



Bryan K. Barnett, Mayor

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## A Message from the Mayor

On March 15, 2011, I had the distinct pleasure of delivering my State of the City Address to family, friends, business owners, and fellow residents of our fine city. I was pleased to have the opportunity to host this year's event in the beautiful new Emagine Theatre. I would like to thank theatre owners Paul Glantz and John Goldstein, and their professional staff, for their generosity in helping make this event so enjoyable for our record crowd. I would also like to thank them for allowing us the opportunity to showcase yet another reason Rochester Hills is **the** preeminent place to live, work and raise a family.

During my address, I highlighted many of the outstanding amenities our city has to offer: our parks, trails, special events, unique museum, and historic districts to name a few. I shared the news of our great fortune of having the Rochester Hills Museum be the recipient of a most generous gift from former Congressman William S. Broomfield. Congressman Broomfield is donating his congressional documents to the museum, where they will serve as an archival exhibit for the community and guests. In addition, the Broomfield Foundation has committed \$100,000 toward the adaptive reuse of the calf barn. To oversee and facilitate this project, I have appointed a Mayor's Museum Committee which is embarking on raising funds needed to complete the project without use of taxpayer dollars.

Recently we conducted a statistically significant survey through Oakland University to ask our residents a series of tough questions. The most important question was, **are you satisfied with your decision to live in Rochester Hills? The answer was a resounding YES! It broke all records as the highest recorded satisfaction level in the history of our community!**

In addition to these quality of life issues, I announced the many positive signs the economic picture is beginning to brighten. New housing permits are up, foreclosure numbers are declining, and despite the continuing economic pressures we are all facing, the future looks brighter. I feel confident in saying we are

headed in the right direction, and we are doing what needs to be done to keep the momentum rolling. I proposed, and council passed, a budget which kept Rochester Hills the lowest taxed city with a population over 5,000



Congressman Broomfield in the Oval Office

in Oakland County. Our progressive cost cutting measures, coupled with innovative spending guidelines, has further enhanced our financial leadership position. To top things off, I pioneered a three year budget which will allow the city to better predict and plan for the future. I am proud to announce our budget is balanced for 2011, 2012 and 2013 and are not projecting the use of Fund Balance monies to do it. Our strong fiscal responsibility and stable financial outlook are the reasons we were given a AAA rating by both Fitch's Reporting Agency and Standard & Poor's. We are **very** proud of this outcome.

As always, I am extremely proud of the Rochester Hills team. Our employees continue to be the best in the business, despite being asked to do more with less. You can rest assured that you are getting the biggest bang for your buck when it comes to Rochester Hills employees.

Last year, during my 2010 State of the City Address, I handed out \$7 bills to symbolize the poor response we had in the 2000 census, and to challenge citizens to do better. In 2000, only 72% of Rochester Hills residents filled out and returned the Census form. We were in the bottom five reporting communities in Oakland County. Not this year! We finished this year with an 86% return rate, second in the entire state and tied for fifth best in the entire country, just 2% behind the first place finishers! This response is how we get our funding from Washington and I commend you on doing such a fantastic job.

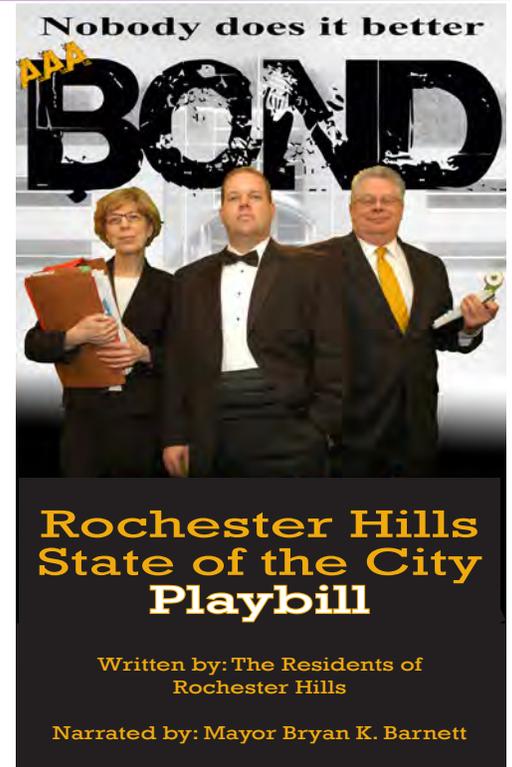
You should also be very proud of our efforts to become a more environmentally friendly city. Our recycling program has had resounding results, and I am very proud to be the Mayor of Oakland County's "green leader" and Michigan's greenest city. Just two years ago, only 19% of our residents regularly recycled and now 85-90% recycle. Our recycling program, "Green School" winners, energy saving light bulb distribution program, and Earth Day recognition are just some of the ways we are working to maintain that title.

Finally, I cannot speak of our successes without mentioning our economic retention and attraction efforts. My administration, with the strong support of our council, has been laser-like focused on attracting and retaining quality jobs in our community. In 2010, we added 24 new businesses, bringing more than \$60 million new investment dollars and creating almost 1300 new jobs in Rochester Hills. This astonishing success, coupled with our low unemployment rate, is what makes our city stand above the competition. We are the jewel of Oakland County and these are just some of the reasons why.

In summary, as residents of Rochester Hills, you can be sure we are living below our means with the highest credit rating possible. We are strengthening old partnerships and creating new ones to further advance efficiencies. We have been state wide environmental leaders. We have been vigilant and successful in doing what every other government agency is trying to do – create jobs! We are strategically partnered with Rochester College, Oakland University and Oakland County. We are not just surviving in the worst economy in decades, **we are thriving.**

Rest assured, this new normal is going to continue to make us think and approach problems differently, but Rochester Hills is up for that task. We have an outstanding team of creative employees who seek to be part of the solution. We will be realistic about the economic issues we face, but more importantly, we will be creative, aggressive, and innovative in our approach to solve them. **Among all of the statistics I have mentioned, the fact our residents are happier and more satisfied with living in the City of Rochester Hills, gives us bold confidence that we are moving in the right direction and have our residents support. We believe we are well positioned and ready to lead Southeast Michigan's recovery.**

I am pleased to report to you that our community is resilient and our economic outlook is strong and improving, and I stand confident that despite a few good punches, Rochester Hills remains the preminent place to live, work, and raise your family.



