



Mayor's message



"Happy New Year!" Whenever I hear that, I always think of Frosty the Snowman; remember, it's the first thing he says when he comes to life (if you're old enough to remember, that is!).

I hope everyone survived the holiday season in good health and good spirits.

Now is the time of year when we look back at the previous year and wonder if we really accomplished the goals we set for ourselves. If you're like me, you might be saying this to yourself right about now: "Well, there's always next year"

Most people I know – including me – tend to fixate on the big things we want to get done. But, in the end, we feel like we accomplished nothing. In reality; however, we have accomplished plenty!

When we're focused on crossing the "big" things off our list, we forget about all the

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The River Falls Police Department introduced its new Honor Guard program at the 2018 River Falls Memorial Day Parade. Members include (l-r): Officer Bryan Jensen, Officer Kevin Moore, Sergeant Elizabeth Posel, and Office Kyle Youker. (See article on page 11.)

November election was one for the books

River Falls voters came out in record numbers for November's midterm election.

"Our five polling locations were busy all day," said River Falls City Clerk Amy White. "While some wait times were longer than usual – an average of 30 minutes – voters were patient and courteous, and our poll workers did a terrific job moving people through the process."

White reports no issues with the voting locations, which had changed since August's Partisan Primary. "People knew where they were going," she said.

White said that much of the election activity actually started two weeks before Nov. 6, when in-person voting became an option. Nearly 1,300 voters turned up at

City Hall to vote, or about 130 per day over the 10-day voting period.

Seventy percent of River Falls' eligible voters cast their ballots in November's election, 10.6 percentage points above the state average and 20.4 percent above the national average.

Spring elections

If necessary, the Spring Primary Election will be Feb. 19, followed by the April 2 Spring Election when residents will vote for River Falls City Council members, and Justices of the Wisconsin Supreme Court, Court of Appeals, and Circuit Court. Visit www.rfcity.org/elections for more information about a potential Spring Primary. See myvote.wi.gov to find out who is on your ballot in April.

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Mayor's message...from page 1

little things we've accomplished that often have a much bigger impact on our lives and the lives of the people around us than all of the big things combined.

Going to work every day to provide food, clothing, shelter, and warmth for ourselves or our loved ones is probably not on our list, but I will argue that it is more important than cleaning the garage!

I bet you don't have telling your loved ones (or yourself) that you love them and are proud of them on your list. It's unlikely that helping a neighbor when they are struggling with something makes it on anyone's list. How about when you help out a charity or church or something else that is close to your heart, or when you stop and say "hi" to a stranger? I'm guessing those aren't on your "big" list either.

So, as we start the new year, let's focus on the "little" things that inevitably bring us more satisfaction and fulfillment (and less stress!). If you are able to cross some big things off your list, too, good for you! If not, remember ... there's always next year.

So, as Frosty says, "Happy New Year!" And, as I always say, "Get out there and enjoy your great city."



Go Pack Go,
Dan Toland

Council meetings

River Falls City Council meetings are held the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. in City Hall (Council Chambers, lower level), 222 Lewis Street, River Falls. The public is invited to attend. Time is set aside at the beginning of each meeting for residents to address the Council.

Past and current Council agendas and minutes can be found at www.rfcity.org.



River Falls City Council (l-r): Sean Downing, Chris Gagne, Scott Morrisette, Mayor Dan Toland, Diane Odeen, Todd Bjerstedt, Michael Page, and Hal Watson.

City of River Falls Mayor and Council

Mayor: Dan Toland
dtoland@rfcity.org, 715/426-3404

At-Large: Scott Morrisette
smorrisette@rfcity.org, 715/425-8993

At-Large: Diane Odeen
dodeen@rfcity.org, 715/426-5325

At-Large: Michael Page
mpage@rfcity.org, 612/810-3949

District 1: Sean Downing
sdowning@rfcity.org, 715/307-2057

District 2: Christopher Gagne
cgagne@rfcity.org, 715/222-3220

District 3: Hal Watson
hwatson@rfcity.org, 715/781-5814

District 4: Todd Bjerstedt
tbjerstedt@rfcity.org, 651/248-1099



Staff and City Council members helped celebrate ALDI's grand opening on Nov. 19. (l-r): Buddy Lucero, community development director, City of River Falls; Derek Bristlin, construction manager, ALDI; Matt Lilla, division vice president, ALDI; Scot Simpson, City administrator; Scott Morrisette, City Council member; Sean Downing, City Council member; and Keri Schreiner, economic development specialist, City of River Falls.

Election...from page 1

Poll workers needed

Sixty-seven poll workers participated in the Nov. 6 election. White said an additional 20 workers would be optimal.

"We are always looking for residents to help out at election time. It's a great opportunity to meet new people while helping voters in the community," said White.

Dale Sherrill, a recent transplant from Texas, decided to get more involved in River Falls civic life and served as a poll worker in November.

"Election day was very exciting, especially being on the other side of the table as a poll worker," she said. "I was quite surprised at the number of voters who turned out and that they were of all ages.

"My favorite thing was seeing how serious and important the process is behind the scenes. The staff at City Hall were dedicated to ensuring the process was done as accurately and smoothly as possible for our voters to place their votes. I also enjoyed seeing the commitment of our community who turned out for this election."

