Local Roots – Global Reach! Once again, I had the joy of bringing great news to our residents as I presented my 11th State of the City Address. This year, we wanted to do something a little different. In addition to sharing great news about our city - our low taxes, high housing values, excellent schools and community organizations, coupled with our nearly non-existent unemployment rate, beautiful neighborhoods, and excellent dining and shopping- we wanted to be able to share and celebrate the impact Rochester Hills has far beyond our city limits.

We welcomed and celebrated international companies like Jenoptik, Bader, and A. Raymond who chose Rochester Hills as the best place in America to locate their North American headquarters. We highlighted with great joy the Palma and Daived families who recently immigrated to the United States and chose Rochester Hills as the place to invest their futures and raise their families. We are very proud they chose to call Rochester Hills home.

To make our event fun and entertaining, we were able to highlight our message with the help of State of the City Highlights 3
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To watch the presentation, please CLICK HERE or visit our website at www.rochesterhills.org

WE HOPE YOU ENJOY THE SHOW!
many local singers and dancers. Our musical guests included children from Hampton Elementary who shared their talents by singing and leading the Pledge of Allegiance, performances by African Drum Dancers Nanou Djiapo, the Motor City Irish Dancers, Jazba Indian Dance Group and the St. Paul’s Catholic Community Albanian Dance Group. These outstanding performers wore traditional costumes and were a delight to watch.

In addition, we celebrated our residents and business members who donated their time and talents to help others across the globe. I was honored to recognize both an individual and a group with our Community Excellence Awards. This program is one of the highlights of the night for me and I was very pleased to award Lori Blaker, President and CEO of TTi Global, for her work with empowering women in Kabul, Afghanistan, and Bill Clark of the Hope Water Project, for the ongoing dedication and hard work their team does in Africa to build wells and bring clean fresh water to people in desperate need.

These are just some of the things our outstanding residents do throughout the world to help better the lives of others. It’s clear that whether home or abroad, the city of Rochester Hills has had another exceptional year, perhaps our most accomplished, as we continue to be one of the hottest places in southeast Michigan for innovation and investment.

Closer to home, one of the things I was most excited to announce is the renaming of Riverbend Park to Innovation Hills! The name was inspired by a resident, selected by our study group, and approved by City Council, based on the fact that Innovation Hills is going to be the most innovative and creative natural park in Southeast Michigan. Our all-inclusive park will have something for everyone with focus on the natural, physical, and spiritual wonders of this beautiful park. With support from City Council, grants we secured from outside agencies, and donations from generous residents and businesses, our dream of a park for the ages is becoming a reality. Once it is complete, I simply cannot wait for you to experience our beautiful Innovation Hills.

In the end, it was a night to remember. Once again I am reminded how blessed we are to live in this community and how blessed I am to be your Mayor. The State of the City is strong and growing stronger, our local roots and global reach make it clear that Rochester Hills continues to be the preeminent place to live, work, and raise a family. God Bless.

Thanks to all the community leaders, local businesses, engaged residents, and award recipients who came to cheer Rochester Hills!

It’s our biggest night and we are so pleased to share our city’s great news.

Our Community Excellence Award Winners
Lori Blaker and Bill Clark
The 2017 Rochester Hills State of the City Event
Hosted by Mayor Bryan K. Barnett
Come See Why OPC is a Great Place to Be!

The Older Persons Commission (OPC) offers a variety of personal enrichment, fitness, aquatic, social and travel opportunities for the 50+. Supportive outreach services include Meals on Wheels, Adult Day Services, transportation, Support Groups and more. Here’s a small sampling of upcoming activities at the center this summer!

5K Run/Walk Fundraiser in support of Meal on Wheels on Saturday, June 3rd. The event begins at 8:00 am at OPC, run or walk along the Clinton River Trail and back. All proceeds will benefit the OPC’s Meals on Wheels program, which provides daily meals for homebound seniors. Last year, the OPC Nutrition Department prepared, served and delivered 117,959 home delivered and on-site meals. Register for the event online at eastsideracingcompany.com or print the form at opcseniorcenter.org.

Meals on Wheels (MOW) benefits adults (60 years of age or older) who are unable to prepare meals for themselves due to physical or mental impairments related to age or a medical condition. MOW is more than just a nutritious meal. It’s a kind word, a friendly face, and a wellness check provided by the volunteers who deliver the meal directly to the door of a Rochester Hills resident seven days a week. MOW encourages independence for those who wish to remain in their homes for as long as possible. Hot nutritional lunch time meals are also provided at OPC Monday through Friday.

Celebrate the Great Outdoors by cheering on one of the OPC’s five softball teams at Borden Park. Meet other bike enthusiasts and ride along the Clinton River Trail and stop for a cup of coffee or try the new cardiovascular workout, Nordic Walking, where you walk with specially designed handheld poles. This sport improves posture, balance and coordination. Regular outdoor activity provides a number of physical health benefits, including lower blood pressure, reduced arthritis pain, weight loss and lowered risk of diabetes. So refer to the OPC newsletter for great outdoor activities.

Enrich your life! Just as our bodies need physical exercise to keep them in the best possible shape, listening to music promotes overall health. There are many opportunities to listen to music at OPC with the Riverstrings Concert comprised of a group of 27 musicians playing the mountain dulcimer, violin, guitar, banjo, dulciborn, penny whistle, marimbula, bongos and kazoos on June 9 at 7:00 pm. Attend the Henry Ford Big Band concert featuring Karen Newman on June 22nd from 7:30-9:00 pm. The ultimate classic rocker Rod Stewart aka Donny Rod will perform at OPC on August 17 at 7:00 pm.

Classic Car Show on July 22 will be a complimentary morning (9 am-Noon) event for both spectators and car enthusiasts with a DJ, music, and breakfast refreshments in the OPC’s upper parking lot. Come early, stay late! If you have a classic car you’d like to show off call 248-608-0295.

Find out why “OPC is a great place to be 50+!” by participating in one of the many activities offered at the 90,000 sq. ft. center. Rochester Hills residents 50+ are automatically members just register or take a tour at 650 Letica Drive, Rochester or visit our website at www.opcseniorcenter.org for a full listing of offerings or call 248-656-1403 Extension 0.
Rochester Hills Public Library Launches Summer Reading Program

RHPL is celebrating Rochester’s Bicentennial with its summer reading program “Happy Birthday Rochester.” The program challenges participants to read quality literature, while learning about community history, through a series of programs running June 10 through August 5.

To kick off the program, the Rochester Hills Public Library is hosting a community birthday party June 10 from 12:00-3:00 p.m. During this fun-filled family event, participants can enjoy a bounce house obstacle course and retro games from Dinosaur Hill. Birthday cake will be served and Rich Eddy’s Rockin’ Oldies will perform doo-wop classics at 2:00 pm. The concert will be outdoors but there will be seating and an awning for shade.

Come hungry! Treats and finger foods, provided by Fresh Thyme Farmers Market, will be available in the Multipurpose Room. After lunch, view the rooms historical displays and visit with our community’s many historical commissions.

“The kickoff party is a fun way to increase awareness of ‘Happy Birthday Rochester’ and encourages people to get involved, while highlighting its importance. Our summer reading program is designed to help forestall the ‘summer slide’ in reading some students experience during the school break,” said Library Director Christine Lind Hage.

Adults are also encouraged to sign up for the summer reading program during the kickoff party.

“The benefits of reading in adulthood are sometimes overlooked. ‘Happy Birthday Rochester’ is our opportunity to remind adults that reading improves your memory and expands your vocabulary, plus you can win great prizes,” said Community Relations Specialist Amanda Harrison Keighley.

For more information, please visit rhpl.org.

Rochester Hills Public Library Hosts Tale of Two Trails

Thursday, June 29, 6:30-9:00 pm.

The library partnered with the Rochester Hills Museum at Van Hoosen Farm to take you on a bicycle ride through time. During this 3.7 mile ride you’ll meet “the original Forrest Gump” see the former training site of Olympians and learn how the Clinton River and Paint Creek trails came to be.

“The biking tour is something I look forward to all year because it showcases the amazing trail system our community offers, while talking about its unique history and... it sneaks in a little exercise. I want to invite everyone: families, teens and seniors to join us. If you can bike, you can come!,” says Community Relations Specialist Amanda Harrison Keighley.

Participants must register in advance at calendar.rhpl.org.

Paint Creek Trail News

When: Saturday, June 3, 2017 from 9:00 am – 1:00 pm
Where: Paint Creek Cider Mill and the Paint Creek Trail

Join us for our first Tails for Trails event! In honor of National Trails Day, we will be having this fun celebration for you and your trail-loving dogs!

Schedule of Events:

- Dog Parade on the Paint Creek Trail
- Costume Contest with prizes!
- Free Children’s craft – decorate a bandanna for your pet!
- Free Face Painting
- Local pet food and supply vendors with freebies and information!
- Training demonstrations
- Trail courtesy information
- K-9 Stray Rescue League and Heavenly Paws Rescue on site with dogs and cats for adoption!

