

Hills Herald

News & Information

Spring 2010



Bryan K. Barnett, Mayor

A Message from the Mayor

From our beautiful parks and trail ways, to our shopping and entertainment, Rochester Hills continues to be a place where visitors flock to experience what we get to enjoy each day as residents of this community.

As we enter the active summer months, we hope you'll explore ALL of our parks, bike paths, trails and the Clinton River that traverse our city. We are very proud of our Parks Department and the job they do to make sure the parks are ready for your visit! In fact, last summer marked a significant milestone for our parks as we welcomed more than 1 million visitors.

Perhaps you have visited Borden, Spencer, or Bloomer Parks, but how many of you have spent time on the Clinton River? We have an amazing natural resource that flows through our community UNDER all of those bridges we pass over it every day, yet few of us actually experience the flowing greatness of the Clinton River. Last year, we teamed up with the City of Auburn Hills and a host of generous sponsors to present a new event called, "Paddlepalooza." This fun family event was a smash hit in its first year, and it's coming up on Saturday, June 5, 2010.

The Clinton River and its tributaries flow through 60 rural, suburban, and urban communities with a total population of more than 1.4 million.

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Our beautiful Clinton River

Experienced paddlers tell us that the stretch of river located between Auburn Hills and Yates Cider Mill is among the most beautiful and most challenging. I can attest to this fact as my brother and I landed outside of our canoe several times during last year's event, just before claiming third place in the competition. While I have not been signed to canoe professionally, nor acquired any sponsors willing to associate themselves with my paddling ability, I had a wonderful time and have gained a new appreciation for this natural resource in our community.

If you don't currently have a kayak or a canoe, I urge you to consider visiting one of our sponsors (REI, Summit Sports, MooseJaw) who can outfit you with the proper equipment. Once you feel the excitement the river provides, I'm sure your family will get many years of use out of it. I hope you'll join us on June 5 for this extraordinary trip down the river, and if you don't like to paddle, there are some pretty big fish in the river waiting to grab a hook!

BOOM!!!



Each year we play host to 50,000 guests in our Annual Festival of the Hills. This year's tradition will continue on June 30, 2010 at Borden Park. This event has become a huge tradition in our community, the summer's best "stay-cation". This year's family friendly event begins at 6:00 pm, and I guarantee that we are going to knock your socks off as we pay tribute to our men and women who serve our country with a USO-styled swing tribute by the Rhythm Society Orchestra. There will be some other surprises along the way, but of course, the star of the show is Michigan's second largest fireworks show beginning at 10:06 pm. With food, fun and entertainment for all ages, from the young to the young-at-heart, there is sure to be something for everyone.

This annual celebration would not be possible without the generous donations of many local businesses and organizations. I hope you will join me for live entertainment and one of the largest firework shows in the State of Michigan as we celebrate our Nation, our Freedom, and all of the wonderful blessings that we have in our community.

Have a great summer and God Bless,

NEWS AND UPDATES

We Can Count On You!

In 2000, the City of Rochester Hills had a dismal turnout in the 2000 Census. Only 72% of the population participated in the Census that year. We were among the four lowest reporting communities in Oakland County. It's difficult to calculate what that might have cost us in subsequent funding over the past decade, but we know that it was substantial. We left a lot of money on the table.

This year, we made a concerted effort to remind every one of our residents to be counted in 2010. In a publicity campaign that would make Sony Pictures jealous, we were relentless with our message. It paid off greatly. Ours is a true worst-to-first success story.

At the conclusion of the 'mail-in phase' of the 2010, we were ranked first in Oakland County, second in the State of Michigan, and tied for fourth in the USA for cities with population over 50-thousand. Our participation levels were at 85%. That's an enormous improvement, and it will come back to us in many ways. I want to thank all of you for taking the time to complete the form and be counted.

Bridge Repairs Underway

You may have already discovered that the Tienken Road Bridge in Stony Creek Village is undergoing a complete rebuild. This is going to cause some disruption to motorists. Unfortunately, there was no possible way for us to keep one lane open during construction (as we are currently doing on the Auburn Road bridge over M-59). The safety of our residents is our primary concern, so we're taking the safest path through this project.

As our bridges age, we will be facing this issue again in the future. We know that the partially-closed Avon Road Bridge (near Livernois) is a frustrating pinch point for drivers at all hours of the day. Please know that as we continue to search for funding to make repairs to that bridge, we remain diligent in our inspections to ensure driver and pedestrian safety across it.

Local Road Funding Update

Police and Road Technical Review Committee

Local roads are a local responsibility. The last millage dedicated for local road maintenance expired in 1996. Since that time, local road maintenance costs have been a burden on the General Fund. Now the City of Rochester Hills is experiencing severe financial pressures - like many other municipalities across Michigan.

On August 3, 2010, Rochester Hills residents have the opportunity to support a dedicated millage that partially restores funding for local road maintenance. The need for local road maintenance now exceeds \$4 million annually and competes with other General Fund supported obligations (police services, parks, etc.) If approved, this millage is expected to generate approximately \$1 million in 2011. Gas tax revenues from the state contribute another \$1 million. In order to maintain the required level of service, the city must find the \$2 million difference in the General Fund. To see the city's adopted budget plan for both General Fund and the Local Road Fund please [click here](#) or visit our website at www.rochesterhills.org and click on the 2010 Budget link.



A Rochester Hills road in need of repair

Key points of the Local Road Maintenance millage are:

- This is **not** a tax increase for Rochester Hills residents.
- This is \$1 million dedicated for Local Road Maintenance which includes patching, crack sealing, snow plowing, grading, and road dust control.

After more than one year of review, the Rochester Hills residents who serve on the Police and Road Technical Review Committee concluded that passage of this replacement millage is a necessary action to maintain the quality of local roads in Rochester Hills.

The ballot language you will see when you vote August 3 is as follows:

Shall the City of Rochester Hills replace the expiring, previously-voted bond debt millage of 0.3545 mills with a tax levy of up to 0.3545 mills (\$0.3545 per \$1,000 of taxable value) on the taxable value of all property assessed for taxes in the City for 10 years, beginning in 2011 and continuing through 2020, inclusive, to be used for maintenance, repair, rehabilitation and reconstruction of local roads and streets and to provide a source of matching funds to support special assessment and grant programs for local roads? This will provide an estimated \$1,131,564, if levied in full in the first year.



