



Mayor's Message



After a long hot summer, we finally made it to the fall. It is nice to have some cooler weather for a while. Of course with cooler weather coming, it means it's time to start looking ahead to next year's budget; so I will answer all of your questions about getting any extra stuff in the budget for next year now.

NO, NO, NO. Truthfully, we will continue to do all we can to make sure that the level of service from the City that you have come to expect remains the same. I am highly confident that we will once again make all the right decisions to keep this a very vibrant and successful community to live and work in.

The fall also brings plenty of fun and exciting things to do. Football season (GO PACK GO) is in full force with plenty of beautiful days to watch and cheer on your favorite team. Not to mention all of the other fall sports available to either participate in or watch and cheer for: soccer, cross country, volleyball, golf, swimming, tennis, fishing, hiking, canoeing and kayaking. If I missed anything, I apologize to all of the sport enthusiasts out there.

Cascade Avenue will reopen this fall, and it should take everybody's breath away when they drive down it for the first time. The City of River Falls, the State of Wisconsin, and the University of Wisconsin-River Falls joined forces and have created a beautiful corridor for traffic through our great campus. So take some time from your busy schedule and get out and enjoy some of the beautiful scenery or partake in some of our local events before old man winter locates us and brings all the cold and snow again.

Take care and enjoy your town. ~

November 6 Presidential Election Polling Place Changes

District 3 - Meyer Middle School - Change at Polling Site

Voters in the Third District should be aware that the polling location will be in the **Meyer Middle School Gym**. Entry into the building must be made from the south entrance of the building. Parking is available in the south parking lot. Voters will not be allowed to enter from the north entrance nor will voters have access to other areas of the school. School will be in session on Election Day. Greeters will direct voters to the gym. Signs will also be posted outside the building directing voters to the correct entrance. All registered voters will receive a post card notifying them of this temporary change. *This change is for the November 6 Presidential Election only.* The normal polling site (lobby area) will be used for the 2013 Elections.

District 2 Voters

With the completion of the Cascade Avenue project, please be advised that District 2 voters will vote at the University Center located on the campus of University of Wisconsin-River Falls, 500 E. Wild Rose Avenue. Cards will be sent to all registered voters advising of this change returning to the regular polling location. Parking will be available in the F Lot south of the University Center.

Please contact the City Clerk's Office with questions at lhecht@rfcity.org or 715-426-3408 or bhieb@rfcity.org or 715-426-3419. ~

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Calendar of Events

November 1-30 **Winter Outerwear Collection** at City Hall
November 6 **General Election, polls open 7 a.m. – 8 p.m.**
November 6 **Jane Austen Book Club-Book Discussion 7 p.m.** at library
November 8 **Jane Austen Book Club-Film 7 p.m.** at library
November 10 **Lego Adventures Event 1:30-2:30 p.m.** at library
November 11 – December 9 **“Kaleidoscope Us”,** exhibit of local talent at library
November 12 **City Hall Closed**
November 13 **Teen Book Discussion Group 4 p.m.** at library
November 14 **Jane Austen Book Club-Book Discussion 6:30 p.m.** at library
November 18 **Once Upon a Land 1:30 p.m.** at library
November 19 **Jane Austen Book Club-High Tea Event 6:30 p.m.** at library
November 20 **4th-5th Grade Book Discussion Group 4:15 p.m.** at library
November 22, 23, 24 and 25 **City Offices and Library Closed**
November 25 **River Dazzle** visit www.rfchamber.com for more information
November 26 **Holiday Light Exchange 9 a.m.-7 p.m.** at City Hall
November 27 **Holiday Light Exchange 9 a.m.-5 p.m.** at City Hall
November 27 **Gingerbread “How to Class” for all ages 6:30 p.m.** at library
November 28 **Holiday Light Exchange 9 a.m.-5 p.m.** at City Hall
December 1-31 **Food Collection** at City Hall
December 1 **First day to circulate nomination papers for City Offices**
December 3 **Santa and his Reindeer 6:30 p.m.** at library
December 4 **Jane Austen Book Club-Book Discussion 7 p.m.** at library
December 5 **Gingerbread House Contest entries due at 8 p.m.** at library
December 5 **Jane Austen Book Club-Film 7 p.m.** at library
December 8 **Lego Adventures Event 1:30-2:30 p.m.** at library
December 8 **Celebrating John Lennon 7 p.m.** at library
December 9 – January 24 **“Motorbikes”,** exhibit at library
December 10 **No School Event for Elementary Children** at library
December 11 **Teen Book Discussion Group 4 p.m.** at library
December 11 **Jane Austen Book Club-Dance 7 p.m.** at library
December 14 **Library Closed**
December 18 **4th-5th Grade Book Discussion Group 4:15 p.m.** at library
December 24, 25 and January 1 **City Offices and Library Closed**
January 1 **City Offices and Library Closed**
January 2 – 18 **Curbside Christmas Tree Pickup**
January 2 . . . **Final day to file nomination papers for City Offices 5 p.m.** at City Hall

Gingerbread Contest at the Library

The annual Gingerbread Contest sponsored by River Falls Public Library and River Falls State Bank will be held in December. This is fun for the whole family! Entries are due at the library by 8 p.m. (closing time) on Wednesday, December 5. Winners will be announced after the People's Choice voting closes on Thursday, December 12. There are categories for both youth and adults in architectural (house-type structures) and non-architectural categories, as well as a special graham cracker house category for kids under age 10. Sorry, no purchased kits allowed. All items used must be edible. For a complete list of rules or more information, call the library, 425-0905, or check our webpage, www.riverfallspubliclibrary.org.

Never made a gingerbread house before? The library will be holding a free how-to class on Tuesday, November 27, at 6:30 p.m. in the library's Board Room. Whether you're a beginner and would like some tips, or you're an old pro just looking for some new ideas, plan to attend. ~



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Thank You!



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)

Library Programs and Events Fall 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

- **November 22, 23, 24 and 25**
- **December 14** (cleaning and inventory), **24, 25, 31** (closing at 5 p.m.)
- **January 1**

Drop boxes will be open; renew materials online at the MORE website, www.more.lib.wi.us or by calling Telephone renewal 1-866-697-3639.

Events and Programs

Jane Austen Book Club

Have some classic fun this fall! We will have some copies of books will be available for checkout from the library, lots available through the MORE system. Additions and corrections will be posted on our website. Attend as many or as few as you like!

- **Tuesday, November 6, 7 p.m.** – Book discussion: Pride and Prejudice
- **Thursday, November 8, 7 p.m.** – Film: A Bollywood version of Pride and Prejudice
- **Wednesday, November 14, 6:30 p.m.** – Bonus book discussion: Pride and Prejudice and Zombies by Seth Grahame-Smith
- **Monday, November 19, 6:30 p.m.** – High Tea: Tea, afternoon tea, high tea, low tea – what's the difference? We'll explore food customs and taste foods and of course, tea!
- **Tuesday, December 4, 7 p.m.** – Book discussion: Emma
- **Wednesday, December 5, 7 p.m.** – Film: Clueless – A modern version of Emma
- **Monday, December 11, 7 p.m.** – Let's Dance! Jane loved dancing, and it is featured in several of her books. Clear your dance card and come learn some country folk dances and reels of the time.

(That leaves us with three more novels – Northanger Abbey, Persuasion, and Mansfield Park. If there is enough interest, we will continue the series.)

Sunday, November 18, 1:30 p.m.: Once Upon a Land: An Afternoon of Celtic Story, Music and Song, featuring Irish piper, Tom Britton; Scottish Balladeer, Katharine Grant; and storyteller, Tracy Chipman.

Monday, December 3 at 6:30 p.m.: Santa Claus and his reindeer

Saturday, December 8, 7 p.m.: Celebrating John Lennon: Thomas R. Smith hosts an evening of music and poetry in honor of Lennon's life.

