

The City of Rochester Hills

Hills Herald

News & Information

Spring/Summer 2016



A Message from the Mayor

Lights...Camera...Action!! This year, I presented my State of the City Address in true Hollywood fashion complete with a red carpet welcome for our guests (pics on page 3), an opening musical number, and chocolate Oscars for everyone in attendance! We truly felt that an awards show format was the best way to celebrate all the tremendous accomplishments we have enjoyed as a community over the last year.

I'm sure we all recognize what a blessing it is to live, work, and raise a family here in Rochester Hills, but it's always nice when others around the state and country recognize it as well. We were very proud to have our Department of Public Services team named as the #1 Fleet in Michigan. We also won the "National Small Business Advocate Award" for our work with entrepreneurs. Our innovative idea to save money on our residents' water bills was one of the top three innovations in Michigan last year, and our schools were once again recognized

“Rest assured, the state of our city is incredibly strong...”

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The 2016
STATE OF THE CITY

To watch the presentation,
please [CLICK HERE](#)
or visit our website at
www.rochesterhills.org

**WE HOPE YOU
ENJOY THE SHOW!**

Continued from page 1

as some of the best in the state. We were supremely honored to be named “Michigan’s Safest City”, and of course, we continue to brag about being one of the “Top Ten Places to Live” anywhere in America according to *Money Magazine*. It truly has been a wonderful year for Rochester Hills.

When you have a top ranked community, residential and commercial investment is sure to follow, and residents can see this in nearly every corner of our town. Hopefully you’ve had a chance to visit some of the new restaurants in town like 2941 Mediterranean Street Food, MOD Pizza, and Potbelly Sandwiches. But what really excites us is when we attract a high tech company that plans on creating jobs...and that’s exactly what we did with Jenoptik.

Jenoptik is a German based company and one of the world’s leading manufacturers and system providers for high-precision metrology and laser cutting. I am proud to announce that we have sold them the City’s property on Hamlin Road for their new North American campus, where they will immediately begin construction on a 100,000 sq. ft. facility housing 100-150 employees. In addition, in just a few years they hope to have 250,000 sq. ft. on site and hire an additional 150-300 new high wage jobs! We are thrilled to be the new home for this innovative company and look forward to our future together.

Despite all the success, our community’s greatest strength will always be its generous and caring residents. And you absolutely outdid yourselves this past month by setting a national record for generosity!

In just a few short weeks, our residents donated over 6.2 million Recyclebank points to our Green Schools Program. Because of that overwhelming kindness, Recyclebank awarded us \$25,000 to help fund various environmentally minded projects at 12 Rochester Community Schools this year! In all, our residents have donated over 10 million points resulting in nearly \$50,000 back to our students. That’s \$50,000 just for recycling our trash! Simply amazing! Simply Rochester Hills!

I hope you are just as proud to live in Rochester Hills as we are to serve here. We are a very blessed community and I remain very blessed to be your Mayor. Rest assured, the state of our city is incredibly strong and growing stronger as we work each day to remain the preeminent place to live, work, and raise your family!



Jenoptik concept drawing - coming soon to Rochester Hills



Recyclebank Green Schools Program - a true win-win for Rochester Hills

Hills Herald

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All links referenced in this publication can be accessed via the electronic issue of the Hills Herald located on our website at www.rochesterhills.org.

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

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

Rochester Hills' Biggest Night



From the Red Carpet Reception to the final curtain call, an amazing time was had by all!



The 2016 Rochester Hills State of the City Event hosted by Mayor Bryan K. Barnett

Community leaders, local businesses, engaged residents, and award recipients helped celebrate the City's great news!



photos Sindi Smith Parent

Hills Happenings



Renee Cortright
Executive Director

Spring into Action at OPC!

There are many ways to *Spring into Action* this spring and summer at OPC with a wide array of personal enrichment, fitness, aquatic, social and travel offerings for the 50+. There are also supportive outreach services like Meals on Wheels, Adult Day Services, transportation and more. Rochester Hills residents 50+ are automatically members; just register and take a tour of the center at 650 Leticia Drive, Rochester, visit www.opcseniorcenter.org for a full listing of offerings, or call 248-656-1403 ext. 0. Here's a small sampling of upcoming *Spring into Action* opportunities this season!

A 5K Run/Walk Fundraiser in support of Meals on Wheels on Saturday, June 4. The event begins at 8:00 a.m. at OPC and proceeds along the Clinton River Trail and back. All proceeds will benefit OPC's Meals on Wheels program, which provides daily meals for housebound seniors seven days a week. Last year, the OPC Nutrition Department prepared 116,151 home delivered and on-site meals. Register online at eastsideracingcompany.com or print off the form at opcseniorcenter.org.



Mind, Body & Spirit Day is a great way to try one of the many classes offered throughout the year at OPC. On Saturday, May 21 from 8:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., there will be the opportunity to take a class in Basic Yoga, Tai Chi Wu Style, Slow Flow Yoga, and end the day with breathing and relaxation techniques. Breathing deeply is a well-known stress reliever and has a multitude of health benefits as well.

Enjoy new experiences this May and attend the "*Spring Fling Musical*" at OPC. For adventure seekers, there are travel opportunities throughout the summer and into the fall to venues like Oakland University, Detroit Princess Cruise, DSO concerts or theatre productions, plus extended trips to Mackinac Island and to Cuba. Attend our Travel Show on June 7 for more information on our upcoming trips.

Safety at Home from falls and fires will be the topic of a fun and interactive program at the OPC, presented by the Rochester Hills Fire Department. They will provide ideas and alternatives to ensure your safety at home on Thursday, May 26.

Celebrate the Great Outdoors at the Outdoor Art Sale on Thursday, June 9 and Friday, June 10 featuring artwork created by local artists. Yard sculptures, benches, chimes, birdbaths, garden chairs, planters, lanterns, stepping stones and much more to beautify your outdoor space will be available for sale. This unique event benefits the Enrichment and Fine Art Department.

Classic Car Show on July 23 will be a complimentary morning event for both spectators and car enthusiasts with a DJ, music, and breakfast refreshments in the OPC's upper parking lot.



Find out why "OPC is a great place to be 50+!" Swing those softball bats on one of our Senior 55+ Softball leagues, swing those hips in Zumba, or enjoy ballroom dance classes. These are just some of the great programs OPC has to offer Rochester Hills residents at the 90,000 sq. ft. center.



Arbor Day 2016 - Tree Planted at the Rochester Hills Museum

This year, Arbor Day took on special meaning in the City of Rochester Hills. In addition to our traditional tree planting ceremony, we honored the memory of two very important women, Dr. Sarah Van Hoosen Jones and Ms. Sue Thomasson.

Dr. Van Hoosen Jones was a member of the original farming family on the land that is now the Rochester Hills Museum at Van Hoosen Farm.

Sue Thomasson, a long time museum volunteer, employee, and heartfelt supporter, passed away in December 2015.

Sue's three children were on hand to help plant a liberty elm which was selected because it was Dr. Van Hoosen Jones' favorite tree.

"She loved the history of the area," daughter Lauren Thomasson said.

Mayor Bryan Barnett remembered Sue by saying, "Sue Thomasson was an asset to our organization and to our community. She gladly shared her skills and expertise with others and worked to make our city an even better place to live and raise a family. Sue was a good friend, one who will be missed by many."

The Arbor Day tree planting also celebrated the city's designation as a Tree City USA, held for 26 years. Tree City USA is sponsored by the National Arbor Day Foundation.



Arbor Day 2016



Christine Wissbrun - A Strong Sense of Helping and Giving Back

As an administrative aide in the Rochester Hills City Clerk's office, Christine Wissbrun's life revolves around serving the public. As a Notary with 20-plus years experience, she has taken the notion of public service to the next level by working to improve the professionalism of all the Notaries in City Hall.

One of her accomplishments was to create a "Mayor's Administrative Policy" that details the responsibility and expectations of a Notary Public. Among other things, the policy includes a requirement for Notaries to keep a journal, something only Wissbrun was doing at the time.

Her efforts didn't stop there. She routinely shares articles about practices and standards with other Notaries in City Hall.

"She's a brilliant light for us," said Mayor Bryan Barnett of Rochester Hills, Michigan. "She's extremely thorough, takes my fingerprint and makes me go through every step of the (notarization) process just like any other signer."

Wissbrun also embraces the spirit of public service outside the workplace. She is actively involved with the Rochester Hills Youth Government Council, which helps promote youth involvement in local government through active participation and engagement.

She contributes clothes to both the Resale Connection and the Clothes Closet at a Rochester Area Neighborhood House, which assists low income individuals with clothing needs.

"Just helping out somebody, or giving them a smile or listening for a minute can make a whole difference in their day," says Wissbrun.

Closer to home, she has instilled that same passion for helping the community in her 13-year-old son, who often accompanies her to various charity events.

What inspires her to keep her Notary career going is the customer service aspect of the job. It's the ability to keep helping residents of her community.

Reprinted by permission The National Notary April 2016

City Unveils New Water Bill

Your water bill will have a new look as the City of Rochester Hills has updated the format and design. The new bills are easier to read and more informative. Please be sure to check the "Special Message" area at the top of the bill for timely news and information.

You may also be interested in ways to "Manage Your Water Bill." Information is available by logging on to the [City of Rochester Hills website](http://www.rochesterhills.org) or by calling 248-656-4688.

City of Rochester Hills
1000 Rochester Hills Drive
Rochester Hills, MI 48309-3034
Billing Inquiries 248-656-4688

SPECIAL MESSAGE
Good News! "Manage Your Water Bill" website
www.rochesterhills.org
Apply today to join our 2016 Seasonal Team.
Contact Human Resources at 248-656-4708
Reserve a Park Shelter or Tent for your summer parties and reunion
call 248-656-4708.

