

The City of Rochester Hills

Hills Herald

News & Information

Fall 2013



Bryan K. Barnett, Mayor

A Message from the Mayor

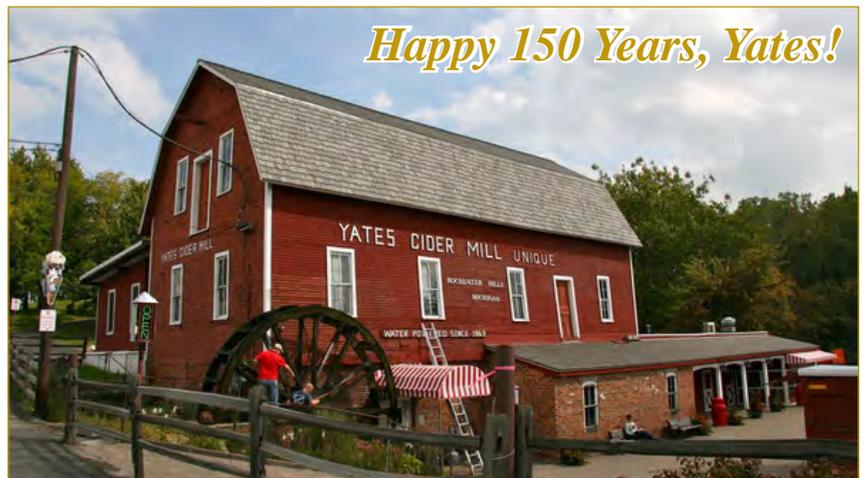
Satisfaction Guaranteed!

Michigan falls are simply one of the most beautiful times of year as Mother Nature paints the sky a myriad of vibrant reds, oranges and yellows. With our pristine rivers, beautiful vistas and colorful tree canopy, we are truly blessed with amazing natural beauty here in Rochester Hills. Whether it's the crisp, cool air as you walk along the Clinton River or Paint Creek Trails, the excitement of cheering on your favorite high school or collegiate football team, or the *satisfaction* of cold apple cider and a warm cinnamon donut from Yates Cider Mill, I hope you will find the same beauty, pride and *satisfaction* in our community as I do.

As Mayor, there have been a few other things to find *satisfying* lately. One was courtesy of nerdwallet.com, a consumer resources website, which conducted a survey to determine the "Best Towns for Young Families." Based on such criteria as quality of public schools, cost of living and a community's economy and growth, Rochester Hills ranked the Third Best Place for Young Families in Michigan. Now, I'm fairly competitive and don't often celebrate third, but when your talking about the whole state... well, we have a pretty good reason to be proud.

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Happy 150 Years, Yates!

"I hope you will find the same beauty, pride and satisfaction in our community as I do." ~ Mayor Bryan K. Barnett

Schools and Reputation

This survey comes on the heels of the biannual survey conducted in cooperation with Oakland University which found that 99% of our residents are *satisfied* with their decision to live in Rochester Hills. Similar to the nerdwallet findings, residents noted that **our superior schools as well as the reputation of the community** influenced their *satisfaction*. Our schools are some of the best in the nation. With two award winning school districts, Rochester College and Oakland University, **Rochester Hills is truly the region's educational epicenter**. We take pride in the talent and sophistication of our residents and workforce, and it all starts with an exceptional K-12 education program that includes two outstanding public school districts.

This solid educational footing creates a community supportive of lifelong learning, where over 50% of our adult population has a Bachelor's Degree and nearly one-quarter hold a Masters.

Community and Environment

Our great schools are a big part of Rochester Hills' stellar reputation, but a reputation is built on a collective effort over time, reinforcing what is great about our hometown. It's our friendly neighbors, the OPC, RARA, the Rochester Hills Public Library, the non-profits and organizations that serve our community, our natural amenities and rich history. This is a shared accomplishment we all celebrate because we all have helped to create it.

Speaking of history, Yates Cider Mill is celebrating 150 years of the best cider and donuts (and now ice cream!) around. Yates is the city's oldest business and now is the perfect time to visit and take advantage of this unique and iconic gem in your own backyard. And it's not just their delicious food that makes Yates so special, the setting is ideal for enjoying the fall weather with its location directly across the street from the jumping fish at Yates Park.

Whether it is the excitement at Yates Park or the serenity of the green space that surrounds us, another reason our residents are *satisfied* with their choice to live and raise a family in Rochester Hills is the beauty of our natural features. As you may know, in 2005 residents voted for a dedicated millage to acquire and preserve natural green space in our community. To date, over 60 acres have been acquired and protected, and now our attention turns to stewardship of those resources. It is the recommendation of the Green Space Advisory Board, with support from the City Council, that the next phase of protecting the city's natural resources include stewardship of these parcels. Therefore, Rochester Hills' voters are being asked to repurpose the Green Space Millage to include future stewardship in order to protect, care and maintain green spaces and natural features owned, acquired or controlled by the City of Rochester Hills. It is now up to the voters to decide how to best use our Green Space funds. This question does not raise any taxes and I would direct your attention to the city website for more details on the proposed ballot question.

As the November election approaches, so do the terms of three dedicated City Council members, Councilmen Jim Rosen, Ravi Yalamanchi, and Nathan Klomp. Each has brought their own ideas and careful thought to our issues. I am certain that their perspective and personalities will be missed. It has been my great pleasure to serve with all three of these men and our community has been fortunate to have their service. I also want to thank their families who have been so generous to share them with us for the last several years. You will each be missed.

We are truly a blessed community and I hope you feel that same sense of pride and *satisfaction* as you celebrate the season with your family. Enjoy your seasonal family traditions. Enjoy the *satisfaction* of knowing our children have returned to some of the best schools in the state. Enjoy the thought of the Lions winning it all – now THAT would be *satisfying*! We're so fortunate to call Rochester Hills home and you can rest assured that I, the City Council and the staff of this great city are working hard to keep Rochester Hills the preeminent place to live, work and raise your family...**satisfaction guaranteed!**



Mayor Bryan Barnett, Dr. Robert Shaner (RCS) and Dr. George Heitsch (Avondale Schools) celebrate our 99% satisfaction survey results



Congratulations OPC on 30 years of outstanding service to our senior community



Environmental education is an important part of environmental stewardship



Leader Dogs for the Blind Calendar!

Celebrate your love of dogs every day throughout the year with a 2014 Leader Dogs for the Blind calendar. The full-color calendar is 11" x 17" and celebrates Leader Dog's 75th Anniversary with historical information and dates. Cost is \$18 per calendar, which includes shipping and handling.

Calendars can be purchased:

In the administrative lobby of the Leader Dogs for the Blind offices at 1039 S. Rochester Road Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (cash and check only)

Online at www.leaderdog.org (click on calendars and holiday cards)

In Rochester Hills, we are very proud to have Leader Dogs for the Blind in our community. Founded by three Detroit-area Lions Clubs members in 1939, Leader Dogs for the Blind provides guide dogs to people who are blind and visually impaired to enhance their mobility, independence, and quality of life. Each year, over 270 clients attend their 26-day residential training program to be paired with a guide dog. This is a life-changing event that opens the door to independence, safety, and self-worth for many individuals.