*Our program highlighted both our venue and our pride in our AAA Bond rating!*

God Bless,

Bryan K. Barnett, Mayor  
City of Rochester Hills

## City Receives Distinguished Budget Award

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 2011 Budget.

The Distinguished Budget Award is the highest form of recognition in governmental budgeting. This marks the fifteenth 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 2011 Adopted Budget, please click here:

<http://ww3.rochesterhills.org/webpages/2011AdoptedBudgetPlanBook.pdf>



# Hills Herald

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**BRYAN K. BARNETT, Mayor**

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### Award for Outstanding Achievement in Popular Annual Financial Reporting

PRESENTED TO

City of Rochester Hills  
Michigan

for the Fiscal Year Ended  
December 31, 2009



  
President  
Jeffrey L. Eason  
Executive Director

## City of Rochester Hills Receives the Award for Outstanding Achievement in Popular Annual Financial Summary Reporting

The Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) of the United States and Canada has awarded the City of Rochester Hills the Award for Outstanding Achievement in Popular Annual Financial Summary Reporting. This is a prestigious national award program that recognizes conformance with the highest standards in the preparation of state and local government popular annual financial reports.

The information presented in the financial summary was obtained from the audited financial statements included in the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) for the period ended December 31, 2010. This financial summary does not comply with generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP), as component units were not included.



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

Rochester Hills Fire Department wants you to be safe!

All too often people will refer to a house fire as an incident that was an “accident”. The fact is almost all fires are preventable with only a few exceptions. So why does the fire rate continue to be so high? It’s due to the human element. Following are the top five reasons for home fires and the simple steps to prevent them.

### **Top 5 Causes of House Fires**

#### **Fire Threat #1: Cooking**

Fire safety starts in the kitchen. Cooking—particularly stove-top cooking—represents the leading cause of home fires. Many such fires occur after residents put something on the stove but become distracted and/or underestimate the threat of a fire. They may go to another room, run to the store “just for a second” or just simply forget the stove is on and before they know it, the small fire has become a fully involved kitchen fire.

**Solution: Stand by your pan.** Because cooking causes so many home fires, it is essential to give anything that’s on top of the stove your undivided attention, which means—do not leave your cooking unattended. If you have to leave the kitchen for whatever the reason, turn the stove off.

#### **Fire Threat #2: Heating Equipment**

Have your furnace inspected annually by a qualified technician, and your chimney cleaned and inspected annually. Keep portable heaters at least three feet away from anything that can burn (including curtains, furniture, and yourself or children), and don’t use your heaters to dry shoes or clothes. Install a carbon monoxide alarm to alert you to deadly carbon monoxide gas which can be produced not only from heaters but your gas stoves, fireplaces, clothes dryers and hot-water heaters.



#### **Fire Threat #3: Careless Smoking**

Make the bedroom off-limits to smoking, and supervise smokers who may become drowsy (i.e. on medication, drinking) or forget to extinguish their cigarette. Use large, deep ashtrays and never place an ashtray on or near anything that will burn. Also, check furniture for fallen cigarettes/embers since a butt can smoulder for hours before causing furniture to burst into flames.

**Solution:** Don’t smoke, but if you do, go outdoors and appropriately extinguish your cigarettes.

#### **Fire Threat #4: Electrical Equipment**

Ensure the following:

1. Your electrical appliances don’t have loose or frayed cords/plugs.
2. Your outlets aren’t overloaded with plugs.
3. You’re not running electrical wires under rugs or heavy furniture.
4. You’re not overusing an extension cord. Be careful about do-it-yourself electrical projects; many home fires are caused by improper installation, so use a licensed electrician.
5. You’re using the appliance or cords for their intended use and not exceeding their limitations





### Fire Threat # 5: Candles

There are several steps that can be taken to ensure the safe use of candles.

1. Always keep a burning candle with in sight.
2. Never burn candles near anything that is combustible.
3. Keep candles out of reach of children and pets.
4. Be sure the candle holder is placed on a stable, heat-resistant surface.
5. Never move a burning candle when the wax is liquid.
6. To prevent hot wax splatter, use a snuffer to extinguish candles.
7. Never use a candle as a night light.

**Although the causes of fires are numerous AND PREVENTABLE, the one most common and reoccurring factor is the human element. The basic principles of common sense truly and significantly will reduce unintended fires.**

## Fire Safety is in Your Hands!

### 2011 Summer Taxes Due September 14, 2011

The 2011 Summer Property Taxes will be mailed by mid-June and are due Wednesday, September 14, 2011. 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](http://www.rochesterhills.org/city_services/treasury/payment_options.asp) for more information on convenient payment options. After September 14, 2011, interest of 1% will be added and an additional 1% will be added on the first day of each month thereafter. Summer tax deferment, which defers the summer tax payment due date of your principal residence to February 15, 2012, is available for qualified residents. For more information on summer tax deferment, please click here [http://www.rochesterhills.org/city\\_services/treasury/property\\_taxes/summer\\_tax\\_deferment.asp](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, 2012, a 3% penalty will be added to the unpaid balance of all 2011 unpaid taxes. Questions can be directed to the Treasury Department at 248-656-4675 or [treasury@rochesterhills.org](mailto:treasury@rochesterhills.org)

### Renew Dog Licenses at City of Rochester Hills

Through Wednesday, June 1, 2011, Oakland County's yearly dog license for 2011 may be renewed at the City Treasury Department for the non-delinquent fee. Please bring the postcard renewal reminder that was sent to you. Your dog's rabies vaccination certificate **must** be presented when you apply for the license. If you recently acquired a dog or are a new resident, you have a 30-day grace period to license your dog. If you are purchasing your dog license at the city, the check must be made payable to the "City of Rochester Hills". Visit the Treasury Department on the city's Website at [http://www.rochesterhills.org/city\\_services/treasury/dog\\_licenses.asp](http://www.rochesterhills.org/city_services/treasury/dog_licenses.asp) for more information regarding animal licensing. Questions can be directed to the Treasury Department at 248-656-4675 or [treasury@rochesterhills.org](mailto:treasury@rochesterhills.org)



