



Mayor's Message



Hello Everybody!

It is the beginning of March as I sit down to write this, so let's assume the next ice age did not happen, as we all feared for a while that it might, and it is getting beautiful outside once again.

There are lots of things coming up! First of all, we have the opening night at the new ballpark on June 13. The new 35/Radio Road overpass should be getting close to being done by the end of August. We will be starting to work on opening

up the new corporate park at the end of summer. All of the Park and Rec programs are getting ready to start, so don't forget to get the kids all signed up so you can have a few minutes to breathe. All of the regular summer stuff will be starting soon - the car cruze-ins, the music in the park concerts which are great, River Falls Days July 10-13, all of the programs that the college has going on. There are so many things happening in the summer that you should always be checking out the River Falls Chambers' website (www.rfchamber.com) and the City's website (www.rfcity.org) for information. For more information on upcoming events, please see page 7.

I want to comment on the City's dams which have become a topic of great interest. First of all, it is a federal regulation that the City has to re-license the dams. Second, the hydro generators are a green energy source for us. That is a goal of the City. The hydro generators will power about 170 homes a year. Now this does not mean we can't have a good discussion on the merits of this topic, but as of right now the dams are not a detriment to the beauty or health of the Kinnickinnic River. Removal of the dams is not on the City's work plan. The Council has other priorities that I feel we need to concentrate on right now. For more information about dams, please see page 13.

It wouldn't be a newsletter if I didn't bring up the fact that we are always looking for people to sit on the different boards and committees, it is an easy way to get involved in your community and help out, just send an email to me at dtoland@rfcity.org, and I will let you know when we need you if nothing is available right away. Remember, I always look forward to hearing from people about whatever they are thinking, so please do not hesitate to contact me to talk about it, even if you just want to tell me how great of a job we are doing at the city.

Take care and remember it's your City so get out there enjoy and be proud of it.

Go Pack go! ~

Dan Toland

State of the City

Each January, the City of River Falls delivers an assessment of the State of the City. As a City, we are happy to report that for the year 2013, the state of the City continued to be strong. At the City of River Falls, we are committed to serving our community. In order to ensure we are remaining focused and driven, the City has established four key organizational goals that guide our priority setting and daily work. Our first goal is deliver quality, cost effective municipal services; the second goal is to develop a high performance workforce; the third goal is to promote economic vitality; and the final goal is to promote a positive image of the City.

Some highlights from 2013:

- Removal of parking meters would be beneficial to residents.
- The downtown area has been enhanced by the owners of existing buildings who have been busy by altering and adding to their properties resulting in an increase of \$16.4 million in value.
- In 2013, the City's EMS became the first in the State of Wisconsin to receive a Critical Care Paramedic license. This is the highest level of service provided by any department in the State
- Also in 2013, the River Falls EMS negotiated a mutual aid paramedic intercept and coverage agreement with the City of Prescott. This agreement has worked very well for both communities.
- In September, the Fire

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Calendar of Events

Through May 23	A Student of the Arts: The Annual All-School Art Show in Lower Level Kleinpell Gallery at the library
May 1-September 30	Even/Odd Watering Restrictions
May 3	International Migratory Bird Day, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. , at City Hall
May 8	Coffee with a Cop, 8:30 a.m. at South Fork Café
May 12-19	City's Spring Cleanup at Public Works Garage
May 13	High School Book Discussion Group, 4 p.m. at library
May 19, 1 p.m.	Emergency Weather Warning Siren Test Date
May 20	4th-5th Grade Book Discussion Group, 4:15 p.m. at library
May 24, 25	Library Closed
May 26	City Offices and Library Closed
June 3	Middle School Book Discussion Group, 4 p.m. at library
June 5	Board of Review, 8:30-10:30 a.m. City Hall
June 7-July 12	Science for Kids of All Ages exhibit in Lower Level Kleinpell Gallery at the library
June 7	Antiques with Mark Moran 10 a.m. at library
June 8	Town 'N County Day and Cruze-In (see www.rfchamber.com)
June 10	High School Book Discussion Group, 4 p.m. at library
June 10, 17, 24	9:30 a.m. Babytime; 10:45 a.m. Toddler Lapsit at library
June 11-August 22	Summer Reading Program sponsored by the library
June 11, 18, 25	Wednesday Kids' Programs 10:30 a.m. at library
June 12, 19, 26	Preschool Storytime 10:30 a.m. or 1 p.m. at library
June 13	Coffee with a Cop, 8 a.m. at American Legion
June 13, 27	Movie Afternoons 1 p.m. at library
June 14	Touch-A-Truck 10 a.m.-1 p.m. River Falls High School
June 16, 30	Lego Afternoons 4-5 p.m. at library
June 20	Game Afternoons 1 p.m. at library
June 23	Emergency Weather Warning Siren Test Date 1 p.m.
June 25	Book Club in a Bar 6:30 p.m. at Mainstreeter's
July 8, 15, 22, 29	9:30 a.m. Babytime; 10:45 a.m. Toddler Lapsit , at library
July 1	Middle School Book Discussion Group, 4 p.m. at library
July 10, 17, 24, 31	Preschool Storytime 10:30 a.m. or 1 p.m. library
July 4	City Offices and Library Closed
July 8	Coffee with a Cop, 8 a.m. South Fork Café
July 8	High School Book Discussion Group, 4 p.m. at library
July 9	Annual Flower Show 6 p.m. at library
July 9, 16, 23, 30	Wednesday Kids' Programs 10:30 a.m. at library
July 10-13	River Falls Days (see www.rfchamber.com)
July 11, 25	Game Afternoons 1 p.m. at library
July 12	Kiddie Parade 10 a.m. at library
July 12	Children's Bike Rodeo 12 noon- 2 p.m. at River Falls State Bank
July 13	Car Cruze-ins (see www.rfchamber.com)
July 14, 28	Lego Afternoons 4-5 p.m. at library
July 18	Movie Afternoons 1 p.m. at library
July 19-August 16	Sheltering Nature: A Project Art for Nature Collaborative Exhibit in Lower Level Kleinpell Gallery at the library
July 21-August 25	Foreign Film Series, Mondays at 7 p.m. , at library
July 23	Book Club in a Bar 6:30 p.m. at Westwind
July 28	Emergency Weather Warning Siren Test Date 1 p.m.
July 31	Appreciation Event for Utility Customers 11 a.m.-1 p.m.
August 1	Movie Afternoons 1 p.m. at library
August 5	Middle School Book Discussion Group, 4 p.m. at library
August 8	Game Afternoons 1 p.m. at library
August 9	Coffee with a Cop, 8:30 a.m. River Falls Family Restaurant
August 10	Car Cruze-In (see www.rfchamber.com)
August 11	Lego Afternoons 4-5 p.m. at library
August 12	High School Book Discussion Group, 4 p.m. at library
August 20	Book Club in a Bar 6:30 p.m. at American Legion
August 23-September 21	SHE: Women of Legend exhibit in Lower Level Kleinpell Gallery at the library
August 25	Emergency Weather Warning Siren Test Date 1 p.m.
August 30-31	Library Closed
September 1	City Offices and Library Closed
September 2	Middle School Book Discussion Group, 4 p.m. at library
September 9	High School Book Discussion Group, 4 p.m. at library
September 10	Coffee with a Cop, 7 a.m. McDonald's
September 13-14	Bacon Bash (see www.rfchamber.com)
September 14	Car Cruze-In (see www.rfchamber.com)

2014 Emergency Weather Warning Siren Test Dates

The City of River Falls will be doing audible testing of the outdoor warning siren system on the dates listed below. If actual severe or threatening weather exists on this date, the test will be the next day (Tuesday) at the same time. All times are 1 p.m.

- May 19 (Make-up date – Tuesday, May 20).
- June 23 (Make-up date – Tuesday, June 24)
- July 28 (Make-up date – Tuesday, July 29)
- August 25 (Make-up date – Tuesday, August 26)
- September 22 (Make-up date – Tuesday, September 23)

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

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

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

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

The River Falls Police Department's "Coffee with a COP" program continues in 2014. This is an opportunity for residents to meet and interact with the City's Police officers. We encourage people of all ages to attend. Please visit the City's website (www.rfcity.org) for more information.



