

ROSEVILLE, MICHIGAN

Roseville, Michigan is located in the southeastern part of Macomb County. From the earliest days it was a farming community. When Michigan became a state in 1837, the community was made part of Orange Township. Because of strong Irish sentiment, the township's name was changed to Erin in 1843. John Cottrell was elected the first township supervisor.

In 1836 William Rose was appointed the area's first postmaster. The permanent office, established in 1840, was called the Roseville Post Office after William's father Denison Rose, a hero of the war of 1812.

In 1846 a wood plank toll road (now Gratiot Avenue, M-3) was constructed through the community, connecting it with Detroit and Mt. Clemens. One of the toll gates was located at Gratiot Avenue and Utica Road. In 1895 the Rapid Railway Company started operating an interurban between Detroit and Mt. Clemens. Its first carbarn and powerhouse were in Roseville, north of eleven mile, with the tracks running adjacent to the Gratiot Plank Road. Tolls were collected on the toll road until 1903. The toll gate sign giving the "Rates of Toll" now hangs in the library. The interurban remained until January, 1930.

Three of Roseville's original churches, all still in existence, were established during this period. St. Mark's Lutheran Church in 1853, Erin Presbyterian Church in 1860 and Sacred Heart Catholic Church in 1861.

In 1852 the first public school was built on Eleven Mile Road near Gratiot Avenue where Burton Junior High School used to be. In 1973 there were 23 public schools in Roseville. For the school year 1994-95, there were ten elementary schools and three secondary schools, with an estimated student population of 6,311.

In 1886 the Erin Township Hall was built at the corner of Gratiot Avenue and Eleven Mile Road. At one time this building was the Town Hall for the present cities of Eastpointe, Roseville, St. Clair Shores, and a part of Fraser. The Town Hall was torn down when I-696 was built in the 1970s. In 1910 Lake Township (most of which is now St. Clair Shores) was organized. In 1929 East Detroit (now Eastpointe) became a city. When Fraser was incorporated as a city in 1956, followed by Roseville in 1958, Erin Township came to an end. Frank Biehl was the last township supervisor.

In 1926 Roseville was incorporated as a village with John Asmus being elected its first President. When the old Roseville Municipal Building was constructed in 1929 at Gratiot and Meier Road, both the village and township offices were moved into it. In 1958 the village became a city and Arthur Waterman was elected the first mayor. The present municipal building was built in 1974.

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Until 1950 Roseville was considered a small suburb of Detroit. In the 1950s Roseville had a population explosion with thousands of people moving into it environs. Along with this sudden population change, hundreds of homes were built in the community, four major shopping centers were erected along Gratiot Avenue and many small industrial plants were constructed on the west side of the city. Major highways in Roseville include the I-94 and I-696 expressways, M-3 (Gratiot), and M-97 (Groesbeck).

Population Statistics:

<u>Erin Township</u>		<u>Tw./City of Roseville</u>	
1850	974	1930	6,836
1860	1,975	1940	9,023
1870	2,466	1950	15,816
1880	2,692	1960	50,195
1890	2,449	1970	60,529
1900	2,440	1980	54,311
1910	2,225	1990	51,412
1920	2,791	2000	48,129

Village Presidents:

John Asmus, Louis Sendhoff, John Lindroth, Orville Dennis, Harry McReavy, Earl Fesendon, William Harper, Frank Biehl, Roy Diessing, Glen Alsip and Arthur Waterman.

City Mayors:

Arthur Waterman, 1959-63, 1965-67; Richard Drager, 1963-65; William McDonald, 1967-71; John Perry, 1971-73, Lester DeClerk, 1973-75; Leonard Haggarty, 1975-81; Jeanne Riesterer, 1981-93; Gerald Alsip, 1993-2005; Harold Haugh, 2005-08; John Chirkun, 2009-14; Robert Taylor, 2015-present.

Prepared by Frank Spybrook and the Roseville Public Library – 11/10/73
revised 12/88, 11/94, 8/01, 3/06, 8/16.