Paving Crew at work



Snow plowing is an important part of local road maintenance



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

Teaching Your Child the Essentials of 9-1-1

MEMORIZATION

- Never use the term “nine-eleven” when teaching children the three-digit emergency number. There is no eleven on the number pad, and this might confuse children in an emergency.
- Teach your child their address and phone number. Young children can be taught this information through rhymes, songs, or constant repetition. Start with smaller blocks of information, like three digits of a phone number, then the following four numbers. Be patient and remind your child frequently.

PRACTICE

- Remember your children may not be at your home when an emergency happens. Teach them to describe surroundings and answer questions if they don't know the address. If in another's person's home, he or she may be able to walk outside and see the house number or look for a piece of mail with the address written on it.
- Demonstrate how to hold the phone at an appropriate distance and to speak clearly in order to be heard. Remind children that the person on the other end of the line cannot hear them nodding or shaking their heads.
- Tell your children to stay on the line and keep talking to the dispatcher until told to hang up.
- Practice making a call to a relative or friend and teach the techniques of listening for the dial tone and punching in the numbers.
- Demonstrate to your children how to make a call on a cell phone in case of an emergency outside the access of landlines. If it is necessary to press the “send” button before placing a call, help them to be aware of how to use it.

LOCATION

- Ensure there is at least one phone within your children's reach in the home. Wall-mounted phones are often placed above a child's grasp. Post critical information by the phone. Keep an updated record of your address, phone number, contact numbers, names, allergies and blood types to provide information to both dispatchers and responders.
- Teach your children to go to safety before calling 9-1-1. In case of a robbery, house fire or any other circumstance where your children could be in danger, instruct them to run to a trusted neighbor's house before placing the call.

DISCUSSION

- Explain to your children the purpose of 9-1-1 and the reason why children should not call unless there is an emergency.
- Instruct your children on what to do if they should call 9-1-1 by mistake. Explain not to hang up, but to tell the dispatcher that it was an accident and there is no emergency. Otherwise emergency help will be sent unnecessarily, possibly delaying help to someone in need.
- Discuss with your children any scenarios that have a higher likelihood of occurring in your home and help them prepare for them, e.g., a problem with an elderly relative or any of the family members with known health concerns that may require medical assistance.
- Encourage your child not to be afraid of calling 9-1-1 if there is a real emergency. Use examples of what would warrant a necessary call.

PREVENTION

- Never let your child play with a phone that still has a connected battery. Communications centers receive calls even when a phone's service has been disconnected.

For more information about teaching your child about calling 9-1-1, check out this web-site: http://firstaid.about.com/od/callingforhelp/ht/07_911_kids.htm

The Killer in Our Homes

Carbon Monoxide – the highly toxic, deadly gas that we can not see, feel or smell. For more details than you'll ever need, please go to this web-site for more information on carbon monoxide: <http://www.epa.gov/iaq/pubs/coftsht.html>.

Because the gas, (carbon monoxide) can be detected by carbon monoxide detectors in your home, the Rochester Hills Fire and EMS Department feels that deaths by this toxic gas are preventable. Every home should have a minimum of 1 carbon monoxide alarm in the home and ideally one on each level of the home. In an effort to keep our residents safe, the Rochester Hills Fire and EMS Department are offering free carbon monoxide detectors to residents who qualify. E-mail butty@rochesterhills.org for more details.

Rochester Hills Government Youth Council Hosts June 5k Run/Walk In Memory of Dillon Cope

The Rochester Hills Government Youth Council's (RHGYC) is sponsoring a 5K Run/Walk In Memory of Dillon Cope to benefit the University of Michigan C.S. Mott Children's Hospital – "7 Mott" on Saturday, June 19, 2010 at Bloomer Park, located at the north end of John R Road north of Avon Road. The 5K Run/Walk will wind through the park's scenic cross-country trails.

Children and adolescents undergoing cancer treatment spend weeks and sometimes months in the hospital. While hospitalized, Dillon especially enjoyed the escape of having a movie night in his room. Proceeds from this year's 5K will be used toward providing new DVD carts with flat screen TVs and a wide assortment of movies for the enjoyment of patients and their families on the 7th floor of C.S. Mott Children's Hospital.

Please join the RHGYC in their fund raising efforts to provide a little extra lift to the spirits of these very deserving children. Sponsors and donors are also encouraged and welcome.

Entrance forms for runners and sponsors of the 5K are available in the Youth Council area of the City's website at www.rochesterhills.org. Participants submitting entries by June 1, 2010 will receive a T-shirt. After June 1, T-shirts will be available for entrants while supplies last. For more information on the RHGYC and the 5K, contact Leanne Scott, Rochester Hills City Council Coordinator and Youth Advisor to the RHGYC at 248-841-2460.



Dillon Cope

Greater Rochester Area Relay for Life



Come out to the Greater Rochester Area Relay for Life 24-hour event! Join us for the opening ceremony on Saturday, June 26 at 9:00 a.m. at Hart Middle School located at 6500 Sheldon Road in Rochester Hills. We would like to encourage everyone to come out and join our City of Rochester Hills Team, *Eddie and the City Cruisers*, along with 45 other relay teams. Although it's a 24 hour event, just coming out for an hour or so supports the cause. Come out and show support for a loved one who may be battling cancer, come out in memory of a loved one that has lost their battle with cancer, come out and walk a lap or two with us, but most importantly, come out!

We'd like to extend a special invitation to all cancer survivors. The survivor lap takes place around 7:30 p.m. on Saturday evening. The luminary ceremony takes place at dusk.

For more information, please visit the Relay website at www.relayforlife.org/rochestermi



Year after year, city staff enthusiastically and generously support their award-winning Relay for Life team through fundraising events held throughout the year.

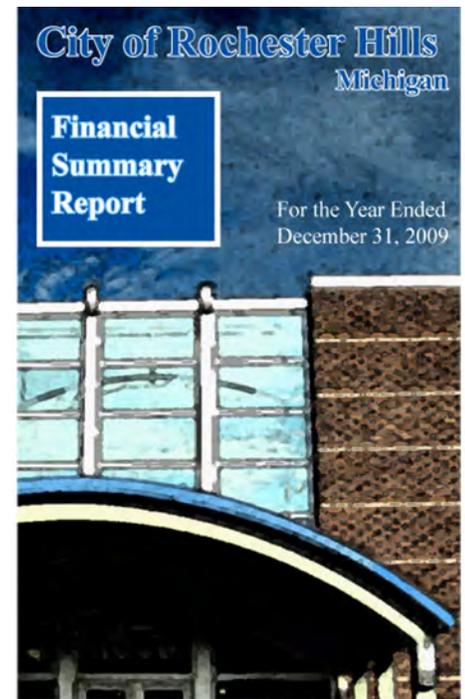
Please join us in supporting the fight for the cure!