# 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:** Funded through the CDBG program, the 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](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 additional information, please 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](http://www.oakgov.com/chi/home_improvement/index.html).



before

A home in  
Keego  
Harbor



after

**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

Foreclosure

Reverse Mortgages for Seniors

Tenant or Landlord Issues

Housing Resource Referrals

Emergency Housing

Homebuyer Education

Fair Housing

Call (248) 858-5402 or access the website at:

[http://www.oakgov.com/chi/housing\\_counsel/](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. These services may include home energy audits, wall and attic insulation, floor/foundation insulation, furnace repair or replacement and other energy saving measures. 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	Family Size	Maximum Gross Income
1.....	\$39,100	5.....	\$60,350
2.....	\$44,700	6.....	\$64,800
3.....	\$50,300	7.....	\$69,300
4.....	\$55,850	8.....	\$73,750

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

## Citizen Financial Summary Report

Each year the city produces a Comprehensive Annual Financial Report. Last year we introduced you to the city's first Citizen Financial Summary Report. This year, we are continuing that effort with our 2010 Financial Summary Report to help 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, 2010. Follow this link [http://www.rochesterhills.org/city\\_services/uploads/RH2010CAFR.pdf](http://www.rochesterhills.org/city_services/uploads/RH2010CAFR.pdf) 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.

Follow this link:

[http://www.rochesterhills.org/city\\_services/uploads/2010FinancialSummaryReport.pdf](http://www.rochesterhills.org/city_services/uploads/2010FinancialSummaryReport.pdf) to view the city's 2010 Financial Summary Report.

We hope you find this report helpful as you gain a better understanding of the city's finances.

**CITY OF ROCHESTER HILLS**



**Financial Summary Report**  
For Year Ending December 31, 2010



innovative by nature

*The Financial Summary Report is also available in print form. To obtain a copy, please visit the Accounting Division in City Hall, or call 248-656-4632 to have one sent to you.*

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



## Senior Citizens Safety Tips

First, remember that while you are at home there two ways in which you can be contacted: **your door and your telephone.**

### *At the Door*

Most of the time, the person at your door will be there for a legitimate reason, whether he/she is a friend or stranger.

If the caller is a recognized friend, there should be no problem. If the caller is a stranger, you should immediately become alert. Never open your door to a stranger. You should have a one-way peephole installed in the door that allows you to see who the caller is. The one-way peephole is inexpensive and easily installed.

If a stranger is legitimately at your door, he/she will not object to your being cautious. Establish the caller's identity and the reason for the visit.

If he/she refuses to show identification and will not leave, quietly go to the telephone and call the police. If you live in an apartment complex, telephone your building superintendent. Should the caller produce identification but you are still not sure of the validity of the visit, telephone the caller's business office for confirmation. If you still feel uncomfortable, do not open your door; ask the caller to return in 30 minutes or an hour. This will allow you sufficient time to contact a friend or relative to be present when the caller returns. Being cautious increases your safety and well being.

There are a number of ways you can secure your doors. If you do not feel your locks are adequate, we recommend that you contact a professional locksmith or a friend to assist you. (North Vancouver RCMP have literature on home security that will provide you information on various residential locking devices.) Should you consider improving the security of your home, investigate thoroughly your lock requirements and the cost of upgrading the security of your doors themselves for a lock is only as effective as the door and frame on which it is installed.

### *On the Telephone*

You control conversations and information flow on your telephone. If you do not know the caller, do not volunteer information. Should the caller ask "Who is this?" you should respond "Who are you calling?" or "To whom do you wish to speak?" Make the caller identify who he/she is calling. If you do not receive an appropriate response, hang up.

Do not allow yourself to be drawn into conversations with strange callers, census/survey takers or business promotion sales persons where you will be asked to reveal your name, address, marital status, personal history information etc. Never give out personal information over the telephone. If the call is legitimate and representative actually requires the information, arrange a meeting to your convenience. The legitimate caller will respect your position and agree to an alternative approach. If in doubt, ask the caller for the name of the business and the telephone number so that you can return the call. Then check the number to ensure that it corresponds to the caller's information.

In the case of obscene telephone calls, night calls from strangers or frequent wrong numbers, call the telephone company and seek their advice. If necessary, change your telephone number.

### **REMEMBER:**

- **Never open your door to a stranger.**
- **If a stranger is legitimately at your door, he or she will not object to your being cautious.**
- **Being cautious increases your safety and well being.**
- **You control conversations and information flow on your telephone.**
- **If you do not receive an appropriate response on the telephone, hang up!**

# Greater Rochester Area Relay for Life

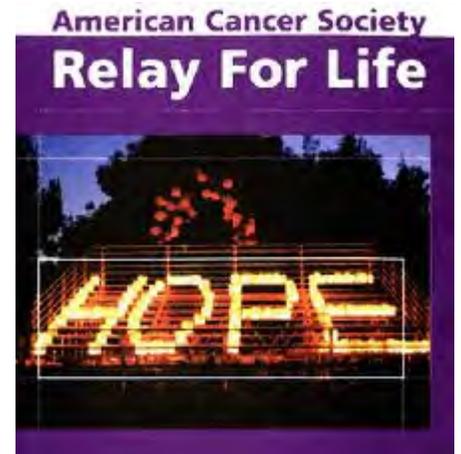


The 13th annual Greater Rochester Area Relay for Life is coming to Rochester Hills. This year's event will be held at Hart Middle School beginning June 25 at 9:00 a.m. and lasting until 9:00 a.m. on June 26. Relay for Life is a 24-hour family fun event where teams camp out, walk around the track, play games, and make new friends while raising awareness and money to support programs and services of the American Cancer Society. Highlights of the event are the Survivor Walk, where cancer survivors and their caregivers are recognized and applauded, and the Luminary Ceremony where we take time to reflect, remember and honor the people who have lost their fight against cancer.

During the year, City of Rochester Hills employees hold numerous fund raising events including pop can drives, lunches, bowl-a-thons, dances, and motorcycle rallies. Last year, they built a haunted house at Halloween to raise money for Relay for Life.