White said that poll workers must be at least 18 years old, a U.S. citizen, and a



Dale Sherrill (left), who served as a poll worker for the first time during the midterm election on Nov. 6, stands with City Clerk Amy White (middle) and Deputy City Clerk Jackie Sahnnow. White said that during peak hours (4:30-7 p.m.) on Election Day, the voter line at City Hall stretched up these stairs and into the lobby.

resident of River Falls. New poll workers must attend a one-hour orientation, and all poll workers (newcomers included) must attend a training session one week prior to an election.

Work hours on Election Day are flexible; most work in the morning or afternoon, though some stay all day. Each worker receives \$9/hour for their services.

Applications and job descriptions for poll workers are available at www.rfcity.org/elections or at the City Clerk's Office at City Hall, 222 Lewis Street.

Advanced Metering Infrastructure

Coming soon to a meter near you!

Over the last decade, there have been significant advances in utility metering technology, providing customers with more information about, and control over, their electric and water usage.

River Falls Municipal Utilities (RFMU) recently announced plans to make Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) available to its customers, with installation beginning in early 2019 and continuing over the next few years.

The new metering system will provide utility customers with personalized information on energy and water consumption as well as usage data and alerts.

"More detailed information for our customers will allow for greater understanding and control of their energy and water consumption and, ultimately,

Midterm elections by the numbers

	2014	2018
Total registered voters in River Falls	7,858	8,838
Total number of residents who voted	4,508	6,176 *
Total absentee voters	624	1,725
Early voters (in-person absentee)	NA	1,296
Percentage of River Falls residents voting	57%	70%**

*Approximately 1,300 voters registered on Election Day, including 500 local college students.

**Percentage of Wisconsin residents voting = 59.4%; U.S. residents = 49.6%

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AMI ... from page 3

their bill,” said RFMU Director Kevin Westhuis.

Alert features will provide customers with information that can be used for budgeting, water leak detection, and identification of unusual trends in water and electric usage.

“Immediate and automatic electric outage reporting, and timely outage information, may also be a significant positive byproduct of AMI metering for our customers,” said Westhuis.

“Imagine going to our website when an outage occurs to discover its location, causes, and expected restoration times. This will be a reality soon in River Falls!”



Westhuis said customers will be notified before their meters are replaced and does not anticipate any – or very limited – change in service during the transition. Soon after the meters and related infrastructure are in place, he said, customers will receive information about how to best use the new data and outage management tools.

“As with any other meter change-out,” said Westhuis, “there is no charge to the customer.”

Expected timeline:

March – December 2019

Electric meter replacement

March 2019 - March 2021

Water meter replacement

Ongoing

Resource and AMI assistance

For more information about AMI metering, visit uwrf.org/AMImetering.

Youth book clubs foster friendship and understanding

by Tanya Misselt, Library Director

It is said that fiction creates both a window to the world and a mirror that reflects our lives. Stories also broaden our horizons by exposing us to cultures, characters, and situations beyond our own life experiences.

Stories can help us understand that we are not alone with the problems we face – because others have faced them, too. This is especially important for our youth. Through stories, young people can safely consider what decisions they might make if they were in a similar situation as a character in a book. What might they do differently? What might they do the same?

The River Falls Public Library offers three book clubs for students to share experiences through reading. The 4th and 5th grade club meets during the school year, and the middle and high school groups meet year-round. Clubs choose their

own titles and students receive free copies of their selected books.

“The most important thing that the book clubs do is get kids reading and talking in a positive, supportive environment,” said Youth Services Librarian Monica LaVold.

“These are students who may not already know each other but are able to build friendships and understanding through books and reading. What could be better than that?”

The Library would like to thank the new Aldi store for sponsoring the 4th and 5th grade book club this academic year. Their generous donation helps our community raise readers and lifelong learners.

To find out more about the book club program, or to join a group, contact Monica LaVold at mlavold@riverfallslibrary.org or 715-426-3484.



A recent gathering of the Wednesday 4th and 5th grade book club included (l-r): Henry Hovland, Charlie John, Caitlyn Perfect, Gust Johnson, and Chloe Nabb.

Kinni Corridor Project: What's next?

After two years of active community engagement, the Kinni Corridor Project plan is nearly complete with a scheduled Council vote on the final plan on Jan. 22.

"These past two years have been a whirlwind of activity," said Project Director Buddy Lucero. "I am so proud of how the community has come together to create a plan that will serve as a foundation for more detailed plans to come.

"I am also proud of the work of our project committee. They have worked tirelessly to guide the project and keep it on track. In addition, they have planned and attended a kick-off event, six 'Tech Talks,' a three-day community planning charrette, two open houses, and multiple committee meetings, City Council meetings, and community gatherings."

As the project moves into the implementation phase, community members

are working together to create a Public Private Partnership (P3), a legal entity that will guide the project, set priorities, and raise funds necessary to support the project over the next 15-20 years (see sidebar).

In the meantime, staff has been working closely with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) and local, regional, and statewide stakeholders to manage the relicensing process for the City's two hydroelectric facilities.

"We have submitted a PAD [Pre-Application Document] to FERC to relicense the 'project,' which includes both Powell Falls and Junction Falls hydro operations and facilities," said River Falls Municipal Utilities Director Kevin Westhuis.

