



Mayor Rob Ray  
rray@rochestermi.org



Mayor Pro Tem Kim Russell  
krussell@rochestermi.org



Council Member Dean Bevacqua  
dbevacqua@rochestermi.org



Council Member Stuart A. Bikson  
sbikson@rochestermi.org



Council Member Ben Giovannelli  
bgiovannelli@rochestermi.org



Council Member Ann Peterson  
apeterson@rochestermi.org



Council Member Nancy Salvia  
nsalvia@rochestermi.org



## Fire & Ice Festival

January 19<sup>th</sup> through 21<sup>st</sup>

You are invited to brighten your holidays in downtown Rochester with the Fire & Ice Festival! Come enjoy an outdoor family-friendly activity hosted by Oakland County, Oakland County Parks, the Principal Shopping District (PSD) and the City of Rochester.

The Fire & Ice Festival will kick off on Friday, January 19<sup>th</sup> at 5:00pm and go to 9:00pm. Then Saturday, January 20<sup>th</sup> it will start at 10:00am and go to 9:00pm. The festival will be ending Sunday, January 21<sup>st</sup> with hours of 9:00am - 5:00pm.

The Fire & Ice Festival will have many activities that are fun for all ages! Don't let the weather stop you from making new memories in Rochester! For more details and information, go to:

**[www.DowntownRochesterMI.com/fire-and-ice-festival](http://www.DowntownRochesterMI.com/fire-and-ice-festival)**

## Infrastructure Projects Continuing In 2018

During 2018, the City will continue to focus on infrastructure as the City Council proactively plans for the future. Our infrastructure includes our roads, sanitary sewer pipes, the pipes that provide our drinking water, street lights, sidewalks, bridges, etc. These pieces of infrastructure are funded by different sources, degrade on different schedules, and some are in more need of attention than others.

Over the past few years the Department of Public Works and our engineers have been diligently evaluating our roads, pipes, and other infrastructure. While several items were noted, the City has finished mapping out 38% of the City's water and sewer pipes that were laid in the 1960's or earlier.

In an effort to address the long-term infrastructural health of our community, during 2017 City Council adjusted the water and sewer rate schedule (see details on page 5). City Council has also dedicated a portion of the City's current and future budgets to road improvements, repairs, and replacements.

Details, including the where and when the \$3.9 million in sewer projects and \$6 million in water projects will occur, will be shared during 2018 online at **[www.rochestermi.org/infra](http://www.rochestermi.org/infra)**

## Downtown Rochester Event Calendar

### The Big, Bright Light Show

November 22 - January 7, 2018  
Nightly, 5pm - Midnight

### Winter Farmers' Market

Rochester Fire Department  
November - January 2018  
Saturdays from 10am to 2pm  
(Except for January 20th)

### Fire & Ice Festival

January 19-21, 2018 - See cover

### Founder's Day

Rochester Hills Museum  
at Van Hoosen Farms  
March 11, 2018, starting at 1pm

### Mad March Money

March 1-31, 2018

Additional events can  
be viewed online at:  
[DowntownRochesterMI.com](http://DowntownRochesterMI.com)

## Historical Book Update

Rochester and the Detroit United Railway (DUR) is a story of the Flint Division of the Detroit United Railway and the communities along the DUR Flint Division route. Through the 275+ pages, this book contains many photographs, railway maps, a copy of the actual train schedule from 1927, and ten short stories about the people, places, and the unique features of the DUR.

The City is working hard to have the book ready for delivery as soon as possible, but visit [www.rochestermi.org/book](http://www.rochestermi.org/book) for details and updates.

## New and Improved Website

Make sure to checkout Rochester's newly finished website. You can check it out at, [www.rochestermi.org](http://www.rochestermi.org). It is now easier to access all of our services, locate permits, view our downtown events, News & Announcements, and so much more. With just a few simple steps you are able to connect with your community in a much more efficient way. Connect with Rochester on our website, or find us on Facebook, Twitter, and LinkedIn.

## Fiscal Year 2018-19 Budget Schedule & Details

The Fiscal Year End (FYE) 2019 budget preparation has already begun and this year's process will be using the recently implemented BS&A financial software.

Below are some key dates and info:

- **January 22, 2018** - The City's Budget and items that have been placed for discussion during the Goals & Objectives process will be discussed during the City Council meeting.
- **February 10, 2018** - The City Council will be discussing the City's infrastructure, which includes Water, Sewer, Roads, Bridges, Sidewalks, Lights, Alleys, etc. There will also be an initial discussion establishing a General Fund Reserve Policy.
- **March 20, 2018** - This budget workshop will be focused on the DDA, PSD, Parking Advisory, City owned Facilities, and open budget requests.
- **April 10, 2018** - This is the date that staff has set as our goal to get the Draft FYE 2019 Budget to City Council.
- **April 23, 2018** - This the Public Hearing date set for the Proposed FYE 2019 Budget.
- **May 14, 2018** - The final FYE budget will be presented to the City Council.

