



July 2012 • VOLUME 3 • ISSUE 2

Mayor's Message



Summer's here and things are heating up. I hope everyone had a chance to take part in and enjoy this year's River Falls Days celebration, "Kinnistitious," on July 12-15.

Speaking of things heating up this summer, don't forget about the 75th birthday celebration of the Glen Park Pool on August 15, but you don't have to wait until then to use it as it is open all summer long. The pool has been a source of very cheap entertainment for all of the youth of our community for the past 75 years. So take this opportunity to show your support for the park pool by donating to its upgrade project this year. **(See article below)**

If the pool is too tame for you, we also have a beautiful river running through town all the way down to the St. Croix for all of the kayaking, canoeing and inner tubing enthusiasts out there - not to mention all of the wonderful spots along the river for our fishing friends. There are so many things to do in River Falls during the summer; don't forget to stop for a while and enjoy some of them!

Glen Park Swimming Pool 75th Celebration

During the winter of 1933, work began on the construction of the Glen Park Swimming Pool as a Civil Works Administration (CWA) project established under President Roosevelt's New Deal. Projects such as the pool were a blessing to many during the Great Depression because they created jobs allowing families to put food on the table and provide for their children. The pool not only helped struggling families survive the depression, it has also brought joy to the citizens of River Falls on hot summer days for the past 75 years. With most of the funding coming from CWA and Work Progress Administration (WPA), the swimming pool was opened to the public on August 12, 1937. Its significance to

The Farmers' Market runs all summer on Saturdays 8 a.m. - 12 noon and Tuesdays 3-6 p.m. The University of Wisconsin-River Falls' free Summer Concert Series, *The Chill on the Hill*, is Tuesdays evenings, 7 p.m. at the UWRF Amphitheatre, through August 7. See UWRF's website for more information: www.uwrf.edu/StudentLife/ActivitiesAndEvents/SummerConcertSeries.cfm.

For the car buffs, there is the monthly Car Cruise-in on Sunday afternoons where all cars and cycles are welcome. You can take the afternoon and enjoy a summer ride as you "cruze the loop" in downtown River Falls. See the Chamber's website for more River Falls events: www.rfchamber.com.

No matter what your tastes or likes, there is always something to eat (we have great restaurants for just about any taste), drink (we have plenty of places to get a cool drink of anything you desire) or do (see above for a small sample) here in River Falls.

Enjoy your summer in River Falls! ~

the community is immeasurable. As a result, the Glen Park Swimming Pool was designated as a local landmark in 2005 and was added to the State and National Register of Historic Places in 2007.

On August 15, 2012, the historic Glen Park Swimming Pool will be celebrating its 75th birthday of bringing entertainment to so many community families. As part of this milestone celebration, several pool improvements have been completed or are being planned. Some of them include the construction of an expanded pool deck to create a larger area for families to gather, several new benches encompassing the pool area, storage cubicles, and more. These improvements will help provide a new and inviting look to the historical pool, ensuring an environment exists for families to enjoy for years to come.

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Library Programs and Events Summer 2012



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.

Closed dates

- **Sundays in June – July – August.** Sunday hours resume, 1-4 p.m. on September 11.
- **Closed Labor Day weekend. Saturday, Sunday, Monday, September 1,2,3.** Drop boxes will be open. Renew materials online at the MORE website, www.more.lib.wi.us or by calling telephone renewal at 1-866-697-3639.

Events and Programs

'**Dream Big. Read!**', the Summer Library Program (SLP) through August 24. Kids can join at any time. Reading records are available at the Children's Desk. Children earn incentives for each hour spent reading or being read to.

There are still many SLP activities for kids ages preschool through middle school:

- **Preschool storytime and toddler lapsit**—Class size limited; call the children's desk to register.
- **Wednesday, August 1** -- Stephanie Reynolds: The Bat Lady
- **Friday, August 24** – Independent reading portion of Summer Library Program for children ends.

Summer Library Program for Grown-Ups!

We are planning a very simple program for adults—why should kids have all the fun? Read a book, fill out a slip, and put your name in a drawing for Chamber Bucks, coffee coupons, etc. More information available at the library!

Summer Legos

Lego Afternoon summer sessions will be July 30 and August 13, from 1:30-2:30 p.m. This is open to children Kindergarten-Grade 5. Sessions limited to twenty participants each. Please register at the children's desk by stopping by or calling.

Middle School/Teen Summer Events

In the Lower Level for kids entering 6th grade and older. Watch for more information on programs on our website or ask the library. Film making and puppetry are a couple of the possibilities.

The **Teen Book Discussion Group** meets the second Tuesday of each month at 4 p.m. in the Board Room. The next dates are August 14 and September 11.

The **4th-5th Grade Book Discussion Group** will begin again on September 18 at 4 p.m. Participants receive a copy of the book to keep. See Monica at the Children's Desk for more information or call the library.

'**Summer Six**', our next Foreign Film series will run on Mondays, July 23 – August 27 at 7 p.m. Films are shown in the Collins Community Room in the lower level. Free popcorn!

Jane Austen Book Club

We'll be reading and discussing the books, watching the films, and investigating the cottage industry that has grown up around those six novels (yes, there are only six!) Check the library calendar for details.

Fall Storytimes

Fall Storytimes at the Public Library begin after Labor Day. Registration starts August 20. Class size is limited. Any changes in classes or dates will be posted on our website or check with the children's desk. All programs run weekly through early December. There are three programs for children of different ages:

- **Babytime:** Ages 0-23 months and a caregiver, Wednesdays 10:30-10:50 a.m. First session September 12.
- **Toddler Lapsit:** 24-36 months and a caregiver, Tuesdays 10:30-11 a.m. First session September 11.
- **Preschool Storytime:** 3-5 years old Thursdays 10:30-11:15 a.m. and 1:00-1:45 p.m. First session September 13.

In the Lower Level Kleinpell Gallery

Mosaic and stainless steel sculptures by Dale Lewis, along with a mixed media show by artists from the Hastings Prescott Area Art Council.

July 21-August 18 – Gary and MaryAnn Carolson: Found/Imagined/Assembled. Found object assemblages, abstract photography and jewelry.

August 25-September 22 – Touched by War. Artwork by veterans and civilians who have been directly impacted by experience of war.

September 30-October 25 – Celebrating 100 Years of Girl Scouting. A celebration of the first 100 years of the Girl Scouts in the United States with a focus on our region. ~

Glen Park Swimming Pool 75th Celebration

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In order to make this idea become a reality, we need your help! We would like to extend an invitation for the opportunity to support our community through this project. The City of River Falls has dedicated funding for half of the necessary \$15,000 for the project upgrades and milestone celebration. It is necessary that the remaining balance be self-supported through the community. This sponsorship provides a rare opportunity to illustrate your commitment to the River Falls community. If you are interested in a sponsorship opportunity, contact Cindi Danke at 715-426-3420 or cdanke@rfcity.org. ~

