Football, cider and doughnuts, leaves changing colors, walking or biking the trails - there is no better place to enjoy autumn than right here in Rochester Hills. Each year, as the temperatures cool, I find myself reflecting on the many things I am thankful for. At the forefront are my family, my faith, and the incredible privilege of continuing to lead this exceptional city.

My goal, which I have held since the day I took office, is to make Rochester Hills the preeminent place to live, work, and raise a family. I fully understand that to do that, I must depend on the skills and expertise of only the very best. Our team of municipal employees, who I believe define excellence in public service, is what makes our success possible.

Our outstanding public safety teams have led the way to Rochester Hills being named “Michigan’s Safest City” for the past three years, and this year, we were ranked the sixth safest in the entire country.

Thankful for

Innovation Hills
Our excellent and innovative Planning and Economic Development team has helped earn Rochester Hills recognition as a Top 10 Best Place in America to Start a Small Business.

Our team includes Michigan’s Building Inspector of the Year, Michigan’s Clerk of the Year, and the top ranked fleet division in Michigan.

Our Parks and Natural Resources team has been at the forefront of bringing you our first new park in 25 years. Appropriately named Innovation Hills, the new park opened its gates to the public on October 16, 2019. Residents, city council members, city staff, park developers, and park sponsors gathered to “Light the Lake” and preview what is to be the most unique and innovative park in our region and the only park in the Midwest with glow in the dark pathways. You are invited to come to the corner of Hamlin and Adams to see what all the excitement is about!

This has been an incredible year for me personally as in addition to directly serving the residents of our city, I have the privilege of being “America’s Mayor” and serving as the President of the United States Conference of Mayors. This position allows me to bring Rochester Hills to the table, to highlight our successes and showcase our beautiful city. Early this fall I hosted a delegation of 50 Mayors from across the country as we met to discuss timely and important issues facing our cities. The Mayors experienced warmth and friendliness from everyone they encountered and felt truly embraced by our community.

Finally, I am thankful for the ongoing support of our community. In truth, everything we do, all our accolades and accomplishments, is a direct reflection of you. So thank you. Thank you for loving our community. For supporting our schools. For recognizing our public safety personnel. For visiting our parks. For eating in our restaurants and shopping in our stores. For being proud of your town - and telling others. And thank you, sincerely, for giving me the opportunity to serve as your Mayor. I am incredibly, well… thankful.

What an incredible year! Clockwise: my outstanding department directors, my beautiful wife Corrin, being inaugurated as President of the US Conference of Mayors, our Innovation Hills preview and my awesome football loving family.
Phases I & II of Innovation Hills, located on the north side of Hamlin Road between Crooks and Adams are now open featuring glowing pathways, ponds, overlooks, and waterfalls. The park will be developing several new phases over the next few years. Currently additional boardwalks are being constructed (to be completed before the end of the year), a kayak landing is being added, and development of a unique, universal design three acre playground is expected to start next year. The park will be open year round, with at least one mile of pathways to be kept clear of snow for walking in the winter months.
Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Highlights

The Mayor’s Advisory Committee on Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Committee consists of Rochester Hills’ residents, members of our City Council, our Government Youth Council and our workforce, in addition to representatives from our business, faith, education, non-profit and public safety communities. A wide range of faiths, cultures, ethnicities, orientations, ages, backgrounds and perspectives are included.

The Committee met in June at the Islamic Association of Greater Detroit (IAGD) and was hosted by committee member and Imam Aly Lela. The visit included a discussion of the Muslim faith, a tour of the IAGD facility and a delicious meal. Our thanks to Aly and the entire team at IAGD.

Many committee members also attended the Digging into Diversity & Inclusion event held in the city in March. Mayor Barnett moderated a panel that included representatives from Easter Seals, Dutton Farm, Exodus Consulting Group, and Flagstar Bank. The group discussed misconceptions about developmental disabilities, unconscious bias in the workplace, and employment opportunities for those with different abilities. The March timing of this event allowed us to celebrate Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month.

Girls of the Crescent were honored at the State of the City Address in April. Girls of the Crescent was founded by Mena and Zena Nasiri, two Muslim girls in our city who are striving to make a difference in the world. Girls of the Crescent was formed to collect books with more diverse characters and, specifically, female Muslim main characters and donate them to school districts and libraries. Through their organization, they have expanded the number of books with female Muslim main characters in them. They have been featured on NBC’s Today Show, NPR, Elle Magazine, WDIV Local 4 and Publishers Weekly.

Also in April, the Mayor’s leadership team toured Dutton Farm, an organization in our community dedicated to empowering and supporting adults with disabilities and enabling them to live a life of purpose, inclusion and dignity. The group learned firsthand about their impressive programming, education, job placement and advocacy efforts, as well as their onsite Market, full of handmade bath and body products made by program participants. The impressive artwork created by adults with disabilities at Dutton Farm is currently on display on the second floor of City Hall.

During the summer, the City welcomed two individuals and a supervisor from Excel Employment Options, a nonprofit organization dedicated to increasing employment among Americans with disabilities. This team provided much needed assistance to our Parks & Natural Resources Department. We were so pleased to welcome them to our team.

In August, the Mayor participated in Flagstar Bank’s Diversity & Inclusion Symposium entitled “Endless Possibilities” along with Dr. Lee Meadows, professor of management at Walsh College, Cindy Myers, Flagstar’s chief human resources officer, and Lomas Brown, former Detroit Lions offensive tackle and now entrepreneur, mentor, philanthropist and color analyst for the Detroit Lions radio broadcasts on WJR. The discussion centered on why diversity and inclusion is so important and why it cannot thrive in isolation.

This represents some of the City’s engagement in understanding and engaging our diverse community. The City’s diversity contributes to its vibrancy and our overall quality of life. We’re on a journey and this work is on-going.
Fun and Fitness at OPC

Fall - the cooler days and beautiful colors are upon us, and the OPC is offering a tremendous schedule of classes, opportunities and programming specifically designed to keep 50+ active and engaged. There are so many options, truly something for everyone!

Just a glance at the OPC Monthly newsletter provides countless classes, groups and programs designed to keep you fit – mentally, physically, emotionally, socially and financially. Classes run throughout each day to accommodate early risers as well as those looking for their entertainment at a more leisurely time and pace. Class offerings include a full complement of arts and crafts options including painting and drawing, jewelry and crafts, pottery and woodshop. There are groups for veterans, card players, book worms, gardeners and movie buffs. The billiards room is open Monday – Friday, beginning at 6:30 am, and Saturdays at 7:00 am.

If physical activity is more your speed, fitness and aquatics classes run the spectrum from belly, line, and ballroom dancing, to yoga, cycling, boxing and even one-on-one personal training. For the team players, there are team sports including volleyball, basketball, badminton and ice hockey, not to mention pickleball! We also offer a full range of aquatic classes, which, like all of our classes, are designed for all levels of intensity. Check out our new Aqua Zumba class! Stay tuned as we continue to take advantage of our beautiful community and offer more outdoor opportunities like the Introduction to Kayaking program offered in conjunction with Rochester Hills Parks & Natural Resources this past fall.

For the performing artist, the 650 Players is the perfect group to join to sing and dance and share the joy of the theater. Come see their talents on display October 29-31, November 1, or November 3 for the Fall musical “Tribute 2 the Stars.” It’s sure to be a good time! Performances sell out, so be sure to call 248-608-0251 soon to secure your seats!

On Saturday, November 9, everyone is invited to come to the OPC to shop handcrafted items from local artisans in the annual Artisan Market. From 9:00 am to 4:00 pm shoppers can find unique pottery, jewelry and crafts, perfect for one-of-a-kind holiday gifts. For more information visit opcseniorecenter.org.

The activities and services of the OPC are designed to allow adults to “age in place” by encouraging social engagement, independence, and healthy lifestyles. Every weekday, volunteers deliver Meals on Wheels to home-bound seniors and provide a wellness check, which means that they can live at home longer. Hot nutritional lunch time meals are also provided at OPC Monday through Friday. The transportation program transports seniors from their homes to doctor appointments, grocery shopping and more, providing independence when it otherwise might have been lost. Other supportive services are also available to older adults including Adult Day Service, support groups, information and referral services, and more.

Membership is open to Rochester Hills residents who are 50+. Come out to take a tour and register at 650 Letica Drive, Rochester. We are open Monday through Friday from 6:30 am to 8:45 pm and Saturday from 7:00 am to 3:45 pm. Please visit opcseniorecenter.org for a full listing of our offerings.
Planning and Economic Development

Rochester Hills Says Merci to AdduXi and French Corner

Last year Mayor Barnett and staff from the Planning and Economic Development Department travelled to France to meet with businesses looking to expand their investment in the U.S. Since then, the City has continued to see a great return on that investment. This summer we celebrated the expanded operations of AdduXi, USA and the grand opening of the first of its kind incubator for French companies in Michigan – the French Corner.

AdduXi is a family-owned company based in Oyonnax, France. AdduXi specializes in precision plastic injected components for the automotive industry; and in 2015, decided to establish its North American operations in Rochester Hills. The company experienced rapid growth in the U.S. market and quickly found itself outgrowing its original facility. AdduXi moved in to a new facility on Research Drive, which will allow the company to double its manufacturing capacity and workforce.