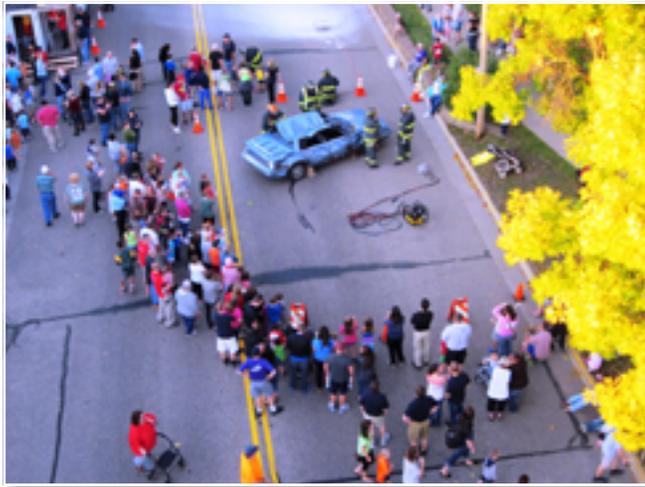
Here is the upcoming schedule:

- May 8, 8:30 a.m. at South Fork Café
- June 13, 8 a.m. at American Legion
- July 8, 8 a.m. at The Dish and the Spoon Café
- August 9, 8:30 a.m. at River Falls Family Restaurant
- September 10, 7 a.m. at McDonald's ~

State of the City

(continued from page 1)

Department held their annual Open House. The theme was "Prevent Kitchen Fires and Get Cookin' with Fire Safety". The Open House is part of the City's excellent fire prevention program which also includes several visits to our community schools by members of the Fire Department.



- The Police Department also began a new innovative community outreach program called Coffee with a Cop.
- The River Falls Library continues to remain a jewel of the community with over 186,000 individuals visiting in 2013. The Library hosted over 140 programs, 152 story times, and 140 class visits. The Library circulated over 352,000 items and issued over 840 new patron cards. The meeting rooms were used by community members for over 730 gatherings. The library continues to innovate with unique programs like Book Club at the Bar where adults gathered for discussion and camaraderie.
- 2013 was a great year for commercial and residential development. Single-family home construction has more than doubled from 2012 with over 60 new single-family dwelling permits issued and a 40 unit senior housing complex. NCCM, a manufacturer of state-of-the-art mill rolls is building a new facility in Whitetail Ridge Corporate Park and River Valley Physical Therapy is constructing a new office building on South Second Street.
- The City continued its focus on economic vitality by investing in new infrastructure and making some significant investments in its existing infrastructure. A ground breaking celebration was held in May 2013 for the new Radio Road and State Highway 35 Interchange project. This State of Wisconsin project is anticipated to be complete by September 1, 2014. It will provide a vital link for the existing Whitetail Corporate Park and future Sterling Ponds Corporate Park.
- An upgrade to Hanson Drive utilities was completed in 2013. These improvements will help facilitate the opening of the First National Bank of River Falls Field in 2014.
- After experiencing two water main breaks at Ninth Street near the Middle School, the City advanced the scheduled 2015 water main replacement project to 2013.
- The City purchased additional land west of River Falls that may be the City's fourth corporate park someday. The City now owns over 300 acres just south of the new interchange location in what is known as Mann Valley.

- In 2013, the City partnered with the State of Wisconsin and the Kinnickinnic River Land Trust to acquire and permanently preserve over 530 lineal feet of river stream bank and 4.3 acres of land along the river right in the City.
- The City continues to benefit from community ownership of our electric, water, and sewer utilities, and in March 2013 the City hired Kevin Westhuis to lead the utilities into the future.
- In 2013, River Falls again ranked in the top 10 nationally for customer participation in purchasing renewable energy and the green power sales as a percentage of total electric sales. It also ranked third in the country for GREEN POWER Sales as a percentage of total retail sales and eighth in the country in customer participation rate for individual GREEN POWER purchases by the National Renewable Energy Laboratory or NREL and its Green Power Program.
- Though electric usage was down a couple percentage points as a whole in 2013 compared to the prior year, the City hit its all-time high daily peak of 27.3 megawatts on a hot day in late August.
- Another important partnership between the City and a local non-profit celebrated the payoff of a City loan for the provision of transitional housing for families when Our Neighbor's Place made a final payment to the City in November.
- We are proud of our City services and it is clear that the community is proud too. This year the City conducted a comprehensive city-wide survey. The results from the first ever comprehensive citizen satisfaction survey reflect the quality of services and pride in ownership the community has with them. Survey respondents ranked satisfaction levels high for every major category, including quality of city services and satisfaction with River Falls as a place to live. Other findings include 96 percent satisfaction with our Public Library Services, 93 percent satisfaction with City Parks, and 96 percent satisfaction with the Ambulance Services.



With a constant eye on the future, the City of River Falls looks back on 2013 with great pride knowing we served the River Falls community to our fullest and helped propel the City into 2014. The State of the City address is now available for you to watch online. Visit the City's website at www.rfcity.org, click on videos and watch the complete video today! ~



Library Programs and Events Spring/Summer 2014

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

Closed Dates

- **May 24, 25, 26; July 4; August 30-31; September 1**
- **Closed Sundays in June, July and August** 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.

Children/Youth Programs

SUMMER READING PROGRAM – JUNE 11-AUGUST 22

Register by signing up at the children's desk at the library.

Fizz Boom Read is the theme of the 2014 Summer Library Program. The program is open to children from birth through high school. The independent reading portion of the program is individualized and self-paced. All children will receive a reading record to keep track of the time spent reading or being read to. Record the number of minutes spent reading (or being read to) to be able to earn prizes. Prizes are earned for every two hours spent reading with the top prize at ten hours. Prizes may continue to be earned at every two hours until 20 hours is reached. The program also includes special performances, game afternoons, movies, and many special events throughout the summer.

SUMMER STORYTIMES

Register by signing up at the children's desk at the library.

Babytime: (Ages 0-23 months and caregiver – Tuesdays at 9:30 a.m.) We read stories, do lap bounces, fingerplays, songs, and rhymes. Runs: Tuesdays, June 10-August 5

Toddler Lapsit: (Ages 24-36 months and caregiver – Tuesdays at 10:45 a.m.) We read, do felt-board stories, wiggle dances, fingerplays, songs, and rhymes. Runs: Tuesdays, June 10-August 5

Preschool Storytime: (Ages 3-5 years – Thursdays at 10:30 a.m. or 1 p.m.) It features stories, songs, wiggle dances, fingerplays, rhymes, and crafts. Runs: Thursdays, June 12 – August 7 – two sessions, choose between morning or afternoon.

FALL STORYTIMES

Fall storytimes programs for babies and toddlers will begin Tuesday, September 9. Preschool storytime for 3-5 year olds starts Thursday, September 11. Registration will begin Monday, August 25.

PAWS TO READ

Dates and times TBA, but our popular read-to-a-dog program will be back for summer sessions. Contact the children's desk for more information or to sign up!

LEGO AFTERNOONS (grades K-5)

Lego time will be held on Monday afternoons 4-5 p.m. Join us for a fun hour of building Lego creations and sculptures. Dates: June 16 and 30; July 14 and 28; August 11

WEDNESDAY KIDS' PROGRAMS

All of our Wednesday programs are large-group performances or activity sessions. The programs will take place in the lower level community room at 10:30 a.m. unless otherwise noted.

June 11: Nature Connection – Scaly Skins

June 18: Dazzling Dave – Yo-yo show and demonstration

June 25: Brian Richards – magician

No Program on July 2

July 9: Crafts and games

July 16 Trip to UWRF planetarium

July 23: Bob Kahn: Storyteller, Juggler, and Musician

July 30: Simple Science Experiments

MOVIE AND GAME AFTERNOONS

Friday afternoons at 1 p.m., we will host either a movie or games. Movie titles will be announced. Games may run from board games to card games to other game suggestions. For grades 6-12.