YOUR MONTHLY WATER USAGE

CONSUMPTION IN UNITS

CONSUMPTION = 1 UNIT (100 CUBIC FEET) = 7.48 GALLONS

ACCOUNT INFORMATION
Account Number: 310010004
Service Address: 992 Goshawk Ct
Billing Period: 01/14/16 - 03/30/16
Due Date: 04/18/16

METER READ INFORMATION

Meter Type	Read Type	Prior Read	Current Read	Usage
HM	Actual	2730	2780	50

CURRENT CHARGES

Description	Amount
Water Commodity Charge	\$266.00
Water Customer Charge	\$2.00
Sewer Commodity Charge	\$268.50
Sewer Customer Charge	\$2.00
Total Current Charges	\$548.50

PAYMENTS/ADJUSTMENTS/OTHER

Payment Received	-\$647.20
Total Payments/Adjustments/Other	-\$647.20

SUMMARY

Previous Balance	ROCS to add this amount
Payments/Adjustments/Other	-\$647.20
Outstanding Balance	\$0.00
Total Current Charges	\$548.50
Total Amount Due	\$548.50
Total Amount Due After 04/18/16	\$551.10

Leaving Your Legacy at Riverbend Park

EXERCISE • EXPLORE • ENGAGE • EXPERIENCE • EDUCATE

Located at 2800 W Hamlin Road, Riverbend Park contains over 100 acres of undeveloped woodlands, wetland, and prairie habitat. Visitors discover high overlooks providing spectacular views of the Clinton River. White tailed deer and turtles basking in the sunshine are also common sights to visitors.

Our community's passion for green space is one of the reasons Rochester Hills is a great place to live. Together, we have created a plan that builds a gateway to experience the great outdoors and thoughtfully protects and nurtures this community treasure.

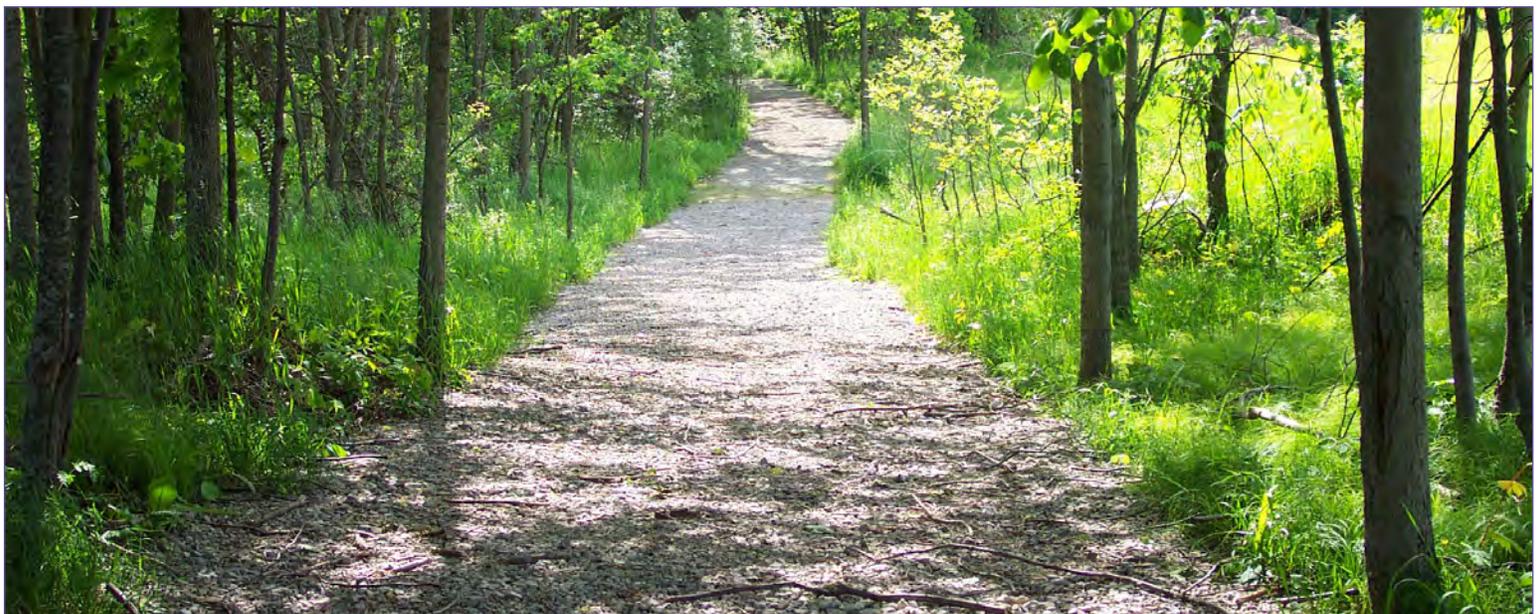
Riverbend Park is truly a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to create a unique regional attraction for our residents. The plan includes features unlike anything else in Southeast Michigan, including a suspended rope bridge, tree houses, and a natural play area for all abilities. Kinetic art will be infused throughout the park, from the welcome sign to the water features, to compliment the natural beauty. Trails and the river provide recreation opportunities for all generations of runners, bikers, kayakers and more.

This park will be a destination site for Southeast Michigan to engage in outdoor discovery. As the largest outdoor classroom in the city, Riverbend Park opens up a wide variety of hands-on educational opportunities that promote experiential learning and a long term appreciation for nature.

The exceptional value Riverbend Park brings to the Rochester Hills community is clear. Thanks to a generous donation the park is on it's way, but this is not something that our team can do alone. The next phase will require grants, partnerships, corporate sponsors and donations to ensure that our park continues to grow.

Our desire is to see our residents rally to form a solid foundation of support. Join us to find out how you can be a part of a community space that Rochester Hills residents will appreciate for generations to come.

If you are interested in learning more about how you can help provide long-term support to Riverbend Park, please contact: Maria Willett, Special Assistant to the Mayor at 248-841-2545 or willettm@rochesterhills.org.



Oakland County Sheriff's Office

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



Safety Tips for Craigslist Buyers and Sellers

Sheriff Michael J. Bouchard would like to encourage all users of craigslist.com or other online purchasing sites to use caution when transacting business. When purchasing or selling items on these sites, there are many safety considerations that should be taken into account:

- Sellers and buyers have to understand that these deals are a win-win for criminals. You either have product they want to steal, or money to be used to buy a made-up item.
- Never post information which can lead back to your residence. This could be your actual address or home telephone number.
- Ask a lot of questions. Ask as many questions as you can before going to buy the product. If the seller cannot answer your questions, there is a good chance they do not actually have the product and could be setting you up.
- Criminals often offer to sell/buy expensive items. Use extreme caution when making these deals.
- Pay for and request payments in cash. Using a check gives your personal information. Fake money orders or cashiers checks will be cashed by the bank and you will be held responsible.
- Protect yourself from possible scams by not selling to a buyer who is not interested in seeing the product first, or who is not a local resident. Do not send money back or forward to another person until a check clears. This could take a couple days.
- Remove any geotags from images before posting. This information could lead criminals to your home by reading the EXIF metadata.
- Never wire funds (like using Western Union). This is almost always a scam.
- Don't buy from sellers who only list an email address: This is a HUGE RED FLAG. If they do not list their phone number, the seller usually has something to hide.
- Meet in a public place – preferably a police agency's parking lot. It would protect both parties – if they balk, this is a red flag. If they don't want to meet there, offer a different police station – If they refuse, do not meet at all and cancel the deal. Criminals don't want witnesses. Meeting at a police agency or public place like a coffee shop or café can help ensure your safety. Most criminals on Craigslist are looking for an easy target and are not likely to rob you at a police station or public place.
- Don't go alone. You should always have someone with you who can watch your back.
- Bring a cell phone in case of an emergency.
- Leave any expensive clothing and accessories at home. Bring clothes you can run in and/or fight in if need be.
- If you do go alone, tell a family member or friend where and when you will be meeting for the exchange.
- Show up early: If you ARE meeting in a public location, and not a police agency, show up early and scope out the area. Watch for the seller, and make sure everything looks legitimate. If you have even the slightest concern that something seems out of place, trust your instincts and leave.
- Never go to a second location. If you arrive at the predetermined meeting place and the seller asks to go to another place, this should raise some serious red flags. There is no reason for a seller to ask you to go somewhere else.
- Many Craigslist scams are pretty easy to spot. If the deal sounds too good to be true, it probably is. You are better off passing it up.

“There are many horror stories related to Craigslist crimes, so please research the types of scams that are out there,” said Sheriff Bouchard. “There are positive Craigslist stories out there as well, but it's always better to be safe than sorry, Trust your instincts and be wary of scammers wishing to do you harm. Use a great deal of caution when entering into these types of deals.”

craigslist

Rochester Hills Fire Department

A Message from Chief... Sean Canto



Your Fire Department...

As you drive past several of our City's fire stations, I am sure you see the renovations under way. This past fall, renovations started at four of the five city fire stations. The changes are expected to take until mid to late August 2016. These renovations will address the overall limitations of the buildings, which were originally designed for a paid-on-call department, not the all-hazards department we are today.

The primary purpose of these renovations is to create usable living and work space for fire department personnel with bathrooms and living and sleeping areas that facilitate both men and women. The department recognized that our fire stations did not keep up with the growth of the city and the services we provide today.

