



Mayor's message



I hope everyone is enjoying the new year so far and that you haven't totally given up on all your resolutions – as I have. According to the Chinese zodiac, 2018

is the year of the (Earth) Dog, and it is going to be a good year, but it will also be an exhausting year. You will be happy, yet frustrated; rested, yet tired; cheerful, yet dull. Well, I'm as confused with that as you are, but it should make for an exciting year!

With the new year, comes new things going on in the City. We continue our meetings and discussions with the Kinni River Corridor Committee as we try to come to a consensus on a recommendation to the Council for relicensing or surrendering our hydro facilities. If you haven't yet participated, I encourage you to come to the remaining meetings (see page 3) or get in contact

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Whitetail Ridge: Two-wheel paradise

Necessity is indeed the mother of invention. Eighteen years ago, Rick Cleary, currently the Meyer Middle School assistant principal, was looking for alternative places for the high school cross country and track athletes to run. Along with Fred Johnson and Mike Most, Cleary received permission from the City to build

singletrack trails on the bluffs of Whitetail Corporate Park.

Several years later, biking enthusiast Nick Caliva proposed building a mountain biking trail on the property. His vision helped launch Kinnickinnic Off-Road Cyclists (KORC), Inc. whose members

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Hydro relicensing: Council votes Feb. 27

After over a year of community education and feedback, studies and discussions, idea-sharing and concept presentations, the Kinni Corridor Project is over halfway to the completion of a final plan for the river corridor. The next big step in the process will occur Feb. 27 when the River Falls City Council votes to relicense or surrender the City's hydroelectric facilities. To assist in their decision-making, the Kinni Corridor Project Committee will provide

the Council with a recommendation based on a myriad of factors combined with public feedback and the long-term vision for the corridor.

The Council will also consider the resolution approved by the City's Utility Advisory Board (UAB) at its Jan. 15 meeting to relicense the Junction Falls

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council news

City of River Falls Mayor and Council

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

At-Large: Jeff Bjork
jbjork@rfcity.org, 715/629-7655

At-Large: Scott Morrissette
smorrissette@rfcity.org, 715/425-8993

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

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

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

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

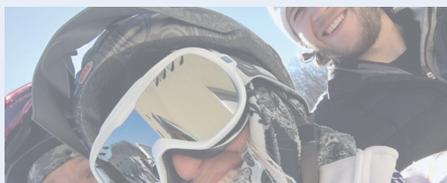
District 4: Todd Bjerstedt
tbjerstedt@rfcity.org, 651/248-1099

Council meetings

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

Past and current Council agendas and minutes can be found at www.rfcity.org. Click the gavel on the home page to find them.

Cover Photo: (l-r) Julie Gujer, Tina Olson, and Truman Purdy after riding the Whitetail Ridge trails during the 2016 Hilly Chili Cook-Off and Fat Tire Fest.



(l-r): Scott Morrissette, Chris Gagne, Todd Bjerstedt, Diane Odeen, Mayor Dan Toland, Hal Watson, Jeff Bjork, and Sean Downing

Mayor's message...from page 1

with your council representative. There is also a lot of information on the project website, kinnicorridor.org. Go there to learn more about the project and share your questions and concerns.

In 2017, we got over a hurdle to long-term development planning for Mann Valley when we won a judgment in court against Troy Township's attempt to block annexation. It was unfortunate that the suit cost the City time and resources; however, we are pleased to be moving forward, creating plans for Mann Valley that will grow our tax base and bring jobs and innovation to our community.

We continue to move forward with infrastructure upgrades, including the Power Plant Substation and the North Interceptor Sewer Project. We always look for ways to do things better, to make better decisions with your tax dollars that will have a positive impact 20-40 years down the road. We continue to strive to make River Falls a strong and vibrant community that we can all be proud of.

I know that I am always babbling on about our need for more citizen involvement on

our boards and committees, but it's those boards and committees that help us make decisions that guide us into the future. There is always a way for anybody who wants to help to do so. Whether it's sitting on a City board or committee or volunteering at one of the many nonprofit organizations in our area. It only takes a little bit of your time and commitment and you can make a much bigger difference than you realize.

Please remember to go to our city's website, www.rfcity.org, for updates, information, phone numbers, schedules, or anything else you need. Feel free to call or email me with any concerns, question, or comments. I am always willing to listen and help whenever I can.

Remember, it's your great city so get out there and enjoy it.

Go Pack Go,
(I know it was a tough year, but that's OK – we will only be better next year.)

Dan Toland, Mayor

Hydro relicensing...from page 1

(upper) hydro facility, and remove the Powell Falls (lower) hydro facility and dam at some point in the future.

Nearly 30 residents spoke during a public hearing at the UAB meeting. A video of the proceedings can be found on the City's YouTube channel.

"Once the Council has made its decision regarding the hydro relicensing question, we can begin the river corridor design process in earnest," said Buddy Lucero, project manager. "We expect to have a draft plan for community members to review this fall. We anticipate that the final plan will be available to City boards and the Council in late 2018, and expect a final vote by the Council in Feb./March 2019.

