



Bryan K. Barnett, Mayor

A Message from the Mayor

On March 14, I delivered the 2012 State of the City Address. Each year, it is one of the highlights of my job. Not only do I get to deliver this speech in a unique and creative way, but I also have the opportunity to share truly great news with residents, business members, and guests of our city.

Some of the highlights of this address include a sharp uptick in housing permits and commercial construction, a large drop in foreclosures, a very low unemployment rate, and a high number of park visitors.

In fact, we had 116 new home permits in 2011. That's 116 new families moving into our community, buying houses, shopping and dining at our establishments, and enrolling in our schools. It is growth at the very core of our community, a fact validated by the 2010 census.

In 2011, Rochester Hills had a total new commercial and residential construction value of over \$113,000,000. That is a remarkable increase of 78% from 2010 and 137% from 2009 **making us #1 in all of Oakland County!**

Those who know me know that I am passionate about our economic development effort. Our property values, the health of our school districts, and our crime rate are all closely tied to the number and quality of jobs in our community.

In 2011, we welcomed nine new high-tech companies that added 750 new jobs to our community. That is in addition to the seven retained key businesses that added 300 new jobs ranging from engineering to alternative energy to business services. The new companies relocated to our city from other parts of Michigan and across the United States, and as far away as Germany. In fact, to date we have welcomed 14 German companies to Rochester Hills, six of them in the last five years. A welcomed German invasion of sorts!

The efforts we have made in attracting businesses both here and abroad are certainly paying off. **Since the start of my administration, we have**

“We have managed this financial crisis in remarkable fashion by being innovative, creative, strategic and deliberate. Perhaps most telling, we have been recognized, copied, and honored for our efforts.”

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welcomed over 100 new high technology companies and with them over \$160 million of new investment. These new high-tech companies are creating the need for the high-dollar houses we are seeing built here in Rochester Hills.

The numbers indicate new residents and new businesses are moving into Rochester Hills in record fashion. You may wonder why? For many, it's the superior quality of life our amenities afford: two top-notch school districts, our Older Persons Commission, outstanding public library, extensive and well maintained trail system, Velodrome, Museum, and 1,000 acre parks system.

We know our residents love these amenities because they told us so. In our most recent survey, it was listed as the number one reason people move to Rochester Hills, and to back that up, our parks experienced a record breaking 1.2 million visitor days in 2011. Clearly, our quality of life amenities give us a huge advantage when looking to attract new families and residents to our city.

Another category by which we measure the health of our city is our low tax rate. **I'm happy to say there is no city in Oakland County where you could own a home or operate your business and be taxed less.** That's a fantastic competitive advantage. Perhaps the chart that most clearly shows our success is our unemployment rate. **Our current rate is just 4.7% - the second best in the entire State of Michigan.** We are proud of the work that our businesses are doing to stay healthy and prosperous.



When it comes to our cost of doing business, last year's revenue came in 5% higher than planned and expenses were 4% lower than budgeted. That's the best of both worlds and a product of managing our finances conservatively

How do we do that? First, we start by cutting our spending. **Overall, we were able to reduce actual spending citywide by 14% over 2010 levels.**

With the guidance and buy-in of our city council, and the leadership and innovation of our entire team, we have done something very few municipalities in the entire state

can say... we have actually grown our fund balance from 2009 to 2011, during the worst economy in 80 years!

What matters most to me is what our residents think of everything we do, and this chart is perhaps the one that makes me most proud. The Oakland University Community Survey shows **we have the highest satisfaction level in our city's history!**

Our biggest challenge will be to continue to elevate our game in 2012. We have had much success, but in this game sitting idle means losing. We will continue to strengthen our ties with strong partners like Oakland University and Rochester College. We will deepen our relations with Automation Alley, SEMCOG, the MEDC, and with Oakland County.



In 2012, we will seek a louder voice and more prominent seat at the table in Lansing and Washington for issues that matter to our community. We have managed this financial crisis in remarkable fashion by being innovative, creative, strategic and deliberate. Perhaps most telling, we have been recognized, copied, and honored for our efforts.

I am proud of what we have done, and I'm excited about the future of Rochester Hills. You can be, too!

God bless,



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 beginning January 1, 2012.

The Distinguished Budget Award is the highest form of recognition in governmental budgeting. This marks the sixteenth 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 2012 Adopted Budget, please [click here](#).



Hills Herald

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BRYAN K. BARNETT, Mayor

City Council:

Greg Hooper, President
Michael Webber, Vice President
Nathan Klomp
Adam Kochenderfer
James Rosen
Mark Tisdell
Ravi Yalamanchi

Produced by the

Office of the Mayor

Pam Olson, Publisher & Editor
Jamie Smith, Photographer
Charlotte Taravella, Executive Editor

Comments & questions about materials appearing in the *Hills Herald* may be directed to:

Mayor's Office
1000 Rochester Hills Drive
Rochester Hills, MI 48309

-or-

hillsherald@rochesterhills.org

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

PRESENTED TO

City of Rochester Hills
Michigan

for the Fiscal Year Ended
December 31, 2010



Linda C. Davison
President
Jeffrey S. Evers
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**

Keeping your family safe

More than two million poisonings are reported each year to the 57 poison control centers across the country. More than 90 percent of these poisonings occur in the home. The majority of non-fatal poisonings occur in children younger than six years old. Poisonings are one of the leading causes of death among adults. Please do your part and learn how to [prevent poisonings](#) in your home.



In an Emergency Call Poison Help 1-800-222-1222 which connects you to your local poison center. Call if you think someone may have been poisoned – even if you’re not sure.

Stay calm: Most poisoning emergencies can be resolved quickly

Call 9-1-1: If the person is unconscious or has trouble breathing

Each year thousands of people become injured or ill due to the effects of an unintentional harmful substance exposure. This may occur by direct skin contact, inhalation, absorption or ingestion of the substance into the body. Although this can occur in all age groups and socioeconomic strata, children less than five years of age are the most common victims. Adults over 18 years of age are the next highest group of exposures.

