

[City column – June 2016]
By Mayor Bill Droste

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Part of the quality of life that we value in Rosemount is the way we all come together in our neighborhoods, schools, and places of worship. Surveys show that our sense of community is particularly strong, and one of the big reasons families move here and stay here.

Now we're about to enjoy two of our biggest community celebrations for the year: Leprechaun Days from July 22 to 31, and Night to Unite on August 2.

The latest community survey said three out of four Rosemount residents had attended Leprechaun Days in the previous two years. The volunteer committee that puts the event together has worked to maintain the most popular features and attract more events and visitors.

This year, the Grand Parade is moving back to the second Saturday of Leprechaun Days, July 30. That will be convenient for folks who also want to visit the Midsummer Faire in Central Park and stay for the fireworks display at dusk.

The 2016 celebration will also include long-time favorites, like the Run for the Gold, the Blarney Stone Hunt, and the Fishing Derby. Our community band will tune up for a free concert. (For exact dates and times, visit the website at www.rosemountevents.com.)

Among the events that are newer to Leprechaun Days is a lacrosse tourney. A family bingo night is sponsored by the Rosemount High School Foundation, created recently to support the academic ambitions of our young people. And the Robert Trail Library will invite visitors to see live amphibians and reptiles. Another library event will let kids build their own catapults (small ones, they've promised us).

Leprechaun Days brings the community together and gives visitors a great impression of our community. And as soon as it's over, we bring the parties into our neighborhoods with Night to Unite.

Rosemount Police know that one of the strongest deterrents to crime is for neighbors to support and watch over each other. Night to Unite is when we invite people to turn on their outside lights, step out, and lock their doors to enjoy the company of their neighbors.

Public safety and public works personnel visit the block parties for equipment demonstrations and to answer questions about safety measures. They encourage the organization of neighborhood watch groups. And my colleagues and I on the City Council spread out to attend as many as possible.

And as another way to build communities, our personnel will also collect personal hygiene products to assist Dakota County families in need. The items needed include toilet paper, shampoo, soap, tooth brushes, toothpaste, and deodorant.

Rosemount had 33 parties on Night to Unite last year, and we're always looking for more. Please contact Rosemount Police at 651-322-3122 to add your neighborhood to the list for street barricades and visits. The deadline is July 24.

My colleagues on the Council and I look forward to seeing you at both of these great celebrations. They are part of our traditions to keep Rosemount the best place to call home.

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