This year, we are looking for people to enroll in a long range study that is being undertaken by the American Cancer Society. The study is called Cancer Prevention Study 3 (CPS3) and is being conducted to better understand possible factors that cause or prevent cancer. Factors such as lifestyle, environment, and genetics will be evaluated. Past studies have linked tobacco use and second hand smoke to lung cancer, as well as the impact of air pollution and poor nutrition on increasing cancer risks. The enrollment period for this study is between the hours of 4:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. on Saturday, June 25, 2011. In order to participate in the study, you must be 30-65 years of age, have no previous history of cancer, and willing to complete a survey every couple years. When you enroll, you will fill out a brief form (contact information, demographics, etc), provide a waist measurement, and give a small sample of blood (about seven teaspoons.) Shortly after enrolling, you will receive your first survey to fill out. If you have any questions about this study, please email Cheryl at [cps3.rochestermi@gmail.com](mailto:cps3.rochestermi@gmail.com).

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



## Rochester Hills Government Youth Council Hosts June 5k Run/Walk to Benefit the Rochester Area Neighborhood House

The Rochester Hills Government Youth Council's (RHGYC) is sponsoring a 5k Run/Walk to benefit the Rochester Area Neighborhood House on Saturday, June 18, 2011 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. This year's fun run/walk event will be chip timed.

The Rochester Area Neighborhood House (RANH) recognizes the basic needs of residents in crisis and responds with emotional and financial assistance. Founded in faith, RANH believes that people helping people is the model of a strong community. RANH helps neighbors in need by providing food, clothing, transportation, counseling and financial assistance.

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

Entrance forms for runners and sponsors of the 5K along with links to online registration are available in the Youth Council area of the city's website at [http://www.rochesterhills.org/our\\_government/youth\\_council/overview.asp](http://www.rochesterhills.org/our_government/youth_council/overview.asp). Participants submitting entries by June 1, 2011 will receive a Race T-shirt. After June 1, T-shirts will be available for entrants while supplies last. For more information on the RHGYC and the 5K, contact Leanne Scott, Rochester Hills City Council Coordinator and Adult Advisor to the RHGYC at 248-841-2460.

*Our 2010 Government Youth Council*



# Rochester Hills Building Department



## Choosing Your Contractor Making The Right Choice

For most people, their home is one of the largest investments of their lives. When it comes to home improvement projects, choosing the right contractor to do the work could make or break your investment.

Once you have decided to have work performed in your home, you will need to contact contractors to begin receiving proposals for the work to be done. Some places you can find names of contractors are:

- Friends or neighbors who have had satisfactory work performed
- People at local home improvement centers, builder shows or open houses
- Local Yellow Pages or local home builders associations

Once you have compiled a list of prospective contractors, ask to meet with the contractors to discuss the project. Some questions you may want to ask are:

- How long have you been in business?
- May I have a copy of your worker's compensation and liability insurance certificates?
- May I have a copy of your contractor's license?
- How do you warrant your work?
- Will you clean up the job site on a daily basis?
- May I have a list of references for projects you have completed which are similar to mine?

Check the contractor's references and find out if other homeowners were satisfied with the contractor's quality of work and professionalism.

Ask the contractors to give you estimates in writing, including:

- The contractor's name, address, telephone number, license number and insurance information
- Payment schedule
- Brand names, sizes, quantities, styles, types of products and materials, a detailed description of labor, and all costs associated with the proposal
- A timeframe for the project including a start and finish date

When choosing your contractor, do not choose based solely on cost. Quality of work and materials will affect the cost. Compare every aspect of the project before making your choice.

Once you choose your contractor, be sure to enter into a written contract prior to the commencement of work. Your contract should include the following information:

- The contractor's company name, address, telephone number, contractor license number and insurance information
- The name of the contractor and the salesperson (if applicable)
- Brand names, sizes, quantities, styles, types of products and materials, and a detailed description of labor
- Start date and completion date of the project – these dates should allow for reasonable delays
- A clause that allows for you to withhold payment if work slows down for no apparent reason
- Terms and schedule of payment – should allow only a down payment, not payment in full at time of signing
- A statement requiring the contractor to obtain all necessary permits from the City of Rochester Hills before work begins
- A statement that final payment will be made when all contracted work has been completed and all necessary inspections and approvals are obtained from the City of Rochester Hills
- A statement of warranty on the work to be performed
- A date and signature of all parties involved

Of course, this is not an all-inclusive list. It may be in your best interest to consult an attorney for review of the contract prior to signing. A little extra cost in attorney fees up front could save you a lot of headaches later.

Have two copies of the contract signed and dated – one for you and one for the contractor.

Once you have entered into a contract with your contractor, be sure to pay your contractor on time as stated by the payment schedule in your contract. Some tips to remember when negotiating the contract and paying your contractor are:

- Never pay for the entire project in advance. Make a deposit to cover materials and start-up costs.
- Pay by check payable to the company and ALWAYS get a receipt.
- Never make a final payment until all necessary inspections and approvals are obtained from the City of Rochester Hills
- Pay your contractor on time – failure to do so could result in a lien being placed on your property by the contractor

Hopefully, all will go well with your project and you will develop a great relationship and future business with your contractor. There are times, however, when things don't go as planned and problems may arise during the project. In these cases, you have several options:

- First try to resolve any problems with the contractor directly before making final payment.
- If problems cannot be resolved with the contractor, you could file a complaint with the State of Michigan by calling 517-241-9202.
- Another method of resolving your problem would be to contact an attorney and pursue legal action.

We hope that all goes well with your project and that the experience of home improvement is a happy one. If you have any questions during the project, contact the Building Department at 248-656-4615 and someone will be happy to assist you. For more information, visit our website at [http://www.rochesterhills.org/city\\_services/building/overview.asp](http://www.rochesterhills.org/city_services/building/overview.asp).

## “Spring Cleaning” Includes Your Yard!

As the weather improves we all start having thoughts of opening up the doors and windows of the house to get rid of that old “stale air” and do some serious “spring cleaning.” The “cooped up all winter” feeling makes us want to run for the great outdoors and enjoy some fresh air and sunshine.

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

Winter can be tough on a house, garage, swimming pool, etc., and in particular can be very tough on your yard. As you “come out of the cave,” start looking around and see if winter took its toll.