Calendar of Events

- April – November** **City's Compost/Brush Site Open**
for City residents, 901 W. Locust Street
- July – August** **Music in the Park,**
Veteran's Park, Fridays and Saturdays at 7 p.m.
For more info visit www.riverfallscab.org; Phone 715-425-7645 ext. 2109
- July – August** **Chill on the Hill, UWRF Summer Concert Series,**
Tuesdays at 7 p.m. Melvin Wall Amphitheatre, UWRF Campus
For more info visit: www.uwrf.edu/StudentLife/ActivitiesAndEvents/SummerConcertSeries.cfm
- August 1** **Summer Library Program for Children, 10:30 a.m.**
- August 13** **Summer Lego Program at the Library Program for Children,**
1:30 – 2:30 p.m.
- August 18** **Gary and MaryAnn Carolson: Found/Imagined/Assembled**
– Library Exhibit, Kleinpell Gallery
- July – September** **Farmers' Market,**
Corner of East Locust and 2nd Streets Every Saturday 8 a.m. – 12 noon;
Every Tuesday 3-6 p.m.; Phone 715-425-7394; Rain or shine
For more info visit: www.rfchamber.com; Phone 715-425-2533
- July 23** **Severe Weather Siren Test, 1 p.m.**
- July 23 – August 27** **'Summer Six' Foreign Film Series, Mondays at 7 p.m.,**
Collins Community Room, Library
- August 12, September 9** **Summer Car and Cycle Cruz on Main**
- August 14, September 11** **Teen Book Discussion Group,**
Library Board Room, 4 p.m.
- August 12** **5th Annual Border Crossing Bike Event,**
Whitetail Ridge Corporate Park
For more info visit: www.kinnioffroad.com/Border_Crossing.html
- August 14** **Partisan Primary Election, Polls open 7 a.m.-8 p.m.**
- August 15** **Glen Park Pool Celebrates 75 Years** beginning at 1 p.m.
See page 9 for more information
- August 25 – September 22** **Touched by War**
Artwork by veterans and civilians who have been directly impacted
by experience of war – Library Exhibit, Kleinpell Gallery
- August 27** **Severe Weather Siren Test, 1 p.m.**
- September 11** **Fall Storytime (toddler), Library, 10:30-11a.m.**
- September 12** **Fall Storytime (babytime), Library, 10:30-10:50 a.m.**
- September 13** **Fall Storytime (preschool), Library, 10:30-11:15 a.m.**
and 1:00-1:45 p.m.
- September 18** **4th-5th Grade Book Discussion Group, Library Board Room, 4 p.m.**
- September 1, 2, 3** **Library Closed**
- September 3** **Labor Day, City Offices Closed**
- September 8** **Kinni River Trout Trot, 7:30-11 a.m.**
For more info visit: tourism.rfchamber.com/Events/details/kinni-river-trout-trot-3488
- September 8** **Art on the Kinni, Heritage Park, 9 a.m.**
For more info visit www.riverfallscab.org/artontheKinni.php
- September 23** **Autumn Trek 2012 Bike Event, Hoffman Park,**
7:30 a.m. – 4 p.m.
For more info visit: www.rivervalleytrails.org/
- September 23** **Turningpoint Car Show and Family Fun Fest, 8 a.m. – 3 p.m.**
For more info visit: tourism.rfchamber.com/Events/details/turning-point-car-show-and-family-fun-fest-3306
- September 30 – October 25** **Celebrating 100 Years of Girl Scouting**
A celebration of the first 100 years of the Girl Scouts in the United States
with a focus on our region – Library Exhibit, Kleinpell Gallery

River Falls Library Foundation

Many people may think that the River Falls Library Foundation, established in 1988, only raises funds for building and remodeling projects at the library. True, they were instrumental in fundraising for the new library building, finishing the lower level in 2003, and the remodeling program in 2009, but the Foundation also provides ongoing support for library technology, collections, and programming. Have you used a computer at the library? Thank the Foundation. Checked out a LCD projector or other piece of electronic equipment? Thank the Foundation. Read the new book by James Patterson or John Grisham? Yes, the purchase of those new bestsellers is a Foundation program too. The Library Foundation also underwrites the cost of the annual Summer Library Program for children, and provides funding for honorariums and programs such as the popular Jim Ryder's Sled Dog Adventure presentation last January.

The mission of the Foundation is to enhance the quality of River Falls Public Library services to the community by securing resources to support library projects and programs not normally met under normal funding.' The board invites community members to become members of this worthy undertaking by joining the River Falls Library Foundation. Annual membership is only \$5 a year or \$15 for a family membership. Membership forms are available at the Public Library. Completed forms can be returned to the library or mailed to the Library Foundation at P.O. Box 2, River Falls, WI 54022. If you would like more information, call board president Kirby Symes, 715-425-5196. ~

Shelters Available to Rent

The enclosed shelter buildings in Glen Park and Hoffman Park are available for rent. The cost is \$25 per side. If you're planning on serving alcoholic beverages, you need a permit and a \$50 deposit is required. The open-sided shelters in Glen Park and Hoffman Park are on a first come, first serve basis. You can check out the availability of the enclosed shelters on the City website at www.rfcity.org, click on Park and Recreation Department/Parks to see if buildings are open and call 715-425-0924 to reserve a date. ~

River Falls is Finalist for 2012 Sustainable Community Award

One hundred thirty-two communities from forty states dedicated to improving the overall sustainability through impactful environmental, economic, and social solutions applied for this year's Sustainable Community Award. Last spring, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Business Civic Leadership Center (BCLC) and Siemens Corporation announced that the City of River Falls was one of three finalists in the category of "Cities with Populations of 50,000 or Fewer." Cities in the small community category were River Falls, Wisconsin; Middleton, Wisconsin; and Purcellville, Virginia.

River Falls was honored for its Comprehensive Plan. The Plan has 13 overall themes that cast a wide net to incorporate all aspects of sustainable living from a traditional triple bottom-line approach. The Plan reflects a vision that is people-oriented, enduring, vibrant and sensitive to the environment. In 2011, the City of River Falls built a LEED Silver Certified City Hall - the first certified City Hall in Wisconsin. The Municipal Utilities has a full-time Energy Conservation Coordinator that, as part of his duties, oversees Powerful Choices, a sustainable energy project. The project has been responsible for educating students, residents, and businesses about the practice that reduces energy uses and demand. River Falls is also an EPA Green Power Community. River Falls was the first city in the Midwest to achieve this designation. Six percent of the Municipal Utilities' customers participate in the renewable energy certificate program – the fifth highest in the nation – buying 7.2 percent of utilities total power load in Green Power offsets.

The Siemens Sustainable Community Award applauds the nation's foremost examples of local, public, and private entities working in partnership to take on the challenge of sustainable development. The finalist's recognition goes to local governments, chambers of commerce, convention bureaus, economic development authorities, and similar organizations that make exceptional contributions towards long-term social and economic development in their local communities. The winner of the Siemens Sustainable Community Award was announced at the April 16 U.S. BCLC Leadership Center Reception in Atlanta, Georgia. Purcellville, Virginia, received the winning award for their practice in proactive use of land and natural resources as well as having "Go Green" goals incorporated as part of its Comprehensive Sustainable Plan. As part of the award, the winning cities received \$20,000 worth of trees.

Although River Falls did not win the award this year, it was recognized as one of the leading cities in the nation for their overall sustainability through impactful environmental, economic, and social solutions.

A panel of five businesses, environmental, and community development experts selected the finalists. The BCLC is the U.S. Chambers resource and voice for businesses, social, and philanthropic interests. Its mission is to advance the positive role of businesses in society. Siemens Corporation is a U.S. subsidiary of Siemens AG, a global powerhouse in electronics and electrical engineering operations in the industry, energy, health care, infrastructure, and city sector. ~

Parking Meter Update

After several public meetings discussing alternative parking meter systems, the community has indicated that it favors some type of parking control, but there isn't consensus on what system would be a good fit for the community. Moreover, as City staff researched the history of the parking meter system, it was evident that downtown parking conditions have changed greatly since the meters were first installed. Based on these two important issues, city staff decided that areas of parking enforcement control should be carefully studied before sending a recommendation to council.

