I was just thinking about the advent of the COVID-19 pandemic in the United States. It was on March 10 when the first two cases of coronavirus were confirmed here in Michigan. At that time, the “Stay Home, Stay Safe” initiative began and we were all thinking, or at least hoping, that the worst of the pandemic would come and go by, say, Memorial Day?

Well, it hasn’t happened quite the way we hoped, but we continue to look for light at the end of the tunnel.

The pandemic has taught me many things, but most of all it has reinforced just how grateful I am to lead this city and how impressed I am with you and our community: Your resilience. Your resolve. Your kindness. Your creativity. I have watched you donate food, make masks, pick up and deliver medicine and groceries for the home bound, and the list goes on and on. I am blessed and honored to be your Mayor.

You’ve seen what I’ve seen - and it keeps going. Our first responders continue their extraordinary service. Our residents and businesses have helped in countless other ways. Our nonprofit and faith communities are fulfilling needs and lifting spirits. And our educators, parents, and students are taking on roles, challenges and responsibilities they would have never imagined.
Continued from Page 1

Here at the City we’ve worked to make it easier for our businesses to do business.

Our city departments and City Council adopted a COVID-19 business special permit program, allowing businesses flexibility in their operations, like expanded options for outdoor seating and new temporary sign standards. We’ve turned parking lots into patios and fashionable cafes, erecting tents -- and, coming soon, igloos -- keeping people safe and warm.

Our building department helped businesses by conducting some inspections virtually instead of in-person to help move projects along. Our economic development team partnered with our local Chamber, the county and the state to promote the free business counseling and webinars offered to small businesses. We connected businesses to grant opportunities and federal business stabilization programs that translated to hundreds of thousands of dollars.

We even created a program with our recycling partner, Recyclebank, to donate points to help nonprofits who were supplying food and other services to the at-risk in our community. Those points have turned into literally thousands of dollars for Neighborhood House, Leader Dogs for the Blind, and HAVEN. Thank you!

And we continue to listen. I am participating in regular calls with Rochester Regional Chamber of Commerce members, hearing the needs of local businesses and providing regular updates on city government. I am also hosting monthly calls with local leaders that keep us connected.

Speaking of the Rochester Regional Chamber, in the weeks ahead -- and always -- I encourage you to shop and buy local. Our local businesses have earned and deserve our support. Plus, shopping local is a great experience!

Of course, a letter at this time would not be complete without mentioning Election Day. It’s safe to say that our Clerks’ Office at the City has never been busier! We are grateful for their expertise and dedication to ensure a complete and accurate count of all ballots.

Whomever you support, please vote.

Along the way, let’s continue to be a community that embraces different perspectives. I encourage you to be just as concerned about who you vote for as how you treat the people that vote differently than you do.

Again, thank you for all you do.

God Bless.

P.S. Please check out my 2020 State of the City Address! It’s a little different this year -- a 30 minute video presentation instead of an in-person extravaganza -- but, nonetheless, a celebration of all we’ve accomplished. Let me assure you that the State of Our City remains strong. You can find it at rochesterhills.org/Soc2020 and the City’s YouTube channel.

Meeting with Dr. Birx and Dr. Redford at the White House, and with Governor Whitmer
Rochester Hills Museum Young Leaders
Invite You to Join Us!

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

The Museum's Young Leaders Circle is a group of young professionals (ages 19-40) who work to support the museum's mission. This fall, we will be working hard to come up with new ways to connect our community of young adults with each other and with the museum, and to help a new generation of leaders share stories of our region's fascinating past.

We would like to invite anyone who is interested in learning more about the Young Leaders Circle to visit rochesterhills.org/museum or email Olivia Olson at oolsonl@gmail.com

Celebrating the Diverse Perspectives of Our Employees and Welcoming All

This summer, Mayor Barnett announced the formation of the City of Rochester Hills Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Employee Council. Many team members at the city expressed interest in serving on this committee and the group has been articulating its mission, the programs it plans to pursue and how it will measure its success.

“Embracing diversity in thought, perspective, background and talent is key to fostering an environment where employees feel included, valued and empowered to do their best work. It is also a hallmark of the world’s most successful organizations,” stated Barnett.

Information Systems Administrator and Council Member Sarah Olson commented, “I am passionate about accepting all people in our City and creating a safe place here for everyone. I have had the privilege to have lived in Rochester Hills my entire life and to serve as an employee for the past five years. I love the City and see this Council as an opportunity to promote kindness and acceptance.”

“We live in a City that has residents of multiple races, cultures, religions and multi-national origins,” said Jay Fakhoury, Building Inspector and Council Member. “Among other things, this Council will provide the platform to discuss, focus on and create an understanding of those of all backgrounds.”

The Council desires to reinforce the goal of making the City a workplace where differences are recognized, heard, appreciated and respected -- creating an inclusive, equitable and authentic culture that supports and celebrates the diverse perspectives of our employees and that is welcoming to all.

“I don’t like that man. I must get to know him better.”
-- Abraham Lincoln

The Fastest Way to stay connected

Twitter
https://twitter.com/RochesterHills

Facebook
https://www.facebook.com/CityOfRochesterHills

Instagram
city_of_rochester_hills

Youtube
www.youtube.com/rochesterhillsTV
So Many Reasons to Smile at OPC!

The OPC has weathered the ups and downs of this COVID pandemic well. We’re carrying on and continually planning, always hoping for the best, yet prepared to adjust course at a moment’s notice.

During this time, OPC has managed to take the extensive catalog of classes, programs and events typically offered in-house and convert many of them to virtual programs for our members to enjoy from the security of their own homes. Seniors rely on OPC programming in order to stay connected and engaged and active. This was especially true during the early days of quarantine and the extended period of isolation. The OPC also offered limited, in-person programming over the summer, thanks to a large tent erected in the beautiful OPC gardens. It was a bright spot to be able to experience friends catching up for the first time after so many months of isolation and loneliness.

Beginning in October, members will once again be able to take advantage of the indoor fitness, enrichment and art classes, weight and cardio rooms, swimming pools, woodshop and walking track. Class sizes are limited, and registration is required for entry to the building.

Members will be required to participate in a health screening which includes having their temperature taken upon entry to the building, wearing a mask at all times while in the facility, and signing a Code of Conduct/Disclaimer. Additional safety procedures and protocols, including installation of sneeze guards, hand sanitizing stations, minimized touch points, and directional signage have all been implemented to ensure the safety of members and staff.

As throughout the pandemic, OPC’s essential services, including Meals on Wheels, Transportation, and Senior Resources, all continue uninterrupted.

Thank you, Rochester Hills residents, for your loyal support of the OPC! In August, Rochester Hills, along with Rochester and Oakland Township, conveyed their trust and support with the passage of the OPC’s Operational Millage. This millage allows us to focus on the future and continue providing the service, value, and content members have come to expect. Each and every one of the employees at OPC is humbled and honored by the trust you have placed in us! The OPC is committed to keeping seniors healthy and independent, and a vibrant part of this community.

Please visit our website, opcseniorcenter.org, Facebook page, or call 248-656-1403 x0 for a listing of current programs, as well as further information on facility status.
Rochester Hills Public Library Can Help
New and Experienced Writers Sharpen Their Skills

Rochester Hills Public Library proudly supports local writers and authors. The library engages writers of all ages to practice their skills and hone their talents using research, learning resources, and workshops. Since 2013, the popular library program, Scribes, has welcomed new and experienced writers to meet regularly at the library to critique each other’s work and improve their writing. Currently, Scribes meets monthly online. Members exchange helpful information and insight into getting published. Some members are self-published, others have won awards or have been accepted to publish in traditional print publications. Writers of all genres are welcome to participate. Visit calendar.rhpl.org for meeting dates and times.