This event is free, with a suggested tax-deductible donation of $5.00 per family that will be given to K-9 Stray Rescue League and Heavenly Paws Rescue. For the safety of all visitors and pets, your dog must be licensed and up-to-date on immunizations. In addition, we ask that your pet be leashed and/or under control at all times.

Sponsored by Goodison Veterinary Center, Oakland Township Parks and Recreation, and the Paint Creek Trailways Commission.

For more information, please visit paintcreektrail.org/wordpress/tails-for-trails.
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:_______________________________________________________________
State_____________Zip_________City___________________________
Phone:_________________________________________________________________

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

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

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

Upon receipt of your check and order form, you will be sent an acknowledgement letter. Bricks are installed in the park twice a year in late October and May.

For information and additional order forms, please call the Community Foundation of Greater Rochester at 248-608-2804 or the Mayor's Office at 248-656-4664.
Memorial Day Ceremonies

Where: 9:00 am Mount Avon Cemetery at Third Street in the City of Rochester
       10:30 am Veterans Memorial Pointe in the City of Rochester Hills

Date: May 29, 2017

Please join Rochester Hills Mayor Bryan K. Barnett and City Council President Mark Tisdel as they join distinguished area veterans and local officials to remember with honor our fallen Veterans. Memorial Day is the day on which those who died in active military service are remembered. Our Memorial Day Ceremonies will be held at the Mount Avon Cemetery at 9:00 am and at Veterans Memorial Pointe at 10:30 am.

This year, our guest of honor is Glen Sattelmeier. Glen served in the United States Navy from 1953-1956. During that time, Glen attended Officer Candidate School and became an Engineering Officer on a minesweeper patrolling waters in Long Beach, Japan, and eventually Korea. By that time, a truce had been reached and Glen and his fellow sailors docked offshore on a small island where they were patrollers. Glen remembers sailors from other countries were there as well, patrolling Korean waters at the end of the war.

After serving in the Navy, Glen taught math and science in San Diego, California, and became a Lutheran Pastor after studying at Concordia Seminary in Springfield, Illinois. Eventually, Glen and his wife, Lorraine, settled near Gaylord, Michigan where Glen served as Pastor for nearly 30 years. Glen and Lorraine were blessed with four children and have four grandchildren.

In 2002 Glen and Lorraine moved to Rochester Hills where Glen served as Assistant Pastor at St. John’s Lutheran and St. Peter’s Lutheran in Macomb. Glen and Lorraine are enjoying retirement and keep very busy. Glen is an active member of his VFW Post 3908, Rochester/Utica where he enjoys the camaraderie of his fellow veterans.

Please show Glen Sattelmeier and all fellow patriots the respect and support of a grateful nation on this Memorial Day. Take a moment to reflect with solemn reverence upon their lives and the sacrifices they made to keep our country free.

Spring Canoe and Kayak Event

Nature and recreation can be found in our own community, and for some, even at the edge of your own property. It will soon be time again for Paddlepalooza, an event that helps people embrace the Clinton River as it runs through Auburn Hills and Rochester Hills. The river intermingles with subdivisions, parkland, and under several roadways. Having the chance to see your own community from the seat of a canoe or kayak is something you normally don’t have in your everyday hustle and bustle.

This year, Paddlepalooza will be held on June 3 with a rain date of June 17. Paddlepalooza was established as a way to get people interested in using our local river and resources right in their own back yard. Sure, it is fun to have a weekend away up north, but most people don’t think these possibilities are available locally. Paddlepalooza celebrates the wonderful resource of a navigable river flowing through several communities in Oakland and Macomb Counties. Participants can choose to be in the men’s kayak race, the woman’s kayak race, two person canoe race, or the adventure paddle. Prizes will be awarded for each race class. In addition, each participant will receive lunch and an event T-shirt. Pre-registration is recommended and the entry fee is $20 per person. Because the Clinton River can be rated a difficult Class III at certain times of the year, Paddlepalooza is not recommended for the beginner paddler. Participants must be at least 12 years of age and paddlers under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. Personal flotation devices are required and no inflatable crafts will be permitted.

For additional details about Paddlepalooza including participant rules, what to wear, canoe and kayak rentals, parking and shuttle service, raffle prizes, and registration and waiver forms, please visit the City of Rochester Hills website at rochesterhills.org or the City of Auburn Hills website at auburnhills.org.

Both Rochester Hills and Auburn Hills would like to thank the many sponsors who make this event possible and memorable. We also thank all the participants and spectators cheering along the course. Come out and see for yourself how a canoe or kayak filled morning can improve your outlook on your local environment.

Paddlepalooza is a splendid way to explore our beautiful Clinton River
As we enjoy spring flowers, the lazy days of summer, and backyard barbecues, we are also faced with the risk associated with hot cars. Specifically speaking, the tragic outcome of leaving children unattended in hot cars “just for a minute”.

Unfortunately, there have already been five heat stroke related deaths of children this year due to their being left alone in a car...and to think that summer has not even officially begun.

Even great parents can forget a child in the back seat. Other risk factors include caregivers who are not used to driving kids, or those whose routine suddenly changes.

Following are four steps you can take to keep our kids safe:

**LOOK BEFORE YOU LOCK**
Make it a habit to look before you lock, and try these tips to avoid putting children at risk of heatstroke.

**TAKE ACTION IF YOU NOTICE A CHILD ALONE IN A CAR!**
Protecting children is everyone’s business—learn what to do if you see a child alone in a car.

**NEVER LEAVE A CHILD ALONE IN A CAR**
Do you think heatstroke can happen on a cloudy day? Find out—take this quiz to test how much you know about preventing child heatstroke.

**GET INVOLVED**
Find and share campaign information for parents, caregivers, schools and organizations, and remind everyone to Look Before You Lock!

For more details on State laws pertaining to leaving children unattended in vehicles click on this link: noheatstroke.org/laws.

Another unfortunate victim of hot vehicles are pets. Even outdoor temperatures in the 60’s can get hot enough inside a vehicle to have a devastating effect on pets so just don’t do it.

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Can You Recognize a Heat Emergency?

With warmer weather and high temperatures on their way, are you ready? The combination of excessive heat and humidity isn’t just uncomfortable—it can lead to a life-threatening situation. Know the signs for each of these conditions and what to do if they occur.

**Heat Cramps**
These are muscular pains and spasms that usually occur in the legs or abdomen. They are caused by exposure to high heat and humidity and loss of fluids and electrolytes.

Heat cramps are often an early sign that the body is having trouble with the heat, so make sure to stay hydrated, slow down and avoid strenuous exercise during the hottest part of the day.

**Heat Exhaustion**
Heat exhaustion typically involves the loss of body fluids through heavy sweating during strenuous exercise or physical labor in high heat and humidity.

**Signs:** cool, moist, pale or flushed skin; heavy sweating; headache; nausea; dizziness; weakness; and exhaustion.

**What to do:**
Move the person to a cooler place. Remove or loosen tight clothing and apply cool, wet clothes or towels to the skin. Fan the person. If the person is conscious, give small amounts of cool water to drink.

Make sure the person drinks slowly. Watch for changes in condition.

If the person refuses water, vomits or begins to lose consciousness, call 9-1-1.

**Heat Stroke**
Also known as sunstroke, this is a life-threatening condition in which a person’s temperature control system stops working and the body is unable to cool itself.

**Signs:** hot, red skin that may be dry or moist; changes in consciousness; vomiting; and high body temperature.

**What to do:**
Heat stroke is life-threatening. Call 9-1-1 immediately.

Move the person to a cooler place. Quickly cool the person’s body by giving care as you would for heat exhaustion. If needed, continue rapid cooling by applying ice or cold packs wrapped in a cloth to the wrists, ankles, groin, neck and armpits.

Oakland County Sheriff’s Office

Make This Prom and Graduation Season Safe

The Oakland County Sheriff’s Office is asking for everyone’s help in making this year’s prom and graduation season a safe and healthy one for students throughout southeast Michigan. We urge everyone to support zero tolerance for underage drinking and illegal drug use. Keep an open line of communication with your teen, but be firm in the no-alcohol-use-before-age-21 message you give your student.

The Oakland County Sheriff’s Office wants the public to know the high costs of adults providing alcohol to or condoning alcohol use by their children or any other minor. Parents should never host underage drinking parties or provide alcohol to anyone under 21. It’s illegal, unsafe and unhealthy. In fact, the costs of providing alcohol to minors are very high, and they carry significant legal consequences. Parents should know:

- Providing alcohol to a minor is a misdemeanor punishable by a fine up to $1,000 and up to 60 days in jail.
- Providing alcohol to a minor, where the consumption of the alcohol is a direct cause of that person’s death is a felony, punishable by a fine up to $5,000 and/or up to 10 years imprisonment.

