

The City of Rochester Hills

Hills Herald

News & Information

Fall 2011



Bryan K. Barnett, Mayor

A Message from the Mayor

Here comes autumn!

Well, it appears that someone has changed the seasons with the flip of a switch! We went from sweltering heat to apple cider weather overnight. You can hear the marching bands practicing in the evenings. The Detroit Lions have three wins in the books, and I'm already on my third OPC Apple Pie that I bought at Art and Apples.

If you're like me, you may focus on Labor Day weekend and the first day of school. Once they are over, the weekend moves aside like a curtain to reveal a full slate of new activities.

Before we move forward, let me reflect on what a great summer we had in Rochester Hills.

I must start with a proud achievement for our lifeguards and staff at Spencer Park. As you may recall, we officially named the lake at Thelma G. Spencer Park in honor of Fred Carter who taught, coached, and trained the lifeguards at the park for 26 years. Sadly, Fred lost his fight with cancer in 2010, but we're pleased to announce that his legacy of a spotless record lives on. At the close of Labor Day weekend, and the official end of the season, city lifeguards made their annual call to report they completed their 28th consecutive year without a drowning in Frederick S. Carter Lake. This record includes 20 preventative actions and 15 rescues made by the lifeguards to keep swimmers safe.

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School is in session ~ drive with care!



Elated Spencer Park lifeguards called Mayor Barnett with their outstanding 2011 safety stats

Additionally, we are very pleased to state that all lost children were returned safely to their parents! This reflects highly on the training and diligence of our entire parks staff. We are certain that Fred Carter would be proud of the continued success at his park.

We're also blown away by the attendance records at all of our parks. From the Museum's Wet and Wild Wednesdays, to the Festival of the Hills, to the Velodrome races and cricket matches at Bloomer Park, to the thousands of soccer games at Borden, we are pleased that you have discovered our great parks close to home. This year our parks had over one MILLION visitors and that is something to talk about! Despite the high number of users, we never experience overcrowding. We always have plenty of room!

In the business world this summer, we welcomed three new companies and 300 new jobs to town.

Of these three companies, one that created considerable investment, and buzz, is Sunlogics. Working closely with Oakland County, we are able to attract Sunlogics world headquarters to Rochester Hills from California. The company also plans to relocate some of its manufacturing capabilities from New Jersey. Sunlogics, a global solar energy systems provider, most recently signed a commercial agreement with General Motors to install solar charging canopies at Chevrolet dealerships, as well as a power purchase agreement to install large-scale solar arrays at GM facilities. In July, the city was proud to be a part of the company's announcement that GM Ventures made an equity investment in the company. In total, the company will purchase a 140,000 square foot vacant industrial building, invest close to \$30 million in the facility and create 200 jobs.



Our business retention efforts have been just as fruitful. We had our existing businesses expand into more than 100,000 square feet of additional space and create an additional 265 new jobs within the city.

Yes, as you can see, business is good in Rochester Hills.

Looking ahead, we have an action packed schedule leading us into the end of the year. The Brooksie Way Half Marathon and 5K Run/Walk and the Stonewall Pumpkin Festival are two events we are looking forward to. Be sure to check the city website at www.rochesterhills.org for the latest news and events.

Before you know it, someone will be flipping that switch again to make the snow start falling. I better get started on my training run for the Brooksie...right after I finish this apple pie.



innovative *by* nature



OCTOBER IS DEER AWARENESS MONTH IN ROCHESTER HILLS



With the arrival of fall, comes an increase in deer activity, and motorists should be more aware of the greater potential for deer to dart across roadways.

Don't Veer for Deer!

To prevent deer/vehicle crashes, please be on the lookout for deer by the roadways. Deer/vehicle crashes are a year-round problem, but deer are most active in the spring and during the fall mating season (mid Oct. - mid Dec.)

Flashing your high-beam headlights or honking your horn won't deter deer. When startled by an approaching vehicle, they can panic and dart out from any direction without warning.

According to [SEMCOG's website](#):

WHAT YOU CAN DO

- ◆ Buckle up, stay awake, alert, and slow down
- ◆ Always use your safety belts
- ◆ Heed deer crossing and speed limit signs
- ◆ If you see one deer, please slow down because chances are there are others nearby
- ◆ Be especially alert for deer at dawn and dusk

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

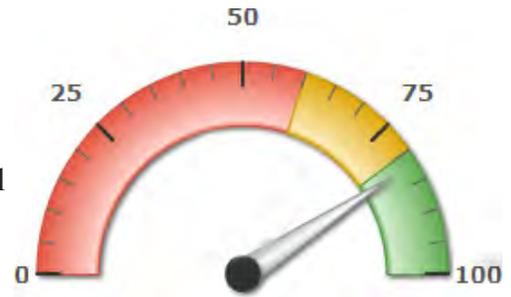
AFTER A CRASH

- ◆ 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*

Rochester Hills' New "Performance Dashboard"

For fiscal year ending December 31, 2009, the City of Rochester Hills' Fiscal Team created its first *Citizen Financial Summary Report*. The intent of the report was to make it easier for residents to gain a better understanding of the city's financial condition.



