

May - July 2016
Issue 1

Rockville News

2016 City Council

Mayor
Jeff Hagen 320-266-0377

Councilors:
Susan Palmer 320-267-2966
Don Simon 320-250-9674
Rick Tallman 320-266-4856
Duane Willenbring 320-293-8732

happy spring!

Letter from the Mayor

Greetings everyone. We have had a mild winter and hopefully it is about ready to let us have a great early spring and summer; after one of the earliest ice-outs in a long time, Mother Nature seems hesitant to let us have the warm spring we hoped followed.

As we approach the last 6 months of my 8th year as Mayor, I have been asked more frequently about my mayoral plans after this year. I am quite sure many of you do not know, but I have always planned to limit my time to 2 terms and 8 years; have expressed that to staff and council many times over the past several years. I have always felt that volunteering for work such on city councils and similar civic groups is something everyone should consider doing at some point in their lives. I do feel there are many more people qualified to do this work than they realize, but more importantly the qualification that is most important is the person's ability to put their own interests, and those of their relatives, friends, neighbors, etc. aside for the benefit of the majority. Unfortunately, that doesn't happen enough, which may be one of the reasons that brought me into Rockville politics more than 10+ years ago..

I have been told that perhaps I should reflect back on my years on the council and include a mayor's letter here, which is something I haven't done for some time. I want to note that I am not good at remembering specific dates, all issues that were present at the time, etc.; and so take my recollections in that light. Unfortunately, "googling" some of these times doesn't help a whole lot; it's amazing how little of this history is retrievable from Google.

I think the Rockville merger occurred around 2002 and there was a lot of talk that it was being done because sewer services needed to be run to Pleasant and Grand Lakes. Other reasons that were given were that there needed to be built a new fire hall and city hall, and that the costs needed to be covered by more taxpayers and that wouldn't occur unless the City of Pleasant Lake and Rockville Township taxpayers were brought in to help pay for them. There was also talk that a few large land holders in these areas wanted to sell their land for residential development and unless there was city water and sewer available, there was no interest in purchasing their land for that purpose. Of course, the land value as farm/rec land would remain much less. There was also talk that the City of St. Cloud was anxiously pursuing reaching across Interstate 94 to grab the Pleasant Lake area into St. Cloud for future development and tax revenues. One of the reasons given for bringing city services to the lakes was to help clear out private sewer systems that may have been polluting the lakes.

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MAY

5th Rocori Trails	9:00 a.m.
Nature Park	6:00 p.m.
Park & Pec	7:00 p.m.
10th Planning Commission	6:00 p.m.
18th City Council	6:00 p.m.
26th Water & Sewer Bill	Due
30th City Hall Closed	

JUNE

2nd Rocori Trails	9:00 a.m.
Nature Park	6:00 p.m.
Park & Rec	7:00 p.m.
4th Rockfest	
14th Planning Commission	6:00 p.m.
15th City Council	6:00 p.m.

JULY

4th City Hall Closed	
7th Rocori Trails	9:00 a.m.
Nature Park	6:00 p.m.
12th Planning Commission	6:00 p.m.
20th City Council	6:00 p.m.
28th Utility Bills Due	Due

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I recall joining a group of 15-20 concerned township citizens that were concerned about how much spending and debt the residents would be brought into, and what impact bringing this concentrated development would have on the lakes. I recall each of us contributing \$500+/- each to hire a township resident attorney that shared our concerns to question and resist the bringing of municipal water and sewer from Cold Spring to the lakes. The group felt that much less expensive alternatives existing for community-based sewage treatments systems should be considered.

I recall personally visiting with St. Cloud city officials over the matter of St. Cloud wanting to merge Pleasant Lake into the City and I was told how ridiculous or how ridiculously many years out that would be if the City even desired that. As you can tell, almost 15 years later St. Cloud development is no closer to merging land across Interstate 94 than it was then.

I recall attending meetings at the Cold Spring Legion where these issues were discussed at length and where these land-owners brought their attorneys to argue bringing city services to their land, and of course that happened.