Our completed renovations will be displayed this year at our annual Fire Prevention and Life Safety Open House. Hope to see you there.

Additionally, the fire department made a significant investment in new self-contained breathing apparatus. This state of the art piece of equipment is the lifeline for our personnel when entering into a hazardous environment. These new units allow the Incident Commander to monitor members' available air supply, notify them to evacuate the building, and be quickly notified of a member in distress. The apparatus also has an integrated escape device that allows the member to escape from an upper floor if caught or trapped. These units provide the utmost safety to the members protecting our community.



Our renovated stations and self-contained breathing apparatus help your RHFHD provide the highest level of safety to our community



HAVE A SAFE AND HAPPY SUMMER!



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.



Your Source for SAFETY Information
NFPA
NFPA Public Education Division • 1 Batterymarch Park, Quincy, MA 02269

www.nfpa.org/education



*Nancy Butty,
Public Education Specialist
Fire Fighter*



Remembering When, a trademarked program of the National Fire Protection Association, is targeted towards older adults to provide knowledge and information to prevent falls and fires in their home. The objective is to keep them independent and living on their own as long as possible. The Rochester Hills Emergency Services Department is committed to that same goal.

At age 65, older adults are twice as likely to be injured or killed by fires as the general population. By age 75, that number increases to three times as likely and continues to worsen as adults age. Also prevalent as a hazard with aging is the risk of falling. The Center for Disease Control (CDC) has statistics that show falls are the leading cause of death from unintentional injury in the home. Thirty percent of people aged 65 and older are involved in falls each year and some of these incidents are fatal falls.

The Rochester Hills Fire and Emergency Services Department along with Comfort Keepers of Rochester was very fortunate to receive a scholarship to receive training for the **Remembering When** program, and it is now available to the residents of Rochester Hills. Group presentations are offered which include discussions regarding the top fire and fall hazards along with options to eliminate them. Additionally, customized home survey visits can be scheduled to identify specific issues in your home.

Take the necessary steps to maintain your safety and independence. By focusing attention on fire and fall prevention, we can make measurable improvement in the health and well-being of older adults. **Remembering When** is designed to prevent injuries among older adults and keep them living safely at home.

Call to schedule a group presentation or home visit by contacting 248-841-2705.



Rochester Hills Government Youth Council Hosts 5k Run/Walk on June 11, 2016 to Benefit Rainbow Connection

Bar Louie is generously sponsoring the Rochester Hills Government Youth Council's (RHGYC) 5k Run/Walk to benefit the Rainbow Connection. The event will be held on Saturday, June 11, 2016 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 mission of The Rainbow Connection is to make dreams come true for Michigan children with life threatening illnesses and provide support services to the wish families.

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 rochesterhills.org along with a link to online registration. Participants submitting entries by June 1, 2016 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 Garren Griffith, Rochester Hills Youth Council Liaison at 248-656-4630.



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. By buying a brick, you or your loved one will become a part of this memorial forever and you will help us maintain this place of honor. The price of each brick is \$75.00. 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 \$75 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 at Third Street in the City of Rochester

Date: May 30, 2016 ~ 9:15 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

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

This year, John Benczik is our Parade Grand Marshal. John is a Vietnam veteran who joined the United States Army on November 28, 1966. John took Basic and Advanced Infantry training at Fort Dix and was commissioned to Second Lieutenant as a Transportation Officer in 1967. In 1968, as a First Lieutenant, John served with the 1090 Medium Boat Company as a maintenance officer in Qui Nohn, Vietnam. He finished military duty as an Army Reserve Officer with the 236 Transportation Company, Terminal Service, in Marine City, Michigan.



Presently, John serves as the Commander of VFW Post 3908. He was also the past post quartermaster. John is an active member of the Rochester Lions Club and the Knights of Columbus. He graduated from Purdue University with a degree in Industrial Education and retired from General Motors in 2006.

John and his wife Sandra live in Rochester Hills and have three daughters, Angela, Amy, and Jennifer.

Please show John Benczik and all fellow patriots the respect and support of a grateful nation on this Memorial Day. Take a moment to reflect with solemn reverence upon their lives, and the sacrifices they made to keep our country free. For additional information, please call Terri Williams at 248-651-8137 or Ed Leafdale at 248-841-2655.

Eagle Scout Projects at Veterans Memorial Pointe

Completed Scout Projects

Eagle Scout Matthew Schlitters of Troop 298 completed his major project of inventorying all bricks engraved and installed at Veterans Memorial Pointe. With more than 3500 engraved bricks installed, it can be very difficult to find a specific brick but Matthew's guidebook will make it much easier. If you would like to locate a specific brick, please call the Rochester Hills Parks Department at 248-656-4673.

New Eagle Scout Project for 2016

Scout Andrew Gordon of Troop 123 is working on his Eagle Scout Badge. Andrew's project will provide a map of the Clinton River Rest Areas in Rochester Hills, Auburn Hills, Rochester, and Shelby Township. The new map sign will be located at Eagles Landing near the kayak canoe launch. There will also be a rest bench for the kayaker and canoeist to enjoy. Andrew will be installing another rest bench in the sundial area known as Eagles Watch.

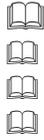




Rochester Hills Building Department

Choosing Your Contractor and Construction Project Guidebooks

When it comes to home improvement projects, choosing the right contractor to do the work can make or break your investment. The best homeowner is an informed homeowner, and the Rochester Hills Building Department has put together the following assortment of Construction Guidebooks we hope you will find helpful and informative:



[Accessory Structures](#)

[Additions](#)

[Basement Finish](#)

[Choosing Your Contractor](#)



[New Home Construction](#)

[Private Pool](#)

[Residential Demolition](#)

[Wood Decks](#)

We hope that all goes well with your project and the experience of home improvement is a happy one. If you have any questions during the project, contact the Building Department at 248-656-4615 and someone will be happy to assist you. For more information, visit our website at rochesterhills.org.

2016 NO HAZ Program



Are you disposing of your household hazardous waste in the proper way? You can get rid of your household hazardous waste and do something good for the environment by taking your unwanted waste to one of the NoHaz collection events.

For Rochester Hills residents, the \$10.00 fee per car is payable at the door on the day of the event.

To learn more about the NO HAZ program, including collection event dates and times, and get a list of acceptable and unacceptable materials, please visit their website at nohaz.com or call the hotline at 248-858-5656.

Event dates:

May 21, 8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

North Sashabaw Elementary School -
5290 Maybee Road, Clarkston

June 11, 8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Oakland University, Rochester Hills -
Parking Lots 35 and 37 - enter campus on Pioneer Drive east off Squirrel Road, south of University

September 10, 8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

OCC Highland Lakes Campus
7350 Cooley Lake Road, Waterford -
enter from Hospital Road

October 15, 8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Orion Township Wildwood Amphitheater
2700 Joslyn Court -
enter from Joslyn Road

Is Your Wood Deck Safe?

Have Peace of Mind with a Free Safety Inspection by the Rochester Hills Building Department

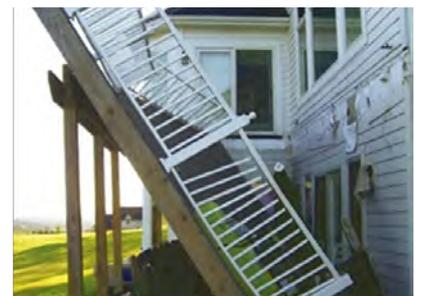
May is National Building Safety Month and the Rochester Hills Building Department wants to celebrate by offering 25 free wood deck safety inspections. Call us now at 248-656-4615 to get your name on the list.

We will send out our State of Michigan registered and International Code Council (ICC) certified Building Inspector who will perform a safety inspection of your deck. The inspector will inspect your deck using their experience and an existing deck inspection checklist. Once the inspection is completed, they will provide you with a list of any concerns found. They will also provide you a list of deck contractors that have worked in Rochester Hills over the past year just in case you are looking for someone that can help you with the repairs.

The next step is up to you, but to show you it truly is about your safety we are also offering free building permits for any necessary repairs to go along with your free safety inspection.

If you would rather have a contractor perform the safety inspection, or want to do it yourself, please read our "Check Your Deck" article.

We look forward to hearing from you.



Check Your Deck

Many people think that a wood deck is relatively maintenance free; power wash and put a little stain on every few years and you're good to go, right? Not quite; as your wood deck ages, the maintenance needs to go further than washing and staining. We're talking about the structural issues that affect the safety of your deck. Each year we hear of deck failures around the country. In the past 10 years, more than 30 people have been killed and over 800 reported injured from deck collapses. Some may be from faulty construction, but many decks fail due to a lack of maintenance and age. Did you know that wood decks have an average service period of 10 to 15 years before needing repair or rebuilding? To make sure your deck is safe, you or a qualified contractor should do a thorough inspection of your deck surface, railing, under-structure, and all connectors annually.

Check all wood to make sure it is sound and not decaying. This may include the deck surface boards, wood railing, posts, beams and floor joists that support the decking material. Also, pay special attention to the ledger board which may connect your deck to the house. This is an area known for trapping water and causing premature decay. Failure at the ledger board is one of the main causes of deck collapse, so make sure the ledger board is properly connected with bolts to the inside of the structure. Nails should never be used to connect the ledger board to your home. Check the flashing at the ledger board to make sure it is in good shape and doing its job of keeping water from entering through the exterior wall of your home.