These are basic principles to consider:

- There are generally no antidotes for most poisoning.
- Small children can get protective caps off bottles faster than most adults.
- Siblings share, even with pets.
- Children do not always admit the truth or truly know the amount ingested.
- Harmful substances are defined as chemicals, products and plants that threaten the safety of people and pets.
- Harmful chemicals commonly found in homes and schools include ammonia, bleach, dish soap, antifreeze, alcohol, insecticides, paint, petroleum products (kerosene and turpentine), herbicides, pesticides, drain cleaner, pine oil cleaner, spray cleaners, certain cosmetics, swimming pool additives, prescription and non-prescription medications, recreational drugs, tobacco products, mothballs and disc batteries among others.
- Common harmful plant exposures include mushrooms, poinsettias, oleanders, and most varieties of lilies.
- A harmful exposure is not always identifiable unless the person involved tells someone, asks for help or behaves inappropriately.
- Children are more likely not to tell an adult that they have swallowed some pills because they fear punishment.
- Adults must learn to recognize a harmful exposure incident by carefully watching children in their care for signs of unusual odors or unusual behavior. The most obvious sign of a harmful exposure may be open pill bottles, plants that have obviously been chewed on or eaten, open containers, or a child complaining of a “tummy ache.” It is important when caring for children that an adult survey areas where the children have access, especially high-risk areas such as the garage, kitchen or bathroom. Most harmful substance exposures in the toddler and child age groups occur when a youngster ingests an over-the-counter or prescription medicine such as cough medicine and cold preparations, ibuprofen, acetaminophen, Tylenol, aspirin and multi-vitamins.
- Adults most often have swallowed improperly stored liquids in glasses, bottles, jars and other containers accounting for the largest number of harmful substance exposures in that age group.



Leader Dog Puppies Visit the Rochester Hills Fire Department

What is more fun loving than an adorable little puppy? How about 35 of them!

This past April, Leader Dog puppies took a field trip to the Rochester Hills Fire Department as part of their socialization training. During their semi-annual visit, puppies are able to practice going up metal mesh steps in the training tower, come face to face with a firefighter in full turnout gear, sniff their way through an ambulance, and experience the lights and sirens of a fire truck.

Rochester Hills Fire Department members are both pleased and proud to have the opportunity to play a part in the training of a Leader Dog. Leader Dog Puppy Day is another example of how the Rochester Hills Fire Department reaches out to help others in our community. To find out how you can help, please visit www.leaderdog.org.



Self-Serve 2012 Dog License Renewal at City of Rochester Hills (Three-year license now available at Oakland County Animal Control)

Through Friday, June 1, 2012, Oakland County's yearly dog license for 2012 may be renewed for the non-delinquent fee. The non-delinquent annual fees are: \$15.00 or \$7.50 if spayed/neutered and the senior rate is \$13.50 or \$6.75 if spayed/neutered. The delinquent rate is \$30.00 for all. At the City Treasury Department, the renewal is now self-serve. Please bring the postcard renewal reminder that was sent to you. Your dog's current rabies vaccination certificate **must** be presented when you apply for the license. If your dog has a three-year vaccination, you may apply directly with **Oakland County Animal Control** for a three-year dog license. For more information, please click here <http://land.oakgov.com/OPLS/MainIndex.aspx>. 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's Dog License page at <http://rochesterhills.org/index.aspx?NID=354> for more information regarding animal licensing. Questions can be directed to the Treasury Department at 248-656-4675 or treasury@rochesterhills.org.



Lola -photo Leslie Turnbull

Veterans Memorial Pointe

Memorial Brick Order Form

Buying a Memorial Brick is a simple way to leave your mark of remembrance. This is your opportunity to become a part of something special in our city. Your help will enable us to maintain this place of honor; and by buying a brick, you or your loved one will become a part of this memorial forever.

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

Inscription Information

Please print clearly -- one character per box. Include spaces where necessary. There is a limit of 12 characters per line, including spaces. Bricks will be inscribed exactly as shown.

The Memorial Bricks are meant to be a lasting tribute to a friend or loved one. Once the bricks are placed, they cannot be relocated.

If you have not had the opportunity, please visit Veterans Memorial Pointe. While it is always beautiful, it is especially lovely at this time. Veterans Memorial Pointe is located on the southeast corner of Livernois and Avon.



Memorial/Eagle Scout 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 this is an Eagle Scout.
- Check box if person spent time in the service. A star will be added to their brick at no extra charge. Please fill out this Brick Order Form and mail with a check made payable to:

Community Foundation of Greater Rochester / VMP
PO Box 431
Rochester, MI 48308-0431
(Please note on check: Veterans Memorial Pointe Fund)

Upon receipt of your check and order form, you will be sent an acknowledgement letter. Bricks are installed in the park twice a year in late October and May.
For information and additional order forms, please call the Community Foundation of Greater Rochester at 248-608-2804 or the Mayor's Office at 248-656-4664.

Memorial Day Parade

Where: Mount Avon Cemetery, Third Street, Rochester

Date: May 28, 2012

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) for the closing ceremony in Rochester Hills.

We are very pleased to announce a special program that will be part of the Memorial Day Parade this year. To honor those who have served, and in remembrance of those who gave their lives, all veterans marching, walking, or riding in the parade have the opportunity to carry a memorial wreath that will be laid at Veterans Memorial Point. The wreath laying ceremony will honor servicemen and women, fallen soldiers, family members, and friends or loved ones who served in our country's fight for freedom.

If you are currently in the military, or have served in the military and would like to take part in the wreath ceremony, please call Terri Williams at 248-651-8137 or Ed Leafdale at 248-841-2566 for more information.



Eagle Scout Projects Completed

Eagle Scout Helaman Sanchez has reason to be proud of his Eagle Scout project at Veterans Memorial Pointe. Helaman planted maple trees, pine trees and willow trees for a total of 15 new trees that help to make Veterans Memorial Pointe such a beautiful and peaceful spot in our city. In addition to planting trees, Helaman spent many hours planning the project and raising the necessary funds to purchase the trees. Congratulations to Helaman Sanchez for a job very well done.



The second project at Veterans Memorial Pointe is the comfortable and picturesque seating area on the Clinton River. Jack Siragusa earned his Eagle Scout Badge by planning the project, raising funds to purchase materials, and constructing the paver seating area. The seating area is cut into a berm and has a park bench overlooking the river. In addition, Jack planted bushes for landscaping and beautification. This very scenic area is a welcome addition to Veterans Memorial Pointe.

Brothers Matt and Chris Wilson chose a restoration project as their path to earning their Eagle Scout Badges. They elected to restore a city-owned 1911 grader that was pulled by a steam powered tractor back in the day. The grader was pulled out of mothballs, had the old paint removed and a fresh coat of paint applied. The wooden deck was replaced, and the surrounding area was nicely landscaped with spit rail fence around it. Matt and Chris worked very hard on this project which can be seen at the City of Rochester Hills DPS Facility on Auburn Road west of Dequindre. The result looks like a picture postcard.