I recall attending council meetings back then trying to explain the problems that occur when cities "leap-frog" miles of unserved land to bring services to remote areas. I also recall being told by city-paid consultants how the rate of new residential building permits in the newly merged city would increase more than 10-fold from around 1.5 to 2 per year; to more than 22-25 per year. I tried to point out to them how all the area cities, most importantly Sartell and Sauk Rapids, were building new schools and expanding services for new homes, and that they shouldn't expect any change in this rate.

As anyone knowledgeable in the area of city expansion, annexing adjacent land area and extending municipal services, etc.; there are plans made as to how these services are going to be paid for well in advance. As David Drown, Rockville's financial advisor indicates, it is very typical these water and sewer services to become part of the existing systems. The only difference with the Rockville situation was that at that time, Grand Lake was only receiving municipal sewer and in a structure with individual grinder systems similar to Pleasant Lake, and therefore, the sewer system was established separate from the core Rockville's system. It is my opinion that the structure for the water system was "connected" with the core Rockville system because that is the way cities typically expand and I am quite sure all the city leaders at that time, back around 2002, were fully aware that it was set up this way with their approval. I find it extremely ironic that now some 15 years later, we have a group of residents led by a person leading the city back then, that have constantly blasted current staff and council for how we have been "ripping off" core residents by requiring them to subsidize the Pleasant Lake water system. As with all previous staff and councils, I am very sure none of these groups had any idea that there should have been a different structure established from the beginning to deal with the significant risk that development was not going to happen as predicted and that there would be issues of how to pay for that debt and service. New permits have average well below 2 per year over all these years; so there is a shortfall in revenue to pay for all of this and we need to address it; fairly. Let our new city administrator get up to speed in this and many other issues new to him; and I know a fair solution will be found.

The other major issues back then was what was being spent on new fire and city halls, whether they should both be built down town, or out on the highway; but never did I hear the leaders discuss more financially prudent alternatives. I, along with many others, tried un-successfully to convince leaders to consider less expensive alternatives. Somehow, those pushing for the facilities to be constructed at their favorite locations, came to some agreement and each got their buildings at their locations, and in my opinion, it likely cost even more than if they would have both been built at one location. No doubt, anyone would agree Rockville has some of the nicest facilities of any community in the state.

You will recall that the above led the southern six sections of Rockville to successfully sue to remove themselves from Rockville and join Maine Prairie Township. Prior to, but leading up to this lawsuit, was the time I was asked by many people to run for council and then Mayor; which I did. Of course, all this debt was in place, little if any, could be done of it, but I have tried to keep Rockville in the best financial position possible to absorb the financial repercussions of all of this spending that occurred in such a short time. I apologize for the fact that the tough financial position the city was in constrained our ability to take care of one of our highest priorities, that being the conditions of our roads. That has caught up with us fast and I am sorry to say that I believe the city has to begin increasing tax revenues to take better care of these roads before they get beyond recovery.

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Rockville Area Garage Sales Thursday, Friday and Saturday June 2-4, 2016

Tornado Season



Listen to NOAA Weather Radio or to commercial radio or television newscasts for the latest information. In any emergency, always listen to the instructions given by local emergency management officials.

Be alert to changing weather conditions. Look for approaching storms.

Look for the following danger signs:

- * Dark, often greenish sky
- * Large hail
- * A large, dark, low-lying cloud (particularly if rotating)
- * Loud roar, similar to a freight train.
- * If you see approaching storms or any of the danger signs, be prepared to take shelter immediately.

What to do:

- * Get to the lowest floor in your house
- * In there is no basement, get to an interior room
- * Evaciate mobile home immediately
- * If outside, seek shelter in a sturdy building
- * As a last resort, lie flat and face-down on low ground
- * Stay tuned to your weather radio



ROCK-FEST ANNUAL FESTIVAL SATURDAY, JUNE 4th 2016

- ◆ Festival Events start at 3 p.m. at the church grounds/parking lot
- ◆ Kids Peddle Tractor Pull 3 p.m. (registration at 2 p.m.) at the City Hall parking lot
- ◆ 6:00 p.m. Parade
- ◆ 8:00 p.m. Stoney's Outdoor Street Dance
- ◆ Band & Food—Friday & Saturday evenings, The Hideaway Bar
- ◆ Fireworks at Dusk

Be sure to check out their website
for all the latest details:

www.rockvillerockfest.com
or find them on Facebook!

