



ROSEMOUNT

SPIRIT OF PRIDE AND PROGRESS

Two major Downtown projects celebrate completion ***Steeple Center and attached senior apartment complex now open***

Rosemount in February celebrated the completion of two projects that offer residents new options to bring the community together. They're located Downtown, on land the City purchased in 2004 for a new library and to preserve a landmark church building.

That building became the Steeple Center. And on February 1 the City Council cut the ribbon on an expansion to the Center (see photo next page) that will serve as additional meeting spaces for the community, especially for senior activities and for efforts of the Rosemount Area Arts Council. The Center is owned by the City and is open for all to rent.

The addition includes a catering kitchen, expanded restrooms, a lobby area that features a beautiful fireplace, gorgeous windows with café style seating, three multi-purpose rooms, and a conference room.

The Steeple Center is open to the public weekdays, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. It's a great place to stop in for a cup of coffee, to catch up with friends, and meet new people. To set up a tour or to inquire about renting the Steeple Center, [email stephanie.baumann@ci.rosemount.mn.us](mailto:stephanie.baumann@ci.rosemount.mn.us) or phone 651-322-6016.

On February 18, City officials joined the celebration hosted by private developer The Makado Group to unveil its new senior living option, The Rosemount (see photo next page). It offers services ranging from independent senior living to assisted living and memory care provided by Augustana Care. It is attached to the Steeple Center expansion. More information is available at 651-322-4222.

In his remarks welcoming The Rosemount, Mayor Bill Droste praised the additional services that will be available in the community. He cited the financial support of the Metropolitan Council and the Dakota County Community Development Agency, along with a grant from SKB Environmental for the Steeple Center expansion, as a successful private-public partnership to benefit all in the community.



ROSEMOUNT CITY NEWS

Public welcome at Mayor Droste's State of the City address

Wednesday, March 16, 7:30 a.m. in the Steeple Center

Mayor Bill Droste will share the City Council's views on accomplishments and plans during the State of the City address for 2016. The address will be delivered at a meeting of the Dakota County Regional Chamber of Commerce, and the public can attend. It will take place Wednesday, March 16, at 7:30 a.m. in the Steeple Center. A recording will be broadcast on government access cable TV channels in the spring.

Want to create or grow a business? Free seminars can help

Tuesday, March 15, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. OR Wednesday, March 23, 7:30 a.m. to 9 a.m.

Do you have a dream of creating your own business, or of growing the one you have? The City wants to help by offering a free seminar. It will feature tips about starting or expanding a small business. The 90-minute sessions include free food. The sessions are identical and both take place at the Steeple Center. Registration is required.

Sign up online at www.ci.rosemount.mn.us/businessclass or phone 651-322-2051.

Choose online billing for your City water and sewer service

Here's a way to simplify your life. Cut the paperwork by switching to online billing for your water and sewer service from the City. More than 1,000 Rosemount residents are taking advantage of paperless payments. Customers can keep getting bills in the mail or switch to seeing them on the web. Payments can be made online or by automated phone, 24/7. And the system allows users to create automatic repeating payments.

Learn more by visiting www.ci.rosemount.mn.us/billpay.

Ribbon cutting ceremonies

On February 18, City officials joined the celebration hosted by private developer The Makado Group to unveil its new senior living option, The Rosemount.



On February 1 the City Council cut the ribbon on the expansion to the Steeple Center.

This official city

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We invite comments

and suggestions by

contacting Alan Cox,

Communications

Coordinator, at

651-322-2078

or TTY 7-1-1

(Minnesota Relay)

or [alan.cox@](mailto:alan.cox@ci.rosemount.mn.us)

ci.rosemount.mn.us.



WATER QUALITY REPORT – COMING SOON
Rosemount's 2015 Water Quality Report will be available soon and can be viewed and printed from our website at www.ci.rosemount.mn.us/waterquality.

The 2014 report will be displayed until the 2015 report is available, typically by mid-May. A printed copy will not be mailed to your home as in past years. If you wish to receive a printed copy, please contact the Public Works Department at 651-322-2022.

