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Carr would make a good mayor

Fri, Aug 25, 2006

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I believe in Pat Carr for mayor. He's honest and a very good person and does stand up to his word, which is very hard to find in this day and age. He's the kind of a person who will work with the people in Olmsted County and is someone who people will show respect for.

Many people who have been in office will not speak to people outside of their jobs. I think we need changes, and changes are good across the board. There should be a law and after two terms at the most, they cannot be re-elected. This would eliminate people who do a sloppy job in office.

Running down candidates should not be accepted. It shows poor character, and those who do it, do it to distract from their own faults.


Ann Aaker

Rochester


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Reader Comments

 **188395 - 08/27/2006**

No one would disagree that Pat Carr says what he thinks. It is his "thinking" that is a big question. Carr's mouth, when his foot isn't squarely inserted in it, is his worst enemy. The mayor's job was intentionally designed to be a ribbon cutting part-time affair. Their is no reason to change that.

 **127179 - 08/27/2006**

188395: Your feelings are strong. Maybe you'd have the courage to sign your name to your attack dog missives. Pat Carr has done nothing but stand up for the silent majority, and expose the fact that the hospitality industry in this city is driving for huge subsidies paid by the taxpayers, in the form of hockey rinks that 90% of the people opposed, etc., etc. Political influence, patronage, and corruption are also concepts that Mr. likes to expose, and in this city; it's easy. Let me get this right; police captain's felon son commits the most disgraceful act in recent history of the area, and he's a shoe-in for more public service in the fire department. Just sign your name, so everyone will know who's in charge of running the negative campaign against Pat Carr; with false accusations of course. Cobarde!

 **188395 - 08/25/2006**

Pat Carr seems to be a publicity hound and not much else. He has spent considerable time running down other people himself, so by this letter writer's criteria should withdraw. Carr showed his

mini "city dictator" isn't too wise either -- or legal. There are better choices for mayor.

127179 - 08/25/2006

Carr gets publicity because he isn't afraid to speak up for what's right; and speak against what's wrong. People that run him down are special interest groups and insiders that Carr exposes. He's a breath of fresh air in the smoke filled room.

176830 - 08/25/2006

I agree with 127279. Pat Carr will state what he thinks or wants rather than doing what or not saying what others want to hear. I want someone as mayor who is willing to speak up.

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Editorial: Arena will benefit area

Mon, Aug 14, 2006

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The Olmsted County fairgrounds will get a fourth indoor ice arena following approval by the Rochester City Council last week. Olmsted County and the Rochester School District have also made funding commitments for the \$6.5 million facility. But the bulk of the cost -- \$4.4 million over 18 years -- will eventually come from the Rochester Youth Hockey Association.

The hockey group says the fourth ice surface at the Graham Arena complex will allow Rochester to host large hockey tournaments, and will alleviate a crunch for ice time at peak hours. This will be one of only a few four-rink complexes in the state.

Beyond that, though, the complex, with its expanded common lobby, will be suitable for non-ice events such as horse shows and car-collector conventions.

The new arena represents a major marketing opportunity for Rochester and Olmsted County, and we have a private-public partnership to thank for it.

...

Award validates U.S. 52 project

It was a pain to motorists while it was being built, and there is still some debate about whether it's aesthetically pleasing to the eye and how it's affected businesses. But any objective local resident would have to admit that the U.S. 52 expansion project has, overall, been an asset to the region by improving traffic flow through the city.

Now there's outside affirmation of the project's success. The American Public Works Association has announced that it will bestow a "Project of the Year Award" on the U.S. 52 revamp.

Officials from the association commended the project for its innovative design and planning, including the moving of a bridge that shaved a year off the construction schedule.

The project hasn't pleased everyone, including some

Reader Comments

127179 - 08/14/2006

YES: The arena will benefit the hospitality industry, and 1% of the city population, the hockey players. NO: The benefits will not outweigh the costs to be borne by the city, county and school district. That's why 88% of the respondents in your own poll either questioned the benefit (33%) or were outright opposed (55%).