He said that, within the application, the City indicated that there is a target date of 2026 to surrender the ability to produce electricity and remove the Powell Falls dam.

Westhuis also said that the Junction Falls hydroelectric facilities and dam will be revisited around 2030 to comply with the City Council's February 2018 resolution to cease hydro operations and remove the dam sometime between 2035 and 2040.

Visit kinnicorridor.org for the final plan, hydro relicensing updates, P3 activities, and implementation timelines.



Volunteers needed!

As the planning phase of the Kinni Corridor Project comes to an end, community volunteers are needed to implement the plan's short-, mid-, and long-term priorities.

A group of volunteers met in November and December to discuss creating a Public Private Partnership (P3), a separate legal entity that will bring stakeholders together to set benchmarks and raise funds to support the plan.

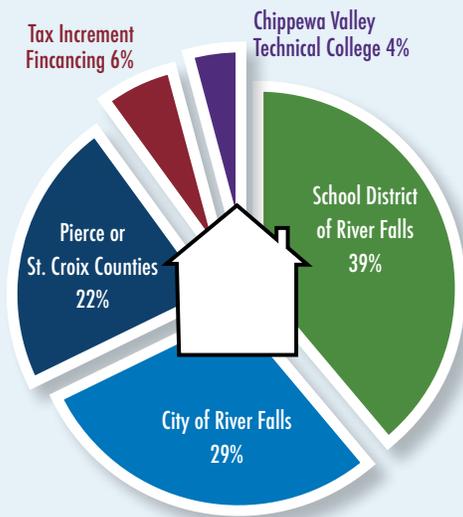
For more information about the P3 and how you can volunteer, visit kinnicorridor.org/P3.



Kinni Corridor Committee members gathered for a group photo at the last community open house on Thursday, Sept. 27, to celebrate two years of working together to guide the planning process. Front row (l-r): Mayor Dan Toland, Jason Egerstrom, Buddy Lucero (project manager), Patricia La Rue, Susan Reese, Rita Kozak, Rick Bowen. Back row (l-r): Adam Myszewski, Lisa Moody, Dave Fodroczi, and Chris Blasius. Not pictured, Gary Horvath.

Where do your property taxes go?

Multiple funding sources support City services and operations; the majority are from user fees for electric, water, sewer, and ambulance charges to customers. While the property tax levy supports City operations, it also supports other jurisdictions. Here is where resident property taxes go:



2019-2020 Budget adopted

The City Council recently approved the City's 2019/2020 biennial budget for a total of \$91,355,642. The budget presents projected revenues and expenses that allow staff to fulfill the policies and direction determined by the Mayor and City Council, including pursuing new initiatives and strengthening services to the community

Every two years, the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) is updated to reflect proposed capital projects in River Falls, including equipment and vehicle replacement as well

as building and other infrastructure projects.

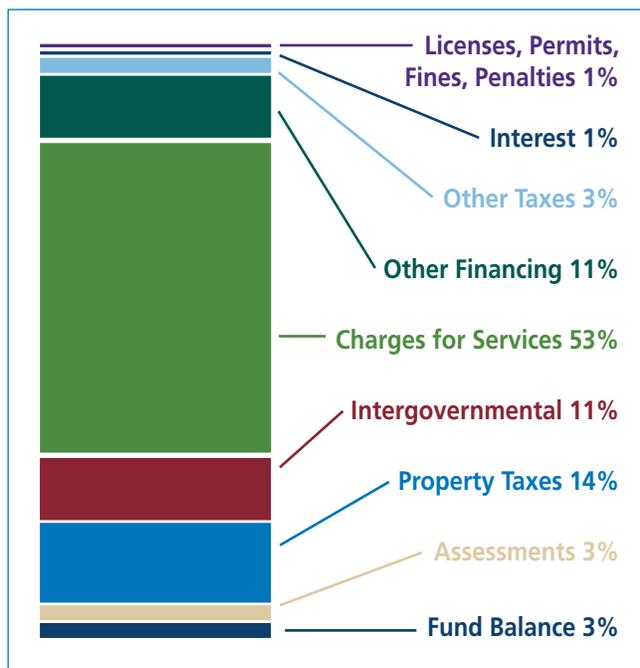
While these and other major programs are included in the CIP, there will be continued discussion and approvals by the City Council as the projects progress. Citizen input is always welcome before, during, and after the budget process.

The complete approved budget can be found at www.rfcity.org, at City Hall, and at the Library. For questions, contact Julie Bergstrom, assistant city administrator, at jbergstrom@rfcity.org.