Hills Herald

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Neighborhood House 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 8. RANH has asked that all gifts be returned by December 9. 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.



CITY PARKS ARE READY FOR FALL AND WINTER ACTIVITIES

The leaves on the trees have turned from the greens of summer to the vibrant reds, oranges, and yellows of autumn and soon will fall to the ground. The buzzing of lawn mowers has been replaced with the hum of school buses. 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, as you trade your sandals and swimsuits for sweaters and socks, remember you have 14 year-round parks in Rochester Hills. There are a multitude of autumn and winter fun activities for you to enjoy. Here are some suggestions:

- ❖ Visit 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. Later, when it does freeze, you can come back with your ice fishing gear or your skates.
- ❖ 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 visit Yates Park to enjoy the sights and sounds of the Clinton River.
- ❖ Take some outstanding photographs. The sunlight in the fall months is great for photography, and we have several beautiful parks right here in your neighborhood.
- ❖ Bring your binoculars, because 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 fall to winter at any or all of our parks.
- ❖ Come to Veterans Memorial Park on Veterans Day, November 11, to honor the men and women who serve and have served our country.
- ❖ Bring your gear, Borden Park has basketball, tennis, and roller hockey in addition to the ball and soccer fields.
- ❖ Bundle up and head to Bloomer Park for sledding and Spencer for ice skating.
- ❖ Relax and enjoy nature's beauty that is Rochester Hills, Michigan.

There is something for everyone and Rochester Hills Parks are yours to enjoy.



ROCHESTER HILLS PARKS FALL/WINTER SCHEDULE

Great news! The Rochester Hills Parks Department is very pleased to announce **Spencer Park and Bloomer Park will be open every day this fall and winter.** We encourage visitors to use the parks and explore the many seasonal activities we have to offer, right here in Rochester Hills. Cross-country skiing, sledding, ice skating, hiking, and bicycling are just some of the ways to enjoy our parks this fall and winter. Right now, our trees are putting on quite a show and would love for you to come out and admire them! For more information on Rochester Hills Parks, please visit our webpage at www.rochesterhills.org.

ONE DARK AND STORMY NIGHT THE LIGHTS WENT OUT

“It was a dark and stormy night.” Sound familiar? That bad start to a bad novel sounds funny, but if you’re sitting in the dark during one of Michigan’s many winter storms, you’re not laughing. Having a stand-by generator can keep the lights on when your power goes out.

Whole house automatic generators are a safe, practical option to the hassle of using a portable generator or being in the dark during bad weather. These generators are permanently connected to your house’s electrical and fuel systems, so it is ready to go even if you’re not home.

An automatic generator, depending on its size, can run your lights, furnace, refrigerator, sump pump, and any other necessary devices in your home with a minimum of disruption to your daily routine.

Generators are connected to your electrical service through a device called a transfer switch. Transfer switches monitor the electrical power from the utility and “switch over” from the utility to your generator during a power interruption. The transfer switch also monitors the performance of the generator and will switch off the generator if it’s not operating correctly. On power restoration, the transfer switch will automatically return to the utility for a normal power connection.

Having an automatic generator relieves you of the chore of connecting a portable generator to your important home appliances, and the inconvenience of keeping a supply of gasoline to fuel that generator. With an automatic generator connected to your natural gas or propane service, there’s no need to fill a fuel tank, it’s got all the fuel it needs to run without interruption.

If you’re thinking of purchasing an automatic generator for your home, contact a reputable electrical contractor or stop in to a home improvement store for more information. And remember, whether you contract with an electrician or you do it yourself, make sure you get the proper permits for the electrical and gas pipe connections. Your experienced Building Department Inspectors will make sure your generator is properly installed and safe. By doing this, you can be assured that the next time the lights go out, you will not be “left in the dark.”



GETTING READY 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 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 25, 2013. 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.



Improperly maintained sidewalks

*Property owners **MUST** remove snow and ice from their sidewalks within 48 hours after the snow has fallen*



Properly maintained sidewalks

Rochester Hills Fire Department

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



The history of the fire service goes back to Ben Franklin in 1736 when he formed a group of 30 men and created the Union Fire Company. Their sole purpose was to fight fires in the community and educate their neighbors about fire prevention and safety. Fast forward to current day, and fire departments look much different. Although firefighting, prevention and safety is still a priority, today's fire departments consist of so much more.



In many cases, the fire service has taken on the responsibility of responding to medical

emergencies ranging from a broken ankle to a serious injury accident. In Rochester Hills, the fire department responded to over 6,000 calls last year. Of those calls, 4,737 were medical related. The department has five ambulances located throughout the community capable of responding to a 9-1-1 call with a response time on average of five minutes or less. Three of the ambulances are basically an emergency room on wheels. These units are staffed with highly trained and dedicated paramedics able to administer drugs, monitor a heart rate and rhythm, and much more. They are able to communicate critical information to local hospitals so hospital staff can start preparing to receive a critical patient before our ambulance leaves the scene. The remaining two ambulances are staffed with highly trained basic EMTs who handle less serious calls, keeping the paramedic unit in-service for more serious incidents. Current day fire departments also respond to hazmat and technical rescue incidents, which can include trench collapse, confined space, and building collapse.



For the Rochester Hills Fire Department, providing an all-hazard response to our community ensures an efficient, rapid, and professional response for any type of emergency. Whether it is a heart attack, auto accident, smoke odor, building fire, or other hazardous situation, your Fire/EMS Department is just minutes away.

Another important division of your fire department is the Fire Prevention Bureau. This division is staffed by five people who are all certified to inspect buildings for safety issues and are also certified firefighters and Basic EMTs. In the event of a fire, they can work as a member of our firefighting team. Their main role is to inspect buildings such as factories, retail stores, restaurants, and senior citizen developments to ensure they are safe for our residents and visitors in the event of a fire. One member is a public education specialist who conducts fire safety programs and CPR classes.

If you need more information on what services the Rochester Hills Fire/EMS Department offers, please visit our website or contact us at 248-656-4720.

Child Safety Seat Installation



Next time you put your child or grandchild in the car, give some thought to whether they are required to be in a child safety seat. Is the child safety seat properly installed? What could happen if they are not properly secured in an appropriate child safety seat and you are involved in a crash? There have been reports of major vehicle crashes where the safety seat has saved a child's life. There have been other incidents where had the child seat been properly installed, injuries might not have occurred. The Rochester Hills Fire/EMS Department has five members certified to properly install and check the child safety seat that you may have just put in the car and secured with the safety belt. If you would like us to check the installation of your child's seat, or would like a new seat installed, please contact us at 248-656-4720.

Oakland County Sheriff's Office

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

Winter Weather

Danger from winter weather varies across the country. Regardless of where you live, you are likely to face some type of severe winter weather at some point. Winter storms can range from a moderate snow over a few hours to a blizzard with blinding, wind-driven snow that lasts for several days. Winter storms can be accompanied by dangerously low temperatures and sometimes by strong winds, ice, sleet and freezing rain.