Next, take a look at all the fasteners and connectors. This includes all of the nails, bolts, screws, and metal hangers, angles, or similar connectors. Tighten all loose connectors. If any fasteners are corroded, you should consider replacing them. In some cases, bolts installed through a post or ledger board don't look bad on the surface, but once removed they are found to be deteriorated to half the diameter or less in the middle of the post! If your deck is over ten years old, it would be a good idea to remove a bolt at a post and the ledger board and take a look; you might be surprised at what you find.

On the top of the deck you need to check all guardrails, handrails, and stairs to make sure they are sturdy and secure. Take a hold of each spindle and make sure it is secure. Check the connection of your stair at the top and bottom and remember to keep stairs clear of planters, debris, and toys.

It is also important to clean the surface of your deck to remove dirt, debris, and mildew which can make your deck slippery and cause premature decay. Applying a new coat of stain or sealer will protect your deck from future weather damage.

To ensure your safety, if you find repairs to your deck are necessary, make sure you get a building permit and have the necessary inspections completed.

You can find a more detailed deck evaluation checklist on the North American Deck and Railing Association's website at NADRA.org. Also check out the Building Department website for our new "Check Your Deck" video that shows you some of the key points to inspect on your deck. For those who prefer to leave these inspections and construction details to the experts, you can find a list of registered contractors on our website at rochesterhills.org.

We hope you have a safe and enjoyable summer.

👉 Don't let these deck disasters happen to you! See the new FREE deck inspection service offered by the Rochester Hills Building Department. Protect your investment and call today.



Improper ledger board connection and corroded joist hangers



Badly corroded bolts



Rotted ledger board connection



Rotten floor joist



Check your guardrail post connections



You don't want this to happen

Rochester Hills Parks and Forestry Updates

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

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

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



As you can see, the Parks of Rochester Hills are teeming with activities for all ages. Check us out at www.rochesterhills.org/parks so you can join the excitement!



For more information:
248-656-4657
parcellc@rochesterhills.org

- Open to all ages and skill levels!
- Fish for largemouth bass. Every largemouth bass you catch that is OVER seven inches counts towards your total! Tournament Officials will make rounds and record catches.
- The Tournament starts at 11:00 a.m. and runs until 3:00 p.m. Registration opens at 10:00 a.m. and continues until 1:00 p.m. A long, loud whistle will signify the start and finish of the Tournament.
- Prizes and/or trophies are awarded for seven categories, plus a limited number of prize and T-shirt giveaways!
- A casting contest for participants ages 12 and under will also be held during the Tournament.
- Tournament participation is free. A Vehicle Permit is required to enter the park.
- Bring your fishing poles and lures. Equipment is not provided. A limited amount of worms will be available for purchase.
- Contestants are welcome to stay for the day and enjoy some picnicking and swimming!

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 ensure 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.

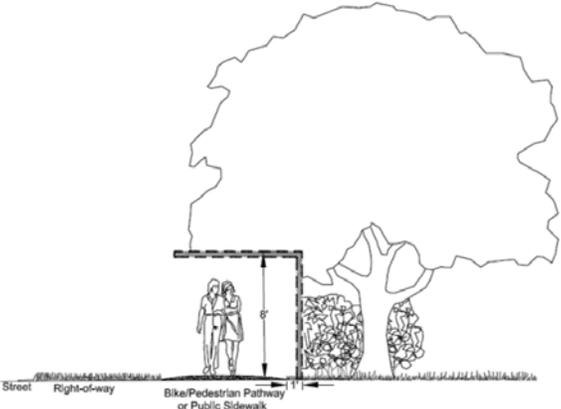
When encroaching vegetation compromises public safety, the City may notify the property owner to trim back their trees and shrubs by a specified date. If the required trimming is not completed by that date, a violation notice may be issued and a work order initiated for the Forestry crew to clear the 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.

City of Rochester Hills
Bike Pathway and Sidewalk Vegetation Maintenance



Property owners must maintain private trees/shrubs at least 1' off the edge of the bike path or sidewalk to a height of 10'. 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) the 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).



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.

BE AWARE.

As the weather warms this spring and summer, be on the lookout for new invasive pests. The Michigan Department of Agriculture (MDA) is asking the public to watch for a number of non-native insects detailed in their [website](#). One potentially serious threat is the Asian Longhorned Beetle (ALB). This insect has not yet been found in Michigan, but was discovered in Ohio (east of Cincinnati) in June 2011. Efforts to eradicate ALB are ongoing in Ohio and at other infestations on the east coast.

ALB shows a preference for maple trees, but will feed on a broad variety of shade trees. The damage they cause will eventually result in the death of the tree. Currently, the only effective control is to remove infested trees and destroy them by chipping or burning.

Adult beetles are active from May to October, with peak activity in July and August. See this [USDA document](#) for tips on how to spot ALB. More information is available at [MSU Extension](#) or the [USDA](#).

Become aware, be observant, and report suspected ALB observations to the USDA, MDA, or Rochester Hills Parks & Forestry.

Green Space Stewardship Update

In 2013 the voters in Rochester Hills approved a ballot proposal that allowed for the use of funds from the 2005 Open Space Millage to not only be used to purchase land but for stewardship of the existing City owned Green Space properties, parks and natural features. The Green Space Advisory Board and Parks Department staff worked with the City's consultants Niswander Environmental to develop a Long Term Management Plan for all of our Green Space properties, parks and natural features. This plan serves as a guideline for both short term and long term management goals within each of the six Green Space properties, parks and natural features. These stewardship projects will address areas of concern such as:

- invasive species control
- river and stream bank erosion
- habitat restoration of wetland and woodland
- prairie creation

Work is currently underway on both the Harding Road and the White property north of Riverbend Park. Invasive species and non-native brush and trees are being removed to help restore wetland and woodland areas. Enhancements to the Harding Pond area are underway as well as prairie restoration efforts. These efforts will not only improve wildlife habitat but will

increase public access to the existing trail network within the Harding property. Enhancement efforts are underway in the Tamarack Swamp area of the White property with the removal of invasive species such as glossy buckthorn, prickly ash and Japanese barberry. All of these projects will contribute to the overall restoration of the Clinton River corridor.

Additionally, the Long Term Management Plan addresses educational opportunities with the goal of engaging our residents' involvement in the efforts to help complete the City's stewardship goals. Future volunteer activities may include seeding of prairie areas, planting, clean up of properties and invasive species control. Follow our progress on the Green Space page of the City's website: [Green Space Advisory Board](#).



Tamarack swamp area located in the southern portion of the White property

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 website links below are packed with information on the West Nile Virus and the elimination of mosquito breeding conditions.

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



City of Rochester Hills

Fall 2016 Tree Planting Program

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 is offering a free street tree planting program in 2016.

The City of Rochester Hills is offering one free street tree to property owners and businesses in 2016. The first 250 property owners and businesses to register this fall may have a tree planted on the public right-of-way adjacent to their property for free. The city’s budget for this initiative will come from its Tree Fund. The trees will be planted, maintained, and guaranteed for one year by the city’s landscape contractor. The Forestry Division will work with the property owner 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 2, 2016**, is the deadline for ordering trees for the Fall 2016 planting.

All trees are 2-inch caliper (stem diameter) and approximately 8-10 feet tall. The following tree species are normally available (not all varieties are suitable for all locations): Maple, Hornbeam, Hackberry, Beech, Honeylocust, Coffeetree, Tuliptree, Serviceberry, Oak, Baldcypress, Linden, Hybrid Elm. (Note: Due to over-planting, red maples and flowering pears are no longer offered.) Other varieties are sometimes available – please contact the Parks & Forestry office at 248-656-4673 for any additional information or visit our website at:

<http://www.rochesterhills.org/treelist>

(Photos and descriptions of the trees are included on this web page.)

City of Rochester Hills

Fall 2016 Tree Planting Program

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____
(day): _____ (eve.): _____

Preferred Species (please indicate first and second choices): 1. _____
2. _____

Mail order form to: City of Rochester Hills
Forestry Division
1000 Rochester Hills Drive
Rochester Hills, MI 48309-3033



Orders must be received on or before September 2, 2016

OAK WILT

Adapted from Michigan State University Cooperative Extension Publications

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

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

Red, black, and pin oaks are highly susceptible to oak wilt. Once infected, the disease can kill these oak species within a few weeks. White and bur oaks are less susceptible. After infection, they often tolerate the disease for a number of years before dying.

Oak wilt spreads in two ways: by sap-feeding beetles that carry the fungal spores from infected oaks to fresh wounds on healthy oaks; and underground, from infected oaks to nearby healthy oaks through grafted (interconnected) root systems.

If oak wilt is not already present on your property or your neighbors', infection via sap-feeding beetles is your main concern. This is the only known way oak wilt can spread across open, uninfected areas. Published studies show that oaks are at highest risk of infection during spring and the first half of summer. Sap-feeding beetles which carry the fungal spores cannot chew through oak tree bark. Fresh wounds such as those caused by pruning or cutting, construction activity, or storm damage must be present for the insect to infect a healthy tree.

Oak wilt prevention is easy and effective. Do not cut, prune, or otherwise wound oaks in the spring and early summer, generally from April 1st through July 15th. For an even higher level of confidence, avoid pruning oaks from the first warm-up in spring (*March* this year) until colder weather in late October. During any warm weather periods (daily temperatures above 50 degrees), activities that cut or tear through the bark and expose live wood in oak branches, trunks, or roots can place those trees at risk

of infection.

If an oak is damaged during warm weather, immediately apply pruning sealer or tree paint over the wound. Torn branches or roots should be



cut clean and the cut surface painted. For additional protection, cover treated roots with soil.

It is important to note that simply cutting down an infected tree, including stump removal, does not stop the underground spread of oak wilt unless it is caught early in the year it was infected. Removal later in the growing season or before implementation of other treatments (trunk injection, trenching) may hasten the spread to nearby trees. Often it is better to delay removal until late in the fall or winter.