131541 - 08/14/2006

127179: The PB Poll generated a whopping 600 votes by people that chose to click on it!! You are part of the vocal minority.

morrisblue - 08/14/2006

hard to justify a 4th arena for a sport that only the well off can afford to send there children to. What about the Silver Lake Pool? We cannot afford to keep that going!!!

127179 - 08/14/2006

The truth hurts, and facts are stubborn things. What, was everyone that's in favor of subsidizing the hospitality industry off line for the 2 days the poll ran?

peterssh - 08/14/2006

Hockey is not something for kids only of "well off" people. If a parent wants to let their kid play hockey, no association is going to turn that kid away. There are such things as scholarships, ect. Don't talk until you know your facts please.

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New fire station will be near Shopko south

Tue, Aug 8, 2006

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By Jeffrey Pieters

The Post-Bulletin

Rochester City Council members approved a location for a new south-side fire station, the city's fifth station.

The council's 5-1 vote authorized a \$283,000 purchase for a two-acre site at the east end of 28th Street Southeast, just off South Broadway. The location is just north of the south-side Shopko store.

The new station extends the fire department's reach south and is well-situated to help cover downtown, said Chief David Kapler. The southernmost fire station now is at 521 S. Broadway, near downtown.

"We think, of everything available, it's the best place to go," Kapler said. "We wanted to be as far south as possible without crossing under the (U.S. 52) freeway."

The department planned at one time to build its south-side station near the 40th Street interchange, on U.S. 63 South. But that location was too far south, and the multitude of traffic signals planned at the interchange would have made it too cumbersome to quickly respond to calls to the north.


The department considered locations farther north, between 25th Street and the U.S. 52-U.S. 63 interchange. Unwilling sellers and unwelcoming neighbors were barriers to most of those sites.


Council member Pat Carr, who voted against the land purchase, said the fire department should have considered locating near U.S. 14 East and Marion Road, which would have given fire trucks an easier route to developing southeast neighborhoods.


He argued that fire trucks would have a difficult time responding from 28th Street and Broadway because of heavy traffic there.


"I think you'll probably see a fender bender a week," Carr


Reader Comments


 **mblack - 08/09/2006**
cheap shot on the "drunks" comment coezee, a review of what that man has done since that time might be in order

 **coezee - 08/09/2006**
Sorry mblack, he is a coward in a firefighters uniform.... I could care less what he has done since.

 **dabusch - 08/09/2006**
This is an excellent location for the new fire station. It allows very quick access to Broadway, 52, 3rd Ave, and eventually County Road 1. Preemption devices will allow smooth traffic control providing faster response times when traffic is congested. I'm just happy to hear that another fire station will be built, period!

 **127179 - 08/08/2006**
I'm having a hard time thinking of a dumber location.

 **110737 - 08/08/2006**
What research have you done to back up this comment? Offer some reasons rather than just ripping the decision.

 **127179 - 08/08/2006**
I watched the council meeting on channel 19 this morning at 8 am. Under perfect conditions, it will take 75 seconds to get out to Broadway from the proposed location. The fire engine will negotiate a stop sign, traffic in two directions at Eastwood Bank, two way traffic at the

Freese, firefighters would be able to handle traffic at 28th and Broadway. The devices control traffic signals.

"One of the very first things they do, before they even get in the vehicle, is preempt the signal," Freese said.

Over time, land developing east of the station site would open collector streets that would give the station easier access to southeast Rochester, Freese said. New streets linking Broadway to County Road 1, and from there to Marion Road, are laid out in the region's long-range transportation plan.

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thats why on 63. Every other fire station trucks have ever seen in my long life has immediate access to a main artery. I saw the aerial photos, I heard the testimony, and I reiterate...I AM HAVING A HARD TIME THINKING OF A DUMBER LOCATION.

111567 - 08/08/2006

Fire trucks don't stop for stop signs, they will enter the street without having to cross traffic, and the 4-way traffic will be stopped due to the pre-emptive signals. In a perfect world there would be a fire station on every block. Let the experts decide what is right for them, OK?