- ◆ Parade applications contact: Amanda 320-980-0329 or email at amandfilla4@hotmail.com
- ◆ Vendor applications contact: Kathleen 320-309-0316

BURNING PERMITS

You can pick up your burning permit at City Hall (free of charge) or purchase an annual burning permit online at the Minnesota DNR website www.dnr.state.mn.us (\$5.00 annual fee).

Permits are for piled, vegetative materials (grass, leaves, sticks, brush, and crop residue) only.
Burning times 5 p.m.— 8 a.m.
(unless DNR Forestry changes).

Requests to burn other materials or all daytime or running fire permits for more than 1 acre must be issued by a forester. Homeowners should contact the Area Forestry Office at 320-616-2450 ext. 626.

Permits may be restricted
on a day to day basis.
Daily burning regulations
are posted on the DNR website.



Would you prefer your newsletter emailed to you?
We can do that!
Email us at cityhall@rockvillecity.org to sign up.



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I know that I do not fit the role of “typical” politician or mayor, I have taken a lot of criticism from other, I guess, more typical former or current politicians for how I do this job. Like it or not, I took this job to do the job, I did not take it to hear myself talk unnecessarily, not to see myself on TV or in the newspaper, nor in parades, nor milking cows or throwing cow chips at carnivals, etc. I take this job as serious as I take all my jobs, no more or less important, I do the best job that I can, period. I also did not take the job to benefit myself, my neighbors, friends, relatives, etc. I feel that when you are elected to positions like this, you need to set aside all that is personal to you, and only consider what you know and feel is in the best interests of the whole. And yes, that means the ability to perhaps upset groups as large as 20-30 or more, on some decisions that you feel are not in the best interest of the much larger group of residents; in the case of Rockville, some 2,500+/-.

After my first term, I was asked to run for a second term, which I did, but that time I intentionally did no campaigning other than setting up a few old signs that survived the first election. Though there was strong opposition from the same group that currently constantly criticizes staff/council against my second term, I took away my being re-elected as an indication that most people felt satisfied with the job I was doing.

You have the task of electing a new mayor and several new councilors this November. I find it particularly troubling that this council and recent staff members have had to endure so much unfounded criticism and outright public harassment these past couple years from not only a few residents but from other councilors. A few people have consumed so much staff and council time with their harassment, it has occurred at the expense of these people being able to properly provide service to the remainder of the community. I have no respect for people that can only try to elevate themselves when they feel they must do it at the expense of others, by unfairly criticizing and demeaning the work and efforts of others. Everyone is human and makes mistakes at times. There is a place and time to look into those possible mistakes instead of always making accusations public that create the negative public perception that can't be later undone when the accusation is discovered to be unfounded. It is time to put an end to the negative, mistrusting atmosphere of City Staff and Council. We have a great new City Administrator whose goal is to change that perception and promote a healthy working relationship/environment between council, staff and the public. I believe he is the right person for the job, will make the positive changes needed and this staff and council accomplish very good things for this community

As with any election, I hope all residents consider running for council and/or encourage others that you feel would be good at these positions. I hope you can find intelligent, common-sense, un-selfish people to promote to run for office. Do your homework before you vote, know as much about the person you vote for as humanly possible.

With best wishes,
Jeff Hagen
Mayor of Rockville

NOW AVAILABLE - Utility Bill Direct Payment

Did you know that you can now pay your utility bill from your checking or savings account automatically - no checks to write, stamps to buy, or late payments! Automatic pay is an efficient, hassle-free way to pay your City of Rockville utility bill. Payments are deducted directly from your checking or savings account on each billing due date. There is *no charge* for this service.