General Cold Weather Tips:

- If possible, stay indoors during the storm.
- If you must go out, walk carefully on snowy, icy, walkways.
- Avoid overexertion when shoveling snow. Overexertion can bring on a heart attack which is a major cause of death in winter.
- Keep dry. Change wet clothing frequently to prevent a loss of body heat.
- Watch for signs of frostbite. These include loss of feeling and white or pale appearance in extremities such as fingers, toes, ear lobes, and the tip of the nose. If symptoms are detected, seek medical help immediately.
- Drive only if necessary. If you must drive, keep others informed of your schedule. Stay on main roads.
- If you will be going away during cold weather, leave the heat on in your home, set to a temperature no lower than 55°F.



Dress for the Weather:

- Wear several layers of loose-fitting, lightweight, warm clothing rather than one layer of heavy clothing.
- The outer garments should be tightly woven and water repellent.
- Wear mittens, which are warmer than gloves.
- Wear a hat. A hat will prevent loss of body heat.
- Cover your mouth with a scarf to protect your lungs from the cold air.

These tips should help keep you safe during severe winter weather.

SURVIVING A TORNADO

A safety reminder from our Rochester Hills Building Department

It seems that the number of severe weather events is increasing all around the country. In our area, thunderstorms and tornadoes are becoming more frequent. The most important thing you can do to survive a severe weather event is to seek shelter in a place designed to keep you safe.

Have you ever thought about installing a storm shelter in your home? The International Code Council (ICC) and the National Storm Shelter Association (NSSA) are offering a free online course to provide homeowners with the information necessary to make an informed decision about installing a storm shelter in their home. The course also reviews the types of weather hazards that can affect your safety, how a storm shelter mitigates the risk, and the significant features of storm shelters, including the initial investment. Please visit the following link to view the "Surviving Tornadoes and Hurricanes" free online course: <http://go.iccsafe.org/Education>



THE TRUTH ABOUT TRASH

Over the past few weeks there has been a lot of “trash talk” in our community. In most cases, that could be trouble. But here in Rochester Hills, our residents were literally talking about trash. Conversations, more specifically, about the city’s single hauler collection system and the services and satisfaction provided by our current relationship with Republic Services and Recyclebank.



It’s hard to believe it’s been nearly five years since Rochester Hills became the 1st community in Michigan to offer incentive based recycling to our residents. It was a big risk at the time, but the introduction of a single hauler with Recyclebank has been a tremendous source of pride for our administration, City Council, and our residents.

Before the single hauler contract, only 19% of our residents recycled regularly, and paid between \$60-\$80 per quarter for trash hauling. In an effort to gain efficiencies and reduce the cost to our residents, the city researched the benefits of selecting a single trash hauler. Under the direction of the City Council, the city competitively bid the trash hauling contract. And, after careful review of the proposals, a five year contract (with an option of a five year extension) was awarded to Republic Services.

Over the course of the contract, the city has monitored our resident satisfaction level with Republic Services as our provider. **In a statistically significant survey recently conducted by Oakland University’s Public Affairs Research Laboratory (PARL), only 4% of our residents were dissatisfied with the program. In addition, 99.95% of interactions at our driveways occurred without complaint. Thus far, at least according to our residents, the service has been exceptional.**

The Process:

As we approached the end of the first five year contract, and armed with the resident’s high satisfaction ratings, we then turned our attention to negotiations.

Over the last six months, the city has engaged an extreme amount of due diligence in order to examine our current contract and what additional concessions we might seek moving forward. The Council established a subcommittee which engaged the assistance of the region’s leading industry expert to assist in our research. We pulled many recently signed neighboring contracts to make sure we were well positioned to negotiate. It’s important to note that no two communities have similar contracts, making a true “apples to apples” comparison very challenging. Two of our neighbors (Troy and Rochester), for example, include a separate millage for trash, many communities do not have our larger, wheeled bins, and no one else in Oakland County has Recyclebank. Armed with all of this information, we entered into structured negotiations to improve the overall program for our residents.

The Results:

City Council unanimously voted to accept the contract in late September after successfully negotiating significant contract improvements.

A few of those program enhancements are outlined below. Specifically, not only will residents see nearly a 15% reduction in their quarterly bill, Republic Services has eliminated the fuel surcharge, increased the snowbird credit by nearly 50% for those who leave the state during the colder months, lengthened the time for residents to place leaf pickups at the curb, and extended the discount structure available to all residents.

Current Services	Improved Services (Begin March 2014)
Cost per Quarter \$51.54 (\$206.16/yr)	Cost per Quarter \$45.00 (\$180/yr) *Price reduced below 2009 rates
Annual Fuel Surcharge Adjustment	NO Annual Fuel Surcharge Adjustment
Snowbird Opt-Out \$20 Credit Maximum	Snowbird Opt-Out \$30 Credit Max
Yard Waste Collection April 1- November 30	Yard Waste Collection April 1- December 15

Continued Services

5% Annual Payment Discount

5% Senior Discount

3% Online Payment Discount

Weekly Back Door Collection for Disabled

The Legacy:

With nearly 80%-85% of Rochester Hills' residents recycling on a weekly basis, our community continues to earn national recognition for our innovative leadership and for changing the culture of trash service and recycling in Rochester Hills.

We are recycling more. Residents are saving more and our local businesses are benefiting from the Recyclebank rewards program. In fact, last year over 32,000 rewards were redeemed...or nearly 90 per day! It is yet another example of a successful resident, business and governmental partnership.

There aren't too many bills you pay that are less now than they were five or ten years ago. Thanks to the hard work of many at City Hall....trash pickup is now one of them.

For more information regarding the new contract or to learn more about the process, please visit our website at www.rochesterhills.org. Additionally, if you have further questions or concerns, please contact Bob White, our Liaison for Republic Services at 248-656-4615.

KEEP YOUR HEATING SYSTEM WORKING EFFICIENTLY ALL WINTER

With the arrival of fall, cold weather is not far behind. Have you had your furnace tuned up this fall to get it ready for winter's worst?

If you have not, here's something you should know: An annual check-up will not only save you money, it will also help you sleep more easily. That's because an inefficient heating system wastes fuel and your hard-earned dollars. More important, a furnace that is 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 down five degrees for significant 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.
- Replace your air 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 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 or 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 include the age of the existing furnace and the cost of operating the existing furnace versus a new furnace.

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.



Program Overview

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.

To nominate an individual or group, please complete the nomination form below. For additional information, please visit www.rochesterhills.org or contact the office of Mayor Bryan K. Barnett at 248-656-4664.

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.

Community First Nomination Form

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

Please select a category: Individual Family Local Business Non-Profit

Nominee Information:

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Years living/doing business in Rochester Hills: _____

Nomination Narrative: _____

Nominated by: _____ Phone: _____

We ARE Rochester Hills



The Brooksie Way Half Marathon was a tremendous success with over 6,000 participants. What a wonderful way to showcase our beautiful city.