Second Annual Author Fair

In November and December, Rochester Hills Public Library and Rochester Writers will once again partner for the second annual Small Business Saturday Author Fair, highlighting local writers in a variety of genres. The Author Fair will showcase each writer on the library’s website beginning in November. Authors will be interviewed over an online platform with hosts Michael Dwyer from Rochester Writers and Tiffany Dziurman Stozicki, the library’s Community Relations Manager. On Saturday, Nov. 28 and Sunday, Nov. 29, the recorded interviews will stream on the library’s YouTube channel. Throughout December, the library and Rochester Writers will release one author interview per day online via social media. This literary event is an opportunity for the community to discover local authors and find their next great read. The virtual fair will feature a mix of traditionally published and self-published works.

Young Readers and Writers

The library’s youth storytimes and teen book clubs engage young readers, connecting them to different forms of writing, from fairytales to poetry and everything in between. Journaling programs encourage kids to write down their experiences. While music and dance programs show kids ways to write music.

For younger writers, RHPL offers the Fabulous Vocabulous Teen Writers Workshops. Young and emerging writers are encouraged to attend to share, write, and talk with fellow writers. Meetings are conducted through Discord. Writing prompts are posted on RHPL’s Facebook (@RochesterHillsPL) and Instagram (@RochesterHillsPL) channels. Visit calendar.rhpl.org for meeting dates and times.

RHPL Resources for Writers

RHPL librarians are the original search engines and can help writers with their research by finding additional resources to assist with story development. The library offers a wealth of premium online subscriptions such as Gale Courses and Databases, historical newspaper archives, reference catalogs, and more -- free with an RHPL card. Visit the library online at rhpl.org or in-person Monday-Thursday, 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., Friday and Saturday, 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., and Sunday, 1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.
Fall/Winter 2020

Auburn Pharmaceutical Company Moves to Rochester Hills

Auburn Pharmaceutical Company is a privately-held company that specializes in just-in-time logistical distribution of generic drugs to pharmacies. With a customer network of over 1,000 independent pharmacies spanning the U.S., the company specializes in providing flexible, timely inventory. Started in 1993, this family business has experienced consistent growth – in customers, product lines, operations and employees. Wanting to construct a state-of-the-art headquarters and logistical optimization center, Auburn Pharmaceutical leadership began the search for a new home. No surprise, they found it in Rochester Hills. In June, the company began construction on a new 65,000 square foot headquarters on vacant land located at the intersection of Rochester Industrial and Horizon Court.

This $9 million investment and relocation will bring 100 jobs to the community. In June, City Council approved a real property tax abatement for the construction of this new facility. This new investment will annually generate approximately $63,000 in new taxes for the City and surrounding taxing jurisdictions.

Auburn Pharmaceutical Company prides itself in being a good corporate citizen too. While in Troy, the company provided support to many local organizations including American Red Cross, Meals on Wheels and Macomb Charitable Foundation. And at a time when the community needed its corporate partners the most, Auburn Pharmaceutical graciously donated PPE equipment to our first responders. The City of Rochester Hills looks forward to welcoming Auburn Pharmaceutical Company to our growing community and appreciate their investment and commitment as a good community partner.

Shop, Support, Win!

Great shopping and free local gift cards are waiting for you!

Last spring, after the COVID-19 quarantine was lifted, Rochester Hills kicked off “Rochester Hills Restaurant Bingo,” an exciting program designed to help support our local restaurants (see cards on page 7). As a result of the success of that initiative, we have expanded our program to include local retail establishments and service facilities as well! You can now win a prize just for making purchases in Rochester Hills. Whether you are frequenting your favorite places or trying somewhere new, it pays to show it off! Thanks to several City Council members who personally donated gift cards to show their community support. You can’t win if you don’t play, and the sooner the better, because the game ends once the cards are gone.

Players have two options to win:

• Take a picture of your receipt or yourself while shopping in a Rochester Hills business. Collect three pictures from three separate businesses and email them along with your address to mayoroffice@rochesterhills.org to claim $20 in local gift cards.

• Take a picture of yourself checking out at a Rochester Hills business. Post the picture on your social media account, tagging the City of Rochester Hills’ official social media account along with the local business. Do this for three separate businesses, email those screenshots to mayoroffice@rochesterhills.org, and you’ll receive $30 in local gift cards.

With sincere thanks to President Ryan Deel, Vice President Susan Bowyer and Councilman Dale Hetrick for generously donating a variety of gift cards for this fun promotion. Supporting local businesses has been a top priority of City Council and this is one of the many ways they hope to encourage more shopping and dining in Rochester Hills.
First Time Ever - Rochester Hills Restaurant Bingo

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

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

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

Rochester Hills District 1

B I N G O

Restaurant

To play: Like any Bingo game, a straight line going down, across, or diagonal wins.

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

Once you have a bingo, email a picture of your card, your receipts, name and address to: mayorsoffice@rochesterhills.org and we will send you a $10 gift card from one of our local food establishments.

The game ends when all gift cards have been distributed.

Now, get out there and play to win!

Rochester Hills District 2

B I N G O

Restaurant

To play: Like any Bingo game, a straight line going down, across, or diagonal wins.

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

Once you have a bingo, email a picture of your card, your receipts, name and address to: mayorsoffice@rochesterhills.org and we will send you a $10 gift card from one of our local food establishments.

The game ends when all gift cards have been distributed.

Now, get out there and play to win!

Rochester Hills District 3

B I N G O

Restaurant

To play: Like any Bingo game, a straight line going down, across, or diagonal wins.

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

Once you have a bingo, email a picture of your card, your receipts, name and address to: mayorsoffice@rochesterhills.org and we will send you a $10 gift card from one of our local food establishments.

The game ends when all gift cards have been distributed.

Now, get out there and play to win!

Rochester Hills District 4

B I N G O

Restaurant

To play: Like any Bingo game, a straight line going down, across, or diagonal wins.

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

Once you have a bingo, email a picture of your card, your receipts, name and address to: mayorsoffice@rochesterhills.org and we will send you a $10 gift card from one of our local food establishments.

The game ends when all gift cards have been distributed.

Now, get out there and play to win!
Kitchen Safety is very important, especially at this time of year. The theme from the NFPA is, “Serve Up Fire Safety in the Kitchen.” This campaign works to educate everyone about simple but important actions they can take to keep themselves and those around them safe.

It is important for our residents to understand the statistics concerning kitchen fires. Across the United States fire departments responded to an estimated average of 172,100 home structure fires per year started by cooking activities in 2012-2016, or an average of 471 home cooking fires per day.

In Michigan, cooking fires originating in the kitchen are the #2 cause of fatal fires. Specific to our city, 18% of all fires in Rochester Hills homes originated in the kitchen, the highest of any room in the house.

The reason that the kitchen is the source of many fire hazards is because the kitchen is where heat, electricity, water, and grease come together. The most common type of kitchen fire is the grease fire. Many grease fires occur because someone leaves a frying pan on the stove unattended.

Rochester Hills Fire Department wants to share these safety tips to keep you from having a cooking fire.

Never leave cooking food unattended. Stay in the kitchen while you are frying, grilling or broiling. If you have to leave, even for a short time, turn off the stove.

If you are simmering, baking, roasting, or boiling food, check it regularly, remain in the home while food is cooking, and use a timer to remind you that you’re cooking.

You have to be alert when cooking. You won’t be alert if you are sleepy, have taken medicine or drugs, or consumed alcohol that makes you drowsy.

Always keep an oven mitt and pan lid nearby when you’re cooking. If a small grease fire starts, slide the lid over the pan to smother the flame. Turn off the burner, and leave the pan covered until it is completely cool.

