have your dwelling/building and the contents insured. If you are renting a dwelling or business space, it is the property owner's responsibility to insure the building, but you are responsible for insuring the property inside.

It is also recommended to have an inventory list and/or digital photographs of major items including electronics, jewelry, etc. This will greatly assist you in the event of a fire or even theft of your belongings. Important documents, including electronic back-up of computer items, should be secured in a fire safe box. This could include taxes, account information, insurance papers, family photos as well as many other items. Additionally, having insurance will also provide coverage from the perils of wind, ice damn, damage from frozen pipes, most water damage excluding flood, and covers your family's liability both on your premise and anywhere in the United States.

A home in Rochester Hills valued at \$120,000 would cost approximately \$400 per year for insurance. A home in Rochester Hills valued at \$220,000 would cost approximately \$550 per year for insurance. One year of rental insurance for personal property valued at \$25,000 would cost just over \$200 per year. (The above rates are for people with good credit and no prior losses.)

So, I ask: How much did you pay for that flat screen T.V., your computer, stove, furniture, etc? The list goes on and on. Based on this information, the question of "Are you Insured?" should really be "Why Are you Not Insured?"

Are You Connected?

Residents of Rochester Hills can now take advantage of Nixle!

Nixle is a new community information service, which will deliver important and timely information to residents in our area. Created by Nixle, LLC, this *free* service to all residents delivers trustworthy and important neighborhood-level public safety and community notifications by web, e-mail, and text messages. "This is a great way residents can stay connected and get informed of problems and situations happening in and near the community," stated Mayor Bryan K. Barnett.

Messages from the latest road conditions to resident safety situations can all be received through Nixle communications. Mayor Barnett added, "We need to continue to find timely and effective methods to communicate with our residents. Advising them of critical information as it happens is a service that most other social mediums can not offer."

Nixle is completely free, simple, and trusted.

Residents of Rochester Hills can learn more about Nixle and register at www.nixle.com. Please share this new and important service with friends and neighbors to spread the word!



The City of Rochester Hills

Environmental Education Center

November

Tuesday, November 3

10:00am-4:00pm Open House

1:00pm-2:30pm Feed the Birds

\$5.00/ person

We have many species of birds that stay in Michigan during the winter but sometimes it is hard for them to find food. During this program find out which birds stay here to keep us company and create a suet feeder for your backyard. Suet provides the birds with energy-rich nutrition and helps keep them warm in the winter. We will provide all of the supplies; you just need to hang it!

Monday, November 9

1:00pm-2:30pm Turkey Day

Gobble! Gobble! Thanksgiving is coming and a lot of us will have turkey for dinner. But what do you really know about turkeys? We have wild turkeys that live throughout our state and even in our community. Learn which turkeys live here, their habits, their calls, and how turkeys came to be associated with Thanksgiving. We will even have a turkey craft for you to do!

Hours of Operation:

The Center is open for pre-arranged group programs or group tours. Call 248-656-4775 to schedule a program or tour.

Cost:

Unless otherwise noted all programs are:

\$2.00/children

\$3.00/adults

Location:

At the southwest corner of Avon and Livernois, just east of City Hall

Please note:

All programs listed are intended for families and individuals. Organized groups (Cub Scouts, church or school groups, etc.) should call to schedule a separate program.

December

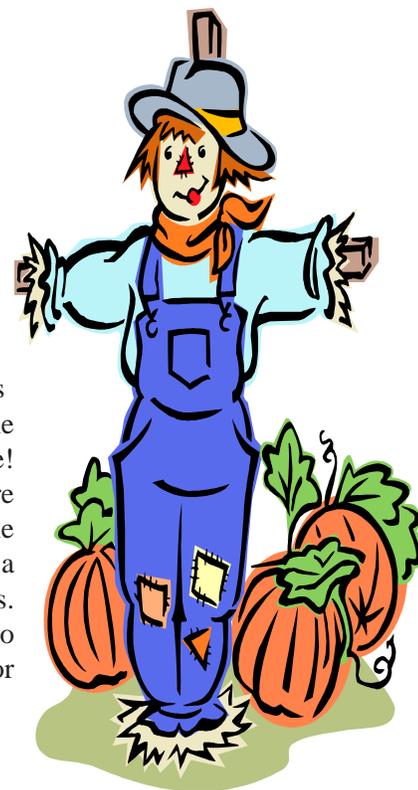
Tuesday, December 8

10:00am-11:00am

Nature Stories for Small Folks

This program is for all the young nature lovers out there! Join us to read some fun nature stories, touch and learn about the animals at the EEC, and take a winter walk with us on the trails. We will also have a snack to enjoy! Don't forget to dress for the weather!

For ages 3-5.



Environmental Education Center
1115 W. Avon Road
Rochester Hills, MI 48309
or call 248-656-4775

Hills IQ Answers

1. 47% of residents also stay in the city for work.
2. 1600 tons, that's right! More than 3, fully loaded 747 planes!!!!
3. For the first time, our parks reached 1 million visitors!
4. 1900 pumpkins (that's a lot of pumpkin guts)!
5. 2008 Gold Medalist, Peter Vanderkaay graduated from Rochester Adams High School in 2002.
6. Rochester Community Schools employs more than 1,700.
7. **Places to live!**

Spotlight on Families First!

Recipients in Rochester Hills.....

The Families First Winners for the month of April are Peggy Nelson and her family, Connor Nelson, Julianne and Steven Yakel, and Philip Devone.

Peggy Nelson is a nurse practitioner at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital in Pontiac and personally witnessed too many patients spending their final days all-alone. Peggy created and implemented a volunteer program called "No One Dies Alone." Julianne, who is Peggy's daughter sits, talks and plays her guitar for these patients. Even though some of the patients are non-responsive, she still visits, holds their hands and plays her music. Julianne has said, "it is an honor to spend the last days with someone even though it is kind of sad."

