Each spring, as I write my article for the *Hills Herald*, I focus on highlighting many of the amazing accomplishments we achieved since our last edition. I am always excited to share our wins, like our remarkable safest city ranking, low unemployment rate, and phenomenal business growth. I also love to highlight the list of awards and recognitions our outstanding city staff received over the course of the winter. I especially love to share the fact that Rochester Hills has the lowest tax rate in Oakland County among cities our size, while at the same time, offers amenities very few cities can compete with.

In a normal *Hills Herald* edition, I would update you on the development and growth of Rochester Hills’ newest park, Innovation Hills. I would share the outstanding positive reviews on Facebook, and the beautiful pictures on Instagram showing our residents of all ages enjoying our park! The personal excitement I feel in each picture is hard to describe. It is undoubtedly my absolute pride and joy.

I would surely share details of the hard work that has been done on the Auburn Road Corridor, one of the biggest and most exciting projects in our city’s history. I would remind you of the great progress we have made on our road projects and ask that you take a drive down Livernois to see for yourself.

Under normal circumstances, I would remind you of all these things and more. But, as we all know, our circumstances this spring are anything but normal. This spring, my focus is keeping my family and our community safe and cared for. When COVID-19 reached our city, one of my first concerns was for our senior

Continued on page 2
citizens, those deemed most vulnerable. I organized our city team to work in conjunction with OPC, to reach out to our seniors. As a result, city staff members called over 3,000 people each week for six weeks, checking to see if there was anything they needed, or simply to say hello. This initiative was blessed with the partnership of our amazing faith communities as well as other concerned citizens who stepped up to provide the needed services. I would like to thank City Light Church, St. John’s Lutheran Church, the IAGD, Woodside Bible Church, and all the individuals who personally helped with this program. Your generosity, spirit, and willingness to give are truly remarkable and greatly appreciated.

We were also blessed to receive 15,000 donated face masks from Bella + Canvas through our partnership with the US Conference of Mayors. With this incredible donation, we were able to deliver over 8,000 masks to our seniors in senior living communities in Rochester Hills. And, as I write this, we are still providing masks to residents who call or email my office with requests. In addition, we are thankful to the many residents who shared their time and talent by making masks and gifting them to us so we might deliver them to people in need. My staff spent weeks delivering masks and hand sanitizer to seniors quarantined at home.

Speaking of seniors, my focus was also on another very important group of seniors who were struggling through this quarantine – our graduating high school seniors! To celebrate them, I was able to organize billboard congratulation notices for all of our high schools in Rochester Hills. And, in working with Superintendent Dr. Robert Shaner and the Rochester Community Schools Administration team, we will host our first ever drive-by graduation ceremonies for Adams, Stoney Creek, and Rochester High School Graduates!

At the beginning of the pandemic, I organized Zoom meetings with fellow leaders of our region: the City of Rochester, Ascension Providence Rochester, Rochester Community Schools, Avondale Community Schools, Oakland University, Rochester University, the Older Person’s Commission, the Rochester Hills Public Library, RARA, and the Rochester Regional Chamber of Commerce. We continue to meet each week to discuss best practices, and how to navigate our communities and organizations through these uncharted waters.

It is my personal belief that we are better for our united efforts – people helping people is the single most important tool we have in our kit at this time. I continue to be amazed by the levels of giving and genuine concern for others that I have observed and taken part in during this unprecedented time. When I asked my team to create inspirational signs to line our parks and pathways, it was with the belief that like never before, we need to be reminded that we are in this together. We are not alone, and this too shall pass.

I ask that you join me in a special thanks to all the people who have worked to make our lives better during this time. From educators who have had to learn a whole new way of teaching to retail workers who have had to learn a whole new way of serving their customers, and to each and every person who has put themselves at risk, we want to offer a sincere and heartfelt thanks for all you have done.

I would also like to recognize and honor our first responders and health care professionals. Our Rochester Hills Fire Department and members of the Oakland County Sheriff’s Office, and our medical professionals manning our hospitals have worked unbelievably hard to keep us safe. They cannot be thanked enough.

Friends, I appreciate each and every one of you, your strength and resilience in getting through this pandemic is something that will go down in history. Facing the worst pandemic in 100 years, the worst economic crash in 90 years, and the most social unrest in 50 years, our community has stood tall and bonded even closer together. Some lessons are clear and easy to define, like the difference between a want and a need, and some lessons are a little less easy to define, like how love and compassion really are the most important gifts a community can offer.

And finally, because although so many things are different, some things remain the same, so I would like to congratulate you once again on choosing to live in the preeminent place to live, work, and raise a family! We are certainly blessed.

Stay safe and God bless.
Once every 10 years, our country comes together to be counted through the United States Census. Why does it matter to Rochester Hills? Census data is used to:

• Determine the distribution of $675 billion in federal funds! These funds are invested in schools, hospitals, roads, public works and other vital programs.
• Determine the number of representatives we have in Congress and define how district lines are drawn for our Congressional and State Legislature.
• Provide an accurate snapshot of our community for local planning purposes.

The Bottom Line: The higher our population, the greater the opportunity for local funding and a larger voice. It’s critically important that everyone be counted!

The U.S. Census is making reporting as easy as possible, including an online option that’s new for 2020. In the weeks ahead, you will be asked a few simple questions, like your age, gender, the number of people who live in your home, and your race/origin. All information is kept confidential under federal law and is only used to produce statistics for the Census Bureau.

Rochester Hills - Let’s Be Counted!
On May 4, 2020, the Chief Assistant to the Mayor, Maria Willett, was named one of Crain’s Detroit Business “20 in Their Twenties.” This list perennially recognizes rising stars in the Detroit community for their accomplishments, bringing new ideas to their organizations, and making a tangible difference in their communities.

In his nomination of Maria, Mayor Barnett noted that “it’s extremely rare to work with such a creative, motivated, energetic and dynamic staff member. The best way that I can put it is that Maria creates positive change in our community.”

In her position, Maria is responsible for leading the Mayor’s Office staff and departmental meetings, managing the city’s social media, public relations, and communications efforts, project management, and spearheading event planning for city festivals that draw tens of thousands of residents.

Beyond that, Maria has been supportive to the Mayor in his role as President of the U.S. Conference of Mayors. She has organized meetings at the White House with President Trump and facilitated discussions about the U.S. Mexico Canada Trade Agreement (USMCA) signed earlier this year, and meetings around immigration policy and Opportunity Zones, among others.

In addition, Maria is a familiar face -- and force -- in our local community. She is a founding member of the Young Professionals of Rochester,

The Coronavirus has limited our ability to connect with others in significant ways. But being at home, does not mean that we are alone.

From the beginning, Rochester Hills team members were looking for ways to help, specifically with our seniors. As one of the most vulnerable populations of the Coronavirus outbreak, we knew many of our older adults were experiencing isolation at an unprecedented level.

Thanks to a partnership with OPC Senior Center, we were able to get phone numbers for thousands of seniors in our community and began a wellness check call program.

The idea was simple: call the number, ask how the person is doing, and listen. For some, it provided a chance to chat with someone. For others, it became an important opportunity to get water, groceries, face masks, hand sanitizer, and other necessities.

Even better, these calls could be made from anywhere. When the program was presented, over 60 Rochester Hills employees raised their hands and volunteered to make calls to seniors throughout the community.

As requests for different items came in, many places of worship, nonprofits, and local groups throughout the community stepped up to assist these seniors. We would like to say special thanks to City Light Church, Islamic Association of Greater Detroit, Rochester Hills Baptist Church, Country Club Village, Faith Church, Woodside Bible Church, the Rochester Hills Fire Department and Employees for helping us make life during quarantine a little easier for some very special residents.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Quotes from our Seniors:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>“You’re really a blessing to the City.”</td>
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<tr>
<td>“What you are doing is absolutely wonderful.”</td>
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<tr>
<td>“You guys are awesome!”</td>
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<tr>
<td>“I am so impressed that you are doing this.”</td>
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<tr>
<td>“I had a very nice phone call from Tim Hollis.”</td>
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<tr>
<td>“I’m so glad to live in a city like this.”</td>
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<tr>
<td>“I think it’s very cool what you’re doing.”</td>
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<tr>
<td>“What a nice service you’re providing!”</td>
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<tr>
<td>“What a wonderful thing to do!”</td>
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<tr>
<td>“My love and prayers are with you all.”</td>
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<tr>
<td>“I appreciate the calls so much.”</td>
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<tr>
<td>“It was so sweet of Jason to call.”</td>
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<tr>
<td>“Thank you so much for calling and checking in on me.”</td>
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<tr>
<td>“I just wanted to say how thoughtful and kind this is.”</td>
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<tr>
<td>“I’m very touched that you would do this.”</td>
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<tr>
<td>“This is a good thing you are doing.”</td>
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<tr>
<td>“We really appreciate the offers of help.”</td>
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</table>
**First Time Ever - Rochester Hills Restaurant Bingo**

Great food and a $10 gift card is waiting for you!

As the quarantine is lifted and we look toward economic recovery, we are kicking off a series of efforts to support our local businesses. One exciting and really fun effort is - **Rochester Hills Restaurant Bingo!** Below are Bingo cards representing restaurants in each of our City Council districts (See rochesterhills.org/maps). All you have to do to play is dine at your favorite restaurants listed on the card until you have a Bingo, save your receipts, and email a picture of your card and your receipts to the Mayor’s Office. Thanks to several council members who personally donated gift cards to show their community support. You can’t win if you don’t play, and the sooner the better because the game ends once the cards are gone!