"I want to thank the planning committee, residents, stakeholders, community leaders, and visitors for making such an investment of time and energy in this project," said Lucero. "Their active involvement and good ideas have made the process a positive and fruitful community effort.

"And, while we have had differences in opinion about the future of our hydro

facilities, everyone has remained civil and courteous. That is a real testament to how we get things done in River Falls!"

The current hydroelectric license for both facilities runs through 2023. Lucero said that any dam removal, if approved, would take a number of years to accomplish. "It is not a quick operation," he said. "I urge community members to be patient as we create a corridor that will serve the community and protect the river for years to come."

To find out more about project activities and view documentation, visit www.kinnicorridor.org.



Nearly 100 community members attended a public hearing with the Utility Advisory Board on Jan. 15 in Council Chambers.



Project consultants spent four days working together with community members to create a number of design scenarios for the corridor project. Visit www.kinnicorridor.org to view corridor sketches and streetscape renderings.



Kinni Corridor Project timeline

Feb. 13, 2018

City Council meeting; members will receive the Committee's report and recommendation

Feb. 27, 2018

City Council meeting; members will make the relicensing decision

May 2018

Consultants begin drafting the Corridor Plan

August 2018

Draft Corridor Plan is presented to the community

Aug. 31, 2018

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) notification deadline

September-October 2018

Feedback is incorporated to the plan and changes are made

November-December 2018

Final Corridor plan is sent to City boards and the City Council for final review

February-March 2019

City Council adopts final Corridor Plan

city news

A red ribbon September



SEPTEMBER 21

UW-River Falls Falcon Center

On a beautiful sunny day in September, Falcon Center for Health, Education and Wellness at UW-River Falls (UWRF) officially opened its doors to the public. The \$63.5 million facility is the largest building project in UWRF's history.

"So many individuals and groups have worked tirelessly to envision, plan, advocate for, secure, build and operate the Falcon Center. It has been a true team effort, spanning many years. To all of you I say thank you." ~ UWRF Chancellor Dean Van Galen



City employees Brandt Johnson and Mary Zimmermann take advantage of a photo op at the Falcon Center opening.



Scott Morrisette, City of River Falls Councilmember; Scot Simpson, City Administrator; David R. Miller, president, River Falls Area Hospital; and Chris Blasius, CEO, River Falls Chamber of Commerce and Tourism Bureau at the Allina Clinic grand opening.

SEPTEMBER 23

Allina Health River Falls Clinic

The Allina Health River Falls Clinic showed off its new facilities at a grand-opening reception Sept. 23. The new clinic offers family medicine, women's health, and acupuncture, among other services.



Local art is featured throughout the new clinic.

SEPTEMBER 27

WinField United

WinField United Innovation Center's 55,000 square-foot facility is "a new epicenter of research that will help give farmers more and better tools to grow crops more sustainably." WinField, a subsidiary of Land O'Lakes, Inc., has enjoyed a 27-year partnership with UW-River Falls, working with students to conduct research and field trials at the UWRF Lab Farm.

Jessica Drangeid, a WinField United research formulation chemist, leads a tour of the new facility.



River Falls City Councilmember Scott Morrisette (middle) and City Administrator Scot Simpson (right), present a City flag to Mike Vande Logt, executive vice president and chief operating officer, WinField United.

Looking bright at Foley United

by Weston Arndt, Energy Services Representative, Wisconsin Public Power, Inc. (WPPI)

Foley United, a global manufacturer of engineered grinders for the golf and turf industry, recently replaced aging fluorescent lighting with new energy efficient light emitting diode (LED) fixtures at their production facility in River Falls. The new LED lighting will significantly increase equipment life, reduce maintenance costs, and drastically improve light levels in the facility.

The company received an incentive of \$4,160 from River Falls Municipal Utilities (RFMU) and an additional \$4,160 from Focus on Energy, a program of Wisconsin Public Power, Inc. (WPPI), to help cover installation costs. It's estimated that the lighting upgrade will reduce Foley United's electricity use by more than 90,000 kilowatt-hours annually. Along with providing significant cost savings,

this will have an environmental impact equivalent to removing 10 cars from the road, planting over 14 acres of trees, or refraining from burning 25+ tons of coal each year.

RFMU and Focus on Energy programs help all customers – residential, commercial, agricultural, institutional, and industrial – save energy. Energy efficient improvements help Wisconsin customers manage energy costs, protect the environment, and promote

in-state economic development while providing important facility upgrades and reducing the state's electricity demand.



Diane Odeen (left), City of River Falls councilmember, and Utility Advisory Board member; Greg Veenendall, Foley United director of manufacturing and engineering; and Debbie Tradewell, Foley United controller hold a ceremonial check representing \$47,000 of energy savings anticipated over the next five years.

It's all in a name

Locally-based businesses are stepping up to support the St. Croix Valley Business Innovation Center and receiving naming rights for building spaces in recognition of their contributions. WESTconsin Credit Union was the first official sponsor for the project with a gift of \$50,000 and the right to name the center's reception area. The center's corporate park neighbor, Three Square Market, is outfitting the building's café for an in-kind gift of \$35,000 with an additional cash gift of \$15,000. Manufacturing support space will be named for the St. Croix County Economic Development Corporation, which has made a contribution of \$33,000; and two private office spaces will be named for Royal Credit Union to recognize a gift of \$20,000.

