

The City of Rochester Hills

Hills Herald

News & Information

Fall 2012



Bryan K. Barnett, Mayor

A Message from the Mayor

It's truly a great time to be in Rochester Hills. The sun is shining. The fall colors are turning. Our school activities are at full speed and our Detroit Tigers made it to the World Series! High School football is at a fever pitch. Heck, even the construction is almost done!

If I seem extra-enthusiastic about life today, it's for good reason. There's a lot of great optimism throughout the city. Let me give you even more highlights.

At a recent Mayor's Business Council gathering, I happily announced the arrival of a two new companies to our city, Kohler Power Systems and Pari Robotics, bringing 35 new, hi-tech jobs to Rochester Hills this fall. At this same event held at the Walter P. Chrysler Museum on the Chrysler grounds, I invited area executives to stand and give an update on their business outlook. As the microphone was passed around the room, one after the next reported growth, vitality, and an increase in production. This company is expanding. That company is looking to increase its staff by 40%. This company is hiring engineers and designers.

*"The
2013 City
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Council"*

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*Farewell to another summer in our beautiful
Rochester Hills!*

That company just signed a new contract with a company seated at the next table. This success is amplified in our city's unemployment rate, hovering around 5% all year, and the second lowest in the entire State of Michigan.

It was an amazing privilege to sit and listen to each of these business leaders report good news and exhibit pride in their company. It was also a harbinger of great things to come in Rochester Hills, and a testament to the hard work of our city staff who play a role in helping these companies succeed. Many of the comments came from companies whose products you may never see despite using them every day, but are as diverse as our fall colors: sunroofs, robots, lipstick and foundation, artificial limbs and more - all made right here in Rochester Hills.

There is also plenty of new growth that you will indeed see throughout the city as new businesses come to town in the coming months. Holiday Inn Express will soon be building a hotel near Meijer on Adams at M-59. Taco Bell has announced that it will be opening a second franchise in Rochester Hills on Walton Blvd across from Rochester High School. Tim Horton's will be rebuilding the former Dunkin' Donuts location at Avon and Rochester Road, and the expansion of the new tower on Crittenton Hospital Medical Center's campus continues to dominate the skyline.

Finally, a noteworthy event in the city's history passed with little fanfare a few weeks ago. The 2013 City Budget was approved by a unanimous 7-0 vote of City Council. We had to check the record books to determine if it had ever happened since the city's inception in 1984. Turns out it's as rare as Miggy's Triple Crown!

We were pleased to present to Council a solid and detailed budget plan for 2013-15. It was the result of many months of hard work by our entire city staff, exploring new options and looking at well-established processes from every angle imaginable in an effort to economize and make efficient the way your local government works. In fact, we're adding to our rainy day fund balance every year. That means that we are ahead of most other communities in Michigan. Council, in their unanimous vote, recognized and validated the hard work that made this possible, and underscored the fact that our entire team is dedicated to being excellent financial stewards of your money.

The hard work doesn't just happen when writing the budget. It extends throughout City Hall in the way we do business. We suffered along with all of the other Michigan communities during the recent downturn, but good habits in our business practices have paid off so that are thriving today.

We are truly a blessed and growing community by all accounts. My challenge to each of you this fall is to be a part of it. Visit a new restaurant or business. Get out and experience a new trail or park. Meet a new neighbor. We are so proud of our community, and we hope you are too! GO LIONS!

Hills Herald

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The Holiday Giving Tree



Rochester Area Neighborhood House (RANH) will soon be kicking off their annual Holiday Giving Event and Rochester Hills City Hall is proud to participate. The giving tree will be decorated with gift tags in place on November 12. RANH has asked that all gifts be returned by December 7. A member of the Neighborhood House Elf Squad will pick up the gifts and take them to the Holiday Event site where families will be able to pick up gifts for their children.

Support of the Holiday Giving Program is vital to its success. Please help us put happiness in the hearts and smiles on the faces of our local children in need this December. If you have questions, please contact the Mayor's Office at 248-656-4664 or RANH at 248-651-5836. Thank you for your interest in this wonderful holiday program.

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!*

Sign-Up for Automatic Payment of your Property Tax Bills

The tax rates have been established so the 2012 winter property tax amounts are available at www.rochesterhills.org/taxlookup

The Treasury Department is now offering Automatic Bill Payment as an option for paying your property tax bills beginning with the 2012 winter tax bill. The City will automatically deduct the full amount of your summer and winter property tax bills from your specified checking or savings account on designated recurring dates. The winter property tax bill can be specified to be deducted on either the last business day in December or the due date, normally February 14. The summer property tax bill will be deducted on the due date, normally September 14. An enrollment form for Automatic Payment will be enclosed with your 2012 winter property tax bill to be mailed in mid-November. The enrollment form is also available on the City website at <http://www.rochesterhills.org/DocumentCenter/View/2082>. Please submit the completed form to us 14 days prior to the scheduled payment. To enroll in this service for payment of your 2012 winter tax bill on December 31, 2012, please submit form to us by **December 14**. Forms cannot be processed without your signature. Signed forms can be scanned to osieckil@rochesterhills.org, faxed to City Treasury at 248-841-2585 or mailed to City of Rochester Hills Treasury Department, Attn: Linda Osiecki, Deputy Treasurer, 1000 Rochester Hills Dr., Rochester Hills, MI 48309. **Please note:** For those who prefer to initiate an electronic tax payment, we will continue to provide our user-initiated electronic payment system at <https://eps.mvpbanking.com>.

To verify you are being taxed correctly, check the exemption status on your tax bill. If the property is your principal residence, it is normally 100% exempt from school operating taxes. Therefore, **100%** should appear under “*HPR/MBT Exemption %” and “**EXEMPT**” will appear under the amount for school operating. For those changing their principal residence, the deadline to qualify for a Principal Residence Exemption on both the summer and winter tax bill has now been extended, by law, from May 1 to **June 1**. **Note: Property must be owner occupied and Form 2368 must be submitted to the local tax collecting unit on or before June 1**. Additionally, another deadline date has been put in place for property that is a principal residence and is owner-occupied between June 2 and no later than November 1. Form 2368 must be submitted to the local tax collecting unit on or before November 1. These properties will now qualify, by law, for a Principal Residence Exemption on the winter tax bill for that year. For more information regarding these recent tax law changes or any “exemption” questions, please contact our Assessing Department at 248-656-4605.

The 2012 winter property taxes are payable without penalty through Thursday, February 14, 2013 – postmarks will not be honored. On February 15, a 3% penalty will be added to the unpaid balance of all 2012 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**. Please note that due to the availability of property tax information on our City website, and continuing increases in postage cost, the city made a fiscally responsible decision to discontinue mailing informational copies of the property tax bills. **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**. For additional information on payment options, Summer Tax Deferment or Homestead Exemption requirements, please visit the, www.rochesterhills.org/treasury or call the Treasury Department at 248-656-4675.



ROCHESTER HILLS PARKS FALL/WINTER SCHEDULE

The fall/winter season begins November 26, 2012 and runs through March 25, 2013. 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.