Children/Youth Programs

Legos

Our Lego Adventures group will continue on Saturday afternoons from 1:30-2:30 p.m. on November 10, and December 8. Children should pre-register at the Children's Desk, although we can usually fit in a few drop-ins. Legos are provided: please do not bring your own.

The **Teen Book Discussion Group** meets the second Tuesday of each month at 4 p.m. in the Board Room. The next dates are November 13, and December 11.

The **4th-5th Grade Book Discussion Group** meets the third Tuesday of each month at 4:15 p.m. The next dates are November 20, and December 18. Books are selected by group members. Participants

sign an agreement to attend the discussion and receive a copy of the book to keep. See Monica at the Children's Desk or call the library for more information.

Fall Storytimes – class size is limited, so please call to register your child. Any changes in classes or dates will be posted on our website or check with the Children's Desk. There are three programs for children of different ages:

- **Babytime:** Ages 0-23 months and a caregiver, Tuesdays 9:30-9:50 a.m.
- **Toddler Lapsit:** 24-36 months and a caregiver, Tuesdays 10:30-11 a.m.
- **Preschool Storytime:** 3-5 years old, Thursdays 10:30-11:15 a.m. and 1:00-1:45 p.m.

School In-Service Days

Monday, December 10, 10:30 a.m.: School In-service Day, program to be announced. Grades K-5.

In the Lower Level Kleinpell Gallery

October 31, Halloween Haunted House, 5:30-9 p.m.

Free admission and fun for all ages – candy and stories, a magical carved pumpkin patch, fun and gentle thrills. Provided by the Haskins family and friends.

November 11-December 9 – Kaleidoscope Us

Public Reception Date: November 11, 1-3 p.m.

The annual all-community exhibit of our local talent and imagination! This non-juried exhibit is open to community members who would like the opportunity to display their work, be it pottery, weaving, paintings, collage, glass, sculpture, photography, or drawings. Each person may bring in up to three items for exhibit; although due to space concerns, we cannot promise that all items will be displayed. All two-dimensional items (paintings, photography, etc.) must be matted and framed and be ready to hang. This is an open and non-juried show. Interested in showing your work? Contact Jera in the gallery at 715-426-3496 or jerat@riverfallspubliclibrary.org.

December 16-January 24 – Motorbikes

Public Reception Date: December 16, 1-3 p.m.

And now for something completely different! We're looking for interesting, unique, and collectible motorcycles, choppers, and accoutrements to make this show go! Contact Jera for more information. ~

Halloween Haunted House at the Library



The annual Halloween Haunted House will take place in the lower level of the library from 5:30-9 p.m. on Wednesday, October 31. The Haunted House has been the undertaking of the Haskins family since the late 1980s, when it was set up at Westside School with Gina Haskins as the 'head haunter.' While you will see familiar characters from years' past (the Witch Sisters), there's a new story line and skit each year, along with the spectacular carved pumpkin patch. The Haunted House is sponsored by the library and the Haskins family. It's fun, free, and suitable for the whole family, with treats for the kids. See you there! ~



We've Got a Plan for That: The Comprehensive Plan

*A series of articles about various plans approved
by the City to guide our community-building work*

Did you know that the City of River Falls has had a Comprehensive Plan since 1965, and that in 1987 a new plan was drafted and updated eight years later? In 2005, the City adopted the latest Comprehensive Plan.

In 2000, Wisconsin Statutes required that a municipality must have a Comprehensive Plan that meets the state's definition by January 1, 2010, if it wants to take action that affects land use after that date. After two years of public meetings, the City adopted a new plan, and in 2006 was awarded the Wisconsin American Planning Association Comprehensive Plan of the Year for medium sized jurisdictions.

So what is a Comprehensive Plan and how can it help? The term "Comprehensive Plan" is also known as a General Plan or Master Plan. The City of River Falls Comprehensive Plan is both general and long-term; there are circumstances and instances when detailed studies and plans are necessary. The plan is intended to guide the growth and development of the City and the land use surrounding the City. The City's Comprehensive Plan is a "living document", meaning it is updated as the City Plan is implemented.

The plan includes ten chapters of inventory and analytic sections leading to a recommended implementation plan. The plan covers:

- Heritage Resources
- Land Use
- Growth Management
- Character and Development
- Transportation
- Infrastructure and Public Services
- Natural Resources Management and Conservation
- Community Services
- Institutional Framework.

Each of these chapters is connected by the goals and objectives that represent the community as a whole. These thirteen goals, also known as themes, are recognized as the City's foremost public statement about the future of the City.

As noted above, there are circumstances and instances when detailed studies and plans are necessary. For example, the City has drafted sub-plans that provide more detail and direction, such as: Downtown Design Plan, Historic Preservation Plan, Sewer Service Area Water Quality Management Plan, Park Inventory, Glen Park Summary Plan, Cooperative Plan and Agreement and Emerald Ash Borer Plan. Yes, we have a plan for you! In our next newsletter, a summary of some of these plans will be provided and future plans discussed for the City of River Falls. The Comprehensive Plan can be viewed at www.rfcity.org/commdev_complan.asp. ~



State Highway 35 Planning

Just when you thought you saw the last roundabout being built on Cascade Avenue in River Falls, here comes three more. Yes, more roundabouts are being proposed as part of the planning for a new interchange at State Highway 35 (STH 35) and Radio Road/Chapman Drive. For the past several years, the City has been working with the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WISDOT) on the location and design of this interchange. There will be two roundabouts that will provide access to STH 35, one going north and one going south. The third roundabout will be located off Radio Road, with access leading south toward Paulson Road within the Whitetail Ridge Corporate Park and also north for a future frontage road that will lead to the Troy Town Hall. There will also be a path leading over the STH 35 interchange for pedestrians and bicycles. The path will connect with the Whitetail Ridge Corporate Park on the west-side of the interchange and on the east-side the path is planned to connect to the Sterling Ponds neighborhood. The Planning Commission will be working with WISDOT, general public and staff in the upcoming months on future land uses for the land area surrounding the interchange. Existing conditions such as the topography, infrastructure (water, sewer and electricity), land use, access and distance to the interchange will be looked at and future land uses such as industrial, commercial and residential, along with design and landscape standards, will be studied. The timeline for the interchange to be completed is 2014-2015. ~

First National Bank Donates AED to Fire Department

Thank you to First National Bank of River Falls (FNB) which has donated the LIFEPAK 1000, Automatic External Defibrillator (AED) to the River Falls Fire Department. This will be the first AED owned by the Fire Department and will be placed on its first out fire engine. Ten years ago after the death of FNB's Board Member, Dr. Roland Hammer, the bank donated a Life Pak to the River Falls Area Ambulance in his memory. Shortly after, FNB purchased an AED for the bank and began routinely training their staff in First Aid and CPR. The River Falls Fire Department is grateful for First National's donation of this life-saving equipment. ~



River Falls Fire Chief Scott Nelson (left) and Chief Engineer Pauly Cudd (right) accept the donation of the AED from Jeff Johnson, First National Bank President/CEO

Local Construction Updates

Residential

The City continues to change in many ways, some more dramatic than others. So far this year, 19 new single family home permits have been issued, compared to 11 this time last year which is an increase of 70 percent. The subdivisions of Royal Oaks, Stone Brook, Spring Creek, South Pointe and Knollwood are all seeing new homes in progress. Homeowners continue to combat the effects of lowered property values by finishing, expanding or remodeling their homes, in many cases completing the work themselves. Permits for decks, sun-rooms and finishing basements are high on residents' lists of projects to complete.

When comparing totals through August from this year to last year, it shows that residential remodeling/alteration permits have increased from 50 to 74, an increase of 48 percent. The value of those same types of projects increased from \$372,000 to \$451,000, or approximately 21 percent.

Commercial

Commercial construction, including new buildings, renovations and alterations, increased in that same time frame by seven permits, 23 to 30, or 30 percent, but the dollar value decreased from \$5,143,324 to \$3,206,091, or 60 percent.

