



City of RIVER FALLS NEWSLETTER



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Mayor's Message



Happy New Year! I hope this finds everybody healthy and happy. The year of 2016 is supposed to be "The International Year of Pulses." Pulses are an agricultural term meaning "annual leguminous crops yielding between one and 12 grains or seeds of variable size, shape and color within a pod, used for both food and feed. The term "pulses" is limited to crops harvested solely for dry grain. Pulse crops such as lentils, beans, peas and chickpeas are a critical part of the general food basket. Pulses are a vital source of plant-based proteins and amino acids for people around the globe and should be eaten as part of a healthy diet to address obesity, as well as to prevent and help manage chronic diseases such as diabetes, coronary conditions and cancer."

2016 is also the Chinese New Year of the Fire Monkey. "The Monkey is an intelligent, witty, and inventive animal. They are problem solvers, working with their group while simultaneously demonstrating independence associated with achievers. The nimble monkey is playful, youthful in nature, and is a joy to watch as they move from activity to activity." Unless you're an agricultural person or a monkey aficionado (which is completely great), it's not very exciting.

I would like to go in a different direction and officially name 2016 the year of YOU. This is the year that you take care of yourself, you enjoy yourself, you pamper yourself, and you do that little something extra for yourself that you have always wanted to do. This is the year that you take the time to relax a couple of minutes more, you take the time to see and talk to your friends a little more, you take the time to cheer on the Packers (or whatever sport team you cheer for) a little bit more.

This is the year that you take a little bit more time to spend with your family and loved ones, the year that you don't rush through family dinner just to get back to doing something that doesn't matter as much as your family should. 2016 should be the year that you reach out to other people that you know are struggling and offer a hand, an ear to listen, a shoulder to cry on, or a simple hug; all of which will make that person feel better and also make you feel better and more connected to the human race. So congratulations on 2016 being named for you; now all you have to do is take advantage of it.

The new year always brings changes and one of the biggest in River Falls will be a new Police Chief. Gordon "Gordie" Young has accepted the position of River Falls Police Chief. Chief Young will begin his duties on January 4, 2016. I believe he will be a great fit for the City of River Falls. I hope everybody will get the chance to welcome him.

We will have a new solar garden in town. You can visit the River Falls website to get all of the details about purchasing panels at www.rfmu.org/communitysolar.

We will begin construction on the first building in our new corporate park. It will house the business incubator we are partnering with UWRF and CVTC to create. There are lots of new things happening in your town this year - just visit our website to find out.

As always, it's your city - get out and embrace it!

Go Pack Go (I am positive they are in the playoff picture; sorry Viking fans maybe next year)! ~

Dan Toland

2016 Park and Recreation Activity Guide

The much anticipated 2016 Park and Recreation Activity Guide will be available in mid-March. The guide will be inserted in the [Western Wisconsin Buyer's Guide](#) and can also be viewed on the City's website: www.rfcity.org/activityguide. The guide will be filled with programs and activities to keep you and your family occupied throughout the spring and summer with a healthy balance of recreation, entertainment, and fun.

The City is also excited to offer free online registration that is user friendly and has no processing fees. To register, visit: www.rfcity.org/online-registration. If you have questions regarding activities anytime during the year, please call the River Falls Park and Recreation Department at 715-425-0924. ~

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Calendar of Events

November 1-March 31 Odd/Even Parking in Effect
 Through January 30 **The Promised Land: Coming to Wisconsin**, at library
 January 1 **City Offices and Library Closed**
 January 2-15 **Christmas Tree Curbside Pick Up**
 January 5, Feb. 2, Mar. 1, April 5, May 3 **Middle School Book Discussion Group**, 4 p.m. at library
 January 10 **Light Luggage: Songs from "The Old Country"**, 2 p.m., at library
 January 11, 25 **Lego Afternoons**, 4 p.m. at library
 January 12-April 28 **Babytime on Tuesdays**, 9:30 a.m. at library
 January 12-April 28 **Toddler Lapsit on Tuesdays** 10:45 a.m., library
 January 12, Feb. 9, Mar. 8, April 12 **High School Book Discussion Group**, 4 p.m. at library
 January 12, Feb. 9, Mar. 8, April 19 .. **Second Tuesday Book Discussion Club**, 6:30 p.m. location to be announced
 January 14-April 30 **Thursday Preschool Storytime** at 10:30 a.m. or 1 p.m. at library
 January 18, February 15, April 15 **Out of School Event**, 10:30 a.m. at library
 January 19, Feb. 16, Mar. 15, April 19 **Book & Beans Book Discussion Group**, 10 a.m. location to be announced
 January 19, Feb. 16, Mar. 15, April 19, May 17 **4th-5th Grade Book Discussion Group**, 4 p.m. at library
 January 20, Feb. 17, Mar. 16, April 20 **YA for Adults Book Discussion Group**, 6:30 p.m., Junior's Bar and Restaurant
 January 23-February 28 **River Falls Reads Event** (visit www.riverfallspubliclibrary.org for details)
 January 23 **River Falls Reads Event-Kick Off** with **Blue Ribbon Baker Marjorie Johnson**, 2 p.m., at library
 January 25 **UW-River Falls Spring Semester Begins**
 January 31 **Property Taxes Due at County**
 February 6-March 5 **Gallery Reception: Wisconsin Regional Art Program Exhibit**, at library
 February 6 **Love Notes: Music and Poetry**, 2 p.m. at library
 February 8, 22 **Lego Afternoons** 4-5 p.m. at library
 February 13 **Gallery Reception: Wisconsin Regional Art Program Exhibit**, 1-3 p.m. at library
 February 16 **Primary Election** (if needed)
 March 5 **Dr. Seuss Read Across America**, 10:30 a.m. at library
 March 7, 21 **Lego Afternoons** 4-5 p.m. at library
 March 10-16 **6th Annual Peeps Diorama Contest**, at library
 March 13 **Quilt Show Reception**, 2-4 p.m. at library
 March 13-April 10 **Sew Cool! The Quilt Show** at library
 March 14-20 **UW-River Falls Spring Break**
 March 14-April 18 **Foreign Film Series**, 7 p.m., at library
 March 17 **St. Patrick's Day Celebration** (see www.rfchamber.com)
 March 28 **Emergency Weather Warning Siren Test Date**, 1 p.m.
 April 4, 18 **Lego Afternoons** 4-5 p.m. at library
 April 5 **Spring Election, Polls Open** 7 a.m.-8 p.m.
 April 8-10 **River Falls Roots and Bluegrass Festival** (see www.riverfallsbluegrass.com)
 April 9 **Mini Golf**, 4-8 p.m., at library
 April 14 **Emergency Weather Warning Siren Test Date**, 1:45 p.m.
 April 14 **Open Mic Poetry Reading**, 7 p.m. at library
 April 14 **Open Book**, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., at City Hall
 April 15 **Open Book**, 8 a.m.-12 noon, at City Hall
 April 21-May 28 **These Kids Are Good: The Annual All School Art Show**, at library
 April 24 **These Kids Are Good: The Annual All School Art Show Reception**, 2-4 p.m. at library
 May 2 **Lego Afternoons** 4-5 p.m. at library
 May 7 **International Migratory Bird Day**, 10 a.m., at City Hall
 May 16 **UW-River Falls Spring Commencement** (at RFHS)
 May 19 **Board of Review**, 9-11 a.m., at City Hall
 May 23 **Emergency Weather Warning Siren Test Date**, 1 p.m.

Spring Events!