Annual water-system maintenance gets underway in spring



More than 1,200 City fire hydrants are flushed annually each spring. The process helps clear mineral deposits from the water mains and ensures that each hydrant is in peak operating condition in case of emergency.

Occasionally this causes discolored water in homes and businesses. If this happens, residents are encouraged to run the water in all taps in their home until the water is clear again. Avoid doing laundry until water runs clear for several minutes.

Once again this summer, Public Works staff will be inspecting gate valves throughout the water delivery system. More than 1,600 valves will be inspected, cleaned, and repaired if necessary during the multi-year project. This process – like hydrant flushing – can stir up deposits in the water mains.

If you notice discolored water in your home or business any time this summer, please let your water run for several minutes to clear the lines. If you continue to have issues with discolored or odorous water, please call our Public Works department at 651-322-2022.

Storm water ponds need regular maintenance to thrive

The City of Rosemount contains approximately 220 storm water ponds. As a requirement of Rosemount's Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) permit, roughly 20% of those ponds are inspected each year. One purpose of the inspections is to identify undesirable "volunteer" growth near pond inlets and outlets.

Trees and woody plants on embankments and near outlet structures can be detrimental to the function and long-term stability of a pond. Tree roots can penetrate embankments, which may affect their structural integrity and if left unchecked may cause embankments to erode or fail over time.

To ensure proper functioning of the City's stormwater ponds, Public Works staff will be working throughout the year to remove the intrusive trees and brush. Please contact the Department at 651-322-2022 if you have any questions or concerns.



New rebate program promotes water conservation

New Energy Star washing machines, WaterSense toilets, and WaterSense irrigation controllers are eligible for the rebates



The City of Rosemount is one of 19 metro cities that were awarded a Water Efficiency Grant from the Metropolitan Council. The City will use these funds to issue rebates to residential customers for the purchase and installation of WaterSense low-flow toilets (up to \$50 per toilet), Energy Star washing machines (up to \$150 per washer), and WaterSense irrigation controllers (up to \$150 per controller).

Rebate guidelines and forms are available at City Hall, or they can be downloaded from the water conservation web page at www.ci.rosemount.mn.us/publicworks. This rebate program will continue through June 2017 or until all rebate funds have been depleted.

DID WINTER PLOWING DAMAGE YOUR SOD OR MAILBOX?



Please contact Rosemount Public Works at 651-322-2022 to report any plowing damage to sod or mailboxes. Staff will evaluate the damage and make necessary repairs once the ground is no longer frozen (usually by late April). Only mailboxes that have been damaged by direct impact with the plow will be repaired by the City. The City is not responsible for mailboxes damaged by snow rolling off the plow, or any damage to landscaping, sprinkler heads, or garbage bins placed in the right-of-way.

Storm sirens sound when safety risk is high

Tornado Warnings – Always

Thunderstorm Warnings – When sustained winds exceed 70 mph



Many of us may hope for an early spring. But that can bring with it an early start to springtime severe weather. One prediction: you'll probably hear fewer storm sirens than you used to. It's important for your safety to understand why.

For years the practice in Dakota County was to sound the sirens whenever there was a Severe Thunderstorm Warning. The reasoning was that thunderstorms can spawn tornadoes and cause other damage. But that approach led to a lot of sirens some years, and residents may have begun to take them less seriously. And there was some confusion over what the sirens meant because other counties chose not to sound the sirens for thunderstorms.

Improvements in forecasting led to change

Because of improvements in forecasting of storms, the National Weather Service can now estimate their severity. Beginning last year, alert sirens were sounded only for Thunderstorm Warnings with estimates of sustained wind speeds of 70 mph or more. As always, sirens also sound for any Tornado Warnings. And our Police and Fire personnel may trigger the sirens before the Weather Service acts if they see dangerous weather developing in Rosemount.

Based on the averages, sirens will sound 75% fewer times than they did from 2009 to 2014. The ones that remain will signal storms posing a greater risk to safety.

