

# The City of Rochester Hills

# Hills Herald

News & Information

Spring 2013



**Bryan K. Barnett, Mayor**

## A Message from the Mayor

Innovation, collaboration, and business attraction! In all three areas, Rochester Hills has been setting the bar and we have the headlines to prove it. We have experienced tremendous growth and new development in the past year and 2013 is on pace to continue that success.

With residential construction on the rise, an estimated two families are moving into brand new homes in our community each week. And in the past year, those new homes are averaging a construction cost

over \$410,000. Additionally, our foreclosures have dramatically decreased from 364 homes in 2010 to 144 homes in 2012. The bottom line is housing values are improving and more and more people are calling Rochester Hills home.

But new residents aren't the only ones moving in. Rochester Hills has become a hub for business growth and corporate expansion. With the lowest tax rate in Oakland County, a business-friendly City Council and a highly educated and talented workforce, it's no surprise we have the second

*Did you know?  
More robots are  
made in  
Rochester Hills  
than any other  
city in North  
America!*

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## STAY CONNECTED

*News • Events • Happenings*



**Mayor's Video Log**



[www.rochesterhills.org/vlog](http://www.rochesterhills.org/vlog)

lowest unemployment rate in Michigan. Whether it's the recent addition of Fischer Automotive Systems Inc., who just signed a lease to occupy a 33,000-square foot industrial building, the expansion of TTI Global to their new 25,000-square foot facility, or even the highly anticipated grand opening of Tim Horton's, business is booming in Rochester Hills. The impressive final results show residential and commercial construction investment at over \$105 million, representing a huge 52% increase from the year before.

In other good news, at my 2013 State of the City Address, I was able to announce that the city has received a generous donation from long-time residents and business owners, Steve and Darlene Stolaruk. On behalf of the Steve and Vivian Stolaruk Foundation, their gift will fund the design, construction, and implementation of the city's newest health and eco-park at Riverbend Park.

At the moment, this 70-acre city park is essentially closed to visitors and many in our community probably don't even know it exists. Our goal is to develop and enhance a pristine ecosystem comprised of a variety of habitats, large and small, resulting in cleaner water, air and most importantly, healthy and educated residents and visitors. Walking and jogging paths, environmental education opportunities, canoe launches, and habitat restoration and management are all important program elements we envision implementing. With the generosity of our donor, the collective thought and direction of our residents, planning commission, and ultimately City Council, we will be able to open the first new park in recent memory and the first one in the city's southwest side since 1990.

Speaking of firsts, Rochester Hills has been blessed as of late with many homegrown celebrities and athletes who have received national prominence, including Stoney Creek High Schools own #1 NFL Draft Pick Eric Fisher. Congratulations Eric, and best of luck in Kansas City!

Additionally, I recently had the honor of attending a private ceremony held at the White House to honor our very own, NASCAR Sprint Cup Champion Brad Keselowski. President Obama, Brad, his family and a few of NASCAR's top brass were invited to celebrate Brad's championship year on the South Lawn earlier this month. This was truly a unique experience and I was honored to be part of the celebration.

We continue to be a blessed community, rich with diverse housing and employment opportunities, unique natural features and award-winning schools. My hope is that you will take a moment and let it all soak in this summer. Experience our parks, visit the Velodrome track for a race one evening, walk through our Historic District and visit the newly renovated 1927 Calf Barn, or take a bike ride and visit the Seven Master Works of Art from the traveling exhibit from the Detroit Institute of Art.

However you choose to experience Rochester Hills, we are glad you are here and proud to be the preeminent place to live, work and raise your family.

God Bless,




*Mayor Barnett joined President Obama at the White House to congratulate Rochester Hills native Brad Keselowski on his NASCAR Sprint Cup Championship.*



## Mark Your Calendar

### City Offices will be closed:

*Monday, May 27, Memorial Day  
Thursday, July 4, Independence Day  
Monday, September 2, Labor Day*

### Other Dates to Note:

*Friday, May 31, Last day to renew dog licenses at the non-delinquent rate  
Wednesday, June 26, Festival of the Hills*

*Rochester Hills, growing and thriving!*

## 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, 2013.

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



# Hills Herald

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City of Rochester Hills

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

PRESENTED TO

City of Rochester Hills  
Michigan

for the Fiscal Year Ended  
December 31, 2011



Christopher P. Merrill  
President  
Jeffrey L. Easer  
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.

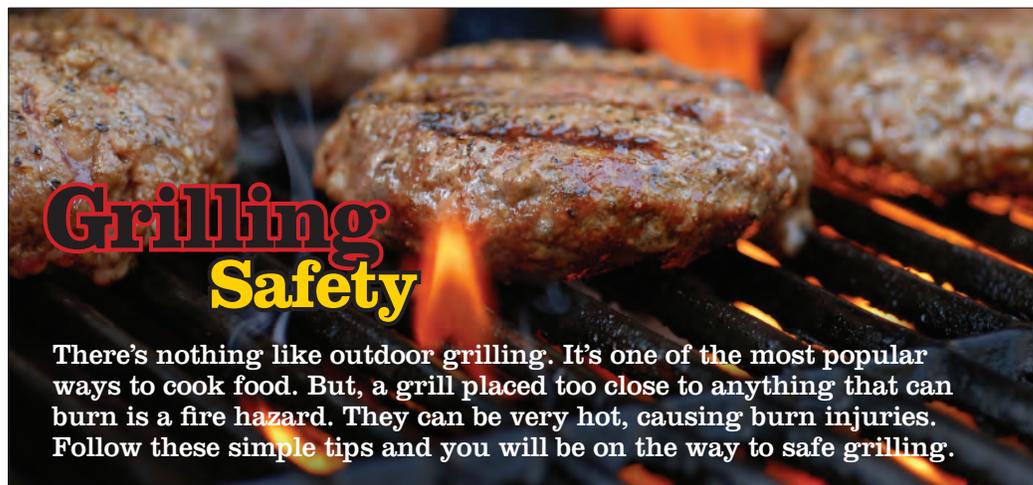
The information presented in the financial summary was obtained from the audited financial statements included in the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) for the period ended December 31, 2011. This financial summary does not comply with generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP), as component units were not included.



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

As we head into the warm days of summer, I would like to remind you of the necessity of using caution when grilling outdoors. With more Rochester Hills residents lighting their grills than ever before, it is important to remember that a fun barbecue is a safe barbecue.

The following safety tips are designed to guide you through the grilling process. Remember, anytime you work with fire, diligence and caution are needed. Please take a moment to read the "Grilling Safety" information below to keep you and your family safe this season.



**There's nothing like outdoor grilling. It's one of the most popular ways to cook food. But, a grill placed too close to anything that can burn is a fire hazard. They can be very hot, causing burn injuries. Follow these simple tips and you will be on the way to safe grilling.**

### **SAFETY TIPS**

- » Propane and charcoal BBQ grills should only be used outdoors.
- » The grill should be placed well away from the home, deck railings and out from under eaves and overhanging branches.
- » Keep children and pets at least three feet away from the grill area.
- » Keep your grill clean by removing grease or fat buildup from the grills and in trays below the grill.
- » Never leave your grill unattended.
- » Always make sure your gas grill lid is open before lighting it.

### **CHARCOAL GRILLS**

- » There are several ways to get the charcoal ready to use. Charcoal chimney starters allow you to start the charcoal using newspaper as a fuel.
- » If you use a starter fluid, use only charcoal starter fluid. Never add charcoal fluid or any other flammable liquids to the fire.
- » Keep charcoal fluid out of the reach of children and away from heat sources.
- » There are also electric charcoal starters, which do not use fire. Be sure to use an extension cord for outdoor use.
- » When you are finished grilling, let the coals completely cool before disposing in a metal container.