While performing her duties at St. Joseph Hospital, Peggy was taking care of a patient, Phil, who was also a friend of her son. Phil has sickle cell and his family was unable to help him through this challenge. Peggy and her family opened their home to Phil, and offered him their love, care and support without expecting anything in return.



The Nelson/Yakel Family ~ April 2009



The Alexander Family ~ May 2009

The Families First winners for the month of May are Paul, Debbie, Karen, Brenda and Cindy Alexander.

Debbie Alexander has been a very active Girl Scout leader for over 13 years. She has coordinated many service projects, the most recent project was a stuffed animal collection program. Debbie was not only a Girl Scout leader for her own daughters troops, but she most generously served as leader for a Daisy and Brownie troop at Brooklands Elementary School that had no leader. Debbie has also been very active in planning banquets and dances and various other fun activities.

Debbie and Paul are also very involved in the Rochester Schools. Karen, Brenda and Cindy have participated in soccer, cheerleading and band. Debbie and Paul have assisted as coaches in support of these activities for their children and others.

Mayor Barnett stated, "I am pleased to recognize the Alexander Family for their generosity, and for the way they serve our community".

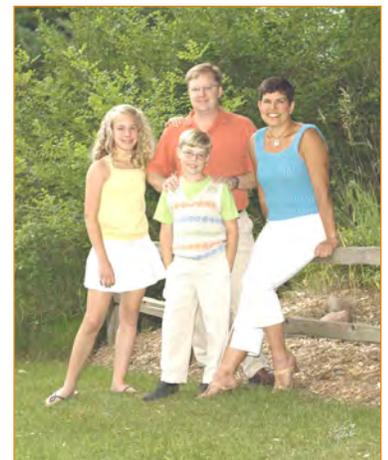
William and Leigh Ann Grubbs and their children are an exemplary family that has resided in Rochester Hills for 17 years. They have two children, Caroline and William.

MaryBeth Tremp nominated the family and said, "Bill and Leigh Ann not only give of themselves, but have also instilled this important value of helping others in their children since they were old enough to lift a hammer."

The family has volunteered for Habitat for Humanity, run the shelter for the homeless at St. Irenaeus Church, and have also assisted Ms. Tremp and her two daughters at a very difficult time in their lives.

Bill, Leigh Ann, and their children not only offered physical help moving the Tremp family from one house to another but also offered emotional support. They packed boxes, arranged the renting of a U-Haul truck and organized volunteers with the unloading and unpacking.

In nominating the Grubbs family, Ms. Tremp said, "Our community is truly blessed to have this family!"



The Grubbs Family ~ June 2009

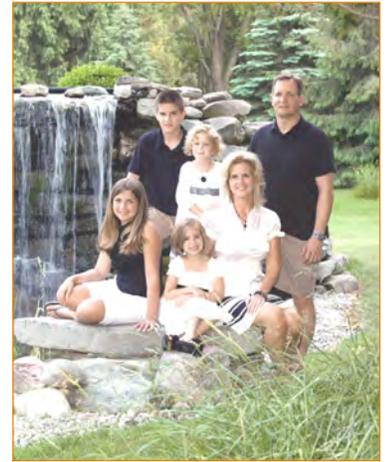
Spotlight on Families First!

Recipients in Rochester Hills.....

The Families First winners for the month of July are Mike, Kim, Alex, Madeline, Sophia and Ava Williams.

Dr. Michael Williams is an outstanding pediatrician here in Rochester Hills, where he provides health care for many local children. Mike is also a volunteer coach for Little League Baseball and RARA basketball, and has done so for the past eight years. In further service to our community, Mike donates his time to serve as the Rochester High School football team doctor.

Kim Williams is a very active member of the community, especially in the Rochester Community Schools. Kim volunteers her time in her children's schools, and has taken a leadership role in Teacher Appreciation Week. In addition, Kim and her children are involved in the "Meals on Wheels Program" where they deliver meals and a bit of joy to senior citizens and shut-in in our community.



The Williams Family ~ July 2009



The Collins Family ~ August 2009

The Families First Winners for the month of August are Scott, Shannon, Braydan, Drew and Carson Collins. The Collins Family do so much for their neighborhood, school, church and community. Whenever a neighbor is in need, they are there to round up volunteers and help in anyway that they can.

For many years Shannon has been room mom, classroom volunteer and PTA committee chairperson at Long Meadow Elementary school where her children attend.

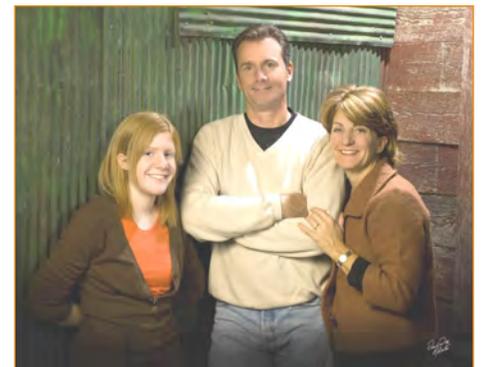
For the past three years Scott has been a Cub Scout Den Leader. He is also involved as a coach for multiple soccer and baseball teams where he teaches his sons not only the importance of sportsmanship, but to also have fun.

Another way the Collins give back to their community is helping Leader Dogs for the Blind by housing and raising puppies. They are currently raising their third puppy for this wonderful community facility.

Through their hard work and dedication, the Behen family has raised nearly \$200,000 for the Make-A-Wish Foundation.