FREE! To sign up for automatic pay, please submit a completed **Automatic Payment Plan Authorization Form** (found on our website or by calling us at City Hall) along with your current utility bill payment to City Hall. You will know your enrollment is complete when you see the words, 'DO NOT PAY – AUTOMATIC WITHDRAWAL ON DUE DATE' on your bill statement. Automatic pay can be cancelled at any time by notifying the city in writing that you wish to discontinue this service.

Please include a voided check or a savings deposit/withdrawal slip along with your application.

For any questions, please contact City Hall at 320-251-5836 or email us at cityhall@rockvillecity.org.

Community Clean-up

SATURDAY, MAY 7 | 8 AM – NOON

ACCEPTING

TV's \$10-\$35
Monitors \$5-\$10
Computers \$5
Appliances \$5
Electronics \$1-\$5
Rubbish | Garbage \$15/Cu.Yd.
Furniture \$10-\$25
Mattresses \$10-\$25
Compost | Brush FREE
Construction Material \$10/Cu.Yd.
Batteries FREE
Construction Material \$10/Cu.Yd.
Tires \$7-\$35
Fluorescent Bulbs FREE
Lawn Mowers | Snow Blowers | etc. \$5-\$10
Batteries FREE
Grills FREE



This is a rain or shine event

TKI TOM KRAEMER INC.
16820 Cty. Rd. 158 | Cold Spring, MN

320.685.8226
www.tomkraemerinc.com

DISPOSABLE WIPES: Causing a Real Pain

Disposable wipes — used for changing diapers, personal hygiene, housecleaning, and more — cause major problems when flushed down toilets. Because they don't break down the way toilet paper does, these wipes clog homeowner sewer pipes and/or pumps, put stress on community wastewater collection and treatment equipment, and cause us to spend thousands on premature equipment repair and replacement. Wipes snag on any imperfection in sewer pipes, catch passing debris and grease, and create a "ball" that will grow to plug the pipe. Public Works must manually clean the screens or remove clogs.

The MPCA (Minnesota Pollution Control Agency) will ask the 2016 Minnesota Legislature to ban "flushable," "septic safe" or "sewer safe" labeling from nonwoven disposable products (wipes) sold in Minnesota and require the products' labels to have a "do not flush" message. These labeling changes would help change public behavior and over time reduce the amount of such wipes being flushed. Fewer wipes flushed would reduce operation and maintenance costs for municipalities across the state.

Grinder Pump Stations Repairs and Fees

Per Council action at its February 17, 2016 city council meeting - **effective March 1, 2016:**

If the property owner's grinder pump is not functioning due to any of the below materials being discharged into the sewer system, the property owner will be responsible for all associated repair costs to the grinder pump.

The following items must **not** be introduced into any sewer either directly or through a kitchen waste disposal:

- Glass
- Metal
- Diapers
- Baby wipes, Disposable wipes
- Socks, Rags, or Cloth
- Plastic objects (e.g. toys, utensils, etc.)
- Sanitary napkins or Tampons

Any other solid, semi-solid objects (that do not dissolve readily in water)

In addition you must **NEVER** introduce into any sewer:

- Explosives
- Flammable material
- Lubricating oil and/or Grease
- Strong chemicals
- Gasoline
- Cooking oil

CONTACT:

The sewer control panel has a red light indicator and an alarm, if you or your neighbor's red light/alarm is on it is indicating a problem, **please notify the City Sewer Department anytime at 320-293-5111**. If no answer, please leave a message stating the address of the grinder station and your return phone number.

Note: if you would like this information on a (free) magnet for easy reference please contact City Hall.

AN ORDINANCE REGULATING DOGS IN THE CITY OF ROCKVILLE

ORDINANCE #2009-59

Section 91.01: Definitions.

A. **Owner.** Any person, group of persons, or legal entity owning, keeping, or harboring a dog or dogs.

B. **Harborer.** The harborer of a dog shall be any person who has custody of any dog or permits a dog to be kept or to stay on or about the harborer's premises.