Oakland County Sheriff's Office

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

PREVENTING IDENTITY THEFT

Identity theft is the fastest growing crime in the U.S., with over nine million victims each year. Just being careful isn't enough to protect your identity. According to the Federal Trade Commission, identity theft is the illegal use of personal identifying information such as name, address, social security number, driver's license number, or date of birth to commit fraud or theft. Below are some tips you can follow to help secure and protect your personal information and ensure that your identity or credit is not compromised.



- Keep your Social Security card in a secure place and give out the number only when necessary. Ask to use other identifiers whenever possible.
- Guard your purse or wallet. Never put either one down unless your hand is connected to it.
- Limit the number of checks and debit / credit cards you carry to only what you will actually need.
- Check credit card and bank statements carefully for unauthorized charges.
- Close credit card accounts you don't use on a regular basis.
- When entering PIN or credit card numbers in at an ATM machine or store, be aware who is nearby and make sure nobody is peering over your shoulder to make note of the keys you are pressing.
- Shred all documents containing personal information -- especially pre-approved credit card offers -- with a cross-cut shredder.
- Before revealing any identifying information, ask how it will be used and secured, and whether it will be shared with others.
- Order copies of your free credit reports from the three credit bureaus at least once a year and check them carefully for accuracy.

Credit bureaus:

Equifax 1-800-685-1111

Experian (formerly TRW) 1-888-397-3742

Trans Union 1-800-916-8800

- Place passwords on credit card, bank and phone accounts. Avoid using easily available information such as mother's maiden name, birth date, phone number, etc. Instead use an eight-character combination of letters and numbers.
- Use a locked mailbox or a post office box to send/receive mail.

***“Follow these important tips to protect your personal information
and ensure your identity or credit is not compromised.”***

Rochester Hills Fire Department

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

CARBON MONOXIDE - THE SILENT KILLER

Carbon Monoxide (CO) is an invisible, odorless, colorless gas created when fuels (such as gasoline, wood, natural gas, and propane) burn incompletely. In the home, heating and cooking equipment that burn fuel can be sources of carbon monoxide. People can be poisoned by a small amount of CO over a longer period of time, or, by a large amount of CO over a shorter amount of time. Carbon Monoxide alarms are easy to install and can save lives.

- CO alarms should be installed in a central location outside each sleeping area and on every level of the home
- Follow the manufacturer's instructions for placement and mounting height
- Have fuel-burning heating equipment and chimneys inspected by a professional every year before cold weather sets in
- Test CO alarms at least once a month
- Gas and charcoal grills can produce carbon monoxide, so only use outside
- Never leave a car running in an attached garage, even with the garage door open

If a Carbon Monoxide alarm sounds, immediately move to a fresh air location outdoors and make sure everyone is accounted for. **Call "9-1-1" from a fresh air location and stay there until emergency personnel arrive.**

WINTER WEATHER SAFETY

As winter approaches, we begin to prepare for medical emergencies associated with the arrival of the first snow. Our primary concern is the risk of heart problems caused by lifting and shoveling heavy snow. The Center for Disease Control reports heart attack occurrences increase by 20 percent in the week following a large snow storm. If you are planning to move snow yourself, it is very important to have a physical evaluation to determine your ability to safely perform strenuous physical activity **prior** to shoveling. In addition, proper outdoor clothing will help keep you safe from hypothermia and frostbite.

Winter sport injuries are another concern that can be addressed by following safety guidelines. Wearing protective gear such as helmets, gloves, boots, eye protection and pads can keep injuries from spoiling your winter fun. Even when sledding, helmets have proven vital in preventing head and brain injuries.

It is important to keep a winter emergency kit in your car which should include a shovel, sand bag, flashlight, and a source of warmth. There are several options: 6 to 20 hour warm packs, wool blankets, and emergency blankets. Also, for shelter from the rain, include a poncho or other rain gear.

Winter is on the way, and keeping these safety tips in mind will help you and your family safe and warm through the coming months. By taking a few steps, you can experience a great winter and look forward to another beautiful Michigan spring.



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

TREE MAINTENANCE REMINDER

The Rochester Hills Forestry Division has an ongoing street tree maintenance program 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 2012-2013 program will be in the north half of the city and the southeast quarter of the city.

The adjacent property owner is responsible for removing encroachments/obstructions when trees/shrubs growing on private property interfere with the use of streets or pathways, as required by ordinance specifications. Property owners may be notified regarding what action is required of them. No notification will be given for trees and shrubs growing on city right-of-way.

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



CHRISTMAS TREE RECYCLING

The City of Rochester Hills will once again allow its residents to dispose of natural Christmas trees by dropping them off at the Clinton River Watershed Council on the following dates and times ONLY:

Saturday, December 29, 2012	10 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Sunday, December 30, 2012	12 noon – 4 p.m.
Saturday, January 5, 2013	10 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Sunday, January 6, 2013	12 noon – 4 p.m.

Clinton River Watershed Council is located at 1115 W. Avon Road (south side of Avon Road, just west of Livernois Road).

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

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

Under contract with the City of Rochester Hills, Allied Waste Services (Republic) 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.



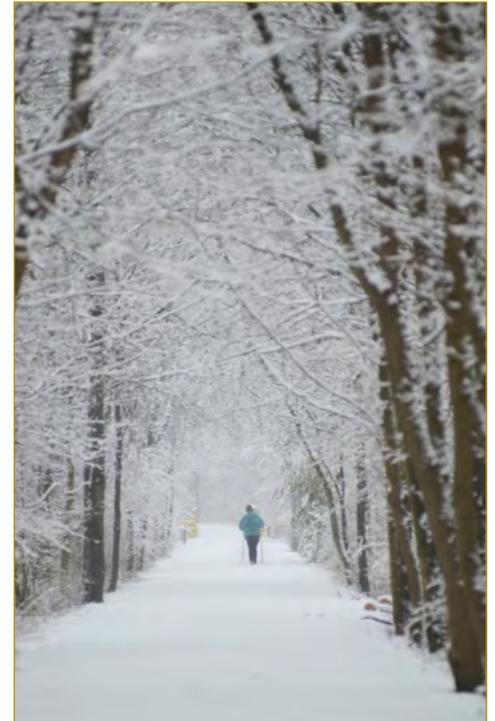
CITY PARKS ARE READY FOR FALL AND WINTER ACTIVITIES

The leaves on the trees have turned from the greens of summer to the vibrant red, orange and yellow of autumn and soon will fall to the ground. The buzzing of lawn mowers has been replaced with the hum of school busses. Lawn sprinklers have been swapped for leaf rakes. Soon enough, the fall colors will fade and the starkness of bare trees will contrast against winter's white snowdrifts. The bare branches and grass hidden beneath the snow is how nature defends itself from the harshness of winter. Old Man Winter will once again have us in his frosty grip.

