

The City of Rochester Hills

Hills Herald

News & Information

Fall 2010



Bryan K. Barnett, Mayor

A Message from the Mayor

All across Oakland County, students are back in school. In Rochester Hills, many recent high school graduates are starting their higher education pursuits at Oakland University or Rochester College. High-school students are beginning their four-year journey through Rochester, Rochester Adams, Stoney Creek, or Avondale High.

The one question that is sure to be asked as students head back is, “What did you do over the summer?”

If the question were asked of us in Rochester Hills City Hall, our answer would be simple. We have been very focused over the past several months to expand the employment opportunities at home. For that reason, I am optimistic about our future here in Rochester Hills, and the future of our students as they return to school for that most important education.

Over the summer, we landed a couple of big fish that will bring more than 500 new jobs to our local community.

For example, WABCO North America is creating a new division that will be located here, and is expected to hire as many as 80 workers by the end of 2010 and as many as 274 jobs within five years. WABCO refurbishes ABS systems and electronic control modules for the heavy truck and commercial vehicle industries.

KOSTAL Kontakt Systeme, Inc. has also selected Rochester Hills,

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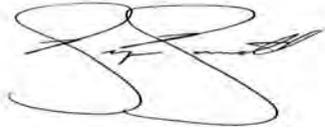
and will be filling 30+ new positions in 2010 and nearly 250 over five years. They manufacture switches and junction boxes for hybrid and electric vehicles, as well as solar panels.

The good news doesn't stop there! Construction on the Oakland University-William Beaumont Medical School is moving along, bringing with it the promise of an even richer educational experience; and with Rochester College announcing their new Nursing Program, you can see that Rochester Hills is proud to be the educational epicenter of Oakland County.

While there is certainly a wonderful benefit to the immediate increase in taxes paid to the city and jobs created for our residents, we get most excited about the growth projections for the future. When companies in growing industries, like advanced automation or alternative energy, plant their roots in Rochester Hills, it means they are making a long term commitment to our future graduates.

To those local students beginning this new year, study hard and know your community is working equally as hard to keep and attract employment opportunities for your future. A well-educated workforce to fill top-notch, quality jobs is the synergy we're after, and judging on our recent success, we are receiving high marks here in Rochester Hills.

God Bless,



Oakland University

Thank you • Thank you

Local Road Funding Update Police and Road Technical Review Committee

Thank you to all of our residents who voted in the August 3, 2010 election

With your support, the Local Road Maintenance replacement millage (0.3545) passed with an overwhelming response of more than 70 percent of the votes. The approved millage is a replacement for an expiring millage; therefore this does not increase your current tax rate.

Expected to generate approximately \$1 million in 2011, the Local Road Maintenance program includes patching, crack sealing, snow plowing, grading, and road dust control. As you drive throughout the city, you can take great pride in knowing that your tax dollars are being put to good use by maintaining and keeping our local streets safe.



Your commitment to well maintained roads enhances the value and beauty of the City of Rochester Hills.





DEER AWARENESS

The City of Rochester Hills is making every effort to continue 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 five 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 (October 15- December 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 a 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, please remember
to Buckle Up, Stay Alert, and Slow Down*



Save Money & Lower Your Utility Bills

Free program for those who qualify

The Oakland Livingston Human Service Agency's (OLHSA) Weatherization Assistance Program delivers energy-efficiency services to low-income households. Energy efficiency measures may include: home energy audits, wall insulation, attic insulation and ventilation, floor/foundation insulation, air leakage reduction, furnace repair or replacement and other energy saving measures.

To see if you qualify, contact the OLHSA Housing & Energy Department at (248) 209-2760, info@olhsa.org or visit www.olhsa.org.

Improve the energy efficiency of your home today!

Rochester Hills Receives 'AAA' Rating from Fitch Strong Financial Position and Good Management Practices Cited



*Keith Sawdon
Finance Director*

The City of Rochester Hills is proud to announce that it has received an 'AAA' Rating from Fitch Ratings, the leading global rating agency. The recent ratings review by Fitch affirms the 'AAA' rating with a stable outlook of the City of Rochester Hills's general obligation limited tax capital improvement bonds, series 2002, as well as the outstanding maturity of the Rochester Hills Building Authority's general obligation limited tax bonds, series 2002.

According to Fitch's assessment, key rating drivers include; the city's internal funding of capital projects combined with a rapid debt payout, as well as the lack of future borrowing plans, should allow the city to retain its favorable debt profile. Additionally, the presence of ample general fund reserves and the retention of margins under operating millage limits provide vital flexibility as the city weathers the economic downturn.

"While the jobs market has been contracting steadily over the past decade, several new employers are expected to add over 850 new jobs to the local economy in the near future, which should strengthen the employment base," states Mayor Bryan K. Barnett.

"We've seen a recent pickup in our commercial/industrial activity, including a 28% increase in building permits and a decline from 15% to 10% in our vacancy rates this year. We also have a favorable unemployment rate, which was 7.8% in June and trending downward, and remains well below the state level of 13.1% and the national level of 9.6%," states Keith Sawdon, Finance Director.