Movies: June 13, June 27, July 18, August 1

Game Days: June 20, July 11, July 25, August 8

POOLSIDE STORY HOUR

We are hoping to offer short poolside story times during breaks when it's time for 'Everyone out of the pool!' Days and dates haven't been finalized as of press time, so watch for more information.

BOOK DISCUSSION GROUPS FOR YOUTH

Books are selected by group members. Participants receive a copy of the book to keep. All meetings take place in the Board Room.

High School: Second Tuesday of each month from 4-5 p.m.

Dates: May 13, June 10, July 8, August 5, September 2

Middle School: First Tuesday of each month from 4-5 p.m.

Dates: May 6, June 3, July 1, August 5, September 2

4th & 5th Grade: Third Tuesday of each month during the school year. Time: 4-5 p.m.

Dates: May 20, September 16

BOOK CLUB IN A BAR – Adult Summer Reading Program

Back by popular demand! Our Book Club in a Bar program will be meeting at local taverns again this summer. We will meet on a Wednesday each month. Copies of the books will be available from the library and through the MORE system.

• June 25, at 6:30 p.m., Mainstreeter's, 212 South Main Street, RF – Robocalypse by Daniel H. Wilson

• July 23, 6:30 p.m., The West Wind, 709 North Main Street, RF – The Poisoner's Handbook by Deborah Blum

• August 20, 6:30 p.m., American Legion Hall, 701 North Main Street, RF – Visiting Tom by Michael Perry

Library Events/Programs

Foreign Film Series

Dates/Time: Mondays, July 21-August 25, 2014, at 7 p.m.

Place: River Falls Public Library, Community Room

Camping with Bears – Saturday, May 3, 1 p.m.

Spend some time with camping expert and wilderness guide, Cliff Jacobson, learning the do's and don'ts of spending quality time in the great outdoors.

Library Programs and Events

(continued from page 4)

Antiques with Mark Moran – June 7, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Here's another opportunity to have your special antique appraised by a professional! Mr. Moran is the author of more than 25 books on antiques and collectibles, and has been a guest expert on a popular PBS show. The event is limited to 40 objects, so please call ahead to reserve your slot. There will be a small charge to hold your place. Contact Katie in the gallery, 715-426-3496, or katiec@riverfallspubliclibrary.org.

Annual Flower Show – July 9, 6 p.m.

The flower show is sponsored by the Library and the First National Bank of River Falls & Prescott. All entries are due Wednesday, July 9, no later than 6 p.m. Judging begins at 6:15 p.m. Categories include traditional, miniature, River Falls Days theme (to be announced), and Reflections (this category open to adults only.) More information available at the library and on our website. Cash prizes and ribbons for both adults and youth (14 and under). There will be a free flower arranging class offered in mid-June by Julie Matuszak, a flower competition judge. Check the library website for date and time.

Kiddie Parade at the Public Library – July 12, 10 a.m.-12 noon

Cutest and shortest parade in town! Registration and line-up begin at 10 a.m. on the south side of the building. Parade steps off at 10:30 a.m. Categories will be announced closer to event, but always include Favorite Characters from stories, films or TV; Wheels (bikes, trikes, and wagons); something related to the River Falls Days theme, and a miscellaneous catch-all category for everything else! Fun and prizes for all.

There will also be games and activities provided by River Falls 4 Children (RF4C), and a wonderful petting zoo provided by Fantasy Corral on the library lawn, along with other fun surprises!

In the Lower Level Kleinpell Gallery

April 27-May 23 – A Student of the Arts: The Annual All-School Art Show

Artwork by students of all ages from the River Falls School and Homeschool Groups.

June 7-July 12 – Science for Kids of All Ages

July 19-August 16 – Sheltering Nature: A Project Art for Nature Collaborative Exhibit

August 23-September 21 – SHE: Women of Legend

2014 Board of Review

The 2014 Board of Review will be held on Thursday, June 5, 2014, from 8:30-10:30 a.m. The Board of Review is a quasi-judicial board that meets to verify the information provided by the Assessor and to hear objections from property owners.

Any city property owner may file an objection to the Board of Review regarding the assessed value placed on their property. The Board will hear oral evidence from the objector. The objector must provide the Board with evidence that supports their opinion of property value. The completed Form PA-115A including supporting documents must be given to the City Clerk 48 hours prior to the Board of Review date.

Please call the City Clerk 715-426-3408 prior to June 2, 2014, for an appointment and to obtain an objection form.

For more information regarding property assessment, the Guide for Property Owners may be viewed at <http://www.dor.state.wi.us/pubs> or visit the City's web site at www.rfcity.org

If you were not able to attend Open Book to speak with the City Assessor and feel an error has been made to your property record, please contact the Assessor at 1-800-721-4157. Corrections of errors may be addressed without attending Board of Review but must be made prior to the scheduled Board of Review Meeting. ~

City's Spring Cleanup Begins May 12

Each May, a spring cleanup is provided for residents of the City of River Falls who are currently billed for City garbage service by Advanced Disposal. Residents bringing items for disposal will be asked to present a form of identification and a copy of a recent invoice for City garbage service from Advanced Disposal. People who do not qualify will not be allowed to dispose of their goods.

Spring clean-up begins May 12 and runs for one week at the City Public Works Garage located at 950 Benson Street. There will also be a one week fall clean up beginning October 20. Both clean-up events will have the following hours: Monday through Friday – 4 to 8 p.m. and Saturday – 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Advanced Disposal reserves the right to refuse any hazardous materials. Pierce County Solid Waste 715-273-3092 also offers a clean sweep program each September for disposal of many hazardous waste products generated by City of River Falls residents who are also Pierce County residents.

Any calls regarding questions on what can be discarded should be directed to Advanced Disposal at 866-983-6542. For more information, visit www.rfcity.org/cleanup. ~

City's Brush/Compost Site Opened in April

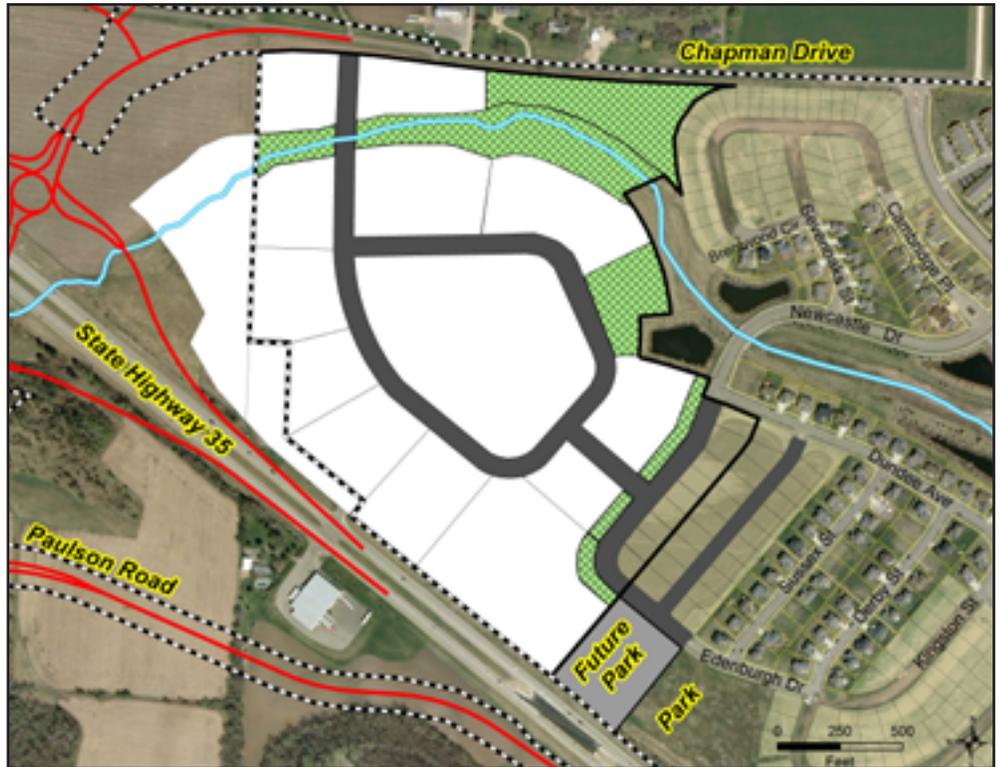


The City's brush/compost facility (yard waste site) is located at 901 W. Locust Street, two blocks west of Winter Street near the River Falls School Bus Garage. This site is for disposal of yard waste and brush only. The site is open April through November during daylight hours. Material must be removed from plastic and other non-compostable bags. A dumpster is available at the site for disposal of the bags. Compost and woodchips are available at the site for residents on a first come, self-serve basis. Please help us by self-monitoring the site. The use of this site is for City of River Falls residents only. ~