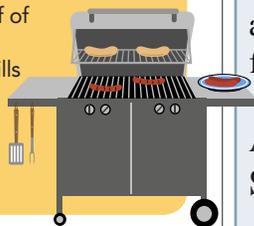
### **PROPANE Grills**

Check the gas tank hose for leaks before using it for the first time each year. Apply a light soap and water solution to the hose. A propane leak will release bubbles. If your grill has a gas leak, by smell or the soapy bubble test, and there is no flame, turn off the gas tank and grill. If the leak stops, get the grill serviced by a professional before using it again. If the leak does not stop, call the fire department. **If you smell gas while cooking, immediately get away from the grill and call the fire department.** Do not move the grill.

If the flame **goes out**, turn the grill and gas off and wait at least **15 minutes** before re-lighting it.

### **FACTS**

- ❗ July is the peak month for grill fires.
- ❗ Roughly half of the injuries involving grills are thermal burns.



[www.nfpa.org/education](http://www.nfpa.org/education)

**Leaf burning in the City of Rochester Hills is prohibited. Recreational fires are permissible with compliance of the following guidelines:**

### **Recreational Fire Permits**

An annual permit is required for recreational fires.

Recreational fire permits may be obtained from the Fire Department Administrative Offices during normal business hours.

(Mon-Fri 8:00 am to 4:00 pm excluding holidays).

The fee for an annual burning permit shall be \$25.00. (No permit is required for outdoor commercially purchased fireplaces.)

**Information: 248 656-4717**

### **Recreational Fires**

A recreational fire may be allowed, on detached residential properties with a valid permit, all year long from 8:00 am until midnight.

**Size and duration** - not to exceed three (3) feet in diameter, or three (3) feet in height and shall burn no longer than three (3) hours.

**Fuel** - dry seasoned firewood.

**Violations** - Any violation of these open burning regulations shall be a municipal civil infraction.

The violator will be responsible for restitution, and the Fire Department may void the permit and prevent the issuance of any further permits.

**ALL OTHER BURNING IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED**



**Your Source for SAFETY Information**

NFPA Public Education Division • 1 Batterymarch Park, Quincy, MA 02169



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

### **Tips to Protect your Home**

Sheriff Michael Bouchard wants you to know that according to the FBI Uniform Crime Reporting, in 2011 there were an estimated 2,188,005 burglaries in the United States. The risk of being burglarized can be greatly reduce by taking simple steps to make your home more difficult to enter and less enticing to would-be burglars.

Sheriff Bouchard urges residents to make your home look occupied and difficult to break into by following the tips below.

- Use motion sensitive lights on the exterior of your home.
- Install deadbolt locks on all exterior doors.
- Keep your garage door, exterior doors and windows locked even when you are home. If you do leave your windows open, use a locking device to prevent it from being opened all the way.
- Install special track locks on sliding glass doors and windows to prevent them from being forced or pried open.
- Be sure valuables in your home are not visible from the street. Use blinds and drapes on windows to conceal these items.
- Trim trees and shrubs near doors and window to limit hiding places close to your home.
- If going on vacation, have a trusted neighbor pick up your newspapers and mail so these items don't accumulate and alert burglars of your absence. Arrange for them to keep an eye on your home, even taking care of mowing the lawn.
- If you see a vehicle or someone who is loitering around the homes in your area, call your local police.
- Leave lights on when you go out. If you are away for an extended period of time connect your lights to automatic timers.

If you will be gone for extended periods of time, please feel free to let us know by filling out the request for house check form. This form can be found at [http://www.oakgov.com/sheriff/Documents/house\\_check\\_form.pdf](http://www.oakgov.com/sheriff/Documents/house_check_form.pdf) and turned into the Rochester Hills Sub-Station or faxed to 248-537-3520.

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### **Notify Me - Keeps You Informed**



Have you signed up to receive electronic updates from the NotifyMe feature of our website? It's easy, it's free and all you need is a valid email address or mobile number.

We offer a variety of subjects from which to choose, including City Council meeting notices, Park and Museum Events, Job Postings, and many more. You choose what interests you and any time there's information to share, you'll receive an email or text message linking you to the latest updates.

So take a few moments to visit [www.rochesterhills.org/notifyme](http://www.rochesterhills.org/notifyme) and sign up for these timely and informative updates.

# 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 of the year. 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 27, 2013

Time: 9:15 am–12:00 pm

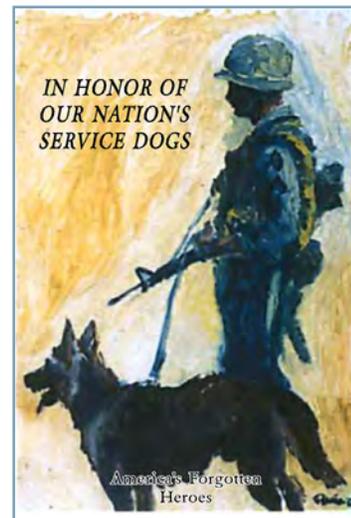
Please join us. The opening ceremony begins at 9:15 am at Mt Avon Cemetery, City of Rochester. The parade begins at 10:00 am from the cemetery to Veterans Memorial Point (corner of Avon and Livernois) for the closing ceremony in Rochester Hills.

We are very pleased to announce a special program that will be part of the Memorial Day Parade this year. We are honoring one of man's most valuable friends, the service dog. We are honoring dogs in the military, dog that help people with disabilities, dogs in law enforcement, and dogs that are our faithful companions.

Dogs are truly our unsung heroes in so many ways. They honor us on the battlefield by protecting our soldiers, they assist people as leader dogs and therapy dogs, and they work along side our law enforcement officers. Dogs make our lives safer, and truly are "man's best friend".

We hope to have dogs from the military, Leader Dogs for the Blind, and from the Oakland County Sheriff's Office join us in the parade this year. Please come out and help us honor ALL of our veterans.

For additional information, please call Terri Williams at 248-651-8137 or Ed Leafdale at 248-841-2566 .



## Veterans Day Memorial



Veterans Day Memorial honoring Sgt. Kyle B. McClain. Pictured are Kyle's family, Mayor Bryan K. Barnett, and VFW Troop 3908.

## Eagle Scout Projects at Veterans Memorial Pointe

Scout Nick Trang of Rochester Troop 123 has planned his Eagle Scout project at Veterans Memorial Pointe to honor "War Dogs". These dogs have fought beside our men and women during war, in many cases sacrificing their lives to save their fellow soldiers. War dogs are held in the highest regard by our soldiers. Nick is working very hard to have his project completed before Memorial Day.

In addition to Nick's project, Scout Jacob Masterson of Sterling Heights Troop 7 is working to construct a set of benches that will be placed near the restrooms in front of the privacy wall just off the bike path. This will be a welcome addition to that area.

Mayor Barnett stated, "We are very fortunate to have so many Eagle Scouts complete their projects at Veterans Memorial Pointe. Each additional project has enhanced the Pointe, and we sincerely appreciate their hard work and talent."

Please visit Veterans Memorial Pointe and see the exceptional Eagle Scout projects.



## New Clock Coming to VMP

Plans are in the works to add a beautiful new clock to Veterans Memorial Pointe. The free standing clock will be placed near the gazebo and will be visible from each direction.

