



Mayor's Message



If you're reading this, congratulations on surviving another Wisconsin winter. Even though it was a very mild and easy winter (it's February 26 as I'm writing this and so far it's been great), as I get older the winters seem to get longer and harder even though they really aren't. Now that it's May, I hope the weather is beautiful, the birds are singing, and the flowers are blooming!

As always, in the spring comes new growth and rebirth. The city will be going through a lot of that this year. For rebirth, we are updating our wastewater treatment plant which will help us for another 20 years into the future. We will also be reconditioning the Sycamore water tower with new paint and additional fixes for the future growth of the city. We will also be updating, renewing, and adding to our infrastructure as we do every year. The new growth will be in our industrial parks, as we look to bring new businesses to town and help ones already here to build new or expand at their existing sites. There will be growth in new housing which we anticipate to be substantial again this year.

All of the new growth and rebirth is great for the city as long as we continue to do it in a rational and orderly fashion keeping up with our infrastructure. The growth helps to build the tax base and keep rates down for everybody in town.

Spring also brings more people to town and the kids will be getting out of school. So it will be up to us as citizens of this great town to make the visitors who come here and the new people who have moved here to feel welcomed and accepted. Take the extra second or two to stop and talk to people, help with any questions they may have. We can only make one first impression, and we want it to be a good one. That also goes for people that you know and see on the street or at other places around town. We are never so busy that we can't stop and say "Hi, how are you? What's new or how have you been?" A little kindness goes a long way with people.

Most of all, spring opens up the great outdoors again for everybody. Make sure and get out and take advantage of everything our great city provides in the way of entertainment and scenery.

Remember to enjoy your city, and I will see you out there! Go Pack Go!

Dan Toland

State of the City

At the beginning of each year, the City Administrator presents the Mayor and City Council with a "State of the City" update. This update reviews the highlights of the previous year.

As a resident, you know the City of River Falls is a great place to live, work and play. The City continues to be financially sustainable thanks in part to innovative strategies like moving to a two-year budget. This streamlines the budget process and allows staff to focus on service delivery and strategic planning.

Staff efforts with the two year budget were successful. River Falls has a debt-free electric utility and the Public Library's mortgage was paid off early. As a result, the City's fiscal trajectory is in line with its five year fiscal plan. This financial sustainability provides the City of River Falls with the resources and the flexibility to accomplish strategic goals and adapt to the changing environment.

The City is spending more than \$8 million on major improvements to the wastewater treatment plant and electric substation, so we can continue to consistently deliver quality municipal services for our residents. Also, the City is breaking new ground in Wisconsin with its community solar project - one of the first in the state, which provides local, clean, renewable energy for residential and business customers.

Infrastructure improvements extend to the Sterling Ponds Corporate Park, which is an important step in promoting economic vitality. The City is collaborating with public and private partners to form the Saint Croix Valley Business Incubator.



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Calendar of Events

Friday Fit Lit Club Fridays, 6 a.m. Library Lobby
 Through May 22 Annual All School Art Show, Library Gallery
 May 3, June 7, July 5,
 August 2, September 6 Middle School Book Discussion Group, 4 p.m. at library
 May 9-14 Spring Clean Up (see article page 6)
 May 10, June 14,
 July 12, August 9 High School Book Discussion Group, 4 p.m. at library
 May 10, Sept. 13 2nd Tuesday Book Adult Discussion Group,
 6:30 p.m. Location TBD
 May 15 UWRF Spring Commencement, at RFHS
 May 15-21 EMS Week and Public Works Week
 May 17, June 21,
 July 19, Aug. 16, Sept. 20 Books & Beans Discussion Group,
 10 a.m. Location TBD
 May 17, June 21, July 19,
 Aug. 16, Sept. 20 Family Story Hour 6 p.m. at library
 May 18, Sept. 21 YA for Adults Book Discussion Group,
 6:30 p.m. at Junior's Bar and Grill
 May 18 Coffee with a Cop, 8 a.m. at the Dish and Spoon Café
 May 19 Board of Review, 9-11 a.m., City Hall (see article page 6)
 May 22 Author Mary Casanova, 2 p.m. at library
 May 23, June 27, July 25, Aug. 22 Severe Weather Siren Test, 1 p.m.
 May 25, June 22,
 July 27, Aug. 24, Sept. 28 Coloring for Adults, 6-8 p.m., at Library
 May 28, 29, 30 City Offices and Library Closed
 June 3-July 1 All In One Room: The Country School, Library Gallery
 June 5 River Falls High School Commencement at RFHS
 June 6 2016 Summer Olympics for Adults, 6:30 p.m. at Library
 June 7-Pool Close in August Poolside Book Break, 2:30 p.m.
 at Glen Park Pool
 June 8, July 13, Aug. 16 Sports Night at the Library, 6 p.m., at Library
 June 8, 15, 22, 29; July 6, 13, 20, 27 Summer Reading Program Events,
 10:30 a.m. at library
 June 13, 27; July 11, 25; Aug. 8, 25 Lego Afternoons 4-5 p.m. at library
 June 14, 21, 28; July 5, 12,
 19, 26; Aug. 2 Babytime 9:30 a.m.; Toddler Lapsit 10:45 a.m. at library
 June 15, July 21, Aug. 18 Book Club in a Bar, 6:30 p.m.
 (see locations on page 5)
 June 16, 23, 30;
 July 7, 14, 21, 28; Aug. 4 Preschool Storytime 10:30-11:15 a.m.
 or 1-1:45 p.m. at library
 June 25 Antiques with Mark Moran, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at library
 July 4 Independence Day, City Offices Closed
 July 7-10 River Falls Days (www.rfchamber.com)
 July 9-September 2 Pollinators: Keeping Company with Flowers,
 Library Gallery
 July 9 Kiddie Parade, 10 a.m.-12 noon at library
 July 15 Coffee with a Cop, 8 a.m. at the American Legion
 July 18, 25, Aug. 1, 8, 15, 22 Foreign Film Festival, 7 p.m. at library
 July 21 Customer Service Event, 11 a.m.-1 p.m., City Hall
 Aug. 4-6 Flower Show, at library
 Aug. 9 Fall Primary Election, Polls Open 7 a.m.-8 p.m.
 September 1 River Falls School District Classes Begin
 September 3, 4, 5 City Offices and Library Closed for Labor Day
 September 7 UWRF Fall Classes Begin
 September 10 Art on the Kinni, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Heritage Park
 September 10-Oct. 7 The Murder Mystery, Library Gallery
 September 13 Author William Kent Krueger, 7 p.m. at library
 September 21 Coffee with a Cop, 8 a.m. at UW-River Falls
 September 25 Mark Twain: An American Life, 7 p.m. at library

State of the City

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This new organization will serve as a catalyst by supporting new and existing business ventures.

River Falls remains a vibrant, active community with numerous events, places, and spaces for connecting community members. The Glen and Hoffman Park Master Plans implementation will be moving forward this year to make the parks more accessible and allow them to support the recreation needs of the community. In addition, the City's planning for the future of the hydroelectric dams and the Kinnickinnic Corridor Plan will set the comprehensive framework for development around the river and the preservation of the natural environment. The City values citizen participation in the process to develop a plan that serves the interest of the whole community and considers future generations.

The City looks forward to the challenges ahead and appreciates the continued support of the River Falls community.

You can view the City's State of the City video at: www.rfcity.org/stateofthecity2015.



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

May 18, 8 a.m. at the Dish and Spoon Café, July 15, 8 a.m. at the American Legion, and September 21, 8 a.m. at UW-River Falls. 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.



EMS Week-May 15-21

National EMS week in May is dedicated to the recognition of all EMS professionals and the challenging jobs they perform.

