

Rochester Housing Development Fund Corporation

Greater Rochester Housing Partnership

HOME Rochester and Make Monroe Home Homeowners Fall 2026 Newsletter

Fall Maintenance Checklist

- **Leaves, lawn clean up-** Maintain your lawn and rake leaves. Check your property for loose branches or limbs. Prune branches away from your home. Check with the City of Rochester or your town to find out when lawn debris is picked up.
- **Gutter clean out-** This is an important step in assisting with ice damming prevention over the winter months. Thoroughly clean out leaves and debris from gutters. Repair sagging or loose gutters. Check joints and seams for leaks. Make sure that downspouts are clear and are pointed away from the house.
- **Windows, caulking, leaks-** To prepare for cooler fall weather, inspect weather stripping around windows and replace if necessary. A tight seal is the first line of defense against air and water. Clean window screens.
- **Furnace and sump pump-** Check and change your air furnace filter often, a new filter will help your furnace run more efficiently. Do a check of your furnace and your sump pump for proper function before cooler weather sets in.
- **Dryer vent and house fans-** Clean out your lint trap each cycle. Unplug your dryer and clean your dryer vent (found at the back of the dryer) and hose monthly. Check for proper functioning of your kitchen exhaust and bathroom fans and clean filters. Exhaust fans rid the room air of excess moisture, humidity, odors and pollutants and function best when clean.
- **Leaks in/out-faucets-** Check under the kitchen and bathroom sinks to make sure connections on pipes and hoses are properly sealed. Look for wetness around the dishwasher that could signal an existing or potential problem. Check your washing machine hoses for cracks, bulges, or dampness. Check hot water heaters, which may show signs of corrosion and leaks.
- **Exterior home inspection-** It's good to do a walk-around of your property to check for any areas in need of repair. Remove hoses from spigots and drain them; store them indoors coiled and flat until next spring.
- **Roof-** Check for inconsistencies on your roof including cracked or missing shingles and nail-pops.
- **Smoke Detectors and CO Alarms-** If your detectors are not hard-wired, replace batteries in your smoke detectors and check for proper functioning of CO alarms. Have a working fire extinguisher on hand. Kitchens are the No. 1 source of home fires, and unattended cooking is the primary cause.

You may want to enlist a professional to assist with some of these tasks.

Rochester Fire Department- Fire safety tips can be found here:

https://www.cityofrochester.gov/departments/rochester-fire-department/home-fire-safety

We're looking to revitalize neighborhoods! Do you know of a vacant house in your neighborhood? Let us know!
Contact Tim Wildman @ twildman@grhp.org with an address and we'll take a look!

Our goal is to send out tips for seasonal home maintenance to assist you with successful homeownership.
Please respond to this e-mail and indicate if you choose to opt out of further newsletter communication.
This content is available in Spanish upon request.



Daylight Savings Time ends Sunday Nov. 1st, set your clocks back 1 hour.

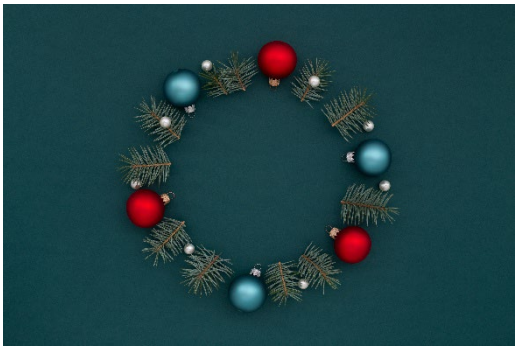
Happenings at the Rochester Public Market





Halloween at the Market
Date: Sunday, October 25
4:30 - 7:00 p.m.
Costumes, Candy, Community!
Free Admission

The City of Rochester Public Market hosts *Halloween at the Market* on the Sunday before Halloween each year for children and families. Visitors to *Halloween at the Market* will find vendor sheds filled with community organizations offering trick-or-treating opportunities (wear your costumes), interactive activities, performances, live entertainment, arts and crafts, and much more - *including valuable information about the host organization's programs and services!*



