

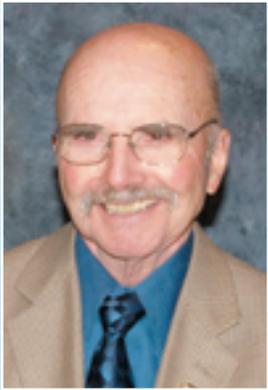


# City of RIVER FALLS NEWSLETTER



October 1, 2010 • VOLUME 1 • ISSUE 3

## Mayor's Message



Last October, the City of River Falls, was announced as a population category winner and recognized for its environmental awareness during the eighth annual America in Bloom (AIB) Symposium and Awards Program. America in Bloom is an organization that promotes nationwide beautification

through education and community involvement by encouraging the use of flowers, plants, trees, and other environmental and lifestyle enhancements (view their website at [www.americainbloom.org](http://www.americainbloom.org)).

Susan Reese, Chair of the River Falls Park Board, recently made me aware of a contest sponsored by America in Bloom (AIB). The announcement from AIB was: "Any past or present America in Bloom participant is eligible for the \$500 cash award for the best You Tube video of a mayor, council member, or AIB committee person explaining: (1) the value of AIB to their community, (2) the positive impact AIB has made on quality of life, (3) the increase of community cohesiveness as a result of AIB, (4) the aesthetic and/or economic impact of quality landscapes and flowers, (5) the increase in awareness of tidiness, heritage, and the environment."

The maximum length of the video is two minutes, and it must be placed on You Tube. The top

three finalists will be featured, and the winner announced at the 2010 AIB Symposium Awards, held in St. Louis, September 30 to October 2, 2010.

We have now submitted our entry to You Tube. You can view the video by typing in this url: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Lpp-o4zxV8k>

The most difficult requirement to measure was economic impact, so we left that out. However, the stipulation gave us latitude on that one. The community cohesiveness requirement we filled by mentioning that this summer a UWRF professor had his students, who were involved in community service, plant flowers in Veterans' Park (below the sculpture and in other places) and near the sidewalk south of Bowen's Garage. And because we're naturally proud of our back sides, we mentioned "backside pride," which shows tidiness improvement.

Adding to the tidiness effort is the contribution of a group from the River Falls Assembly of God Church. They periodically pick up trash along River Walk Street, a much appreciated volunteer effort.

Thank you to RFC-TV for producing this wonderful video. We think our entry will be competitive. That's a safe statement, isn't it? ~

*Don Richards, Mayor of River Falls*



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City of River Falls  
Web Site  
[www.rfcity.org](http://www.rfcity.org)

## Library Holiday Closings

The River Falls Public Library will be closed during the Thanksgiving Weekend, November 25, 26, 27, and 28. The library will re-open on Monday, November 29.

The Library will also be closed on the following dates in December:

Friday, December 10  
(Cleaning and inventory)

December 23-25  
(Holiday closing)

January 1  
(New Year's Day)

## Community Art Show

The River Falls Public Library will be hosting the 12th Annual Community Art Show in November and December. 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. Drop off dates are November 3 and 4 during regular library hours. If you need to make other arrangements, please call the Event Coordinator at 715-425-0905. The show will open Sunday, November 7, and continue through Sunday, December 12. ~

## Meet Local Author Jacqueline West

Meet local author, Jacqueline (Cobian) West, on Tuesday, October 5, 6:30 p.m., in the Lower Level Community Room at the River Falls Public Library. Jacqueline grew up in River Falls, and she is the author of The Shadows, the first title in "The Books of Elsewhere" series. She will be reading from and discussing her work. Please join us! ~



## Halloween Haunted House at the Library



The 5th annual Haunted House will take place in the lower level of the library from 5:30-9 p.m. on Sunday, 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 past years (the Witch Sisters), there's a new story line each year, along with the fabulous pumpkin patch. The Haunted House is sponsored by the library, the AnnMarie Foundation, and the Haskins family. It's fun, free, and suitable for the whole family, with treats for the kids. See you there! ~

## Gingerbread Contest at the Library



The fabulous annual Gingerbread Contest sponsored by River Falls Public Library and River Falls State Bank will be held in December. Entries are due at the library by 8 p.m. (closing time) on Wednesday, December 8. Winners announced after the People's Choice voting closes on Thursday, December 16. 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. No purchased kits are allowed. For a complete list of rules or more information, call the library, 715-425-0905, or check our webpage, [www.riverfallspubliclibrary.org](http://www.riverfallspubliclibrary.org).

Never made a gingerbread house before? The library will be holding a free how-to class on Tuesday, November 30, 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. ~

## Smithsonian Exhibit Coming to the Public Library

"Key Ingredients: America by Food," a Smithsonian Museums-On-Main Street (MoMS) exhibit, will be at the River Falls Public Library Kleinpell Gallery from January 28 to March 11.