The city just recently presented its multi-year budget for FY2011, along with FY2012 and FY2013 to council; this sophisticated multi-year approach will allow the city to plan for economically induced revenue declines. The 2011 budget calls for a 9% decline in revenues and a 12% reduction in expenditures with no appropriation of fund balance for the next three years.



Doing business in Rochester Hills

The City of Rochester Hills Receives Debt Management Policy Award

The City of Rochester Hills received notice that the National Association of Public Treasurers United States and Canada (APTUS&C) has awarded the city its prized Debt Policy Certification Award for the city's adopted Debt Management Policy.

APT US&C created the program to recognize those municipalities that have a formal and well thought-out process for the issuing and managing of their debt program. By developing and adopting a debt management policy, the city has constructed a framework within which informed borrowing decisions can be made. By formalizing the process it ensures that borrowing is done only when it is appropriate, and in the most cost-effective manner possible.

Keith Sawdon, Finance Director for the City of Rochester Hills noted, "One of the items I noticed when I started as the city's Finance Director was the lack of a formal Debt Management policy. The foundation of any well-managed debt management program starts with a strong and comprehensive debt management policy."

In July 2009, a formal Debt Management Policy was presented to City Council for their review, discussion and formal adoption which resulted in winning the award.

Mayor Bryan Barnett added, "We are pleased the city has been recognized and received this well-regarded award for its Debt Management practices. It is yet another example of the city acting responsibly when it comes to managing the trust the citizens have placed in us."



Winter Property Tax Bills to be Mailed in November

In mid-November, the City Treasury Department will be mailing 2010 Winter Property Tax Bills to all Rochester Hills property owners or their escrow agents. 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 mailing.

The 2010 winter property taxes are payable without penalty through Monday, February 14, 2011 – postmarks will not be honored. On February 15, a three percent penalty will be added to the unpaid balance of all 2010 summer and winter taxes. Beginning March 1, 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 2010 winter property tax amounts are available at tax.rochesterhills.org. For additional information on payment options, Summer Tax Deferment or Homestead Exemption requirements, please visit the www.rochesterhills.org, or call the Treasury Department at 248-656-4675.

City of Rochester Hills 2010 winter property taxes are payable without penalty through Monday, February 14, 2011

Rochester Hills Fire Department

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

Working Smoke Alarms... why don't we all have them?

Since they first became widely available in the 1970s, smoke alarms have demonstrated their life-saving worthiness. These simple, affordable, readily available, and easy to use lifesaving devices can truly make the difference in the outcome of a fire in your home. To learn more about smoke alarms, visit: <http://www.usfa.dhs.gov> or call the Rochester Hills' Fire Department at 248-656-4720. If you do not have an adequate number of alarms, or if your alarms are over ten years old, they should be replaced. Please remember, there are free smoke alarms available to Rochester Hills' residents through the Fire Department. Please call the above phone number to have additional alarms placed in your home or replace your existing ones.



Clothes Dryer Fires Get the lint out!

Don't let your dryer start a fire. Keep your home safe and sound.

Dryer vent cleaning is important! Most people have their furnaces cleaned regularly; however, very few people think of the clothes dryer in relation to appliance maintenance. According to the National Fire Protection Association, over 15,000 dryer fires are reported each year.

A clothes dryer fire is caused by lint build-up which restricts airflow and leads to overheating. Dryers produce a lot of lint and simply cleaning the lint screen is not enough. Though the lint filter catches most of the lint, some will escape and end up in the dryer vent system. The dryer ducts remove lint and moisture from your clothes, but the moist lint doesn't always make it to the vent outside of your home. It can stick to the sides of the ducts where it builds up and eventually dries to a hard paste. This hard paste attracts more sticky lint, eventually creating a blockage which can cause a fire.

The ideal dryer vent system is short and straight. Dryer ducts should be made of rigid metal, not the flexible foil or vinyl type that was used in the old days. The flexible vinyl type of tubing crushes easily and restricts air-flow.

Few people are aware that the dryer vent screen should be washed thoroughly with warm soapy water every few months to remove residue build up caused by dryer sheets. It is actually possible for the lint screen to have so much build-up on it that it will hold water! This definitely restricts air flow and causes the dryer to take more than one cycle to properly dry a load of clothes.

Birds have been known to build nests in dryer vents which prevent lint from escaping. Bees, wasps and hornets nests have also been found in dryer vents. We recommend annual dryer vent cleaning and regular inspections to be sure the dryer vent system is free of clogs.