Upcoming Projects at VMP

We are very proud to announce the first Gold Award project at Veterans Memorial Pointe. The Gold Award is the highest achievement within Girl Scouts. Only 5.4% eligible Girl Scouts successfully earn the Gold Award. There are numerous steps involved in reaching this prestigious level. Girls use their vision for change to complete a service project that reaches beyond the Girl Scout organization and provides lasting benefit to the community. A local Girl Scout has elected to update and categorize the memorial bricks at Veterans Memorial Pointe for her Gold Award project. She will generate an extensive list including how many served in each war and which branch of service they served in. This information will be put on the city website, compact discs, and in a logbook located at the memorial site. It is a big project!

Another new Eagle Scout project will be a monument area located south of the parking lot in Veterans Memorial Pointe. This new memorial area will honor all those who served in the Persian Gulf War, better known as Desert Storm. This will be beautifully landscaped and include a bronze memorial plaque mounted on stone. The plan is to have these project completed by Memorial Day. This memorial will serve to honor all the woman and men who served during this time.

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



Bicycling Safety Tips

Bike riding is fun, it's exciting, and it's a great way to explore the area where you live. You won't be alone when you are riding, you will be sharing the road or path with pedestrians, vehicles and other bicyclists. Before and while you are riding, please follow the following safety tips.

Wear a helmet: Studies have shown that using a bicycle helmet can reduce head injuries by up to 85%. Select a helmet that is comfortable but fits snugly. Look for a helmet that has been rated by a national or local safety foundation.

Bicycle maintenance: The fun of riding is missed if your bicycle doesn't work properly.

- Check your tires daily for air pressure and wear.
- Make sure the handlebars, seat, and pedals are tight to prevent a fall or injury.
- Lubricate the chain and wheels to insure proper operation.

Know your local laws: Because you are riding a bicycle on the same roads as cars and trucks, you must obey the laws and rules that regulate vehicle traffic. Some rules to follow:

- Stay to the right of the street and move with traffic.
- Ride single file when traveling with other bicyclists.
- Obey all traffic signs, signals and road markings.
- Use hand signals for stopping and turning.
- Walk your bike across busy intersections.
- Yield to pedestrians and other vehicles when appropriate.
- Be alert.
- Don't wear headphones while riding.
- If riding at night, make sure your bike is equipped with a headlight, taillight and proper reflectors.
-

Protect your bicycle against theft: A bike can be stolen from just about any place. Simple precautions can deter would-be bike thieves:

- Always lock your bike securely.
- Use a proper tamperproof lock.
- Keep your bike in a locked garage or other secured location when at home.
- Mark your bike with an identifying number and keep a copy of the number in a safe place.



Are You Ready to Relay?

The Greater Rochester Area Relay for Life is coming to Hart Middle School in Rochester Hills on June 23 from 9 am through June 24, 9 am. The theme of this year's relay is "Rockin' For a Cure". Once again the city employee team, "Eddie and the City Cruisers," will be participating in this worthy event, raising funds for the American Cancer Society. This heartfelt 24-hour relay is open to the public and there is no cost for entry. Several local businesses and social groups have teams that join in and set up sites providing games and/or selling fun goods. There is something for the whole family, with activities such as the Survivor's Walk, Luminaria Ceremony, and Live Auction, along with live music, group competitions and late-night games. Plan on joining us for this fun-filled event as we strive to **stamp out cancer!** For more information, log on to www.relayforlife.org/rochestermi.



Oakland County Street Maps Available

The Road Commission for Oakland County (RCOC) is proud to announce they have completed the 2012 RCOC official Oakland County street map. This is the first new map they have produced since 2007. If you would like a map (up to two maps per person are available at no charge) please stop in one of the following Road Commission locations:

- 31001 Lahser Road (at 13 Mile) in Beverly Hills
- 2420 Pontiac Lake Road (at County Center Drive West) in Waterford Township.

If you wish to request a map by mail, you must provide a check made payable to the Road Commission for Oakland County (the name must be exactly as written here) for the exact cost of postage. Postage for one map is \$1.70 and for two maps is \$2.50. Requests including payment should be sent to:

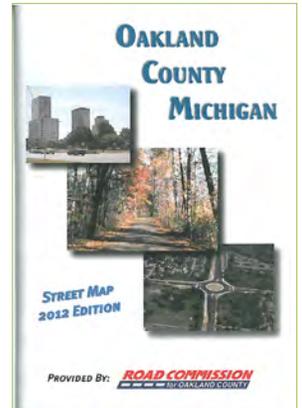
Road Commission for Oakland County

Attention Clerk's Office

31001 Lahser Road

Beverly Hills, MI 48025

For additional information, please call the Road Commission's Clerk's Office at 248-645-2000 ext 2290.



New and Improved Website for Rochester Hills

February 24 marked the launch of the city's new and improved website. Boasting not just an updated design, based in part on the city's recent branding efforts, but also much improved navigation, making it easier for website visitors to find what they need quickly and efficiently.

The website also has some new features that were not available with the old site:

Report a Concern – Go online to report a concern such as an ordinance violation or a pothole.

Dashboard – Personalize the website for each visit by setting up your own dashboard that will take you to the parts of the website you visit most.

Translate – Need to translate the site into a different language? Our new site utilizes the Google Translate function, so you can convert the entire site into the language of your choice.



So take some time to visit the new website at the same old address: www.rochesterhills.org. We think you'll be pleasantly surprised by the changes and additions.

Rochester Hills Public Library Community Bookmobile

The Community Bookmobile holds over 3,000 popular items for children, teens and adults including books, DVDs, music CDs, video games, graphic novels and much, much more. Each week the Bookmobile visits 26 different locations in the community to serve the public. The bookmobile was funded through the generosity of [The Friends of the Library](#).

We invite you to visit the Bookmobile each Monday from 11:30 am - 12:30 pm at:

Rochester Hills City Hall

1000 Rochester Hills Dr.

248-656-4664

The complete schedule, cancellation information, and schedule updates are available online at rhpl.org/bookmobiles or by calling the Outreach & Bookmobile Services Department at 248-650-7150.

*Please note:
It is your responsibility to return or renew your library materials even when the bookmobile is not in service.*



Rochester Hills Building Department

Don't Just Dive In...Check Your Swimming Pool for Safety First!

With summer just around the corner, your City of Rochester Hills Building Department would like to remind you to give your swimming pool a quick "safety check" before the fun starts.