With sincere thanks to President Ryan Deel, Vice President Susan Bowyer and Councilman Dale Hetrick for their outstanding generosity in funding this project, and for their ongoing support of our community.

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### Rochester Hills District 1

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<tr>
<td><strong>Bingo</strong></td>
<td><strong>Papa John’s</strong></td>
<td><strong>Ram’s Horn</strong></td>
<td><strong>Val’s Polish Kitchen</strong></td>
<td><strong>Sukho Thai Cuisine</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Krazy</strong></td>
<td><strong>Shwarma</strong></td>
<td><strong>Four Brother Pizza</strong></td>
<td><strong>2941 Street Food</strong></td>
<td><strong>Burger King</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Taco Bell</strong></td>
<td><strong>CK Digg’s</strong></td>
<td><strong>Free!</strong></td>
<td><strong>Mitchell’s Fish Market</strong></td>
<td><strong>Grand Tavern</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Kerby’s Koney Island</strong></td>
<td><strong>Noodles and Company</strong></td>
<td><strong>Half Day Cafe</strong></td>
<td><strong>McDonald’s</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Jet’s Pizza</strong></td>
<td><strong>Oceania Inn</strong></td>
<td><strong>Avery’s</strong></td>
<td><strong>112 Pizzaeria Bistro</strong></td>
<td><strong>Jersey Mike’s Subs</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Panera Bread</strong></td>
<td><strong>Chipotle Mexican Grill</strong></td>
<td><strong>Original Buscemi’s</strong></td>
<td><strong>PF Chang’s</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Beyond Juice &amp; Eatery</strong></td>
<td><strong>Free!</strong></td>
<td><strong>Tapper’s Pub</strong></td>
<td><strong>Wendy’s</strong></td>
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### Rochester Hills District 2

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<tr>
<td><strong>Bingo</strong></td>
<td><strong>Golden Eagle Bar &amp; Grill</strong></td>
<td><strong>Bruegger’s Bagels</strong></td>
<td><strong>Bigalora Wood Fired Cucina</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>King Garden</strong></td>
<td><strong>tkk Fried Chicken</strong></td>
<td><strong>Jet’s Pizza</strong></td>
<td><strong>Tropical Smoothie Cafe</strong></td>
<td><strong>Wendy’s</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>RJ’s Pub</strong></td>
<td><strong>Jet’s Pizza</strong></td>
<td><strong>Big Boy</strong></td>
<td><strong>Buffalo Wild Wings</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Sushi Kafe</strong></td>
<td><strong>Green Lantern Pizza</strong></td>
<td><strong>Seasons of India</strong></td>
<td><strong>Lino’s Restaurant</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>George’s Coney Island</strong></td>
<td><strong>Chili’s</strong></td>
<td><strong>Pizza One</strong></td>
<td><strong>Red Olive Restaurant</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Lucky’s Prime Time</strong></td>
<td><strong>La Collina</strong></td>
<td><strong>Meza Mediterranean Grill</strong></td>
<td><strong>Take Sushi Japanese Restaurant</strong></td>
<td><strong>QDOBA Mexican Eats</strong></td>
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### Rochester Hills District 3

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<tr>
<td><strong>Bingo</strong></td>
<td><strong>Lebanese Grill</strong></td>
<td><strong>Towne Square Brick Oven Pizza</strong></td>
<td><strong>Soho Cuisine</strong></td>
<td><strong>Miguel’s Cantina</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Papa Romano’s Mr. Pita</strong></td>
<td><strong>Val’s Polish Kitchen</strong></td>
<td><strong>McDonald’s</strong></td>
<td><strong>Johnny Black’s Public House</strong></td>
<td><strong>Pizza One</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Antonio’s Cafe</strong></td>
<td><strong>Four Brother Pizza</strong></td>
<td><strong>Gold Star Family Restaurant</strong></td>
<td><strong>Red Olive Restaurant</strong></td>
<td><strong>Red Lobster</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>MOD Pizza</strong></td>
<td><strong>2941 Street Food</strong></td>
<td><strong>Arby’s</strong></td>
<td><strong>Little Caesers Pizza</strong></td>
<td><strong>Jersey Mike’s Subs</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Starbucks</strong></td>
<td><strong>Free!</strong></td>
<td><strong>Free!</strong></td>
<td><strong>Chili’s</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>QDOBA Mexican Eats</strong></td>
<td><strong>Clubhouse 8FD</strong></td>
<td><strong>Panera Bread</strong></td>
<td><strong>Little Caesers Pizza</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Big Boy</strong></td>
<td><strong>Alex’s of Rochester Restaurant</strong></td>
<td><strong>Tapper’s Pub</strong></td>
<td><strong>Leo’s Coney Island</strong></td>
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### Rochester Hills District 4

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<tr>
<td><strong>Bingo</strong></td>
<td><strong>Chewy’s Coney Island</strong></td>
<td><strong>North Shack</strong></td>
<td><strong>Olive Garden</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Lebanese Grill</strong></td>
<td><strong>Tim Horton’s</strong></td>
<td><strong>Soho Cuisine</strong></td>
<td><strong>Miguel’s Cantina</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Fresheats Grill/Juice Bar</strong></td>
<td><strong>Gold Star Family Restaurant</strong></td>
<td><strong>McDonald’s</strong></td>
<td><strong>Johnny Black’s Public House</strong></td>
<td><strong>Pizza One</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Chipotle Mexican Grill</strong></td>
<td><strong>Little Caesers Pizza</strong></td>
<td><strong>Chili’s</strong></td>
<td><strong>Jersey Mike’s Subs</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Ping’s Chinese</strong></td>
<td><strong>Panera Bread</strong></td>
<td><strong>Little Caesers Pizza</strong></td>
<td><strong>Chili’s</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Chadd’s Bistro</strong></td>
<td><strong>Tapper’s Pub</strong></td>
<td><strong>Leo’s Coney Island</strong></td>
<td><strong>North Shack</strong></td>
<td><strong>Olive Garden</strong></td>
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To play: Like any Bingo game, a straight line going down, across, or diagonal wins.

Use your winning strategy to plan your restaurant visits, spend a minimum of $10 and keep your receipts!

Once you have a bingo, email a picture of your card, your receipts, name and address to: **mayorsoffice@rochesterhills.org**

and we will send you a $10 gift card from one of our local food establishments.

The game ends when all gift cards have been distributed.

Now, get out there and play to win!
Since the humble beginnings in 1956 with cards and social gatherings of seniors to today, the OPC has grown and evolved and always worked to provide exceptional, groundbreaking programming, events and services for area seniors. Over the years, the OPC has become an integral part of the local landscape. The state-of-the-art 90,000 sq. ft. OPC facility is a major regional attraction, making the Rochester Hills area a highly desirable destination for those 50+ to live, work and play.

The OPC offers classes and programs ranging from art and education to fitness, aquatics and theatrical performances, in addition to the supportive services of Meals on Wheels, Adult Day Service, Senior Resources and Transportation. With this diverse programming, the OPC creates both vibrant learning opportunities for the young at heart along with a safety net of services for the vulnerable, isolated or homebound seniors.

On August 4, 2020, the OPC’s Operational Millage will be on the ballot for renewal, and will include a slight increase. The decision was not arrived at lightly, and this will be the first time since 1984 (36 years) when the OPC was established that an increase has been requested. Over the years, the organization has implemented operational efficiencies and generated revenue from sources other than requesting additional millage dollars. We’re currently at the point where the proposed millage increase will help to maintain the quality of services and programs.

Forecasted demand for services - a 66% increase is expected in the 55+ population by 2030 within Rochester Hills, Rochester and Oakland Township, many of whom will be older than 80 years of age. (Source: SEMCOG). These individuals will need the supportive services offered by OPC, as well as the other enrichment and fitness programs which enhance the well-being and independence of our older adults.

The requested increase amounts to $11.44 per year or (22 cents a week) on a Rochester Hills property with a taxable value of $264,400. A complimentary membership to the OPC is provided to all Rochester Hills, Rochester and Oakland Township residents 50+. Thank you for your continued support and consideration of the OPC Operational Millage Proposal.

Essential Services and Critical Care

Although the OPC is temporarily closed, our work to maintain essential services and critical care to vulnerable seniors has been in high gear since March 14. These critical services are at the very heart of our mission. Not only are we providing Meals on Wheels and Transportation Services, we’ve been making telephone reassurance calls with the help of the City of Rochester Hills staff and have developed virtual programming to help keep our members socially, mentally, and physically engaged.

Please visit our website opcseniorcenter.org, Facebook Page, or call 248-656-1403, for a listing of complimentary virtual programs, as well as information about our services and updates on the reopening of OPC.
Discover the Rochester Hills Public Library Online and at Home

While our library building is closed to the public temporarily, an online RHPL is open 24/7 and continues our dedicated service to you and your family. Our catalog of online resources is waiting for you to discover that next great read, support your student’s academic success, and connect with the community in new ways. As with our physical materials, our online resources inspire, motivate, and encourage creativity, resilience, and learning.