Tips

- Make sure your dryer vent system is up to city, state and manufacturer's codes
 - Replace plastic or foil vent with semi-rigid or solid metal material
 - Keep the lint screen clean; check before and after each load
- Wash lint screens with soap and water every few months to remove residue from fabric softener sheets
 - Have professional dryer vent cleaning done annually
- Don't keep combustibles like chemical cleaning products or chemical laden rags near your clothes dryer
 - Don't leave the house or go to sleep with your dryer running
- Check the outside vent cover to make sure it's not blocked or damaged

Warning Signs

- The dryer takes more than one cycle to get a load dry
 - No lint visible on lint screen
 - Dryer repeatedly stops during a cycle
- Clothes have moldy smell after dry cycle
- Clothes are very hot after a dry cycle

Oakland County Sheriff's Office

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

DON'T VEER FOR DEER

Every year in Michigan, vehicle-deer accidents take the lives of drivers or their passengers, cause thousands of dollars of damage, and result in millions of dollars in property damage. The months of October, November, and December are the most dangerous for vehicle-deer collisions. When in a motor vehicle, take time to review the following tips to reduce the risk of being involved in a vehicle-deer accident.



- Maintain your vehicle in good working condition and make sure nothing is obstructing your vision through the windshield.
- Become familiar with deer crossing areas along routinely traveled roadways.
- If you see a deer, assume more may soon cross the roadway.
- Increase your following distance between fellow motorists.
- Obey traffic laws and ensure you don't overdrive your headlights.

If you encounter a deer in your path, "Don't Veer for the Deer". Most vehicle crashes occur when the driver attempts to avoid the deer. This often results in the driver losing control of their vehicle. The best actions to take are:

- Brake firmly.
- Steer to maintain control.
- Stop safely within your lane or along the side of the roadway.
- Ensure you use your seatbelt to reduce the chance of injury.
- Don't attempt to move the deer out of the roadway. Many times the deer is still alive and can cause injury.



Immediately dial 911 and report the incident to the local police.

If you have any question please call the Oakland County Sheriff's Office, Rochester Hills Sub-Station, during normal business hours at 248-537-3530.

Please be especially careful in areas where these "DON'T VEER FOR DEER" signs are posted. Signs are placed in traffic areas where deer movement is most prevalent.

Rochester Hills Video Library

Here to help you

The City of Rochester Hills maintains an informational video library on the city website. The video library hosts a LIVE broadcast of City Council meetings, an archive of past meetings, press conferences from Mayor Barnett and a variety of Special Programming that covers an array of events and topics of interest. Please peruse the video library frequently. We update our selection often, and offer many videos that pertain to current events.



One program you may find helpful is the “[Getting to Know Roundabouts](#)” produced by the Road Commission of Oakland County.

This video provides the technical details of driving the various types of roundabouts found throughout Oakland County.

Another program you may find of interest is one titled “[Coyotes and You - What YOU Can Do](#).” The Eastern Coyote can be found throughout the state of Michigan including the Metro-Detroit area. To help you understand the behavior and science of coyotes, we invited a noted coyote behavioralist, a biologist from DNRE and a Conservation Officer from the DNRE to provide information. The most important piece of advice: THE COYOTE IS A WILD ANIMAL. DO NOT TRY TO MAKE IT YOUR PET. We welcome you to learn more about this interesting animal.

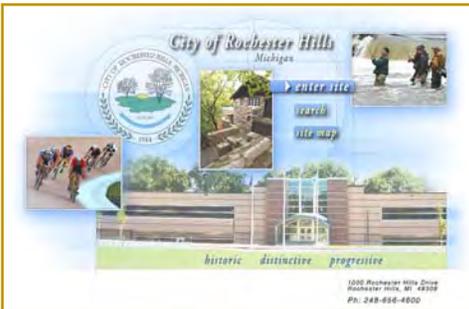


Proactive Public Communication

Have you signed up to receive email updates from our website? It’s easy, it’s free and all you need is a valid email address.

We offer a variety of subjects from which to choose, and the list just keeps growing. In addition to City Council meeting agendas and notices, the Parks Event Calendar, and Solid Waste & Recycling news, we just added Job Postings. You choose what interests you and any time there’s information to share, you’ll receive an email linking you to the latest updates.

According to their website, “**GovDelivery**” is the world’s leading provider of government-to-citizen communication solutions; and through a unique partnership with Oakland County, we’re able to provide this service to our residents free of charge. Please take a few moments to visit our [website](#) and sign up for these timely and informative updates.





Summer Seasonal Help Wanted Mark Your Calendar!

The City of Rochester Hills will begin accepting applications on December 13, 2010 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. 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.

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 PARKS FALL/WINTER SCHEDULE

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.

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CENTER UPDATE

The Rochester Hills Environmental Education Center (EEC) will be closing its doors to the public on December 31, 2010 as one of several city budget reductions. Residents will still be able to enjoy many of the EEC Programs which will be offered at other park sites throughout the city.

For program information and wildlife issues, please contact Naturalist Lance DeVoe at 248-656-4775, or visit the city website at www.rochesterhills.org for additional information.

Spotlight on Families First!

Recipients in Rochester Hills.....

Robert and Lisa Silverman, and their children Allison, Laura and Kate are the July 2010 Family of the Month. The Silvermans were selected for this outstanding honor because they donate an exceptional amount of time volunteering in the community. Robert and Lisa encourage their children to participate in many activities and enthusiastically support them in their endeavors.