C. **At Large.** A dog shall be termed at large when it is not under restraint, as defined herein.

D. **Restraint.** A dog is under restraint if it is controlled by a leash not exceeding eight feet in length; or if it is within the boundaries of the owner's or harborer's premises.

E. **Police.** The police officers of the City, or any person, firm, or agency hired or engaged by the City to assist the police in the performance of their duties.

Section 91.02: Identification. All dogs shall be either harnessed or collared with proof of up to date rabies vaccination attached or have the dog tattooed or micro chipped.

Section 91.03: Running at Large Prohibited within the City of Rockville. No dog shall be permitted to be at large within the city. All dogs shall be under restraint at all times. All dogs in the A-40 areas of the city must be under the control of the owner at all times.

Section 91.04: Confinement of certain animals. The owner or harborer shall confine within a building or secure enclosure any fierce, dangerous, or vicious dog, and not permit such animal out of such confinement unless and until it is securely muzzled and in control of a competent person.

Section 91.05: Animals creating nuisance prohibited. No person shall keep or harbor an animal that otherwise constitutes a nuisance, such as excessive barking, howling, or other disruptive behavior as defined in Ordinance No. 2003-09 Section 2.5.

Section 91.06: Impounding Animals. The police, or any other duly appointed person, may take and impound any animal which is not being kept, confined, or restrained in a manner consistent with the requirements of this regulation. Such police or person may enter upon private premises where it appears that there is a reasonable cause to believe that an animal is not being kept, confined, or restrained as herein required.

Section 91.07: Notice to owner. Immediately upon the impounding of an animal, the police shall make every reasonable effort to notify the owner or harborer of such impoundment, and of the conditions whereby the owner or harborer may regain custody of the animal. When possible, verbal notice shall be immediately confirmed in writing by the police.

Section 91.08: Reclaiming impounded animal. Any animal impounded hereunder may be reclaimed by the owner or harborer of same within five days after receiving notice of such impoundment, excluding Saturdays, Sundays and legal holidays.

Section 91.09: Dogs which cannot be impounded. If a dog is rabid, or otherwise diseased, vicious, or dangerous, and cannot be impounded after a reasonable effort or without serious risk to the impounder or others, such animal may be immediately killed by a licensed police officer only.

Section 91.10: Disposal of impounded dogs. If a dog taken up and impounded has not been reclaimed within the time provided herein, or if the owner cannot be located, then within five days, the dog will be disposed of.

Section 91.11: Rabies vaccination required, penalties for violation. It shall be unlawful for any person to own, possess, or harbor a dog within the city, if the dog has not had a vaccination for rabies within the time required under standard veterinary practices. A written waiver from a veterinarian accompanied by a rabies titer may be accepted as proof of vaccination when circumstances are indicated. Proof of rabies vaccination must be readily available upon request and up to date.

Section 91.12: Biting dogs to be quarantined. Whenever a dog has bitten a person, the owner or custodian of such dog, having been so notified, either orally or in writing, shall immediately quarantine said dog or animal at the owner's home or other suitable place of confinement, as directed by the responsible officer of the city for a period of 14 days after the occurrence. During the quarantine period, the animal shall be securely confined in a building or in a yard enclosed by a fence so constructed that the animal cannot escape or otherwise leave said enclosure, and which will not permit other animals or persons to enter, for the purpose of preventing the animal from biting or otherwise coming in contact with persons or other animals. Upon a reasonable suspicion that the dog may be rabid, the dog shall be subjected to the necessary tests by a doctor of veterinary medicine for the purpose of determining if it is infected with rabies. The confinement, testing, treatment, in addition to all other expenses incurred as the result of a dog biting a person shall be the expense of the owner of said animal.

Section 91.13: Penalty. Any person who violates any provision of this ordinance is guilty of a petty misdemeanor of which the fine for the first time offender is \$25.00, \$50.00 for the second time in a 12 month period. The third fine would be an automatic court date.