For more details about past budgets and soon this upcoming year's budget preparation, process, draft documents and meetings, visit the City's website at

[www.rochestermi.org/budget](http://www.rochestermi.org/budget)

## Join A City Board, Commission, or Committee

With the many different boards, commissions, and committees Rochester has to offer, we are always interested to add more members!

To apply for one of our City Boards, Committees, or Commissions please fill out our form:

[www.rochestermi.org/serve](http://www.rochestermi.org/serve)



## Winter Farmers' Market

Now - January 2018

Shop locally this winter at the Downtown Rochester Winter Farmers' Market! This market is held indoors at the Rochester Fire Department (277 E. Second) from 10am-2pm on Saturdays through the end of January. Many familiar farmers' market vendors will be there with a large variety of fresh produce, bread and baked goods, gnocchi, jams and jellies, eggs, sauces, salsa, and much more. Please note that the market will be closed January 20th and Fire & Ice Festival January 21. For more information, call (248) 656-0060 or visit [DowntownRochesterMI.com](http://DowntownRochesterMI.com)



## Property Tax Information

All 2017 winter taxes are payable December 1, 2017 through February 14, 2018 without penalty. Beginning March 1, 2018 all unpaid 2017 taxes must be paid to the Oakland County Treasurer's Office, and will include additional penalties.

You may access your tax information and make payments 24/7 by dialing toll-free (888) 600-3773 and entering your 10-digit parcel ID number beginning with 15. Payment can also be made online by accessing the link on the City's web page [www.rochestermi.org](http://www.rochestermi.org)

If you have any questions, please contact the Treasurer's Office at (248) 651-9061. Assessing, Building, and Tax information is available at: [www.accessmygov.com](http://www.accessmygov.com)

## Sign Up for City News & Notices

You can now get notices sent to your email or cell phone from the City of Rochester, so you can stay up-to-date on the latest information of what's happening in the City. Just sign up at [www.rochestermi.org/notifyme](http://www.rochestermi.org/notifyme)

The City's newsflashes and notices will notify you when there is a snow event, a water main break, a street closure, and upcoming Coffees with the Mayor. You can also receive other important City news and information.



## Watch City Meetings Live Online & On Local TV

You can watch live broadcasts of City Council, Planning Commission, DDA, and other meetings via the City's website at [www.rochestermi.org](http://www.rochestermi.org). Residents can also watch these meetings on local TV channels (Channel 17 on Comcast and Channel 10 on WOW).

## A Citizen's Guide to Cold Weather Practices

Winter brings with it lots of fun activities, like sledding, ice skating and skiing. But winter also means mounds of snow to shovel and layers of ice to remove from our sidewalks and driveways. We often make the job easier by applying deicers like salt. Besides sodium chloride, many de-icers also contain chemicals like cyanide. When ice melts, the salts and chemicals dissolve and flow into street drains that lead directly to the river, endangering aquatic life. Here are a few tips to reduce salt use and prevent pollution year-round.

### Help Prevent Storm-Water Pollution This Winter!

#### 1. Try An Alternative:

Calcium magnesium acetate (CMA) was developed as a de-icing alternative because it has fewer adverse environmental impacts than salt and doesn't cause erosion.

#### 2. Reduce Your Salt Use:

By limiting the amount of salt we use on sidewalks and driveways, we can reduce the amount of polluted storm-water washing into our waterways.

#### 3. Use De-icing Products Based On Winter Conditions:

Before applying a de-icer to your sidewalk, think about the air temperature, potential for sun exposure, and how much product you'll need. Remember to follow label directions carefully and use products sparingly. It's easy to over apply de-icers, but applying more than you need won't melt your ice any faster.

- For Dry, Powdery Snow: Shovel or sweep snow immediately to avoid using de-icer.
- For Wet, Heavy Snow: Apply de-icer product as soon as snow beings falling in order to prevent it from bonding.
- For Sleet & Freezing Rain: Apply de-icer product early on during these conditions to prevent ice from building up.
- For Significant Snowfall: When more than 2 inches of snow falls, plow or shovel first and then use a de-icing product to melt any underlying layers of ice that have built up due to packed down snow.