To begin your online journey with RHPL, make sure you have an active library card. Cards are available to anyone who lives, works, owns property, or is enrolled in a public or private school in Rochester, Rochester Hills or Oakland Township. Students attending Oakland University and Rochester University are also eligible for an RHPL card. Apply for an RHPL card online at rhpl.org and receive a virtual library card within twenty-four hours. An RHPL card provides access to thousands of eBooks, audiobooks, magazines, music, and movies you can enjoy at home. Rochester Community Schools students may also access the library’s online materials using their student ID card.

If you need assistance with our online resources, your library account, or have a question, call our general phone number at 248-656-2900 to speak to an RHPL librarian, Monday through Friday from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. (call hours will expand in June). Patrons may also message the library using Facebook, Instagram, or Twitter.

To get started with RHPL’s online catalog, visit rhpl.org and click on Online Resources from the home page. Online highlights include Tutor.com and Gale for students and adults engaged in online learning, CreativeBug for DIY crafts and projects, Ancestry.com and local history resources, RHPL video presentations and lectures, book discussion kits and recommendations from RHPL librarians, a variety of eBook and audiobook platforms, and more.

In addition, RHPL’s annual summer reading program begins Saturday, June 6. “Library @Home: Summer Reading 2020” features all sorts of online fun, games, and events including a virtual run/walk and a new way to record reading progress through the ReaderZone app or online at readerzone.com.

The library grounds are also always open and provide a scenic landscape of trees, flowering shrubs, native and non-native plants, walkways, and a running waterway, the Paint Creek. Later in the summer, our gardens will be one of many locations for the Detroit Institute of Arts’ Inside|Out installation, featuring reproduction paintings from Vincent Van Gogh and Mary Cassatt.

Juliane Morian
Library Director

NEED ASSISTANCE?
WE CAN HELP!

SPEAK TO AN RHPL LIBRARIAN
1-5 p.m. Monday - Friday
248.656.2900

ROCHESTER HILLS PUBLIC LIBRARY
What an interesting spring this has been at the Fire Department. All of your Rochester Hills Fire personnel are considered essential in the fight with the Corona Virus 19 outbreak. Your Firefighters and Paramedics are working together during this battle. We have also worked with our Mutual Aid partners in Oakland County. Mutual Aid has been vital to all fire departments while we work to provide uninterrupted fire and EMS and other emergency services. During this crisis, we assisted Southfield Fire as the south end of the County was hit extremely hard by COVID - 19. All Fire Departments in Oakland County contributed to the fight in the area of Mutual Aid. The County was broken up into five fire divisions during this emergency, in order to meet the needs of all residents and to be sure that if one area was being overwhelmed with calls, that others would step up to cover stations and alarms.

Supplies for first responders was a huge need for RHFD and the entire fire service in Oakland County. RHFD was supply hub for our division, and the Community Risk Reduction (CRR) Division at RHFD has overseen this element. Supplies from the County were received here at Headquarters for our division. Masks, gowns, gloves, face shields, thermometers, are some of the items that we received for the division. That inventory was then divided up and labeled for pick up by the individual department. A division conference call took place explaining to division leaders when and where to pick up their supplies. Additionally, CRR personnel delivered needed items to our own local stations in order to keep our station personnel in their stations, and ready to respond.

CRR personnel assisted the public by conference calls with senior living facilities on a weekly basis, and with personal calls to those locations. We discussed needs that they may have, staff and resident health status, etc. Lt. Echols and Fire Educator Lyman recorded themselves, each reading a book for children as their parents checked into the Village of Rochester Hills Facebook page. Those two videos were viewed a combined 5,7 thousand times. Working with Meadowbrook Christian Church we were able to deliver a wheelchair for an elderly resident living alone, who wanted to get outside in the warmer weather. We helped with food distribution at McGregor Elementary and offered to help with Meals on Wheels at OPC. We coordinated with local schools and ZOOMed with teachers and students on a regular basis, presenting fire safety messages to all. Finally, we facilitated no contact apparatus displays for during the Stay Home, Stay Safe order, to the delight of many of our residents.

We have been blessed by several residents and companies in our City as they have delivered lunch or dinner to the stations. We are thankful to all of them. Several residents have sent cards into Headquarters stating they are thankful for the excellent service that we provide and that they are praying for the safety of our personnel. Further we had many businesses and individuals that donated masks at the beginning of this crisis, as we were running low and waiting for the County supplies to begin to arrive.

Once again, we are very thankful for all those who contributed to the cause.
Sheriff Bouchard and the entire Sheriff’s Office team has continued to work tirelessly to keep the community as healthy and safe as possible. New policies and procedures have been implemented in all areas of the agency’s operations. While some services have been modified or suspended, which may be inconvenient, these decisions were made to better protect both the public and our employees. Services will begin to return as restrictions are lifted. Citizens should consult the Oakland County Sheriff’s Office website for updates.

The Sheriff’s Office and its personnel are forever grateful for the steadfast support which has been received from local citizens and businesses. Meals and snacks have been provided to staff on all three shifts to keep them fueled up. Small businesses have also converted their operations in many cases to provide personal protection equipment and hand sanitizer to our employees. Griffin Claw Brewing in Rochester Hills has been one of the partners who has graciously provided hand sanitizer made at their brewing operations for our staff. The outpouring of support from both residents and these businesses has been outstanding and their assistance has been invaluable to the agency.

Some Rochester Hills residents may have witnessed some recent parades consisting of both police and fire assets parading around neighborhoods to celebrate special events and birthdays for our citizens who have had to cancel or postpone celebration plans. The Sheriff’s Office has been happy to spread a little cheer during these anxious and uncertain times especially to our youngest members of the community.
Did you know that your regional Rochester Hills parks each have miles of walking opportunities? Whether your preference is pavement, dirt, stairs, gravel or boardwalks, your local parks are a great place to come out and spread out. Bloomer, Borden, and Spencer Parks are all located on John R Road, Innovation Hills is on Hamlin Road, and the Clinton River Trail and Paint Creek Trail can be accessed all throughout the community with trail heads at Livernois and Avon, Adams and Leach Road, and at Tienken Road east of Livernois.

A few safety tips:

• Stay six feet away from others not in your household. This includes people walking on the opposite side of the trail.
• Be prepared for limited bathrooms. We anticipate bathrooms will be slowly opening in May. At the beginning of May, 75% of bathrooms in parks were closed nationwide according to surveys by the National Recreation and Park Association.
• In the event multi-stall bathrooms are available, please wear a mask inside. It may be difficult to maintain six foot distance and there may be multiple people in the room.

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

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

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

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

This year we will have Insect Repellant Spray for personal protection and Mosquito Dunks for treatment of ponds on your property. The spray and dunks will be available at the Parks & Natural Resources counter at City Hall until they are gone (one per Rochester Hills address).

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

Michigan Department of Environmental Quality
Oakland County Health Department
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
While we all feel like we're making history these days, we might take the opportunity to look back on the stories of people who lived in our region before us, those who weathered interesting times themselves and persevered. Accessing these stories is possible thanks to the hard work of the Rochester Hills Museum at Van Hoosen Farm.

The Museum's Young Leaders Circle is a group of young professionals (ages 19-40) who work to support the museum's mission. This summer, we will be working hard to come up with new ways to connect our community of young adults with each other and with the museum, and to help a new generation of leaders share stories of our region's fascinating past. We would like to invite anyone who is interested in learning more about the Young Leaders Circle to visit rochesterhills.org/museum.
Rochester Hills Companies Join Fight Against COVID - 19

Rochester Hills companies are filling the shortage of essential medical supplies.

Michigan’s stay-at-home order has been in effect for more than three months now, and while these extreme precautions have no doubt stunted the spread of COVID-19, as intended, they have also hobbled the economy. Hundreds of local businesses have been forced to lay off employees and close their doors — some permanently.

Rochester Hills’ Planning & Economic Development Department partnered up with the Rochester Regional Chamber and Oakland County to provide essential resources for local businesses on how to navigate through these difficult times. The Chamber is providing weekly COVID-19 update calls to provide most current information on programs, tips on business planning from chamber sponsors and updates from federal, state and local officials. To sign up, please visit rrc-mi.com

The Economic Development Team promoted and supported the Oakland County Small Business Stabilization Grant which awarded over $422,000 to 90 companies to cover their immediate, fixed expenses.

Rochester Hills is proud to have a large number of businesses that stood up for their community during these difficult times. We have businesses that donated hundreds of masks to people in need, we have companies that switched their complete manufacturing from making auto parts to making face shields or producing hand sanitizers. Another generous company donated 16 ventilators to a local hospital. In addition, our small businesses are helping in a great way, from providing food donations to discounts and free items for our first responders, and despite their own struggles during this uncertain time, our small businesses stand together.

This will be a long path to economic recovery and as businesses and the world return to a new normal, the Economic Development Team will continue to roll out new programs and initiatives to support all those within our business community.

A huge shout out and thank you to our great local businesses:
• Auburn Pharmaceutical Company
• CARSTAR Hamlin
• Danny’s Home Health Care and Guardian Angel
• EEI Gobal
• FANUC America
• Plymouth Technology
• PREFIX Corporation
...and so many more - thank you

Tienken Road Park Still Holds Secrets
Rochester Hills Historic Districts Commission

Residents near Adams and Tienken Roads have a ten-acre parcel of park property to explore next to Adams High School that is full of fascinating history. Neighbors who walk the site are impressed by the large trees and curious about the stone walls.