But take heart, Rochester Hills! As you trade your sandals and swimsuits for sweaters and socks, remember you have 14 year-round parks to greet you! Everyone is close to autumn and winter fun and activities. Here are some suggestions:

- ❖ Go to Bloomer Park to listen for the acorns as they drop onto the colorful blanket of leaves, then collect one of each color.
- ❖ 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.
- ❖ 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.
- ❖ Grab some apple cider and go to Yates Park to enjoy the sights and sounds of the Clinton River.
- ❖ The sunlight in the fall months is great for photography, and we have several beautiful parks right here in your neighborhood!
- ❖ Wildlife watching in the autumn months is especially exciting as the squirrels, and their feathered friends prepare for winter. Choose a park and come on out.
- ❖ Observe the changes in nature that happen as we transition from summer to fall and then again from autumn to winter at any or all of our parks.
- ❖ Veterans Day is November 11. Come to Veterans Memorial Park and honor those who have served our country.
- ❖ At Borden Park, we have basketball, tennis and roller hockey in addition to the ball and soccer fields.
- ❖ You can also just relax and enjoy nature's beauty that is Rochester Hills, Michigan.

As the heavy autumn clouds hide the sun, tired from a long summer, enjoy the cool, crisp air and appreciate the scenery ablaze with color. Then when your family comes from out of town for Thanksgiving, show them what a fantastic park system we have here in Rochester Hills. There is something for everyone, and when the snow flies, and the frigid temperatures close in, bundle up and go sledding at Bloomer or skating at Spencer.



TIE DOWN FOR FALL - BUTTON UP FOR WINTER

Fall has arrived and soon the winter months will be upon us. As you enjoy the last warm days of this year and prepare to button up for the winter, the Ordinance Compliance Inspectors have a few friendly reminders.

If you plan on storing your recreational vehicle on your property, it may be stored in the rear yard, at least five feet from the side and rear property line. Recreational vehicles, including utility trailers, are not allowed to be permanently stored in the front yard. Side yard storage requires the unit be at least 10 to 15 feet from the side property line, depending on your zoning district.

If you have been working on the yard and have brush piles or leaves, remember the last day for yard waste pick up for our single family homes is the week of **November 26, 2012**. As you know, open burning is no longer allowed in the City of Rochester Hills, so yard waste material must be disposed of properly.

Finally, if you have sidewalks in front of your house, take the time to tune up the snow blower or locate the snow shovel so you will be ready for the snow. Property owners must remove snow and ice from their sidewalks within **48 hours after the snow has fallen and must maintain them free from ice at all times**.

If you have any questions for the Ordinance Compliance Inspectors, please contact the Rochester Hills Building Department at 248-656-4615.

Critter Camouflage

Saturday, November 17 ~ 1:00 - 2:00pm

at the Museum



What is the most important adaptation an animal needs to survive? Camouflage! Come to the Rochester Hills Museum to find out how different animals use camouflage to find their food and to avoid becoming food. This program is recommended for ages 7 and up. *Critter Camouflage* will include a craft and some fun outdoor activities. The program is free for Museum members. The cost for non-members is \$5 for adults, \$3 for students and seniors (60+). To register for *Critter Camouflage*, call 248-656-4663 or email rhmuseum@rochesterhills.org.



Spotlight on Community First Recipients



Friends of the Rochester Hills Public Library

Formed in 1961, the Friends have steadfastly worked to raise millions of dollars that have been used to purchase materials and provide a multitude of special programs and events throughout the years. The Friends purchased the bookmobile, which stops at 26 locations throughout the community, and is by far the busiest bookmobile in the State of Michigan. With their ongoing love of the library, and strong motivation to continually improve the services it can offer, these supporters help spread the news of the outstanding community asset we have in the Rochester Hills Public Library.

Carrie Lozier has been teaching music to area students since 1994. In what is clearly a labor of love, Carrie reaches out to the community to share her love of music with others. Rather than simply hosting formal recitals for her students to play for family and friends, Carrie has been scheduling recitals at local nursing homes for residents to enjoy, bring a little sunshine to the hearts of the residents.

While many music teachers are focused on competitions that show off their talents, Carrie and her students are focusing on developing a lifelong relationship with music that can be shared with others.

Mayor Barnett and the members of the Community First selection team are pleased to recognize Carrie Lozier of Lozier Music for her ongoing commitment and dedication to the musical education and enrichment of our community.



The Lozier 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.

NoHaz

A Winner in Rochester Hills

The NoHaz program is an economic and effective way to responsibly dispose of hazardous waste. This year marked the ninth year the Oakland County Household Hazardous Waste (NoHaz) collection events have been available to residents of our city. Rochester Hills is one of nine participating communities and accounts for 36% of participation among communities enrolled in the program.

This year there were four collection events conveniently located throughout Oakland County. Hazardous waste such

as electronics, computers, oil based paint and stains, used motor oil, gas, and pesticides are accepted. For a complete list of accepted materials, or for additional information, please visit www.nohaz.com or call



248-858-5656. **The 2013 event schedule will be available after February 2013.**

Signs of Recovery Continue in Rochester Hills

Construction activity has historically been one of the key measurements used by economists in evaluating the state of the US economy.

In Rochester Hills we have good news to share as indicated by these numbers:

- In 2011 new house permit were up 40% from 2010
- Total permits for 2011 were up 5% from 2010
- Total construction value for 2011 (\$113,090,350) up 78% from 2010
- The average new house construction value for 2011 was \$360,000
- The City of Rochester Hills was first in Oakland County for total construction value of new homes in 2011
- The average new house construction value for 2012 through July 31, 2012 is \$407,500



Waste Removal Win in Rochester Hills

The City of Rochester Hills began the Single Hauler Solid Waste program in April 2009, and at the same time became the first city in Michigan to offer the RecycleBank Rewards program. A full 90% of Rochester Hills residents put out recycling at least once per month. As a result, a total of 66,064 tons of recycling has been diverted from the local landfill. That equates to 26,425 less truckloads traveling to the landfill since the program began three and a half years ago!

RecycleBank is a hit as well. Nearly 71% of the residents have signed up for the RecycleBank rewards program. Rochester Hills is 22% ahead of the national average when it comes to RecycleBank subscription. When RecycleBank representatives present the RecycleBank idea to other communities all around the United States, they present the Rochester Hills recycling program as the one to strive for, the one to beat.

In fact, the City of Rochester Hills received national honors this year for the RecycleBank initiative in the “2012 Mayors Climate Protection Awards” sponsored by the US Conference of Mayors. Of course, success in the program would not be possible without our RecycleBank partners and our local businesses who offer money saving coupons to reward residents who recycle.

Residents are reminded that the proper placement of the trash carts is with the handle facing the house and at least four feet apart. This positions the carts to be easily handled by the truck’s mechanical arm and the recycling cart radio chip to be read without the need for the driver to leave the vehicle to reposition the carts. When the carts are not in use at the roadside, they are to be stored in a side or rear yard, and if possible, shielded from the view of neighboring homes.

For more information regarding the discounts and services offered by Republic Services, or to voice a concern, please call the Customer Service line at 800-858-0089.