On July 10, the City Council adopted an ordinance that suspends parking meter enforcement for one year. After which time, unless it is reaffirmed or an alternative is presented, the existing ordinance would go back in full force and effect. Parking trends/patterns will be monitored during the interim period to help determine future parking regulations, meters or other types of monitoring devices. As the yearlong moratorium expires, city staff will return before Council with an updated list of:

- Areas of parking enforcement
- Hours of enforcement
- Possible methods of enforcement

If anyone would like to express concerns or comments regarding this proposal, please contact Paul Fagin, Management Analyst - 715-426-3411 or pfagin@rfcity.org or Roger Leque, Chief of Police – 715-425-0909 or rleque@rfcity.org ~

Eco Village Approved

In April, the City Council gave its final approval to an exciting project put forth by St. Croix Valley Habitat for Humanity (SCVHFH). It is the culmination of several years of planning by SCHV, its local, national, and international partners and project review and approval by the City.



Eco Village will be an 18 unit model neighborhood of sustainable integrated community design. It is located on a five acre parcel that has been under City ownership for many years on Apollo Road just south of West Maple Street. In the past, the site has been used for a compost facility and in recent years has been utilized for winter snow storage. In the future, it will be a neighborhood with renewable solar energy systems, walkways, community produce gardens, edible landscapes, green spaces, a community center and a proposed fleet of shared electric automobiles for the neighborhood. Quite a change! The property has been rezoned for residential use and was approved as a Planned Unit Development and a plat has been created for individual house lots. Grading for the site began in May and formal ground breaking for the first six units was held in July. For more information, visit the SCVH web site at www.scvhhabitat.org ~

New Domestic Abuse Law

On April 9, 2012, Governor Scott Walker signed into law, *Wisconsin State Statute 973.017 (6m)*. This law is a unique law, specifically created to address situations when children are present during an act of domestic abuse. As we all know, domestic abuse negatively impacts our society as a whole and there are many efforts across the nation to end domestic violence. In doing so, we have concentrated resources to address the abuser and we have concentrated resources to address the intended victim of the domestic abuse. However, there appeared to be a void in the Wisconsin Criminal Justice System when it came to judicially recognizing children as victims of domestic violence, especially when they are forced to endure the sights and sounds of their loved ones being harmed. Oftentimes during these acts of domestic violence, the potential for these children themselves to be literally caught in the middle of this violence and harmed is great.

On June 19, 2008, River Falls Police Investigator, Chuck Golden was investigating a domestic abuse incident, whereby a three-month-old infant received a broken arm as a result of domestic violence carried out by the child's father. Upon further investigation, Investigator Golden discovered that there was no law in the State of Wisconsin at that time, that would specifically hold a violator accountable if a child suffered an inadvertent, or what some might call 'accidental' injury, at the hands of that individual who chose to commit the act of domestic violence.

This prompted Investigator Golden to contact Senator Sheila Harsdorf and request assistance from the Legislature in addressing the issue. After nearly four years of work and one failed legislative attempt to pass the law, Senate Bill 127 was passed, ultimately becoming *2011 Wisconsin Act 273* which created *Wisconsin State Statute 973.017 (6m)*.

This law went into effect on April 24, 2012, and requires a Wisconsin Court... ***"When making a sentencing decision concerning a person convicted of a crime that involves an act of domestic abuse, to consider as an aggravating factor the fact that the act was committed in a place or a manner in which the act was observable by or audible to a child or was in the presence of a child and the actor knew or had reason to know that the act was observable by or audible to a child or was in the presence of a child."***

Chuck Golden and his family were invited to attend the bill signing of Senate Bill 127 into law on April 9, 2012. We are hopeful that this law will help protect Wisconsin children and give them a voice when they are subjected to the horrible effects of domestic violence. We are also hopeful that this law will not only act as an avenue to hold violators accountable but can become a deterrent to those who chose to commit domestic violence. ~



Chuck Golden (right), his wife, Mary (second from left) and sons, Mason, Benjamin, and William, as they looked on as Governor Walker signed the bill.

Bob Burns Memorial St. Croix Watershed Stewardship Award

The St. Croix River Association (SCRA), established in 1911, has a mission "to protect, restore and celebrate the St. Croix River and its watershed." They promote work in land conservation, water quality protection, as well as river corridor and watershed stewardship. At their annual meeting on May 11, 2012, the SCRA recognized the City of River Falls for their progressive storm water management by presenting them with the 12th Annual Bob Burns Memorial St. Croix Watershed Stewardship Award.

The SCRA's nomination noted that the City's leadership and dedication in protecting the Kinnickinnic River are an outstanding example of excellence in the public sector. They went on to state that although River Falls is a rather small community, it is often cited as leading in the area of progressive storm water management. The City has had a storm water management ordinance on the books since the 1980s; the current ordinance was adopted in 2002 and requires infiltration of additional runoff generated by a 1.5 inch rainfall. The City has also funded several innovative storm water demonstration projects to test new storm water management techniques. Other notable activities include: a very successful rain barrel program, a catch basin marking program, giving presentations about storm water management, giving tours of storm water management facilities, and providing educational booths at fairs and other events. ~



Kristy Treichel, City Water Resource Engineer (center), and Reid Wronski, City Engineer (right), accepted the Bob Burns Stewardship Award from Buck Malick, St. Croix River Association (left)

The River Falls Public Library celebrated River Falls Days with a kiddie parade, petting zoo, games and other fun events. (See more photos in this issue).



Participants in the kiddie parade event at the Public Library during River Falls Days pose for a photo.

Construction Updates

Cascade Avenue

Haas Sons, Inc. of Thorp, Wisconsin, began reconstructing Cascade Avenue from Spruce Street to Oak Knoll Avenue on April 4. This roadway is currently closed to through traffic. Although the City's contract with Haas Sons, Inc. allows construction to continue into November, the contractor has chosen to approach the project aggressively using multiple crews and anticipates that they may complete the project in September barring any unusual weather or construction setbacks. This \$5 million project is being financed from a variety of funding sources (City, UWRF, Utilities, Assessments). The project website, www.uwrf.edu/CascadeProject/, provides more project information including answers to Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's), Twitter feeds, Facebook links, a feedback form, weekly updates and more. The project has a Facebook page "City of River Falls Cascade Project Updates" and a Twitter feed @RFCascade. "Like" us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter to stay up to date with the project so that you don't miss its ribbon cutting and grand reopening.

Walnut Street Signal

Installation of the City's ninth signal light was completed at the intersection of South Main Street and Walnut Street in early June. Installation of this light coincides with commercial redevelopment in the southwest corner of this intersection by Nash Finch. A traffic study showed that a traffic signal at the intersection is justified and will improve the safety and efficiency of the intersection after the Family Fresh Market is opened. The total cost of this signal light improvement is about \$200,000. In a developer's agreement, Nash Finch agreed to directly pay \$80,000 of the total costs. The remaining costs will be paid with Tax Incremental District (TID) funds that will be repaid with tax revenue generated by the increased value of the newly renovated Family Fresh store.

Pot Belly Pigs, provided by Fantasy Corral, provided entertainment for the kids participating in the River Falls Days events at the Public Library.



(L-R) Addie and Maggie Johnson, daughters of Library Aide, Heather Johnson, participated in the kiddie parade as "Fancy Nancy" (Addie) and "The Peacock Princess" (Maggie) as part of this year's River Falls Days celebration.



Pervious Pavements

There are numerous pervious alternatives to traditional asphalt and concrete. Pervious pavement options provide opportunities to reduce the amount of impervious surface at your home or business. Each of these pavements has been installed in River Falls except permeable asphalt.

