

Predictions for 2007

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The calendar is about to turn on another year. As has become custom, all manner of prognostications for 2007 will soon fill the airways, newspapers and magazines. With all that is happening around Rosemount, I thought I'd take a swipe at figuring out what might be in store around town in the next year.

I've batted around .500 doing this in the past, so no guarantees. And please no wagering. The Vegas folks are not setting odds.

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Downtown redevelopment will move forward. Putting together a concept for Core Block East, the area east of Highway 3 between 146th and 147th Streets, has been slow as the housing market softens and the commercial market in Rosemount has not yet matured. Recently, however, viable plans for a multi-family housing and commercial project are coming together. The port authority is likely to consider the concept in early 2007, with the hopes that construction could yet begin later in the year.

Prediction #2

Plans for an outdoor recreational complex will move forward. The city's parks master plan has identified the need for a large park and recreation complex to meet the needs of our growing community. For the past couple of years, city staff has had conversations with several landowners to identify an appropriate place in the community to locate such a facility. The new year is likely to see a decision on a location. Once the site has been chosen, the parks and recreation commission will work with the city council and community stakeholders to determine what types of recreational uses to include, how to pay for it and a schedule for construction.

Prediction #3

A vision for the reuse of the former St. Joseph Church will begin to emerge. A task force appointed by the city council will begin meeting in January. That group will start the process of deciding how the church building, which has become a strong visual presence in the community, can be refurbished for the benefit of the community. The new Dakota County Library will be under construction later in 2007 right next door to the church. The

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task force will evaluate different options and the costs to meet those needs.

Prediction #4

A vision for the future of UMore Park will emerge. For the past 60 years, the University of Minnesota has held almost 3,000 acres in south-central Rosemount and another 4,500 in Empire Township to the south. Used primarily as an agricultural research station over those decades, UMore has long been a quiet but important part of the community's history. Now, the University of Minnesota's board of regents has signaled its intent to move from being part of Rosemount's history to also being part of the future.

As the city begins the process of updating our comprehensive guide plan in 2007, we will work closely with the University to understand its goals for the development of UMore Park. The U's recently adopted strategic vision for the area talks about a 30-year development phase that will emphasize lifelong learning and commitments to education, energy and health. It will be a fascinating process to observe and contribute to as that vision begins to take form.

There is one last prediction that I can guarantee. The city council and staff will continue working hard to deliver excellent services to our residents. Rosemount possesses a wonderful home town feel that is based in the tradition of its longtime residents and invigorated with the energy of new residents.

The vibrancy of the community is seen in the large events such as Leprechaun Days but it is driven and felt by the quiet devotion of the many volunteers that put in their precious time and efforts to make this the great home town it is. It is a pleasure and honor to be able to serve this community.

From ours at city hall to yours at home, in school, and in our businesses, best wishes for another prosperous new year.

Jamie Verbrugge

City

administrator

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