A Message from the Rockville Veteran's Monument Committee

We will be honoring past, present and future members of our Military, Fire Fighters, First Responders, and Law Enforcement with a living monument. The monument will be placed in front of the Rockville Fire Hall. A dedication date has been set for September 11, 2016.

We are asking you for your support, to honor those who have and are currently serving our community and our country. Please consider having your name or names of family members or friends etched in the stone to create a lasting memory. If you wish to have family names together on the tablet, please send in together and note accordingly. Any person who is serving or has served under these headings is eligible. Qualified people do not have to be from Rockville.

Funding for the monument will be by donations and from the charge of just \$125.00 per name on the monument. An account has been set up at the Granite Community Bank. 100% of the monies will be used towards the cost of the monument.

Coldspring is assisting in this project. As an added incentive anyone who submits a name before July 1st will have their name entered into a drawing for a granite coffee table donated by Coldspring. This will also ensure your name will be on the monument in time for the dedication.

Applications can be found in your area businesses or by contacting Rosie Steil @ 320-252-6473, Rodney Schaefer @ 320-293-4334, or Tim Lingl @ 320-597-2258. Checks are payable to RASC Rockville Veteran's Monument Fund. Please send to: Rockville Veteran's Monument Committee, PO Box 185, Rockville MN 56369.

Thank You For Your Support!

Rockville Veteran's Monument Committee

Questions and Answers about the Monument

Who is eligible? All **past, present and future** Law Enforcement Officers, Firefighters, First Responders and Military personnel. Any individual who has served under these titles, regardless of where they reside now, are encouraged to submit their name. Feel free to list, grandparents, fathers, mothers, sisters, brothers, aunts, uncles, sons, daughters, etc.

Can I submit my own name? Yes, absolutely you can submit your own name. You may be your own donor.

Families or groups may submit their names together in an envelope with a request to have names placed on the monument in a sequential order.

What do we want? The Monument needs you! We need individual names to be etched in the monument to give it meaning. Tell your family and friends we need them. To place a name on the monument for a lasting memory is \$125 per name.

When will this be built? Our dedication date is going to be Sunday, 9/11. Please have your name or names submitted as soon as possible to ensure having your name on the front of the tablet. Names need to be turned in no later than July 1st to allow the contractor enough time to do this work.

Why are we doing this? To show our appreciation and honor to those who have and are currently contributing to our safety in our communities and our country. It is as much for those to be honored as it is for our families to have the honor of a loved one's name etched in the stone.

Monument Location? We looked into various areas of our community and because it does need to be on city property, we decided the most appropriate place would be in front of the Fire Hall in Rockville. It is a quiet place that will be handicapped assessable. Provides a location with ease of maintenance. It will have benches along the sides to sit on, to come and reflect on those who have served us so honorably.

VETERAN'S MONUMENT DONATIONS

If you wish to make a tax deductible donation to support this Monument at a Gold, Silver, or Bronze level, a special granite flag pole base will be placed at the entrance of this monument including your name or company name. Bench level donors will be recognized with your name or company name inscribed on a granite bench. Please use the same payment and mailing information as shown for names application. Your donation will be recognized in one of the following giving levels and will include names on the monument:

Your donation will be recorded in one of the following contribution levels:

Bench LEVEL	\$5,000+
Gold	\$2,500 - \$4,999 4 names
Silver	\$1,000 - \$2,499 2 names
Bronze	\$500 - \$999 1 name

CONTACTS:

Rosie Steil 320-252-6473
Tim Lingl 320-597-2258

It is our hope that this monument will be a way for our community to help demonstrate our thanks to those in our area who have and are currently serving our area and our country.

ANY SUPPORT IS APPRECIATED

Major Donor Sponsorship

Please fill out the form below and return with a check for your donor sponsor level of choice.