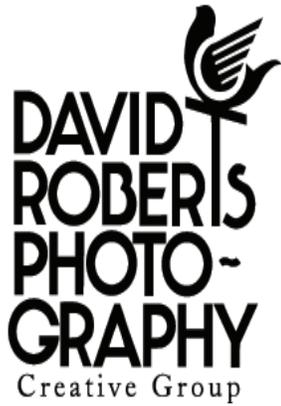
Ted and Donetta Behen have many diverse talents and passions. They welcome people into their home where Donetta has hosted many events. Whether it is feeding a team of national caliber athletes or assisting families that have a child with a life threatening illness, Donetta's courageous spirit and tremendous support has touched many lives. Ted and Donetta have been instrumental in the organization of the WAM 300 mile bike ride. All proceeds go to granting wishes for families with a child dealing with a life-threatening illness.

Daughters Amanda, Meghan and Morgan continue the family tradition by spreading the message to others to get involved in supporting a cause that has touched their lives.



The Behen Family ~ September 2009

The success of the Families First program is due in large part to the ongoing support of our sponsors. Please join us in thanking them for their generosity, and for helping us celebrate these outstanding Rochester Hills families.



To nominate a family, please fill out the nomination form, or [download](#) the form from the city's webpage. You can mail it, fax it, email it, or drop it off at the Mayor's Office.

I would like to nominate the following family as the City of Rochester Hills "Family of the Month" as part of Mayor Bryan K. Barnett's **Families First!** initiative.

Family Members Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

Rochester Hills resident(s) for _____ years.

I chose this family for consideration because: _____

Nominated by: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

CHRISTMAS TREE RECYCLING

The City of Rochester Hills will once again allow its residents to dispose of natural Christmas trees by dropping them off at either Thelma Spencer Park or the Environmental Education Center on the following dates and times ONLY:

Saturday, January 2, 2010	10 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Sunday, January 3, 2010	12 noon – 4 p.m.
Saturday, January 9, 2010	10 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Sunday, January 10, 2010	12 noon – 4 p.m.

Thelma Spencer Park is located at 3701 John R Road (east side of John R, between Auburn Road and South Boulevard).

Environmental Education Center is located at 1115 W. Avon Road (south side of Avon, just west of Livernois Road).

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

- Residents of Rochester Hills may drop off trees during the announced days and hours only.
- Trees shall be dropped off at the designated area only. Any other disposal, at or near the designated site, will constitute improper disposal and violators will be subject to ticketing.
- Only natural Christmas trees will be accepted. No mass or commercial disposal is permitted. No disposal of any other materials, natural or artificial, is permitted.
- All non-woody material, e.g., lights and wires, ornaments, rope, garland, stands and braces, bagging, etc., must be removed before drop off.
- Volunteers will inspect trees for compliance with this order before accepting them for disposal. Trees or other matter that do not meet the restrictions will not be accepted.

Under contract with the City of Rochester Hills, Allied Waste Services will collect discarded Christmas trees devoid of any ropes, lights, metal, plastic or other hangers during Christmas week and the following three weeks. Allied will deliver the trees they collect to a compost site rather than a landfill or disposal facility.



ROCHESTER HILLS PARKS NEW WINTER SCHEDULE

Due to budgetary constraints, beginning November 15 through March 15, Spencer Park and Bloomer Park will be closed to the public on **Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays**. Closing these parks three days each week will result in the decrease of some operational costs and will help the city reach some of their cost-saving goals during these economically difficult times. We encourage all visitors to use the parks when they are open and continue to participate in the many available winter activities.

For additional information on City of Rochester Hills parks, please visit the city webpage at www.rochesterhills.org.



Rochester Hills Museum

Museum Programs

Call 248.656.4663 or rhmuseum@rochesterhills.org to order tickets or to reserve your space!

Saturday, December 5

Santa and Mrs. Claus Visit the Van Hoosen Farmhouse

9-4 p.m.

\$ 4 for members, \$ 7 for nonmembers. Ages 0-18 require a ticket

Santa and Mrs. Claus will take time out of their very busy schedule to visit with children of all ages. Timed tickets are available between 9-4 p.m. Enjoy a wagon ride, spectacular decorations, a model train show, hands-on activities, and holiday cooking. **This event has sold out every year so order early!** Guests check in at the Dairy Barn, ride a wagon to the Farmhouse and enjoy cookies baked in Sarah Van Hoosen Jones' oven after visiting with Santa. Don't forget your camera and list for Santa!

Saturday, December 12

Old Fashioned Christmas

1:00-4:00

In advance! \$ 4 for Museum members, \$ 7 for nonmembers. Admission charged for ages 2-100.

Day of – All tickets \$ 10

Come and enjoy chestnuts roasting on an open fire and wagon rides to the Stoney Creek Schoolhouse, the 1850s Red House, the Farmhouse and the Dairy Barn where there will be holiday treats, entertainment and crafts – just like the old days! Guests check in at the Dairy Barn to receive your Passport to Holiday Fun.



Exhibits

Big Boys Toys - What Men Collect

On Display through November 7, 2009!

Wednesdays – Sundays, 1-4 p.m. Men have their own peculiar tastes and interest and you will be amazed at what they like to collect and what fills their attics, workshops, living rooms, man caves, and warehouses. Come to the Museum to see samples of their collection of trains, door knobs, brass garden nozzles, ice cream scoops, 1968 Detroit Tigers, duck decoys, duck stamps, funeral objects, Abe Lincoln, boats, guns, clocks, watches, phonographs, and toy cannons. We'll get you smiling and shaking your head!

Coming Soon – Holiday Exhibits

Open Wednesday – Saturday from 1-4 p.m.

Closed Christmas Eve/Day and New Year's Eve/Day

ALL ABOARD! Model Train Exhibit

Friday, November 27 – Saturday, January 2

The Stoney Creek Model Railroad Club will have a massive model train layout throughout the Dairy Barn during the Holiday season. Come to the Museum to recapture your youth and share a terrific hobby with your family!

A Miniature Christmas Village Exhibit

Friday, November 27 – Saturday, January 2

A private collector will display their extensive miniature Christmas Village during the Holiday Season.



Come Shop with us!