The Center will hold a grand opening ceremony and open house April 12. For more information about the project, visit stcroixinnovation.org. To find out how your business/organization can support the Center, contact Danielle Campeau at danielle.campeau@uwrf.edu.



WESTconsin Credit Union presents a ceremonial check to representatives of the St. Croix Valley Business Innovation Center this fall at the worksite. (l-r) Melissa Kraemer, WESTconsin Credit Union; Scot Simpson, City of River Falls; Dale Jorgenson, River Falls Economic Development Corporation; Dan Lytle, Chippewa Valley Technical College; Danielle Campeau, University of Wisconsin-River Falls; Jim Wynn, Dave Maves, Dan Schmit, and Brian Manion from WESTconsin Credit Union; Kim Rock, Ross & Associates Ltd.; Maria Schmitt, Marie Gremore, Tara McCracken, and Brooke Dusk from WESTconsin Credit Union. Photo by Melissa Schutz.

Trail completion

There are more feet of trail – 2,470 to be exact – for walkers and bike riders to enjoy a loop around Lake George on the Kinnickinnic Trail. Two trail extensions were completed this fall and winter from Family Fresh to Walnut Street, and Veterans Bridge to Division Street with a spur to City Hall. The latter extension was partially funded through a \$477,600 grant from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Stewardship Program.

“I can see a section of the trail from my second-floor window in City Hall,” said Utility Director Kevin Westhuis. “From pet walkers to kids on bikes, from birdwatchers to parents and grandparents pushing strollers, it’s nice to see so many people enjoying the proximity to the river and forming a closer connection to it.”



Apprentice lineworker Logan Snyder installs a new light post on the trail extension.

Trail extensions by the numbers

3,400	Square feet of block retaining wall
2,528	Feet of sediment control fencing
2,470	Feet of trail
430	Feet of fencing
427	Tons of asphalt
17	New streetlights

SCADA – What?

Recently, we sat down with Greg Dietsche, SCADA engineer, to find out about the City’s new utility tracking system.

Q: What is SCADA?

A: SCADA, which stands for Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition, is a system of computers and software that control and monitor industrial plants. For your home, you might purchase a smart light bulb that turns on at certain times of the day or a smart thermostat. A SCADA system is similar, but more advanced. It controls entire industrial plants by automatically turning equipment on and off as needed. It also generates reports and alerts operators when equipment isn’t working correctly or needs replacement.

Q: Why does the City need SCADA?

A: In River Falls, our Utility Department uses SCADA to monitor water levels in our water towers and let staff know when maintenance is required at our wells. It also moves waste through the treatment process and helps ensure it is just as clean (and often cleaner!) than it was before we pumped it out of the ground. A new electric SCADA will monitor power consumption and allow our lineworkers to safely operate massive breakers remotely from a computer.

Q: How does SCADA affect residents?

A: SCADA systems ensure consistent, reliable service. Our residents use electricity and water around the clock. SCADA keeps an eye on things during the day and overnight. It lets staff know if something has gone wrong so they can fix it before it affects our residents.

Q: Will this be more energy efficient?

A: Yes, SCADA systems allow us to be much more efficient. They help us know when to run our large electric motors so we

can reduce our peak demand. This lowers our electric bill (yes, we pay for electricity too!). SCADA also allows staff to check on remote facilities from a computer. This greatly reduces the need to drive vehicles to facilities and speeds our ability to identify and resolve problems.

Q: How is this being paid for?

A: The SCADA systems are budgeted in the Capital Improvement Plan and are a normal part of the City’s budget.

About the SCADA engineer

Greg Dietsche grew up on a family dairy farm near Sand Creek, Wisconsin, and earned his master’s degree in Information Technology from Concordia University Wisconsin. Subsequently, he worked in Madison as a software engineer in the insurance industry and for the Graduate School Administration at UW-Madison. He relocated to River Falls four years ago to be closer to family.



In his free time, Greg is an avid photographer, enjoys bicycling, and is a volunteer firefighter for the City of River Falls.

Check out the City of River Falls
2017 annual report video,

“Year of Tomorrow,”

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

Whitetail Ridge...from page 1

created – and continue to improve and maintain – a popular destination for competitive and amateur bikers alike.

The 7.5 miles of Whitetail trails are described by Travel Wisconsin as providing “tight, twisty singletrack; rock sections; steep climbs; fast downhill; and new technical features including bridges, teeters, and a cool wooden berm ...”

Truman Purdy, KORC board member and bike enthusiast since age five, said that people often comment on the ‘flow’ and technicality of the terrain, as the changing elevation carries a rider’s speed throughout the course. It’s a favorite, said Purdy, of the National Interscholastic Cycling Association (NICA) groups who use the course to race and practice.

Several River Falls middle and high school students compete on the trails as members of the St. Croix Valley Youth Mountain Bike Club, a composite team made up from youth riders throughout the valley.

