

# The City of Rochester Hills

# Hills Herald

News & Information

Fall/Winter 2016



## A Message from the Mayor

Friday Night Football, the smell of Yates cider and donuts, the changing red, orange, and yellow leaves on the Clinton River and Paint Creek Trails, the excitement of the Homecoming Dance... it's fall in Rochester Hills and it's arguably the most beautiful time of year to enjoy our city.

While you are out and about enjoying Rochester Hills, you can do so knowing that you're living in the safest city in Michigan, according to the FBI. **In fact, not only were we recognized as the safest city in our state, but the sixth safest in the entire country!** For those of you keeping track, that's the third time we've been in the Top 10 in the nation for either best place to live or safest city. I'm so proud of our community, and I hope you share in the excitement of seeing your town receive national distinction.

One place the excitement is most evident is on the faces of our new residents as they stop in City Hall. At times we welcome upwards of 30 new families in

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*“ I will stand  
with other proud  
Americans to  
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a single week. Although their reasons for coming vary, they are all attracted to our reputation of innovation and excellence, and are very excited to call Rochester Hills their new home.

This fall, the excitement is somewhat juxtaposed against a national dialogue and election that is both confounding and frustrating. Let me say without doubt, I am a proud American and will most certainly vote in November. But, like so many of you, I am disappointed with the tone and tenor of this election. I love our country and have been personally involved in elections for the past 15 years; but this year, I'm struggling with how to tell my children the pros and cons of both major party candidates, and I don't think I'm alone.

There is good news though, and this is what I will tell my kids. No matter who is elected, America is strong, resilient, and our country will survive. No candidate or party is perfect, or will solve all our problems. After the election some challenges will exist, but as Americans, we look toward the future with faith and fortitude.

It is with that famous American optimism that I am encouraged. I see so many great things here in Rochester Hills and in our surrounding communities. I see our good and hard working residents striving to be the best they can be. I see our companies creating high paying jobs and driving our city's unemployment rate to among the lowest in the state. I see our non-profit service organizations reaching out to provide assistance to those in need. I see our housing values rising and our neighborhoods thriving. I see our school districts focusing on academic excellence and our universities growing stronger each and every year. I see our infrastructure greatly improved and our residents displaying patience and understanding as those improvements were taking place. I see our public safety deputies working hard to create positive relationships with our neighborhoods and building the safest city in the Midwest. I see our Rochester Hills Fire Department reducing response times and becoming one of the most professional and well regarded organizations in the region. I see our community excitement for the new, natural, and all inclusive park we are developing that will be one-of-a-kind in Michigan. And, of course, I see the enthusiasm and excitement of our residents knowing they live in the preeminent place to live, work, and raise a family. Some truths never change!

So, instead of being discouraged by this election, I will support individuals and organizations that are passionate about improving our community. I will stand with other proud Americans to make my corner of the country the best it can possibly be. **And, I will teach my kids that investing our time, talent, and treasures in making a local difference in our community makes for a far better America. In fact, I believe it's the only thing that ever has.**

*Autumn in our beautiful and vibrant 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 [rochesterhills.org](http://rochesterhills.org).

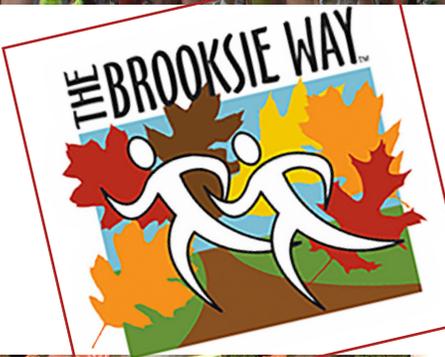
Comments & questions about materials appearing in the Hills Herald may be directed to:

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# Out & About in Rochester Hills



The Annual Brooksie Way Half Marathon brought out many to enjoy the health benefits and camaraderie of the race.



A great time was had by all. Special thanks to the runners, sponsors, family members, and those who came to cheer!



Rochester Hills employees were happy to lend a hand to the Life Remodeled program. The 2016 project centered on the area surrounding Denby High School.

The 2016 Stonewall Pumpkin Festival was a smashing success! Beautiful weather and creative carvings made for a perfect day.

The 2016 OPC Senior Day at Bloomer Park was a delicious and delightful event!

Mayor Barnett is always happy to be on board to bring the dogs and share the smiles with over 400 of his closest friends.



# Hills Happenings

## Mayor Barnett Appoints New Chief Financial Officer



*Joseph Snyder  
Chief Financial Officer*

Mayor Bryan K. Barnett is pleased to announce that Joe Snyder has been appointed Chief Financial Officer (CFO) of the City of Rochester Hills. Joe has been a long-term employee of the city and has served as Interim CFO since June of this year when his predecessor, Keith Sawdon, retired after 30 years in public finance. Prior to that, Joe was the city's Senior Financial Analyst. Joe has been unfailing in earning the trust, respect, and confidence of the administration, staff, elected officials, and residents.

After a nation-wide search and intense interview process, Joe clearly stood out as the best candidate for the job. As CFO, Joe will be responsible for all city finance operations including Accounting, Fiscal, Treasury, and Purchasing, and will report directly to the Mayor. "Over the years, Joe's strong work ethic and innovative leadership have always made us proud," stated Mayor Barnett as he announced the appointment. "I am confident he will build upon the City's strong financial position through strategic management, and forward-thinking leadership."

As he accepted the position, Joe stated, "This is a dream opportunity for me. I started working for the Rochester Hills Finance Division as an Intern while completing my finance degree from Oakland University 16 years ago." He added, "My wife and I have loved living in Rochester Hills for the past 15 years and cannot imagine a better place to call home. Our two children attend Rochester Community Schools and we all enjoy the many amenities our vibrant community has to offer. I am very pleased to have the opportunity to play a vital role in continuing the financial success of Rochester Hills, today and well into the future."

Please join us in welcoming Joe Snyder to his new position as Chief Financial Officer of the City of Rochester Hills.

## Something Old and Something New at the Rochester Hills Public Library



*Christine Hage  
Director*

The Rochester Hills Public Library will once again be presenting Polar Express at the library. Online registration at [calendar.rhpl.org](http://calendar.rhpl.org) for the program opens on November 18, 2016 at 9:00 am and is limited to 1,500 people. This event fills quickly, so make sure your library card is up-to-date and that you are in good standing (card isn't expired, no fines over \$5) so that you can register. EVERYONE in your family must have a card prior to registration day. This event is open to residents only so extended family members (grandparents, grandchildren, nieces and nephews) who are non-residents cannot attend.

Also returning this year is the Friends' of the Library Holiday Home Tour. By purchasing a ticket for \$25 you can tour five homes that will be decorated for the holidays. The event takes place on Sunday, November 13, from Noon – 5:00 pm. Tickets can be purchased at Lytle Drugs, Sharon's Hallmark, Dillman and Upton, Hepplewhite's Furniture, and at the Friends' Library Store inside the library.

The new services offered by the library are mobile hotspot devices. These small units can be checked out from the library and will provide you with WiFi connections wherever you are. Are you going on a vacation or a cruise to the Caribbean and want to be connected? The RHPL hotspot will do the job. The library only has 15 mobile hotspots, but you can place a hold on one of the devices. They are very popular so be sure to plan ahead.



## Supportive Services at OPC for Seniors and the Sandwich Generation!



Renee Cortright  
Executive Director

The Older Persons' Commission (OPC) provides supportive services to our aging or disabled residents by helping them maintain or improve their independence and quality of life. Our comprehensive services also provide for our client's family members and caregivers. These family members, known as the Sandwich Generation, are quite often adults caring for both their aging parents and their young children. Our program services help alleviate some of the responsibility of caring for their adult parents by offering: Adult Day Service, Support Groups, Senior Services, Meals on Wheels, and Transportation Services.

**Adult Day Services** provides peace of mind for participants and caregivers. As a cost-effective alternative to home health care, nursing home and assisted living facilities, OPC Adult Day Service provides a professional care setting in which older adults, adults living with dementia, or adults living with disabilities benefit from socialization. The Adult Day Service offers a safe, caring environment for the participants and respite for their caregivers during the day, enabling individuals to live at home

and remain independent in their communities.

*"Not only does this program address the needs of family members who at times desperately need a break, but also the clients themselves. I see the clients brighten up as they walk into the room in anticipation of the day's activities,"* says Donna Beerer, OPC Adult Day Services manager.

The Dennis White Adult Day Center is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 am to 4:00 pm. Participants benefit from the socialization, mental stimulation, routine, and structure. Call 248-608-0261 to arrange a visit to acquaint family and clients with the program.

**Support Groups** provide a safe place for people to share similar experiences and concerns, provide emotional help, and offer advice and encouragement for one another. The following support groups meet regularly at OPC: Visually Impaired, New Beginnings Stroke Club, Caregivers Support, Grief Support, and Parkinson's Support.

**Senior Services** are numerous, and include resource advocates who assess each individual's needs and make referrals to appropriate resources in the community. Included in these are medical equipment loans of walkers, wheelchairs, and bath benches for short term use, counselors who advise on medical insurance plans and long term issues, comprehensive food programs, snow removal for low income seniors, and community service volunteer projects to support the "Aging in Place" of seniors in the Rochester Hills area.

**Meals on Wheels** is designed for senior citizens (60 years of age or older) unable to prepare meals for themselves due to physical or mental impairments, medical conditions, or while recuperating from a hospital stay. A volunteer delivers a meal seven days a week to residents living in Rochester Hills, Rochester and Oakland Township. Last year, OPC prepared 116,151 home delivered and on-site meals. For Meals on Wheels, call 248-608-0264, or to volunteer, please call 248-608-0270.

