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CITY OF ROCHESTER HILLS

**B**uilding  
Department

Jack Sage, Ordinance Inspector

DATE: February 20, 2008

TO: Mayor Barnett & City Council

RE: Temporary Event Ordinance

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The meaning of special event as processed by the City of Rochester Hills has evolved over the years. Initially considered only for carnivals, circus, show or exhibition in 1966 (attached), special events now include art shows, car shows, outdoor business displays in parking areas, grand openings events and similar type activities.

In each case involving a special event, the City of Rochester Hills would require a special event permit (or approval) by the City's Clerks Office. The Building Department would then complete all follow-up inspections. As of 2005 the Building Department accepted the permitting responsibility and coordination of inspections for all of these events. Although the ordinance itself has not changed since its inception, the Building Department has established a comprehensive application and checklist procedure for processing the applications.

Along with special event permits, the Building Department has historically been responsible for the review and permitting of roadside stands (fruits/vegetables) and Christmas tree stands. Adopted in 1975, there have been few substantial changes in these ordinances (attached). The only significant change that was made some seven years ago was to allow produce grown outside the City to be sold at a "non-subdivision" location.

In consideration of the scope that special events have taken on, the Building Department is proposing to simplify and combine special events, roadside stands and Christmas tree sales into an inclusive ordinance titled Temporary Event Ordinance. This ordinance would address certain exceptions such as individual merchant displays in front of businesses on a limited basis; permit requirements, special events and seasonal events (roadside stands and Christmas tree sales). However, staff has requested for discussion the subject of requiring additional fees for roadside stands and Christmas tree stands. There are several reasons for making this suggestion. First, there has only been one (1) consistent roadside stand operating in the City for the past several years and the produce is grown outside Rochester Hills. Secondly, aside from the economic climate, in both situations roadside stands and Christmas tree sales impact established businesses within the community for which their owners bear the financial responsibility of their continued survival.