School District

The River Falls School District is in the process of completing major upgrades and maintenance to the heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) systems of the older schools buildings and installing more secure entrances to all of the school buildings. This is all being done as part of the recent 19 million dollar referendum. Phase One, consisting of alterations and upgrades to Rocky Branch Elementary, Administration Building, High School and Bus Garage is near completion. Phase Two, the larger of the two phases will involve Greenwood Elementary, Meyer Middle School and Westside Elementary and is scheduled to be completed next summer.

Rental Units

The third and final apartment building in the Campusview South residential complex at 320-360 Broadway Street, near the University of Wisconsin-River Falls, Melvin Wall Amphitheater contains a total of 24 apartment units and seven boarding houses for the overall complex. A 12-unit apartment building that is Phase 2 of the University Falls project (located on the south shore of Lake George near downtown) was recently completed.

Along with numerous facelifts to the brick and stone store fronts on Main Street, there were also changes in the downtown area created by the removal of the Lund's Hardware complex. A complete exterior and interior renovation of the northern two-thirds of Eco Foods to the new Family Fresh grocery store located at 303 S. Main Street and the remaining vacant southern third of the building will be renovated as additional tenants move in. The number of vacant downtown commercial buildings continues to decrease indicating the entrepreneurial spirit is alive and well in River Falls. ~



Public Works Roof Replacement Project

This past spring, the roof at the Public Works Facility, located at 950 Benson Street was replaced. The 21 year old facility is occupied by 24 employees and houses a vehicle repair shop and the equipment and offices that serve streets, parks, electric, water, sewer departments. The roof, which was the original covering, had an expected service life of 12-15 years, and needed annual repair to maintain a watertight seal. The City sought the services of a professional roofing consultant to complete an assessment

of the roof, provide a recommendation for repair or replacement, and to provide design through post construction administration of the project. The consultant recommended increasing the quality of the roof material resulting in a roof which would provide 20 to 30 years of service life. This option also provided the lowest cost estimate and had a 20 year manufacturer's warranty. Bids were submitted by 11 area roofing contractors, including Quality Roofing, Inc. from Marshfield, Wisconsin, who was awarded the bid. Including all design and project management services, the project totaled just under \$225,000 when completed which resulted in a savings of 25 percent under the amount budgeted. ~

For Rent

If you are interested in renting out your home or renting from someone within in the City of River Falls, you should know the City requires a rental permit for residential properties. Municipal Code Section 15.16.110 A states, "No owner shall operate a dwelling unit producing rental income unless he or she holds a valid permit issued by the city." The City considers rental income as payment or other considerations, including but not limited to, house sitting, babysitting, elderly care, house work, lawn care, and general maintenance. Other considerations could also include paying the utility bill(s) and buying groceries.

New homes should not have problems meeting rental requirements

but older homes may have a few issues to address such as smoke detectors on each floor level, egress window requirements for all bedrooms, possibly ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI) outlets in the kitchen and bathrooms, etc.

To obtain a rental permit, you need to complete and sign a Rental Housing Permit application and submit it along with the annual fee of \$10 to the City of River Falls – Inspections, 222 Lewis Street, River Falls, WI 54022. A permit card would then be issued.

For more details, check out Municipal Housing Code Section 15.16 on the City's website at www.rfcity.org by clicking on the City Information tab, followed by Municipal Codes, Title 15, and lastly 15.16 Housing Code or by contacting David Hovel, Development Assistant, at 715-426-3426. ~

Why'd You Do That?

Posting Meeting Notices with City Clerk Lu Ann Hecht

The City Clerk's Office is responsible for many tasks that help keep the City of River Falls running smoothly. Some tasks include: operation of elections, issuance of licenses, keeper of official records, and the publishing and posting of public meeting notices. The weekly posting of public meeting notices is a task that City Clerk, Lu Ann Hecht, along with the help of other staff, is responsible for.

The purpose of posting meeting notices is to inform the public of action being taken by the various governing bodies of the City of River Falls. The goal is to ensure citizens get enough information on the topic so they can decide on whether they want to attend the public meeting and provide input.



Lu Ann Hecht, City Clerk

Wisconsin State Statute 19.84 says public meeting notices need to state the time, date, place, and subject matter of the meeting. The statute also governs the amount of time in advance the public notice needs to be posted or published. Stated in the Statute, "public notice of every meeting of a governmental body shall be given at least 24 hours prior to the start of the meeting".

At River Falls, staff post meeting notices on the website (www.rfcity.org) and in City Hall, the Public Library and Public Safety Building at least 48 hours prior to the scheduled meeting and publish public meeting notices in the River Falls Journal one week prior to the meeting date.

Last year, the City spent approximately \$5,800 in advertising costs. There were approximately 150 meetings held.

It is our goal as a City to be a transparent organization to all members of the community - providing advanced public notices of our meetings helps us to accomplish this goal. Posting public meeting notices helps to ensure that the citizens are informed on meetings and actions being discussed by their elected officials. If you have any questions about public meeting notices or about the duties of City Clerk, please contact Lu Ann Hecht by email at LHecht@rfcity.org or phone 715-425-0900. ~

Odd/Even Parking Begins November 1

Per the City's Municipal Code, Chapter 10.12, Odd/Even Parking begins November 1 and runs through March 31. Each night between 1 a.m. and 6 a.m. you must:

- Park on the odd numbered side of the street on odd dates
- Park on the even numbered side of the street on even dates
- Remember to park according to the date after midnight

Vehicles parked in violation of parking regulations may be towed for snow removal, street maintenance, or other public safety needs.

Questions may be directed to the River Falls Police Department at 715-425-0909. Thank you for your cooperation! ~

The Foster House

In 2010, the City created Tax Incremental Finance District # 8 (TID #8). The Foster Family home located at 404 S. Winter Street is part of a larger two acre Planned Unit



Development (PUD) within TID #8 and the Gathering Place Community Center to be developed by the Foster Foundation is a key part of that PUD. Also included in this PUD is University Falls, a planned 36 unit residential apartment development of which 24 units have been built. Adjacent to the property is a pathway that is vital to the development of a bicycle pedestrian connection to our downtown commercial center. The property is part of our Downtown District and its redevelopment is an important part of our efforts to reinvest in our City.

In August, the City assisted the Foster Community Foundation in preparing a grant application to the Wisconsin Housing and Economic Development Authority (WHEDA) for available funds to pay for the demolition of the Foster Family House. The Foster Community Foundation was awarded a grant to cover demolition costs and the house will be razed before the end of the year. The demolition of the Foster Family Home will be an important step in advancing the goals of both the Foster Community Foundation and the City of River Falls efforts to move progress along for the successful redevelopment of TID # 8.

For more information on the Foster Community Foundation and their plans for the Gathering Place Community Center, check the FCF web site at www.foster-foundation.org ~

Did You Know...

If you are in search of information from a past newsletter, you can find it on the City's website at www.rfcity.org/ci_citymedia.asp. ~



Roundabouts

Why designers and engineers don't want you to see through the center islands of roundabouts

Adequate sight distance and visibility is needed for a roundabout to operate safely. Why then do we not allow a driver to see through the center islands of our roundabouts in City of River Falls?

Evaluation of sight distance at roundabouts includes both intersection sight distance and stopping sight distance. The fundamental principles of both forms of sight distance are the same at roundabouts as for other types of intersections and are dependent on vehicle speed. All City roundabouts are posted and should be driven at 15 mph. If you approach and travel through this intersection at 15 mph, there is adequate sight distance even though you cannot see through the center island.

Intersection sight distance

Intersection sight distance is evaluated at each entry to ensure a driver can see and safely react to potentially conflicting vehicles. Providing intersection sight distance ensures drivers can safely enter the circulatory roadway without impeding the flow of traffic.

According to the U.S. DOT, sight distance should be evaluated 50 feet back from the circulatory roadway. Stopping distance for a vehicle at 15 mph is 22 feet so this allows ample reaction time for a driver anticipating the approaching roundabout.