Introducing the City's First Financial Summary Report

We are pleased to introduce you to the city's first Financial Summary Report for Fiscal Year 2009. Each year the city produces its Comprehensive Annual Financial Report. This year, we are introducing the Financial Summary Report to help our residents, businesses, and visitors better understand the city's financial position. The intent of the Financial Summary Report is to provide an easy-to-read and informative report of the city's operations and overall financial condition covering the city's governmental and business-type activities.

The information presented in the Financial Summary Report was obtained from the audited financial statements included in the CAFR for the period ending December 31, 2009. Follow this link http://www.rochesterhills.org/city_services/accounting/accounting_financial_report.asp to see the city's full CAFR report. The CAFR is a detailed account of the city's financial statements, and includes management's discussion and analysis, foot notes, schedules and multi-year statistics. The CAFR also includes an independent auditor's report which states that the information contained in the financial statements have been reviewed by the firm, and with reasonable assurance, the financial information is complete, presented accurately, and in the correct format. To meet generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) requirements much of the information in the CAFR is technical and complex, resulting in a document that is not very user friendly for the average person. The Financial Summary Report has been prepared to provide a less technical presentation of the city's financial condition.

Please visit http://www.rochesterhills.org/city_services/uploads/Financial_Summary_Report.pdf to view the city's 2009 Financial Summary Report. We hope you find this report helpful as you gain a better understanding of the city's finances.

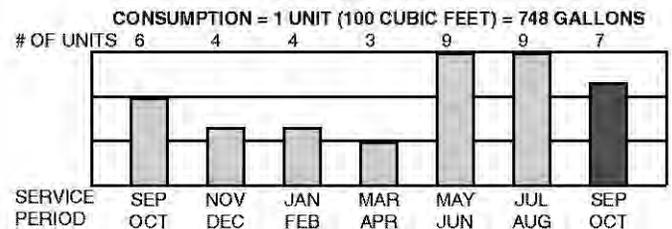


The Water Usage Graph

In an effort to help the city's water customers understand their water usage pattern, the above graph was introduced on the city's water bills. The graph provides customers with the number of water units used for each billed period covering the last seven billing periods. This allows you to compare the water use for the current billing period to the same billing period one year ago. By reviewing the graph, you can begin to see your water use pattern.

During the next several billing periods, many customers may see higher water bills because of summer months outdoor use. Every customer has a different pattern of water use. As we all know, water is expensive, so here are a few simple water savers that may reduce your water bill:

- Check all faucets for leaks – a slow drip can waste 15 to 20 gallons of water per day.
- When doing dishes by hand, never leave the water running.
- Take showers instead of baths.
- Take shorter showers – you will use less water.
- Do full loads of laundry.
- Do not leave water running while brushing your teeth, washing your hands or shaving.
- Do not use the toilets to flush away tissue. Every flush takes two to five gallons of water.
- Reduce outside water use.



Water Restriction Ordinance

In an effort to conserve water during peak hours and to contain our collective water costs, the City Council passed the Outdoor Watering Restrictions ordinance.

Per Chapter 102 Sec. 394 Restrictions: If you are a customer of the city's water supply system and have an automated or programmable irrigation system, you may only water between midnight and 5:00 am Michigan time. The entire ordinance is available for viewing at www.rochesterhills.org. If you have any further questions, please contact the Department of Public Services at 248-656-4685.

Housing Assistance

Paying for housing maintenance and repairs can be a daunting prospect in the current economic environment. However, there are programs available that may be able to help. The City of Rochester Hills utilizes its federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds to provide assistance to low-income residents. In addition, as a participating community in Oakland County's CDBG program, residents have access to further resources. The following is a guide to some of the programs that are available. The programs differ in eligibility and application requirements.

Yard Services Program: Administered by the Older Person's Commission on behalf of Rochester Hills, this program provides assistance to low-income seniors and disabled residents with various yard chores including snow removal and lawn mowing. Residents interested in applying should call 248-608-0249.

Minor Home Repair Program: Assists low-income residents with minor health and safety related repairs or accessibility modifications. Eligibility is based on income and residents must own and occupy a home within Rochester Hills. Common types of projects funded under this program include plumbing and electrical, roof repairs, and furnace replacements. Windows and other projects that require a lead based paint risk assessment are not eligible. To request an application or for more information, call (248) 841-2532 or visit http://www.rochesterhills.org/city_services/fiscal/community_development_block_grant.asp

Home Improvement Loan Program: Oakland County offers affordable no cost, low-interest home improvement loans to qualified homeowners who live in the home and have a gross income that falls within the income guidelines. Homeowners may receive up to \$18,000 for a variety of structural, mechanical, energy conservation and health and safety related improvements.

Based on household income, loans are 3% installment loans with low monthly payments, 0% interest deferred payment loans (only the principal loan amount is repaid upon change in property ownership or occupancy) or a combination of the two loans.

For information call the Oakland County Home Improvement Program at (248) 858-5401, toll free at 1 (888) 350-0900 x 85401, or access the website at http://www.oakgov.com/chi/home_improvement/index.html.

Housing Counseling: Oakland County's housing counselors offer free services to promote and protect the interests of housing consumers. You can receive counseling to help with your housing problems including:

- Mortgage Default or Delinquency
- Reverse Mortgages for Seniors
- Housing Resource Referrals
- Homebuyer Education
- Foreclosure
- Tenant or Landlord Issues
- Emergency Housing
- Fair Housing

Call (248) 858-5402 or access the website at http://www.oakgov.com/chi/housing_counsel/.

Weatherization Assistance Program: Funded by the Department of Energy and operated locally by the Oakland Livingston Human Service agency (OLHSA), this program provides free energy conservation services to eligible households. For information call (248) 209-2760 or access the website at <http://www.olhsa.org/doe.asp?catID=3&cty=oak>.

Income Guidelines: Home Improvement Loan and Minor Home Repair Programs*
Income is based on the total gross income of all family members in the home.