Robert and Lisa are highly involved in their children's Parent Teacher Organizations at both Deerfield Elementary and Avondale Meadows Upper. In addition to all the events the Silvermans participate in, they are always quick to offer assistance whenever needed. They are helpful, kind, caring and motivated.



The Silverman Family ~ July 2010



The Staugaard Family ~ August 2010

The Families First winners for the month of August 2010 are Ken and Bette Staugaard. Ken and Bette have been faithful members of Covenant Christian Church since it was established in May 2003. With a generosity of spirit, Ken and Bette have raised and nurtured a large family of their own, and now dedicate their time to serving their church family.

Ken and Bette serve as Edlers of Covenant Christian Church, and work behind the scenes in a variety of capacities. They assist with classes, work in the office, record messages and even clean the church when needed. Ken and Bette are always willing to reach out to church visitors to help them feel wanted and welcome.

In addition to all these kind and generous deeds, Ken and Bette visit the sick and transport the elderly to and from church services and medical appointments. When nominating Ken and Bette Staugaard, Pastors Barney and Mary Odoefer stated, "We believe this very special couple should be recognized for their selfless service."

Mayor Barnett added, "I consider it an honor to have the Staugards as residents, and appreciate their generous giving to others. Ken and Bette Staugaard have earned and deserve our respect, and the recognition of the Families First program."

Families First! is growing to become.....



Program Overview

After four successful years and the recognition of over 45 families within the Families First! initiative, the city is revamping the awards program, now called **Community First**, in order to honor a broader community base of deserving candidates. While Families First! recognized outstanding families and individuals, **Community First** recipients may be individuals, families, local businesses or community organizations who reside, have a place of business or provide services in the city.

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.

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.

Selection Criteria

Mayor Barnett's **Community First** Awards are selected and presented on a quarterly-basis by a committee appointed by the Mayor. This committee will review nominations and select two recipients quarterly from the award categories who have performed distinguished and extraordinary acts of volunteerism or community service. The committee reserves the right to nominate, select and decline recipients of their choosing.

Honoring Process

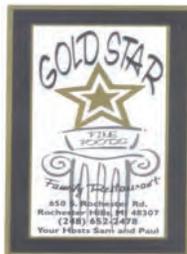
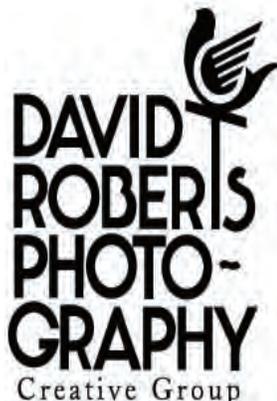
Recipients will be honored quarterly by the Mayor, city employees and community members during an appreciation ceremony. Each recipient will receive a framed photograph that will be displayed at City Hall for one year and then given to the award recipient.

Individuals and families will receive gift certificates from many local establishments, gift baskets and an annual park pass from the City of Rochester Hills.

Local businesses and community organizations will be given a time slot on Rochester Hills' television channels 20/10 in order to promote the community service project they are involved in. In addition, they will receive **Community First** Award Certificate to be displayed in their place of business or organization.

To nominate an individual or group, please see the nomination form on the next page. For additional information, please visit www.rochesterhills.org, or you can contact the office of Mayor Bryan K. Barnett at 248-656-4664.

The success of our Community 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.



CHRISTMAS TREE RECYCLING

The City of Rochester Hills will once again offer residents the opportunity 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 1, 2011	10 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Sunday, January 2, 2011	12 noon – 4 p.m.
Saturday, January 8, 2011	10 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Sunday, January 9, 2011	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).

The 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:

- 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 such as 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. Trees measuring greater than six feet tall must be cut in half prior to placement at curbside. Allied will deliver the trees they collect to a compost site rather than a landfill or disposal facility.



Rochester Hills Museum

Regular Hours: Friday and Saturday, 1-4 p.m.
Other times available by appointment for school groups, scouts, lectures, etc. We will be closed on Christmas Eve/Day and New Years Eve/Day.

Regular Admission: \$5 adults, \$3 seniors (60+) and students (k-12)

Phone: 248-656-4663

For more information and to register/pay for any program: www.rochesterhills.org/museum.htm



Museum Programs

A Salute to Veterans in November!

Regular admission rates – Please call to RSVP a seat!

The War in Afghanistan

Thursday, November 4, 7-9 p.m.

Join Steve Mrozek who spent 12 months in Logar Province training, advising, and mentoring Afghan Police. He'll display images and equipment used while serving and discuss the Afghan people and culture.

Normandy - Success Behind the Invasion....Fortitude and Ultra!

Thursday, November 11 7-9 p.m.

Join Frank Cardimen as he shares insight into the Normandy invasion - the deception plan Fortitude and the breaking of the German's Enigma Code at Bletchley Park and how it played a role in the success at Normandy....the most compelling event during World War II. Mr. Cardimen has studied and travelled extensively throughout Europe and has interviewed numerous veterans who were at Normandy. His multimedia presentation brings the past to life and focuses on the greatest generation and the successful events during the greatest invasion in military history!