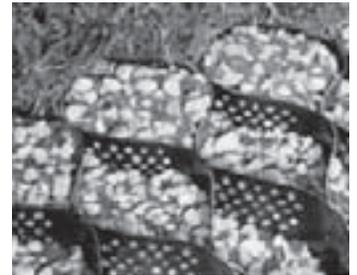


Permeable Pavers

These pavers are similar to regular pavers; however, they have bumps on the edges to create larger void spaces between the pavers. These spaces are then filled with a granular rock material which allows water to flow through it into a storage layer below and eventually infiltrate into the ground.

Concrete or Synthetic Grid Pavement

There are many versions of geogrid available. These provide a structure for driving on but allow grass to grow between the structure. The synthetic versions rely on the structure and soil to support the load. These work great for parking stalls, overflow parking lots, driveways, and emergency access roads.



Permeable Concrete

This looks very similar to regular concrete but it allows water to pass through it. Many describe it looking similar to a rice krispie bar.

Permeable Asphalt

This is very similar to permeable concrete except the paving material is asphalt.



Property Lines

You may wonder how you can determine exactly where your property lines are. Newer lots in the City often have buried metal "property irons" at the corner of lots. Older lots created quite some time ago likely only have "property irons" if a past owner or adjacent owner hired a professional surveyor to establish them. You may have documentation from when you purchased your property regarding the lot dimensions of the property and perhaps showing a physical location of your garage or home. From this information, you can approximate where the property lines are. One good step to take from a time/cost/neighborly relations standpoint is to talk to your neighbor to find out where they believe the property line is.

The only way for a property owner to accurately determine where his or her property lies is to hire a Professional Surveyor. There are several professional surveyors in the community who can be contacted to do this work.

LUCAS Campaign Successful

Thank You Contributors!

In early March, the River Falls Area Ambulance Service launched a fundraising campaign to purchase two portable LUCAS automated life-saving devices to be used in the event of a sudden cardiac arrest. The LUCAS device is a safe and efficient tool that standardizes chest compressions in accordance with the latest scientific guidelines. Putting LUCAS devices in ambulances ensures the best possible patient care is being delivered and frees Emergency Medical Service personnel to perform other functions on their patients such as airway management, medication administration and defibrillation.

With a total purchase price of \$27,000 for two devices, the River Falls Area Hospital Foundation offered a dollar for dollar community match up to \$13,500. With overwhelming support from area businesses and community members, enough money was raised for the purchase of both devices.

Thank you to the following for their generous contributions to this worthy cause: River Falls Area Hospital Foundation; Jenni Jenkins Memorial; First National Bank of River Falls; River Falls State Bank; River Falls Community Foundation; John Moen Memorial; David Ostness; Huber and Vera Wheeler; Marilyn Bostrack; Erin Mahnke; Denise Hartenstein; River Falls Lions Club; Bill and Suzanne Ammerman; Rick and Sandy Bowen; Ian and Lesley Williams; Randy and Ruby Nelson; Ruby Nelson; Doris Chapman; Frank and Marilyn Owen.

For additional information regarding the River Falls Area Ambulance Service and LUCAS life-saving devices, contact Jeff Rixmann, Director of the River Falls Area Ambulance Service at 715-425-0370. ~



Planning for the Future: River Falls' Capital Improvement Plan

Every homeowner understands the process of determining future repair projects. Replacing your furnace, hot-water heater, roof, or any other repair, costs money that should be carefully budgeted. Besides budgeting, each project needs to be prioritized by immediacy and, sometimes, big repairs prioritize themselves. No matter your starting point, planning for big home projects is important for managing costs and extending the life of your home.

This process begs the question, 'How does a city budget for future repairs?' For many municipalities, establishing a Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) is the perfect strategy for identifying critical projects and budgeting for the future. A CIP is composed of two parts: the Capital Budget and the Capital Plan. The Capital Plan is the creation of the planning process for capital expenditures that outlines fundable projects over the next 5 years while storing future projects for safe-keeping. The Capital Budget is developed during the Capital Plan and incorporated into the annual budget process. Both elements work together to develop a fully functioning CIP that helps coordinate between capital needs and the operating budget.

The Capital Planning process is conducted over several months and includes detailed discussions with the Finance Department and other Division Heads. For each project submitted, *total* costs must be accounted for – design, in-house labor, contingency, etc. – as well as multiple phases of the project and funding sources.

You might be wondering 'what is considered a capital project?' A Capital Project is an acquisition, creation or improvement of land and/or buildings, or equipment and furnishings with a useful life of greater than one year and a minimum threshold cost of \$5,000. Regardless of the project, the purpose, scope, and funding sources must be fully explained before it is accepted into the CIP. Typically, projects are categorized into: city buildings, transportation, storm water, equipment, parks, vehicle replacement, economic development and utilities.

The 2013-2017 CIP is currently being drafted for City Council review and approval this summer. Information on this plan and prior plans is available on the City's website www.rfcity.org. The CIP is just one of many ways the City of River Falls is trying to plan for the community's future through careful stewardship. ~

Employee Spotlight

Karen Bergstrom



Karen joined the City of River Falls on May 21, 2012, as the first Human Resources Director. She joins the City with over 20 years' experience in Human Resources in Fortune 500, Non-Profit and Public Sector. She came from the City of Burnsville, Minnesota, where she worked for the past six years as a Human Resources/Organizational Development Specialist. Previous to that she worked as the Associate Director of HR at Macalester College and also at Honeywell, Inc. in their Global Mobility HR department responsible for expatriate management. Karen received her Bachelor of Arts Degree in Organizational Development and Communications from Concordia University in St. Paul in 2004.

Karen has two children; son, Adam (20) and daughter, Jaime (23). Adam is working a seasonal position at the City of Burnsville in Utilities. Jaime graduated from UWRF in 2010 with her BA in Social Work. During this time is when Karen first became familiar with River Falls and fell in love with the City.

On a nice, sunny weekend day, you will find Karen out riding her Honda 750 Shadow motorcycle. She's a newer driver so still stays away from solo driving, heavy traffic and bad weather. Other hobbies include Jazzercise, fishing, reading, spending time with her boyfriend and family, and she has shared custody of her daughter's two Shi-poos (Rudy and Olive). They spend a lot of time at the dog parks.

Karen currently lives in Apple Valley, Minnesota, and is looking forward to moving to and exploring the wonderful State of Wisconsin. She's very excited to work at the City of River Falls and has said the employees she's met so far have been just wonderful. ~

Best Wishes Robin!

Robin Schrank retired on June 13 after 35 years of service to the City of River Falls. She was hired in May 1977 as a Secretary in the Police Department. She worked there for 14 years before moving to Community Development.

Robin has been an integral part of the staff. In Community Development, she worked closely with the Director, the City Planner, the Park and Recreation staff and others. Robin also worked closely with many committees and commissions – among them – the Plan Commission. Robin prepared their meeting packets, attended the meetings, and produced the minutes.

On June 8, a party was held in Robin's honor. There were many friends, family and staff in attendance – including former staff members who returned to wish her well. Robin is looking forward to enjoying her many hobbies in retirement – reading, crocheting, traveling, antiquing, shopping and spending time with family and friends. Congratulations on your retirement, Robin. You will be missed! ~

Caitlin Stene



Caitlin Stene is new Management Analyst for the City of River Falls. She is currently in her second year of the Masters of Public Administration (MPA) at the University of Kansas. The KU MPA program is unique because students complete course work necessary for their degrees in the first year, and during the second year, the students do internships working full-time for local governments. Prior to attending the University of Kansas, Caitlin graduated from Winona State University in the spring of 2011 with a Bachelor's of Science in Public Administration and Marketing. She is originally from Woodbury, Minnesota, and graduated from Tartan High School in 2006. When not studying or working, she enjoys traveling and exploring new places, going for runs, and reading good books while sipping coffee.