The vision "triangle" is based on two conflicting approaches that are typically checked independently (Figure A):

1. Entering stream, comprised of vehicles from the immediate upstream entry.
2. Circulating stream, comprised of vehicles that entered the roundabout prior to the immediate upstream entry.

In both cases, the distance is a function of the vehicle's speed and distance between cars that a driver can reasonably be expected to accept. For vehicles traveling 15 mph, the U.S. DOT computes this distance as 143 feet.

Stopping sight distance

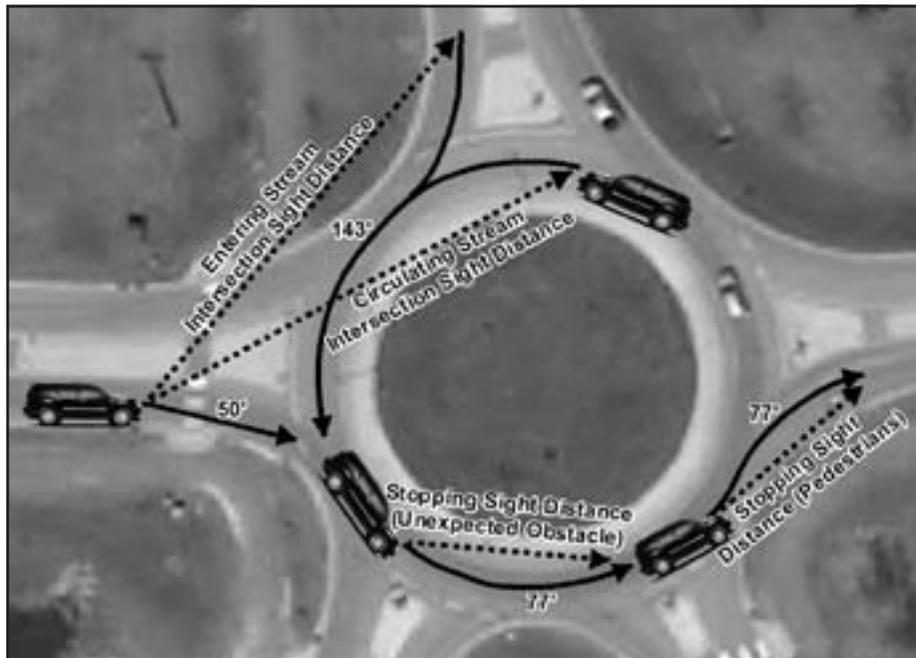
Stopping sight distance should be provided at every point within a roundabout and on each entering and exiting approach. Stopping site distance is the distance traveled while the vehicle driver perceives a situation requiring a stop, realizes that stopping is necessary, applies the brake, and comes to a stop. Stopping sight distance for a vehicle traveling 15 mph is 77 feet.

The U.S. DOT recommends providing no more than the minimum required intersection sight distance on each approach. Excessive intersection sight distance can lead to higher vehicle speeds that reduce the safety of the intersection for all road users (vehicles, bicycles, pedestrians) and recommend landscaping to restrict sight distance to the minimums requirements. The U.S. DOT also states that research on sight distance determined that excessive intersection sight distance results in a higher frequency of crashes.

The City of River Falls has chosen different landscaping techniques to restrict sight distance as recommended by the U.S. DOT. The Cemetery Road/Wasson Lane roundabout was originally seeded with a wildflower and prairie grass mix but wound up with a significant amount of weeds taking root and very few flowers. Over the past three years, through some burns and selective herbicide treatments, we have made headway on reducing the weeds and increasing the growth of native grass, especially at the outside edge near the curb. In the future, we may implement a

narrow mowed edge adjacent to the curb but do not want to stunt the propagation of the maturing native grasses. We understand that there are varying opinions on the look and acceptance of native vegetation but it works well to limit sight distance as recommended by the U.S. DOT and minimizes maintenance expenditures. The newest roundabouts on Cascade Avenue utilize more of a hardscape to limit sight distance to the recommended level. This choice was based on the University environment in which the roundabouts were being installed, and were paid for and will be maintained by UW-RF.

Questions can be referred to Reid Wronski, Director of Public Works /City Engineer at 715-426-3409 or e-mail rwnski@rfcity.org.



75 Years of Fun at Glen Park Pool

What a day; what a night! On Wednesday August 15, 2012, over 200 people gathered at Glen Park to celebrate the historic swimming pool's 75th year of bringing entertainment and fun to so many community families. In attendance were lifeguards and swim instructors from as far back as 1940's. Everyone enjoyed sharing stories and memories through the years. The one recurring message was that the pool meant so much to past generations and it remains the same today. Several comments heard throughout the day were in regard to how the pool has stayed essentially the same, with some good changes, and they hope it stays this way for many years to come!



As part of the celebration, a collection of photos and historical swimwear fashion was on display as everyone reminisced about the many great memories the pool has brought. Mayor Toland was on hand to give a speech and the River Falls High School marching band provided great entertainment while a picnic style dinner with birthday cupcakes was served. A free 2013 family season pass was given away following a ceremony complete with historical recollections and pool memory reflections. As summarized by one child, "this is the best day ever!" ~



Where Did The Summer Go?

It seems just like yesterday, but six months ago the 2012 Spring/Summer Park and Recreation Activity Guide was distributed, and you now may be thinking "where did the summer go?" This was a great summer in regard to weather with very few rainout cancellations taking place. During June/July swim lessons, there were very warm (even hot) morning temperatures; and as it turned out, August swim lessons experienced the coolest temperatures of the summer.

For the first time this year, a "River Falls Park & Recreation" Facebook page was created and used for distributing notification of cancellations and/or new activities. If you haven't already done so, "Like" us on Facebook for up-to-date information on new programs and events.

Over 1,000 participants took part in spring and summer swim lessons including 594 in t-ball/baseball with 118 volunteer parent coaches, 355 in soccer instruction, and then numerous participants in tennis and gymnastic classes, camps, and preschool/family activities. For adult activities, there were 16 co-recreational sand volleyball teams and 56 men/co-recreational teams playing weekday evenings, so the parks were very active both during the day and evening.

It is always sad to walk through Glen Park in September to see only 10-15 people using the area, when during June you can hardly find a parking spot or bench because

of the numerous activities taking place! Luckily, the school year goes as fast as the summer does and before we know it the parks will start to get busy again.

If you have any questions or program ideas, please feel free to contact the River Falls Park and Recreation Department at 715-425-0924. ~

Utility Customer Appreciation Event

Over 500 customers in attendance at the annual Utility Customer Appreciation Event on August 2 tried to stay cool while enjoying hotdogs, corn on the cob, ice cream cones and ice-cold lemonade. In addition to a great picnic lunch, participants enjoyed live music while learning more about various City functions, including energy conservation, wastewater processes, water systems, library technology, storm water benefits, pharmaceutical recycling, and more! Participants received an insulated straw cup to take home while being encouraged to use tap water rather than bottled. The Focus on Energy program of FREE installation of over \$100 worth of energy efficient products was promoted with the added bonus that those participating prior to October 1 were automatically put in a drawing to win an ENERGY STAR appliance valued at \$600. Please contact 715-426-0906 if you are interested in information on this program. ~



City's Budget Process - 2013 Budget Preview



Annually, the Mayor and City Council meet to review and approve a budget for the operations of the City. The budget includes the estimated revenue and expenditures needed to provide City services. The budget is more than just an accounting document; it is the result of input from citizens, boards and commissions, various departments, as well as the Mayor and City Council. Due to limited funding, input from these groups establishes the priorities for the City and incorporates their priorities into the budget. The budget document is used throughout the year as a management and planning tool, which helps to objectively determine the best course for the community.