The Rochester Hills Clerk's Department celebrated processing their 1,000th Passport application in August. The lucky applicant received a surprise gift bag generously donated by area businesses.



The Barnett boys were thrilled to welcome the Duck Dynasty boys to Rochester Hills. (No ducks were harmed in the making of this picture.)



The Rochester Hills Museum hosted another summer of Wet & Wild Wednesdays, much to the delight of many.



Tara Presta, Mayor's Chief Assistant of Marketing and Communication, accepted the Distinguished Service and President's Awards from Keep Michigan Beautiful President Cheri King.



Dr. John Tyson Jr., the ninth president of Rochester College, received a warm welcome from the more than 800 people attending his inauguration.

Minding Your Money

Rochester Hills Adopts Balanced Budgets for 2014, 2015 and 2016

At the September 30 City Council meeting, Council adopted the city's fiscal year 2014, 2015 and 2016 budget. The adopted budget sets the city's total tax (millage) rate at 9.7060, the same rate used in 2013. This will be the 15th consecutive year that our millage rate has not increased, without the vote of the residents, and will make us the lowest millage rate of all cities in Oakland County.

For the first time since 2009, the city is seeing its residential and commercial property values increase resulting in a 1.4% increase in taxable values for 2014 with taxable values totaling just under \$3 billion.

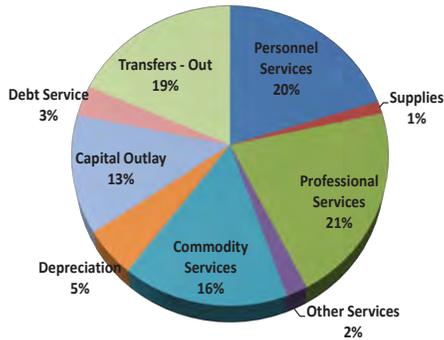
The 2014 Budget proposes city-wide expenditures of \$121,508,590, an increase of 4% from the current 2013 Amended Budget.

The city's ongoing goal is to sensibly replace capital infrastructure in an effort to maintain property values, our quality of life, and uninterrupted services to Rochester Hills' residents and businesses. Capital projects, just like staffing levels, are being proposed based on available funding levels. The \$15.5 million for capital projects are all funded by money on hand in 2014.

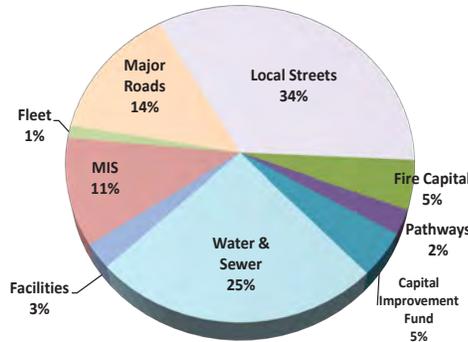
As the graph shows, over a third of the city's adopted capital spending plan for 2014 is focused on making improvements to the city's local street system reflecting concerns raised by residents in the city's 2013 Public Opinion Poll.

To offset the 2014 city service levels and their related expenditures, the 2014 Budget projects city-wide revenues at \$110,992,890, a 1.9% increase from the current 2013 Amended Budget, and proposes to use \$10,515,700 from fund balance (largely to cover \$15.5 million in capital related projects.)

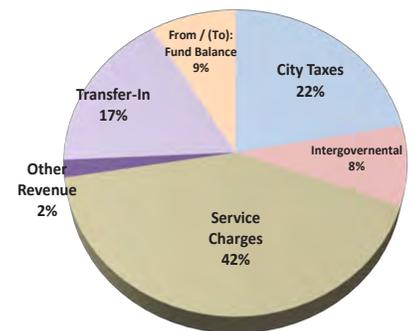
2014 All Funds - Adopted Expenditure Summary



2014 Citywide Capital Spending Plan



2014 Adopted Revenue Summary



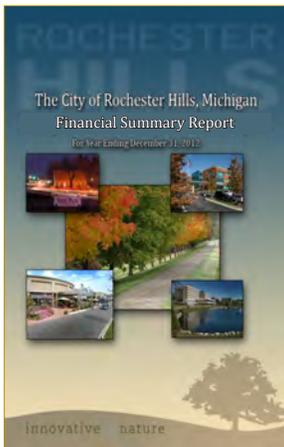
Citizen Financial Summary Report

Since 1986, the city has produced a Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR). In 2009, the city introduced you to the city's first Citizen Financial Summary Report. This year, we are continuing that effort with our 2012 Financial Summary Report to help residents, businesses, and visitors better understand the city's financial position. The intent of the Financial Summary Report is to provide an easy-to-read and informative report of the city's operations and overall financial condition covering the city's governmental and business-type activities.

The information presented in the Financial Summary Report was obtained from the audited financial statements included in the CAFR for the period ending December 31, 2012. Follow this link www.rochesterhills.org/CAFR to see the city's full CAFR report.

The CAFR is a detailed account of the city's financial statements, and includes management's discussion and analysis, footnotes, schedules and multi-year statistics. The CAFR also includes an independent auditor's report which states that the information contained in the financial statements has been reviewed by the firm, and with reasonable assurance, the financial information is complete, presented accurately, and in the correct format. To meet generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) requirements, much of the information in the CAFR is technical and complex, resulting in a document that is not very user friendly for the average person. The Financial Summary Report has been prepared to provide a less technical presentation of the city's financial condition.

Follow this link, <http://www.rochesterhills.org/PAFR> to view the city's 2012 Financial Summary Report. We hope you find this report helpful as you gain a better understanding of the city's finances.



City's Performance Dashboard

In the spirit of transparency, the city introduced its first Performance Dashboard in 2011. Just like the Citizen Financial Summary Report, the city's Performance Dashboard is designed to help its citizens gain a better understanding of how the city is performing in some key areas: Fiscal Stability, Economic Strength, Public Safety and Quality of Life.

Much of the information presented in the Dashboard is information that has been presented in the city's Budget Report, Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR), Census Report and other related reports. The concept behind the development of the Dashboard was to bring that data forward in a format that is easy for the reader to gain an overall view of how the city is performing.

Follow this link <http://www.rochesterhills.org/CAFR> to see the Dashboard on the city's website or visit the city's reference room to see a hard copy of the document.

If you would like to see more detail related to the city's proposed or current adopted budget as well as the city's CAFR reports or review our Citizen Financial Summary Reports, follow this link to the city's Fiscal Service site <http://www.rochesterhills.org/fiscal>. We hope you find this report useful in better understanding how the city is performing in some very important areas.



City Receives Distinguished Budget Presentation 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 2013, 2014 and 2015 Budget.

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

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

To see the City of Rochester Hills' award winning 2013, 2014 and 2015 Adopted Budget please click here: <http://www.rochesterhills.org/budgets>.



Esteemed Women of Michigan 2013

On September 30, 2013, Mayor Barnett had the pleasure of presenting a Mayoral Proclamation to the following women who were recognized as Esteemed Women of Michigan 2013. These women have excelled in their profession, risen above intolerable circumstances, developed the means to help others, or have become an inspirational figure for our younger generation.