Dr. Jeffrey Buller, a chiropractor practicing in Rochester Hills, is spearheading the effort to purchase the clock. If you are interested in helping with this project and would like information on how to contribute, please contact Ed Leafdale at 248-841-2655 or Dr. Jeffrey Buller at 248-652-9191.

# Updates from Our Clerk's Department

*The City Clerk, appointed by the City Council, serves as the official record keeper of the City of Rochester Hills and reports to the Mayor on a daily basis. The responsibilities of the City Clerk are defined by the City Charter, as well as state and federal law.*



Tina Barton, City Clerk

On March 1, 2013, I was sworn in as Clerk for the City of Rochester Hills. It was with tremendous excitement that I accepted the appointment. I was humbled and thrilled that the City Council chose me to lead this great office.

Prior to my appointment, I worked for seven years for Oakland County in the Information Technology division as a Production Control Analyst. While there, I was offered a position at Bloomfield Township. During my 16 years at Bloomfield Township, I worked in a few different positions – Level 1 Assessor, Treasury Clerk, Ordinance Officer, and Deputy Clerk. The last eight years were spent serving as the Deputy

Clerk. My 23 years of government employment have allowed me to gain knowledge and understanding of the important role that local government plays in our lives as residents.

Last year, I completed a Master of Arts in Management and Leadership degree from Liberty University in Lynchburg, Virginia. I am a Certified Municipal Clerk and a member of the International Association of Municipal Clerks, Michigan Association of Municipal Clerks and Oakland County Clerks Association. I currently serve on the Education Committee for the Michigan Association of Municipal Clerks.

My goals for the Clerk's Department are to implement efficient and cost effective practices, empower the staff to grow professionally, run seamless elections, involve high school students in elections to an even greater extent, and develop our office into one of the most respected and premier offices in the state.

I look forward to meeting the residents of the community and proudly serving each day as your City Clerk. Please feel free to contact me with any questions, concerns or suggestions.

On April 25, 2013, City Clerk Tina Barton was very pleased to swear in her newly appointed Deputy Clerk, Leanne Scott. Leanne began working for the City of Rochester



City Clerk Tina Barton swearing in Deputy Clerk Leanne Scott

Hills in 1997 as a Recording Secretary in the Clerk's Office and has held many positions since that date. After being sworn in, Leanne stated, "I am thrilled to have this opportunity and look forward to many more years of serving the residents of Rochester Hills."

## Passports

Did you know you can apply for your passport in person in the Clerk's Office Monday - Friday from 8:30 am - 4:00 pm?

For more information on the process, and the necessary documentation, please visit our website at [www.rochesterhills.org](http://www.rochesterhills.org) or click [here](#) to be directed to the site.



## Are You Ready to Relay?

The Greater Rochester Area Relay for Life is coming to Hart Middle School in Rochester Hills on June 22 from 9:00 am through June 23, 9:00 am. The theme of this year's relay is "Relayville". 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](http://www.relayforlife.org/rochestermi).



# Rochester Hills Government Youth Council Hosts 5k Run/Walk to Benefit the Boys & Girls Club of Troy on June 15, 2013

Beaumont Health System and Sola Life & Fitness is once again sponsoring the Rochester Hills Government Youth Council's (RHGYC) 5k Run/Walk to benefit the Boys & Girls Club of Troy on Saturday, June 15, 2013 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](http://www.rochesterhills.org) along with a link to [online registration](#). Participants submitting entries by June 1, 2013 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 Deputy Clerk and Adult Advisor to the RHGYC at 248-841-2460.



## Community Garden Comes to Wabash Park

Very soon, fresh herbs, flowers and vegetables will be sprouting in Wabash Park. In Rochester Hills, our very first community garden is being built and will be ready to plant by Memorial Day. Residents of both the City of Rochester Hills and City of Rochester may reserve a 4'x8' garden plot for \$30 and \$35 respectively. Wheelchair accessible plots are available on a limited basis.

Gardening can be therapeutic, educational and a great form of exercise. The health benefits of community gardening may go beyond enhancing the gardeners' intake of fruits and vegetables. You could reduce your family food budget and produce nutritious food while interacting with fellow gardeners and neighbors.



You may be a beginner or a master gardener. Your reason may be that your yard is too small or you have no yard at all to garden. Whatever your situation, cultivating a plot in the Wabash Park Community Garden may be just the answer you are looking for.

Check out [the Community Garden's webpage at www.rochesterhills.org](http://www.rochesterhills.org) for details or call Dinosaur Hills at 248-656-0999. HURRY! Space is limited and filling up fast.

### Key Facts:

- 100' wide by 90' deep enclosure
- 18 4' by 4' planting beds
- 63 4' by 8' planting beds
- New water source(s)
- 7' tall deer fencing

# Rochester Hills Building Department



## How Safe is Your Wood Deck?

Wood decks are beautiful additions to our yards that provide us the opportunity to get out and enjoy the outdoors. We sit, bask in the sun, have barbeques, and entertain family, friends, and neighbors. As we all know, preparing for enjoyment and fun often requires some work on our part. Many of the things we enjoy, like a swimming pool or the kid's playhouse, require attention to keep them in tip top shape. Our decks are no different. Wood decks require maintenance, especially an older deck. Not simply cleaning and staining, but the structural parts that support your deck like the beam, posts, railing, and connections.

How old is your deck? When is the last time you took a good look at the supporting structure? Have you checked the connection to the house, the beams, the posts, the railing, and all of the bolted connections that hold your deck together? Have you checked for rotted or cracked wood? If you haven't, you are not alone. We just don't think of looking at those things...they last forever, right?

Unfortunately, they don't, and that is why we have put together a few tips to help you when you check out your deck.

Tip #1: Check support posts and beams for rot, splitting, or abnormal movement.

Tip #2: Closely check the attachment points between the house and deck.

Tip #3: Check all fasteners, bolts, brackets, etc. for rust and corrosion. Look for improper fasteners. Screws shear under stress and should not be used for structural attachment.

If you would like to do a more thorough inspection of your deck, the North American Deck and Railing Association has a "Deck Evaluation Checklist" available on line at [www.NADRA.org](http://www.NADRA.org), or you can call the Rochester Hills Building Department at 248-656-4615 and we will get you a copy of the checklist.

Don't forget to take a few minutes to inspect your deck, you will be glad you did. Stay safe and enjoy the spring and summer seasons.

## 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.



# 2013 NO HAZ PROGRAM - The Right Thing to Do

Are you disposing of your household hazardous waste in the proper way?

You can get rid of your household hazardous waste (HHW) and do something good for the environment by taking your unwanted HHW to one of the NoHaz collection events during 2013.

NO HAZ- North Oakland County Household Hazardous Waste Consortium-is a group of government bodies representing twelve communities, including the City of Rochester Hills, who have come together to cooperatively provide a safe, convenient and cost effective method of handling residential household hazardous waste. Residents from any NO HAZ member community may participate in any NO HAZ collection event scheduled for 2013. No appointment is necessary, allowing participants to bring their HHW to any one of the events between the hours of 8:00 am and 2:00 pm.

As we are all aware, the City of Rochester Hills and many of the participating communities have offered this program without cost to the residents. However, this year with the accelerated cost of conducting this program and vendor costs to the communities, Rochester Hills and other program communities have found it necessary to charge participating residents a fee of \$10.00 for each collection visit. This amount is to be paid at the collection event. The City of Rochester Hills will still supplement 90% of the per-resident cost in order to continue the service for the residents.

To learn more about the NO HAZ, and get a list of acceptable and unacceptable materials, please visit the NO HAZ website at [www.nohaz.com](http://www.nohaz.com) or call the NO HAZ hotline at 248-858-5656.