“The sport is skyrocketing and participation in cycling has been steadily increasing as more trails become available,” said Steve Stocker, director of recreation at UW-River Falls. What he likes about the sport, he said, is “everyone can do it; everyone can participate.”

Fat, mountain, and road cycle rentals are available at UW-River Falls’ Falcon Outdoor Adventures Rental Center.

Public rates for day/weekend/week are \$24/48/72. Helmets and locks are provided.

For more information, visit the website at uwrf.edu/CampusRec or call 715/425-4622.

Purdy agrees: “It’s not about how fast you go, it’s about being around people who are like-minded.”

Between 15,000 to 20,000 riders use the trails each year, including 500 riders and their families who participate in the Border Crossing race each summer.

“I see people driving around town with bikes strapped to their vehicles,” said Stocker. “The trails are a great community resource, but they also generate revenue.”

Asked what would make River Falls an even more competitive destination for mountain biking, both Cleary and Purdy said another three miles of trails would do it. They say there are no trails nearby, including in the



53 Meyer Middle School students chose Whitetail Ridge as their service project in 2017, building new, sustainable singletrack trail for the community to enjoy.

Twin Cities, that offer a full 10 miles of continuous riding.

In the meantime, KORC members and friends continue to take care of the trails, augmenting the operation with money raised through donations and special events. Two years ago, they raised \$5,000 to add a section of trail; in 2017, they bought a storage container for the site.

This past summer and fall, composite team coaches Chad McDonald and Thomas Gujer built a new skills course for younger riders at the Whitetail trailhead, giving the next generation of riders a foothold in the sport.

Allina-funded scanner to spot fake IDs



Officer Paul Jensen

To help curb underage drinking in Pierce and St. Croix counties, River Falls Area Hospital and the Allina Health River Falls Clinic recently provided the River

Falls Police Department (RFPD) with a \$4,700 charitable contribution to fund an advanced detection identification (ID) scanner.

“Our last community health needs assessment identified alcohol abuse as a priority health issue for our region,” said Heather Logelin, director of Foundation and Community Engagement for Allina Health River Falls Area Hospital and Clinic. “The evidence shows that one of the most effective ways to prevent underage alcohol abuse is to make it more difficult for those under 21 to purchase alcohol.”

“RFPD is doing great work in this arena and we are pleased to be able to provide them with funding for equipment that will make their efforts even more effective.”

Officer Paul Jensen, RFPD’s community policing specialist, said that fake IDs can now be purchased online for \$40 and will pass almost all scanners. However, he said, a demonstration of the advanced detection ID scanner worked better than expected and caught nearly all fake IDs.

“We really appreciate Allina Health’s help in providing funds for the scanner,” said Jensen. “I have no doubt it will improve the health of our city by reducing alcohol abuse among minors.”

Senior Center activities

Hours: 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Location: Wellhaven Senior Living Apartments, 119 Union Street, River Falls

Weekday lunch

Mon.-Fri., 11:30-noon, \$5 suggested donation per person, no reservation needed. See the menu on the River Falls Senior Center Facebook page.

Home-delivered meals are also provided Monday through Friday; suggested donation is \$6.50. Call 715/425-9932 to schedule a delivery or to volunteer as a delivery driver.

Center activities

- Euchre, Tuesdays at 6:15 p.m.; Wednesdays at 1 p.m.
- Bridge and '500,' Fridays at 1 p.m.
- Foot care, twice monthly; \$20 per visit
- Exercise, Tuesdays and Fridays at 9 a.m.

Trips

- **San Antonio: Texas:** March 2-11, 2018
- **New York City:** July 18-July 26, 2018

Call 715/425-9932 for more information.

Jan. 28-Feb. 25

Developing Artists Exhibit

Sponsored by Wisconsin Regional Arts Program (WRAP)
Kleinpell Gallery, RFPL, Lower Level
wraawrap.com



Feb. 12, March 12, April 12, May 14

3:30-6 p.m.

Maker Mondays

Children/youth (3:30-5:30 p.m.)
Families/adults (6-7 p.m.)
RFPL, Lower Level

Feb. 15, 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Soup, Salad, and Science

"Why Car Tires Go Backwards on TV: The Stroboscopic Effect," Eileen Korenic, physics professor, UW-River Falls
RFPL, Lower Level

Feb. 17, March 17, April 14, 7-10 p.m.

Community Arts Base Barn Dances

RF Academy, 439 W. Maple Street
Family dance: 7-8 p.m.
Grown-up dance: 8-9:30 p.m.
\$5 adults/\$2.50 for 12 and under
Sponsored by Community Arts Base (CAB)

Feb. 19, May 18

10:30-11:30 a.m.

Out-of-School Day Events

RFPL, Lower Level

Feb. 20, 7 a.m.-8 p.m.

Primary Election

See www.rfcity.org/elections

Feb. 28, March 28, April 25

6-8 p.m.

Coloring for Adults

RFPL, Main Level

March 1, 7-8 p.m.

Author Joseph Rein

Reading from "Roads Without Houses"
RFPL, Lower Level

March 3, 10:30-11:30 a.m.

Read Across America

RFPL, Lower Level

March 5-April 7

Sew Amazing:

2018 Annual Quilt Show

Kleinpell Gallery, RFPL, Lower Level

March 6, 5-7 p.m.