Sterling Ponds Corporate Park Update

One of the major goals for the City Council is to promote economic vitality by seeking additional land for corporate park development. To implement this goal in 2011, the City purchased 74 acres from Sterling Ponds Development and rezoned the property from residential to a corporate park use. In 2013, the Plan Commission, staff, and residents of Sterling Ponds held meetings to discuss site design and design standards for a new Corporate Park that meets the needs of the City and addresses the issues of adjacent residents. Numerous site plans were drafted by staff based on the comments at the workshops and on preliminary engineering, mapped floodway and utility extensions.

This past February, the Plan Commission recommended, and the City Council approved a concept site plan and development covenants for the Sterling Ponds Corporate Park. The concept site plan provides a tree lined circular roadway with an adjacent pedestrian pathway that will access Chapman Drive to the north and Newcastle Drive to the south. The Corporate Park will consist of approximately twelve lots ranging in size from 5-12 acres. Newcastle Drive will also be extended west to Edinburgh Drive which leads to a future three acre park that is adjacent to the existing four acre park in the Sterling Ponds neighborhood.



This new Sterling Ponds Corporate Park will complement the Whitetail Ridge Corporate Park which is located south of STH 35 in both design and land use.

The Development Covenants and Design Guidelines encourage consistent and compatible development of the properties while enhancing and protecting the value, desirability, and attractiveness. Covenants and design guidelines run with all of the properties and benefit the City and all property owners, occupants, and their successors. The covenants and design guidelines cover permitted and prohibited uses, minimum lot size, building size, construction material, colors of building, signage, lighting, parking, required landscaping and other performance operation. The covenants provide for two residents from Sterling Ponds neighborhood to be part of the Architectural Review Committee (ARC). ARC reviews all site plans and design for development in the Park.

The site concept plan and Development Covenants and Design Guidelines may be viewed on the City of River Falls Community Development Department webpage (www.rfcity.org/communitydevelopment). If you have any questions, please contact Buddy Lucero (blucero@rfcity.org).



Spotlight on Spring Creek Estates

Spring Creek Estates was established in 2005. It is 1.31 acres and is located south of the downtown district at 1837 Greenwood Valley Drive in the middle of the Spring Creek Subdivision. Spring Creek offers a play structure including a climbing wall and three slides. A basketball half-court was been added. There are picnic tables and benches and also many pathways including bike and walking trails connecting the park to other areas in the subdivision and the City.

May is Historic Preservation Month

Since the National Trust for Historic Preservation created Preservation Week in 1971 to spotlight grassroots preservation efforts in America, it has grown into an annual celebration observed by small towns and big cities with events ranging from architectural and historic tours and award ceremonies, to fundraising events, educational programs and heritage travel opportunities. In 2005, due to its overwhelming popularity, the National Trust for Historic Preservation extended the celebration to the entire month of May and declared it Historic Preservation Month to provide an even longer opportunity to celebrate the diverse and unique heritage of our country's cities and states and enable more Americans to become involved in the growing preservation movement.

The City of River Falls and its residents have made many efforts to preserve its historic resources. In 2003, the City of River Falls achieved Certified Local Government status by the State Historic Preservation Officer. Since the 1970s, the citizens of River Falls have been active in historic preservation activities that eventually led to four structures being included in the National Register of Historic Places. They include South Hall, North Hall, the Freeman House, and the Glen Park Swimming Pool which celebrated its 75th Anniversary in 2012. In addition, the River Falls Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) has been working on many local historic preservation projects. They include local landmark designation and placing history plaques on downtown businesses and more. In recent years the HPC has been active in efforts to preserve Glover Station School. (See article on Glover Station School page 12). In 2014, the City will be updating its Architectural and Historic Survey with assistance of a grant from the State of Wisconsin. The survey will include structures built up to 1975.

It is important to preserve historic resources because they are the heart of communities like River Falls. River Falls will continue to work to maintain its unique and historic resources for future generations. Historic buildings give character to the community and help bring tourism revenue. Please stop by and visit the Historic Preservation Commission booth during River Falls Days. ~



National EMS Week is May 18-24

During EMS Week, River Falls EMS visits all 3rd grade classrooms in River

Falls and presents the "Personal Safety for Kids" program. This is a presentation on personal safety initiatives, and the kids receive a tour of the ambulances.

Each child is given their own "Personal Safety for Kids" book and DVD to take home. Over the years, this program has been well-received and supported by the community, the kids and their parents.

This will be the 14th consecutive year that River Falls EMS has presented this program. This program is graciously sponsored by several local community organizations, businesses, and individuals. Community Safety Net is the coordinating agency that helps secure funds for the program and supplies our department with the booklets and DVD resources that are given to the kids.

This year marks the 40th anniversary of River Falls' Emergency Medical service 1974-2014. ~



2014 Summer Events

Town 'N Country Day – Sunday, June 8

Celebrate River Falls' agricultural heritage! Kick off your day with a FREE breakfast at Dick's Fresh Market! Spend the day with your family enjoying kid's activities, a barnyard petting zoo, heritage tractor display, and a street dance! Top off your day with FREE root beer floats from Security Financial Bank.

River Falls Days – Thursday-Sunday, July 10-13

Celebrate the 40th Annual River Falls Days! This four-day community event offers something for the entire family! Festivities include a Friday evening parade, 10K/2M/ 1K Fun Run, live music, street dance, food vendors, truck and tractor pulls, fireworks, and more!

Summer Car Cruze-Ins

Enjoy oldies music, great food, and plenty to see as you stroll down Main Street and check out classic vehicles during the following four Sundays: June 8, July 13, August 10 and September 14.

Bacon Bash – Saturday and Sunday, September 13-14

This two-day festival celebrates all things bacon! Enjoy pig-themed activities for the entire family, live music, merchandise from artists/vendors, eating competitions and more! Come out and sample bacon-inspired dishes from various restaurants and food vendors.

All of the events are sponsored by the River Falls Chamber of Commerce and Tourism Bureau. For more information, please visit their website at www.rfchamber.com or call 715-425-2533. ~

Touch-A-Truck is Coming June 14!

The popular community event, Touch-A-Truck for Kids, will be held Saturday, June 14, from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. at the River Falls High School parking lot. The event was moved to the River Falls High School parking lots allowing more space for trucks, event goers and parking accommodations. The event is free to attend.

A new addition to this year's event includes a 1942 M4 Sherman military tank. The usual favorites, large earth movers, road grader, cranes, school bus, bucket trucks, emergency vehicles, helicopters and much more, will also be on display to see and get in.

The event is held every other year the day before Father's Day. Touch-A-Truck is locally produced by Joe Covelli and Dick Rinehart. Thank you to the River Falls High School and the generous support of sponsors and truck and vehicle owners and operators which makes this event possible. Don't miss your chance to share this event with a child to see these big vehicles up close and from the inside.

For more information, visit the website www.Touch-A-Truck.com or search the event on Facebook. ~



Reid receiving the 2013 Municipal Engineer of the year Award. From left: City Administrator, Scot Simpson; Reid Wronski; and Alderperson David Cronk

Reid Wronski is Municipal Engineer of the Year

The City Engineers Association of Minnesota (CEAM) has recognized Reid Wronski, Director of Public Works/City Engineer, as the 2013 Municipal Engineer of the Year. Wronski has been a member of CEAM for 21 years. The award was presented at the CEAM 2014 Annual Conference on January 29, 2014.