Over the past year Caitlin's love for local government and public service has grown tremendously while working as the Management Intern for Douglas County, Kansas. While at Douglas County, she got the opportunity to work on several diverse projects. Some major projects included: EMS expansion analysis, municipal towing regulations, and working with the County Sustainability Coordinator to implement county wide conservation projects.

While her experience at Douglas County was great, Caitlin feels her time at River Falls will be even better. She says in her short time the City, she has been greeted by wonderful and supportive City staff who have helped make her transition to River Falls seamless. She is looking forward to working with all of them over this next year. Since starting at River Falls some projects that Caitlin has been working on include: updating and researching new performance measures, assisting in weather siren analysis, updating the City's succession plan, and working on an analysis of our ambulance services.

Caitlin is excited to be working at the City of River Falls and looks forward to increasing her knowledge of local city management. If you have any questions for Caitlin, email her at cstene@rfcity.org or phone her at 715-426-3413. ~

Summer Intern

Wes Karras



Wes Karras has joined the Engineering Department as a part-time summer intern. Wes is a 2010 graduate of River Falls High School. He will generally be working mornings, Monday through Friday. Wes just finished his second year as a Civil Engineering student at Michigan Technological University in Houghton, Michigan. He will be working on developing a long-term pavement management plan for City owned surface lots, alleys and trails; and assisting with other miscellaneous engineering work. ~

Glen Park Swimming Pool 75th Celebration

August 15, 2012

The City of River Falls invites you to help us celebrate the 75th birthday of the Glen Park pool by joining us in recreating the joy this historic swimming pool has brought to so many families since 1937.

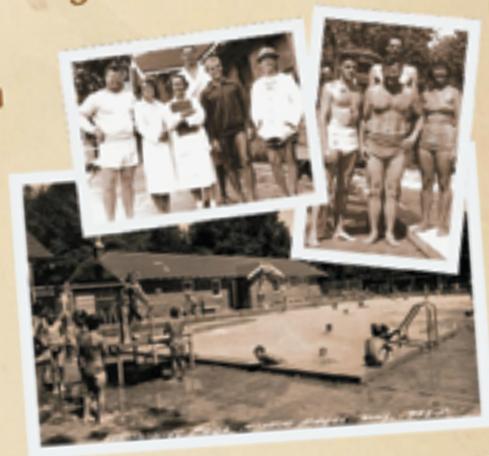
1~5 p.m. and 6~8:15 p.m. Open Swim

Rolled back pricing, kids 10€ and adults 20€

5~6 p.m. Snacks and Refreshments

Enjoy free entertainment on new pool deck

6 p.m. Historical Ceremony



Summer Intern

Adam DeKleyn



Adam DeKleyn first started as an unpaid intern in the Community Development Department. Impressed with his work, he was offered a paid summer internship in the department. The City of River Falls has been his home for the past four years, and Adam recently graduated from the University of Wisconsin-River Falls, majoring in land use planning. He brings a variety of fresh knowledge related to community planning to the City. He also has prior experience working in the Economic Development Department in New Richmond. Most of his time will be spent working on projects such as the 2012 Trends Report, ash tree inventory, sign inventory, rezoning of Sterling Ponds Park, effects of rental property study, South Main Street analysis, as well as assisting in everyday planning functions and, most importantly, gaining experience and knowledge in the planning profession. Adam enjoys hunting, fishing, being outdoors, and having fun. He says, "I am very excited to have this opportunity to work for the City of River Falls, Community Development Department. I'm also looking forward to meeting and working with everyone here." ~



Allina Hospitals and Clinics recently donated \$1,500 toward Glen Park swimming pool improvements coinciding with its 75th anniversary celebration. Gathered for the check presentation were (from left to right) River Falls Area Hospital Representatives, David Miller and Heather Logelin, Mayor Dan Toland, and City Recreation Coordinator Cindi Danke.

Utility Rates in Effect

Unlike many commodities, the utility does not automatically adjust rates annually. Instead rates are carefully analyzed to assure there are adequate revenue requirements to cover actual operating costs. In accordance with Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Clean Water Fund Program requirements, a rate analysis is required for sanitary sewer rates every two years. Following the construction of the new well and booster station improvements to the water distribution system, it was determined necessary to also analyze the water rates that have been in effect since March of 1997. Following the in-depth analysis during the spring of 2012, it was determined there both utilities required a rate increase.

Water

A typical residential customer's bill was estimated to increase by 10 percent. Based on water meter size, the new residential customer class charge for general and irrigation services are \$5.25 for 5/8 and 3/4-inch, \$11.50 for 1-inch, and \$20.00 for 1 1/2-inch. In addition, a volume charge of \$1.40 per 1,000 gallons for general service and \$2.05 per 1,000 gallons for irrigation exists.

Another adjustment was in regard to the base charge for Public Fire Protection. This service includes the use of hydrants for fire protection service, water used for the purpose of extinguishing fires, and any water used for testing equipment and training personnel. Previously, charges were based on the assessed property value of the home at the time of last rate increase (1997) or when customer first requested service. This collection method has now changed to be based on water meter size. The new residential service charges are \$4.46 for 5/8 and 3/4-inch, \$11.16 for 1-inch and \$22.32 for 1 1/2-inch. In addition, a volume charge of \$1.40 per 1,000 gallons used exists.

Sanitary Sewer

A typical residential customer's bill was estimated to increase by 12 percent. Based on water meter size, the new residential customer class charge for sanitary sewer services are \$16.50 for 5/8 and 3/4-inch. In addition, a volume charge of \$7.04 per 1,000 gallons for general residential service exists. Since sanitary sewer usage is based on a utility charge in direct proportion to each customer's water usage, customers are encouraged to practice water conservation efforts to reduce both water and sanitary sewer charges.

Electric

In place since April 2008, the residential electric base customer charge is \$7.00, with an energy charge of \$0.0977 based on per kilowatt-hours used. If over 65 percent of your electricity is used on weekends, holidays, and after 7 p.m., you may want to consider optional time-of-day electric rates.

General

Bills are rendered monthly and become due and payable upon issuance following the period for which service is rendered. A late payment charge of three percent, but not less than 50 cents will be added to bills not paid within 20 days of issuance. This one-time three percent late payment charge will be applied only to any unpaid balance for the current billing period's usage. This late payment charge is applicable to all customers. The utility customer may be given a written notice that the bill is overdue no sooner than 20 days after the bill is issued. Unless payment or satisfactory arrangement for payment is made within the next 10 days, service may be disconnected pursuant to Wisconsin Administrative Code.

For additional information regarding monthly charges for additional meter sizes, improvement values, as well as Commercial, Industrial, and Public Authority, contact River Falls Municipal Utilities at 715-425-0906. ~

Update on Rec Programs

The Recreation Coordinator's wishful summer time weather forecast is rain after 11 p.m., done by 7:00 a.m., so that all the activities can go on without any weather problems! There are a total of 35 baseball/T-ball teams with over 500 children registered. The teams have started practicing at various fields throughout the City. Glen Park Pool opened on June 7. Check out family swim nights on Wednesday, Friday, and Sunday evenings from 6:15 to 8:15 p.m. You can bring your own pool toys and enjoy family fun.

Most of the summer activities began on Monday, June 11. There are several activities that still have openings, which include swimming lessons for ages 4-14, also several camps for ages 6-15 such as Water and Sports Camp, bike, football, tennis, cooking/gardening, gymnastics, Pixie Pom Pon and Dance Camps. There are also openings in preschool (ages 4 to 6) camps for Flag Football, Think Tink, Purple-Alicious and Explorer Camps.