In the spirit of that same concept, we are proud to announce our new "Performance Dashboard." Just like the *Citizen Financial Summary Report*, the Dashboard is designed to help citizens gain a better understanding of how the city is performing in the following key areas:

- Fiscal Stability
- Economic Strength
- Public Safety
- Quality of Life
- Community Partnerships

Much of the information presented in the Dashboard has been presented in other detailed fiscal documents including the Budget Report, Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR), Census Report and other related reports. The concept behind the development of the Dashboard is to bring data forward in an easy-to-access format. The Dashboard will give the reader an overview of how the city is performing. Please visit www.rochesterhills.org to see the Dashboard on our website, or stop in the City Clerk's office or Reference Room to view a hard copy.

If you would like to see more detail related to the city's financial reports including the proposed or adopted budget, CAFR report(s) or our *Citizen Financial Summary Report*(s) follow this link to the city's [Fiscal Services](#).

We hope you find this new reporting concept useful in better understanding how Rochester Hills is performing in some very important areas.

Winter Property Tax Bills to be Mailed in November

In mid-November, the City Treasury Department will be mailing 2011 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 informational mailing.

The 2011 winter property taxes are payable without penalty through Tuesday, February 14, 2012 – postmarks will not be honored. On February 15, a 3% penalty will be added to the unpaid balance of all 2011 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 2011 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.

Oakland County Sheriff's Office

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



Beware of Police Impersonators

The Sheriff's Office is warning citizens to look out for con artists posing as law enforcement official in order to gain access to personal information and property. These imposters frequently prey upon the elderly and have been particularly active as of late. In fact, in the past year there have been numerous reports of individuals posing as police officers.

Sheriff Bouchard would like citizens to keep these tips in mind to avoid becoming a victim:

- **ALL** Law Enforcement Officers carry photo identification with their badges, and are required to display them if asked. Citizens are encouraged to ask for identification since anyone can purchase a new or used badge off the internet.
- Do not be afraid to have the officer hold up the ID so that you can read it. Take the time to read the ID and look for the agency name, picture of the officer, and rank. **(Please note: Officers will not allow you to take hold of or otherwise take possession of their identifications.)**
- Do not be afraid to advise the officer that you intend to call dispatch and verify the officer's identity.
- Call 911 if you believe the person at your door is a con artist posing as a Law Enforcement Officer. The Sheriff's Office would much rather come to your home to verify the identity of an officer than be called later to take a report of a crime.
- Remember, if it doesn't feel right, it probably isn't. Your safety and that of your family and belongings is most important.

Sheriff Bouchard helped to author the bill which was eventually signed into state laws as Public Act 314, which restricts the sale, use, and possession of police badges, patches, and uniforms. This Act was passed in late 2005 and became effective January 1, 2006. The Act expands the prohibition regarding the selling, furnishing, or possessing of Law Enforcement agency patches, badges and uniforms. A copy of the bill is available from the web link listed below.

<http://www.legislature.mi.gov/documents/2005-2006/publicact/pdf/2005-PA-0314.pdf>

Individuals committing offenses relating to PA 314 are a variation of those committed by persons who often pose as utility workers. Sometimes these thieves will work in pairs. One will distract the homeowner while the other searches the house for money and other valuables. Violation of the above Public Act is a misdemeanor.

In addition, it is a misdemeanor for a person to impersonate a Law Enforcement Officer and a felony if a crime is committed during the impersonation. See the link below for more information on this crime.

[http://www.legislature.mi.gov/\(njctqcij1xfxd555bhwpj55\)/mileg.aspx?page=getObject&objectName=mcl-750-215](http://www.legislature.mi.gov/(njctqcij1xfxd555bhwpj55)/mileg.aspx?page=getObject&objectName=mcl-750-215)

Rochester Hills Fire Department

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



FIRE PREVENTION WEEK

October 9 – 15, 2011

Fire Prevention Week commemorates the Great Chicago Fire. On the 40th anniversary (1911) of the Great Chicago Fire, the Fire Marshals Association of North America, the oldest membership section of the National Fire Protection Association, sponsored the first National Fire Prevention Day. They decided to observe the anniversary as a way to keep the public informed about the importance of fire prevention. This was eventually expanded to Fire Prevention Week.