Have a “kid-free zone” of at least 3 feet around the stove and areas where hot food or drink is prepared or carried.

“We use our kitchen all the time, and never had a fire.” That is what we hear so often after extinguishing a house fire that started in the kitchen. Most people think it will never happen to them. You must have the right attitude considering fire and cooking safety in the kitchen. This is exactly why your Rochester Hills Fire Department is out front with this information. Educating our residents that fires can happen to anyone. Don’t take risks while cooking.

We have a free kitchen safety information kit for you and your family available at Fire Department Headquarters. 1111 Horizon Ct., Rochester Hills. Again, it is free and in the lobby. Stop by and pick yours up today.

Additionally, SMOKE ALARMS are essential to your safety. They offer early warning, in a fire situation. Smoke alarms installed in the kitchen can create nuisance alarms, therefore a smoke alarm should be located in a hallway or another room, just outside the kitchen. Install smoke alarms on every level of your home, and inside every bedroom. If you are in need of smoke alarms and cannot afford to purchase them, please call 248-841-2705.

Here is one very important video link from Rochester Hills Fire Department, that your family can view and discuss to keep everyone safe. To watch, please visit rochesterhills.org/fire.

Finally, we have several safety videos for you and your family for free viewing. Keep looking as we are always adding more. To view, please visit rochesterhills.org/fire.

Be Fire Safe!
Sheriff Michael J. Bouchard has made proactive community policing and outreach a priority in addition to all the myriad of law enforcement services provided to Oakland County residents. These programs focus on raising awareness about safety issues and create a strong partnership with our community.

Since 2014, Sheriff Bouchard has been conducting ‘Coffee with the Sheriff’ events at locations around Oakland County. Designed as an informal way to have conversations with and answer questions of Oakland County residents, ‘Coffee with the Sheriff’ has been held at many different venues around Rochester Hills, including Meijer, Whole Foods Market, Cold Stone Creamery and Walmart.

In Rochester Hills, Deputy Mark Hickson serves as the Community Resource Officer. The Community Resource Officer is dedicated to strengthening the bond with Rochester Hills businesses and residents, and frequents community events and provides safety presentations upon request. Additionally, the OCSO has three School Resource Deputies serving within the Rochester School District. They work closely with youth and provide mentorship and friendship to the students within the district. This is one way the OCSO as an agency has had a positive impact on our young residents.

Each fall, the OCSO engages in several programs which directly impact the quality of life for all of Oakland County residents. Each October, as part of Women’s Self-Defense Awareness Month, the OCSO provides free women’s self-defense classes by a team of instructors who are dedicated to empowering women to protect themselves. The class includes education on techniques and skills which will help to prevent them from becoming a victim of a sexual or physical assault.

Sheriff Bouchard’s ‘Coats for the Cold’ coat drive began 33 years ago. Sheriff has continued the program on through his various roles in public service and the program has expanded greatly over the years. Collecting nearly 5,000 coats a year at collection sites around Oakland County, the coats are then distributed to several area charitable organizations, like the Rochester Area Neighborhood House, who give them to those most in need at no cost. The coat drive continues to be a success and will begin again this year in November.

Many other community programs operate throughout the year which are valuable to all residents. In 2015, the COPS-N-CRIBS program was announced as a measure designed to provide free, portable cribs to families in need of providing a safe sleep environment to an infant. It is estimated that half of infant deaths from SUIDS (Sudden Unexplained Infant Deaths) results from unsafe sleeping environments, such as soft bedding, sharing beds, or sleeping in accident prone positions. Sleep-related causes of infant death can be prevented by following safe sleep guidelines. Providing a crib to a family who needs one may save an infant’s life.

The OCSO has been teaming up with local document shredding companies for the past fourteen years to offer free confidential document shredding to Oakland County residents. The dates, times, and locations of shredding are available on the Sheriff’s website and Facebook page.

Operation Medicine Cabinet™ (OMC) was spearheaded by Sheriff Bouchard and launched in 2009, as a mechanism to address the growing problem of prescription drug abuse and misuse. OMC is a prescription drug disposal program authorized by the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA). The program serves to keep drugs out of the hands of illicit users by allowing individuals to dispose of unused or expired prescription drugs in an environmentally safe way.

Throughout the year, the OCSO continues to collect bicycles, bike accessories, tools, and parts for the Sheriff’s Re-CYCLE for Kids program. The collected bikes are refurbished and repaired and are then made available to children in various youth organizations throughout the county at no cost.

These are just a few examples of the many community outreach efforts provided by the OCSO. For more information, and for a complete list of community programs, please go to www.oaklandsheriff.com in the ‘Community Services’ section, or like the OCSO Facebook page at facebook.com/OCSOMichigan.

Sheriff Michael Bouchard, Deputy Mark Hickson, Max, Taser, and kids at Coffee with the Sheriff
Rochester Hills Building Department

In October of 2019 the Building Department began accepting applications for electrical, mechanical, and plumbing permits online.

During the COVID 19 shutdown we quickly shifted gears to begin accepting building permit applications online also. Paper copies of plans could be dropped off in the City drop box or mailed to us. Even though we were not able to issue any permits until the stay-at-home order was lifted, we continued to review plans and prepare permits for issuance so that once the construction industry was able to resume working these permits could be issued.

Over the summer months we trained on a new software which would allow us to accept and review plans electronically.

On September 1, 2020, we announced that we are now able to accept permit applications and plans electronically online. Designers and homeowners can attach their documents for review and pay the application and permit fees online also. When the permit is ready to issue, the approved plans are sent to the applicant electronically so they can then print them out and have them on site for future inspections.

So now, a project can be applied for, documents uploaded, fees paid, and permits issued without a person needing to leave the comfort of their home or office! Welcome to the future!

If you have any questions regarding the permit process, please contact the Building Department at 248-656-4615, or visit our website at www.rochesterhills.org

Basketball Hoops

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

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

Don’t Forget About That Sidewalk

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

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

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

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

Thank you for your efforts to keep the sidewalks in our community clear and safe for everyone to use.
The other day, a conversation was overheard in the lumber department of one of our local “do-it-yourself” stores. An excited homeowner was explaining to the clerk that he could not wait to get started on the big deck he was planning on building during the upcoming weekend. He and his family were ready to really enjoying their backyard.

The clerk smiled and asked the guy if he had gotten his Building Permit yet. The homeowner scrunched up his nose, frowned, and replied that he didn’t need a permit, that permits were for people that didn’t know what they were doing, that permit fees were just another form of taxes, and if he pulled a permit, his property taxes would just go up anyways. There was just no way he was going to pull a permit for his project.

I shook my head and thought, “Wow! Even in this day and age people still do not understand that permits and inspections are all for their safety!

So, what “safety” items do permits and inspections cover?

Many! For example, did you know that:

There were at least 30 deaths reported between 2000 and 2008 as a direct result of deck collapses. More than 75 percent of people on a deck when it collapses are injured or killed. Inspections for decks under a Building Permit greatly reduce the chance of deck or railing failure by ensuring proper connections between structural members have been made.

Every year an estimated 3,000 people lose their lives in residential fires. About 2/3 of home fire deaths occur in homes with no smoke alarms or no working smoke alarms. Smoke alarms are checked for proper operation by Building Inspectors while they inspect projects that require permits, which helps reduce the risk of home fire deaths.

Young children, especially those younger than 4 years old, can easily find and fall into bodies of water like pools or hot tubs. Barriers that are required around pools and hot tubs, self closing and self latching gates, and door alarms, all items that help prevent drowning accidents, are inspected for proper operation and safety when a Building Inspector inspects under a pool permit.