It may seem unusual for the City Engineers Association of Minnesota recognize a member from Wisconsin. Reid's active membership demonstrates the value of the regional organization and acknowledges the role of the City of River Falls in the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area. His commitment to excellence transcends borders and is celebrated across the region.

Reid has been with the City of River Falls since 1999. In his role with the City, Reid oversees the Public Works and Engineering Departments. He serves on the Plan Commission and is a member of the City's Executive Team. Reid is the lead on the City's infrastructure projects including Ninth Street Reconstruction, the Radio Road Interchange and Cascade Avenue Reconstruction.

The completed the Cascade Avenue Reconstruction Project, received the 2013 Minnesota Chapter APWA Project of the Year Award and also the 2014 Wisconsin Chapter APWA Project of the Year. On this project, Reid, along with other City staff, worked in the collaboration with staff at the Wisconsin Department of Transportation and the University of Wisconsin-River Falls to reconstruct Cascade Avenue which runs through the heart of the campus. This collaboration allowed the project to be funded through an innovation cooperative agreement making it unnecessary to use local property taxes to pay for the project. Congratulations Reid on your outstanding achievement! ~



2013 Firefighter of the Year – Dean Grisar

"He's a great asset to our department," says Fire Chief Scott Nelson of Dean Grisar, who was recently awarded 2013 River Falls Firefighter of the Year. Dean, who is currently a lieutenant with the department, has served since 2000. He also contributes by being an instructor with the Chippewa Valley Technical College's fire program.

The Firefighter of the Year award was started in 1977 after a child was rescued from a fire. Past recipients of the annual award meet and select the new inductee based on attendance, attitude, team spirit and their overall contribution to the department.

Assistant Chief Mike Moody, a past recipient of the award, said, "It was a tough decision this year. Dean stood out because of his dedication and work with training new recruits."

Dean's stepfather was Fire Chief in a small town near Rhinelander, giving him an early introduction to the firefighting family. After 14 years with the River Falls Fire Department, one of the things Dean says he enjoys most is "the camaraderie that I have with the guys at the fire hall." He is quick to add that he couldn't do this without the support of his wife, Sue, and daughter and son, Alison and Dennis.

Ever humble, Dean acknowledged the award and thanked his peers, "They saw something in me, and I'd like to thank them for this honor." ~

Bicycle Rodeo is July 12

During River Falls Days, the River Falls Police Department along with the River Falls Area Hospital is sponsoring a Bicycle Rodeo on Saturday, July 12. The rodeo will take place from 12 noon to 2 p.m. at the River Falls State Bank's East Parking lot located on East Walnut Street between Second and Third Streets. This event is free and open for children of all ages.

The Bicycle Rodeo consists of stations where children can practice their bicycle skills, such as avoiding obstacles in the roadway, looking back while riding, and the use of hand signals. All children will need to bring their own bicycle and helmet to participate in this fun, educational, an instructional event. ~



River Falls Days

Each year the River Falls Chamber of Commerce & Tourism Bureau looks forward to providing the community with fun, family-friendly events to enjoy! In planning for the River Falls Days' 40th year celebration, as well as a new venue change, we have learned how River Falls Days originally came to be. Started in 1974 as "Old Fashioned Bargain Days", it was originated as a way to attract customers into downtown stores. In the beginning, there were no parades, carnivals, or Miss River Falls contestants. It's amazing to see how the festival has grown over the years! Now a four day event, River Falls Days includes live music, a truck and tractor pull, an evening parade, a 10K/2M/1K kids' fun run, fireworks and much more!

The biggest change this year will be the relocation from the privately owned First National Bank location to City property in Heritage Park and parking lot, Maple Street, and the surrounding area northeast of City Hall. Prior to the move decision, a strategic planning committee was formed complete with community representatives both heavily involved in the planning of River Falls Days, as well as others passionate about making improvements to the existing event. This committee surveyed over 200 community members, researched neighboring festivals, and held community forums prior to making any proposed changes. The results of these outreach efforts identified a strong preference in keeping the event within walking distance of Main Street and adding more family-friendly events and activities. The Chamber is optimistic that the new location will give this long-standing traditional event new energy. One of the most exciting aspects of the move is the opportunity to highlight the scenic Kinnickinnic River.

Along with the venue relocation, there are also other exciting changes that are being planned along with this 40th year celebration.

- **Schedule Changes.** Since the addition of a Thursday night band and festivities a few years ago, participation has been sparse. In an effort to redistribute volunteer commitments, Thursday's activities downtown have been eliminated. The truck pull traditionally held at the north end of town on Sunday will now take place Thursday evening. With these changes in place, there is optimism that festival attendees that have attended Thursday evening's activities in the past will either attend the truck pull to kick off the festival weekend or take the night off and gear up for a fun Friday and Saturday instead.
- **Food Booths Closer to Main Stage Activities.** In an effort to eliminate barriers associated with physically separating food from music and alcoholic beverages, the food booths will be relocated within the fenced in area of the festival grounds. With this in mind, it is also important to note that there will not be a cover charge required to enter the food area and festival attendees of ALL ages will continue to be encouraged and welcome. Only a few steps from the carnival and family focused activities, this relocation will also provide the opportunity for food vendors to easily fulfill the needs of those late night cravings.
- **Family-Owned Carnival.** We are excited to bring a multi-generationally owned carnival to our festival this year. 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 these new rides, games and more!

- **Friday Night Cover Charge Eliminated.** Realizing there are many no/low cost opportunities to gather with friends and family throughout town River Falls Days weekend, we are eliminating the cover charge traditionally associated with the entrance into the fenced band/beer/food area on Friday night. By eliminating this gate charge, we hope everyone will stop by and check out the great band and new location – even if they only have a few minutes. We would love to duplicate this offer on Saturday as well, but at this time we have not secured sponsorships to offset this revenue source. (If interested, give us a call!)
- **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. Complete with a community picnic organized by our local hospital/clinic campus, a FISH all-star baseball game at our new community ball field, and fireworks, it is sure to be a great way to wrap up a fun community celebration.

With a focus on balancing the importance of tradition and new opportunities, we look forward to celebrating our 40th 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 us. We thank you in advance for your patience as we work through any transitional obstacles and look forward to seeing you and your family at our events this summer!

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



Sergeant Aubart Attends FBI Academy

City of River Falls Police Sergeant Jon Aubart attended the 256th session of the Federal Bureau of Investigation National Academy from January 20– March 28, 2014, held at Quantico, Virginia. The National Academy is a ten week professional course of study for United States and international law enforcement leaders. Coursework included Criminal Justice Research, Legal Issues Impacting Law Enforcement Operations, Leadership in Law Enforcement, Computer crimes, Death Investigations, Forensic Science and Fitness in Law Enforcement.

Sgt. Aubart states, “The course work was both challenging and enlightening. The experiences shared by fellow students were exceptional. It is an incredible opportunity to work with others from across the nation and around the world. The instructors and speakers are among the best and provide a great experience.” Congratulations to Sgt. Aubart! ~



Reserve a Shelter!

Two of the City’s parks (Glen and Hoffman Park) have enclosed shelter buildings that are available for use by the general public. Reservations are taken after January 1

of each year. There is a \$30 fee. If you need an alcohol permit for more than a liter, it will require an additional \$50 deposit which is refunded after the event date.

