



Royal Oak Begins Development Project and ‘Rethink Royal Oak’

South Side of Williams Parking Lot, in front of City Hall to Close May 7

ROYAL OAK, Mich. (April 25, 2018) Today Royal Oak announced that the south side of the Williams Street parking lot will close on May 7, 2018, kicking off the development project. The development will include a new two-acre public park, police station, city hall, six-story office building, and parking structure. The development begins with The Royal Oak City Center (ROCC) where the current south side of the Williams Street lot resides (also known as Lot 4 – located in front of city hall). To accommodate residents, visitors and disabled individuals, the city will open the private lot between city hall and the library to the public as a metered lot on May 7, 2018.

The newly developed ‘Rethink Royal Oak’ brand encompasses the entirety of the development project, including regular updates on www.rethinkro.com, and a parking guide that advises available parking options and accompanying pricing information. This includes four of the parking downtown garages: Center Street, Lafayette North, Lafayette South, Emagine and garages.

“We invite residents, visitors, businesses and more to ‘Rethink Royal Oak’ by trying new restaurants, frequenting more shops, considering alternate parking and modes of transportation and more,” said Royal Oak City Community Engagement Specialist Judy Davids. “We are excited for the development of these incredible amenities for our community and are dedicated to informing the public of what phase we are in, every step of the way.”

A public celebration to kick off the development will take place at the south side of the Williams Street lot on May 11, 6 p.m. – 9 p.m. with a variety of kid-friendly activities, music and more. Modern Skate is featuring a half-pipe where talent will demo BMX bikes, skateboards, scooters and roller blades. To celebrate National Bike Month, KLM Bike & Fitness will be onsite with bikes to test ride and accessories to purchase. The SMART bus team and Royal Oak Transit Taskforce will be there with information on how to get downtown by bus. Royal Oak city staff will be onsite to discuss the upcoming north-south four-mile bike lane that is coming this summer. Oakland County’s Retro Games Mobile Unit will offer sack races, egg-and-spoon relays, tug-of-war ropes, kickball and more. The United States Post Office will collect non-perishable food donations as part of the Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive.

The hours and availability of the Royal Oak Library and Farmer’s Market respectively will not be impacted by the development. The library will continue to be open Monday through Thursday, 10 a.m. - 9 p.m., Friday through Saturday, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. and on Sundays during the school year, 1 p.m. - 5 p.m. The Farmer’s Market will continue to be open every Saturday, and Fridays May through December, 7 a.m. - 1 p.m. The Antiques and Collectibles Market will continue to be available every Sunday 8 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Due to the development, this year’s Royal Oak In Bloom will move to the Sixth and Main Street parking lots on May 13, 7 a.m. - 3 p.m. Attendees can park in nearby surface lots and the north

end of the Oakland Community College Parking Garage. Additionally, the Memorial Day Parade will take place on May 28 at 9 a.m. along Main Street and Lincoln Street, and move north through downtown.

For more information about the 'Rethink Royal Oak' development, please visit www.rethinkro.com.

About Royal Oak

Royal Oak is a vibrant metro Detroit community home to nearly 60,000 residents located in Oakland County. Destinations within the 12-mile community include The Detroit Zoo, The Royal Oak Music Theatre, William Beaumont Hospital, Mark Ridley's Comedy Castle and a successful Farmer's Market among others. The city's recreational services include more than 50 public parks and was recently named one of the Top 10 Most Exciting Small Cities in America by Movoto and the Best Place to Live in Michigan by AreaVibes. To learn more about Royal Oak, visit <https://www.romi.gov>.

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