Never remove infected wood off site without debarking, chipping, or properly drying it. Firewood needs to be covered completely for one year to prevent sap beetles from visiting the infected wood.

Oak wilt is established widely in the southern Lower Peninsula, with spotty distribution in the Northern Lower and Upper Peninsulas. One common method of spread is by movement of firewood. If cut wood from southern Michigan is transported to northern Michigan, it can be a source of infection for other oaks.

Oak wilt disease has been detected in Michigan for many years, but outbreaks in new areas are cause for concern. Since oak wilt is very difficult and expensive to control once it is established, prevention is the key to successfully dealing with this disease.

Thousand Cankers Disease of Black Walnut

Thousand Cankers Disease (TCD) is a fungal pathogen that is spread via a beetle that is native to the southwestern U.S. Since 2010, TCD has been found as close as Ohio, Tennessee, Virginia, and Pennsylvania. In 2014, the walnut twig beetle has been found in southern Indiana. Michigan has a quarantine on nursery stock, untreated wood, and firewood from other states with known occurrence of TCD.

[MSU EDU Thousand Cankers Disease](#)

[Michigan Government Invasive](#)

[Thousand Cankers Disease](#)



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 rainstorm 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.

Buckthorn

Buckthorn is an aggressively invasive shrub species from northern Europe. It was brought to North America by immigrants to use as a hedge plant. It has become the most dominant non-native shrub in suburban green spaces and woodlands across the northern United States. The State of Michigan regulates both European and Glossy Buckthorn. Additional information is available through the following sites:

[Michigan State University](#)

[Michigan Department of Natural Resources](#)

[Common Buckthorn Invading Michigan](#)

[A Homeowner's Guide to Buckthorn](#)

[USDA Invasive Species - Common Buckthorn](#)



Spring Canoe and Kayak Event

The cities of Auburn Hills and Rochester Hills are gearing up to present Paddlepalooza 2016, the neighboring cities' annual canoe/kayak race and adventure river paddle on the Clinton River. Participants will begin launching their watercraft at 8:30 a.m. on Saturday, June 4 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.

Prizes will be awarded for each race class: Men's single person kayak, Women's single person kayak, and two person canoe. Each participant will receive lunch and an event t-shirt. Pre-registration is recommended and the entry fee is \$20 per person.



The rain date is scheduled for Saturday June 18th.

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 and no inflatable crafts will be permitted.

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 rochesterhills.org or the City of Auburn Hills website at www.auburnhills.org.

Rochester Hills Museum at Van Hoosen Farm

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 including *Mills, Stoney Creek Village, Leaders, Legends, and Liars, and Community History*, and more. It's a great place for community groups.



Need a place to host a party? The Museum provides a perfect location for weddings, receptions, birthdays, showers, and other celebrations. Check out the Museum website at rochesterhills.org/museum or call the staff at 248-656-4663.

Upcoming Events

Garden Walk

Thursday, June 16 - 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

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

Tickets available on-line at rochesterhills.org/museum beginning June 1

\$12 Advance

\$16- Day of the event



Wet and Wild Wednesdays

July 6, July 13, July 20, July 27

Noon -1:00 p.m. Entertainment in the gazebo

1:00 p.m.-2:00 p.m. Slip and Slides, fire trucks, and creek wading

Beat the summertime heat at the Museum in July. The museum presents a weekly family friendly picnic day on their grounds. This event will include performers, Slip 'n Slides, Fire Trucks, Clinton River Watershed Council, and Children's Garden.

No advance registration necessary – rain or shine

Museum members are free!

Public- \$3 per person



Day Camps

Terrific Tuesdays in the Garden - Parent-Child Program

Each week is a different garden theme with a story, craft, and snack.

Ages 3-5: 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

Ages 6-10: 1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

June 21, June 28, July 5, July 12,

July 19, July 26, August 2

Little House by the Creek Day Camp

Travel back in time to summer days along the Stoney Creek and work and play like yesterday.

Ages 7-11: 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

June 23, July 7, July 21, August 11

Little House in the Village Writer's Camp

Exploring the Museum's unique natural and historic setting, campers read and write using a variety of genres while learning about life in a 1860s village.

Ages 9-12: 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

August 15 - August 18

Rochester Grangers Vintage Base Ball

Enjoy base ball the way it was meant to be played in 1862 at the Museum! All games begin at 1:00 p.m. unless noted.

Please bring your own chair. Admission is free. May 15, June 19, June 23 (6:00 p.m.) July 31, August 6 and August 28.

Environmental Program at the Museum

Unless otherwise stated, all environmental programs are for families and children ages 6 and up. Admission is free for members of the Museum, \$3 for students and seniors, and \$5 for adult. Register for these programs by calling 248-656-4663, use the PayPal option at rochesterhills.org/musprograms, or e-mailing rhmuseum@rochesterhills.org.

Nature Journaling

Nature journaling has been a hobby and way to connect to nature for hundreds of years. Kings, queens, presidents, scientists, naturalists and maybe even your friends have kept a nature journal. These classes will be held outside, so guests are encouraged to dress for the weather and wear hiking shoes. Journal supplies will be provided. This workshop will be taught in three parts. Guests can register for one or all of the sessions. Advance registration is required.

June 18 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. (Part I) - What is Nature Journaling?

July 30 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. (Part II) - Landscape Journaling

August 13 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. (Part III) - Wildlife Journaling

Fascinating Frogs and Toads

Saturday, May 21 - 1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

What is the difference between a frog and a toad? Hop on over to the Museum and join us for a fun time learning about these amazing amphibians. This program will include a craft and nature walk.

Fishing 101

Saturday, June 4 - 1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Spencer Park

Are you interested in learning how to fish? Come and join us for a fun and easy introduction to fishing. Guests will learn how to tie fishing knots, how to properly cast, and how to safely remove a fish from your line. Bait and tackle will be provided. Limited number of fishing poles will be available, so guests are encouraged to bring their own fishing poles to the program.

Wild Weather

Saturday, July 16 - 1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Rochester Hills Museum

Summertime brings warm temperatures, beautiful flowers, and wild storms. Join Patrick Endres as he explores the different types of storm events that we experience in Michigan and how to recognize signs of these events developing.

Bees and Butterflies

Saturday, August 6 - 11:00 p.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Rochester Hills Museum

Buzz, glide, or fly over to the museum's garden as we learn about and look for these powerhouse pollinators. During this program, guests will learn about the different species of bees and butterflies we have in Michigan and how we can attract these important insects to our backyards.



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 1927 Calf Barn or Dairy Barn.

Receptions can take place alongside Stoney Creek or inside our restored 1927 Calf Barn.

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



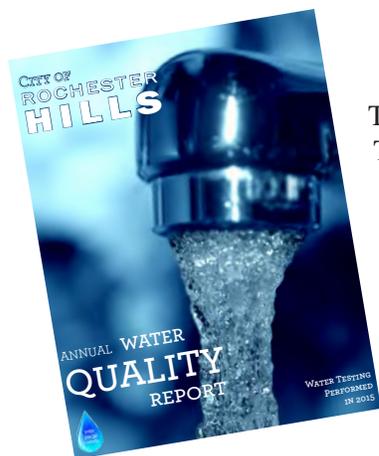
Become a Member Today

Now is the perfect time to become a member of the Rochester Hills Museum at Van Hoosen Farm. As a museum member you receive:

- Free admission to the many special events, lectures, and tours
- Invitations to member-only events and exhibit openings
- One-year subscription to the Museum Visitor newsletter
- Preregistration period for classes, lectures and special events
- Unlimited general admission to the:
 - * 1840 Van Hoosen Farmhouse
 - * 1850 Red House
 - * 1927 Van Hoosen Dairy Barn
 - * "A Lively Town: The History of the Greater Rochester Area 1817-1952" exhibit
 - * Well-designed and informative temporary exhibits

For more information, please visit the Museum website at www.rochesterhills.org/museum or call the staff at 248-656-4663.

Rochester Hills Department of Public Services



A Message from Mayor Bryan K. Barnett

The City of Rochester Hills is honored to provide you with the 2015 Annual Water Quality Report. This report reviews the sources of our water, lists the results of our tests, and contains important information about water, health, and ways to use water responsibly.

In an effort to help control increasing costs and protect this natural resource, this report will also highlight money saving ideas and conservation tips for you and your family. We also encourage you to become familiar with our watering ordinance found on our website at www.rochesterhills.org. Together we can protect this vital resource for generations to come.

To connect to the 2015 Water Quality Report, please click [here](#).

Water Conservation

You can play a role in conserving water and save yourself money in the process by becoming conscious of the amount of water your household is using and by looking for ways to use less whenever you can. It is not hard to conserve water. Here are a few tips:

- The City Ordinance requests that property owners with automatic watering systems to only water lawns between midnight and 5:00 a.m. to reduce water purchase costs. Watering your lawn and garden during these hours will minimize evaporation as well.
- Delay the start of their watering systems by 15, 30 and 45 minutes past the top of the hour to avoid sudden water pressure drops.
- Turn your sprinkler system off during or after a rainstorm and leave it off until the plants need to be watered again.
- Water your lawn only when it needs it.
- Check your sprinkler system valves periodically for leaks and keep sprinkler heads in good shape and properly adjusted.
- Don't over-water your plants. Learn how much water they need and how best to apply just the right amount.
- Upgrade older toilets and shower heads to energy-efficient models. Make sure there are water-saving aerators on all your faucets.
- Turn the faucet off while you shave, brush your teeth, lather your hands and wash dishes.
- Run your washer and dishwasher only when they are full.
- Plant in the fall when conditions are cooler and rainfall is more plentiful.
- Adjust your lawn mower to a higher setting. A taller lawn shades roots and holds moisture better than if it is closely clipped.
- Use a hose nozzle or turn off the water while you wash your car. You'll save up to a 100 gallons every time.
- Share water conservation tips with friends and neighbors.
- Report broken pipes, open hydrants, and errant sprinklers to the property owner or to your water provider.
- Monitor your water bill for unusually high use. Your bill and water meter are tools that can help you discover leaks.