OPC provides something for everyone 50+ with a wide array of personal enrichment, fitness, aquatic, social and travel programs, and supportive senior services. The center is open Monday through Friday from 6:30 am to 8:45 pm and Saturdays from 7:00 am to 3:45 pm. Rochester Hills residents 50+ are automatically members of the 90,000 sq. ft. center; just come in and register at 650 Letica Drive, Rochester, 248-656-1403, or visit [opcseniorcenter.org](http://opcseniorcenter.org).



# Rochester Hills Map Page



Maps have been around for thousands of years and everyone knows how to use one. But did you know what level of detail you could get from a map?

Starting 15 years ago, the Rochester Hills website created a page that consisted of a list of links to PDF maps that focused on construction, points of interest and pedestrian pathways, to name a few. These maps were out of date almost as soon as they were posted because changes occurred so rapidly. The system for posting maps that have few changes, i.e., the Historic District map or the Zip Code map was efficient, but the others became obsolete too quickly. Three or four years ago, we started addressing this issue by making the maps that change most frequently into interactive maps. At the same time, we created a new map page that showed a thumbnail of the map along with a brief description.

Today, the thumbnail map page has links to 45 different maps. For instance, take a look at the Subdivision and Condominiums map. As you zoom in, the subdivision and condominium names appear; and if you click on an area, information about that specific development comes up in an information box. It even includes a link to the recorded subdivision plat at the State of Michigan, or for condominiums, the recording is at Oakland County. Another popular interactive map is the road construction map. During the summer orange cone season, this map is updated daily as changes occur in road closures due to construction activity. Construction maps for the City of Rochester are also included on our site, and they maintain the map for their specific projects.

Our latest update to our map page is one that now gives more detail about how to use the maps and divides them into categories to make finding exactly what you're looking for much easier. We are also adding more interactive maps, which give the users much more information than a static PDF map could ever show. If you have a chance, look at the different types of information shown by comparing the "Park Tour Map" and the "Capital Improvement Map." Both can be found on our new map page at [www3.rochesterhills.org/MapIndex](http://www3.rochesterhills.org/MapIndex) or by going to [www.rochesterhills.org](http://www.rochesterhills.org), click City Government, and Maps in the drop down menu.

You may think you don't need a map since you have GPS, but if you find yourself in a city park, or along the Clinton River or Paint Creek Trail, and need information quickly, the map page on the city website will show you more accurate and up-to-date trail markers and park amenities that you can easily access using a smart phone or tablet.



# Oakland County Sheriff's Office

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

## School Zone Safety Laws & Tips



The Sheriff's Office wants to educate and raise awareness about school zone safety laws in order to prevent a tragedy. School zones combined with changing traffic and weather conditions create an extremely dangerous situation.

"Back to school is an exciting time for both parents and students, but we must remember to put safety first," said Sheriff Michael Bouchard. "We hope by setting up these school safety enforcement zones we can push back on violators who ignore speed limits and who do not stop for school buses. Preventing any tragedy involving our kids is the number one priority."

We strongly urge drivers to slow down and allow additional drive time to your scheduled destination and stay absolutely focused on your driving tasks: "Just Drive" The following bus stop and distracted driving tips may save a life!

## School Bus Stop Laws & Safety Tips

School buses use two types of stop procedures while children are boarding and exiting the bus: RED LIGHT STOPS and HAZARD LIGHT STOPS

**RED LIGHT STOPS** - School buses use overhead yellow flashing lights to alert motorists that they are preparing to stop. Red overhead flashing lights and an extended stop sign arm signals to motorists that the bus is stopped and children are getting on or off the bus.

All 50 states have a law making it illegal to pass a school bus that is stopped to load or unload children while displaying the red overhead flashing lights and extended stop sign.

All 50 states require that traffic in both directions stop on undivided roadways when students are entering or exiting a school bus during a red light stop. In Michigan, a divided highway means divided by a physical barrier such as a raised median or guard rail. You must stop for school buses on five lane highways with only a turn lane separating traffic.

**YELLOW HAZARD LIGHT STOPS** – School buses use low yellow hazard lights (located just below the windshield and back windows) to alert motorists that they are pulling off the roadway in preparation for a hazard stop. This type of stop is only done when students do not have to cross a roadway while getting on or off the bus and the bus can safely pull out of the traffic lane. These types of stops are typical on busy roads to help traffic flow around the bus and prevent traffic backups.

Motorist can proceed slowly around a school bus on the left side when only the hazard lights are on.

## A Slogan to Remember:

*"Lights up top you must STOP – Lights down low you may proceed SLOW"*

Never pass a school bus on the right. It is illegal and could have tragic consequences. A person found responsible for violating this civil infraction may be fined up to \$500 and may be ordered to perform up to 100 hours of community service at a school.

Be alert. Children are unpredictable. Children walking to or from their bus are usually very comfortable with their surroundings. This makes them more likely to take risks, ignore hazards or fail to look both ways when crossing the street.

The area 10 feet around a school bus is where children are in the most danger of being hit. Stop your car far enough from the bus to allow children the necessary space to safely enter and exit the bus.



# Rochester Hills Fire Department



Todd Gary  
Assistant Chief/Fire Marshal

## What is Community Risk Reduction?

*Community Risk Reduction (CRR) is defined as: “the identification and prioritization of risk followed by the coordinated application of resources to minimize the probability or occurrence and/or the impact of unfortunate events.”*

The Rochester Hills Fire Department’s Fire Prevention and Public Education Division has been renamed the Community Risk Reduction Division. This is more than just a name change. This change means the Rochester Hills Fire Department is taking a more proactive approach, by not just responding to emergencies, but putting more effort into preventing them.

With this new objective, we started by assessing our community’s risk. It was determined that a large number of calls were to our senior living complexes for falls. Falls are the leading cause of accidental death in people age 65 and over. Additionally, many of these calls were “lift assists” where the resident did not need medical treatment, but needed help getting up. These types of calls were taxing our resources. We decided that the first area we needed to address was fall prevention.

We have been providing fall prevention programs for years, and we decided to increase our efforts in this area. The Community Risk Reduction Division started using the National Fire Protection Association’s “Remembering When” program. This is a comprehensive fall prevention program that includes home visits to look for trip hazards. We began presenting this program at many of our senior living facilities. We then partnered with Comfort Keepers, a local group that provides assistance to senior citizens, and Crittenton Hospital. These partnerships have allowed us to create better programs and to provide these programs to more of our residents.

We then trained our firefighters on fall prevention and how to identify trip hazards. Now, when our personnel respond to an incident or are in a home installing a smoke alarm, they can take the opportunity to talk to our residents about fall prevention, point out possible hazards in the home, and offer tips on how to fix them.

Community Risk Reduction means we are focusing on more than just fire prevention. In fact, we are addressing risk reduction on many fronts. We currently have programs in place that deal with bike safety including proper use of helmets, water safety, emergency preparedness, distracted driving, and child safety seats installation. We are also continuing our efforts toward fire safety by providing smoke and carbon monoxide alarms, presenting fire safety programs in schools, and conducting live burn demonstrations with fire safety instruction.

For more information on any of these programs please contact the Rochester Hills Fire Department Community Risk Reduction Division at 248-656-4717.

*Rochester Hills Fire Department’s Community Risk Reduction Division helping residents stay safe through fall prevention demonstrations and proper child safety seat installation.*





Nancy Butty,  
Fire and Life Safety Educator,  
Public Information Officer

## Cooking - Love It or Hate It -

### It's Still the Number One Cause of Home Fires

Whether you are using a toaster, bar-b-que grill, microwave or your stove, the likeliness of a fire significantly increases if you leave your cooking unattended. According to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), 34% of home fires are cooking related with unattended cooking being the number one cause. Just imagine if cooking fires were eliminated, that would reduce home fires by 34%! These **Safe cooking tips** can be printed off as a good reminder of how to keep your family safe when cooking.

Despite your best efforts, if you still encounter a cooking fire, just put a lid on it. Fire needs air, heat and a fuel source to exist and by covering your pan fire, you will eliminate air and your fire will self-extinguish. Two points of caution: don't remove the lid too soon. Wait at least 15 minutes for the pan to cool and NEVER put water on an oil fire. Click [here](#) to watch how to extinguish a pan fire on the stove.

### Dryer Fire Prevention - Get the lint out...all of it.

According to the National Fire Protection Association over 15,000 dryer fires are reported each year. A significant factor contributing to this large number is lint. A clothes dryer fire can be caused by lint build-up which restricts airflow and leads to overheating. Dryers produce a lot of lint and simply cleaning the lint screen is not enough. Though the lint filter catches most of the lint, some will escape and end up in the dryer vent system. The dryer ducts remove lint and moisture from your clothes; the moist lint doesn't always make it to the vent outside of your home. It can stick to the sides of the ducts where it builds up and eventually dries to a hard paste. This hard paste attracts more sticky lint, eventually creating a blockage which can cause a fire as shown in the picture above.



When a dryer vent and the dryer ducts are clogged with lint, air flow is restricted, causing your dryer to work harder and use more energy. This creates higher utility bills and a greater chance of the appliance breaking down. Appliance repairs and/or replacement can be expensive.

You can prolong the life of your clothes dryer and prevent dryer fires with proper dryer vent cleaning and maintenance. Please watch this **video** and take these easy steps to help maintain your dryer and the prevent a fire in your home:

- Keep the lint screen clean; check before and after each load
- Wash lint screens with a toothbrush and water every few months to remove residue from fabric softener sheets that contribute to obstructing air flow
- Have professional dryer vent cleaning done annually
- Never leave the house or go to sleep with your dryer running
- Check the outside vent cover to make sure it's not blocked or damaged

For more information on clothes dryer safety, you can visit the NFPA at: [www.nfpa.org](http://www.nfpa.org) or by clicking: [Dryer safety tip sheet](#).