When President Calvin Coolidge proclaimed the first National Fire Prevention Week on October 4 - October 10, 1925, he noted that in the previous year, some 15,000 lives were lost to fire in the United States. Fortunately, that number has been greatly reduced, but there were still over 3000 fire related deaths in 2010—another unacceptable number. This number can be reduced by your fire prevention efforts. Visit the Rochester Hills Fire Department website at www.rochesterhills.org for fire safety tips or call 248-656-4720 with any fire related questions.

To find out more about your local Fire Department, services we provide, Emergency Medical Services, or available programs, join us when we commemorate Fire Prevention Week starting on Friday, October 7, 2011. Please see the flyer below for all events, dates and times.

AS A REMINDER, LEAF BURNING IN THE CITY OF ROCHESTER HILLS IS PROHIBITED. RECREATIONAL FIRES ARE PERMISSIBLE WITH COMPLIANCE OF THE FOLLOWING GUIDELINES:

Recreational Fire Permits: An annual permit is required for recreational fires. Recreational fire permits may be obtained from the Fire Department Administrative Offices during normal business hours. (Monday - Friday, 8:00am to 4:00pm excluding holidays)
The fee for an annual burning permit is \$25.00. No permit is required for outdoor fireplaces. Information: 248-656-4717

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

A recreational fire may be allowed on detached residential properties all year long from 8:00am until midnight. This requires a valid permit.
Size and duration - not to exceed three feet in diameter, or three feet in height. Shall burn no longer than three hours.
Fuel - dry seasoned firewood, ignited with a small quantity of paper.

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

ALL OTHER BURNING, INCLUDING THE BURNING OF LEAVES, IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED IN ROCHESTER HILLS

Rochester Hills Fire & EMS Department



Fire Prevention Week

October 9—15, 2011

Emergency Apparatus Display

October 7, 2011 7:00 pm —9:00 pm at Meijer located at the corner of Auburn and Rochester.

You'll be able to see up close and personal numerous fire trucks, ambulances, rescue vehicles and demonstrations. Enjoy some cider and spend time with your local firefighters.

BRING YOUR CAMERAS!

Hey Kids, Come join me, Sparky and let's practice fire safety together all year long.



Fire Station Open House

Sunday, October 9, 2011

12:00 pm —3:00 pm

Station 1 1111 Horizon Ct.

Station 2 1251 E. Auburn

Station 3 2137 W. Auburn

Station 4 2723 Walton

Station 5 251 E. Tienken

Meet the firefighters, tour the station, see the emergency vehicles, enjoy hot dogs, cider and donuts and more.

For more information, call the Rochester Hills Fire & EMS Department at 248-656-4720

City of Rochester Hills Summer Seasonal Help Wanted



Plan ahead!!! The City of Rochester Hills will begin accepting applications for 2012 Seasonal (summer) positions on January 3, 2012.

Positions, locations and requirements are:

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

LIFEGUARD – Spencer Park: Beachfront lifeguarding, park maintenance, public relations rule enforcement, 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 employees in the Parks Department work a flexible schedule, 40 hours per week. Borden, Bloomer and Spencer Parks are open seven days a week, evenings and holidays.

Employees in positions requiring driving for the city must have an acceptable driving history including no more than four points on record.

Seasonal Application and Information will be available on the city's website (www.rochesterhills.org) and in the Human Resources Department January 3, 2012. Completed applications can be dropped off, emailed, mailed, or faxed to:

Human Resources Department
City of Rochester Hills
1000 Rochester Hills Drive
Rochester Hills MI 48309-3033
Email: humanresources@rochesterhills.org
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 – YOURS TO ENJOY

As summer draws to a close and we feel the crisp coolness of fall, it is time to recap this past summer's events. There were countless hikes and nature walks, hot sunny days at the beach in [Spencer Park](#) and who can forget the Wet-n-Wild Wednesdays at the [Museum](#) or the record crowds at the [Festival of the Hills](#). Hundreds of family gatherings and company picnics took place in the [park shelters and tents](#) while thousands of games were played on our [sports fields](#).



But, alas, summer is over and it's time now to wear socks and sweaters again. So why not get out, embrace the cool weather, and prepare for old man winter!