Battlefield Tactics of the American Civil War--

Tactical Role and Use of Infantry, Artillery & Cavalry on the Civil War Battlefield

Thursday, November 18 7-9 p.m.

Join Lowell Hamilton and his presentation that utilizes American Civil War metal war gaming miniatures historically deployed on a terrain board and PowerPoint I to present battlefield tactics used during our Civil War. The presentation will heighten the appreciation of Civil War battlefield tactics so you can understand the sacrifice, courage and suffering of our forefathers as we approach the sesquicentennial of the American Civil War.

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. Call the Community Foundation of Greater Rochester at 248-608-2804 to see how your charitable giving can help the Rochester Hills Museum!

Cash donations should be made payable to: **Community Foundation of Greater Rochester and indicate your charitable interest on the memo line. Mail to P.O. Box 80431, Rochester, MI 48308-0431**

Santa and Mrs. Claus Visit the Museum

Saturday, December 4, 2010 ~ 9:00am-4:00pm

\$7 – Non-Members

\$4 – Museum Members

Ages 0-18 require a ticket

Limited tickets are sold for each hour and must be purchased in advance.

Arrive at the Dairy Barn and check in to await the wagon that will take you to the Farmhouse to talk with Santa and Mrs. Claus. After your visit with Santa, you will enjoy cookies freshly baked in the 1930s oven. The wagon will transport you back to the Dairy Barn to view an extensive model train exhibit courtesy of the Stoney Creek Model Railroad Club. Don't forget to bring your camera! Mrs. Santa will help take your family photos



Train Depots of Michigan

Saturday, December 11, 2010 ~ 1:00 p.m.

Normal admission – Museum members are free!

Call to RSVP at 248-656-4663

Join Architect Jackie Hoist and her presentation on the history and architecture of train depots in Michigan.

An Old Fashioned Christmas

Saturday, December 18, 2010 ~ 1:00-4:00pm

\$7 – Non-members in advance

\$4 – Museum Members in advance

\$10 – Day of the event

Ages 2-100 require a ticket

Travel back in time this holiday season and experience an old fashioned Christmas at the Museum. A hay wagon will take you to the Farmhouse, Red House and Stoney Creek Schoolhouse. All ages will enjoy stories, crafts, musical entertainment, the Adams High School Thespians, and more while tasting chestnuts and popcorn freshly roasted over an open fire. Happy Holidays from the Museum.

Exhibits

Stoney Creek Model Railroad Exhibit

Back by popular demand, the Stoney Creek Model Railroad Club will have the trains rolling on a massive model train layout on the following dates:

November 26, 27 and December 3,4,10,11,17,18,28,29,30 ~ Time: 1:00 – 4:00pm

Cost: Museum Admission

\$5 – Adults

\$3 – Students and Seniors

Free to Museum Members

Join the Stoney Creek Model Railroad Club to learn about one of the greatest hobbies in the world while using your imagination to travel the old-fashioned way and see the country and its splendor. These HO gauge trains travel high and low past countryside and cities, over bridges and through tunnels, with each module telling a different story with great care and attention paid to detail – in miniature. A camera on the engine shows the “engine’s eye view” of the trip!



Hollywood in the Hills

The Chesapeake Bay is 431 miles southeast of Rochester Hills as the crow flies. However, by Hollywood's measurements, it's only eight miles north of here. Recent filming of a scene from *The Reasonable Bunch* set on the Chesapeake Bay took place on Lakeville Lake. Through the magic of Hollywood, movie-goers won't be able to tell the difference.

The Reasonable Bunch is a story of a chaotic family wedding set on the banks of the Chesapeake Bay. But thanks to Michigan's tax incentives offered to the film industry, Director Sam Levinson and his crew were in town last month filming the entire production here in the Rochester area.



Night filming on Lakeville Lake

was also treated to the Rochester Hills way of doing things.

"This city's been so kind to us. We're so blessed to be here," he said. "It was a pleasure to direct my first film in Rochester Hills. We had the most gorgeous time here; we really don't want to go back home."

He added that the experience of working in Michigan was meaningful to him and his crew.

"(Filmmaking) is an American made business. We make it here. We don't make it in China. We're not overseas. That's kind of rare these days. Michigan is a state that has been hit very, very hard, and we recognize that. To support this state and this community is an honor."

As the production was wrapping up, city staffers held an impromptu awards ceremony, their own version of the Oscars, for the



Mayor Barnett and family welcomed the director and some cast members of "The Reasonable Bunch" to the Rochester Hills' awards ceremony

This is where the rubber hits the road in terms of the impact of the Michigan Film Incentive. A crew of approximately 100 people spent more than a month in the Rochester area. They spent money on food, fuel, and housing. They filled hotel rooms, rented equipment, processed their film, ate in our restaurants, hired local actors, rented cars, and bought props from local stores. They also enjoyed living in our community for the duration. Demi Moore and Ashton Kutcher were seen walking on the Paint Creek Trail.