With this new, larger facility, Alain Palisse, owner of AdduXi, saw an opportunity to create a soft landing place for other French companies looking to enter the U.S. market. According to Xavier Ovize, President of AdduXi, USA, “To date, the French Corner has welcomed eight companies to Rochester Hills. The French Corner has already attracted the attention of Business France, and the French Consul General of Chicago is hoping to replicate this incubator model and public/private partnership in other parts of the U.S.” Mayor Barnett shared “Because of the City’s relationship with AdduXi and its ownership, it has created a most unique opportunity to partner our economic development efforts with the business growth and expansion plans of many French entrepreneurs.”

Cool Workplaces in Rochester Hills

A recent study conducted by LinkedIn/Censuswide revealed that the most important characteristic professionals in the U.S. today look for is corporate culture. So we asked members of the Mayor’s Business Council about the things they do beyond the paycheck to make their companies desirable places to work. Specifically we asked, “What are the cool spaces, benefits, perks and experiences you offer to engage and inspire your workforce?”

What we learned was very impressive! We had a number of companies complete the survey and were amazed to hear about the investments Rochester Hills companies are making – in their workspaces, in their community and in their people. At the summer RHISE event, Mayor Barnett extended special recognition to four companies that appear to be leading the way in creating a cool workplace:

Chief Financial Credit Union - Chief Financial’s “Culture Mission” is to create a culture in which each individual is empowered to find their unique purpose in the organization through engaging learning experiences. With new investments including The Shop Floor and programs like Chief Cares and Milestones, employees are rewarded for their accomplishments and volunteer activities within the community. In 2017, Chief Financial received the Rochester Regional Chamber’s Innovative Corporate Culture Sunrise Pinnacle Award.

Molex - Recently relocated from Auburn Hills, Molex’s newly renovated building is filled with amenities its employees love, from a game room, to a café style break room, to living room-like meeting areas, to a fitness center and ample outdoor seating. Molex’s Young Professionals Group sponsors multiple events and charity drives throughout the year. Efforts like these have helped to contribute to an increase in morale and employee satisfaction.

Monroe Engineering - Monroe’s full-size basketball and volleyball courts keep employees active, and a Peloton rowing machine is the latest addition to its employee fitness center. Flextime is an option for all. Wearing shorts to work in the summer is popular too, along with Tiger tickets right behind home plate. Retention is high and many employees enter the company through referrals.

Spalding DeDecker - New employees receive a welcoming gift before beginning employment, and stock ownership is provided to those that have been with the company for at least one year. The firm is a huge supporter of non-profit groups, and they also started a Good Neighbor Program that helps fellow colleagues during their own difficult times. The result: High morale that contributes toward the company’s desirable “family” environment.

Crain’s Detroit Business’ Kristin Bull, Project Director for “Crain’s Cool Places to Work” and Rochester Hills resident, was on hand to also recognize these companies for being innovative in their approach to attract and retain talent in the region.

At the conclusion of the event, Mayor Barnett crowned Monroe as, “The Coolest Workplace In Rochester Hills”. In celebration of this recognition, and in partnership with Meadowbrook Ice Cream, Mayor Barnett arrived on a warm, sunny day in September to deliver ice cream to “the coolest employees in Rochester Hills.”
Protecting Our Cultural Resources
Rochester University Preserves a Piece of Local History

The red barn that has sat on the north side of Avon Road for the past century has been restored thanks to Rochester University. The barn and its associated buildings were acquired by the University in 1964 and designated a historic site by the City as a complete example of a 1900’s farmstead. Since acquiring the barn, the University has used the building as a maintenance shop and as storage for materials and vehicles. Over the past decade, the structure had markedly deteriorated, and Rochester University was told the barn may be too far degraded to be saved. Fortunately, they were able to find Dean Sutton, of JDS Historical Preservation and Restoration, who was able to meticulously restore both the structural integrity and look of the barn. The total cost of the project was $300,000.

The Historic Districts Commission was fortunate to be able to host their regular September meeting in the restored structure, where Jaymes Vettraino of Rochester University gave the Commission and City staff a tour and brief overview of the restoration work. Dr. Richard Stamps, member of the Historic District Commission, noted the barn was a landmark in the community and said “...it was nice to see an institution of higher education step forward and set an example to others in the community and preserve such a gem.” The restored structure will continue to house the University’s maintenance operations.

Rochester Hills Receives Planning Award

The Michigan Association of Planning (MAP) has awarded Rochester Hills and their consultant, Giffels Webster, the Planning Excellence Award for Public Outreach in recognition of the significant and innovative public involvement efforts of the 2018 Master Plan for Land Use. Because of these efforts, the City was able to hear from residents across the City via social media, survey responses, open houses and through efforts targeting the City’s youth. City staff and consultants were on hand to accept the award at MAP’s annual conference in September of 2019.

The 2019 Festival of the Hills was a Spectacular Success

Please join us in offering our sincere thanks to our generous sponsors for making the Festival of the Hills a night to remember!
Fall/Winter 2019

Rochester Hills Fire Department Supports Breast Cancer Awareness Month

by John H. Lyman

Rochester Hills Fire Department has pinked out Alpha 23 for the month of October as Rochester Hills Firefighters want to bring awareness to the dangers of breast cancer. One in eight women will be diagnosed with breast cancer in their lifetime. Early detection is the key to avoiding that diagnosis and mammograms are the method for detection of breast cancer.

When asked about this, Fire Chief Sean Canto states, “Firefighters provide unwavering support, both on and off the job, for those who suffer from cancer. We hope to make a big impact and help raise awareness.”

Chief Canto has also approved pink badges and tee shirts that on duty personnel will be wearing to raise monies in the fight against breast cancer. Chief Canto added, “For October, all RHFD members may wear this tee shirt (and badge). This partnership with IAFF Local 3472 gives RHFD members the opportunity to support a good cause that will directly benefit the survivors and families of those affected by breast cancer.”

The National Breast Cancer Foundation reports that this disease is the second leading cause of death in women. Age, race and family history are all risk factors for women that cannot be changed. You can avoid those risks with a proper diet, limited use of alcohol, limiting exposure to radiation to your chest, exercising regularly and watching your weight.

One of our personnel has his own story of his wife being diagnosed with breast cancer. Fire and Life Safety Educator John Lyman’s wife was diagnosed in 2005 which was detected through a mammogram. She underwent a mastectomy and has been cancer free ever since. Lyman says, “Awareness of breast cancer and early detection does work. It saves lives”.

Rochester Hills Professional Firefighters Local 3472 President Paul Wright states that 215 tee shirts have been sold with $824 going to New Day Foundation for Families.

Local 3472 will also be playing in a charity hockey game on November 2, 2019 at the Onyx Arena in Rochester. It will be Rochester Hills Firefighters vs. Rochester Police and Fire in the 2nd annual Guns and Hoses Hockey game. Festivities begin at 7:00PM. This fun-filled evening will benefit the New Day Foundation for Families. There will be a chuck-a-puck contest, raffles, giveaways and more! Tickets available at the door for $10 per person, children under 5 are free.

Tickets are also being sold online: eventbrite.com/e/face-off-for-cancer-charity-hockey-game-tickets Visit foundationforfamilies.org/hockey for more details. In addition, please see this website for more details or to donate to fund a mammogram for someone in need: nationalbreastcancer.org.

Rochester Hills Fire Department Receives Over $1.57 Million Grant

Rochester Hills Fire Department was recently notified by FEMA that it has been awarded $1,579,811 to hire eight new firefighters. The SAFER grant will pay the entire salary for each of these new firefighters for the first year, and over the next four years the grant will pay a percentage of their wages. SAFER is an acronym for Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response.

A press conference was held on September 20 at Fire Department Headquarters with Mayor Bryan K. Barnett, Fire Chief Sean Canto, and Union President Paul Wright speaking on the impact this grant will have on our residents and fire response. State Representative Michael Webber and Laura Murphy, assistant to Congressman Elissa Slotkin also commented on the SAFER grant and voiced their support for the Rochester Hills Fire Department.

Fire Chief Sean Canto stated that this SAFER grant is “historical” in nature for the future of the Fire Department. He stated, this grant will help to provide the “highest level of service” to the residents of Rochester Hills. He thanked all the members of the Fire Department for their dedicated service. The term “Driven to be the Best” is something that he drives home everyday to the men and women of the Rochester Hills Fire Department.

Rochester Hills Professional Firefighters Local 3472 President Paul Wright states, “More boots on the ground will allow us to provide a better service.” He thanked Chief Canto and the command staff for their efforts in securing this grant.
School Bus Safety for Kids

Every school day in this country, 25 million children ride in a bus. They are among the safest modes of transport. School buses are 70% safer than riding in any other vehicle, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. That’s because school buses are the most regulated vehicles on the road. Due to their design they are safer than passenger vehicles in preventing crashes and injuries.

Tips for Students

Students need to be prepared, whether it’s before they get on the bus, while they’re riding to school, or when they’re getting ready to get off the bus back at home.

- Be at the bus stop early, at least five minutes before the bus is scheduled to arrive.
- Stand at least six feet away from the curb when the bus approaches and keep the line away from the street.
- Wait until the bus stops, the door opens, and the driver says it’s okay to enter onto the bus.
- If you must cross the street in front of the bus, walk at least 10 feet ahead of it before you cross. Be sure the bus driver can see you and you can see the bus driver.
- Never walk behind the bus.
- When entering and exiting the bus, use the handrails to avoid falling.

While Riding the Bus

- Always use seat belts if available.
- Don’t make loud noises or participate in activities that could distract the driver.
- Stay in your seat during the bus ride.
- Don’t put your head, arms, or hands out the window.
- Keep the aisle clear of objects that could interfere with loading and unloading of the bus.
- Make sure you have all of your belongings before you reach your stop.
- Wait for the bus to stop completely before getting up from your seat.