The Glen Park shelter has two sides which are available to reserve. The west side is larger and holds about 75 people. The east side of Glen Park and Hoffman Park shelters hold about 40 people. All enclosed 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. ~



Camp at Hoffman Park

In 1987, the River Falls Park and Recreation Board decided to use part of Hoffman Park as a City campground. Lorin Frey, City Council and Park Board representative and avid camper, brought the idea to forefront, and as they say, the rest is history! Hoffman Park is open, weather permitting, April 15-October 30. The cost is \$15 per site. There are 15 sites available on a first come, first serve basis with electricity, shower facilities, and a dump station available. Hoffman Park offers a quiet scenic area with hiking and biking trails, ball fields, and volleyball courts. It is located close to the downtown area so it is easy to visit the restaurants or the stores. The campsite’s busiest weekend of use is River Falls Days (July 10-13), as Hoffman Park hosts an annual softball tournament. If you have any questions, please call our Recreation Office at 715-425-0924. ~



Summer Bicycle Safety

As we approach summer, bicyclists become a familiar sight. The Police Department would like to emphasize bicycle safety for all users. Some important tips include:

- Always wear a bicycle helmet
- Wear bright colored clothing so others can see you
- One seat = only one rider
- Obey traffic signs and ride on the correct side of the road
- Light to the front and reflector to the rear at night
- Keep your bicycle in good repair to include functioning brakes and quality tires
- Lock your bicycle when unattended

Helmet use and good safety practices are very important to avoid injuries! In partnership with the River Falls School District, the Department coordinates the sale of bicycle helmets and provides bicycle safety talks to students at the elementary schools. During these talks, the rules of the road and general bicycle safety is emphasized.

Bicycle licenses are required for City residents and can be obtained at the Police Department. The cost is \$2 per license. Having a license assists officers in returning recovered bicycles to the rightful owner. If you lose your bicycle, or it is stolen, please make sure to contact the Police Department.

We encourage everyone to practice safe bicycling! If anyone should need additional information, please contact the Police Department at 715-425-0909. ~

First National Bank Field

Dreams Do Come True

It has been two years since the City of River Falls signed a Lease, Maintenance and Operation Agreement with the River Falls Baseball Council (RFBC) for the use of seven acres east of Hoffman Park and Hanson Road for an official competition baseball field. In February 2013, the City Council approved a guarantee for RFBC to obtain a bank loan for an amount not to exceed \$300,000. This helped finance the infrastructure and overall development of the field. RFBC is working on raising approximately \$15,000 to meet the total construction costs of \$800,000. Construction started in the spring of 2013.



River Falls Baseball Council is a Wisconsin non-profit organization which includes representation from all levels of baseball in River Falls, from youth to men's amateur. In 2012, city staff collaborated on a feasibility study with the RFBC and the Park and Recreation Advisory Board in reviewing a number of potential sites before selecting this location. Staff drafted a 20 year Lease, Maintenance and Operation Agreement that was approved by City Council. Plans for the baseball field were approved in the winter of 2013 with construction to start and be completed this spring.

What has ultimately emerged from the fundraising and planning done by the RFBC is more than just a competition baseball field. The new ballpark at Hoffman Park East is turning out to be a gem of a facility for River Falls and Western Wisconsin. With its amenities geared toward spectators, it gives residents of River Falls an affordable, fun place to gather on beautiful summer evenings. The facility truly has a focus on community togetherness as much as competition baseball.

First National Bank of River Falls Field is being developed in phases with the first phase in 2013 with the grading of the property, extension of sanitary sewer, water service, electricity, irrigation and landscaping. The second phase started in the fall of 2013 with the construction of the lighting, grandstands, dugouts and bullpen. In the spring of 2014, the completion of the second phase will be the batting cage, playground, concession building and press box. The parking lot is not scheduled at this time.

The proposed baseball field will be a complement to the existing Hoffman Park and will answer the need for a competition baseball in the City of River Falls. If you would like to help complete the dream, please contact Josh Eidem of the RFBC at 651-335-0030. ~

2014 Trends Report

With the help of many departments, organizations, and individuals, the 2014 Trends Report is complete. Now in its 13th year, the Annual Trends Report provides a statistical snapshot of changes in the City of River Falls throughout the previous calendar year. These statistics serve as a measure of growth and progress towards goals outlined in the city's Comprehensive Plan. In addition to being used as a tool for future planning, the Annual Trends Report serves as an informative resource for community members.

Updated information is provided by City of River Falls staff and community leaders. Other data found in this year's report was gathered from the Comprehensive Plan, the U.S. Census, the American Community Survey (ACS), the Wisconsin Department of Transportation, the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development, and the Wisconsin Department of Administration (DOA).

Inside the 2014 Trends Report, readers can find information about population growth, commercial and residential development, transportation, emergency services, finances, utilities, library services, educational institutions, and recreational opportunities. This year, a new section highlighting "Green Initiatives" in River Falls has been added.

Printed copies of the Annual Trends Report can be found at City Hall and the River Falls Public Library. An electronic copy and informational video describing the report is available on the City's website at www.rfcity.org. ~

Council Approves Water Connection for Grow to Share Community Garden

"Grow to Share" is a non-profit organization dedicated to engaging community members in a volunteer-based garden and sharing the harvest with those in need. Since the organization's beginning in 2009, Grow to Share has donated over 25,000 pounds of fresh fruits and vegetables to area food pantries, shelters and families participating in the Weekly Produce Share.

As a 2014 class project, Leadership River Falls assisted Grow to Share in obtaining irrigation to their garden plots. The class worked with Grow to Share and River Falls Municipal Utilities on engineering solutions for the project. The irrigation project includes the installation of a water meter and a private water lateral from an existing City water main on Hanson Drive that is adjacent to the new baseball field.

On April 8, the City Council approved the project. The installation of the water line and a meter for measuring usage, will ultimately provide means to more efficiently water the plants. Grow to Share's volunteers will not need to haul water to the site. Drip line irrigation and more efficient watering techniques will permit for better use of volunteer hours. Most importantly, an available water supply means more water for the plants and more produce grown and shared. For more information on Grow to Share, please visit their website at www.growtoshare.org. ~

Glover Station School

Glover Station School House was built in 1920 and for many years served as a one room school for students in the Town of Troy. As time passed the era of one room school disappeared and the building was repurposed as a Town Hall and functioned in that capacity until the Town of Troy ceased using it in 2002. At the same time DeSanctis Park was being developed and the development plan called for an educational center in the middle of the park. The school was a good fit with the plan and its availability offered an opportunity to save and preserve it as a community resource. Glover Station School was purchased for one dollar and found a permanent home in DeSanctis Park.



Glover Station School has been a work in progress that will be an asset to the community for generations to come. Improvements to the building have been incremental as funds are made available. In the short time it has been there it has become a signature feature of the Park. The City Historic Preservation Commission has been developing ideas for the future use of the school with the theme of recreating the atmosphere of a one room country school. Plans are being made to bring groups of students to the school so that they may experience and learn from its history. The building will also be available for general use by the public. Recently the City received a private donation and a grant from the Pierce County Historical Society to help in the restoration efforts. This money will be used for improvements to restore the front entry way and foyer and finish improvements to the school room. Another grant has been received to purchase furnishings for the school. Others have donated desks, books and other furnishings to help recreate the atmosphere of a one room school. However, much more needs to be done, including a restroom, a utility room, sewer and water connections, restoration of exterior clapboards and installation of a school bell.



The Historic Preservation Commission is currently seeking additional sources of funding for the restoration. If you are interested in helping or have information on the history and its alumni, please contact the Community Development Department at 715-426-3424. ~

Radio Road Interchange

As you may have noticed, H. James and Sons, Inc. out of Fennimore, Wisconsin, made good progress in 2013 constructing a new grade separated interchange at Radio Road and State Highway 35 for the Wisconsin Department of Transportation. The \$12.2M project will result in the elimination of two at-grade intersections that have been the site of numerous fatal and serious accidents. This interchange has been discussed since the mid 1990's and is expected to be opened in the fall of 2014. Construction of this interchange is part of a process to convert Highway 35 between River Falls and Hudson into a freeway.

Work left to be complete in 2014 includes:

- Paving of three roundabouts. Two at the interchange ramps east and west of the bridge and one where Paulson Road intersects Radio Road.
- Placement of the bridge deck and walls.
- Paving of the bridge approaches.
- Paving of the on and off ramps.
- Final top layer of asphalt paving for Paulson Road.
- Installation of street lighting.
- Paving of a trail along the south side of Radio Road from Paulson Road, across the bridge to projects eastern limits.



