

## ROCHESTER

Rochester Hills Public Library dedicated a new, 70,000 square foot building in November 1992. The airy building offers serene views of Paint Creek from its site on Scout Island which was once in Chapman pond, a lake made by damming up Paint Creek.

On the streets of Rochester leader dogs in training are a familiar sight. The leader dogs are from the nearby Leader Dog School, founded by the Lions Clubs of Michigan, which graduates about 300 dogs a year.

The Rochester area is also a center for higher education and cultural activities much of which is connected with Oakland University. Among Oakland University's offerings are Meadow Brook Theatre, one of the nation's leading professional regional groups, the Meadow Brook Music Festival with a choice of classical, jazz or popular music in a natural outdoor amphitheater, the Meadow Brook Art Gallery, and a Continuum Center.

Numerous parks dot the Rochester

area ranging from the quiet, scenic Municipal Park along the banks of Paint Creek in downtown Rochester to Bloomer State Park to Van Hoosen Farm and Museum in historic Stoney Creek Village. The largest, most comprehensive park is Thelma Spencer Park which offers tennis, golf, swimming, boating, bicycling, fishing and cross country skiing.

The motto for Rochester Hills "We live in peace and goodwill" really applies to the entire Rochester area.

## ROYAL OAK

### ROYAL OAK CITY OFFICES

211 Williams Street, Royal Oak, MI 48068  
546-1000

#### SERVICES

Police .....546-1500  
Fire .....546-7811  
Trash Removal .....544-9710

#### PROFILE

1990 Population .....65,410  
1989 Per capita income .....\$18,065  
1992 Total labor force .....43,517  
1992 Unemployment .....6.7%  
1990 Avg. housing cost .....\$82,190  
1991 tax rate/  
\$1,000 SEV .....\$62.17-\$66.65

#### MAJOR EMPLOYERS

##### (# OF EMP.)

William Beaumont Hospital  
(6,500)  
Meljer Thrifty Acres  
(847)  
Consumers Power Company  
(615)  
Hawthorne Metal Products  
Company (350)  
Forming Technology Company  
(260)

Among its approximately 65,000 residents, Royal Oak is viewed as having the sophistication of a city blended with the friendliness and delights of a hometown. Its central location has been a benefit back as far back as the Indians.

When the Michigan Territorial Governor Lewis Cass surveyed what is today Oakland County, he and his party camped beneath an enormous oak tree scarred by arrows and tomahawks at the intersection of three Indian trails. The tree is supposed to have reminded Cass of the oak tree in England which hid King Charles II as he fled Oliver Cromwell. This caused Cass to exclaim, "This is indeed a Royal Oak." Since then the name Royal Oak has been used for this area.

Royal Oak began to be settled when Sherman Stevens came from Buffalo, New York, to build the first railroad from Detroit to Pontiac. He bought forested land in the Royal Oak area and built a sawmill to make rails and ties for the railway. There is still a tiny, municipally-owned cemetery in Royal Oak that dates from 1825. The oldest house in Royal Oak, built by Orson and Rhoda Starr in 1845, is designated a historic district and is under the auspices of the Royal Oak Historic Commission. The Starrs had moved to Royal Oak in 1831, and Orson established one of the first businesses in the area—manufacturing cow bells in eight sizes.

Today banners in the Royal Oak business district proclaim it "Upbeat and Uptown." This seems to be an appropriate motto for an area with eleven antique shops including one that sells antique buttons, unique stores, long-time family businesses such as Frenz Hardware, fantastic restaurants and night spots. Royal Oak also has a popular Farmers Market and Flea Market.

Two events that draw enthusiastic support are the Oak Apple Run and

Festival in May and the Royal Oak Grand National in August. The Oak Apple Run was named for an English spring festival that celebrates Charles' escape by hiding in the oak tree. It has both a 10K and a fun run for all ages and abilities. The Royal Oak Grand National is a race for one-quarter scale, radio-controlled cars. It is staged for The Daily Tribune's Give-A-Christmas Year Around Emergency Aid Fund.