During national EMS week, your River Falls EMS takes great pride in getting out to area classrooms to educate third graders on personal safety. For the past 14 years, River Falls EMS has partnered with Community Safety Net to provide "Personal Safety Books" and interactive DVDs for all of the children who attend the session. Community Safety Net goes door to door to local businesses on our behalf seeking funds for these valuable resources. Thanks to those local organizations and businesses that have provided funding over the years. The program has been a huge success and has grown in popularity with the schools, kids, and parents.

During the classroom session, the kids receive one hour of safety instruction with the first 45 minutes involving interactive student participation. Real life situations are discussed with the children. Those real life pictures bring home the point of safety we want students to take away from the session. Kids also learn how to correctly wear bike helmets, seatbelts, and proper use of booster seats. The remaining 15 minutes is spent touring the ambulances giving kids the opportunity to learn, ask questions, and hopefully, ease any fears they may have.

This program has been so successful over the years, that it has received national attention and now other communities have begun to do similar safety presentations.

National EMS week is May 15-21, 2016. We ask for your support and recognize your local EMS during this week for all their hard work and dedication to the community.

To learn more about Community Safety Net for kid safety programs, visit: <http://www.communitysafetynet.com>.

To learn more about this program in River Falls, contact Jeff Rixmann, EMS Director at jrixmann@rfcity.org or 715-425-0370. ~

River Falls/Prescott EMS Operations A Year after the Merger

On January 1, 2015, River Falls EMS assumed operation of the Prescott EMS service. After much research and several meetings, this decision was made by the Prescott Fire and EMS Board to ensure better EMS coverage for their area. An existing relationship between the two communities was in place prior to the change as River Falls EMS has partnered with Prescott since 2013. Existing Prescott EMS staff was given the opportunity to continue under the new management and about 50 percent opted to do so.

What changed for Prescott?

Operations continue from the existing Prescott EMS station. The Prescott community has been upgraded from an Advanced EMT level to the Critical Care Paramedic level (CCP). The CCP level is the highest level of pre-hospital care in Wisconsin.

The available EMS staff increased from 20 to 70. Joining rosters created a larger pool of personnel to staff both locations. A new full time position was created to help manage Prescott operations. This position is a combination of duty Paramedic, Prescott station supervisor, and department training officer. The department currently employs eight full time critical care paramedic positions, seven part time EMT positions, five casual paramedic positions, and 50 paid on call EMT or Paramedic positions.

The Prescott EMS previously had two ambulances - one was retired in the transition. Prescott's newest ambulance, a 2004 model, was donated to River Falls to be used as an ambulance in the transition. In July 2015, the donated ambulance was replaced with a new 2015 ambulance which brought enhanced medical technology to the Prescott community.

Although the operational change technically decreased Prescott's fleet to one, the community now has access to five ambulances due to a system status management approach between the River Falls and Prescott stations.

System Status Management

A system status management works by rotating resources between the two stations where they are needed most. Daily staffing includes scheduling one ambulance in Prescott and two of the four ambulances in River Falls. At any given time, there are three scheduled ambulances available between the two communities. The two remaining ambulances in River Falls are staffed by calling in off duty personnel when needed.

If the Prescott ambulance is dispatched, resources are rotated from River Falls to cover that area until the Prescott ambulance returns. If both scheduled ambulances in River Falls are on calls, the Prescott ambulance rotates to a staging point between the two cities. The process continues if more ambulances are deployed. The system management allows us to best utilize our daily staffing and provide the best and quickest responses to both communities at all times of the day.

New Equipment

River Falls EMS recently purchased a 2016 Chevy pickup. This new vehicle will be used as a quick response vehicle for the Prescott area. The department also purchased a special rescue UTV, to be used for special events and rescue situations in which a normal vehicle wouldn't work. The Prescott area has a lot of river bluff homes, some which are not easily accessible by traditional vehicles. The pickup and UTV are stored at the Prescott station and will respond to both communities as needed.

River Falls EMS recently received a total of \$21,000 in donations from River Falls Hospital, Regina (Hastings) Hospital, and the Prescott community. The money was used to purchase a LUCAS CPR device and an automatic ventilator for the Prescott ambulance. Prescott did not have this equipment prior to the merger.

Contact/Questions

River Falls EMS offers a community ride along program at both the River Falls and Prescott stations. If you are interested in riding or becoming an EMT, please contact Jeff Rixmann at jrixmann@rfcity.org or 715-425-0370. ~



Library Programs and Events Spring/Summer 2016

Check the library website at <http://www.riverfallspubliclibrary.org/library-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

May 28, 29, 30; July 4; September 3, 4, 5

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

Author Mary Casanova-May 22, 2 p.m.

Mary has written a variety of books for children and teens, including several American Girl titles, *Utterly Otterly*, *One-Dog Canoe*, and the Dog Watch series. Her latest book is *Wake Up, Island*, a picture book about the north woods of Minnesota, illustrated by Nick Wroblewski.

Antiques with Mark Moran-June 25, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

Antiques appraised by an expert! Please call Katie (715-426-3496) ahead to reserve your slot. Space is limited. There is a \$10 fee to hold your place.

Kiddie Parade-July 9, 10 a.m.-12 noon

Cutest parade in town! Registration begins at 10 a.m.; parade steps off at 10:30 a.m. Fun dress-up categories for kids. Fun and prizes for all. Games and activities will be provided by River Falls 4 Children. Petting zoo provided by Fantasy Corral on the library lawn from 10 a.m.-12 noon.

Foreign Film Series-July 18, 25; August 1, 8, 15, 22, 7 p.m.

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



Annual Flower Show-August 4-6

Sponsored by the Library and the First National Bank of River Falls/Prescott. Entries due by closing on August 3. Three categories for both adults and youth. Cash prizes! More information and entry forms available on library web site.

Author William Kent Krueger-September 13, 7 p.m.

William is the author of the Cork O'Connor mystery series set in the north woods of

Minnesota. His work has received a number of awards, including the Minnesota Book Award and the Loft-McKnight Fiction Award. His last five novels were all New York Times bestsellers. Sponsored with Chapter 2 Books.

Mark Twain: An American Life-September 25, 7 p.m.

In the words of Mark Twain, a performance by Judy Cook. Samuel Langhorne Clemens (1835-1910), better known by his pen name Mark Twain, was a larger-than-life US-American author and humorist. His works include *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* (1876) and its sequel, *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* (1885), the latter often referred to as "The Great American Novel."

Youth Summer Reading Program is June 8-August 21

1,000 Books Before Kindergarten 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.

Wednesday Programs: All Wednesday programs are large-group performances or activity sessions. Programs are scheduled at 10:30 a.m. and will take place in the lower level meeting room unless otherwise noted.

June 8: Jason Huneke – comedy juggler

June 15: Hillbilly science comedy show

June 22: Mad Science of Iowa

June 29: On your mark, get set, make! Crafts and fun.

July 6: Remarkable Reptiles

July 13: Travelling Lantern Theater presents *Vladimir Goes for the Gold!*

July 20: Outdoor Olympic Games!

July 27: Randy's Rocking Reading Pep Rally music show

Poolside Book Break – June 7-August Pool Close, 2:30 p.m.

Tuesday and Wednesday at Glen Park Pool during the lifeguard break. Books available for checkout.

Children/School Aged Youth Programs

Summer Story Times

Stories, songs, action rhymes, and lots of fun! Pre-registration required and begins May 31. Class sizes are limited. Held in the Children's Program Room.

