A Message from the Mayor

Each spring, I have the opportunity to present to you, our residents, my State of the City Address. I share how our city is doing, ways we’ve grown, our accomplishments during the previous year, and our goals looking forward. This year, in our own unique way, we presented our story in what we called the “Signed, Sealed, Delivered World Tour” where we sang, danced, and celebrated our success.

From the moment I dropped in (literally) until the balloon drop at the final curtain close, our special guests, the Stoney Creek High School Drumline, the Rhodes Band, soloist Lia Catallo, the Rochester Symphony Orchestra, and the Apostolic Church Choir helped me share our story in an exciting and joyful way. Our guests were on their feet, and their cheers made it clear how happy they were to be a part of the Rochester Hills success story.

We celebrated being named USA Today’s “Best City to live in Michigan” and 14th best in the Country! Wall Street 24/7 also named Rochester Hills the “Best place to Live in the State.” We retained our title as the “Safest City in Michigan” for the third year in a row. We honored the inspiring way our community came together to support Deputy Hack after his accident last winter. We recognized the many people in our city who are shining examples of what we can do when we come together as a community.

“...I get to lead a team of highly skilled, innovative people who are making incredible contributions to our community. We are leading the way in safety, customer service, and forward thinking.”
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
Jana Kramer and Ziad Kassab

I shared how proud I am that I get to lead a team of highly skilled, innovative people who are making incredible contributions to our community, the region, and the state. We are leading the way in safety, customer service, and forward thinking. Just last month our Department of Public Services fleet was ranked the “Best in the State of Michigan” and #47 in the country out of a pool of 38,000 fleets. That’s pretty amazing.

Time after time and across the board, our employees are being recognized as the best in their profession. Many times going above and beyond the call of duty to address the needs of our residents and business owners. I wish I could share with you all the letters and cards I get thanking and complimenting our city team for the outstanding things they do.

The value this brings to our community has not gone unnoticed and word has gotten out. Last year, new housing permits were up 40%, total building permits were up 42% and most importantly, total construction value is up nearly 158% in the last 24 months alone. Simply unbelievable growth and investment!

While each department’s story is unique, our goal remains the same; to surpass your expectation for customer service each and every time you need us. And, as emerging technologies affect our businesses and residents, we desire is to evolve our own processes and programs to maximize the value for those who live, work, and play in our community.

In addition, the State of the City Address is where I present our Community Excellence Awards to those who make a difference in our community. This year, I recognized former Rochester Hills resident and country music star, Jana Kramer, for her work with Safe Horizon, the Nation’s Leading Victim Assistance Organization. I also recognized Rochester Hills resident, Ziad Kassab, for his outstanding work with the D-Man Foundation, a nonprofit organization dedicated to enriching the lives of families and individuals living with physical and mental disabilities.

My friends, we are just at the tip of the iceberg. My hope is that you will join us by finding ways to engage in your community. Whether it’s attending your local Homeowners Associations’ meeting or volunteering at a food pantry, there are hundreds of big and small actions that can make our community even better. I encourage you to find what interests you and become involved in your city.

In the end, I am once again reminded how blessed we are to live in this community and how blessed I am to be your Mayor. I know I have said it before but it bears repeating, Rochester Hills is the preeminent place to live, work and raise a family, and I am so happy to share that joy with you.
The 2018 Rochester Hills State of the City Event
Hosted by Mayor Bryan K. Barnett
Exercise & Enrichment Opportunities both Indoors and Out at the OPC!

Exercise has countless benefits for all ages, including a healthier heart, stronger bones and improved flexibility. For those over 50, there are additional benefits, like the fact that regular exercise reduces the risk of chronic diseases, lowers the chance of injury, and can improve your mood. Some of the new exercise opportunities this spring at the OPC are Drums & More, Age Reversing Essentrics, Low Impact Ballet, Spinning Bike opportunities, numerous aquatic classes to encourage physical activity, and a variety of personal enrichment courses - so join in the fun!

Our 5K Run/Walk Fundraiser in support of Meal on Wheels is on Saturday, June 2nd. The Run/Walk begins at 8:00 am at OPC and follows along the Clinton River Trail and back. All proceeds will benefit the OPC’s Meals on Wheels program, which provides nutritional daily meals and a wellness check for homebound seniors. Last year, the OPC Nutrition Department prepared, served, and delivered 121,668 home delivered and on-site meals. Register online at eastsideracingcompany.com or print the form at opcseniorcenter.org

Celebrate the Great Outdoors by joining the Ladies’ Tour de Trails biking club, or the Bike for Coffee group and meet other bike enthusiasts who ride along the Clinton River Trail and commune over a cup of coffee afterwards. For the men, fitness and friendly competition go hand in hand by joining one of our four slow pitch softball teams. Get in touch with nature through the Late Bloomers’ Gardening Club on Wednesdays. 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.

The Classic Car Show on July 28 from 9:00 am – Noon will be a family fun morning with free entry 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.

Enrich your life! Not only does the OPC provide regular classes and activities, they also have special events throughout the year. Matt Ball, The Boogie Woogie Kid, will be back by popular demand on June 7 from 7:00-8:00 pm. The Rochester Garden Walk will feature the OPC and include an Afterglow Party on the patio with light refreshments on June 21 from 4:00-6:00 pm. There truly is no end to the activities at the OPC!

Get up, Get out, and Get Moving this summer at the OPC with one of the many activities offered at the 90,000 sq. ft. center. For those who may need additional support, the OPC provides Supportive Outreach Services including Meals on Wheels, Adult Day Services, transportation, Support Groups and more. Rochester Hills residents 50+ are automatically members, just register or take a tour at 650 Letica Drive, Rochester or visit www.opcseniorcenter.org for a full listing of offerings, or call 248-656-1403 ext. 0.

Hills Happenings

Not your average seniors! We are a fun, friendly, recreational bicycle club and exercise group with participants of all skill levels. Men and women are welcome. Come on and join us.

There is something for everyone at OPC. Our outstanding Classic Car Show is a great time for both guests and classic car owners. Come early, stay late!

There truly is no end to the activities at the OPC!
The Crittenton Foundation is Back in Full SWING!

Reinvigorated with new leadership and a new advisory committee over the past year, the Crittenton Foundation is poised to promote philanthropic support for our hometown hospital, Ascension Crittenton. The mission of the Foundation is the advancement of health programs and services to save lives and promote wellness in the greater Rochester area. Their essential work will enable new medical technologies, facility improvements and strategic partnerships to enhance patient care for our community. It will also support Ascension Crittenton Hospital’s commitment to serving all persons with special attention to those who are poor and vulnerable.

The Crittenton Foundation continues to partner with physicians, hospital associates, and community members to promote health, well-being, continued education and clinical advancement. In the past, the Foundation has funded nursing scholarships, RN to BSN programs, employee educational grants, infant car seat programs, prenatal trainings, and purchased machines for orthopedic rehabilitation and specialized care needs. They have also partnered with many local social services organizations to provide back-to-school necessities for kids, holiday giving programs for families in need, health screenings and continued education.

You can get involved in this important work! The easiest (and most fun) way is to attend the Crittenton Classic Golf Outing, scheduled for June 25, 2018, and hosted by Great Oaks Country Club in Rochester. Proceeds from this year’s golf outing will support the development of a state-of-the-art inpatient rehabilitation unit at Ascension Crittenton Hospital to offer world class equipment and resources to adult patients recovering from joint replacement surgery, injury, trauma, stroke or any other condition requiring rehabilitative care as part of recovery.

If you are interested in learning more about the Crittenton Foundation, registering for the Crittenton Classic golf outing, or inquiring about sponsorship opportunities, please contact Natalie Reilly-Finch at Natalie.Reilly-Finch@ascension.org 248-601-6211 or visit CrittentonFoundation.org.
**Veterans Memorial Pointe**

**Memorial Brick Order Form**

Buying a Memorial Brick is a simple way to leave your mark of remembrance. This is your opportunity to become a part of something special in our city. By buying a brick, you or your loved one will become a part of this memorial forever and you will help us maintain this place of honor. The price of each brick is $75.00. All proceeds will go toward the upkeep of Veterans Memorial Pointe.

**Inscription Information**

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

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

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

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**Memorial/Eagle Scout Brick Order Form**

*Please print clearly or type all information*

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**Purchaser's Name**

__________________________________________________________________________

**Address:** ___________________________________________________________ **City** __________________________________________

**State** ____________ **Zip** ____________

**Phone:** ______________________________________________________________

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

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□ Check box if this is an Eagle Scout.

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

**Community Foundation of Greater Rochester / VMP**

**PO Box 431**

**Rochester, MI 48308-0431**

*(Please note on check: Veterans Memorial Pointe Fund)*

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

For information and additional order forms, please call the Community Foundation of Greater Rochester at 248-608-2804 or the Mayor's Office at 248-656-4664.
The Oakland County Sheriff’s Office is proud to sponsor Operation Medicine Cabinet (OMC). OMC was launched at the Oakland County Sheriff’s Office in July of 2009. It provides citizens a venue to properly dispose of their expired and/or unused prescriptions anonymously at several different locations throughout Oakland County. Currently, there are 36 OMC drop-off sites, including 13 Sheriff’s Office locations and 23 additional law enforcement locations throughout Oakland County.