In particular, some of the things to look for include:

- Any trash or debris that may have been blown into the yard or deposited by snow piles.
- Downed branches or piles of leaves that may have blown into corners.
- Damaged gutters and downspouts that may have been damaged by winds.
- House trim such as shutters, storm windows or doors, and house paint that may have been damaged by wind, snow, or ice.
- Fences damaged by downed branches or ice or any other exterior wear and tear that wasn't there in the fall.

The Building Department has developed a “Guide to Neighborhood Living” that can be obtained at our service counter and on-line at [http://www.rochesterhills.org/our\\_community/good\\_neighbor\\_guide.asp](http://www.rochesterhills.org/our_community/good_neighbor_guide.asp). This guide outlines some of the “DOs and DON'Ts” of property maintenance and what you can do to make sure you and your property have a “happy summer”.

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



# Families First! has become.....



## Program Overview

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

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

## Award Categories

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

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

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

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

## Selection Criteria

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

## Honoring Process

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

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

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

To nominate an individual or group, please see the nomination form on the next page. For additional information, please visit <http://ww3.rochesterhills.org/communityfirst/index.html>, or you can contact the office of Mayor Bryan K. Barnett at 248-656-4664.

# City of Rochester Hills Nomination Form

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

**Select a category:**      ◇ Individual      ◇ Family      ◇ Local Business      ◇ Non-Profit

**Nominee Information:**

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

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

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

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

**Nomination Narrative:**

Please tell us why you have selected this community member(s) for consideration. Please provide a detailed description of the specific volunteer or community service work that has resulted in a positive impact upon an individual, group, or community at large. Consider including details about what is unique or distinctive about the community service performed, length of time served, fundraising efforts, etc.

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**Nominated by:**

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

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

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

**Please complete, print and submit to Mayor Barnett:**

**By Mail:**

City of Rochester Hills  
Office of the Mayor  
1000 Rochester Hills Drive  
Rochester Hills, MI 48309

**Email:**

Mayorsoffice@rochesterhills.org

**Fax:**

(248) 656-4603

**Questions regarding nominations or the award process?**

Please call the Mayor's Office at (248)656-4664

# Rochester Hills Parks

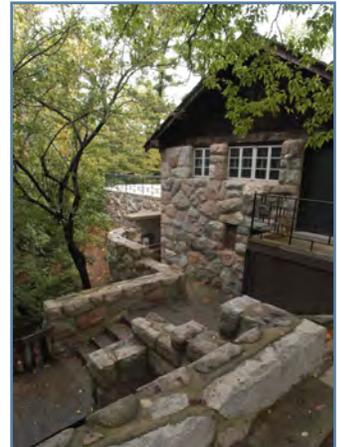
The parks of Rochester Hills are yours to enjoy! Whether you take pleasure in biking, hiking, basketball, baseball, softball, in-line skating, tennis, walking, picnicking, bird watching, batting cages, boating, fishing or discovering local history, it is all within a few miles from home. Here are just a handful of ideas:

- It's swimsuit season! The beach at [Spencer Park](#) opens on Saturday, May 28. The lake alone boasts a guarded beach, boat rentals and a handicap accessible fishing pier but there is plenty more to do. Come on over! We are open daily 10:00 am until dusk.
- Speaking of swimsuit season – are you stuck on your stair step machine or treadmill in this nice weather? Go to [Bloomer Park](#) where you can walk the nearly 200 stairs next to the Stone Shelter or hike the sledding hill. It's great exercise!
- Tennis anyone? We offer tennis courts at Avondale, Borden and Spencer Parks. Prefer hoops instead? Avondale and Borden have basketball courts. All courts are on first-come, first-served basis when RARA has not reserved them. We only provide the net so bring your own equipment. For a complete list of all sports fields, courts and rinks [click here](#).
- Need to practice for the company picnic baseball game? Come to Borden Park where you can rent 1 of 7 [batting cages](#) by the hour or get 12 pitches for \$1.00.
- Ever ridden a bike on a 44-degree angle? Free introductory lessons at the [Velodrome](#) at Bloomer Park are available.
- Want to go journey back in time? [Museum Membership](#) allows you free and discounted entry to Museum displays, events and activities.
- Planning a party? Bloomer and Spencer Parks have weekend rentals of their shelters and tents. Several dates are still available for shelters through October and tents through Labor Day. [Click here](#) to check out our amenities.

As you can see, the Parks of Rochester Hills are teeming with activities for all ages. When you frequent our [Calendar of Events](#) you can join the excitement!



*Spencer Park*



*Stone Shelter at Bloomer Park*

## BORDEN PARK BATTING CAGES

The Batting cages at Borden Park (located at the corner of Hamlin and John R) are open for the season and can be used on a \$1 per token basis. Each token gives you about 12 pitches. Batting cages can also be reserved by the hour for \$25.00 per hour per cage. For more information, click

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:  **meijer**

- **Sunday, June 12<sup>th</sup> 2011**
- Open to all ages and skill levels
- Registration from 10:00 -1:00
- Tournament runs from 11:00 -3:00
- T-shirts to first 80 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, call 248.656.4657 or email Park Ranger Chris Parsell at [parsellc@rochesterhills.org](mailto:parsellc@rochesterhills.org)

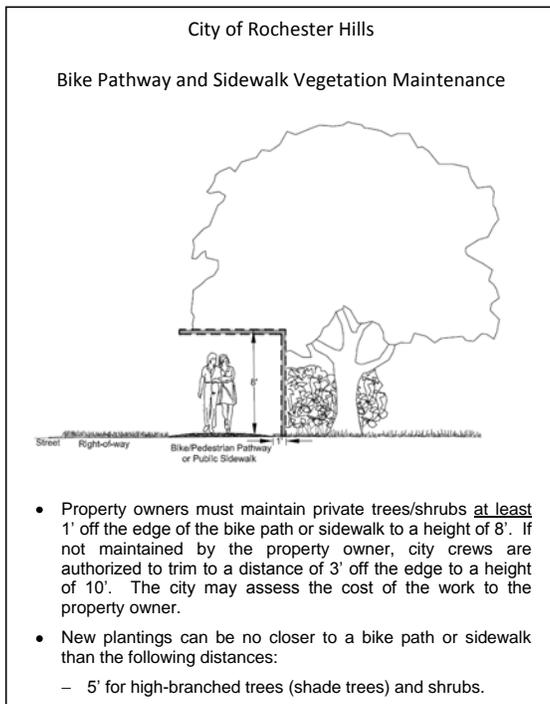
# and Forestry Updates

## 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.



## GYPSY MOTH SUPPRESSION PROGRAM 2011

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 2005-2010.