When Exiting the Bus

- Always use the handrails when exiting.
- Be careful that clothing and backpacks don’t get caught in the handrails or doors when exiting the bus.
- If you must cross in front of the bus after you get off, walk far enough in the front of the bus until you can see the driver.
- Make sure the driver can see you.
- Before crossing in front of the bus make sure the bus driver signals you to proceed.
- When the driver signals, look both ways. Walk across the road and watch out for sudden traffic changes.
- If your vision is blocked, move to an area where you can see other drivers and they can see you.
- Do not cross the center line of the road until the bus driver signals that it’s safe.
- If you drop something near the bus, tell the bus driver. Never try to pick it up without warning the driver first, because the driver may not be able to see you.
The Building Department’s Facilities Division has been busy this past summer, and it looks to be a busy fall and winter.

This summer, multiple maintenance projects were completed at city buildings and parks. The schoolhouse addition at the Rochester Hills Museum at Van Hoosen Farm brought the schoolhouse back to its original 1950s condition. The Van Hoosen Cemetery is getting a much-needed storage barn and the new Fire Station 4 is scheduled for completion in November of this year.

The Rochester Hills Facilities Division was there in force to ensure the groundbreaking ceremony at Innovation Hills was a huge success. These are just a few of the many projects we are working on to make sure all our City of Rochester Hills buildings and properties are looking sharp, clean, safe, and are comfortable for you and your family to enjoy.

**Basketball Hoops**

Placing portable or permanent basketball hoops in the public right of way is prohibited. Basketball poles in the right of way and hoops that overhang the pavement cause a vehicle hazard and a liability to the City of Rochester Hills. Should a vehicle leave the traveled portion of the roadway and strike the pole, significant damage could occur to the vehicle and serious injuries to the occupants. During the winter months, DPS snow removal crews could snag a hoop and damage the truck as well.

To prevent these possibilities, the Ordinance Compliance Inspectors will tag basketball hoops located in the right of way with a red tag indicating a 24-hour notice to remove the pole from the right of way. If the pole remains on a recheck of the violation, the inspector will notify the DPS department and a DPS crew will be assigned to remove the pole at the owner’s expense.

**Don’t Forget About That Sidewalk**

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

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

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

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

Thank you for your efforts to keep the sidewalks in our community clear and safe for everyone to use.
Keep Your Heating System Working Efficiently All Winter

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

If you have not, here’s something you should know: An annual check-up will not only save you money, it will also help you sleep more easily. That’s because an inefficient heating system wastes fuel and your hard-earned dollars. More important, a furnace that’s not operating properly can endanger your health by spilling carbon monoxide and other gases into your home. For savings, safety and comfort, routine maintenance of your oil or gas furnace is a must.

Furnace maintenance is not a “do-it-yourself” job. A qualified licensed contractor should be called to perform a safety inspection once a year.

Lower Your Heating Costs This Winter With Furnace Maintenance

- Turn your thermostat five degrees lower for some real savings.
- Replace your old thermostat with a programmable one that allows you to automatically set the temperature.
- Replace your air filter.

Most forced air units have a filter that cleans the air before heating and circulating it throughout the home. The filter should be checked monthly for the build up of any dirt during periods of furnace use and cleaned or replaced as necessary. When installing a new or cleaned filter, be sure to:

  - Turn off electrical power to the unit.
  - Standard filters are mounted next to or under the blower motor. Look for the door or panel that conceals the blower; sometimes this is marked “filter”. Lift this door or panel off of its holding hooks or unscrew its retaining screws to remove it.
  - Slide the filter out along its tracks. Check to see whether it is a disposable filter or intended to be cleaned and replaced. This should be marked on the filter’s edge, along with directions for cleaning, if applicable. If it’s a disposable filter, its size will probably be printed on the frame’s edge also. Make a note of its size and type, so you will have that information with you when you buy new filters.
  - Install the new filter by sliding it back into place, noting that arrows stamped on the edge indicate the proper direction of airflow.
  - A simple way to remember to change your furnace filter is to buy a box of filters and leave the box right beside your furnace. Every time you walk by your furnace, you’ll see the box and that will remind you to change the filter.

Is it Time to Repair or Replace that Furnace?

It is rarely easy to decide whether to repair or replace an expensive appliance when the time comes. If the cost of repairing your furnace exceeds the cost of replacing it, the decision is easy, but that is seldom the case. The first step in your decision whether to repair or replace, should be to get the opinion of a licensed heating expert. Have your furnace thoroughly inspected and get an estimate for both repair and replacement of the unit. The heating contractor will assess the potential for increased energy savings and can suggest the expected short-term and long-term costs of both repair and replacement. When you have that information be sure to get one, if not two, expert opinions so you are able to make a balanced decision. The issues that you and the furnace experts will need to take into account are:

- Age of the existing furnace
- Cost of operating the existing furnace versus a new furnace
- How long will you live in the home
- Your peace of mind

SAFETY NOTE: Having a carbon monoxide detector in your home is a good idea and can save lives. Make sure you follow the installation instructions. They usually recommend a minimum height above the floor for best results.

Finally, take advantage of your utility company’s energy audit and rebate programs. Both DTE and Consumers Energy participate in these programs.
One Dark and Stormy Night...
the Lights Went Out!

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

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

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

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

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

If you’re thinking of purchasing an automatic generator for your home, contact a reputable electrical contractor. And remember, make sure you have the contractor obtain the proper permits for the electrical and gas pipe connections. Your experienced Building Department Inspectors will make sure your generator is properly installed and safe. By doing this you can be assured that the next time the lights go out, you’re not “left in the dark.”

Rochester Hills Government Youth Council

Representatives on the Rochester Hills Government Youth Council (RHGYC) can be seen facilitating projects and events throughout the city as well as volunteering at several Rochester Hills community events.

In July, RHGYC Representative, Hannah Bennett, and Youth Council Advisor, Danielle Szajna, joined Mayor Barnett and the United States Conference of Mayors at the 2019 National Youth Summit in Los Angeles, California. You can watch a video and hear about their experience on the city’s Youth Council web page at rochesterhills.org.

In August, we welcomed the 2019 – 2020 RHGYC Representatives. Students will serve a one year term.

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<th>Name</th>
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<td>Ryan Barrett</td>
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<td>Yitian Zhang</td>
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<td>Hannah Bennett</td>
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Rochester Hills Government Youth Council, Representatives on the Rochester Hills Government Youth Council (RHGYC) can be seen facilitating projects and events throughout the city as well as volunteering at several Rochester Hills community events.

In July, RHGYC Representative, Hannah Bennett, and Youth Council Advisor, Danielle Szajna, joined Mayor Barnett and the United States Conference of Mayors at the 2019 National Youth Summit in Los Angeles, California. You can watch a video and hear about their experience on the city’s Youth Council web page at rochesterhills.org.

In August, we welcomed the 2019 – 2020 RHGYC Representatives.

Students will serve a one year term.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Grade</th>
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<tr>
<td>Ryan Barrett</td>
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<td>Rochester High School</td>
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<tr>
<td>Amanpreet Dosanjh</td>
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<td>Rochester High School</td>
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<td>Shreya Pillai</td>
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<td>Rochester High School</td>
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<td>Numair Haq</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Adams High School</td>
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<td>Yitian Zhang</td>
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<td>International Academy</td>
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<td>Hannah Bennett</td>
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<td>Jessica Hryniw</td>
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<td>Maya Iyer</td>
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<td>Zena Nasiri</td>
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<td>Aden Smith</td>
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<td>Stoney Creek High School</td>
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<td>Dana Williams</td>
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<td>Hayden Beare</td>
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<td>Jonathan Karr</td>
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<td>Zoe Pizzuti</td>
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<td>Adams High School</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pawel Vijayakumar</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>Rochester High School</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Buying a Memorial Brick is a simple way to leave your mark of remembrance. This is your opportunity to become a part of something special in our city. By buying a brick, you or your loved one will become a part of this memorial forever and you will help us maintain this place of honor. The price of each brick is $75.00. All proceeds will go toward the upkeep of Veterans Memorial Pointe.

Inscription Information

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

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

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

**Memorial/Eagle Scout Brick Order Form**

*Please print clearly or type all information*

**Purchaser's Name**

______________________________

**Address:**

_______________________________________________________

City__________________________

**State**_____________**Zip_________**

**Phone:**

_______________________________________________________________________________________

**NOTE:** Price of $75 includes 24 characters, including spaces. Additional characters may be added for $1/ character. Please print the following information. In honor of:

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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.
Trees Need Our Help!

Emerald Ash Borer and Dutch Elm disease are both examples of past insects/diseases that have devastated our trees and have highlighted the importance of promoting diversity in tree planting as well as the importance of being vigilant in trying to identify and manage these types of threats. With this in mind, below are two current threats we would like to highlight that the city has their eye on.

Oak Wilt is a fungal disease that can kill a healthy oak in weeks and has been confirmed in Oakland County. When an oak is pruned or damaged, it only takes a few minutes for native picnic beetles to smell the wound and start feeding on the fresh sap. Some of these innocent beetles might be carrying oak wilt spores. The spores enter the exposed wound of the tree; and within weeks, the leaves wilt, and the tree dies of dehydration. Additionally, if there are nearby oaks, the fungus can spread through touching roots and into those healthy trees. Once an oak is dead, the fungus can attract more beetles and the cycle continues.