Family Size	Maximum Gross Income
1.....	\$39,150
2.....	\$44,750
3.....	\$50,350
4.....	\$55,900
5.....	\$60,400
6.....	\$64,850
7.....	\$69,350
8.....	\$73,800

**Limits are subject to change. Please contact the respective staff for income limitations of the other programs.*

The City of Rochester Hills Fiscal Office is proud to be the recipient of the Governmental Finance Authority Association (GFOA) Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for the FY 2010 Budget.

The Distinguished Budget Award is the highest form of recognition in governmental budgeting. This marks the fourteenth straight year that the city has earned the prestigious recognition. It reflects the commitment of the governing body and staff to meeting the highest principals of governmental budgeting. Award recipients have pioneered efforts to improve the quality of budgeting and provide an excellent example for other governments throughout North America.

In order to receive this award, a governmental unit must publish a budget document that meets nationally recognized program criteria as a policy document, as an operations guide, as a financial plan, and as a communications device. Documents submitted to the Budget Awards Program are reviewed by selected members of the GFOA professional staff and by outside reviewers with experience in public-sector budgeting.

To see the City of Rochester Hills' award winning 2010 Adopted Budget, please click here:

http://www.rochesterhills.org/city_services/uploads/2010_Budget_Plan_Adopted.pdf



The City of Rochester Hills Environmental Education Center

River Bank Clean Up

June 12, Saturday

9:00am-12:00pm

Spencer Park Bass Tournament

June 13, Sunday

11:00am-3:00pm

Nature Discovery Camp

June 22-24, Tuesday-Thursday

\$100.00 per student

Ages 6-8

10:00am-3:00pm

Outdoor Explorer Camp

June 29-July 1, Tuesday-Thursday

\$100.00 per student

Ages 9-11

10:00am-3:00pm

Rapid River Ride

July 7, Wednesday

\$35.00 per student

Ages 11 and up

11:00am-3:00pm

Amateur Naturalist Camp

July 13-15, Tuesday-Thursday

Tuesday & Wednesday

Thursday

\$125.00 per student

Ages 11-14

10:00am-3:00pm

10:00am-9:00pm

Fly Fishing Camp

July 20-21, Tuesday-Thursday

\$50.00 per student

Ages 12-adult

10:00am-3:00pm

Advanced Adventure Camp

(With Overnight)

July 26-29, Monday-Thursday

Monday-Tuesday

Wednesday 10:00am through Thursday 10:00am

\$125.00 per student

Ages 11-15

10:00am-3:00pm



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

For a complete program
brochure including camp
descriptions, visit the
[EEC on the City Website](#)

Competition Saves Money

Rochester Hills Purchasing Division uses competitive processes, including bids, quotations and requests for proposals, to achieve savings for the city. Utilizing the Michigan Intergovernmental Trade Network or MITN, an e-procurement website (www.mitn.info) shared by over 60 communities, Rochester Hills has the ability to advertise its procurements across a wide spectrum of potential vendors. In addition, due to the current economic conditions, many existing contracts are being re-solicited to take advantage of attractive pricing in today's market.

Last year the Purchasing Division saved \$1.45 million of taxpayers dollars through its competitive processes. Here are some examples of recent savings from competitive bidding: A bid for liquid calcium chloride reaped \$11,340 in savings. With increased competition, Purchasing gained savings of \$91,810 for the city's internet services. An ambulance purchase produced \$39,441 in savings and the purchase of a tandem axle dump truck saved \$72,000 for the city coffers. Significant savings due to enhanced competition were also seen in service contracts for lawn mowing, environmental consulting, surveying and printing.

Competition is expanded when the city coordinates its purchases with other municipalities. A cooperative road salt purchase produced a \$117,000 savings for Rochester Hills. As a result of a cooperative effort between five communities, the city is saving approximately \$20,000 a year on its auto parts purchases.

Additional savings are tapped through the State of Michigan's MiDeal Program. Commodities, including, DPS equipment and computer products, as well as communication services are available through the State's extended purchasing program to local units of government. National contracts are also reviewed for cost savings on office supplies, furniture and equipment.

The Purchasing Division uses many tools to maximize taxpayer dollars and achieve the best value for the city's money.

How Green is Your Lawn?

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

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

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

Some tips to keep in mind:

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

For a list of earth friendly fertilizers visit: http://www.crowc.org/resources/ed_materials/index.html

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

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

For more information on the Clinton River and its watershed visit www.crowc.org.

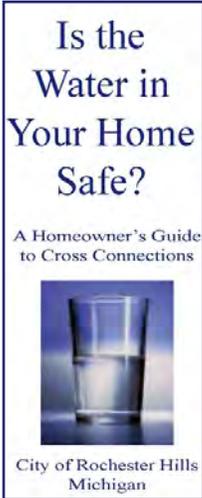
GovDelivery – An exciting new way to access government information

Rochester Hills has added yet another way to communicate with its residents. GovDelivery, a free service offered through Oakland County, allows residents, businesses, really anyone with a valid email address, to receive timely updates of what's happening in the city.

We offer a variety of subjects from which to choose, from City Council meeting agendas and notices, to the Parks Event Calendar, to Solid Waste & Recycling. 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. So take a few moments to visit our [website \(http://rochesterhills.org\)](http://rochesterhills.org) and sign up for these timely and informative updates.

Rochester Hills Building Department



IS THE WATER IN YOUR HOME SAFE?

The Building Department will be starting a formal Residential Cross Connection Control Program in June of this year. This program is intended to make sure that your home water supply is protected from contamination that can occur from water used on the exterior of your home.

Each home in your area will receive a letter notifying them that a Building Department Cross Connection Inspector will be visiting their home. The Inspector will inspect the exterior of each home to verify that the appropriate cross connection control devices are installed at all outside faucets, automatic sprinkler systems, and any other areas of possible contamination. If warranted, a door tag noting any areas of concern will be left on your door.

To learn more about how to keep your water supply protected, please click http://www.rochesterhills.org/city_services/uploads/brochure_color_021407.pdf

2010 NO HAZ PROGRAM *The Right Thing To Do*

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

The North Oakland County Household Hazardous Waste Consortium (NOHAZ) is a group of eight communities who have come together to cooperatively provide a safe, convenient and cost effective method of handling residential household hazardous waste.

This year, with the accelerated cost of conducting this program and vendor costs to the communities, Rochester Hills and other program communities have found it necessary to charge participating residents a fee of \$10.00 for each collection visit. This amount is to be paid at the collection event. The City of Rochester Hills will still supplement 90% of the per resident cost in order to continue the important service for residents.

