



# Community Connections

The City of Rochelle's Community Newsletter

November/December Volume 6, issue 6

## Downtown Christmas Walk – Friday December 5

Downtown Rochelle will be bustling with activity the first weekend in December for the Old Fashioned Christmas Walk! The event has grown to include events December 5th & 6th. Many downtown stores will be open until 7:30pm on Friday, December 5.

### Friday December 5th

Horse and Carriage rides are returning to the Old Fashioned Christmas Walk this year. Rides will run from 4-7pm and pickup is at the RMU Customer Service building located at 333 Lincoln Highway.

Start your weekend by visiting Santa at the Flagg Township Museum from 4:00-8:00pm on Friday evening. The Flagg Township Museum will decorate a special place for Santa Claus to meet your children and hear their wishes for Christmas. There is no charge to enter the museum for this special occasion. Children are encouraged to bring their letters to Santa and parents don't forget your cameras!

Already many entries have been received for the Lighted Parade! Watch as our local businesses and organizations roll through the Downtown with Holiday themed vehicles. Watch for RMU's decorated trucks and the Fire Department's Old Gertie carrying Santa through the parade! The parade kicks off at 5:30 on

Friday, travels through the Downtown and ends at City Hall for the Community Tree Lighting. Santa will light the Community Tree and the Middle School Chorus will sing carols. The Annual Gratitude Award will be given to a deserving member of our community following the tree lighting. To join the parade, call 562-5113.

Bed races will run down Lincoln Highway at 6:30. Teams of five decorate a bed. With one "rider" the group pushes their bed down the street. The fastest team wins a prize and of course, bragging rights.

Plenty of good food will be available throughout the downtown Friday night! The Rochelle Fire Department will be serving up their festival-famous pork chop sandwiches and the Masonic Temple will be serving a chili & soup dinner.

All ages are invited to warm up at the Hub City Senior Center with Wanda Ussery's Famous Homemade Chicken & Dumplings, peas, Watergate salad, rolls, delicious dessert and coffee! The fun starts at 4:30pm and ends at 7:30pm. You'll enjoy live Christmas music and handcrafted items for holiday gift giving. Order your tickets now by calling 562-5050. Tickets are \$7 in advance and \$8 at the door.

The Library is pleased to announce that they will once again be holding an Open House the evening of the Annual Downtown Christmas Walk. Our entertainment for the evening will be Mike Schneider and his PintSize Polkas. Enjoy Christmas and other favorites with polka flair. Doors open at 6:15. Program will begin at 6:30. There will be music, treats and other fun by the Christmas tree. The night is designed for the whole family. All ages are welcome.

### Saturday December 6th

Brave the elements for the "Frozen Family Fun Run"! This free event takes place Saturday, December 6th at 10:00am. Bring the family, dress up in festive attire and take your time to run, walk or ride your bike on a .6 mile course through downtown Rochelle. The race will begin and end at the Rochelle Visitors Center (Filling Station) at 500 Lincoln Ave. You may run into a holiday surprise along the way. There will be contest winners for best-dressed family. Waivers will need to be signed before the event.

Come to the Library at 6:00pm on Saturday in your pajamas for a complimentary showing of "Frozen"! Popcorn and lemonade will be served. The doors open at 6:00pm and the movie begins at 6:30pm sharp!

## Christmas Tree Festival

The City of Rochelle is excited to announce the 9th Annual Christmas Tree Festival! All proceeds raised from the event will benefit the Rochelle Community Action Network (C.A.N.). The Festival will feature Table Top Christmas Trees, Gift Baskets, Holiday Wreaths and Swags, Centerpieces and more! The Festival will be held December 1-5 throughout City Hall. The community is welcome to visit City Hall each day between 7:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. to view and bid on the items. The Christmas Tree Festival Silent Auction comes to a close on Friday December 5th at 6:30 p.m.

Individuals and organizations are welcome to donate a decorated tree, wreath, gift basket, or centerpiece for the silent auction. If you would like to donate items for a Gift Basket, volun-


teers will assemble a basket for you. All deliveries must be made by Wednesday, November 26th.