As you prepare to "wake up your pool from its long winter slumber," you might want to run through this simple checklist of items to ensure your family and friends can enjoy your pool safely:

- Check the electrical connections to all of the equipment, including the filter pump, pool lights, etc. Don't forget to check the bare bonding wire that connects all the metal parts of the equipment together to make sure it is in good shape and that there are no loose connections.
- Check the outside electrical outlet near the pool. This outlet should be a ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI) with both "test" and "reset" buttons. To test this outlet, simply push the "test" button and listen for a "click". You can then push the "reset" button to restore power to the outlet. If you don't hear a "click", your GFCI may be defective and should be replaced right away, before using your pool. (Also, please remember that an extension cord should never be used around your pool.)
- Check to make sure all your fencing around the pool is intact and any gate latches are functional, to make sure that little ones don't gain access to the pool without adult supervision. Unfortunately, over 300 children under the age of five die each year from accidental pool drowning.
- If you have a door from your home that leads directly to your pool area, and you have young children, you should have an alarm on that door that will sound when the door has been opened. These inexpensive alarms attach to the door and "beep" loudly when the door is moved. This simple addition can stop a potential tragedy from happening.



By following these simple, easy steps before the swimming season starts, you can ensure that you, your family, and your friends will enjoy the summer's fun without any accidents.

A Word About Waste

Congratulations, Rochester Hills residents, on stepping up and making a difference!

It is hard to believe that we are beginning our fourth year of the Single Hauler Solid Waste program here in the city. It has been a great success on many levels with residents enjoying one day a week pick up, three regular services of trash, recycling and seasonal yard waste pick up (April 1 to November 30), and even the once a month bulk pick up. The city wide four-day pick up schedule has meant less truck traffic in the neighborhoods, and streets clear of trash cans six days per week.

In addition, our RecycleBank program has proven to be outstanding. Nearly 81 percent of our residents recycle and nearly 70 percent are signed up with RecycleBank to earn money saving coupons for local and national retailers. It is estimated that collectively Rochester Hills residents have diverted 19,340 tons of trash from the landfill and sent it to be recycled. Through their recycling efforts, residents have saved 187,256 trees and 12,909,323 gallons of oil. Together recycling residents have earned 96,699,050 of points worth an estimated \$9,669,905.00! Some of these points have been donated to help three local schools receive education grants from RecycleBank for more than \$5000.00 for things like gardens, weather stations and other projects that help teachers offer environmental education to their students.



Finally, our NOHAZ hazardous waste program is in full swing. Paint, pool chemicals, batteries, motor oil, fluorescent lamps, computers and other materials like these are hazardous for the environment and should be disposed of properly. You can get rid of your household hazardous waste (HHW) and do something nice for our environment by taking it to one of the NoHaz collection events. To learn more about NO HAZ, and get a list of acceptable and unacceptable materials, please visit the NO HAZ website at www.nohaz.com or call the NO HAZ hotline at 248-858-5656.

Rochester Hills residents care about their environment and have stepped up to make a difference! Yet another reason Rochester Hills remains the best place to live, work, and raise a family.

HOME ENERGY SAVING TIPS

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

No-Cost or Low-Cost

- Setting your air conditioner 5° (F) higher will save up to 20% on cooling costs.
- Reduce air conditioning costs by using fans, closing windows, doors and shades during the day. Most ceiling fans use less energy than a light bulb.
- Lower the temperature on your water heater to 120° (F). Turn it to the lowest setting when away.
- When washing clothes, use warm or cold water and rinse with cold. About 90% of the energy used in a clothes washer goes to water heating.
- Wash full loads of dishes. Reduce energy and water use.
- Install faucet aerators and low-flow showerheads. Showers use less hot water than baths; also consider taking shorter showers. This can reduce water heating costs by 50% and save up to \$300.00 per year.
- Set refrigerator temperatures between 37°- 40° (F). Clean the coils. Keep the refrigerator stocked; it takes more energy to cool an empty refrigerator.
- Shut off lights, computers and other electronic appliances when you're not using them. Many computer monitors have a sleep mode setting which, when activated, greatly reduces energy consumption.
- Unplug electronics, battery chargers and the equipment when not in use. Combined these small items can use as much power as your refrigerator.
- Install foam gaskets behind electric-outlet and switch-plate covers.



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

- Install an automatic setback thermostat that adjusts room temperature according to your daily schedule.
- Use motion sensors or timers for outdoor lighting. You'll still have security and save energy.
- Replace incandescent light bulbs with compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs). You will save 75% off your lighting costs.
- Add water heater tank and hot water pipe insulation especially if in an unheated space. Don't cover the thermostat or for natural gas models, the air inlets.

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

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

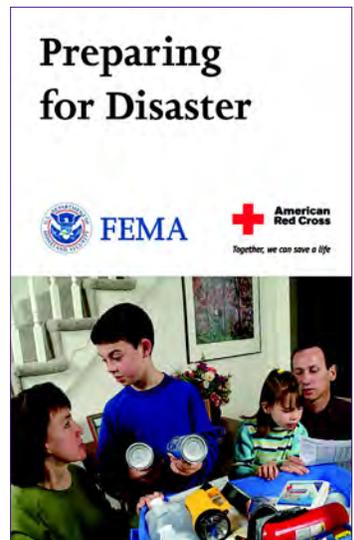
Disaster Preparedness - What is your Plan?

The Rochester Hills Building Department would like to remind you of the importance of having a disaster preparedness plan. Where will you or your family be when a disaster strikes? You could be anywhere – at work, at school, in the car. How will you find each other? Will you know if your family is safe? What would you do if you were told to evacuate your home? What if your water, gas, electric, or phones were cut off?

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

- Get informed.
- Make a plan.
- Assemble a 72-hour kit for everyone in your home.
- Maintain your plan and 72-hour kits.

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



Rochester Hills Government Youth Council Hosts 5k Run/Walk to Benefit the Boys & Girls Club of Troy on June 16, 2012

This year, Beaumont Health System and Sola Life & Fitness is sponsoring the Rochester Hills Government Youth Council's (RHGYC) 5k Run/Walk to benefit the Boys & Girls Club of Troy. The event will be held on Saturday, June 16, 2012 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 and will once again be chip timed.

The Boys & Girls Club of Troy provides a safe, positive place for young people to grow, learn, play, interact and develop into self-reliant, responsible, contributing members of the community. The efforts of youth professionals, parents, guardians, volunteers, concerned citizens, schools and local agencies come together to provide opportunities for our children to live full, satisfying and productive lives. Funds raised from this event will make youth development programs and scholarships available to Rochester Hills young people.

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 are available in the Youth Council area of the City's website at www.rochesterhills.org along with a link to online registration. Participants submitting entries by June 1, 2012 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.





FREE!