Siren testing scheduled during Minnesota Severe Weather Awareness Week, April 11-15

Remember, these are sirens intended to be heard by people who are outdoors, not necessarily by people inside. Sirens will be tested during Minnesota Severe Weather Awareness Week, April 11-15. That's a good time to listen for the sound and consider what you would do if a real storm was approaching. You can also hear a test on the first Wednesday of each month at 1 p.m. And remember: even without the sirens, Thunderstorm Warnings still signal a risk to safety.

If sirens are heard, you should go inside and check television, Internet, radio, or other devices and take appropriate action. You should not have a false sense of security if it is not actively storming in Rosemount when you hear sirens, because a storm may be approaching. Go inside and get more information.



Jayson Solberg named City Employee of the Year

Jayson Solberg, the City's information technology coordinator, was named Employee of the Year. He was chosen for the honor by the City's management team and received the award from City Administrator Dwight Johnson. Solberg supervised equipment upgrades for the Police and other departments in 2015 that increased productivity.

Firefighter applications now available

Earn hourly pay plus pension eligibility

The Rosemount Fire Department is currently taking applications to hire new Firefighters. Tests required for applicants will be conducted this spring.

Rosemount Fire responds to a mix of calls every year, including structure fires, grass fires, medical emergencies, alarms for carbon monoxide or smoke, and a variety of other causes. The Department also participates in community events by attending parades and neighborhood block parties, teaching fire prevention at area schools, and being a part of Leprechaun Days. Joining the Rosemount Fire Department will put you on the frontlines of these calls and events where you are able to make a difference in your community.

Men and women are encouraged to apply to serve as paid on-call Firefighters for our department. Members of the Fire Department earn hourly pay for training and responding to individual calls. Under current rules, they are also eligible for a pension after ten years of service. Firefighters have found this is a good way to supplement their household's income, put away college money for their children or save for retirement – and have a great time doing it.

Applications can be found online at the City of Rosemount website at www.ci.rosemount.mn.us/firefighting. For additional information, please visit the Rosemount Fire Department webpage under Government|Departments on the City website.



Business Appreciation Luncheon held at the Steeple Center

The Rosemount Port Authority hosted its annual Business Appreciation Luncheon in February at the Steeple Center. More than 80 business people in attendance heard a presentation by Dakota County Workforce Development Director Mark Jacobs and by Rosemount High School Assistant Principal Kim Budde. They discussed the challenge for businesses to reach and retain good employees, and what's being done to train more members of the labor force.



SPIRIT OF PRIDE AND PROGRESS

City Hall

2875 - 145th Street West

Rosemount, MN 55068-4997

Phone 651-423-4411 • TTY 7-1-1 (Minnesota Relay)

Mayor: Bill Droste

Council Members:

Mark DeBettignies, Vanessa Demuth,

Shaun Nelson, Jeff Weisensel

City Administrator: Dwight Johnson



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City Council's 2016 goals include May 17 bond referendum

Investment would fund additional recreational facilities

The City Council is asking Rosemount voters to decide whether to invest in additional recreational facilities in the community. The Council has authorized a bond referendum for Tuesday, May 17.

Groups that serve youth athletics have told the Council that the demand for space is outstripping the supply. Many sports have seen an increase in interest, but the athletic groups are having difficulties serving all who would like to play. The referendum would add another indoor sheet of ice for hockey and other skating activities. It would also allow construction of more outdoor playing fields for other sports.

Total cost of the referendum would be up to \$15 million, which would be paid off through an increase in property taxes.

Asking for the voters' decision is one of several initiatives approved by the City Council during its annual work to set goals for the community. The Council discusses its vision for the community every year to guide the work of the City's staff and of the Council itself. The goals set priorities for budgeting and projects the City will pursue. The goals continue to emphasize support for business growth, efforts to make Rosemount's environment and economy more sustainable, and efficient services.

The City Council also created a list of priorities to discuss with Rosemount's representatives at the State Legislature, including funding for safety improvements at Highway 52 and County Road 42, and regulation of trains blocking intersections.

See the lists of goals, initiatives, and legislative priorities at www.ci.rosemount.mn.us/goals.

The City will provide more information about the plans for and impact of the bond referendum before the special election on May 17.