You can protect your oaks by only pruning them from November to early March. The beetles are not active during average Michigan winters, so the risk of oak wilt spreading via spores is greatly reduced. If your oak is damaged in a storm between April and October, consider calling a certified arborist to clean and seal the wound.

Gypsy moths continue to be a nuisance, especially to oaks. Due to dry conditions in previous years, a fungus that specifically attacks gypsy moth caterpillars was not able to keep their populations under control in 2018. In addition to the City treating some localized “hotspots”, we are hopeful that our unusually wet May and June helped the fungus regain control and gypsy moth populations are on the decline. Rochester Hills Forestry will survey over 100 key locations this fall and winter to estimate the gypsy moth population for 2020.

The best defense against gypsy moths is to simply make sure your trees are healthy and vigorous. A wide ring of mulch around the tree and a deep soak of water once a week will allow your trees to respond to most pests and diseases on their own. To learn more check out our Gypsy Moth webpage at rochesterhills.org/gypsymoth.

Become aware, be observant, and report Gypsy Moth and suspected Oak Wilt observations to the Rochester Hills Parks & Natural Resources Department at 248-656-4673.

Christmas Tree Recycling

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

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

- Saturday, January 4, 2020  10:00 am - 4:00 pm
- Sunday, January 5, 2020  10:00 am - 4:00 pm
- Saturday, January 11, 2020  10:00 am - 4:00 pm
- Sunday, January 12, 2020  10:00 am - 4:00 pm

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

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

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

Trees shall be dropped off at the designated area only.

The trees will be processed through a wood chipper; therefore only natural Christmas trees will be accepted. All non-woody material, e.g., lights and wires, ornaments, rope, garland, stands and braces, bagging, etc., must be removed before drop off.

No mass or commercial disposal is permitted.

No trash or other woody debris disposal is permitted.
Rochester Hills Veterans Day Ceremony

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

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

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

Get Outside This Fall in Rochester Hills

The City of Rochester Hills Parks and Natural Resources Department will continue to offer programs designed to encourage residents to get outdoors throughout this fall and winter.

As summer programming wraps up, such as Kayaking, River Floats, Outdoor Adventure Camp, and Night Hike and Campfires, this fall and winter is sure to provide some fun and educational opportunities. Join our Naturalists, Lance and Lauren this fall for programs including Hoot n’ Howl Hayride, Learning to Coexist with our Wild Neighbors, Campfire and Night Hikes, and our new Scavenger Hunt program. Other popular annual programs including Snow Fort and Campfire, Reptile Roundup, Sap-to-Syrup and Antler Amble will be scheduled as we get into the New Year.

To set up programs, hikes, etc., specific for Special Interest or Scout Groups please contact our Natural Resources Division directly at 248-656-4775. You can learn more about what the Outdoor Engagement team has to offer at the city’s website at rochesterhills.org/outdoors.
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 winter/spring 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 the first Saturday in March, 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, Baldeypress, 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

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The Rochester Hills Natural Resources Division has an ongoing street tree maintenance program conducted by Forestry staff and contracted crews. Under this program, trees and shrubs that impede the passage of vehicles along streets, or pedestrians on pathways, interfere with safe sight distance requirements, or pose a hazard to the right-of-way will be addressed on a cyclical basis.

Although some work will occur in various locations throughout the city, the main emphasis of the 2019-2020 program will be in the northwestern portions of the city.

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

Anyone with questions about the program or its requirements can contact the City Arborists at 248-656-4673.
Fall Healthy Lawn Care Tips

While most people know that spring and summer are important seasons for taking care of their lawns, did you know that the fall is just as important? Here are a few tips for fall lawn care that will help keep your lawn healthy all year long and will help protect water quality.

**Mowing Your Lawn** - Three inches is the rule! Keep your lawn three inches high during the fall. It will help hold moisture in the plant, reduce stress and shade out weeds.

**Mulch Your Leaves** - Did you know that leaves can help enrich your lawn’s soil? Those colorful leaf "bits" provide much-needed organic matter for your soil. As leaves fall onto your lawn, chip the leaves into smaller pieces by running over them several times with your lawn mower.

**Feed in the Fall** - Fall is generally the most important time of the year for applying fertilizers. Be sure to test your soil if you haven’t done so recently and use your soil test results to determine proper application rates. Over fertilizing is worse for your lawn and the environment that under fertilizing. If you haven’t tested your soil -- do it now!

The Clinton River Watershed Council promotes the fertilizer recommendations set by the South Oakland County Healthy Lawn and Garden Technical Committee and the Partners for Clean Water recommend the following types of fertilizer:
- Low or no phosphorus. (5:1 Nitrogen to Phosphorus ratio)
- Slow-release nitrogen (At least 50% of the nitrogen should be slow-release. Avoid quick-release and water-soluble fertilizers.)
- Pesticide/herbicide free (Separate spot treatment is recommended.)

**Help Your Lawn “Breathe”** - A part of having healthy lawns and healthy waterways is having a lawn that allows air, water and nutrients to reach down into the soil. Air is needed by organisms that help to break down organic matter and produce nutrients that the grass roots need. Having less compacted soil will also allow water to soak into the ground and help plant roots grow stronger and deeper into the soil.

**Time to Patch** - Seed or sod bare patches of lawn to prevent soil from washing into our lakes and streams and to keep the soil from becoming compacted. When re-seeding your lawn, loosen the soil in the area with a rake or hoe, apply a thin layer of compost, and then apply the appropriate variety of grass seed and water evenly and regularly.

**Pest and Weed Problems** - Homeowners who follow healthy lawn care practices will have fewer weed and pest problems. If you must treat for weeds or other pest problems, make sure you know exactly what plant or pest you are trying to eliminate and use a product designed to treat that specific problem.

**Cut Back In Spring, Not Fall** - Many perennial plants and ornamental grasses provide vital fall and winter food sources and shelter for native wildlife through the winter. They also provide "visual interest" in your landscape and protect soil from wind erosion. Consider leaving these plants standing instead of cutting them back in the fall. Those that need to be cut to promote new growth can be cut back in the spring.

**Mulch**! - If your mulch is a little thin or absent, add more to flower beds and any other areas where grass and weeds are unwanted. Three inches of double-shredded hardwood or shredded leaf mulch will also help to retain soil moisture, prevent soil erosion, and enhance soil quality.

*For additional information, please visit:* [crwc.org/homeownerresources/lawn-fertilizer/](http://crwc.org/homeownerresources/lawn-fertilizer/)

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**Why Become a Rochester Hills Lifeguard Next Summer?**

Let us spell it out for you …

- L Lifesaving, make a difference
- I Interaction, make new friends
- F Fun, staff get together events
- E Experience, how to respond in emergencies
- G Growth, learn responsibility
- U Unity, work as a team
- A Amazing, great job and great pay
- R Rewarding, accomplishment and improvement
- D Develop, skills to last a lifetime

Not certified? Not 16? Not a problem! We have a progressive program for you to start as early as 15 years old or without Lifeguard Certification. Become a Beachfront Attendant and we will help train and prepare you to become a Lifeguard! Lifeguard Certification cost reimbursement is available for all qualifying applicants.

Join our exceptional seasonal team! For further information on these and other vacancies, please go to our website [www.rochesterhills.org](http://www.rochesterhills.org) and click on Job Opportunities.
Deer Awareness in Rochester Hills

Fences, Dangerous to Deer?

Certain types of fences have proven to be hazardous for deer. (See pictures at right) These fences are commonly used around pools and as subdivision borders. The fences in question have sharp points on top and impale multiple deer annually. None of the deer survive. Removing the spikes or covering them with a round surface like plastic drain tile will keep the deer from getting caught.

Dogs, Deer, and You

A recent development in deer behavior has been the reports of aggressive attacks on dogs. Female deer (does) in the spring, while protecting their fawns, have injured dogs and shown an indifference to human intervention. Accompanying your leashed pet when outside during the spring is the most effective way to protect your dog. Using scare tactics like spraying the deer with a garden hose, making loud noises and generally scaring the deer away may also help in deterring them.

Don’t Veer for Deer!

With the arrival of fall comes an increase in deer activity, and motorists should be more aware of the greater potential for deer to dart across roadways. To prevent deer/vehicle crashes, please be on the lookout for deer by the roadways. Deer/vehicle crashes are a year-round problem, but deer are most active in the spring and during the fall mating season (Oct. 15- Dec. 15). Flashing your high-beam headlights or honking your horn won’t deter deer. When startled by an approaching vehicle, they can panic and dart out from any direction without warning.

What you can do:

• Observe “High Deer Crash Area, Use Caution” message boards that the city places in deer/vehicle collision hotspots throughout the City from October through December.
• If you see one deer, slow down. Chances are there are others nearby and be especially alert for deer at dusk and dawn (flashing your high-beam headlights or honking will not deter deer).

If a crash is unavoidable:

• Don’t swerve! Brake firmly, hold on to the steering wheel, stay in your lane and bring your vehicle to a controlled stop.
• Pull off the road, turn on your emergency flashers and be cautious of other traffic.
• Don’t attempt to remove a deer from the roadway and report the crash to the nearest police agency.

- NOTIFY ME -

NO ONE LIKES EMERGENCIES, BUT HERE IS THE BEST WAY TO STAY INFORMED WHEN THEY OCCUR!

Our Emergency Notification System is called NOTIFY ME. It notifies residents immediately when emergency situations occur through text messages and/or email. You can also be notified when the City Council meets, when City Committees meet, when Press Releases are issued, and more!