I strongly encourage anyone who is a witness to underage drinking or knows of a party hosted by a parent where underage drinking is occurring to report it to your local police agency. While you may have the best intentions when hosting a party in a young person’s honor, having a gathering where alcohol is available to minors is a big mistake, and could result in your arrest or worse yet, a tragedy resulting in the death or injury of innocent people. Sadly, we have lost numerous young people after graduation parties just as they are about to embark on a promising future.

According to most city ordinances in Oakland County, a person breaks the law if they purchase an alcoholic beverage for, give, or make an alcoholic beverage available to a minor. There are other guidelines to follow when addressing the topic of underage drinking. They include:

- Don’t allow your student to host or attend a party that is unsupervised by adults.
- Call the adult in charge of any party your teen attends. Make sure you are in agreement about what the adult supervision will be.
- If you drink, be a good role model in your own use of alcohol.
- Talk to your teen about how to say no to risky situations involving alcohol or drugs and still save face with their friends.
- Tell your teens that they can call you anytime they are in a risky situation.
- Team up and talk with other parents.
- Provide opportunities for your student to host safe, alcohol-free parties and activities.

If you suspect your student has an alcohol or drug problem, seek help. Call your school’s counseling office or a substance abuse referral line at 1-800-362-5142. Remember to let your student know you love them.

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Rochester Hills Government Youth Council Hosts 5k Run/Walk

Omega Rehab Services is sponsoring the Rochester Hills Government Youth Council’s (RHGYC) 5k Run/Walk to benefit local charity, Assistance League® of Southeastern Michigan, on Saturday, June 17, 2017 at Bloomer Park, located at the north end of John R Road north of Avon Road. The 5k Run/Walk will wind through the park’s scenic cross-country trails and will once again be chip timed.

Assistance League® of Southeastern Michigan, founded in 1993 and serving Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties, is a nonprofit 501 (c) (3) hands-on all volunteer organization whose mission is to clothe, feed, educate and comfort infants, children, adults and families through their community-based programs. One of their signature programs, Operation School Bell®, provides new school clothing and necessities: a coat, shirts, pants, hat, gloves, underwear, socks, hygiene kit, and a book, carried home in a new duffle bag. Clothes shopping has expanded to middle school children at our partner stores.

Please join the RHGYC in their fund raising efforts for this very worthy organization. Sponsors and donors are also encouraged and welcome.

Entrance forms for runners and sponsors of the 5k are available in the Youth Council area of the city’s website at www.rochesterhills.org along with a link to online registration. Participants submitting entries by June 2, 2017 will receive a Race T-shirt. After June 2, T-shirts will be available for entrants while supplies last. For more information on the RHGYC and the 5k, contact Alex Aleman, Rochester Hills Youth Council Liaison at 248-656-4630.
Rochester Hills Building Department

Building Safety Month is celebrated by jurisdictions worldwide during the month of May. Building Safety Month is a public awareness campaign to help individuals, families, and businesses understand what it takes to create safe and sustainable structures.

To further increase awareness, your Rochester Hills Building Department offers a number of fun and educational events designed to help you learn how to save money on energy bills, prepare for a disaster, check your home for fire safety, and make sure your backyard is safe for your family to enjoy.

In addition to a number of special events throughout the community, the Building Department hosts Open House displays on the second floor lobby of City Hall. During the month of May, Building personnel are available to answer questions and share important building safety information.

Our 2017 events included Home Depot, Kid’s Day in the Park, and a day at OPC! Be sure to contact the Building Department at 248-656-4615 in early spring for our 2018 event schedule.

2017 NO HAZ PROGRAM

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

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

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

All events are on Saturday on the following dates:

June 24  8:00 am - 2:00 pm
Oakland University, Rochester Hills - Parking Lots 35 and 37- enter campus on Pioneer Drive east off Squirrel Road, South of University

July 22, 8:00 am - 2:00 pm
North Sashabaw Elementary School - 5290 Maybee Road, Clarkston

September 16, 8:00 am - 2:00 pm
OCC Highland Lakes Campus 7350 Cooley Lake Road, Waterford - enter from Hospital Road

October 28, 8:00 am - NOON
Orion Township Wildwood Amphitheater 2700 Joslyn Court - enter from Joslyn

IS YOUR WOOD DECK SAFE?

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

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

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

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

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

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

We look forward to hearing from you.
CHECK YOUR DECK

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

We hope you have a safe and enjoyable summer.

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

**Roediger Named New Planning and Economic Development Director**

Please join Mayor Bryan K. Barnett in welcoming Sara Roediger as the new Planning and Economic Development (PED) Director of the City of Rochester Hills. The former Manager of Planning, Sara has been with the City for almost three years and has served as the interim director since February when the previous PED Director, Ed Anzek, retired after many years of service. Sara has over sixteen years of experience working in both the public and private sector including in the City of Novi, West Bloomfield Township, and LSL Planning. In her time at Rochester Hills, Sara has quickly earned the trust and confidence of staff, elected and appointed officials, residents, and business owners alike.

After a nationwide search and intense interview process, Sara was the unanimous choice for the job. As PED Director, Sara is responsible for conducting long-range planning, implementation of the City’s Master Land Use Plan, and administration of the Zoning Ordinance. The department also works collaboratively to support existing businesses, attract new businesses, grow jobs, create entrepreneurial opportunities and to add value to Rochester Hills’ economy. “I am confident she will build upon the City’s strong planning and economic development policies through strategic management, and forward-thinking leadership.”

Sara has been busy this winter, as not only has she had a career move, she also has recently moved her family to Rochester Hills. “After working in Rochester Hills over the past few years, I quickly came to realize what a great community this is, and couldn’t wait to be able to live, work, and raise my family here. I look forward to helping to preserve the great amenities the City has to offer and to help it evolve to continue to be a desirable place for people of all ages.”

**Business Spotlight: FANUC AMERICA**

Ask any 4th grader in Rochester Hills where the Robotics Capitol is and they’ll tell you, right here, in Rochester Hills, Michigan. Tucked away in a 39-acre campus on Hamlin Road – the first business to welcome you into the City limits is Fanuc America. FANUC America is a subsidiary of the FANUC Corporation in Japan, and provides industry-leading robotics, CNC systems and factory automation solutions. Whether its machines that weld, systems that move material or robots that paint, FANUC is the world’s largest manufacturer of industrial robots.

FANUC America is the City’s largest private sector employer and industrial property tax payer, but if you never make your way over to Hamlin Road, you just might not even realize its presence in town and the impact FANUC makes on the community.

FANUC’s North and South American headquarters are located there at 3900 W. Hamlin Road. Twenty offices report to this facility and 900 employees work out of the Rochester Hills campus. Recently, FANUC America was named one of Michigan’s top 100 workplaces by the Detroit Free Press for the fifth consecutive year.

It’s corporate directive is to give back to the community and thus the company and its employees are involved in countless initiatives including robotics teams coaching, donated equipment and STEAM Career Fairs for Rochester Community Schools. FANUC America also launched its Certified Education (CERT) program, which provides educators a STEM-based curriculum centered on robotics and automation training aligned to industry and national certifications to prepare students for high-tech careers in advanced manufacturing.

This year marks the 35th anniversary of FANUC manufacturing its line of painting robots at the Rochester Hills headquarters, a major milestone in the U.S. robotics industry. In 2016, FANUC announced a new President for FANUC America, Mike Cicco. When discussing the company’s headquarters, he had this share, “Having our headquarters in Rochester Hills is ideal because we are located in close proximity to many of our largest manufacturing customers. We’re proud of our team of automation professionals here in Michigan and throughout the Americas.”

I close with a story of our Manager of Economic Development, Pamela Valentik, recently attending a business attraction conference in Chicago. She was talking to the executive of a robotics automation company based in New Zealand. When she shared that she was representing the City of Rochester Hills, Michigan and asked the executive if he knew where that was, he simply replied, “Of course, I’ve been to your city, you’re home to FANUC Robotics.”
Creating a Vibrant, Walkable Brooklands

The easternmost section of Auburn Road in Rochester Hills, formerly known as “Olde Towne” is one of the oldest areas of what was formerly Avon Township. While commercial development has continued to grow throughout the rest of the City, the district has remained relatively consistent in its “old town” character and vacant sites prime for redevelopment. The two-lane Auburn Rd. that runs through the commercial heart of the Brooklands, which is under the jurisdiction of MDOT, lacks defined driveways, sidewalks and parking areas.

While there had been previous studies for Auburn Rd., and a design and regulations for the district, there had been little public or private investment in the area. In 2016, the City undertook a planning process to refresh the previous plans, provide direction for both the roadway and properties along it, and to outline specific actions to implement the recommendations, including the addition of on-street parallel parking

and narrow medians along this stretch of Auburn Rd. The Auburn Road Corridor Plan was adopted by both the Planning Commission and City Council earlier this year, but the plan is just the beginning. At the April 17, 2017 City Council meeting, the Council approved funds to take the concept plan to the next step, and authorized OHM Advisors, one of the City’s engineering consultants, to perform Early Preliminary Engineering (EPE) for the project to ensure that the recommended redevelopment is complemented with sufficient infrastructure, pedestrian accommodations and roadway function. Implementation of the plan is estimated to cost roughly $3.8 million and was recently included in the City’s Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) and could begin construction as early as 2019, depending on the results of the EPE and securing additional funds from other sources including potential grants and private sector contributions.

