



Rochester Hills  
A Wonderful Place to LIVE, WORK & SERVE

## Newsletter From Ravi Yalamanchi

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A few issues I wanted to provide an update:

**Water and Sewer Rates:** Every year these rates are reviewed by the Water and Sewer Technical Review Committee and final recommendations are made to the Council. The overall rate increase has dropped to 4.4% versus to previous year increases of 9% – 11%. The Council adopted the following changes which are effective from July 2009.

- **Water Commodity rate** is \$3.68 per 100 cubic feet, a 7.0% increase.
- **Sewer Commodity** is \$3.69 per 100 cubic feet, a 12.16 % increase.
- The City's **Capacity** charges is \$1.84 per month, for a 5/8 inch meter, other charges per meter size are listed on the ordinance, a 3% increase.
- The **Customer Charge** includes the cost of servicing customers, connections, bills, meter reading, postage, etc, as described in City Ordinance Article 1, Section 102-26. The water and sewer customer charge is recommended to reduce from \$13.16 per bill to \$9.68 per bill. A 26.44% reduction.
- **Sewage Non-metered Flat** rate is proposed at \$22.14 per month. A 36.9% reduction. Homeowners were paying high rates and a review of it led to the decrease, which would be at par with other homeowners paying both water and sewer

**Overall, the average residential user (13 units) will see their water and sewer bill go from \$106.42 to \$111.09 an increase of 4.4%. If the customer charge had not decreased by 26.44% or \$3.48 per bill the average residential user (13 units) would have seen their bill increase to \$114.85 or by 7.9%.**

**Watering Lawns:** Last year the Council adopted an ordinance restricting watering of lawns by sprinklers between Midnight and 5:00AM. This ordinance is one of the factors that contributed to a smaller percent increase rather than the usual high increases we have seen in previous years. I am seeing a lot of homes using their sprinklers around 7:00AM or later in the day. Please inform your neighbors of the ordinance and to change the watering times. It is important for all us to actively participate in conservation. Whenever I see a home with sprinklers on during the day I stop by and inform of the change. The city has not enforced the ordinance last year. If it were enforced for non-compliance there is a penalty of \$500.

There are three factors that contribute to increase in rates: Distance, Elevation and Peak times. We cannot control Distance and Elevation from Detroit but we can definitely manage Peak time. By using our sprinklers between Midnight and 5:00AM we will be taking advantage of the non-peak rate.



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**Tienken Road Expansion** – I have previously indicated that Tienken Road expansion project between Livernois and Sheldon should be no more than three lanes. This position of mine has not changed and I continue to be firm about it. The project comes with designated federal funding. Approximately \$9.5 million remains to be used for the project. The Road Commission has until 2012 to obligate these funds. In May at one of the Council meetings a resolution was introduced by me to postpone the decision by Council of YES to a three lane and NO to anything beyond that. The purpose of my motion was to explore the possibility of city retaining the funds while continuing to pursue the three lane option. If the cost of the project were to be less than \$9.5 million I would like to see the remainder of the funds go to other critical road projects in our community. If for some reason the Tienken project cannot be done can the city still retain the funds for other road projects? I wanted to make sure the above and any other viable options are being explored. I give lot of Credit to Mr. Dave Tripp and many others who have spent enormous amount of time and energy in doing research and providing important information to the Council and educating us.

My actions are always involved with studying and understanding the facts and when new facts are brought to my attention I step back to explore them and then lay out my thought process and make decision. This process is a prudent decision process. My decisions are based on what is best for our community from a macro perspective.

**DEER ISSUE** – The deer issue which has become very controversial, after listening to many view points and learning new things I had taken the initiative and advocated for creating a committee and move the issue for full discussion at the committee level. This step has created a dialogue among people who are pro and against culling, gave the opportunity to seek more information and obtain better data and for the committee to develop a comprehensive deer management plan. We need a good plan!

I receive lot of suggestions, ideas and questions from many emails. Thank you for helping me in doing a better job. As always please call me at 248-396-4858 or email me at [ravi@raviyalamanchi.com](mailto:ravi@raviyalamanchi.com). Please let me know what information would be helpful to you and how the newsletter can be better.

Regards

Ravi

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