TO ENROLL, JUST FOLLOW THESE EASY STEPS:
1. On our website, rochesterhills.org, click NOTIFY ME under the Quick Links column on the home page.
2. Enter your email address and click the SIGN IN button.
3. If you want to receive TEXTS, please check that box and enter your mobile phone number.
4. Scroll the list and click the email and/or text icons in each category to be notified as updates occur.
5. You will receive an email asking you to confirm your email address. Respond to the email to finalize your enrollment.

SIGN UP TODAY!

Timely and accurate emergency information can make a critical difference!
**Winter Taxes Due February 14, 2020**

Utilize our New One-Step Online Enrollment Form to set-up Automatic Tax Bill Payment and give yourself more time to relax and enjoy nature’s beauty!

The 2019 Winter Property Tax bills will be mailed out mid-November and are due on Friday, February 14, 2020. Postmark will not be honored so please allow, as the post office recommends, 5 business days for first class postal delivery. Payments placed in the City drop box - located in front of our visitor parking lot - by midnight on February 14, 2020 will be considered on-time. Also, payments placed by midnight February 14 via credit/debit card or electronic check on our payment system will also be considered on-time. On February 15, a 3% penalty will be added to the unpaid balance of all 2019 property taxes. Please note: If your 2018 property taxes or any amount of your 2018 property taxes went delinquent (were unpaid as of March 1, 2019) a notification may appear on your 2019 tax bills. This is a State law requirement. Beginning March 3, 2020 unpaid 2019 property taxes become delinquent and must be paid to the Oakland County Treasurer with additional late fees.

We offer Recurring Automatic Bill Payment for property taxes (and water/sewer bills) using your specified checking or savings account. Do yourself a favor, and sign-up in one-step for this convenient and time-saving service via our new online enrollment form with electronic signature! This service allows you to choose your tax payments to take place on either the summer and winter tax due dates or the summer tax due date and the last business day of December for the winter tax. For those enrolled in this service, your 2019 Winter Tax payment will take place either on Tuesday, December 31, 2019 or the due date of Friday, February 14, 2020 - whichever you designated. Enrollees who provide an email address will receive an email reminder of the pending payment withdrawal approximately two-weeks prior to the withdrawal dates. Also, the tax bill will indicate your enrollment in automatic payment and the withdrawal date.

For online enrollment and our other convenient payment options, please visit Treasury Division’s Payment Options page [www.rochesterhills.org/paytaxes](http://www.rochesterhills.org/paytaxes) or the following QRcode.

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**2020 Dog License Renewal at City Treasury Department**

State law requires all dogs four months and older to be licensed. The primary purpose of the dog license is to ensure that the pet is current with their rabies vaccination. To obtain a dog license, a current rabies vaccination certificate is required. The 2020 dog licenses will be available for renewal this December. If you have a rabies certificate valid through 2022, you have the option to purchase a three-year dog license good through 2022.

Dog licenses can be purchased online through Oakland County’s site at [www.oakgov.com/petadoption](http://www.oakgov.com/petadoption) or at the City of Rochester Hills Treasury Division. The 2020 dog licenses can be purchased at the City’s Treasury Division for the non-delinquent fee beginning Monday, December 2, 2019 through Monday, June 1, 2020. If you plan to renew the license at the City in December, please contact us at 248 656-4675 to verify we have received the dog licenses from the County. For more information you may visit the City’s website at [www.rochesterhills.org/doglicense](http://www.rochesterhills.org/doglicense).

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**Easy “One-Step” Online Enrollment for Automatic Payment of Water/Sewer Utilities**

For your convenience the City of Rochester Hills Treasury Division has updated our online process to allow easier enrollment for automatic water & sewer utility bill payments. The new online enrollment form has an electronic signature feature – so no need to fax, mail, or deliver the form physically to the City. After completing the electronic form, simply click the submit button at the bottom and the City will electronically receive your enrollment request. There is no cost to enroll in the electronic payment plan. On the due date listed in your bi-monthly utility bill, the City will automatically debit your designated bank account for the amount due. No need to remember to make the payment – no more late fees – no more postage – no more writing checks or initializing online payments. You will continue to receive your utility bill as you normally would, within 1-2 billing cycles the utility bill will state “Enrolled in Automatic Bill Payment DO NOT PAY”™ when automatic payment is in effect. If you have any questions about this service, please contact Karen Grant at 248-841-2580.
**Rochester Hills Museum at Van Hoosen Farm**

**Coming Events**

**Clinton-Kalamazoo Canal Hike**

**Saturday, October 26  10:00 am – 12:00 noon**

Donation appreciated to the Clinton and Kalamazoo Canal Society at the walk – cash or check only.

Register:  rochesterhills.org/musprograms

The Clinton and Kalamazoo Canal Society has partnered with the Rochester Hills Museum and several other communities to explore, preserve, and interpret the history of the Clinton-Kalamazoo Canal that attempted to cross Michigan in the 1830s. Only 16 miles were completed from Mt. Clemens to Rochester.

Join several guides as we hike a two-mile stretch of the Canal starting at Riverbends Park, 5700 22 Mile Road, just west of Shelby Road in Shelby Township. Wear sturdy hiking boots and dress for the weather. We will explore the politics, engineering, funding, and failure of Michigan’s first public works project as we became and state in 1837.

**Smart Towns Program**

Smart Towns is a lifelong learning program led by educational, non-profit organizations in Rochester, Rochester Hills and Oakland Township. The Smart Towns ‘partners’ work together to provide a unique series of programs exploring one theme for one year. The 2018 theme is *Agents of Change.*

**The Genius of George Washington**

**Wednesday, October 30**

7:00 pm

Admission:  $5 public, Museum Members – Free

Registration:  rochesterhills.org/musprograms

George Washington is rightly remembered as the “indispensable man” of the American founding, famous for both exercising and renouncing authority. As commander of the Continental Army, president of the Constitutional Convention, and precedent-setting first U.S. president, the “father of his country” was admired by both contemporaries and later generations, by foreigners as well as countrymen. And yet he also was and remains difficult to fully know and explain—the very definition of an enigma. What was it about Washington that made him such an effective leader, the most trusted figure in America and a standard by which other world leaders would come to be measured? What, indeed, was his “genius”? Join Rochester University Professor of History, Dr. David Greer, to revisit one of the greatest Americans who ever lived.

**Churchill: A Change Agent in the 20th Century…a Genius for His Time!**

**Tuesday, November 12  7:00 pm**

Admission Free for Members and Veterans  $5 Public

Registration:  rochesterhills.org/musprograms

Winston Churchill was the greatest orator of his day, the greatest leader of the Second World War, the greatest statesman of his age, and the greatest Englishman of the twentieth century….perhaps of all time. The debt owed to Sir Winston Churchill by the free world remains immeasurable. Yet at the heart of this often intimidating and colossal man lay a man of vast humanity, enormous wit and boundless humor, much of it mischievous, and a prolific writer.

Learn more with Oakland University Professor Frank Cardimen, about his WWII exploits, his life with Clementine, his writings, his leadership in Parliament and his wit... for this talented Englishman WAS an agent of change in the 20th Century. He was a genius for his time…doing what no other Brit could do to save Europe, stop the tyrant in Germany and engage the people of the UK to stand up to Hitler when no one thought it possible.

**A Visit with Santa and Mrs. Claus**

**Saturday, December 7  9:00 am – 4:00 pm**

Admission:  $5 members $8 non-members

Register online:  rochesterhills.org/musprograms

Limited tickets are sold per hour and advance registration is required. Tickets sales begin on November 4

Santa and Mrs. Claus have, once again, set aside this day to visit the children of our community at the Museum! Santa loves the cookies baked in the 95 year-old electric stove in the Farmhouse. After checking in near the Calf Barn, guests will be transported in a farm wagon. After visiting with Santa and sharing that Christmas list, guests enjoy Santa’s favorite cookies and apple juice. Remember to bring your camera!
Old-Fashioned Christmas

Saturday, December 21  Noon – 3:00 pm
Admission: $5 Members  $8 Nonmembers in advance
Register online: rochesterhills.org/musprograms
$10  At the door

Join us for old-fashioned holiday fun! Check in at the Calf Barn where staff will direct you. Guests can then visit the All Aboard! Model Train display that will fill the Calf Barn. Farm wagons transport guests to all Museum buildings for musical entertainment, crafts, snacks, theatre groups, and even chestnuts roasting over an open fire!

All Aboard! Model Railroad exhibit presented by the Stoney Creek Model Railroad Club

November 29, 30
December 1, 14, 15, 22, 26, 27, 28, 29
January 2, 3, 4
Admission: Free for Museum Members $3 Seniors and Students $5 Adults

Saturdays & Sundays Noon - 3:00 pm and additional days through the holidays. Check the Museum website for all dates at rochesterhills.org/musprograms

The Stoney Creek Model Railroad Club has been planning this model train exhibit for one year and cannot wait to share it with the public. The Calf Barn will be filled with modules that have been painstakingly built in scale and show locations near and far. A scavenger hunt through the exhibit adds to the fun! This wonderfully detailed exhibit, All Aboard!, is a perfect family outing during the holiday season.

Planning a Wedding or Special Event?

The Rochester Hills Museum at Van Hoosen Farm is the perfect location for your wedding ceremony and reception, graduation party, or other special event. Outdoor wedding ceremonies can take place at the garden gazebo located under a maple and walnut grove bordered by Stoney Creek or right alongside Stoney Creek amidst 16 acres of beautiful gardens and grounds. The 1927 Calf Barn is a unique location for an indoor wedding ceremony or reception. Up to 130 guests will enjoy your reception in this restored, historic barn. Start your history at the Rochester Hills Museum at Van Hoosen Farm!

