

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## MAYOR DESCRIBES ROSEMOUNT'S STRENGTH AND SUSTAINABILITY DRIVE IN STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS

Citing data from a community survey and a national certification program for sustainability, Rosemount Mayor Bill Droste said the state of the city is "very strong" during his annual address.

The Mayor announced that Rosemount is the first community in Minnesota and the smallest in the nation to win certification as a STAR Community, based on a rigorous assessment of its efforts to maintain the environmental and economic factors needed for a growing city. The Mayor said the achievement "is a roadmap, not a destination" to guide the City's efforts and assure Rosemount's viability in the future.

The Mayor delivered his state of the city address at an open meeting of the Dakota County Regional Chamber of Commerce this morning at the Rosemount Community Center.

Mayor Droste described the findings of a community survey commissioned last year by the City. It showed high levels of satisfaction with the quality of life in Rosemount, the direction of the City, and the sense of community. The levels were up from the previous survey in 2007 and were among the highest in the metro area measured by the research firm that conducted the survey.

"So many factors go into our sense of community," the Mayor said, "including the positive nature of what our schools contribute to us, the work of groups like the Boy and Girl Scouts, (and) the neighborhood watches and the block parties that are dotted across the City each August during Night to Unite."

The Mayor noted signs of continued improvement in Rosemount's economy, including private and public construction projects. He also acknowledged the announcement a few days before that the corporate headquarters of Sweet Harvest Foods will move to the Rosemount Business Park.

Mayor Droste indicated that the City Council continues to work on new goals for the City to cover the next two years, and that the community survey indicates residents continue to seek new retailing options and recreational amenities.

The Council continues to work with volunteer groups supervising youth recreation opportunities to explore new facilities to meet the demands of a growing population. The Mayor said the City is also exploring ways to address the increased demand for youth recreation options, brought forward by the volunteer groups that supervise sports programs in the community. "I look forward to additional talks with these groups, and as always to input from our citizens," the Mayor said.

The text of the Mayor's address as prepared for delivery is available through a link on the City website's homepage at [www.ci.rosemount.mn.us](http://www.ci.rosemount.mn.us). The Mayor will record a version of the speech next month to be shown online and on government access cable channels.

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