Introducing the *Mistletoe Market* featuring Michigan made products and unique Holiday gifts. We'll fill our lobby and conference room with numerous vendors ready for you! **November 27 – January 2 Wednesdays – Sundays from 1-4 p.m.**

Stonewall Pumpkin Festival Rochester Hills Museum at Van Hoosen Farm



The Rochester Hills Museum at Van Hoosen Farm hosted its annual Stonewall Pumpkin Festival to the delight of all in attendance. Guests enjoyed carving pumpkins and then placing their masterpieces on the historic stonewalls surrounding the museum for the evening lighting. As darkness fell, the museum glowed with the artistic wonders of the many enthusiastic guests.

In addition, there were make and take projects with the Paint Creek Center for the Arts, children's garden projects, hayrides, kids' games, an ugly gourd river race, music, food, and a hay jump. Special guest author Laura Cassas read her newly published children's book - *Night of 1,000 Pumpkins* which was inspired by last year's event!

The Stonewall Pumpkin Festival is a highly anticipated annual celebration that ushers in the harvest season with events the entire family can enjoy. Mark your calendar to join us next year.

Consider a Donation to the Rochester Hills Museum!

You can make a tax-deductible donation to the Rochester Hills Museum – preserve history and lower your taxes! The Rochester Hills Museum collaborates with the Community Foundation of Greater Rochester to create several donation opportunities for you.

Endowment Fund

The **Endowment Fund** allows only the interest on our investments to be used by the Museum. Since this fund was established, all interest has been rolled back into the principal in our attempt to create a more substantial financial return. It is our intention that this interest from this fund will provide financial support for the Museum operation in the future. Donors to this fund receive a federal tax credit and a Michigan tax credit.

Income Fund

The **Income Fund** allows donors to support projects where the Museum can use the full amount of the donated funds. Donors to this fund receive a federal tax credit but do not qualify for the Michigan tax credit because this is not an endowed fund.

Collections Fund

The **Collections Fund** fulfills requirements in our collections policy to meet criteria for the Museum Accreditation Program. This fund will allow us to use funds generated from deaccessioning any of our collections in the future and ensuring that funds generated from our collection are used to support the collection and are not used for general operating support.

But giving cash isn't the only option! Donating stock or mutual fund shares that have appreciated in value since you acquired them may be a tax-smart move. When you donate securities you've held for longer than one year, you generally can claim an income-tax deduction in the amount of their fair market value; and, since you're not selling the shares, you won't have to realize the gain or pay capital gains tax on the appreciation. Although you could donate securities with unrealized short-term gains, your deduction would typically be limited to your cost basis. Keep in mind that charitable gifts are deductible only if you itemize deductions on your income tax return. Call the Community Foundation of Greater Rochester at 248-608-2804 to see how your charitable giving can help the Rochester Hills Museum!



Donated funds help the Museum install historic signs to preserve our community's history.

Winter Property Tax Bills to be Mailed in November

In mid-November, the City Treasury Department will be mailing 2009 Winter Property Tax Bills to all Rochester Hills property owners or their escrow agents. Beginning with last year's Winter Property Tax, the City of Rochester Hills no longer mails an informational copy of the tax bill to taxpayers with escrow agents. Property tax information may be obtained free of charge at tax.rochesterhills.org by entering the property address or parcel number. This website provides detailed property tax information, current payment status and tax history. **If you wish to continue receiving an informational copy of the property tax bill or would like the information over the phone, please contact the City Treasury Department at 248-656-4675.** Due to the availability of property tax information via Internet and continuing increases in postage cost, the city made a fiscally responsible decision to discontinue this informational mailing.

Because the winter tax due date falls on a Sunday and the following Monday is the President's Day holiday, the **2009 winter property taxes will be payable without penalty through Tuesday, February 16, 2010** – postmarks will not be honored. On February 17, a 3% penalty will be added to the unpaid balance of all 2009 summer and winter taxes. Beginning March, delinquent taxes must be paid to the Oakland County Treasurer with additional late fees. If you are paying by mail, please retain the top portion of the tax bill for your records and return the bottom portion with your payment. If you are paying in person, please bring in both portions of the tax bill if you want a paid receipt. The tax rates have been established so the Treasury Department can provide the amount of your 2009 winter tax bill by calling 248-656-4675. You may view your winter tax amount online at tax.rochesterhills.org.

For additional information on payment options, Summer Tax Deferment or Homestead Exemption requirements, please visit the [city website](http://city.rochesterhills.org), or call the Treasury Department at 248-656-4675.

A Declining Real Estate Market, Proposal A and Property Taxes

With the State of Michigan in its worst real estate market in its history, many people are asking what is the expected impact on our property tax burden for next year? In the past two years, the most often expressed frustration has been the fact that the property tax burden increased for most taxpayers when they were in the midst of a declining real estate market. Another frustration is the time lag between the date range of the sales used to set the assessed valuation compared to the date the taxes are billed. Following is a good illustration of this issue: The mid-point of the one-year sales study setting the 2009 valuations was March 2008 and the 2009 Summer Tax Bill is mailed in June 2009, almost 15 months later. The market in this case has change substantially to the negative.

An individual's tax burden is calculated on two things: First, a parcel's Taxable Value (TV) and secondly, the local aggregate Millage Rate. The TV is a product of Proposal A and is the lower of the Assessed Value (AV) and the Capped Value (CV). The CV is a mathematical calculation limiting the yearly increase in the burden of the property tax, by parcel, by the rate of inflation, adjusted for additions and losses to the property. Suffice it to say, the property tax burden cannot increase year over year by greater than the rate of inflation (assuming there are no additions to the property and no additional millages are levied).