See What’s Being Built in Your Community!

Earlier this year the Planning and Economic Development (PED) Department launched an interactive Status of Development Projects Map, enabling you to see what’s being built throughout the City. Projects are sorted by proposed, approved, under construction, and recently completed projects. You can zoom in or out and pan around the City to see what is being built where, and if you click on a project number, a picture and brief overview of the project will come up. For those who like additional information, the red “more info” button will bring up the site plan for the project where you can view items such as the grading plans, elevations, floor plans, landscape plans, etc. Another great feature of this new map is that anyone who has a comment or question on a project can click on “To submit questions or comments click here” at the top left corner of the site which will provide you an easy way to reach the PED Department. We hope you enjoy seeing what’s going on in the City as much as we do!
Rochester Hills Department of Public Services

Spring has arrived and with it, another busy construction season with welcomed investment into infrastructure within Rochester Hills. The largest and most prominent projects of this construction season are along the South Boulevard & Auburn Road corridors.

The South Boulevard project involves resurfacing between Livernois & Crooks as well as John R & Dequindre. The scope of work on South Boulevard includes a signal upgrade at the intersection of South Boulevard & Livernois.

The Auburn Road project entails capacity, signalization and safety improvements in various locations along Auburn Road.

While both projects will affect traffic, the delivery of the Auburn Road project between Crooks & Livernois will be the most challenging due to how the project has to be staged in order to construct a continuous designated center left turn lane. Stage 1 calls for traffic to be maintained in the west bound direction only with east bound closed from approximately mid June to late July. Stage 2 flips directional traffic flow to maintaining east bound traffic only with west bound closed from approximately late July to early September.

Collectively, the delivery of these projects are valued at $5.4 million dollars and will be administered through the Road Commission for Oakland County and the Michigan Department of Transportation, respectively.

To complement the aforementioned projects and to continue the City’s commitment to safe, reliable, quality roads and infrastructure, the following projects are slated for delivery throughout this year:

Rochester Road (Eddington Boulevard and Drexelgate) - Road Realignment
Belle Cone Gardens, Sunnyleafe Gardens and Homestead Acres Subdivisions (between Crooks & Livernois, north of South Blvd.) - Water Main Replacement and Road Resurfacing
2017 Concrete Program - Concrete Removal & Replacement in various locations
2017 Hot Mixed Asphalt Program - Mill & Resurface in various locations
2017 Pathway Program - Construction & Resurfacing in various locations
Hamilton Drain (River Bend Dr.) - Rehabilitation
Water Booster Station #2 (Adams at Tienken) - Relocate & Construct New Station

In total, the 2017 construction season will deliver over $20 million dollars of public infrastructure projects that will not only preserve public safety, health and welfare, but will improve mobility as well as reliability and dependability of our infrastructure.

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

We would like to thank you for your patience and understanding during the 2017 construction season. While we know construction can be inconvenient, the completion of these projects will provide safer roads, enhance our vibrant character, and incorporate amenities that continue to make Rochester Hills the preeminent place to work, live, raise a family and TRAVEL in.

A note from Mayor Barnett...

Once again, I ask you to join me in thanking the men and women of the Department of Public Services for providing excellent service over our Michigan winter season. Our team did a fantastic job clearing the streets, salting the roads, and making the streets as passable as possible through the snow and bitter cold, often during the time most of us are sleeping.

In addition, the DPS clerical staff did an outstanding job assisting residents with concerns and questions regarding snow removal.

Please help me congratulate the dedicated DPS staff for making winter as safe possible for our residents, businesses, and guests. Their commitment to safety is second to none and we owe them a huge debt of gratitude for their dedicated service.
Timing Really is Everything.....

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

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

Water Conservation

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

• The City also asks businesses and residents to delay the start of their watering systems by 15, 30 and 45 minutes past the top of the hour to avoid sudden water pressure drops that have been detected on the hour.
• Turn your sprinkler system off during or after a rainstorm and leave it off until the plants need to be watered again. Or install a rain sensor on your sprinkler system so it automatically shuts off when it’s raining.
• Water your lawn only when it needs it. If you leave footprints on the grass, it is usually time to water. Also, avoid watering your lawn on windy days.
• Remember to check your sprinkler system valves periodically for leaks and keep sprinkler heads in good shape. Adjust sprinklers so that only your lawn is watered and not the house, sidewalk, or street.
• Don’t over-water your plants. Learn how much water they need and how best to apply just the right amount.
• Upgrade older toilets and shower heads to energy-efficient models. Make sure there are water-saving aerators on all your faucets.
• Turn the faucet off while you shave, brush your teeth, lather your hands and wash dishes.
• Run your washer and dishwasher only when they are full. You can save up to 1,000 gallons a month. When buying new appliances, consider those that offer cycle and load size adjustments. They’re more water and energy efficient.
• Plant when conditions are cooler and rainfall is more plentiful.
• Adjust your lawn mower to a higher setting. A taller lawn shades roots and holds moisture better than if it is closely clipped.
• Use a hose nozzle or turn off the water while you wash your car. You’ll save up to a 100 gallons every time.
• Share water conservation tips with friends and neighbors.
• Report broken pipe, open hydrants, and errant sprinklers to the property owner or to your water provider.
• Monitor your water bill for unusually high use. Your bill and water meter are tools that can help you discover leaks.

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

A Final Word About Water Safety

Safe drinking water is a shared responsibility. The water that GLWA delivers to our community does not contain lead. Lead can leach into drinking water through home plumbing fixtures, and in some cases, customer service lines. Corrosion control reduces the risk of lead and copper from leaching into your water. Orthophosphates are added during the treatment process as a corrosion control method to create a protective coating in service pipes throughout the system, including in your home or business. The City of Rochester Hills performs required lead and copper sampling and testing in our community. Water consumers also have a responsibility to maintain the plumbing in their homes and businesses, and can take steps to limit their exposure to lead.
How Your Trash is Transforming Our Schools

At the City of Rochester Hills, we are always looking for the next innovation. Something that improves the quality of life for our residents and is often the first of its kind. Innovation that not only provides value to our community now, but also creates a better community for future generations.

One of our shining examples is the Green Schools program. A program that has brought $75,000 of positive impact to our schools. From new recycling bins to outdoor classrooms, this program has made our community a greener place to live.

Schools from across the county compete to be a part of this program and only 50 are selected to participate. Through a strong partnership with both Recyclebank and the Rochester Community Schools, our community submitted 12 school projects and all 12 were selected for the program.

Designed by students, teachers, and PTA groups, these projects identify the unique ways we can create less waste, use less energy, and create meaningful connections to the outdoors for our youth.

Throughout the year, residents put recyclable items in their green bin. As they recycle, points are earned that can be used for different rewards like free popcorn at Emagine Theatre, a gallon of milk at Hollywood Market, and even free yoga classes. However, for just one month a year, residents can choose to donate these points to the school of their choice and help them achieve their fundraising goals.

Once the Green Schools program begins in February, our team works hard to raise awareness. We have produced YouTube videos, contacted local newspapers, spoken at local meetings, shared our message on social media, and more.

So what was the result? As always, our residents answered the call. Every school project received the funding they asked for. This year, the result was nearly $25,000 which brought our collective total to over $75,000!

On May 15, Recyclebank presented Green Schools program checks to principals at the RCS Administration Building. Each shared a story about how this funding has positively influenced the school. We are so proud of how this program has empowered some of our youngest residents and look forward to continuing to create innovative solutions.

If you are interested in getting your school to participate in the Green Schools program, visit recyclebank.com/green-schools.

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The Community Foundation of Greater Rochester

What is a Community Foundation? It is a tax exempt, nonprofit, 501(c)(3) organization supported by private donations rather than municipal dollars. Gifts to a Community Foundation are tax deductible to the donor and are used to establish and grow permanent funds for the benefit of the community it serves.

The Community Foundation of Greater Rochester (CFGR) is a Michigan nonprofit corporation created by and for the people of the greater Rochester area. It serves as a channel between the philanthropic goals of local donors and the needs of the community.

Several funds have been established at the CFGR that benefit Rochester Hills residents including the Festival of the Hills Fireworks Fund, Rochester Hills Museum Funds, Van Hoosen Jones Stoney Creek Cemetery Fund, Veterans Memorial Pointe Fund and new in 2016, the Rochester Hills Parks Development Fund. The Community Foundation is excited to be part of the public-private collaboration to develop and build Innovation Hills located at 2800 West Hamlin Road between Crooks and Adams.

Please contact the Community Foundation to donate to the Rochester Hills Parks Development Fund or for more information. Executive Director Jo Allen can be reached by telephone at 248-608-2804 and email at jallen@cfound.org.
Welcome New Businesses and Organizations to Rochester Hills

Mayor Barnett was very pleased to welcome so many new businesses and organizations to Rochester Hills. The purple ribbon is a sure sign the economy is doing very well and business is booming in our city. Please take a moment to visit one of our new businesses and welcome them to Rochester Hills.