Please join us in congratulating them.

Francile Anderson
Community Leader

Stephanie Bergeron
President/CEO, Walsh College

Linda Bermingham
Community Leader, Rochester

Lori Blaker
President/CEO, TTI Global

Rumia Burbank
President/Owner, VMS365

Melinda Conway Callahan
President, Crittenton Center Foundation

Linda Forte, Senior VP,
Business Affairs, Comerica

Tina Harmon, CEO,
Harmon Group/Mercury P&F

Connie Holzer
Holzer Automotive

Tara Kane
*Detective Sergeant,
W. Bloomfield Police
Department*

Mary Lee Kowalczyk
*Director,
Rochester Community House*

Deborah Macon
Community Leader

Marian McClellan
Mayor, City of Oak Park

Marye Miller
*Executive Director,
OPC Senior Center*

Frances Mocerri
*Partner/Secretary Treasurer,
Mocerri Companies*

Colleen Peters
*Senior Director,
Forgotten Harvest*

Maud Plumer
Community Leader

Linda Purvis
Community Leader

Carolyn Racklyeft
*Program Director,
World Medical Relief*

Rochelle Riley
Newspaper Columnist

Andra Rush
*Chairman/CEO,
Rush Trucking*

Keri Schuiling
Dean, Oakland University

Debbie Stabenow
US Senator

Rashida Tlaib
State Representative

Barbara Whittaker
Community Leader



Rochester Hills Museum at Van Hoosen Farm Fall and Winter Programs

Deception, Spies, and Bravery at D-Day

Thursday, November 7 ~ 7:00 p.m.

The Normandy Invasion – *D-Day* June 6, 1944 produced many heroes that led to the downfall of the Nazis in Europe. The invasion was a success due to the bravery of soldiers, the leadership of officers, and the military might of the allies. The talk is free for Museum Members and veterans. The cost for non-members is \$5 for adults and \$3 for students and seniors.

O'Deer

Saturday, November 23 ~ 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Did you know that a deer is one of the animals on our state flag? Join the Museum's Environmental Educator for a fun afternoon learning about our antlered friends. Guests will be learning about the amazing adaptations deer have and how they survive. O'Deer will also include fun outdoor games so guests are encouraged to dress for the weather. The program is free for Museum Members. The cost for non-members is \$5 for adults and \$3 for students and seniors.

Winter Animal Adaptations at Bloomer Park

Saturday, December 28 ~ 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Could you imagine living outside all winter? Many animals in Michigan do just that! Join us as we learn about how animals survive in the wintertime. Come dressed for the weather as this program includes a hike to look for animal homes, tracks, and wildlife. *Winter Animal Adaptations* will be held at **Bloomer Park** located at 345 John R. Road. Ages 6 and up are welcome. This environmental program is free for Rochester Hills Museum members. The cost for non-members is \$5 for adults and \$3 for students and seniors.

To register for any of the above programs, please call 248-656-4663 or e-mail rhmuseum@rochesterhills.org.

Holiday Programs

Santa and Mrs. Claus Visit the Museum

Saturday, December 7 ~ 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 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 stop by the Museum on Fridays and Saturdays between 1:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m.



Old Fashioned Christmas

Saturday, December 21 ~ 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 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 see the All Aboard! Model Train display. A wagon ride takes you to the all of our Museum buildings for musical entertainment, crafts, snacks, theatre groups, and even chestnuts roasting over an open fire! Tickets can be purchased online at www.rochesterhills.org.



Exhibits at the Rochester Hills Museum

History Through the Lens

History Through the Lens features the work of several local professional photographers and all the images on display were taken on the museum grounds. The exhibit showcases the photographers' talents and the beauty of the Museum site. Guests will be asked to vote for their favorite image in the exhibit. The photos will be on display through November 16 on Fridays and Saturdays from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

All Aboard!

The Stoney Creek Model Railroad Club transforms the Dairy Barn into a display of transportation in times past. Members will be on hand to run the trains and share their passion with kids of all ages. Trains will be running on: November 29- 30, December 7, 14, 21, 26- 28, January 2- 4.



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 groups
- Engagement, Wedding, Senior, Homecoming & Family photographs

Are you planning a wedding reception, anniversary party, graduation party or other family event? The 1927 Calf Barn is ready for you! The Calf Barn has 2,700 square feet of unobstructed space with exposed beams. It will seat up to 160 guests. Rental includes access to the Dairy Barn for viewing of exhibits and use of restrooms, as well as exclusive use of the grounds surrounding the barns. Call the Museum to check availability and fees.

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.

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!



Sign-Up for Automatic Payment of your Property Tax Bills

The tax rates have been established so the 2013 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. 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 2013 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 2013 winter tax bill on December 31, 2013, please submit the 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. 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. The notation 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 Dept. at 248-656-4605.

The 2013 winter property taxes are payable without penalty through Friday, February 14, 2014 – postmarks will not be honored. On February 15, a 3% penalty will be added to the unpaid balance of all 2013 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, www.rochesterhills.org/treasury or call the Treasury Department at 248-656-4675.

City’s Water and Sewer Bill Goes Green

Water and sewer billing customers now have the ability to “go green” and choose paperless billing. Going paperless has a positive impact on our environment and you receive your bill earlier. This is a great option for those who travel or will be out of town. When choosing this option, you will receive an email notification that your water and sewer bill is ready to view. Then log into the website to view your current bill.

Visit our improved website at www.rochesterhills.org, access “Manage your Water Bill” and see the changes we have made. After creating a log-in on the water site, you will be able to view your bill, make payments through our treasury site, and view past bills.

Are you planning to avoid the cold winds of Michigan this winter?

If you expect to be away from your home for an extended period this winter, your bill will not be forwarded by the U.S. Postal Service. We recommend **signing up for paperless billing** to manage your account from afar or by calling 248-656-4688 to have us change your mailing address.



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. (October 15 - December 15)

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!



WINTER WEATHER SAFETY

A safety reminder from our Rochester Hills Fire Department

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.

Winter Vehicle Maintenance Checklist and Preparing a Winter Emergency Vehicle Kit



Veterans Memorial Pointe ~ Veterans Day Ceremony

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

We welcome you to join us as we recognize and honor the men and women who serve and have served in our armed forces.

“On Veterans Day, we honor ALL American veterans, both living and dead. In fact, Veterans Day is largely intended to thank LIVING veterans for dedicated and loyal service to their country. November 11 of each year is the day that we ensure veterans know that we deeply appreciate the sacrifices they have made in the lives to keep our country free.” ~ *US Military*



Eagle Scout Projects at the Pointe

Danny Fergle from Boy Scout Troop 101 finished his Eagle Scout Project at Veterans Memorial Pointe in August. Danny raised the funds needed to build two handicap friendly picnic tables that he designed. The picnic tables are located north of the parking lot which is a very nice location.

Jacob Masterson from Boy Scout Troop 7 finished his Eagle Scout Project this summer. Jacob raised funds to build a bench and two flower planter boxes located at the south end near the restrooms at the Pointe. The project is a very welcome addition for the many walkers and bike riders.

