

[City column – May 2016]  
By Mayor Bill Droste

*[As submitted for publication in the May 26, 2016 issue of the Independent-Town Pages.]*

In an election year, voting is an obvious way for residents to make their voices heard. But there are more opportunities ahead for Rosemount's citizens to have an impact on their City.

My colleagues on the Rosemount City Council and I will be offering new ways to reach out to residents. We want our citizens to learn about the issues our community faces and share their expertise.

One of our next efforts will be our June City Council work session. At least once a month the Council meets for a work session. In those meetings no final decisions are made, but Council members can discuss issues before they come up for a final vote. The meetings are held at City Hall and they're always open to the public.

We'd like to make it easier for interested residents to take part. So we're going to hold our next work session on June 13 at 6:30 p.m. at Jaycee Park, which is on Shannon Parkway between County Road 42 and 160<sup>th</sup> Street. If weather (and insects) allow, we'll have it outdoors; otherwise, we'll be in the park shelter.

We will also get a good look at some of our other parks later in the summer during a bike tour. We plan to visit several neighborhood facilities, joined by Parks and Recreation Commissioners. Please watch for an announcement of this tour and plan to join us.

The City is also about to draw on the expertise of its residents through two task forces that the Council created this spring. The Environment and Sustainability Task Force met for the first time last week. It will work to build on some of the initiatives that the City started a few years ago. Task Force members will look for steps to preserve Rosemount's resources and support our quality of life in an affordable way.

And applications are due this week for residents who can serve on another Task Force. It will research ways to meet the facilities needs of our growing community. Rosemount is expected to add 15,000 residents in the next 25 years. The task force will look at non-recreational facilities, such as those for Police, Public Works, and City Hall. If you can serve on the Facilities Task Force, please visit our homepage at [www.ci.rosemount.mn.us](http://www.ci.rosemount.mn.us) and follow the link to fill out an application by May 27.

And our planning staff has begun holding community meetings for issues that affect specific parts of Rosemount. The next one will be Thursday, June 2, at the Steeple Center to review future development east of Highway 52 in the southeastern portion of the City. It will run 6 to 8 p.m., with a short presentation scheduled to begin at 6:15. These meetings are the first step toward a major updating of Rosemount's Comprehensive Guide Plan, which sets our agenda for the next 20 years.

These are just some of the efforts we're making at the City to engage our residents on issues vital to Rosemount's future. As always, my colleagues on the Council and I ask you to take part when you can, and to contact us at [citycouncil@ci.rosemount.mn.us](mailto:citycouncil@ci.rosemount.mn.us).

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