The Moceri Blossom Collection
Showcase at the Village of Rochester Hills

The Garth Pleasant Arena
at Rochester College

Bikram Yoga of Rochester Hills
2244 Crooks Road

Integrity Total Wellness
555 Barclay Circle

Fresh Start Homes Michigan
1074 East Avon

Health Loft Chiropractic
6850 North Rochester Road

Motor City Flooring
1445 North Rochester Road

Applied Fitness Solutions
1136 South Rochester Road

Health Quest Physical Therapy
2226 Crooks Road
Introducing Innovation Hills
our Innovative and Creative Natural Park

A Legacy for Future Generations

Innovation Hills is coming. A 118-acre community eco-park consisting of woods, waterfalls, wetlands overlooks, sensory gardens, over four miles of trails (both paved and rustic), scenic pond vistas and a large, unique natural elements playground like you have never seen before are just a few of the items planned.

Innovation Hills is designed to provide an exceptional natural recreational experience for park users of all ages and abilities. We know that a peaceful walk in the park is medicine for the soul and exposure to green space increases our physical and mental well-being. With that in mind, we put our focus for Innovation Hills on maintaining and enhancing the natural wonder we have here in Rochester Hills. This beautiful piece of property, nestled in our suburban setting, is so unique we cannot wait to share it with you.

Our innovative water phase of the park focuses on natural beauty and includes features never before seen in Southeast Michigan. Once it is completed, you will be able to stand out on the crescent overlook bridge and feel like you are walking on water. We have a wide array of distinctive features including a waterfall, viewing mound and sundial for you to see and experience.

We are especially proud of the inspired play areas we have planned. Our Senior Play Area will be a playground designed specifically for older adults. The area will feature low-impact exercise equipment designed to promote flexibility, balance and coordination. Our senior guests will have a place to call their own where they can build a happier, healthier, and stronger future all while having outdoor fun.
In addition to our Senior Play Area, Innovation Hills will include a Universal Play Area specifically designed to ensure children of all abilities will have access to, and inclusion in, play. Combined with this is our Sensory Garden, where children can be immersed in the scents, textures, and colors of plants and related elements. These are just some of the innovative and creative components of our newest park. With Innovation Hills, Rochester Hills is sure to be an even greater place to live, work, and raise a family!

With strong support from City Council and Mayor Bryan Barnett, this $7 million dollar, multi-year project is well on its way with over 50% funding obtained to date. We need your help to make it a reality. Grants are being pursued and obtained ($220,000 in 2017 so far). Service clubs, individuals and businesses are stepping up. But we need your help to provide this legacy park for our community, our kids and our grandkids. Donations are being accepted through the Community Foundation of Greater Rochester. Support is helpful in all sizes, from $50 to $500,000!

Visit rochesterhills.org/innovationhills for more information and to donate securely with the click of a button!
Many Rochester Hills residents are aware that coyotes are quite common in our city. Some of you have undoubtedly seen one in your neighborhood or subdivision commons. For those of you who have not seen a coyote, they are a medium sized wild dog with a maximum size of 45 pounds. They come in a variety of colors from blond to almost black but are most commonly a brownish gray. They have often been described as looking like a small German shepherd dog.

Coyotes prefer to feed on small mammals including mice, voles and rabbits but will also eat snakes, birds, insects and fruit. In areas with large deer populations, they may prey on sick, injured or young deer. While they seldom become a nuisance to people, our pets need to be protected. The following tips can help keep coyotes wild and limit conflicts with residents:

• Keep pets on a leash at all times
• Accompany pets when the are let outside, especially at night
• Do not feed pets outside
• Clean up around fruit trees and bird feeders
• Do not turn your back or run from a coyote--make yourself look large, make noise or throw something at them
• Enlist your neighbors to take part in scaring coyotes too

During spring and summer, it is not uncommon to see coyotes during the day, even though they are primarily nocturnal. This active period is due to raising their young. Coyotes often mate for life and have their pups in dens, holes in the ground that may be abandoned ground hog burrows. Coyotes play a valuable role in maintaining a balanced ecosystem but it is vital that they retain their instinctive fear of people. Learning to live safely with Coyotes as part of the landscape is important, as they are here to stay. For questions or concerns about Coyotes please call the Parks and Forestry Department, Lance Devoe at 248-656-4775.

**West Nile Virus**

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

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

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

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

This year we will have Insect Repellent Spray for personal protection and Mosquito Dunks for treatment of ponds on your property. The spray and dunks will be available at the Parks & Forestry counter at City Hall beginning May 1, 2017 until they are gone (one per Rochester Hills address).

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

- Michigan Department of Environmental Quality
- Oakland County Health Department
- Michigan Department of Community Health
- Center for Disease Control
Keep our Public Pathways Safe

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

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

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

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

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

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

WIND STORM 2017

On March 8, a windstorm passed through the city with wind gusts up to 70-75 mph. There were 66 storm responses that affected public right-of-way handled by Forestry. Most occurred on March 8 and 9, but some were days later, which is typical. Your Forestry team works hard to respond to these events as they are reported. Thanks for letting us know where the problems were.

BE AWARE. . . . . . .

As the weather warms this spring and summer, be on the lookout for new invasive pests. The Michigan Department of Agriculture (MDA) is asking the public to watch for a number of non-native insects detailed in their website. One potentially serious threat is the Asian Longhorned Beetle (ALB). This insect has not yet been found in Michigan, but was discovered in Ohio (east of Cincinnati) in June 2011. ALB shows a preference for maple trees, but will feed on a broad variety of shade trees. The damage they cause will eventually result in the death of the tree. Currently, the only effective control is to remove infested trees and destroy them by chipping or burning.

Adult beetles are active from May to October, with peak activity in July and August. More information is available at MSU Extension or the USDA. Become aware, be observant, and report suspected ALB observations to the USDA, MDA, or Rochester Hills Parks & Forestry at 248-656-4673.

All websites referenced in this article can be found in the electronic version of the Hills Herald by visiting our website at http://www.rochesterhills.org/hillsherald.
Rochester Hills Parks and Forestry Updates
Green Space Adds Ten Acres of Woodlands

In December of 2016 the Rochester Hills City Council added ten acres of woodlands and wetlands to the community’s green space portfolio. The property is on Ruby Avenue west of Livernois contiguous to Avondale Middle School. This Green Space was purchased through the use of funds from the passage in Rochester Hills of a 10-year millage to acquire and preserve natural green space in our community.

Proper Mulching Techniques

Mulches are materials placed over the soil surface to maintain moisture and improve soil conditions. Mulching is one of the most beneficial practices a homeowner can use for the better tree health of a tree. However, improper mulching materials and practices may have little, or even negative, impact on the trees in your landscape. For complete article, please visit our website www.rochesterhills.org/forestry and click on “Articles of Interest” on the left.

Borden Park Batting Cages

The Batting cages at Borden Park (located at the corner of Hamlin and John R) are open for the season and can be used on a $1 per token basis. Each token gives you about 12 pitches. Batting cages can also be reserved by the hour for $25.00 per hour per cage. For more information, click here. To make an hourly reservation, call Borden Park at 248-656-4797 at least 72 hours in advance.
Planting the right trees in the right locations, along city streets, provides environmental benefits and improves the “livability” of our city. To encourage this, the city is offering a free street tree planting program in 2017.

The City of Rochester Hills is offering free street trees to property owners and businesses in 2017. The first 250 property owners and businesses to register this fall may have a tree planted on the public right-of-way adjacent to their property for free. The city’s budget for this initiative will come from its Tree Fund. The trees will be planted, maintained, and guaranteed for one year by the city’s landscape contractor. The Forestry Division will work with the property owner to determine the specific location within the city’s street tree ordinance guidelines.

Street trees are planted every spring and fall (spring planting occurs in late April/early May, fall planting in November). Quantities are limited, so interested property owners should order early. **September 8, 2017**, is the deadline for ordering trees for the Fall 2017 planting.

All trees are 2-inch caliper (stem diameter) and approximately 8-10 feet tall. The following tree species are normally available (not all varieties are suitable for all locations): Hornbeam, Hackberry, Beech, Honeylocust, Coffeetree, Tuliptree, Serviceberry, Oak, Baldcypress, Linden, Hybrid Elm. (Note: Due to over-planting, Red Maples are no longer offered. Flowering Pears are no longer offered because of susceptibility to storm damage and disease as well as being invasive.) Other varieties are sometimes available – please contact the Parks & Forestry office at 248-656-4673 for any additional information or visit our website at:

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

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

City of Rochester Hills
Fall 2017 Street Tree Planting Program

Name:___________________________________________________________________________________

Address: ____________________________________________________________________________

Phone: (day): _________________________________________________________________________

(eve.): ____________________________________________________________________________

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: Parks@rochesterhills.org

Orders must be received on or before September 8, 2017.
Arbor Day in Rochester Hills

To celebrate Arbor Day on April 28, Mayor Barnett, Forestry Division staff, and dedicated volunteers helped plant new trees on Meadow Brook’s historic grounds. In an effort to revitalize the woodlands and kick-start a maintenance program, Meadow Brook Hall launched the Woodland Entrance Restoration Program. The goal was to improve a significant area adjacent to the entrance drive.