Nick Tran from Boy Scout Troop 123 is putting the finishing touches to his Eagle Scout Project, War Dog Memorial, to honor all dogs of service, Military, Leader Dogs, Police Dogs, and service dogs. In addition, a City of Rochester Hills Park Ranger will be casting the plaque designed by Nick in bronze to be mounted on a memorial stone before Veterans Day this year. What a worthy project and outstanding addition to our memorial park.

If you have a moment, please visit Veterans Memorial Pointe to see these exceptional Eagle Scout Projects.



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 use the Order Form on the following page

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 Meadow Brook Hall

42nd Annual Holiday Walk ~ November 29 - December 23, 2013

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.

Winter Operations

Snow Removal in Rochester Hills

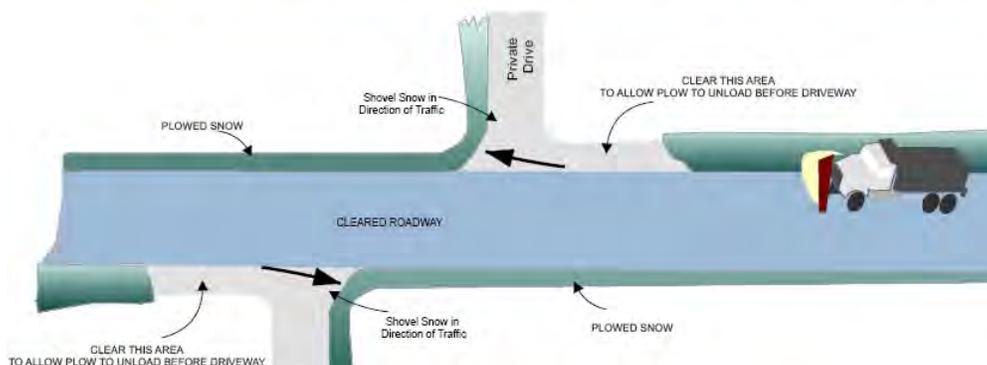
During winter months, the Department of Public Services is responsible for snow and ice control on 242 miles of local roads and 38 miles of city major roads. The purpose of winter road maintenance is to provide a safe roadway system during the winter months by operating effective winter road maintenance 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 Services at 248-656-4685

For additional information, please visit <http://www.rochesterhills.org>

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 2013-2014 program will be in the east side of the city.

The adjacent property owner is responsible for removing encroachments or obstructions when trees or 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.

If you have questions about the program or its requirements, please 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 28, 2013	10 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Sunday, December 29, 2013	12 noon – 4 p.m.
Saturday, January 4, 2014	10 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Sunday, January 5, 2014	12 noon – 4 p.m.

Clinton River Watershed Council is located at 1115 W. Avon Road on the south side of Avon just west of Livernois.

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, such as lights and wires, ornaments, rope, garland, stands and braces, bagging, etc., must be removed **before** drop off.
- Volunteers will inspect trees for compliance with this order before accepting them for disposal. Trees or other matter that do not meet the restrictions will not be accepted.

Under contract with the City of Rochester Hills, Republic Waste Services will collect discarded Christmas trees devoid of any ropes, lights, metal, plastic or other hangers during Christmas week and the following three weeks. Trees measuring greater than six feet tall must be cut in half prior to placement at curbside. Republic will deliver the trees they collect to a compost site rather than a landfill or disposal facility.



Rochester Hills City Council

Michael Webber ~ At-Large



I always look forward to the fall and winter seasons because of the many events that make our community special. The pumpkin carving at the Rochester Hills Museum is always a great experience as we get closer to Halloween. My wife Julia, son James and I enjoyed participating in the Brooksie Way this year. As we get closer to the holiday season, our community will enjoy the Rochester Area Christmas Parade and all of the events surrounding the holiday.

This past summer brought many great events to our community that I was honored to participate in - including Heritage Days, Rochester Memorial Day Parade, Relay for Life, Festival of the Hills, and Art and Apples Festival.

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 toward solutions for our community.

For the second year in a row, the city budget was passed on a unanimous vote. Because of the decisions that have been made in the past five years – a 20% reduction in city staffing, reductions in health care costs, contracting out some services, multiple year budget approach – the city has been able to invest money back into our local neighborhood roads. This was based on the recommendation and work of the citizen led Police and Road Funding Committee.

As you know, part of the Tienken project will be completed this year from Rochester to Sheldon, with the remainder of the project from Rochester to Livernois to be completed in 2014. There have been many questions about the condition of Tienken between Adams and Livernois. It was recently reported by the Road Commission for Oakland County that there will be an overlay (a short term fix) of that part of the road. We are still working with the Road Commission for a longer term solution to this issue.

Over the last month there has been some discussion regarding our Single Waste Hauler program that started in 2008. I am happy to report that through competition, the city was able to reduce cost by about 13% a year (with smaller negotiated annual increases of 2%) with our existing program. The current program offers some services that other area communities do not offer such as recycling waste pick-up, yard waste pick-up, monthly large item pick-up, two standardized containers per household, back door service for the handicapped, senior and “snowbird” discounts, individual household billing, and discounts for prepayment and online payment. The new contract enhances those services by expanding the senior and snowbird discounts, extending the yard waste pick-up into December and adding street sweeping debris and animal carcass disposal.

As a member of the Older Persons Commission Governing Board, I can report that the three communities have passed the annual budget presented by the board. As many have heard, OPC long time Executive Director Marye Miller announced that she will be retiring in 2014. The board will work with Marye to conduct a national search to find a replacement. Marye has meant a lot to the OPC and the Greater Rochester community – she will be missed. In addition, the board continues to work to find additional parking for residents to utilize.

This November will be a city election. I urge all voters to get out to the polls and vote on November 5. In addition to three City Council races, there is also a ballot proposal regarding the existing Green Space Millage that expires in 2015. This November, the council will honor the retirement of outgoing City Councilmen James Rosen, Ravi Yalamanchi and Nathan Klomp. I have enjoyed working with each of them to move our city forward over the past six years.

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.

Ravi Yalamanchi ~ District One



Thank you!

It has truly been an honor to serve our community as a City Council member these last eight years. I want to thank the residents of Rochester Hills, especially from District 1, for providing me with this opportunity. With my neighbors and fellow Hills residents in mind, I have done my best to lead with trust, honesty, and integrity. This journey gave me the chance to get to know so many wonderful individuals and families, and develop relationships that I will cherish for the rest of my life. I cannot stress enough how fortunate I feel to have represented such an amazing group of people. Never, during my tenure, have I received a derogatory email or phone call from any resident. Even when there was disagreement with my thought process or actions, residents who have called or emailed on those issues were extremely courteous. I want to thank all the Department Directors and city staff for their dedication and commitment to the city and their willingness to listen to my thoughts on the workings of the city and sharing their own thoughts. It was truly a wonderful experience getting to know them and I truly believe that as a city, we are

fortunate to have such dedicated staff.