## **2013 NO HAZ Collection Events**

**Saturday, June 15, 8:00 am-2:00 pm**

**Oakland University-Rochester Hills**

Foundation Hall Parking Lot

Use Oakland University Drive Entrance off Walton

**Saturday, September 7, 8:00 am-2:00 pm**

**Oakland Community College**

Highland Lakes Campus

7350 Cooley Lake Road, Waterford -

Enter from Hospital Road

**Saturday, September 28, 8:00 am-2:00 pm**

**Wildwood of Orion Township**

2700 Joslyn Court, Orion

## **Construction Guidebooks Available**

The Building Department has put together a series of guidebooks to help permit applicants understand what is needed when building a new home, swimming pool, accessory structure (garage, etc.) or deck.

The books guide a homeowner or contractor through the city's requirements, provide forms for each type of project, and include sample plot plans and other drawings to aid the property owner in planning and completing a project. Manuals are available online at [www.rochesterhills.org](http://www.rochesterhills.org) and in the Building Department. If you're considering a home improvement project, please visit the city website or offices to obtain a free guidebook.

## **DISASTER PREPAREDNESS - WHAT IS YOUR PLAN?**

We see it in the news day after day, natural disasters like earthquakes, hurricanes, floods, and tornadoes happening all around the world. We see the destruction, and wonder what we would do if that happened to us? Often we think because we live in Michigan, we won't see that type of disaster. While a hurricane is rather low on the list for Michigan, we have had mild earthquakes and floods, tornadoes, and even crippling snow or ice storms.

Where will you or your family be when 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.**

1. Get informed
2. Make a plan
3. Assemble a 72-hour kit for everyone in your home
4. 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](http://www.fema.gov). This booklet will give you more information and details of how you can be sure you and your family are prepared.



## The Community First Award Program

Recognizing that community members are the strength and support that makes Rochester Hills an exceptional community, the Community First 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. These individuals make a notable effort to improve the quality of life of those around them. Mayor Barnett's Community First Awards are selected and presented on a quarterly basis by a committee appointed by the Mayor. Two recipients are named quarterly from the award categories who have performed distinguished and extraordinary acts of volunteerism or community service. Nominations are reviewed and selected by the Community First Committee.

### Program Overview

Originally recognizing over 45 families within the Families First! Initiative, the awards program was revamped in order to honor a broader community base of deserving candidates. Community First recipients may be individuals, families, local businesses or community organizations who reside, have a place of business, or provide services in the city.

### 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. 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. Recipients may be grandparents, brothers, sisters, or empty-nesters – any family that performs unspoken acts of kindness or other unique examples of community service.

**Local Business** – Employees and/or business owners from for-profit establishments located in Rochester Hills who reach out and serve the community in an exceptional way.

**Community Organization** – Groups of volunteers in the community serving with any non-profit, governmental or civic organization who participate in community service activities that significantly impact and strengthen the community.

### Honoring Process

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

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

To nominate an individual or group, complete the nomination form on the next page. For additional information, contact the office of Mayor Bryan K. Barnett at 248-656-4664, visit the city's web page at [www.rochesterhills.org](http://www.rochesterhills.org), or scan the QR Code on your Smartphone.



## Community First Winners



*The Adambots - Adams and Stoney Creek High School Robotics Team*

The Adambots are the Adams and Stoney Creek High School Robotics Team. They have shown tremendous commitment to community service in the Rochester Hills area.

The Adambots joined members of the SW Michigan Down Syndrome Group for the “Step Up for Downs” program at the Palace of Auburn Hills. They provide parking lot support and are “cheerleaders” encouraging participants as they walked. The team also participates in the Rochester Area CROP Walk and the Halloween Hoot at Dinosaur Hill. Each year they design and build a float for the Rochester Christmas Parade. Their biggest service to the community comes each spring with the Greater Rochester Area Relay for Life. The Adambots have the distinction of being the largest student group to attend the Relay, and have steadily increased the funds they raise each year they participate.

In addition to the community service projects, the Adambots spend time going to elementary schools and scout groups talking about and demonstrating their robots. They hope to inspire younger students to consider joining a robotics team, or consider studies in the Science,

Technology, Engineering, or Mathematics fields.

When nominating the Adambots, Rick Drummer stated, “The students and adults on the team have learned that helping others can be fun and is a valuable personal attribute as well as a team core value.”

Mayor Barnett added, “We are very fortunate to have the Adambots in Rochester Hills. The care and commitment they show in both their Robotics Program Activities, and their generous community service projects, is truly commendable.”

The LeBel family are wonderful residents who strive to do their best in all areas including their family, community, and state. They are environmentally conscientious and have taken on many “green” initiatives in their home to reduce costs and help curtail pollution. The LeBel family happily support their neighborhood association, and Tim played a vital part in implementing a new park for the children of their neighborhood to enjoy.

In nominating the LeBel family, Monika and Glen Babiak stated, “The LeBel family is one that you look to as model citizens and are always there with friendly smiles and positive attitudes. They volunteer their time to many organizations including the schools their children attend, and generously contribute unspoken acts of kindness.”

Mayor Barnett was pleased to present the LeBel family with their Community First Award stating, “The LeBel family’s commitment to family, neighborhood and the City of Rochester Hills is exemplary, and we are very fortunate to have them as members of our community.”



*The LeBel Family*

# 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](mailto:Mayorsoffice@rochesterhills.org)

Fax: 248-656-4603

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

# Being Green and Prepping for Spring

It is spring cleaning time! Rochester Hills wants to remind you to help keep the watershed clean too!

Many items found in homes, garages, and yards can cause serious stormwater pollution if they are washed into the storm drains and allowed to flow untreated into the Clinton River.

Everyone can prevent stormwater pollution by taking simple steps, such as taking household cleaning or pesticide materials to a Household Hazardous Waste collection event. Our next NoHAZ collection day is scheduled for Saturday, June 15 at Oakland University. (See page 11 for further details)

Rochester Hills also reminds you to make sure to put all pet waste, and household trash in the garbage. Compost yard waste at home, or send to your waste collector separate from trash.

Remember if you wouldn't put it directly into the river, do not put it in the storm drain.

Helpful tips for keeping the watershed clean:

- Never dispose of paint or paint-related products into the gutters or storm drains. This is illegal dumping.
- Do not blow, sweep, hose or rake leaves or other yard trimmings into the street, or storm drain.
- For one time use items, only buy what you need, so storage or waste will not be a problem.
- Oil-based paints should be cleaned with paint thinner. Paint thinner can be filtered and reused. Used thinner can be set aside in a closed jar to settle out paint particles and can be stored in a well-ventilated location.
- Choose earth friendly landscaping. Use non-toxic products for your garden and lawn whenever possible. Use pesticides sparingly.
- Clean up after your pet.
- Practice good car care.
- Conserve water.

Rochester Hills encourages you to remember to:





## Spencer Park 2013



# BASS TOURNAMENT

### Sunday, June 9th

- Open to all ages and skill levels!
- Fish for Large Mouth Bass. Every Large Mouth Bass OVER 7 inches, caught by you, counts towards your total! Tournament Officials will make rounds and record catches.
- The Tournament starts at 11 a.m. and runs until 3 p.m. Registration opens at 10 a.m. and goes until 1 p.m. A long, loud whistle will signify the start and finish of the Tournament.
- Prizes and/or trophies are awarded for 7 categories, including a casting contest for contestants ages 12 and under, plus a limited number of prize and T-shirt giveaways!
- Tournament participation is free. A Vehicle permit is required to enter the park.
- Bring your fishing poles and lures. Equipment is not provided.
- Contestants are welcome to stay for the day and enjoy some picnicking and swimming!