New this year is Preschool Park Time for parents with children ages 0-5 that will afford you the opportunity to network with other preschool parents while participating in activities. Fall/winter activities to consider registering for are soccer, football and basketball. If you have questions, please call the River Falls Park and Recreation Department at 715-425-0924. You can view the Activity Guide online at www.rfcity.org, click on Parks and Recreation Department. ~

River Falls Named "Playful City USA"

Today's children spend less time playing outside than any previous generation, but 213 cities and towns, including River Falls, earned recognition from national non-profit KaBOOM! as 2012 Playful City USA communities for their efforts to increase play opportunities for children. The City of River Falls is proud to be one of only two communities in the State of Wisconsin to be recognized for this award.



Presented by The Humana Foundation, Playful City USA is a national program advocating for local policies that increase play opportunities for children and is a key platform in combating the play deficit.

"Some of the most innovative concepts and cost-effective programs are being developed in Playful City USA communities," says Darell Hammond, Founder and CEO of KaBOOM! "Cities like River Falls are key allies in the fight to combat the play deficit and serve as outstanding role models for government and community leaders across the country."

KaBOOM! also selected River Falls for its outstanding dedication to play. River Falls uses funds collected from a park land dedication fee for new housing developments to build new parks and purchase equipment in subdivisions. The city and the school district also have an existing joint use agreement to provide additional gymnasiums for sports leagues and the public.

For more information about Playful City USA please visit: kaboom.org/take_action/playful_city_usa ~

Why Did My Polling Place Change?

Your polling place may have changed because you live in an established neighborhood with little expected population change, you live in a neighborhood that is newer with expected growth, or the way the census blocks were created.

After each United States Census (once every 10 years), jurisdictions including the state, counties, and cities are required to establish new election district boundaries to assure the one-person, one-vote concept is maintained. Generally, each jurisdiction sets its own boundaries although coordination is required to reduce voter confusion and make for the most efficient voting process.

The counties determine their supervisory districts and the city uses the counties supervisory boundaries when determining city wards. City wards cannot cross county supervisory boundary lines.

City staff looked at the entire city to determine where the potential for growth was greatest and for established neighborhoods where growth was limited. Using the census blocks, which showed current population, and accounting for areas of future growth, staff drew the ward lines. The population of individual wards does vary, but the population of each aldermanic district is almost the same.

The city has to use the census blocks that were created with the 2010 census. These blocks vary in population and land area. Census blocks cannot be split when drawing ward lines, and islands cannot be created. The State does allow wards of smaller size if it is necessary to accommodate county supervisory and municipal aldermanic districts. State Law sets typical ward populations at 600 to 2,100 for cities with populations of 10,000 to 38,999. The wards must be within supervisory districts and aldermanic districts. For your current voting location, visit www.gab.wi.gov.

Absentee Voting

- You must be a registered voter to vote by absentee.
- A voter can vote absentee in the Clerk's Office the two full weeks prior to the election. The Friday prior to the election is the last day to vote absentee in the Clerk's Office.
- A voter may request an absentee ballot be mailed to them. They must provide their full name, address, date of the election and where the ballot needs to be mailed to, if different than your voting residence. This request must be signed. Last day to request an absentee ballot by mail is the Thursday prior to the election.

At the time of this printing, injunctions have been issued preventing the Government Accountability Board from enforcing photo ID requirements in 2011 Act 23. The Wisconsin Department of Justice has appealed those injunctions, and the appeals have been certified to the Wisconsin Supreme Court, which on April 16 sent them back to the respective Courts of Appeals. Until the case is settled voters will not be asked to show photo ID when voting. For more information, visit www.gab.wi.gov.

REMINDER: District 2 voters will vote at City Hall for the August 14 Partisan Primary Election.

New Voter/Change of Address Registration

- You must have lived at your current residence for **28** consecutive days prior to the election to register with that address.
- Voters must provide their Wisconsin Driver License number or Wisconsin issued ID Number when registering to vote.
- Voters must provide their most recent address where they were previously registered to vote.
- College students may establish residency for registration by using the combination of a college ID with a photo and a fee payment receipt that contains the student's River Falls address and dated no earlier than nine months before the election.
- Proof of residency is not required when registering to vote in the Clerk's Office or with a Special Registration Deputy 20 days prior to an election.
- Proof of residency must be included with your mailed in registration application if you are a first time Wisconsin voter.
- Proof of residence must be provided during the late registration period and on election-day.
- Last day to register to vote in the Clerk's Office is the Friday prior to the election.
- An elector can no longer use a corroborating witness to register.

For questions, contact the City Clerk's office at 715-426-3408.

Political Sign Rules/Regulations

With the upcoming elections in the fall, the City would like to remind everyone of the following rules and regulations for the placement of political signs within the City of River Falls.

- All political campaign signs shall be erected on private property (generally at least a distance of **15 feet from the edge of pavement**).
- No political campaign sign shall be attached to any boulevard tree, utility pole or traffic control device.
- No political signs in residential zoning districts shall be lighted.
- All political campaign signs shall be removed within 72 hours following the election in which the campaign was intended.

Signs in violation shall be removed by the City. Your cooperation is appreciated. If you have any questions please contact Dave Hovel, Development Assistant at dhovel@rfcity.org or 715-426-3426.



Like us on Facebook
City of River Falls
River Falls Municipal Utility
River Falls Police Department
River Falls Public Library



Follow us on TWITTER
City of River Falls (@CityRiverFalls)
River Falls Police Department (@rfpolice)

Simple Ways To Pay Your Utility Bill – Wherever You May Be!

It seems that electronic advances are making things more and more convenient. You don't even have to leave the house to shop anymore. You can have virtually anything delivered. You can also pay your electric, water and sewer bill electronically from the comfort of the living room with a home computer.

Online Account Payment

Access My Account is a service that allows you to view your utility account history and pay your bill online – at NO CHARGE. With this service, you will be able to review your account information 24 hours a day, seven days a week, pay your bill, view and print energy usage information and billing history, and submit a service request. Before you can view your account information or make a payment, you will need to login to our secure site. To get started, click on the orange “Pay Your Bill” tab on the front page of River Falls Municipal Utilities’ website at www.rfmu.org. After carefully entering your name and account number exactly as it appears on your bill, you will have the ability to review your account.

Electronic Bill Payment

Take advantage of our FREE electronic bill payment service. You can have your electric, water, and sewer bill electronically paid from any bank, savings and loan, or credit union account at no cost. Sign up today to start enjoying the benefits of not writing a check, not paying postage, and avoiding late payment charges. You will still have control of your utility payments. When you receive your monthly bill, simply record the amount in your checkbook register. Your bill will state “P.A.P. DO NOT PAY” (P.A.P. means pre-authorized payment). The due date that appears on your bill is the date that funds are withdrawn from your account. If this day falls on a weekend, the funds are withdrawn on the next business day.