The Rochelle Community Action Network acts as a bridge between family and community by providing resources in order to assist children and families in becoming successful members of the community. C.A.N. is run by a volunteer board and over the past year has distributed 350 school supply filled backpacks to local children. In addition, C.A.N. will soon be distributing new winter coats to many local children in need. This year, the

Community Action Network will host the 19th Annual Christmas shopping trip for local children who may not otherwise receive a gift during the holidays.



Yard Waste Recycling continues on your regular garbage day through December 15. Use brown paper bags or 32 gallon trash containers for your yard waste. To keep neighborhoods debris-free, no plastic bags are accepted.



## RMU Introduces Interactive Voice Response System for After-Hours Calls

RMU is introducing a new interactive voice response system to better serve our customers. The system is an automated telephony system that interacts with callers, gathers information and routes calls to the appropriate recipient. During normal business hours, the RMU Customer Service Representatives will still be available to answer calls. However, after normal business hours, the customer will receive voice responses for appropriate situations and have access to relevant data. For example, during a power outage, customers can report an outage and receive a message about the location and expected duration of an outage.

The new interactive voice response system will provide customers with more information and help RMU continue to provide excellent customer service.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the RMU Customer Service office at 815-562-4155.

### Find us on Facebook at:

Facebook.com/rochellemunicipalutilities

### Or on Twitter at:

Twitter.com/rochelleutility



## Recycle Rochelle

*Don't forget...*

*Recycling continues throughout the winter months!*

*Need a recycling bin?*

*Call City Hall at 562-6161.*



## Leaf Vacuum Service

The City of Rochelle will begin providing leaf vacuuming services for residents on **October 15, 2014**. The vacuuming service will last until December 1, 2014. During this period, other landscape waste (grass, plants, weeds and small amounts of leaves) may continue to be placed in paper landscape bags or standard garbage containers, maximum size 32 gallons weighing under 50 pounds, and set at the curb by 5:00 a.m. for pick-up on your regular garbage day. Large piles of brush will be picked up monthly on the third Monday, through November.

The following simple rules should be followed:

1. Please rake your leaves to the parkway, typically between the sidewalk and the curb. Do not place leaves on the street as they will clog storm water inlets.
2. Please do not place leaves behind obstacles such as large trees, hedges, fences, etc.

3. Please avoid parking vehicles in front of piles of leaves until they are collected.

Please do not mix trash, yard waste such as limbs, weeds, grass or any other material with the leaves. Yard waste mixed with leaves can cause safety concerns and equipment malfunction.

Leaf collection will begin at 7:00 a.m. and will end by 3:00 p.m., Monday through Friday based on need and weather. The leaf vacuum, towed behind a dump truck, forces the leaves from the curbs into the truck bed. During peak season two leaf vacuums will be operated.

### Leaf Vacuum Schedule:

Monday: South of 1st Avenue

Tuesday/Wednesday: North of 1st Avenue and East of N. 7th Street

Thursday/Friday: North of 1st Avenue and West of 7th Street

\*\*Leaf vacuuming may be impacted by inclement weather

### November

- 3 Planning & Zoning Commission  
7:00pm, Council Chambers
- 10 City Council Meeting  
7:00pm, Council Chambers
- 11 Veteran's Day  
City Offices Closed
- 24 City Council Meeting  
7:00pm, Council Chambers
- 27 & Thanksgiving Holiday
- 28 City Offices Closed

### December

- 1-5 Christmas Tree Festival  
City Hall
- 1 Planning & Zoning Commission  
7:00pm, Council Chambers
- 5 Old Fashioned Christmas Walk  
Downtown Rochelle
- 8 City Council Meeting  
7:00pm, Council Chambers
- 9 Police & Fire Commission  
3:00pm, City Hall Council Chambers
- 10 Utility Advisory Board  
3:00pm, RMU Tech Center
- 22 City Council Meeting  
7:00pm, Council Chambers
- 24- Christmas Eve & Christmas Day
- 25 City Offices Closed
- 31 New Year's Eve  
City Offices Closed



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