Rochester Hills, in partnership with the City of Auburn Hills, the Township of Orion and the Oakland County Water Resources Commissioner (representing the City of Pontiac) created the North Oakland County Water Authority (NOCWA) in 2014.

The purpose of the NOCWA is to provide more reliable water service as well as marginalize water rate increases to the four communities through maximizing the utilization of existing underutilized assets and through increased overall efficiency by operating as a small regional district rather than four individual communities.

A Final Word About Water Safety

As a result of the Flint water crisis, the City of Rochester Hills would like to assure you every possible step has been taken to guarantee the safety and quality of our water. Based on the age of the homes in Rochester Hills, and the age of our water system, no changes need to be made to our infrastructure. We are confident our current system monitoring and maintenance programs are sufficient to ensure safe drinking water for all users.





Are you ready to relay?

The Greater Rochester Area Relay for Life is June 18, at 9 a.m. until 12 a.m. This year's new venue is at the St. John Hospital Cancer Center located at 1901 Star Batt Drive in Rochester Hills. Once again the City employee team will be participating in this worthy event, raising funds for the American Cancer Society. Relay for Life 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 Survivor's Walk, and Luminaria Ceremony, along with live music, group competitions and games. Plan on joining us for this fun-filled event as we strive to stamp out cancer and walk a lap in honor of someone you know who has battled cancer.

For more information, log onto www.relayforlife.org/rochestermi.



Reading is for the mind what exercise is for the body and the Rochester Hills Public Library wants you to get ripped! Reading improves memory, concentration, vocabulary, and helps prevent "summer slide" among students.

If that's not enough of an incentive to pick up a book, the library is offering a summer reading program, *Read for The Win*. The program asks participants to keep track of how much they read, including being read to and listening to books, and to keep track of physical activities like walking or time spent outdoors. Participants will be asked to log their time to earn badges that can be redeemed for prizes, like a Fitbit!

As participants log their step count, we'll keep a total tally. By the end of the summer we hope to have enough steps to walk across the United States. We'll keep track of how far we get on a map in the library. Not a walker? That's okay! Log how much time you spend outside or doing any physical activity and you'll earn a badge.

The program will run from June 11 to August 6. Everyone with a library card is invited to participate. There will be activities for all age groups. Library cards are free for residents living in Rochester Hills, Rochester and Oakland Township.

We will host a kickoff party June 11 from 12:00 - 3:00 p.m. to get patrons signed up for *Read for the Win*! We'll have a rock wall set up for kids (and adults) to show off their skills, a mini golf course will run through the library, and attendees can cool off with a free slushy from Kona Ice while enjoying the music of Randy Kaplan at 2:00 p.m.

The fun doesn't stop there. All summer long we'll offer activities to keep you active physically and mentally. On June 16 at 7:00 p.m. we'll host a guided bike ride along the Paint Creek and Clinton River Trails. Guide Kristen Wiltfang will take us along a 3.7 mile ride with stops at historical sites like the Rochester Junction, the Former Grand Trunk Western Railroad Depot Site and more! Please register for the event at calendar.RHPL.org. Space is limited.

We've invited Cirque Amongus, a circus performance group, to introduce patrons to the fundamentals of circus acts! Attendees will get to try walking on a tightrope, juggling, riding a unicycle, and trying a trapeze. The group will perform a show and host a workshop for families June 30, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and an adult workshop will be held July 7, from 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. Please register in advance.

To find out more about the different activities and how to participate visit our website at www.RHPL.org.



International Velodrome at Bloomer Park Celebrates 16th Year



The International Velodrome at Bloomer Park (IVBP) is celebrating its 16th season this year! With a multitude of events for cyclist and enthusiasts of all ages, there is something for everyone at Michigan's only Velodrome. The Velodrome is located in Bloomer Park at 345 John R Road just north of Avon. For more information including event schedules, please visit www.IVBP.org.

Community Garden a Huge Success at Wabash Park



Our Community Garden at Wabash Park has grown to become a beautiful and fruitful reality! We sprouted fresh herbs, flowers and vegetables in Rochester Hills' very own community garden. Residents of both Rochester Hills and Rochester gardened in Wabash Park for exercise, education, health benefits, therapeutic reasons, and more.

The benefits of a Community Garden go beyond enhancing the gardener's intake of nutritious fruits and vegetables. Reduction

in family food budgets, stress relief, exercise, fostering community spirit through interaction with fellow gardeners and neighbors are just a handful of the harvested rewards.

All plots have been reserved for the 2016 growing season. If you would like to reserve a plot next year, be sure to call early.

For details, visit the city webpage at rochesterhills.org or call Dinosaur Hill at 248-656-0999.

The Clinton River Watershed Council News and Information

What is the Clinton River Watershed?

760 Sq. Miles – 4 Counties – 72 Communities – 1.5 million people

Thousands of lakes, ponds and wetlands. Hundreds of miles of clear, cold streams. Home to heron, trout and mink. A playground for fishing, paddling, hiking and biking. The gateway to Lake St. Clair's boating paradise.

For over 44 years, the Clinton River Watershed Council (CRWC) has provided opportunities for citizens, schools, governments, businesses, and other community groups to get involved

What is the purpose of the Clinton River Watershed Council?

The mission of the Clinton River Watershed Council is to protect, enhance, and celebrate the Clinton River, its watershed, and Lake St. Clair.

For information on how you can help protect our watershed, please see the following publications provided by the Clinton River Watershed Council:

[A Citizen's Guide to Watershed Friendly Pet Care](#)

[A Citizen's Guide to Watershed Friendly Lawn Fertilizer](#)

[A Citizen's Guide to Selecting a Lawn Service for Watershed Protection](#)



Summer Taxes Due September 14, 2016

*Enroll in our Automatic Tax Bill Payment Service
We'll take the worry out of making your tax payment!*



Have more time for enjoyment!

The 2016 Summer Property Tax bills will be mailed out mid-June and are due on Wednesday, September 14, 2016. After September 14, 2016, 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. Postmarks will not be honored, so please allow, as the post office recommends, 5 business days for first class postal delivery. Payments placed in the City drop box - located in front of our visitors parking lot - by midnight on September 14 will be considered on-time. Also, payments placed by midnight September 14 via credit card or our electronic payment system (system will state payment date as 9/15/16 or 9/16/16) will also be considered on-time. On February 15, 2017 a 3% penalty will be added to the balance of all unpaid 2016 property taxes. Please note: If your 2015 property taxes or any amount of your 2015 property taxes went delinquent (were unpaid as of March 1, 2016) a notification may appear on your 2016 tax bills. This is a State law requirement.

We offer **Recurring Automatic Bill Payment** for property taxes, and to date we have over 800 taxpayers signed-up for this convenient service! This service allows you to choose your payment dates for either the summer and winter tax due dates or the summer tax due date and the last business day of December for the winter tax. For those enrolled in this service, your 2016 Summer Tax payment will take place on September 14, 2016. For an enrollment form and our other convenient payment options, please visit Treasury Department's Payment Options page:

rochesterhills.org/paytaxes
rochesterhills.org/index.aspx?NID=516

or scan the following QRcode



Summer tax deferral, which defers the summer tax bill due date for a principal residence to February 15, 2017, is available for qualified residents. Additionally, Oakland County may extend the deferral to April 30, 2017. For more information please visit the Treasury Department's [Summer Tax Deferral](#) page or contact the Treasury Department at 248-656-4675.

Questions can be directed to the Treasury Department at 248-656-4675 or by email at treasury@rochesterhills.org.

2016 Dog License Renewal at City Treasury Department

Three-Year License Now Available!

**Fees go toward the support of the
Oakland County Pet Adoption Center**



Through Wednesday, June 1, 2016, Oakland County's yearly dog license may be renewed for the non-delinquent fee at the City Treasury Department. State law requires all dogs to have a current dog license and rabies vaccination.

Per City Ordinance, no owner can keep more than three dogs; therefore we will not issue more than three dog licenses to an owner. If you have more than three dogs, you must apply for a kennel license. Kennels are not allowed in the residential districts of our City.

Our Treasury cashier will be happy to renew/issue your dog license for you. If renewing, please bring the postcard renewal reminder that was sent to you by Oakland County Animal Control as this will expedite the process. You must present your dog's current rabies vaccination certificate signed by the veterinarian when you apply for the license.

Licenses can also be renewed on-line at OakGov.com/PetAdoption or at Oakland County Animal Control located at 1700 Brown Road in Auburn Hills who offer Saturday hours from 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

If your dog has a three-year vaccination ending in either year 2018 or 2019, 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". Please note: The City can not accept Visa credit card payments for dog licenses. 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 by email at treasury@rochesterhills.org.

CITY OF ROCHESTER HILLS STATE PRIMARY

TUESDAY, AUGUST 2, 2016

To the Qualified Electors of the City of Rochester Hills:

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

TUESDAY, AUGUST 2, 2016

THE POLLS will be open 7 o'clock a.m. until 8 o'clock p.m.