Preventing falls from windows is important to consider, as an estimated 12 children 10 years old or younger die each year, and more than 4,000 are treated in hospital emergency rooms for window fall related injuries. Recent changes in Building Codes now require Inspectors to make sure new windows in second story projects are properly installed to greatly reduce the chance of window fall related injuries.

Roughly 3,600 disabling electrical contact injuries occur every year, along with another 4,000 non-disabling injuries. Electrical Inspections to inspect work done under electrical permits greatly reduces the risk of electrocution due to improper grounding, overloaded circuits, loose connections, and defective parts.

The installation of a furnace or hot water heater seem simple enough, but if it is not installed properly it can be deadly. Mechanical inspectors check for proper gas line connections and ventilation to make sure there are no gas or carbon monoxide leaks into your home.

There may be any number of reasons why someone might not want to pull a permit for the work they are doing. However, none of them, can hold a candle to the sense of safety an approved inspection by qualified inspectors can offer on a “job well done.”

The Rochester Hills Building Department has trained professional ICC certified and state registered inspectors looking out for your safety every day….that is why permits are required. Our sole purpose is to make sure the building built in Rochester Hills are safe for all to enjoy.

Please give us a call or email if you have questions about when or why a permit is required? You can reach us at 248-656-4615, or visit the Rochester Hills Building Department website at www.rochesterhills.org.
Winter Heating Alert

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Install carbon monoxide alarms at least 15 feet from any combustion appliance, such as a gas or oil furnace, oven, water heater or dryer.

If you have a plug in detector, make sure you do not install it in an outlet that is controlled by a light switch or dimmer or in an area where in can be easily knocked off of the wall.

Carbon monoxide is roughly the same weight as air and distributes evenly throughout a room. A carbon monoxide alarm will be effective whether it is placed at the floor or ceiling level, or anywhere in between.

If you choose to buy a detector, choose one that is tested and approved by the National Standards Institute and follow the manufacturer’s installation instructions. If you have any kind of fuel burning equipment to heat your home, dry your clothes, or cook your food, take the time right now to get them checked out before the winter season to assure the safety of everyone in the home.
The City of Rochester Hills is offering free street trees to Rochester Hills property owners and businesses in 2021. The first 250 property owners and businesses to register this winter/spring may have a tree planted on the public right-of-way adjacent to their property. The trees will be planted, maintained, and guaranteed for one year by the City’s landscape contractor. The Forestry unit of the Parks and Natural Resources Department will work with the property owner to determine the specific location following the City’s street tree ordinance guidelines. Orders must be received by the first Saturday in March, 2021.

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

Spring 2021 Free Street Tree Planting Program

The City of Rochester Hills is offering free street trees to Rochester Hills property owners and businesses in 2021. The first 250 property owners and businesses to register this winter/spring may have a tree planted on the public right-of-way adjacent to their property. The trees will be planted, maintained, and guaranteed for one year by the City’s landscape contractor. The Forestry unit of the Parks and Natural Resources Department will work with the property owner to determine the specific location following the City’s street tree ordinance guidelines. Orders must be received by the first Saturday in March, 2021.

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

Balancing private property development rights and protection of our community canopy through City Tree Ordinance restrictions is a difficult needle to thread. City Council and Mayor Barnett, recognizing the need for tighter restrictions, authorized changes in the City Tree Code in the fall of 2019. This code raised the rate of tree protection to 40%, and made significant changes to the following:

1. The code now covers the entire City, including commercial, industrial and all residential areas. Previously the code covered only residential areas, and had an exclusion for residential areas plotted prior to 1984.
2. Large trees are better protected. Previously the code required developers to plant trees or pay into the city tree fund on a one-for-one basis of each tree taken down, whether the tree was 8 inches in diameter or 24 inches in diameter. So you could cut down a 24 inch tree and replace it with a 2 inch diameter tree. Now when trees above a certain size are taken down they must be replaced for 50% of their diameter. So if a 24 inch diameter tree is taken down it must be replaced with 12 inches of new trees (6 new 2” trees).

City Forestry issues are managed by the Parks and Natural Resources Department. For more information call 248-656-4673 or email: forestry@rochesterhills.org

Replacing the Tree Canopy – We Need Your Help

Developers are required to pay into the City’s Tree Fund for trees they cut down. This fund is used to plant trees around the City to promote our community canopy. We offer two programs funded 100% through the City Tree Fund:

Our Free Street Tree Program, where trees get planted in the road right-of-way in front of where you live or have your business.

New this year is the Community Canopy Program, where smaller trees are ordered directly by you, location selected by you through the Arbor Day website and GIS system, and then planted by you.

Why do we need your help? We need more planting sites, especially for the Free Tree Program. For steps on how to order a tree, please see page 13 in this Hills Herald.

For more info visit www.rochesterhills.org/trees

Christmas Tree Recycling

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

In addition, the City of Rochester Hills will once again allow its residents to dispose of natural Christmas trees by dropping them off this January at the Clinton River Watershed Council; 1115 W. Avon Road (south side of Avon Road, just west of Livernois Road) on the following dates and times ONLY:

- Saturday, January 2, 2021 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
- Sunday, January 3, 2021 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
- Saturday, January 9, 2021 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
- Sunday, January 10, 2021 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

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

- Residents of Rochester Hills may drop off trees during the announced days and hours only.
- Trees shall be dropped off at the designated area only.
- The trees will be processed through a wood chipper therefore only natural Christmas trees will be accepted. All non-woody material, e.g., lights and wires, ornaments, rope, garland, stands and braces, bagging, etc., must be removed BEFORE drop off.
- No mass or commercial disposal is permitted.
- No trash or other woody debris disposal is permitted.
Outdoor Fun for All this Fall!

Check out what programs the City of Rochester Hills Parks and Natural Resources Department has to offer this fall and winter to encourage residents to get outdoors!

As summer programming wraps up, such as Kayaking, River Floats, Outdoor Adventure Camps, and Scavenger Hunts, this fall and winter is sure to provide some fun and educational opportunities. Join our Naturalists, Lance and Lauren, this fall for programs including our annual Hoot n’ Howl Hayride, Campfire and Night Hike, S’mores and Stars, Outdoor Survival, and much more. Other popular annual programs including Snow Fort and Campfire, Reptile Roundup, Sap-to-Syrup and Antler Amble will be scheduled as we get into the New Year.

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

Rochester Hills Parks and Natural Resources Department offers programs designed to encourage residents of all ages to get outdoors throughout this fall and winter. Join us!

Tree Maintenance Reminder

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

Although some work will occur in various locations throughout the city, the main emphasis of the 2020-2021 program will be in the northwestern portions of the city.

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

Anyone with questions about the program or its requirements can contact the City arborists at 248-656-4673.
The Natural Splendor of Innovation Hills
“A Park for a New Generation”

Innovation Hills will delight you by day and dazzle you by night.

Uniquely shaped sensory gardens appeal to every age and ability.

Cross the flowing water bridge between the two ponds.

Native wildflowers and grasses provide natural storm water control.

The kayak landing allows kayakers to come ashore and explore.

Scenic boardwalks and trails take you right through nature.
Our Newest Park is a Place of Awe and Wonder for All to Enjoy!

While 11 acres are undergoing transformation, 107 acres are being preserved and restored.

Spectacular glow-in-the-dark pathways found only here.

Guests of all abilities can enjoy the park thanks to our wheelchair accessible pathways.

Dual ponds are enhanced by an overlook and a water wall feature.

Coming soon: our three story tree playground!

Recent groundbreaking on the much anticipated all-inclusive $3.5 million playground.
Deer Awareness in Rochester Hills

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

What You Can Do
Observe “Deer Crash Area, Use Caution” message boards that the city places in deer/vehicle collision hotspots throughout the City from October through December.