The City of Rochester Hills, an Arbor Day Foundation - Tree City USA Community, hosted the event with Mayor Barnett offering remarks and passing along the shovel to Boy Scout volunteers to plant the tree.

“We’re proud to partner with Meadow Brook Hall to recognize the importance of a healthy urban tree canopy," stated Mayor Bryan K. Barnett. "Their efforts today will provide a stronger ecosystem for wildlife and for our residents to enjoy. I encourage the families of Rochester Hills to join with us and plant a tree as well.”

To further that worthy cause and solidify our standing as a Tree City Community, the Forestry Division distributed almost 1,200 white spruce seedlings to third grade students in our public schools. The Rochester Hills Forestry Division is also offering homeowners and businesses in Rochester Hills the opportunity to have a much larger tree planted in the street right of way adjacent to their property at no cost. If there is enough space for a tree, Forestry staff will work with the property owner to identify the best location and choose the best tree for the location.

If you are interested in obtaining a tree at no cost, please refer to the Fall 2017 Street Tree Planting Program order form in this issue of the Hills Herald. It may also be found on the city website at www.rochesterhills.org/trees.

As one of over three thousand communities across the country recognized as a Tree City USA, the City of Rochester Hills is proud to celebrate 27 years of dedication to tree planting, conservation, and environmental stewardship. Tree City USA is sponsored by the National Arbor Day Foundation in cooperation with the National Association of State Foresters and the USDA Forest Service.

Paint Creek Center for the Arts Partners with Rochester Hills City Hall

The City of Rochester Hills is pleased to partner with the Paint Creek Center for the Arts (PCCA) to bring the outstanding and creative talents of PCCA art students to our visitors. This outreach program is yet another way the City of Rochester Hills has joined with local organizations to both showcase the talents of our residents and enhance the quality of life we so enjoy.

The Paint Creek Center for the Arts is dedicated to promoting the arts and artistic excellence through a full range of cultural programs including exhibitions, studio art classes, outreach programs, community involvement projects, and the continuation of the Art & Apples Festival.

This display is on a rotating basis so that new artwork will be featured every 90-days. If you are interested in having your artwork on display, please contact PCCA at 248-651-4110 or visit pccart.org/art-exhibitions/off-site-exhibitions.

We invite you to stop in City Hall to see the pieces specifically selected for our exhibit. The exhibit is open during regular hours, Monday - Friday 8:00 am - 5:00 pm and is located on the lower level across from the Mayor’s Office.

Emma Boomstra of the PCCA showing Mayor Barnett one of the exceptional pieces on exhibit at City Hall.
Summer Taxes Due September 14, 2017
Enroll in our Automatic Tax Bill Payment Service
Have more time for enjoyment!

Please note that our payment remittance address for mailing tax payments changed beginning with last year’s winter tax bill. If you use your online banking site to make your payment, and did not update our remittance address to City of Rochester Hills Taxes, PO Box 94591, Cleveland, OH 44101-4591, please do so now.

The 2017 Summer Property Tax bill mailing will take place in mid-June and the taxes are due on Thursday, September 14, 2017. On September 15, any unpaid balance will receive a 1% interest charge and an additional 1% interest charge on the first day of each month thereafter. The City does not honor postmarks, so please allow, as the post office recommends, five business days for first class postal delivery. Payments placed in the City drop box - located in front of our visitor’s parking lot - by midnight on September 14 are considered on time. In addition, payments placed by midnight September 14 via credit card or our electronic payment system (system will state payment date as 9/15/17 or 9/18/17) are considered on time. On February 15, 2018, any unpaid 2017 tax balance will receive a 3% penalty charge. Please note: If your 2016 property taxes or any amount of your 2016 property taxes went delinquent (were unpaid as of March 1, 2017) a notification may appear on your 2017 tax bills. This is a State law requirement.

We offer Recurring Automatic Bill Payment for property taxes and to date have over 850 taxpayers signed-up for this convenient service! This service allows you to choose for your payment dates, both 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 questions regarding this service, please call 248-841-2581. For those enrolled in this service, your 2017 Summer Tax payment will take place on September 14, 2017. For an enrollment form and our other convenient payment options, please visit Treasury Department’s Payment Options or the following QRcode.

Summer tax deferment, which defers the summer tax bill due date for a principal residence to February 15, 2018, is available for qualified residents. Additionally, Oakland County may extend the deferment to April 30, 2018. For more information, please visit the Treasury Department’s Summer Tax Deferment page or contact the Treasury Department at 248-841-2580.

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

2017 Dog License Renewal at City Treasury Department
Three-Year License Now Available!

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

Thursday, June 1, 2017, is the last day that city residents can renew their dog’s license for the non-delinquent fee. State law requires all dogs to have a current rabies vaccination and current dog license. Per City Ordinance, no owner can keep more than three dogs so we will not issue more than three dog licenses to an owner.

If you have more than three dogs, you must apply for a kennel license and kennels cannot be located in the residential districts of our City. City Treasury staff will be happy to renew/issue your dog’s license. If renewing in person, please bring the postcard renewal reminder mailed to you by Oakland County Animal Control, as this will expedite the process. You must present your dog’s current rabies vaccination certificate signed by the veterinarian when applying for the license.

In addition, licenses can be conveniently renewed on-line at OakGov.com/PetAdoption and Oakland County Animal Control located at 1700 Brown Road in Auburn Hills offer Saturday hours from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. If your dog has a 3-year vaccination ending in either year 2019 or 2020, you may purchase a 3-year license.

Residents with recently acquired dogs or new residents, have a 30-day grace period to license their dog. If purchasing your dog license at the City please make your check payable to the “City of Rochester Hills”. Visit the Treasury Department’s Dog License page for more information regarding animal licensing. Please direct questions to the Treasury Department at 248-656-4675 or treasury@rochesterhills.org.
Rochester Hills Museum at Van Hoosen Farm

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

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

Upcoming Events

Rochester Grangers Vintage Base Ball - Visit rochestergrangers.org for a complete 2017 schedule. No advanced registration required

Enjoy base ball the way it was played by gentleman in the 1860s. Admission is free – bring your own blanket or chair.

Garden Walk - Thursday, June 15, 10 – 5 pm Rain or shine


Enjoy beautiful gardens throughout our community, a garden art show at the Van Hoosen Calf Barn, lectures, painters, food and more!

Open Aire Garden Market on the Museum grounds 10:00 – 4:00 p.m.

From Pots to Plates 11:00 a.m. in the Calf Barn

Tickets in advance $12, Day of Garden Walk $16. Tickets can be purchased on line at rochesterhills.org/musprograms.

Rochester Bicentennial Barn Dance- Friday, June 23 - 7:00 pm

Kick up your heels and celebrate Rochester’s Bicentennial at the old-fashioned square dance at the Rochester Hills Museum. Great food, great music, and a great time to support some great causes! Contact the Rochester DDA for ticket information at downtownrochestermi.com.

A Tale of Two Trails - Thursday, June 29 - 6:30 pm

Historic Bike Tour with Rochester Hills Public Library

Get out your wheels and enjoy an evening bike ride and learn about Rochester’s fascinating past while riding 3.7 miles. A bike helmet is strongly encouraged.

Admission is free but advanced registration required at the Rochester Hills Public Library - please visit calendar.rhpl.org.

Planning a Wedding?

The Rochester Hills Museum at Van Hoosen Farm is the perfect location for your wedding ceremony and reception. Outdoor ceremonies can take place at our garden gazebo located under a maple and walnut grove amidst 16 acres of beautiful gardens and grounds. Indoor wedding ceremonies and receptions can take place in the 1927 Calf Barn.

Please visit our website, contact us at 248-656-4663, or by email at rhmuseum@rochesterhills.org for pricing and availability or to make an appointment to visit our site.
PBS Movie Wins Statewide Award!
The Rochester Hills Museum’s recent PBS movie – “Pioneer Family – On Van Hoosen Farm” has been awarded the 2017 Government/Institution Award from the Michigan Historic Preservation Network. The award is presented “to agencies who by their actions have accomplished significant positive changes in the historic preservation climate and activities which have made a significant contribution to the preservation of Michigan’s heritage!”
The award will be presented at their annual conference in Petoskey on May 19.
The video is available for sale at the Museum Store for $15 on Fridays and Saturdays from 1-4 p.m.

Rochester Bicentennial Exhibit Unveiled
Celebrate 200 years of Rochester’s history with our Rochester Bicentennial exhibit! On display in the Museum’s Dairy Barn through the end of 2017, this exhibit highlights various aspects of Rochester’s innovative community such as its schools, mills, businesses, and newspapers. Want to learn why Rochester was settled in 1817 and not 1816? Stop by the Dairy Barn to find out on Fridays and Saturdays from 1:00 - 4:00 pm.