- **Babytime** (0-23 months & caregiver – Tuesdays 9:30-9:50 a.m. Dates: June 14-August 2
- **Toddler Lapsit** (24–36 months & caregiver) – Tuesdays 10:45-11:15 a.m. Dates: June 14-August 2
- **Preschool Story Time** (3-5 year olds) Thursdays 10:30-11:15 a.m. or 1:00-1:45 p.m. Dates: June 16-August 4
- **Family Story Hour** (geared to up to 5 year olds but open to all) Third Tuesday at 6 p.m. Dates: May 17, June 21, July 19, August 16, September 20

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 May 10, June 14, July 12, August 9, September 13.

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 May 3, June 7, July 5, August 2, September 6.

The **4th-5th Grade Book Discussion Group** will not meet during the summer. The group resumes on September 20 at 4 p.m.

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: June 13, 27; July 11, 25; August 8, 25.

1,000 Books Before Kindergarten 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.

Library Programs and Events

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Adult Programs

Adult Summer Library Program

Why should kids have all the fun? The library will have a wide variety of summer programs that will offer adults the opportunity to explore new interests, meet new people, and connect with the community. *Don't forget about the prizes!* Stop into the library and fill out book review slips, play summer reading Bingo, test your knowledge with one of the weekly activity sheets or show up to any of the adult programs and you can be entered to win fabulous prizes.

2016 Library Summer Olympics for Adults

Join your friends, librarians and fellow community members for an evening of fun and games. Come and compete in fun and exciting events that will test your agility, strength, and intellect. Have you ever wanted to build the tallest book tower? What about bowling with coconuts? Maybe even give flinging cats at your friends a try? Do you have what it takes to win Gold? Form your own team or join one at the event. This program is free and is for adults ages 18 and up. Friends and family are encouraged to come and cheer on their teams. Prizes will be awarded in each event.

Date: Monday, June 6, 6:30 p.m.

Friday Fit Lit Club

Meet Fridays at 6:30 and 9 a.m. in Main Level Meeting Room. From 6:30-7:00 a.m., we will check-in and discuss books you are reading. From 7-8 a.m., a one mile walk with Heather or exercise on your own or in a group. From 8-9 a.m., we will meet back at library for coffee, snacks, conversation and internet access at the library before it opens.

Sports Movie Night at the Library

Come to watch an all-star line-up of sports-themed movies. Movies are free and open to the public. Dates: June 8: McFarland, USA (PG); July 13: Hoosiers (PG); August 16: Rudy (PG) Time: 6 p.m.

Coloring for Adults

Come and see what the coloring craze is all about! This program will meet on the 4th Wednesday of each month from 6-8 p.m. in the Main Level Meeting Room at the River Falls Public Library. No registration required. Designed for adults, but school-age children and teens can attend WITH a parent. All supplies are provided. It's free and open to the public. Coffee and a light snack provided! Dates: May 25, June 22, July 27, August 24, September 28; Time: 6-8 p.m.

Spring/Summer Gallery Events

These Kids Are Good!

The Annual All-School Art Show

April 21-May 22

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



All in One Room: The Old Country School

June 3 – July 1

Experience education in a one-room schoolhouse.

Pollinators: Keeping Company with Flowers

July 9 - September 2

The miracle behind our food and flowers.

The Murder Mystery

September 10-October 7

Visit the world of Sherlock Holmes, Miss Marple, the intrepid Hercule Poirot, and other famous sleuths.

Adult Reading Programs

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

Dates: May 10, September 13. Location is to be determined.

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

Dates: May 17, June 21, July 19, August 16, September 20. Location is to be determined.

YA for Adults Books Discussion Group –

Third Wednesday at 6:30 p.m.

Dates: May 18, September 21.

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

Book Club in a Bar

Join us for lively and engaging literary conversations at local River Falls bars, breweries and wineries. A great way to meet new people and sit outdoors (weather permitting) discussing books! Ages 21+

Bleachers: A Novel by John Grisham (2003)

Date: June 15, 6:30 p.m., at Rush River Brewing Company; 990 Antler Court, River Falls

The World's Strongest Librarian: A Book Lover's Adventures by Josh Hanagarne (2013)

Date: July 21, 6:30 p.m., at Belle Vinez, W10829 875th Avenue, River Falls

The Book of Speculation: A Novel by Erika Swyler (2015)

Date: August 18, 6:30 p.m., at Lazy River Bar & Grill, 115 W. Walnut Street, River Falls ~

21st Annual Art on the Kinni



On Saturday, September 10, the banks of the Kinnickinnic River will be the location of the 21st Annual Art on the Kinni art fair from 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. This event features juried artists, musical events and delicious food. There is an art tent for children and the "Budding Artists' Bridge" featuring students and artists beginning their careers. In 2015, this event drew more than 5,100 fair goers. Come join us for this year's event. For more information, please visit: <http://www.riverfallscab.org/artonthekinni.php>.



River Falls' Snowfighters Honored

In February, the City of River Falls was one of 90 transportation facilities across the U.S. and Canada honored by the Salt Institute with its Safe and Sustainable Snowfighting Award which recognizes environmental consciousness and effective management in the storage of winter road salt. Congratulations to our crew who are dedicated to the safety of our residents as well as environmental safety. ~

River Falls Days – A Tradition for 42 Years July 7-10, 2016

What started as “Old Fashioned Bargain Days” in 1974 has become River Falls Days. This year’s event will be held July 7 – 10 and promises to be another fun, family-friendly weekend for all ages to enjoy. Areas located along the scenic Kinnickinnic River and steps from the downtown, will again serve as the festival ground for this year’s grand community celebration.

As we plan for 2016, we continue to seek opportunities for improvement in every aspect of the event, primarily based on feedback received from community members. While complete details will be available on the Chamber website, www.rfchamber.com, a few changes you can expect to see include the following:



- **Parade.** The number one question received is associated with the parade route. No, it will not be changing anytime soon. If parade crowds are not your “thing”, consider checking out the beer tent instead this year! There are plans in place to stream the parade live and offer happy hour specials from the beer tent, so you won’t miss a thing. Live music is also being planned immediately following the parade – so bring your whole family, grab a bite to eat at the food tent, and enjoy the evening. Forms will be available at the Chamber website April 1 to sign up to be a parade participant.
- **Carnival Expanded Hours.** We are excited to bring back Earl’s Rides, a multi-generationally owned carnival. The carnival will again be located in the grassy area northeast of City Hall and adjacent to the river. We hope you are as excited as we are to experience their great rides, games and more! The carnival will be open Sunday as well!



- **Cover Charges.** There is no charge to gather at the beer/food tent Friday evening, so stop by and check out the great band, Sushi Roll. We also welcome back Lost Highway. There will be a \$5 per person gate fee to enter the beer tent. Note: all weekend there is no gate fee to access the food tent when entering via Maple Street.
- **Sunday Family Fun Day.** We are excited to share that in addition to the great family events that will continue to take place under the big tent on Saturday; we are expanding our family focus into Sunday as well. In addition to the carnival being open and the Car Cruze-In taking place on Main Street, the beer tent will also be open during the day. If your organization is interesting in providing family activities at the beer tent, please contact the Chamber office today!
- **Merchant Booths.** Individuals will have the opportunity to have a vendor booth along Maple Street both Saturday and Sunday. Vendor applications will be available soon on the Chamber website.

With a focus on continuing to balance the importance of tradition and new opportunities, we are excited to continue our 42nd year of River Falls Days. As with all community events, it is the commitment and support of hundreds of volunteers that make it possible. If you are interested in volunteering as part of this celebration or have ideas and suggestions for improvements, please don’t hesitate to contact the Chamber. We look forward to seeing you and your family at our events this summer!