J. Riggs purchased the original 80-acre parcel of property from the US government in 1831. Six additional owners have owned this parcel before the City of Rochester Hills purchased it in 1990. The beautiful house on the property dated to the 1830s and was a significant Greek Revival designed structure – some claimed it was the second oldest house in Oakland County. The house had wide plank wood floors, wooden pegs, wavy paneled glass, and three wood burning fireplaces, with loads of wood trim throughout the home. The gardens throughout the property consisted of roses, chrysanthemums, peonies, daisies, poppies, daffodils, tulips, snapdragons, and gladiolas. The flowerbeds were sectioned off with bricks to form a beautiful symmetrical garden, and they were surrounded with cherry and apple trees, grape arbors, and evergreens.

In 1932, Dr. Haidle, a well-liked Dentist in our community, lived here and restored the house and grounds and added a guest cottage. He enclosed the English floral garden with cobblestone walls and built the first swimming pool in Oakland County. He added swings and a lighted badminton court and operated his dental practice out of the cottage. Patients could swim before and after their appointments. Dr. Haidle sold the property in 1955 to the Arthur Weeber family who lived here until 1963.

For 25 years, famed dress designer Bette Appel, known for her “No Sweat” called this site home. She sold it to art dealer and gallery owner, Catherine Petersen. In 1988, the City of Rochester Hills passed a $9 million recreation bond that allowed the City to acquire open space throughout the community and this ten-acre parcel, home and gardens were acquired. All of the buildings and gardens were removed.

The property is a passive use park site for neighbors and residents to enjoy while enjoying 189 years of history.

In 1978, the former Avon Township established a study committee that evaluated and eventually recommended areas of the township to be designated as historic districts. Upon adoption of the Historic Preservation Ordinance in 1979, several areas were officially designated Historic Districts, and a Historic Districts Commission was appointed to guide the preservation and protection of resources within these districts. At present day, the City of Rochester Hills has 30 single historic districts.

For more information on the history of our community, contact the Rochester Hills Museum at Van Hoosen Farm at rochesterhills.org/museum.
Fall 2020 Free Street Tree Planting Program

The City of Rochester Hills is offering free street trees to Rochester Hills property owners and businesses in 2020. The first 250 property owners and businesses to register this fall may have a tree planted on the public right-of-way adjacent to their property. The trees will be planted, maintained, and guaranteed for one year by the City's landscape contractor. The Forestry Unit of the Parks and Natural Resources Department will work with the property owner to determine the specific location following the City's Street Tree Ordinance guidelines. Orders must be received by September 4, 2020.

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, Serviceberry, Oak, Baldcypress, Linden, Hybrid, Elm. (Note: Due to over-planting, Red Maples and Flowering Pears are no longer offered.) Other varieties are sometimes available. Please contact the Parks & Natural Resources office at 248-656-4673 for any additional information or visit our website at: rochesterhills.org/trees

Name: ____________________________
Address: ____________________________
Phone: ____________________________

Preferred Species (please indicate first and second choices):

Mail order form to: City of Rochester Hills, Forestry Division
1000 Rochester Hills Drive
Rochester Hills, MI 48309-3033
Email: forestry@rochesterhills.org

Keep an Eye Out for These Threats to Our Trees

This year marks Rochester Hills’ 30 year anniversary as a Tree City USA community through the Arbor Day Foundation. Every year, this designation is achieved by the city by meeting certain standards of sound urban forestry management. The City of Rochester Hills has committed to maintaining a Forestry Division within our Parks and Natural Resources Department dedicated to managing our public trees, with three full time Arborists and investing at least $2 per capita on urban forestry annually. Additionally, standards include having a Tree Conservation Ordinance, which the city has recently improved to apply to the entire city, all types of developments, and put an emphasis on preserving mature trees. The City has also committed over the years to recognize and celebrate Arbor Day each and every year! Over the past several years the city has surpassed these standards with higher levels of tree care and has been recognized by the Arbor Day Foundation with a Growth Award the past five years. Our city and staff put immense value on our trees and the benefits they provide; benefits such as improved human physical / mental health, improved environmental / ecological health, and other community benefits with safety, energy savings, and increased property values.

Here are just a few of the many ways that you can help in continuing to keep our community canopy healthy:
1. Plant the right tree in the right place.
2. Protect younger tree trunks from being injured from deer and lawn equipment.
3. Use a proper amount of mulch around your trees and water younger trees during periods of drought.
4. Keep an eye out for any invasive pests and report to our Forestry Division (see below).
5. Contact via email at forestry@rochesterhills.org or call 248-656-4673 to learn more or ask questions.
Smoking Prohibited in Thelma G. Spencer Park

An important reminder of park regulations

Smoking throughout Spencer Park has been banned. This ban has been put in place to protect the large volume of users we get at the beach and throughout the park. City Council approved this new ordinance on April 9, 2018 in order promote community connection, recreation, exercise, beauty, nature, and wellness and to protect the safety, health, and welfare of park users.

“Smoking” means the burning, inhaling, exhaling, or carrying of any lighted bidi, bong, cigar, cigarette, cigarillo, hookah, kretek, plant, pipe, weed, or other lighted tobacco product or device. “Smoking” also includes the use of an e-cigarette.

The smoking ban will be strictly enforced by Park staff and the Oakland County Sheriff’s Department.
Did you know that by staggering the start time of your automatic or programmable sprinkler system, and following the City’s Outdoor Watering Ordinance, you can help us keep our current water rates from our supplier, the Great Lakes Water Authority in check?

The Outdoor Watering Ordinance states you can only use your automatic programmable sprinkler systems during the hours of 12:00 midnight through 5:00 am.

Since the ordinance was adopted, the city has had excellent support from our businesses and residents in following the ordinance - which has resulted in a shift in our peak hour water usage. Peak water usage is what determines the rate we pay for water.

We ask that you help even further by delaying your system watering start time by 15, 30 or 45 minutes past the hour. By taking this simple step, you will help eliminate peak usage and higher water rates!

Remember, by adhering to the Outdoor Watering Ordinance and Staggering the Start time of your automatic sprinkler system - everybody wins!

Coexisting with Deer this Spring and Summer

“If you discover a fawn, the mother is almost always nearby. Enjoy them from a distance but take care not to disturb the fawn.”

With spring comes gardening and with gardens come deer activity! Every year, deer browsing around your home can wreak havoc on your garden and landscaping. It is important to take a multi-faceted approach when trying to keep deer from eating the plants in your garden. This includes planting species that are “deer resistant.” Plants that have prickly foliage, plants with furry leaves, and/or plants with strong scents or tastes are less likely to be eaten. Along with planting these types of plants; repellents, barriers, and scare tactics can be an effective approach to help keep deer out, especially when being persistent.

Even if you do not have a garden, it may be quite common to see deer in your backyard. White-tailed deer fawns are born in the spring, typically May and June. Does (female deer) are very protective of their fawns and can be overly aggressive towards humans and pets. It is important to note that the does leave newborn fawns for long periods of time, usually returning at dawn and dusk to nurse them. This strategy helps keep the fawn safe from detection. If you discover a fawn, the mother is almost always nearby. Enjoy them from a distance but take care not to disturb the fawn. If you know that the mother has been killed or if the fawn is making a distress call please call the Parks and Natural Resources office at 248-656-4673.

Visit rochesterhills.org/deer to learn more on deer and the City’s Deer Management Advisory Committee.

Guide to Rochester Hills Parks & Natural Resources

In case you haven’t heard, your Rochester Hills Parks and Natural Resources Department has compiled a comprehensive guide to all parks and natural resource services in our city.

The booklet includes park, trail, and museum descriptions, locations and amenities. It also details Forestry and Outdoor Engagement services and a list of popular seasonal events for you to get involved outdoors. Complimentary copies are available at the Parks & Natural Resources Department or in the Mayor’s Office.

The brochure was designed to provide you with a snapshot of the beautiful and varied locations Rochester Hills has to offer, giving you quick next steps to participate and connect with our outdoor and historic treasures.

In Rochester Hills we believe in building connections throughout our community through history and the outdoors.

We invite you to join us as we connect to our past, plant a free street tree in your yard, and walk, ride, play and swim through our parks.
Rochester Hills Department of Public Services

2020 Construction Season Update

Spring has arrived along with another busy construction season with welcomed investment into infrastructure within Rochester Hills. To continue the City’s commitment to safe, reliable, quality roads and infrastructure, the following projects are slated for delivery throughout this year:

- 2020 Concrete Program – Concrete Removal and Replacement in various locations
- 2020 Hot Mixed Asphalt Program – Mill and Resurfacing in various locations
- Crooks Road Pathway – Adding pathway in gaps along Crooks Road
- Watermain Project – Tienken Court, Bedford Square, and Gildewell neighborhoods
- Auburn Road – Improvements continue including the addition of a Splash Pad and Plaza
- Dequindre Road – Reconstruction and widening from West Utica Road to Collins Avenue
- M-59 – Micro cold milling and ultra-thin overlay between Woodward and Crooks Road
- Rochester Road – Paver placed surface seal between Avon and Clinton River Bridge
- Preservation Overlays
  - Livernois between Walton Boulevard and Tienken
  - Avon Road between Livernois and Dequindre
- Hot Mixed Asphalt Spot Resurfacing
  - Crooks Road between Hamlin and Avon
  - Livernois Road between Hamlin and Avon
  - Dequindre Road between Hamlin and Parkdale

In total, the 2020 construction season will deliver over $30,000,000 of public infrastructure projects that will not only preserve public safety, health and welfare, they will improve mobility, as well as reliability and dependability, of our infrastructure.

