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Upcoming 2015

Meetings:

June 10

July 8

August 12

September 9

October 14

November 11

December 9

**City Of Rochester Make A Difference Day:
“Mulch-A-Palooza”**



Volunteers at the 2015 “Mulch-a-Palooza”.

Photograph courtesy of Eric Bothwell

This year the Rochester City Beautiful Commission sponsored the annual City of Rochester Make-a-Difference Day. The event was held on Saturday, May 9, 2015 from 10:00am-1:00pm in the Rochester Municipal Park.

This year's project was "Mulch-a-Palooza." Approximately 25 volunteers, City Administration, CBC members and Department of Public Works personnel participated by spreading mulch and pulling weeds in the park and in the planting beds around the City Municipal Building. Despite a threat of rain, the weather cooperated during the event. This year lunch was provided after the event. A special thanks to Ann Peterson, Rena Stewart and Ethel Stepnitz for organizing lunch!

Everyone had a great time and the event was very successful.

A special “Thank You” goes out to all of those who volunteered!

City of Rochester - Parks Team; Johnnie Fuller, Karl Maier, and Collin Pettite, named recipients of the Rochester "Special Good Neighbor Award"



David Anson, Rochester DPW Director (2nd from right), presented the awards to Colin, Karl and Johnnie.

We recently announced the winner of the 1st Special Good Neighbor Award; presented to the City of Rochester Parks team; Johnnie Fuller, Karl Maier and Collin Pettite.

We were proud to present David Anson, DPW Director, with the awards on behalf of these three worthy individuals at the April 27th City Council meeting. Each quarter, we are lucky enough to present a Good Neighbor Award to a well deserving resident who has been nominated by another community member. But, this time the CBC would like to express our gratitude to three well deserving individuals by presenting them with a Special Good Neighbor Award.

As the City Beautiful Commission we have a goal to develop projects for the beautification of Rochester. Thankfully, the City of Rochester employs individuals who are responsible for the day to day operations and maintenance of our parks. We also know, for any of our projects to become a reality, we need to rely heavily on these individuals. And, if you are really lucky, you will come across individuals who actually go "above and beyond" the scope of their day to day jobs as these three individuals do. You can see it when you are around them and you hear it from the public they serve every day. These are individual who obviously love their jobs and use that TLC in how they approach their day to day activities. Not only do they do their job to its fullest, but it is obvious to us and the patrons of the park that their love for the Park system goes far beyond their designated job descriptions. They are incredible ambassadors of the City to everyone who uses parks every day of the year.

If you know someone who goes the extra mile to keep our city beautiful or helps a neighbor in need and feel this person deserves to be recognized for their contribution in the city, then fill out a nomination form and turn it in, it is that easy! Our city is beautiful because of the many good neighbors who continually go above and beyond! It is time to recognize those who make every day in Rochester a more beautiful day. Those selected will be recognized quarterly at a City Council meeting. If you would like more information please contact Mark Panter, City Beautiful Commission Secretary at markpanter1@gmail.com or 248-651-0515 or visit www.rochestermi.org/cbc for a Good Neighbor Award nomination form.

Update on the Memorial Bench and Tree Program



The Memorial Bench and Tree Program continues to exceed our expectations! Thank you to our Memorial Bench donors; Peter Bertochi, Molly Boyle, Bruce Hartung, Sharon Koenig, Dr. Harjit Kohli, Mandy Steen and the Estate of Gerald Williams as well as to the Paul H. Young Chapter of Trout Unlimited for their donated of a beautiful handmade bench. We also received a Picnic Table from Dr. Hariit Kohli, a Lilac Tree from Laurie Puscas and a Stretching Station from Sharon Koenig.

The program allows for gifts and donations to be made by individuals, businesses and community organizations to enhance our park system. Trees, benches and picnic tables can be donated through the program. In addition, we are also open to other suggestions and welcome creative ideas. Plaques or signs at the gift site are included with any gift. For more information or to make a donation please visit <http://www.ci.rochester.mi.us/DocumentCenter/View/1147> or contact Nik Banda at 248-651-9061.