For information regarding the RecycleBank program, or to enroll in the program, please visit their website at recyclebank.com or call 888-727-2978.

Both companies have shown themselves to very responsive to their customers and strive to provide assistance. If you are unable to settle the concern directly with the contractor, please contact the program administrator Bob White at 248-841-2441.

Rochester Hills Museum

The Spies of D-Day

Wednesday, November 14

7:00 p.m.

Museum members are free, Regular Admission is \$5 adults, \$ 3 seniors/students

The Normandy invasion – D-Day June 6, 1944 produced many heroes that led to the downfall of the Nazi party in Europe. The invasion was a success due to the bravery of soldiers, the leadership of officers, and the military might of the Allied nations. However, there were other heroes as well – the code breakers and the XX Committee that kept Hitler and his leaders confused about where the invasion would occur. This multimedia presentation will discuss the overall strategy, successes and failures, bravery of the soldiers and the incredible secret activity that helped ensure the success of the invasion.

Santa and Mrs. Claus Visit the Museum

Saturday, December 1

9 – 4 p.m.

\$ 4 members

\$ 7 nonmembers

Santa and Mrs. Claus visit the Museum to meet with the children of our community. A wagon ride takes you from the Dairy Barn to the Van Hoosen Farmhouse and delicious fresh baked cookies await you. Don't forget your camera!

Limited tickets sold each hour and must be purchased in advance – online at www.rochesterhills.org or by phone at 248-656-4663.



Old Fashioned Christmas

Saturday, December 15

1 – 4 p.m.

\$ 4 members

\$ 7 nonmembers in advance

\$ 10 at the door

Join us for old fashioned holiday fun! Check in at the 1927 Dairy Barn and our exhibits on old fashioned toys. A wagon ride takes to you to the all the Museum buildings for entertainment, crafts, snacks, theatre groups, and chestnuts roasting over an open fire! Tickets can be purchased online at www.rochesterhills.org or by phone at 248-656-4663.



Museum Open Hours

Drop in tours are available on Fridays and Saturdays from 1-4 p.m. Tours include the 1927 Dairy Barn, orientation video, and local history exhibits, and guided tours of the 1840 Van Hoosen Farmhouse and 1850 Red House. The Museum site is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Other tour times are available seven days a week for churches, scouts, and any community service club.

Need a guest speaker?

The Museum provides a wide range of talks on local history topics that will inspire you and answer the questions you have as you drive through the history of our community!

Have a wedding? Graduation? Anniversary Party? Need a location for a seminar? Business Meeting?

Check out the Museum and be surrounded by 180 years of history! www.rochesterhills.org or 248-656-4663.

Broomfield Center for Leadership Fall 2012 Update

Thanks to YOU, we're raising the roof!

Financial Status

For the past three years, the Rochester Hills Museum has been diligently raising funds to preserve the 1927 Calf Barn and to plan for its new use as the Broomfield Center for Leadership. This facility will serve as a backdrop for community leadership while providing space to preserve community archives. The project will be completed in two phases:

Phase I will stabilize the building, provide a new roof, support columns, doors, windows, and a complete building envelope. Over \$ 370,000 has been raised to cover architect, engineering and construction costs and work is underway and should be completed in early 2013.

Phase II will allow this facility to become climate controlled, insulated, secure, and finished. Fundraising is ongoing to complete Phase II.

Our generous community is allowing us to preserve an original building on the Van Hoosen Farm, preserve a building listed on the National Register of Historic Places, and allow the Museum to prepare for the future by adapting the building to meet our community's educational, cultural, and historical needs.

How can you help? Can you help us turn on the heat?

Our fundraising efforts are continuing as we work to implement Phase II, our final phase. We are seeking private funds to complete the interior finishes on this historic barn, and to add heating, ventilation, and air conditioning that will make this a climate controlled facility suitable to protect our historic papers and artifacts. In addition, we are committed to raising funds for an archivist position, and to financially support the long-term operating costs for this building.

The Museum is able to accept nearly every type of gift including cash, stocks, annuities, lead gift, pledges, multi year gifts, life insurance, real estate and more.

Can you and your family help to create a legacy in our community? How will you be remembered?

Please contact Museum Supervisor Patrick McKay at 248-841-2671

“Your Family History Happened Here”

Let us host your family event!

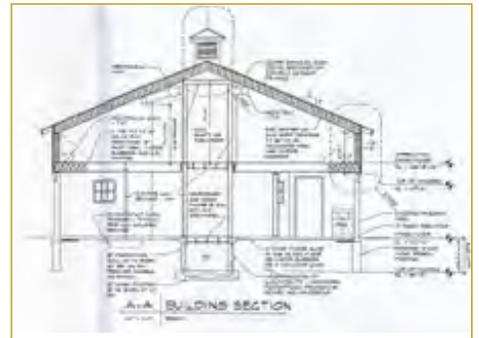
The Rochester Hills Museum at Van Hoosen Farm is the perfect location for your next family event.

- 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!



Winter Operations

Snow Removal in Rochester Hills

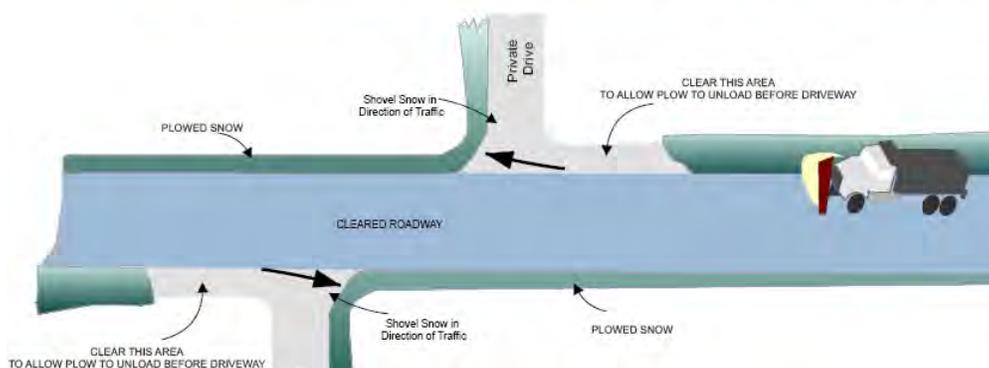
During winter months, the Department of Public Services is responsible for snow and ice control on 242 miles of local roads and 38 miles of city major roads. The purpose of winter road maintenance is to provide a safe roadway system during the winter months by operating effective winter road maintenance service.