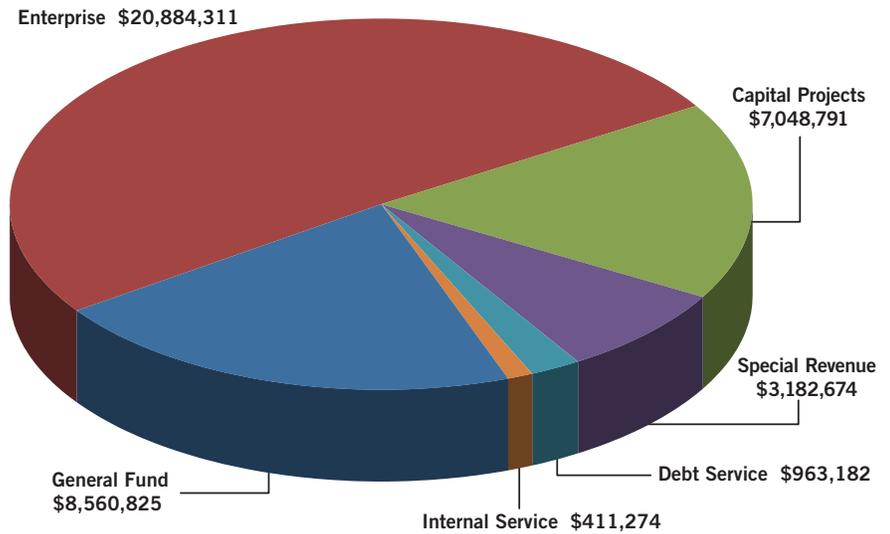
The City currently receives about \$2.0 million in share revenues from the State of Wisconsin, which provides funding for public safety, public works and other departments that would otherwise be supported by property tax revenue. This funding has been steadily decreasing, and was reduced by \$143,000 in 2012. Transportation revenues used for street maintenance were also decreased by \$50,000. In order to prepare for future funding cuts, the City Council has approved a long range fiscal plan that serves as a guide for next year and future budgets.

The City Council welcomes citizen input into the budget process. Budget preparation has begun for 2013 with departments making their recommendations for next year and expenditures modified to fit the available resources. A Council workshop was held September 25, to review this information and the public is encouraged to participate in future meetings. After the Council completes their review, a public hearing will be held on the 2013 budget before considering approval of the budget ordinance and official property tax levy. The public hearing is tentatively scheduled for November 13, 2012.

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

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

2013 Budget



Employee Spotlight

Melinda Johnson

My parents moved from a life of farming to River Falls in 1980 to manage the Auto Stop on North Main Street. Growing up in River Falls during the '80s was a happy, fun time to be a kid. My brother, sister, neighbors, and I had free rein of Clark Street and the Kinnickinnic River. One fond memory is when we would "spy" on the Coca Cola Distributing center and hide among the oil tanks. Clark Street has transitioned to my workplace today.

After going to Inver Hills Community College and experiencing the big city for a while, I convinced my husband, Tony, to move to River Falls after getting married in 1992. In March 1993, I began working as a Police Secretary for the River Falls Police Department and so began my employment working in the City that I grew up in and loved. In May 2008, I graduated from UWRF with a degree in Spanish and Psychology. I found both useful in my work at RFPD.

Last year Tony and I adopted our son, Tyler. With the help of great teachers and staff, the transition at the Meyer Middle School was a good one.

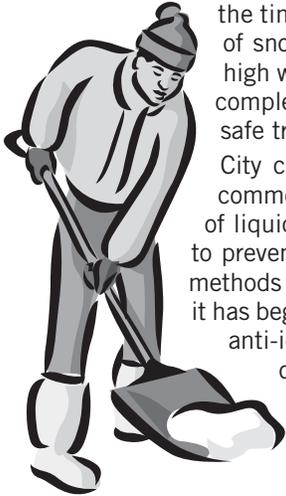
In March 2012, after 19 years at RFPD, I accepted a position with City Hall as a Customer Service Rep. With the help of wonderful co-workers, the transition went well. I enjoy working with the public, as well as learning about different departments in City Hall and am grateful to be a part of the community of River Falls. So when you're in City Hall, stop by and say hi, and let me know how I may help you. ~



Snow Removal in River Falls



The City of River Falls snow removal equipment is comprised of five large trucks equipped with front and wing plows and pre-wet chemical spreaders. Four also have a plow underneath which helps remove compacted snow and ice. There are also three pickup trucks that are used to plow smaller areas and specialized equipment for sidewalks, parking lots, and the downtown area. In the northern and eastern areas of the City, snow removal services are contracted to provide additional assistance without expensive capital, labor, fuel and maintenance costs. This allows River Falls to effectively remove snow throughout the community without exhausting local resources.



The City's plowing strategy depends on the interaction of several factors: the time the snow began, the duration and accumulation of snowfall, the type of snow - light/dry or wet/heavy, the temperature before and after snowfall, high winds, and available staff and equipment. Despite what can seem like a complex process, the goal of the City's plowing efforts is simple: to maintain safe travel by pedestrians and vehicles throughout River Falls.

City crews begin their response to a snow event before the snow falls by commencing anti-icing efforts on main, high traffic roads. A small quantity of liquid salt brine (a water/salt solution) is applied to pavements in an effort to prevent snow and ice from adhering to pavement surfaces. Such anti-icing methods produce quicker and better results compared to just applying salt after it has begun snowing. Less equipment, time, and labor are utilized. Additionally, anti-icing efforts significantly reduce the overall amount of salt applied to our roads causing less impact to our environment.

Once snow has begun to accumulate on the roads, City crews and contractors will plow high volume main roads. Local residential streets will not generally be plowed while it is still snowing. Crew shifts are adjusted for the following day to begin citywide snow removal operations after midnight and avoid overtime costs to the greatest extent practical.

Citywide snow removal begins with clearing snow in the downtown business district area where much of the snow must be loaded onto trucks and dumped at a snow storage site. Next, snow removal operations turn to clearing all City streets including local residential streets. Priority is generally based on traffic volume but all City streets are usually cleared within 8-10 hours. Although we may wish that our street or neighborhood could be plowed first, it is a necessity that the most heavily traveled areas are plowed first to prevent accidents and congestion. City crews and contractors also clear sidewalks adjacent to City owned property, trails along streets and in parks, and all City owned parking lots. Because the City allows on street parking, follow-up snow removal operations continue for up to two nights following a snow storm to clear snow from areas where cars were parked during the initial cleanup.

Virtually every resident's least favorite activity after a snow storm is clearing their driveway where plows have deposited a significant amount of snow from the street. If possible, wait to shovel your driveway until the streets are plowed. The plows have to clear snow from the street and push it to the curb. A driveway that has already been cleared provides less resistance to snow coming off the plow and general results in slightly more snow being deposited in a driveway. Keep in mind that plows make multiple passes on a street to clear it to near the curb, so be patient. If on-street parking is prevalent in your neighborhood, plows may redeposit snow in your driveway when clearing sections of street where cars were previously parked. There are not cost effective ways to clear streets without depositing snow in driveways. Incorporating operations into the City's snow removal operations to clear driveways of snow banks would significantly impact local taxes.

After snow removal operations have been completed, Public Works crews respond to complaints and inspect for areas where snow has not been removed from sidewalks by the adjacent property owner. Property owners are required to shovel their sidewalk, full width, within 24 hours after a storm. On corner lots, the property owner must clear the pedestrian ramp of snow deposited by plows so that pedestrians can safely and freely use the ramp. This may need to be done more than once as a full cleanup from a storm generally takes three days and involves multiple plow passes. If the owner/occupant fails to clear sidewalks and ramps adjacent to their property, the City will have the snow and/or ice removed and the cost charged to the property owner. The cost for the City to remove the snow and/or ice shall be billed according to the City's current Fee Schedule (Currently \$80 minimum). Failure to pay for said services, upon billing, will result in the costs being assessed against the property and placed on the annual tax roll. Only one (1) notice will be given to the property address this snow season regarding clearing of sidewalks. After the first notice, the City will clear sidewalks if they have not been done.