I feel lucky to be able to say that I have been part of a collective effort in preserving and enhancing the quality of life in the City of Rochester Hills. It was a good journey. My predecessors on the council and previous Mayors have done an exemplary job in creating a remarkable city that we all enjoy today. I have immense respect for them and in my time on the council, I worked to ensure my actions were value add. Being on council meant working with individuals of diverse backgrounds, experiences, and perspectives. Thanks to all my colleagues on the council and the Mayor who have worked with me and been willing to engage in productive discussion. Sadly, we lost a colleague, Marty Brennan, who was passionate about the city and loved what he did.

Beginning from the first major vote I had to cast in December 2005 on whether to build a new DPS facility to the last decision I will be making at the last council meeting in November 2013, I have always voted as an independent with a clear conscience. It was and will continue to be important to me to thoroughly educate myself on an issue to make an informed decision that benefits the community. For me, even if it was a single person who expressed a concern, it was my responsibility to pay attention and address it to the best of my ability.

I have advocated for residents' concerns and never hesitated to take a strong stance - whether it was voting against tax increases for residents and a budget that failed to address key issues like local road reconstruction; outsourcing 911-Dispatch to the County saving the city \$800,000 a year; amending the City Charter to move the accounting department from the Clerk's Office to the Finance Department; initiated the ballot proposal with residents to amend the charter for preservation of parks; city-wide trash hauling services without adding any additional burden to the city operations and no additional tax to the residents, and promoting recycling; opposing expansion of Tienken Road to five lanes between Sheldon and Livernois; opposing the development of water reservoirs due to lack of a business case, and opposing the development in the parks; recapturing expiring millages and repurposing those for local roads, and changing the status of Van Hoosen Museum as a non-profit private entity. I was firmly opposed to any tax raises and when the police millage was placed on the ballot in 2012, I clearly communicated to residents through my newsletter that the millage was an increase. Today, it stands to be true that it is an increase and hopefully the new council and the Mayor will not use the approval of the ballot by the residents as an opportunity to raise taxes in the future.

As a council member, fiduciary responsibility was one of my primary goals to ensure the sustainability and long term fiscal health of our city. I remember distinctly in 2007 when efforts were being made again to ask the residents for a tax increase, I made a presentation to the council on the declining economy and the negative impact of additional taxes on families with uncertain incomes. While I took on strong criticism at the time from other council members and the Mayor, the 2008 financial crisis became our own city's reality within a year and no "I told you so" could change that. While I felt it was very challenging to continuously advocate for fiscal responsibility and the need to provide public services by increasing efficiencies and containing costs the impressive thing was over the years the City Council, Mayor and the city staff, have come together and achieve the goal of continuously creating surplus budgets and not raise any taxes. Today the city carries an impressive fund balance of over \$100 million in different funds, including \$28 million in General Fund. It is time the city uses these fund balances to invest in local roads.

During my tenure, I have also maintained my passion for many quality of life issues in the city, such as, the Green Space, OPC, Youth Assistance, Trailways, Van Hoosen Museum and Historic District preservation. I hope to stay engaged with those issues as I move forward.

One of my goals was to keep an open line of communication with residents, and as part of that effort, I maintained a website, sent newsletters, and responded to phone calls and emails in less than 24 hours. I hope my communications were helpful and educational and I helped to build a culture of transparency in the council.

continued Yalamanchi page 24



Mark Tisdell ~ At-Large

We've all heard the old saying, "there is no free lunch." Would it surprise you to discover that Rochester Hills high school students may be able to earn a "free" four-year college degree?

Last Spring I wrote an article titled, "The Right Place", touting the value and benefits of living in Rochester Hills. Well, Rochester College and Michigan's Early / Middle College Program, are offering Rochester Community Schools (RCS) students a tremendous "value."

Starting this school year, Rochester College (RC) has entered into an agreement with RCS to offer our high school students an opportunity to earn a "free" Bachelors degree. Yes, that's right, a free (with some creative math) four-year college degree. Here's how it works: RCS students completing their ninth-grade studies can apply for *entry to Rochester College at the beginning of their tenth-grade year*. All tuition, books and fees are paid—100%—by RCS. Starting their Sophomore year in an RCS high school, those students accepted into the program will begin taking Rochester College courses online: "Personal Leadership in a Learning Environment" and "Global Connections: Skills, Competency and Envisioning." These are fully-accredited college courses, not watered-down window-dressing to make students feel good about themselves.

When the RC Early College students enter their Junior year of high school, they begin taking courses *on the RC campus* in Rochester Hills; fully integrated into the classrooms with every other RC student: "College Composition A" and "Communication Basics" (Speech) in the Fall semester, "College Comp B" and two General Education classes in the Winter. During their Senior year of high school, the RC Early College students take two more General Education classes—on campus—in both the Fall and Winter semesters. Now, instead of becoming high school graduates with their peers (I mean, they can still go to the Prom), the students have a post-Senior year, e.g., thirteenth-grade. This 13th year is spent *entirely* on the Rochester College campus for thirteen (13) credit hours in each of the Fall and Winter semesters. At the end of Grade 13, the RC Early College participants will have earned sixty (60) college credits, fully recognized by schools like The University of Michigan, Michigan State University and, of course, Rochester College. That's sixty college credit hours—tuition, books and fees—paid 100% by Rochester Community Schools. The RC Early College participants need to take one Spring or Summer course—an additional four (4) credit hours (at their own expense)—and they will have earned an Associate of Arts degree from Rochester College. That's half way—64 out of the required 128 credits hours—to a four-year degree. So where's the "free" part.

Here's the creative math that I mentioned earlier. The first sixty (60) credit hours tuition / books / fees are paid for, 100%, by RCS. After 13th Grade, the Spring or Summer course—four credit hours at \$500 per hour, plus books and fees—will cost a little over \$2,000, total. Congratulations, that's an Associates of Arts degree.

Now, all RC Early College graduates are eligible for a *Rochester College Partner Scholarship* worth \$7,500 per year on top of any other scholarships, grants and financial aid available. So, the remaining sixty-four (64) credits hours, minus the Partner Scholarship, will cost about \$17,000 plus books and fees. This expense, along with the Spring / Summer course at the end of Grade 13, means you can get a four-year degree for less than \$25,000.

Yes, I know, \$25,000 is not "free." Here's the kicker: Early College participants earn their four-year college degrees in three years, e.g., entering the workforce a year before their peers and earning an incremental year of income. If that incremental year's income is \$25,000 or more, the early college participant has, in effect, received a "free" Bachelors degree. (If you're not going to count the incremental year of income, well, you may not be a candidate for this program.)

Rochester College and the Rochester Community Schools Early / Middle College Program represents a great value for Rochester Hills high school students. Outstanding college loans in the US now exceed \$1,000,000,000. Value in higher education has never been more important. With this RC/ RCS program, Rochester Hills truly is the Right Place, right now.

continued Yalamanchi

The term limits in our city charter is one that I appreciate and believe in it. While I will miss being on the council, the new members coming in will bring new ideas, new thinking and new approaches to old and new challenges. I am confident that they will continue to preserve the city in its current form and make it better for future generations to come.