Thank you to our Sponsors



We hook you up!  
ALWAYS BELOW RETAIL



Higher Standards  
Lower Prices

For more information:  
248.656.4657 [parsellc@rochesterhills.org](mailto:parsellc@rochesterhills.org) [www.rochesterhills.org](http://www.rochesterhills.org)  
3701 John R. Rd. Rochester Hills, MI 48307 Just north of M59

# Rochester Hills Department of Public Services

## Flashing Yellow Arrow - Left-Turn Signal

### Left-Turn Signal with Four-Arrow Display



If you drive within the City of Rochester Hills you have probably noticed the new flashing yellow left-turn signals popping up throughout the City. Over the last several years, as traffic signals are upgraded, they have been replaced with the newer four phase left-turn signal heads. The new left-turn signals offer several advantages over the older traditional solid flashing red bulb signals and are now the national standard. A summary of the signal operation is identified below.



**Steady Red Arrow** - If turning left, you must stop and wait

**Steady Yellow Arrow** - Prepare to stop

**Flashing Yellow Arrow** - Proceed with left turn after yielding to any oncoming traffic and pedestrians

**Steady Green Arrow** - Proceed with left turn

#### Why Is It a Better Left-Turn Signal?

A national study demonstrated that drivers made fewer mistakes with the new signals than with traditional left-turn-arrow signals. The new signals provide traffic engineers with more options to handle variable traffic volumes. You'll see the same signals in every state because the new signals are being introduced throughout the U.S. The signals are being introduced nationwide and ultimately will be required at all intersections where there is a separate left-turn arrow signal. This change is the result of a national study conducted for the Federal Highway Administration, which demonstrated that the new signals help to prevent crashes, move more traffic through an intersection, and provide additional traffic management flexibility for road agencies.

It's a new type of signal placed OVER the left-turn lane at a signalized intersection. The signal display includes a flashing yellow arrow. Other displays on the signal are a steady green arrow, steady yellow arrow and steady red arrow. In coming years, this type of signal will be used by Michigan roadway agencies in place of the flashing red left-turn signals that are now common.

In most locations, the flashing yellow arrow display will be part of a four-arrow display. In areas where a total signal replacement is not possible, a three-section signal would be used where the bottom display will display either the flashing yellow arrow or steady green arrow.

#### Typical Flashing Yellow Arrow Operation for a Four-Arrow Display

**Interval 1: Flashing Yellow Arrow** allows you to turn left when oncoming traffic is clear [oncoming traffic has a green light]. You must carefully determine that there is an adequate gap in the oncoming traffic, and ensure that there are no pedestrian conflicts, before making your turn.

**Interval 2: Steady Green Arrow** allows you to turn left. Proceed with caution. [At intersections equipped with vehicle detection cameras or in-pavement sensors, this sequence may be skipped if there are no left-turning vehicles.]

**Interval 3: Steady Yellow Arrow** warns you that the left-turn signal is about to change to red and that you should prepare to stop – or prepare to complete your left turn if you are legally within the intersection and there is no conflicting traffic present.

**Interval 4: Steady Red Arrow** requires you to stop and wait during this interval. [This interval will be followed by Interval 1.]

For more information, including a link to download this brochure and a demo of how the signal works,

**go to MDOT's Web site:**

[www.michigan.gov/flashingyellowarrow](http://www.michigan.gov/flashingyellowarrow)





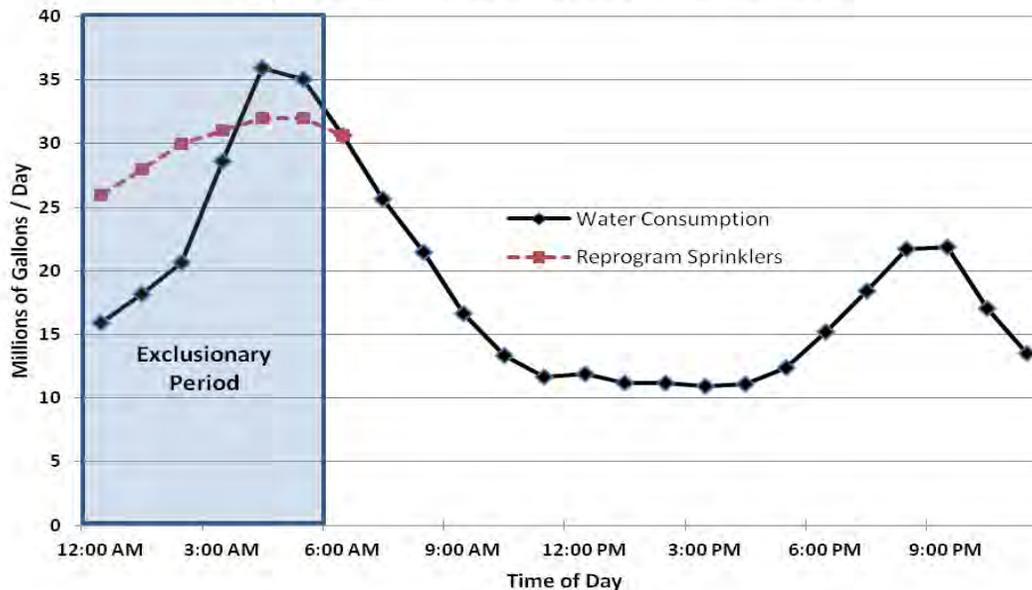
# Timing is Everything.....

Spring is upon us, and our businesses and residents are turning on their lawn sprinkler systems for the summer season. As you may know, the City of Rochester Hills has an Outdoor Watering Ordinance which restricts the use of automatic landscape irrigation systems to the hours of midnight through 5:00 am only. Since the ordinance was adopted, the city has received excellent support from our businesses and residents in adhering to the ordinance which has resulted in a **shift in our peak hour water usage from 7:00 am to 5:00 am.**

It is important to understand that daytime outdoor watering contributes to a large portion of the city’s peak water usage and is used by Detroit Water and Sewer Department (DWSD) to set customer wholesale water rates. **Higher peak usage during daytime peak demands results in higher water rates.**

**When our peak hour usage shifted to DWSD’s exclusionary period (12:00 pm to 5:00 am), we leveled out our Peak Hour factor, which resulted in sustaining wholesale water rates.**

**Typical Summer Water Use Pattern**



Although the city has been successful in sustaining DWSD’s rate increases, there is always room for improvement and it can be achieved by making a few minor adjustments to the starting times of automatic or programmable irrigation systems. Based on historic hourly consumption data provided by the DWSD, we have attributed our 4:00 am peak consumption to users having programmed their systems to start watering at 4:00 am. Again, we know this because the DWSD takes pressure readings at the top of the hour and has observed sudden pressure drops in their distribution system as the majority of sprinkler systems start up at this time. ***So we are now asking that businesses and residents delay the start of their watering systems by 15, 30 or 45 minutes past the top of the hour.*** This strategy will decrease the sudden pressure drops within the DWSD delivery systems to Rochester Hills providing more consistent pressures to our customers. Additionally, by evoking this pressure management strategy DWSD will not have to build additional pressure booster pump stations or invest in other system improvements which could adversely affect rates.

Sticking with the theme of timing, by staggering the start of your automatic or programmable sprinkler system as well as starting them earlier we can have a positive effect by reducing our “off-peak” demand which we feel will help us sustain current water rates from the DWSD.