If you have any questions, please contact Terry Kusilek, Street Supervisor, by phone at 715-426-3481 or by e-mail at tkusilek@rfcity.org.

Sidewalks to be Kept Clear

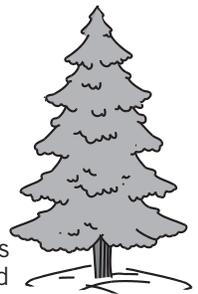
The owner/occupant of any lot or parcel shall have snow and ice removed



within 24 hours after the snowfall ceases. If the owner/occupant fails to comply with this requirement, the City shall cause the snow and ice to be removed and the cost charged to the property owner. The cost for the City to remove the snow and/or ice shall be billed according to the City's current Fee Schedule. Failure to pay for said services, upon billing, will result in the costs being assessed against the property and placed on the annual tax roll.

Note: Only one (1) door hanger notice will be posted at the property this snow season regarding clearing of sidewalks. After the first notice, the City will clear sidewalks if they have not been done. If you have any questions, please contact Terry Kusilek, Street Supervisor, by phone at 715-426-3481 or by e-mail at tkusilek@rfcity.org.

Curbside Christmas Tree Pick-Up



The City of River Falls through its contracted waste hauler will pick up Christmas trees that are placed near your normal garbage pickup location between January 2nd and 18th, 2013. Trees enclosed in plastic will be accepted. Wreaths or garland with wire **will not** be accepted. Heavy snow fall or other severe weather conditions may delay or extend the schedule. A separate truck will be used to collect the trees independently of garbage and recycling pickup. If you have any questions or if your tree is not picked up by January 25, please call Kristy Treichel at 715-426-3412 or e-mail her at ktreichel@rfcity.org.

RECYCLING REMINDER: Christmas wrapping paper is **not** recyclable. Please **do not** place in recycling containers.

Have Two Ways Out!

The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) announced the 2012 Fire Prevention Week theme as "Have Two Ways Out!" to encourage families across the country to prioritize fire escape planning and practice. From October 7-13, 2012, NFPA blazed the trail for home fire safety and lead the campaign to have a home fire escape plan that prepares families to think fast and get out quickly when the smoke alarm sounds. If one exit is blocked by smoke, it's imperative to plan for another escape outlet.



To coincide with this year's Fire Prevention Week theme, the River Falls Fire Department and NFPA would like to give these practical fire safety tips to families:

- Make a map of your home; mark a door and window that can be used to get out of every room.
- Choose a meeting place outside in front of your home.
- Have a grown-up sound the smoke alarm and practice your escape plan.
- Practice your escape plan twice a year.



The River Falls Fire Department would also like to remind everyone to make sure they change the batteries in their smoke and carbon monoxide detectors. Even if your detectors are hard-wired or plugged in, they usually have a battery back-up inside them. A good time to change your batteries is when the clocks change for daylight savings time. ~

Holiday Fire Prevention

The River Falls Fire Department would like to remind everyone that home fires are more prevalent in winter than in any other season. This is due in part to an increase in cooking and heating fires. Holiday decorations also contribute to the increased risk of fire in winter.



Winter fires can be prevented! The following holiday fire safety tips can help you maintain a fire-safe home this winter season.

Decorating homes is a long-standing tradition around the holiday season. Unfortunately, these same decorations may increase your chances of fire. Prevent holiday fires by using nonflammable or flame-retardant decorations and place them away from heat vents. Inspect holiday lights for excessive wear before displaying them. Don't leave your live Christmas tree up for longer than two weeks and keep the tree stand filled with water at all times.

Now is the time to focus on candle fire safety as you put up your holiday decorations. This time of year, the use of candles increases. Consider using battery-operated candles. They are fire safe and look very much like lighted candles.

If you must use lighted candles, ensure that you place them in sturdy holders. Keep them out of reach of children and pets, and never leave burning candles unattended.

The members of the River Falls Fire Department wish you a "fire safe" Holiday season! ~

Tips To Prevent Your Water Pipes From Freezing!

Water pipes and meters are most susceptible to freezing when the weather starts turning cold. Special attention should be given when the outdoor air temperature does not rise above zero degrees during the daytime hours. Some tips to help prevent your pipes from freezing in extreme weather include:

- Heat the water meter area or pipes exposed to outside walls. If you will be away, don't turn your heat off. Keeping the heat in the 60s will help keep your pipes warm.
- Provide ventilation to pipes allowing warmer air to circulate around them. A good way of helping the interior heat reach your pipes is to leave closet and cabinet doors open.
- Insulate or heat pipes that are vulnerable to the cold. This can be done by using standard insulation material or approved heat tape.
- Caulk and seal openings near your meter or pipes. A 1/4-inch gap drains as much heated interior air as a 3x3-inch hole in the wall.
- Shut off and drain all outdoor water supply lines, pipes, and hoses.
- Keep a stream of continuous water running about the thickness of a pencil. Moving water is more difficult to freeze; however, this will affect your bill.
- In severe cases, it is best to turn your main valve off and have a plumber drain your system. This way there will be no water in your pipes to freeze. This is normally done if you will be gone for an extended period of time.

Lateral thawing is the customer's expense if customer neglects to provide or maintain proper insulation or protection for the lateral according to standard accepted practice, or specific utility instructions, such as the required depth of burial needed to prevent freezing. Customer is responsible for thawing and repairing all water lines and plumbing within the house.

For additional information, please contact River Falls Municipal Utilities at 715-425-0906. ~



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



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

CIP 2013-2017 Adopted Plan Highlights

The City Council recently approved and adopted the 2013-2017 City of River Falls Capital Improvements Plan (CIP). As with previous approved plans, the CIP is a roadmap for future capital expenditures. Capital projects are defined as an acquisition, creation, or improvement of City 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. The projects approved in the CIP will be incorporated into the annual budget process over the life of the plan.

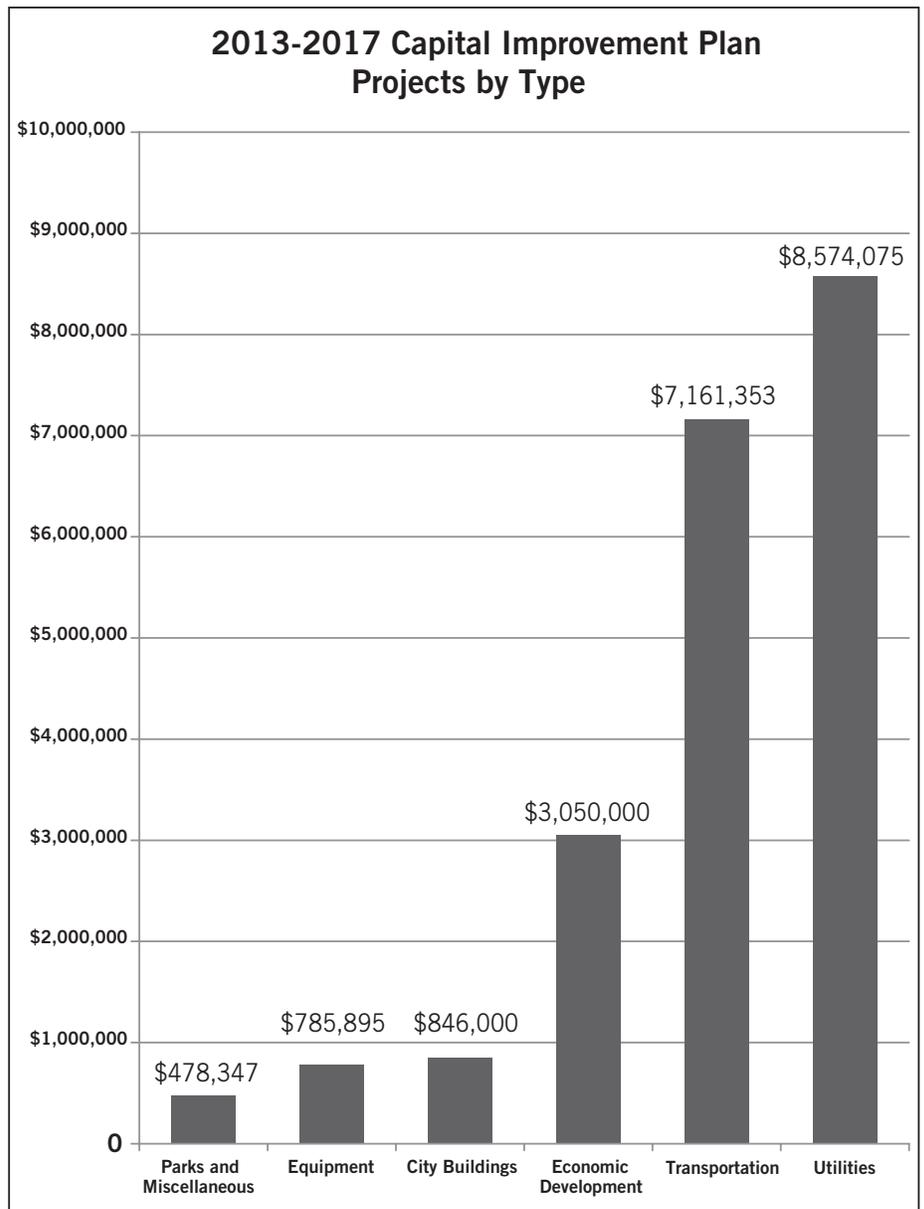
The 2013-2017 City of River Falls Capital Improvements Plan incorporates many of the projects requested by staff, City Council members, and other boards and commissions. Approximately five percent of the proposed projects are funded with the property tax levy, the remaining projects are funded with grants, user fees, impact fees or other financing.