Make Checks payable to:

RASC Rockville Veteran's Monument Fund

And return to:

Rockville Veteran's Monument Committee
PO Box 185
Rockville, MN 56369

Please Print:

Name of Donor: _____

Phone number: _____

Name of Veteran / Individual:

Print: _____

Branch of Service: _____

Name of Veteran / Individual:

Print: _____

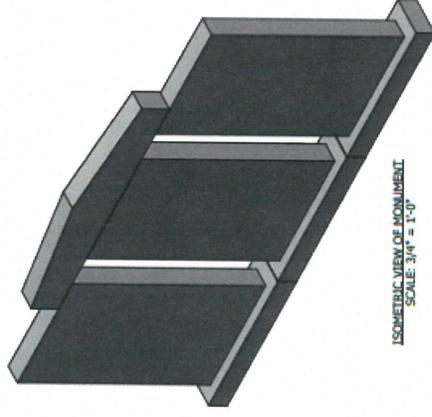
Branch of Service: _____

Name of Veteran / Individual:

Print: _____

Branch of Service: _____

VETERAN'S MONUMENT IN ROCKVILLE



ISOMETRIC VIEW OF MONUMENT
SCALE: 3/4" = 1'-0"

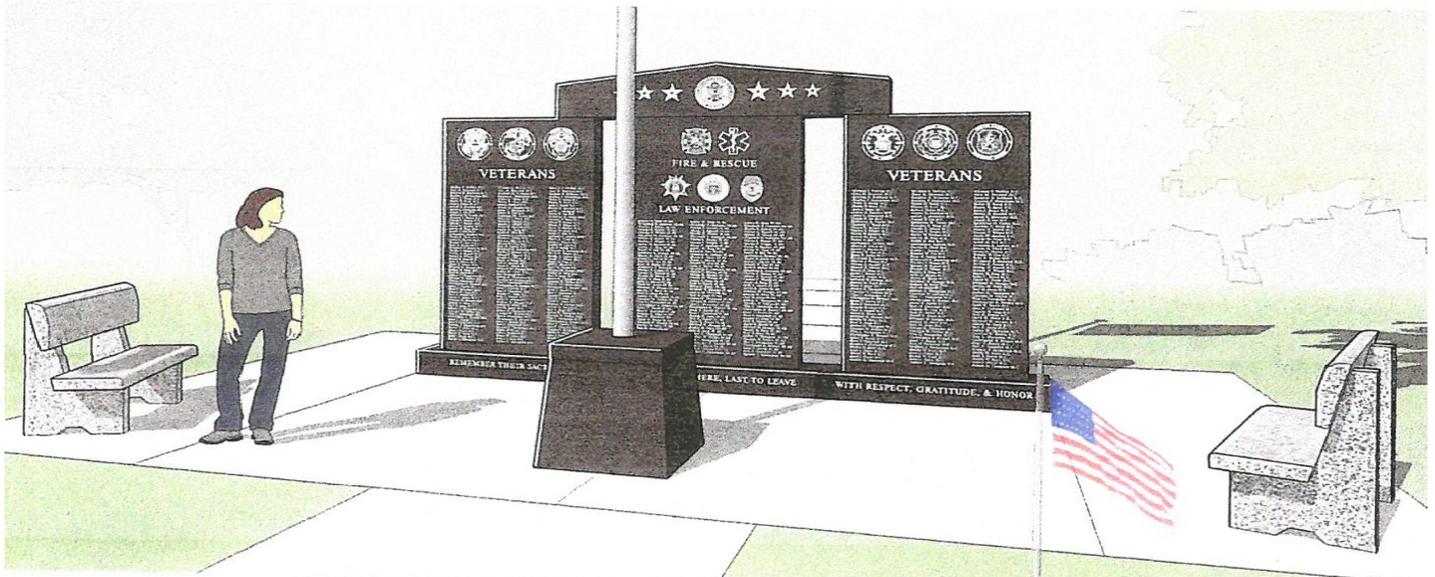
Dedication September 11, 2016



City of Rockville
229 Broadway St E
PO Box 93
Rockville MN 56369

PRSRT STD
US POSTAGE PAID
Rockville MN
PERMIT #6

Address Service Requested



VETERAN'S MONUMENT IN ROCKVILLE