For more information on upcoming River Falls Chamber of Commerce and Tourism Bureau events, visit www.rfchamber.com or call 715-425-2533. ~

Spring Cleanup in River Falls Runs May 9-14

Spring cleanup is provided for City residents who are currently billed for city garbage service. Residents bringing items for disposal will be asked to present a form of identification and a copy of a recent River Falls Municipal Utility bill. People who do not qualify will not be allowed to dispose of their goods. The cleanup is located at the City’s Public Works Garage at 950 Benson Street. The dates are: Monday – Friday, May 9-13 (4 p.m. to 8 p.m.) and Saturday, May 14 (8 a.m. to 1 p.m.). If you have questions on eligible items for disposal, call Advanced Disposal at 866-983-6542 or visit <http://www.rfcity.org/cleanup> for a list. Advanced Disposal reserves the right to refuse any hazardous materials. A week long fall cleanup will begin October 17.



Both Pierce and St. Croix Counties offer a Clean Sweep program. To learn more, visit the website of the county you reside in. Pierce County – www.co.pierce.wi.us - phone 715-273-3092 or St. Croix County – www.co.saint-croix.wi.us – phone 715-531-1907. ~

Board of Review is May 19, 9 to 11 a.m.

The Board of Review is a quasi-judicial body comprised of the Mayor, City Council, and City Clerk. The Board is responsible for correcting errors, approving changes made at Open Book, hearing oral testimony and determining if the assessor’s valuation is correct. The Board must uphold the valuation unless oral testimony provides evidence that the assessment is incorrect.

Citizens wishing to appear before the Board regarding their property assessment must contact the City Clerk’s Office prior to 9 a.m. on May 17 to schedule an appointment and complete paperwork. ~



May is Historic Preservation Month

Each May, Wisconsin and the City of River Falls celebrates Historic Preservation Month. Historic resources give meaning and a sense of place to our community. In River Falls, history is all around us; walk down Main Street and every building you pass has a story to tell. We share a connections with the past each time we feel the slight bounce as we walk across the Swinging Bridge, swim, picnic, play ball or simply lay in the cool grass at Glen Park, or pass by the Glover School House in DeSanctis Park.

Ride a bike through the neighborhoods along the Kinni, and you'll see history in the architectural details of the many homes that have stood strong and tall for more than 50 years.

When people visit River Falls, they often say what we as residents already know - "this place has a nice, small town feel to it." A great deal of that warmth is generated by the easy accessibility to history through our buildings, homes, and parks. This kind of attention to historic detail just doesn't happen on its own; it takes the combined effort of citizens and our local government.

The City Historic Preservation Commission has placed plaques on numerous buildings downtown and has designated several properties and structures as historic such as: the Junction Mill Smokestack, the Swinging Bridge in Glen Park, Freeman House on 3rd Street, and Knowles House on 4th Street - once home to a governor and a state legislator. On the campus of UW-River Falls, North Hall and South Hall are listed on the National Historic Register, as is the Pool House in Glen Park.

The future is unknown; you cannot escape *from* history, so escape *to* history. As the days of summer arrive and you walk the sidewalks and ride the streets of our fair city, take time to stop and experience the history that surrounds you. All you discover may pleasantly surprise you. ~

City Compost Site

The city provides a compost facility where residents can bring their yard waste. The compost site is located at 901 West Locust Street (near the River Falls School Bus Garage).

- Allowable material is limited to yard waste and brush.
- Use of this site is for City of River Falls residents only.
- For your convenience, the site is open seven days a week 365 days a year during daylight hours.
- Please practice good housekeeping and do not bring unwanted or banned materials to the site. ~



Reserve a Park Shelter!

Glen and Hoffman Parks have enclosed shelters available for public use. Reservations are accepted after January 1, and there is a \$30 fee. Alcohol permits are required for more than one liter of alcohol

on site; that permit is an additional \$50 deposit which is refunded after the event date.

The Glen Park shelter has two sides available to reserve. The west side is larger and holds about 75 people. Both the east side of Glen Park and Hoffman Park shelters hold about 40 people. All shelters have picnic tables, electric plug-ins, sink and counter tops. Check out the website for availability at www.rfcity.org and click on 'Parks'.

The open sided shelters at Hoffman and Glen Parks are now also available for reservations. The fee is \$20 per day, or they are available on a first come, first serve basis. If you have any questions, please call the River Falls Park and Recreation Department at 715-425-0924. ~

2016 Emergency Weather Warning Siren Test Dates



The City of River Falls will be testing the outdoor warning sirens on the Mondays listed below. If severe or threatening weather exists on any of the scheduled dates, the test will be Tuesday at 1 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.

The River Falls Police Department staff monitors 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 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. ~

UW-River Falls: Celebrates Its Past While Committing to Innovation and Partnerships to Shape Its Future

While UW-River Falls strives for excellence by strategically enhancing and building distinctive and innovative programming and partnerships, it pauses to commemorate its rich history by honoring those who have left a lasting impression.



New Cutting Edge Neuroscience Program

A new bachelor's degree program in neuroscience is set to begin at UW-River Falls in fall 2017. This new degree will emphasize an in-depth understanding of research methodology, statistical analysis, and the fundamentals of behavior and biology, helping to prepare students for careers in traditional fields such as medicine, public health, education, and pharmaceuticals as well as emerging fields such as neurotechnology and neuroprosthetics.

UWRF "Walks the Talk" With Community Solar

UW-River Falls is hopping on board a new "green" initiative operated by the River Falls

Municipal Utilities. The Community Solar Program will allow residents and businesses in the city to purchase subscriptions to solar panels in a community solar garden. River Falls, along with New Richmond, have become the first cities in Wisconsin to have a community solar program, according to Mike Noreen, Conservation and Efficiency Coordinator for River Falls Municipal Utilities. A number of individuals and businesses have committed to buying subscriptions and UW-River Falls is one of those commitments.



Nelson Honored With Falcon Center Roadway Naming

UW-River Falls Chancellor Dean Van Galen has announced that the campus roadway added at the site of the new Falcon Center will be named in honor of former faculty member and women's athletics advocate, Emogene Nelson.

Nelson, a UWRF Distinguished Teacher, Distinguished Alumna and the first female UWRF Hall of Fame inductee, has long been remembered through the lasting impact she had on her students. Now her legacy will continue to be honored with the naming of Emogene Nelson Avenue, one of the main access points for the Falcon Center connecting South Main Street to South Sixth Street. ~

To left: UWRF Distinguished Teacher and Alumna Emogene Nelson

Important UW-River Falls dates:	Thursday, May 12, 2016 – Final Day of Spring Semester
	Sunday, May 15, 2016 – Spring Commencement (held at River Falls High School)
	Wednesday, September 7, 2016 – Fall 2016 Classes Begin

Public Works Week May 15-21

May 15-21 is National Public Works Week during which we recognize the efforts of City Public Works staff who plan, build, and manage city operations in order to improve the residents' quality of life. This year City staff will be visiting second graders at all three elementary schools explaining what Public Works does to serve citizens and how, in turn, citizens can assist by taking pride in their community.

We thank the dedicated staff who keep the streets clear of snow, the parks clean and mowed, and city equipment and infrastructure operational and so much more! If you see one of our Public Works crew, please be sure to say thank you! ~



Back row, left to right: Troy Connolly, Joe Killian, Bob Schwalen, Nate Croes, Charles Larson, Jon Killian and Pat Yunker. Front row, left to right: Terry Kusilek, Jon Kusilek, Scott Jensen and Irv Peskar. Missing: Ray Curtis and Ken Thill.

City's Budget Process - 2017-2018 Budget Preview

Annually, the Mayor and City Council meet to review and approve a budget for the operations and capital needs of the City. The budget includes the estimated revenue and expenditures needed to provide services such as public safety, utilities, street maintenance and snow removal and parks. The City Council will also be reviewing and approving a five year fiscal plan that projects future revenues and expenses, and uses this information to make better financial decisions. With this plan, we are able to prepare a two year budget that follows these preset guidelines and assumptions. City departments will be submitting their estimated requests for the upcoming budget, which will be compiled and presented the City Council at a workshop session in September.