Ellen Barkin, best known for her work in *Ocean's 13* and *Sea of Love*, was overwhelmed by the hospitality.

"I've never had a reception like the one I received here," she told us. "The people here are so friendly. I definitely want to bring other projects to Rochester Hills."

Sam Levinson is the son of famous film director and producer Barry Levinson (*The Natural*, *Diner*, *Rainman*, *Wag the Dog*). This is his first feature length project as a writer and director. He

visitors from New York complete with statuettes, envelopes, and acceptance speeches.

"We wanted to do something special and different for them," said Mayor Barnett. "We're always looking for innovative ways to leave a mark on any industry that has money to spend. We wanted to let them know that Rochester Hills is a special place to do business."

The awards ceremony was a rare opportunity to welcome movie stars to the city, thank them for putting our community on the silver screen, and show them that there is no better place to make a movie than here in Rochester Hills.

Sam Levinson was thrilled. The man who has a bright future in the film industry and the power to choose his shooting locations told us: "We will be back. For sure!"



Experience the Magic of the Meadow Brook Holiday Walk *Treasures of Childhood* *November 26 - December 22, 2010*

The beauty of Meadow Brook Hall is never more apparent than when it is dressed in holiday splendor during the annual Holiday Walk. The Tudor-revival style mansion, known as “America’s Castle,” will be all aglow with historic and holiday treasures.

Meadow Brook Hall is the fourth largest historic house museum in the United States and is renowned for its superb craftsmanship, architectural detailing and grand scale. Built between 1926 and 1929 as the residence of Matilda Dodge Wilson (widow of auto pioneer John Dodge) and her second husband, lumber broker Alfred G. Wilson, the 110-room, 88,000-square-foot, Tudor-revival style mansion is complete with vast collections of original art and furnishings.

To learn more about this festive occasion, please visit the [Meadow Brook Hall](#) page of the Oakland University website.

Rochester Area Neighborhood House Needs YOU!

Rochester Area Neighborhood House (RANH) depends on the generous people of our community. There are many ways to donate to Neighborhood House!

Clothing Donations: Donations of clothing, small household items, blankets, bedding and diapers may be made to the Neighborhood Clothes Closet. **Donations can be made during hours of operation** (Please don’t leave donations outside the building.) Click on this link to determine their [immediate need for clothing](#).

The Clothes Closet is open for donations Monday & Tuesday 9:00-4:00, Wednesday 9:00-7:00 and on the first Saturday of each month 9:00-1:00. Receipts are provided. Please call 248-656-0230 with questions.

Food Donations: RANH provides foods to hundreds of clients in need each month. They are currently experiencing record numbers of requests for food and their pantry shelves are stretched to provide for all. Click on this link to determine their [immediate need for food](#). Donations can be taken directly to the food pantry at the First Congregational Church on 1315 Pine Street in Rochester. Contact the food pantry at 248-656-4904 to arrange to drop off your donations.

Financial Donations: These donations are critical to the sustainability of our organization. The monies you donate go directly to their clients.

DONATE ONLINE - [Make a convenient online donation through their secure PayPal Account by clicking here.](#)

Veterans Memorial Pointe ~ Veterans Day Ceremony



The annual Veterans Day Ceremony will be held at Veterans Memorial Pointe on Thursday, 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.

EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT FOR TROOP 125 - ROCHESTER

THE NEW HONOR GUARD STATION AT VETERANS MEMORIAL POINTE

Chris Ogg from Rochester Troop 125 has finished his Eagle Project at Veterans Memorial Pointe. Chris wanted to build a special place of honor for Veterans to be able to safely discharge their Honor Guard weapons during ceremonies. Before the Honor Guard Station was built, Veterans had to stand on uneven ground and had no where to sit during ceremonies. Chris designed, planned, and raised the funds needed to build the new Honor Guard Station. He showed leadership skills by organizing fellow scouts and other volunteers to help out and organizing fundraisers to raise the funds. He worked very hard, knowing that his goal was to have it completed by Memorial Day 2010.

Chris' original plan was to have a curved paver bricked area approximately 30' long x 3' wide with a retainer brick wall about 3' high (the size grew to about 6' wide by the time he was done). In the center of the retainer wall, is a large block with the word "HONOR" engraved in it. Chris also installed 12 bricks in the paver brick area in the shape of a "V" with the 12 points of the Boy Scout Law engraved in them. More than 230 hours were spent on the project and Chris was able to raise over \$1100.00. Chris kept the final cost lower by obtaining many discounts and donations of materials.

The Honor Guard Station even had a red ribbon cutting ceremony! Chris' Dad, Harry Ogg, held one side and Ed Leafdale, Chaplain, VFW Post 3908, Rochester/Utica Area, held the other. Chris and Mayor Bryan Barnett did the official cutting. The Veterans then filed in, with their Honor Guard weapons proudly sitting on their shoulders, and used the Station for the first time at the 2010 Memorial Day Ceremonies. All of the Veterans were very appreciative.