River Falls Municipal Utilities payments continue to be accepted by mail and at City Hall – either in person at the front desk or via the outside payment drop box. For additional information regarding utility payment options, contact River Falls Municipal Utilities at 715-425-0906 or visit www.rfmu.org. ~

Medical Needs Customers

At River Falls Municipal Utilities, we care about our customers and recognize that some face special challenges requiring electricity for emergency medical and life-support equipment. We ask these customers to contact us to ensure placement on our medical needs list. With a written request from a physician, these customers may qualify for priority attention when restoring electricity as a result of a power outage. However, it is important to prepare for potential interruptions in electric service and identify a location with emergency power capabilities, and make plans ahead of time to go there or to a health care facility during an outage. To learn more about signing up for medical needs electric restoration request, contact River Falls Municipal Utilities at 715-425-0906. ~

Compliance Maintenance Annual Report (CMAR)

(information from Wisconsin DNR website: dnr.wi.gov/org/water/wm/ww/cm/ar/about_CMAR.htm)

The Compliance Maintenance Annual Report (CMAR) is an annual self-evaluation reporting requirement for publicly and privately owned domestic wastewater treatment works that has been in place since 1987. The CMAR program was revised in 2006 to require annual submittal of an electronic CMAR form (eCMAR) no later than June 30.

The purpose of the report is to evaluate the wastewater treatment system for problems or deficiencies. Management, operation and maintenance activities are described in the report. Proposed actions are identified to prevent violations of WPDES permits and water quality issues. The DNR expects the program to encourage actions that:

- Promote awareness and responsibility for wastewater collection and treatment needs.
- Maximize the useful life of wastewater treatment systems through improved operation & maintenance.
- Initiate formal planning, design and construction for system upgrades.

Along with providing an evaluation of our compliance with the WPDES permit requirements, the report describes the management and physical condition of the wastewater treatment works during the previous calendar year. It is an opportunity to assess system performance and wastewater maintenance processes with objective data to guide decisions about implementing a more detailed evaluation of the process. The point calculation on the 2011 report for River Falls resulted in a grade of “A”. This requires a total score of 91-100 points, and indicates that our facility is in the voluntary range for 2011 performance. The River Falls Wastewater CMAR score has consistently been within the voluntary range each year, which is a good indication of permit compliance, as well as strong operation and maintenance efforts.

A copy of the report is on file at City Hall and is also on the City’s website at www.rfmu.org/customer_services/default.asp?CategoryNumber=5&SubcategoryNumber=5. ~



The new ambulance has arrived! It is a 2012 Chevy G-4500 manufactured by Road Rescue Emergency Vehicles. It went into service in mid-June and replaced the 1998 ambulance.

River Falls Named Tree City USA by the Arbor Day Foundation

River Falls has been named a Tree City USA Community by the Arbor Day Foundation to honor its commitment to forestry. It is the fourteenth year River Falls has received this national recognition. The



Tree City USA program is sponsored by the Arbor Day Foundation in cooperation with the National Association of State Foresters and the USDA Forest Service. River Falls has met the four standards to become a Tree City USA Community: having a tree board or department, a tree care ordinance, a comprehensive community forestry program and an Arbor Day observance and proclamation.

Cities that receive the Tree City USA designation recognize that:

- Trees promote healthier communities. Leaves filter the air we breathe by removing dust and other particles.
- Trees moderate climate, conserve water and provide habitat for wildlife.
- Trees in urban areas reduce the heat island effect caused by pavement and buildings.
- Properly placed trees can increase property values.

“A community, its elected officials and its citizens that provide needed care for its trees deserves recognition and thanks,” said John Rosenow, chief executive of the Arbor Day Foundation. “Trees are a vital component of the infrastructure in our cities and towns, and they also provide environmental and economic benefits. Cities that are recognized with a Tree city USA designation go to great lengths to plant and care for the community forest.”

This year’s Arbor Day activities took place in two locations, Highview Meadows Park and Glen Park, with participation by First National Bank of River Falls and students from Rocky Branch Elementary. Our thanks to all who participated in another memorable Arbor Day! ~



Hoffman Park Safe Room

Wisconsin’s tornado season runs from the beginning of April through September with the most severe tornados occurring in April, May and June. In recent years severe weather has also been intense throughout the summer months. Severe weather is a repetitive problem that causes damage to public and private property and the City of River Falls has experienced a severe weather event on average every five years. Hoffman Park is a regional park attracting people from beyond the borders of the City. Visitors to Hoffman Park are vulnerable to injury and death if the path of a fast moving storm or tornado moves through the park. Construction of a safe room (also commonly known as a storm shelter) at Hoffman Park has been identified as a priority by the City, a goal which is in harmony with the adopted All Hazards Mitigation Plan.

Peak usage of Hoffman Park coincides with the tornado season. Organized spectator sports including softball, baseball, volleyball, soccer and disc golf, along with a full campground and casual visitors, may be as high as 360 people at any one time. From midnight to 6:00 a.m. the Hoffman Park Campground may have a population as high as 75 people. Hoffman Park also hosts special events during the summer such as the Annual River Falls Days Fireworks Display and number of regional softball tournaments throughout the summer. A safe room will mitigate that threat by providing a storm proof room that can be accessed for refuge in a hurry as all points in the park will be within five minutes walking distance from the safe room.

The proposed safe room would be designed to be compliant with all federal, state and local specifications. This project would construct a concrete structure to safely serve a maximum capacity of 360 people, including handicapped, for two hours or more if necessary. Additional square footage has been included for restrooms, partitions, mechanicals, and will be served by sewer and water. It will be a single use facility, ADA accessible and signed to meet FEMA requirements. The building will have a gross square footage of approximately 3,000 square feet with a safe room area of 1,822 square feet and will be able to withstand winds of 250 miles per hour. The plan is to design the safe room so that it can be integrated with the community ballpark project proposed for construction in 2013. Two restroom facilities (one men’s and one women’s) will be designed for multi-use, i.e., safe room occupants during sheltering activities and park visitors during all other times. Additional uses related to ballfield activities may be attached to the structure but will not impact the dedicated occupancy of the safe room.

The City applied for a grant from the State of Wisconsin and FEMA in April and should know by late fall if funding will be made available. The City’s cost share for the project will be 12.5 percent of the total project costs. ~



Wheels Winner, Daniel Deutsch, receives his award from River Falls Ambassador, Samir Idrissi. Behind Daniel is (L-R): Royal Ambassadors Christine Palmer, Kayla Nguyen and Amanda Grove; and Library Director Nancy Miller.

Employee Spring Cleanup Walk

In the fall of 2006, an employee wellness committee was formed (now called Healthy Foundations) after receiving a grant in the amount of \$10,080 from WCA Group Health Trust. This grant provided an opportunity for the City of River Falls to fund wellness initiatives and be a leader in the area of wellness for its employees and their families. Since the formation of the committee until just last year, the City of River Falls has applied and received similarly sized grants. In 2011, the City of River Falls sought competitive proposals for health insurance and upon further analysis; it was determined to be more cost effective to switch insurance coverage to WPPI Energy Health Trust. With this change, applying for the grant opportunity no longer existed. Realizing the numerous benefits that exist with improved employee health, the City of River Falls added \$10,000 to the annual budget to be used for wellness initiatives.

On April 19, several employees braved the elements while setting their regular work tasks aside for a few hours to lend an extra hand in making our city a more beautiful and safe place to live and work. With each participant wearing a pedometer, around 30 miles were logged in this year's cleanup walk. Efforts were concentrated on ponds and parks throughout the city. This activity helps demonstrate how fitness doesn't only have to take place in a gym or club.

A number of other employee activities/events, including employee educational lunch and learns, city-wide wellness cleanup walks, fitness club reimbursement, weight loss challenges, annual health assessments, fitness equipment, and much more have taken place since 2006. As a result, a healthier culture with the potential to reduce future medical costs has been created among many City employees. ~



Municipal Court Office Hours

Monday	9:00 AM - 5:00 PM
Tuesday	8:00 AM - 4:00 PM
Wednesday	8:00 AM - 5:00 PM
Thursday	9:00 AM - 5:00 PM
Friday	9:00 AM - 4:00 PM
Closed daily from 12-1 PM	

POWERful Choices! Lighting Impacts

The mission of POWERful Choices! initiative includes helping local government reduce energy consumption in municipally-owned facilities and to "Lead by Example" when feasible. Employee education and training, energy audits, and physical and mechanical changes are methods used to help meet these goals. Federal, State and local funds are leveraged to help make changes cost effective. Lowering utility costs saves the community money by keeping rates and taxes low.