We as law enforcement agents have been authorized by the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) to provide this service. This program is not for commercial use.

Operation Medicine Cabinet illustrates our commitment to keeping all of our citizens safer, protecting our young people from the harmful misuse of prescription drugs, understanding the needs of seniors, and the environmental implications related to improper disposal of medications (flushing). The program has received overwhelming support from the community, other law enforcement agencies, environmental groups, senior and youth advocacy groups, the media, and the list goes on and on.

**Oakland County Sheriff Drop Off Sites**

- **Main Headquarters in Pontiac** - Wednesdays from 8:00 am - 4:00 pm
- **Addison Township Substation** - by appointment only
- **Brandon Township Substation** - 24/7 must call for assistance after regular business hours
- **Commerce Township Substation** - Wednesdays from 8:00 am - 4:00 pm or by appointment.
- **Highland Township Substation** - Monday- Friday 8:00 am - 4:00 pm or by appointment
- **Independence Township Substation** - Monday- Friday 8:00 am - 4:30 pm or by appointment
- **Lyon Township Substation** - Monday - Friday 8:00 am - 4:00 pm or by appointment.
- **Oakland Township Substation** - Monday - Friday 8:00 am - 4:00 pm or by appointment.
- **Orion Township Substation** - Monday - Friday 8:30 am - 4:00 pm
- **Oxford Township Substation** - Monday - Friday 8:00 am - 4:00 pm
- **Pontiac Substation** - 24/7
- **Rochester Hills Substation** - Monday - Friday 7:00 am - 6:00 pm
- **Springfield Township Substation** - by appointment only

Thank you to our supporters, Genisys Credit Union, the Alliance of Coalitions for Healthy Communities, and the Oakland County Health Division for partnering with us to provide this important community service.

Conveniently located in the Rochester Hills Substation lobby, the Operation Medicine Cabinet drop box is self-serve and private. Open Monday - Friday from 7:00 am - 6:00 pm.
Rochester Hills Fire Department

Push the Button Challenge

Smoke alarms: the single most effective device to alert you if a fire breaks out in your home. Every home should have them—no excuse. In Rochester Hills, we take the safety of our residents seriously and work hard toward the goal of zero fire fatalities and injuries…but we need your help.

Michigan has ranked in the top tier nationally for its high number of residential fire fatalities, and over half of the 87 deaths in 2017 were aged over 60 years old.

The Rochester Hills Fire Department has joined the State, along with other local fire officials, to take the Push the Button Challenge to keep mom safe.

The goal is to push the button on the smoke alarm of your elderly family members to make sure their smoke alarms are working and ensure they have an adequate number of alarms.

The recommended minimum number of alarms is one on every level of the home, in the hallways near bedrooms, and in each bedroom.

This challenge is easy to do and provides you the opportunity to visit with the older adults in your life and to keep them safe.

Click here to view our State Fire Marshal checking his mothers fire alarms: Push the Button Challenge

You can also visit: facebook.com/SmokeAlarmsSaveLives/ to view the Push the Button Challenge and see how others are helping keep their family members safe.

Please get involved! Take a video of yourself checking your loved ones’ smoke alarms and then challenge others to do the same by sharing it using the hashtag #PressToTest.

Residents in Rochester Hills can request to have smoke alarms installed or checked simply by calling the Rochester Hills Fire Department at 248-656-4720.

Household Hazardous Waste

Spring and summer are the times of year homeowners begin to go through stored items and realize the need to dispose of many extra items they find in their homes. As noble as this ritual is, it can be a source of concern, disposing of certain items that might be hazardous to our environment and in turn, hazardous to people. Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) is a term to describe everyday products that are in use in our homes that contain materials that can harm us or the environment (Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, 2018). These range from paints and stains, fertilizers and pesticides, cleaners and solvents, certain electronics, batteries and light bulbs; and, finally, medical waste items like old medicine or needles.

To help those that read the labels, many items contain key identifier words to help identify them as a hazard. Words such as Warning, Caution, Flammable or Toxic are often found within the labels. These will often be the first clue to the casual user that there may need to be some different disposal options rather than simply placing them in the trash.

There are some household items that have been mistakenly hyped as hazardous but, can be disposed of through normal trash. Items like alkaline batteries, or compact fluorescent light (CFL) bulbs contain minor amounts of hazardous material. The amount of material however is minimal and unless you are throwing out hundreds of batteries or CFLs it is safe to place the items in normal trash. Searching the internet is a great resource to determine the best option for specific disposal considerations.

As a forward-thinking society, a good rule to follow is only purchasing the amount of a material that you actually need to perform the task you are working on. This will minimize any remaining product and leave nothing to dispose of. When this is not possible or when cleaning out old items looking to the manufacturer recommendations or following local guidelines may be the best practice. Here are a few sources that can provide insight and guidance to consumers for disposal of their HHW: the Environmental Protection Agency, the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, and No Haz are excellent sources of information.

In Rochester Hills, we participate in the North Oakland County Household Hazardous Waste Consortium (NO HAZ) for hazardous waste disposal. For more information, visit NO HAZ at www.nohaz.com or call 248- 858-5656 for a calendar of upcoming dates. A date of significance is Saturday, June 23, 2018 which will be held at Oakland University. The NO HAZ website answers many questions that will assist with proper disposal, including necessary documentation, fees, and registration for the event. Hopefully this helps us all be better stewards of our environment.
Since 2014, the Rochester Hills Fire Department has gone through several changes. These changes included the upgrades to all of the City’s five Fire Stations, the arrival of several new fire apparatus and ambulances, as well as the hiring of additional full-time firefighter/paramedics. All these changes positioned the Fire Department to meet the ever growing needs and calls for service.

In late 2017, the Fire Department underwent an evaluation from the Insurance Services Office (ISO) who serves agents, brokers, insurance regulators, risk managers, and other participants in the property/casualty insurance marketplace. ISO evaluates municipal fire-protection efforts in communities throughout the United States. One tool used to grade fire protection is the Fire Suppression Rating Schedule. This schedule evaluates: Fire Department Operations, Emergency Communications, Water Supply, and Community Risk Reduction efforts. After a thorough evaluation, ISO then assigns a rating to the Fire Department, which underwriters use to set insurance rates. The ISO incorporates nationally accepted standards developed by organizations including the National Fire Protection Association, the Association of Public Communications Officials and the American Water Works Association.

The City of Rochester Hills has been designated with a Class 2 rating by the ISO which will become effective July 1, 2018. This new rating could improve insurance rates for residents and businesses. The City of Rochester Hills is one of only eight cities in Michigan with a Class 2 rating. This is the latest of improved designations for the city, which obtained a Class 4 rating in 2011. The scale ranges from 1 – 10 with one being best.

Only 3% of fire departments (1,482 of 43,000) in the nation are rated a Class 2. This level of achievement is only possible through the department’s commitment to continuous improvement in fire response and community risk reduction coupled with strong collaborative relationships with the City’s Department of Public Services and the Oakland County Sheriff’s Department Emergency Communications, as well as the support of City Administration and City Council.

The information gathered by the ISO provided the department with valuable insight into the risk of fire loss within the City of Rochester Hills. Feedback from the process allowed the department to benchmark our performance, measure program effectiveness, and plan for future improvements. We encourage home and commercial property owners to contact their insurance carrier to find any potential savings with this new rating. After July 1, 2018, the City will be able to provide the letter from the ISO referencing the Public Protection Classification change to a Class 2 at the request of insurance agents and property owners.
Rochester Hills Building Department

Check your Deck

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

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.

The precautions will keep you and your family safe. You don’t want this to happen to you.

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.
Don’t Just Dive In…Check Your Swimming Pool for Safety First!

With summer just around the corner, your Rochester Hills Building Department would like to remind you to give your swimming pool and surrounding area a quick safety check before the fun starts. As you prepare for summer, you might want to run through this simple checklist of items to ensure your family and friends can enjoy your pool safely:

- Check the electrical connections to all of the equipment, including the filter pump, pool lights, etc. Don’t forget to check the bare bonding wire that connects all the metal parts of the equipment together to make sure it is in good shape and that there are no loose connections.
- Check the outside electrical outlet near the pool. This outlet should be a ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI) with both “test” and “reset” buttons. Test your outlet for defects and if it is defective it should be replaced before using your pool. Also, please remember that an extension cord should never be used around your pool.
- Check to make sure all fencing around the pool is intact and any gate latches are functional. A self-closing gate will also help to make sure that little ones don’t gain access to the pool without adult supervision.
- If you or your guests have young children and a door that leads directly to your pool area, you should have an alarm on that door that will sound when it is opened.