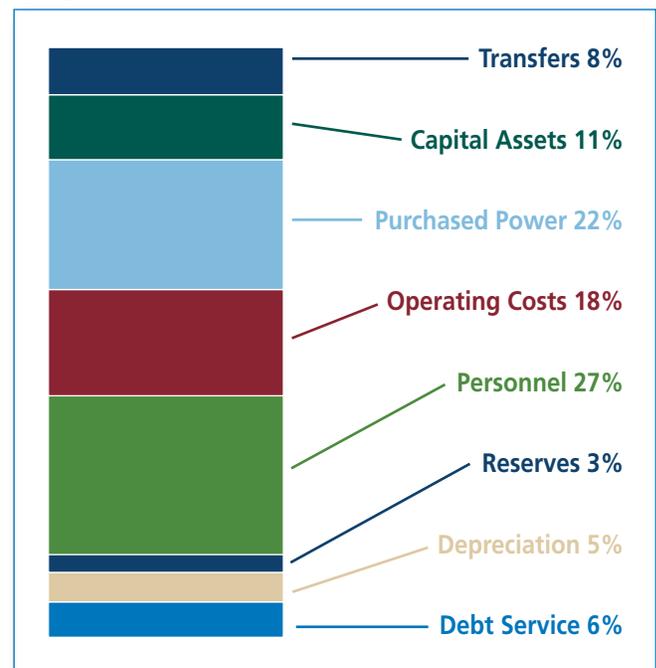
The following major projects have been funded in the approved budget:

Glen Park Implementation	\$4.4 million
North Interceptor Sewer Reroute and Rehabilitation	\$2.7 million
Division Street Interchange-Highway 35.....	\$2.6 million
Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI)	\$1.3 million
South Fork Substation Transformer.....	\$1.2 million

2019-2020 Revenues



Expenditures



Program harnesses community energy

by Mike Noreen, Conservation and Efficiency Coordinator

River Falls Municipal Utilities' POWERful Choices! program has been a "powerful" change agent in our community since its inception in 2007. Our conservation, efficiency, renewable energy, and low-income programs have provided education, resources, support, advice, products, and funding to individuals, households, businesses, and nonprofit organizations throughout River Falls.

Since the program began, POWERful Choices! has brought over \$1.3 million back to River Falls customers through incentives from Focus on Energy, Wisconsin's energy efficiency and renewable resource program. In addition to the upfront incentives, customers have seen lower bills through energy efficiency, with savings of 17,900,000 kilowatt hours. This is equivalent to the carbon dioxide emissions from 69 railcars' worth of coal burned. Energy efficiency has been good for our customers and the environment.

POWERful Choices! is guided by a community advisory committee, which meets once a month and is open to anyone. Attendees include citizens, business owners, school personnel, city staff, students, and Focus on Energy representatives. At the meetings, City staff share potential projects,

but also provide an open forum where people share ideas and upcoming events.

These meetings have created fruitful community partnerships with, among others, local businesses, Grow to Share, the Forward Foundation, Sunshine Fund, area churches and schools, and Focus on Energy.

Through its community connections, POWERful Choices! has also developed the first community solar garden in Wisconsin; designed downtown holiday lighting; created a utility box painting program; converted streetlights to LED; hosted electronics recycling events; and brought free energy efficiency products, such as LEDs and Nest thermostats, to utility customers.

In 2019, we'll be offering new opportunities for electric vehicle charging; providing greater incentives for renewable energy installations; building energy efficiency into new construction; and helping all customers in lowering their carbon footprint.

You can help determine the City's energy future by joining the POWERful Choices! advisory committee or serving as a volunteer for one of its many activities.

Contact Mike Noreen for more information at mnoreen@rfcity.org.

CORE fees support city services

As of Jan. 1, a \$1.25 CORE (COmpost and REcycling) will be added to RFMU customer utility bills.

"We all face the problem of how to dispose of broken, out-of-date electronics – computers, TVs, cell phones, and Xboxes," said Assistant City Administrator Julie Bergstrom.



"To help with this problem, we will offer an electronic recycling event for all City residents and property owners this year. CORE fees will help cover the costs for haulers and recyclers."

The fee also supports operation of the annual fall and spring cleanup events and compost site maintenance.

"The City's free yard waste compost facility is available to residents for proper disposal of grass clippings and brush," said Bergstrom. "Residents are also invited to take compost and wood chips for their garden and landscaping needs – also at no cost."

Visit www.rfcity.org/recycling for more information regarding the recycling event. Composite site info is available at www.rfcity.org/compost.



all about town

Library series sampler

Soup, Salad, and Science

5:30-7:30 p.m.; RFPL, Lower Level

In cooperation with River Falls Community Education, the Library is excited to offer a science-focused public lecture series.

Feb. 21: Dr. Robert Brackett, "Safety of the American Food Supply"



March 21: Hans Zoerb, "Science of Brewing"

April 18: Dr. Heidi Kassenbourg "Outbreak! The Epidemiology of the Flu"

Maker Mondays

3:30-6 p.m. (drop in); RFPL, Lower Level

Join fellow "makers" on the second Monday of the month for an afternoon of family-friendly, hands-on activities in a pop-up makerspace.

Jan. 14: Crystals and Snow

Feb. 11: Cool Rooms

March 11: Everything in 3-D

April 8: Fix-it workshop (Bring an item to fix or take apart; tools, projects, and advice will be provided.)

May 13: Robotics

Adult Coloring

6 p.m., RFPL, Storytime Room

Every fourth Wednesday of the month. Supplies, coffee, and cookies provided.

Check out book club schedules, Winter Storytime days, and much more at riverfallspubliclibrary.org.

Jan. 21, Feb. 18; 10:30 a.m.

Out-of-School Day Events

Featuring PawPADs (Jan. 21) and The National Eagle Center (Feb. 18)
RFPL, Lower Level

Feb. 11, noon-1p.m.