To learn more about NO HAZ, obtain a schedule, and get a list of acceptable and unacceptable materials, please visit the NO HAZ website at www.nohaz.com or call the NO HAZ hotline at 248-858-5656.



DISASTER PREPAREDNESS WHAT IS YOUR PLAN?

We see it in the news day after day, natural disasters like earthquakes, hurricanes, floods, and tornadoes seem to be happening all around the world. We see the destruction and wonder what we would do if that happened to us? While a hurricane is rather low on the list for Michigan, we have had mild earthquakes and floods, tornadoes, or even a crippling snow or ice storms are a possibility.

Where will you or your family be when a disaster strikes? You could be anywhere – at work, at school, in the car. How will you find each other? Will you know if your family is safe? What would you do if you were told to evacuate your home? What if your water, gas, electric, or phones were cut off?

Don't take a chance; you can cope with disaster by preparing in advance.

1. Get informed.
2. Make a plan.
3. Assemble a 72 hour kit for everyone in your home.
4. Maintain your plan and 72 hour kits.

The Federal Government has an excellent booklet available called "Preparing for a Disaster" online at www.fema.gov. This booklet will give you more information and details so you can get yourself and your family prepared.

SAFETY IS THE REASON

The Rochester Hills Building Department is looking out for your safety every day, which is why building permits are required. Our main focus is to make sure all the buildings in our city are safe to live, work, and play in.

Did you know?

- Inspections for decks greatly reduce the chance of deck or railing failure by ensuring proper connections between structural members have been made.
- Smoke alarms are checked for proper operation by Building Inspectors while they inspect projects that require permits, which helps reduce the risk of home fire deaths.
- Barriers that are required around pools and hot tubs, self closing and self latching gates, and door alarms, all items that help prevent drowning accidents, are inspected for proper operation and safety when a Building Inspector inspects under a pool permit.
- Recent changes in Building Codes now require Inspectors to make sure new windows in second story projects are properly installed to greatly reduce the chance of window fall related injuries.
- Electrical Inspections to inspect work done under electrical permits greatly reduce the risk of electrocution due to improper grounding, overloaded circuits, loose connections, and defective parts.

Should you have questions about when or why a permit is required, please call the City of Rochester Hills Building Department at 248-656-4615, or visit us at www.rochesterhills.org for the answers.

SMOKE ALARMS CAN SAVE YOUR LIFE DO YOU HAVE THEM IN YOUR HOME?

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

Why do smoke alarms fail? Most often because of missing, disconnected or dead batteries.

Source: NFPA's "U.S. Experience with Smoke Alarms and Other Fire Detection/Alarm Equipment."

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

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

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

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



Spotlight on Families First!

Recipients in Rochester Hills.....

The Babiak family donates an exceptional amount of time volunteering in the community. The family consists of Glen and Monika and their children Amanda and Zachary.

Glen is currently a den leader for the Cub Scouts, and Monika has been a Rochester Youth Soccer League Coach for the past two years. In addition, she is highly involved with the PTA at University Hills Elementary, and is also a moderator for the Reflections art group at the school. Monika volunteers at a local hospital in the nursery, teaches a Bible study group, helps with the Girl Scouts and spends time with a Mom's support group.

In addition to all the events listed, the Babiaks are always quick to offer assistance whenever needed. They open their hearts and home for various activities including scout meetings and soccer team parties.

The Babiak family was nominated by Tim and Tania LeBel, fellow Rochester Hills residents.



The Babiak Family ~ March 2010



*The Nicholson Family
April 2010*

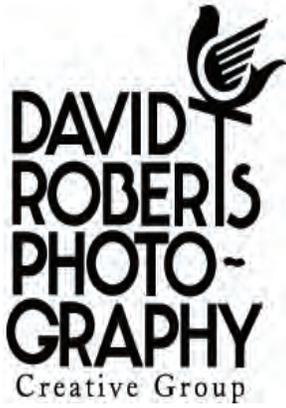
Brian, Debbie, Molly, Sean, Mark and Ashley Nicholson are the celebrated April Family of the Month. The Nicholsons are like a fresh breath of spring in that they are so active and involved in family life. Brian and Debbie put their children first, and are remarkable participants in everything they do.

Brian and Debbie are quick to get down on their hands and knees to see the world through their children's eyes. They participate equally in every event for their children. Brian and Debbie are the first to sign up to chaperone and volunteer for class activities.

Brian even filled in for Debbie as the leader for Molly's Girl Scouts! Brian and Debbie do what is best for their family, giving the children a well-rounded education and religious upbringing.

In nominating the Nicholson family, Susan Graf, Executive Director of Rochester Hills Babes in Toyland said, "The Nicholson Family live in a beautiful home in Rochester Hills, professionally decorated – by the artwork of their children! They are what family is all about. They are upstanding members of the community that support local arts and businesses. They are amazing people raising amazing children. It has truly been an honor to have had them share their children's lives with me."

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: _____

Rochester Hills Parks

Frederick S. Carter ARM EMT

As summer approaches and we head to a local pool or beach to cool off, it is important to keep water safety at the forefront. Drowning remains the third leading cause of accidental death in children. Water safety professionals have taken steps toward better accident prevention through a greater understanding of why drowning happens. Understanding the swimming environment and knowing the nature of children is helpful; but it will always be basic swimming skills, good supervision of non-swimmers by adults, and public awareness that reduce these catastrophic accidents.

Teach your children to swim

Prevention begins with parents teaching their young children to swim, optimally between the ages of 4 and 6. At this age, children most easily pick up the basic foundational skills that lead to becoming good swimmers. It is important to remember that a startling percentage of drowning occur when children do not have a mastery of basic swimming skills.

It is important to swim near a trained, alert and equipped lifeguard although it does not relieve the adult of his or her responsibility when it comes to watching their children near any water. Lifeguards are trained to watch all the swimmers in their zone routinely, however this takes time. By the time the lifeguard finishes their scanning pattern, your child could have slipped below the surface of the water. Avoid thinking that just because your spouse, your babysitter or a grandparent is in the area that they are in charge and watching the children. Specifically appoint a caregiver, instead of assuming that because there are so many adults near, someone will be watching.

The old-fashioned buddy system still works if properly implemented, but this added layer of supervision requires an adult to maintain the effectiveness of the measure.



A sunny day at Spence Park in Rochester Hills

It is best utilized with older children and is not a stand-alone measure.