If your AV and TV are the same on your 2009 tax bill (and this is the case for roughly 75% of our taxpayers), then you are highly likely to see your property tax bill decrease for 2010. Currently, we are estimating an average property value decline of roughly 14% from 2009 to 2010 and the estimated CPI number to be in the range of -0.5% to +0.5%. However, if your AV is greater than the TV on your 2009 tax bill, there is a chance you will see your property tax bill increase slightly for 2010 should the CPI be greater than zero, even with a declining property value.

Some generalized examples are as follows:

Assumptions: No change in millage rate for the 2010 Tax Year. The CPI for 2010 is 0.5%. The property does not incur any additions or losses.

If your assessed value and taxable value are the same for 2009 and the assessed value is lowered for 2010, then your property taxes will be lowered by the same proportion. If the property assessment drops 10%, then the property tax would fall 10%.

However, under Proposal A, if your assessed value was 20% higher than your taxable value in 2009, a reduction of 10% in the assessed value for 2010 would not reduce your tax burden. In fact, the tax burden for 2010 would increase by the rate of inflation, 0.5% in this example.

Also, under Proposal A, if your assessed value was 10% higher than your taxable value in 2009, a reduction of 10% in the assessed value for 2010 (2009 TV now equal to the 2010 AV) would generate a tax bill for 2010 equal to the 2009 tax bill.

Finally, remember that Michigan tax law requires assessed values to be based upon a property's "true cash value" as of Tax Day, the December 31 prior to the Tax Year. Sales used to establish "true cash value" must be arms length open market transactions. The State Tax Commission requires assessors to use sales in the date range of October 1, 2008 through September 30, 2009 in setting assessments for the 2010 Tax Year. This requirement and a declining market is what generate the variation in values between the assessment date and the valuation at the time taxes are billed.

The sale of foreclosed properties is having an impact on the real estate market in general. Recent changes in State Guidelines have occurred which allow for the use of foreclosed sales in our analysis if certain conditions are met. If the foreclosure sale has been analyzed, properly verified, and meets the conditions of a fair and representative market transaction, it can be included in the State Tax Commission One-Year sales study. Sales not considered reliable indicators of value when making market comparisons are not to be considered for assessment purposes.

Assessment Notices for 2010 will be mailed in mid-February and the Assessing Department will hold an Assessor's Review until the first meeting of the March Board of Review on Tuesday, March 2, 2010. Should you have any questions, please contact the Assessing Department at 248-656-4605.

NOTICE OF ELECTION - NOVEMBER 3, 2009 IN CITY OF ROCHESTER HILLS

To the Qualified Electors: NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that an Election will be held in:

The City of Rochester Hills
County of Oakland, State of Michigan

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2009

THE POLLS will be open 7 o'clock a.m. until 8 o'clock p.m.

AT THE POLLING PLACES LISTED BELOW:

Precinct # 1	Faith Church, 160 W. Hamlin Rd. (new location)
Precinct # 2	Bellbrook, 873 W. Avon Rd.
Precinct # 3	Meadows Upper Elementary School, 1435 W. Auburn Rd.
Precinct # 4	North Hill Elementary School, 1385 Mahaffy
Precinct # 5	Rochester Hills Building, 1551 E. Auburn Rd.
Precinct # 6	Avon Clubhouse, 2600 W. Auburn Rd.
Precinct # 7	West Middle School, 500 Old Perch Rd.
Precinct # 8	VanHoosen Middle School, 1339 N. Adams Rd.
Precinct # 9	Rochester High School, 180 S. Livernois
Precinct #10	Brewster Elementary School, 1535 Brewster Rd.
Precinct #11	Reuther Middle School, 1430 E. Auburn Rd.
Precinct #12	Hamlin Elementary School, 270 W. Hamlin Rd.
Precinct #13	Deerfield Elementary School, 3600 Crooks Rd.
Precinct #14	West Middle School, 500 Old Perch Rd.
Precinct #15	St. Mary's of the Hills, 2675 John R
Precinct #16	Brooklands School (old school), 480 E. Auburn Rd.
Precinct #17	Meadow Brook Elementary School, 2350 Munster
Precinct #18	Rochester Adams High School, 3200 W. Tienken Rd.
Precinct #19	Long Meadow Elementary School, 450 Allston
Precinct #20	Brooklands Elementary School, 490 E. Auburn Rd.
Precinct #21	Hart Middle School, 6500 Sheldon Rd.
Precinct #22	St. Luke's Church, 3980 Walton Blvd. (new location)
Precinct #23	Danish Village, 2566 Walton Blvd.
Precinct #24	Rochester Hills Offices, 1000 Rochester Hills Dr.
Precinct #25	Rochester Adams High School, 3200 W. Tienken Rd.
Precinct #26	VanHoosen Middle School, 1339 N. Adams
Precinct #27	St. Mary's of the Hills, 2675 John R
Precinct #28	Hampton Elementary School, 530 Hampton Circle
Precinct #29	Rochester Adams High School, 3200 W. Tienken Rd.

**ALL POLLING PLACES ARE HANDICAP ACCESSIBLE
BRAILLE AND AUDIO VERSIONS OF VOTING INSTRUCTIONS ARE AVAILABLE**

**FOR THE PURPOSE OF ELECTING CANDIDATES FOR THE FOLLOWING NON-PARTISAN
OFFICES:**

CITY:

CITY COUNCIL MEMBER AT LARGE (Vote for not more than one) – Four Year Term
CITY COUNCIL MEMBER DISTRICT 1 (Vote for not more than one) – Four Year Term
CITY COUNCIL MEMBER DISTRICT 4 (Vote for not more than one) – Four Year Term
LIBRARY BOARD DIRECTOR (Vote for not more than two) – Six Year Term

SCHOOL:

AVONDALE SCHOOL DISTRICT

BOARD MEMBER (Vote for not more than four) – Four Year Term

ROCHESTER COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

BOARD MEMBER (Vote for not more than two) – Six Year Term

BOARD MEMBER (Vote for not more than two) – Four Year Term

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

IN ADDITION, THE CLERK'S OFFICE WILL BE OPEN ON SATURDAY, October 31, 2009 FROM 8:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M. The last day to obtain absentee ballots by mail is Saturday, October 31, 2009 at 2:00 p.m.