Every winter storm is characterized by a unique combination of temperatures, precipitation, duration, and intensity. Our winter road maintenance policy is as follows:



- The city is divided into six routes with two plow trucks assigned to each route. The routes begin on the east and west sides of the city and progress towards the middle.
- Winter storms are categorized as:
 - **Category 1: Snowfall of less than four inches**
 - MAJOR ROADS & EMERGENCY ROUTES – 38 miles of major roads that are plowed and salted on a 24 hour basis, seven days a week as needed.
 - **Category 2: Snowfall of four or more inches throughout the city**
 - MAJOR ROADS & EMERGENCY ROUTES – see above
 - LOCAL ROADS - 242 miles of local roads are plowed and salted on an as-needed basis, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.
- For overall efficiency, plow routes are designed to allow for continuous plowing which minimizes all stopping, backing up, and turning around which maximizes efficiency.
- The utilization of the 14 4x4 pickups allows this continuous plowing to occur because they have better maneuverability and can address areas that can not be easily addressed with a plow truck.
- If a snow event necessitates it, our drivers will work 16 hours shifts.

HOW TO MINIMIZE THE CHANCES OF SNOW BLOCKING YOUR PRIVATE DRIVE



Ways you can help:

- remove vehicles from the street during a snowstorm
- do not shovel snow into the street
- allow enough time for travel
- report concerns to the Department of Public Service at 248-656-4685

For additional information, please visit <http://www.rochesterhills.org/index.aspx?nid=260>

Creative, Innovative and Progressive Road Projects in Rochester Hills

Creative, Innovative and *Progressive* are typically not terms associated with construction but they clearly define the projects the city experienced this construction season. Like last year, the city was successful in advancing and leveraging the maximum available funding from federal, state, and county sources.

The construction season started unusually early this year with the \$2.7 million dollar reconstruction of the Avon Road Bridge. As experienced by motorists who traveled through and over this bridge, the deterioration prompted lane restrictions adversely affecting capacity resulting in undesirable delays.

Adding insult to injury, the adjacent Livernois Road Bridge, just a mere 1000 feet away, was experiencing the same fate but the larger concern was the lack of funding identified for reconstruction.

The city, in partnership with the Road Commission for Oakland County (RCOC), worked with the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) to secure funding for the bridge reconstruction in 2014. While a sense of victory was celebrated, the city and the RCOC were not optimistic that the bridge would be able to remain open based on the deterioration being recorded. The city worked in spirited cooperation with the RCOC and the MDOT to advance the construction an unprecedented **two years early**.

Having vision and the aspiration to capitalize on the delivery of two projects in close proximity, the city swiftly prepared a Transportation Enhancement grant application to beautify as well as add non-motorized facilities within the project limits. On Tuesday, March 20, the city received notification it had been awarded a Transportation Enhancement grant from the MDOT in the amount of \$207,495.

The completion of both bridges and the enhancement project is scheduled to be completed by the end of November 2012.

Focusing on the westerly portion of the city, the Crooks Road project is picking up from where the 2011, \$10 million dollar Crooks and M-59 interchange project ended (StarBatt) and proceeding north to Bonnie Brae. The diamond in the rough for this project was the city's predictive work with the Oakland County Federal Aid Committee on advancing this \$3 million dollar project from 2018 to 2012. While disruptive, we can all appreciate that if the project was not advanced, the deplorable conditions of the roadway would have only worsened without a permanent solution six years into the future.

To complement the projects above, the city has and is embarking on the delivery of the following projects:

- Sixteen bridges (4 vehicular & 12 non-motorized) under the city's jurisdiction experienced various levels of rehabilitation.
- \$1.5 million is being spent on the rehabilitation of concrete roadways within the city.
- \$1 million is being spent on Hot Mixed Asphalt overlays

To sum things up, thank you for your patience and understanding as the construction season for 2012 comes to a close. The delivery of these projects will provide safer roads, enhance our vibrant character, and incorporate amenities that continue to make our city the premier community of choice to live, work and raise a family.

Livernois bridge construction



Crooks Road rehabilitation



STRETCHING YOUR TAX DOLLARS

One very important way the city has been able to keep our tax base low is by our diligent pursuit of outside funding through grant opportunities. Continuous effort by city staff members has resulted in grant fundings that offset city expenses for many projects. A few recent projects are:

Risk Avoidance Program (RAP) Grant – The city received grant in the amount of \$13,000 for the Grant Pumping Station reconstruction. The \$13,000 grant covered half the purchase cost of a new and more environmentally friendly natural gas fueled generator.

Transportation Enhancement Award - The city was granted an award to construct nonmotorized pathway connections and make aesthetic improvements at the intersection of Livernois and Avon. The project coincides with projects by the Road Commission for Oakland County (RCOC) to install new bridges on Livernois and Avon roads over the Clinton River. The RCOC bridge projects will accommodate pedestrians and bicyclists, prompting the project by the city to further enhance safety and connectivity. The project budget is \$345,825, including \$207,495 in federal TE funds and \$138,330 from the city.

MillerCoors-River Network Grant Competition - The money we receive will go toward WAIT WAIT... Don't Step There, Fish Here! which will address intensive traffic at Yates Park that has contributed to streambank erosion and subsequent destruction of fish habitat and water quality impacts. Streambank restoration, public access development and an ongoing public awareness campaign will help protect one of the most popular fishing locations on the Clinton River.

City Hall Avon Creek - To complement the prior work completed at the City Hall Avon Pond, the city pursued additional funds through the Great Lakes Basin Fish Habitat Partnership grant program sponsored by the United States Fish & Wildlife Service. Our Avon Creek Phase III application received favorable review and we were put on notice that we were selected for the grant in the amount of \$110,875 with the city's participatory share being \$20,875.

The grant will fund the completion of the pond bypass. The bypass will accomplish many things to improve the environment, including permit fish passage and reduced water temperature in the Avon Creek. The grant will also fund the continued creek restoration downstream behind the Clinton River Watershed possibly to the Clinton River.

Rouge District Sanitary Sewer Rehabilitation Project: - In 2010, the city was awarded a grant from Wayne County through their Rouge River National Wet Weather Demonstration Project to complete a sanitary sewer inflow and infiltration study for a portion of our system located in the southwest section of the city. The final report that was submitted to Wayne County documented improvements needed in the sanitary sewer system to reduce inflow and infiltration. In May 2012, the city applied for a grant through the Round XI program to implement the sanitary sewer rehabilitation work that was identified in the study. We received official notification that our project had been selected for funding under the Rouge Project Program. The total cost of the project is \$90,600, with the city's share being \$54,360 and the federal share being \$36,240.

Mayor Barnett would like to assure residents the grant funding efforts he has initiated will continue into the future. "I'm extremely proud of the success our city team has experienced in securing these grants. It furthers our pledge to be good stewards of resident's tax dollars"



Avon and Livernois Enhancement Rendering



Clinton River - MillerCoors Grant



City Hall Avon Creek



Rouge District Sanitary Sewer Rehabilitation Project

KEEP YOUR HEATING SYSTEM WORKING EFFICIENTLY ALL WINTER

With the arrival of fall, the cold weather is not far behind. Have you had your furnace tuned up this fall to get it ready for winter? Some utility companies have a \$50.00 rebate program, check with your gas company for details.

An annual checkup will not only save you money, it will also help you sleep easier. That's because an inefficient heating system wastes fuel and your hard-earned dollars. More important, a furnace that's not operating properly can endanger your health by spilling carbon monoxide and other gases into your home. For savings, safety, and comfort, routine maintenance of your oil or gas furnace is a must.

