



A View from the Hill



A Letter from the Mayor



Dear Residents of Rock Hill,
Over the past few weeks we have been able to host three virtual meetings to cover the Financial State of the City. We appreciate everyone who has attended one of those meetings and the positive feedback we have received. If you were not able to attend one of the meetings in person, a recording is available on our website [here](#). Please feel free to reach out with any questions: emahan@rockhillmo.net.

I have enjoyed driving around Rock Hill and seeing all the Holiday decorations. I encourage anyone who has decorated to enter the Holiday Lighting Contest for a chance to win a gift card to Nachomamas Tex Mex or Hangar Kitchen and Bar.

Wishing you and your family a safe and happy Holiday and New Year.

Edward Mahan, Mayor

Public Works News

Old man winter is upon us again! When snow is in the forecast please park your cars in the driveway. This will help the public works trucks to quickly and effectively clear the snow and ice.

This winter we are working with the City of Glendale in a mutual aid agreement should either department encounter a spread of COVID-19. The working department will focus on the main thoroughfares. The Public Works department hopes to have a safe season but are prepared for anything.



Thank You Resident Matt Reardon

A huge thank you to the Park Board Chairperson, Matt Reardon. Matt spent his Saturday morning driving Santa Claus around Rock Hill. It was a nice change from his sleigh to ride around in this beautiful convertible!

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MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Dec. 16, 9 a.m.
Virtual Coffee with the Mayor

Holiday House Decorating Contest
Submissions due: 12/16

New Year's Eve Count Down Box
Sign up today!



Virtual Coffee with the Mayor

Wed. Dec. 16: 9am

Special Guest:
Patricia Harris
Community Development Commission, Chairperson



Christmas Recycling Tips:

HO! HO! HO!

- Paper Holiday Cards/Envelopes
- Holiday Shopping Catalogs
- Popcorn/Cookie Tins
- Clean, Dry Cardboard
- Glass Bottles (Enjoy the eggnog!)
- Paper Holiday Gift Bags
- Non-Foil Wrapping Paper
- All Items Must Be CLEAN & DRY!

NO! NO! NO!

- Toys
- Foil Wrapping Paper
- Electronics
- Ribbons/Bows
- Electronic/Glitter Holiday Cards
- Ornaments
- Holiday Lights
- Bubble Wrap
- Adhesive Gift Labels



Financial State of the City Recap

City Finances Q&A:

What is the state of the city's finances?

• The General Fund is not stable. The General Fund is used to pay employees in the police, fire, public works, court, and administration departments. This fund also pays for many of the supplies these employees use to provide services to the residents. For the last several years, the city has had to dip into the Fund Balance every year to be able to continue providing services.

What has the city done to address the budget issues?

- Changed some full-time positions to part-time positions and eliminated some positions and transferred those duties to existing employees.
- Contracted and shared services when possible.
- Asked staff to contribute an additional \$200-\$250 per month for health and dental premiums.

What is causing the decline in City revenue?

- The city has seen a \$250,000 decline in utility revenue as customers eliminate landlines cell phones and VOIP services. The city has no ability to collect utility tax revenue from these services.
- Ongoing pension obligations for the city's Uniformed Employees (police and fire) Pension Plan.
- Decreased revenues due to business restrictions and closures due to the pandemic.

What is the city asking from the residents?

- A property tax dedicated to pension payments.
- A use tax on purchases made from out of state vendors.

What happens if the residents say no?

- The city will likely need to reduce the number of employees which will result in a reduction in services provided to residents.

Pension Property Tax Q&A:

What will the tax fund?

- The tax will fund the city's Uniformed Employee Pension Fund and the city's LAGERS plan. The Uniformed Pension Fund is for police officers and fire-fighters hired before 2003. The LAGERS plan is for current city employees in all departments including police and fire.

How much will I pay if the property tax is passed?

- The City is asking for \$0.23 for a dedicated property tax for pensions.
Example: For a house appraised at \$150,000 the property tax fee would be \$5.46 a month.

I pay a lot in property taxes now. Doesn't the city get most of that money?

- No, the city only receives 3 cents of every tax dollar paid. The average residential property tax bill in Rock Hill is \$2,294.00. The Webster Groves School District receives the majority of the funds; \$1,332.00. The city only receives \$64 to pay for city services. (Check out the starred item below.★)

Where does your property tax go?



Use Tax Q&A:

What is the Use Tax?

The Use Tax is a tax on goods purchased from out-of-state vendors and shipped to Missouri. The Use Tax is most often paid when purchases are made from out of state vendors via the internet.



Will I pay both a sales tax and a use tax on the same purchase?