The budget is more than just an accounting document; it is the result of input from citizens, boards and commissions, various departments, as well as the Mayor and City Council. The budget document is used throughout the year as a management and planning tool, which helps to objectively determine the best course for the community.

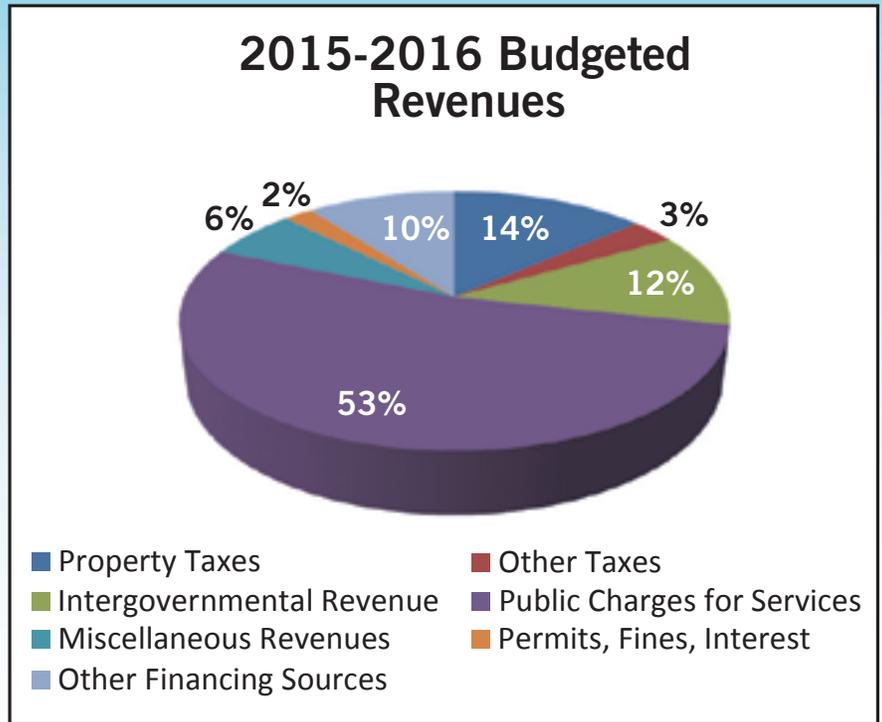
The City currently receives about \$2.0 million in shared revenues from the State of Wisconsin, which provides funding for basic City services that would otherwise be supported by property tax revenue. This funding has been steadily decreasing, and was reduced by \$143,000 in 2012. Transportation revenues have been increased from prior years, and the funds are allocated directly to the street maintenance budget.

The City Council welcomes citizen input into the budget process, either by contacting City staff, the Mayor and Council members, or attending budget workshop sessions. Additional information on the proposed budget will be available on the City's website at www.rfcity.org.transparency.

After the Council completes its review, a public hearing will be held on the proposed budget before considering approval of the budget ordinance and official property tax levy. The public hearing is tentatively scheduled for November 8, 2016.

The annual budget and resulting property tax levy are a balancing act between providing the necessary services that the community expects and maintaining the City's low tax rate.

More information on the budget is available on the City's website www.rfcity.org, or contact Julie Bergstrom, Finance Director/Assistant City Administrator at 715-426-3416. ~



2015 River Falls Firefighter of the Year, Doug Rudesill, and his wife, Susie

River Falls Fire Department 2015 Firefighter of the Year

The 2015 Firefighter of the Year was awarded to long-time firefighter, Doug Rudesill. A 30-year veteran of the department, Doug was selected from a group of his peers and awarded this honor at the department's Annual Awards Banquet in January.

Doug's focus is on serving the community, and he readily tells people, "There's always a good enjoyment when you're doing something good for the community." He explains the reason he has been with the department so long is because it's the good camaraderie with other firefighters that's kept him engaged.

"Doug exemplifies what a River Falls firefighter is all about. He is the Captain of our Ladder truck, part of our inspection team and active with our fire prevention program." said Fire Chief Nelson. An experienced firefighter, Doug is quick to mentor the younger members and is constantly challenging everyone on the department to train and be better firefighters.

After receiving the award, Doug commented, "Becoming Firefighter of the Year, that's quite a good thing; but picking one person out of 45 or 50 firefighters is kind of tough. All of them should be honored for all the work they do." ~



Trail Expansion Along the Kinnickinnic River

The City has been awarded a matching grant from the State of Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources to add an important link in the City's trail system. The new trail section 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 side of the 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 sidewalk on West Division Street. The length of the path is approximately 1,500 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 plaza 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 with construction in 2017. ~

Trends Report 2016

The Trends Report has been an annual analysis of the city since its inception in 2001. The report focuses on community growth, development, and goals from the previous year for the City of River Falls. The main statistical categories focus on employment, housing, utilities, public and emergency services, education, and finances. This data serves as a comprehensive measure of growth and progress that the community and businesses may use to benchmark against the City's long-term Comprehensive Plan.

New for 2016, in addition to reported one year trends, a new five-year trend will be incorporated into the report to highlight a longer growth span. This data will be shown through graphs, milestones, maps, and images. Additionally, the report will showcase upcoming projects such as the Hoffman and Glen Park Master Plans, the Kinnickinnic River Corridor Plan, and others. Expect the 2016 Trends Report to be available by early summer on the City's website at www.rfcity.org/transparency. ~

Park Master Plan Implementation Update

The River Falls City Council approved the Glen and Hoffman Master Plans on June 9, 2015. The Master Plans are the culmination of over 12 months of public outreach with community members, user groups and partners.

These plans and the current city parks and recreation system are a reflection of the community's long held values and support for parkland, green space, fitness and wellness. Key projects in each park include: improvements to parking and traffic flow, new event buildings, recreation and trail enhancements and amenity upgrades. Specifically, the Glen Park Master Plan calls for closing the loop road to vehicular access, a new event building with restrooms, reconfiguring the south athletic areas for better flow, an expanded pool deck and new plaza with splash pad, new playground improvements, enhancing the trails and connections and adding an ice skating pond with warming house. Projects specifically in the Hoffman Park Master Plan include: a new entrance road and centralized parking area, removal of the campground, a new event building with restrooms, improved trails and connections, reconfiguring of athletics areas for better flow, additional picnic shelters, a new concession building at the softball fields and an amphitheater.

City staff are currently working on a implementation plan that balances community support, costs and construction timing of these projects so that the City Council has the opportunity to include the implementation plans in the 2017-2021 capital budget. Staff will also be actively engaged in researching grant opportunities to assist in funding these projects.

While these are exciting plans for the community, design and construction of these projects will take some time, so stay excited, and be patient; good things are coming to our community parks! Any questions on the implementation plans may be directed to Amy Peterson, AICP, Assistant Community Development Director (apeterson@rfcity.org or 715-426-3425).



New Signage Coming to Kinnickinnic Trail

The Park and Recreation Department partnered with the River Falls Rotary Club, applying and receiving a grant, and working together to purchase kiosks, message boards and trail entry signs. These will go along the Kinnickinnic Trail to help identify the trail entry points, the trail's path and give general information to the public about trail map, vegetation, forestry and point of interests along the way. River Falls Rotary members and City of River Falls staff will be installing the signs in the spring of 2016. ~

The Need for a Kinnickinnic River Corridor Plan

In late 2013, the City began the relicensing process for the two hydroelectric dams on the Kinnickinnic River within the City's central area. After extensive community engagement, the City Council determined that now is the appropriate time to begin a carefully thought out multi-phased process that leads to a comprehensive long-term plan for the broader Kinnickinnic River Corridor. There are many stakeholders with varying interests in how the Kinnickinnic River and its surrounding corridor should be planned for and managed. A holistic plan is needed that considers the river's role—and its relationship to the two hydroelectric dams and their impoundments (Lake George and Lake Louise)—in the community, and that balances demand from user groups and promoting sensitive land use, which is in the best interest of the community. The City was granted a five-year extension of its current license to generate power at the hydroelectric facilities to allow for the river corridor planning and community engagement processes.