By following these simple, easy steps before the swimming season starts, you can ensure that you, your family, and your friends will enjoy the summer’s fun without any accidents.

IS YOUR WOOD DECK SAFE?
Have Peace of Mind with a Free Safety Inspection by the Rochester Hills Building Department

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

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

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

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

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

We look forward to hearing from you.

Pathway Maintenance

Rochester Hills residents are fortunate to have many miles of pathways to walk, jog, or bicycle on. It is important that these pathways are safe and kept clear of vegetation that may encroach or overhang the pathway.

The area between the pathway and the road is owned by Rochester Hills and maintained by the Forestry Division. The surface itself is inspected and maintained by the Department of Public Service. The area of vegetation on the residential side of the pathway is owned by the resident adjoining the pathway and it is the homeowners’ responsibility to keep trees and shrubs from blocking the pathway.

As in past summers, Ordinance Compliance Inspectors will patrol the pathways to identify properties that have private vegetation encroaching or overhanging a city pathway. Please keep vegetation beside the pathway cut back at least one foot. Trees that overhang the pathway must be trimmed a minimum of 10 feet above the pathway.

City staff members are very thankful for residents who take a proactive role in keeping their trees and shrubs from presenting a hazard to those who use our pathways. We are keeping pathway travel safe together. Thanks!!
Planning & Economic Development

Master Plan Update - What it means to you

A Master Plan is a big-picture, long-range document that guides policy and decision-making about how land in our community is used for housing, commercial and industrial activities, recreation, and transportation. Giffels Webster is assisting the City of Rochester Hills in its update of the Master Plan. The plan will be exploring concepts that impact short, mid, and long-range land use policies and strategies. Conversations about these concepts explore the question: *How can the Master Plan process lead to land use policies that support city themes of preserve, enhance, and diversify?*

Objectives:

- Improve Community Health
- Create an Age-Friendly Community
- Improve Community Sustainability
- Improve Transportation Choices

These guiding themes are at the heart of ongoing discussions by the City as the Master Plan is being updated. As part of the first round of public involvement, the update process which began in late 2017 included:

- Visioning Sessions with staff, Youth Council, and appointed and elected officials
- Online Public Opinion Survey (with nearly 750 responses!)
- Youth Art Contest
- 4th Grade Survey (as part of City Hall field trips)
- Picture This! Community Input Portal
- Public open house
- Market Analysis Focus Groups with major employers, health care industry, non-chain retailers, educational institutions, developers and realtors

The City’s public input process has sought to gather opinions on the following three overarching goals:

- **Preserve**: identify at least one thing people love about the City and to celebrate, preserve and strengthen the best things about the City
- **Enhance**: identify what the community believes should be enhanced, improved and enriched
- **Diversify**: identify cultural, social and economic opportunities

Throughout the five month process, commonly cited strengths of the City include schools, natural beauty, neighborhoods, financial stewardship, and access to higher education. Commonly-cited weaknesses include traffic, limited transportation choices, lack of options in housing, aging infrastructure, and the lack of a downtown core within City limits.

In general, Rochester Hills residents and business owners like their community, understand that some change is inevitable, but are intent on ensuring that the community preserves its essential character as development occurs and the economy changes.

Going forward, the City’s Master Plan process will offer additional opportunities to add your voice to the conversation, including another open house and crowd polling once preliminary recommendations are unveiled this summer. The process is expected to result in adoption of the plan in fall after the community has an opportunity to respond to the draft plan.

Please check back as new opportunities arise throughout the year and share with your neighbors, friends, and family!
Rochester Hills is home to many market leaders in the fields of robotics, connectors, and now automotive leather. BADER, a manufacturer of high-end automotive leathers, recently relocated to a new Rochester Hills location with the purchase and completion of a major renovation to a building on Waterview Drive.

“When looking into opening our North American Research & Development Center, we considered several locations. Among them were South Carolina where we have operations and Michigan where we had a small office in Troy,” stated Fernando Caccia, Director of Sales and Business Development. “Rochester Hills was by far the best location for us. Not only for the proximity to our key customers and high tech companies, but also because the city is one of the best in the United States to live and work. Once we met with City officials, their business friendly approach helped us finalize the deal.”

Started in 1872 in Germany, this fourth-generation company prides itself on being the 2nd largest leather manufacturer in the world. With 13 state-of-the-art global locations and over 11,000 employees, the Rochester Hills location will act as its North American showroom and product design center. Here, BADER will design and construct prototype automotive interiors for its North American customers such as GM and Tesla.

BADER invested over $2 million in the facility to create an environment that demonstrates BADER’s attention to exquisite design and detail. BADER USA plans to create over 25 new jobs in Rochester Hills over the next two years.

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**Rochester Hills Historic Districts Commission Preserves our Community’s Historic Resources**

Established in 1979, The Rochester Hills Historic Districts Commission (HDC) and ordinance follow the State of Michigan Public Act 169 of 1970. The Commission consists of nine community members who help to protect the exterior of historic buildings located throughout our community and within our two historic districts at Stoney Creek and Winkler Mill Pond.

Established on March 30, 1835, Avon Township (Rochester Hills) residents’ first two rules were: boar hogs would not be allowed to run at large, one-dollar fine for each violation, and rams would not be allowed at large from September to November, a penalty of a five dollar fine.

We are still connected to our agrarian past through our historic buildings, landscapes, and residences, as well as the fascinating people who were pioneers to this area.

The Albert Terry residence is located at 1081 West Auburn – near the intersection of Livernois and Auburn next to the Bebb Oak Tree. Built in 1839, this home and its site are virtually unspoiled based on illustrations found in the Rochester Hills Museum archives. It is an excellent example of a brick variation of the Greek Revival style, and based on intensive level surveys is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. Considered one of the most esteemed residents of Oakland County, Mr. Terry was one of fourteen children born in Lima, Livingston County, New York in 1817. He received a good common-school education and taught school for a short period. Upon arrival in Michigan, with his wife Miss Delia Lathrop, he purchased the northeast quarter of section 33 in Avon Township and then added another 132 acres – mostly wild, unbroken property that he converted to an excellent tilled and cultivated farm.

Mr. Terry was Avon Township Supervisor for fourteen years (1862-1876), and raised seven children in his home. Stories circulate that the original kitchen was a great room and the scene for most activity in the home. Frequently, uninvited Native Americans congregated in the kitchen and frightened the defenseless women into handing out treats from the oven.

The Rochester Hills Museum archives contain numerous references to the family, photographs, the original abstract, and an oral history from a longtime resident who lived here.

Additional information about the Rochester Hills HDC can be found on the City website. Do you love our community’s history? Visit the Rochester Hills Museum website for more information.
Rochester Hills Department of Public Services

Spring has arrived along with another busy construction season with welcomed investment into infrastructure within Rochester Hills.

The largest and most prominent projects of this construction season will be along the South Boulevard and Hamlin Road corridors. The South Boulevard project limits are between Crooks and Adams with an estimated project cost of $2,400,000. The scope of work on South Blvd. includes a resurfacing within the project limits and work on the Borden Drain. The Hamlin Road project entails road reconstruction between Old Adams and Adams Road within the City of Rochester Hills and pavement slab replacements within the City of Auburn Hills to Squirrel Road. The Hamlin Road estimated project cost is $6,250,000 and is a partnership between the Road Commission for Oakland County, Rochester Hills as well as Auburn Hills, whereby the project will be bid as one project and built concurrently in the same construction season.

While both projects will impact traffic, the delivery of the Hamlin Rd project between Squirrel and Adams will be the most challenging due to how the project has to be staged in order to perform the proposed work and complete it in a condensed timeframe. There will be two primary stages of the project that close eastbound Hamlin during stage 1 and then stage 2 closes westbound Hamlin.

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:

- Adams High School – Water Main Replacement
- 2018 Concrete Program – Concrete Removal & Replacement in various locations
- 2018 Hot Mixed Asphalt Program – Mill & Resurfacing in various locations
- 2018 Pathway Program – Construction & Resurfacing in various locations
- Hamilton Drain – Rehabilitation
- Water Booster Station #2 (Adams at Tienken) – Relocate & Construct New Station
- Walton Boulevard – Culvert Replacements & Rehabilitation

In total, the 2018 construction season will deliver over $20,000,000 of public infrastructure projects that will not only preserve public safety, health and welfare, they will improve mobility, as well as reliability and dependability of our infrastructure.

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

We would like to thank you for your patience and understanding during the 2018 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.

Congratulations from Mayor Barnett...

Please join me in thanking the men and women of the Department of Public Services for providing excellent service over our long Michigan winter. 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 to thanking them, I ask you to join me in congratulating them as well. Our DPS fleet was recently named the “Best Fleet in Michigan” and #47 in the entire country out of a pool of over 38,000 fleets! That takes hard work and commitment, and we all benefit from that!

Please help me congratulate the dedicated DPS staff for making winter as safe as 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.