To enhance our communication of significant projects and/or project milestones, we are using our social media outlets (Facebook & Twitter) and a Constant Contact app as other proactive resources for public notifications. Also, please visit our interactive construction map that provides up-to-date information on all construction projects within the city. The map can be found on our website at rochesterhills.org/constructionmap/ and on your smartphone by downloading our free Mobile App and selecting Road Work.

We would like to thank you for your patience and understanding during the 2020 construction season. While we know construction can be inconvenient, the completion of these projects will provide safer roads, enhance our vibrant character and incorporate amenities that continue to make Rochester Hills the preeminent place to work, live, raise a family and TRAVEL in.

Save Your Pipes - Don’t Flush Wipes

Wipes can cause massive damage to our sewer system and equipment such as sewer pumps, even if they are labeled “flushable” or “septic-safe.” These items can also cause damage to your home’s internal plumbing system. Sewer backups can be costly to homeowner’s and cause a threat to public health. Many types of wipes are made of synthetic materials and when combined with other personal hygiene products and grease that is poured down drains, fatbergs can form in the sewers. When a product is labeled flushable it generally means that it will clear your toilet bowl but it does not mean it will certainly clear your pipes or break down in the sewer system. It’s hard to determine whether any flushable wipes are truly safe so it’s probably best to heed this advice: Save your pipes - Don’t flush wipes.
Rochester Hills Building Department
Check Your Deck

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

Let’s walk through some items you or your contractor should check:

Check all wood to make sure it is sound and not decaying. This may include the deck surface boards, wood railing, posts, beams and floor joists that support the decking material. Also, pay special attention to the ledger board which may connect your deck to the house. This is an area known for trapping water and causing premature decay. Failure at the ledger board is one of the main causes of deck collapse, so make sure the ledger board is properly connected with bolts to the inside of the structure. In no case should nails be used to connect the ledger board to your home. Check the flashing at the ledger board to make sure it is in good shape and doing its job of keeping water from entering through the exterior wall of your home.

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

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

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

To ensure your safety, if you find repairs to your deck are necessary make sure you get a building permit and have the necessary inspections completed. Our certified and registered inspectors will make sure all the repairs are done properly so you and your family are safe.

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

Hope you have a safe and enjoyable summer.

Have Peace of Mind with a Free Safety Inspection

The Rochester Hills Building Department is offering free wood deck safety inspections. Call us now at 248-656-4615 to get your name on the list.

We will send out our State of Michigan registered and International Code Council (ICC) certified Building Inspector who will perform a safety inspection of your deck. The inspector will inspect your deck using their experience and an existing deck inspection checklist. Once the inspection is completed, they will provide you with a list of any concerns found.

They will also provide you a list of deck contractors that have worked in Rochester Hills over the past year just in case you are looking for someone that can help you with the repairs.

The next step is up to you; but to show you it truly is about your safety, we are also offering free building permits for any necessary repairs to go along with your free safety inspection. If you would rather have a contractor perform the safety inspection, or want to do it yourself, please read our “Check Your Deck” article. We look forward to hearing from you.
City Buildings and Safety Protocols

Our City staff has put forth every effort to prepare all City buildings to make sure they are safe for employees, residents, and customers. We have increased ventilation rates, installed new enhanced air filters, and we have developed and continue to follow an extensive disinfection process to insure all common touch areas are clean.

When entering the building, all employees and visitors are required to wear a mask when walking through the building. There are several changes to City Hall you will notice, one way signs on the stairs, floor markings, and signs to encourage social distancing. We have also prepared the auditorium and all conference rooms for the appropriate reduced occupancy. There are several hand cleaning stations located throughout City facilities to promote personal hygiene. Sneeze guards have been installed at all customer service counters to protect customers and employees during required business interactions.

Ordinance Compliance Operating Again

During the Governor’s “Stay Home, Stay Safe” order issued on March 23, 2020, our ordinance inspectors were limited to life safety issues only.

Now, our Ordinance Team is back in operation, checking on reports that came in during the quarantine, as well as catching up on normal spring and summer ordinance concerns. For the immediate future, the main focus of our Ordinance Team will be on the health, safety, and welfare of our residents. Concerns like grass and weed maintenance will be addressed on an individual and ongoing basis. In addition, we will be working with our business owners to see how we can help them get back on their feet again while working to keep Rochester Hills safe and beautiful.

For ordinance questions or concerns, please call the Building Department at 248-656-4615, or if you know the inspector that serves your area, give them a call. Jack Sage 248-841-2439; Mark McLocklin 248-841-2440.

Landscaping Materials Staged in the Public Right of Way

Rochester Hills homeowners are real pros at improving their property. This includes dressing up the landscaping around the house with maybe a patio, a stone walkway or perhaps some rock retaining walls and a pool. Some folks are Do It Yourself types but some jobs require professional contractors.

It is important for homeowners to know that, for safety reasons, staged materials like sand, dirt, stone or demolition debris in the street for any amount of time is not allowed. Not only is it a safety hazard for motorists attempting to maneuver around the road obstruction, but materials may also wash into the city storm sewer and cause problems with the system that could create backups or contaminate our springs and rivers.

City inspectors who observe this type of obstruction in the street will notify the homeowner or contractor of the violation and require the materials be removed within two hours. If the material is not removed, arrangements will be made with our Department of Public Service team to remove the material at the homeowner’s expense. This can be very costly, so please be aware and advise your contractor.

We have also developed safe work protocols to keep our employees and visitors as safe as possible. All departments have modified work shifts to limit staffing in the building. There will also be some employees who will continue to work from home in an effort to provide safe distances within the employee work areas.

If you think you need to come to City Hall, we encourage you to take a look at our enhanced online service options that may be able to save you a trip. Your City Hall experience is bound to feel a little different, but one thing that will always remain the same is our commitment to providing you the best service possible.

Building Construction Continues in Rochester Hills

The Governor’s “Stay Home, Stay Safe” executive order issued on March 23, 2020 had a huge impact on all of us. It even had a big impact on the construction industry, shutting down all but essential construction. Our Building Department staff continued to stay busy during this time processing permits and inspecting essential projects. We developed a virtual inspection process using FaceTime, Google Meet, or Zoom that allows contractors and homeowners to be the eyes of the inspector as the inspector talks them through the inspection process. This process allows for the safety of our inspectors and those on the job site. While it may not work for all inspections, it has certainly opened our eyes to possibilities we had not thought of before. We have also expanded our online permit options to include all building, electrical, plumbing, and mechanical permits and provided the ability to submit electronic plans. At this time we still need a hard copy delivery by mail or to our drop box, but we are in the process of putting the final touches on our electronic plan review process that will allow the entire permit process to be electronic.

With the Governor’s May 7 order allowing all construction to start again, our department has really come alive. During the first week of construction being opened we issued 87 permits and performed over 220 inspections. While construction is not up to full speed yet, we are encouraged by the first few weeks of activity and look forward to hopefully seeing continued growth in the future.

If you’re thinking about a project or need an inspection, remember you can apply and schedule both online. Please call us at 248-656-4615 if you have any questions, our Building Department Team is here and ready to help in any way we can.
Summer Property Tax Due Date September 14, 2020
City Offers Automatic Tax Bill Payment Service

The 2020 Summer Property Tax bills will be mailed in mid-June and are payable without interest or penalty through Monday, September 14, 2020. The City does not honor postmarks, so please allow, as the post office recommends, at least five business days for first class postal delivery. Payments placed in the City Drop Box located in front of our visitor parking lot by midnight on September 14 are considered on-time. On September 15, 1% interest will be added to any unpaid balance and an additional 1% interest will be added on the first day of each month thereafter. On February 17, 2021, a 3% penalty will be added to any unpaid balance. Please note: If your 2019 property taxes were not paid in full as of March 2, 2020 a notification may appear on your 2020 tax bills. This is a State Law requirement.

Please note that our previous electronic payment service has been replaced by an improved E-check system that provides the current balance due and can be accessed by phone (IVR) or online. This E-check system utilizes either your checking or savings account at no charge to the user. To pay by phone call 1-833-440-3763 or online at rochesterhills.org/payments and choose E-check as your payment method. This system may be utilized through midnight EST on the due date for on time payments.

We offer Recurring Automatic Bill Payment for property taxes and to date have over 1,000 taxpayers signed-up for this convenient service! This service allows you to choose as your payment dates either:
- the Summer and Winter tax due dates or
- the Summer tax due date and the last business day of Dec. for the Winter tax

For questions regarding this service, please call 248-841-2581. For those enrolled in this service, your 2020 Summer Tax payment will take place on Monday, September 14, 2020. For an enrollment form and our other convenient payment options, please visit Treasury Division’s Payment Options page www.rochesterhills.org/payments or the following QRcode.

Summer tax deferment, which defers the summer tax bill due date for a principal residence to February 16, 2021, is available for qualified residents. Additionally, Oakland County may extend the deferment for both summer and winter taxes to April 30, 2021. For more information, please visit the Treasury Division’s Summer Tax Deferment page rochesterhills.org/index.aspx?NID=504 or contact the Treasury Division at 248-841-2580.