- ❖ Cool days are perfect to pedal along the [Clinton River Trail](#), and while you're out there, plot your cross country ski routes before the snow.
- ❖ Bird watching this time of year in all of our parks is especially exciting as our feathered friends prepare for winter.
- ❖ Go to [Bloomer Park](#) and collect all the different colors of leaves, or just sit and enjoy nature's beauty that is autumn in Michigan.
- ❖ Observe the changes in nature that happen as we transition from summer to fall at any or all of our parks.
- ❖ The sunlight in the fall months is great for photography, and we have several beautiful [parks](#) right here in your neighborhood!
- ❖ Grab some apple cider and go to [Yates Park](#) and enjoy the sights and sounds of the Clinton River.
- ❖ The [Stonewall Pumpkin Festival](#) at the Museum is October 8 and is always a hit for the entire family.
- ❖ Veteran's Day is November 11. Come to [Veterans Memorial Park](#) and honor those who have served and continue to serve our country.
- ❖ There's still time for a tennis match or some basketball at [Avondale Park](#).
- ❖ And at [Borden Park](#) we have basketball, tennis and roller hockey in addition to the ball and soccer fields.
- ❖ Do some fishing from the pier at [Spencer Park](#) before Carter Lake freezes; and when it does freeze, you can come back with your ice fishing gear or your skates.

Remember, we have 14 year round parks to greet you! Everyone is close to autumn and winter fun. Don't hesitate to check us out online for various activities and [events](#) on tap as well as our [hours of operation](#). Remember the parks of Rochester Hills belong to us all and represent a lasting tribute to our [long range planning](#) as well as a legacy for generations to come. So get involved, come on out and visit your parks of Rochester Hills. Unplug, relax and enjoy! There is always something to do in the parks of Rochester Hills! Start planning your trip at www.rochesterhills.org.



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.

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

Although some work will occur in various locations throughout the city, the main emphasis of the 2011-2012 program will be in the northeast portion of the city (Sections 1-3, 9-11, and 14-16.)

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, please contact the Forestry Division at 248-656-4673.



GYPSY MOTH EGG MASS SURVEY UPDATE

The Forestry Division will not be conducting a gypsy moth egg mass survey in 2011. 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 PARKS – FALL/WINTER SCHEDULE

In 2011, beginning November 14 through March 14, Spencer Park and Bloomer Park will be closed 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 its cost-saving goals. We encourage all visitors to use the parks when they are open and continue to participate in the many available fall and winter activities. For additional information on Rochester Hills Parks, please visit our webpage at www.rochesterhills.org or by [clicking here](#).



Spotlight on Community First Recipients



Genisys Credit Union Staff

During a time of great financial difficulty, a Rochester Hills senior citizen was unable to buy groceries for over four weeks. She could not meet her living expenses, pay for medication, and still have enough money left to buy food. In addition, the woman is handicapped and unable to get to Neighborhood House to participate in their emergency food program.

When the staff at Genisys Credit Union heard of her dire situation, they pooled their own money to buy groceries for this patron in need, and delivered them to her home.

Bernard and Eleanor Cipa are outstanding parents who put their family and faith first in all they do. Bernard came from modest means. He lost his father at a young age and spent much of his youth working to help support his mother. After working his way up the ladder in the steel business, Bernard started his own company, TCT Stainless Steel, which became very successful. He was always conscious of the importance of giving back to the community, and when he sold his business in 1999, he formed the Cipa Family Foundation to better facilitate his desire to help others.

The ongoing generosity of the Cipa Family is quite remarkable. The Cipa Family Foundation sponsors numerous scholarships, health and education endeavors, and gifts to the arts and human services. They continue to seek out ways to make a positive impact on the lives of others.



The Cipa Family



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

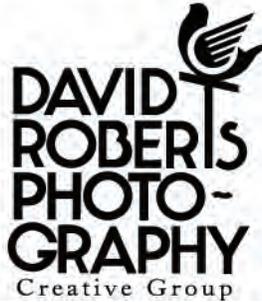
Recipients will be honored quarterly by the Mayor, city employees and community members during an appreciation ceremony. Each recipient will receive a framed photograph that will be displayed at City Hall for one year and then given to the award recipient.

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 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 Clinton River Watershed Council (formerly Environmental Education Center) on the following dates and times **ONLY**:

Saturday, December 31, 2011	10 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Sunday, January 1, 2012	12 noon – 4 p.m.
Saturday, January 7, 2012	10 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Sunday, January 8, 2012	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

Driven For Victory – A World War II event,

sponsored by Comerica Bank

Saturday, October 1, 9-4 p.m.

Regular Admission, members are free



Enjoy an outstanding display of World War II era equipment, reenactments, demonstrations, weapons, uniforms, and camp.

11:00 – A prisoner's story by Frank Cardimen – a multimedia presentation of concentration camps in Europe.