Contemporary Political Issues Round Table Series

"Statelessness and the Refugee Crisis Today," Ellen Kennedy, Ph.D., director, World Without Genocide, Mitchell Hamline School of Law
Reception to follow
Kinnickinnic Theater, UWRF

Feb. 20, 8 a.m.

Coffee with a Cop

Caribou Coffee at Family Fresh Market
303 S. Main Street, River Falls



March 5, 5-7 p.m.

10th Annual Bowls for Hope
University Center, UWRF
Admission is \$25/adult, \$5/child 12 and under. Proceeds will benefit River Falls Sunshine Fund.
uwrf.edu/bowlsforhope

March 7-9, March 14-16; 7:30 p.m.

UWRF Stage and Screen Arts presents

Argonautika by Mary Zimmerman
Davis Theatre, Kleinpell Fine Arts, UWRF

March 8 - April 2

Telling Women's Stories

A community art show celebrating women's stories for Women's History Month



Community Arts Base Barn Dances

Family dance: 7-8 p.m.
Grown-up dance: 8-9:30 p.m.
\$5 adults/\$2.50 for 12 and under
RF Academy 439 W. Maple Street

Featuring:

Greenwood Tree, Jan. 19
Rush River Ramblers, Feb. 16
Wooly Buggers, March 16



March 12, 19; 7 p.m.

Women's History Month Film Screenings
Featuring *RBG* (March 12) and *He Named Me Malala* (March 19)
RFPL, Lower Level

(RFPL=River Falls Public Library)

March 17

St. Patrick's Day Celebration

Downtown River Falls
rfchamber.com

April 2019

The Big Read in St. Croix Valley

Station Eleven by Emily St. John Mandel
Various times and locations
In collaboration with ArtReach St. Croix
Visit riverfallspubliclibrary.org for info.



April 5, 5 p.m.

American Cancer Society Relay for Life

River Falls High School
relayforlife.org/riverfallswi

April 9, 1 p.m.

Digital Estate Planning for Seniors

Nancy Abrahamson, Dementia Care Specialist, St. Croix County Aging and Disability Resource Center
RFPL, Lower Level

April 9, 6:30 p.m.

Documentary Film: *I Am Evidence*

6:30 p.m. discussion; 7 p.m. screening
RFPL, Lower Level



April 9, 7:30-9:30 p.m.

Music Education Showcase

Abbott Concert Hall, Kleinpell Fine Arts, UWRF



April 10-13, 7:30 p.m.

Dance Theatre Spring Concert

Davis Theatre, Kleinpell Fine Arts, UWRF

April 13, 1:30 p.m.

Family Barn Dance

RFPL, Lower Level



April 15 – May 14

All-School Art Show

Kleinpell Gallery, RFPL, Lower Level

April 27, 6-11 p.m.

CAB Spring Arts GALA

Featuring "Roaring Twenties" theme and live music by the Mouldy Figs
River Falls Golf Club
See riverfallscab.org for ticket information.

April 30 – May 4, 7:30 p.m.

UWRF Stage and Screen Arts presents

Proof by David Auburn
Syse Theatre, Kleinpell Fine Arts, UWRF

May 4, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

9th Annual "Wings of Spring" Bird Festival

City Hall, 222 Lewis Street
Sponsored by St. Croix Valley Bird Club
www.scvbirdclub.com

Summer fun!

It's not too early to start planning summer activities. Be on the lookout for catalogs and info. this spring.



City of River Falls

Parks and Recreation
www.rfcity.org/recreation
715/425-0924

Summer Library Programs

riverfallspubliclibrary.org
715/425-0905

School District of River Falls

Community Education Program
rflearns.org
715/425-1830, ext. 3800

Glen Park usage

Most of Glen Park will be under construction until fall 2019, though some areas will remain open. See page 15 for updates as well as information about reserving shelter spaces for your summer event.



all about town

The Saint John's Bible

Jan. 10 – Feb. 12

Kleinpell Gallery, RFPL, Lower Level
See riverfallspubliclibrary.org for gallery hours.

Explore the work of the first commissioned handwritten and illuminated Bible of the modern era. The project, originating out of St. John's Abbey and University, Collegeville, MN, and led by Her Royal Majesty's calligrapher, Donald Jackson, began in 1998 and took fifteen years to complete.



This carefully produced work of art utilizes medieval techniques including cut quills, hand ground pigments, and egg-based inks applied to sheep's skin vellum produced at Jackson's scriptorium in Wales. But the work is uniquely modern with its English translation and contemporary illuminations.



May 11

Spring Commencement

Falcon Center, UWRF



May 14, 6 p.m.

Author and Chef Peter Kwong

Join us for a sample of Kwong's new book, *Wok & Roll*, and a taste of his favorite dishes as he demonstrates some of his best recipes.

RFPL, Lower Level

May 24 – June 25

The Wisconsin Regional Arts Program

Community members 16+ are encouraged to submit artwork for the exhibit (\$30 fee)

Kleinpell Gallery, RFPL, Lower Level

Sponsored by the UW-Madison Continuing Education Program and River Falls Community Arts Base

For more information, visit wraawrap.com or riverfallspubliclibrary.org.