TONS OF TRUCKS

Saturday, June 2, 2012 • 9am - 12 noon • Borden Park

Kids! Parents! Truck enthusiasts! Come and join us for this spectacular free event!
 You know your child loves trucks. You see them on the streets. You see them hard at work. NOW come and see them close up! You can climb inside a cool dump truck, steer a bulldozer, an excavator and see what it's like inside a real fire truck! There will be TONS of construction vehicles, fire trucks, police vehicles and more! All will be on display for you and your truck enthusiast to check out up close & personal. Kids can have their picture taken with any vehicle or city employee and will receive hats, stickers and a coloring packet.
Parents—don't forget your cameras!
 Borden Park is located at the corner of Hamlin and John R

FREE!

Sponsors:

- RARA • City of Rochester Hills • Rochester Hills Fire Department #1
- Oakland County Sheriff's Office-Rochester Hills

For more information, call RARA at 248-656-8308






Spencer Park Bass Tournament



Sponsored By:  **meijer**

- **Sunday, June 10th 2012**
- Open to all ages and skill levels - Bring your fishing pole and lures!
- Registration from 10:00 -1:00
- Tournament runs from 11:00 -3:00
- T-shirts to first 50 contestants ages 12 and under
- Casting Contest open to all kids ages 12 and under
- Prizes awarded for several categories
- No fee to compete in Tournament (Park Vehicle Entry Fee required)
- Michigan's Free Fishing Weekend! (No fishing license required)

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

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 here](#). To make an hourly reservation, call Borden Park at 248-656-4797 at least 72 hours in advance.



City of Rochester Hills Community First Nomination Form

Whether it is to celebrate unspoken acts of kindness or other unique examples of community service, the objective of the Community First Program is to recognize those that make our community great. Please take a moment to nominate an individual, family or local business that goes the extra mile in helping make Rochester Hills such an outstanding community. We would love to hear from you!

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: _____

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.

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

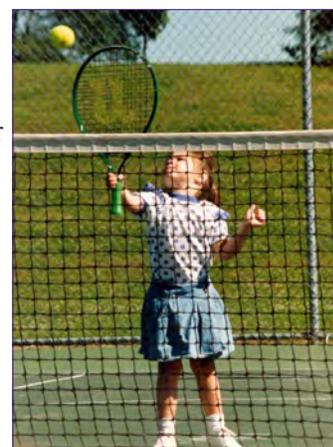
If you have questions, please call the Mayor's Office at 248-656-4664. Thank you!

Rochester Hills Parks

The Parks of Rochester Hills are yours to enjoy! Whether you would rather cool off with a refreshing dip in Carter Lake, hike along a wooded trail, gather family and friends for a picnic, or discover a piece of Rochester Hills history, summer fun is just a short drive from home and waiting for you to enjoy in the beautiful parks and trails of Rochester Hills!

Don't spend the summer daydreaming about all those things you'd like to do. Get out and play. Here are some ideas:

- ❖ It's swimsuit season! The beach at [Spencer Park](#) opens on Saturday, May 26. 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 one of seven [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.
- ❖ Planning a wedding? The Rochester Hills Museum at Van Hoosen Farm is available for indoor and outdoor weddings. [Click here](#) to start planning your wedding in Historic Stoney Creek Village.



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!

OAK WILT

Adapted from Michigan State University Cooperative Extension publications

If you're considering getting tree trimming done this spring or summer, be sure to keep in mind that some species of trees are best pruned while they are still "dormant" (before new growth begins in the spring). This is especially true of oak trees due to the danger of oak wilt.

Oak wilt is a fungal disease which causes the water-conducting vessels in oak trees to become plugged. Once the vessels are plugged, water movement within the tree stops, causing leaves to wilt and fall from the tree.

For additional information, please [click here](#), or contact the Rochester Hills Department of Parks & Forestry at 248-656-4673 for a copy of the article.



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.



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

Tree Roots in Sanitary Sewer Lines

Tree roots generally do not extend downward into the soil profile more than 2-3 feet. Sanitary sewer lines are almost always deeper. If a source of water, nutrients, or oxygen is available, the roots may grow deeper.

The flow of warm water inside the sewer causes water condensation that collects on the cooler outer surface of the sewer. Roots may be attracted to the water and grow along the sewer. If the sewer is leaking from a crack or faulty joint, roots will penetrate the opening to reach the nutrients and moisture inside. Once inside, the roots will continue to grow and exert pressure and enlarge the opening at the point they entered the sewer as well as eventually cause a blockage.

Property owners are responsible for repair and maintenance of their sewer lines from the house to the sanitary sewer main. Schedule regular cleaning of the sewer to prevent blockages. Treatments with copper sulfate (follow label directions carefully) can kill roots in the sewer line without harming the tree, but roots will grow back and have to be treated again. Other common methods of removing roots from sewers use augers and other devices.

It is important to keep your sewer structurally sound. Any structural fault may allow roots to enter the sewer. Repair options include Pipebursting™ or other in-line repair techniques. Sewers that are structurally damaged may require replacement. Properly installed newer materials, such as PVC pipe, are more resistant to root intrusion. There are usually fewer joints and they are more tightly fitted and less likely to leak.

Tree roots often extend radially much further than the height of the tree to obtain necessary water and nutrients. In most urban situations, when tree roots have entered a sewer, they are from more than one tree. The city does not remove street right-of-way trees simply because roots have entered a private sewer. Property owners should be aware of the location of their sewer line and not plant larger and faster growing species of trees nearby.

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 7, 2012, is the deadline for ordering trees for fall 2012.

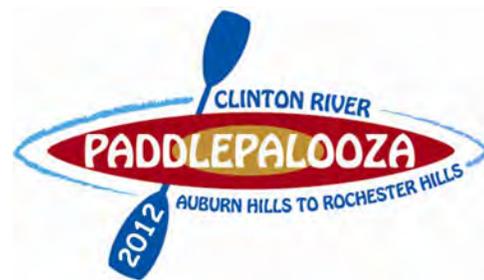
An order form may be obtained by [clicking here](#), or visiting the city website. For more information, please contact the Forestry Division at 248-656-4673.

Spring Canoe and Kayak Event

The cities of Auburn Hills and Rochester Hills are gearing up to present Paddlepalooza 2012, the neighboring cities' annual canoe/kayak race and adventure river paddle on the Clinton River. Participants will begin launching their watercraft at 8:00 am on Saturday, June 2 from the banks of Riverside Park on the corner of Auburn and Squirrel Roads in downtown Auburn Hills.

Rochester Hills is pleased to continue its partnership with Auburn Hills on this action-packed outing.