To learn more about water consumption and best management practices associated with your usage, please visit our Website. We truly appreciate our environmentally conscientious “Green” water users as we’re about to enter another “Green Season.” By working together, we make the City of Rochester Hills the preeminent place to work, live and raise a family.

# Rochester Hills Parks

## Rochester Hills Parks – Your Place to Play and Relax

Summer is a favorite season of many, well known for vacations and beautiful weather. It's a time for families to come together, for friends to plan road trips, and for couples to get away on a romantic retreat. It's the time when flowers are in full bloom, birds are chirping, and the sun happily shines in blue skies. Yes, summer really does have it all!

So how do you make the most of such a delightful season? Get outdoors of course! And as luck would have it, Rochester Hills Parks not only showcase the beauty of the outdoors and the simple solace of nature but also offer loads of activities.

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 distance from home and waiting for you to enjoy in the beautiful parks and trails of Rochester Hills!

Visit [www.rochesterhills.org](http://www.rochesterhills.org) to begin making your summer plans.



## Borden Park Gets a New Play Structure

Got swings? Borden Park does now. Earl E. Borden Park has received a much needed replacement of its 20 year old playground. The new playground is handicap accessible and has elements for 2-5 and 5-12 year olds. It consists of a main structure and several free standing activities *including swings* (finally). The biggest new attraction is a rope web climber! Come and see for yourself. Borden Park is located at the southeast corner of Hamlin and John R Roads.



## 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.

## Velodrome at Bloomer Park Gets a Facelift



The surface of the International Velodrome at Bloomer Park is in serious need of replacement/renovation. Fortunately, the City of Rochester Hills has been granted monies through the State of Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) Recreation Passport Grant Program\*. The marine-grade wood for the surface will be installed by volunteer labor. Equipment and other costs are being donated by V-Worldwide, Inc. for the installation which should be completed by the start of racing season in June. See the [Velodrome's webpage](#) for race schedules.

The MDNR Recreation Passport Program : While renewing your license plate registration, you have the opportunity to purchase a "Recreation Passport" which allows you and your vehicle access to State Parks, campgrounds and more. The proceeds from the "Passport" also provide grants for neighborhood parks such as the one used here for the Velodrome Resurfacing.



# and Forestry Updates

## Keep our Public Pathways Safe

There are nearly 234 miles of asphalt pathways and sidewalks located on public road right-of-way in the City of Rochester Hills. The city's Forestry Division handles the maintenance of trees and shrubs growing on these right-of-ways that encroach onto pathways and sidewalks. However, all encroaching vegetation originating from adjacent private property is the responsibility of the property owner to maintain.

Many property owners have trees and shrubs planted close to pathways and sidewalks for screening and other purposes. Although the majority of property owners keep their vegetation maintained, some do not. To insure the safety of pedestrians and bicyclists, all vegetation must be cleared from at least 1 ft. off the edge of the pavement, to a height of at least 8 ft.

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.

Over the last 20 years, miles of pathway and sidewalk have been added in the city, with no corresponding increase in maintenance staff. Our citizens regularly use these pathways and their safety is a priority. Therefore, we are advising all property owners with vegetation adjacent to these pathways and sidewalks to maintain the safety standards as shown in the diagram.

Properly maintained pathways are an asset for the entire community. Please be a responsible citizen and help keep our sidewalks and pathways safe.

Please contact the Forestry Division at 248-656-4673 for further information.

## Spruce Decline

Have you noticed that some spruce in the landscape appear to have thinner crowns, fewer needles, and more dead branches? Researchers at Michigan State University have confirmed this is occurring. Their investigations have identified multiple possible causes, including drought, insects, and diseases. They now know that Phomopsis canker is one of the diseases causing a general decline of spruce in the landscape. It can be found on blue, white, and Norway spruce throughout the Lower Peninsula.

Normally, Phomopsis, a fungal pathogen, is found on young trees in nurseries and on tree farms, including Christmas tree farms. For an unknown reason, the pathogen has moved out of the nurseries and tree farms and is causing mature tree defoliation, branch death, and, in some cases, tree death.

MSU has produced a new factsheet, "Alternative conifers for Michigan landscapes" ([http://msue.anr.msu.edu/news/alternative\\_conifers\\_for\\_michigan\\_landscapes](http://msue.anr.msu.edu/news/alternative_conifers_for_michigan_landscapes)) describing eight medium to large evergreen trees that broaden the range of options for landscapes. No tree can ever be guaranteed to be pest-free, but diversity of species in the landscape can reduce the risk and impact of pest attacks.



- 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.)

## 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 6, 2013, is the deadline for ordering trees for fall 2013.

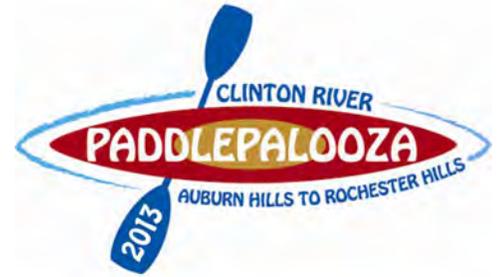
An order form may be obtained by [clicking here](#), or visiting the city website. For more information, please contact the Forestry Division at 248-656-4673.

# Spring Canoe and Kayak Event

The cities of Auburn Hills and Rochester Hills are gearing up to present Paddlepalooza 2013, 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 1 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."



*Paddlepalooza 2012*

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](http://www.rochesterhills.org), or the City of Auburn Hills website at [www.auburnhills.org](http://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/stormwater-protection/>

For home lawn care tips visit: <http://turf.msu.edu/home-lawn-articles> or <http://healthylandscapes.org/>

For a list of lawn professionals who participate in the **Healthy Lawn Care Program for Watershed Protection** visit [http://www.landscape.org/healthylawncare\\_pro.html](http://www.landscape.org/healthylawncare_pro.html)

For more information on the Clinton River and its watershed visit [www.crowc.org](http://www.crowc.org).



# Protecting Our Water Resources

One of the ways to ensure the protection of our lakes, rivers, and streams is to get out and enjoy them! Whether it is kayaking down the Clinton, fishing in Paint Creek, or biking along the Clinton River Trail there are plenty of activities that you can pack into a day or even an entire weekend. Visit the Clinton River Watershed Councils recreation resource page at <http://www.crw.org/recreation/index.html> to help you plan your exploration of our watershed.

Don't forget the seven simple steps to help keep our river and streams clean for us and future generations.

- Help keep pollution out of storm drains
- Fertilize carefully
- Carefully store and dispose of household cleaners, chemicals, and oil
- Clean up after your pet
- Practice good car care
- Choose earth friendly landscaping
- Save water

For more information on the seven simple steps visit: [http://www.semcog.org/OursToProtect\\_7SimpleSteps.aspx](http://www.semcog.org/OursToProtect_7SimpleSteps.aspx)



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## 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 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 16 acres of gardens and grounds bordered by Stoney Creek. Museum staff can provide programs and lectures on a wide variety of historical and environmental topics from Mills, Stoney Creek Village, Leaders, Legends, and Liars, Community History, and more. It's a great place for scout groups, schools, and more!



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

## Upcoming Events

### Garden Walk

Thursday, June 20, 10-6 p.m.

This is the premier garden event in our community featuring private gardens.

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

\$ 10 Museum Members - advance

\$ 12 Public - advance

\$14 Day of the event

**Preview Party** - This garden is only featured at the Preview Party.

Wednesday, June 19, 7-9 p.m. – a delicious evening of gardens and delights.

\$ 35 per person, \$ 60 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!