Stonewall Pumpkin Festival, Premiere Sponsor by Genisys Credit Union

with Patron Sponsorship by EEI Global

Saturday, October 8

10 – 4 p.m. Admission is \$ 7 per person and includes a pumpkin. Kids 2 and under are free.

Pumpkin Carving, Pumpkin Bowling, hay rides, art projects, music, and more!



7-9 p.m. – Admission is a can of food for the Rochester Neighborhood House Food Pantry
Enjoy the lighting of over 1,000 carved pumpkins

Exhibits at the Museum

Lost Rochester on Display through November 12

The Greater Rochester Community has certainly changed over the past 180 years. What happened to all of the mills, schoolhouses, and original buildings on Main Street? How did fires and urban renewal reshape our community? Our new exhibit is *Lost Rochester* and draws upon the Museum's extensive archival collections of newspapers, artifacts, and photographs that feature the businesses and buildings that were once a part of the Rochester community, but are now gone. One of the artifacts on display is a Ferry Morse Seed Company lawn seed bag. This company moved into Avon Township in 1902 and occupied over a square mile of land. The seeds from the farm were sold around the world. Various expansions brought along farm animals and experimental plants - so what happened to it? It's now part of *Lost Rochester*!

Come explore the Parke-Davis Barns, the St. James Hotel, Woodward School, Chapman Pond and beyond!

**The Rochester Home Town Christmas Parade Celebrating Six Decades of Christmas Joy
November 25 – December 30**

Enjoy the Rochester Christmas Parade through artifacts, images, and 60 years of spreading Holiday cheer to our community. The Museum is still seeking artifacts, images, videos, and stories about how the Christmas Parade has been enjoyed by our community – call the Museum at 248-656-4663 if you have artifacts and stories to share!

“Your Family History Happened Here”

Let us host your family event!

The Rochester Hills Museum at Van Hoosen Farm is the perfect location for your next family event.

- Wedding Ceremonies and Receptions
- Anniversary, Birthday, and Graduation Parties
- Bridal and Baby Showers
- Meetings of organizations, craft and hobby groups, and social group
- Engagement, Wedding, Senior, Homecoming & Family photographs

Our garden gazebo located along Stoney Creek, and our 16 acres of beautiful gardens and grounds make the ideal backdrop for your outdoor events and photographs.

Indoor wedding ceremonies can take place in our 1840 Van Hoosen Farmhouse.

Meetings, showers, and parties can take place inside our 1927 Dairy Barn, as well as under tents located outside of the Dairy Barn.

Your special event can take place any day of the week. Please contact us at 248-656-4663, www.rochesterhills.org, or by email at rhmuseum@rochesterhills.org for pricing and availability or stop by for a visit and check us out!



COME SPEND AN AFTERNOON AT THE MUSEUM!

Come for a tour, squeeze an apple, grab a fishing pole, see a tombstone, and see the oldest house in Oakland County.

Drop in tours at the Museum have become a full afternoon affair! The Museum is open Fridays and Saturdays from 1-4 p.m. During your tour you can:

- See our permanent exhibit - *Our Lively Town*
- See our temporary exhibit - *Lost Rochester*
- Check out our eight minute orientation video
- Grab a fishing pole and try your luck in Stoney Creek
- Walk up to Stoney Creek Cemetery and meet our Soldiers, Scholars, and Pioneers
- Walk around Stoney Creek Village – past the general store, tavern, post office, mill house, schoolhouse, Morris Place residence, and the 1827 Millerd Home

Need a speaker? The Museum has a wide range of terrific multimedia programs that might help your group understand and appreciate our fascinating past:

Leaders, Legends, and Liars – the leaders from our community

Stoney Creek Village – a fascinating look at this cluster of homes on Tienken Road that are listed on the National Register of Historic Places and the stories surrounding their 188 year history.

Spectacular Rochester! – A brief highlight tour of our community – you’ll be amazed at our community’s history!

Construction Zone

WOW! What a season - construction season that is. The City of Rochester Hills experienced one of the busiest construction seasons this year with a multitude of projects administered by the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT), the Road Commission for Oakland County (RCOC) and the city.

The construction season started with the \$10 million dollar reconstruction of the M-59-Crooks Road interchange and one mile of reconstruction of Crooks Road. This project is addressing the deteriorated bridge, adding much needed motor vehicle capacity and constructing pedestrian sidewalks on each side of Crooks Road from Austin Avenue to Hamlin Road. The project also includes guardrail, new signs, pavement markings, and turn lane improvements to improve and increase safety.