## Shake Your Mailbox!

The Rochester Department of Public Works (DPW) asks residents who have mailboxes at the road edge to prepare for winter by shaking their mailbox. The initiative is intended to prevent mailboxes from being damaged by snow pushed off the road by snowplows. If you have questions on what is permitted, please call the Rochester DPW at (248) 651-5165 or visit the City's website [www.rochestermi.org/shake](http://www.rochestermi.org/shake)



## E-Commerce Safety Zone Created

The Rochester Police Department has created an "E-Commerce Safety Zone" as a service to the community. Signs have been posted in our parking lot adjacent to the police station. The area is open to the public, well-lit and under video surveillance from our dispatch center. Citizens are encouraged to use this area to complete E-Commerce transactions such as from E-Bay, Craig's List and the like. If the other party declines to meet at the police station or other public place this should be a red flag at there may be a problem with the transaction. We hope that having this designated safety zone provides some added security when meeting an unknown party to complete a transaction.

## Chris Palazzolo to serve as President and CEO for Ascension Crittenton

Gwen MacKenzie, Senior Vice President, Ascension Healthcare and Ministry Market Executive, Ascension Michigan, has named Chris Palazzolo President and CEO of Ascension Crittenton and Genesys Health System. Palazzolo has been serving as President and CEO of Ascension Michigan's Mid-Michigan ministries since 2016.

Palazzolo has a diverse and comprehensive 40-plus year history as a healthcare executive. Prior to serving as Ascension Mid-Michigan's President and CEO, he led Genesys Health System in various executive roles from 2008-2016, including President, Chief Operating Officer and Chief Financial Officer. Before joining Genesys, Palazzolo served as Chief Financial Officer, and then ultimately Chief Operating Officer of Ascension's St. John Hospital & Medical Center. Prior to that, Palazzolo served as Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of the Detroit Medical Center.



Chris Palazzolo and his wife, Lisa, are long-time residents of Rochester Hills. They have two sons.

"I am both excited and honored by this opportunity to continue to help lead our culture of healthcare transformation, innovation and clinical excellence across these renowned institutions," said Palazzolo. "The incredible dedication and commitment I see each and every day from our providers and associates to fulfill our mission is humbling and provides the foundation for successfully advancing our integrated vision across the state. I am proud to play a part in this career-defining work."

To learn more about Ascension Crittenton and what's happening now and in the future, visit [www.crittenton.com](http://www.crittenton.com)

## Nominations for Good Neighbor Awards

The City Beautiful Commission recognizes Rochester residents who make exceptional contributions to the community.

For more information and to fill-out the form to nominate your Good Neighbor, please visit online: [www.rochestermi.org/cbc](http://www.rochestermi.org/cbc)



## IMPORTANT NUMBERS & CONTACTS

**City Hall:**  
(248) 651-9061

**Department of Public Works:**  
(248) 651-5165

**Water & Sewer:**  
(248) 651-5165

**EMERGENCY:**  
9-1-1

**Non-Emergency Police:**  
(248) 651-9621

**Non-Emergency Fire:**  
(248) 651-4470

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**City Manager:**  
**Blaine Wing**  
bwing@rochestermi.org

**Deputy City Manager  
Economic & Community  
Development Director:**  
**Nik Banda**  
nbanda@rochestermi.org

**Police Chief:**  
**Steve Schettenhelm**  
sschettenhelm@rochestermi.org

**Fire Chief:**  
**John Cieslik**  
jcieslik@rochestermi.org

**Finance Director/  
Treasurer:**  
**Anthony Moggio**  
amoggio@rochestermi.org

**City Clerk:**  
**Lee Ann O'Connor**  
loconnor@rochestermi.org

**Building Inspector &  
Code Enforcement:**  
**Sid Browne**  
sbrowne@rochestermi.org

**DPW & Parks Director:**  
**Shannon Filarecki**  
sfilarecki@rochestermi.org

## City's Water & Sewer Rate Structure

During the fall of 2015, City Council adopted the current rate structure after several years of discussion and the assistance of Umbaugh & Associates. The current structure is composed of the following items: the cost of the water, operations, staffing, a ready-to-serve fee, and a commodity charge. As of July 1, 2017, there is also a maintenance, repair, and replacement fee.

The City currently has one (1) city-wide sewer system. The current rate is \$3.15 per 100 cubic feet. This rate is reviewed and adjusted annually after receiving rates from the Oakland Water Resources Commission (OWRC), which has a contract with the Great Lakes Water Authority (GLWA).

For water services, the City has two (2) systems: well water and water through the GLWA. The City pumps, treats, and distributes well water to approximately 2,300 customers. The other water comes from the GLWA, through Shelby Township, to about 1,700 customers.

To more accurately determine water and sewer usage, the City stopped estimating sewer usage and removed the 40 unit cap. Those customers who used less than 40 units were not impacted; however, those customers who use more than 40 units of water received higher bills. In order to lower their water & sewer bill, customers should consider installing an irrigation meter in order to remove the sewer portion of the bill. (See details below.)