Furnace maintenance is not a "do-it-yourself" job. A qualified licensed contractor should be called to perform a safety inspection once a year.

LOWER YOUR HEATING COSTS THIS WINTER WITH FURNACE MAINTENANCE

- Turn your thermostat 5 degrees lower for some real savings.
- Don't heat a room that you don't regularly use.
- Replace your old thermostat with a programmable one that allows you to automatically set the temperature.
- Replacing your air filter.
 - Most forced air units have a filter that cleans the air before heating and circulating it throughout the home. The filter should be checked monthly for the build up of any dirt during periods of furnace use and cleaned or replaced as necessary. When installing a new or cleaned filter, be sure to:
 - Turn off electrical power to the unit.
 - Standard filters are mounted next to or under the blower motor. Look for the door or panel that conceals the blower; sometimes this is marked "filter". Lift this door or panel off of its holding hooks or unscrew its retaining screws to remove it.
 - Slide the filter out along its tracks. Check to see whether it is a disposable filter or intended to be cleaned and replaced. This should be marked on the filter's edge, along with directions for cleaning, if applicable. If it's a disposable filter, its size will probably be printed on the frame's edge also. Make a note of its size and type, so you will have that information with you when you buy new filters.
 - Install the new filter by sliding it back into place, noting that arrows stamped on the edge indicate the proper direction of airflow.

A simple way to remember to change your furnace filter is to buy a box of filters and leave the box right beside your furnace. Every time you walk by your furnace, you'll see the box and that will remind you to change the filter.

IS IT TIME TO REPAIR OR TO REPLACE THAT FURNACE

It is rarely easy to decide whether to repair or replace an expensive appliance when the time comes. If the cost of repairing your furnace exceeds the cost of replacing it, the decision is easy, but that is seldom the case. The first step in your decision whether to repair or replace, should be to get the opinion of a licensed heating expert. Have your furnace thoroughly inspected and get an estimate for both repair and replacement of the unit. The heating contractor will assess the potential for increased energy savings and can suggest the expected short term and long-term costs of both repair and replacement. When you have that information, be sure to get one, if not two, expert opinions so you are able to make a balanced decision. The issues that you and the furnace experts will need to take into account are:

- Age of the existing furnace
- Cost of operating the existing furnace versus a new furnace
- How long will you live in the home
- Your peace of mind

SAFETY NOTE: Having a carbon monoxide detector in your home is a good idea and can save lives. Make sure you follow the installation instructions. They usually recommend a minimum height above the floor for best results.

Veterans Memorial Pointe ~ Veterans Day Ceremony

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

This year, a special dedication is planned in honor of Sgt. Kyle McClain who was killed in action on August 1, 2012 during combat operations in Salim Aka, Afghanistan. Sgt. McClain was raised in Rochester Hills and graduated from Rochester High School in 2005. After graduating, he attended Ferris State University for two years before enlisting in the Army.

A site at Veterans Memorial Pointe has been selected and a memorial in his honor will be dedicated by VFW Post 3908 during our Veterans Day Ceremony.

The public is encouraged to attend.



Eagle Scout Projects at the Pointe

Once again we are excited to reap the benefits of Eagle Scout Projects at Veterans Memorial Pointe. Soon there will be a new rest stop located at the south end of the parking lot near the restrooms. Boy Scout Jake Masterson will be installing sitting benches and bike racks near the restroom area this fall for his Eagle Scout Project. It will be a very nice and welcomed addition to the park.



Completed in 2012

Boy Scout Jason Tran planned and completed a new memorial to honor those men and women who served during the Desert Storm War (Gulf War 1) with Iraq from August 1990 – February 1991. Jason planned this tribute as his project to earn his Eagle Scout Badge. He did the planning, preparing, landscaping and also raised the money for the bronze plaque to honor those veterans. With the help of Boy Scout Troop 123 members, he has completed this memorial and done a great job!

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.





Experience the Magic of the Meadow Brook Hall

41st Annual Holiday Walk ~ November 23 - December 22, 2012

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.

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



I am looking forward to the fall and winter seasons because of the many events that make our community unique. The pumpkin carving at the Rochester Hills Museum is always a great experience as we get closer to Halloween. My wife Julia and I enjoyed participating in the Brooksie Way 5K again this 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.

Personally, the next few months will be busy with the arrival of our first child in March. This news is a true blessing for our family. Julia and I look forward to showing our baby all the great things that the Rochester area has to offer – the reasons why we loved growing up in Rochester Hills and the reasons why we continue to call Rochester Hills home.

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 five years, and I continue to work towards solutions for our community.

In September, the city completed work on the next three-year budget. For 2013, the city council worked with the administration to increase funding for Local Road repairs in our neighborhoods. There was a prioritization of needs over wants as we continued to appropriately fund Police, Fire/EMS and our Parks. Where appropriate, the city was able to budget tax dollars that will leverage further funding from the state and county. Overall the budget is fiscally conservative and places us on the right track for the future.

As you know, the city did have a proposal on the August ballot to dedicate Police funding for the next ten years. The proposal passed by a two to one vote. I want to thank the citizen led Police and Road Technical Review Committee for bringing the proposal forward and working to educate fellow residents about the plan.

As we move towards winter, we will certainly miss the nice weather. I know one thing that will not be missed in our community: Construction. In the last Hills Herald, I updated you on the Avon and Livernois Bridge projects and the Crooks widening project. I am happy to report that these projects should conclude in November. Coupled with the completion of the Rochester Road/Main Street makeover in downtown Rochester, our community should be able to move around better come winter.

In the last Hills Herald, I also updated you on the OPC Governing Board budget situation. As a member of the governing board, I am happy to report that the Board's 2013 budget was passed over the summer. All three communities reviewed this budget and approved of it. The next step is to continue to review the Inter-local agreement for potential amendments that will clarify the budget process moving forward.

The city continues to focus on Economic Development. The state has made changes to the business tax structure that should help Michigan attract and retain companies and jobs. In Rochester Hills, we are looking at some new, innovative approaches to retain and grow jobs. This focus has helped us maintain a low unemployment rate.

This November we will have federal, state and county elections. I would urge everyone to be a part of the process and vote on November 6. In addition, the city has a ballot proposal that would repurpose an expiring millage for local roads. This proposal will not result in a tax increase.

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 on Monday evening at 7:00 in the City Hall Auditorium per their approved [meeting schedule](#). 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.



Mark Tisdel ~ At-Large

Federal income tax policy—individual and corporate—has been a source of heated political rhetoric since the 2008 presidential election. “Tax cuts for the rich” have been cited as the source of federal budget deficits. As November 6 approaches, let’s take a look at past fiscal policy and results: top marginal income tax rates, individual and corporate income tax receipts, gross domestic product (GDP), budget deficits, Social Security Trust Fund “borrowing”, and Speakers of the House of Representatives. I chose to begin this review with the Reagan / O’Neill / Wright era, 1981, because of their radical changes to the federal tax code.