No. Sales tax and use tax are mutually exclusive, so they'll never be placed on a transaction at the same time. It's either one or the other.

I already pay taxes on my internet purchases. Isn't Rock Hill getting this money?

No, that money goes to the State of Missouri because the State imposed a Use Tax decades ago.

Have other cities approved this tax?

Yes! Over 200 cities in the state have a local use tax including Brentwood, Clayton, Crestwood, Des Peres, Glendale, Kirkwood and Maplewood.

What will the Use Tax fund?

The money will go into the General Fund to offset the loss in revenue from the telecommunications tax. The General Fund pays for city employees and city services.

Questions? Comments? Feedback?

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Paid for by the City of Rock Hill, Jennifer Yackley, City Administrator, 827 N. Rock Hill Rd, Rock Hill, MO 63119

Rock Hill Public Library

Happy holidays from Rock Hill Public Library! We are open for Curbside Service only—pick up free disposable masks, books, DVDs, and more via contactless service.



Monday-Friday from 2-6 PM
Saturdays from 10 AM-2 PM

Planning to stay inside for a while? We've got you covered! Download the Hoopla and Libby apps for free with your library card to start reading, watching, and listening at home.

Need other activities to do? Access prerecorded Guided Meditation, Chair Yoga, Mat Yoga, and Cooking by the Books videos 24/7 on our website.

For kids in grades K-5, we have adorable Candy Cane Reindeer and Clothespin Reindeer ornament craft kits available for pickup during Curbside Service hours! Give us a call at 314-962-4723 for availability and check out our previous craft tutorials on our website.

Need something to look forward to in the new year? Online Mat Yoga classes return in January, and be on the lookout for adult Stress Less kits!

To stay updated on programs and other library news, visit our Facebook page or our website at rockhillpubliclibrary.org. For questions, call 314-962-4723 or email patron@rhplmo.org.

CLICK ON EVENT IMAGES FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:



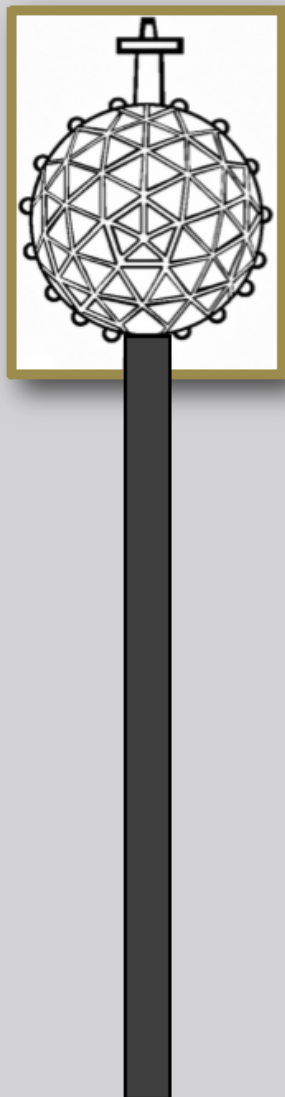
Rock Hill residents are invited to enter the annual
Holiday House Decorating Contest!

Submit a photo with your name, address and phone number to:
knieman@rockhillmo.net or drop off at City Hall.

Submissions due by Dec. 16. The winning house receives a \$50
gift card to Nachomama's Tex Mex, 2nd place wins a \$25 gift
card to



NEW YEAR'S EVE COUNT DOWN BOX



WHETHER YOU PLAN TO CELEBRATE NEW
YEAR'S AT NOON OR MIDNIGHT THIS BOX
IS FOR YOU!

A COUNT DOWN FROM 9 AM OR PM TO
NOON OR MIDNIGHT WITH A BAG TO OPEN
EACH HOUR!

9 AM/PM: ACTIVITY BOOK, HAT & NOISE-
MAKER

10 AM/PM: CRAFT PROJECT & NEW
YEAR BINGO

11 AM/PM: NEW YEAR THEMED GAMES

NOON/MIDNIGHT:
NEW YEAR CELEBRATION:
SPARKLING CIDER TOAST

FRONT PORCH DROP OFF:
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 30

\$15 PER FAMILY

(FAMILIES WITH MORE THAN 2 CHILDREN PARTICIPAT-
ING MAY NEED ADDITIONAL SUPPLIES, PLEASE MAKE
NOTE AT REGISTRATION.)

REGISTER ONLINE:
ROCKHILLMO.NET/PARKS-RECREATION-DEPARTMENT

QUESTIONS?
CONTACT: KATY
KNIEMAN@ROCKHILLMO.NET, 314-561-4304