Please visit our website rochesterhills.org/museum. For additional information or to schedule an appointment, contact Jenna Raschke at raschkej@rochesterhills.org or 248-841-2674.

Now is the perfect time to become a member of the Rochester Hills Museum at Van Hoosen Farm. As a museum member, you receive:
• Free admission to the many special events, lectures, and tours
• Invitations to member-only events and exhibit openings
• One-year subscription to the Museum Visitor newsletter.
• Preregistration period for classes, lectures, and special events
• Unlimited general admission to the:
  ○ 1840 Van Hoosen Farmhouse
  ○ 1850 Red House
  ○ 1927 Van Hoosen Dairy Barn
  ○ “A Lively Town: The History of the Greater Rochester Area 1817-1952” exhibit
  ○ Well-designed and informative temporary exhibits
  ○ Helping protect and restore our local community history

Visit cfound.org/rochester-hills-museum to see membership types, prices, and how to pay online.
Rochester Hills Department of Public Services

The summer construction season is coming to a close and we would like to thank the City of Rochester Hills residents for their patience and support as we’ve worked to make improvements throughout our city. The 2019 season saw an investment of over $30 million into infrastructure and capital improvement projects that we are confident will enhance day-to-day life and make transportation safer and smoother for both pedestrians and motorists traveling within our city. The following projects have been the largest and most impactful to our residents:

- Auburn Road Corridor- $13,429,931
- Hot Mix Asphalt Program- $3,207,270
- Concrete Replacement Program- $3,066,658
- John R/School Road Paving/Pathway- $1,294,938
- Clinton River Bank Stabilization- $150,000
- Avon Creek Restoration (Phase 4)- $99,999
- Oakland County Projects
  - Livernois- $5,611,895
  - Adams Road Overlay- $1,741,666

As construction comes to a close, we begin preparations for the winter season. Our team works tirelessly through the winter clearing 280 miles of major and local roads and 97 miles of pathways. We are pleased to provide Sky Hawk Plow Tracker as a way for residents to follow along with winter operations during snow events. Visit rochesterhills.org to access this technology and see what our team is up to!

Each year, the Department of Public Services (DPS) strives to implement innovative ideas and bring our residents the highest level of service. A thank you needs to be extended to the DPS team and their continued commitment to serving the community, making Rochester Hills a highly desired place to live, work and raise a family.

Avon Creek Restoration Project Completion

This summer saw the completion of the nine year, four phase project to improve Avon Creek, located at Avon Road and Rochester Hills Drive. Beginning in 2010, this project aimed to reestablish function to Avon Creek and contribute to the removal of the Clinton River Watershed from the Environmental Protection Agency’s “Area of Concern” list. The first phase included dredging the pond that held 30 years of sediment collection; the second and third phases moved the creek away from the hillside and raised the elevation. The fourth and final phase was completed using grant money awarded through the Michigan Department of Natural Resources 2016 Aquatic Habitat Grant Program and tied in efforts from the first three phases to bring appropriate stream flow and function to the creek. Those wishing to access the creek can park at City Hall and enter at the Avon Nature Study Area (1000 Rochester Hills Drive).
Winter Operations – SNOW REMOVAL in Rochester Hills

The City of Rochester Hills maintains over 280 miles of major and local roads including 620 cul-de-sacs. Department of Public Services (DPS) employees from the Roads/Pathways and Water/Sewer Divisions work collectively to effectively and efficiently remove snow from our road network. Additionally, over 95 miles of pathways are cleared of snow after the roadways are clear and safe. The City has 16 Plow Trucks, two Road Graders and 14 4x4 pickups in its inventory when needed to combat a snow event. To enhance our snow removal capabilities on pathways the City is adding two Utility Terrain Vehicles to make clearing more efficient and less destructive to pathway borders.

The City is divided into six routes with two plow trucks assigned to each route. The routes begin on the East and West sides of the City and progress towards the middle. The City of Rochester Hills has identified two levels of snow and ice control priorities:

**Category 1: Snowfall of less than 4 inches**

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

**LOCAL ROADS** – cleared only during normal business hours and after major roads have been cleared.

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

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

**LOCAL ROADS** – 242 miles of local roads are plowed and salted on an as-needed basis, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

**How you can help:**

- **Remove vehicles from the street during a snow storm.**
- **Do not put garbage cans in the road.**
- **Do not blow or shovel snow into the street.**
- **Be patient and allow enough time to safely travel.**
- **Report concerns to 248-656-4685.**

To gain greater insight into our operations, I encourage you to visit the City website at [rochesterhills.org](http://rochesterhills.org).

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**HOW TO MINIMIZE THE CHANCES OF SNOW BLOCKING YOUR PRIVATE DRIVE**

- Plowed snow
- Clear this area to allow plow to unload before driveway
- Cleared roadway
- Shovel snow in direction of traffic
- Private Drive
- Clear this area to allow plow to unload before driveway
CITY OF ROCHESTER HILLS
NOTICE OF ELECTION
FOR THE NOVEMBER 5, 2019 GENERAL ELECTION

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

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a General Election will be held in the City of Rochester Hills, Oakland County, Michigan on Tuesday, November 5, 2019 from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. for the purpose of nominating candidates for the following City offices:

- MAYOR
- CITY COUNCIL MEMBER AT LARGE (2)
- CITY COUNCIL MEMBER AT LARGE – TERM ENDING 11/14/2021
- CITY COUNCIL MEMBER 2ND DISTRICT
- CITY COUNCIL MEMBER 3RD DISTRICT
- LIBRARY BOARD MEMBERS (2)
- LIBRARY BOARD MEMBER – TERM ENDING 11/14/2021

AND FOR THE PURPOSE OF VOTING ON THE FOLLOWING PROPOSALS:

**CITY: LOCAL ROADS MILLAGES RENEWAL**

Shall the City of Rochester Hills continue to levy up to a total of 1.0965 mills ($1.0965 per $1,000.00) on taxable value of property located in the City for ten (10) years beginning with Fiscal Year 2021 and running through Fiscal Year 2030, inclusive, which will raise an estimated $4,046,230.00 in the first year if levied in full, to be used for maintenance, repair, rehabilitation and reconstruction of local roads and streets and to provide a source of matching funds to support special assessment and grant programs for local roads and streets. If approved, this will renew previously authorized, but expiring local road special millages.

**COMMUNITY COLLEGE: OAKLAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE OPERATING MILLAGE RENEWAL PROPOSAL**

This proposal authorizes Oakland Community College to continue to levy 0.7545 mill for operating purposes for 10 years as a renewal of millage previously approved by the electors in 2010, which expires with the 2021 tax levy.

Shall the limitation on the amount of taxes which may be levied on all taxable property within the Oakland Community College district, State of Michigan, be renewed at a rate of 0.7545 mill ($0.7545 per $1,000 of taxable valuation) for a period of 10 years, 2022 through 2031, inclusive, to provide funds for College operating purposes? It is estimated that if the millage is approved and 0.7545 mill is levied in 2022, it would raise $45,065,057 for the College.

Registered voters living in the Rochester School District will also vote on the following proposal:

**LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT: MILLAGE PROPOSAL BUILDING AND SITE SINKING FUND TAX LEVY**

Shall the limitation on the total amount of taxes which may be levied against all property in Rochester Community School District, Counties of Oakland and Macomb, State of Michigan, be increased by and the board of education be authorized to levy not to exceed 1.5000 mills ($1.50 on each $1,000 of taxable valuation) for a period of 10 (ten) years, 2020 to 2029, inclusive, to create a sinking fund for the purpose of construction or repair of school buildings, the improvement and development of sites, security improvements, acquiring or upgrading technology, and for any other purpose which may be authorized by law? It is estimated that the revenue the school district will collect if the millage is approved and levied in the 2020 calendar year shall be approximately $7,881,817; revenues from this millage will be disbursed to Rochester Community School District.

A sample ballot may be viewed at [www.rochesterhills.org](http://www.rochesterhills.org). Persons with disabilities needing accommodations should contact the clerk’s office.
The polling places for the November 5, 2019 General Election are as follows:

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

All polling places are handicap accessible. Braille and audio versions of voting instructions are available.

Absentee ballots are available at the Rochester Hills City Clerk’s Office, 1000 Rochester Hills Drive, Rochester Hills, Michigan 48309. The Clerk’s Office is open daily from 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

The Clerk’s Office will be open on Saturday, November 2, 2019 from 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

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

Tina Barton, City Clerk
City of Rochester Hills
1000 Rochester Hills Drive
Rochester Hills, MI 48309
248-656-4630
Rochester Hills City Council

Mark Tisdel - President - At Large

I have enjoyed all of my eight years serving as an At-Large City Council Member. Getting to know the City Hall staff—working together, celebrating awards and successes—has given me an entirely new perspective on government employees. From early morning to late at night, City Hall is buzzing with activity being led and/or facilitated by dedicated City Staff.

Even more impressive has been the opportunity to meet and work with scores of Rochester Hills residents serving on one of the thirty resident-driven committees, commissions, and boards. These residents have stepped forward to work hours-on-end behind the scenes as the first source to review, improve and approve initiatives being pursued by the Administration, Staff and City Council. These residents receive little recognition or appreciation from the community at large. They do the work because it needs to be done.

Below, please find the names of the 2019 residents serving on our various committees, commissions and boards. Please shake their hands and tell them “thank you” for serving our great City. The recognition and appreciation is well-deserved.