RIPPLE Effect

Representing Innovative People and Promotions that Lead to Increased Water Efficiency

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

- The City Ordinance requests that property owners with automatic watering systems to only water lawns between midnight and 5:00 am to reduce water purchase costs. Watering your lawn and garden during these hours will minimize evaporation as well.
- 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.
- 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 in the fall when conditions are cooler and rainfall is more plentiful.
- Adjust your lawn mower to a higher setting. A taller lawn shades roots and holds moisture better than if it is closely clipped.
- Use a hose nozzle or turn off the water while you wash your car. You’ll save up to a 100 gallons every time.
- 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.
- Check out our Water Conservation page under “Living In” on the Rochester Hills website.

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.
Innovation Hills

If you build it, they will come

Expanding access to outdoor recreational activities creates a more vibrant, engaged community for residents. Whether it’s enjoying an outdoor yoga class, planting a tiny seedling, or enjoying a guided hike the possibilities for Innovation Hills are endless.

This park will be a destination for social and cultural activities where residents young and old, and of all physical abilities, will want to come to explore, learn, and discover.

Innovation Hills, which captures our innovative spirit, will have creatively designed bridges, pathways, water features, and playscapes. Significant construction of our parking lot, trails, boardwalks, restrooms, and ponds will all begin in 2018, bringing this vision to reality.

To cultivate community support, the city has reached out to local nonprofits, businesses, and educators to develop a design that meets the needs of guests of all ages and abilities.

Unveiled in 2017, the conceptual designs for Innovation Hills were presented to the public at Mayor Barnett’s annual State of the City Address and the response has been overwhelmingly positive. Mayor Barnett moved quickly to put those plans into action. In just one year, the city worked together with community leaders and businesses to raise just over $1 million dollars to start the construction of the park.

We look forward to keeping that momentum going. To learn more about Innovation Hills, please visit our website or contact the Mayor’s Office at mayoroffice@rochesterhills.org to get involved. We can’t wait to share our outstanding new park with you!

Congratulations to Our Award Winning Fiscal Team

Kudos to our Fiscal, Accounting, and Procurement teams for receiving high marks from the City’s outside auditing firm, Plante Moran, for the audit of the year ending December 31, 2017.

Plante Moran offered their congratulations for an audit that places the City within the top 5% of municipalities in terms of financial reporting and best practices. The work our financial team does is truly impressive and continues a long history of positive recognition.

Under the direction of Chief Financial Officer, Joe Snyder, the Finance Department has received national recognition for many of the documents it prepares and maintains for the city:

- Debt Management Policy Certification – Since 2010 for the city’s Debt Management Policy Statement, awarded by the Association of Public Treasurers United States and Canada
- Distinguished Budget Presentation Award – Since 1997 for the city’s Budget Report, awarded by Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada
- Popular Annual Financial Reporting (PAFR Award) – Since 2009 for the city’s Citizen Financial Summary Report, awarded by Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada

Mayor Barnett congratulated the entire Fiscal team for their diligence in serving our residents. He stated, “I appreciate the opportunity to let our residents know their tax dollars are in the safe hands of such outstanding financial stewards.” He added, “They leave no stone unturned in assuring each and every financial transaction follows rigorous auditing standards.”

If you have the opportunity, please join us in congratulating them.
Keep an Eye Out for These Threats to Our Trees

We have all seen how devastating an invasive pest or disease can be to our trees and woodlots as we have observed in the past with Emerald Ash Borer and Dutch elm disease. Both are examples of where specific tree species have been wiped out throughout our state and these incidences have highlighted the importance of promoting diversity in tree planting and also the importance of being vigilant in trying to stay ahead of these types of threats. With this in mind, below are two current threats that have yet to be confirmed in our city, but have been observed nearby.

Asian Longhorned Beetle (ALB) - As the weather warms this spring and summer, keep an eye out for this new invasive pest. This insect has not yet been found in Michigan, but was discovered in Ohio (east of Cincinnati) in June 2011. Efforts to eradicate ALB are ongoing in Ohio and at other infestations on the east coast. ALB shows a preference for maple trees, but will feed on a broad variety of shade trees. The damage they cause will eventually result in the death of the tree. Currently, the only effective control is to remove infested trees and destroy them by chipping or burning. Adult beetles are active from May to October, with peak activity in July and August. In addition to spotting the beetle itself, there are distinct damage signs you can look for on a tree, including perfectly round exit holes. For more information on ALB and spotting it, check out these sites:

Michigan State University Extension
U.S. Department of Agriculture

Oak Wilt - If you’re considering trimming trees this spring / summer, be sure to keep in mind that some tree species are better off being pruned during the dormant season. This is especially true of oak trees due to the danger of oak wilt. Oak wilt is a fungal disease which causes the water-conducting vessels in oak trees to become plugged, ultimately causing leaves to wilt and fall from the tree. Once infected, they often tolerate the disease for a number of years before dying, however, it can kill trees within weeks.

Oak wilt can be spread underground through root systems and by sap-feeding beetles that carry the fungus from infected oaks to fresh wounds on healthy oaks. If oak wilt is not already present nearby, infection via sap-feeding beetles is the main concern and the only known way oak wilt can spread across uninfected areas. Fresh wounds such as those caused by pruning, construction activity, or storm damage must be present for the insect to infect a healthy tree. Therefore, do not cut, prune, or otherwise wound oaks in the spring and early summer, generally from April 1st through July 15th. If an oak is damaged during warm weather, immediately apply pruning sealer or tree paint over the wound.

Oak wilt disease has been detected in Michigan for many years, but outbreaks in new areas are cause for concern (Michigan State University Extension). Become aware, be observant, and report suspected ALB and Oak Wilt observations to the Rochester Hills Parks & Natural Resources.

Smoking Prohibited in Thelma G. Spencer Park

An important update to park regulations

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

“Smoking” means the burning, inhaling, exhaling, or carrying of any lighted bidi, bong, cigar, cigarette, cigarillo, hookah, kretek, plant, pipe, weed, or other lighted tobacco product or device. “Smoking” also includes the use of an e-cigarette.
August 7, 2018 Temporary Precinct Relocations

Happy Spring/Summer! It’s that time of year in Michigan that we endure the brutally cold winter in order to enjoy the other seasons that are so magnificent. Along with the warmer temperatures comes construction. Beginning in the middle of June and going through August, the Rochester Community Schools will be undergoing extensive construction at several schools. As you know, the Clerk’s Office utilizes many of our schools as polling locations. We have a total of 32 precincts, and nine of those precincts will be temporarily relocated for the August 7, 2018 Primary Election. Below is a list of the nine precincts, where they are currently located, and where they are being temporarily relocated to for the August election only. Notices will be sent to all affected electors, and signage will be placed at all locations indicating the change in location. Electors will return to voting at their regular polling locations for the November General Election.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Precinct #</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Relocated to:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Brooklands Elementary</td>
<td>DPS Garage (511 E. Auburn Rd.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Adams High School</td>
<td>Rochester High School (180 S. Livernois Rd.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Long Meadow Elementary</td>
<td>Stoney Creek High School (6755 Sheldon Rd.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Brooklands Elementary</td>
<td>DPS Garage (511 E. Auburn Rd.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Hart Middle School</td>
<td>Stoney Creek High School (6755 Sheldon Rd.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>Adams High School</td>
<td>Rochester High School (180 S. Livernois Rd.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>Hampton Elementary</td>
<td>Holy Family Regional School (2633 John R Rd.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>Adams High School</td>
<td>Rochester High School (180 S. Livernois Rd.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32</td>
<td>Hart Middle School</td>
<td>Stoney Creek High School (6755 Sheldon Rd.)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

We realize that these changes may create an inconvenience for some voters. Please remember that absent voter ballots are available for those that qualify. A registered voter may obtain an absent voter ballot if they are:

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

Check your voter registration at [Michigan Voter Information Center](http://www.mi.gov/vote)

A person who registers to vote by mail must vote in person in the first election in which he or she participates. The restriction does not apply to overseas voters, voters who are disabled, or voters who are 60 years of age or older.

Your request for an absent voter ballot must be in writing and can be submitted to the City Clerk. Your request must include one of the six statutory reasons stated above and your signature. You must request an absent voter ballot by mailing the application, large print application, a letter, a postcard, or a pre-printed application form obtained from the Clerk’s Office. Requests to have an absent voter ballot mailed to you must be received by no later than 2 p.m. the Saturday before the election.

Once your request is received by the Clerk, your signature on the request will be checked against your voter registration record before a ballot is issued. You must be a registered voter to receive an absent voter ballot. Requests for absent voter ballots are processed immediately. Absent voter ballots may be issued to you at your home address or any address outside of your city of residence. They will be available for issuance near the end of June.

