

[City column – January 2016]  
By Mayor Bill Droste

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As we start the new year, the Rosemount City Council is busy working to set goals for what we'd like the city to accomplish in 2016 and beyond. And one of the goals is to ask for a decision by Rosemount voters.

My colleagues on the Council and I go through the goal-setting process every year. It's important to express our vision for the issues we will work on and to guide the city's staff in carrying out their assignments. It also gives us a head start on creating the city budget for next year.

In our discussions so far, we have reaffirmed the importance of some issues that have been on the list for the last several years. We've made progress on these, and we'd like to see more. That includes attracting new businesses to Rosemount and supporting the businesses we have.

We also want to continue our work to make Rosemount's environment and economy sustainable for future generations. And we continue our efforts to provide efficient and effective government. We want to provide services that our residents consider a good expenditure of their money.

One way to sum it up is that the Rosemount City Council wants a well-balanced community, serving the needs of all of our residents. We've accomplished a lot with the opening of the addition to the Steeple Center. It will help meet the needs of Rosemount's seniors and of community groups like the Arts Council. It's a lovely space, and I hope you will join us there on Monday, February 1. We'll cut the ribbon at 5 p.m. and then show off the building with an open house.

As a growing suburb, we also continually look at youth needs. Most everyone agrees that it's important to offer safe, healthy activities for our children. We have so many coaches, organizers, and volunteers who operate top-flight recreation associations to serve our young. Those recreation leaders have been telling us for some time, through formal presentations as well as informal conversations, that they are running out of space and facilities to handle the growth that youth sports have enjoyed.

We are considering various options to add playing fields and more indoor ice to serve young athletes. The challenge is deciding how much the community wants to invest. Costs and specifics are still being

firmed up. What's already clear is that if we try to pay for the projects at our existing funding levels, it will take many years to complete the plan, and some parts may be postponed indefinitely.

So the City Council is likely to call a referendum in which Rosemount voters will decide whether to fund these projects. A special election would be held later this year. Before the election, the city will distribute information on what the spending would go for and what the impact would be on residents' property taxes.

Having this vote will help our community by giving us the clearest indication of what services our community wants and is willing to finance. As always, we invite your input at [citycouncil@ci.rosemount.mn.us](mailto:citycouncil@ci.rosemount.mn.us) .

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