Our Collections are Online!
Do you want to see the diaries of local Civil War soldiers or photos of Rochester from the early 1900s? Using our new Online Collections Database, you now have access to these items and thousands of other historical photographs, documents, and objects from the greater Rochester community. Similar to a library catalog, the Online Collections Database pulls basic information about the artifacts in the Museum’s collections using the cataloging software called PastPerfect.
This database is a great resource for students, researchers, and anyone interested in our community’s history. You can access the database at http://rochesterhills.pastperfectonline.com
We will be adding more records every month so check back often! You can see many of these objects in real life by visiting the Museum!

Click here to Become a Member Today!

Day Camps
Register for all programs at rochesterhills.org/musprograms
Terrific Tuesdays in the Garden - Parent-Child Program
Members $5 - Non-members $7
Ages 3-5: 10:00 - 11:00
Ages 6-10: 1:00 - 2:30
June 27, July 11, July 18, July 25, August 1
Terrific Tuesdays in the Garden provides children with the opportunity to use all five senses while learning the basics of gardening. There is a new theme each week and children enjoy stories, crafts, activities and snacks. Children ages 3 to 5 years and their caregivers learn how plants grow, how butterflies and ladybugs help, and that we eat food and plants from every letter of the alphabet and every color of the rainbow. Children ages 6 to 10 years learn more about horticulture, botany and entomology through literature, activities, crafts and snacks.

Little House by the Creek Day Camp
Members $30 Nonmembers $35
Ages 7-11: 10:00 - 3:00
July 13, July 27, August 10
This day camp is repeated 3 times during the summer. Each session ends with campers exploring the “shimmering” creek of Bertha Van Hoosen’s childhood after a day of doing some of her favorite chores, attending the schoolhouse that she loved, harvesting fruits and vegetables and visiting the final resting place of the Taylor-Van Hoosen family.

Little House in the Village Writer’s Camp
Ages 9-12: 10:00 - 3:00
August 21 - August 24
$120 – Museum Members
$140 – Non-Members
Enjoy four days of fun throughout our 16 acres and various historic buildings and Stony Creek. The sites, sights, sounds, smells, tastes, and feelings are perfect for any budding young writer. The focus is on process not product, but does align with the Rochester Community Schools’ curriculum.

Music in the Garden
August 23: 7:00 pm
Members: $3 Non-members: $5
The Children’s Garden is the perfect place to spend the evening and enjoy the music of Guy Louis.

Wet and Wild Wednesdays – Every Wednesdays in July from 12 - 2 p.m.
No advanced registration required
Sponsored by Genisys Credit Union, Hollywood Market and State Farm Insurance
Museum Members are free, nonmembers $3/person ages 2 and up
Enjoy entertainment in the gazebo from 12 – 1 p.m. and water fun from 1-2 p.m.
July 5  Tom Plunkard
July 12  Gordon Russ
July 19  Kevin Devine
July 26  Guy Louis

Special Thanks to our partners at the Clinton River Watershed Council for helping all of us appreciate and protect our water resources.

Rochester Era Newspapers are Online!
The Rochester Hills Museum’s collection of Rochester Era newspapers dating from 1873-1949 are now digitized and accessible online! Each issue of the Rochester Era is available as a fully searchable PDF document. These newspapers contain a wealth of local history information and can be used to look up family members, local businesses/organizations, or even specific years in Rochester’s history. To learn how to search these newspapers, visit rochesterhills.org/newspapers.
We’re not done digitizing yet! We are currently working on digitizing the other portion of our newspaper collection that are on microfilm. You can support this project by making a donation to the Museum’s Collections Fund. Make your checks payable to the Community Foundation of Greater Rochester or visit rochesterhills.org/musdonate to donate online.
In honor of our newspapers being available online, we will be releasing a monthly Newspaper Scavenger Hunt that gives you a chance to win a prize from our Museum Store! Each Scavenger Hunt will contain three questions whose answers can be found somewhere in the digitized newspapers. You can find more information on the Scavenger Hunt at rochesterhills.org/newspapers.
Spring/Summer 2017

Rochester Hills City Council

Mark Tisdel - President - At Large

Deerfield Elementary: National Blue Ribbon…Twice

Last month, I had the pleasure of attending the 2016 National Blue Ribbon Awards dinner for Deerfield Elementary. Each year, the US Department of Education recognizes the nation’s highest-achieving schools with its “Blue Ribbon” designation. In 2016, thirteen Michigan schools, including our own Deerfield Elementary, received this recognition. This is the second time Deerfield Elementary has been designated a Nation Blue Ribbon school. The first time was in 1998. That makes Deerfield one of just three Michigan schools to have earned the award twice. So, congratulations to Principal David Goetz, his predecessor, John Pagel (sixteen years at Deerfield), and School Secretary of twenty years, Maria Dwyre. This, however, does not begin to tell the full story of my evening with the Deerfield teachers and staff.

I had the privilege of being seated with the lower school teachers: Kindergarten, First- and Second-Grades. Among those at my table were two extraordinary second-grade teachers: Mary Cowan and Kathleen (Katie) Bovee. Mary and Katie have been at Deerfield Elementary for both the 1998 and 2016 Blue Ribbon awards. Mary was teaching second-grade in 1998. Katie was a Kindergartener. Two years later, Katie was one of Mrs. Cowan’s best second-grade students. Today, Katie teaches alongside her “great friend and mentor, Mary.” (By the way, it took a great deal of practice, in front of the mirror, for Katie to start calling “Mrs. Cowan” by her first name.)

At the end of the 2016 award-winning school year, seven Deerfield teachers and the twenty-year veteran school secretary retired. For good measure, the Principal of sixteen years was assigned to another school. The seven retiring teachers included all three of the second-grade teachers. Mrs. Cowan (Mary) taught third-grade in 2015-2016 but was reassigned to the second-grade to ensure some level of continuity for coming school year. There were many pieces that had to be expertly moved if Deerfield’s state- and nationally-recognized performance was going to be maintained.

On one day, in June of 2016, the Deerfield staff interviewed seventeen candidates for the seven open classrooms. Katie Bovee, a recent Oakland University graduate (3.94 GPA) was the second candidate to that was interviewed. At the end of that long day, the entire Deerfield staff was still talking about Katie. That’s when Mary, Katie’s second-grade teacher at Deerfield, declared “Katie is mine!” Katie was a “too much to hope for all-in-one-person” candidate. Her recent education and student teaching assignments gave her experience in the latest math curriculum and online “Weebly” (don’t ask) creation and management skills. Mary had found the peer and teaching partner she had hoped for and thought to herself, “now, I can retire in peace.”

Katie Bovee and Mary Cowan attended Avondale schools and both are Oakland University graduates (Summa and Magna Cum Laude respectively). Mary also earned her Master’s degree from OU.

For Katie, her days at Deerfield Elementary were the first steps on a full-circle path. As a Deerfield fourth-grader, Katie gave an award-winning speech—to the Avondale School Board—about wanting to become a teacher. Her reverence for education and strong feelings for Deerfield Elementary are being effectively transferred to her students. “We are building good adults, good people, and good citizens at Deerfield”, Katie told me with pride. “Dreams that came true for me were planted in this building.”

We can all be proud of the Administration, teachers and staff at Deerfield. James and Nicole Bovee can be very proud of their daughter, Katie. Mary Cowan deserves our highest accolades as the inspiration behind this wonderful story.

There are only two other schools in Michigan that have been twice recognized as National Blue Ribbon recipients. I doubt there is another pair like Mary and Katie that have been participants of both awards.

I’ve said it several times before and will say it again, our City’s success starts with its exceptional residents. The success of Deerfield Elementary, and the commitment of Mrs. Cowan and Ms. Bovee, are a reflection of our City’s great roots. “Give it your best, have courage, and be kind,” are the motivating words of Ms. Bovee. They are the motivating words we should all heed as we push ourselves toward excellence.

To the “Fantastic Falcons” of Deerfield Elementary: “Give it your best, have courage, and be kind.”
**Stephanie Morita - Vice President - District 1**

It is hard to believe that this is my 4th Spring (by the time you read this, probably Summer) on Council. We have accomplished a lot since 2013. More firefighters, oil & gas ordinances, four re-constructed firehouses with one new firehouse under construction, and the new Special Assessment District (S.A.D.) Policy, to name only some of the many. Personally, I have also watched my son go from 3rd Grade to 6th, grow about a foot, and gain about 40 pounds (better him than me). He was, however, not the only one who was growing.