After receiving your absent voter ballot, you have until 8 p.m. on Election Day to complete the ballot and return it to the Clerk’s Office. Your ballot will not be counted unless your signature is on the return envelope and matches your signature on file. If you received assistance voting the ballot, then the signature of the person who helped you must also be on the return envelope. Only you, a family member or person residing in your household, a mail carrier, or election official is authorized to deliver your signed absent voter ballot to the Clerk’s Office.

We appreciate your cooperation and understanding. Again, this relocation is temporary and you will be back at your regular polling location for the November Election. Additional detailed information will be sent to each household in all nine of the precincts that will be temporarily relocated. Please contact our office if you have any questions at 248-656-4630.

Tina Barton, MMC, CMMC
Rochester Hills City Clerk
August 7, 2018 Precinct List

colors denote locations with multiple precincts
Yellow highlight denotes relocated precincts

Precinct # 1  Faith Church, 160 W Hamlin Rd
Precinct # 2  Bellbrook, 873 W Avon Rd
Precinct # 3  Meadows School, 1435 W Auburn Rd
Precinct # 4  North Hill Elementary School, 1385 Mahaffy
Precinct # 5  Reuther Middle School, 1430 E Auburn Rd
Precinct # 6  Avon Clubhouse, 2600 W Auburn Rd
Precinct # 7  West Middle School, 500 Old Perch Rd
Precinct # 8  VanHoosen Middle School, 1339 N Adams Rd
Precinct # 9  Rochester High School, 180 S Livernois
Precinct #10 Brewster Elementary School, 1535 Brewster Rd
Precinct #11 Reuther Middle School, 1430 E Auburn Rd
Precinct #12 Hamlin Elementary School, 270 W Hamlin Rd
Precinct #13 Deerfield Elementary School, 3600 Crooks Rd
Precinct #14 West Middle School, 500 Old Perch Rd
Precinct #15 St. Mary’s of the Hills, 2675 John R
Precinct #16 DPS Garage, 511 E Auburn Rd (prev. Brooklands Elem)
Precinct #17 Meadow Brook Elementary School, 2350 Munster
Precinct #18 Rochester High School, 180 S Livernois (prev. Adams HS)
Precinct #19 Stoney Creek High School, 6755 Sheldon Rd (prev. Long Meadow)
Precinct #20 DPS Garage, 511 E Auburn Rd (prev. Brooklands Elem)
Precinct #21 Stoney Creek High School, 6755 Sheldon Rd (prev. Hart Middle)
Precinct #22 St. Luke’s Church, 3980 Walton Blvd
Precinct #23 Samaritas, 2566 Walton Blvd
Precinct #24 Rochester Hills Offices, 1000 Rochester Hills Dr
Precinct #25 Rochester High School, 180 S Livernois (prev. Adams HS)
Precinct #26 VanHoosen Middle School, 1339 N Adams
Precinct #27 St. Mary’s of the Hills, 2675 John R
Precinct #28 Holy Family Regional School, 2633 John R Rd (prev. Hampton Elem)
Precinct #29 Rochester High School, 180 S Livernois (prev. Adams HS)
Precinct #30 St. Mary’s of the Hills, 2675 John R
Precinct #31 Reuther Middle School, 1430 E Auburn Rd
Precinct #32 Stoney Creek High School, 6755 Sheldon Rd (prev. Hart Middle)

If a precinct relocation change is required, notice will be sent to all affected voter households prior to elections. If a relocation is permanent, new voter identification cards will be sent to all affected voters.
Rochester Hills Parks and Natural Resources
Connecting with Our Outdoors!

The City of Rochester Hills Parks and Natural Resources Department is excited to introduce a new element to their already extensive offerings for the community to get outdoors. The Outdoor Engagement team invites residents of Rochester Hills and surrounding area to enjoy the parks, trails, rivers, hills and general beauty that the city has to offer through outdoor adventure and programs for all ages. Some of their annual programs include the very popular Sap-to-Syrup, where every spring you can enjoy learning about the maple syrup making process as well as enjoy a pancake breakfast with syrup made from trees tapped right in Bloomer Park. Another favorite is the Antler Amble where Outdoor Engagement staff leads a guided walk through a city park in search of dropped antlers from whitetail deer. Some of our newer opportunities throughout this summer include a Night Hike & Campfire and, Wild Edibles program at Bloomer Park and at Spencer Park, Kayaking 101 and Fishing for Beginners, a great program for all ages and levels of experience. We will be expanding our programs as the year goes on and encourage everyone to connect to the natural beauty the city has to offer, which you may find is right in your own back yard.

In addition to our outdoor engagement programs, residents can explore more of the outdoors by joining our Green Space Advisory Board in outdoor walks on our green spaces. The “Second Saturday Green Space Hikes” will start on June 9, and follow every second Saturday of the month. We will meet for a nice walk in one of the city’s Green Space properties and see some of the natural features that the city has conserved.

You can learn more about what the Outdoor Engagement team has to offer at the city’s website at rochesterhills.org/outdoors.

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 Repellant Spray for personal protection and Mosquito Dunks for treatment of ponds on your property. The spray and dunks will be available at the Parks & Natural Resources counter at City Hall beginning May 1, 2018 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
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
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 Natural Resource 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. Although the majority of property owners keep their vegetation maintained, others may not. To provide safe use by 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 10 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, 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.

When planning future plantings in these adjacent locations consider replacing aggressive, fast growing shrubs like honeysuckle with slower growing shrubs such as Emerald Green Arborvitae. Also, consider planting farther back from the edge of the pathway to avoid future encroachments and violation notices.

Please contact the Parks & Natural Resources Department, Forestry Division at 248-656-4673 for further information.

Human Resources Position Spotlight: Seasonal Lifeguard

Each year, the City of Rochester Hills hires 50+ seasonal employees in a variety of positions for its Parks, Museum and DPS Garage facilities. Among the available seasonal positions is Lifeguard at Carter Lake, Thelma G. Spencer Park. Open Memorial Day to Labor Day, Carter Lake boasts an impeccable safety record and key to this success are the dedicated men and women who lifeguard this 38 acre lake.

We spoke with Beach Front Supervisor Nicole White and Lifeguard Captain Hunter Sorensen regarding their over 8 years’ experience with the City and what it’s like to be a Lifeguard with the City of Rochester Hills.

Why did you decide to get certified and become a Lifeguard? I originally got Lifeguard certified in High School because I thought it would be an awesome first job. I also liked the idea of being outdoors and learning how to respond to emergency situations. I looked up to Lifeguards as a child and I wanted to be someone who set a good example and saves lives.

How is working at Carter Lake, Spencer Park different from any other Lifeguarding position you’ve held? What separates my experience apart at Carter Lake is that it’s a beachfront facility which is different from a pool. I have responded to several medical emergencies and made numerous rescues. Each summer I feel that my time spent lifeguarding here has made a difference. Lifeguards at a beachfront are in constant motion and require more skills other than sitting still.

What do you like best about your job as a Lifeguard at Carter Lake? I like being outside in the sun and value all the friendships I have made. Everyday is different. Unlike other jobs where you do the same thing repetitively, no two days are ever the same at Carter Lake.

What should someone do if they’re interested in Lifeguarding? The first step is become Lifeguard certified, then apply for a Lifeguard position at Spencer Park!

Any other comments? Being a Lifeguard at Carter Lake has been such a positive experience. I have made several rescues, formed countless friendships over the years and, through Lifeguarding, I have developed valuable skills that have helped me in other jobs.
Rochester Hills Parks and Natural Resources Updates

28 Years of Making Trees a Priority!

You may have seen a sign over the past 28 years stating that Rochester Hills is a Tree City USA community and have wondered what it means.

The Tree City USA program is one that provides standards that lay a framework for communities to manage their public trees and ultimately promote sound urban forestry management. Being that our natural resources and green spaces within the city have always been important aspect to our community, it was only fitting that our standards would align with a program such as this and allow us to be recognized as a Tree City USA since 1990.

As part of meeting these standards, the City of Rochester Hills has committed to maintaining a Forestry Division within our Parks and Natural Resources Department with 3 full time Arborists dedicated to managing our trees. Other standards include that the city spends at least $2 per capita on urban forestry annually and that we must have a community tree ordinance, which the city has and continues to look to improve. Finally, the City of Rochester Hills has committed over the years to recognize and celebrate Arbor Day each and every year!

Going above and beyond these standards, in recent years, the City has funded a free street tree program that looks to build up our urban tree canopy thus increasing the benefits that these trees provide; benefits such as improved human physical / mental health, improved environmental / ecological health, and other community benefits with safety, energy savings, and increased property values.

Another example that highlights the commitment to urban forest management, is the re-utilization of wood that has to be harvested for one reason or another. Recently, trees that were removed as part of the projects being done at Innovation Hills, are being repurposed by the city to combat storm water impacts and will be incorporated into stream restoration efforts on Avon Creek, a tributary to the Clinton River. These logs will soon provide benefits in a different way through stream bank protection and improved in-stream habitat for aquatic wildlife.