Providing more than one set of eyes is a must. At least one of the layers of supervision must be skilled in the area of rescue and resuscitation. Following water safety rules can help you keep your family safe and healthy during the summer months.

In addition to these basic water safety rules, homeowners with pools should note that there is a new drain cover available that will meet design criteria of the *Virginia Graeme Baker Act* or the *Pool and Spa Safety Act*. Designed to prevent the tragic and hidden hazard of drain entrapments and eviscerations in pools and spas, the law became effective on December 19, 2008. Under the law, all public pools and spas must have ASME/ANSI A112.19.8-2007 compliant drain covers installed and a second anti-entrapment system installed, when there is only a single main drain. The ASME / ANSI can provide detailed design information and your local pool company can replace old drain covers with the new approved cover.

BORDEN PARK BATTING CAGES

The Batting cages at Borden Park (located at the corner of Hamlin and John R) are open for the season and can be used on a \$1 per token basis. Each token gives you about 15 pitches. Batting cages can also be reserved by the hour for \$20.00 per hour per cage. For more information, click on [Batting Cage Flyer](#). To make an hourly reservation, call Borden Park at 248-656-4797 at least 72 hours in advance.



Spencer Park Bass Tournament



Sponsored By:

- **Sunday, June 13th 2010**
- Open to all ages and skill levels
- Registration from 10:00 -1:00
- Tournament runs from 11:00 -3:00
- T-shirts to first 50 contestants ages 12 and under
- Casting Contest open to all kids ages 12 and under
- Prizes awarded for several categories
- No fee to compete in Tournament (Park Vehicle Entry Fee required)
- Michigan's Free Fishing Weekend (No fishing license required) All other DNR regulations still apply

For information, please call 248.656.4657 or email Park Ranger Chris Parsell at parsellc@rochesterhills.org

and Forestry Updates

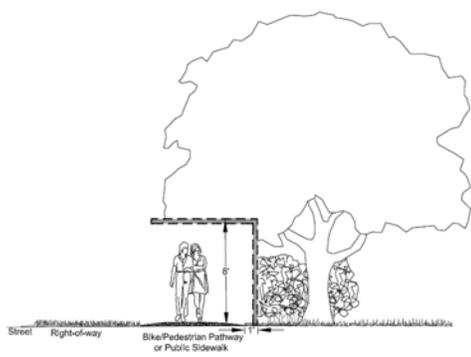
Keep our Public Pathways Safe

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

The adjacent diagram details the specific regulations you need to know to properly maintain vegetation on your property. If you would like further information, you may contact the Forestry Division at 248-656-4673, or access the city webpage regarding [Bike Pathway and Sidewalk Vegetation Maintenance](#).

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

City of Rochester Hills
Bike Pathway and Sidewalk Vegetation Maintenance



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

GYPSY MOTH SUPPRESSION PROGRAM 2010

Rochester Hills has been monitoring the gypsy moth population within the city since 1983. We conducted an annual aerial spray of *Bacillus thuringiensis* (B.t.) to reduce gypsy moth from 1994-2001 and in 2004. Due to the relatively low population of gypsy moth in most areas of the city, Rochester Hills did not conduct an aerial spray from 2005-2009.

The Forestry Division Fall 2009 egg mass survey again indicates that the gypsy moth population is at a relatively low level throughout most of the city, therefore, there will not be an aerial spray in 2010. There are, however, some specific neighborhoods that do have a significant population. Forestry staff is available to advise these property owners regarding homeowner tactics that can reduce the population. There is also evidence, and our experience is, that there are natural controls (diseases, parasites, predators, etc.) that will have a substantial impact on the gypsy moth population when conditions are right.

Even without an aerial spray in 2010, it is unlikely we will experience severe defoliation or mortality of oak trees due to gypsy moth, although we may experience an increase in the amount of nuisance created by the caterpillars. Citizen involvement is an important component of our suppression program. Please [click here](#) for more information, or call 246-656-4673.



The Right Street Trees Made Easier

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

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

Street trees are planted every spring and fall (spring planting occurs in late April/early May, fall planting in November). Quantities are limited, so interested property owners should order early. September 3, 2010, is the deadline for ordering trees for Fall 2010.

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

Spring Canoe and Kayak Event

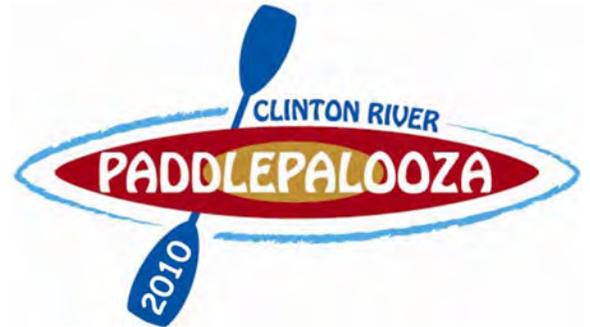
The cities of Rochester Hills and Auburn Hills are joining forces once again to sponsor Paddlepalooza 2010, a canoe and kayak event to be held on Saturday, June 5. It will begin at Riverside Park in Auburn Hills and end at the River Crest Banquet Center in Rochester Hills.

“We invite you to register for a fun-filled outing on the Clinton River,” said Roger Moore of the City of Rochester Hills Engineering Department. “This segment of the Clinton River can be challenging, and is not recommended for first time paddlers. Other than the occasional house or road crossing you would not know that you were in the city. Abundant wildlife and natural views similar to what you might see 200-300 miles north await you around each corner.”

Over one hundred and forty people participated in last year’s event, and at least the same amount of participants is anticipated for this year. There is a limited supply of canoes and kayaks for rent, so preregistration is highly recommended.

This is a great way to get outdoors and enjoy a traditional up north activity, without the travel expense or traffic hassles. The river character is one that will have you paddling more than just a quiet drift type experience. The Clinton has turns, negotiations, and elevation drops that will keep the participants quite active.

Registration details can be found on line at www.auburnhills.org or www.rochesterhills.org, or by calling the City of Auburn Hills Parks and Recreation Department at 248-370-9353.