Ed Leafdale, Chris Ogg, Mayor Bryan K. Barnett and Harry Ogg cut the ribbon on the Honor Guard Station

TREE MAINTENANCE

The Rochester Hills Forestry Division will begin its annual street tree maintenance program in November and will continue until all work is completed. Operations will be conducted by Parks & Forestry and contracted crews.

Trees and shrubs that interfere with safe sight distance requirements, pose a hazard to the right-of-way, impede the passage of vehicles along streets, or pedestrians on pathways will be addressed.

Although some work will occur in various locations throughout the city, the main emphasis of the 2010-2011 program will be in the central portion of the city (Sections 14-16 and 21-23).

If trees and shrubs growing on private property interfere with streets or pathways, residents will be notified regarding what action is required of them. No notification will be given for trees and shrubs growing on city right-of-way.

Anyone with questions about the program or its requirements, can contact the Forestry Division at 248-656-4673.



GYPSY MOTH EGG MASS SURVEY UPDATE

For the first time since 1992, the Forestry Division will not be conducting a gypsy moth egg mass survey. Forestry staff did observe some life stages of gypsy moth this year, but very few. No citizens reported any gypsy moth observations. The timing of the spring rains facilitated the release of the spores of the gypsy moth pathogen that has been established by Forestry, county and state agencies.

If citizens do observe or suspect gypsy moth to be present, it is important that they report it to the Forestry Division at 248-656-4673.



Rochester Hills City Council



Michael Webber *At-Large*

The fall season has always been one of my favorites. Certainly the return of football has something to do with that. There are great events around our community in the fall and winter to look forward to.

My wife and I completed the Brooksie Way (the 5K part of it) again this year. The pumpkin carving at the Rochester Hills Museum is always a great experience as we get closer to Halloween. Every year I look forward to our area Christmas Parade coming up in December.

The council has been busy over the summer and fall with the budget and with attracting businesses to our city. This year's budget process was more difficult than past budgets because of some of the cuts that had to be made. Overall I did support the budget because it keeps our tax rate low and funds budget priorities that keep our families safe and maintain our quality of life.

Given these trying economic times for our state and region, every community has turned their focus towards Economic Development. The City of Rochester Hills has been at the forefront of this focus with our Economic Development team led by Dan Casey.

The focus of the Mayor's administration and the City Council towards Economic Development is beginning to pay off with some great companies deciding to come or stay in Rochester Hills over the last few years. Our city has been aggressive in offering incentive packages in order to bring new jobs and investment to our community.

Recently the City Council approved an incentive package for Kostal Kontakt Systeme, Inc. to invest in our city at a location along Hamlin Road. Kostal will relocate production from plants in Mexico and Germany to Rochester Hills in order to be closer to their customers.

The company specializes in the production of connectors, junction boxes and other equipment to support its solar business. Kostal also has a facility in Troy that will remain open.

During the hearing with Kostal, it was revealed that the company plans to invest over \$22 million to improve the building and add special tooling equipment needed for production. Kostal also proposes to create 198 new jobs within the first two years of the projects completion and up to 247 jobs over a five-year period.

This is a perfect example of the type of company that our city hopes to retain and attract. Kostal will bring new, good paying jobs to our city. I supported the incentive package because this was such an important project.

While some do not like these incentive packages, they are needed to compete with not only other cities and states but also on a global level. I believe that we already have a leg up on the competition because of our low tax rate and outstanding services.

I will continue to support these projects and our Economic Development team in bringing and retaining businesses like Kostal to Rochester Hills.

As always, please feel free to contact me if you ever have a question or concern. I strive to represent you to the best of my ability. Have a great fall and winter.

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 the city website](#) to access the current meeting packet and current meeting schedule.

DONT FORGET TO VOTE

Tuesday, November 2, 2010 is Election Day. This is the Governor's (Gubernatorial) Election and that means there are many offices to be elected and many candidates to know about. If you need a refresher on the offices and candidates, check out the League of Women Voters website at www.lwvoa.org to review the Voter Guide that includes all offices, candidates, statewide proposals that will appear on this November's ballot. Rochester Hills does not have any local proposals this election. The Rochester Hills Clerk's Office also has printed copies of the Voter Guide. Please stop by our offices between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday to obtain a copy.

Go to the city's website www.rochesterhills.org, and click on the Clerk's page and select Election Information. The links shown here will help you find out if you are registered to vote, where your precinct is located and you can look at the ballot for your precinct. Remember, you must be registered to vote where you reside and registration must be completed 30 days prior to an election. The Close of Registration for November was October 4. If you have moved within the past 60 days and have not yet changed your voter registration, you may vote one last time in your previous community.