The City is looking at a multi-phased land use plan based on broad community engagement and support. The fully-implemented plan for the river corridor is envisioned to comprise three phases: Phase 1 – Analysis, Feasibility, and Preliminary Concept Plans; Phase 2 – Final Design and Permitting; and Phase 3 – Design Implementation and Construction.

In the next two years, the City will be moving forward with the first phase of the plan. This spring and early summer will consist of site analysis and background research. In late summer and fall, the facilitation of community and stakeholder engagement meetings will occur, followed by the development of a concept plans for the river corridor area. The final product will result in adoption of a Kinnickinnic River Corridor Plan Phase 1 plan document in the coming years. This plan document will provide guidance for finalizing the design and assist in the implementation and construction.

Any questions on the Kinnickinnic River Corridor Plan process may be directed to Buddy Lucero, Community Development Director, at 715-426-3423 or blucero@rfcity.org.

License Extension Granted for Hydroelectric Project

In March, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) granted the City's request for a five-year license extension for the River Falls Hydroelectric Project (P-10489). This action effectively overruled the earlier staff decision that denied the City's application and allows the community to focus on the coordinated planning process for the Kinnickinnic River Corridor.

The City was issued a 30-year license by FERC in 1988 to operate the project until August 31, 2018. FERC's action extends the license term to 2023 and delays any notice by the City to FERC until August 31, 2018, on whether the City will relicense or surrender the license. FERC's order found that the unique circumstances in this case, such as the unanimous stakeholder support for the extension, the river corridor plan, and the size of the project, all demonstrate that a five-year extension of the license is in the public interest.

The City is now preparing to continue with the Kinnickinnic River Corridor Planning Process as developed in consultation with stakeholders and endorsed by the River Falls City Council. The planning process will broaden the focus of the community to the broader Kinnickinnic River Corridor, and will simultaneously establish the vision for the River with or without the hydroelectric facilities.

The City Council and Utility Advisory Board (UAB) are still operating under a resolution that carefully considers any significant repairs to the hydroelectric facilities before approving them, in light of the unknown future they may have. This order does not change the cautious approach included in that action by the City Council. Any expense over \$5,000 still requires UAB approval. The resolution also directed net proceeds from operating the hydros to be used for future projects that will arise from the corridor plan.

Any questions regarding the hydroelectric project may be directed to Utilities Director Kevin Westhuis at 715-426-3442 or kwesthuis@rfcity.org.



Truck Collects both Waste and Recycling!



Have you seen your trash and recycling being dumped into one truck and wondered what is going on? Don't be alarmed - it is a new state-of-the-art automated split body side loader truck. This new style truck operated by Advanced Disposal uses a mechanical "arm" which lifts the heavy carts and then the driver flips a toggle switch to control a flap, which funnels the material into the appropriate compartment of the truck (see photos).

This split body truck enables collection of two separate materials in a single pass. The number of collection vehicles on the road is reduced; thereby, decreasing wear and tear on city streets, creating less noise and fewer air emissions.

2016 Utility Upgrades

Waste Water Treatment Plant

This spring, construction will begin on major modifications to the City's waste water treatment facility. Updates will utilize new technologies to increase efficiencies, allow for sludge storage that will not be exposed to the open air, and for effective processing of waste. This update is a large investment for our community, but one that is vital for all of our health and safety. Miron Construction will be the contractor for this project.

Sycamore Water Tower

The Sycamore Street water tower is scheduled to be repainted in 2016. The repainting will include a complete sandblasting of the tower and repaint. The color will be lighter and may include a UWRF logo. The project will begin around June 1 and be done by Classic Protective Coatings, Inc.



Power Plant Substation

2016 and 2017 will bring upgrades to the 50+ year old electric substation components. 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. Construction is slated to begin during the second half of 2016 with completion in 2017. ~

Take a Blue Bike for a Spin!

This spring, visitors and residents of River Falls will be able to get around town using the free bike share program called *Blue Bikes*. The bikes will be at four specific and easily identifiable racks around town: Hoffman Park, Veterans Park, near Dick's Market and on the UW-River Falls campus. Each rack will have an attached



fix-it station and have four or five *Blue Bikes* of various shapes and sizes for use. No credit card, no waiver to sign; we just ask that you respect the rules of the road and return it when you're done.

The *Blue Bike* program is a collaborative effort between the biking community, the City, UW-River Falls, Pierce County Health Department, the River Falls High School and Crank Worx Bike Shop. All the bikes were donated and a grant from New Belgium Brewing covered the costs of the racks and fix-it stations.

Your first chance to ride a *Blue Bike* will be on Earth Day, April 22, but they will out there for everyone to ride well into the fall. So this summer when you're at Hoffman Park, grab a *Blue Bike* that fits your style and go explore! ~



Community Solar Update

You've seen it by now - the large field of solar panels off to the right as you leave town on Highway 35 - that's our community solar project. It's *ours* because we are Public Power; we're owned and governed by you. The panels have been generating power for lots of residents, businesses, and nonprofits since mid-December.

Take a quick detour and check out all the activity around the new Sterling Ponds Corporate Park. There are lots of things to do like explore the solar array and find the panel you purchased (the panels are perfectly safe to touch). Check out the other improvements happening including landscaping, interpretive signs, a new and improved road, pathway and street lighting. We're also conducting research with the UW-River Falls on how to cultivate an ideal pollinator habitat in and around the site. There's a lot to see out there, so make it a destination.

We're proud of the community solar site and what it means for River Falls. Innovation and sustainability is a part of the River Falls culture and the community solar project is a highly visible symbol of our commitment. Record participation in our multiple renewable energy programs demonstrates we back up our words with action. There are still panels available to purchase. If you want to join the legion of people who have already committed to clean energy, contact Mike Noreen at 715-426-3467, and he will get you started. ~

Loans for Solar Panel Program

You want clean renewable energy, produced right here in River Falls for the next 20 years? That's easy; buy a few shares of our community solar project! Do you need help coming up with the upfront capital? That's easy now too. River Falls Municipal Utilities has a quick and easy loan for you to buy a share of solar.

- **Quick:** You can own solar in 15 minutes.
- **Easy:** The loan is a matter of completing simple forms at City Hall.
- **Credit:** If you're a homeowner with a year's worth of good utility payment history, you qualify.
- **Terms:** Four percent and \$67 down per panel. The rest goes on your property taxes so you don't have to pay until January 31, 2017.
- **Want to pay it off early?** It can be done at any time, as often as you like, without penalty.

This loan will let you get solar. Come into City Hall and get involved in community solar. ~

Incubator Building Construction to Begin

Construction of the St. Croix Valley Business Incubator (SCVBI) facility is planned to start later this summer. Announced last fall, a local partnership of the City of River Falls, River Falls Economic Development Corporation, University of Wisconsin-River Falls, and the Chippewa Valley Technical College was awarded a \$1.4 million grant from the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) and a \$250,000 grant from the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation to construct the facility. Additional funds are coming from local loans and investments by project partners.

The partners hired the local office of Ayres Associates (formerly Frisbie Architects) over the winter to provide architectural and engineering services for the project. The final plans for the building and site are under review by EDA staff. Once approved, bids will be sought for construction, which is expected to be start in late summer. The project is sited at 1091 Sutherland Avenue (corner of Casey and Sutherland Streets) in the Sterling Ponds Corporate Park.