Save a life!

Learn to save lives with River Falls EMS instructors this winter and spring. All classes are taught at the EMS station, 175 E. Cedar Street. To register, call 715-425-0370.

Heartsaver CPR/AED Class (\$65 fee)

Feb. 5 and April 2, 6-9 p.m.

Basic CPR and AED training. Includes adult, child, and infant modules.

Heartsaver 1st Aid Class (\$35 fee)

Feb. 12 and April 9, 6-9 p.m.

If taken in addition to the Heartsaver CPR class, you will obtain a Heartsaver CPR/AED/1st Aid certification; must take classes in same month.

Basic Life Support Provider (\$75 fee)

March 12 and May 14, 6-10 p.m.

For healthcare workers needing healthcare certification. Includes adult, child, infant, and bag-valve mask (BVM) modules.

May 30, 7 p.m.

Author Spike Carlsen

Introducing his book *Building Unique & Useful Kids' Furniture*

RFPL, Lower Level

June 4, 6 p.m.

Coffee with a Cop

Mei Mei's Cookies

113 E. Elm Street, River Falls

Where to look for what to do...

City of River Falls: www.rfcity.org

City Parks and Recreation: www.rfcity.org/recreation

Chamber/community events: tourism.rfchamber.com/events

Community Arts Base: riverfallscab.org

Library: riverfallspubliclibrary.org

School District Continuing Education: rflearns.org

University of Wisconsin-River Falls: go.uwrf.edu/cal



A guard of honor

In spring 2016, River Falls Police Officer Kevin Moore initiated the formation of a Police Department Honor Guard as a way, he said, "for the department to go out and pay their respects, and to get people to think and remember those who've come before us, who'll come after us, and who are serving now."

Moore, a U.S. Marine Corps veteran, has been with the department 12 years, serving first as a reserve officer and, for the past eight years, as a patrol officer. He has also served as a field training officer and classroom instructor, as well as a member of the SWAT team.

In addition to Officer Moore, the Department Honor Guard currently includes Sergeant Beth Posel, Officer Kyle Youker, and Officer Bryan Jensen. Moore eventually hopes to expand the Guard to eight members. Requirements for membership include serving the department in good standing for a minimum of two years.

The Guard has made appearances at numerous City events and ceremonies including the River Falls Days Parade, Memorial Day Parade, a River Falls High School football game, a City Council meeting, and various law enforcement ceremonies. In the future, Moore says that the Guard may also be asked to post colors at area events and stand guard at funerals for fallen officers and other public safety personnel.

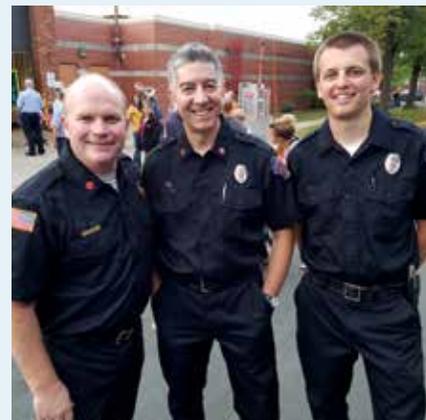
While these ceremonies and events are more traditional to an honor guard, Moore looks to expand their duties to include promotion and fundraisers for local charities.

"That's really what it's about, helping and giving back to the community," he said.

For more information about the Honor Guard or to request their services, contact the River Falls Police Department at 715/425-0909.



River Falls Police Department Honor Guard marched in the 2018 Memorial Day Parade.



(l-r) Firefighters Dean Grisar, Neil Engel, and Justin Athorp at the 2018 Annual Fire Department Open House.

So you want to be a firefighter?

The River Falls Fire Department is currently searching for individuals who are interested in serving as paid-per-call firefighters for the department. To request an information packet with dates for upcoming introductory meetings and recruitment schedule, contact River Falls Fire Chief Scott Nelson by Feb. 15, 2019, at 715-426-3534 or snelson@rfcity.org.

An applicant must be a high school graduate, reside or work within the area served by the Fire Department, and possess a valid driver's license, said Nelson. Applicants must also pass a written test, a physical agility test, and an interview. A satisfactory pre-employment physical and background check are also required.

"Serving as a firefighter is a great opportunity to learn new skills, get involved in our community, meet people who share your interests, and, of course, save lives," said Nelson. "I look forward to working with the firefighter class of 2019!"



Check out the new School District of River Falls highlights video at www.rfcity.org/schools.

Referendum projects take shape

Last spring, community members passed two referendum questions regarding \$48 million in facility improvements to six schools in the River Falls School District. The referendum focused on two things: increasing the capacity of the City's four elementary schools to meet growing enrollments, and attending to maintenance and energy efficiency projects in schools and district buildings.

One larger scale project includes demolishing the older parts of the River Falls Academy, and building an addition to the section constructed in the 1990s. While the community is saying "goodbye" to the old Academy, the district is working closely with the River Falls Historic Preservation Commission to incorporate historic elements into the newly named River Falls Public Montessori Elementary School.

