

ROCHESTER HOUSING ALLIANCE MEETINGS

8/13/2025 Meeting: The Housing Alliance is a group of elected and appointed city and county officials involved with improving affordable housing, plus lenders, builders, landlords, realtors, and non-profits involved with the issue. The group of 3-4 dozen people meet at 10 AM the 2nd Tuesday of the month at the Rochester Area Foundation which supplies Jomarie Morris as the director (Coalition for Rochester Area Housing). Open to the public.

At this meeting JoMarie shared her 2024 Coalition impact as well as a summary of the Maxfield 2025 Housing Needs update. Both can be googled or found on Rochester Area foundation website. They show that despite outstanding efforts to address the issue, affordable housing continues to be scarce.

2 take-aways from the discussion for me.

Taryn Edens, City Staff, mentioned that the update of the comprehensive land use plan has identified places for over 40,000 units of single-family housing within current city boundaries or the planned 10-year expansion area! builders were excited and wanted to see the map.

The other was Jim Miner's presentation on recent average sales prices of area housing. Northfield was highest, followed by Byron, and then Rochester. builder mike Paradise of Bigelow said that construction prices are the same and even land prices in smaller towns are approaching Rochester's. Many small towns, other than Stewartville, Byron, Eyota and Kasson, have seen little building. He said he took out the 1st building permit in Wanamingo in 10 years this summer.