St. Patrick's Day Celebration-March 17

May the luck of the Irish be with you! Even if you aren't Irish, follow the rainbow to downtown River Falls and celebrate St. Patrick's Day on March 17! The celebration kicks off with the Pot 'O Gold Medallion Hunt. Indulge in the Potato Soup Cook-off by sampling soup from participating businesses. Other events include bed races and a poker walk. View details at www.rfchamber.com. ~



Roots & Bluegrass Music Festival-April 8-10

From April 8-10, enjoy three days of Bluegrass, Roots and Cajun music at multiple venues in the heart of downtown River Falls at the Roots & Bluegrass Music Festival. Sample craft beers and local wines at the annual beer and wine tasting, join in free foot-stomping workshops and open jam sessions and cheer on your favorite artist during musical competitions. Both events are sponsored by the River Falls Area Chamber of Commerce and Tourism Bureau. View the details at www.riverfallsbluegrass.com. ~

2016 Emergency Weather Warning Siren Test Dates



The City of River Falls will be doing audible testing of the outdoor warning sirens on the dates listed below. The test dates are on Mondays - except for April test date which will be a Thursday in conjunction with the National Weather Service's test date. If severe or threatening weather exists on any of the scheduled dates, the test will be the next day at the same time.

- **March 28, 1 p.m.** -Make-up date – March 29, 1 p.m.
- **April 14, 1:45 p.m.** -Make-up date – April 15, 1:45 p.m.
- **May 23, 1 p.m.** -Make-up date – May 24, 1 p.m.
- **June 27, 1 p.m.** - Make-up date – June 28, 1 p.m.
- **July 25, 1 p.m.** -Make-up date – July 26, 1 p.m.
- **August 22, 1 p.m.** - Make-up date – August 23, 1 p.m.
- **September 26, 1 p.m.** - Make-up date – September 27, 1 p.m.

On duty staff at the River Falls Police Department monitor developing weather conditions and initiate activation of the weather sirens based on the following protocol:

- When conditions exist indicating immediate danger of a tornado or severe thunderstorm.
- If the National Weather Service issues a tornado or severe thunderstorm warning, and such conditions are threatening locally.
- When local law enforcement from the area advise of approaching severe weather conditions, sightings of tornadoes or high winds.
- If storm conditions exist, and public sightings of tornadoes or high winds are reported locally.

Please note: the City of River Falls does not sound an “all clear” after an actual activation of the outdoor warning system.

All community members are encouraged to familiarize themselves with safe practices regarding severe weather. Information can be obtained at the National Weather Service website at: <http://www.nws.noaa.gov/safety.php> or Wisconsin Emergency Management website at: <http://emergencymanagement.wi.gov> or by calling the River Falls Police Department at 715-425-0909. ~

2016 Election Dates

In 2016, there will be four elections. The dates are:

- February 16 - Spring Primary Election
- April 5 - Presidential Preference Primary and Spring Election
- August 9 - Fall Primary Election
- November 8 - Presidential Election



Residents may receive multiple mailings from political groups that may include Voter Registration Applications and Applications for Absentee Ballots. This does not mean your status has changed with the City of River Falls. **Many times the applications are not current or do not contain all the necessary requirements or instructions. If you want to verify your voter registration or absentee ballot status, please** call the City Clerk's Office at 715-426-3408 or 715-426-3419. You can also email the Clerk's office at lhecht@rfcity.org or bhieb@rfcity.org. ~

2016 Dog Licenses/Tags

City of River Falls residents are required to license dogs over five months of age. A current rabies vaccination record is needed and must include vaccination date, the vaccination's serial number, expiration date, manufacturer, and also whether the dog is spayed or neutered. Your vet should be able to provide you with a current vaccination record for your dog.



The license fee for a spayed/neutered dog is \$5 and \$10 for intact dogs. Licenses issued after March 31 will include a \$5 late fee unless you have owned your dog for less than 30 days. Licenses are issued at City Hall during regular business hours of 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

If processing a license through the mail is more convenient, please include a copy of the rabies record, your name, phone number, the appropriate fee and mail to: Dog License, City of River Falls, 222 Lewis Street, River Falls, WI 54022. The license and tag will be returned to you by mail. If you have any questions, please call Bridget Hieb at 715-426-3419. ~



2015-2016 Property Tax Payments

Property taxes are due January 31. Tax payments should be sent to the County Treasurer. The County Treasurer's name and address is printed on the tax bill. Both counties offer the ability to pay with credit cards, and to make online payments.

Property taxes can be made in two installments with the first payment is due January 31 and the second payment is due July 31.

The counties also have online tax information for current and previous years at the following sites:

- Pierce County: http://www.co.pierce.wi.us/Treasurer/Treasurer_Main.html
Phyllis Beaström, County Treasurer, 715-273-6743
- St. Croix County: <http://stcroixcowi.wgxtreme.com/>
Laurie Noble, County Treasurer, 715-386-4645

City staff will continue to answer questions regarding the property tax process and will help with other tax related issues.

Name changes on property records

The City cannot make name or address changes to your tax bills. Contact your County Treasurer's Office for information on how to make the needed changes. ~

Open Book and Board of Review



Dates have been set for 2016 Open Book and Board of Review. Open Book will be April 14, from 10 a.m.- 5 p.m., and April 15, 8 a.m.-12 noon, at City Hall. This is a time when property owners may speak with the City's Assessor and changes can be made to property assessments. An appointment is required; call the City Assessor Associated Appraisal at 800-721-4157.

The Board of Review is May 19, from 9-11 a.m., at City Hall. An appointment is needed to appear before the Board. Please contact the City Clerk to make an appointment and obtain the necessary paperwork at 715-426-3408 or 715-426-3419. ~



Library Programs and Events Winter/Spring 2016

Check the library website at www.riverfallspubliclibrary.org/events.html or our Facebook page for the most up-to-date information and events not included in this list or call 715-425-0905. Library programs are free of charge. Registration is not required unless noted. Sign up for email notification of our monthly schedule by contacting Katie, katiec@riverfallspubliclibrary.org, or get notices of upcoming events by registering for notifications at the City's website, www.rfcity.org.

Closed Dates

January 1, March 27 and April 15



Drop boxes will be open; renew materials online at the MORE website, www.more.lib.wi.us or by calling telephone renewal 1-866-697-3639.

Events and Programs



Light Luggage: Songs from "The Old Country"-January 10, 2 p.m.

Katharine Grant, one of our community's most gifted vocalists, offers a delightful hour of songs our immigrant ancestors brought with them from 'The Old Country.' Place: Community Room, River Falls Public Library

Love Notes: Music and Poetry by Phyllis Goldin and Friends: Wanda Brown, Thea Ennen, Freya Manfred, Dave Peterson and Thomas R. Smith-February 6, 2 p.m.

Inspiration for Valentine's Day or just a sweet afternoon's delight as some of our area's best poets and musicians explore the theme of love. Place: Community Room, River Falls Public Library

Gallery Reception: Wisconsin Regional Art Program Exhibit-February 13, 1-3 p.m.

Drop in to meet artists participating in this annual competition for a spot at the state WRAP Exhibit, and find out who will come out a winner this year. Place: Community Room, River Falls Public Library

Poetry Open Mic-April 14, 7 p.m.

Whether reading your first writings or verse from published books, everyone is invited to take advantage of this friendly, laid back opportunity to share with other like-minded folks. Call Katie at 715-426-3496 to reserve a spot or just drop in. Place: Community Room, River Falls Public Library

Foreign Film Series-March 14-April 18, 7 p.m.

Six Mondays featuring award-winning international films, both current and classic. Free popcorn! Place: Community Room, River Falls Public Library

Mini-Golf In The Library-April 9, 4-8 p.m.

Can't wait to get out on the golf course? Join us for this fundraiser for the River Falls Library Foundation and have a great time playing through literary-themed putting greens. Tee times available every five minutes. Sign up begins March 21. \$10 per player.

Place: River Falls Public Library



River Falls Reads 2016



Join us for a One Book, One Community reading event. The year's book is Kitchens of the Great Midwest by J. Ryan Stradal. The show will kick off with Marjorie Johnson, famous Minnesota State Fair Blue Ribbon Baker and cookbook author, who will speak on January 23 at 2 p.m. A visit with the author is planned for late February. For more information, please check the library website at <http://www.riverfallspubliclibrary.org/home.html>.