If you see one deer, slow down. Chances are there are others nearby and be especially alert for deer at dusk and dawn (remember, flashing your high-beam headlights or honking will not deter deer).

If a Crash is Unavoidable
Don’t swerve! Brake firmly, hold on to the steering wheel, stay in your lane and bring your vehicle to a controlled stop.

Pull off the road, turn on your emergency flashers and be cautions of other traffic.

Don’t attempt to remove a deer from the roadway and report the crash to the nearest police agency.

Deer Feeding Ban
Remember it is unlawful to feed deer. Efforts to decrease the large deer population, traffic hazards, deer/human interaction, the spread of deer-related diseases, and damage to private property resulted in City Council passing a citywide ban on feeding deer in Rochester Hills in 2008. It is unlawful to place on the ground, or within 5 feet of the ground, any fruit, berries, grain, vegetables, nuts, salt or other edible materials that may attract or feed deer unless such materials are covered or protected in a way to prevent deer from feeding on them.

Dogs, Deer and You
It is during this time of year, when male deer (bucks) are going through the “rut.” This can cause their behavior to change and cause them to be more bold and aggressive. So keep your distance. Also, during the spring when fawns are being born, there have been reports of aggressive deer towards dogs. Female deer (does) in the spring, while protecting their fawns, have injured dogs and shown an indifference to human intervention. Accompanying your leashed pet when outside during the spring is the most effective way to protect your dog. Using scare tactics like spraying the deer with a garden hose, making loud noises and generally scaring the deer away may also help in deterring them.

Visit our website at rochesterhills.org/deer to learn more.

Your Next Summer Job – Make a Difference - Be a Lifeguard!
Sure summer is a long way off and maybe you don’t have to warm up to get a job working at your local fast food restaurant, but what if you want something a little more fun, exciting and rewarding? It’s time to starting thinking about becoming a Rochester Hills Parks Lifeguard! Lifeguards at Rochester Hills’ Spencer Park receive training to create confident, informed and action motivated individuals for life. Strong swimmers who want to help others are our bread and butter. If you think this might be you, keep your swim skills honed this winter and an eye on our lifeguard web page for upcoming employment tests and info. www.rochesterhills.org/lifeguard.

Your next summer job could be making a difference at Rochester Hills Parks!
Winter Taxes Due February 16, 2021

The Winter Tax amounts will be available on 11/4/2020 rochesterhills.org/taxlookup

The 2020 Winter Property Tax bills will be mailed out mid-November and are due on Tuesday, February 16, 2021. Postmark will not be honored so please allow, as the post office recommends, 5 business days for first class postal delivery. Payments placed in the City drop box - located in front of our visitor parking lot - by midnight on February 16, 2021 will be considered on-time. Also, payments placed by midnight February 16 via credit/debit card or electronic check on our payment system will also be considered on-time. On February 17, a 3% penalty will be added to the unpaid balance of all 2020 property taxes. Please note: If your 2019 property taxes or any amount of your 2019 property taxes went delinquent (were unpaid as of March 2, 2020) a notification may appear on your 2020 tax bills. This is a State law requirement. Beginning March 2, 2021 unpaid 2020 property taxes become delinquent and must be paid to the Oakland County Treasurer with additional late fees.

We offer Recurring Automatic Bill Payment for property taxes (and water/sewer bills) using your specified checking or savings account. Do yourself a favor, and sign-up in one-step for this convenient and time-saving service via our new online enrollment form with electronic signature! This service allows you to choose your tax payments to take place on either the summer and winter tax due dates or the summer tax due date and the last business day of December for the winter tax. For those enrolled in this service, your 2020 Winter Tax payment will take place either on Tuesday, December 31, 2020 or the due date of Tuesday, February 16, 2021 - whichever you designated. Enrollees who provide an email address will receive an email reminder of the pending payment withdrawal approximately two weeks prior to the withdrawal dates. Also, the tax bill will indicate your enrollment in automatic payment and the withdrawal date. For online enrollment and our other convenient payment options, please visit Treasury Division’s Payment Options page www.rochesterhills.org/paytaxes.

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

2021 Dog License Renewal at City Treasury Department

State law requires all dogs four months and older to be licensed. The primary purpose of the dog license is to ensure that the pet is current with their rabies vaccination. To obtain a dog license, a current rabies vaccination certificate is required. The 2021 dog licenses will be available for renewal this December. If you have a rabies certificate valid through 2023, you have the option to purchase a three-year dog license good through 2023.

Dog licenses can be purchased online through Oakland County’s site at www.oakgov.com/petadoption or at the City of Rochester Hills Treasury Division. The 2021 dog licenses can be purchased at the City’s Treasury Division for the non-delinquent fee beginning Tuesday, December 1, 2020 through Tuesday, June 1, 2021. If you plan to renew the license at the City in December, please contact us at 248 656-4675 to verify we have received the dog licenses from the County. For more information you may visit the City’s website at www.rochesterhills.org/doglicense.

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

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

The 1927 Van Hoosen Dairy Barn was one of the centerpiece buildings in the dairy operation at the Van Hoosen Farm. Dr. Sarah Van Hoosen Jones operated the farm as the fifth generation of her family and utilized scientific management to create one of the best Holstein breeding farms in the world. Dr. Van Hoosen was fluent in five languages and welcomed guests from around the world who purchased bulls from this farm. After her death in 1972, the Farm was donated to Michigan State University. The City of Rochester Hills acquired the property in 1989 and initiated an adaptive reuse of the Dairy Barn into Museum exhibit/office/event space in 1999. In 2019, the roof replacement was identified as an emergency replacement project after the City of Rochester Hills had several structural engineers review the roof structure, as well as our risk managers and historic architect who determined the entire roof structure needed to be replaced. Its construction in 1927 no longer meets the structural codes of today.

The rebuilding of the Equipment Barn is also taking place at the Museum. Built in the early 1900s, the building housed cattle in the lower level and delivery trucks on the upper level. The Equipment Barn is part of the long-range plan to accurately interpret the Van Hoosen Farm and will be built as an exact replica and on the exact site of the original building that was removed in 1999 as it collapsed. The upper level will be used to store equipment and supplies that support the Museum daily and program operations. This new storage area will allow the historic Milk House and Bull Barn to be open for public tours and no longer require them to be used for storage. The lower level will contain artifacts that will interpret various Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) themes by utilizing Museum artifacts and farm equipment.

The Museum continues to raise funds to support the exhibits in various buildings and to improve technology to provide a rich, inspiring message to our guests. Besides local history exhibits, the Museum has a local history archive collection, conference rooms, and various multipurpose spaces that can host weddings, receptions, graduation and anniversary parties, and various private events. Besides generous support from the Rochester Hills City Council, the Museum has received private donations and financial support from the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs. However, fundraising is continuing to complete the final details.

Do you want to contribute to support these historic preservation efforts at the Museum and in your Community?

Visit our website at rochesterhills.org/musdonate or contact the Museum at 248-656-4663.
Squirrel’s Ears and Santa’s Cookies: The Rhythms of 2020

“Plant corn and beans when elm leaves are the size of a squirrel’s ear, when oak leaves are the size of a mouse’s ear, when apple blossoms begin to fall, or when dogwoods are in full bloom.”

Since 1792, The Farmer’s Almanac has been predicting the rhythms of nature. Wait, what’s an almanac? In the 1600s this would be an unthinkable question, as these books were best sellers with over 400,000 produced annually. Almanacs offer a yearly calendar with astronomical information, weather forecasts, seasonal guidelines for farmers, political discussions, jokes, helpful tips, recipes, and games.