Holidays at the Market

- ***Sunday, November 29 (8 a.m. - 2 p.m.)***
- ***Sunday, December 6 (8 a.m. - 2 p.m.)***
- ***Thursday, December 10 (6-9 p.m.)***

A Rochester holiday tradition for over a quarter-century, *Holidays at the Market* features dozens of holiday-focused vendors selling fresh-cut trees and wreaths, decorations, specialty foods and beverage products, hand-crafted items, seasonal treats, and much more!
During *Holidays*, the Market is decked out in holiday lights and festive music and offers a great volume and variety of local shopping and unique gift items. Kids can visit Santa from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. during the Sunday events, and from 6 to 8 p.m. during the Thursday evening event. Plus, everyone can enjoy free horse-drawn carriage rides offered during all the events!



Special Thursday Evening Event

***Holidays at the Market* hosts a special Thursday evening event in addition to the three Sundays. In collaboration with the Market District Business Association, this evening event feature specials at Market District businesses in addition to shopping with holiday-themed vendors. Entertainment throughout the Market District, Santa and horse-drawn carriage rides will add to the shopping delights and make for a festive and memorable *Holidays at the Market* bonus!**

City of Rochester Senior Tax Exemption Workshops

The City of Rochester has added additional free workshops to help homeowners age 65 and older, or turning 65 by December 31, 2027, learn how they may qualify for property tax savings through the City's Senior Citizen Tax Exemption and other available tax relief programs.

The workshops begin with a presentation explaining the Senior Citizen Tax Exemption and Enhanced STAR programs, followed by one-on-one assistance with City staff. Homeowners can ask questions about eligibility, learn what documents are needed, and receive help completing an application.

Under New York State Real Property Tax Law Section 467, homeowners may qualify for a property tax exemption of up to 50% of their home's assessed value for City, County and school taxes. In Rochester, the amount of the exemption is based on household income, with homeowners earning up to $58,400 annually potentially qualifying for a partial exemption.

Many homeowners may also be eligible for the Enhanced STAR property tax exemption or credit through New York State. City staff will explain both programs during the workshops and help residents determine which benefits they may qualify for. Following the presentation, Assessment staff will be available to assist with applications and answer questions about required documentation.

To qualify for the Senior Citizen Tax Exemption, applicants generally must:

- Be at least 65 years old by Dec. 31, 2027. For a jointly owned property, at least one spouse or sibling owner must meet the age requirement.
- Own and occupy the property as their primary residence.
- Meet income eligibility requirements.
- Apply and renew their exemption annually.

Residents attending a workshop should bring documentation including:

- Proof of age, such as a birth certificate, driver's license or passport.
- Proof of income, including 2025 federal income tax returns or year-end 1099 income statements.
- Proof of property ownership, if requested.

Workshop attendees will also receive information about preparing for the City's next property assessment in 2028.

Workshop information:

- **4:30-6:30 p.m., Tuesday, Oct. 6, 2026** — Ryan R-Center, 530 Webster Avenue
- **4:30-6:30 p.m., Tuesday, Oct. 20, 2026** — Adams R-Center, 85 Adams Street

Homeowners who cannot attend a workshop or have questions about their eligibility are encouraged to call the City's Senior Exemption Hotline at 585-428-6994, Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., or visit www.cityofrochester.gov/Assessment for more information.

The deadline to apply for the Senior Citizen Tax Exemption is Feb. 1, 2027. **Residents are encouraged to apply early to avoid the annual filing deadline.**

Monroe County Resources

Lifespan - Provides information, guidance and services for older adults/caregivers - 585-244-8400
Pathstone - Home rehab and energy conservation - 585-442-2030
Neighborworks - Home repair and energy services - 585-325-4170
Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) - 585-753-6280 between the hours of 9am and 3pm, M-F