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

DONT FORGET TO VOTE

Voting in local elections is extremely important. Your local representatives on City Council are your neighbors. They have the same concerns you have about your property values, taxes, how taxes are spent, and the latest issues for our city. Your City Council Members are here and can be contacted every day through e-mail and city telephone numbers for voice-mail. Don't forget that Your Vote Counts!

We have an opportunity on Tuesday, November 3, 2009 to get out and VOTE. The city will hold the City General Election for the purpose of electing a City Council Member at Large, a District 1 Council Member, District 4 Council Member, 2 Library Board Members, and School Board Members for both Avondale School District (Vote for Not More Than 4) and the Rochester Community School District (2 for 4-year terms and 2 for 6-year terms). There are no ballot questions this year either for the city or for the School Districts.

Absent voter ballots have been mailed to everyone who has already applied. If you believe you qualify for any one of the reasons allowed for receiving an absent voter ballot, please [click here](#), print the Absent Voter Ballot Application, sign it and return it to the Clerk's Office. Or, you can contact the Clerk's Office at 248-656-4630 and request an application be mailed to you.

The Clerk's Office will be open on Saturday, October 31, 2009 from 8 a.m. until 2 p.m. to issue absentee ballots.

Check out the League of Women Voters' web site for a candidate guide for the November 3, 2009 Election. www.lwvoa.org. You can also check out the city's web site (www.rochesterhills.org) for a link to the latest Candidate Forum held on October 7, 2009. The Candidate Forum is also broadcast/re-broadcast on our local cable channels until Election Day.

The Clerk's Office looks forward to serving you the voters and participants in the electoral process. Remember, you must be a registered voter at your current address for at least 30 days prior to voting in any election. The Close of Registration for the November 3 election was October 5, 2009. If you recently registered, you will be receiving your Voter Identification Card prior to the election. Your card provides information about your Precinct, where it is located, and the districts for Council, County Commissioner, and Congressional representation. If you have lost your card, contact the Clerk's Office.

Absent voter ballots are available in the Clerk's Office daily from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. In addition, the Clerk's Office will be open on Saturday, October 31, 2009 from 8:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. to apply for an absent voter ballot. The last day to mail out an absent voter ballot is October 31 by 2:00 p.m. The Clerk's Office will issue absent voter ballots in person in the office on Monday, November 2nd until 4:00 p.m.

Election results for the votes in Rochester Hills will be available in the Clerk's Office as they are received on election night on RHTV - Channels 55/10. Please reference the General Election Notice for your polling location information also published in this edition of the Hills Herald.

The Clerk's Office is open Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. We are located at the Rochester Hills Municipal Offices, 1000 Rochester Hills Drive, Rochester Hills, Michigan 48309. Telephone us at 248-656-4630.

GYPSY MOTH EGG MASS SURVEY BEGINS



The City of Rochester Hills' annual gypsy moth egg mass survey began in October and will continue to the end of this year.

Survey sites consist of individual trees at approximately 100 locations throughout the city. Most of the survey sites were established previously and have a

small yellow or white tag attached to the trees. New survey sites, and those previously established but with missing tags, will have new tags affixed. The presence of a survey site does not necessarily mean that gypsy moth has been found.

Survey sites are located on public and private property. Nothing will be done that will damage trees. Persons conducting the survey will only be counting egg masses. Citizens are asked to allow surveyors to count egg masses and not disturb the survey tags. The population data that is obtained will be used to make decisions regarding the 2010 gypsy moth suppression program.

Our woodland areas are valuable assets to our community. Citizens can help in the city's effort to protect trees from serious defoliation and to reduce the nuisance that high population of gypsy moths can cause. Residents should locate egg masses this fall and winter. In April of next year (just before gypsy moth eggs hatch in early May), citizens should remove and destroy any egg masses they find within arm's reach of the ground. Leaving egg masses in place until late April provides an opportunity for egg parasites to multiply. Destroy egg masses by burying in several inches of soil, burning, or immersing in soapy water for 48 hours. Eliminating egg masses, each of which can produce hundreds of caterpillars, is an important part of the community gypsy moth suppression effort.

If you suspect that gypsy moth egg masses are present in your area and want advice or assistance, please contact the Forestry Division at 248-656-4673.



*Visit Rochester Hills
City Hall
and
enjoy the
beauty
of the
season*

Hills Herald

Published by the:

City of Rochester Hills

BRYAN K. BARNETT, Mayor

City Council:

Greg Hooper, President

L. Martin Brennan, Vice President

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Comments & questions about materials appearing in the *Hills Herald* may be directed to:

Mayor's Office

1000 Rochester Hills Drive

Rochester Hills, MI 48309

-or-

hillsherald@rochesterhills.org



Mayor Barnett joined Rayconnect President Earl Brown and CEO Antoine Raymond on September 23, 2009 as they cut the ribbon on their new, state-of-the-art facility

Rayconnect Opened a New Facility in Rochester Hills

Collaborative Project Keeps 225 Jobs in Rochester Hills

Rayconnect, Inc. is pleased to announce the grand opening of its new headquarters and manufacturing facility in Rochester Hills, Michigan. Rayconnect manufactures fluid handling products for the automotive industry. Its parent company, A. Raymond, Inc. also is located in Rochester Hills.

Rayconnect, government officials and others celebrated the Grand Opening September 23, 2009. The new facility is located at 2350 Austin Avenue, west of Crooks Road and south of M-59.

French-owned A. Raymond Inc. has had a presence in Rochester Hills since 1987 and formed Rayconnect Inc., a wholly owned subsidiary in 2005. Rayconnect Inc. designs, develops and manufactures fluid handling products for the automotive, commercial and construction equipment markets. To accommodate the rapid growth of Rayconnect, company executives looked at many alternatives, including existing buildings, but ultimately chose to construct a new facility.