Bowls for Hope

Riverview Ballroom, University Center
UW-River Falls

Admission: \$25 per adult,
\$5 per child 12 and under
uwrf.edu/bowlsforhope



(RFPL=River Falls Public Library)

March 15, 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Soup, Salad, and Science

"Prebiotics: What are they? What do they do?," Tonya Schoenfuss, professor, Dairy Products Technology, UW-River Falls RFPL, Lower Level

March 15-30

6th Annual Peeps Diorama Contest

Entries due 8 p.m. March 14

Judging March 16

Peep-les' Choice Voting March 15-21

RFPL, Main Level

March 16, 8-9 a.m.

Coffee with a Cop

Perkins, 1109 N. Main Street



March 17, 1-8 p.m.

St. Patrick's Day Celebration

Downtown River Falls

rfchamber.org

March 19-April 23, 7-9 p.m.

Foreign Films (titles TBD)

RFPL, Lower Level

March 21, Noon

Author Kate Moore

Reading from "The Radium Girls"

Free soup available

RFPL, Lower Level

March 29, 5:30-8 p.m.

5:30 reception; 6:30 lecture

"American Policy Toward North Korea: Seven Decades of Failure"

Bruce Cumings, history professor, University of Chicago

RFPL, Lower Level

April 2018

The Big Read in the St. Croix Valley

"Into the Beautiful North"

by Luis Alberto Urrea

Various activities and locations

Visit riverfallspubliclibrary.org for info.

In collaboration with ArtReach St. Croix

April 3, 7 a.m.-8 p.m.

Spring Elections

See www.rfcity.org/elections

April 6, 5 p.m. to 1:30 a.m.

American Cancer Society Relay for Life

River Falls High School

relayforlife.org/riverfallswi

April 13-15

Roots and Bluegrass Music Festival

Various locations

riverfallsbluegrass.com

April 14, 1:30-2:30 p.m.

Family Barn Dance

RFPL, Lower Level

April 16 – May 18, 2018

The All-School Art Show

Opening reception: April 20, 4-6 p.m.

Kleinpell Gallery, RFPL, Lower Level

Where to look for what to do...

City of River Falls:

www.rfcity.org

City Parks and Recreation:

www.rfcity.org/recreation

Chamber/community events:

tourism.rfchamber.com/events

Community Arts Base:

riverfallscab.org

Library: riverfallspubliclibrary.org

School District

Continuing Education:

rflearns.org

University of

Wisconsin-River Falls:

go.uwrf.edu/cal



all about town



Summer fun!

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

City of River Falls

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

Summer Library Programs

riverfallspubliclibrary.org
715/425-0905

School District of River Falls

Community Education Program
rflearns.org
715/425-1830, ext. 3801

Reserve space now for
Glen and Hoffman Parks'
enclosed and open shelters.
All shelters have picnic
tables, electric plug-ins,
sink, and counter tops. Visit
www.rfcity.org/parks or
call 715/425-0924.



April 19, 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Soup, Salad, and Science

"Meet 10 Trillion of Your Closest Friends"
Gregory Siragusa, senior principal scientist,
Eurofins Microbiology Laboratories
RFPL, Lower Level

April 21, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Electronics and Lighting Recycling

For River Falls Municipal Utilities customers
City Public Works Garage, 950 Benson St.
www.rfcity.org/cleanup



April 28, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Kinni River Cleanup

Glen Park, 355 W. Park St., River Falls
Hosted by the Kinnickinnic River Land Trust
kinniriver.org

April 29, 6-11 p.m.

Spring Arts Gala

River Falls Golf Club
Featuring Woodstock music by Dr. Groove
Sponsored by Community Arts Base (CAB)

May 5, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

8th Annual "Wings of Spring" Bird Festival

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

May 9, 2018, 9-10 a.m.

Coffee with a Cop

Caribou (Family Fresh)
303 South Main Street

May 10, 6:30-7:30 p.m.

History of the Model School in River Falls

Karyl Rommelfanger, local author
RFPL, Main Level

May 12, 9 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.

Spring Commencement

University of Wisconsin-River Falls
Robert P. Knowles Center

May 14-19

Spring Clean-Up for City residents

Monday-Friday, 4-8 p.m.
Sat., 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.
City Public Works Garage, 950 Benson St.
www.rfcity.org/cleanup

Library celebrates 20-year milestone

By the mid-1990s, the River Falls Public Library's Elm Street location (the current home of the River Falls Police Department) had outgrown its small space. After a lot of dreaming, planning, and community support, the new library on Union Street

opened its doors for the first time on Dec. 1, 1997. The River Falls Library Foundation, established in 1993, was instrumental in raising \$1.7 million toward the \$4.5 million building.

River Falls resident Anna Zalusky was a high school senior in 1997. Recently, she shared some of her thoughts about the library.

I remember being very proud of our community's decision to build such a beautiful library. I felt then, and I still feel now, that it conveys our shared values about access to information and caring for public spaces.