Though at the moment we may feel the rhythm of our lives has been disrupted, hurtling down a road of uncertainty, a look to the rhythm of nature offers a chance of stability and consistency. Seasons come and go. And YES, in Michigan it may feel like we have 3 seasons in one week, but at least we know and predict such weather here.

At the Rochester Hills Museum at Van Hoosen Farm, our staff has also been trying to offer some sort of consistency and stability, keeping family traditions alive, offering a seasonal calendar of events, helpful tips, and games. Winter will be no different. So go ahead, throw on those boots and scarves – stretch those legs, get out and safely explore our amazing city!

Old-Fashioned Christmas
Saturday, December 19 12:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Advance Tickets Only
Register by noon the day before
Join us for old-fashioned holiday fun! Enjoy chestnuts roasted over an open fire, watch talented dancers in mini performances of Tchaikovsky’s Nutcracker, visit Lance and Lauren from our Outdoor Engagement team to learn about the mammals and natural resources of Stony Creek, and enjoy live music. Whether you want to craft, relax with a snack, learn some local history, snap spectacular winter photos, enjoy live music, or explore nature - this event is for you! Please dress for the weather, as most of this event is held outdoors and spread out across the Museum grounds and buildings. More details will be on the Museum website and sent upon registration.

Coming Events

A Visit with Santa and Mrs. Claus
Saturday, December 5
9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Register online: rochesterhills.org/musprograms
Limited tickets sold per hour/advance registration is required.
Santa and Mrs. Claus have set aside this day to visit the children of our community at the Museum! After visiting with Santa and sharing that Christmas list, guests enjoy Santa’s favorite cookies and apple juice. This year, guests will be asked to stay in their car until it is their turn to visit. Masks are required at all times, even for photos with Santa. Want a holiday photo without a mask? We will have a beautiful backdrop set up outside on the museum grounds for individual families to use. Remember to bring your camera!

Brown Bag Lunch Series:
Rochester in the 1960s - ZOOM
Thursday, November 5 Noon – 1:00 p.m.
The 1960s in Rochester triggered our community’s growth for decades to come regarding our population, schools, hospitals, roads, and businesses. What was life like as we transitioned from a rural, agricultural community to a suburban community? Join Rochester Hills Museum Manager Patrick McKay on a Zoom presentation. Free. Registration required.

Smart Town Series:
Pearl Harbor & The Battle of Midway
By Frank Cardimen, Oakland University Professor and Smart Towns Co-Founder
Wednesday, November 11, 2020 7:00 p.m.
The attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941 and the Battle of Midway in 1942 changed the course of World War II and the world in just six months. Oakland University professor Frank Cardimen will discuss the issues and actions leading up to these two historic events, as well as how each event changed the course of history. Free. Registration required.

Now is the perfect time to become a member of the Rochester Hills Museum at Van Hoosen Farm!
To discover the benefits of membership, please visit our website at rochesterhills.org/museum

Smart Towns Program
Smart Towns is a lifelong learning program led by educational, non-profit organizations in Rochester, Rochester Hills, and Oakland Township. The Smart Towns ‘partners’ work together to provide a unique series of programs exploring one theme for the year. The 2020 theme is Events That Changed the World. For a full schedule visit https://smarttowns.rhpl.org.
This year has been a very productive year with the delivery of several significant infrastructure projects and intense routine maintenance throughout our city.

For example, your DPS teams worked countless days and nights to clear snow from 280+ miles of roadway, addressed and assisted in all resident concerns that came into our department, and developed and administered over $25 million dollars of public infrastructure projects. Overall, we have had a banner year.

Here are some of the major projects either completed or under way in 2020:

- Auburn Road Corridor and Plaza
- Water Main replacement projects in Bedford Square, Tienken Court and Glidewell Subdivision
- Crooks Road Pathway Gaps and Rehabilitation
- Asphalt Rehabilitation Program
- Concrete Rehabilitation Program
- Dequindre Road from South Blvd to Collins
- Rochester Road from Avon Rd to the Clinton River
- MDOT Preventative Maintenance:
  - M-59: Crooks to Woodward
  - Rochester Rd: Avon to Clinton River Bridge
- Restoring Clinton River flow to the Yates Dam
- Road Commission of Oakland County (RCOC) completion of Adams and Tienken signal upgrades

- RCOC preservation overlays:
  - Avon Rd: Livernois to Dequindre
  - Livernois Rd: Walton Blvd to Tienken
- RCOC Traffic Signal Upgrade at Tienken and Adams

As the construction year comes to a close, we are finishing up projects and preparing for another winter season. While seasonable events like construction projects and winter road conditions are an unavoidable inconvenience, we sincerely appreciate the support shown to the members of our DPS team.

We appreciate your concern and consideration when you see the snowplow on your street or notice the road workers doing their jobs. **Road maintenance and safety is an ongoing project that requires constant attention, especially here in Michigan.**

The goal of our department is to provide safe roads in all seasons, reliable water and sewer services to your home, clear comprehensible street signs, outstanding pathways, stormwater management, and fleet service operations.

Together these services enhance our vibrant community and help make Rochester Hills the premier community of choice to live, work, and raise a family.

Our success would not be possible without your support. Thank you again for your patience and understanding throughout the construction season and into the winter months.

We look forward to serving our residents and businesses with all of your public service needs.
The City of Rochester Hills maintains over 280 miles of major and local roads including 620 cul-de-sacs. Department of Public Services (DPS) employees from the Roads/Pathways and Water/Sewer Divisions work collectively to effectively and efficiently remove snow from our road network.

During a winter storm visit rochesterhills.plowtracker.com to track the snow clearing efforts of the City’s plow trucks.

**How you can help:**
- Sidewalks – please maintain your sidewalks for safe pedestrian use
- Remove vehicles and other objects such as garbage cans from the street during a snow storm
- Do not blow or shovel snow into the street
- Contractors hired for snow removal cannot push/remove snow from a private property into or across the street... it is the LAW
- Be patient and allow enough time for the team to safely clear the roads and pathways
- Stay back, give plow trucks room to work
- Report concerns to 248-656-4685

**Helpful Tips for Fall and Winter**
- When leaves are falling take care to keep them out of waterways and away from storm drains
- Mow your lawn three inches high to help hold in moisture, reduce stress and shade out weeds
- Fall is the perfect time to aerate lawn to help it “breathe”
- When using pesticides for pest and weed problems, maintain a 10-25 foot buffer along waterways
- In the winter, help prevent stormwater pollution by using environmentally safe deicing products
- To prevent frozen water pipes, consider turning off your water if you leave for an extended amount of time. You can shut the valves off before and after the meter or for a fee have the City shut off the water at the street

To gain greater insight into our operations, please visit the City website at rochesterhills.org/dps.
CITY OF ROCHESTER HILLS
NOTICE OF ELECTION
FOR THE NOVEMBER 3, 2020 GENERAL ELECTION

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

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a General Election will be held in the City of Rochester Hills, Oakland County, Michigan on Tuesday, November 3, 2020 from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. for the purpose of electing candidates for the following offices:

**PRESIDENTIAL**
President and Vice President of the United States

**CONGRESSIONAL**
United States Senator, Representative in Congress

**LEGISLATIVE**
Representative in State Legislature

**STATE BOARDS**
State Board of Education, Regent of the University of Michigan, Trustee of Michigan State University, Governor of Wayne State University

**COUNTY**
County Executive, County Executive Term Ending 12/31/2020, Prosecuting Attorney, Sheriff, Clerk/Register of Deeds, Treasurer, Water Resources Commissioner, County Commissioner