Public - \$ 3 per person

12-1 Entertainment

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

July 3, July 10, July 17, July 24, July 31



### 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 18, June 25, July 2, July 9, July 16, July 23, July 30, Aug 6

**Little House by the Creek Day Camp**

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

June 27, July 18, Aug 1, Aug 8

**Little House in the Village Writer's Camp**

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

Aug 26-Aug 29

**Adventure Camp at Bloomer Park**

Ages 11-15: 10:00-3:00 with an overnight on Aug 12-Aug 15

**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! June 8, June 15, Aug 3, Aug 24

## Planning a Wedding?

The Rochester Hills Museum at Van Hoosen Farm is the perfect location for your wedding ceremony and reception. Outdoor ceremonies can take place at our garden gazebo located under a maple and walnut grove bordered by Stoney Creek or right alongside Stoney Creek amidst 16 acres of beautiful gardens and grounds. Indoor wedding ceremonies can take place in the library of our carefully preserved 1840 Van Hoosen Farmhouse.

Receptions can take place alongside Stoney Creek, tented or open air, or inside our 1927 Dairy Barn or our newly-restored 1927 Calf Barn.

Please visit our website [www.rochesterhills.org/wedding](http://www.rochesterhills.org/wedding), contact us at 248-656-4663, or by email at [rhmuseum@rochesterhills.org](mailto:rhmuseum@rochesterhills.org) for pricing and availability or to make an appointment to visit our site.



*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

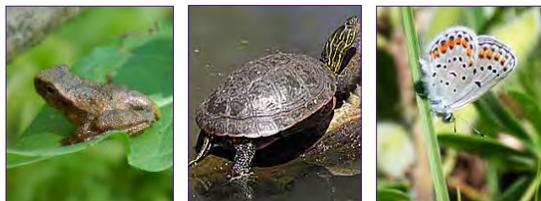
Sat, May 18 *Fascinating Frogs & Toads*

Sat, June 29 *Summer Safari*

Sat, July 27 *Amazing Insects*

Sat, Aug 10 *The Water We Share*

Regular Admission  
**Museum members are free!**



## Calf Barn Updates

We hope that you had the opportunity to visit the Museum during the winter as we raised the roof. It has been an exciting project that has brought numerous donors and volunteers together to preserve this historic building while adapting it for a bright future at the Museum. We would like to give a special thanks to volunteer Don Ross, who built the two cupolas in his garage and delivered them in time to be wired with lightning rods and hoisted onto the roof. We are also grateful to volunteer Doug McKay, who painted nine of the windows in his basement. They are in the process of being installed. Our groundskeeper, Ed LaFave, created a maintenance spot at the Museum and rebuilt eleven of the windows and everything is coming together perfectly.

Now that Phase I is completed, we are looking towards Phase II. Fundraising efforts are continuing as we look to the future of the Broomfield Center for Leadership. Meanwhile, the painting has been completed and the windows are being installed as we plan to host numerous weddings, receptions, vintage base ball programs, garden programs, summer camps and more in this unique building.

It is not too late to help. Donations of all sizes help to keep the magic of historic preservation alive at the Museum site. Your donations go directly into our buildings and programs and are often used to leverage matching grants and other donations. Do you need to recognize your family in our community? Would you like to honor a loved one or a special anniversary? The Museum accepts donations of cash, annuities, IRA rollovers, real estate, life insurance and more. Let our community know of your investment in calling this place home.

***Thanks to you – We're Making History Happen Here!***

## Summer Taxes Due September 16, 2013

### INSURE YOUR PAYMENT WON'T BE LATE - SIGN UP FOR AUTOMATIC TAX BILL PAYMENT!

The 2013 Summer Property Tax bills will be mailed out by mid-June and are due on Monday, September 16, 2013. (This is because the 14<sup>th</sup> falls on a Saturday.) Postmarks will **not** be honored, so please allow **5 business days** for first class postal delivery as recommended by the United States Postal Service. After September 16, 2013, interest of 1% will be added to the unpaid balance of the summer tax bill, and an additional 1% will be added on the first day of each month thereafter. On February 15, 2014, a 3% penalty will be added to the balance of all unpaid 2013 property taxes. **Please note:** If your 2012 property taxes or any amount of your 2012 property taxes went delinquent, (were unpaid as of March 1, 2013) a notification will now appear on your 2013 summer tax bill. This is a new state law requirement. As the law stands right now, this notification will appear on the summer tax bill regardless of whether or not the taxes were subsequently paid to Oakland County.

We now offer Automatic Bill Payment for property taxes and to date have over 350 taxpayers signed-up for this convenient service. This service allows you to choose either the summer and winter tax due dates or the summer tax due date and last business day of December as your payment dates. For those enrolling in this service, your 2013 Summer Tax payment will take place on September 16, 2013. An application will be included with this summer's tax bill mailing. For more information about this service and our other convenient payment options, please visit Treasury Department's Payment Options page [rochesterhills.org/paytaxes](http://rochesterhills.org/paytaxes) or the following QRcode.



Summer tax deferment, which defers the summer tax payment due date of your principal residence to February 15, 2014, is available for qualified residents. For additional information please visit the Treasury Department's Summer Tax Deferment page [rochesterhills.org/index.aspx?NID=504](http://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](mailto:treasury@rochesterhills.org)

## MITN Purchasing System reaches over 100 local Michigan Government Agencies

The Michigan Inter-governmental Trade Network (MITN) Purchasing Group has reached a significant benchmark. The number of local government agencies using the system to save on procurement costs now exceeds 100.

MITN (<http://www.mitn.info>) provides a resourceful online platform for local Michigan government agencies to streamline their procurement process and reduce costs, while making it easier for vendors to do business. The bid system connects 1,310 departments from 102 local government agencies and provides a bid notification system that gives vendors instant access to Bids, RFP's, Quotes and Amendments on line.

In collaboration with Interactive procurement Technologies by BidNet, the cities of Birmingham, Dearborn, Farmington Hills, Rochester Hills, Royal Oak, Sterling Heights, Troy, Warren and Livingston County formed the MITN Purchasing Group in 2003. Participating member agencies in the Michigan Inter-governmental Trade Network (MITN) have now issued nearly 25,000 opportunities on the system. More than 100 local agencies, a number which is expected to grow, utilize the system's enhanced features and benefits, which include:

- Community Discussion Forum
- Cooperative Purchasing Module
- Contract Database
- Electronic Bid Submission Capabilities
- Share Information & Resources
- Expanded Vendor Database
- Regional & National Online Auctions

MITN was created to eliminate redundancy and make it easier for government agencies to optimize their efficiency while cutting costs. Rochester Hills and other municipalities have ensured the success of MITN through their commitment to a statewide approach to local government procurement. Forming MITN has allowed local agencies to lower costs, save time and share resources.

The e-procurement system provides Michigan purchasing professionals with greater process transparency, gives them the ability to leverage shared resources, and makes it easier for vendors to do business with local government in one online location. "Agencies save money and vendors get centralized access to local government bid opportunities," said Dan Ansell, VP of IPT by BidNet. "both vendors and agencies within the Michigan procurement cycle win."





## Your Vote is Your Voice

Franklin D. Roosevelt said, “[Nobody will ever deprive the American people of the right to vote except the American people themselves and the only way they could do this is by not voting.](#)” One of the greatest rights that we have as American citizens is the right to choose the individuals that we want to represent us in office. This year, Rochester Hills residents will have the opportunity to select one (1) At Large City Council Member, one (1) District 1 City Council Member and one (1) District 4 City Council Member. Each person elected will serve a four (4) year term. Additionally, two (2) Library Board Members will be selected to serve a six (6) year term.