Please direct general questions to the Treasury Division at 248-656-4675 or treasury@rochesterhills.org

2020 Dog License Renewal
Fees support the Oakland County Pet Adoption Center

For 2020 dog licenses, due to the COVID-19 health emergency, the delinquent fee is waived and licenses can be purchased for the non-delinquent fee through the end of 2020.

Licenses can be purchased at our City offices, can be conveniently renewed on-line at www.oakgov.com/PetAdoption, or at Oakland County Animal Control. The Enhanced Access Fee (EAP) is also being waived. Although it may be displayed it will be waived upon checkout and will not be charged to your account. Oakland County Animal Control is located at 1200 N. Telegraph Rd., Building 42E, Pontiac, MI 48341 phone 248-858-1090.

Oakland County dog license fees:
Spayed/Neutered: $10.50 (3 year license $28.50)
Senior Citizen Price*: $9.75 (3 year license $26.25)
Male/Female: $18.00 (3 year license $51.00)
Senior Citizen Price*: $16.50 (3 year license $46.50)
* = Senior Citizen over 65-years of age

State law requires all dogs to have a current rabies vaccination and current dog license. Per City Ordinance, no owner can keep more than three dogs so we will not issue more than three dog licenses to an owner. If you have more than three dogs, you must apply for a kennel license and kennels cannot be located in the residential districts of our city. City Treasury staff will be happy to renew/issue your dog’s license. If renewing in person, please bring the postcard renewal reminder mailed to you by Oakland County Animal Control, as this will expedite the process. You must present your dog’s current rabies vaccination certificate signed by the veterinarian when applying for the license. If your dog has a three-year vaccination ending in either year 2022 or 2023, you may purchase a three-year license. Residents with recently acquired dogs or new residents, have a 30-day grace period to license their dog. Visit the Treasury Division’s Dog License page at rochesterhills.org for more information regarding animal licensing. Please direct questions to the Treasury Division at 248-656-4675 or treasury@rochesterhills.org.
Buying a Memorial Brick is a simple way to leave your mark of remembrance. This is your opportunity to become a part of something special in our city. By buying a brick, you or your loved one will become a part of this memorial forever and you will help us maintain this place of honor. The price of each brick is $75.00. All proceeds will go toward the upkeep of Veterans Memorial Pointe.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Need a guest speaker? Or a unique meeting location? Check out the Rochester Hills Museum. The Museum complex includes the 1927 Dairy Barn, 1840 Van Hoosen Farmhouse, 1850 Red House, 1848 Stoney Creek Schoolhouse, and 16 acres of gardens and grounds bordered by Stoney Creek. Museum staff can provide programs and lectures on a wide variety of historical and environmental topics from Mills, Stoney Creek Village, Leaders, Legends, and Liars, Community History, and more. It’s a great place for scout groups, schools, and more!

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

Pandemics in Rochester Hills History and How Our Community Saved the World

The Coronavirus is certainly not the first pandemic that has ever come to Rochester Hills – and our community has been resilient and strong as we have fought against pandemics for over 200 years!

Cholera

Cholera was a “European disease” and the first pandemic occurred in 1817 in India. Through trade routes, the disease arrived in New York City, then travelled with early pioneers along the Erie Canal and arrived with the pioneers in Detroit. There were five different cholera outbreaks in Detroit in the 1800s. Cholera is an infectious disease that causes severe watery diarrhea, which can lead to dehydration and, if not treated, can cause death in just a couple of hours. Pioneers did not understand bacteria, but they knew they had to quarantine themselves to save their community.

Tuberculosis

In the 1890s, one in seven people around the world died of tuberculosis (TB), and the disease ranked as the third leading cause of death in the United States. Also known as “consumption,” tuberculosis is a dangerous lung infection and is spread through the air when a person coughs, sneezes, or talks. The understanding that TB could be spread through bacteria that you cannot see was slow to catch on among the public, and most people gave little attention to the behaviors that contributed to disease transmission. They did not understand that things they did could make them sick such as sipping from the same cup – even with strangers.

Throughout the country were massive efforts to educate the public and reduce transmission of saliva and cough droplets. Not only were people encouraged not to share a cup, but to also stop a common habit - spitting on sidewalks and even inside buildings.

Today, there is a vaccine for tuberculosis. However, the risk of sharing germs through coughing and sneezing is still with us.

Polio

Polio is a disabling and life threatening disease caused by the poliovirus. The virus spreads from person to person and can infect a person’s spinal cord, causing paralysis. Young children were mostly affected by it – but President Franklin D. Roosevelt was confined to a wheelchair from contracting polio as an adult.

Was Rochester affected by polio?

At the Parke Davis Biological Farm in Rochester, the vaccine for polio was produced saving tens of millions of lives throughout the world. The polio vaccine production building still stands on the grounds of PAR Pharmaceutical on Parkdale Road.

Sources:

- Rochester Era Newspapers. A digitized collection of Rochester Era newspapers, ranging from 1873 to 1949, is available on the Oakland County Historical Resources website. Learn how to search the newspaper collection by visiting rochesterhills.org/newspapers.


- How Epidemics of the Past Changed the Way Americans Lived by Katherine A. Foss. This article was published by the Smithsonian Magazine on April 1, 2020.
Museum Doors Wide Shut: A Twist to 2020 Museum Programs

The Rochester Hills Museum at Van Hoosen Farm’s mission is to build connections in our community “Neighbor to Neighbor; Neighbor to Nature; and Neighbor to History.” Our doors may have closed, but we are still here! With social distancing practices, our annual events and programs are destined to look a bit different, but we will try our mightiest to keep community and family traditions alive.

The Museum is actively providing programs through video tours of downtown Rochester as we teach economics to second graders. During the month of May, which is Historic Preservation month, we provided short video tours of our buildings and previous preservation projects over the past 40 years.

Our Museum archives team is actively collecting emails and newspapers, photographing signage, and selecting objects and oral histories that document this world pandemic and how our community has responded. As we leave COVID-19, its infamous legacy will live on for generations in the digital waves of online collections and light blue acid free storage boxes.

You are invited and welcome to enjoy the Museum gardens and grounds, take a deep breath of fresh air, soak up the historic views, and listen to the babbling Stoney Creek River. You can also enjoy us from home by watching Facebook, Instagram, and your email for digital programs and Zoom sessions. We look forward to seeing you in person soon.

Archives 101 - With the Rochester Hills Museum at Van Hoosen Farm

What is an Archive?

Archives help us think like historians. We analyze and interpret to look for clues about the past.

Archives are places to store, preserve, and share information for present and future generations. Their mission is to preserve history through items that are left behind. Archives collect primary sources, such as letters, reports, notes, photographs, and audio/video recordings. Archives come in all shapes and sizes too! There are business archives, national archives, state archives, university archives, church archives, family archives, and more.

What is an Archivist?

“Archivists bring the past to the present. They are record collectors and protectors, keepers of memory.” Lisa Lewis

An archivist works in the archives to collect, preserve, and promote the material. Similar to librarians, archivists are responsible for cataloging items in the collections to make them easy to find and accessible to staff and researchers. They also safely store items to ensure their longevity. Light, water, and fire are an archivist’s worst enemies! Archivists also work with the public to add new material to the archives, answer research questions, and assist with special projects, such as documentaries, exhibits and anniversary celebrations.

What is in the Rochester Hills Museum’s Archives?

Our archives include thousands of photographs, documents, newspapers, and objects related to the history of the greater Rochester area and the Taylor/Van Hoosen families. Many items in our collections date back to the 1800s, but we also actively collect materials from the recent past and present day to document the history that is happening in our community now.

If you have a local history question or want to know more about the archives, we’re here to help!
Dear Rochester Hills Voters:

We certainly have been living through an unusual time in our country. Even without a pandemic, the 2020 election year already promised to be exciting. As your City Clerk, I understand the times that we are in and I am committed to providing safe and secure elections for the City of Rochester Hills. We have two more elections this year: Tuesday, August 4, 2020 and Tuesday, November 3, 2020.

As of the day this letter was written, all precincts will be open for the August 4, 2020 Primary Election. In addition, every voter may request an absent voter ballot; you no longer need a reason. You may obtain an application for an absent voter ballot by contacting our office. Additionally, a link to the application is on our website: rochesterhills.org/elections.

Please note that we have a drop box located in the parking lot of City Hall. By dropping your application or ballot in the drop box, you will alleviate your need to come in the building. You may track your absent voter ballot at mvic.sos.state.mi.us/.

So, what are we doing to make the precincts places where you will feel safe? We will be providing masks, face shields, gloves, hand sanitizer, and wipes to all of our election inspectors. There will be marked areas noting six feet for social distancing and individual pens for voters, as well as individual styluses to be used on the ADA TouchWriter. Lines may be longer at the precincts due to social distancing protective measures and time for cleaning privacy booths between voters.

We have moved all of our precincts that were located in churches and senior facilities of any kind to nearby schools. The schools offer larger spaces and wider hallways. Again, we are working very hard to make sure that you feel safe and secure. Some school precincts have temporarily moved due to construction at the school. Please see the next page for information on precinct locations for the August 4, 2020 Primary election.

We are hiring election workers for both upcoming elections. This is a paid position. Working an election is incredibly fulfilling and informative. An application is available on our website at rochesterhills.org/elections or call our office and one will be sent to you.