President Ronald W. Reagan, Republican, served two terms in office beginning in 1981. Massachusetts Democrat, “Tip” O’Neill, was Speaker of the House through 1986; Texas Democrat, Jim Wright, served as Speaker for the remainder of Reagan’s second term. During Reagan’s two terms, the top marginal tax rate was cut by 60%, GDP grew 64.5%, and income tax receipts went up 42.6%. At the same time, federal spending added \$1.42 trillion to the national debt and Congress “borrowed” \$83.3 billion from

the Social Security Trust Fund.

President Reagan was succeeded by George H. W. Bush in 1989. President Bush, Republican, served one term. Representative Wright was Speaker for a year and Washington Democrat, Tom Foley, for three years. In Bush-41’s single term, the top marginal rate increased 11%, income tax receipts grew 5%, and the GDP increased by 14.5%. Meanwhile, \$933 billion was added to the national debt and \$221.7 billion of Social Security surplus was spent.

In 1993, President William J. B. Clinton, Democrat, started his two terms. Representative Tom Foley was House Speaker for the first two years, followed by Republicans Newt Gingrich of Georgia (four years) and Dennis Hastert of Illinois (two years). Under President Clinton, the top marginal rate increased to 39.6%. During this period of exceptional growth—93.2% for income tax receipts and 49.3% for GDP—the national debt grew by \$320.4 billion and another \$718 billion worth of Social Security surplus vanished.

President George W. Bush, Republican, took office in 2001 and served two terms. Representative Hastert was Speaker for the first six; California Democrat Nancy Pelosi served as Speaker for the last two years. Bush-43 lowered the top marginal rate to 35%. The Bush-43 years saw the top rate fall by 12%, income tax revenues grow by 60%, and the economy increase by 39.7%. Despite this period of continued growth, the federal debt grew by \$2 trillion and spending consumed another \$1.32 trillion of Social Security surplus.

Barack H. Obama became the 44th President of the United States in 2009. His first two years were with House Speaker Pelosi and the last two with Ohio Republican, John Boehner. The top marginal rate remained untouched at 35%. Federal debt grew by \$5.3 trillion and \$121 billion of Social Security surplus was “borrowed.”

From 1981 to 2012, the top individual tax rate was cut in half (70% to 35%), individual and corporate income tax receipts quadrupled, and GDP quintupled. While tax receipts and the economy multiplied, the federal government added \$10 trillion to the national debt and “borrowed” \$2.7 trillion from Social Security. Even the Clinton years, when income tax receipts grew twice as fast as the economy (93.2% and 49.3%, respectively), the government added hundreds of billions in new debt and “borrowed” hundreds of billions from Social Security.

Despite the political rhetoric, the Obama / Pelosi / Boehner years stand alone for leaving the top marginal tax rate unchanged. In fact, President Obama extended the Bush-era tax cuts twice. Rather than “inheriting the best economy ever,” Bush-43 presidency started in a recession. It’s true that President Obama took office in an even steeper economic decline. President Obama, however, did not “inherit” a mess; he campaigned for and won the Presidency. Having served in the US Senate immediately prior to his election, President Obama participated in the economic policies and debates of the 2008 recession.

The national debt has increased—and Social Security surpluses were spent—under Presidents and Speakers of both parties. Undeniably, demographics have played a huge role. When President Clinton took office about 12,000 baby-boomers reached their peak consumption age (46) everyday. This trend continued—along with hundreds of billions in home equity also being spent—for Bush-43. Since 2011, President Obama has seen nearly 12,000 baby boomers turn age 65 every day. It is very difficult to “stimulate” an economy that is 70% driven by consumer spending when 78-million baby boomers have stopped shopping. Fact: 46-million Gen Xers will not replace the retail consumption of 78-million baby boomers.

The last 30 years has been blessed with tax revenue or economic growth. Unfortunately, unrestrained spending consumed all tax receipts plus \$12.7 trillion in new debt and Social Security surplus. If current trends continue, imagine the fiscal state of affairs when 78-million baby boomers become Social Security and Medicare recipients.

Attention Rochester Hills Voters

The citizen driven Police and Road Technical Committee has recommended City Council redirect \$1.4 million from the expiring drain bond millage and invest it into our local neighborhood roads. The following informational card outlining the proposal was sent to your home. Please review this important proposal before you head to the polls on November 6.

Resolved, that the Rochester Hills City Council hereby approves placing the following Proposal on the November 6, 2012 General Election Ballot:

Ballot Question
Re-Purpose of Drain Bond Millage for Local Roads

Shall the City of Rochester Hills re-purpose and replace expired or expiring drain bond millage of 0.4855 mill with a tax levy of up to 0.4855 mill (\$0.4855 per \$1,000 of taxable value) on the taxable of all property assessed for taxes in the City for 7 years, beginning in FY 2014 and continuing through FY 2020, inclusive, to be used for maintenance, repair, rehabilitation and reconstruction of local roads and streets and to provide a source of matching funds to support special assessment and grant programs for local roads? **If approved, this proposal will not raise the overall City tax rate** and will provide an estimated \$1,408,010 if levied in full in the first year.

FAQs On the Rochester Hills Millage Re-Purpose:

What is a millage re-purpose?

A question before voters to redirect funds dedicated for one purpose to another dedicated purpose. The net result to taxpayers is no change in the 9.7060 millage rate.

What would a re-purposed millage pay for?

A re-purposed millage would redirect and dedicate more than \$1.4 million towards local street activities, including, repair, maintenance, and snow plowing.

If this millage re-purpose is approved, when would it take effect?

If approved, the re-purposed millage would be effective on the December 2013 winter tax bill to be included in the Fiscal Year 2014-15 Budget.

Can the re-purposed funds be used for anything other than Local Streets?

No. If approved, this re-purposed millage would dedicate funding only towards local street activities, including repair, maintenance, and snow plowing.

Will my tax bill go up?

No. If approved by voters, the total City millage rate is proposed to remain unchanged at 9.7060.

Why is a millage re-purpose for Local Streets being proposed?

The City's bi-annual survey of residents and businesses, as well as other communications received through e-mail or at "town hall" meetings, reflect the maintenance and improvement of local street roadway conditions in Rochester Hills as a high priority. The City's Police & Road Technical Review Committee has recommended that the City look to re-purpose a millage previously dedicated to service Drain Debt (which is soon to be retired) and instead dedicate those funds towards local neighborhood streets.

How long would the re-purposed millage last?

The re-purposed local street millage will remain in place for 7 years.

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US POSTAGE
PAID
PONTIAC MAILING

City of Rochester Hills
Bryan K. Barnett, Mayor
1000 Rochester Hills Drive
Rochester Hills, MI 48309



THE LAST QUESTION ON THE BALLOT COULD AFFECT YOU THE MOST!



Rochester Hills Roads: PROTECTING YOUR INVESTMENT Our Neighborhoods! Our Roads!