The River Falls High School will undergo some major improvements with the addition of an artificial playing field to replace the existing grass field. Chad Smurawa, the District's director of finance and facilities, said this is especially beneficial for the physical education students, athletes, and marching band members who will now have more opportunities for field use – especially in the spring season – without having to worry about muddy or flooded grounds. Renovations are expected to be completed by fall 2019.

Renovations will also be made to the school's swimming pool this spring, with a targeted completion date in June 2019. At that time, the pool will be open for community use as renovations to the Glen Park pool begin.

As the district proceeds with projects included in the referendum, it recognizes the importance of keeping the funds local as much as possible. For example, said Smurawa, the district is using a local architectural firm, Ayres Associates, for construction projects. "We want to keep those referendum funds in the community and put people to work," said Smurawa.

Most projects will begin this spring with a target completion date of August 2020, in time for the new school year.

"We're on budget and schedule for all of our projects, so we're pretty proud of that," said Smurawa. "We're also optimistic that we can accomplish everything we promised the voters last spring."

For detailed plan designs, visit, rfsd.k12.wi.us/district/facility-master-plan.cfm.



The new artificial turf field at the high school is good news for athletes, physical education students, and band members who will be able to use the new field for marching band practice. Pictured here: Junior saxophonist Dominick Jackson.



Historic elements of the old Academy building will be incorporated in the newly named River Falls Public Montessori Elementary School.

Competition highlights STEM programs

UW-River Falls will host its 8th annual Science Olympiad Tournament Saturday, Jan. 26. Sixty-two teams from Wisconsin, Minnesota, Nebraska, and North Dakota high schools will take part in the event, with an estimated 900 students on campus for a full day of competition.

The Science Olympiad is a national competition wherein students compete in events drawn from life science, earth and space science, chemistry, physics, computer science, engineering, and creative problem solving.

In the end, though, the Science Olympiad is about more than a single day's competition.

"It's about having a real impact," said Physics Professor and event organizer Earl Blodgett.



"It's a way to show that science really is fun and that UWRF cares about STEM programs."

For more information or to become an event sponsor, contact Blodgett at 715-425-4056 or earl.d.blodgett@uwrf.edu.

Making connections with UWIN

UW-River Falls is one of three University of Wisconsin campuses joining with a regional economic development organization to create a new internship program designed to keep graduates in the area after college.

UW-River Falls, UW-Eau Claire, UW-Stout, and Momentum West have created the University of Wisconsin Internship Network (UWIN), a shared initiative aimed at encouraging more western Wisconsin businesses to establish internship and co-op programs.

UWIN's goal is to connect more students at the three universities with small- and mid-size businesses in the 10-county region served by Momentum West, helping students gain professional experience and establish connections with area businesses.

For more information about the program, contact Melissa Wilson, director of career services at melissa.wilson@uwrf.edu.



Bowls for Hope celebrates a decade of giving

Each year the University of Wisconsin-River Falls works with the community to raise funds through the Bowls for Hope event where proceeds raised help a worthy nonprofit organization make a difference in the St. Croix Valley.

The 2018 Bowls for Hope event raised \$6,500 for Family Resource Center St. Croix Valley. Since 2010, Bowls for Hope has raised more than \$52,000 for local charities.

The 10th Annual Bowls for Hope event is Tuesday, March 5, 2019, from 5-7 p.m. in the Riverview Ballroom in the University Center. (See page 8 for more information.)

Workshop: Home improvement basics

The City will host a Homeowner's Building Workshop in March to provide information on projects including remodels, basement finish projects, decks, and basic electrical, plumbing, HVAC, and building code requirements.

Wednesday, March 6, 2019, 6:30 p.m.
First National Bank Community Room,
104 E. Locust Street



Planning a home improvement project?

Tips from the inspector

Here are some tips from City Inspector Dave Hovel:

- Be sure to get a permit for your construction or remodeling projects. You can find a permit application at www.rfcity.org/permits.
- Meet with City inspection staff before you begin your project; call Dave Hovel at 715-426-3426 or Angie Bond at 715-426-3427 to schedule an appointment.
- Make sure your contractor is licensed with the State of Wisconsin.
- Post your building permit on the front of your house; it is good for two years.
- Arrange a final inspection with the City prior to occupying your new space.
- Enjoy the results of your hard work!



City Inspector Dave Hovel and Community Development Assistant Angie Bond stand ready to help homeowners with their remodeling projects.

Dog licensing and park passes for 2019

The City of River Falls Dog Park opened to rave reviews this fall and remains open during the winter months. Use of the park will remain free for City of River Falls residents whose dogs are licensed with the City and are up-to-date on rabies vaccinations. Being licensed helps ensure your dog's safety as well as other dogs he/she may encounter.

It's easy to get a license: just stop by City Hall to apply and pay a small fee (\$5 for spayed/neutered dogs and \$10 for non-spayed and non-neutered dogs). You can also access an application at www.rfcity.org/doglicense, then return it to City Hall. Once your application is received, you will receive your license tag(s) and a pass.

Non-residents with a current dog license from their municipality are welcome to use the dog park for a \$25 annual fee. The fee helps to offset costs associated with dog park maintenance. To learn how to obtain a pass, visit www.rfcity.org/dogpark.

Questions? Please contact Cindi Danke at 715-425-0924 or email cdanke@rfcity.org



Glen Park renovations

Glen Park remodeling will be in full swing this summer as new amenities are added to the park including a new pavilion and splash pad, as well as parking, trails, and sidewalks.