### Open versus closed - Closed bedroom doors can help keep you stay safe during a fire.

Whether it is because you want to be able to hear the children if they wake up or to allow the pet to wander in and out during the sleeping hours, many households sleep with bedroom doors open despite the importance of having them closed. This **demonstration** shows the difference between an open bedroom door and a closed one during a fire.

Keeping your door closed prevents the smoke and fire from reaching you and allows you extra time to make your escape.

Another important factor is to have interlinked smoke alarms. If one is triggered by the smoke or fire, they all begin to sound, so regardless of where you or the fire is in the home, everyone will be notified simultaneously.





## Veterans Memorial Pointe Veterans Day Ceremony

The annual Veterans Day Ceremony will be held at Veterans Memorial Pointe on Friday, November 11 starting at 11:00 am sharp. Guest speakers will be Bryan K. Barnett, Mayor of Rochester Hills, and Post Commanders from our local VFW, DAV and American Legion Posts. City Council President Mark Tisdell will lead the national anthem.

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

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



## Keep Michigan Beautiful 2016 Award Winner ~ “Time Remembers”

When Ed Leafdale began brainstorming for a memorial park in the mid-1990s, he had no idea that his desire to honor his fellow veterans of the Vietnam War would result in the formation of Veterans Memorial Pointe. The city donated the triangle-shaped piece of land for Leafdale’s project, which includes memorials for veterans of World Wars I and II, the Korean War, Vietnam, Gulf War and US conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan. With help from the community, Leafdale and others raised over \$170,000 to build the memorial, which was constructed entirely by volunteers.

Over 3,000 bricks comprise the pathways throughout the memorial, and many of the bricks on the edges of the pathways are engraved with names of veterans and donors. Veterans are identified with a star on their brick. Leafdale continues to care for the Pointe and although retired, he often finds himself returning to the memorial to perform maintenance. Ed has also left behind a piece of himself in the granite memorial: his dog tags are encased in its base. The park has restrooms, a beautiful gazebo, a drinking fountain, fishing (per DNR regulations) and is adjacent to the Clinton River Trail. Memorial services are held at Veterans Memorial Point every Memorial Day and Veterans Day.

Once again this year, the *Keep Michigan Beautiful Award Campaign* has selected Veterans Memorial Pointe as a beautification award winner. This year, the award was granted for the newly installed community clock which proudly stands on the south end of the park. Special thanks to the Women’s Garden Club who work to make the Pointe even more beautiful with their gardens.

For the community, the clock is a proud reminder of the brave men and women who lost their lives during conflict, as well as those who have returned home. It serves as a gathering place to celebrate, honor, and raise special attention to veterans throughout the year.

Above the clock reads, “Time Remembers,” a phrase that symbolizes how this community symbol is a reflection of our past, present, and future. In Rochester Hills, we take great pride in never forgetting the sacrifices others have made which allow us to live in our beautiful city.

Over ten feet tall, the clock is another focal point of the park. Its black finish with gold highlights leaves a lasting impression on visitors.

To finance the purchase and installation of the clock, Ed Leafdale, in collaboration with Dr. Jeffrey Buller of Buller Chiropractic Clinic, led the fundraising campaign. Their belief in this project and the benefits it would bring have been realized and recognized not only by residents of our city, but by the Keep Michigan Beautiful Committee as well.

In response to this most recent award, Mayor Barnett stated, “We are truly blessed to have Veterans Memorial Pointe in our city. The hard work and effort put into developing the Pointe, paired with the ongoing Eagle Scout and community inspired projects, have made Veterans Memorial Pointe one of the finest memorial parks in our region. I would like to express my sincere thanks to Ed Leafdale, and all who have invested time and effort to make this park one of the premier assets of our community.”



# Rochester Hills Building Department

## Maintaining Your City Buildings and Properties

The Building Department's Facilities Division has been busy this past spring and summer. If you have been out and about you may have noticed the fresh look of the Museum Red House, the Spencer Park Boat House, the Spencer Park wood deck and dock, or the Van Hoosen Cemetery Office. They all received some much needed repairs and attention that will help extend the life of the buildings and keep them looking nice for everyone to enjoy. If you made a trip to City Hall lately you noticed the new parking lot that was completed in June making it much safer for everyone walking through the parking lot. These are just a few of the many projects we are working on to make sure all City buildings and properties are looking sharp, clean and are comfortable for you and your family to enjoy.



### Building Department Supervisor Reaches the Highest Certification Level



Tim Hollis, Supervisor of Inspection Services for the City of Rochester Hills completed his last test necessary to reach the highest level of certification offered by the International Code Council (ICC). After passing 15 exams and obtaining over 21 ICC certifications, Tim finally reached the highest and most coveted ICC certification of "Master Code Professional" (MCP). He is now officially one of only two building code professionals in Michigan that have qualified for this highest



honor. He took his first ICC exam in 2003 and set a goal to become an MCP. Tim said "It's been a long time coming, but it's worth it. I really appreciate the opportunity the City has given me to pursue this certification. I believe as long as we live we should pursue learning." Tim is just one example of the high level of professionalism we are blessed to have in the Building Department and the City of Rochester Hills. We believe that providing City employees with the opportunity to learn, grow and be the best in their profession will give us the ability to provide the best possible service to our residents. Congratulations Tim Hollis! We appreciate your commitment to the health, safety, and welfare of all those who live, work, and raise their families in the City of Rochester Hills.

### Don't Forget About That Sidewalk

It is going to happen. Here in Michigan you can count on it for sure, and it is not long after autumn leaves fall before it occurs...the arrival of snow. The kids hope it is enough to call off school so they can sleep in and then dive into some wintertime fun. If you have a home with a sidewalk out front, that snow means its time for a little extra exercise.

Rochester Hills has an ordinance that requires all interior subdivision sidewalks in front of your house be cleared of all snow and ice within 48 hours after a snow event and remain cleared at all times. This is intended to help prevent a slip and fall accident in front of your home, and also provide a place for the neighborhood kids to walk to school or the bus stop.

Winter time is not the only time home owners with sidewalks out front need to be diligent. Overgrown landscaping and low hanging trees need to be maintained so they do not block the sidewalk. The ordinance also requires homeowners to repair severely cracked or deformed sidewalks that present a trip hazard. If you have a sidewalk that is damaged and you need help to determine if it needs repair, contact the Department of Public Services Engineering Division at 248-656-4640.

For a complete reading of home owner responsibilities related to sidewalks, please go to [Municode.com](http://Municode.com), and follow the path Library/Michigan/Rochester Hills/and search Chapter 94-141-143.

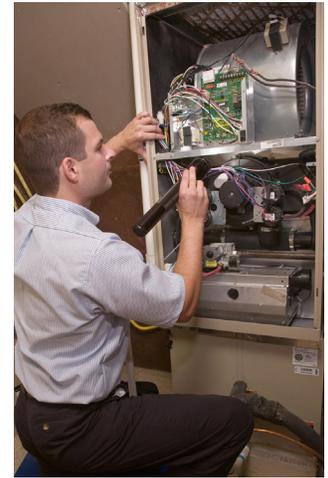
Thank you for your efforts to keep the sidewalks in our community clear and safe for everyone to use.



## Winter Heating Alert

A furnace that is not running at peak performance can be deadly. It is highly recommended that you have your furnace cleaned and serviced every year by a licensed contractor. The older the furnace, the more important this service is. Newer gas furnaces are equipped with many features that shut the furnace off when a problem is detected. Older furnaces have no such devices. Over time, furnaces can develop small cracks in the combustion chamber. These cracks may not be visible to the naked eye, but it is through these cracks that carbon monoxide can leak into your home. Here are some safety tips to consider:

- Change the filter in your furnace two or three times yearly. A new filter makes your furnace more energy-efficient.
- Keep the area around your furnace clean and unobstructed. This helps with ventilation.
- Keep the burner area of your furnace clean. This can be checked during your annual service by a licensed technician.
- Do not have any combustibles within six inches of your vent pipe.
- Do not close off more than 20% of the registers in your house to avoid high resistance and build up of heat in the furnace.
- Do not store combustible material such as paint thinners, gasoline, rags in the same room as your furnace.
- If your furnace fails never use your gas oven or other combustion type heaters for heating. Prolonged use of the open oven in a closed house burns oxygen, thereby causing improper combustion of gas, which creates a lethal carbon monoxide gas.



**What is Carbon Monoxide and who is at risk?** Carbon monoxide (CO) is a colorless, odorless deadly gas. Because you can't see, taste or smell it, carbon monoxide can kill you before you know it's there. At lower levels of exposure, carbon monoxide causes health problems, which everyone is at risk for. Medical experts believe, however, that some individuals are more vulnerable to poisoning such as unborn babies, infants, children, senior citizens and people with heart or lung problems.

**Why is carbon monoxide so dangerous?** The great danger of carbon monoxide is its attraction to hemoglobin in the bloodstream, which normally carries life-giving oxygen to cells and tissues. As carbon monoxide accumulates in the blood, chemical changes occur that mimic flu like symptoms, such as headaches, fatigue, nausea, dizzy spells, confusion and irritability. As the levels increase vomiting, loss of consciousness, and eventually brain damage or death can result. Because the heating season is also the time of the flu season, people can mistake the symptoms as the flu and not carbon monoxide poisoning. If more than one person is feeling the same flu like symptoms and you have a gas furnace, you should begin to suspect carbon monoxide poisoning. Call 911 if necessary, and call a licensed mechanical contractor to check out all fuel burning equipment.

**Where does carbon monoxide come from?** Carbon monoxide is a common by-product of combustion and is present whenever fossil fuels are burned. Some common sources of carbon monoxide could be an automobile running in a closed garage, a malfunctioning or unvented gas or oil furnace, a clothes dryer, range, oven or water heater. Improperly vented fireplaces, charcoal grills, kerosene heaters and wood burning stoves are also common sources.