M-59-Crooks Road Interchange

Starting at approximately the same time was the long over due rehabilitation of Walton Boulevard from the city's westerly limits to Great Oaks Boulevard. The scope of the project included drainage improvements, traffic-signal upgrades, pedestrian crosswalk-signal upgrades, and the replacement of pedestrian crosswalks to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). An added and much appreciated benefit is the smooth riding surface for motorists.



To complement the efforts of MDOT and the RCOC, the city is embarking on improving Raintree Drive. The project started at the end of August and is scheduled to be completed by the end of November. This project encompasses the rehabilitation of the roadway while making characteristic improvements to enhance ride quality. To improve safety, a non-motorized path is being incorporated into the project which will provide a safe haven for non-road users to traverse Raintree Drive.

Closing out the construction season are two RCOC projects on our city borders. Adams Road from South Boulevard to Auburn Road and Dequindre Road from South Boulevard to Auburn Road. These much needed projects will deliver a

smoother and safer riding surface for motorists traveling within our city.

Looking to the future, rest assured the city is working diligently with the RCOC on the rehabilitation of both the Avon Road and Livernois Road bridges. Funding has been secured for the Avon Road Bridge and it is scheduled for construction in 2012. However, the Livernois bridge project is not currently funded, but an application has been submitted to the MDOT Local Bridge Program for funding. The city will know by the end of the year if funding has been awarded, and preliminary plans are being developed in anticipation of a funding award.



Beautifully improved Walton Boulevard



Experience the Magic of the Meadow Brook Hall *40th Annual Holiday Walk* *November 25 - December 22, 2011*

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.

Purchasing Generates Dollar\$

Although it may sound strange, the Purchasing Division, typically tasked with spending taxpayer’s money, is actually generating revenue for city coffers. In today’s economic environment, Public Purchasers are challenged with recognizing the value of maximizing funds. In Rochester Hills, revenue generating contracts have been pursued by Purchasing staff. Contracts with Home Depot, office supply vendors, and vending machine suppliers generate monetary rebates which benefit the city. Rochester Hills led a national cooperative contract for sewer trucks and parts which will develop into revenue of approximately \$200-\$300 per truck over the next five years.

Another way the city is generating funds is through a new procurement card program. This program provides a rebate, based on the amount spent annually. The City of Farmington Hills is joining with Rochester Hills which enhances the potential for the program. Purchasing staff is working to extend the endeavor to the Michigan Intergovernmental Trade Network (MITN) cooperative group, for an aggregate spend and larger rebates for all participating agencies.

Finally, the city’s auction of obsolete equipment is a great revenue source. Using the MITN (www.mitn.info) website, Rochester Hills uses electronic auctions to sell surplus supplies, equipment, automobiles and trucks. Any Rochester Hills resident or business can access the website and submit bids on auction items. This site will allow you access to Rochester Hills and nearly 80 other local communities posting items on the site. Through June 2011, the city has returned to its Treasury almost \$80,000 in auction proceeds.

Rochester Hills Purchasing, as part of the Fiscal Team, is continually on the lookout for new and creative methods to save taxpayer dollars in purchasing, and generate revenues whenever possible.



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.

There will be two dedications during the ceremony. The first is a Civil War Memorial, to mark the 150 anniversary of the war between the states. This beautiful memorial is an Eagle Scout project.

The second is a VFW Post 3908 dedication of a WWII Memorial plaque to honor those brave men and women who served during WWII.



Eagle Scout Projects at the Pointe

In a truly win-win relationship, Eagle Scouts have benefited from Veterans Memorial Pointe and the Pointe has benefited from Eagle Scouts! Most recently, Scouts Jacob Lowder and Tanner Ellsworth have worked at the Pointe to earn their Eagle Badges. Jacob power washed and re-stained the gazebo and benches. He also power washed, re-sanded, and seal coated all the bricks. Finally, Jacob cut back the brush and pulled weeds before the Memorial Day Ceremony.

Tanner established a Civil War Memorial Garden. He raised the funds to have a memorial plaque made, (see above) located a large rock to have the memorial plaque mounted on, and established a flower garden area around it. Both Scouts did an outstanding job and both earned their Eagle Scout Badges.

New Fall Eagle Projects

Scout Helaman Sanchez is working on raising money to replant trees at the Pointe. Over the past few years, we lost a number of trees to the Emerald Ash Borer. Healman's plan is to prep the area and plant a dozen trees before Veterans Day 2011.

Scout Jack Silagusa will design and build a sitting area near the river at the Pointe. Jack plans to cut into the hillside, install a small head wall and brick pavers. The sitting area will face the river and will include landscape bushes. This project will be completed before Veterans Day 2011.