"This event allows participants to see the Clinton River from a different perspective by giving them a unique opportunity to get out and experience all that our community has to offer," states Rochester Hills Mayor Bryan Barnett. "It is great to see Paddlepalooza grow year after year."



Kayakers celebrate Paddlepalooza

Prizes will be awarded for each race class and each participant will receive lunch and an event t-shirt. Pre-registration is recommended; there is a \$20 per person entry fee.

Because the Clinton River can be considered a difficult Class III rating at certain times of the year, Paddlepalooza is not recommended for the beginner paddler. Participants must be at least 12 years of age; paddlers under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. Personal flotation devices are required.

For more details about Paddlepalooza's participant rules, what to wear, canoe and kayak rentals, parking and shuttle service, raffle prizes and registration and waiver forms, please visit the City of Rochester Hills website at www.rochesterhills.org, or the City of Auburn Hills website at www.auburnhills.org.

How Green is Your Lawn?

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

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

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

Some tips to keep in mind:

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

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

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

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

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



Become an Adopt a Stream Volunteer

Help Your Community Make Decisions and Improve Water Quality

Assessing the health of the creeks and rivers in the Clinton River Watershed is a pretty big task. The land that drains into the Clinton River covers 760 square miles and includes over 1,000 miles of streams in addition to the 80-mile-long main branch. We live in the most populous watershed in Michigan and we're still growing! As our population grows, the potential for complex water quality issues in our watershed also grows.

In order to protect our own health, recreational opportunities, and the overall health of the watershed, we must have a better understanding of the impact these problems have on water bodies in our own neighborhoods. The over 60 municipalities, county agencies and nonprofit conservation groups in our watershed are hard at work, developing and implementing plans that will help maintain and improve the health our waterways.

But, we can't do it alone. Governmental agencies don't have the staff or funds to continuously monitor each body of water without local community assistance.

That's where you can help by getting involved and volunteering as an Adopt-A-Stream volunteer. The Clinton River Watershed Council's Adopt-a-Stream program is a volunteer-based program that empowers community members to protect local streams and rivers by monitoring their health. Volunteers are teamed up, assigned stream sites, given equipment, data sheets and a collection protocol, and then sent out to gather information on streamside habitats, physical/chemical characteristics and macroinvertebrate populations. Twice a year (May and October) teams of trained volunteers visit their adoption site and collect data. After the initial 3 hour training session, each volunteer dedicates approximately 3-4 hours of their time per year.

The data collected is then used by the watershed council, municipalities and the state to assess the health of our streams and rivers and make decisions regarding their protection and restoration.

We are looking for individuals who would like to coordinate a site team and team participants. If you would like more information on Adopt-a-Stream volunteer monitoring opportunities or would like to register for training sessions, please call 248-601-0606 or send an email to contact@crwc.org



2012 Summer Taxes Due September 14, 2012

The 2012 Summer Property Tax bills will be mailed by mid-June and are due Friday, September 14, 2012. **Postmarks will not be honored, so please allow the recommended 5 business days for first class postal delivery.** For information about our convenient payment options, please visit the Treasury Department's Payment Options page <http://www.rochesterhills.org/index.aspx?NID=353>. After September 14, 2012, interest of 1% will be added to any unpaid summer tax balance and an additional 1% will be added on the first day of each month thereafter. On February 15, 2013 a 3% penalty will be added to the balance of all 2012 unpaid taxes. Summer tax deferment, which defers the summer tax payment due date of your principal residence to February 15, 2013, is available for qualified residents. For additional information, please visit the Treasury Department's Summer Tax Deferment page <http://www.rochesterhills.org/index.aspx?NID=504> or contact the Treasury Department at 248-656-4675. Questions can be directed to the Treasury Department at 248-656-4675 or treasury@rochesterhills.org

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 or call the staff at 248-656-4663.

Upcoming Events

Garden Walk

Thursday, June 21, 11-7 p.m.

The premier garden event in our community featuring private gardens

Tickets available on line at www.rochesterhills.org/

\$ 10 Museum Members - advance

\$ 12 nonmembers - advance

\$14 Day of the event

Preview Party

Wednesday, June 20,

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

\$ 30 per person, \$ 50 per couple – includes a garden walk ticket.



Wet and Wild Wednesdays

Performers, Giant Water Slides, Fire Truck & Children's Garden

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 11, July 18, July 25, Aug 1, Aug 8

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 19, June 26, July 3, July 10, July 17, July 24, July 31, Aug 7

Little House by the Creek Day Camp

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

June 28, July 19, Aug 2

Little House in the Village Writer's Camp

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

Aug 14-Aug 17

Advance Adventure Camp at Bloomer Park

Ages 7-11: 10:00-3:00 with an overnight on Aug 8

Aug 6 - Aug 9

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!

What is a Granger? Click here – www.rochestergrangers.com



Rochester Hills Museum Calf Barn Adaptive Reuse Update

The Rochester Hills Museum at Van Hoosen Farm is proud to announce plans to initiate the adaptive reuse of the 1927 Calf Barn on the Museum property in 2012. Without a roof since 1990, the Museum has been collecting funds for over 20 years to invest in the stabilization and reuse of this structure. In the past three years, fundraising efforts were stepped up, and a partnership with the Broomfield Charitable Foundation that recognizes US Congressman William S. Broomfield's political career in Michigan and Washington DC from 1957-1992 has certainly provided the leadership we needed. Mr. Broomfield is related to the Taylor family that settled Stoney Creek Village in 1823 and a cousin to the Van Hoosen family. In the past two years, 65 donors have provided funds that will allow us to initiate Phase I. Phase I will remove the animal pens, create a free standing roof structure, and stabilize the walls. In kind donations from local carpenters will construct the two cupolas and start several of the window repairs. Local craftsman who would still like to help can contact the Museum to leave your lasting legacy.



Soil borings were complete in March, bidding should take place between May-July and construction work should start in August and be done before winter. Phase II and III will enclose the building and provide a climate controlled, archival building as additional funds allow.

Opportunities to recognize family legacies in our community are available through the Calf Barn Adaptive Reuse project and are a wonderful way to recognize your family's investment and commitment to our community and your personal value in the preservation of its history. Plus, you'll be part of a landmark building at site listed on the National Register of Historic Places. If you would like to discuss how your life insurance, stocks, savings, annuities, pledges, and more can help to financially sustain our community's Museum, please call Museum Director Patrick McKay and pledge your family's support! Every little bit will help. We've been relying on our friends for the past 20 years. Just ask the Calf Barn.

Help us look to the past and reach for the future!

Become a Museum Member or Leader in Financial Giving. Please [click here](#) for membership details.