If you will be out of town for this election, if you are 60 years of age or older, or have a disability that limits your ability to get to your precinct without the assistance of another, you are eligible to apply for an Absent Voter Ballot. The application is available on the city's website www.rochesterhills.org, click on the Clerk's/Election Information, and print the ballot request. Your completed/signed application can be returned to the Clerk's Office in person, in the Drop-Box in front of City Hall, by fax 248-656-4744, or by mail to the Rochester Hills Clerk's Office, 1000 Rochester Hills Drive, Rochester Hills, MI 48309. We can receive these applications and mail your ballot to you anytime prior to **2:00 p.m. on Saturday, October 30.**

The Clerk's Office will be open on Saturday, October 30, 2010 from 8:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. to issue Absent Voter Ballots. Absent Voter Ballots will also be issued in the Clerk's Office on Monday, November 1, 2010 from 8:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. – these ballots must be voted in the office. Remember, the last day to mail out Absent Voter Ballots is Saturday, October 30, 2010 at 2:00 p.m. We must receive voted absentee ballots NO LATER that 8:00 p.m. on Election Night (November 2, 2010).

We are expecting a busy election this November. We encourage everyone to take the opportunity to read the ballot prior to arrival at the polls; sample ballots are available in the Clerk's Office, on-line at www.rochesterhills.org, and will be available at the precinct on Election Day. The Polls will be open from 7:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m. Remember your photo ID (Driver's License, Passport, State ID, current School ID) on Election Day and don't forget to vote both sides of your ballot.

Election results for the votes cast in Rochester Hills will be available in the Clerk's Office and on Channel 20/10 as they are available. Please reference the General Election Notice for your polling location that is also published in this edition of the Hills Herald. Please contact the Clerk's Office at 248-656-4630 for any questions related to voter registration, absent voter ballots, and election information in general.

See you at the Polls!

Hills Herald

Published by the:
City of Rochester Hills

BRYAN K. BARNETT, Mayor

City Council:

Greg Hooper, President
Vern Pixley, Vice President
J. Martin Brennan
Nathan Klomp
James Rosen
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Charlotte Taravella, Executive Editor
Pam Olson, Publisher & Editor
Jamie Smith, Photographer

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

Mark Your Calendar

**City Offices will be closed on the
following days:**

November 25 & 26

December 24, 27, 30 & 31

NOTICE OF ELECTION
GENERAL ELECTION
NOVEMBER 2, 2010
IN
CITY OF ROCHESTER HILLS

To the Qualified Electors:

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a General Election will be held in:

City of Rochester Hills
County of Oakland, State of Michigan

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2010

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.
- 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.
- 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 OF ALL PARTICIPATING PARTIES FOR THE FOLLOWING OFFICES:

STATE	Governor and Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of State, Attorney General
CONGRESSIONAL	Representative in Congress
LEGISLATIVE	State Senator, Representative in State Legislature
STATE BOARDS	Member of the State Board of Education, Regent of the University of Michigan, Trustee of Michigan State University, Governor of Wayne State University
COUNTY	County Commissioner
JUDICIAL	Justice of Supreme Court, Judge of Court of Appeals – 2 nd District – Incumbent Position Judge of Circuit Court – 6 th Circuit – Incumbent Position, Judge of Probate Court – Incumbent Position, Judge of Probate Court – Non-Incumbent Position, Judge of District Court – 52 nd /3 rd District – Incumbent Position

AND FOR THE PURPOSE OF ELECTING:

COMMUNITY COLLEGE Member of the Oakland Community College Board of Trustees

AND FOR THE PURPOSE OF VOTING ON THE FOLLOWING PROPOSAL(S):

STATEWIDE PROPOSAL(S)

PROPOSAL 10-1: A PROPOSAL TO CONVENE A CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION FOR THE PURPOSE OF DRAFTING A GENERAL REVISION OF THE STATE CONSTITUTION

PROPOSAL 10-2: A PROPOSAL TO AMEND THE STATE CONSTITUTION TO PROHIBIT CERTAIN FELONS FROM HOLDING ELECTIVE OFFICE AND SPECIFIED TYPES OF PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT POSITIONS

Full text of the proposal(s) may be obtained from:
Rochester Hills Clerk's Office 248-656-4630

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 30, 2010 FROM 8:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M. The last day to obtain absentee ballots by mail is Saturday, October 30, 2010 at 2:00 p.m.

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

Jane Leslie, City Clerk
City of Rochester Hills
248-656-4630
1000 Rochester Hills Drive
Rochester Hills, Michigan 48309



The Village of Rochester Hills Tree Lighting Ceremony 2010

Join us at the Village of Rochester Hills on Friday, November 19, for the Annual Holiday Tree Lighting Ceremony. Gather around the stage in Fountain Park at 7:00pm to help us celebrate the simple joys of the holidays with live entertainment from the Stoney Creek High School marching band and choir. Mayor Bryan Barnett will lead the countdown for Santa's arrival and children's eyes will sparkle as one of the city's 2010 Families of the Month flips the magical switch to illuminate the Village's 25-foot Christmas tree and a breathtaking display of lights! Cap the evening's festivities with a visit to Santa's Snug in Festival Park for a free photo. It's the perfect way to kick off the season, and it's only at the Village of Rochester Hills!

Visits with Santa Claus, sponsored in part by Cornerstone Community Financial, are always free and are available on weekends until December 24. Remember to bring your camera, as photography is not provided. For more details visit: www.thevorh.com.