126959 - 08/08/2006

At least it is south of the main station. The city limit corridor follows the west side of Hwy 63 to the airport. Residential developments are exploding in the SE and SW. Some SW developments are within the township and have fire protection (by agreement) from Rochester. Given the location of the Silver Lake and 2nd ST SW stations to support the downtown I do not see why it is so important to keep the 5th station north of the 52 interchange. While business and residents south of the 52 interchange are certainly closer to a fire department off of 28th Street SE I see the bigger benefit had property owners not had \$\$\$ in the eyes when approached by the city so the station could have been place in the area of 40th or 48th Street SW. At best my thumb would be sideways on this decision.

127179 - 08/08/2006

"Let the experts decide"??? I believe that if these "experts" in the city had an ounce of common sense and integrity, they wouldn't have to swear in their 7 new hires in a ceremony closed to the press, the public, and MADD.

coezee - 08/08/2006

Do we really need a new station? I can drive my car anywhere in Rochester in a few minutes and I have to wait for traffic. Do we have enough drunks that killed people to staff a new station?


coezee - 08/08/2006

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people to staff a new station?

 **127179** - 08/08/2006


Coezee: I knew that I could count on you for a good "El Cobarde" one liner. Thanks for making my day.

 **123691** - 08/08/2006


If everyone would think back on this issue there was a different location chosen for the new fire station but some property owner got her panties in a bunch over how her home was more special than everyone else's and the city had to look for a different location. There is no "ideal" location. I think we should be thankful that the city is willing to spend the money on a new fire station. Any one of us may have a need for the services of the fire department someday.

 **110737** - 08/08/2006

Thanks 111567 for your input. It is obvious that 127179 has no idea what they are talking about since they don't know about preemption that allows fire trucks to not stop at intersections. It may not be the best location, who knows, but I can think of many, many dumber spots to put it so just relax or run for city government so you can make the decisions and have somebody else call them stupid.

 **155695** - 08/08/2006

I am agreeing with 127179 on this, it is a dumb location. If you have ever been on S. Broadway on an average Saturday, between Menards and Walmart, it's a traffic nightmare. And now they are going to negotiate fire trucks in and out? Smart move. About as smart as Ra Ra Rochester.

 **127179** - 08/08/2006

Watch channel 19 tonite at 7 pm to see the exact location and listen to the debate.

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Fourth ice arena clears final hurdle

Tue, Aug 8, 2006

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By Jeffrey Pieters

The Post-Bulletin

Plans for a fourth ice arena at the Graham complex, on the Olmsted County fairgrounds, have received the go-ahead from the Rochester City Council.

Council members voted 5-1 on Monday to authorize a city commitment of \$100,000 per year over 15 years to help pay to build the \$6.5 million arena, which includes a common lobby that will link the other three arenas.

The city's \$1.5 million promise is being matched by another \$1.5 million from Olmsted County -- a commitment the county board approved on July 25.

The remaining share will be paid directly by ice users, in particular the Rochester Youth Hockey Association, which pledged a \$1.2 million down-payment, plus \$4.4 million over an 18-year schedule to repay a county-issued bond. Rochester's public and private school districts will supply \$50,000 per year through fees for ice time.

Construction is planned to start this fall, with the arena opening by about this time next year.

City Parks Superintendent Roy Sutherland said the project would yield one of only three four-arena complexes in the state, capable of hosting large hockey tournaments that haven't come here before.

The new arena also is intended to alleviate an ice-time crunch affecting youth hockey.

Council member Bob Nowicki said that many of his constituents initially opposed the project because it might increase taxes, but some withdrew their opposition when he told them more about the benefits. Council member Sandra Means similarly said she heard support for the project.

Council member Pat Carr, the lone member to vote against the proposal, said he heard mostly from people

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Reader Comments

 123773 - 08/08/2006

Whew, thank goodness this got passed, because if it's one thing we sure don't have enough of in town it's high end facilities for youth sports. Maybe those of us without kids in sports could get some sort of tax rebate?

 127179 - 08/08/2006

Come On! Get on board here. Rah Rah Rochester! Don't you know that all taxpayers in Rochester are required to subsidize the bars, restaurants, and hotels?

 133621 - 08/08/2006

Nice to read the Rochester wine and cheese crowd complain. Get involved in politics, city government, county government, move away, or quit crying. For the comment on a tax rebate if you dont' have kids....do the kids get a rebate when they get older and have to pay for