In order to be qualified to vote in Michigan, you must be a U.S. citizen, at least 18 years of age by election day, and a resident of Michigan and the city or township where you are applying to register to vote. You must register at least 30 days before the election by mail; at your county, city, or township clerk’s office; or by visiting any Secretary of State branch office.

If you have never voted in Michigan and register by mail, you must appear in person to vote in the first election in which you wish to participate. This requirement does not apply if (1) you personally hand deliver the mail registration form to your county, city or township clerk’s office instead of mailing the form (2) you are 60 years of age or more (3) you are disabled or (4) you are eligible to vote under the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act.

Absentee voter ballots are available for all elections. They provide voters with a convenient method for casting a ballot when they are unable to attend the polls on Election Day.

- As a registered voter, you may obtain an absentee voter ballot if you are:
- age 60 years old or older
- unable to vote without assistance at the polls
- expecting to be out of town on election day
- in jail awaiting arraignment or trial
- unable to attend the polls due to religious reasons
- appointed to work as an election inspector in a precinct outside of your precinct of residence.

All of these forms are located on the Clerk’s page of the City of Rochester Hills website, [www.rochesterhills.org](http://www.rochesterhills.org). They may also be obtained by calling our office at 248-656-4630, emailing us at [clerksoffice@rochesterhills.org](mailto:clerksoffice@rochesterhills.org); or visiting us at 1000 Rochester Hills Drive. The Clerk’s Department looks forward to servicing all of your election needs.

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## Self-Serve 2013 Dog License Renewal at City of Rochester Hills Three-Year License Now Available!

Through Friday, May 31, 2013, Oakland County’s yearly dog license may be renewed for the non-delinquent fee at the City Treasury Department. Renewal is self-serve. Please bring the postcard renewal reminder that was mailed from Oakland County. Your dog’s current rabies vaccination certificate signed by the veterinarian must be presented when you apply for the license. If your dog has a three-year vaccination ending in either year 2015 or 2016, you may purchase a three-year license. If you recently acquired a dog or are a new resident, you have a 30-day grace period to license your dog. If purchasing your dog license at the city, checks must be made payable to the “City of Rochester Hills”. Visit the [Treasury Department’s Dog License](#) page for more information regarding animal licensing. Questions can be directed to the Treasury Department at 248-656-4675 or [treasury@rochesterhills.org](mailto:treasury@rochesterhills.org)



Bailey and Lily - photo T Presta

# Rochester Hills City Council

*Michael Webber*

*At-Large*



As always, I look forward to the spring and summer because of the many events that make our community great. 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 Inter-Service Club Dinner and the Rochester Area Prayer Breakfast. On a personal note, it has been a busy spring for our family with the birth of our first child, James.

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.

As a member of the Older Person Commission Governing Board, I can report that the organization and board have stabilized after a year of challenges. The budget was passed by all three communities last fall and the board has moved forward to offer the same quality services to our senior community. The OPC has always been the “Heart” of our community, and that will be celebrated annually on October 16 starting this fall with events at the center.

With the retirement of our City Clerk Jane Leslie in February, the council was tasked with finding a new individual to lead our elections and record keeping. After several interviews and discussions, the council appointed Tina Barton as our new city clerk. Clerk Barton comes to Rochester Hills from Bloomfield Township, where she gained notable experience as the deputy clerk. I look forward to working with Clerk Barton.

The summer season always brings some construction to our community. This year promises to offer fewer construction challenges than 2012 did. One project that is underway already, with completion scheduled for June, is a resurfacing of Livernois from Avon Road to our border at South Blvd. This project is being funded using Federal funds.

Another long awaited project that will begin this year is our Tienken project. Part of the project will be completed this year – starting in June – from Rochester to Sheldon with the remainder of the project completed in 2014 from Rochester to Livernois. The city continues to work with the state and the county to improve our other major streets throughout the community.

Our citizen lead Police and Road Funding Committee continues to meet to discuss ways that the city can address our two most critical needs. As you recall, last year voters passed a proposal that stabilizes our Police funding for the next decade without raising taxes. In addition, voters passed a repurposed millage for local roads in the fall. This has allowed the city to keep up with maintenance costs and look to rehab more neighborhood roads.

I am proud of our continued focus on Economic Development, which has attracted high paying jobs to the area and has helped keep our unemployment numbers low. A key indicator is our low vacancy rates in buildings and industrial complexes.

There will be a discussion this year regarding our undeveloped parks, particularly River Bend Park where a donation from a resident, along with concepts drawn by students, has driven potential development plans. The challenge remains funding to develop and maintain these parks. With the donated funding for River Bend Park, the city will hold hearings and gain feedback on how to effectively develop the park.

A new addition to our parks system will be a Community Garden in Rochester Hills. Applications are currently being taken through Dinosaur Hill for this project.

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.



**Mark Tisdel**  
**At-Large**

## Van Hoosen Jones Stoney Creek Cemetery

The year is 1956: Grace Kelly and Prince Rainier III of Monaco are married, the phrase “under God” is added to the Pledge of Allegiance, “In God We Trust” becomes the national motto, Nelson Mandela is arrested in South Africa, and President Eisenhower is re-elected. It was also the year that Dr. Sarah Van Hoosen Jones donated 16.8 acres of rolling land atop a gentle hill next to the Stoney Creek Historic District. The gift was dedicated to the development of a community cemetery; a final resting place that gives one a sense of being “home”.

The Van Hoosen Jones—Stoney Creek Cemetery was established in 1978, the year John Paul II became the first Polish pope, Menachem Begin and Anwar Sadat signed the Camp David accords, and a 32-year old Bill Clinton was elected Governor. Since that time, the list of those buried in the Van Hoosen Jones—Stoney Creek Cemetery reads like a Who’s Who of our community. Most recently, Mayor Pat Somerville made her final trip “home” to Rochester Hills.

Of course, it’s the citizens of Rochester Hills that make the cemetery a place of lasting beauty. Our residents, service groups and businesses have donated benches, trees, a commemorative sundial and a tall and sturdy flagpole. The Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, and Rochester Hills Government Youth Council regularly volunteer for various beautification projects. Cemetery Sexton Calvin Leach generously donated the cemetery monument—plus his skills and materials for the installation—right at the entrance.

Today, a modern and comfortable Chapel stands on the Van Hoosen Jones grounds and can be used instead of a graveside service for a mere \$50 fee. Rochester Hills residents can purchase burial space for as little as \$200. Mr. Leach can help you select an elegant gravestone or appropriate marker from a company that’s been serving Michigan families since 1917. This service represents a great convenience for Rochester Hills residents and families. Mr. Leach will ensure the monument you select fits perfectly, and meets all cemetery specifications. He’ll take personal responsibility for accepting its delivery, installation and your complete satisfaction.

A gift of land from Dr. Sarah Van Hoosen Jones is now a living testament to her vision of creating a permanent sense of “home” for our city’s residents. Her gift and vision, coupled with the commitment of our residents, families and city employees built a living environment of natural beauty; a “home” we can all be proud to call our own.

The Van Hoosen Jones—Stoney Creek Cemetery is a tremendous asset that delivers real and lasting value for our residents. Dr. Sarah has given us all the opportunity to make Rochester Hills our “home” forever. To learn more about this gift and what it could mean for you and your family, please contact the Clerk’s Department 248-656-4630 or Mr. Leach 248-652-4713.

### **City Council Contact Information**

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# Festival of the Hills June 26, 2013

**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!