City of Rochester Celebrates Arbor Day with Tree Planting at McGregor Elementary



The Rochester City Beautiful Commission (CBC) celebrated Arbor Day by planting a Red Oak (*Quercus rubra*) on May 1st at McGregor Elementary School. Members of the CBC were on hand for the celebration along with McGregor students and staff; Rochester City Administration, City Council members and staff from the Department of Public Works and Fire Department.

The CBC has planted trees in the City of Rochester for the past four Arbor Days including at Memorial Grove, Howlett Park, McGregor Elementary and North Hill Elementary.

The celebration began with a welcome from the school's Principal Dave Pontzious and was followed the City of Rochester's Deputy City Manager Nik Banda who led the 3rd grade students from Mr Leh, Ms Szpotek and Ms Winter's classrooms, as they talked about the benefits of trees to our environment as well as for the community. Each student was also given the opportunity to place a shovel of dirt on the new tree. After, the students each took a section of water hose from the Rochester fire truck that was on hand, and the tree received its first watering.

Adopt a Sign Program Update



New Sponsor's Signs (the green with white lettering sign to the left of the welcome sign in the photograph) are now in place at each of the three "Welcome to Rochester" signs. The Sponsor's Sign acknowledges the individual or group currently volunteering to install and maintain the plants in front of each sign. The first signs acknowledge the efforts of Linda Glisman and Ann Peterson for their work in selecting and planting annual flowers.

The signs are located at Dequindre and Parkdale; University Drive at St. John Lutheran (left photograph above); and the South Bridge at US Scuba on Rochester Road.

The purpose of the program is to give the community an opportunity to participate in the care and upkeep of the City's "Welcome" and "Way-finding" signs.

Anyone can adopt a sign! This includes: local community organizations and clubs, religious organizations, businesses, families and even individuals (must be 18 or older, please).

Volunteers can select an available sign, develop a plan, then install the plants and maintain the area. Requested sponsorship is for one year.

In addition, any of the City's "Way-finding" signs can be adopted including the signs at all of the Rochester Parks. To get started just complete the application available at: <http://www.ci.rochester.mi.us/DocumentCenter/View/1146>.

For more information please call (248) 651-9061 or email cbc@rochestermi.org.

CBC receives 2015 MI Green Hall of Fame Award



On April 24th, in the Rochester Municipal Park, the 2015 MI Earth Day Fest held its fifth annual MI Green Hall of Fame Awards Ceremony, to recognize the dedication and achievement of some of Michigan's most significant green leaders among the following categories: business, professional, school, community group and media.

The CBC was nominated for the award based on the current park improvement projects taking place at Howlett Park, Elizabeth Park, Municipal Park and Memorial Grove, our partnerships with Dinosaur Hill Nature Preserve on the Rochester Community Garden and the Clinton River Watershed Council on plans for Diversion Street Park. As well as our two annual community volunteer events, "Make a Difference Day," held each May to spread mulch in Municipal Park, Clean Up Day(s) in Howlett Park and our annual Arbor Day Celebration with a local elementary school which includes providing tree education in the class room as well as a tree planting.

The CBC was grateful to receive the award and is proud to continue to make Rochester beautiful while being green as well!

Memorial Grove Tree Planting Project



Keep your eye on Memorial Grove! CBC will be planting 2 each of 10 different tree species, for a total of approximately 20 trees. Over the next few weeks, the CBC will be working with the Parks employees to determine the placement of the trees. Once planted, each tree will have a plaque installed that will describe the tree and its characteristics.

Our hope is that local schools may also use the park for educational purposes. Students and teacher can get involved in learning about trees in an educational setting. Students can learn the many benefits attributed to trees such as providing shade,

reducing energy costs, aesthetics, wildlife habitat enhancement, oxygen production and how trees serve as windbreaks and buffer zones for dust and traffic noise.

Rochester City Beautiful Commission



Rochester City Beautiful Commission

Back row, left to right: Rena Stewart, Ethel Stepnitz, Linda Glisman, David Lowell, Ann Peterson. Front row, left to right: Vice Chairperson Eric Bothwell Chairperson Lynn Oates, Secretary Mark Panter.

Keep up to date on all of the Rochester City Beautiful Commission's projects on our Facebook Page.

Additionally, the City Beautiful Commission produces this newsletter quarterly to highlight our projects. Interested individuals can request to receive the newsletter via email by sending an email to: cbc@rochestermi.org and including "newsletter" in the subject line.