AT THE POLLING PLACES LISTED BELOW:

Precinct # 1	Faith Church, 160 W. Hamlin Rd.
Precinct # 2	Bellbrook, 873 W. Avon Rd.
Precinct # 3	Meadows Upper Elementary School, 1435 W. Auburn Rd.
Precinct # 4	North Hill Elementary School, 1385 Mahaffy
Precinct # 5	Reuther Middle School, 1430 E. Auburn Rd.
Precinct # 6	Avon Clubhouse, 2600 W. Auburn Rd.
Precinct # 7	West Middle School, 500 Old Perch
Precinct # 8	VanHoosen Middle School, 1339 N. Adams Rd.
Precinct # 9	Rochester High School, 180 S. Livernois
Precinct #10	Brewster Elementary School, 1535 Brewster Rd.
Precinct #11	Reuther Middle School, 1430 E. Auburn Rd.
Precinct #12	Hamlin Elementary School, 270 W. Hamlin Rd.
Precinct #13	Deerfield Elementary School, 3600 Crooks Rd.
Precinct #14	West Middle School, 500 Old Perch
Precinct #15	St. Mary's of the Hills, 2675 John R
Precinct #16	Brooklands Elementary School, 490 E. Auburn Rd.
Precinct #17	Meadow Brook Elementary School, 2350 Munster
Precinct #18	Rochester Adams High School, 3200 W. Tienken Rd.
Precinct #19	Long Meadow Elementary School, 450 Allston
Precinct #20	Brooklands Elementary School, 490 E. Auburn Rd.
Precinct #21	Hart Middle School, 6500 Sheldon Rd.
Precinct #22	St Luke's Church, 3980 Walton Blvd.
Precinct #23	Danish Village, 2566 Walton Blvd.
Precinct #24	Rochester Hills Offices, 1000 Rochester Hills Dr.
Precinct #25	Rochester Adams High School, 3200 W. Tienken Rd.
Precinct #26	VanHoosen Middle School, 1339 N. Adams
Precinct #27	St. Mary's of the Hills, 2675 John R
Precinct #28	Hampton Elementary School, 530 Hampton Circle
Precinct #29	Rochester Adams High School, 3200 W. Tienken Rd.
Precinct #30	St. Mary's of the Hills, 2675 John R
Precinct #31	Reuther Middle School, 1430 E. Auburn Rd.
Precinct #32	Hart Middle School, 6500 Sheldon Rd.

**ALL POLLING PLACES ARE HANDICAP ACCESSIBLE
BRAILLE AND AUDIO VERSIONS OF VOTING INSTRUCTIONS ARE AVAILABLE**

2016 Election Dates and Deadlines

Election Date	Election	Last Day to Register
August 2, 2016	State Primary Election	July 5
November 8, 2016	General Election	October 11

Absentee ballots are available at the City Clerk's Office Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

The Clerk's Office will be open on Saturday, July 30, 2016 from 8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m, which is the deadline for requesting an absentee ballot which will be mailed.

Questions concerning the State Primary 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

Frequently Asked Question ~ Can I vote a "split" ticket?

August Primary Election

You cannot "split" your ticket (i.e. vote in more than one party column) when voting in the August primary. Voters participating in a August primary must confine their votes to a single party column.

November General Election

You can "split" your ticket when voting in the November general election. A voter participating in a November general election who wishes to cast a split ticket can vote for individual candidates of his or her choice under any party.

PA 268 of 2015 eliminated the option of voting "straight party" ticket in a November General Election. Voters must now vote for each race individually.

City Council Contact Information

Mark Tisdell - President At Large

Voicemail – 248-841-2644
Email – tisdelm@rochesterhills.org

Stephanie Morita - Vice President District 1

Voicemail - 248-841-2643
Email – moritas@rochesterhills.org

Jim Kubicina - District 2

Voicemail - 248-841-2647
Email – kubicinaj@rochesterhills.org

Susan Bowyer, PhD - District 3

Voicemail – 248-841-2645
Email – bowyers@rochesterhills.org

Thomas Wiggins - District 4

Voicemail – 248-841-2648
Email – wigginst@rochesterhills.org

Kevin Brown - At Large

Voicemail – 248-841-2646
Email – brownk@rochesterhills.org

Dale Hetrick - At-Large

Voicemail – 248-841-2649
Email – hetrickd@rochesterhills.org

Passports

Did you know you can apply for your passport in person in the Clerk's Office Monday - Friday from 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.?

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



Mark Your Calendar

City Offices will be closed:

- ◇ Monday, May 30, Memorial Day
- ◇ Monday, July 4, Independence Day
- ◇ Monday, September 5, Labor Day

Other Dates to Note:

- ◇ Monday, May 30, Memorial Day Parade
- ◇ Wednesday, June 1, Last day to renew dog licenses at the nondelinquent rate
- ◇ Wednesday, June 29, Festival of the Hills
- ◇ Saturday, July 30, Clerks Office open for Absentee Ballots
- ◇ Wednesday, September 14, Last day to pay summer taxes without interest or penalty

Rochester Hills City Council



Mark Tisdel - President - At Large

Gladly Serving

Five years ago I received a phone call from one of my son's childhood friends. He advised me that Vern Pixley had decided not to run again for City Council At Large and that my name kept coming up as a possible candidate. The petition deadline was less than two weeks away so I would need to make a decision quickly.

Five years prior to that, my wife and I attended our daughter's Michigan State graduation ceremony. The commencement speaker was then-National Security Advisor Condoleezza Rice. I remembered

her saying, "it's easy to stand on the sidelines and throw rocks." She was encouraging the new graduates, "among the world's thin crust of people with a college degree", to be less cynical of, and more involved in, government service.

Today, I am serving my second term as an At-Large Member of the Rochester Hills City Council and was appointed Council President by my peers. The residents of Rochester Hills—well above the national median in education, employment, and household income—and I are very fortunate to be represented by an exceptional City Council.

District 1 is represented by Council Member and **Vice President Stephanie Morita JD**. Ms. Morita was elected in 2013. She earned an undergraduate degree from the University of Michigan and a Juris Doctor degree from Wayne State. Stephanie practices municipal law and is a published specialist in tax, property rights, and zoning issues.

District 2 is represented by newly-appointed Council Member **Jim Kubicina**. Mr. Kubicina has a BS in Business Administration from Ohio State University and a Masters in Operations Management from Kettering. Jim has held a number of supervisory positions in the automotive industry and has worked in a management role outside the US (Mexico). He also served as Chair of the City's Deer Management Advisory Committee for several years.

District 3 is represented by newly-elected Council Member **Susan Bowyer PhD**. Dr. Bowyer has undergraduate degrees from Macomb Community College and UM / Flint and a PhD in Medical Physics from Oakland University. She is the Scientific Director of the Henry Ford Health Systems Magnetoencephalography (MEG) Lab and is involved in research as well as patient care.

District 4 is represented by **Tom Wiggins CFP**. Tom was elected in 2013. He is a Certified Financial Planner specializing in defined contributions retirement programs. He received his Bachelors from Central Michigan University and a Masters in Business Management from Walsh College.

Dale Hetrick MBA, Council Member **At Large**, was originally appointed to fill the remainder of State Representative Michael Webber's City Council term and was elected in November 2015. Mr. Hetrick has an Engineering degree from Michigan Technological University and an MBA from the University of Phoenix. Dale served on, and Chaired, the Police and Road Technical Advisory Committee (now Public Safety and Infrastructure) for several years. He helped successfully guide the Police and EMS / Fire millage initiatives through the ballot process.

Kevin Brown MBA, Council Member **At Large**, was elected in 2013. He has an Electrical Engineering degree from Michigan State and an MBA from the University of Michigan. Kevin served five years as a US Naval Officer in the Submarine Corps and is now a Global Account Manager. His US Navy and "day" job experiences provide Kevin with a valuable international perspective.

The residents of Rochester Hills have elected an exceptional group of individuals to serve on the City Council. This educated, professional group is considerate of residents' concerns, respectful of each other, and respected by the City's Staff and Administration.

Except for me, there has been a complete turnover of Council Members in just over two-plus years. The quality of our Council, and their willingness to work with each other as well as Staff and Administration, makes my job (as the presiding officer) much easier. Their relative "rookie" status does not get in the way of achievement.

I'm glad I decided to run for public office, with about two weeks' notice, back in 2011. I'm pleased to serve as Council President, and am very pleased to be associated with such an exceptional group of Council Members.



Stephanie Morita - Vice President - District 1

Spring has sprung. I know this because when I went Saturday night to pick-up my Planning Commission packet at City Hall, I had to stare down a male puffed up turkey who was standing watch over his mate. While I occasionally appreciate a challenge, getting into a physical altercation with a turkey is not on my bucket list.

Luckily, he must be acclimated to the parade of residents going to get packet materials out of their mailboxes at odd hours because he let me pass. Or maybe it was out of respect because he assumed I was one of our resident volunteers or one of our hard working City employees who regularly use that entrance.

My first experience as a volunteer for the City was as a part of the City's Brownfield Redevelopment Authority (BRA). I served on the BRA for several years prior to getting elected and have the utmost respect for each of the individuals who serve and have served on it. There have been times when each of us were called on to contribute based upon our individual professional expertise, and it really

helped us make well reasoned decisions.

More recently I have been working with the Museum Foundation and the Older Persons' Commission (OPC), and I cannot say enough about the multitude of volunteers that keep both our Museum and the OPC running. Both the Museum and OPC are assets to our community, and of which everyone in our community should be proud. Not only are they run by talented and passionate staff, but they continue to run smoothly because of talented and passionate volunteers.