“We are very excited about our new facility. This has been a long and sometimes tedious process but we could not be more pleased with the results. There are many to thank including our employees, our real estate development partner, KIRCO, their construction management company, KIRCOMANIX, their subcontractors (that brought expertise and craftsmanship to our project) and finally, the collaboration between the State of Michigan, Oakland County and the City of Rochester Hills. Everything came together and has resulted in our company growing and investing in Michigan,” said Rayconnect President and CEO, Earl Brown.

“This is the culmination of a long process that shows collaboration between government and other agencies can make a tremendous difference in retaining and attracting important companies like Rayconnect,” said Rochester Hills Mayor, Bryan K. Barnett.

The new facility is located on a 10-acre parcel on the newly extended Austin Ave. The 64,000 square foot facility is designed to manufacture product in a lean environment with a commitment to environmental responsibility. Rayconnect, and the entire A. Raymond Group, is committed to preserving our environmental resources. The company is pursuing LEED Silver certification for the new facility.

In addition to state-of-the-art design and construction methods, the building incorporates several design features to provide practicable use of natural resources. Some of the many unique elements of the building include use of natural lighting, rain water capture for irrigation, full energy management systems, state-of-the-art process equipment including a chiller/cooling tower, compressor, and pumps throughout the facility. The lighting systems are also highly advanced and include light harvesting.

“Rayconnect’s decision to remain local is not just an economic development win for our community, but for the entire state, as we strive to strengthen and diversify Michigan’s economy,” said Mayor Barnett.

Additional information regarding Rayconnect and its products can be found at www.rayconnect.com. Additional information regarding LEED requirements can be found at www.usgbc.org.

Rayconnect Facility in Rochester Hills



Veterans Memorial Pointe ~ Veterans Day Ceremony



There will be a ceremony held at Veterans Memorial Pointe on Wednesday, November 11 starting at 11:00 a.m. sharp! Guest speakers will be Bryan K. Barnett, Mayor of Rochester Hills and Post Commanders from our local VFW, DAV and American Legion Posts.

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. Your help will enable us to maintain this place of honor, and by buying a brick, you or your loved one will become a part of this memorial forever.

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.



Memorial 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 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.

New Project Coming to Veterans Memorial Pointe

In the near future, Al Brown, Park Ranger for the City of Rochester Hills, will work his magic on a 250-year-old tree trunk that measures over 14 feet in length and nearly 5 feet in diameter. The trunk, weighing in at over one ton, will be transformed into a majestic American Bald Eagle! Al is known for his extraordinary carvings. He designed and carved the Dinosaur Bench at Mastodon Park, and created the one-of-a-kind sign at Veterans Memorial Pointe.

The giant Oak tree, which was located on John R Road, was in the right-of-way and had to be removed during a road project last year. Ed Leafdale, General Foreman of the Rochester Hills Water and Sewer Department, overheard city engineers talking about the tree and saw an opportunity to have it turned into something beautiful and lasting. Ed contacted Al, who agreed that the trunk would be perfect for a project they had been planning for quite some time.

The first stage of the project has been to allow the trunk to dry out so the carving can begin. Once it has completely dried, Al can begin to turn his vision into a reality. The American Bald Eagle, which is expected to be completed in the fall of 2010, will add to the beauty and honor that Veterans Memorial Pointe represents.



Artist Al Brown in front of the tree trunk he will carve into an American Bald Eagle

Path of the Eagles

Boy Scouts of America is an organization that gives young men opportunities to become proficient outdoorsmen, to learn skills and crafts, and to participate in community activities. Young men who master scouting skills, dedicate their efforts to upholding the Boy Scout Pledge, and serve their community with honor can attain Eagle Scout, the highest rank in Scouting.

The City of Rochester Hills has recognized an astounding **27 Eagle Scouts** during the first 10 months of 2009. Considering the degree of hard work and commitment required for young men to attain this goal, this is an honor we can be deeply proud of.

The Path of the Eagles, located in Veteran's Memorial Pointe, was designed and built as an Eagle Scout Project in 2008. When a Scout earns the rank of Eagle, an engraved brick can be purchased (by himself or a loved one) to be placed along the pathway. It will include his name, troop number and the date he attained Eagle Scout status. In addition, bricks may be purchased for Girl Scouts who achieve the honor of obtaining the Gold Award.



loved one) to be placed along the pathway. It will include his name, troop number and the date he attained Eagle Scout status. In addition, bricks may be purchased for Girl Scouts who achieve the honor of obtaining the Gold Award.

Brick order forms may be obtained by [clicking here](#), or by contacting the Mayor's Office at 248-656-4664.

Path of the Eagles, Veterans Memorial Pointe



Rochester Hills City Council



Michael Webber *At-Large*

As summer has turned to fall, there are many things to appreciate within our community. These are challenging economic times for our state and region. Many of us are doing more with less. No one can predict what is ahead for us as a state and region, but we must forge ahead.

My wife and I continue to stay active in our community, volunteering recently at the Art and Apples Festival. It was great to see so many community members at the event again this year. In addition, we both participated in the second annual Brooksie Way event (the 5K, not the half marathon) that was held at Oakland University. I am looking forward to

several wintertime happenings within our community this holiday season.

As I approach the completion of my second year on our City Council, we have dealt with many issues, none larger than the city budget. With declining property values, the city faces declining tax revenue. As with your family budget, the city has faced the challenge of prioritizing our wants vs. our needs and has adopted a balanced budget that funds our essential services without raising taxes. This budget represents a 10% decrease from last year's budget.

We have funded our police and fire services, we have put money into local and major roads and we have continued to fund our parks. It is a budget that sustains our quality of life for the near future, although I continue to worry about our long-term financial situation.