Upon opening of this interchange, access to Highway 35 from County U and Whitetail Boulevard as it currently exists will be closed. Chapman Drive will be re-signed as County U. The City of River Falls' share of the project is approximately \$4.5 million. ~



Comforts of Home

The River Falls Comforts of Home complex offers a variety of senior living options. It is located on the south side of the city bordering Hwy 29 and County Road FF, in the South Pointe addition. The construction of the first building, a 43-unit apartment building, began in 2006 and included a cafeteria, health care assistance and other amenities. In 2007, they added a 28-unit Community Based Residential Facility (CBRF) that is located to the west of the main building. They built another 20-unit apartment building to the north of the CBRF in 2008 that is intended for senior independent living. They are now completing the fourth building, a 40-unit CBRF located on the east side of the main structure. Total construction cost for all four buildings was approximately \$11.3 million.

Comforts of Home designed the project with the concept that seniors could transition from independent living, to where some assisted living and memory care services are available, and to the CBRF style of living where trained and certified on-site staff, with an additional medical oversight such as a "House-Call" doctor, are ready to assist when needed.

For more information about Comforts of Home, visit the website at www.wpseniorliving.com or call 715-425-1530. ~

Rain Barrel Rebate Program

Years ago many people had wooden barrels in their backyards collecting rainwater to use later for watering flowers and other plants. Today that idea is making a comeback! Through a joint effort between the City of River Falls and River Falls Municipal Utilities, a \$30 rebate is now available for the purchase of a rain barrel for your property. Rain barrels are attached to downspouts which collect storm water running off your roof when it rains. The rainwater collected in the barrel can be used for watering your plants or garden during dry times of the year and even to wash your car.

Why should I use a rain barrel?

Lawn and garden water makes up approximately 40 percent of total household water use in the summer. A rain barrel can save you money in the summer by lowering your water bill by reducing irrigation water usage. One inch of rain falling on a 1,000 square foot roof adds up to 623 gallons of water! Obviously one rain barrel will not be able to catch all that water but every little bit helps!

Collected rainwater is better for plants and lawns because it isn't chlorinated like your tap water is.

Reduce water pollution by reducing storm water runoff which can contain pollutants.

Storing rainwater for lawn and garden use helps recharge the groundwater which feeds local rivers. Rain barrels can be purchased through Sustain Hudson, online and at some home improvement retailers.

For more information go to www.rfcity.org/barrel or contact Kristy Treichel at ktreichel@rfcity.org or 715-426-3412. ~

Relicensing the Hydroelectric Dams

The City of River Falls has begun the process of relicensing the hydroelectric dams at Junction Falls and Powell Falls. In November 2013, the City submitted its Notice of Intent to relicense the dams to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC).

In January 2014, FERC approved the City to use the traditional licensing process. It required a public meeting and site visit to the dams that was held on March 24, 2014. Information on what was discussed at that meeting, the relicensing process, and all studies and related communication can be found at www.rfcity.org/hydro.

A hard copy of the City's Notice of Intent and Pre-Application Document, with information on the resource needs of the Kinnickinnic River, can be found at the River Falls Public Library as well as the City's website at www.rfcity.org. Questions or comments can be directed to Ray French at rfrench@rfcity.org or 715-426-3437. ~

Adopt-a-Pond Program Seeks Volunteers

The City is seeking interested residents, community groups or businesses to "adopt" storm water management areas within the City of River Falls to provide inspection, oversight, and minor maintenance such as trash and debris removal on a regularly scheduled basis. Adopters will be recognized with a sign at the pond they are adopting.

For form information regarding this program please visit www.rfcity.org/adopt, or contact Kristy Treichel, ktreichel@rfcity.org, 715-426-3412. ~

"LIKE" RFCTV Sports Score Facebook Page!



Attention River Falls sports enthusiasts! "Like" our new River Falls Community Television Sports Scores page on Facebook at www.facebook.com/RFCTV.sports for complete and comprehensive up-to-the-minute sports scores and sports information for all River Falls sporting activities. Join the page and keep abreast of college, high school, youth and club sports as they happen in River Falls. Also feel free to contribute your team scores, pictures, videos to the page! This is your local community sports page! ~

Golf View Water Tower Project

Golf View water tower is slated to be reconditioned and touched up this summer with some fresh paint. The main focus of the project will be to high pressure wash the tank and do some minor exterior paint touch-ups. There will also be some minor hand railing maintenance and other small physical repairs done. This project is going out to bid with an expected completion by late summer. There will be communication with the neighborhood prior to the commencement of the project. ~



City Sweepers

The City has used mechanical broom street sweepers for decades and found them to be reliable and reasonable for the City's uses. The use of this type of sweeper will come to an end in 2014 as the City replaces its mechanical sweeper with a regenerative air vacuum sweeper to achieve greater productivity and better performance.

Regenerative air sweepers use a controlled blast of air to dislodge debris from the pavement surface. The debris are confined within a pickup head and directed up the large diameter suction hose into the hopper. Regenerative air sweepers do not exhaust air into the atmosphere like a traditional vacuum.

Mechanical sweepers, while very effective at picking up heavier dirt and sand, have proven to be less effective at picking up leaves on the pavement. Streets with heavy leaf cover that take 2-3 passes from the mechanical sweeper are cleared by the regenerative air sweeper in one pass. Furthermore, the regenerative air sweeper picks up approximately 6 times more leaves in its hopper than the mechanical sweeper is capable of due to the compacting nature of this type of sweeper.

Our current operations the mechanical sweeper's small hopper and slow travel speed requires us to dump hopper into a truck for transport to the compost site. The mechanical sweeper generally re-sweeps gutters a second time while the truck transports the leaves to the compost facility resulting in a continuous operation that involves two operators, a truck, and a sweeper.

With a regenerative air sweeper, one operator can operate independently, clearing gutters in one pass and drive to the compost site to dump, effectively freeing up an estimated 340 hours per year of driver and a truck time valued at over \$30,000. Furthermore, the sweeper operator will cover more territory despite having to travel to and from the compost site because they will be able to pick up leaves in one pass rather than 2 or 3, saving an estimated 100 hours per year valued at over \$10,000.

The regenerative air sweeper will perform noticeably better for more than 90 percent of our operations. The one downside from a performance standpoint is cleaning heavy sand deposits, caked on dirt, and heavy stick/branch debris. We have eliminated most sanding of our roadways. Wind storms producing significant branch/stick debris are rare and we have alternative cleanup options for such events.

Look for our new regenerative air sweeper to be operating around the City beginning this spring. If you have any questions regarding this change in sweepers, feel free to contact Reid Wronski, Director of Public Works/City Engineer at 715-426-3409 or rwnski@rfcity.org.

Cable Channel 18

At the end of 2013, the City acquired Cable Channel 18 from the River Falls School District. The City continues to operate River Falls Community Television on Channel 16. RFC-TV is a community access center. RFC-TV is all about River Falls: its people, groups, organizations and events. While the programs may differ, the theme is the same – "Bringing River Falls Home to You!"

Here's a breakdown of programs you can find on Channel 16 and Channel 18:

River Falls Community Television Channel 16-Bringing River Falls Home to You!

- Local Sports: Wildcat Football, Volleyball, Girls/Boys Basketball, Girls/Boys Hockey, Girls/Boys Soccer
- Local Church Services – Church Block every Wednesday evening and Thursday mornings
- Local Events – River Falls Days Parade, Music in the Park, Relay for Life, Memorial Day Ceremony, Veterans Day Program, River Dazzle, Art on the Kinni, Threshing Bee, Falcon Rodeo
- Volunteer Programs – Rock Talk, FESTIVAL!, Arts Alive in River Falls, DJ's Book Review and Beverage, Constitutional Rights, Bowl of Fun!, 20 Questions
- Local Non-Profit Informational Videos – Over 160 Area Non-Profits utilize RFC-TV!

