



Hawthorn Hills
Homeowners Association
Rochester Hills, Michigan

www.hawthornhills.com

Rochester Hills Water Issues

The Rochester Hills Council has recently discussed or resolved several water issues:

- A watering ordinance
- An increase in water and sewer rates
- The construction of Water Reservoirs (One in Nowicki Park—Adams/Tienken area)

According to the Oakland Press, over the past four years, Rochester Hills water customers have experienced a **nearly 48 percent increase** in rate charges from the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department; based in part on the fact that it has the **highest peak demand for water of any community** served by DWSD, (Detroit Water and Sewer Department) .

In an attempt to prevent continual increases, Council enacted, in 2008, a water ordinance **requiring that automated sprinkling systems run between the hours of 12 a.m. (midnight) to 5:00 a.m.,** [Michigan time]. It is possible to incur a **\$500.00 fine**, for sprinklers operating during other times. The purpose is to reduce and/or shift our peak hour within the city. The peak hour is our maximum draw on the day that DWSD has its maximum system wide demand. Why is the peak hour reduction necessary? The reason is the "model" water rate formula uses the peak hour component for **64 percent of the rate.**

To assist in lowering the city's peak demand it is **recommended that homeowners reset their automated sprinklers** to run during the ordinance's designated time frame.

Residents walking the subdivision during the morning hours report that several property owners are unaware of the midnight to 5 AM watering restriction and thereby, unaware of the impact noncompliance has on the city's water rates.

Additionally, sprinklers **should not run while raining.** It is worth noting the city of Troy recently renegotiated a **15% decrease** in their contract with DWSD after successfully enacting and enforcing their watering ordinance.

In addition, residents should review the Notice of Water and Sewer Rate Fee Changes sent with their last water bill. Flat rate fees/ per bill charges were reduced or eliminated, while **usage based fees were increased.** These changes may necessitate individual households use other methods to reduce their total water consumption.

Water Reservoirs Construction

At the June 07th Council meeting, the City Council voted to move forward with construction of two water reservoirs and awarded a contract for \$508,000 to an engineering firm for design. One proposed location for a reservoir is South of Tienken Road and East of Adams, (Nowicki Park). Because this location is "close to home", residents are encouraged to visit the HHHA website,(News Page), to access several publications outlining the details, both pro and con, related to this construction.

Donna Kokitka contacted Ben Jones, President of Hawthorn Hills Association, indicating the creation of a petition drive to oppose the Nowicki Park reservoir construction and requested that HHHA residents be provided the following contact information.

Donna Kokitka
kokitkad@yahoo.com
248-375-2464

Webmaster Creating Email Contact List

Len Groth, the HHA webmaster, is currently phoning all homeowners to review directory data and to **create an email contact/fan out list**. This list will resolve several issues such as; lessening the cost of Newsletters, providing a means to distribute critical Neighborhood Watch information and other news such as the formation of new committees or task forces (see next column), and providing the ability for the HHA board to easily survey more homeowners to gather decision making input. By contacting Len with **both your email address and phone number**, you can help speed the process.

Website Change Considerations

In order for www.hawthornhills.com to become **the primary vehicle for subdivision communication**, changes are necessary which will create the need for regular access by residents. The question is **what other items/information must the Home Page contain which will have you accessing the website on a regular, say weekly, basis so that the HHA Board can provide important news; such as the Water Issues presented earlier and Neighborhood Watch Information (next column); easily and timely?** To help achieve this goal, Len has altered the **Home Page** on the website to contain the latest HHA and local news such as; August 3rd Primary Information with a sample ballot for our precinct, as well as a link to Rochester Community Schools. Other suggestions include: local news feeds from the Oakland Press and The Rochester Citizen, adding a page for resident reactions to local news and a member's neighborhood concern page. Send your ideas/issues/local news to **Len at either webmaster@hawthornhills.com or 248.377.9268** .. Please, **...we need you to continually access this website !!**

Seeking Resident Members for Speed Hump Task Force

The HHA Board has authorized the appointment of a special Taskforce to investigate the 'need' for speed control and speed humps as the method for control. The authority granted the Taskforce will be to investigate the need for speed humps and to take all steps and measures necessary, including attendance at meetings, research and planning to verify the necessity or alternatively to discover through the process an alternative need. The taskforce will present its findings to the Association's board for consideration and action. Be aware that this concern arose over the **speeds of traffic on Arbor Creek, Old Homestead and Summit Ridge Dr.** In the interim, residents have requested that the police monitor speeds. If interested in participating on the task Force, contact either:

Theresa Hazard, joker7k@yahoo.com or Christine May, secretary@hawthornhills.com

Neighborhood Watch /Vandalism

Residents on Arbor Creek and "subdivision walkers" reported vandalism to mailboxes on Friday July 23rd while residents on Summit Ridge reported "egged vehicles" on another weekend evening, earlier in the month. Contact a board member with any information regarding these incidents and please be vigilant for both yourselves and your neighbors.



Hawthorn Hills
Homeowners Association
Rochester Hills, Michigan

www.hawthornhills.com

2010 Homeowners Dues

Sadly, more than 10% of homeowners still owe their 2010 Association Dues, which are always due by the end of February (by March 1). Section 4.03 of the Hawthorn Hills By-Laws indicates that late dues " shall thereafter be subject to interest at the rate of seven percent (7%) per annum." Avoid incurring the additional costs of interest, copying and mailing fees by paying your dues today.

HHHA
3128 Walton Blvd. PMB 263
Rochester Hills, Mi. 48309

Frankly the fee, \$100, and due date have been the same, for several years. Processes will be in place for 2011, which will charge late fees immediately after April 1. Tolerating anything else is unfair to those appropriately participating.

Kudos to Volunteers

The HHA Board extends its sincere appreciation to Wendy Warner for organizing the Subdivision Garage Sale and to Karen Hirzel and friends for coordinating the Neighborhood Easter Egg Hunt. Both events were successful as evidenced by the pictures posted on the website. These women stepped up in the final hours to assist, for which we are extremely grateful. We only hope others will do similarly for future events.

Commons Area Usage

The Common Areas are for the use and benefit of all of the lot owners in the HH subdivision and **are not to be used personally or exclusively by any one** or any group of homeowners. This means residents may not have:

1. Fire pits
2. Outdoor furniture

3. Play structures/Sports nets
4. Gardens
5. Any similar personal/non - HHA items

located in these areas. Additionally, the "**clearing**" of the wooded areas by means of cutting branches, trees or the chipping of same is also prohibited by Section B-4 of the Declaration of Restrictions for Hawthorn Hills.

Individuals walking dogs in the Commons areas, as well as throughout the subdivision, are required to pick up after their pets. Also there have been reports of dogs doing their business in neighbors' landscaping and flower gardens. Please be considerate of neighbors.

Along these same lines, the placement of any **play structures should be at least 5 feet from** Commons Areas/ neighbor property lines to allow appropriate ingress/egress. Please be considerate of your neighbors.

Note the City of Rochester Hills compliance staff will remove a basketball hoop that is left overnight in a street's right-of-way, at the owner's expense.

Residents are encouraged to **report any of the above abuses** to a Board member. (Use the email on the website (Officers Page)).



www.hawthornhills.com

Association Officers:

President: Ben Jones

Vice President: Dennis Murphy

Secretary: Christine May

Treasurer: John Cotarla

Board-at- Large Members: ***Directory Chair: Sharon***

Llewellyn, Webmaster: Len Groth Theresa Hazard,

Tim Marion, Linda Romito, Jerry Romito, Linda

Spawr