**How can I protect myself and my family from carbon monoxide poisoning?** It is recommended that at least one carbon monoxide detector with an audible signal be installed near each of the sleeping areas in your home. Also, it is recommended that you have a licensed qualified professional perform an annual inspection of all fuel burning equipment to determine if they are functioning properly.

**Where should I install the Carbon Monoxide Detector?** If you have only one detector, install it in a hallway near the bedrooms so that it will wake while you sleep. Additional alarms on each level of the home provide extra protection.

- Install carbon monoxide alarms at least 15 feet from any combustion appliance, such as a gas or oil furnace, oven, water heater or dryer.
- If you have a plug-in detector, make sure you do not install it in an outlet that is controlled by a light switch or dimmer or in an area where it can be easily knocked off of the wall.
- Carbon monoxide is roughly the same weight as air and distributes evenly throughout a room. A carbon monoxide alarm will be effective whether it is placed at the floor or ceiling level, or anywhere in between.
- If you choose to buy a detector, choose one that is tested and approved by the National Standards Institute and follow the manufacturer's installation instructions.

If you have any kind of fuel burning equipment to heat your home, dry your clothes, or cook your food, take the time right now to get them checked out before the winter season to assure the safety of everyone in the home.

# Rochester Hills Parks and Forestry

## City Parks Are Open Year Round

Winter lasts a long time here in Michigan, so it's important to find some fun activities to get yourself outdoors. Be sure to dress in layers and wear hats and mittens so you won't be tempted to run back indoors while you are ice skating at **Spencer**, sledding at **Bloomer**, making snow angels at **Borden**, or cross country skiing on the ungroomed **Clinton River Trail**. Santa and Mrs. Claus are expected at the **Museum** on December 3 and **Environmental Education Programs** are ongoing.

Once Carter Lake at Spencer Park is frozen, ice rinks will be cleared for ice skaters and hockey players. In fact, the Annual Pond Hockey Tournament is scheduled for Saturday, February 11, 2017 (ice conditions permitting). **Registration** for a limited number of adult teams begins December 1, 2016. The adjacent warming shelter offers a cozy fireplace, heated restrooms, refreshments, and table games. Call Spencer Park at 248-656-4657 for current conditions and updates.

The frozen lake is ideal for ice fishing, and there are over three miles of ungroomed trails throughout the park for cross-country skiing or snowshoeing.

When there is sufficient snow, the sledding hill at Bloomer Park is open between the hours of 9:00 am and 5:00 pm. The sledding hill offers three downhill runs with separate walking paths alongside leading back to the top of the hill. The **Hilltop Shelter** with a fireplace, picnic tables, and heated restrooms is used as a warming area for sledders. For safety reasons, standing on sleds and the use of snowboards and innertubes is prohibited.

Cross-country skiers can use the many non-groomed nature trails available at Bloomer Park as well. Call Bloomer Park at 248-656-4753 for current conditions and updates.

A great way to kick those winter blues is to discover a winter wonderland right outside your front door. So don't fret about the weather, visit your city parks with your family and friends and enjoy the outdoors.

Just like every snowflake is unique so are each of your 14 Rochester Hills parks!



# October Is Deer Awareness Month in Rochester Hills

## Deer Feeding Ban

Efforts to decrease the large deer population, traffic hazards, deer/human interaction, the spread of deer-related diseases, and damage to private property resulted in City Council passing a citywide ban on feeding deer in Rochester Hills in 2008. It is unlawful to place on the ground, or within five feet of the ground, any fruit, berries, grain, vegetables, nuts, salt or other edible materials that may attract or feed deer unless such materials are covered or protected in a way to prevent deer from feeding on them.

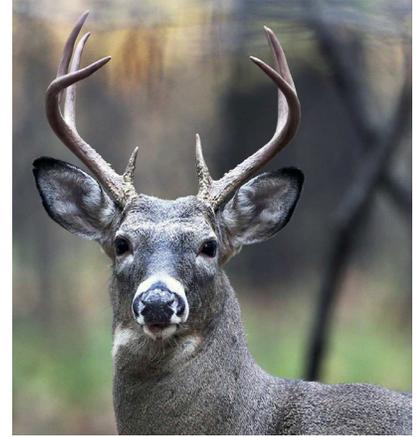
## Don't Veer for Deer!

With the arrival of fall comes an increase in deer activity, and motorists should be more aware of the greater potential for deer to dart across roadways.

To prevent deer/vehicle crashes, please be on the lookout for deer by the roadways. Deer/vehicle crashes are a year-round problem, but deer are most active in the spring and during the fall mating season.

Flashing your high-beam headlights or honking your horn won't deter deer. When startled by an approaching vehicle, they can panic and dart out from any direction without warning.

For additional information, please visit the SEMCOG website at [www.semco.org](http://www.semco.org).



## The 2016 Festival of the Hills was a Spectacular Success

*Please join us in offering our sincere thanks to our generous sponsors for making the Festival of the Hills a night to remember!*



The following logos are displayed in the sponsor grid:

- Pulte Homes
- Beaumont HEALTH SYSTEM
- meijer
- CRITTENTON
- Hollywood mkts. (Michigan owned and operated since 1950)
- REPUBLIC SERVICES
- Papa Joe's Get Better Here™ GOURMET MARKET & CATERING
- HUNTINGTON FORD
- Beacon Hill APARTMENTS
- Hamlin Tool and Machine Co., Inc. Established 1952
- FOX Automotive
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- the VILLAGE OF ROCHESTER HILLS
- ROCHESTER COLLEGE
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- OAKLAND COUNTY PARKS DestinationOakland.com
- Ram's Horn Rochester & Hamlin
- RARA
- BYERS WRECKER
- Pine Race

## Tree Maintenance Reminder

The Rochester Hills Forestry Division has an ongoing street tree maintenance program conducted by Parks & Forestry and contracted crews.

Under the program, trees and shrubs that impede the passage of vehicles along streets, or pedestrians on pathways, interfere with safe sight distance requirements, or pose a hazard to the right-of-way will be addressed.

Although some work will occur in various locations throughout the city, the main emphasis of the 2016-2017 program will be in the central portion of the city.

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

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



## Christmas Tree Recycling

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

Saturday, December 31, 2016	10:00 am - 4:00 pm
Sunday, January 1, 2017	12 noon - 4:00 pm
Saturday, January 7, 2017	10:00 am - 4:00 pm
Sunday, January 8, 2017	12 noon - 4:00 pm
Saturday, January 14, 2017	10:00 am - 4:00 pm
Sunday, January 15, 2017	12 noon - 4:00 pm

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

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

Residents of Rochester Hills may drop off trees during the announced days and hours only.

Trees shall be dropped off at the designated area only. Any other disposal, at or near the designated site, will constitute improper disposal and violators will be subject to ticketing.

Only natural Christmas trees will be accepted. No mass or commercial disposal is permitted. No disposal of any other materials, natural or artificial, is permitted.

All non-woody material, e.g., lights and wires, ornaments, rope, garland, stands and braces, bagging, etc., must be removed before drop off.

Volunteers will inspect trees for compliance with this order before accepting them for disposal. Trees or other matter that do not meet the restrictions will not be accepted.

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



# City of Rochester Hills

## Spring 2017 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 2017.

Although it is too late to participate in the Fall 2016 Tree Planting Program, it is not too early to mark your calendars for the Spring 2017 Tree Planting Program. Free street trees will be offered to the first 250 homeowners and businesses to order a tree for planting on the public right-of-way adjacent to their property next spring. 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 homeowner 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 homeowners should order early. The order form for the program will be available January 4, 2017. March 3, 2017, is the deadline for ordering trees for the Spring 2017 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): Hornbeam, Hackberry, Beech, Honeylocust, Coffeetree, Tuliptree, Blackgum, Oak, Baldcypress, Linden, 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:

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

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

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### City of Rochester Hills

### Spring 2017 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 March 3, 2017.**

# Smart Gardeners Mulch Fallen Leaves into Lawn to Save Money

**Mulching fall leaves into your lawn can help you reduce fertilizer and weed control.**

*Posted on January 24, 2013 by [Rebecca Finneran](#), MSU Extension*

Turfgrass specialists from Michigan State University know that the best dressed lawns begin in fall. After a long, hot summer, you may be thinking to yourself, “Why would I want to be thinking about my lawn when I just want to go inside and forget about it?”

Over 20 years of turf research has proven that fall is the optimum time to “invest” in the green you will enjoy next spring. If fertilization is on your dance card, then you are on the right track, but don’t forget about a resource that may be staring you right in the face – tree leaves.

For years, turf managers and homeowners have been raking and bagging leaves because we all know that when leaves pile up with wet, heavy snow, it can mean disaster for the turf plant below. The ban on yard waste during the 1990s prompted MSU turfgrass specialists to begin investigating how lawns would react to having ground up leaves left on the lawn and the results may surprise you!

## Leaf it – and reap!

On those slightly dewy mornings during October, elevate your mower deck to the highest setting and set out on your merry way, crossing over the leaves once or twice. Usually this can occur once a week, but if there is a heavy wind, you may find yourself mowing twice in one week. There will be obvious leaf residue on the surface of the lawn that only lasts for a few days. The tiny pieces will eventually sift down through the turf and provide future weed control and essential nutrients that can save you money and time. Come spring, you won’t even notice the tiny leaf particles.

Up to 6 inches of leaves can be “mulched” at a time, depending on the type of mower you have. Push mowers will handle smaller amounts, but are still very effective. During the research, several years passed and turf scientists started noticing several benefits including needing less fertilizer to achieve that spring green up. The second benefit was – what, no weeds?

The decomposing pieces of leaves cover up bare spots between turf plants that are an excellent opening for weed seeds to germinate. Experience has shown that nearly a 100 percent decrease in dandelions and crabgrass can be attained after adopting this practice of mulching leaves for just three years.