Planning Commission (PC) is another board, like the BRA, that depends on the professional expertise and experience of its Commissioners to make sound decisions. Having recently been appointed to PC, I truly appreciate the depth of experience of the other Commissioners whose insightful educated comments drive our deliberations.

And of course, if you have a passion for improving the lives of the youth in our community, there are two great boards that I serve on that are always looking for more volunteers, Avondale Youth Assistance and Rochester Auburn Hills Community Coalition. Keeping kids in school, attending to the needs of some of our most impoverished, and providing education to stem the tide of drug, alcohol and tobacco use and abuse, are never ending goals always in need of more help.

At the Mayor's State of the City, I was asked, "What's the best thing about Rochester Hills?" The answer was easy; it is the residents. We are a talented and professional bunch, who continually give selflessly of our time for the betterment of our community. I am proud to claim you as my neighbors.



Dale Hetrick - At Large

The First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution states, "Congress shall make no law...abridging the freedom of speech..." It is our duty as Legislators in Rochester Hills to uphold this right.

At every City Council meeting we have an agenda item known as Public Comment. This agenda item is an important part of every meeting as residents have the opportunity to present insights, commentary, or ask questions related to City business. Resident comments range from innovative ideas, provocative statements, issues and concerns, or positive community involvement. Regardless of content, this agenda item is important to providing for the health, safety, and welfare of our residents as defined in the City Charter.

One example of positive and proactive Public Comment relates to the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community. In January, a member of the Community informed City Council they planned to deliver water to families in Flint and requested assistance with water donations. Initiated by their

desire to assist others, this represents a terrific example of Public Comment being used as a platform to provide for the health and welfare of others. Through the generosity of Rochester Hills' residents and many other individuals and businesses, the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community made a significant contribution to the health and welfare of Flint Residents.

Residents also suggest – especially during election cycles – that people interested in elected or appointed positions in the city must allocate time to attend City Council meetings and speak during Public Comment. I applaud the tenacity in their statement and believe

continued page 30



Susan Bowyer, PhD - District 3

Having lived in Rochester Hills most of my adult life, I still never cease to be amazed at the wonderful amenities and programs available to our residents. We are truly fortunate to live in such a vibrant city! My son and I have been blessed with great neighbors and have enjoyed our great school system. I have been on several governing boards from professional societies to my subdivision's Home Owners Association (HOA). These experiences have helped me adjust to the much larger responsibility I now have to the residents of Rochester Hills in my role as Councilwoman.

Since the election, I have been appointed to the Green Space Advisory Board and the Paint Creek Trailways Commission. Both of these focus on the fantastic natural open spaces that are available for our residents to enjoy. The Green Space nine member Board was developed in 2005 to acquire and preserve natural green spaces in our community. To date six areas are now permanently

protected wildlife habitats with scenic views along the Clinton River and the Clinton River Trails, some with spaces of woodland and wetlands. One of the areas is a 48 acre parcel on the north side of the Clinton River, and south of it, is the proposed 70 acre River Bend Park on Hamlin Road. This will be an exciting year for the River Bend Park development, as the park will be designed creatively to protect and preserve open spaces and yet allow us to view and interact with nature. The tag line is to Explore, Engage, Educate and Enjoy nature as the park continues to Evolve. Please come and enjoy this transformation over the next five years. To see the vision, go to: www.rochesterhills.org/riverbend We are also fortunate in having 12 other great parks in our city. I look forward to seeing you at these parks, and out on the Clinton River Trail or Paint Creek Trail this summer.

I felt honored to be elected to City Council in 2015. An important part of my job as your Councilwoman is to listen to your concerns about developments or problems occurring in our City. I am your Liaison, acting as a link between the City and our residents. I have spoken with many residents about issues important to them. Some issues were resolved and others point to ways we should be improving how our City works for you day-to-day. I am always concerned about the future development of our city, and look forward to hearing from you. As your representative, I will do my utmost to listen to your views and comments, resolve any issues you may have, and strive to work with the City and Council on your behalf. Please contact me by phone or email, if you have any concerns, and let me know what I can do to help!

Hetrick - Continued from Page 29

their comments reinforce the First Amendment. One resident took the idea to heart, investing a few minutes to address City Council about a potential committee appointment. The resident's commentary was compelling because the statement did not outline the individual's capabilities relative the committee's charge; instead the resident spoke about the relevance of the committee related to the City and asked City Council to make the best choice possible. Needless to say the resident was appointed.

The interesting and hard part of Public Comment arises when residents make statements about issues, concerns, or ideas. A recent OpEd piece in the NY Times by David Brooks sheds light on why these comments are unique. My take on the article's relevance to Public Comment is that residents will more often than not deliver their concerns, issues, or ideas with passion. Passion makes comments personal. Residents are delivering something for Council consideration that is likely deeply important to them on an individual level. The tone and body language as the comments are delivered add depth to the comments and expose the personal passion each resident has for the concern, issue, or idea they are presenting. Communication experts tell us that responding to items such as these will require two-way dialogue to understand the true meaning behind these highly personalized comments and assist with relevant answers. The challenge is that Public Comment is not structured to create a two-way dialogue, making it difficult to properly address such concerns, issues, or ideas immediately. Post meeting follow through is important to discover the principles driving residents' passion and could lead to improvements to everyone's health, safety, and welfare.

Maybe stepping up to the podium to make a public comment isn't your thing. Maybe you prefer a phone call or sending an email note. They are terrific ways to outline your ideas, solutions, concerns, or community involvement, too. You can reach me at 248-656-4744 or hetrickd@rochesterhills.org.

I look forward to hearing from you.



Jim Kubicina - District 2

For those of you whom I have not yet met, please allow me to introduce myself. I am the newest member of City Council. I have replaced Adam Kochenderfer who has moved on to the County Commission. I am honored and humbled for this opportunity. I have lived in Rochester Hills since 1988, and served for many years as Chairperson of the Deer Management Advisory Committee and on the board at RARA. I have coached over 30 different youth sports teams during that time. I am a senior engineer for Delphi in Troy. We have raised two children who have graduated from Rochester High School.

By now most of you know that our city was voted one of the 10 Best Places to Live in America. We won that award because of the efforts of a lot of great people. I want to take this opportunity to recognize just a few of them.

There's Lisa Cummins, Purchasing Manager at City Hall, who along with her staff have won the National Achievement of Excellence in Procurement (AEP) 12 years in a row. Judging for this award is based upon Innovation, Professionalism, E-Procurement, Productivity and Leadership attributes in the procurement function. In 2015 the City of Rochester Hills is one of only 2 agencies in Michigan and one of only 65 cities in the United States and Canada to receive this award. It's incredible to think that Lisa and her staff have won this award multiple times. Congratulations Lisa!



There's Christine Wissbrun, Administrative Aide of the Clerk's Office who is one of the final four finalists for National Notary of the Year. The NNA (National Notary Association) will announce the 2016 National Notary of the Year at the NNA Gala Banquet on Tuesday, June 7, 2016 in Anaheim, California. Congratulations and good luck Christine!



There's Bruce Halliday, Fleet Manager at DPS, who was just recognized as one of the top 15 Fleet Managers in the nation for 2016. Bruce was nominated based on his scoring in 10 categories: business plan, technology implementation, productivity, policies, preventive maintenance program, utilization management, replacement program, customer service, fuel management, and safety. Congratulations to Bruce, and the entire team at the DPS Garage.



Speaking of DPS, on a recent tour of the garage one couldn't help but notice all the national awards:

The City of Rochester Hills DPS Fleet Services Division was named as one of the **Best 100 fleets in the Americas**, for the third year in a row. There are 38,000 such fleets in North America alone and thousands more in South America. The Rochester Hills Fleet is the only city in Michigan to make the list.



A number of DPS projects were named "**Projects of the Year**", by the Michigan chapter of American Public Works Association. Those award winning projects were the following: North Oakland County Water Authority (NOCWA), Shared Services (Best Practices and Collaboration with other communities), Tienken Road Reconstruction, Clinton River Trail Resurfacing Project, and Christian Hills West Water Main Replacement Project.

Finally, there's Antonino Munaco, a senior at Adams High School. Antonino was nominated to be one of 29 award winners at the recent Rochester Area Youth Assistance (RAYA) banquet, co-sponsored by the Optimists. These phenomenal students were nominated for their community service. Out of these 29 students Antonino won the Judith Coats Memorial Scholarship for being an outstanding model of both local and global citizenship. He serves on student council, is on several sports teams and is in the band. His greatest accomplishment was his founding of the N.U.F. Club (Never Underestimate Friendship). He created this club after recognizing the hardships and anxiety of making friends and feeling welcomed at school. He organizes activities for the members and invites everyone from all social groups and backgrounds to participate in the events. Antonino is working hard to expand the N.U.F. Club to reach other Rochester area schools. He also volunteers in Pontiac twice a week to play music with kids and do other fun activities. Congratulations Antonino!



I cannot help but feel a great sense of pride in our city, its residents, employees and all the great business owners. Rochester Hills is certainly one of the best places to live in America. Let's keep it going!

The City of Rochester Hills
1000 Rochester Hills Drive
Rochester Hills MI 48309

PRESORTED
STD
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PAID
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Festival of the Hills

June 29, 2016

Borden Park ~ Rochester Hills

Free Admission - 6:00 p.m.

Join our celebration of freedom including
family games presented by the Rochester Avon Recreation Authority,
music to rock your socks off,
and our amazing **FIREWORKS** display.

Arrive early • Avoid the rush • Bring a blanket • Enjoy the show!