Forestry Division observations again indicate 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 2011. There are, however, some specific neighborhoods that may 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 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 2011, 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. With the right information, our citizens can reduce the gypsy moth population.

Forestry staff will continue to monitor the gypsy moth population and provide educational information to citizens. Our educational efforts will focus on placing burlap hiding squares to attract larger gypsy moth caterpillars, and the proper methods of destroying them. 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 9, 2011, is the deadline for ordering trees for Fall 2011.

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 2011, a canoe and kayak event to be held on Saturday, June 4. 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 miles north await you around each bend.”

Close to one hundred and fifty people participated in the event each of the last two years and at least the same amount of participants are 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 expense or hassle. 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](http://www.auburnhills.org) or [www.rochesterhills.org](http://www.rochesterhills.org), or by calling the City of Auburn Hills Parks and Recreation Department at 248-370-9353.



*Kayakers celebrate Paddlepalooza 2010*



*Mayor Barnett and fellow canoeists on the Clinton River*

## Saving Green

As spring approaches and turns into summer, the thought of yard work and mowing comes to mind. With many budgets stretched to their limit, perhaps now is a good time to rethink some mowing practices. For subdivisions with open water basins, perhaps not mowing so much of the open space property would help save on operational costs. While it is true that city ordinances require that adjoining property lines still have a certain buffer maintained through mowing, the rest of the property could be mowed on a less frequent basis or not at all. No mow buffers around open water basins will not only help with algae growth reductions, and pond longevity, it will also discourage the amount of geese that call your basin area home. Ten to fifteen feet of natural areas around the basin will have taller grasses and forbs which is a great deterrent for geese congregation. Several mowed areas to the waters edge can still be placed so people can get their feet wet, catch bugs or just be content with the views.

The vast array of fauna that will begin to inhabit these areas will also be to your benefit. Butterfly, dragon fly and damsel fly will soon be evident. Birds, frogs and all types of other beneficial creatures will start showing up, all to help keep those mosquitoes away.

For individual residential lawns, mowing the grass to a height of four inches will not only help eliminate weeds, but it will produce a thicker lawn that is more drought resistant and healthy.

This may be one of the few times where doing nothing is a good thing, saving money and helping to improve the environment.

For more informational yard tips, please visit [www.socwa.org](http://www.socwa.org).



# SEMCOG Information

## News from SEMCOG: Carpooling to work saves money!

Everyone is looking for ways to save money. SEMCOG, the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments, has a great idea that can save commuters nearly \$3,000 (and even more with the soaring fuel prices) a year. Carpool to work...and find a carpool partner through MiRideshare!

MiRideshare has served Southeast Michigan commuters since 1980 with a free, safe carpool matching program. In these challenging economic times, sharing a ride to work has many advantages  $\frac{3}{4}$  it saves money, decreases commuter stress, and is good for the environment. Find a carpool partner through MiRideshare's easy-to-use online matching software. Those in the database are also eligible for incentives and prizes in addition to saving money.



Students, volunteers, employees  $\frac{3}{4}$  any commuter over age 18 with a regular schedule whose work/school location falls within Livingston, Macomb, Monroe, Oakland, St. Clair, Washtenaw, and Wayne Counties  $\frac{3}{4}$  can use this service. You can carpool all the time, or just a few days a week. Carpooling is as flexible as you need it to be since you work out the details of your commute with potential partners.

And in the event of an emergency, MiRideshare offers "commuter insurance" through the Guaranteed Ride Home program. We'll get you home safely if you need to leave early or work late with free taxi rides up to six times per year.

According to the AAA, a commuter who drives alone to work (25 miles one-way) spends about \$5,800 per year on gas, maintenance, taxes, depreciation, and finance costs. That same commuter can save as much as 50 percent of these costs by carpooling with just one other person! No matter how high gas prices go, sharing a ride is a great value.

Commuters may also be able to save more once out of the ride alone commute by letting their auto insurance provider know about their new commute status. Many offer discounts for lower mileage usage on vehicles.

It's easy to get started. Go to [www.semco.org](http://www.semco.org) and click on MiRideshare under "Hot Topics." There, you'll also find our "get started" video. Please call us with questions at 866-510-POOL.

The month of May provides a great incentive to try carpooling or another alternative commute to work through the Commuter Challenge program. Find details on that program and the prizes that you could win just by trying a different way to work at [www.semco.org/commuterchallenge.aspx](http://www.semco.org/commuterchallenge.aspx).

SEMCOG is a regional planning partnership of local governmental units serving 4.7 million people in the seven-county region of Southeast Michigan striving to enhance the region's quality of life.

## Mark Your Calendar

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

**Monday, May 30, Memorial Day**

**Monday, July 4, Independence Day**

**Monday, September 5, Labor Day**

**Other Dates to Note:**

**Wednesday, June 29, Festival of the Hills**

**Tuesday, August 2, Primary Election**

**Please note: Waste removal will be delayed one day for the above holidays.**



# Memorial Day Parade

**Where: Mount Avon Cemetery, Third Street, Rochester**

**Date: May 30, 2011**

**Time: 9:15 am–12:00 pm**

Please join us. The opening ceremony begins at 9:15 am at Mt Avon Cemetery, City of Rochester. The parade begins at 10:00 am from the cemetery to Veterans Memorial Point (corner of Avon and Livernois) Rochester Hills for closing ceremony. We have a contest for children under 13, so dress up showing your patriotism. Judging will take place on Monday, May 30, 2011 at 8:30 am at Mt Avon Cemetery. First place prize is a bike for both boy and girl winners. If you have any questions, or would like to participate, please call Terri Williams at 248-651-8137. Please join us on May 30.