Fall 2018 Free Street Tree Planting Program

The City of Rochester Hills is offering free street trees to Rochester Hills property owners and businesses in 2018. The first 250 property owners and businesses to register this fall may have a tree planted on the public right-of-way adjacent to their property. The trees will be planted, maintained, and guaranteed for one year by the City’s landscape contractor. The Forestry unit of the Parks and Natural Resources Department will work with the property owner to determine the specific location following the City’s street tree ordinance guidelines. Orders must be received by September 7, 2018.

All trees are 2-inch caliper (stem diameter) and approximately 8-10 feet tall. The following tree species are normally available (not all varieties are suitable for all locations): Hornbeam, Hackberry, Beech, Honeylocust, Coffeetree, Tuliptree, Serviceberry, Oak, Baldcypress, Linden, Hybrid, Elm. (Note: Due to over-planting, Red Maples and Flowering Pears are no longer offered.) Other varieties are sometimes available. Please contact the Parks & Natural Resources office at 248-656-4673 for any additional information or visit our website at: www.rochesterhills.org/treelist

Name:

Address:

Phone:

Preferred Species (please indicate first and second choices):

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

Email: forestry@rochesterhills.org
Summer Taxes Due September 14, 2018
Enroll in our Automatic Tax Bill Payment Service
Have more time for enjoyment!

The 2018 Summer Property Tax bill mailing will take place in mid-June and the taxes are due on Friday, September 14, 2018. 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 9/17/18 or 9/18/18) are considered on time. On February 15, 2019, any unpaid 2018 tax balance will receive a 3% penalty charge. Please note: If your 2017 property taxes were not paid in full as of February 28, 2018 a notification may appear on your 2018 tax bills. This is a State law requirement.

We offer Recurring Automatic Bill Payment for property taxes and to date have over 900 taxpayers signed-up for this convenient service! This service allows you to choose 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 2018 Summer Tax payment will take place on September 14, 2018. For an enrollment form and our other convenient payment options, please visit Treasury Department’s Payment Options page or the following QRcode:

Summer tax deferment, which defers the summer tax bill due date for a principal residence to February 15, 2019, is available for qualified residents. Additionally, Oakland County may extend the deferment to April 30, 2019. 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

2018 Dog License Renewal at City Treasury Department

Friday, June 1, 2018, is the last day that City residents can renew their dog’s license for the non-delinquent fee. Fee to renew a delinquent license is $33.00.

Effective January 1, 2018, Oakland County increased their dog license fees this year to the following:

- Spayed/Neutered: $10.50 (3 year license $28.50)
- Senior Citizen Price: $9.75 (3 year license $26.25)
- Male/Female: $18.00 (3 year license $51.00)
- Senior Citizen Price: $16.50 (3 year license $46.50)

Delinquent after June 1st: $33.00

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 or at Oakland County Animal Control now located at 1200 N. Telegraph Rd., Building 42E, Pontiac, MI 48341 phone 248-858-1090. If your dog has a 3-year vaccination ending in either year 2020 or 2021, 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.
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 2018 schedule. No advanced registration required

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

Garden Walk
Thursday, June 21: 10:00 am – 5:00 pm
Rain or shine
Co-sponsored by the Rochester Hills Museum and the Rochester Garden Club

Enjoy beautiful gardens throughout our community as well as the Rochester Hills Museum, the Open Aire Market, Educational Presentation and, of course, the fabulous “Cookie Room” with an amazing variety of delicious homemade cookies!

Open Aire Garden Market on the Museum grounds 10:00 am – 4:00 pm
DIY Succulent Demo 11:00 am in the Calf Barn
Ticket cost: $12 – in advance $16 – day of the walk
Tickets can be purchased online at www.rochesterhills.org/musprograms

Pedal the Past - Historic Bike Tour with Rochester Hills Public Library
Thursday, June 28 6:00 – 9:00 pm (Register for 1 time slot only)
The Rochester Hills Museum and Rochester Hills Public Library have joined forces once again to bring you another biking history tour! During this unique, family friendly 4-mile ride, you will learn the exciting history of places you pass every day and visit sites that you may have never noticed before. A bike helmet is strongly encouraged.
Admission is free but advanced registration required at the Rochester Hills Public Library. 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.
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 am
Ages 6-10: 1:00 - 2:30 pm
June 26, July 10, July 17, July 24, July 31, August 7

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 Writer’s Camp
Ages 9-12: 10:00 am - 3:00 pm
August 20 - August 23
$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.

Little House in the Village Writer’s Camp
Ages 7-11: 10:00 am - 3:00 pm
July 12, August 2, August 16
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.

Music in the Garden
August 8: 7:00 pm
Members: Free 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 – Each Wednesday July 11 - August 1
12:00 noon - 2:00 pm
No advanced registration required
Museum Members are free, nonmembers $3/person ages 2 and up
Enjoy entertainment in the gazebo from Noon – 1:00 pm and water fun from 1:00 - 2:00 pm
July 11 Nick “Juggle Boy” Thomas
July 18 Guy Louis
July 25 Tom Plunkard
Aug. 1 School of Rock - Rochester

Special Thanks to our partners at the Clinton River Watershed Council for helping all of us appreciate and protect our water resources and our financial sponsors, Genisys Credit Union and RARA.

There are SO many great reasons to become a member of the Rochester Hills Museum at Van Hoosen Farm! You receive notice of classes, programs, and current research and discoveries as well as unlimited free admission to the Museum exhibits during public open hours, and discounts in our Museum store...but the BEST reason to become a member is that your support keeps this community treasure alive. Your membership allows us to preserve our buildings, provide exceptional programs, and create new exhibits. Your generosity has a far and lasting reach into this community.

Membership benefits include:
• Free admission to the many special events, lectures, and tours
• Invitations to member-only events and exhibit openings
• One-year subscription to the Museum Visitor newsletter
• Preregistration period for classes, lectures and special events
• Unlimited general admission to the:
  ◦ 1840 Van Hoosen Farmhouse
  ◦ 1850 Red House
  ◦ 1927 Van Hoosen Dairy Barn
  ◦ “A Lively Town: The History of the Greater Rochester Area 1817-1952” exhibit
  ◦ Well-designed and informative temporary exhibits
  ◦ 10% discount in Museum store

The Rochester Hills Museum at Van Hoosen Farm is now a member of the National Association of Reciprocal Museum/NARM, which is an affiliation of arts, cultural and historical institutions located throughout North America, and one of the largest reciprocal membership programs in the world! We are excited to open up our newest membership category, Traveler, which will allow members at this level to receive access to reciprocal benefits such as free admission and shop discounts at over 900 institutions listed with this great organization.

Where will your Traveler Membership take you? Visit NARM’S website at www.narmassociation.org and click on NARM’s map to discover all the possibilities...

Click Here to Become a Member Today!

New Exhibits for the Museum!

The Museum has been working with the exhibit design firm, Flutter and Wow! on new exhibits for the Dairy Barn and the plans have been finalized. The exhibits include focused attention on the Taylor and Van Hoosen Families and the remarkable women from this farm as well as exhibits on local history, area businesses, new interactives, online archives, community feedback wall, selfie locations, Instagram opportunities and much, much more. The floor plan of the Dairy Barn will change as the reception desk is downsized and moved, the Museum store is relocated, the log cabin room gets a new focus and a silo gets a makeover. Fabrication will take several months.
Thirty Years and Counting

I am now in my seventh year on the Rochester Hills City Council and am honored to be in my third year as its president. My wife, Susan, and our two children moved here in 1989. This has been a great place to live, raise a family, and operate a business. Serving this City, and its residents, has been—and continues to be—a great honor and an overwhelmingly positive experience. I would recommend it to anyone. (Yes, you’ll endure a few sleepless nights but it’s worth it.)

With my own experience as context, I wanted to recognize the service of my friend and predecessor as Council President, Mr. Greg Hooper.

Greg was first hired by the City of Rochester Hills as an Engineer in 1987; thirty years ago and two years before I even moved here. In 1999, Mr. Hooper was appointed to the Planning Commission as a resident representative where he served until 2005. In 2003, he was appointed to the Brownfield Redevelopment Authority where he served until December 2006 (as a resident and Council representative).

In 2005, Greg was appointed by City Council majority vote to fill the seat vacated by Mayor Bryan Barnett. Mr. Hooper subsequently won election to that seat in 2007 and re-election (unopposed) in 2011.

Mr. Hooper was re-appointed to the Planning Commission, this time as the Council representative in 2006, and served in that capacity until 2015. He was then, again, re-appointed as a resident representative in 2016 where he continues to serve. Greg, as a Council Member and/or resident, has also served on the Human Resources and Public Safety and Infrastructure (formerly Police and Road) Technical Review Committees.

When I was first elected to City Council in 2011, Mr. Hooper was Council President. He was first elected by his Council colleagues as President in 2008 and served in that position through 2015 (when I was elected by Council as Vice President). That’s eight years as Council President.