*Working to
serve the
residents
and business
owners in
the City of
Rochester
Hills*

I want to update you on a few potential road projects. You have probably read a lot about a Tienken Road reconstruction and expansion between Livernois and Sheldon. I joined my colleagues in unanimously approving a three-lane road expansion option (over a proposed five-lane option) in July. Our city continues to work with county and federal government officials to use the federal money set aside to reconstruct and expand that section of Tienken Road.

Another issue that has arisen is the Avon Road Bridge. You may have noticed that one of the lanes on the bridge has been closed and that the truck weight limits have been significantly reduced. Our city has been working with the county road commission to identify state funding for this important safety project. We have been told that it may take several years to find the funding. Special thanks to Senator Bishop and Representative McMillin for their efforts in trying to find state funding for this bridge.

The council has been busy with economic development efforts to retain and grow jobs in our city. So far this year the city has attracted sixteen new companies to our city with more on the way, hopefully. The mayor and his administration have focused on economic development.

Another issue that has been discussed recently is the Single Trash Hauler and Recycling program implementation. Council recently received an update on the program. It appears that our city is recycling more than ever while enjoying a lower trash pick-up rate. I am proud to have supported this program.

I urge you to exercise your right to vote in the city election this November. As always, I remain committed to representing you to the best of my ability. I welcome your phone calls and e-mails. I wish you and your family the very best this fall and winter.



Erik Ambrozaitis *District 4*

LISTENING and serving the people of our fine community is priority number one. I will continue, per the past four years, to be responsive to my constituents' needs! You demand that, and you deserve it.

Overspending of our tax dollars must stop. With declining property values, thus declining tax revenues, our city can't sustain this current excessive spending. Anti-

spending does not necessarily mean I am anti-tax, but until we demonstrate responsible spending and saving, tax increases are not the solution. This economy demands we tighten the city's belt.

We need to maintain a council that truly represents the diversified needs of the fine people of our community. We need council members that are independent of the Mayor, yet able to do the work of the people in a collectively open and responsible manner. Slate politics stifles differing ideas necessary for creating responsible, sustainable solutions for our city's further vitality.

Tuesday, November 3, you have the opportunity to select the individuals you want for the next four years to be your City Council Representatives. Let friends and neighbors know there's an election. Learn about each candidate. And, please exercise your right to vote!

Your vote has a voice, and I am listening.

The Rochester Hills City Council consists of seven members: four district members and three at-large members. They are elected to four-year terms and, due to term limiting, can serve no more than two terms for a maximum of eight years. Please refer to the council members link for more information regarding individual members.

The Council meets every Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the City Hall Auditorium unless otherwise indicated. To view videos of City Council meetings anytime, access the video library for streaming web video. Visit the Meeting Information portion of this website to access the current meeting packet and current meeting schedule.

Department Contact Information

Rochester Hills City Hall
1000 Rochester Hills Drive
Rochester Hills, MI 48309
248-656-4600

EMERGENCY 9-1-1

<u>Accounting</u>	248 656-4632
<u>Accounting – Billing</u>	248 656-4688
<u>Assessing</u>	248 656-4605
<u>Building & Ordinance</u>	248 656-4615
<u>Building – Inspection Line</u>	248 656-4619
<u>Channel 55/10</u>	248 656-4715
<u>Cemetery - Clerk’s Office</u>	248 652-4713
<u>City Council</u>	248-841-2460
<u>Clerk’s Office</u>	248 656-4630
<u>Department of Public Service (DPS)</u>	248 656-4685
<u>Engineering</u>	248 656-4640
<u>Facilities</u>	248 656-4658
<u>Fire – Administration</u>	248 656-4720
<u>Fiscal</u>	248 841-2533
<u>Human Resources</u>	248 656-4708
<u>Mayor’s Office</u>	248 656-4664
<u>Management Information Systems</u>	248 841-2475
<u>Oakland County Sheriff’s Sub Station</u>	248 537-3530
<u>Parks</u>	248 656-4673
<u>Parks – Environmental Education Center</u>	248-656-4775
<u>Parks – Forestry</u>	248 656-4673
<u>Parks – Museum</u>	248 656-4663
<u>Planning & Development</u>	248 656-4660
<u>Purchasing</u>	248 841-2533
<u>Treasury</u>	248 656-4675
<u>Property Tax Lookup</u>	



Additional Contact Information

<u>Avondale Community Schools</u>	248-537-6000
<u>Chamber of Commerce</u>	248-651-6700
<u>Crittenton Hospital</u>	248-652-5000
<u>District Court 52-3</u>	248-853-5553
<u>Michigan Senior Olympics</u>	248-608-0250
<u>Oakland County</u>	248-858-1000
<u>Oakland County Road Commission</u>	248-858-4804
<u>Oakland University</u>	248-370-2100
<u>Older Persons Commission (OPC)</u>	248-656-1403
<u>RARA</u>	248-656-8308
<u>Rochester College</u>	248-218-2000
<u>Rochester Community Schools</u>	248-726-3000
<u>Rochester Hills Public Library</u>	248-656-2900
<u>Secretary of State</u>	888-767-6424
<u>State of Michigan</u>	877-932-6424

Utilities

<u>Allied Waste Services (trash)</u>	248-858-8999
<u>Comcast (cable)</u>	248-334-1144
<u>Consumers Energy (gas)</u>	800-477-5050
<u>DTE Energy (electric)</u>	800-477-4747
<u>Wide Open West - WOW (cable)</u>	800-848-2278

Neighboring Communities

<u>Auburn Hills</u>	248-370-9400
<u>Oakland Township</u>	248-651-4440
<u>Rochester</u>	248-651-9061
<u>Shelby Township</u>	586-731-5100
<u>Troy</u>	248-524-3316



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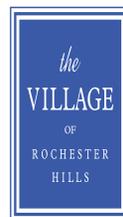
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