Dear Resident: The Rochester Hills Department of Public Service prides itself on keeping our 207 miles of local neighborhood streets safe and well-maintained. In order to continue these efforts, the citizen driven Police and Road Technical Committee has recommended to the City Council to redirect \$1.4 million from the expiring drain bond millage and invest it into our local neighborhood roads.

The City Council unanimously agreed, and in order to ensure future funding for the maintenance, repair, rehabilitation and reconstruction of local roads, they are asking voters for the authority to repurpose an expiring drain millage and invest that millage into our local neighborhood roads.

In line with our mission to deliver the highest possible services, while maintaining the lowest tax rate in Oakland County, the result to taxpayers will be no change in the 9.7060 city millage rate! So remember: the last question on the ballot could affect you the most!

Sincerely,

Bryan K. Barnett, Mayor



	Before FY 2011	After FY 2011	Net Change
City Millage Rate			
Local Street Re-Purpose	--	0.4855	0.4855
Drain Debt Fund	0.6018	0.1163	(0.4855)
All Other	9.1042	9.1042	--
Total City Millage Rate	9.7060	9.7060	--



Millage Rates: Community Comparisons



Questions? Please contact
Mayor Barnett
at 248-656-4664
mayoroffice@rochesterhills.org

VOTE

Here we are again! It's a big election year and the November General (Presidential) is just around the corner. Election Day is Tuesday, November 6, 2012. The city has thirty-two precincts that will be open at 7 a.m. on Election Day. The polls remain open until 8 p.m. Please refer to the new voter identification card that you received earlier this summer with your precinct and district information. The new ID cards were required due to the census/redistricting process. The Election Notice included with this issue gives the precinct numbers and polling locations.

There were several voting locations that changed because of redistricting. Please watch the mail for a reminder card if your location was changed. Your voter identification card is to remind you that you are registered, where to vote and the district numbers for those who represent you at the federal, state, county, and local levels of government. Check the city's website www.rochesterhills.org and the Quick Link to Election Information for the precinct map, registration information, and sample ballots. Remember, to vote in the November 6 Presidential Election, you must be registered to vote where you reside at least 30 days prior to the election. The Close of Registration for November was October 9. If you have moved within the past 60 days and have not yet changed your voter registration, you may vote one last time in your previous community.

It is not too late to apply for an Absent Voter Ballot. If there is a possibility you might be away from the community on Election Day, please don't forget to apply for your ballot. You may also apply if you are 60 years of age or older or have a disability that limits your ability to get to your precinct without the assistance of another. The Absent Voter Ballot Application is located on the city's website www.rochesterhills.org; click on Election Information to find our Absent Voter Ballot Application form. Download the form, complete the information requested, sign and return it to the Clerk's Office. You can also contact the Clerk's Office at 248-656-4630 to have an application mailed to you. Your application can be returned by mail, in person to the Clerk's Office, or you can drop it in the City Drop Box in front of City Hall at anytime.

This year's ballot has many offices to be elected as well as a number of ballot proposals. The League of Women Voters web site www.lwvoa.org has an online voter guide that can assist you with information about the candidates and proposals. The Clerk's Office has printed copies of the Guide. You can stop by the Clerk's Office and pick up a copy between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Absent Voter Ballots can be mailed prior to 2 p.m. on Saturday, November 3. The Clerk's Office is open on Saturday, November 3 from 8 a.m. until 2 p.m. to issue Absent Voter Ballots. The Clerk's Office will issue Absent Voter Ballots in the Clerk's Office on Monday, November 5 from 8 a.m. until 4 p.m. Voters must vote these ballots in the office that day. All Absent Voter Ballots must be returned to the Clerk's Office NO LATER than 8 p.m. on Election Night (Tuesday, November 6, 2012) to be counted.

We are expecting a very busy election this November. We encourage everyone to take the opportunity to read the ballot prior to arrival at the polls. Please take the opportunity to review a sample ballot, check out the League of Women Voters website, or stop by and get a voter guide. The Polls will be open from 7:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m. on Election Day. Remember your photo ID (Driver's License, Passport, State ID, current School ID, Military ID, or Tribal ID) on Election Day, and don't forget to vote both sides of your ballot.

See you at the Polls!

Mark Your Calendar

City Offices will be closed on the following days:

Thanksgiving *November 22 & 23*

Christmas *December 24 & 25*

New Years Eve *December 31*

New Years Day *January 1*

MLK Day *January 21*

Information

on all city services can be found by visiting our website

www.rochesterhills.org

or by telephone

248-656-4600

CITY OF ROCHESTER HILLS

GENERAL ELECTION

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2012

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 6, 2012
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 Elementary School, 490 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 OF ALL PARTICIPATING POLITICAL
PARTIES FOR THE FOLLOWING OFFICES:

PRESIDENTIAL	President and Vice President of the United States
CONGRESSIONAL	United States Senator and Representative in Congress
LEGISLATIVE	Representative in State Legislature
STATE BOARDS	State Board of Education, University of Michigan Regents, Michigan State University Trustees, Wayne State University Governors
COUNTY	County Executive, Prosecuting Attorney, Sheriff, Clerk/Register of Deeds, Treasurer, Water Resource Commissioner, and County Commissioner
JUDICIAL	Justice of Supreme Court – Incumbent Position, Justice of Supreme Court – Incumbent Position Partial Term Ending 01/01/2015, Judge of Court of Appeals – 2 nd District – Incumbent Position, Judge of Circuit Court – 6 th Circuit Incumbent Position, Judge of Circuit Court – 6 th Circuit Non-Incumbent Position, Judge of Probate Court - Incumbent Position, Judge of District Court – 52-3 rd District Incumbent Position
COMMUNITY COLLEGE	Oakland Community College Board of Trustees Member

AND FOR THE PURPOSE OF VOTING ON THE FOLLOWING PROPOSALS:

STATEWIDE PROPOSALS

- PROPOSAL 12-1: A referendum on Public Act 4 of 2011 – Emergency Manager Law
- PROPOSAL 12-2: A proposal to amend the State Constitution regarding Collective Bargaining
- PROPOSAL 12-3: A proposal to amend the State Constitution to establish a standard for Renewable Energy
- PROPOSAL 12-4: A proposal to amend the State Constitution to establish the Michigan Quality Home Care Council and provide collective bargaining for in-home care workers
- PROPOSAL 12-5: A proposal to amend the State Constitution to limit the enactment of new taxes by State Government
- PROPOSAL 12-6: A proposal to amend the State Constitution regarding construction of international bridges and tunnels

CITY

BALLOT QUESTION: Re-purpose of Drain Bond Millage for Local Roads

Full text of the proposals may be obtained from:
Rochester Hills Clerk's Office

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

IN ADDITION, THE CLERK'S OFFICE WILL BE OPEN ON SATURDAY, November 3, 2012 FROM 8:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M. The last day to obtain absentee ballots by mail is Saturday, November 3, 2012 at 2:00 p.m.

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

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

September 21, 2012



The Village of Rochester Hills Tree Lighting Ceremony 2012

Join us at the Village of Rochester Hills on Friday, November 16, 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.