For more details about the City's water & sewer rate structure, the City has created a web page, which is located online at [www.rochestermi.org/rates](http://www.rochestermi.org/rates)

## Irrigation Meters Available

The City of Rochester offers an Irrigation Meter Program to its residents. The irrigation meter will allow water used for irrigation purposes to be excluded from the sewer portion of the bill. The amount of money saved will vary from household to household depending on the amount of water used. Each resident should conduct a cost-benefit analysis for their situation, as the initial installation cost may not be recouped for several years. Outdoor water spigots may also be connected to an irrigation meter, but plumbing costs may be higher if you choose to connect them. Ask your plumber for details. Your savings will not begin until the irrigation meter is installed and all paperwork is complete. To find out more about the City's Irrigation Meter Program, please visit [www.rochestermi.org/irrigation](http://www.rochestermi.org/irrigation)

## Brick Program

2017 was an exciting year for Rochester as we celebrated our founding 200 years ago and our 50th anniversary as a city. Surrounding our new Bicentennial Monument, we are now adding more bricks around it.

Please think about adding a brick for you, your family, or friends with a message of your choice. For additional details or to place and order, please fill out the Brick Egravement Form online:

[www.rochestermi.org/bricks](http://www.rochestermi.org/bricks)



## Emergency Alert

Rochester is now using CivicReady, which is a tool to notify residents and businesses in Rochester of emergency. CivicReady allows us to reach you at any time through text message, phone call, email and through social media within minutes. We will be able to contact you when there is a water service emergency, a lost child or senior, etc.. To receive notifications sign up on our website, [www.rochestermi.org/alerts](http://www.rochestermi.org/alerts)



## LOCAL POSTAL CUSTOMER

### Snow Emergency Parking Restrictions

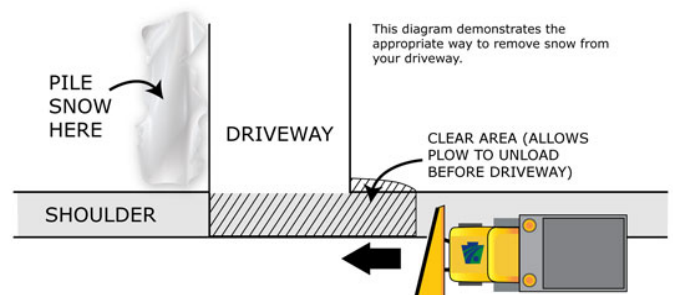
The City of Rochester regulates winter parking through a Snow Emergency Ordinance (52-121). Parking is prohibited on all City streets when a Snow Emergency is in effect. A Snow Emergency may be declared when there is a snow fall in progress, or when 4 inches or more of snow has been forecast. As soon as a Snow Emergency has been declared, notice will be provided by local radio and television news stations, and the City will send out a Newsflash, so be sure to sign up for alerts at [www.rochestermi.org/notifyme](http://www.rochestermi.org/notifyme). All vehicles must remain off all City streets until the roads are cleared of ice and snow by the DPW. In the event it is impossible to remove vehicles from the roadway, owners should call Police Dispatch at (248) 651-9621 to request permission to park, which will only be granted for vehicles that cannot be moved into an available driveway or another location. To prevent getting a ticket, park all of your vehicles off the street when snow is in the forecast or appears imminent. Your cooperation will help make City streets safer by allowing the DPW staff to clear the streets as quickly as possible.

### PLEASE BE A GOOD NEIGHBOR AND SHOVEL YOUR SIDEWALK

Being a “walkable community” is part of what makes Rochester great! Please shovel your sidewalk and keep it clear of ice and snow, for your family, your neighbors, and especially for children going to and from school and for the elderly. City Code requires the owner/occupant to clear snow and ice from the sidewalks adjoining any side of the property. An accumulation of 3” or more of snow must be cleared within 24 hours. A diligent effort must be made by the owner to control ice accumulation by complete removal or by applying sufficient amounts of de-icing material or sand. Failure to clear snow and ice may result in the issuance of a civil infraction and a fine, so please, be a “Good Neighbor” this winter and take care of clearing your snow and ice.

### WHY IS SNOW PLOWED IN FRONT OF MY DRIVEWAY?

The City crews do not plow snow in front of driveways on purpose. There is no practical way for the snow plow operator to cut-off the windrow of snow when crossing a driveway. This problem happens, especially in cul-desacs, because of the extra small space. You can help by placing as much snow as possible to the right side of your drive (see diagram). Working together will help reduce the amount of snow that is plowed in front of your driveway. If you hire a private contractor, please remind them not to plow snow into the public roadway, as it is against State Law.



### WHEN WILL MY STREET BE PLOWED?

The City follows a “Prioritization” system when plowing. Major roads are cleared first and then local streets will be cleared next. The DPW staff will be working diligently this winter to plow all City streets, so please be assured that your street will be plowed. We appreciate your patience while our City crews are out working to keep all of our City streets clear. If you have an issue, please call Public Works at (248) 651-5165.