The SCVBI will be a multi-use facility and designed as a hybrid entrepreneurial center, housing 24 small or start-up businesses and offering business incubation, workforce training, and business acceleration services. It will have approximately 13,000 square feet dedicated to general manufacturing and 18,000 square feet occupied by offices and common areas.

More information regarding the incubator's development can be found on the City'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. ~

Utility Box Beautification 2.0

The River Falls Municipal Utilities and POWERful Choices! like to try new things. We have a long list of ventures in innovation like Community Solar, advanced meter reading, the Blue Bike program and the green roof on City Hall. Some projects are elegant and replicated at other towns like our LED Holiday Light Exchange and others don't get past the pilot stage. The Utility Box Beautification project by all accounts is a winner.

Last year POWERful Choices! partnered with the Community Arts Base to contract artists to paint utility boxes in the City. You probably have seen them: Clyde, the dog; the trout; the swinging bridge, and "words" near the library. While public art is never going to be universally liked, the comments received were overwhelmingly positive.

With the help of the POWERful Choices! Committee, the 2016 program will be even better. Changes include adding the year to the mural, posting more online photos as the painting occurs and opportunities for private businesses to have their utility boxes painted. People loved the artwork so we didn't want to change too much. Four prominent boxes will be painted this year and local artists had the opportunity to submit proposals starting in early March. The selected artists were notified on April 29 with a start date of May 21. The utility boxes will be transformed from blah to beautiful by River Falls Days. For more information on the Utility Box Beautification Project, visit www.rfmu.org or www.riverfallscab.org. Like us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter for painting updates and photos. ~

Strategic Plan Update

The 2015 Strategic Plan is a guide for the development of future work plans, the investment of City resources, and where the City's leadership and staff focuses its energy. The City Council identified its five goals, which are the areas of highest importance for the continued success of the City of River Falls. Each goal has an accompanying descriptor that identifies its focus. Under each goal are two to five strategic initiatives that set the priorities for staff and resources in order to achieve each goal.

The 2015 Strategic Plan includes the following goals and initiatives:

1. Ensure Financial Sustainability (Finance)
 - Preparing for financial contingencies
 - Maintaining diverse revenue sources
 - Maintaining an excellent credit rating
 - Maintaining vibrant business-type activities
2. Consistently Deliver Quality Municipal Services (Operations)
 - Maintaining a high performance workforce
 - Maintaining high resident satisfaction of life in River Falls
 - Maintaining high resident satisfaction in City's customer service
3. Promote Economic Vitality (Managed Growth)
 - Identifying private sector commercial land development partners
 - Encouraging job growth
 - Developing Sterling Ponds Corporate Park
 - Developing the Regional Business Incubator
 - Securing future growth opportunities (boundary agreements)
4. Connecting Community Members (Places & Spaces)
 - Positioning our parks for the future
 - Enhancing Kinnickinnic River corridor
5. Considering Future Generations (Sustainability)
 - Cultivating a sustainable community
 - Leading by example in energy sustainability
 - Monitoring infrastructure condition
 - Delivering a package of services that is affordable

Council has worked with staff to identify the key indicators for each Initiative and how their success will be measured. The 2015-2017 Administration's Major Work Plan, which can be found at <http://www.rfcity.org/workplan>, is driven by the Strategic Plan. This Work Plan aligns with the Strategic Plan's Goals and supports its Strategic Initiatives and Key Outcome Indicators. Throughout the last year, staff has been incorporating the Strategic Plan into their daily operations in order to make sure the Plan's Goals and Initiatives are being met. More information and the quarterly updates to the City Council can be found at www.rfcity.org/strategicplan. ~



Above: Utility boxes on Main Street which were painted in 2015.

2016 Construction Projects

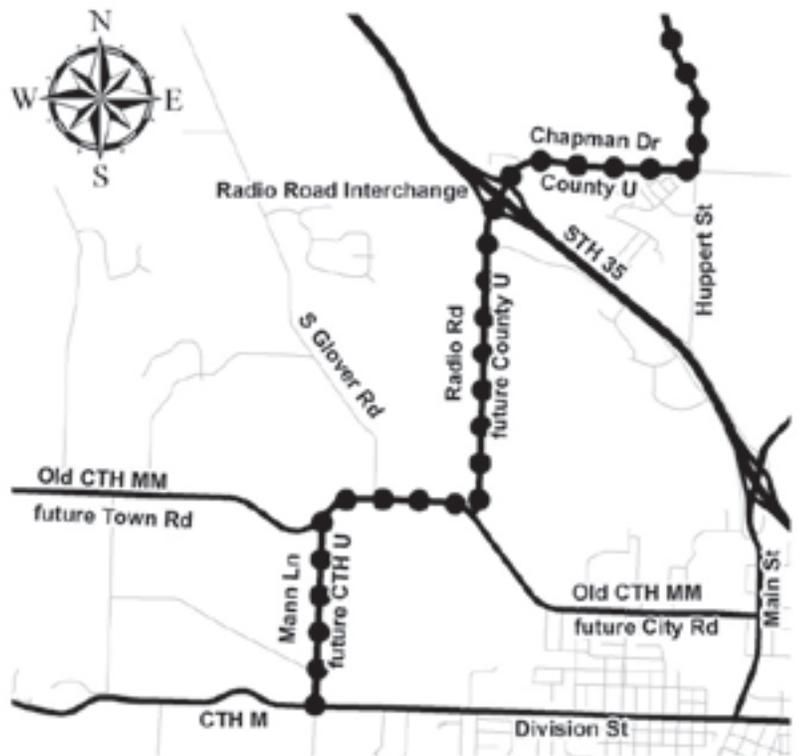
The opening of the Radio Road interchange in 2014 was the result of over 20 years of planning and coordination with our strategic transportation partners in state, county and local government. While the opening of the interchange was a significant accomplishment, it was just the first step in a series of coordinated transportation improvements planned to accommodate future growth in and around the City of River Falls.

In 2015, St. Croix County reconstructed and upgraded Radio Road between CTH MM and Paulson Road. Final touches and paving of this roadway is scheduled for early summer 2016. The completed roadway will have 12' travel lanes with 5' paved shoulders plus 5' gravel shoulders. The road will remain open to through traffic as this finishing work is completed.

In 2016, the City of River Falls plans to reconstruct Chapman Drive from the Radio Road interchange east to Huppert Street (Old CTH U). The new roadway will have 12' travel lanes with a 4' paved shoulder on the north side and a 2' curb and gutter on the south side. The project will also include paving of a 10' wide multi-modal trail along the south side of Chapman Drive. Reconstruction of this roadway will require that it be closed to through traffic which will be detoured to access STH 35 at the STH 65 interchange to the south.

In 2016, St. Croix County hopes to begin reconstruction and upgrades to Mann Lane from CTH MM south to CTH M (W. Division St). Schedule is contingent upon acquiring necessary property relocation of some utilities. This current 22' gravel township road will be upgraded to a County Highway similar to Radio Road as detailed above. If work is able to begin in 2016, it will likely begin at the north end. By the end of 2017, we expect reconstruction of this final segment of new County Highway U to be complete.