COVID-19 comes 102 years after the Spanish Flu epidemic that coincided with 1918 midterm elections, during Woodrow Wilson’s second term as President. Our country has held elections in dire situations before and we are prepared to do so again whether you should choose to vote at the precinct or by absent voter ballot. We are here to serve you.

If you have any questions, please contact the Clerk’s Office at 248-656-4630.

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**Register to vote through Election Day**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Through July 20</th>
<th>July 21 through August 3</th>
<th>August 4 (Election Day)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Register at:</td>
<td>Register:</td>
<td>Register and vote:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Any Secretary of State branch office</td>
<td>• In person with your township or city clerk</td>
<td>• In person with your township or city clerk, not at a precinct.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Your township, city or county clerk’s office</td>
<td></td>
<td>Voters who register on Election Day get a ballot and can vote that day.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• A designated state agency</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>• By mail</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Residency verification required.**

Acceptable documents include:

- Driver’s license
- State ID card
- Current utility bill
- Bank statement
- Paycheck
- Government check
- Other government document

*Documents must have name and current address. Digital copies are acceptable.*
August 4, 2020 Precinct List

The following precincts have temporarily moved due to COVID-19, social distancing, and construction:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Precinct #</th>
<th>Current Location:</th>
<th>Relocated to:</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Faith Church</td>
<td>Hampton Elementary, 530 Hampton Circle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Bellbrook</td>
<td>Meadow Brook Elementary, 2350 Munster Rd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Meadows School</td>
<td>Avondale Middle School, 1445 W. Auburn Rd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Reuther Middle School</td>
<td>Rochester University, 800 W Avon Rd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Avon Clubhouse</td>
<td>Avondale Middle School, 1445 W. Auburn Rd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Van Hoosen Middle School</td>
<td>Adams High, 3200 W Tienken Rd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Reuther Middle School</td>
<td>Rochester University, 800 W Avon Rd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Deerfield Elementary School</td>
<td>Avondale Middle School, 1445 W. Auburn Rd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>St. Mary’s of the Hills</td>
<td>Rochester High School, 1361 Walton Blvd.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>St. Luke’s Methodist Church</td>
<td>Brewster Elementary, 1535 Brewster Rd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>Samaritas</td>
<td>Long Meadow Elementary, 450 Allston Dr</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>Rochester Hills Offices</td>
<td>Hamlin Elementary, 270 W Hamlin Rd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>Van Hoosen Middle School</td>
<td>Adams High, 3200 W Tienken Rd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>St. Mary’s of the Hills</td>
<td>Rochester High School, 1361 Walton Blvd.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>St. Mary’s of the Hills</td>
<td>Rochester High School, 1361 Walton Blvd.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>Reuther Middle School</td>
<td>Rochester University, 800 W Avon</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The following precincts are located in their normal locations:

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<tr>
<th>Precinct #</th>
<th>Current Location:</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>North Hill Elementary School, 1385 Mahaffy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>West Middle School, 500 Old Perch Rd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Rochester High School, 1361 Walton Blvd.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Brewster Elementary School, 1535 Brewster Rd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Hamlin Elementary School, 270 W Hamlin Rd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>West Middle School, 500 Old Perch Rd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Brooklands Elementary School, 490 E Auburn Rd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Meadow Brook Elementary School, 2350 Munster</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Rochester Adams High School, 3200 W Tienken Rd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Long Meadow Elementary School, 450 Allston</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Brooklands Elementary School, 490 E Auburn Rd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Hart Middle School, 6500 Sheldon Rd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>Rochester Adams High School, 3200 W Tienken Rd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>Hampton Elementary School, 530 Hampton Circle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>Rochester Adams High School, 3200 W Tienken Rd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32</td>
<td>Hart Middle School, 6500 Sheldon Rd</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If a precinct relocation change is required, notice will be sent to all affected voter households prior to elections. If a relocation is permanent, new voter identification cards will be sent to all affected voters.
I hope you all are staying healthy and safe! It is amazing to think of how life can change in such a short period of time. When I sit down to write my Hills Herald articles, I usually look back at my calendar and social media to review any highlights since my last article. As I looked at the events on my calendar for the beginning of March, I realized that when I dropped my 5th grade twins off at school on March 11, 2020, I did not know that would be their last day attending elementary school. The first confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Oakland County were reported on March 12, 2020. On that day, I had no idea what Zoom was.

As I write this article, my family has adjusted to life under the emergency orders issued by the President, the Governor, and Mayor Barnett. Our family has become extremely proficient at Zoom. The boys use it for school, Karate, play dates and piano lessons. Melinda and I use it to attend court hearings. I am attending Rotary and homeowners association meetings online. And, yes, we are now conducting our City Council meetings via Zoom.

Melinda cut my hair for the first time, after watching many, many YouTube tutorials. I was a bit nervous at first, but I think it came out quite well.

I have seen first-hand the way our community has come together, despite being ordered to stay at least six feet apart. During our family walks, we see the inspirational chalk drawings on sidewalks and driveways. The City has placed signs with inspirational quotes on the trails and at our parks. I have observed the drive-by birthday parties in our neighborhood. The OPC continues to serve meals to seniors through its Meals on Wheels program. Mayor Barnett procured 15,000 masks to distribute throughout the community. Attendance at our parks is up 300%! There are so many more examples of our community coming together. Even in this time of crisis, I am inspired by the residents of our wonderful city.

I am thankful for our Sheriff’s Department and Fire Department, who have continued to serve our community, despite the increased risks posed by COVID-19 on every call they answer. I am also thankful for our essential workers from the medical profession to the grocery store employees, who keep coming into work every day, even if that means putting their own lives at risk. Fred Rogers often told this story about when he was a boy and would see scary things on the news: “My mother would say to me, ‘Look for the helpers. You will always find people who are helping.’ To this day, especially in times of disaster, I remember my mother’s words, and I am always comforted by realizing that there are still so many helpers — so many caring people in this world.” Even in this time of crisis, there are heroes everywhere.

The Rochester Hills City Council is committed to maintaining the health, safety and welfare of our residents during this public health crisis and continue to carry out the important functions of city government. We will continue to meet to make sure Mayor Barnett and City staff have the tools they need to maintain the outstanding level of service to which we all are accustomed.

We are in this together – and we will get through this, together.
This is a spring unlike any other spring! Many of us are staying home and spending more time with family. We are actually talking more to our friends and watching out for one another. It is great to see our community come together and help each other out by checking-in with the elderly population for the OPC or delivering food to those that need it. Thank you to all the health care workers, first responders, and grocery store workers! Thank you to all our residents for staying home and staying safe. You have slowed the rapid spread of this virus! Thank you to the many residents who have made masks and donated food and money for those in need. Thank you to all Rochester Hills City employees for keeping our city running smoothly. Your resilience in this extraordinary time has shown us all how much you care. We are a city that is strong and resilient, we will survive, and we will thrive.

I especially want to thank all the restaurants who are making food for us. We know you are working hard to survive during this unprecedented time. I hope that all our residents will come out to show STRONG support for local businesses as soon as we are able. They will need our patronage to continue providing the great service and food we have come to expect. What are your favorite restaurants? We have just over 150 restaurants in Rochester Hills. Such a great variety to choose from, so go out and treat yourself and know you are helping out our local restaurants.

We are so lucky to have parks and trails that we can visit to enjoy the outdoors while social distancing. With the temperatures warming, we feel like spring has finally arrived. Remember along with springtime comes the newly-born baby deer (fawns). If you see a baby fawn hidden in the grass, please leave it there. The mother deer is not far away. She hides her baby while she is foraging and comes back to feed and check on the baby often. These baby fawns do not need to be rescued. If someone does move a baby, please put her/him back as soon as possible. If you are not sure what to do please call our Parks and Natural Resources Department at 248-656-4673.

Please contact me by phone (248-310-8232 voice message) or email (bowyers@rochesterhills.org), if you have any concerns, and let me know what I can do to help! As always, I will do my utmost to listen to your views and comments, try to resolve any issues you may have, and strive to work with the City and Council on your behalf.
Stephanie Morita - District 1

It is hard to believe that this is my 7th Spring (by the time you read this, probably Summer) on Council. We have accomplished a lot since 2013. More firefighters/EMTs, oil & gas ordinances, five re-constructed firehouses, new Museum exhibits, and the new-ish Special Assessment District (S.A.D.) Policy which is allowing the Michelson/Bolinger SAD to move forward, to name only some of the many. Personally, I have also watched my son go from 3rd Grade to 9th, grow about two feet, and gain about 80 pounds (better him than me). He was, however, not the only one who was growing.

I have taken on an expanded role within Avondale Youth Assistance (AYA) and been its treasurer for the last few years. AYA is a non-profit community service organization committed to strengthening youth and families, and reducing the incidence of juvenile delinquency, child neglect and abuse through community involvement. During the (and probably still ongoing at the time of publication) COVID-19 pandemic, AYA realized there was an unexpected and immense additional need to feed our kids, not just during the week but also on weekends.