Dates: January 23-February 28.

6th Annual Peeps Diorama Contest

Show off your creativity, and your ability to make any topic relate to marshmallow chicks and bunnies. Entries should be no bigger than 18"X18" and must include at least one Peep. Imagination and bad puns are encouraged, but please keep in mind that the library is a family-friendly place. Earn a brand new toothbrush for your entry, courtesy of our local dentists. Entries due by closing on March 9. Peeps judging is March 10. Peeples' Choice Voting is March 10-16. All winners will be announced March 16. Entries will be on display March 10- 24.



Second Tuesday Book Discussion Group – 6:30 p.m.

Dates: January 12, February 9, March 8, April 12. Location is to be determined.

Book & Beans Book Discussion Group – Third Tuesday at 10 a.m.

Dates: January 19, February 16, March 15, April 19. Location is to be determined.

YA for Adults Books Discussion Group – Third Wednesday at 6:30 p.m.

Dates: January 20, February 17, March 16, April 20.

Location: Junior's Bar and Restaurant, 414 S. Main Street.

Children/School Aged Youth Programs



Winter Story Times

Stories, songs, action rhymes, and lots of fun! Pre-registration required and begins December 29. Class sizes are limited. Held in the Children's Program Room.

- **Babytime** (0-23 months & caregiver – Tuesdays 9:30-9:50 a.m. Dates: January 12-April 28
- **Toddler Lapsit** (24–36 months & caregiver) – Tuesdays 10:45-11:15 a.m. Dates: January 12-April 28
- **Preschool Story Time** (3-5 year olds) Thursdays 10:30-11:15 a.m. or 1:00-1:45 p.m. Dates: January 14-April 30
- **Family Story Hour** (geared to up to 5 year olds but open to all) Third Tuesday at 6 p.m. Dates: February 16, March 15, April 19, May 17.

The **High School Book Discussion Group** (9-12 Grade) meets the second Tuesday of each month from 4-5 p.m. in the Board Room. Dates are January 12, February 9, March 8, April 12, and May 10.

(continued on page 5)

Library Programs and Events

(continued from page 4)

The **Middle School Book Discussion Group** (6-8 Grades) meets the first Tuesday of each month from 4-5 p.m. in the Board Room. Dates are January 5, February 2, March 1, April 5, and May 3.

The **4th-5th Grade Book Discussion Group** meets the third Tuesday of each month from 4-5 p.m. Dates are January 19, February 16, March 15, April 19, May 17.

Legos Afternoons (grades K-5) meets every other Monday from 4-5 p.m. We provide the Legos; you provide the imagination. Call to register. Dates: January 11, 25; February 8, 22; March 7, 21; April 4, 18; May 2.

1,000 Books Before Kindergarten

This is an independent program that allows you to track books read to your baby or toddler with the goal of reading 1,000 books together by the time s/he starts kindergarten! Registration required.

Out-of-School Day Events

The library will be sponsoring a special event or craft session on these no-school days. Check website for details. Dates: January 18 and February 15, 10:30 a.m. Place: Lower Level Meeting Room

Dr. Seuss Birthday Party - Read Across America

Celebrate Dr. Seuss with a craft and game event. Date: Saturday, March 5, 10:30 a.m.

Place: Lower Level Meeting Room

Winter/Spring Gallery Events

The Promised Land: Coming to Wisconsin

December 20, 2015 – January 30, 2016

From those whose ancestors came on the Mayflower to our most recent new residents, learn where they came from and why they left, what brought them to Wisconsin, how they traveled and what they found when they arrived.



IT'S A WRAP II Wisconsin Regional Art Project

**February 6-March
5; Opening
reception February
13, 2-4 p.m.**

This show is one of many held throughout the state in preparation for

the WRAP's annual statewide show held in Madison each fall, which includes artwork chosen from each of the regional shows. It's the equivalent of "Going to State" for artists!

SEW COOL! The Quilt Show

March 13-April 10; Opening reception March 13, 2-4 p.m.

This annual quilt exhibit is always a favorite, bringing warmth and color to those cold late-winter days.

These Kids Are Good! The Annual All-School Art Show

April 21-May 22; Opening reception April 24, 2-4 p.m.

Hundreds of colorful and creative pieces by area students. What fun! ~

Tax Forms Available at Library

In early January, free Federal and State tax forms and instructions will be available in the library lobby. Forms will be made available as soon as they are received. If the form you want isn't there, we don't have it yet.

In 2015, the IRS provided only 1040, 1040A and 1040EZ forms. No other forms or booklets were available. It is expected to be the same for 2016.

Wisconsin forms in 2015 were limited to 1, 1A and WI-Z, H & H-EZ, WD, and 1NPR forms and instruction booklets and Rent Certificate forms and are expected again in early 2016.

The state of Minnesota is not providing tax forms or instruction booklets to libraries in 2016.

Reproducible forms and instructions will be available in the reference area by the information desk. The copier is self-service and copies are 10¢ per page. You can also go to the websites listed below and print them out at the library or at home. To find forms online, visit the following websites:

- ◆ Federal forms: Internal Revenue Service www.irs.gov
- ◆ Wisconsin forms: Wisconsin Department of Revenue www.dor.state.wi.us
- ◆ Minnesota forms: Minnesota Department of Revenue taxes.state.mn.us/Pages/index.aspx
- ◆ Links to other states' Department of Revenue: <http://www.taxadmin.org/fta/link/>

For a listing of helpful agencies, phone numbers, and websites, go to the library's webpage, www.riverfallspubliclibrary.org, under 'services' then 'tax forms'.

Please note: The library staff cannot answer specific tax questions, help you fill out your taxes, or help you determine which forms you need. If you need assistance, please consult a tax professional. ~



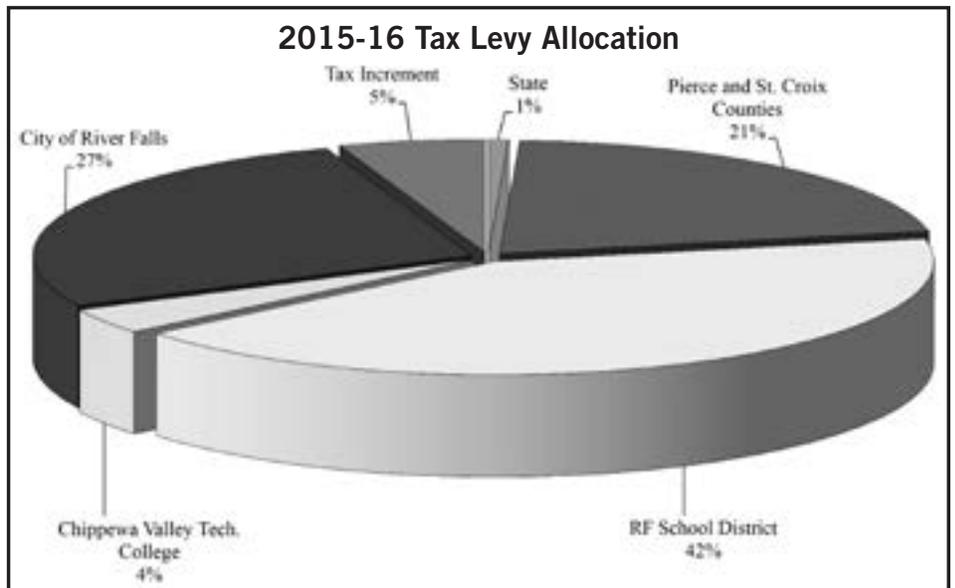
The River Falls Police Department, in coordination with local businesses, invites residents to attend "Coffee with a Cop." This is an opportunity for citizens on a monthly basis to have a chance to ask questions, voice concerns and get to know the officers of the Police Department.