## Another smart tip

If you have a bagging mower, you can also alternate between mulching into the turf one week, and collecting the ground leaves to use as mulch in landscape beds and vegetable gardens. Covering bare soil with ground leaves prevents winter annuals from germinating and makes a great organic addition to the garden.

So if you want a recipe for a luscious lawn yet want to be “green,” put your rake away and don’t bag it!

For more information on a wide variety of smart gardening articles, or to find out about smart gardening classes and events, visit [www.migarden.msu.edu](http://www.migarden.msu.edu).

*All photos: Rebecca Finneran, MSUE*

*This article was published by [Michigan State University Extension](#). For more information, visit <http://www.msue.msu.edu>. To have a digest of information delivered straight to your email inbox, visit <http://www.msue.msu.edu/newsletters>. To contact an expert in your area, visit <http://expert.msue.msu.edu>, or call 888-MSUE4MI 888-678-3464.*



## Winter Taxes Due February 14, 2017

*Enroll in our Automatic Tax Bill Payment Service and give yourself a little more time to enjoy Michigan's Water Wonderland!*



The tax amounts will be available beginning November 9, 2016 at [www.rochesterhills.org/taxlookup](http://www.rochesterhills.org/taxlookup)

The 2016 Winter Property Tax bills will be mailed out mid-November and are due on Tuesday, February 14, 2017. Postmark 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 February 14, 2017 will be considered on-time. Also, payments placed by midnight February 14 via credit card or our electronic payment system (system will state payment date as 2/15/17 or 2/16/17) will also be considered on-time. On February 15, 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. Beginning March 1, 2017 unpaid 2016 property taxes become delinquent and must be paid to the Oakland County Treasurer with additional late fees.

We offer Recurring Automatic Bill Payment for property taxes (and water/sewer bills) using your specified checking or savings account. Do yourself a favor, and sign-up for this convenient and time-saving service! This service allows you to choose 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 Winter Tax payment will take place either on Friday, December 30, 2016 or the due date of Tuesday, February 14, 2017 - whichever you designated. Enrollees who provide an email address will receive an email reminder of the pending payment withdrawal approximately two weeks prior to the withdrawal dates. Also, the tax bill will indicate your enrollment in automatic payment and the withdrawal date. For an enrollment form and our other convenient payment options, please visit the Treasury Department's Payment Options page [www.rochesterhills.org/paytaxes](http://www.rochesterhills.org/paytaxes). Note: For those who prefer to initiate an electronic tax payment, we will continue to provide our user-initiated electronic payment system at [eps.mvpbanking.com](http://eps.mvpbanking.com).

[rochesterhills.org/paytaxes](http://rochesterhills.org/paytaxes)

[rochesterhills.org/index.aspx?NID=516](http://rochesterhills.org/index.aspx?NID=516)

or scan the following QRcode



## 2017 Dog License Renewal at City Treasury Department

*Three-Year License Now Available!*

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



State law requires all dogs four months and older to be licensed. The primary purpose of the dog license is to ensure that the pet is current with their rabies vaccination. To obtain a dog license, a current rabies vaccination certificate is required. If you have a rabies certificate valid through 2019, you have the option to purchase a three-year dog license for 2017. The 2017 dog licenses will be available for renewal this December. If you plan to renew the license at the City's Treasury Department in December, please contact us at 248-656-4675 to verify we have received the dog licenses from the County.

For information on purchasing a dog license, please contact Oakland County at [www.oakgov.com/petadoption](http://www.oakgov.com/petadoption) or the City of Rochester Hills Treasury Department. The 2017 dog licenses can be purchased for the non-delinquent fee beginning Thursday, December 1, 2016 through Thursday, June 1, 2017. Please visit the City's website at [www.rochesterhills.org](http://www.rochesterhills.org) for more information



# Rochester Hills Museum at Van Hoosen Farm

Need a guest speaker or a unique meeting location? 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. The Museum provides a perfect location for weddings, receptions, birthdays, showers, and other celebrations. Check out the Museum website at [rochesterhills.org/museum](http://rochesterhills.org/museum) or call the staff at 248-656-4663.

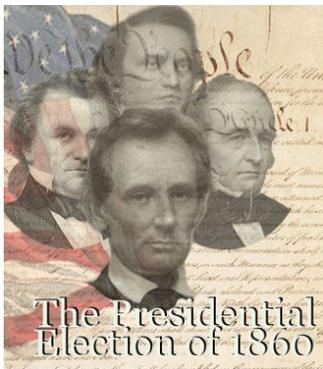


## Coming Events

### The Presidential Election of 1860

Thursday, October 27 7:00 pm

Free for members - \$5 for adults



Erin Dwyer from Oakland University will discuss Abraham Lincoln's presidential campaign - a divisive campaign involving 4 candidates and Lincoln's road to national attention and the nomination, the election itself, and why Lincoln's election led directly to Civil War.

Erin Dwyer earned her Ph.D. in American Studies from Harvard University in 2012. After graduating she taught at Tulane University in New Orleans for two years before accepting a tenure-track position at Oakland University, where she specializes in 19th-century American history, particularly the history of slavery and the Civil War. She recently completed her first book manuscript, *Mastering Emotions*, which is under contract with the University of Pennsylvania Press. She is hard at work on her second book project, a comparative history of slavery and poison in the Atlantic World.

### Save the Flags

Thursday, November 10 7:00 – 9:00 pm

Free for Veterans and Members - \$5 for adults



Approximately 90,000 Michigan soldiers fought in the American Civil War and almost 15,000 made the ultimate sacrifice. The bullet torn, blood stained battle flags that these men carried and died beneath were their proudest possessions; they stood for the Union, for their loved ones back home and also as the rallying point in combat.

Matt VanAcker, Director of the State Capitol Tour Guide and Information

Service and Co-Chair of *Save The Flags*, will be speaking about the Michigan Capitol Battle Flag collection, including 240 battle flags carried by Michigan soldiers in the Civil War, the Spanish American War and World War I. Emphasis will be placed upon the Civil War collection, the importance of flags in battle, some specific regimental histories in connection with the flags and the history of the collection including current conservation efforts.

### Santa's Visit

Saturday, December 3 9:00 am – 4:00 pm

\$5 members - \$8 non-members



Santa and Mrs. Claus visit the Museum to meet with the children of our community. A wagon ride takes guests from the Dairy Barn to the Van Hoosen Farmhouse where delicious fresh baked cookies await. Don't forget your camera! Limited tickets are sold for each hour and must be purchased in advance – online at [rochesterhills.org/musprograms](http://rochesterhills.org/musprograms) or stop by the Museum on Fridays and

Saturdays between 1:00 pm and 4:00 pm. Tickets will go on sale starting November 7th.

### Old Fashioned Christmas

Saturday, December 17 1:00 – 4:00 pm

\$5 members - \$8 non-members advance - \$10 at the door



Join us for old fashioned holiday fun! Check in at the 1927 Dairy Barn. Guests can then go and see All Aboard! Model Train display in the Calf Barn. Wagon rides will also take guests to all of our Museum buildings for musical entertainment, crafts, snacks, theatre groups, and even chestnuts roasting over an open fire! Tickets can be purchased online at [www.rochesterhills.org/museum](http://www.rochesterhills.org/museum) or by phone at 248-656-4663.

## Stoney Creek Model Railroad Club Exhibit

The Stoney Creek Model Railroad Club has been planning the upcoming model train exhibit and can't wait to share it with the public. They will fill the Calf Barn with modules that they have painstakingly built in scale that show locations near and far. This wonderfully detailed exhibit, *Get on Board!*, will be open to the public from November 25 – December 31. Check the Museum's website for specific dates.



## 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](http://rochesterhills.org/musprograms), or e-mailing [rhmuseum@rochesterhills.org](mailto:rhmuseum@rochesterhills.org).

### Michigan Bats

Saturday, October 29 1:00 – 2:30 pm

Are you batty for bats? Then fly over to the Museum to learn about Michigan's only flying mammal. Guests will learn about the different species of bats we have in Michigan, why bats are important to us, and play bat themed games outside.

### Animals We Hunt

Saturday, November 26 1:00 – 2:30 pm

Humans have hunted animals for thousands upon thousands of years. Join Patrick Endres as he teaches guests the historical and present day reasons why animals were hunted and learn what animals are hunted in Michigan today.

### Starry Starry Night

Saturday, December 10 7:00 – 8:30 pm

Star light, star bright, first star I see tonight. Stars are amazing. What better way to enjoy these dark winter nights than to spend some time outdoors staring at these far off balls of light. A telescope will be available, but guests are encouraged to bring their own telescopes, too.



## Planning a Wedding or Special Event?

The Rochester Hills Museum at Van Hoosen Farm is the perfect location for your wedding ceremony and reception, graduation party, or other special event. Outdoor wedding ceremonies can be held 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.

Receptions for up to 150 guests can be held inside our restored 1927 Calf Barn year round.

Please visit our website [www.rochesterhills.org/wedding](http://www.rochesterhills.org/wedding) for rental fees and procedures. Contact us at 248-841-2674 or by email at [raschkej@rochesterhills.org](mailto:raschkej@rochesterhills.org) for availability and to schedule an appointment to visit our site.



*KimthePiper@yahoo.com*

## 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 museum facilities.

For more information, please visit the Museum website at [www.rochesterhills.org/museum](http://www.rochesterhills.org/museum) or call the staff at 248-656-4663.

# Rochester Hills Department of Public Services

Dear Rochester Hills Community:

Though 2016 is not over yet, it is proving to be a memorable year for the Department of Public Services. This has been one of the hottest summers on record, and one of the most productive, as several significant infrastructure projects have been completed. Although it has been an inconvenience at times, we sincerely appreciate your understanding and patience as we worked to maintain and improve our infrastructure, and subsequently, our quality of life in Rochester Hills.