Finally, Scouts Matt and Chris Wilson are working with Ed Leafdale, DPS Garage General Foreman, to restore a display 1911 grader on the grounds of the DPS Garage on Auburn Road. Matt and Chris plan to restore the grader and build a display area around it. This work intensive project will include sanding and painting the grader, landscaping and installing a split rail fence and large decorative rocks. This project is slated to be done before winter.

So far, there have been 17 Eagle Scout projects completed at Veterans Memorial Pointe and the DPS Garage. These Scouts have done a great service to the community in their planning and hard work on these projects. If you would like to help these Scouts by donating, please contact Ed Leafdale at 248-841-2655.

Veterans Memorial Pointe Memorial & Scout 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.

In addition to Memorial Bricks, you may purchase a brick to honor an Eagle Scout or Girl Scout Gold Award. These bricks are a lasting tribute to young men and women who have attained the highest rank in scouting.

The price of each brick is \$55.00. All proceeds will go toward the upkeep of Veterans Memorial Pointe.

If you have not done so, please take a moment to visit this lovely and peaceful memorial park located on the southeast corner of Livernois and Avon.



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.

Rochester Hills City Council



Michael Webber ~ At-Large

The fall season remains one of my favorites. While the return of football probably has something to do with it, there are other reasons to appreciate fall with great events around our community to look forward to.

The pumpkin carving at the Rochester Hills Museum is always a great experience as we get closer to Halloween. My wife Julia and I enjoy participating in the Brookside Way 5K each year. As we get closer to the holiday season, our community can enjoy the Rochester Area Christmas Parade and all of the events surrounding the holiday.

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

During the summer, the city council and administration were busy with the city budget process. As you know, the city has moved towards a three year budget process which helps us to better forecast and plan for the future. In this process, we set the budget for the next Fiscal Year (2012) while also projecting the budgets for the next two Fiscal Years (2013 and 2014).

I am proud of the fact that we have been able to maintain strong service levels while maintaining our low tax rate – which is now the lowest in Oakland County for cities our size. We have been able to do this by making tough decisions to decrease our workforce by 20%, sharing services with other communities (such as our building department agreement with Shelby Township) and contracting out services (such as our dispatch services, which we recently contracted out to Oakland County).

The three-year budget process also helps us to see road projects that are on the horizon and make plans to fund them accordingly. This year, we have discussed putting more money into local road/neighborhood street projects for the next three years. This could not have been done had we not made the cuts and decisions discussed above. I am confident that the final budget will include that funding for local roads.

Regarding Major Road projects the city has worked with the county and state on, the city has certainly seen and will see its fair share over the next year. I am happy that the Walton Road project has been completed. The Crooks bridge and road project continues to progress – it appears that the bridge will be completed this year and the road project will conclude next year.

Everyone is anxious to see movement on the Avon and Livernois bridge projects. Funding has been secured for the Avon Bridge – a project that will start and conclude in 2012 – and funding should be secured soon for the Livernois Bridge. The city council took the step this spring to fund half of the engineering with the County Road Commission for both bridges so that we would be ready when the funding is available.

This November we will have a city and school board election and I would urge everyone to be a part of the process and vote. In addition to the election for Mayor and City Council, there will also be a Charter Amendment on the ballot regarding park space.

As always, I remain committed to representing you to the best of my ability. I welcome your phone calls and e-mails. I wish you and your family the very best this fall and winter.

The Rochester Hills City Council consists of seven members: four district 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.

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.

ARE YOU VOTING THIS YEAR?

Yes, it's time for our local City Election. The City of Rochester Hills will hold a General Election on Tuesday, November 8, 2011. We will be voting for Mayor, City Council Members at Large (2 positions), City Council Member-District 2 and City Council Member-District 3. We will also be voting on Library Board (2 positions and 1 position to fill an unexpired term), Avondale School District Board Members (3 positions), Rochester Community School District Board Members (3 positions) and a Charter Amendment Proposal.

Absent Voter Ballot applications were mailed to everyone on the Permanent AV List earlier this year. This form was good for both the Primary and General Elections. If you have already sent in your application, you will be receiving your Absent Voter Ballot for the November Election sometime after September 24. **If you would like to receive an Absent Voter Ballot and need an application, our Absent Voter Ballot Application is on the city's web site at www.rochesterhills.org/Clerk/ElectionInformation.** Or, you can contact the Clerk's Office at 248-656-4630 and request an application be mailed to you. The Clerk's Office will be open on Saturday, November 5, which is the last day absentee ballots can be mailed, from 8 a.m. until 2 p.m. to issue absentee ballots. The Clerk's Office will issue absent voter ballots in person in the office on Monday, November 7th until 4:00 p.m.