Upcoming dates include: January 13, 8 a.m., at Caribou Coffee (in Family Fresh) and March 14, 8 a.m. at Perkins. Please view the calendar on the City's website (www.rfcity.org) or contact the Police Department at 715-425-0909 for future dates and locations. Please stop in for a cup of coffee and some pleasant and informative discussion. ~

2015-2016 Budget Update

In 2014, the City Council approved the first biennial budget for the City of River Falls. The newly approved budget covers the two-year fiscal period, 2015 through 2016. The five-year fiscal plan and established fiscal policies serve as the foundation for the City's financial planning and control. The biennial budget is the presentation of the projected revenues and expenses for the fiscal year beginning January 1 and ending December 31.

The City Council held a budget workshop session in October to review the midterm budget report (www.rfcity.org/BudgetSupplement). Using actual revenues and expenses through the end of August, projected revenues for all funds at the end of 2015 are expected to be 50 percent of budgeted, and expenditures/expenses at about 49 percent. Projected results as of the end of 2015 calculated an increase in fund balance and net position of \$1.1 million overall.



The 2016 budget was modified to include additional funding of \$67,000 for street maintenance from increased State transportation aids. Additional staffing for Community Development, Public Works operations and EMS services was also included. The Council also approved increased funding for planning projects including a future corporate park west of the City, and the Kinnickinnic River corridor plan. No changes were made to the 2016 levy budgeted for in 2014.

The City receives funding from many different sources to provide the programmed services. The majority of the funding is from user fees for electric, water, sewer, and ambulance charges to customers. Other major sources include shared revenues and transportation aids from the State of Wisconsin. The following graph describes the funding sources by percentage as projected in the biennial budget.

Tax Levy

The budget process has allowed departments to strategically plan and fund projects responsibly over Fiscal Years 2015 and 2016. The City is continuing to follow the strategy outlined in the [2014-2019 Fiscal Plan](#), which is a path that provides long-term fiscal solvency to achieve the City's long-term goals. The following table shows the estimated levy per the adopted fiscal plan with the actual and proposed levies for 2015 and 2016:

Fund	2015 Budget Year		2016 Budget Year		2015-2016 Levy Budgeted
	Per Fiscal Plan	2015 Levy Projected*	Per Fiscal Plan	2016 Proposed*	
General Fund	\$2,965,753	\$3,055,668	\$3,327,033	\$3,400,000	\$6,292,786
Library Fund	815,983	815,983	830,419	830,419	1,646,402
Debt Service	952,703	834,549	1,146,279	965,996	2,098,982
Capital Projects	403,040	465,549	164,500	226,469	567,540
Total	\$5,137,479	\$5,171,749	\$5,468,231	\$5,422,884	\$10,605,710

* Does not account for levy reduction for exempt computers, estimated at \$10,000
 More information is available on the City's website www.rfcity.org.

Garbage and Recycling Changes Beginning in 2016

The City of River Falls has been under contract with Advanced Disposal for trash and recycling pick-up services since 2010. The City's current refuse and recycling contract expired on December 31, 2015. After negotiations, addressing customer service levels, and other issues with Advanced Disposal, a five year extension has been agreed upon between the two parties. It was also determined that the cost of the refuse and recycling services agreed upon is a very competitive rate in comparison with neighboring community's trash and recycling fees.

While the pick-up structure and ancillary refuse services for trash and recycling in River Falls will remain the same in the new contract, there are some price and administrative changes (see below). Our focus in the negotiations was with the customer in mind. We are making a conscious effort to improve responsiveness and ease of problem solving for the citizens of River Falls regarding trash and recycling services.

2015 monthly pricing

\$11.75 for 35 gallon container (includes recycle)

\$12.50 for 64 gallon container (includes recycle)

\$13.00 for 96 gallon container (includes recycle)

New 2016 monthly pricing

\$13.00 for 35, 64, or 96 gallon container (includes recycle)

Important Highlights:

- Your trash and recycling will continue to be picked up weekly; no changes to current service
- Your \$13.00 monthly charge for trash and recycling services will now be on your utility bill
- The first time you will see this monthly garbage fee will be on your Utility bill due February 25
- You will receive your last quarterly invoice from Advance Disposal in January 2016 (for October, November, and December service)
- Any billing changes, move ins, move outs, or billing concerns will be handled with the City
- Any "container" replacement issues will be handled by the City
- Any customer service issues can be directed to the City

After January 1, please call 715-425-0900 with any service or billing issues you may have regarding trash and recycling services.

Advanced Disposal will still be our hauler, and if you want to reach out to them for special pickup items, you can contact them at 866-983-6542. Advanced Disposal will take your credit card number over the phone to pay for the extra services that they offer. For excess garbage, additional garbage tags are \$2.05 each and are available for purchase at Family Fresh, Dick's Fresh Market, and City Hall. Each tag allows an additional 35-gallon container to be placed curbside.

Christmas tree pick-up will still be offered by Advanced Disposal. Make sure that you have your tree near your garbage one of the first two full weeks in January. If your tree gets missed, contact the City after January 15 (call 715-425-0900), and we will make an effort to pick it up for you. If recycling your Christmas tree is important to you, take your tree to the City's compost site at 901 W. Locust Street.

Consistent trash and recycling services are a key component to a clean, safe, and aesthetically appealing community. Great customer service for issues related to these services is also very important to the City. Thanks for helping to keep our City clean! ~

Trail Expansion Along Kinni

The City has received a matching grant from the State of Wisconsin DNR to add an important link in the City's trail system. The trail will be located adjacent to our downtown and will be an integral part of the city's continuing efforts to promote River Falls as a regional destination for tourism and economic activity. It will also be a fun place for relaxation and recreation.

The project begins and connects to the west terminus of the 10 foot wide Veterans Park Pedestrian Bridge over the Kinnickinnic River and follows the river north to and under (yes under) the Maple Street Bridge and north past City Hall. The pathway then continues north along the river and ends by connecting to a five foot wide sidewalk on West Division Street. The length of the path is approximately 1500 lineal feet.

Improvements will consist of a paved pathway, lighting, trail amenities (benches, trash receptacles, and landscaping where appropriate) and the use of rock for retaining purposes where necessary. The public will easily be able to access the trail from a connecting trail adjacent to the Veterans Park Pedestrian Bridge, a connecting trail from the City Hall patio or a sidewalk connection at West Division Street. The trail will be usable for walking, biking and access to the river for fishing, nature study and birding as well as a prime site for community festival events.

Engineering and design will begin in 2016. Construction is planned for the spring of 2017 and completion by the fall of 2017. ~

Did you know the City has a YouTube Channel?

You can subscribe via this link: <http://www.youtube.com/user/cityofriverfalls>.

Once you subscribe, you will get notifications for the most recent video uploads that will contain new, fun, educational, and very informative information.

Note: The red "subscribe" button is in upper right hand corner. If you are not signed into YouTube, it will ask you to sign in or setup an account (it's a google account, so you may already have one).

Thanks for subscribing to your City's YouTube Channel. ~



UW-River Falls: Committed to Training Next Generation of Teachers

For decades, the connection of UW-River Falls to pre-K-12 education in the community has been strong. Founded in 1874 as the fourth of Wisconsin's Normal Schools (created to educate more teachers and expand education to the state's frontier regions), today UW-River Falls continues to provide excellent education and cutting-edge training for the teachers in our local community, as well as worldwide. UW-River Falls has demonstrated its commitment to education on its own campus by involving undergraduate and graduate students in the education of generations of local children, be it at the campus "training school" opened in North Hall in 1928, the campus "laboratory school" opened in the Ames Teacher Education Building in 1962, or the University Preschool, located in the Wyman Education Building since 2000.



