



MATT HAAG



Rochester City Council Member At-Large

May 2015 Newsletter

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Rochester Police Department

Reorganization

The Rochester Police Department is officially operating under a five section patrol model. This model increases the number of police beats, allowing officers to patrol smaller areas in an effort to better understand the neighborhoods they patrol. In addition, residents should begin to see the same officers working out of their neighborhood. I encourage you to familiarize yourself with this reorganization, as well as click the link below to see which section will serve your neighborhood. There is also contact information available on the website for residents and business owners.

<http://www.cityofrochester.gov/police/>

Civilian Review Board 2014

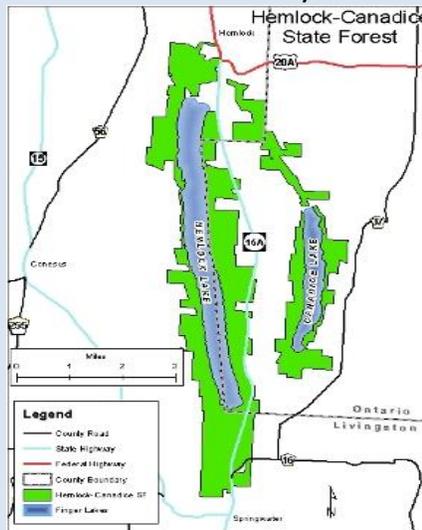
Annual Report

The Center for Dispute Settlement has published the 2014 annual report for the Civilian Review Board which demonstrates a significant decrease in citizen complaint investigation timelines. The number of business days for the review process to be completed decreased by 28%. This

decrease enhances the integrity of the complaint process as it allows a more timely resolution to issues brought before the board.

In addition, there was a dramatic decrease in the number citizen complaints for 2014; the board reviewed 45 cases in 2013 and 26 cases in 2014. The Community Advocate position which Council supported has also been able to reach thousands of residents with information about police oversight programs.

These early statistics are encouraging for the entire Rochester community.



Hemlock Canadice Management Plan

The first ever Hemlock Canadice Management plan for the 6,848 acre state forest was released

during the month of April. The Department of Environmental Conservation states that the “vision of the plan is to ensure the biological integrity, improvement and protection of the Hemlock-Canadice Unit.”

This plan was initiated by the state once they acquired the forestland around Hemlock and Canadice Lakes from the City in 2010. The two lakes have supplied the City of Rochester water for over 140 years.

I am happy to report one of the most important aspects of the plan states that hydraulic fracturing for oil and gas have been banned from this land.

This ensures that the water supply for the City of Rochester will remain protected and free from the threat of contamination. Although the practice is now banned in New York State, the smaller scale extractions that are still allowed will not be permitted there.

The plan lists additional information regarding managing the land, as well as additional updates to the area.

The full report as well as additional information is available here:

<http://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/68822.html>

Rochester Names Tree City USA for 34th Year

I am happy to report that the City of Rochester has been named a Tree City USA for the 34th Year by the Arbor Day Foundation. This designation is extremely important for our City and reinforces the important work of our Forestry Department. The City manages 67,212 trees encompassing 168 different species. The lush urban forest which includes our beautiful park system, cemeteries, and our residential tree lined streets, assist with not only beauty, but also improve the walkability of our neighborhoods. Walkability is the measure of how friendly an area is to walking, which includes factors such as street trees, sidewalk conditions, pedestrian crossings, and other factors attributed to the built environment. Walkability and this designation include economic, health and social benefits for all residents of our community.

Pictured below: Merchants Road



Bicycle Boulevards Plan

As research continues to demonstrate that bicycle infrastructure has tremendous economic benefits to our neighborhoods and local businesses, I will continue to monitor our Bicycle Boulevards Master Plan. This plan seeks to continually increase the bicycle friendliness of our City streets. This plan also supports the Complete Streets Policy adopted by City Council which acknowledges that residents and visitors move around our city through a number of different ways and our streets need to not only acknowledge this, but accommodate it. Additional streets will be announced as infrastructure projects move forward. Information here: <http://www.cityofrochester.gov/bikeblvd>



117th Annual Lilac Festival

The 117th Annual Lilac Festival will be held in beautiful Highland Park from May 8-17. Enjoy the largest free festival of its kind in all of North America. The festival is open daily from 10:30 am – 8:30 pm. Enjoy all of the wonderful lilacs in bloom, as well

as food, music performances, exciting exhibits, and other special events. The website below has the entire line-up for the duration of the festival: <http://www.rochesterevents.com/lilac-festival/>

The Fast and the Furriest

Mark your calendars for Saturday, June 6, for the Annual Fast and the Furriest. This event includes a 5K and 10K road race, a dog walk, and a pet festival to raise awareness for Animal Services. The events kick-off at 8am at 184 Verona Street. After the races there will be food, live entertainment, refreshments and more. There is free parking available in Kodak Lot D. Throughout the day, the event will include discounted pet adoption fees as well. For additional information or to register for one of the events: <http://www.vsas.org/event.html>

And Don't Forget, You Can Follow Me on Facebook and Twitter:

It's a great way to hear what's going on around the City. Search Matt Haag and choose to "like" my page. On twitter, search "MattHaagROC" and "follow" me. Also, keep me informed of what's happening with your neighborhood or group; I love to feature activities in the community in my newsletters.

Thanks,