Greg was an invaluable source of institutional knowledge that I called upon frequently in my first term on City Council and occasionally rely upon today. He has an unvarnished, no non-sense approach to policy consideration but also adjusts to rational presentations advocating different approaches to issues and concerns. Greg was firm in his convictions but quick to admit he was not the source of all wisdom. President Hooper would regularly cite former Council Vice President, Vern Pixley (whose seat I now occupy), “this is not the hill we need to die on.”

Personally, I cannot imagine serving eight years as Council President. You are asked to consider, in detail, the consequences of every budgetary and policy concern. Greg is an engineer. I am a salesman (medical-liability insurance). Engineers focus on details. In sales, we focus on a preponderance of features and benefits to justify the inevitable deficiencies that will arise, e.g., no product is perfect. Engineers are trained to anticipate and design away potential “deficiencies.”

Greg and I have different styles and methods for acting as Council’s presiding officer. One thing I learned from Greg, and rely upon today, is that the written rules, procedures and practices have meaning. Successful organizations remain firmly grounded in the documents and processes that describe their mission, purpose, authority and functions.

Thirty years and counting. Mr. Greg Hooper has served the City of Rochester Hills with great distinction and grit. He continues to serve this elite Michigan community as a resident representative.

Thank you, Greg Hooper, for your years of commitment, your guidance (patience), and your trust in me as your successor.

City Council Contact Information

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It is that time of the year again, the time of year the Moritas once again get caught with a fall/winter wreath on the door even though it is May. This year we had a good excuse, and purposefully did not take it down because of its inhabitants (see picture).

However, in the no good deed goes unpunished category, we now get squawked at by an irritated robin every time we go out the door.

That said, one angry bird has not prevented me from engaging in other good deeds. The Older Persons’ Commission, of which I am a member of its Board of Directors, is growing due to demand for services, and the professionalism and adaptability of its staff and leadership. I am proud to serve on the finance committee for this fine institution, and together as a committee we strived to institute process reforms that streamline finances while at the same time providing staff with the flexibility needed to fulfill the OPC’s changing needs. We instituted a budget policy which allows staff to operate within the budget and pay bills without having to come to the Board for approval as to every dime spent on a monthly basis.

While it may once have been practical to require monthly OPC Board approval, the now yearly expenditures in excess of $4 million dollars make Board review of every expenditure impractical. Instead, staff has a budget they are expected to keep to with exceptions requiring Board approval. This makes staff accountable, and helps the Board keep its goals focused on bigger picture issues instead of day-to-day operations. Two of the bigger picture issues are the OPC’s capital improvement schedule and the need for more parking. We are currently working on plans to expand the North parking lot, while at the same time being mindful of the needs of the facility as it ages and major items that need to be replaced, repaired or refurbished.

Avondale Youth Assistance continues its work as a non-profit community service organization committed to strengthening youth and families, and reducing the incidence of juvenile delinquency, child neglect and abuse through community involvement. In the last year, I have stepped up my involvement with this worthy organization’s Board of Directors by becoming the treasurer. This organization, driven by a volunteer Board of Directors, provides needed financial assistance and counseling for our youth. These days when tales of bullying and increasing stress of kids in our schools is becoming more common, it is crucial to have organizations like Avondale Youth Assistance available to help combat and alleviate some of the issues. The City of Rochester Hills has been, and continues to be, a proud sponsor of this organization.

The City’s Planning Commission, on which I serve as the City Council delegate, also continues its work and has been challenged in the last several months by projects attempting to fill in the few remaining developable areas in the City. For those of us who appreciate living next to a vacant parcel (myself included), a potential change in scenery can be scary and when construction starts, a hassle. Planning Commission has been consistently faced with the task of balancing the right to develop property against the expectations of neighboring property owners. This is never easy and luckily our Planning Commission whose members include an architect, civil engineer, former City Planning Director, former Councilmember, developer, and municipal attorney, has been able to draw upon the expertise of its membership when making decisions.

As always, it is a pleasure and privilege to serve our community and I thank you for allowing me to do so. I also need to thank my husband, son and our two small obnoxious dogs for putting up with my evenings away from home and allowing me the hours I need to prepare for meetings. They give up a lot to let me do what I do, and deserve their own recognition for it.

**Mark Your Calendar**

**City Offices will be closed:**

◊ Wednesday July 4, Independence Day  
◊ Monday, September 3, Labor Day

**Other Dates to Note:**

◊ Monday, June 1, Last day to renew dog licenses at the non-deliquent rate  
◊ Wednesday, June 27, Festival of the Hills  
◊ Monday, September 14, Last day to pay summer taxes without interest or penalty
Dale Hetrick - At-Large

A Smoother Trip Around Rochester Hills

Our City’s roads are important for getting our kids to school, commuting, commerce, shopping, meeting with friends, and many other purposes. Roads are consistently a high priority in our bi-annual Resident Survey and City Council Goals and Objectives.

I live near Livernois and use the road frequently for business, shopping, or dining purposes. I also have a lot of close friends who live nearby. It will not surprise you that these neighbors use language I’m unable to print here to describe the road conditions on Livernois north of Avon. Email messages from residents throughout the City fill my inbox letting me know they are less than pleased with the condition of Livernois.

Good news! We are taking on two phases of meaningful repair and renovation of Livernois. In 2018 the Road Commission for Oakland County (RCOC) will complete meaningful repair to improve ride quality and usability ahead of a planned reconstruction project. Phase 2 of major improvements to Livernois will occur in 2019 with a complete renovation and reconstruction of the Avon to Walton stretch. The City will “advance construct” the $4.5 million project as Livernois is owned by RCOC. Federal funding of $3.9 million scheduled to be released in 2021 will be used to pay the City’s investment. RCOC will repay their participatory share of the remaining $600,000, leaving the City with a total project investment of $300,000 and residents with a fully reconstructed Livernois Rd.

I’m not as frequent a user of Hamlin, however those who travel it often know it is also a mess from Adams to the City’s western border. Good news again! Hamlin will be reconstructed in 2018. The $4.6 million project is also a collaboration with RCOC. Even better news, Auburn Hills is stepping up to participate in reconstructing their portion of Hamlin. Typical of RCOC/Rochester Hills collaboration, costs for the reconstruction will be split 50/50. Additionally, the City with take ownership of this stretch of Hamlin – giving us ownership of it from border to border. Road ownership will allow the City to define the maintenance and construction schedules consistent with our Department of Public Services analysis and budgeting.

For those of you who travel Adams Road from Hamlin to Walton, I think you will either rub your eyes in disbelief or jump for joy. This is Outstanding News! Oakland University, RCOC, and Rochester Hills have come together to form a study group which is tasked with defining concept options to improve traffic flow on Adams from Hamlin to Walton. Each entity contributed approximately $26,500 to the concept plan study. For those of you who followed the Auburn Corridor Study in 2016, this project will have a similar tone – outlining options to engage our community in how best to improve traffic flow through the Adams corridor. I can’t wait to see the outcome!

Ryan Deel - District 4

As one of the newest members of the Rochester Hills City Council, I thought it would be a good idea to use my first article in the Hills Herald to introduce myself and my family.

My wife, Melinda, and I met while attending Michigan State University. We are both attorneys. She graduated from Michigan State University Law School. I graduated from Wayne State University Law School. We have lived in Rochester Hills for over 15 years. We are the proud parents of twin sons, Jack and Brennan, who attend Rochester Community Schools.

I work as a judicial staff attorney for Judge Linda Hallmark in the Oakland County Probate Court. Melinda is an attorney in private practice with her office in Rochester Hills.

I am an avid reader. Before being elected to city council, I served on the Rochester Hills Public Library Board for three years. I am also a lifelong Detroit Tigers fan.

I am so proud to be working with such a talented and hard-working group of people at City Hall. The city council members, our Mayor, and the entire city staff are all extremely dedicated to serving the residents of the city.

I am looking forward to representing the residents of the City of Rochester Hills as the council member of District 4. If you have any thoughts or concerns you would like to share with me, please email me at deelr@rochesterhills.org or call or text my city cell at 248-568-9513. If you see my family and me out and about, feel free to stop and chat.
I would like to take the opportunity to tell you about a Rochester Hills resident who in my opinion is a real-life angel. Her name is Patti Jacques. My wife and I met her in 1988, the year we moved to Rochester Hills. She was a new neighbor. That was the year Patti, with the help of some dear friends, came up with the idea to find a way to help less fortunate children in Detroit. In 1988, the first year, 187 children received Christmas gifts from GFAGC. Twenty-nine years later in 2017, this outreach has expanded and now a growing number of people in churches, private and public schools, organizations and businesses sponsor children, make donations or volunteer. In December 2017, over 3,950 children received gifts picked out especially for them. Since 1988 over 65,000 have been served by this wonderful organization. Patti Jacques is the Executive Director. Please check out their website www.giftsforallgodschildren.org. Also, I invite you to see them on Facebook. In 2015, this Christian organization won a Pinnacle Award from the Rochester Area Chamber of Commerce in the non-profit category.