When I began my first term on the council, my daughter was just about to start high school and now she is in graduate school. My hair was darker and thicker and the wrinkles when I smile were not so evident. Time flies when you are having fun. It has been a great privilege to serve you over the last several years, and I want to thank you again for allowing me and my family to be a part of your lives.

Attention Rochester Hills Voters

The Green Space Advisory Board, with City Council's support, is asking voters for the authority to repurpose the Green Space Millage to include stewardship as the next phase of protecting our natural resources. 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 5.

Proposed Repurposing of Rochester Hills Green Space Millage

Vote
November 5th

Preserving and Protecting our Environment



Over 60 acres preserved to date | No change in tax rate proposed

Please read City Council's full resolution on the opposite side of this postcard
For additional information, please visit www.rochesterhills.org/gsproposal.org

Dear Resident:

In recent Public Opinion Surveys, our residents have rated Rochester Hills' natural amenities and environmental characteristics as one of the top reasons to live and raise a family here. Thanks to the support of voters, our residents passed a Green Space Millage in 2005 to acquire and preserve natural green space in our community. As a result, the City Council established the citizen driven Green Space Advisory Board (GSAB) for the purpose of developing a strategy and making recommendations on properties to preserve.

To date, nearly 60 acres have been acquired and protected, and now our attention turns to stewardship of those resources. *The GSAB, with City Council's support, is asking voters for the authority to repurpose the Green Space Millage to include **stewardship** as the next phase of protecting our natural resources.* By including stewardship language into the plan, it allows us to continue to protect, care and maintain our green spaces and natural features.

It is now up to the voters to decide how to best use our Green Space funds. I would like to direct your attention to the reverse side for additional information on the proposed ballot question.

Sincerely,

Bryan K. Barnett, Mayor



Resolved, that Rochester Hills City Council hereby approves the proposed ballot question for the November 5, 2013 General Election that revises permissible uses of the Green Space Millage to include future stewardship in order to protect, care and maintain green spaces and natural features owned, acquired or controlled by the City of Rochester Hills:

BALLOT PROPOSAL PROPOSAL TO REVISE PERMISSIBLE USES OF GREEN SPACE MILLAGE

At the September 13, 2005 Primary Election, City of Rochester Hills voters approved a Proposal to provide funding to permanently preserve green spaces and natural features within the City "by funding the purchase of land and interests in land, and enabling the City to seek matching grant funds by levying a new millage of up to 0.3 mills." It is proposed to revise the permissible use of tax revenues derived from this millage to authorize it to be used to fund the protection, care and maintenance of, and to improve pedestrian accessibility to and within, green spaces and natural features owned, acquired or controlled by the City, in addition to funding the purchase of land and interests in land.

Therefore, shall the permissible use of tax revenues derived from the green space millage be revised to authorize it to be used to fund the protection, care and maintenance of, and to improve pedestrian accessibility to and within, green spaces and natural features owned, acquired or controlled by the City, in addition to funding the purchase of land and interests in land? If approved, this proposal will not authorize any new or additional tax or renewal of any current tax.

Vote
November 5th

FAQs on the Rochester Hills Proposed Use of Green Space Millage

Q. Will this increase my taxes?

A. No. If approved, the ballot proposal will not authorize any new or additional tax or renewal of any current tax. Rather, the proposal will permit revenue derived from the existing Green Space Millage to be used for stewardship of the City's green spaces. Specifically, the proposal would authorize tax revenues the City has received, and will receive, from the existing voter-approved Green Space Millage to be used not only for the purchase of green spaces, but also to protect, care for and maintain, and to improve pedestrian accessibility to and within, green spaces the City owns, acquires or controls.

Q. What properties would be covered by this change?

A. All City-owned green spaces and natural features including all Green Space purchases, undeveloped portions of parklands and other natural features or open space owned or controlled by the city. This would include significant (named) watercourses (Clinton River, Paint, Stony, Galloway and Sargent Creek's etc). It also would cover any land under a conservation easement.

Q. How do we define "Stewardship" for Rochester Hills green space?

A. A written policy was adopted by the GSAB in 2013 that defines stewardship as, "The responsible managing of land to protect, conserve and enhance biodiversity and natural features, for the benefit of current and future generations."

Q. What are the elements of a good stewardship program?

1. An accurate vegetative inventory and baseline assessment for each green space property.
2. A Management Plan for each parcel of land.
3. Establish a team of volunteers to help implement the Stewardship Plan while working with qualified contractors to oversee the initial removal of invasive species.
4. A continual education and communication program with surrounding property owners and the community.

Q. How can we be sure the Green Space Millage will continue to be used for its intended purpose?

A. The City Council recently expanded the role of the GSAB by directing the GSAB to annually report to and advise the City Council about green space priorities and issues. The Green Space Millage is a special, voter-approved millage, and funds derived from the millage are dedicated and restricted to the permanent preservation of green spaces and natural features in the City. The Green Space fund is accounted for and managed separately from other funds of the City, and the ballot proposal will not alter that.

The Rochester Hills
Green Space Advisory Board
1000 Rochester Hills Drive
Rochester Hills, MI 48309

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CITY OF ROCHESTER HILLS
CITY GENERAL ELECTION
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2013

To the Qualified Electors of the City of Rochester Hills:

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

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2013
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
BRILLE AND AUDIO VERSIONS OF VOTING INSTRUCTIONS ARE AVAILABLE

FOR THE PURPOSE OF ELECTING CANDIDATES FOR THE FOLLOWING OFFICES:

CANDIDATES FOR CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS (four-year terms)

At-Large Kevin S. Brown
Jeff Lauth

District 1 Steph Morita

District 4 Thomas W. Wiggins

LIBRARY BOARD DIRECTOR
VOTE FOR TWO

Robert Bonam
Anne Kucher

AND FOR THE PURPOSE OF VOTING ON THE FOLLOWING PROPOSALS:

CITY BALLOT QUESTION: Proposal to Revise Permissible Uses of Green Space Millage

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 2, 2013 FROM 8:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M. The last day to obtain absentee ballots by mail is Saturday, November 2, 2013 at 2:00 p.m.

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

**Tina Barton, City Clerk
City of Rochester Hills
248-656-4630
1000 Rochester Hills Drive
Rochester Hills, Michigan 48309**

October 21, 2013

Mark Your Calendar

City Offices will be closed on the following days:

<i>Thanksgiving</i>	<i>November 28 & 29</i>
<i>Christmas</i>	<i>December 24 & 25</i>
<i>New Years Eve</i>	<i>December 31</i>
<i>New Years Day</i>	<i>January 1</i>
<i>MLK Day</i>	<i>January 20</i>
<i>President's Day</i>	<i>February 17</i>

Information

on all city services can be found
by visiting our website
www.rochesterhills.org
or by telephone
248-656-4600



The Village of Rochester Hills Tree Lighting Ceremony 2013

Join us at the Village of Rochester Hills on Friday, November 22, for the Annual Holiday Tree Lighting Ceremony. Gather around the stage in Fountain Park at 7:00 p.m. 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.