City Source Channel 18-Be a City Insider

- City Government Programs like Your City at Work, City View, Community Connections and River Falls in Focus with Mayor Dan Toland.
- Other specially produced City Programs
- Live City Council, Plan Commission and Utility Advisory Board Meetings
- Multiple playback of City Meetings
- Northwestern Wisconsin News from WEAU TV 13 in Eau Claire

You can get both channels' schedule on our website: www.rfcity.org/RFCTV. All locally produced programs are available online for on-demand viewing at: <http://rfctv.pegcentral.com/> or you can go to the Video Center on our city web site.

Media Services is overseen and run by Communications Coordinator Dawn Wills, assisted by two part-time production assistants, John Lindell and Dennis Hildreth. Volunteers play a vital role in the production of community programming. No experience is necessary and RFC-TV provides a great environment for learning the basics of video production. RFC-TV provides volunteers with an orientation, camera class, studio production and editing classes.

Contact Dawn Wills for more information dwills@rfcity.org or 715-425-5400



Know what's below.
Call before you dig.

Wisconsin state law requires you to call Diggers Hotline (811) three working days before starting any projects that disturb the soil in any way. Digging without calling can disrupt service to an entire neighborhood, harm you and those around you, and potentially result in fines and repair costs. For more information on Wisconsin's Diggers Hotline program, please visit www.diggershotline.com. Remember to call before you dig!



Responsibilities of Pet Owners in the City of River Falls

Pet owners will tell you that one of the greatest experiences a person can have is to own and care for a pet. Pet owners love their animals! But good pet owners are also responsible pet owners. That is the subject

of Chapter 6 of the City's Municipal Code and below is some important information for all pet owners.

Dog Licenses

Proud dog owners (dogs aged six months or older) can obtain a license for their pet at City Hall or by mail. Renew your license by March 31 to avoid a possible late fee. When applying for a license, please bring your dog's current rabies certificate. A tag is provided and the license is good for one year. Visit the City's website (www.rfcity.org/doglicense) for more information.

Care of Pets – Shelter and Food

To secure the welfare of your dog, cat, or domesticated animal, provide it with proper shelter and food. Pets living outdoors should have homes protecting them from rain, snow, and sun. Unheated doghouses should be moisture and wind proof and large enough to allow the dog to retain its body heat. (It is recommended the floor be elevated two inches off of the ground with the entrance facing away from the prevailing winds. Suitable bedding such as blankets, hay, straw or cedar shavings should be provided.)

If your dog is chained to its house, please ensure the chains are placed so your pet does not become entangled preventing it from entering its house.

Regularly check your pet's indoor and outdoor enclosures to make sure they are structurally sound, allow for movement, and are clean and free from waste materials.

Feed and water your pet daily. Special attention to water availability should be made in conditions of extremes heat or cold.

Barking

Please be considerate of your neighbors. The City's code prohibits frequent or habitual barking or howling causing repeated serious annoyance to the neighborhood.

Mad or Vicious Dogs

The code outlines specific steps for dogs or other animals that are believed to have rabies.

Running at Large

For the safety and courtesy of all residents, the City of River Falls requires dogs and cats to be leashed when off the owner's property. Dogs are only permitted in cemeteries when confined in a vehicle.

Animal Excreta

On occasion, the Police Department receives compliant calls about this subject. The City's Code calls for pet owners to promptly remove and dispose of in a sanitary manner any excreta deposited by their pet upon any public or private property.

Lost Pets or Animal Complaints

In order to prevent the heartache of a lost animal, pet owners may want to consider providing their pet with a collar that has an identification tag or having their pet microchipped. A microchip can easily be implanted at your veterinarian's office during a routine visit. For more information on microchipping your pet, please visit the American Veterinary Medical Association's website at <https://www.avma.org/KB/Resources/FAQs/Pages/Microchipping-of-animals-FAQ.aspx>.

If you have lost your pet, please contact the Police Department at 715-425-0909. The City has a contract with the Humane Society of Goodhue County to shelter and care for lost animals. The Humane Society may be reached at 651-388-5286.

Animal complaints can be reported to the Police Department at 715-425-0909. The Department's Community Service Officer will follow up on complaints. Thank you for being responsible pet owners and contributing to the quality of life of River Falls! Please let us know if you have any questions or comments about the City's pet policies.

The idea for this article was a result of a concerned citizen. If you have a suggestion for an article, please email it to newsletterfeedback@rfcity.org.

Even/Odd Watering Restrictions

Your participation in the River Falls Municipal Utilities' outdoor water usage restrictions has helped ensure there is adequate water available when demand is high and rainfall is low and allowing for plenty of reserve for fire protection purposes.

Warm, hot summers place a strain on our water resources, often causing demand to double because of outdoor water use. If every home in the City tried to water lawns at the same time, water demand would greatly exceed water production capabilities. This could lead to water shortages, lack of water for fire protection, and to maintain water sustainability, we ask all residents and businesses comply with the following Even/Odd Sprinkling Restrictions between May 1 and September 30. Lawn watering is allowed any time BEFORE 8 a.m. and AFTER 7 p.m. as follows:

- Even numbered addresses – only on even calendar days.
- Odd numbered addresses – only on odd calendar days.

Unless otherwise prohibited, the following activities are permitted at any time:

- Sprinkling on gardens, trees, and shrubs through use of a handheld watering can or other hand-held container or hose.
- Sprinkling or otherwise irrigating new landscape.
- Sprinkling or otherwise irrigating outdoor sports complexes.
- Sprinkling conducted at cemeteries.

These restrictions are crucial to managing the demand for drinking water during the summer. We thank you for your cooperation and understanding. If you have questions or concerns, please contact Mike Noreen, Conservation and Efficiency Coordinator at 715-426-3467.



River Falls Shared-Ride Taxi Survey

The City of River Falls partners with the State of Wisconsin to provide a low cost shared-ride taxi service in the River Falls area. The service is available to all and operates from 7 a.m. – 8 p.m. on Monday-Friday and 8 a.m. – 8 p.m. on weekends. We are interested in your input on whether the hours of operation are sufficient for the community. A short, online survey is available for you to complete at: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/RFtaxisurvey>. Please complete the survey by May 16, 2014, to share your transportation needs with us.

Save the Date
 – July 31!
**Utility Customer
 Appreciation Event**
 11 a.m.– 1 p.m.
 at City Hall

Come down and let us show you our appreciation. It's a free, family fun, educational event for all our River Falls Municipal Utilities customers. Events include:

- Hot dogs, roasted corn on the cob and ice cream
- Kids' activities
- Photo booth
- Live music
- Hands-on educational booths
- Free recycling of CFLs, Mercury thermometers and thermostats and pharmaceuticals.
- Walk, bike, rollerblade, skateboard, carpool, kayak or canoe and win a prize.
- Zero waste event

For more information, call Mike Noreen at 715-426-3467.

**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
 866-983-6542

**Recreation
 Cancellation Hotline**
 715-426-3422

NEWSLETTER TEAM:

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

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 Dawn Wills
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From left: Dan Gulick, David Reese, Diane Odeen, Mayor Dan Toland, David Cronk, Aaron Taylor, Scott Morrissette, and Jim Nordgren

Mayor and Common Council

Position	Name	Address	Phone	E-mail Address
Mayor	Dan Toland	420 E. Elm Street	715-426-3404	dtoland@rfcity.org
At Large	Daniel Gulick	1746 Southridge Road	715-425-0486	dgulick@rfcity.org
At Large	Scott Morrissette	2137 Rushmore Drive	715-425-8993	smorrissette@rfcity.org
At Large	Diane Odeen	811 Oak Knoll Avenue	715-426-5325	dodeen@rfcity.org
District 1	David Cronk	843 Leroy Lane	715-425-9174	dcronk@rfcity.org
District 2	Jim Nordgren	1144 South Fork Drive	715-425-7327	jnordgren@rfcity.org
District 3	David Reese	425 N. Wasson Lane	715-425-9369	dreesee@rfcity.org
District 4	Aaron Taylor	1143 State Street #202	608-444-2392	ataylor@rfcity.org

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