Council has grown too. Mark Tisdel, our Council President, has become a wonderful leader within Council who has trusted each of our strengths, and leaned on us and provided guidance when needed. My 2013 incoming class (me, Kevin Brown and Tom Wiggins) constructively tackled many issues together, relying on each other to add to the discussion different, and sometimes opposing, aspects of the conversation, and importantly, respecting and listening to each other. Tom is a whiz with numbers and understanding the real cost. Kevin brings a pragmatic calm result-oriented approach to problem solving. And me, well, I honestly have a tendency to see the worst potential outcome (it is a hazard of being a lawyer) and try to do everything to avoid it. The new S.A.D. Policy would not have happened without Mark trusting us during the months of research and conversations it took the three of us to identify the issues, and propose and draft a framework for resolution. Our newer members are also finding their place and fitting in. Susan Bowyer has brought a great intelligence, passion and creativity to our discussions. Jim Kubicina has brought sage advice and Dale Hetrick, an endless optimism. I look forward to seeing how our newer members develop as they become more comfortable in their roles.

The City is also growing, or at least filling in, everywhere. It is hard not to notice when that nice wooded lot gets knocked down so new housing can go in. Which is why I am so proud of how Mayor Barnett has taken ownership and leadership of the development of our newest park, Innovation Hills. That guy never stops working for the next donation, and has done an unbelievable job gaining support within the community. While our vacant lots are disappearing, we will also have our very first park developed on the west side of the City. If you have not been out there, these are two pictures I took with my cell phone. They do not do the park justice. Get out there and enjoy it for yourself.

At the same time, we have had changes (and growth) within the City administration. It is great to see an administration that educates, provides opportunities to succeed, and promotes from within. Two of our more recent Department Head hires have been from within the City. I think that speaks volumes about the quality of our personnel, and also the leadership within. At the same time, our Department Head hires from outside the City have, likewise, been outstanding. While I certainly miss those that have chosen to retire, I am excited to see what the future holds with the new ideas that are being added to the conversation.

So with that, please accept my sincere wish that you and your family are also growing and succeeding. And, as always, thank you for placing your trust in me.

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**City Council Contact Information**

**Mark Tisdel - President**  
At-Large  
Voicemail – 248-841-2644  
Email – tisdelm@rochesterhills.org

**Stephanie Morita - Vice President**  
District 1  
Voicemail – 248-841-2643  
Email – moritas@rochesterhills.org

**Kevin Brown - At Large**  
Voicemail – 248-841-2646  
Email – brownk@rochesterhills.org

**Dale Hertick - At-Large**  
Voicemail – 248-841-2649  
Email – hetrickd@rochesterhills.org

**Jim Kubicina - District 2**  
Voicemail - 248-841-2647  
Email – kubicinaj@rochesterhills.org

**Susan Bowyer, Ph. D. - District 3**  
Voicemail - 248-841-2645  
Email – bowyers@rochesterhills.org

**Thomas Wiggins - District 4**  
Voicemail – 248-841-2648  
Email – wigginst@rochesterhills.org
The New RARA

I have lived in Rochester Hills for 29 years and have raised a son and a daughter who have enjoyed the programs offered by RARA (Rochester Avon Recreation Authority). RARA strives to provide an extensive and varied recreational program, providing for the community’s leisure needs. Residents of Rochester and Rochester Hills, as part of their property taxes, pay a small contribution to support RARA.

Even as recently as 6 years ago, RARA only had 10,000 square feet of usable space. Over the last 6 years, they have increased that build out space by more than 5 times. They have acquired 2 buildings, first at 500 E. Second St., and just recently at 480 E. Second St. If you haven’t visited RARA lately, you’re in for a pleasant surprise. Established in 1949, RARA has never had a gymnasium. Now they have a beautiful one. Check out their website- www.RARArecreation.org

Parents who are waiting for their kids to finish a class can now enjoy fitness classes of their own, open courts for basketball, volleyball, pickleball, in-line hockey, and indoor soccer. RARA has just now added 50 brand new state of the art, cardio and fitness machines. Monthly memberships are also available if you plan to be a regular user of this equipment.

Here is just some of what the “New RARA” has to offer:

• A turf fieldhouse with two game fields
• A gymnastics training center (Flip Spot Gymnastics)
• A Party Room that can be rented
• An Indoor Playscape, helpful to keep the toddlers busy while siblings are in class
• Child Watch/Preschool Services
• A group fitness studio
• A fitness center with cardio machines and free weights
• A gymnasium with two basketball courts. One court enclosed with a rink system and benches for inline hockey and indoor soccer (futsal)
• Locker Rooms
• Youth and Adult sports leagues for t-ball, baseball, softball, soccer, basketball, flag football, and volleyball
• Recreation for special needs individuals
• A wide variety of summer day camps
• Special events like the Boo Bash, Easter Egg Hunt, Earth Day Fun Run and others
• Four spacious Dance Studios

RARA School for the Performing Arts program offers a wide variety of dance classes such as, preschool, tap, jazz, lyrical, contemporary, ballet, hip hop for adults and children beginning at 2 ½ years of age. The classes finish in June with fantastic recitals at high school auditoriums.

Finally, I want to give special recognition to Nancy Genik, a Rochester Hills resident, who will be retiring in June after a magnificent 32-year career as RARA’s Dance Program Coordinator. Just last year alone 6200 registrants went through the dance program. It is estimated that since Nancy began in 1985, there have been over 90,000 registrants that have participated in dance at RARA. Nancy has built a fabulous program that will continue for future generations. We’re going to miss you Nancy, thanks for your contribution to our youth and we wish you the best of everything as you start the next chapter of your life.

Jim Kubicina - District 2

Mark Your Calendar

City Offices will be closed:
◊ Monday, May 29, Memorial Day
◊ Monday & Tuesday, July 3 & 4, Independence Day
◊ Monday, September 4, Labor Day

Other Dates to Note:
◊ Monday, May 29, Memorial Day Ceremonies
◊ Monday, June 1, Last day to renew dog licenses at the non-deliquent rate
◊ Wednesday, June 28, Festival of the Hills
◊ Monday, September 14, Last day to pay summer taxes without interest or penalty
**Dale Hetrick - At-Large**

**Making the Most of our Awesome Trail System**

When residents were asked, “Overall, how would you rate your satisfaction with Rochester Hills as a place to live?” 63% rated our City as Very Satisfied. When asked, “What is the one best thing about living in Rochester Hills?” the number one response was Parks/Trails/Recreation. The Paint Creek Trail and Clinton River Trail are number one and number two rated quality of life amenities in Rochester Hills.

I totally agree with the survey results. Many of you might see me on the Clinton River Trail taking in my morning run. I enjoy the inspiration of an early morning workout; birds chirping as the sun is rising, deer standing by the side of the trail, and the sound of the river as it meanders nearby. Walks in the afternoon with Terry and our dog Reilly are also terrific opportunities to get outdoors and say hello to friends and fellow trail users.

Since our trail system is such an important part of our quality of life in Rochester Hills, I wanted to take a moment to point out a few tips to help retain their high rating. The Paint Creek Trail website (http://paintcreektrail.org/wordpress/trail-courtesy) has a number of excellent tips to assure we maximize the enjoyment of our trail system for everyone. One tip I believe is essential for everyone’s trail enjoyment is “Stay to the right, pass on the left”. Included in this tip is using a verbal announcement “passing on your left” or ringing a bike bell to alert others of your intent to pass them. Another excellent tip is to avoid spreading out. Groups of cyclists, walkers, or runners need to be aware of others on the trail. Blocking the entire width of the trail reduces the enjoyment of your fellow trail users. There are many other terrific courtesy tips, and I encourage you to click in the link to review them. These tips are also relevant to Clinton River Trail users.

Kristen Myers, the Paint Creek Trail Manager, also pointed out the importance of trail awareness and courtesy. “To ensure that everyone has a safe and enjoyable visit, we encourage all users to follow standard Trail Courtesy protocol. Trail courtesy education has been a priority for the Paint Creek Trailways Commission, to help reduce the number of user conflicts on the trail.”

If we consider everyone’s safety and enjoyment, our trail system will continue to be a significant part of our City’s quality of life. I’ll see you on the trail sometime soon. And remember, when you pass me, I’ll be listening for “Passing on your left.”

Contact me at hetrickd@rochesterhills.org

**Susan Bowyer, Ph.D. - District 3**

Spring is here! The Trails and Greenspaces are calling to all residents to come out and enjoy a walk or a bike ride. I hope to see you out enjoying the New Innovation Hills, the Paint Creek and/or Clinton River Trails. I’m usually out stretching my legs on the weekends to stay fit for the all the Great 5K run/walks coming our way this summer and fall. If you listen to my announcements I will try to keep you up-to-date on all the 5 and 10 K run/walks that you can sign up for in and around Rochester Hills.

It is also that time of the year when the deer are having their babies. If you see a baby fawn hidden in the grass, please leave it there. The mother deer is not far away. She hides her baby while she is foraging and comes back to feed and check on the baby often. These baby fawns do not need to be rescued. If someone does move a baby, please put her/him back as soon as possible.

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, resolve any issues you may have, and strive to work with the City and Council on your behalf.
Festival of the Hills

June 28, 2017
Borden Park ~ Rochester Hills

Free Admission - 6:00 pm

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

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