Above: Zisu Landy working with Montessori students

Through the university's College of Education and Professional Studies, the commitment to training the next generation of Wisconsin educators continues. In every school in River Falls and most surrounding communities, you will find proud UWRF alumni amongst the faculty and staff. Every year, in those local schools, you will also find undergraduates observing and student-teaching as part of their educator training. You will find UWRF education students working in several area child-care centers, tutoring or volunteering at local elementary schools, and collaborating with the River Falls 4 Children, the early learning program for four-year-olds.

UW-River Falls is at the forefront of innovative programs like Montessori Teacher Education, STEMteach and professional development workshops which provide working teachers impactful ways to continue and refine their careers. Through our ongoing collaboration with Zhejiang International Studies University in Hangzhou, China, international undergraduate students learn and are mentored by River Falls elementary school teachers in a cross-cultural exchange that enriches both college and elementary school students.

"I researched elementary education programs at many schools and found that UWRF had a fantastic reputation. Elementary education is a phenomenal program that's unlike any other. Students in this program are given immense amounts of hands-on learning time with incredible professors. I would recommend it to anyone looking to become a teacher."
Amara Treuenfels, 2015 graduate, Elementary Education



Since its founding, UW-River Falls has remained committed to the education of this community. It's a compact between the university and the city that's continually renewed each semester by our talented and enthusiastic UWRF education students. ~



David Smith Stadium at Ramer Field Rededicated on September 19

A great testament to city-university relations, David Smith Stadium at Ramer Field was officially rededicated September 19. The lead gift for the student-fee and donor-supported project was provided by the David Smith family and First National Bank of River Falls where Smith was president and CEO until his death in 1994.

In the picture on the left, Sandy Wurm speaks on behalf of her family at the David Smith Stadium rededication on September 19. ~

Is UW-River Falls on your list of local, family-friendly entertainment options?

UWRF offers concerts, theater productions, athletic events and more, which are open to the public and are often free/low-cost. Remember to visit events.uwrf.edu regularly to learn more about upcoming schedules! ~

Important
UW-River Falls dates:

Monday, Jan. 25, 2016 – Spring Semester classes begin
Monday-Sunday, March 14-20, 2016 – Spring Break
Saturday, May 14, 2016 – Spring Commencement (held at River Falls High School)

Awards Season at the City

Pauline Williams, Fire Safety Education Officer, Receives State Award



Pauline Williams receiving the Wisconsin 2014 Public Educator of the Year Award accompanied by Fire Chief Scott Nelson

Congratulations to River Falls Firefighter and Safety Education Officer, Pauline Williams, who was awarded Wisconsin 2014 Public Educator of the Year by the Wisconsin State Fire Inspector's Association on October 29, 2015.

Pauline has put together a fire prevention program that is one of the best in the State of Wisconsin. Her program touches almost everyone in our community and beyond. Pauline's team (many of whom are senior firefighters who are able to "extend" their service because of their participation in fire prevention) has been

effective and is continually sought after for a variety of presentations and tours.

Pauline's program shines during Fire Prevention Month when the Open House is held and safety messages are presented to each school. The message is built upon and reinforced from kindergarten to the 4th grade. She also encourages our neighboring departments to be active in their fire prevention efforts by loaning out our safety house for their use.

The River Falls' community benefits from Pauline's passion, knowledge and experience in the area for Fire and Safety Public Education. Chief Nelson notes, "I could not ask for a better person to spearhead our prevention program." Congratulations Pauline! ~

2015 Wisconsin Library of the Year

River Falls Public Library was selected as the 2015 Wisconsin Library Association (WLA) Library of the Year. The award is presented annually

to any type of Wisconsin library, library system, or library network for distinguished achievement in service. The WLA Awards Committee members said they were impressed with the library's broad community support, the early payoff of the library building mortgage in May, and innovative programs like



Library staff members (from left) Monica LaVold, Youth Services Librarian; Nancy Miller, Library Director; and Heather Johnson, Adult Services and Circulation Librarian; accept the 2015 Wisconsin Library Association Library of the Year Award.

Poolside Book Break and Book Club in a Bar.

The library staff received the award at the WLA Fall Conference held in Madison, Wisconsin, on November 5. ~



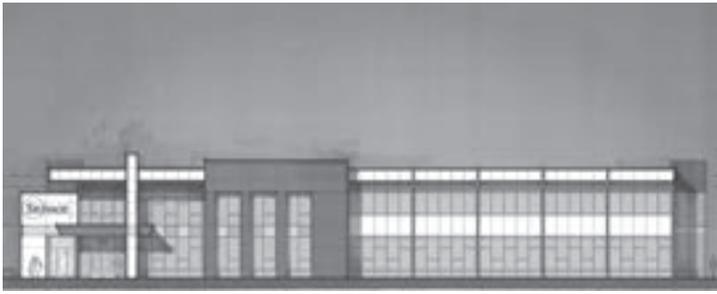
Community Sustainability Award presented for Eco Village Project

The City of River Falls and the St. Croix Valley Habitat for Humanity received a Community Sustainability Award for populations 10,000 to 49,999 from the International City/County Management Association (ICMA) for the Eco Village project. ICMA is an association that advances professional local government. The Community Sustainability Award recognizes innovative local government programs or processes that creatively balance a community's social, economic, environmental, and cultural needs. The City and the St. Croix Valley Habitat for Humanity received the award at the ICMA's annual conference in Seattle, Washington.

The Eco Village is a first-of-its-kind housing development that balances community needs and the City's commitments to affordability and environmental stewardship. As a product of innovation and collaboration from inception to implementation, the Eco Village serves as a model for empowering low income residents without compromising sustainability. Providing quality housing for low income residents is a challenge that communities across the country face. The City of River Falls and the St. Croix Valley Habitat for Humanity recognized an opportunity to provide high quality, affordable, and sustainable housing to residents in River Falls.

The Eco Village in River Falls is a demonstration project that will be implemented by Habitat for Humanity in other Wisconsin communities in the future. This first-of-its-kind project has successfully provided affordable housing for low income residents while empowering the residents to become self-sufficient and stewards of the local environment. The collaboration between residents of the Eco Village has resulted in the residents providing benefits that are recognized by the River Falls community.

The City of River Falls is proud to be a partner in ensuring sustainability across the community. The innovative methods used to create a high quality, affordable, and sustainable housing development not only leads the pack, but is far ahead of the pack. As a result of the success of the project, Habitat for Humanity is planning on expanding the Eco-Village concept to other northwest Wisconsin communities and possibly nation-wide in the future. ~



Grant Awarded to Create the St. Croix Valley Business Incubator

A local partnership of the City of River Falls, River Falls Economic Development Corporation (RFEDC), University of Wisconsin-River Falls (UWRF), and the Chippewa Valley Technical College (CVTC) has been awarded a \$1.4 million grant to construct a business incubator to serve the St. Croix Valley region.

The U.S. Economic Development Administration Investments for Public Works and Economic Development Facilities grant will fund the creation and construction of the St. Croix Valley Business Incubator. Businesses and entrepreneurs throughout the region will benefit from the incubator that is designed to accelerate the growth of new and existing businesses and support an entrepreneurial culture. The incubator is set to open in the fall of 2016.

Funding sources for the project include the \$1.4 million U.S. EDA grant, a \$250,000 State of Wisconsin grant through the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation, and a commitment from partners to cover administration and infrastructure costs. The multi-use facility will be designed as a hybrid entrepreneurial center, housing 24 small or start-up businesses and offering business incubation, workforce training, and business acceleration services.

A working group comprised of representatives from the City, UWRF, the RFEDC, CVTC, and regional economic development and business leaders developed the idea and proposed the incubator's formation. UW-River Falls will provide a director for the facility in addition to access to resources, including faculty, facilities, and students. The incubator will be owned and operated by the RFEDC, with governance from an advisory board made up of representatives from the City, RFEDC, UWRF, and CVTC.