Your Public Services team works year-round to keep our city in top shape. Whether it is working countless days and nights to clear snow from the 280 miles of roadway under our jurisdiction, assisting thousands of resident concerns, or developing and administering over \$21 million dollars of public infrastructure projects in 2016, we really are having a banner year.

Some interesting facts, figures and recognitions we have achieved this year include:

- The North Oakland County Water Authority (NOCWA) was formed between the Cities of Auburn Hills, Pontiac, Rochester Hills and Orion Township in 2015. This innovative partnership was projected to collectively save Rochester Hills' water customers \$1.3 million dollars; and as of September 2016, the savings has exceeded the projection by \$300,000.
- Over 13 miles of residential roads were rehabilitated throughout the city.
- The DPS Fleet Services Division was recognized for a third straight year as a Top 100 Fleet in North America by *Governing* magazine, the only Michigan Municipal Fleet to be recognized.
- Rochester Hills partnered with the Road Commission for Oakland County and the City of Troy to rehabilitate South Blvd. from Livernois Road to John R. This worthwhile project was funded by additional surplus funds through the State of Michigan.
- Our team was recognized with three American Public Works Association Metro Chapter awards for: Government Collaboration between \$5 million and \$25 million, Quality of Life under \$1 million, and Environment between \$1 million and \$5 million.



As Fall approaches, we are buttoning up the construction projects started earlier this year and are preparing for another winter season. Our past, current, and future success would not be possible without your support.

Your support of our services helps to provide safer roads, reliable water and sewer utilities, enhance our vibrant character, and incorporate amenities that continue to make our city the premier community of choice to live, work and raise a family.

Thank you again for your patience and understanding during our 2016 construction season.



# Winter Operations - Snow Removal in Rochester Hills

The following outline is how Rochester Hills tackles Winter Operations. The City is divided into 6 routes with 2 plow trucks assigned to each route. The routes begin on the East and West sides of the City and progress towards the middle.

Winter storms are categorized as:

## Category 1: Snowfall of less than 4 inches

- MAJOR ROADS and EMERGENCY ROUTES – 38 miles of major roads that are traveled by the most vehicular traffic as well as emergency vehicles. These roads are plowed and salted on a 24 hour basis, 7 days a week as needed.

## Category 2: Snowfall of 4 or more inches throughout the City

- MAJOR ROADS and EMERGENCY ROUTES – 38 miles of major roads that are traveled by the most vehicular traffic as well as emergency vehicles. These roads are plowed and salted on a 24 hour basis, 7 days a week as needed.
- LOCAL ROADS - 242 miles of local roads are plowed and salted on an as-needed basis, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.
- For overall efficiency, plow routes are designed to allow for continuous plowing which minimizes all stopping, backing up, and turning around which maximizes efficiency.
- The utilization of the 14 4x4 pickups allows this continuous plowing to occur because they have better maneuverability and can clear cul-de-sac roads, dead end streets, as well as areas that can not be easily addressed with a plow truck.
- If a snow event necessitates it, our drivers will work 16 hours shifts.

## Ways you can help:

- Remove vehicles from the street during a snowstorm.
- Do not shovel snow into the street, which is not allowed per the Michigan Vehicle Code.
- Allow enough time for travel.
- Report concerns to the Department of Public Services at 248-656-4685.

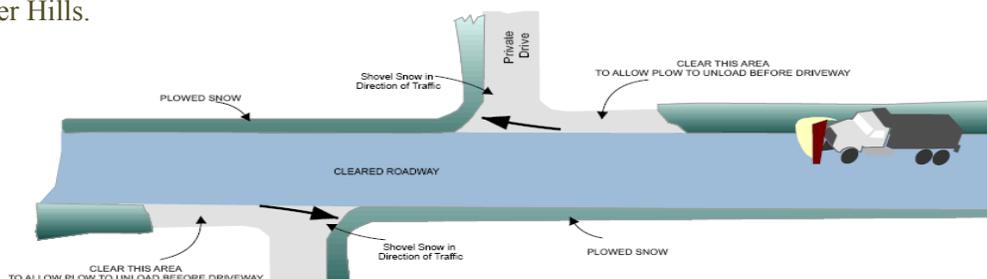
While the hardworking staff on the road is highly visible, there is an equally important support team comprised of foremen who monitor weather conditions, coordinate crews, and participate in snow removal operations. Additionally, mechanics who keep the vehicles and equipment safe and in optimum running condition, and administrative staff who field calls, oversee scale operations, and record material usage.

To complement the traditional snow fighting methods, the City has embraced the utilization of Brine (salt water) to enhance our ability to manage a snow event. Brine is used to pre-wet the salt. Prewetting is the process of spraying deicing salt with a solution of liquid chemical before spreading the salt on the roadway. Additionally, prewetting the salt helps it work more effectively as a deicing agent for two reasons: First, wet salt clings to the road instead of bouncing off or being swept off by traffic. The result is that less salt is spread, saving money and minimizing the threat to the environment. Second, to be effective as a deicing agent, salt requires moisture. Moisture dissolves the salt, releasing heat and thereby melting the ice and snow, as well as breaking the ice-road bond. When temperatures drop below freezing there is no moisture on the road, and salt alone is ineffective. Prewetting the salt, however, ensures that there will be enough moisture to facilitate the melting process. Then, prewetted salt works faster and at lower temperature than does dry salt, with less waste. Sodium chloride (salt) brine is a low-cost, effective alternative to liquid calcium chloride as a prewetting agent.

As you can see, we work diligently and consistently to serve you, our residents, business owners, and guests to make our city safe for winter travel. Please help us by familiarizing yourself with these operations so together we can work to make this winter a safe and beautiful season in the City of Rochester Hills.



*An illustration of how to minimize the chance of snow blocking your driveway*



# How to Prevent Frozen Water Pipes and Water Meters

When below freezing temperatures are sustained over a few days, water pipes and meters that are close to cold air may freeze.



The Department of Public Services urges residents to take steps to prevent water pipes and meters from freezing. Frozen water meters and water pipes can stop water service and may be expensive to repair or replace. Property owners are responsible for protecting both water pipes and the water meter from damage. Preventing pipes and the meter from freezing is easier than trying to thaw them. The Department of Public Services offers these money saving suggestions:

## To Prevent Frozen Water Pipes

- Tightly close doors and windows to the outside
- Install storm windows on basement windows
- Eliminate drafts from crawl space
- Fill cracks in walls and around windows
- Turn off water connections to garden hose connections at an inside valve and drain the exposed piping before freezing temperatures set in

## Provide warmth to the water pipes

- Open the door to the room where the pipes are located to allow warmth to circulate
- Place a lighted bulb near water pipes. Never use open flames
- Wrap pipes in insulation or heat tape
- If your kitchen or bathroom sink is located against an outside wall, insulate the wall
- Open cabinet door below the sink to allow warm air to reach the pipes



## Make frequent use of your water supply

- Flowing water often breaks up ice below freezing
- When outside temperatures remain below freezing, it's less expensive to run your faucet regularly than for you to repair a frozen or burst pipe

## How To Thaw Frozen Water Pipes

The pipes are frozen if no water comes from your faucets when you turn them on. Most likely the pipes nearest a wall, door, window, or along the floor are frozen.

1. Start by opening a faucet near the frozen pipe to release any vapor from the melting ice and so that you'll know when the water starts flowing again.
2. Begin warming the pipes nearest the faucet and work toward the frozen section.
3. Blow warm air on the pipe using a hair dryer. Do not leave the dryer unattended or allow it to overheat.
4. Do not use a blowtorch or open flame to warm pipes. This is a fire hazard and could cause an explosion.
5. Once water has begun to flow again, let a pencil-sized stream of water flow through the faucet until normal heating is restored to the area.
6. Eliminate cold drafts and allow warm air to circulate around the pipes to prevent freezing again.

## How To Prevent A Frozen Water Meter

- It is colder near the floor and along the block wall of a basement than at the ceiling, so make sure warm air is allowed to circulate around your meter. Follow the previous instruction about preventing frozen water pipes.
- If your meter is in a separate room, leave the door open to this room to allow warmth to circulate. If your meter is in a cabinet, open the cabinet door.

If you suspect damage to the water meter, please call the Department of Public Services, Monday through Friday from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm at 248-656-4685. After business hours and on weekends, your call will be transferred to the Rochester Hills dispatch for processing.

## Fall Healthy Lawn Care Tips

While most people know that spring and summer are important seasons for taking care of their lawns, did you know that the fall is just as important? The Clinton River Watershed Council has put together a list of tips for lawn care that will help keep your lawn healthy all year long and will help protect our water quality. Please [click here](#) for the entire list.



## Attention Registered Voter in Precinct 9

Hello! I hope that you were able to enjoy the beautiful summer that we had here in Michigan. It is officially Fall now. The temperatures are starting to drop a little, the cider mills are open, school is back in session, and the November General Election is only a matter of weeks away on Tuesday, November 8th.

Your precinct is located at Rochester High School, 180 S. Livernois. We want to make you aware, if you are not already, that Rochester High School is in the middle of a large construction project. As a voter, this will affect you in a few ways. First of all, you will need to enter the high school parking lot from Walton Blvd., not from Livernois as you normally would. As you enter the school parking lot, you will need to follow the road to the right, passing the tennis courts. This road will lead to what would normally be parking for staff members. The entrance to the precinct will be near the rear of the building. We will have multiple directional signs indicating which direction you should drive, as well as where you should enter the building. There will be overflow parking for the precinct. If you park in the overflow parking, you will still be able to walk through the school to get to the precinct; the walk will just be longer.

We will also have temporary handicap parking signs for those voters who need them. Additionally, we will have someone at the door to open the door for those who need assistance.