Projects approved in the CIP fall into nine categories: city facilities, economic development, equipment, historical structures, parks, stormwater, transportation, utilities, and vehicle replacement. Some of the major projects are:

- Radio Road interchange project with a local share of \$4.3 million
- South Main Street rehabilitation planned for 2013
- Upgrade to Chapman Drive in 2017
- Development of Whitetail Corporate Park North (Sterling Ponds area) in 2015
- North zone water tower in 2015
- Replacement of the transformer at the power plant substation in 2017

Overall, the CIP incorporates the planning of future expenditures for over 80 projects and 30 vehicles for replacement. The City of River Falls has prepared a long-range fiscal plan which allows for some smoothing of future revenues and expenditures. One goal of the plan is to allocate a minimum of five percent of the property tax levy toward capital projects. By planning for major projects, the 2013 proposed budget includes a capital levy of seven percent which balances operating and capital expenditures.

The CIP is intended to be a reference guide for staff and Council members in future decision making, and to ensure that future needs of City buildings, infrastructure, and equipment are identified and planned for. The CIP is just one of the many ways the City plans for the future through careful stewardship. Information on this approved plan and prior plans is available on the City's website, www.rfcity.org.



City Work Plan Status Report

The Administration's 2011-2013 Work Plan was passed by the River Falls City Council on July 12, 2011. The work plan is based upon review and discussion with Council members regarding their vision for the organization and community. Before implementation and passage last summer, City Council, staff, and many committee chairpersons attended a workshop to provide additional feedback and participated in prioritization exercises. During the prioritization workshop a list of more than 175 projects, plan, studies, and items were compiled. Over the past year, City staff has been working to complete and make progress on several work plan items. Many items have either been completed or are currently in progress for completion. Below is a summary of completed, in progress, and future work plan items as of July 1, 2012.

Completed Work Plan Items:

Deliver Quality, Cost Effective Municipal Services

- Create 2013-2017 Capital Improvement Plan
- Evaluation of Election Equipment Options
- Records Management System (RMS) Implementation (Apparatus, Calls, Personnel, and Training)
- RFP for Banking Services
- RFP for General Insurance
- Working with Counties on Redistricting Plan

Building a High Performance Workforce

- Enhance Employee Skills with current technology tools
- Evaluation of Human Resources Functions
- Recruit and Train Election Inspectors for the 2011-2012 Term

Promote Economic Vitality

- Completion of STH 29/35 Signage Project for Cemetery Road
- Continued work on Historic Plaques for Downtown Buildings
- Cooperate with SCVHH on Eco Village Project
- Developed plan for Corporate Park Expansion
- Evaluated options for continuation of Skate Park
- Map and Zone Trails, Park, and Open Space within the Whitetail Ridge Corporate Park
- Participated in the Gateway Corridor Coalition
- Radio Narrow Banding implementation

Promote Positive Image

- Public Safety Citizens Academy

Work Plan items in progress:

Deliver Quality, Cost Effective Municipal Services

- Analyze impact of Rental Housing on Historically Single-Family neighborhoods
- Community Education/Community Recreation Memorandum of Understanding
- Develop Partnerships for display of Art in City Hall

- Evaluation of Parking Meter Program
- Evaluation of Weather Siren System
- Fiscal Year 2013 Budget
- Implementation of Revised Fire Inspection Program (Phase I-Basic Inspection Process)
- Implementation of Revised Fire Inspection Program (Phase II-Preplan/Business records database)
- NPDES Phase II Permit Compliance
- Update 2013-2017 Fiscal Strategy with projections
- Update of City Emergency Plan
- Building Maintenance Plan
- Development of Performance Measurement System
- Evaluation of Library Front-end Modifications
- Fire By-Laws Revision
- Fire Records Management System (RMS) Implementation (Equipment Inventory)
- Shared Services collaboration discussions with St. Croix County and Neighboring Communities

Build a High Performance Workforce

- Classification and Compensation Study
- Completion of Successor Agreement with Police Bargaining Unit
- Comply with National Incident Management System (NIMS) Training Directives
- Employer/Employee Health Insurance Benefits Study group
- Personnel Policy Handbook – Comprehensive review

Promote Economic Vitality

- Cascade Avenue Reconstruction
- City-wide Way Finding/Signage Preliminary Plan
- Completion of North 35 Commercial Sector Plan (Radio Road Development Project)
- Coordinate with WisDOT on Radio Road Interchange Development
- Creation of program to finance City-owned surface lots
- Strengthen partnerships with Economic Development Agencies
- Assist BID/Chamber with strategy with increase Economic Opportunities Downtown
- Complete safety improvements at Main/Union

Promote Positive Image

- Develop Social Media Strategy for City
- Implementation of Bike Friendly Community
- Improve Integration of the CityWatch System with City-wide Communication Project
- Improve Signage at Library including possible Community Events Board
- Re-design and Implement Revised City Website (including notification and social media integration) ~

Energy Assistance Available

Income Guidelines

Size of Family	Monthly Gross Income
1	\$2,024
2	\$2,646
3	\$3,269
4	\$3,891
5	\$4,514
6	\$5,137
7	\$5,253
8	\$5,370

The Wisconsin Home Energy Assistance Program (WHEAP) provides assistance for heating costs, electric costs, and energy crisis situations. Operating with federal and state funding, the program provides assistance to approximately 225,000 Wisconsin households annually. Most types of fuel are eligible to receive assistance. Whether you use wood, propane, natural gas, electricity, or fuel oil to heat your home, energy assistance is available if you qualify. Households with income

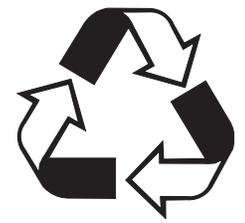
at or below 60% of the Wisconsin state median income may be eligible for WHEAP and weatherization services. Many households with income from farms, offices, factories and other work places receive WHEAP assistance and weatherization services.