The St. Croix Valley Business Incubator will have approximately 13,000 square feet dedicated to general manufacturing and 18,000 square feet occupied by offices and common areas. The facility will be located in River Falls at the corner of Casey Street and Sutherland Avenue as the flagship of the newly developed Sterling Ponds Corporate Park on the city's north side.

More information regarding the incubator's development can be found at the center's website at <http://www.rfcity.org/incubator>. For more information on opportunities in the SCVBI, please contact Director Danielle Campeau at danielle.campeau@uwrf.edu or call 715-425-0643. ~



Hoffman Park Safe Room

Wisconsin's severe weather season runs from April through September, with the most severe weather, including tornados, occurring in April, May and June. In recent years, severe weather has also been intense during the summer months.

Construction of a safe room at Hoffman Park has been identified as a priority by the City, and is also identified in our adopted All Hazards Mitigation Plan. In 2013, the City applied for and received a grant from FEMA and the State of Wisconsin for funds to construct a safe room at Hoffman Park. A safe room is a hardened structure specifically designed to protect its occupants from extreme weather events including tornadoes. The level of protection provided by a safe room is a function of its design parameters, including the design wind speed, wind pressure and wind-borne debris impacts.

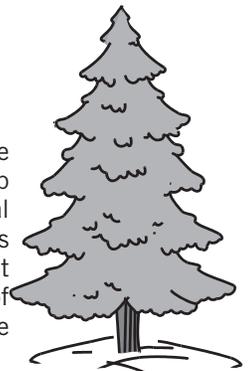
During the summer and fall of 2015, the safe room was built. It has a 360 person capacity. It is designed to FEMA standards to withstand winds and wind borne debris impacts up to 250 miles per hour. In simple terms, it can withstand the most powerful Category 5 tornado. The safe room also has restroom facilities that are available to visitors during normal park hours. It is also a building that can be used for multiple functions approved by the City.

The Hoffman Park is a great place to visit and play in, and the safe room will contribute that experience by assuring park visitors will have a safe refuge if needed.

Here's to sunny days ahead. ~

Christmas Tree Pick Up

The City of River Falls' contracted waste hauler, Advanced Disposal, will pick up Christmas trees placed near your normal garbage pickup location the first two weeks of January. Make sure your tree is located at the curb by or before the second week of January on your normal scheduled garbage pickup day.



If your Christmas tree is inadvertently missed during the first two weeks of January (not picked up by January 15), please call City Hall at 715-425-0900.

If recycling your tree is important to you, we encourage you to bring your tree (remove plastic bag, garland, and lights) to the City compost site located at 901 W. Locust Street during daylight hours. ~



Upgrades Coming in 2016 Power Plant

One of the objectives to allow for other potential uses of our “Historic Power Plant” is to isolate and upgrade the electric facilities around this property. The substation adjacent to our power plant is a vital asset to the stability of the electric system in River Falls. This electric substation is also a major interconnection between two adjacent utilities that are moving electrons across the grid to serve customers. Both Dairyland Power and XCEL Energy use our substation as a junction point on their systems. In 2016, upgrades will be made to the 50+ year old electric substation components. The new facilities will be built adjacent to the existing substation on the vacant lot to the north. These electric upgrades will ensure continued reliability and stability to our electric system in River Falls. If you see construction next to the “old Power Plant” this year, you now have a heads up on what is going on. ~

Waste Water Treatment Facility

There will be some major modifications that will be happening at your waste water treatment facility in 2016. The modifications will utilize new technologies to increase efficiencies, allow for sludge storage that will not be exposed to the open air, and modify parts of the facility to allow for effective processing of waste. This will be a big investment for our community, but one that is vital for all of our health and safety. Cost savings due to more efficient equipment and less rain infiltration are expected with the improved facility. ~

Sycamore Water Tower Update

After serious consideration on whether to paint or replace the water tower on Sycamore Street, we have determined that it would be most responsible to repaint the tower in 2016. The repainting will include a complete sandblasting of the tower and repainting.

The water tower will feature a new look- including a lighter color and possibly a UW-River Falls logo. If you see a giant curtain down on Sycamore Street for a few weeks in late spring or early summer, just know that we are not filming a sequel to the Wizard of Oz, but rather painting the tower behind the curtain. ~



2016 POWERful Choices! Programs for Residential Customers

Conservation and efficiency programs work for all customers and are good business for public power electric utilities, such as River Falls Municipal Utilities.

The following is a list of residential energy efficiency programs offered by POWERful Choices! in 2016:

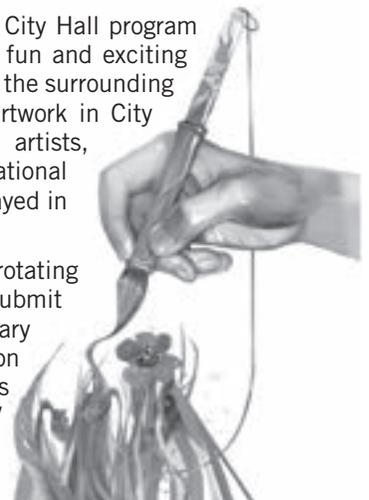
- Home Energy Audits: Receive a home energy audit that includes a detailed report using infrared scanning, a blower and combustion safety test. This report makes you eligible for state and local incentives for some home energy improvements.
- Infrared Scanner: Check out our infrared scanner, free of charge, and view temperature differences in your home or business. Temperature changes will give an idea where cold air is entering your home.
- Express Energy Efficiency: Have a professional come into your home and install LEDs, compact fluorescent light bulbs, low flow showerheads and faucet aerators, FREE!
- Energy Star appliances: River Falls Municipal Utilities, a community owned, public power utility, will provide an incentive of \$25 in Chamber Checks per appliance on certain Energy Star appliances purchased from local retailers.
- Tree Power! Receive an incentive up to 50 percent of the cost of eligible trees.
- Programmable Thermostat and the Nest: Receive an incentive on the purchase, installation and programming of a programmable thermostat or smart thermostat like the Nest.
- CFL, thermostat and battery recycling: We'll recycle all of these for free at City Hall.
- Central Air Tune Up: If your central air conditioner is more than three years old, you'll want to have it tuned up. This program will provide an incentive of up to \$25 in Chamber Checks toward a tune up.

For more information, contact Mike Noreen, Conservation and Efficiency Coordinator at 715-426-3467 or check out www.rfmu.org. ~

Art in City Hall

The City launched the new Art in City Hall program in June 2015. This program is a fun and exciting way for artists in River Falls and in the surrounding communities to showcase their artwork in City Hall. Everyone from professional artists, University students and recreational artists has had their artwork displayed in City Hall.

The artwork is displayed on a rotating basis and the next deadline to submit artwork for consideration is February 1, 2016. For more information on the process, please visit the City's website at <http://www.rfcity.org/artincityhall>. Please stop by City Hall and take a look at all of the great local artwork! ~



River Falls Biking

Whether you bike to work or school, to do errands, for physical fitness or just for your own enjoyment, the City of River Falls and the biking community are working diligently to enhance the environment for bicycling as well as using other strategies to make River Falls and surrounding areas more friendly and safe for biking. Below is an overview of the variety of opportunities to engage in safe biking practices suitable to your preferred environment.

Do you like off-road trails?

Whitetail Ridge is an area located on Whitetail Boulevard in the Whitetail Ridge Corporate Park and is home to 6.18 miles of off-road bike trails and a new loading/unloading area. There is a mix of wooded single-track and open field sections offering tight, twisty single-track, rock sections, steep climbs, and fast downhill. There are also new technical features including bridges, teeters, and a wooden berm. The trails are maintained by Kinni Off-Road Cyclists - KORC (www.kinnioffroad.com). These trails have been gaining popularity with mountain bikers and played host to the Wisconsin Off-Road Series Border Battle. Individuals who enjoy walking and snowshoeing can also take advantage of this trail system.