Environmental Program at the Museum

Sat, May 19 *May's Mammals* 1-2 p.m.

Sat, June 30 *Fascinating Frogs* 1-2 p.m.

Sat, July 21 *Terrific Turtles* 1-2 p.m.

Sat, Aug 25 *Evening Nature Walk and Talk*
7-9 p.m.

Regular Admission

Museum members are free!



Planning a Wedding?

The Rochester Hills Museum at Van Hoosen Farm is available for indoor and outdoor weddings. Located in historic Stony 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.



Are You Ready for Elections?

The 2012 election will find us voting for candidates for office in Washington, Lansing and Oakland County. To be able to vote, you must be registered. Qualifications for voter registration are:

- be a citizen of the United States.
- be at least 18 years of age on Election Day.
- be a resident of the city or township where you are registered at least 30 days prior to Election Day.



If you are not registered, you can register at any Secretary of State Branch Office, the local Clerk's Office or by mail. Please remember that if you choose to register to vote by mail, you must appear to vote in person the first time you vote. The last day to register for the August Primary is July 9, 2012. To vote in the November General, you must be registered by October 9, 2012.

In addition to being registered to vote, you might also want or need to receive an absent voter ballot. Absent voter ballot applications will be available in the Clerk's Office in June. We will also post the application (as soon as it's available) on the city's website for you to print off and mail in to our office. If you registered to vote by mail and are required to vote in person, you can apply for an absent voter ballot in person at the Clerk's Office.

The Clerk's Office maintains a list of voters who request to receive the application for an absentee ballot automatically. If you are on this list, your absent voter ballot applications are mailed approximately 60 days prior to an election. If you are not on this list but would like to be, please contact the Clerk's Office for a request form or go to the city's website and print your form to send to us.

Voters can request an absent voter ballot for the following reasons:

- I am 60 years of age or older.
- I am physically unable to attend the polls without assistance of another.
- I expect to be absent from the community the entire time the polls will be open.
- I cannot attend the polls because of the tenets of my religion.
- I cannot attend the polls because I am confined to jail awaiting arraignment or trial.

Your request for an absent voter ballot must be in writing (either an application or your letter of request); you do not automatically receive a ballot. Whenever there is a Primary Election followed by a General Election, the absent voter ballot application we provide can be used to select the Primary, General or Both elections on the same application. We will be happy to mail an application to you. Just call our office 248-656-4630 to make your request or visit the city's website and print off an application to send to us www.rockesterhills.org. Don't forget to sign your application. Applications can be mailed to the Clerk's Office, dropped off in person at the Clerk's Office, or placed in the green drop-box in front of City Hall, faxed 248-656-4744, or signed, scanned, and emailed to clerksoffice@rockesterhills.org.

Important!

New Congressional Districts *What does it mean for voters?*

The new Congressional Districts give us new district numbers and boundaries. The changes in districts mean we will be voting for new representatives in Washington, Lansing, and Oakland County this year. Watch for the candidates' names after the May 15 filing deadline. These candidates will be appearing on the August 7 Primary ballot. The changes also mean the city has had to adjust some of its precinct boundaries. In June, new voter identification cards will be mailed to all voters in the city. The new ID cards will contain new district information as well as new precinct information. Please be watching for your new ID cards in June.

Precinct Delegate candidates may be affected by the changes in our precinct boundaries. Please check the map [here](#) to see if your precinct has changed. For those without internet access, or if you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Clerk's Office at 248-656-4630.

*The Clerk's Office looks forward to providing our voters with the best possible access to voting.
Please let us know how we can serve you.*

Our Water - Good Housekeeping Practices

Department of Public Service - Water Conservation Update

The City of Rochester Hills has been successful in shifting our time of peak water usage. This change is beneficial to all water customers and helps minimize rate increases by the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department. Also, please follow the City Ordinance that requires property owners with automatic or programmable irrigation systems to only water lawns between midnight and 5 am.

You can play a role in conserving water by becoming conscious of the amount of water your household uses and by implementing ways to decrease use. It is not hard to conserve water. Here are a few tips:

- Manually turn off your sprinkler on rainy days and leave it off until plants need to be watered again. You can also install a rain sensor on your sprinkler system so that it automatically shuts off when it's raining.
- Water your lawn only when it needs it. If you leave footprints on the grass, it is usually time to water. Also, avoid watering your lawn on windy days.
- Next time you add or replace a flower or shrub, choose a low water use plant for year-round landscape color and save up to 550 gallons each year.
- Put food coloring in your toilet tank. If it seeps into the toilet bowl without flushing, you have a leak. Fixing it can save up to 1,000 gallons a month.
- Upgrade older toilets and shower heads to energy-efficient models. Make sure there are water-saving aerators on all your faucets.
- Turn the faucet off while you shave, brush your teeth, lather your hands or wash dishes.
- Run your washer and dishwasher only when they are full. You can save up to 1,000 gallons a month.
- Share your water conservation tips with friends and neighbors.
- Report broken pipes, open fire hydrants and errant sprinklers to the property owner or to the city.



Refer to our Water Conservation page under 'Living In' on the city's website www.rochesterhills.org for additional tips.

West Nile Virus

What is the West Nile Virus? West Nile Virus is a commonly found flavivirus. The virus can infect humans, birds, horses and some other mammals. In a small number of people infected by the virus, the disease can be serious, even fatal.

Where does the West Nile Virus come from? West Nile Virus is most often spread to humans by the bite of an infected mosquito. The mosquito species most likely to carry the West Nile Virus is *Culex Pipiens*. This mosquito's natural habitat is tree holes that are often filled with water and organic matter. Any feature that replicates this natural habitat will likely provide a home for this mosquito's family.

What can I do to help? Keeping your property free of mosquito breeding opportunities is the most effective way to help in the elimination of West Nile Virus. This can be accomplished by emptying the water from containers, empty flower pots, water-filled tires and children's swimming pools and toys; changing the water in bird baths around the home once a week, and cleaning clogged eave troughs to allow free flow of runoff.

What is the city doing to help? Since 2003, Rochester Hills has participated in an active West Nile Virus Abatement Program. Each year the Department of Public Service and Parks Department crews clean out our catch basins that are ideal breeding habitats for *Culex Pipiens*. Once the catch basins are cleaned, a larvicide briquette is dropped in. The larvicide prevents the emergence of adult mosquitoes from the standing water deep inside the basins, lasts the entire summer and specifically targets mosquitoes in our area that are known to carry the virus. Grant funding from Oakland County covers a portion of the costs associated with this abatement program.