**JUDICIAL**
Justice of Supreme Court, Judge of Court of Appeals – 2ND District Incumbent Position, Judge of Circuit Court – 6TH Circuit Incumbent Position, Judge of Circuit Court – 6TH Circuit Non-Incumbent Position Term Ending 01/01/2025, Judge of Circuit Court – 6TH Circuit Non-Incumbent Position, Judge of Probate Court Incumbent Position, Judge of District Court – 52ND District, 3RD Division Incumbent Position

**COMMUNITY COLLEGE**
Board of Trustees Member Oakland Community College

**LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**
Board Member Avondale School District, Board Member Rochester Community School District, Board Member Rochester Community School District Term Ending 12/31/2022

And to vote on the following proposals:

**PROPOSAL 20-2**
A proposed constitutional amendment to require a search warrant in order to access a person’s electronic data or electronic communications

**COUNTY**
Millage Replacement and Increase to Improve, Operate, and Maintain Parks, Open Space Areas, Trails, and Recreation Activities in Oakland County, Michigan

Full text of the proposals may be obtained from the Rochester Hills City Clerk’s Office or on our website at: www.rochesterhills.org/elections

A sample ballot may be viewed at www.rochesterhills.org

Persons with disabilities needing accommodations should contact the Clerk’s office
The polling places for the November 3, 2020 General Election are as follows:

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

The following precincts are located in their normal locations:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Precinct #</th>
<th>Current Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>North Hill Elementary School, 1385 Mahaffy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Reuther Middle School, 1430 E Auburn Rd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>West Middle School, 500 Old Perch Rd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Van Hoosen Middle School, 1339 N Adams Rd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Rochester High School, 1361 Walton Blvd.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Brewster Elementary School, 1535 Brewster Rd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Reuther Middle School, 1430 E Auburn Rd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Hamlin Elementary School, 270 W Hamlin Rd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>West Middle School, 500 Old Perch Rd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Brooklands Elementary School, 490 E Auburn Rd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Meadow Brook Elementary School, 2350 Munster</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Rochester Adams High School, 3200 W Tienken Rd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Long Meadow Elementary School, 450 Allston</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Brooklands Elementary School, 490 E Auburn Rd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Hart Middle School, 6500 Sheldon Rd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>Rochester Adams High School, 3200 W Tienken Rd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>Van Hoosen Middle School, 1339 N Adams Rd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>Hampton Elementary School, 530 Hampton Circle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>Rochester Adams High School, 3200 W Tienken Rd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>Reuther Middle School, 1430 E Auburn Rd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32</td>
<td>Hart Middle School, 6500 Sheldon Rd</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

Absentee ballots are available at the Rochester Hills City Clerk’s Office, 1000 Rochester Hills Drive, Rochester Hills, Michigan 48309. The Clerk’s Office is open Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.; Tuesday and Thursday from 8:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.

The Clerk’s Office will be open on Saturday, October 24, 2020 and October 31, 2020 from 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

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

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

Rochester Hills Veterans Day Ceremony

The annual Veterans Day Ceremony will be held at Veterans Memorial Pointe on Wednesday, November 11 starting at 11:00 a.m. sharp. Guest speakers will be Bryan K. Barnett, Mayor of Rochester Hills, and Post Commanders from our local VFW, DAV and American Legion Posts.

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

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

Enroll in Quick Subscribe

No one likes an emergency, but here is the best way to stay informed when they occur!

Our Emergency Notification System is called Quick Subscribe. When enrolled, you will be notified immediately through text messages and/or email when an emergency situation occurs. You can also be notified about public meetings, parks news and events, ordinance changes and more. You’ll even have the opportunity to subscribe to information regarding other cooperating communities and organizations!

ENROLLMENT IS EASY:
2. Enter your email or mobile number and choose Submit.
3. Then choose the items or categories that interest you.

Fall/Winter 2020
JOIN US IN OUR VIRTUAL WORKSHOPS!

Previously, an online survey was released in order to learn about your transportation priorities. To see how your input has helped shaped the plan and continue to give feedback, join us during our Virtual Public Workshops on Monday, November 9th at 7:00 P.M. and Thursday, January 7th at 7:00 P.M.

Monday, November 9th meeting link: https://mksk.zoom.us/j/93333927057
Thursday, January 7th meeting link: https://mksk.zoom.us/j/97324578303

Please visit the Rochester Hills website https://www.rochesterhills.org/ for more information and to gain access to the workshops. These meetings will be recorded so if you are unable to attend live, you can listen to the presentations and discussion on our website. An online survey will also be available after the workshops for you to provide feedback.

WE NEED YOUR INPUT!

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:
Paul Davis, P.E
City Engineer/Deputy DPS Director - DPS/ENG
City of Rochester Hills, MI
248-656-4640 | davisp@rochesterhills.org
Rochester Hills City Council

Ryan Deel - President - District 4

Resident Legislative Input

I wanted to take a moment to thank some very special people who volunteer their time and talents to making our community a better place. Every agenda item that comes before the City Council has, very likely, been first reviewed and voted upon by a resident-driven Board, Commission or Committee. There are thirty (30) different Boards, Commissions and Committees made up of appointed residents, City employees and City Council Members. On average, each City Council Member sits on seven (7) different resident-driven Boards, Commissions and/or Committees.

Whether it’s managing the deer population, approving a liquor license, considering a conditional use / wetlands / tree removal permit or supporting any number of organizations that work with area youth, the issue is first reviewed—and recommendations voted upon—by a resident-driven Board, Commission or Committee. In all, some one hundred twenty-six (126) residents serve our City in this policy review capacity. This work involves countless hours of preparation and meeting attendance.

These resident-driven review / recommendation efforts are an integral part of our City’s policy-making process. It should provide great comfort to every Rochester Hills resident to know that most policy changes have been reviewed, questioned, deliberated and voted upon by a half-dozen or more fellow residents before being considered by City Council. I am so proud of, and grateful for, our civic-minded residents, who volunteer their time to make our city a better place!

So, here is a big THANK YOU to all the Rochester Hills residents who currently serve on a policy Board, Commission or Committee. Please check out the list below (hope I didn’t miss anyone) and offer these individuals your own expression of gratitude the next time you see them!

Peter Arbour
Monique Balaban
Tracey Balint
Deborah Barno
Ryan Barrett
Peter M. Beightol
Hannah Bennett
Thomas Blackstone
Roche (Rock) Blanchard
Penny Brady
Werner Richard (Rick)
Braun, III
Deborah Brnabic
Jeremy Brown
Joe Bruce
Monique Balaban
Tracey Balint
Deborah Barno
Ryan Barrett
Peter M. Beightol
Hannah Bennett
Thomas Blackstone
Roche (Rock) Blanchard
Penny Brady
Werner Richard (Rick)
Braun, III
Deborah Brnabic
Jeremy Brown
Joe Bruce
Caroline Bull
Kristin Bull
Christina Calderwood
Gerald Carvey
Bill Chalmers
Denise Chambers
Don Cline, Jr.
Ernest W. Colling, Jr.
Linda Conat
John Dalton
Allen R. Decker
Gerard Detloff
Annice (Anne) Marie
Dieters-Williams
Sean Donovan
Aman Dosanjh
Jeff Duperon
Michael E. Ellis
Ken Elwert
LaVerne Farmer
Dr. Steven Fite
Kathleen Fitzgerald
John Gaber
Michele Gage
Chad Gietzen
Garry Gilbert
Pamela Gordon
Julie Granthen
Jayson Graves
Henry Hall
Namair Haq
Daniel Hauser
Orville Hoksch, Jr.
Tim Holden
Greg Hooper
Scott Hunter
Philip Hurst
Jessica Hymnkiw
Zef Ivanaj
Maya Iyer
Darlene Janulis
Beverly Jasinski
Robert Justin
Nicholas O. Kaltzounis
Michael Kaszubski
Ann Kochanski
Kenneth Koluch
Ken Krajewski
Jim Kubicina
Philip Leach
Kelly Lyons
Jean Malatesta
James Handy Mallon
Chris McCracken
David McCracken
Michael McGuire
Michael McGunn
Andrea Merritt
Carl Moore
Carol Morlan
Bella Morris
Heidi Morris
Eugene Mroz
Johnathan Muenk
James B. Nachtmann
Zena Nasiri
Marvie Neubauer
Thomas Neveau
Gary Nicks
John Paille
Rophin Paul
Anna Pearcy
Samantha Phillips
Shreya Pillai
Clara Pinkham
Vern Pixley
Thomas Pozolo
Linda Raschke
David Reece
Nancy Ritter
Julie Rogalski
Katharine Rogers
Jason Sakis
Keith Sawdon
Elisa Shoukis
C. Neall Schroeder
Dr. Heather Sellick
Mark Sera
Stephan Slavik
Aden Smith
Ryan Smith
Micheline Sommers
Richard Stamps
Del Stanley
Terry Stephens
Tom Stephens
Jon Strunk
Scott Struzik
Carrie Symonds
Jason Thompson
Charles (Chip) Tischer
Joseph Trecola
Thomas Turnbull
Maya Vijayakumar
Dr. Tate Vo
Ben Weaver
LaVere Webster
Suzanne White
Suzanne Wiggins
Dana Williams
Therice Williams
Kenneth Wissbrun
Yitian Zhang
Fall has arrived!