On their website, you will see that they are helped by generous contributors, 26 churches, 3 area schools, and 17 businesses. This year Gifts For All God’s Children is celebrating their 30th year in operation. Take a look at how they ever expanded their services to children at risk.

They now not only serve the children of Detroit, but those in Pontiac and Flint as well.

They are now reaching out to homeless children as well as those living in shelters.

GFAGC brings year-round programs and events to help their partners engage within their community. Each program and event is designed to connect kids and their families with Christ.

Events: Valentine’s Day, Easter, Summer, Fall, and Christmas

Programs Offered: Individualized Tutoring/Mentoring, Summer Bible Camps, Overnight Camp Scholarships, Field Trips, Transportation to Sports Camps, Connecting Kids to Christ (CKC) Center, Prayer Partners for the Children, School Aid or School Supply Collection, School Uniforms, and Shoes 2 Success

Christmas in July, save the date, July 17, 2018, at Villa Penna, 43985 Hayes Rd. Sterling Heights, Call 586-991-1547 for more information.

One of my favorite stories about GFAGC reaching kids is the following one:

Macy, a single mom, struggles to provide for her son, Da’Vierre and her nephew, Brice so they’ve never been on any vacation. After they knew they were registered for camp, they were so excited. Every Sunday at church their question was the same: “How many more days before we can go to camp?” Two weeks before camp, they received all their camping gear from GFAGC: a sleeping bag, beach towel, flashlight, water bottle, a Bible, notebook and pen. Unable to contain their excitement, they kept jumping up and down shouting. Da’Vierre asked, “Is all this for me to keep . . . forever?” When they returned, they were asked to share their favorite part of camp. Brice just kept saying, “Everything, everything . . . but probably the horses and riding them was the best!” Da’Vierre said that he had never ever seen so many stars in the sky! Both boys are eagerly anticipating and hoping that they will be able to go again next year. Macy has thanked us several times for this wonderful gift for her boys. What a blessing this camp scholarship was for these two nine-year-old boys.

Thank you, Patti Jacques, for caring and sharing for All God’s Children. We are so very proud to have you in our city.
Jenny McCardell - At-Large

It is amazing to think that it is already May 2018, and I have been a city council member for the best city in the world, Rochester Hills, Michigan, for six months! I thought when I was done campaigning my life would slow down a bit... Quite the contrary! But I wouldn’t want it any other way! I’ve been learning my new role and have been being very involved in several committees and boards including the Public Safety and Infrastructure Technical Committee, the Rochester Auburn Hills Community Coalition, Rochester Area Youth Assistance, and more. Being on city council has brought a new meaning of service to my life, and I am so grateful for the opportunity to serve my neighbors!

You may know that I have three kids: Lucy, age 12 almost 13; Lucky, age 11 going into 6th grade; and Olivia (Livvy), age 2, who is the epitome of a toddler! I am also blessed that my husband, Nathan, has supported my goals and dreams as well and has been the backbone of our family throughout the campaign and now, as I take this role on City Council. If I am at an event, you will often see one of my children with me, because I believe that the value of community is the best lesson for a child. After all, we try to teach our kids how to be active and useful members of society, and Lucy, Lucky, and Livvy get a first-hand example on how to be just that!

My family and I have served various causes throughout our years in Rochester Hills, such as Blessings in a Backpack, and the Clinton River Watershed Council. My service with the City of Rochester Hills started in 2016 when I was appointed to the City’s Public Safety and Infrastructure Technical Committee. I have continued my service on this committee as a city council member. The work that is done in this committee informs City Council on different options and items that come up regarding public safety and infrastructure. Currently, we have a subcommittee that is studying mass transit in our city. This is an important subject. Whether or not one believes that this would work for Rochester Hills, it is something that the committee is studying, so we can get data behind the issue. I believe in data driven decisions and am looking forward to learning what the subcommittee brings to our attention. We will keep everyone informed along the way. Please email me at McCardellj@RochesterHills.Org if you would like to be put on my MailChimp email newsletter. I try to send updates out to residents monthly. The Public Safety and Infrastructure Technical Committee is also focusing on educating residents about our storm water infrastructure. Many residents may not realize that there are responsibilities for residents and for our city regarding storm water infrastructure maintenance. Stay tuned to the City website for announcements on this educational initiative. And as always if you have input or would like more information please feel free to email me.

The Rochester Auburn Hills Community Coalition (RAHCC) is a nonprofit that helps keep local youths off drugs and alcohol through educational initiatives and resources for youths and parents using a community partnership model. In March of this year, the RAHCC Youth Action Council hosted its annual Youth Dialogue Day where over 150 students participated in activities around the theme of mindful self-compassion. Titled #friendyourself, community partners facilitated exercises with students that examined limiting beliefs, promoted positive affirmations and combatted negative behaviors. If you’d like to learn more about the organization and see events coming up “Like” RAHCC on Facebook @RochesterAuburnHillsCommunityCoalition and check out our website at rahcc.org.

Rochester Area Youth Assistance (RAYA) is another board that I am on as a city council member. RAYA helps families in need in the Rochester Community Schools district by providing short-term counseling and casework services; financial assistance for children k-12 for skill building (sports, dance, etc.), camps, and child care; camp safari; family education, and more. If you would like to know more about RAYA, please “Like” the RAYA Facebook page @RochesterAreaYouthAssistance and check out the website at raya-mi.org.

Again, it has been a pleasure serving my community for the past six months and I look forward to each day that I have the honor of serving our city! #ilovemycommunity

Citizen Representative Boards and Commissions

An innovative way to get involved and make a difference

Are you interested in getting involved and making a difference in the City of Rochester Hills? The City is always looking for interested and engaged citizen representatives to serve on its Committees, Boards and Commissions.

Citizen representatives are appointed by the Mayor and/or City Council and meet on a monthly, quarterly or as-needed basis as noted in the Committee, Board and Commission descriptions.

Please take a moment to review the various Committees, Boards and Commissions to see which areas of the City may interest you.

If you are interested in serving on a committee, board or commission, please complete a Candidate Questionnaire [click here] and return it to the Clerk’s Department at 1000 Rochester Hills Drive, Rochester Hills, MI 48309, email clerksoffice@rochesterhills.org or by fax: 248-656-4744. For additional information, please call the Clerk’s Office at 248-656-4630.
Spring has finally sprung!! Now, we can all get outside to appreciate the great parks, and trails that surround us. We are so fortunate to have 12 great parks in our city (Nowicki, Tienken, Avon Nature Study Area Veterans Memorial Pointe, Innovation Hills, Avondale, Wabash, Thelma Spencer, Earl Borden, Helen Allen, Yates, Bloomer). I challenge you to find the location of each of these parks, then go out and enjoy them (hint: check the Maps on the city website).

Still looking from more places to explore and hike around in this spring and summer? We are lucky to have 7 Green Space areas that will never be developed: Ruby, Rivercrest, Harding, Cloverport, Clear Creek, Childress and North of Innovation Hills. The Green Space Advisory Board will have Saturday morning hikes each month to showcase these green spaces. This will enable you to go enjoy them more on your own, so please join us!

Watch my announcements for all the great 5K (3 mile) run/walks planned around our city. I have already registered for several of them. In order to stay fit for these I will be out walking on Paint Creek Trail and Clinton River Trail, I hope to see you there! Still looking for something else to do in our city? Visit the Rochester Hills Museum and check out their great programs. I love to play golf and we are very fortunate to have the Pine Trace Golf course right in our back yard. Come out and hit a bucket of balls. I look forward to seeing you while we all enjoy the great assets of Rochester Hills.

It is 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. If you are not sure what to do please call our Parks and Natural Resources department at 248.656.4673.

Please contact me by phone or email, if you have any concerns, and let me know what I can do to help! As always, I will do my utmost to listen to your views and comments, try to resolve any issues you may have, and strive to work with the City and Council on your behalf. Enjoy Our Beautiful City!

Susan Bowyer, Ph.D. - District 3

Rochester Hills Government Youth Council Hosts 5k Run/Walk

Genisys Credit Union is sponsoring the Rochester Hills Government Youth Council’s (RHGYC) 5k Run/Walk to benefit Innovation Hills, on Saturday, June 16, 2018 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.

Located at 2800 W Hamlin Road, Innovation Hills will be a destination site for Southeast Michigan to engage in outdoor discovery. The park is in the beginning stages of development that includes ten acres of pond for recreational use, miles of trails and boardwalks, a suspended bridge over the Clinton River, and the region’s largest universal play area for children of all abilities.

Please join the RHGYC in their fund raising efforts for this very worthy cause.

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 1, 2018 will receive a Race T-shirt. After June 1, T-shirts will be available for entrants while supplies last. For more information on the RHGYC and the 5k, contact Danielle Szajna, Rochester Hills Youth Council Liaison at 248-656-4630.
Festival of the Hills
June 27, 2018
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!