I feel grateful when I walk into the library. I love to see the variety of people there – folks reading the newspaper or putting together a puzzle, playing checkers or chess; young people working on a project for school; and parents with children picking out books and movies to enjoy at home.

It's a place where anyone can go and feel a part of the community. The staff is knowledgeable and kind.

In addition to satisfying my need for books, the library also serves as a gathering place. I have attended countless meetings in the public meeting rooms. The organizations I have worked with have also used the larger spaces for public events. I have always appreciated that the library is centrally located, quiet, and free.

2017 Library highlights

- New York Times best-selling authors Christina Baker Kline, William Kent Krueger, Kyle Mills, Lorna Landvik, and Lori Evert stopped by to read from their recent works.
- Nationally-touring original artwork from the pages of Little Golden Books was displayed in the gallery.
- A new off-site, outreach program served more than 70 area seniors each month.
- Librarian Heather Johnson helped pass legislation that expands the use of state education appropriations to Wisconsin's 16 regional public library systems.
- Foundation board member and volunteer Amy Glaser was awarded the Citation of Merit by the Wisconsin Library Association.
- A new lecture series, Soup, Salad & Science was introduced.

By the numbers

164,553	Library visits
28,756	E-books added to the collection
7,617	Gallery visits
1,780	Volunteer hours
901	Youth participants in the Summer Reading Program
265+	Class visits
134	Adult programs offered
121	Youth programs offered



Anna Zalusky

2017 Citizen Survey

This summer, the City partnered with the National Research Center to conduct its third comprehensive biennial citizen survey. Fifteen hundred resident households were randomly selected to receive the survey of which 463 were completed. Highlights include:

- **93 percent** feel the City of River Falls is an **excellent or good** place to live.
- **Nearly all** residents favorably rated the **feeling of the safety** in the downtown/ commercial area.
- **Mobility, education, and enrichment** were **rated higher** in River Falls than the national average.
- Those surveyed gave particularly **high marks** for the City's overall **appearance** and to River Falls as a place to raise children – an increase from 2015 to 2017.
- **Nine in 10** residents gave the **natural environment** in River Falls higher-than-average ratings as compared to the national average.
- **Use of the library was remarkably higher** in the City compared to the national average, as was the number of residents reporting.
- The number of **people volunteering** was also higher than the national average.
- Residents identified **safety and economy as priorities** for the River Falls community in the coming two years, both of which were rated positively and similar to the national benchmark.

The survey results are used to ensure that the City meets citizen needs and expectations. Find comprehensive results from the past three surveys at www.rfcity.org/citizensurvey.

Connecting across cultures: Year of South Korea

As part of its strategic initiative to promote global citizenship, UW-River Falls (UWRF) has designated the 2017-18 academic year as the "Year of South Korea." During the year, students, faculty, staff, and community members have and continue to engage in activities highlighting South Korea's history, culture, and traditions.

The "Year of" program at UW-River Falls was established in 2013 to break down stereotypes and connect across cultures. To date, UWRF has celebrated Germany, China, Mexico, and Brazil. Canada and Somalia will be highlighted in 2018-2019 and 2019-2020, respectively.

"Global education and engagement are key to UWRF's Pathway to Distinction strategic plan," said Chancellor Dean Van Galen. "As a graduation requirement, all of our students must complete a global perspectives class. There, they learn to appreciate and participate in our increasingly interconnected – and interdependent – world."

"Year of South Korea" activities and celebrations began in July when 12 students from Jeju National University in South Korea participated in UWRF's English Language Transition (ELT) program. A number of other "Year of" activities have continued through the fall and winter. Upcoming events include:

- **Feb.7:** Annual Education Abroad Fair will highlight South Korea.
- **March 1:** UW-River Falls community will celebrate South Korea Education Day (Independence Day).
- **March 28-29:** Wyman Visiting Professor Bruce Cummings will lecture on American policy in Korea, and faculty and students will participate in a roundtable discussion on the Korean Conflict.
- **April:** Nationally-acclaimed composer Young Jo Lee will visit campus to lecture and perform.

For additional event information visit www.uwrf.edu/Yearof/SouthKorea.cfm or email yearofsouthkorea@uwrf.edu.



The River Falls Public Library collaborated with UW-River Falls to bring Korean ceramic artist Lee Byoung-Kwon to the Kleinpell Gallery in January. Pictured here (l-r): Youngsoo Chung Margolis, director of Korean partnerships, UWRF; Amy Peterson, development services director, and Julie Bergstrom, assistant administrator, City of River Falls; artist Lee; and Cole Zrostlik, event and gallery coordinator, River Falls Public Library.

Getting there with shared-ride taxi service

Every Tuesday through Thursday, Michael Van Someren takes the City's shared-ride taxi to his job at Riverwalk Square. He also takes it to the movies, to visit friends, to doctor appointments, and, his favorite, to go shopping. For the past 15 years, the taxi has been a lifeline.

"My parents can't take me places every day," he said. "Also, there are no sidewalks where I live."

And, even though there can be some backups during busy times, "I really depend on the taxi," he said.

The City's shared-ride taxi program receives state and federal dollars to operate and is open to anyone riding within – or less than five miles outside – the City of River Falls.



Driver Tom Heisler transports Michael Van Someren to his job at Riverwalk Square.



"With fares ranging from \$1.25 and \$2.75, this is a very low-cost way to transport people around

our city who need it most," said Assistant City Administrator Julie Bergstrom.

"I encourage residents to take advantage of the service whenever they need a ride. Plus," she said, "it's easy, you meet new people, and sharing rides is good for the environment!"

Safe Ride Home

The Safe Ride Home program, a partnership between the UW-River Falls and the City, uses the shared ride taxi to provide free rides to students from Thursday through Saturday nights, 10 p.m.–3 a.m., when classes are in session.

Shared-ride taxi hours

Monday-Friday, 6 a.m.-10 p.m.

Saturday, 8:00 a.m.-10:00 p.m.

Sunday, 8 a.m.-8 p.m.

Fares within the City limits

Seniors (over 62) and disabled persons \$1.50

Adults under 62 \$2.75

Children 3-17 \$1.25

Children under 2 FREE

Prepaid passes are also available. An additional fee is charged for travel up to five miles outside the City limits.

For additional information, visit www.rfcity.org/taxiservice.

Call 715/425-7878 to ask questions or schedule a pick-up.

Energy assistance

River Falls Municipal Utilities customers may qualify for assistance in paying their winter heating bills through the Wisconsin Home Energy Assistance Program (WHEAP), which provides financial assistance to low-income residents. To find out more, contact:

Pierce County: 715/273-6788
www.co.pierce.wi.us

St. Croix County: 715/265-4271
www.WestCap.org/services

Home energy assessment

The City's Utility Department will test homes for leaks, insulation levels, and combustion safety through its Home Energy Assessment. The assessment fee is \$50, or \$25 for current investors in green energy block or solar share programs. Assessment participants will receive a detailed report with infrared images and a list of priorities for energy savings. Residents can do the work or hire professionals. Incentives of up to \$4,800 may be available to support recommended remedies.

Contact Mike Noreen at 715/426-3467 or mnoreen@rfcity.org to schedule an appointment.



Election primer

2018 election dates

Feb. 20	Spring Primary
April 3	Spring Election
Aug. 14	Partisan Primary
Nov. 6	Fall General Election

Local offices for spring election

Mayor; Alderperson At-Large (2); Alderperson District 4; and Municipal Judge.

Polling place location changes

District 3 change

Former: Meyer Middle School

New: Hoffman Park Storm Shelter

Please use the north entrance to the building. Parking is available in the north parking lot; overflow parking will be accommodated in other lots as needed.

District 4 change

Former: High School Commons

New: High School Media Center

Use the main entrance and upper lot. High traffic hours will be between 7:30-8:30 a.m. and 3-4 p.m. School is still in session during election.

Registration

If you're not sure you are registered to vote in River Falls, check myvote.wisconsin.gov, or call 715/425-1693. You can register on the website, or at City Hall with accepted proof of residency.

Photo ID

Photo ID is required to vote in Wisconsin. Learn more at bringit.wisconsin.gov, or call 1-866-VOTEWIS. An affidavit will be available for those who are unable to obtain an acceptable photo ID with reasonable effort.

Poll workers needed

Visit rfcity.org/elections or call 715/425-1693 for more information.

2018 Budget report

In November 2017, the City Council approved the second year of its 2017 and 2018 biennial budget in the amount of \$41,829,197; the biennial budget is \$82,985,116.

The 2017-2018 budget includes the resources to address initiatives, begin department succession plan implementation, and strengthen service to the community. Every two years, the Capital Improvement Plan is updated to reflect proposed capital projects, including the following:

North Interceptor reroute and rehabilitation	\$ 3,774,100
Glen Park Master Plan implementation	\$ 1,701,000
Technology improvements	\$ 950,200
Planning future public safety facilities	\$ 575,000
Kinni Corridor Project	\$ 300,000
Wayfinding Project (City signage)	\$ 185,000

The approved 2018 budget includes a property tax levy of \$6,222,000 to support City operations, though the City of River Falls is only one of the taxing jurisdictions included on your property tax bill.

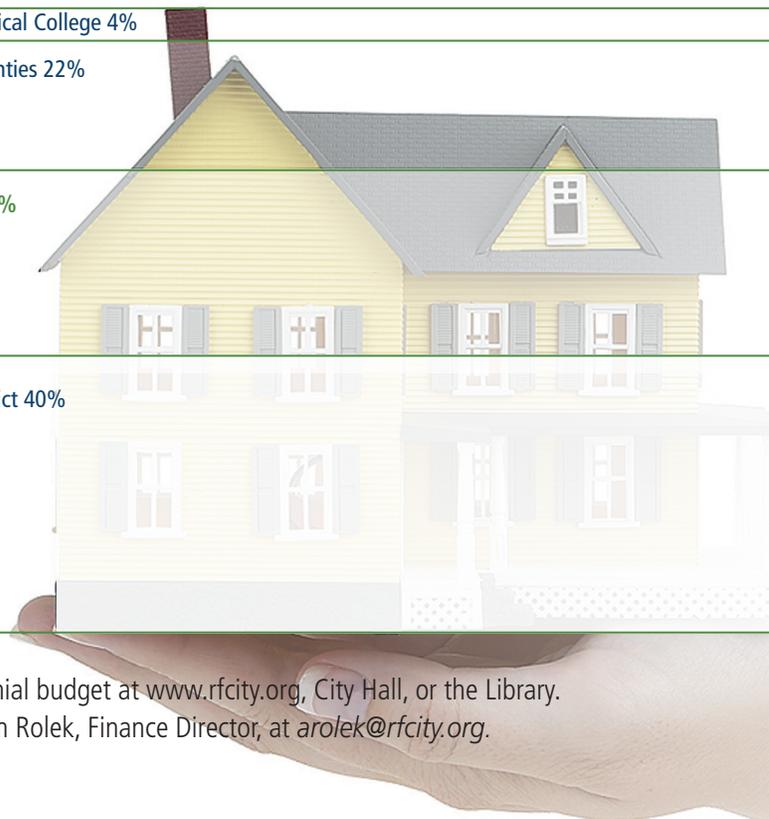
Where do your property taxes go?

Chippewa Valley Technical College 4%

Pierce or St. Croix Counties 22%

City of River Falls 34%

River Falls School District 40%



Find the approved biennial budget at www.rfcity.org, City Hall, or the Library. Questions? Contact Alan Rolek, Finance Director, at arolek@rfcity.org.

Award-winning road crew adopts low-salt diet

by Mike Stifter, Operations Director

'Tis the season for snow – and salt. For the past 15 years, we have worked aggressively to reduce our dependence on road salt. For example, we cut down dramatically on salt usage by sending City plow trucks out at the start of a snow event instead of waiting for a shift to begin. As a result, in a typical 3-5" snowfall, we are finished plowing before the snow has had a chance to compact on roads and alleyways.

Along with early plowing, our five plow trucks are calibrated and rechecked twice each year to ensure maximum effectiveness. In addition, we routinely evaluate our plow blades to ensure that we are keeping up-to-date with best snowplowing practices. We are also experimenting this year with different non-chloride products to further decrease our chloride usage. These factors have all contributed to reducing our salt usage by 60 percent over the past 10 years.

We have been recognized for our snow removal work by several regional, statewide, and national organizations, including the Freshwater Society's Environmental

Leadership Award, which we will receive next month at the 17th Annual Road Salt Symposium in Plymouth, MN.

In 2016, the Public Works Department was awarded the Safe and Sustainable Snowfighting Award from the Salt Institute for environmentally-consciousness and effective management in the use and storage of winter road salt and alternative chemicals. River Falls was the only community in Wisconsin to receive the award that year.

This year, we are applying for the American Public Works Association (APWA) Excellence in Snow and Ice Control Award to be presented at their North American Snow Conference in May 2018.

As of November 2017, all City of River Falls operators and supervisors have been certified in Winter Road Maintenance and Chemical Application through the APWA and their Winter Maintenance Supervisor Certificate program. River Falls is the only community in Wisconsin to achieve this distinction.



The award-winning crew includes (l-r): Mike Stifter, Operations Director; Scott Jensen, Jon Kusilek, Pat Yunker, Charles Larson, Troy Connolly, Joe Killian, Ray Curtis, Nathan Croes, Irv Peskar, David Holodnack; and Terry Kusilek, Operations Superintendent. Not pictured: Bob Schwalen



Dog days

License by law

All dogs five months or older in the City of River Falls are required by law to be vaccinated against rabies and issued an animal license. Dog owners can register and renew their dog licenses by mail or in person at City Hall. Find the application form at www.rfcity.org/doglicense. Be sure to include a copy of your dog's current rabies certificate.

Fees:

Spayed/neutered dog: \$5
Unspayed/unneutered dog: \$10

After March 31, a late fee of \$5 will be charged. Invoices for current license holders were mailed in mid-December.

Missing Fido?

The City contracts animal control services with Humane Society of Goodhue County in Red Wing, MN. They can be reached at 651/388-5286. To report a dog running at large, please obtain as much information as possible about the animal and contact the River Falls Police Department at 715/425-0909.

Connect with us!

Frequently called numbers

General information

715/425-0900

Utility Department

715/425-0906

Police Department

715/425-0909

Public Library

715/425-0905

Municipal Court

715/426-3429

Garbage/Recycling

715/425-0900

Parks and Recreation

715/425-0924

715/426-3422 (hotline)



Follow us

City of River Falls
Municipal Utilities
Parks and Recreation
Public Library
Kleinpell Gallery
Police Department
Ambulance Department



Check out our new videos!

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

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

City Administrator

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Editor

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Designed by Designwrite Studios

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



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UW-River Falls women's hockey team members Callie Hoff (10) and Sam Young (21) skate with South Korean National Team players, Eun Ji Lee, center, and Chae Lin Park, front, after a friendly exhibition game held in Hunt Arena at Falcon Center Sunday Jan. 7, 2018. The game was one of many "Year of South Korea" events at UWRF during the 2017-2018 academic year. (See page 12 for upcoming events.)

Photo by Kathy M Helgeson/UW-River Falls