Do you ride throughout St. Croix County?

St. Croix County is developing a Comprehensive Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities Plan (<http://www.co.saint-croix.wi.us/>) in order to expand opportunities for biking and walking for transportation and recreation county-wide. This plan will align the on-road bikeway and trail planning efforts of the County Highway Department, the County Parks Division, and individual cities, villages, and towns. This planning process will also be used to identify priority bicycle and pedestrian enhancements for upcoming years.

Did you know River Falls is a Bike Friendly Community?

In 2012 the League of American Bicyclists awarded River Falls the Bronze Bike Friendly Community award which recognized the community's commitment to improving conditions for bicycling through investment in bicycling promotion, education programs, infrastructure and pro-bicycling policies.

The bronze designation was valid for four years and will be due for renewal in 2016. Currently the Park Board and a work group comprised of staff and key bike community members is reevaluating the community's bike friendliness to determining how to continue to make as many improvements as possible to improve the biking environment.



Have you heard about the Blue Bike program?



Introducing a free bicycle share program for the active residents of River Falls, known as Blue Bikes! The program allows for Blue Bikes to be used freely throughout the city and returned to the Blue Bike racks. One-speed adult and children's blue bicycles will be available at no cost providing for local recreation, exercise, traveling to and from

employment, and for tourists to explore the city. Bike racks and fix it stations with air pumps will be placed in strategic locations throughout the city. A local kick-off event is planned for the spring of 2016. For more information, please contact Amy Hess at: amy.hess@co.pierce.wi.us.



Preparing for Kinnickinnic River Corridor Planning

One of the key strategic initiatives for the next few years is enhancing the Kinnickinnic River corridor, which will be achieved through the adoption and implementation of a Kinnickinnic River Corridor Plan. City officials and staff are continuing to work with stakeholders, interested residents, and consultants on designing an inclusive community engagement process. This will give area residents and recreational users an opportunity to provide their thoughts on the future of our iconic river.

This initiative was identified through the hydroelectric relicensing process that began in late 2013. The City's current license to operate the two hydropower facilities expires on August 31, 2018. Over the summer of 2015, the City submitted an application requesting an extension of the license for five years to allow for this corridor planning process, which was overwhelmingly supported by the community and stakeholders. While that application was initially denied, staff is continuing to pursue the extension through whatever means may be available to us.

In response to the issues identified by state and federal resource agencies and local stakeholders, the City contracted with Inter-Fluve, out of Madison, to perform a sediment analysis of Lakes George and Louise. Results, along with cost estimates for sediment management strategies, are expected shortly. Staff also conducted extensive surveying of recreational use on the river within the hydroelectric boundary.

Planning for the Kinnickinnic River Corridor will begin in earnest this year. While it remains to be seen how hydroelectric licensing will impact the process, the City Council is committed to their endorsed community planning process for the river corridor. Stay tuned for more information on how to get involved! In the meantime, please check out our website at <http://www.rfcity.org/hydro> for more information on the studies and beginning the corridor plan!

Recognizing and Thanking Our Retirees

The City of River Falls wishes to thank the following employees who retired in 2015: Electric/Water Superintendent Chuck Beranek (13 years of service), Wastewater Treatment Plant Supervisor Tom Johnson (31 years of service), Police Chief Roger Leque (37 years of service) and Lead Water Operator Steve Paurus (28 years of service) - totaling 109 years of service for the City. Thank you for your contributions and dedication to the City of River Falls and its residents. We wish you all the best in your retirement. You will be missed!

River Falls Fire Department Takes Delivery of New Engine 15



The Fire Department's Newest Member of the Fleet – Engine 15.

On September 11th, Patriot's Day, the River Falls Fire Department took delivery of its new fire engine. Unlike buying a car or pickup from a dealer off a lot, purchasing a fire engine is a bit more complicated. The process actually took over two years from start to delivery. The design of a fire truck must meet the needs of the community it serves. In River Falls, we needed an engine that could handle fires in the City, as well as the rural area, and be able to carry rescue equipment for vehicle and farm accidents.

With that in mind, a committee of firefighters was formed to begin the process of getting ideas for a new engine. They went to several other fire departments to “kick the

tires,” so to speak, of other fire trucks. From there, they met with several vendors that specialize in building fire trucks.

After months of working on specifications, bid requests were sent out to vendors. Of the three bids received, Pierce Manufacturing from Appleton, Wisconsin, was selected because the company best met the bid specifications and price range.

Council approved the purchase late in 2014. The engine took approximately 10 months to build and was delivered as ordered in September. The first duty the engine performed was to participate in St. Croix Fire Department's 911 Tribute in which several fire departments crossed the I-94 bridge with lights and sirens blaring in a remembrance to the victims of 911. Video of that footage can be found here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=blPehsNN0yU>

The truck was displayed at the 2015 Minnesota Chief's Conference by Pierce in October and placed in service by River Falls Fire Department shortly after. ~

2015 Open House – A Success!

The River Falls Fire Department Annual Open house was held on September 28 at the Fire Hall. The key message of this year's theme is to install smoke alarms in every bedroom, outside every sleeping area, and on every level of your home, including the basement.

The street was closed and an estimated 600+ guests enjoyed a variety of fire safety games and informational booths along with fire extinguisher and vehicle extrication demonstrations. Middle School students helped with some of the booths. Gracious attendees gave over \$321 for the local food shelf.

The River Falls Fire Department would like to thank the community and our schools for their support of Fire Prevention Month and for another successful Open House! ~



When Seconds Count...



After a snowfall, remember to clear a three-foot radius around fire hydrants near your home.

Annual Report for Storm Water

Storm water pollution degrades surface waters making them unsafe for drinking, fishing, swimming, and other activities. As authorized by the Clean Water Act, there is a nationwide permit program that controls water pollution by regulating pipes and channels that discharge storm water and pollutants into surface waters. The City of River Falls was permitted under this program by the Wisconsin DNR on October 1, 2006, and that permit was renewed in July 2014. UW-River Falls is also permitted, and we signed an intergovernmental agreement with them in 2009 to work together on many of the requirements of these permits.

In most cases, the goal of the permit is to improve water quality, however the water quality of the Kinnickinnic is already exceptional. In River Falls, our goal is to maintain this exceptional resource and this is done through six regulated control measures:

1. **Public education and outreach.** The City of River Falls maintains a website with storm water information, prints articles in the city-wide newsletter, participates in Earth Day events and other similar activities, and runs articles in the River Falls Journal when applicable. In 2016, the City will be an official member of Rain to Rivers of Western Wisconsin, an organization of several Western Wisconsin municipalities dedicated to storm water education and community outreach.
2. **Public participation and involvement.** The City administers an Adopt a Pond program and issues rebates to homeowners that install rain barrels at their property. We also encourage our citizens to improve storm water on their own properties and are willing to assist with design recommendations as needed.
3. **Illicit discharge detection and elimination.** We passed an ordinance in 2007 prohibiting illicit connections (anything other than storm water) to the storm sewer system. This ordinance also gives us authority to force disconnections of illicit connections we become aware of. We also conduct inspections of outfall pipes. Outfalls with high risk of illicit connections are inspected annually; the others are inspected on a three year rotating basis.
4. **Construction site pollutant control.** An ordinance is in place requiring construction site erosion control. We also conduct regular construction site inspections for erosion control.
5. **Post-construction storm water management.** An ordinance is in place requiring water quality, rate, and volume control for nearly all new and re-development activities within the City. Each development plan that comes to the City is reviewed for compliance with this ordinance.
6. **Pollution prevention/good housekeeping.** We have a proactive snow and ice removal policy. We also conduct regular maintenance on fleet vehicles and sweep City streets on a regular basis. The City owns and maintains a compost site for residents' use. We also inspect and maintain the storm sewer system. The City only applies fertilizer to City properties after conducting soil tests to ensure we are only applying what is needed.