Here are some things to know about park usage in summer 2019:

- The swimming pool will be closed for splash pad installation and a new pool lining. Swimming lessons will be held at the high school pool starting mid-June to July, with later afternoon and early evening lessons available.
- The enclosed west-end shelter will also be closed, but the open-sided, east-end shelter is open for reservations.
- The softball field and horseshoe pits will be removed to make way for new parking and trails.

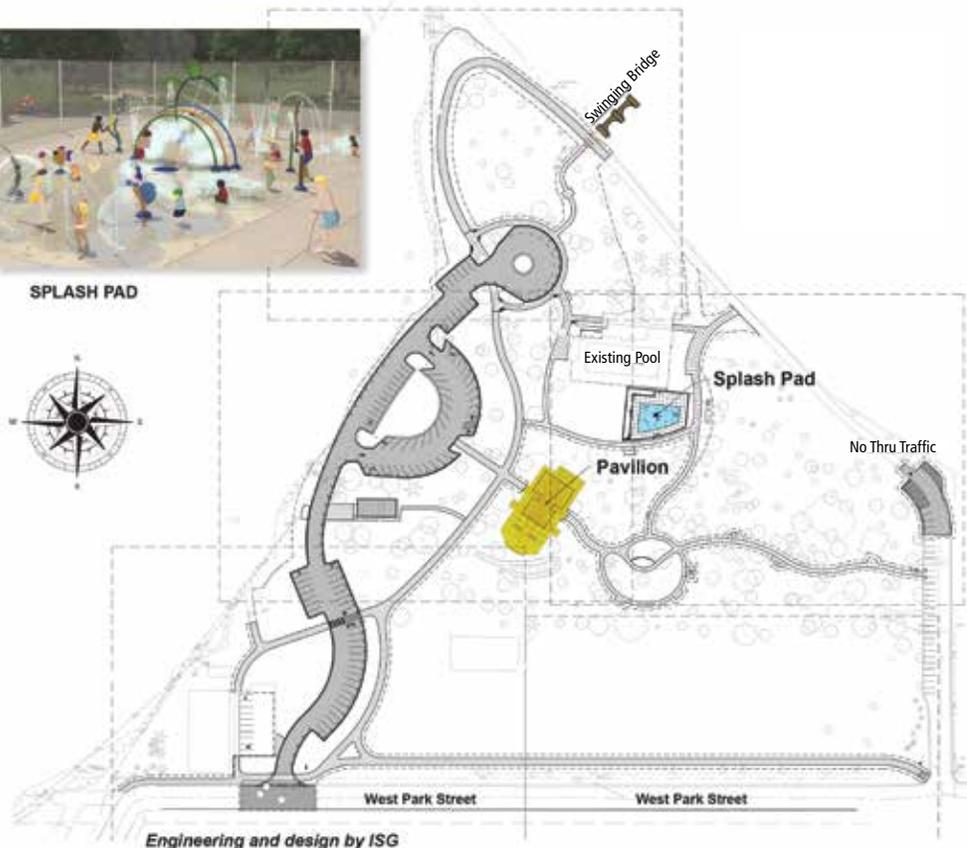


- The open (soccer) field and Pickleball courts will be available as usual.

As always, please be careful around construction sites. Visit www.rfcity.org/parks or the Parks and Recreation Facebook page for updates.



SPLASH PAD



Glover School House, DeSanctis Park

Reserve your event space now!

Rental reservations are now being accepted for enclosed and open shelters in Hoffman, Glen, and DeSanctis parks. Call 715-425-0924 for reservations.

Rental rates

Open shelters (Hoffman and Glen parks)
\$30/day residents; \$40/day non-residents

Glover School House, DeSanctis Park
\$50/day residents; \$60/day non-residents

Hoffman Park octagon shelter
\$50/day residents; \$60/day non-residents

Hoffman Park storm shelter
\$75/day residents; \$85/day non-residents

Connect with us!

Frequently called numbers

General information

715/425-0900

Utility Department

715/425-0906

Police Department

715/425-0909

Public Library

715/425-0905

Municipal Court

715/426-3429

Garbage/Recycling

715/425-0900

Parks and Recreation

715/425-0924

715/426-3422 (cancellations)



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Municipal Utilities
Parks and Recreation
Public Library
Kleinpell Gallery
Police Department
Emergency Medical Services



Check out our new videos!

[YouTube.com/user/cityofriverfalls](https://www.youtube.com/user/cityofriverfalls)

CitySource is published three times yearly and mailed to all River Falls residents. It is also available at www.rfcity.org.

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Designed by Designwrite Studios

Comments or questions? Send an email to mzimmermann@rfcity.org.



222 Lewis Street
River Falls, WI 54022

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POSTAL CUSTOMER



Crystal Raleigh, River Falls' senior civil engineer, and Zach Regnier, civil engineer, discuss construction progress with Aldi Construction Manager Derek Bristlin this fall. The December issue of *The Municipality* magazine, a publication of the League of Wisconsin Municipalities, includes an article by Raleigh entitled, "Building Resiliency in Stormwater Management." – Photo by Josie Hayes