Mayor Barnett and his brother, Chris, celebrate Paddlepalooza 2009

An exciting event on the Clinton River



Protecting Our Water Resources

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

- Don't forget the seven simple steps to help keep our river and streams clean for us and future generations.
- Help keep pollution out of storm drains
- Fertilize carefully
- Carefully store and dispose of household cleaners, chemicals, and oil
- Clean up after your pet
- Practice good car care
- Choose earth friendly landscaping
- Save water

For more information on the seven simple steps visit: http://www.semcog.org/OursToProtect_7SimpleSteps.aspx

HOME ENERGY SAVING TIPS

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

No-Cost or Low-Cost:

- Lower your thermostat at night and whenever no one is home.
- Set your air conditioner 5° (F) higher to save up to 20% on cooling costs.
- Reduce air conditioning costs by using fans, closing windows, doors and shades during the day.
- Lower the temperature on your water heater to 120° (F).
- When washing clothes, use warm or cold water and rinse with cold.
- Wash full loads of dishes.
- Install faucet aerators and low-flow showerheads.
- Set refrigerator temperatures between 37°- 40° (F).
- Shut off lights, computers and other electronic appliances when you're not using them.
- Unplug electronics, battery chargers and the equipment when not in use.
- Install foam gaskets behind electric-outlet and switch-plate covers.
- Close your fireplace damper and seal the opening shut when not in use.
- Examine and adjust, if necessary, weather stripping, door sweeps, and thresholds.
- Make sure to maintain your clothes dryer.

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

- Install an automatic setback thermostat that adjusts temperature according to your daily schedule.
- Install do-it-yourself weather stripping and caulking to seal air leaks.
- Install do-it-yourself storm windows that cost less than \$1/sq.ft., such as flexible vinyl glazing.
- Use motion sensors or timers for outdoor lighting.
- Replace incandescent light bulbs with compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs).
- Replace furnace filters.
- Add water heater tank and hot water pipe insulation especially if in an unheated space.
- Replace that old toilet with a new water saver and you will see a savings in your water bill.

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

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

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

- When it is time to replace a home appliance, purchase an energy-efficient model.
- Energy Star® clothes washers save energy, water, and detergent.
- Look for and purchase Energy Star® labeled electronic goods, and lighting bulbs and fixtures.
- Furnaces, heat pumps, air conditioning and water heaters all have high efficiency models.
- Invest in commercially installed storm windows or insulated glass.
- Install a fireplace insert or wood stove in the fireplace.

Have you had an energy audit?

The City of Rochester Hills will be offering energy audits for commercial and residential buildings starting later this summer. Please contact the Building Department at (248) 656-4615 for more information.

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.

Memorial Day Parade



On Memorial Day, the City of Rochester Hills, City of Rochester, Oakland Township, Potere-Modetz Funeral Home, American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), Disabled American Veterans (DAV) held a Memorial Day service to honor the men and women who have served and continue to serve our country.

Our 2010 Parade Marshall was Jim Smalley. Jim and his wife Lilly have been residents of Rochester Hills for 55 years. Jim and Lilly are very proud of their family including their son and three grandchildren. Jim served during the Korean War, from 1950 to 1953. During that time, he received a Battlefield Promotion to First Lieutenant. He was in the Corp of Engineers in charge of building roads and air strips during the war. Jim stayed in the Army Reserves and retired as a Lieutenant Colonel. Jim is a member of the American Legion Post 172, Rochester and The Veterans of Foreign Wars, Post 3908, Rochester/Utica. We were honored to have Jim serve as Parade Marshall and were especially pleased since this is the 60th anniversary of the Korean War.

Parade Marshall Jim Smalley

The History of Memorial Day

Three years after the Civil War ended, on May 5, 1868 the head of an organization of Union veterans — the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) — established Decoration Day as a time for the nation to decorate the graves of the war dead with flowers. Maj. Gen. John A. Logan declared that Decoration Day should be observed on May 30.

The first large observance of Decoration Day was held that year at Arlington National Cemetery, across the Potomac River from Washington, D.C.

The ceremonies centered around the mourning-draped veranda of the Arlington mansion, once the home of Gen. Robert E. Lee. Various Washington officials, including Gen. and Mrs. Ulysses S. Grant, presided over the ceremonies. After speeches, children



Mr. and Mrs. Smalley ride in the parade



Parade participants rest on the newly built wall at VMP

from the Soldiers' and Sailors' Orphan Home and members of the GAR made their way through the cemetery, strewing flowers on both Union and Confederate graves, reciting prayers and singing.

The origins of special services to honor those who die in war can be found in antiquity. The Athenian leader Pericles offered a tribute to the fallen heroes of the Peloponnesian War over 24 centuries ago that could be applied today to the 1.1 million Americans who have died in the nation's wars: "Not only are they commemorated by columns and inscriptions, but there dwells also an unwritten memorial of them, graven not on stone but in the hearts of men."

2010 Summer Taxes Due September 14, 2010

The 2010 Summer Property Taxes are due September 14, 2010. **Postmarks will not be honored**, so please allow, as the post office recommends, 5 business days for first class postal delivery. Visit the Treasury Department on the city's website at http://www.rochesterhills.org/city_services/treasury/payment_options.asp for more information on convenient payment options. After September 14, 2010, interest of 1% will be added and an additional 1% will be added on the first day of each month thereafter. Summer tax deferral, which defers the summer tax payment due date of your principal residence to February 15, 2011, is available for qualified residents. For more information on summer tax deferral please click here http://www.rochesterhills.org/city_services/treasury/property_taxes/summer_tax_deferment.asp or contact the Treasury Department at 248-656-4675. On February 15, 2011 a 3% penalty will be added to the unpaid balance of all 2010 unpaid taxes. Questions can be directed to the Treasury Department at (248) 656-4675 or treasury@rochesterhills.org

SMOKE ALARMS CAN SAVE YOUR LIFE DO YOU HAVE THEM IN YOUR HOME?

Did you know that:

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

Source: NFPA's "U.S. Experience with Smoke Alarms and Other Fire Detection/Alarm Equipment."

Hills Herald

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City of Rochester Hills

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-or-

hillsherald@rochesterhills.org

Mark Your Calendar

City Offices will be closed on the following days:

Monday, July 5, Independence Day

Monday, September 6, Labor Day

Other Dates to Note:

Wednesday, June 30 Festival of the Hills -

Tuesday, August 3 Primary Election

Rochester Hills City Council



*Greg Hooper, President
District 3*

Local Roads – A Local Issue!

If you were asked the following series of statements, how would you answer them?

- 1.) Can I support a Property tax ballot proposal that does not raise my taxes?
- 2.) We do not spend enough resources on our local roads.
- 3.) Local road funding can only be solved by the residents, not by the Federal and/or State Governments.