Feel free to contact Reid Wronski, City Engineer, rwrnski@rfcity.org, 715-426-3409, regarding any of these projects. ~



Pavement Management

Each year, the City's streets, alleys, and other pavements are evaluated and inspected. The City seeks the most cost-effective way to preserve and maintain them. Preservation and maintenance practices include: crack sealing; seal coating; curb, gutter and sidewalk repair; and mill and overlays. An explanation of each type of treatment is as follows:

- **Crack Sealing** - Normally performed on streets in good to excellent condition. The work consists of cleaning debris out of the cracks in the pavement surface and filling the cracks with a sealant to prevent surface water from getting into the pavement structure. Keeping this water out of the pavement structure prevents potholes and other deterioration from forming.
- **Seal Coating** - Normally used on streets in fair to good condition. Seal Coating consists of applying liquid asphalt to the road surface and covering that with crushed rock, trap rock, or slag. It provides a waterproof surface seal and improves skid-resistance of the pavement while protecting the pavement from the deteriorating effects of traffic, sun, wind, and water.
- **Mill and Overlay** - Normally performed on streets in poor to fair condition. The project typically consists of grinding (milling) the outer edges of the street so that new asphalt can be placed flush with the existing gutter. Milling is followed by placement of a new coat of asphalt over the entire street. The overlay restores the structure, improves skid resistance, maintains drainage, and produces a better ride quality.
- **Curb, Gutter and Sidewalk Repair** - The City typically coordinates repairs to sidewalks, curbs, and gutters with a mill and overlay of the street. Curb that is badly sunken, cracked, or offset is spot repaired. Sidewalk repair is performed to eliminate tripping hazards on the walks throughout the City.

If your street is scheduled for one of these maintenance activities, we will attempt to notify you with a postcard in the mail prior to the activity indicating approximate dates of work. Parking restrictions signs will also be put in place a minimum of 48 hours prior to work occurring. Your cooperation and patience during these short maintenance procedures is greatly appreciated! If you are aware of a sidewalk section that presents such a hazard or have any questions or concerns about this, please feel free to contact Reid Wronski, City Engineer, rwrnski@rfcity.org, 715-426-3409. ~

What You Need To Know About Wisconsin's Photo ID Law

Most people already have the photo ID they need to vote.

You can use any of these five IDs, even if they expired after November 4, 2014:

- A Wisconsin DOT-issued driver license, even if driving privileges are revoked or suspended
- A Wisconsin DOT-issued identification card
- A Wisconsin DOT-issued identification card or driver license without a photo issued under the religious exemption
- Military ID card issued by a U.S. uniformed service
- A U.S. passport book or card

You can use any of these IDs, but they must be unexpired:

- A certificate of naturalization that was issued not earlier than two years before the date of an election at which it is presented
- A driving receipt issued by Wisconsin DOT (valid for 45 days)
- An identification card receipt issued by Wisconsin DOT (valid for 45 days)
- An identification card issued by a federally recognized Indian tribe in Wisconsin
- A photo identification card issued by an accredited university, college or technical college in Wisconsin that contains the signature of student, the date the card was issued, and an expiration date no later than two years after date of issuance. Also, the university, college or technical college ID must be accompanied by a separate document that proves current enrollment such as an enrollment verification letter, class schedule, or tuition fee receipt.
- A citation or notice of intent to revoke or suspend a Wisconsin DOT-issued driver license that is dated within 60 days of the date of the election.

If you don't have one of these IDs, you can get a free state ID card to vote even if you don't have your birth certificate.

In 2014, the Wisconsin Division of Motor Vehicles started a new program to help people who don't have copies of their birth certificates to get a state ID card. Just bring the documents you have to your local DMV office. They can track down your birth records in Wisconsin or another state, but it may take some time so don't wait until the last minute.

Your photo ID doesn't need to have your current address.

Some people think they need to get a new driver license or state ID card to vote if it has an old address, but that's not correct. The Wisconsin Division of Motor Vehicles doesn't require drivers to get a new license every time they move, and neither does state elections law. The photo ID law requires registered voters to prove their identity before getting a ballot. Anyone registered to vote has already proved Wisconsin residency.

There are significant exceptions to the law for those who have difficulty getting to the polls.

Unlike regular absentee voters, permanent absentee voters who have difficulty getting to the polls due to age, illness, infirmity or disability are not required to provide a copy of their photo ID to get a ballot. The person who witnesses and signs the absentee ballot envelope verifies the voter's identity.

The same is true for active-duty military who vote absentee – they do not need to provide a copy of their photo ID to get a ballot.

(Continued in the right column)

Be ready to "State it, show it and sign it" at the polling place.

To save time at the polling place, voters should have their photo IDs ready to show election workers, but that's not the only thing you have to do to receive a ballot. Wisconsin law requires voters to state their name and address so the election workers and observers can hear it. After the election worker finds your name in the poll book and checks your ID, you will be asked to sign the poll book next to your name. *Just remember: State it. Show it. Sign it.*

If you forget your photo ID on Election Day, you can get a provisional ballot.

Don't worry if you get to the polls on Election Day, look for your ID and find you forgot to bring it. Just ask the election worker for a provisional ballot. You can return to the polling place before it closes at 8 p.m. with your ID, or bring your ID to your municipal clerk's office by 4 p.m. the Friday after the election in order for your ballot to be counted.

For a more information about Wisconsin's voter photo ID law, including the list of acceptable IDs for voting, visit our website: <http://BringIt.Wisconsin.gov>, or call 1-866-VOTE-WIS. ~

Bike Safety Tips

During the warm weather months, the Police Department wants remind citizens about bike safety:

- Always wear a bike helmet
- Wear bright colored clothing so others can see you
- One seat=One rider
- Obey traffic signs and signals

Bikers, please avoid these common violations:

- Failure to stop at a stop sign
- Riding bicycles on the sidewalk in the downtown area
- Riding the wrong way-against traffic
- Not having a light on the bicycle at night



The Police Department coordinates the sale of bicycle helmets to elementary school students. Officer Gottfredsen, the school liaison officer, also conducts bicycle safety talks to the students where they discuss the rules of the road and general bike safety.

During River Falls Days, the Police Department and the River Falls Area Hospital, sponsor a bicycle rodeo

designed for children ages kindergarten through fifth grade. It consists of stations where children can practice skills, such as avoiding obstacles, looking back while riding, and using hand signals.

Bicycle licenses can be purchased for \$2 at the Police Department. The license assists in the return of recovered bicycles to the rightful owner. Every year dozens of bicycles are recovered and go unclaimed. Contact the Police Department if your bike is lost or stolen.

The Police Department has a bicycle patrol unit which patrols during the spring, summer, and fall. Bicycles are used where there is a large amount of pedestrian traffic or in areas where there is limited vehicle access. The officers attend training on the use of bicycles while patrolling. ~

Customer Service Event

**July 21,
11 a.m.-1 p.m.**

On July 21, please join us for our Annual Customer Service Event at City Hall. Let us thank you for being a valued customer! This year's event will feature:

- Brats, hot dogs, roasted corn on the cob and ice cream
- Kids' activities (like a bounce house and henna)
- Live music
- Hands-on educational booths
- Recycling of CFLs, Mercury thermometers and thermostats and batteries.
- Walk, bike, rollerblade, skateboard, carpool, kayak or canoe and win a prize

This is a zero waste event.

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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Newly Elected River Falls City Council

Congratulations to the newly elected members of the City Council: Jeff Bjork, Todd Bjerstedt, and Christopher Gagne. They began their official duties on April 19.

Thank you to outgoing Alderpersons Dan Gulick, Jim Nordgren, and Aaron Taylor, for their service to the City of River Falls. Alderpersons Gulick and Taylor each served for two years and Alderperson Nordgren served for almost ten years.



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	Jeff Bjork	759 River Ridge Road	715-629-7655	jbjork@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	Christopher Gagne	75 E. Johnson Street	715-222-3220	cgagne@rfcity.org
District 3	Hal Watson	215 7 th Street	715-781-5814	hwatson@rfcity.org
District 4	Todd Bjerstedt	531 High Ridge Road	651-248-1099	tbjersted@rfcity.org



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