There will be a presentation of specifics on the annual report at a City Council Meeting in March 2016. ~

Don't Become a Victim of a Scam!

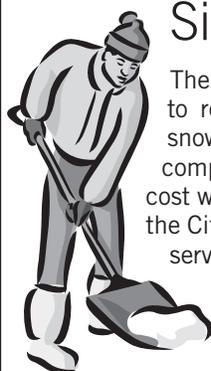
Let's imagine that you receive a phone call from an unknown phone number. The caller tells you that you have inherited \$10,000 from an unknown relative. But in order to process the inheritance, you need to send \$750 to cover the taxes and fees. The caller gives you a name and tells you to send the money through Western Union. You think wow - \$10,000! STOP!

You have heard the saying, "If it's too good to be true..." Scams like these are becoming an everyday occurrence. The River Falls Police Department consistently takes reports from citizens about scams just like the one above. The scam ideas are limitless. The scammers will make up any story to get money from the person that they are trying to scam.

Here are some tips to avoid being a victim of a scam:

- **Use good judgment.** Be aware that wiring money is like sending cash. It's nearly impossible to stop the transaction or trace the money. Don't agree to deposit a check and wire money back. It could take weeks for the bank to uncover that the check is fake. Anyone who overpays is almost certainly a scam artist.
- **Follow up with the information that you have.** If the person is saying that your grandchild is in jail in Mexico and you need to send bail money, call your grandchild and find out. If the caller says that you owe taxes on a student loan and are going to be arrested if you don't pay, contact the financial institution that has the loan.
- **Be extremely cautious when giving personal information to anyone over the phone or computer.**
- **Educate Yourself.** If you think you've found a good deal, check it out. Use your favorite search engine and search for the company or product name and words like "review" or "scam" and see what you find. Check websites like the Federal Trade Commission at www.FTC.gov or the Federal Bureau of Investigation at www.fbi.gov.

For further information, please contact the River Falls Police Department at 715-425-0909. ~



Sidewalks to be Kept Clear

The owner/occupant of any lot or parcel is required to remove any snow/ice within 24 hours after the snowfalls ceases. If the owner/occupant fails to comply, the City shall remove the snow/ice and the cost will be charged to the property owner according to the City's current Fee Schedule. Failure to pay for said services, upon billing, will result in the costs being assessed against the property and placed on the annual tax roll.

Note: Only one door hanger notice will be posted at the property this snow season regarding clearing of sidewalks. After the first notice, the City will clear sidewalks if they have not been done. If you have any questions, please contact Terry Kusilek, at 715-426-3481 or by e-mail at tkusilek@rfcity.org. ~



Making History and Being a Part of the Clean Energy Future

Autumn 2015 has been one for the ages with beautiful, warm, and sunny days that have felt more like August than October. One of the few exceptions was on October 12 at the Community Solar groundbreaking!

About 100 people braved the windy and rainy weather to celebrate the historic event in the Sterling Ponds Corporate Park. It is historic because we became the first city in Wisconsin to build a community solar garden for its citizens.

The River Falls community was already buying renewable energy blocks in record numbers and are number eight in the nation for customer participation! But people wanted more; they wanted to see and feel the solar panel that was charging their phone or running their refrigerator, they wanted it in their community. Our community solar project consists of 807 panels. It is about the size of a football field and visible from Highway 35.

It's not too late to join in this project. Just stop by City Hall or go to www.rfmu.org/communitysolar to get an application. We have financing options and calculators to help you determine how much to buy. Once the panels are sold out, there will be few options to participate in the future, so get on it now. Be a part of the clean energy future and be a part of River Falls' history - buy a share in the community solar garden.

Community solar works because it allows everyone to participate. You can get in for a small investment of \$567 instead of buying a large system on your house or business. Those with shade on their home can now get in the game. Solar panels will probably outlive your roof, so you no longer have that concern when buying in the community solar garden. If you wanted your energy to be produced from a clean, renewable source, you now have it.

It's not too late to join in this project. Just stop by City Hall or go to www.rfmu.org/communitysolar to get an application. We have financing options and calculators to help you determine how much to buy. Once the panels are sold out, there will be few options to participate in the future, so get on it now. Be a part of the clean energy future and be a part of River Falls' history - buy a share in the community solar garden. ~



Members of the City Council and public braved the rainy and blustery conditions at the Community Solar Groundbreaking on October 12.

Police Chief Roger Leque Retires



After 37 years of service to the City of River Falls (including 24 years as Police Chief), Chief Roger Leque retired on October 9. A retirement party was held in his honor and attended by many colleagues, co-workers, family and friends. State Senator Harsdorf, along with representatives from the offices of Senators

Ron Johnson and Representative Ron Kind also were in attendance. We thank Chief Leque for his service, congratulate him on his career and wish him the best in his retirement! ~

City Hires Gordon Young as Police Chief

The City of River Falls is pleased to announce that Gordon "Gordie" Young, Deputy Chief of the Royal Oak, Michigan, Police Department has accepted the position of River Falls Police Chief.

As per Wisconsin Statutes, the City's Police & Fire Commission presided over the selection process that drew nearly 60 applicants from a dozen states. Mr. Young follows Chief Roger Leque who retired in October after 37 years of service.

Mr. Young had the following to say about his appointment: "It is an incredible honor and privilege to lead the River Falls Police Department and have an opportunity to build on the success of Chief Roger Leque. I'm excited to get to know the Police Department staff, city employees and members of the community. My top priorities will be community policing, providing exceptional service, and supporting a premiere police agency through local partnerships."

Chief Young will begin duties on January 4, 2016. Welcome to River Falls! ~



Odd/Even Parking Continues Through March 31

Per the City's Municipal Code, Chapter 10.12, Odd/Even Parking begins November 1 and runs through March 31. Each night between 1 a.m. and 6 a.m. you must:

- Park on the odd numbered side of the street on odd dates
- Park on the even numbered side of the street on even dates
- Remember to park according to the date after midnight

Vehicles parked in violation of parking regulations may be towed for snow removal, street maintenance, or other public safety needs. Questions may be directed to the River Falls Police Department at 715-425-0909. Thank you for your cooperation! ~

FREQUENTLY CALLED PHONE NUMBERS

General Information
715-425-0900

Utility Questions
715-425-0906

Police Department
715-425-0909

Public Library
715-425-0905

Municipal Court
715-426-3429

Garbage/Recycling
715-425-0900

Recreation Cancellation Hotline
715-426-3422

NEWSLETTER TEAM:

(Please email comments or suggestions to: newsletterfeedback@rfcity.org)

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Mayor and City Council (from left): Scott Morrisette, Mayor Dan Toland, Aaron Taylor, David Cronk, Jim Nordgren, Hal Watson, Dan Gulick, and Diane Odeen

Mayor and Common Council

Position	Name	Address	Phone	E-mail Address
Mayor	Dan Toland	420 E. Elm Street	715-426-3404	dtoland@rfcity.org
At Large	Daniel Gulick	1746 Southridge Road	715-425-0486	dgulick@rfcity.org
At Large	Scott Morrisette	2137 Rushmore Drive	715-425-8993	smorrisette@rfcity.org
At Large	Diane Odeen	811 Oak Knoll Avenue	715-426-5325	dodeen@rfcity.org
District 1	David Cronk	843 Leroy Lane	715-425-9174	dcronk@rfcity.org
District 2	Jim Nordgren	1144 South Fork	715-425-7327	jnordgren@rfcity.org
District 3	Hal Watson	215 7th Street	715-781-5814	hwatson@rfcity.org
District 4	Aaron Taylor	1143 State Street	608-444-2392	ataylor@rfcity.org



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