*Previous Memorial Day Parade participants*



## Eagle Scout Project 2011



*Jake is joined by fellow troop members, Ed Leafdale of the DPS Garage, and his dad, John Bertolet*

Boy Scout Jake Bertolet, from Troop 123 Troy/Rochester, is working toward the rank of Eagle. Jake's Eagle Scout project was to build a walkover bridge over the parking lot retention pond at the City of Rochester Hills, DPS Garage (511 E. Auburn Road). The bridge is 21' long by 6' wide and measures 42" off the ground. Plans for the bridge had to be submitted to the Rochester Hills Building Department, and once approved, Jake began fundraising. He was able to raise \$1000.00, and in addition to that, received a donation of some of the building materials from Lowes. It took Jake and his troop approximately three weekends to complete the project, during some of the coldest and snowiest days we faced this past winter. Jake and his fellow scouts did a great job, and the city employees appreciate the bridge very much!

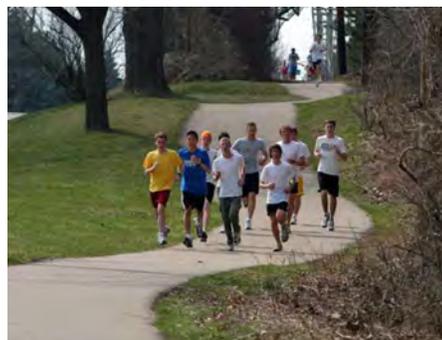
## Keeping Our Pathways Beautiful For All to Enjoy

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

The area between the pathway and the road is owned by the city and maintained by staff of the Forestry Department. The surface itself is inspected and maintained by the Engineering Department. The area of vegetation on the residential side of the pathway is owned by the homeowner whose property adjoins the pathway, and it is the responsibility of the homeowner to keep trees and shrubs from blocking the pathway.

In the summers of 2009 and 2010, Ordinance Compliance staff completed a sweep of every pathway in the city, and contacted residents whose vegetation had become overgrown. The residents who were contacted responded beautifully and cleared the vegetation. This year, we are in maintenance mode and are requesting that city residents who own property along our pathways, continue to be vigilant in keeping our pathway clear and safe for those who use them.

We appreciate the extra effort homeowners put forth in doing their part to help keep Rochester Hills such a beautiful community to live and play in.



# Rochester Hills Museum

**Need a guest speaker?** Or a unique meeting location? Check out the Rochester Hills Museum! The Museum complex includes the 1927 Dairy Barn, 1840 Van Hoosen Farmhouse, 1850 Red House, 1848 Stoney Creek Schoolhouse, and 17 acres of gardens and grounds bordered by Stoney Creek. Museum staff can provide programs and lectures on a wide variety of historical and environmental topics from Mills, Stoney Creek Village, Leaders, Legends, and Liars, Community History, and more. It's a great place for scout groups, schools, and more!



Need a place to host a party? The Museum provides a perfect location for weddings, receptions, birthdays, meetings, and more! Check out the Museum website at [www.rochesterhills.org/museum.htm](http://www.rochesterhills.org/museum.htm) or call the staff at 248-656-4663.

## Upcoming Events

### Garden Walk

Thursday, June 16, 11-7 p.m.

The premier garden event in our community featuring private gardens

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

\$ 8 Museum Members - advance

\$ 10 nonmembers - advance

\$12 Day of the event

### Preview Party

Wednesday, June 15,

7-9 p.m. – a delicious evening of gardens and delights

\$ 25 per person, \$ 45 per couple – includes a garden walk ticket.



### Wet and Wild Wednesdays

*No advanced registration necessary*

Museum members are free!

Non members - \$ 2 per person

12-1 Entertainment

1-2 Slip and slides, fire trucks, and creek wading

July 6 – Joel Tacy – Family magic show

July 13 – Guy Louis – Family concert

July 20 – Kevin Devine – Family concert

July 27 – Chris Linn - magic

### Day Camps

Terrific Tuesdays in the Garden -Parent-Child Program

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

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

June 21, June 28, July 5, July 12, July 19, July 26, August 2, August 9, August 16

Little House by the Creek Day Camp

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

June 30, July 14, July 28, August 11

Little House in the Village Writer's Camp

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

August 22-August 25

### Rochester Grangers Vintage Base Ball

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

May 14, 15

May 28 at Halbach Field on Woodward Street in Rochester  
June 4

July 10

August 28

What is a

Granger? Click here – [www.rochestergrangers.com](http://www.rochestergrangers.com)



## Rochester Hills Museum Unveils Efforts to Restore Calf Barn, Accept Congressional Papers

The Rochester Hills Museum at Van Hoosen Farm unveiled plans to restore the 1927 Van Hoosen Calf Barn at an event at the Royal Park Hotel on April 30. According to Museum supervisor Patrick McKay, “This project will allow the Museum to create another successful public-private partnership like we just accomplished with the preservation of the Stoney Creek Schoolhouse. This project will help restore a building listed on the National Register of Historic Places, create archival space to accept the Congressional papers of Congressman William S. Broomfield and other local history items, and endow the building operations and archive staff member – reducing tax payer reliance for the Museum operation.”

The Museum has the opportunity to tell international history through a local history connection due to the connection of Broomfield to the Taylor family who initially settled Stoney Creek Village – the second settlement in our community.



In addition, the Museum would like to create the Broomfield Center for Leadership where the Museum site can serve as a platform for discussions, meetings, presentations and featured speakers to train leaders throughout our community – in businesses, government, churches, schools, homeowners associations, and more. To learn more about the Broomfield Center and how you can become a financial partner to assist with this restoration effort, please click:

[http://www.rochesterhills.org/city\\_services/uploads/BroomfieldCenterFlyer.pdf](http://www.rochesterhills.org/city_services/uploads/BroomfieldCenterFlyer.pdf)

To learn more about Congressman William S. Broomfield, please click:

[http://www.rochesterhills.org/city\\_services/uploads/MeetWmBroomfield\\_768K\\_Stream.wmv](http://www.rochesterhills.org/city_services/uploads/MeetWmBroomfield_768K_Stream.wmv)

The project will have three phases, each costing \$ 300,000 – Phase I will enclose the building by adding a roof, doors, and windows. Phase II will complete interior work, and Phase III will provide the endowment. The Museum would like to initiate Phase I by the end of the year and has over \$ 120,000 raised towards the \$ 300,000 goal. Bequests, wills, lead gifts, rollover IRAs, real estate and numerous mechanisms are available to help residents explore their own philanthropic interests. Contact Patrick McKay at 248-841-2671 or by email at [mckayp@rochesterhills.org](mailto:mckayp@rochesterhills.org).