Please remember, as a registered voter, you may obtain an absent voter ballot if you are:

- age 60 years old or older
- unable to vote without assistance at the polls
- expecting to be out of town on election day
- in jail awaiting arraignment or trial
- unable to attend the polls due to religious reasons
- appointed to work as an election inspector in a precinct outside of your precinct of residence.

Below is a map indicating the entrance that you should use off of Walton Blvd, the location of the precinct entrance and parking, as well as the location of the overflow parking and entrance. Absent Voter Ballot Applications can be found on our website at [rochesterhills.org](http://rochesterhills.org), or may be obtained in our office. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact the Clerk's Office at 248-656-4630.

Tina Barton, MMC, Rochester Hills City Clerk



**CITY OF ROCHESTER HILLS  
GENERAL ELECTION  
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2016**

To the Qualified Electors of the City of Rochester Hills, Oakland County, Michigan

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a General Election will be held in the City of Rochester Hills, Oakland County, Michigan on Tuesday, November 8, 2016 from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. for the purpose of electing candidates for the following offices:

<b><u>PRESIDENTIAL</u></b>	PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES
<b><u>CONGRESSIONAL</u></b>	REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS
<b><u>LEGISLATIVE</u></b>	REPRESENTATIVE IN STATE LEGISLATURE
<b><u>STATE BOARDS</u></b>	STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION, REGENT OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN, TRUSTEE OF MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY, GOVERNOR OF WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY
<b><u>COUNTY</u></b>	COUNTY EXECUTIVE, PROSECUTING ATTORNEY, SHERIFF, CLERK/REGISTER OF DEEDS, WATER RESOURCES COMMISSIONER, COUNTY COMMISSIONER
<b><u>JUDICIAL</u></b>	JUSTICE OF SUPREME COURT, JUSTICE OF SUPREME COURT – INCUMBENT POSITION PARTIAL TERM ENDING 01/01/2019, JUDGE OF COURT OF APPEALS – 2 <sup>ND</sup> DISTRICT INCUMBENT POSITION, JUDGE OF CIRCUIT COURT – 6 <sup>TH</sup> CIRCUIT INCUMBENT POSITION, JUDGE OF CIRCUIT COURT – 6 <sup>TH</sup> CIRCUIT NON-INCUMBENT POSITION, JUDGE OF CIRCUIT COURT - 6 <sup>TH</sup> CIRCUIT INCUMBENT POSITION PARTIAL TERM ENDING 01/01/2021, JUDGE OF PROBATE COURT NON-INCUMBENT POSITION, JUDGE OF DISTRICT COURT – 52 <sup>ND</sup> DISTRICT, 3 <sup>RD</sup> DIVISION NON-INCUMBENT POSITION
<b><u>COMMUNITY COLLEGE</u></b>	BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEMBER OAKLAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE
<b><u>LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT</u></b>	BOARD MEMBER AVONDALE SCHOOL DISTRICT, BOARD MEMBER ROCHESTER COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT, BOARD MEMBER ROCHESTER COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT PARTIAL TERM ENDING 12/31/2018

And to vote on the following proposals:

<b><u>COUNTY</u></b>	A PROPOSAL AUTHORIZING THE REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY OF SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN (RTA) TO LEVY AN ASSESSMENT
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Full text of the proposals may be obtained from the Rochester Hills City Clerk's Office or on our website at: [www.rochesterhills.org/elections](http://www.rochesterhills.org/elections)

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Absentee ballots are available at the City Clerk's Office Monday through Friday from 8:00 am - 5:00 pm  
**The Clerk's Office will be open on Saturday, NOVEMBER 5, 2016 from 8:00 am - 2:00 pm 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

**The polling places for the November 8, 2016 General Election are as follows:**

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**

**\*Precinct #9 Voters - Please see the important notice on page 25 regarding your polling place**

# Rochester Hills City Council

## *Stephanie Morita - Vice President - District 1*



I always find it amazing how quickly a year, and in particular the summer, can fly by. It never seems long enough, and there is never enough time to get everything needed done before it ends. This year has seemed particularly busy. While I would like to blame it on all the time spent watching my 11-year old play

baseball, soccer, and hockey, I am pretty sure it also has a lot to do with taking on roles with both the Older Persons' Commission (OPC) [www.rochesterhills.org](http://www.rochesterhills.org) and the Planning Commission [www.rochesterhills.org](http://www.rochesterhills.org), and with the over 2,200 e-mails I have received in my City e-mail inbox in the last ten months.

While all of the e-mails were read, forwarded on to the right person, and/or acted upon, I am most proud of the resolutions I have been able to obtain, or at least start the process of obtaining, on behalf of a resident. So, in recognition of a society where we tend to value the public servant who actually does something productive on behalf of society, I have put together a non-exhaustive list, in no particular order, of issues brought to my attention by a resident that I have worked on, been involved in, provided information for, or assisted with in some manner just since the beginning of this year. Chances are, if you called or e-mailed me, your issue is on this list:

- **Hungry deer**
- Continuous puddle on a newly re-constructed road
- Loud noises from industrial facilities
- Placement of construction equipment during construction of a residential street
- Commercial garbage/recycling pick-up and product delivery during early morning hours next to a residential subdivision
- Wet/flooded backyards
- **Dead deer**
- Road signs thrown into the river
- Dilapidated phone utility boxes
- Riverbend Park survey stakes
- Aggressive coyotes
- Aging electrical infrastructure
- Open and incomplete utility company excavations
- **Too many deer**
- Subdivision entry signs
- Incorrect advertising of vacant parcel potential uses
- OPC class fees
- Parking congestion
- Blight/debris on a vacant parcel

- Incorrectly alleged blight/debris on a vacant parcel
- **Herds of Deer**
- Noise complaints
- Electricity blackouts
- Graffiti
- BB guns
- RecycleBank points
- Speed humps
- Road construction timeline information
- **Dancing Deer** (*okay, I made this one up just to see if you were paying attention*)

Addressing these issues was and is possible with the help and hard work of our City Staff, and in certain cases, the hands-on involvement of Mayor Barnett. As I explained more than once over the last year, while I may not know how to fix an issue, I do know who to call and follow-up with to deal with an issue. So, if you need me (or just need to be put in touch with the right person), please contact me at [moritas@rochesterhills.org](mailto:moritas@rochesterhills.org) or 248-841-2643. Also, if your subdivision or condo association would like me to come to a meeting to discuss your concerns, please let me know. I would be happy to do so.

However, if the issue has anything to do with the City's deer population, please e-mail our Director of Parks and Forestry, Ken Elwert, at [elwertk@rochesterhills.org](mailto:elwertk@rochesterhills.org) or call him at 248-656-4673. Mr. Elwert sits on the City's Deer Management Advisory Committee (DMAC) [www.rochesterhills.org](http://www.rochesterhills.org). He is the staff person who is able to bring the issues you are experiencing to the DMAC, and the best person to direct you to potential solutions.

That said, my wish is for all of us to have an "issue" free remainder of the year, a happy holiday season, and a healthy New Year.

## Passports

Did you know you can apply for your passport in person in the Clerk's Office Monday - Friday from 10:00 am - 2:00 pm

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





## *Dale Hetrick - At Large*

Rochester Hills' 2017-2019 Budget was recently approved, setting in motion our priorities for 2017. The budget establishes funding for important projects consistent with City Council goals, our residents'

desires for a livable community, and the City's mission to make Rochester Hills the preeminent place to live, work, and raise our families.

The 2017 Budget contains hundreds of projects and initiatives targeted to achieve the above objectives. Among them: A 10% reduction in total spending FY 2017, largely because we've made significant capital investment in infrastructure through 2016 and will not require the same pace of investment in 2017; Although our major road capital needs are lower in 2017, we remain focused on improving our road system. We've allocated almost \$3 million for major roads and nearly \$5 million for local streets. Public safety remains a top priority. The investment in additional Firefighter/Paramedics in 2015 is showing results with lower response times. A modest, yet vital change in 2017 to upgrade two Basic Emergency Technician positions to Firefighter/Paramedic positions will ensure more effective 24/7 coverage; We are also making investments in the City's parks in 2017. Over \$600,000 will be invested in improvements to Borden Park, and \$1 million will be available to match grants or private donations related to the amazing projects planned at Riverbend Park.

Reducing our total expenses by 10% is no easy task, however "living within our means" is important to keep our low tax rate, and our Charter requires a balanced budget. Thanks to all the City department team members who likely spent late nights "crunching the numbers" to ensure the City could achieve aggressive objectives while keeping our costs in check. This statement from the Budget Plan puts the hard work of these outstanding people into perspective, "The primary goal of the City of Rochester Hills Budget Plan is to present a financial plan that can be used by City Administration and elected officials in meeting their commitment to protect the quality of life in our City, to enhance its livability by offering desired amenities, and to sustain its foundation by ensuring that necessary services, facilities and infrastructure are provided." Mission accomplished!

Our major road capital budget is less this year. I suspect many of you are applauding now as less major road work likely means fewer road closures and decreased traffic congestion. Our continuing improvement of roads from poor to fair to good is also worth kudos to the City's DPS team. Major road projects for 2017 include; Auburn Road turn lane improvements, South Boulevard rehabilitation, and John R turn lane improvements.

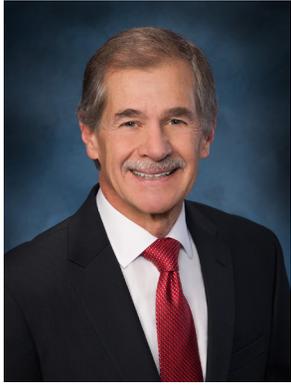
Local Street rehabilitation and maintenance will continue at a similar pace to 2016. I'm proud of my fellow Councilmembers who supported allocating nearly \$5 million to facilitate our local street improvements.