Peter Arbour
Monique Balaban
Deborah Barno
Peter M. Beightol
Thomas Blackstone
Roche (Rock) Blanchard
Penny Brady
Deborah Brnabic
Jeremy Brown
Joe Bruce
Kristin Bull
Christina Calderwood
Gerald Carvey
Bill Chalmers
Denise Chambers
Don Cline, Jr.
Ernest W. Colling, Jr.
Linda Conat
John Dalton
Michael Damone
Allen R. Decker
Gerard Dettloff
Annice (Anne) Marie Dieters-Williams
Sean Donovan
Jeff Duperon
Michael E. Ellis
LaVerne Farmer
Dr. Steven Fite
Kathleen Fitzgerald
John Gaber
Michele Gage
Tim Gauthier
Chad Gietzen
Garry Gilbert
Julie Granthen
Jayson Graves
Orville Hoksch, Jr.
Greg Hooper
Dr. Rodney Hulbert
Scott Hunter
Philip Hurst
Darlene Janulis
Beverly Jasinski
Robert Justin
Nicholas O. Kaltzounis
Michael Kaszubski
Ann Kochanski
Kenneth Koluch
David Koski, Ken Krajewski
Philip Leach
Kelly Lyons
Jean Malastesa
James Handy Mallon
Chris McCracken
Thomas McDonald
Michael McGuire
Michael McGunn
Susan McKinnon
Carl Moore
Heidi Morris
Eugene Mroz
Johnathan Muenk
James B. Nachtman
Thomas Neveau
Gary Nicks
John Paille
Rophin Paul
Stan Paurazas
Anna Pearcy
Dahlvin Peterson
Samantha Phillips
Clara Pinkham
Vern Pixley
Thomas Pozolo
Linda Raschke
David Reece
Steve Reina
Nancy Ritter
Stephan Slavik
Johnathan Muenk
Linda Raschke
David Reece
Steve Reina
Nancy Ritter
Stephan Slavik
Ryan Smith
Micheline Sommers
Dr. Richard Stamps
Del Stanley
Terry Stephens
Tom Stephens
Jon Strunk
Scott Struzik
Carrie Symonds
Jason Thompson
Charles (Chip) Tischer
Joseph Trecola
Thomas Turnbull
Dr. Tate Vo
LaVerne Webster
Werner Richard (Rick)
Suzanne White
Suzanne Wiggins
Therice Williams
Kenneth Wissbrun

Please accept my sincere appreciation for the honor to serve this City for eight years on the City Council; one year as Council Vice President, four years as President. It has become one of my life’s proudest achievements.

Thank you
Jim Kubicina - District 2

I have had the pleasure to serve on City Council since 2015. I have contributed an article to each Hills Herald published during that time. I am sad to say that this will be my final contribution. I did not seek reelection for a new 4-year term. Don’t get me wrong, I’d love to serve another term, but “there never seems to be enough time to do all the things you want to do, once you find them,” (Jim Croce, “Time in a Bottle”). I am grateful for the privilege to serve on Council for this wonderful City. I thoroughly enjoyed the experience. In those four years, I’m proud to say, I did not miss a single council meeting. Many thanks to my lovely wife Linda for her support.

I want to thank the residents of Rochester Hills who have trusted me to serve their interests. I had the opportunity to meet a whole lot of residents in district 2 as well as throughout the city. Rochester Hills is truly one of the best cities in America because we have the best residents. Secondly, I want to thank the staff at City Hall. I worked in the auto industry for 40 years and the emphasis was always on the excellence philosophy. That’s where you focus on the customer and try to exceed their expectations. The staff at our City Hall practices excellence all day every day, to the highest level that I have ever seen. I was so impressed with all the directors, deputy directors and staff in every department. I have made quite a few friends at City Hall and I hope to keep those friendships in the future. Next I want to thank my colleagues on City Council. They are a great bunch with a lot of quirky personalities. For the most part, we all got along pretty well. President Tisdel, as council president remained a sea of calm, no matter what storm was brewing. Steph Morita and I had a standing bet on the Ohio State/Michigan game. She was a good sport to wear an Ohio State cap for an entire council meeting 3 years in a row. Dale Hetrick, who sits next to me at the dais, is one of the nicest people on council. He is very knowledgeable and cares deeply about the residents’ concerns. David Walker who sits on the other side of me, is a lot of fun. He is the spokesperson for the Chamber of Commerce and is the MC for all ribbon cuttings. I try to go to as many ribbon cuttings as possible because I am pro-business, but also because David makes them a lot of fun. Susan Bowyer is one of my favorites on council. She is so smart and caring. Also, she has a fabulous swimming pool that my wife and I got to check out a couple times this summer. Ryan Deel, the second lawyer on council, knows how to wordsmith a tough motion into something we can all understand. I also want to mention two councilmen and 1 councilwoman with whom I served in the past. That would be Tom Wiggins, a real budget guru, who taught the rest of us a lot about budgets. Tom was instrumental in getting me on council. Kevin Brown, a Naval officer, never let us forget to thank a vet, and was very active in community service. Jenny McCardell, who was the youngest member of council, taught me a lot about listening to the residents, and the importance of diversity and inclusion. Finally, I want to thank Mayor Barnett for not only supporting me but all council members. He always would introduce council members at city functions. He was instrumental in making local government fun. He is wise beyond his years, and is a real “idea” man. By that I mean you could go talk to him about a tough city issue and he would brainstorm it with you to give you some new ideas. I was especially impressed on how he treats people. He makes everyone feel that their viewpoint is important, even though he may disagree. I’ve seen him be very respectful to residents that were not very respectful to him. He truly is a man for all seasons. All the terrific directors and most of the deputy directors were hired by the mayor. It was no surprise to any of us at City Hall when Bryan was chosen to be the President of the U.S. Council of Mayors. He’s a rock star, like his talented wife Corrin.

Our five grandkids
The air is crisp and cooler, Yates Cider Mill is open so it must be fall. Our City has had a great summer as many of our projects are coming to completion. Innovation Hills Park is about ready to unveil her new ponds, boardwalks and glow light trails. This will be so exciting to add this gem to our lists of parks. I hope to see you out enjoying a walk in this beautiful nature area.

Auburn Road Corridor/Brooklands is just finishing up having the road ways paved and roundabouts installed. This renovation has transformed this part of our city. The residents and business owners are ready to welcome folks to come see the beauty in the Brooklands. The Paint Creek Trail has a new bridge and the trail pathway has been resurfaced using the same limestone material. A new garden is in the planning phase and will be installed just east of the trail and north of Tienken road.

Guinness Book World Record was in our fair city on September 21, 2019 at Stoney Creek High School. I was excited to be part of setting a world record for how many no-sew fleece blankets could be made in 8 hours. Fleece and Thank You is a great organization that makes no-sew fleece blankets for children in our area hospitals. They have an annual make a blanket day (MABD) and decided to set a record. Over 1,300 volunteers came out and started making blankets at 11:30am and finished at 6:30pm. Applied Fitness Solutions and Healthquest Physical Therapy were great sponsoring partners for this event. Mother Nature tried to stop us with a thunder storm when we were 40 blankets from the goal. With the rain torrentially pouring down, and one tent collapsing, the final 100 volunteers continued on and completed the task of making 2016 blankets in under 8 hours. Congratulations to all who came out and helped achieve this goal. These blankets are very special to children that are facing medical procedures.

I hope you were able to join in some of the 5K (3 mile) run/walks that were held around our city this summer. Walking on the Paint Creek Trail and Clinton River Trail has been a great way to stay fit for these events. If you missed them this year I hope to see you out at The Hometown Hustle, The Brooksie Way, and Scare Away Hunger next year. We hope to have the Labor Day walk on the Paint Creek Trail in 2020 as the trail construction will be finished. The Second Saturday hikes put on by the Green Space Advisory Board are fun ways to see these natural spaces in our city. There are usually many animals that can be seen on these hikes. As I drove in to City Hall for our September City Council meeting I was greeted by two turkeys running up the drive. On the bend of the drive there was a beautiful doe, followed by a buck with at least eight points and then a smaller Buck with six or more points on his rack. It is always a pleasure to see the animals in their natural habitats. They seem to be making allowance for us humans. This is a great place for the deer to live. Our deer count is up from 2016 to 423 from 311, but our deer car collisions are down to 151 from 176 in 2016. Remember when driving at this time of the year (fall) to be more alert at the dusk to dawn times when the deer are out. Don’t Veer for the Deer.

Please contact me by phone or email, 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. Enjoy Our Beautiful City!
Fall has arrived in Rochester Hills! From visiting Yates Cider Mill to enjoying the fall colors in our parks or on the Clinton River and Paint Creek Trails, there are so many fun fall things to do in Rochester Hills!

My family has been very busy. My twins, Jack and Brennan, are now in the fifth grade! They are actively involved in karate, Cub Scouts and piano lessons with Corrin Barnett. In addition to running her law practice, my wife Melinda was recently elected by her peers to the executive board of the Oakland County Bar Association, serving as its secretary.