Through AYA, we were able to provide a matching donation of $3,000 to Blessing in a Backpack – Avondale, an organization that provides weekend food for kids in need. Not only was AYA’s match met in a number of days by our truly wonderful neighbors and friends, but our own Mayor, Bryan Barnett, also connected Blessing in a Backpack – Avondale with an additional $7,500 donation. Sometimes, as I have said before, it is about knowing who to call when you do not know the answer. I am so grateful for the support of the AYA Board of Directors, our friends and neighbors, and our Mayor. Together we have hopefully helped keep kids fed for the next few months. Of course, Blessing in a Backpack – Avondale would not happen without Janelle Tischer who runs the program. The magnanimous beauty of such immense selflessness in times of need should never be overlooked.

Our museum, the Rochester Hills Museum at Van Hoosen Farm (https://www.rochesterhills.org/museum), continues to amaze me with the innovative ways history can be preserved, presented and made relevant to current times. As a member of the Museum Foundation Board, I have been able to be a small part of the process which I know will create a resource for our community for generations to come. For the past several years the Museum has been digitizing its records which are now available online here: https://rochesterhills.pastperfectonline.com/. If you have a question about who built that old house on the corner, you should be able to find the answer using the online database. However, the best way to learn about our history is to visit the Museum. You can learn about events at the Museum is through its Facebook page: https://bit.ly/2SBOzAH.

The City continues to grow, or at least fill in, everywhere. It is hard not to notice when that nice wooded lot gets knocked down so new housing can go in. At the same time, the City has moved forward with the development of our newest park, Innovation Hills, our very first developed park on the west side of the City. The boardwalks are in, and you can now do a “loop” if you need to go for a walk or run, or if you just need to get out the house for a bit. This park will allow you access to nature while still preserving it, and is a great counter-balance to the development which has been going on within the City. If you have not been out there, here are a few pictures I took with my cell phone recently.

They do not do the park justice. Please go out there and enjoy it for yourself. With that, please accept my sincere wish that you and your family are staying safe, growing and succeeding. And, as always, thank you for placing your trust in me.
Little more than eleven years ago, a graduate business economics professor at Lawrence Tech made a bold move. As the recession took hold of the American economy, he abandoned the course curriculum as spelled out in the syllabus. Instead, he spent early March 2019 reading and discussing breaking financial news as the economy collapsed around us. This wise professor told us, “You don’t realize history when you’re living through it,” and this remains one of the most powerful learning experiences of my academic career. Well neighbors and friends, we’re certainly living through history right now.

The COVID-19 pandemic has steered our safe and stable community down a path of capriciousness and uncertainty. I’ve come to realize protecting our community’s health and prosperity throughout the COVID-19 crisis may well be the greatest challenge we confront in our lifetimes.

The Blair family in particular is anxious to resume any semblance of normal routine, and I’m sure this sentiment is shared throughout every household in every neighborhood of our city. Despite this, we’re doing our part to comply with safety guidelines. I’ve been working from home (with ample assistance from our cats and the occasional oversized stuffed animal) to keep customers connected. Ben and Abby are completing their RCS coursework online and keeping in touch with their classmates via video chat. Nicole supplied our family’s first at-home haircut, and with great results! We even enjoyed a tasty homemade Easter dinner, the first ever without family at the table. These times are awkward and unfamiliar, but I hope you can find peace and comfort in your own “new normal.”

Rochester Hills is a resilient and strong community, full of capable, talented and generous individuals undeterred by the challenges of COVID-19. Our first responders at the Oakland County Sheriff’s office and Rochester Hills Fire Department remain ready to respond 24/7. The medical professionals at Ascension Providence Hospital Rochester continue to work tirelessly to provide care to those who need it. Our businesses are adapting with innovative ways to communicate and interact with customers. Nonprofit organizations have stepped up to meet an unprecedented demand for assistance among neighbors in need. At a time when political differences and mistrust tend to divide Americans, it’s a blessing to observe a strong community come together to protect and support itself during such an upheaval.

This crisis is an opportunity for us to exemplify those qualities that make our community so great: safety, generosity, quality, innovation, and character. Thus, my message to fellow residents is to remain positive! Remember to support your local businesses, voice your encouragement and support for those working hardest during this pandemic, and follow all guidelines geared at keeping our community safe.

Neighbors and friends, we will get through this together!

*The Blair family doing their part to comply with safety guidelines.*
Dale Hetrick - At Large

The COVID-19 pandemic created a large disruption in everyone’s lives. In my lifetime, I’ve not been told to Stay Home, Wear a Mask and Gloves, Social Distance, Don’t Go to Restaurants, Wipe Down Door Knobs, and I’m sure another dozen things I’ve missed.

Our endeavor to be safe heightens concerns about our health, and also causes other stresses – money, jobs, and buying items we deem important (Clorox wipes). The difficulties have also provided opportunities. Let me share a few of my observations of these good things.

The Rochester Regional Chamber of Commerce started a Facebook page “Supporting Local Businesses.” The page was the perfect catalyst for our plans to purchase one meal per week from a local restaurant. Over the last two months we’ve ordered dinner from Antoniou’s Towne Square Pizza (pro tip they have great cheese cake), CJ Mahoney’s, PF Chang’s, and Miguel’s Cantina. We’ll continue to support our local restaurants, as they are an important part of the community.

And speaking of local businesses, one local business turned their expertise in chemicals into creating hand sanitizer. The saying “necessity is the mother of invention” is absolutely true here. Plymouth Technologies, right here in Rochester Hills, is producing hand sanitizer for their commercial customers. According to an article in the Free Press, they will continue to produce hand sanitizer as a product line in the future.

Helping loved ones during this time has become especially important for me. My mom is 85 years old. She can be a bit stubborn sometimes (I have no idea where that comes from), so we call her frequently to check in and do some shopping for her. We made sure she is well stocked with masks and gloves so she can get out for groceries and such.

Our First Responders and Healthcare Workers are on the front lines, protecting our lives while risking their own. It is heartwarming to see signs in my neighborhood thanking our healthcare workers and first responders. With hospital rooms opening up, I recently had a long awaited surgical procedure on my right eye lid. I was thankful for the high level of care, but even more inspired when I saw the sign at the hospital entrance thanking healthcare workers.

It is inspiring to see our community demonstrate their support for the people helping us get through the challenges of COVID-19. Yet many need our financial support too. While there are numerous worthwhile organizations, Terry and I chose to contribute to Neighborhood House and Ascension Rochester. We know our contribution will go a long way at these highly regarded institutions.

Maybe it’s because our neighbors are tired of being cooped up in their homes, however the increase in walkers, joggers, bike riders, and families pushing their young ones in strollers is encouraging. Exercise is great medicine! With the warmer weather upon us, giving a wave “hi” to neighbors as they go by our house or on the Clinton River Trail lifts everyone’s spirits. We can’t forget to social distance though.

Stay safe! More good things and innovative ideas are coming our way.

City Council Contact Information

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ryan Deel</th>
<th>Stephanie Morita</th>
<th>Dale Hetrick</th>
<th>David Walker</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>President - District 4</td>
<td>District 1</td>
<td>At-Large</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>248-841-2648</td>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>Susan Bowyer, Ph. D.</th>
<th>David Blair</th>
<th>Theresa Mungioli</th>
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<tr>
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Thank you! On November 5th the residents of Rochester Hills bestowed a great honor on me by electing me to the Rochester Hills City Council. I had the opportunity to meet so many of you in the months prior to the election and hope to meet many more in the years to come. I ran to be your voice on council and want to hear from you. Two-way communication is important and needed to make decisions that reflect our community. Please reach out thru my City Council email at mungiolit@rochesterhills.org or City Council phone number at 248-804-4894. The fastest way for me to share information with the community is through social media. Please “Like” my Facebook page to learn more about activities in the area and what is happening at the city.

Thank you! A special thank you to our first responders and other front-line workers that keep us safe and fed while we Stay Home and Stay Safe. Our thoughts and prayers are with those who have lost loved ones due to the virus. As we work to “flatten the curve” we have found different ways to deal with the stress of the situation. Whether staying home, distributing food to seniors/children or learning how to balance working from home and school from home, we found ways to cope and survive. As we take preventative measures to keep us physically healthy, please take the time to help your mental and emotional health. Taking a walk outdoors, reading a book or teleconferencing with family and friends all help. If you or a family/friend need extra help, the Oakland County website has many resources listed at: oakgov.com/health/information/Pages/community-health-resources.aspx

Thank you! For caring for our parks and paths and using social distancing when using our public spaces. Our parks are one of the top reasons people move to our community and while so many establishments were closed, our parks give us a great opportunity to get out and enjoy nature. As you use the parks and paths, please consider your fellow walkers, runners and bikers. Walkers and runners, leave space for bikers to pass and bikers announce when passing and wear helmets for safety. (See chart below.)

Thank you! For supporting our local community. Local businesses rely on our residents for their survival. It has been great to see so many supporting local restaurants using curbside service. As we start the steps towards more community engagement, please remember the local businesses that are an integral part of this community. They support our school events, sponsor our athletic teams and make so many community activities possible.

Thank you for your input on the future of our city. As the city deals with the financial impact of the pandemic, the City Council, Mayor and City Administration will make decisions on future budget priorities. Please be sure to reach out with ideas, concerns and questions. We are building our future together!

As you use the parks and paths, please consider your fellow walkers, runners and bikers.

Image Credit: National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) www.nrpa.org
Our beautiful city parks have been peaceful and welcome retreats for residents and visitors alike during this time. If you have not had the opportunity to visit our newest park, Innovation Hills, we welcome you to come and enjoy the splendor of our beautiful, all inclusive park.