The trees and shrubs are all changing colors and Innovation Hills is looking especially beautiful this year. The trails are all open and provide great walking loops to enjoy nature and fresh air. The Paint Creek Trail and Clinton River Trail are both great walking locations to take in the fall colors. I hope to see you out there. The City provides many great outdoor engagements that you can join all year long. Visit the rochesterhills.org/outdoor to see a list of all the great things to do. Remember along with fall comes the deer in the roads especially as the night comes earlier. Please stay alert for deer crossing the roads.

Thank you so much to every resident for doing their part to stop the spread of COVID-19. Most of us stayed home this summer and spent quality time with family. It was great to see our community come together and help each other. Thank you to all the health care workers, first responders, City employees and grocery store workers! A BIG Thank you to Neighborhood House for helping out so many residents. Now that we are starting to get back to normal, our restaurants and small business are now struggling to stay in business. Please join me in utilizing and supporting our City’s great businesses and restaurants, many of which have carry-out service if you are not ready to dine in. The City has set up a new game to help stimulate our economy - Restaurant Bingo is still ongoing, but now we have a new game called Shop, Support, and Win!! Visit rochesterhills.org/shoplocal for the rules on how to win.

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

Susan Bowyer, PhD - Vice President - District 3

Mark Your Calendar

City Hall will be closed:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Holiday</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Election Day</td>
<td>November 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thanksgiving</td>
<td>November 26 &amp; 27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christmas</td>
<td>December 24 &amp; 25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Year's Eve</td>
<td>December 31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Year's Day</td>
<td>January 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MLK Day</td>
<td>January 18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Presidents' Day</td>
<td>February 15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Good Friday</td>
<td>April 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Memorial Day</td>
<td>May 31</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSE

Neighbors Helping Neighbors

During this time, we are closely monitoring the updates about coronavirus (COVID-19) as well as taking preventative measures. It is our mission to help neighbors in need during times of hardship. The Food Pantry will remain open for regular hours with a new drive up procedure. The main office and Neighborhood House Clothes Closet will be available by appointment only. Please call us at 248-651-5836 to make an appointment. Volunteer schedules will continue as scheduled. Please do not come in if you do not feel comfortable or are not feeling well.

The Neighborhood House main office is available by appointment only.

For more information about the Clothes Closet, click here.

Food Pantry Hours: Monday-Thursday and Saturday:
11:30am-2:30pm.
Donation Drop off: 10am-noon.
Volunteer! Rochester Hills remains a vibrant and innovative city due to the involvement of our residents and businesses. We need you to help with the future of the city. Please volunteer! The city has over 40 different committees and vacancies are filled on a regular basis. The committees let you expand your skills or focus on an area of interest. One of my first objectives this year was to revise the committee appointment and application process. The new application is posted on the city’s website at rochesterhills.org/cbc. The committee list describes its scope and the time commitment. Some, like Planning, meet several times a month, while others meet as needed. This is your chance to have a voice in the city and its future. Please consider volunteering.

Accountability to the public has been a hallmark of my public service for over 30 years. Meeting with residents, answering your questions and sharing your ideas is a great part of serving you and our community. If you have questions, concerns or ideas, please contact me at 248-804-4894 or mungiolit@rochesterhills.org.

City Council just finished the budget approval process. The area of taxes brings many questions. There is a difference between the tax rate and tax revenue. I describe tax rate as the millage rate on your tax bill and the tax revenue as how much money that rate generates. As the value of your home goes up, the tax revenue goes up even if the tax rate remains the same.

You can find the city’s budget book at rochesterhills.org/budgets. Election in 2021 – just as the 2020 election cycle comes to an end, the next election cycle begins. In 2021 there are City Council elections. Next year Ryan Deel (District 4) and David Walker (At Large) are up for re-election. Steph Morita is term limited in District 1, so a new council member will be elected. It may seem early to consider the election, however deciding to run for office takes time and research. Please contact any Council member for more information on what it takes to be on City Council.

City Council Members
Late last year, I had the privilege of participating in an opportunity that gave me just a small sense of what our fire fighters go through every day. It is called FIRE OPS 101. The training and equipment that enables our fire fighters to protect the residents of this great city is our top priority. I was honored to have experienced firsthand the commitment of these men and women.

What is FIRE OPS 101?
FIRE OPS 101 is an all-day event designed to demonstrate to elected officials the perils fire fighters face every day. The event included five scenarios ranging from engine and ladder operations, to car fire suppression, to extrication, to hazmat or WMD stations. These scenarios were similar to the training fire fighters go through when learning to become a fire fighter; but adopted for elected officials. Thankfully so, as the water pressure in the hose was more than enough even though they had it turned down from its full capacity.

Why is FIRE OPS 101 Important?
Nothing else gives us as elected officials a taste of the fire service like experiencing FIRE OPS 101 first hand. Spending a day as a first responder is one of the most effective ways to learn about their job. The scenarios planned for a FIRE OPS are ultimately intended to help us understand the challenges fire fighters face in staffing, equipment, and response time, as well as the physical and mental strength that fire fighters must possess. The FIRE OPS 101 event exposed us to the smoke, the adrenaline rush, and the physical stress and strain fire fighters and emergency medical personnel face while protecting our community.

FIRE OPS Helps Decision-Makers Feel the Heat!
The ability to build an emergency response system that delivers an effective, timely, and trained response to a citizen’s call for help is probably the single most important role of an elected official. The International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF) developed the FIRE OPS 101 program to give decision makers a better understanding of the challenges of the job. There is no better way to get a clear understanding of how an emergency response works or what fire fighters need to do the job than experiencing a day as a professional fire fighter/paramedic.

Thank you to all the individuals that made this possible and provided us a hands-on opportunity to better understand the complexities of what you do on a daily basis. I am honored to have been allowed to participate and privileged to know you are committed to keeping us safe.

As always, please feel free to contact me if you ever have a question or concern. I strive to represent you to the best of my ability. Have a great fall and winter.
We welcome you to come and enjoy the splendor of our beautiful parks. No matter the season, there is something for everyone. Walking, riding, swimming, sledding, our peaceful and beautiful parks are the perfect places to renew your energy and restore your soul. Welcome!