### *Planning a Wedding?*



The Rochester Hills Museum at Van Hoosen Farm is available for indoor and outdoor weddings. Located in historic Stoney Creek Village, the 1840 farmhouse has been carefully and beautifully preserved. Indoor wedding ceremonies are held in the classic library and outdoor weddings are held in the 18' garden gazebo located in a maple and walnut grove along tranquil Stoney Creek.

For additional information, visit the [city website](#) or call the Museum at 248-656-4663.



# Use the Rochester Hills Library When You Are On the Go!



*Christine Hage,  
Director  
Rochester Hills  
Public Library*

As society continues to become more and more mobile, the Rochester Hills Public Library has had to adapt its service model to keep pace with the mobile trend. “We realized it was time to convert our website to a more mobile friendly layout,” said library director Christine Lind Hage. “We are constantly updating our website, but to make it mobile friendly was a huge job.”

Karen Knox, IT Manager at the library found a solution through Oakland University. “The mobile RHPL website was created by a team of students from Oakland University. André Hébert, Christine Janello, and Jason Nixon worked with RHPL during the fall 2010 semester to design the mobile website for their Senior Design Project,” said Knox. All three graduated in December with degrees in Information Technology.

The new format should automatically display the Rochester Hills Public Library mobile web site when you go to [www.rhpl.org](http://www.rhpl.org) on your mobile device, but if it does not, you can access the site directly at [www.rhpl.org/m](http://www.rhpl.org/m) and see the new mobile-friendly design!

You can access many of the commonly needed areas of the RHPL site in an easy-to-navigate design from your mobile device. Check out the library events calendar, see what new items are available, find the Bookmobile’s location, and contact the library directly from your mobile device.

In addition, features to search the catalog and check your library account tie into some new software that was made accessible from the library’s catalog vendor, Polaris. This is one of the many new features added with the latest software upgrade which was completed in December. This new mobile catalog makes it easier to find out about items in the library’s collection, place holds, and check your library account.

The Rochester Hills Public Library is located at 500 Olde Towne Road in downtown Rochester. The library is open Monday – Thursday, 9 a.m. – 9 p.m., Friday and Saturday, 9 a.m. – 6 p.m., and Sundays (during the school year) from 1 p.m. – 6 p.m.



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 on Monday at 7:00 p.m. in the City Hall Auditorium. For specific meeting dates and to access the current meeting packet [click here](#). To view videos of City Council Meetings anytime, access the Video Library for streaming web video.

## *City Council Contact Information*

**Greg Hooper – President  
District 3**

Voicemail – 248-841-2645

E-mail – [hooperg@rochesterhills.org](mailto:hooperg@rochesterhills.org)

**Vern Pixley – Vice-President  
At Large**

Voicemail - 248-841-2644

E-mail – [pixleyv@rochesterhills.org](mailto:pixleyv@rochesterhills.org)

**Ravi Yalamanchi – District 1**

Voicemail - 248-841-2643

E-mail – [yalamanchir@rochesterhills.org](mailto:yalamanchir@rochesterhills.org)

**J. Martin Brennan – District 2**

Voicemail - 248-841-2647

E-mail – [brennanm@rochesterhills.org](mailto:brennanm@rochesterhills.org)

**Nathan Klomp – District 4**

Voicemail – 248-841-2648

E-mail – [klompn@rochesterhills.org](mailto:klompn@rochesterhills.org)

**Jim Rosen – At Large**

Voicemail – 248-841-2646

E-mail – [rosenj@rochesterhills.org](mailto:rosenj@rochesterhills.org)

**Michael Webber – At-Large**

Voicemail – 248-841-2649

E-mail – [webberm@rochesterhills.org](mailto:webberm@rochesterhills.org)

# Rochester Hills City Council



*Michael Webber*  
*At-Large*

Many activities are being planned for this summer that make Rochester Hills unique. My wife Julia and I are looking forward to participating in the Memorial Day parade on May 30 and Festival of the Hills on June 29. Both events promise to bring our community together.

This past winter and spring brought many other great events to our community that I was honored to participate in - including the Rochester Chamber Community Outlook Luncheon, the State of the City address, the Rochester Chamber Legislative Update, Arbor Day, the Rochester Area Prayer Breakfast and the Congressman Broomfield Center for Leadership kickoff.

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.

The summer construction season has hit our city this past month and it has caused increased congestion within our community. My wife and I live on Walton Blvd and have to maneuver around this county Road Commission construction project on a daily basis. In addition we have the state MDOT project on Crooks, which has also affected traffic on M-59 again this year. Both of these projects are desperately needed in our community, and I know that all of us will be happier when they are finally completed. Until then, it will take additional time to move around the city and I can certainly understand the frustration that these projects will bring in the short term.

Another congested area remains with the county's partial closure of the Avon and Livernois Road bridges. Funding has been secured for the Avon Bridge project through a state program for 2012 and we are working towards funding for the Livernois Bridge from the same program. The council voted to help fund the engineering with the Road Commission of Oakland County this year in order to be shovel ready for next year. Until the projects are complete, congestion will remain in this intersection.

As a member of the Strategic Planning committee, we have worked to set the budget goals and objectives going forward. As you know, our city has gone towards a multiple year budget process so that we can better plan for future projects and needs. This process is similar to what Oakland County does and what the State of Michigan is looking to do this year. 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.

Within these budget discussions, we continue to look at ways that we can right size government by contracting services and sharing services with other communities. Recently our city entered into an agreement with Shelby Township to share building department personnel for a certain number of hours a year, saving taxpayers money.

Our city government continues to focus on economic development and growth. I am happy to report that we have the second lowest unemployment rate in Michigan and we continue to foster a tax environment for economic retention and growth. In April, I attended the Oakland County Economic Outlook lunch and the report was good news - a modest gain in jobs for our region again this coming year.

Our citizen led Police and Road Funding committee continues to meet. Recently the committee presented before the Home Owners Association Presidents meeting at City Hall on our funding challenges moving forward for both Police and Local Roads. The presentation should now be available on the city's web site.

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.

Michael



# Festival of the Hills

June 29, 2011

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, Mel Ball and Colours, voted Best Party Band in Michigan, and our amazing **FIREWORKS** display.*

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