- **Heating Assistance.** WHEAP assistance is a one-time payment during the heating season (October 1-May 15). The funding pays a portion of the heating costs, but the payment is not intended to cover the entire cost of heating a residence.
- **Electric Assistance.** Your household may be eligible to receive a payment for non-heating electric energy costs through funding provided by Wisconsin's Public Benefits. WHEAP electric (non-heating) assistance is a one-time benefit payment during the heating season (October 1-May 15).
- **Crisis Assistance.** A household may be eligible if you have no heat, have received a disconnect notice from the heating vendor, or are nearly out of fuel and do not have the money to purchase more. There are also non-emergency or proactive crisis services that include providing information on how to reduce fuel costs, counseling on budgeting and money management, providing payments to a fuel supplier, and co-pay agreements.
- **Furnace Assistance.** WHEAP emergency heating system assistance can provide services to eligible home owners if the furnace or boiler stops operating during the heating season. Heating system assistance includes payment for repairs, or in some situations your residence may qualify for a total replacement of a non-operating furnace or boiler. Call the local energy assistance office immediately if you are experiencing a no heat situation.

The amount of the benefit varies depending on a variety of factors, including the household's size, income, and energy costs. The funding pays a portion of the costs, but the payment is not intended to cover it entirely. In most cases the energy assistance benefit is paid directly to the household energy supplier. For more information on the Wisconsin Home Energy Assistance Program (WHEAP) and how to apply, please call 1-866-HEATWIS (432-8947), or visit the "Where to Apply" tab on www.homeenergyplus.wi.gov to find your local energy assistance agency. ~

Recycling - More Than Just Cans

Recycling aluminum cans has become commonplace in America. We know all the benefits of recycling; using fewer raw materials, not taking up space in landfills, providing jobs, and keeping toxins out of our environment and bodies. A challenge, however, can be finding sites that accept our recyclables. River Falls Municipal Utilities and the City of River Falls have designed a few specialty recycling and disposal programs to meet the needs of our community.



Mercury is an element that, although very useful, we want to keep out of our water, air and bodies. Compact fluorescent lights (CFLs) contain minute amounts of mercury, less than the tip of a ball point pen or the amount in a tuna fish sandwich. Residents are not required to recycle CFLs in Wisconsin, but with most hardware stores and River Falls Municipal Utilities offering recycling, many of our residents do.

While on the topic of quicksilver, a unique recycling program is offered which takes old mercury thermostats and thermometers. Some of the old thermostats contain more mercury than 125 tuna fish sandwiches. All of these mercury containing products can be dropped off at the front desk of City Hall.

While you're in the medicine cabinet looking for that old mercury thermometer, take inventory of your prescriptions and get rid of those you no longer use. Flushing them down the toilet is not a proper method of disposal: many of the chemical and hormones in the prescriptions are not processed at the sewer plant and end up in the Kinni or our groundwater. Do what so many River Falls residents are already doing - take them to the River Falls police station where they'll dispose of them properly.

Here's a true recycling winner: exchange your old holiday lights, working or not, for a new set of LED holiday lights. The exchange happens November 26-28 at city hall. Not only do you get new energy efficient lights, but you also provide gainful employment to developmentally disabled adults who recycle the lights.

Finally, here are two facts that will make recycling the old fridge in the garage an easy decision. First, it costs you around \$100 per year in electricity. Second, we'll pay you \$30 to come to your house, pick it up and recycle it. Simply call 855-398-5226 to set up a pick up time.

We want recycling of CFL's, old holiday lights, thermometers, and fridges to become as common as recycling aluminum cans. We offer programs that will help you recycle with ease. Recycling, it's good for you, us, the environment and the economy. ~





Holiday Light Exchange

November 26 – 28 at River Falls City Hall

Monday 9 a.m. – 7 p.m. and

Tuesday and Wednesday 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

It's never too soon to start thinking about holiday decorations... especially when it includes a no cost LED Holiday Light Exchange!

The holiday season brings beautiful decorations and imaginative use of holiday lights. For those who enjoy having holiday lights on and around their homes, light-emitting diode (LED) lighting can provide significant energy savings and increased safety this holiday season.

This fall, River Falls Municipal Utilities will be hosting its third "Holiday Light Exchange" to help residents save money and protect the environment by using less energy. This exchange allows River Falls Municipal Utilities' customers to bring in a minimum of two strands of incandescent holiday lights (working or not working) to be recycled and in exchange receive two strands of new LED multi-color or white holiday lights—all at no charge. Simply clip the coupon and bring it to City Hall during the designated exchange date/time. Lights will be available on a first come, first serve basis while supplies last. Light recycling will continue through January 11 at City Hall, Ace Hardware, and River Falls High School.

LED holiday lights can save customers energy and money, when compared to traditional incandescent holiday lights. They cost up to 90 percent less to run, are cool to the touch, reduce fire risk, and are safe for use both inside and outside the home. LED lights also shine brighter and last up to 100 times longer than incandescent holiday lights. For additional information regarding this exchange, visit www.rfmu.org, Facebook, or call 715-425-0906. ~



Giving Back



November Collection - Winter Outerwear

Donations of any and all sizes of winter mittens, gloves, socks, hats and anything else needed to keep warm this winter are being collected at City Hall during the month of November. River Falls residents are invited to celebrate the spirit of the season by supporting this worthy cause for our community in need. Unfortunately, there is no shortage of children lacking even the most basic of warm outerwear. Donations will be accepted Monday through Friday between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. during the month of November. Items collected will be distributed to schools within our community. Both new and clean, gently-used items will be accepted. ~

December Collection - Food Items

In 2010, 671 households consisting of 1,761 individuals were served by the River Falls Community Food Pantry. Among these households, 641 children were served, which is equivalent to feeding nearly every kindergarten, first grade, and second grade student within the River Falls School District. To accomplish this, 217,588 pounds of food were distributed during 3,579 visits. With the economy and the jobless rate still down, these numbers are expected to continue to increase.

City employees are inviting the community to donate unopened, non-refrigerated food, and toiletry items during the month of December. As the need for assistance continues to grow, the donation of nonperishable food and hygiene items are gratefully accepted. The donation of items like tuna, canned meats, stews, spaghetti sauce, pastas, pancake mix, fruit, cereal and peanut butter provide critical nutrition, health and hope to area families facing tough economic challenges.

Donations of food items will be accepted at City Hall and River Falls Public Library during regular hours of operation. ~



2012-2013 Property Tax Payments

Pierce and St. Croix County Treasurers' Office will collect the first and second tax installment payments for properties located within the City of River Falls. Both counties offer the ability to pay with credit cards and to make online payments.

The counties also have online tax information at:

Pierce County –

www.co.pierce.wi.us
(click on "Tax and Land Information" tab)

St. Croix County – <http://stcroixcowi.wgxtreme.com/>

Information regarding the assessed value of your home or property can be obtained from Associated Appraisal by calling 1-800-721-4157. ~

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 Chris Blasius
Tony Steiner Margaret Smith
Cindi Danke Jera Terreng



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River Falls, WI 54022

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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



City Council Seats Open for 2013

Below are the City of River Falls Council seats to be voted on at the Spring Election on Tuesday, April 2, 2013. These offices will be elected to succeed the incumbents listed below. The two year term for Alderperson begins on Tuesday, April 16, 2013.

- Alderperson at Large - Incumbent - Randy Kusilek
- Alderperson District 1 – Incumbent - Tom Caflisch
- Alderperson District 2 - Incumbent - Jim Nordgren
- Alderperson District 3 – Incumbent - David Reese

The first day to circulate nomination papers is December 1, 2012. The final day to file nomination papers with the City Clerk's Office is 5 p.m. on Wednesday, January 2, 2013. If a primary is necessary, it will be held Tuesday, February 19, 2013.

Please contact the City Clerk's Office for information regarding completing and filing of forms to be a candidate for local office. Contact Lu Ann at lhecht@rfcity.org, org or 715-426-3408 or Bridget at bhieb@rfcity.org or 715-426-3419. ~