On City Council, we inducted the 2019-2020 class to the Rochester Hills Government Youth Council. We have 15 talented young people serving this year with a passion for our city and learning about local government. The members of this year’s Rochester Hills Government Youth Council are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>School</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ryan Barrett</td>
<td>Rochester High School</td>
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<tr>
<td>Amanpreet Dosanjh</td>
<td>Rochester High School</td>
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<tr>
<td>Shreya Pillai</td>
<td>Rochester High School</td>
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<tr>
<td>Numair Haq</td>
<td>Adams High School</td>
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<tr>
<td>Yitian Zhang</td>
<td>International Academy</td>
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<td>Hannah Bennett</td>
<td>Rochester High School</td>
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<td>Jessica Hrynkiw</td>
<td>Rochester High School</td>
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<tr>
<td>Maya Iyer</td>
<td>Rochester High School</td>
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<tr>
<td>Zena Nasiri</td>
<td>Adams High School</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aden Smith</td>
<td>Stoney Creek High School</td>
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<td>Dana Williams</td>
<td>Rochester High School</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hayden Bearre</td>
<td>Rochester High School</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jonathan Karr</td>
<td>Notre Dame Prep</td>
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<tr>
<td>Zoe Pizzuti</td>
<td>Adams High School</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pawel Vijayakumar</td>
<td>Rochester High School</td>
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The Youth Council is off to an impressive start. So far, our students have toured the DPS facilities, operated the water station at City Hall during the Brookside Way, toured Innovation Hills and took a virtual tour of the Auburn Road Corridor. You will find our Youth Council Members volunteering at numerous city events, including Light the Village, Festival of the Hills and the State of the City address. I am so happy Rochester Hills provides this unique opportunity for our youth to be actively involved in local government.

One of the most important functions of City Council is to pass a budget. The budget process began in April with the City Council Strategic Planning and Policy Technical Review Committee meeting, where we set forth the City’s goals and objectives for the following year. At our first meeting in August, the Mayor presented his proposed budget. The City Council conducted a budget workshop session on August 19, 2019 to discuss and offer comments on the proposed budget. A public hearing was conducted at the September 9, 2019 City Council meeting to receive public input on the proposed budget and millage rates which support that budget. This process culminated in our September 23, 2019 meeting, where City Council unanimously passed the City’s 2020-2022 budget. I want to congratulate the hard work by Mayor Barnett, city staff and my fellow council members!

I am proud to serve as your City Council representative. If you have any thoughts or concerns you would like to share with me, please email me at deelr@rochesterhills.org or call or text my city cell at 248-568-9513. I enjoy hearing from you!
They are Rock Stars

The Mayor and City Council tend to be the faces of Rochester Hills – we are the elected officials and represent you, the residents. The Rock Stars of Rochester Hills are the employees of Rochester Hills. They are the people who make sure everything works, every day 24/7. Cue the bass, guitar, drums, lights, pyrotechnics, and let’s meet these stars:

The Assessing Department, led by Laurie Taylor, knows our City’s properties intimately. Why? Because their mission is to assure that property assessment rolls are lawful, accurate and equitable. Receiving a tax bill may not seem like getting a ticket to the biggest concert in town, yet we all can be assured the tax roll created by our Assessing team is accurate and up to date. Laurie’s team keeps the beat of our City’s Real and Personal property strong and consistent. A great band needs great percussion!

What can be said about our Clerk’s Department? Outstanding comes to mind, but that might not be enough. The team carries out their duties with a focus nothing short of perfect. That’s how they receive a 100% election audit result. Members of the Clerk’s Department are sought out to serve on State boards, and speak at national conventions. Tina Barton is the lead singer, belting out the Bon Jovi equivalent of “Gotta Get These AV Ballots Out!”

The Department of Public Services – DPS – get tons (literally) of stuff done every day. The Department Director, Allan Schneck, is so cool that the Tons of Trucks show was sold out! DPS ensures our 282 miles of roads are maintained, repaired, upgraded, and plowed; our 327 miles of sanitary sewer and 438 miles of water main are upgraded and maintained; and our 95 miles of pathways are upgraded and maintained. Oh yeah, he also maintains the City’s fleet of trucks and equipment (which he promises to let me drive). Allan is outstanding on lead guitar, providing rhythm for our infrastructure and shredding solos when he’s Painting Plows.

The City’s Facilities Division of the Building Department manages and maintains City-owned facilities in an efficient and safe manner so they can be used and enjoyed by residents, employees and visitors. Scott Cope and his team carry out this mission smoothly. Our City buildings are well maintained and inviting thanks to his team, and we recently had a ribbon cutting for Fire Station #4, completing a major upgrade to all our Fire Stations. Scott’s crew is our bass guitar, thumping out a back beat that keeps our City looking great!

Our Fire Department is “Driven to be the Best”, and they are 100% focused on being nothing short of the best. Chief Canto’s team carries out their mission to protect and preserve life, property, and the environment every day. They are relentless toward achieving their goals. I’m not sure I would give anyone in the Fire Department an instrument, because they would likely use it to break down a door to put out a fire. I would definitely have them on guard at a City “concert” because I know all the attendees would be safe.

Drummer Joe Snyder leads the City’s Accounting, Fiscal, Purchasing, and Treasury Departments. So, yes, Joe and his team really like money. So much so that they received awards for their love of money – 30 consecutive years receiving the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reports; multiple years winning the Excellence in Procurement Award to name a few. A 3-year rolling budget and a 7-year forecast – yeah this team knows how to keep the beat!

The mission of the Human Resources Department is to serve as a strategic partner in selecting, managing, and developing a workforce that can continuously adapt and respond to the challenges of public service. Implementing a comprehensive compensation program, Pam Gordon and her team are driving initiatives that attract and retain top talent. That is the type of harmony and backing vocals that keep employees and residents humming along to the Rochester Hills tune.

Kevin Krajewski and his MIS team assure hackers, cyber thieves, and other intruders don’t cripple the systems all the departments use to serve residents. In rock-n-roll terms, they make sure the pyrotechnics, lighting, and sound systems for the City’s shows are synchronized to the rockin’ sound.

The Parks and Natural Resources Department is focused on preserving our history, conserving our green infrastructure, and engaging our community in the outdoors. Parks and green spaces are important to the quality of life in Rochester Hills and Ken Elwert’s team makes this happen. They are like the keyboardist, creating melodies that engage us in the music of nature.

(Continued)
David Walker - At Large

It is hard to believe it has been almost a year since my appointment to City Council. As fall approaches, I am able to reflect on what an amazing city we live in and I have gained a new and deeper appreciation for all the hard-working and dedicated employees who make this such a preeminent place to live, work, and raise our families.

This year we have seen great progress with some of the significant projects our city has embarked on. The Auburn Road Corridor is in full swing and Innovation Hills Park is soon to open. After all the hard work—planning, designing, and construction—the initial phase of our goal to produce a world-class destination within our community is almost ready for the residents to start and enjoy.

Though with development comes challenges, construction being one of them. Working within the confines of the season limits how much can be done, weather permitting. Construction disrupts the normal flow of daily life and presents unique problems with each new endeavor.

However, you cannot have the progress within our community without the process of development. As we continue to invest in our infrastructure and make improvements to our city, we can appreciate the energy and effort that has gone into preserving and enhancing our community, as well as enjoy the results. Once the enhancement of the Brooklands area with the Auburn Road Corridor project is complete, the southeastern gateway into our city will look like none other in the area. The Brooklands area has a rich history in our city and will benefit tremendously through these enhancements. Our main roads and neighborhood streets continue to improve as well, and last but not least, Innovation Hills Park, when opened, will be a destination to be proud of.

These investments in our community are essential to the preservation of the city and beneficial to its residents. Development is vital for a community’s success. While development can sometimes be frowned upon for its changes to the landscape, creation of traffic, and changes to ecosystems and habitats, it is imperative for the prosperity of our community. Development generates more jobs, creates desired curb appeal, builds places to bring together the community, and maintains or increases home value. Whether the development is residential or commercial, construction brings economic stability to our city.

Finding that balance between the growth and maintenance of our community is the key to planning and development.

As your At-Large Councilman, I want to ensure that the lifestyle this area has to offer is protected, maintained, as well as enhanced, through my hard work and commitment to this city. I will encourage responsible development of our limited resources, and work to preserve and expand our green space and natural areas. I will support continued investment in our infrastructure and provide oversight and direction to make sure we are spending our dollars wisely. These are my priorities as your City Council representative.

Continued from Page 30

Preserving, enhancing, and diversifying are the cornerstones of the Planning and Economic Development Department. The team drives sustainable growth, a vibrant business community, and preserves the greatness that exists today in Rochester Hills. What better promoter (and rock stars themselves) for the City than Sara Roediger and her team!

Captain Johnson and his Oakland County Sheriff’s Office team provide our residents “front row ticket” service at “bleacher seat” prices. We are truly blessed to have a team like this keeping our residents safe. With Taylor, Barton, Schneck, Cope, Snyder, Gordon, Krajewski, Elwert, and Roediger hitting the stage; holding back screaming fans will be necessary.

Oh, Jason Dale, and the Rochester Hills TV team are producing a music video. Expect it to be nothing short of awesome. Rock On, Rochester Hills!
The Village and the City of Rochester Hills to "Light the Village" on Friday, November 22 from 6:00 - 9:00 pm. There will be fireworks, live performances, food trucks, arts and craft stations, story times and much more! Mayor Bryan Barnett will lead the countdown for Santa’s arrival and children’s eyes will sparkle when they flip the magical switch to illuminate the Village’s 25-foot Christmas tree. For your convenience, park free at Adams High School and ride complimentary shuttles to the Village.

Shuttles run 5:00 - 10:00 pm. Be sure to look to the sky for an extra special display of lights sure to delight both the young and the young at heart. It’s the perfect way to kick off the season, and it’s only at the Village of Rochester Hills. Our 2019 event is generously sponsored by:

The Village of Rochester Hills ~ Tree Lighting Ceremony 2019