A candidates' guide will be available on the League of Women Voters' web site, www.lwvoa.org. The League will host a Candidate Forum on Thursday, September 29 here at city hall at 7:00 p.m. The Candidate Forum will be broadcast live on September 29 on Channels 10/WOW, 20/Comcast, or 99/AT&T and re-broadcast several times through Election Day.

Remember, you must be a registered voter at your current address for at least 30 days prior to voting in any election. The Close of Registration for the November 8 election is October 11. If you recently registered, you will be receiving your Voter Identification Card prior to the election. Your card provides information about your Precinct, where it is located, and the districts for City Council, County Commissioner, and Congressional representation. If you have lost your card, contact the Clerk's Office.

Election results for the votes in Rochester Hills will be available in the Clerk's Office as they are received on election night on RHTV - Channels 10/20/99. Please reference the General Election Notice for your polling location information (www.rochesterhills.org/Clerk/ElectionInformation). Use this link to also see the ballot for your precinct.

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

PLEASE REMEMBER TO VOTE

Hills Herald

Published by the:
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Vern Pixley, Vice President
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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 24 & 25

December 23, 26, 29 & 30

**CITY OF ROCHESTER HILLS
NOTICE OF ELECTION**

GENERAL ELECTION

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2011

To the Qualified Electors of the City of Rochester Hills:

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN That a General Election will be held in the City of Rochester Hills, County of Oakland, State of Michigan on

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2011

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	Reuther Middle School, 1430 E. Auburn Rd.
Precinct # 6	Avon Clubhouse, 2600 W. Auburn Rd.
Precinct # 7	West Middle School, 500 Old Perch
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
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.
Precinct #30	St. Mary's of the Hills, 2675 John R
Precinct #31	Reuther Middle School, 1430 E. Auburn Rd.
Precinct #32	Hart Middle School, 6500 Sheldon Rd.

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

FOR THE PURPOSE OF ELECTING CANDIDATES FOR THE FOLLOWING:

CITY OFFICES:

MAYOR
CITY COUNCIL MEMBER AT LARGE (Vote for 2)
CITY COUNCIL MEMBER 2nd DISTRICT
CITY COUNCIL MEMBER 3rd DISTRICT
LIBRARY BOARD MEMBER (Vote for 2)
LIBRARY BOARD MEMBER (To fill unexpired term)

SCHOOL OFFICES:

AVONDALE SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD MEMBER (Vote for 3)
ROCHESTER COMMUNITY SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER (Vote for 3)

AND FOR THE PURPOSE OF VOTING ON THE FOLLOWING PROPOSAL:

PROPOSED CHARTER AMENDMENT

A proposal to amend the City Charter by adding the following new Section 11.8 – Parks and Open Spaces. If adopted, this section will provide that City-owned parks and open spaces shall be used only for park and open space purposes and shall not be sold, leased, transferred, exchanged or converted to another use unless approved by voters.

Section 11.8 - Parks and Open Spaces

City-owned parks and open spaces shall be used only for park and open space purposes and shall not be sold, leased, transferred, exchanged or converted to another use unless approved by a majority of votes cast by the electors at an election.

.1 “Converted to another use” means changing the use of a park or open space, or significant part thereof, from a recreation or conservation use to another use not directly related or incidental to public recreation or conservation.

.2 This section shall apply to all present and future City-owned property designated as park or open space in the City’s Parks and Recreation Master Plan. The designation of parks or open space shall not be removed or changed without voter approval. The existing use of a park or open space on the effective date of this section shall be considered to be a lawful use for the particular property.

.3 All land acquired by the City with proceeds from the 2005 Millage Proposal to Provide Funding to Permanently Preserve Green Spaces and Natural Features within the City of Rochester Hills shall remain permanently preserved.

Shall the City Charter be amended to add Section 11.8?

Yes

No

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, November 5, 2011 FROM 8:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M. The last day to obtain absentee ballots by mail is Saturday, November 5, 2011 at 2:00 p.m.

Questions concerning elections should be directed to the Clerk’s Office at 248-656-4630.

Jane Leslie, City Clerk
City of Rochester Hills
1000 Rochester Hills Drive
Rochester Hills, Michigan 48309



The Village of Rochester Hills Tree Lighting Ceremony 2011

Join us at the Village of Rochester Hills on Friday, November 18, 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. Mayor Bryan Barnett will lead the countdown for Santa's arrival and children's eyes will sparkle as they flip 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 are always free and are available on weekends until December 24. Please remember to bring your camera as photography is not provided. For additional information, please visit the Village of Rochester Hills website at www.thevorh.com.