Retaining our Safest City in Michigan ranking requires sustained effort and results. Our Sheriff's Deputies and Firefighters/Paramedics are out every day working toward keeping us safe, transporting us to nearby hospitals for treatment, or educating us on safety related best practices. Our First Responders have earned our thanks and praise for reducing crime rates and improving emergency response times. Although funding for a Community Safety Officer was not included in the 2017 Budget, I was encouraged by the comments at the City Council public hearing September 12 highlighting an interest to begin discussions about how we might fund the position in 2018.

Parks are a high priority for residents of Rochester Hills. Year after year, resident surveys indicate parks as a very important part of Rochester Hills' quality of life. We have a significant opportunity to create a destination and a legacy in Riverbend Park. Amenities such as the Rivers Edge Trail and a Sensory Garden can truly create something special for residents and friends from around the State to enjoy. I was proud to approve a General Fund allowance to support grants and private donations to build this new gem in our City.

Our Citizen-driven committees don't always get a lot of public attention. One committee deserves a shout out at this time, the Deer Management Advisory Committee (DMAC) whose purpose is to manage our deer population and assure the safety of residents related to car/deer accidents. Like most residents, my wife Terry and I are not fans of deer turning our backyard Hosta garden into their personal salad bar; however, I'm more concerned about the safety of residents related to car/deer accidents. The DMAC recommended and we approved additional funding to increase the use of temporary traffic signs as a means to further reduce car/deer accidents. The DMAC wants everyone traveling Rochester Hills' roads to be safe.

I hope you are as optimistic as I am about Rochester Hills' plans for 2017. We have a lot of work to do, and it won't always be easy. I believe when we have the opportunity to reflect on our achievements as 2017 draws to a close, we will all be proud of our accomplishments.



## Jim Kubicina - District 2

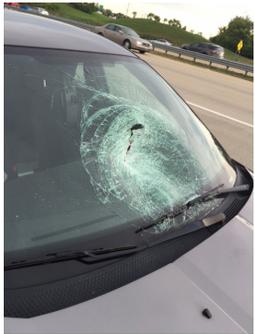
Did you ever wonder what it would be like to “ride along” with the Fire Department or with the Sheriff’s Department? We are very fortunate in Rochester Hills to have such excellent public safety teams.

I wanted to see firsthand how our Fire/Rescue and Sheriff’s Department operate. I was offered an opportunity to “ride along” for a day with both the Fire/Rescue and the Sheriff’s Department. I recently accepted the generous offers from Chief Canto of the Fire Department and Captain Johnson of the Oakland County Sheriff’s Department.



In the first photo, you will see Fire Fighter/Paramedic Mike Reamer and Lt. Paul Wright in Ambulance #24. I just arrived for my ride along shift and we were on our way to a medical emergency. It was amazing to see the professionalism displayed by this rescue team. I was amazed to see the relief suddenly appear in the patient’s face as the emergency crew arrived. It

didn’t take long for them to calm the patient and do a number of tests, and away we went off to the hospital. Before we could get back to the station, we got another call of another patient who needed help and we just happened to be minutes away. Again this rescue team quickly calmed the patient and was able to conduct tests and administer aid.



I also rode along in the ambulance with Lt. Nick Birchmeier and Fire Fighter/Paramedic Dan Cooper to an industrial accident. The patient was treated on the scene and transported to the hospital. Battalion Chief Clausen was kind enough to give me a tour of the five fire stations being remodeled. Suddenly we rushed off to a traffic accident with injuries on M59. A tire came off a

vehicle and hit the windshield of a car where glass went into the driver’s eyes. Amazingly this department responds to structural fires on average in less than 5 minutes, and around 5 minutes for a medical emergency.

In the next photo you can see a kitchen fire display that the Fire Department put on at Oakland University. From left to right Captain Bill Cooke, Lt. James Bradford, Lt. Lee Mayes, and Nancy Butty, Fire & Life Educator, who put on this training exercise

as part of the community outreach program to residents to promote fire safety. Grease fires were intentionally lit and extinguished. More information can be obtained by visiting the following web site, NFPA cooking safety [www.nfpa.org](http://www.nfpa.org).



After spending a day with the teams of fire Fire Fighter/Paramedic personnel, I would encourage young men and women to consider Fire/Rescue as a career choice. It takes a year of Fire Academy training, a year of Emergency Medical Training, and a year to a year and a half of Paramedic Training. Most universities will give equal credit for this training toward a degree. From what I observed during my ride along, I would say that you will use all your talents and abilities every day in this profession. This is a very dedicated crew of men and women who take a lot of pride in their chosen career. Constant training is a big part of being a Firefighter/Paramedic. Training is constant because of the new equipment being introduced and the need for continuous improvement.

On another day, I got to do a “ride along” with our Sheriff’s Department. Rochester Hills is ranked as the “Safest City” in Michigan for cities with more than 50,000 residents. I rode with Deputy Paul Deesen in his cruiser on the evening shift on a Friday night. I really got a better idea of what it means to protect and serve. We pretty much rode around the NW quadrant of our city all evening, and assisted on a retail fraud, and took two individuals to the substation for interviews and finger printing. We responded to a felonious assault with injuries. We took the arrested individual to the Oakland County Jail for booking. I was given a very informative tour of the jail and the sophisticated camera system used for security. Deputy Deesen does more than take people to jail and code license plates. He stopped to help a motorist who had car trouble. He responded to a person who lost his wallet at a checkout at a local grocery store. He patiently took all the information from this person and together we thoroughly searched his vehicle, went back to the supermarket and searched around and under the checkout racks. Finally we reviewed the store security tape and saw the customer put his wallet back into his pants pocket after the purchase. The video showed that he actually left the store with his wallet in his possession. Deputy Deesen is a very caring Deputy Sheriff and he went the extra mile trying to help this resident. It was a very exciting night for me to accompany this deputy and I look forward to doing it again.



## *Susan Bowyer, PhD - District 3*

Last year at this time I was campaigning for office, I didn't realize how much more active I would be in 2016; now I am walking a LOT! I have participated in several 5K run/walks during the

month of September, and have enjoyed them immensely, especially meeting more of the great people who live in our neighborhoods. In March, my son challenged me to be more active, and suggested I start walking regularly and then enter a 5K, so I did! My first walk was the annual Labor Day Paint Creek Trail Walk at the beginning of September. Funds raised from this walk help maintain this historic trail. The Michigan Ovarian Cancer Alliance Turned the Village TEAL September 17 with their annual 5K walk. I never realized how many teal colored antique cars are still on the road, it was amazing. The funds raised from this help promotion awareness about ovarian cancer with the goal of saving lives through early detection. I finished out September with the Brooksie Way 5K. Many of you may recall that this was started 9 years ago by our Oakland County Executive, L. Brooks Patterson, to promote Oakland County and encourage people to become more physically active. Race proceeds support programs that encourage healthy and active lifestyle and are distributed through Brooksie Way Mini Grants to Oakland County communities. I challenge you to join me next September and be more active.

I have recently been walking in the Riverbend Park to get in shape and build my endurance. The natural scenery while walking into the forest towards the Clinton River is beautiful, which is my favorite reason for walking here. You can occasionally see a deer or two in there and it is a great place for the deer to live. As part of the Deer Management Advisory Committee we have seen that our deer population is up from last year to 311 from 244. Please remember when driving in fall to be more alert at dusk and dawn as these are the times when deer are out. *"Don't Veer for Deer."*

I have also been participating in the Auburn Road Corridor Study Group which has held several meetings to discuss development in the area between Culbertson Road and Dequindre Road. Some issues raised are the need for more organized parking in this business district, with curbs, sidewalks, trees and landscaping to create a more pedestrian friendly environment, and safer crossings. These changes could also encourage new development opportunities in the area. Stay tuned for future updates!

As always, 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!

### *City Council Contact Information*

**Mark Tisdell - President**

**At Large**

Voicemail – 248-841-2644

Email – [tisdelm@rochesterhills.org](mailto:tisdelm@rochesterhills.org)

**Stephanie Morita - Vice President  
District 1**

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Email – [moritas@rochesterhills.org](mailto:moritas@rochesterhills.org)

**Jim Kubicina - District 2**

Voicemail - 248-841-2647

Email – [kubicinaj@rochesterhills.org](mailto:kubicinaj@rochesterhills.org)

**Susan Bowyer, PhD - District 3**

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**Thomas Wiggins - District 4**

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**Kevin Brown - At Large**

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**Dale Hetrick - At-Large**

Voicemail – 248-841-2649

Email – [hetrickd@rochesterhills.org](mailto:hetrickd@rochesterhills.org)

### *Mark Your Calendar*

<b>Thanksgiving</b>	<b>November 24 &amp; 25</b>
<b>Christmas</b>	<b>December 23 &amp; 26</b>
<b>New Year's Eve</b>	<b>December 31</b>
<b>New Year's Day</b>	<b>January 2</b>
<b>MLK Day</b>	<b>January 16</b>
<b>President's Day</b>	<b>February 20</b>
<b>Good Friday</b>	<b>April 14</b>

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

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## The Village of Rochester Hills ~ Tree Lighting Ceremony 2016

Join the Village and the City of Rochester Hills to "Light the Village" on Friday, November 18. Enjoy the sights and sounds of the season and the excitement of the City of Rochester Hills Holiday Lights Display! Gather around the stage in Fountain Park at 7:00 pm to help us celebrate the simple joys of the holidays. Mayor Bryan Barnett will lead the countdown for Santa's arrival and children's eyes will sparkle when they flip the magical switch to illuminate the Village's 25-foot Christmas tree. Be sure to look to the sky for an extra special display of lights sure to delight both the young and the young at heart. It's the perfect way to kick off the season, and it's only at the Village of Rochester Hills. Our 2016 event is generously sponsored by:

