



Mayor's message



Welcome to the fall newsletter! I hope you were able to get to all that summer fun you had planned, and that you still had time to get a thing or two checked off your

"to do" list. I, personally, am not a big fan of lists; I already have a questionable reputation with my wife for getting things done around our flower shop, so I definitely don't need a reminder of what I've failed to accomplish!

The City has a much better track record with its to-do list. Inside this newsletter are all sorts of updates on City happenings and plans for getting our work done.

Of course, we couldn't get much done without our many partners. At a recent joint meeting between the City Council and River Falls School Board, I was reminded of the importance of collaboration with our wide network of

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City's first dog park coming soon!

Dogs and their humans will have a new place to play when the City's first dog park opens this fall. On June 26, the City Council approved construction of the park on County Road FF, approximately three miles from downtown and .75 miles from South Main Street. Construction began in

August and is expected to be completed before Oct. 1.

"The City is excited to offer a place where dogs can socialize off-leash and where owners can meet new people in the community who share a common

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UW-River Falls: A changing landscape

The past year has seen some major changes to the landscape of the UW-River Falls campus and more improvements are on the way.

The Falcon Center for Health, Education and Wellness, a multi-purpose facility that is open to the public and houses the Health and Human Performance Department, Athletics, and Campus Recreation, opened in September 2017. The Falcon Center, which ushered in a

new era of campus wellness and athletics, rendered the R. A. Karges Center, which stood on Cascade Avenue since 1960, obsolete. Demolition of the center began in May and the final walls were knocked down in June. The building's name and legacy were preserved in the Falcon Center's Auxiliary Gymnasium, which now bears the name R. A. Karges. Work on the site continued throughout the summer

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community partners, including non-profit organizations, businesses, other government entities, educational institutions, civic groups, and individual citizens.

It is easy to forget, or not recognize, how important our partnerships are and how much we rely on and need each other for continued success. Together, we produce outcomes with greater impact than can be achieved independently.

The meeting with the school board is a notable example of that cooperation. The City expects the School District to provide a good education for students, which makes the decision for businesses who want to move here easier knowing that their employees will be confident sending their children to River Falls schools.

And, the District expects the City to provide business development opportunities to increase investment in River Falls and its institutions. The District also expects good city services, public safety, and infrastructure so families want to move here and enroll their children in our schools. It's a partnership from which we all benefit.

You can go down the list of the different partnerships that the City has and see how much we depend on each other to provide the services, opportunities, and products that attract people to River Falls and make our residents proud and happy to live here.

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

Go Pack Go,



Dan Toland, Mayor



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

City of River Falls Mayor and Council

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Development Services Director Amy Peterson shares a laugh with Mayor Dan Toland while working the food line at the Customer Appreciation Event on Aug. 16.

The annual event is hosted by River Falls Municipal Utilities. See page 12 for more pictures (and smiles) from the event.

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.

Getting ready for Election Day 2018

by Amy White, City Clerk

Election Day 2018 will bring some changes to polling locations in the City of River Falls.

In spring 2017, the River Falls School District notified the City that Meyer Middle School would no longer be available as a polling location. We reviewed other available locations that would comply with State of Wisconsin polling site guidelines, which address issues of accessibility, lighting, sidewalks, parking, building size, and equipment placement. Using these criteria, we selected the Hoffman Park storm shelter as a suitable site for voters from District 3, Wards 6-8. Three elections, in February, April, and August 2018, were held at the shelter.

After several reports from voters and poll volunteers that the location was less than ideal, the City Council approved moving the site to City Hall's lower level training room. Voters from District 1, Ward 5, who had previously voted at City Hall will move to the library's main level. Voters from

District 1, Wards 1-4 and 15, will move down to the library's lower level meeting room.

Early voting

Election Day arrives Tuesday, Nov. 6, 2018, but there's no need to wait! Eligible River Falls voters can vote early and in-person at City Hall, 222 Lewis Street, from Oct. 22 through Nov. 2, from 7:30 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday-Friday. If you choose to wait until Election Day to cast your ballot, polls will be open 7 a.m.-8 p.m. To find your polling location, visit myvote.wi.gov.

Voting early is a good way to avoid Election Day lines, and it can ease the process for those who require special accommodations or assistance with voting. You can expect to be in and out of City Hall in just 5-10 minutes if you follow three key steps:

- Register to vote online at myvote.wi.gov. You may also register at City Hall until Nov. 2 or at your polling place on Election Day.



- Review a sample ballot to prepare for voting at myvote.wi.gov.
- Bring photo identification when you come to City Hall to vote. Read about acceptable forms of ID at www.rfcity.org/elections.

Offices on the November ballot include: Governor, Lt. Governor, Attorney General, Secretary of State, State Treasurer, U.S. Senator, Representative in Congress, Representative to the Assembly, County Sheriff, and County Clerk of Court.

Voting locations

Nov. 6 General Election, 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

District	Location	Address
District 1, Wards 1-4, 15	Library-Lower Level Meeting Room	140 Union Street
District 1, Ward 5	Library-Main Level Meeting Room	140 Union Street
District 2	UW-River Falls University Center	501 Wild Rose Ave.
District 3, Wards 6-8	City Hall Training Room, Lower Level	222 Lewis Street
District 4	River Falls High School	818 Cemetery Road

A "notice of change" letter will be mailed to registered voters who are affected by the changes.

One-way only



On May 22, the River Falls City Council approved making Riverwalk, the alley located behind the west side of Main Street from Maple to Walnut streets, one way as of Oct. 1.

Currently, the alley is separated into two sections for traffic flow. From Maple Street to Veterans Park it is a south-bound, one-way street, and from Veterans Park to Walnut Street, two-way traffic is allowed; private parking is available for South Main Street businesses and tenants.

"Alley width in these sections vary, but, at its narrowest, the street is only 16 feet wide," said Crystal Raleigh, the City's senior civil engineer. "This forces vehicles to drive on private property in order to pass.

"It also makes this portion of the alley dangerous for pedestrians, especially as the alley now serves as a walkway from the recently-completed portion of the Kinnickinnic Trail behind Family Fresh to the Veterans Park bridge."

Raleigh said that "One-Way" and "Do Not Enter" signs will help direct traffic in the alley.

Questions? Contact Crystal Raleigh at craleigh@rfcity.org.

Being strategic

by Julie Bergstrom, Assistant City Administrator

A strategic plan is a useful tool to help leaders examine the current state of their organization and determine its desired future. Used properly, a strategic plan establishes priorities and defines a set of actions to achieve specific outcomes targeted to meet certain goals.

The City has just completed its second four-year strategic plan developed through a process that included the Mayor and City Council members and senior management team. The plan will guide City work plans and resources for the next four years.

The plan's four strategic priorities are:

- Connected Community
- Economic Vitality
- Financial Sustainability
- Quality Municipal Services

Each of the priorities are further defined by key outcome indicators, targets, and initiatives to track the progress of each of the goals.

The Council also approved formal mission and vision statements during this process.

Mission statement

To coordinate and deliver essential services and ensure a sustainable future.

Vision statement

A distinct, vibrant, and safe community with an abundance of nature and easy access to metropolitan amenities. A place where families, students, and businesses flourish.

The City Council affirmed these value statements to help guide employee decisions and communications:

- We put people first
- We act with integrity
- We embrace change
- We serve our community
- We pursue excellence
- We consider future generations

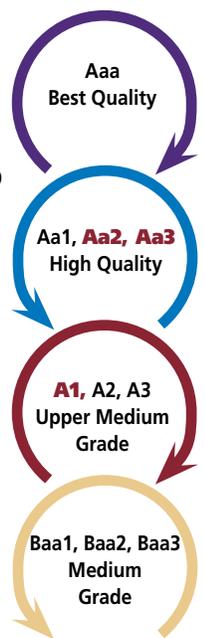
The complete plan is available at www.rfcity.org/strategicplan.

City has "high quality" debt

The City uses Moody's Investor Service to rate its debt. This rating helps investors of the City's bonds understand the quality of the bonds and how likely the City is to repay the investment. Achieving a high rating also results in a lower borrowing cost due to more competition for the bond and lower interest rates.

Moody's recently reviewed two different types of debt issued by the City: General obligation debt, which is primarily funded from property tax revenue; and revenue debt, which pledges the revenue of the water and electric utilities for repayment.

The results of the review were positive. The City's rating for general obligation debt was reaffirmed at Aa2, which is a very strong rating for a medium-sized city. The rating for the water utility was upgraded from A1 to Aa3, and the electric utility received an A1 rating. Each of these ratings reflects a continued attention to financial sustainability for taxpayers as well as ratepayers in the City of River Falls. Learn more at www.rfcity.org.



What's developing?

by Amy Peterson, Development Services Director, City of River Falls

I would guess that most of you have heard the quote from Greek philosopher Heraclitus: "Change is the only constant in life." At the City of River Falls, "We embrace change" has been part of our customer service model for several years, and the City Council just reaffirmed this message and incorporated it as one of our values. For certain, there is change coming to the City of River Falls as evidenced by many new development projects, including:

Commercial growth

1. Construction is underway on an Aldi store at 1567 Sullivan Court. It is anticipated that the store will open in November, subject to fall weather conditions.
2. The Perkins on North Main Street will be a Culver's soon, with an anticipated opening in December.
3. Dollar Tree opened in July just south of Kwik Trip on North Main Street.
4. Construction is near completion on the Eagle Storage facility located at 201 Arrow Court.
5. If you haven't been over to check out the outdoor patio at Junior's, do it before the snow flies! An interior remodel is also underway.
6. Construction on a new River Falls Gymnastics building has begun to the east of the high school; completion is anticipated by spring.
7. If you haven't been to Falls Theatre lately, its second screen is open and doing great.

Corporate park addition

8. Anchor Paper will soon begin construction on a minimum 85,000-square-foot facility in the Whitetail Ridge Corporate Park. The company is the leading Midwest distributor of premium fine printing papers. They also specialize in seed paper and industrial packaging products.

Housing expansion

9. Pending receipt of state funding, development may begin next spring on an approximately 50-unit senior living facility on the corner of Clark and Cedar Streets.
10. The City Council approved a purchase agreement in June to sell approximately eight acres on the south side of DeSanctis Park for townhome development.
11. In May, the City Council approved an agreement to sell approximately 2.5 acres in Sterling Ponds for single-family housing.

Park renovation

12. Construction on the Glen Park Pavilion begins this month; other park improvements will begin in 2019.



New (police)man on campus



River Falls high school students will see a new face at school this fall when Officer Brian Jensen assumes his new role as School

Resource Officer (SRO) for River Falls High School and Renaissance Charter Academy. Officer Chris Gottfredsen will continue to serve as SRO at River Falls' elementary and middle schools.

Due to the popularity of the SRO program, which began in 2000, and the increase in the student population, both the River Falls School District and the River Falls Police Department supported adding an additional SRO. Officer Jensen will join Officer Gottfredsen in investigating criminal cases that involve children; conducting home visits to help find the root causes for school-related problems; and assisting with other department calls.

Additional SRO responsibilities include organizing and facilitating student presentations to address topics including distracted driving, bike safety, illegal drug use, and underage drinking.

Officer Jensen has been with River Falls Police Department for 17 years and has assumed the duties of field training officer, fire arms instructor, and a member of the honor guard.

"This new position allows us to have a stronger community policing model within our schools," said Police Chief Gordon Young. "I am confident that Officer Jensen will do an excellent job."

Welcome new directors

Tanya Misselt, Library Director



After a national search, the River Falls Library Board hired Tanya Misselt as library director. Her first day was June 4. Misselt replaces long-time

director Nancy Miller.

For the past seven years, Misselt led the Children's Services Department of the Appleton Public Library where she advocated for library access, quality early childhood education, and empowering parents to raise healthy children and strong readers. Prior to that, she served as a middle school library media specialist for the Seymour, WI, School District, and directed a school library program for the West DePere, WI, School District. Before embarking on her library career, Misselt was a police officer and sergeant/school liaison officer for the Appleton Police Department.

"The search committee was impressed with Tanya's energy, ideas, and solid experience managing people and systems," said Julie Bergstrom, assistant city administrator.

"She will be a great asset not only to the library, but to the community at large. We look forward to a renewed focus on customer needs in the midst of ever-changing technology, and the strategic growth of program opportunities for participants of all ages and interests."

Misselt has a bachelor's in sociology from UW-Madison and a master's in library and information science from UW-Milwaukee.

She has two sons, ages 19 and 21; both attend the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities. In her free time, she enjoys gardening and spending time with her husband, Erik, at their log cabin on the Wolf River in Shawano, WI.

Jason Stroud, EMS Director



Jason Stroud's first day as the City's new EMS director was Aug. 27. He comes to River Falls from Virginia Beach, VA, where he served as a deputy chief for

the City of Virginia Beach Department of Emergency Medical Services. In this role, Jason was responsible for the oversight of volunteer and career EMS operations, oceanfront lifeguard services, and EMS training programs as well as regulations enforcement and logistical support services.

In his almost 20 years of related local government experience, Stroud has served in various public service roles including as a volunteer and career paramedic, a firefighter/paramedic, an EMS training instructor, a deputy emergency coordinator, and as a deputy director of public safety. He holds a master's degree in public policy with a graduate certificate in public administration.

With his wife, Sandi, two daughters, Noelle and Olivia, Stroud has relocated and made a home in River Falls.

"We are looking forward to getting settled in River Falls and are eager to meet new friends and find ways to become actively involved in the community," said Stroud.

"I am also excited to be working with the dedicated team of providers at River Falls EMS and look forward to contributing towards the efforts and services that this great organization provides."

In his off time, Stroud enjoys outdoor activities such as fishing and hiking and finding ways to spend quality time together with his family.

Kinni Corridor Project: the next step

A recap

In 2016, the City of River Falls began the planning process for one of the most ambitious, complex, and far-reaching projects in its history. The goal has been to prepare a plan for the Kinnickinnic River Corridor that meets residents' needs and desires, reflects the values of the community, and protects the river for future generations. As part of the planning process, the community was asked to help decide the future of its two hydroelectric facilities.

After considerable community engagement, and extensive analysis examining the feasibility and impacts of dam removal, the City Council approved a resolution on Feb. 27, 2018, to remove the two dams and provide associated stream restoration. The City is targeting removal of the Powell Falls Dam by 2026, and Junction Falls Dam between 2035-2040. The full resolution can be found at kinnicorridor.org.

Planning continues

In spring 2018, the City hired Hoisington Koegler Group, Inc. (HKGi), a Minneapolis-based planning and landscape architecture firm, to assist the community with the preparation of the Kinnickinnic River Corridor Plan. At the same time, the City's Utility Department is working with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission on a relicensing agreement.

Since April, the Kinni Corridor planning team, consisting of City staff, the Kinni Corridor Committee and HKGi, has been developing preliminary river corridor planning concepts that build on community input received in 2017 and early 2018. The concepts will anticipate future dam

removal, provide a future vision for the corridor, and address parks and recreation, natural resources and river ecology, access and connectivity, and land use and economic development opportunities along the corridor.

Preliminary planning concepts will be ready to share with the broader community in a public workshop scheduled for Thursday, Sept. 27, in the lower level of River Falls Public Library. The workshop will include displays illustrating planning ideas and offer creative opportunities for community members to provide the planning team with input and feedback about the concepts presented.

A second workshop is planned for Nov. 14 at the library. The final corridor plan will be presented to the City Council at its Dec. 11 meeting. Visit kinnicorridor.org for updates.

Kinni Corridor Project

SAVE THE DATE!

Kinni Corridor Project Open House

Thursday, Sept. 27, 6:30-8 p.m.

Short program begins at 6:45 p.m.

River Falls Public Library

140 Union Street, River Falls

All are welcome; snacks provided.

Participants will be invited to view preliminary corridor concept plans and share ideas and feedback. See kinnicorridor.org for more information.



A Kinni Corridor Project Open House, scheduled for Sept. 27, will present current corridor concept plans based on feedback from the community planning charrette in October 2017 (pictured here).

all about town

Library series sampler

Maker Mondays

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

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

Oct. 8: Adventures in Cardboard

Nov. 12: Go Wild with Emojis

Dec. 10: Creative DIY Gift-Making



Kurt Vogel, associate professor of animal science, UW-River Falls

Soup, Salad, and Science

The Library and School District of River Falls Community Education will cohost a lecture series focused on science topics. *Preregistration required.*

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

Sept. 20: John Shephard: The History of the Calendar

Oct. 18: Kurt Vogel: Artificial Meat/Animal Welfare

Nov. 15: Hans Zoerb: Art and Science of Brewing

Monday Lego Club (grades K-5)

Sept. 24, Oct. 8 & 22, Nov. 5 & 19, Dec. 3 & 17, 4-5 p.m.

RFPL Children’s Program Room
Registration required. Call Monica at 715-426-3484 to reserve your spot

Check out book clubs for all ages plus activities for youth 0-18 – and much, much more at riverfallslibrary.org.



Sept. 7-8, 2018

54th Annual Falcon Frontier Days Rodeo

Sept. 7 at 7 p.m.; Sept. 8 at 1 & 7 p.m.

Campus Farm, Cemetery Road and Wasson Lane

Sept. 8, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Art on the Kinni

Heritage Park, 232 West Maple Street

Sponsored by Community Arts Base

Sept. 8, 1:30-10:30 p.m.

Grand Slam Jam: Music Festival

Headliner: Gear Daddies

600 Hanson Drive

A benefit for the 1st National Bank of River Falls Field

grandslamjam.com



Sept. 15-16

Bacon Bash

Sept. 15: 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Sept. 16: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Heritage Park, 232 West Maple Street

Sept. 15

2018 Kirby Symes Memorial

5K/1 Mile Fun Run

5K at 10:30 a.m.

1 mile at 11:30 a.m.

Come in costume; win prizes

RFPL

Sept. 17, 4-8 p.m.

Cardboard Adventures for Adults

Make decorations for Children’s Museum exhibit; teens welcome.

RFPL, Lower Level

Sept. 18, Oct. 16, Nov. 20, Dec. 18, 6 p.m.

Family Storytime

Includes free snacks and books.

RFPL, Lower Level

Sept. 24-Oct. 13

In the Gallery: The Children’s Museum

A hands-on learning space for all ages.

Kleinpell Gallery, RFPL

Sept. 27, 6:30 p.m.

Author Visit: Kyle Mills

Reading from *Red War*

Junior’s Restaurant and Tap House

414 S. Main Street



Oct. 2, 5-9 p.m.

Run with the Cops

5 p.m., Registration

5:30 p.m., Kids Obstacle Course

7:30 p.m., 5K/1 Mile Glow Run/Walk

UW-River Falls, Ramer Field

specialolympicswisconsin.org

Oct. 7, 2 p.m.

Author Visit: Patricia Skalka

Reading from *Death Rides a Ferry*

RFPL, Lower Level

Oct. 8 and Nov. 9, 10:30 am

Out of School Events

Intended for K-6 students, though all are welcome

RFPL, Lower Level

Oct. 11, 4-8 p.m.

Ladies Night Out

Downtown River Falls
rfchamber.com

Oct. 13

Homecoming 2018

UW-River Falls



Oct. 17, 8-9:30 a.m.

Coffee with a Cop

UW-River Falls Student Center

Oct. 18, 5 p.m.

Dr. Patricia McConnell, author and pet behaviorist

Room 200, Agricultural Sciences Building
UW-River Falls
patriciamccconnell.com

Oct. 20, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Main Street Art Crawl

Sponsored by Community Arts Base

Oct. 27, 10:30 a.m.

Halloween Party

Costumes, crafts, games, and snacks
RFPL, Lower Level

Oct. 29, 6:30 p.m.

Film: Alice's Ordinary People

Screening with filmmaker Craig Dudnick
Co-sponsored by American Association of
University Women
RFPL, Lower Level

Nov. 6, 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Election Day!

Visit myvote.wi.gov for info.

Nov. 8, 7 p.m.

Author Visit: Jim Guhl

Reading from *Eleven Miles to Oshkosh*
RFPL, Lower Level

Nov. 10, 7-9:30 p.m.

Community Barn Dance

Music by Barn Cats
\$5/adults; \$2.50/12 and under
River Falls Academy Gym
439 West Maple Street
Sponsored by Community Arts Base
and River Falls Parks & Rec.

Nov. 23, 1-8 p.m.

River Dazzle

See rfchamber.com for details.

Dec. 6 - All Day

Library Holiday Open House

Gingerbread Contest entries due Dec. 5;
judging is Dec. 6.

Dec. 14, 8 a.m.

Coffee with a Cop

American Legion, 701 North Main Street

Dec. 15, 1 p.m.

Fall Commencement

Falcon Center, UWRF

Dec. 31, 11 a.m.

Noon Year's Eve

Countdown and balloon drop at noon.
RFPL, Lower Level

Dog Park ... from page 1

interest," said Parks and Recreation
Manager Cindi Danke.

The 16-acre site includes a parking lot for
20 vehicles, fenced areas for large and small
dogs, picnic tables, dog waste stations, and
a Porta Potty. City water is not available
at the site, so dog owners are encouraged
to bring their own from home. Danke said
additional amenities, including benches and
agility equipment, will be added as funds
are available.

The dog park is being constructed on the
City's old landfill site, closed in the 1970s
and capped in 1993. The site is inspected
quarterly for health and safety.

A "soft" opening is scheduled for early fall,
with a ribbon-cutting event next May. The
park will be free for City residents with a
dog license; non-resident fees are \$25/year.
For additional information, including the
official opening date, visit [www.rfcity.org/
dogpark](http://www.rfcity.org/dogpark).



Troy Connolly, Jake Martin, and Stuart Burns
(l-r) from the City's Public Works Department
clear shrubs and branches this summer in
preparation for the installation of over 4,000
linear feet of fencing for the dog park.

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: rflerns.org

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



Tune in and discover RFM "U"

River Falls Municipal Utilities (RFMU) has launched an entertaining and educational series on Facebook Live, called "RFM-U," in which Utility Director Kevin Westhuis uses a light-hearted and hands-on approach to deliver Utility Department-related information.

"The 'U' stands for 'University' and is a play on the department's acronym," said Westhuis. "But, as I say in each segment, at our university there are no tests or degrees!"

"I wanted the series to be fun, but also share important information with customers and educate them about issues that affect their daily lives," said Westhuis.

One popular RFM "U" segment is about sewer pipes; to date it has received over 7,000 views on Facebook, said Westhuis.

Other topics have included hydrant flushing, Electricity 101, and electronic recycling. Check out "RFM-U" at [youtube.com/user/cityofriverfalls](https://www.youtube.com/user/cityofriverfalls).



Utility Department Director Kevin Westhuis hosts "RFM-U" on Facebook Live.

Demystifying computers

In 2016, the American Library Association and Google, Inc. launched an initiative in public and school libraries to demystify computers and coding and to help kids of all ages develop 21st century skills for a growing digital economy. Libraries provide a perfect space for this type of exploratory, hands-on learning.

Reference and Technology Librarian Kim Kiiskinen and Event & Gallery Coordinator Cole Zrostlik hosted a technology workshop this summer for six girls entering grades 7-10. The girls built

their own computers using inexpensive and/or leftover hardware and free Linux-based operating software.

Participants learned how to assemble all the parts in a computer tower (RAM, motherboard, CPU, power supply, hard drive, and DVD drive) and, while installing the operating system, had time to personalize their computers with colorful stickers before taking them home to use for browsing the web, watching movies, or doing homework.



Olivia King, library teen volunteer and technology workshop participant, works with Reference and Technology Librarian Kim Kiiskinen to assemble a computer. King's favorite part? "Taking out the motherboard – it was like doing a dissection on a frog!"



At a Police Department ceremony on June 19, Officer Beth Posel was promoted to sergeant. She has served the department for 10 years and is pictured here with Officer Kevin Moore (left) and Deputy Chief Jon Aubart.

Turningpoint helps victims of domestic violence heal and move forward

by Amy Berg, Development Director, Turningpoint

Nearly 40 years ago, a group of concerned River Falls citizens began to offer services and safe housing to victims of domestic abuse and sexual assault. These compassionate, committed, generous people invited victims into their own homes and offered a safe, nurturing environment in which women and their children could begin to heal from the impact of the violence.

Today, Turningpoint for Victims of Domestic and Sexual Violence is a tax-exempt, nonprofit organization that provides crisis and support services to approximately 800 victims of violence every year. We serve women, children, and men. All Turningpoint services are confidential and free of charge regardless of gender, race, sexual orientation, or religious affiliation.

More than shelter

When most people think of Turningpoint, they think of our 21-bed, River Falls crisis shelter. Other services include our crisis hotlines (phone and text), crisis counseling and safety planning (in-person, phone, and text), legal services support, emergency food and hygiene products, support groups, wellness programming, and violence prevention education.

Turningpoint operates from the core belief that victims of domestic abuse and sexual assault should be empowered to make their own choices about their lives. Our staff and highly-skilled volunteers work with victims to help them regain a sense of strength and self-confidence, establish goals, and access other resources and support services.

Turningpoint provides varying service levels to clients, based entirely upon their needs. For example, some clients utilize the crisis line to obtain information and support, including safety planning. Others receive



Turningpoint supporters participate in "Walk to Empower" on Saturday, Oct. 14, 2017.

emergency temporary housing at our River Falls crisis shelter. Some clients meet with an advocate to receive support filling out paperwork for a temporary restraining order or for other legal services. The length of time spent with a client varies, as does the intensity of services.

Clients are referred to Turningpoint through a variety of sources, including law enforcement, mental health counselors, medical professionals, school personnel, social workers, employers, and personnel from faith-based organizations. The agency receives requests for support and services from victims, family members, employers, and friends concerned about the well-being of someone they believe is being abused.

Stopping the cycle

In addition to direct services, Turningpoint focuses on community outreach and prevention education. We educate students and other members of our communities about the impact of domestic violence and sexual assault, and we provide information about our programs and services. Turningpoint's vision is to eliminate

domestic and sexual violence within our service area of St. Croix and Pierce Counties.

For further information about Turningpoint, including services, programs, and ways to get involved, contact Amy Berg at amyb@turningpoint-wi.org or 715-425-6751, ext. 102, or visit turningpoint-wi.org.

2017: By the numbers

- 708** clients served
- 1,139** crisis calls answered
- 6,869** nights of shelter for 143 people, including 66 children
- 14,000** meals served
- 4,087** hours of support and advocacy services, including legal services support, one-on-one support, and support groups.

2018 Customer Appreciation Event

The annual Customer Appreciation Event, sponsored by River Falls Municipal Utilities, drew over 800 community members to City Hall on a warm Aug. 16. City volunteers served up brats and hotdogs, corn on the cob, watermelon, lemonade, and ice cream bars. Multiple activities kept guests of all ages entertained and informed.

"It's important that we thank our customers for supporting their municipal utility," said Utility Director Kevin Westhuis. "This event allows us to give back, have fun, and educate residents about City programs that add value to their daily lives."



UW-River Falls ... from page 1

to create a new green space emphasizing UWRF's commitment to sustainability and attractive natural landscape.

More Changes

New homes for Falcon Foods

The Dairy Pilot Plant has been in continuous use in academic programming at UWRF for more than 30 years. Renovations, which began in May and are expected to be completed in spring 2019, will bring long-awaited updates to the plant, including new equipment, much of which is being provided through generous industry partnership support.

In addition to the Dairy Pilot Plant renovations, Falcon Foods will have a new home this fall called "Freddy's Dairy Bar." The new storefront will be located on the second floor of the Agricultural Science building, easily accessible from the building's Third St. entrance. The store will sell the student-made Falcon Foods cheese, meat, and ice cream that many are familiar with, while adding hand-scooped cones, milk shakes, and other ice cream treats to their offerings.



In April 2018, UWRF students made the last batch of cheese in the original Dairy Pilot Plant. The plant is being remodeled and will begin production in spring 2019.



Four-time Emmy winner and MPR and TPT program host, Cathy Wurzer, a 1992 graduate of UW-River Falls and the 2018 UWRF Distinguished Alumna, visited the WRFW radio station during Homecoming 2017. As a student, Wurzer worked at WRFW as station manager.

Broadcasting live ... from a new and improved WRFW studio

If you tune into 88.7 on your FM dial, you've probably heard the student broadcasters of station WRFW-FM, UWRF's campus radio station. Just in time for the station's 50th anniversary this fall, the studio was renovated over the summer, giving student broadcasters a new and improved space from which to transmit over the local airwaves.

Abbott Concert Hall makeover

Those in our community who have enjoyed concerts and other performances in Abbott Concert Hall will soon be able to enjoy UWRF and visiting talent in a renovated facility there as well. Thanks to \$1.3 million in state funding, seating, stage, lighting, and acoustics are all being updated and improved. The renovation is scheduled to be complete by January 2019.

Rodli renovation

Some will remember David Rodli Hall as Rodli Commons, UWRF's east-end dining facility built in the 1960s. Soon the interior of that under-utilized space will be

transformed into a modern student services center. Several departments currently spread among multiple buildings on campus will be relocated to Rodli Hall making it easier for students to access the areas that help ensure their success on campus. These include Admissions, Career Services, Student Health and Counseling, the Office of International Education, Honors, McNair Scholars, the Undergraduate Research, Scholarly and Creative Activity office, the Center of Diversity, Inclusion and Belonging, and Veterans Services.

Looking ahead: UWRF Science and Technology Innovation Center

With all of these improvements, you may wonder if UWRF is finished with major changes to its physical landscape. The answer is nearly, but with one major exception. UW-River Falls has begun advocating for the much-needed addition of new and updated science facilities, which are proposed to be located on the site of the current Hagestad Hall. This building would not only transform the campus but would help catalyze innovation and support economic growth in STEM fields throughout the region. Stay tuned for more updates as efforts to gain the needed support progress.

For more information about campus building projects and news, visit uwrf.edu.

Year of Canada

2018-19 has been designated as the Year of Canada at UW-River Falls. The "Year of" program allows faculty, students, and community participants to break down stereotypes and connect across cultures. Visit uwrf.edu/YearOf/Canada.cfm for activities, news, and events related to the Year of Canada.



Tree roots in clay pipe

Protect sewer lines

River Falls Municipal Utilities (RFMU) wants to remind homeowners that they are responsible for the sewer line that extends from the interior of their property to the connecting valve that extends to the street. Here are some tips to make sure your sewer line is performing at its best:

- If a backup or any other sewer issues occur, call RFMU at 715-425-0906. Wastewater staff will come and assess the problem.
- Don't flush things that can't be put down the drain. This includes wipes of any kind, including so-called "flushable" wipes, grease, toys, etc.
- Have your sewers cleaned every six months for lines made of plastic and more often for older lines made of clay.
- Consider installing a backwater valve that prevents sewage from backing up into your home in the event of a blockage.
- Check with your insurance provider to see if you are covered for sewer backups and consider purchasing sewer insurance if you haven't already.

For more information, visit www.rfcity.org/sewer or call 715-425-0906.

Japanese Beetle control

by Nate Croes, City Forester

Fall is around the corner and, thankfully, most adult Japanese Beetles are starting to go away for the year, leaving extensive damage to our favorite shrubs and trees. Most damaged plants recover and will come back healthy next year before adult beetles start their feeding cycle again in July.

For those who wish to help keep the population of Japanese Beetles down for next year, consider controlling the beetles with a granular insecticide this fall. In early to mid-September, newly laid Japanese Beetle eggs and larvae are near the soil surface feeding on the roots of grassy areas. Granular applied insecticides distributed on soil are usually the best control method for Japanese Beetles. Timing is critical to control grub infestations. Applying these insecticides too late in the fall after the larvae have burrowed deep into the soil to



overwinter will not yield an effective control of the larvae. If this control window is missed, the grubs will again ascend to the surface to feed in late May and early June opening another window for grub control.

For more information on Japanese Beetle control, visit the University of Wisconsin-Extension's Japanese Beetle page at hort.uwex.edu/articles/japanese-beetle.

Buzzing about gardens

In May, the Leadership River Falls class of 2017-2018 planted a pollinator garden behind City Hall near the new recreation trail. The garden project was the culmination of a leadership program coordinated by the River Falls Chamber of Commerce and Tourism Bureau. Leadership River Falls is a nine-month program that assists emerging business, government, and nonprofit leaders in exploring community issues and opportunities for involvement.

The garden features native plants that will benefit butterflies, bees, and other pollinators, as well as provide a source of food and habitat for other organisms. It also functions as a rain garden by helping water soak in before it enters the storm water pipes and empties into the Kinni.



Members of the 2017-2018 Leadership River Falls class planted a pollinator garden behind City Hall this spring.

A new bench overlooks the garden and the river. Nearby signage explains the benefits and features of the garden and provides tips and encouragement for those who want to improve water quality.

RFC-TV Channel 16 update

Channel 16, the City's cable station provided to Comcast customers in River Falls, will be discontinued as of Dec. 14, 2018. WEAU-TV news will continue to broadcast on Channel 18.

The City conducted an extensive online and paper survey in April 2018, and invited comments from the public about viewership via several media platforms. The response revealed that the time and expense needed to maintain the station was not justified. Viewing alternatives include:

- City meetings will continue to be taped and available on the City's YouTube channel.

- Additional City video programs and series first broadcast on Facebook Live will also be available on YouTube.
- The four churches that have been broadcasting on Channel 16 will work with parishioners to provide alternative viewing opportunities.
- River Falls High School sports coverage is available at nfhnetwork.com.

Remember, the River Falls Public Library has multiple computers available to view City meetings and programs, as well as helpful librarians to provide instruction. See riverfallpubliclibrary.org for library hours.



Visit youtube.com/user/cityofriverfalls for meeting and program videos.

Parking permits

The City of River Falls Residential Parking Ordinance 12.06 goes into effect Sept. 1, 2018, through May 31, 2019, for most residential parking zones. Visit www.rfcity.org/parking for more information and a parking zone map. Permits are issued at the Police Department, 125 East Elm Street, on Mondays from 2-4 p.m. and Wednesdays from 10 a.m.–noon. If you are unable to obtain a permit during these times, call the Police Department at 425-0909 to make an appointment. To save time in obtaining your permit, print and complete the form available on the website.

Fall/winter reminders

- Help keep the Kinni clean by raking leaves out of storm drains to prevent blockage.
- Bring leaves and yard waste to the City's compost site, 901 West Locust Street.
- Call Dave Hovel at 715-426-3426 for final inspections on summer projects.
- Odd-even parking enforcement begins Nov. 1; see www.rfcity.org/parking for details.
- For winter heating tips visit rfmu.org/heatingtips.
- For utility bill help during the winter months, visit rfmu.org/billhelp.

City fee changes

Several fee changes affecting residents were approved by the City Council at its Aug. 14 meeting. They include:

Fee changes

- Overtime parking fine: increase from \$10 to \$20.
- Residential parking permit violation fine: decrease from \$25 to \$20.
- Open-air park shelter fees: increase from \$20 to \$30/day for residents; \$30 to \$40/day for non-residents.
- Enclosed park shelter fees: increase from \$30 to \$50/day for residents; \$40 to \$60/day for non-residents.

Fee removals

- Bicycle registration fee
- Lost bicycle registration tag
- Snowmobile renters license

New fees

- Dog park permit: \$25/year for non-residents after Jan. 1, 2019
- Glover School House rental: \$50/day for residents; \$60/day for non-residents
- Hoffman Park storm shelter: \$75/day for residents; \$85/day for non-residents

For a full schedule of City fees, visit www.rfcity.org/fees.



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.

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River Falls Public Library staff participated in national "City Hall Selfie Day" on Aug. 15, an annual event to celebrate local government. River Falls submitted seven selfies of department staff doing other department jobs, calling the series "City Hall Selfie Switch-Up Day." Here, librarians tried to attach a fire hose to a hydrant. Front row (l-r): Cole Zrostlik, Kim Kiiskinen (with hose), and Tanya Misselt. Back row (l-r): Sally Burkhardt, Nikki Pizza, Clio McLagan, and Anita Slate.