We have observed steadily diminishing local road conditions for decades. Our Pavement Quality Index (PQI) that conducts a visual survey of our local roads every two years has concluded that 65% or 52.1 miles of our concrete local roads are in Fair or Poor condition and 22% or 29.3 miles of our asphalt local roads are in Fair or Poor condition.

The forecast for the next three year's budgets will be unable to address these conditions leading to more roadway miles falling into these categories every year.

In addition, the funding for routine maintenance activities snow plowing, dust control, gravel road maintenance, concrete joint and asphalt crack seal find themselves competing with a dwindling General Fund Subsidy that continues to fund a disproportionate share of our Public Safety (Police Operations).

Earlier I asked how you would answer three statements. If your answer is Yes to all three, I urge you to join me in voting Yes for the following ballot question:

“Shall the City of Rochester Hills replace the expiring, previously-voted bond debt millage of 0.3545 mills (\$0.3545 per \$1,000 of taxable value) of all property assessed for taxes in the City for 10 years, beginning in 2011 and continuing through 2020, inclusive, to be used for maintenance, repair, rehabilitation and reconstruction of local roads and streets and to provide a source of matching funds to support special assessment and grant programs for local roads”

This ballot proposal is not the final solution but an important step that will not raise taxes. I urge you to become an informed voter on August 3, 2010.

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.



Vern Pixley, Vice President At Large

Springtime in Rochester Hills is a time of excitement and rebirth. The trees and shrubs are blooming, the students are anticipating a well deserved summer vacation and the sun seems to shine more often than it does in the winter. While there are so many things to celebrate, we also anticipate the frustration of road construction and yard work – but the outcome of both is worth the challenges.

The Michigan and local economies have been challenging throughout the year, and while there will continue to be more difficulties in the short term, we have some very exciting things happening in our wonderful city. Several business have expanded – Meijer with the opening of their new store; Lear with the expansion of their business in Rochester Hills and the exciting potential of the new “Medical Mainstreet” project. This project alone will provide for a multi-billion dollar investment and create thousands of jobs. We have begun to see some new construction and a renewed sense of activity in some longstanding commercial projects – all very positive signs for the city. There will be many challenging decisions as we continue to operate in a “balanced budget” environment – the budget process will be difficult as we project out the significant decline in property tax revenues over the next several years. Our citizens can rest assured that the administration and Mayor’s office are working diligently with the City Council to make proactive decisions that maintain a strong focus on services for our residents.

There will be many opportunities for the City of Rochester Hills to improve our infrastructure and roads in the coming months. The prospect of expanding our water system to include storage will reduce water rates by over 40% - a positive result of sound investment for our community. The August election will also bring an opportunity for the voters to address improved street maintenance without a tax increase through a re-deployment of an expiring millage used to pay down bond debt. This decision, if approved by our voters, will provide an additional \$1,000,000 to repair our city streets. Many Michigan State projects will provide for significant road improvement at their completion – Auburn Road from Auburn Hills to Shelby Twp., the M-59 / Crooks road interchange, the Stony Creek Bridge on Tienken road – to name a few.

The business of our city is well in hand. Rochester Hills continues to see some of the lowest unemployment rates in the state. Rochester Hills continues to aggressively recruit business to our area that will support our property values and bring more commerce to our city.

As we move from spring to summer, it is important to remember the watering ordinance – this ordinance provides for automatic irrigation system operation between the hours of 12:00 Midnight and 5:00 AM. It is also important to continue the great response to recycling in our community through our solid waste program and the use of Recycle Rewards. We look forward to a wonderful summer – filled with an improved economy, warm days and a positive outlook.

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*Michael Webber
At-Large*

As spring turns to summer, many activities are being planned that make Rochester Hills unique. My wife Julia and I are looking forward to participating in the Memorial Day parade on May 31 and Festival of the Hills on June 30. Both events promise to enrich our community.

Julia and I were both happy to participate in the Michigan Earth Day Festival this past April. In conjunction with the festival, we worked with the Rochester Area Jaycees to host the Green Careers Fair. The fair drew over one hundred people. We hope to be able to offer it again next year.

This continues to be a difficult time as our state and region experience job losses as part of the “new normal” economy. Our Economic Development team continues to be active with job retention and creation, experiencing many successes most recently the re-opening of the Lear Corp. building with over one hundred new jobs.

In April representatives from Oakland University and Oakland County presented the Medical Main Street project, in conjunction with the new medical school on campus. This initiative would be housed on a location not far from the university and include medical office space. Between the medical school and Medical Main Street, we have a lot to look forward to in Rochester Hills.

For some time now, I have written in these articles about the budget and our need to establish wants vs. needs. This current council has worked with the administration to make many difficult, cost cutting decisions that have kept our city moving forward without increased taxes. Our long term forecasting shows that we will need to make additional cuts moving forward in order to balance the budget.

This August there will be a millage replacement question on the ballot to fund Local Road maintenance. We can all agree that local roads are critical to our community and our property values. Currently we need over \$4 million out of general fund to pay for local road maintenance. A million dollars comes from state gas tax, leaving the rest to come out of general fund. Local Roads compete with many other general fund needs such as police, major roads and parks.

The best part about this replacement millage is that it doesn't raise taxes. This is due to an expiring debt millage that is proposed to be replaced with this local road maintenance millage. The council reviewed this proposal from the Police and Road committee and decided to place it on the August ballot for a vote.

In the last Hills Herald I discussed my new role as a member of the OPC Governing Board. This board has been active over the past few months. The board recently adopted a policy regarding political candidates and campaigning on OPC property. The board also has recommended that the three municipalities that make up the OPC put a renewal millage question on the August ballot. This is critical in order to maintain this important building within our community for seniors.

In addition to voting on the above mentioned ballot questions, I urge you to participate in the August election because of its importance to our state and region. This year we will be electing our federal, state and county leaders. Let your voice be heard this year by voting in August and 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 summer.

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



Festival of the Hills

June 30, 2010

Borden Park ~ Rochester Hills, Michigan

Free Admission - 6:00 PM

*Join our celebration of freedom including family games presented by the Rochester Avon Recreation Authority, a USO-styled swing tribute by the Rhythm Society Orchestra, and our amazing **FIREWORKS** display.*

Arrive early. Avoid the rush. Bring a blanket and umbrella. The show goes on, rain-or-shine!