Where can I get more information? The websites links below are packed with information on the West Nile Virus and the elimination of mosquito breeding conditions.

[Michigan Department of Environmental Quality](#)
[Oakland County Health Department](#)
[Michigan Department of Community Health](#)
[Center for Disease Control](#)



Rochester Hills City Council



Mark Tisdel At-Large

My wife, two children and I moved to Rochester Hills in 1989. I was the district sales manager for a cardiovascular devices company with subordinates in Michigan, NW Ohio and northern Indiana. We looked at houses in Ann Arbor, Brighton, Birmingham, Grosse Pointe Park and Rochester Hills. We wanted to live in community with an actual “downtown” that was bicycle-friendly and close to our hometown of Port Huron. At that time, the greatest “value” available—schools, taxes, housing prices—was Rochester Hills. Today, the term “value” applies to Rochester Hills more than any other city in SE Michigan.

The global recession of 2008 initiated what many economists are calling the “new normal”; an extended period of slow but steady growth, generational and global deleveraging (baby boomer, US, and European debt reduction), and a rational reset of real estate valuations.

This “new normal” is perfectly tailored for Rochester Hills, its surrounding assets, and a growing appreciation for its inherent “value.”

Rochester Hills is uniquely positioned between two of the world’s great technology centers: Chrysler / Auburn Hills and General Motors / Warren. Rochester Hills is the world’s leader in industrial robot production and is attracting high-tech corporations

from around the world, most notably, Germany. Our city is home to a very well educated population with nearly 25% of all adults holding post-graduate degrees. This is several times the national average; about 8% for masters and 3% for doctorates. This talent pool has attracted the attention of global high-tech companies as their future success requires an “educated” workforce.

The “new normal” appreciation for value—efficiency, affordability, accessibility, and sustainability—makes Rochester Hills the right place. Where else can you find an attractive and affordable stock of large-lot single family housing, an attractive downtown (Rochester), desirable local and national retail shopping and restaurants (Village of Rochester Hills), world class entertainment (Meadowbrook, Palace, DTE) and a parks system that draws a 1,000,000 visits annually? Where else can children earn an excellent education—from kindergarten through medical, jurisprudence and other doctorate-level degrees—while barely leaving the city limits? Where else can a high school graduate choose between community, state or private college options in a safe, family-friendly and affordable community? Of course, Rochester Hills doesn’t offer as glamorous a college experience as Boston, Chicago or Berkeley, but the “new normal” places very little value on glamour.

The United States, Europe (currently in recession), and China (slowest growth since 2009) each face a generation of demographic, financial, and environmental challenges. Aging populations, global deleveraging and environmental pressures will require a renewed emphasis on efficiency, affordability, accessibility, and sustainability. Rochester Hills is very well positioned to thrive in an economic environment that rewards affordable excellence. Sophisticated calculations of value and return-on-investment only enhance our city’s position as a premier residence for families seeking education, recreation and comfortable living options.

City Council Contact Information

Greg Hooper – President District 3

Voicemail – 248-841-2645

E-mail – hooperg@rochesterhills.org

Michael Webber – Vice President At-Large

Voicemail – 248-841-2649

E-mail – webberm@rochesterhills.org

Ravi Yalamanchi – District 1

Voicemail - 248-841-2643

E-mail – yalamanchir@rochesterhills.org

Adam Kochenderfer – District 2

Voicemail - 248-841-2647

E-mail – kochenderfera@rochesterhills.org

Nathan Klomp – District 4

Voicemail – 248-841-2648

E-mail – klompn@rochesterhills.org

Jim Rosen – At Large

Voicemail – 248-841-2646

E-mail – rosenj@rochesterhills.org

Mark Tisdel – At Large

Voicemail – 248-841-2644

E-mail – tisdelm@rochesterhills.org



Michael Webber *At-Large*

I am looking forward to the spring and summer because of the many events that make our community unique. In particular, my wife Julia and I look forward to walking in the Memorial Day Parade, participating in Heritage Days and the Festival of the Hills, and being a part of Relay for Life.

This past winter and spring brought many 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 RAYA Youth Appreciation Dinner, the Inter Club Service Dinner and the Rochester Area Prayer Breakfast.

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

The repairs needed to both the Avon and Livernois bridges have caused considerable congestion and pressure on our roadways. As you know, the Avon bridge is currently being repaired – with a completion date of June scheduled. When the Avon bridge opens, it is my hope that the Livernois bridge project will begin (probably after the July 4 holiday). Both projects are funded through a State bridge program. It is anticipated that by moving the Livernois project up into 2012, we will decrease the overall cost on taxpayers.

In addition to these bridge projects, the final section of the road project on Crooks (from Star Batt to Hamlin) will start in July. As you recall, the state did work on the bridge and road last year. This is the completion of a project long sought by our city to fix one of the worst roads in Oakland County.

Our citizen led Police and Road Funding committee continues to meet and will report to City Council soon. Recently the committee presented before the Home Owners Association Presidents on our funding challenges moving forward. The committee also hosted a town hall meeting in January to discuss Police funding options – with the anticipation that our two dedicated Police Millages will expire next year. The discussion has centered on providing stable, dedicated funding for police (to maintain what we have) with the offset being a lower General Fund millage rate. The City Council will discuss their recommendations this spring.

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 operates on a three-year budget process so that we can better plan for future projects and needs. This process is similar to what Oakland County does. 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.

One issue that is on the horizon is the improvements planned for Tienken Road in 2013 and 2014. As you may recall, the Road Commission for Oakland County had proposed a five lane widening of this road during 2009. At that time, the residents and council both urged the Road Commission to consider a three-lane road widening option. Plans for this three-lane option were unveiled earlier this year. The plan calls for a round about in the intersection of Tienken and Livernois. The final plans will come to the council later this year.

As a member of the Older Person Commission Governing Board, I strive to continue to preserve this tremendous gem that we have in our community. I want the OPC to continue to be strong years from now, when my wife and I are eligible to use it. For the first time in the history of our inter-local agreement with Rochester and Oakland Township, there has been disagreement over the budget. The OPC is in tremendous economic shape – as noted by our outside auditors Plante Moran and also our increased fund balance (money that has been set aside for capitol projects, etc.). The three communities continue to work to resolve any differences and will embark on a process to amend the inter-local agreement later this year.

I am proud of our focus on Economic Development. This focus has attracted additional new companies and jobs to Rochester Hills in the high tech fields. Because of this success, we now have the lowest unemployment rate in Oakland County and are among the lowest in the State of Michigan.

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.



Festival of the Hills June 27, 2012

Borden Park ~ Rochester Hills
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. Enjoy the show!