The Energy Center of Wisconsin performed a comprehensive energy audit of municipal facilities and indicated the chandelier lighting at the library was a great opportunity for an efficiency upgrade. The existing lighting was energy intensive, a maintenance burden, provided insufficient downward light, and was nearing its end of life. The twelve chandeliers above the reference desk area were replaced with twelve new energy efficient lights, with similar aesthetics and greater light levels. The new lights are expected to reduce peak summer demand from 11.8 to 7.9 kilowatts and electric use from 44,880 to 30,324 kilowatt-hours for an estimated annual savings of \$3,032. A combination of POWERful Choices!, Focus on Energy and WPPI Energy funds were used to buy down the cost of the materials by 50 percent and thus the project will pay for itself in a little over three years.

Another opportunity arose when the city's access station, RFC-TV, moved from its old location to a new studio in City Hall. The existing studio lights were insufficient for the needs of the new location and were nearing their end of life. The new lighting options included fluorescent, but they didn't provide the energy efficiency, life expectancy, or functionality of light-emitting diode (LED) technology. The new lights are expected to reduce energy use from 5.9 kW to .45 kW for an estimated annual savings of \$389.

The POWERful Choices! initiative, by assisting all customers, is helping the River Falls community make incremental, significant strides towards energy efficiency and thus sustainability. If you want to learn more about the successes of the POWERful Choices! or would like to be involved, please contact Mike Noreen at 715-426-3467 or mnoreen@wppienergy.org ~



CEO Gregg Bennett (right) discusses equipment used in Interfacial Solutions' lab at 909 Antler Court in River Falls with Mayor Dan Toland (left) and Wisconsin Department of Review Deputy Secretary Jack Jablonski (second from left) and Wisconsin Department of Review Secretary Richard Chandler (center).

2012 Emergency Weather Warning Siren Test Dates



The audible test schedule for the remainder of 2012 is as follows. Please note: if severe or threatening weather exists on any of these scheduled dates, the test will be the next day (Tuesday) at the same time.

- Monday, August 27 at 1 p.m. - Make-up date is Tuesday, August 28, 1 p.m.
- Monday, September 24 at 1 p.m. - Make-up date is Tuesday, September 25, 1 p.m.

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: www.nws.noaa.gov/safety.php or Wisconsin Emergency Management website at: emergencymanagement.wi.gov or by calling the River Falls Police Department at 715-425-0909. ~

Fire Inspections Program Update

The fire inspection program for the City of River Falls is managed by the Assistant Fire Chief of Inspections with oversight from the Fire Chief. The State requires that all commercial properties be inspected each year to ensure that our businesses maintain a "fire-safe" environment for their employees and the public. Some of the property types we inspect include; educational facilities, industry, retail stores, health care facilities and apartment buildings. While at a property, our inspectors perform a visual inspection of any fire protection system that may be present, check extinguishers and make sure exits are marked and unblocked. In addition, they check for general housekeeping items that may be a fire hazard, such as improper use of extension cords or improper storage of flammable items.

Our emphasis with the River Falls Fire Inspection Program is to educate business owners on fire code issues. We have three goals that we work towards to improve our program. First, make sure that we inspect all inspectable properties at least once per year. Second, provide consistent inspections for the various property types. Lastly, maintain an easily accessible records database for all inspections.

We have spent considerable time planning on how best to achieve these goals. A big part of its success is setting up our records management system with all commercial property information so this information can be used in the field by our fire inspectors. Full implementation of our goals is expected in 2012. ~



River Falls Community Television Channel 16 was recognized for outstanding programming at the Wisconsin Community Media (WCM) Video Festival in Marshfield, WI on May 3, 2012.

Congratulations to the following RFC-TV Staff and Volunteers:

"RFMU LED Holiday Light Exchange PSA", producer Dawn Wills and Mike Noreen won an Award of Excellence in the PSA category.

"The Federal Reserve and You", producers Pat O'Malley and John Lindell won an Award of Excellence in the Documentary category.

"20 Questions with Gail Upton", producers Gail Upton and Dennis Hildreth won an Award of Achievement and was Awarded Best in Show in the Series category.

"Threshing Bee 2011", producer John Lindell won an Award of Achievement in the Local Events category.

"Do Move Skate", producer Trish Juers won an Award of Achievement in the Sports category.

"DJ's Book Review & Beverage", producers Diane Barr, Janet Burns, Chris Blasius & Dawn Wills won an Award of Achievement in the Series category.

These award winning programs along with all of RFC-TV's programs can be viewed at: rfctv.pegcentral.com/ ~

~



Standing: Dennis Hildreth, Chris Blasius, Dawn Wills, Trish Juers, John Lindell
Sitting: Gail Upton, Diane Barr, Janet Burns, Pat O'Malley
Not Pictured: Mike Noreen



Fantasy Corral provided the petting zoo animals for the library's events for River Falls Days. The kids enjoy petting the Fainting Goats.

River Falls Shared Ride Taxi



Serving All Citizens

Operating Hours

Mon.-Fri.7 a.m. to 8 p.m.
 Saturday.....8 a.m. to 8 p.m.
 Sunday8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Website

www.rfcity.org/taxiservice

RATES - CORPORATE LIMITS

Senior Citizens
 over 62..... \$1.50
 Disabled Persons..... \$1.50
 Adults under 62 \$2.75
 Children, 12 and over... \$2.75
 Children, 3 - 11 \$1.25
 Children under 2 FREE

RATES - TO 5-MILE LIMIT

Senior Citizens
 over 62\$1.50+\$1/mi
 Disabled
 Persons\$1.50+\$1/mi
 Adults
 under 62\$2.75+\$2/mi
 Children,
 12 and over\$2.75+\$2/mi
 Children,
 3 thru 11.....\$1.25+\$2/mi
 Children under 2 FREE

Passes Available and Corporate Charge Accounts

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)

Kristi McKahan
 Dawn Wills
 Scot Simpson, City Administrator

PHOTO CREDITS:

Dawn Wills Frisbie Architects
 Tony Steiner St. Croix EDC
 Cindi Danke Jeff Rixmann
 Kristy Treichel Carrie Fisher
 Chris Blasius Jera Terreng
 Margaret Smith



222 Lewis Street
 River Falls, WI 54022

PRSRT-STD
 ECR
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 River Falls, WI
 Permit #1

POSTAL CUSTOMER



The Current 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	Randy Kusilek	518 N. Winter	715-425-0415	rkusilek@rfcity.org
At Large	David Cronk	843 Leroy Lane	715-425-9174	dcronk@rfcity.org
At Large	Scott Morrissette	2137 Rushmore Drive	715-425-8993	smorrissette@rfcity.org
District 1	Tom Caflisch	508 Roosevelt Court	715-425-7186	tcaflisch@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	dreese@rfcity.org
District 4	Chris Gagne	1164 Bartosh Lane	715-222-3220	cgagne@rfcity.org

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED to help cover Wildcat Sports!

RFC-TV volunteers play a vital role in the production of high school sporting events.

No experience is necessary and RFC-TV provides a great environment for learning the basics of video production. Call RFC-TV at 715-425-5400 to set up an orientation meeting with our staff. ~