River Falls is just one of six sites in Wisconsin selected by the Wisconsin Humanities Council to host this exhibit. It consists of freestanding kiosks

and original objects, and has been specifically designed to address the space and staffing constraints of small cultural institutions. The library, in partnership with other area individuals and organizations, will be providing a wide range of programs and events to complement the display, including a lecture series by the UWRF History Department, author Jerry Apps, Midwest Organic and Sustainable Education Service Executive Director Faye Jones, a fine china display, etiquette programs, a cookbook exchange, a food Fear Factor event for kids, and a film series. Watch for more information in coming weeks, or call the library for more information. ~

# Calendar of Events

- October 2,5,9,12,16,19,23,26,30 . . . . . **Farmers' Market,**  
*Corner of East Locust and 2nd Streets*  
*Saturdays 8 a.m. – 12 noon, Tuesdays 3-6 p.m.*
- October 5 . . . . . **Meet Local Author Jacqueline West, at RF Library, 6:30 p.m.**
- October 7 . . . . . **Customer Appreciation Energy Expo, 5-7 p.m., City Hall**
- October 30 . . . . . **Business Expo, 12 noon-4 p.m., Knowles Center, UWRF**
- October 31 . . . . . **Haunted House the RF Library, 5:30 p.m.**
- November 2 . . . . . **General Election, polls open 7 a.m.-8 p.m.**
- November 7 . . . . . **Community Art Show**  
*Begins at RF Library*
- November 9 . . . . . **2011 Budget Public Hearing, City Hall**
- November 11 . . . . . **City Offices Closed; Library Open**
- November 25, 26, 27, 28 . . . . . **City Offices and Public Library Closed**
- November 26 . . . . . **River Dazzle, 1-6 p.m.,**  
*visit [www.rfchamber.com](http://www.rfchamber.com) for more information*
- November 29-December 3 . . . . . **Holiday Light Exchange, City Hall**  
*Monday 8 a.m.-7 p.m., Tuesday-Friday 8 a.m.-5 p.m.*
- November 30 . . . . . **Gingerbread Class at RF Library, 6:30 p.m.**
- December 1 . . . . . **First Day to circulate nomination papers for Council seats**
- December 8 . . . . . **Gingerbread House entries due at RF Library**
- December 10 . . . . . **RF Library Closed**
- December 23-26,31, January 1 . . . . . **City Offices and Public Library Closed**
- January 4 . . . . . **Nomination papers due to City Clerk, 5 p.m.**



## River Falls Receives Recognition from Water Star Wisconsin

River Falls recently received recognition for its “exemplary water protection efforts” from the new Water Star Wisconsin program. Water Star Wisconsin was launched on Earth Day and honors cities, villages, towns and counties that have taken important steps to protect surface water and groundwater, such as strengthening storm water controls, ensuring water quality, protecting habitats and encouraging residents to conserve water. River Falls is one of only three gold-star communities in the state. The gold level designation is the highest of the three levels in the program. You can learn more about the Water Star program online at <http://www.waterstarwisconsin.org>.

## Fall 2010 Special Events for Kids at the Library

### No School Day Specials

**Friday, October 8, 10:30-11:30 a.m.** - Children, ages 4-9 and their families, are invited for come and make fall crafts. The event will be in the upper level meeting room. Please call 715-425-0905 or stop by the children’s desk to pre-register.

**Friday, November 5, 10:30-11:30 a.m.** An early Thanksgiving storytime, games, activity and craft day, aimed at kids who are ages 4-9 and their families. Please call 715-425-0905 or stop by the children’s desk of the Library to pre-register.

### Santa, Mrs. Claus and Reindeer at the Library

Come to the Library on **Monday evening, December 13, 6:30-7:30 p.m.** and have a chance to visit Santa and Mrs. Claus, and also meet a couple of their reindeer. Santa and Mrs. Claus will greet the children on a first come/first serve basis. This event will also be in the upper level meeting room, and the reindeer will be on the lawn near the main entrance of the library.



*Santa and Mrs. Claus, Ella and Hanna Cook*

# The City and the Town of Troy Move Forward on a Cooperative Agreement

The Town of Troy and the City of River Falls will collaborate on the development of a joint land use and boundary agreement. A joint committee made up of representatives from the Town and City was established to develop a draft agreement, subject to approval by both the Town and City. The intent is that the joint committee will forward a draft agreement to the Town Board and City Council for their review and action by early 2011. The collaborative effort will build on the October 2005 Draft Cooperative Plan and Agreement that the Town and City developed by a committee of appointed Town and City representatives and reflects the Comprehensive Plans and ordinances of both the Town and City.

The Agreement would establish long-term ground rules and limitations. When ground rules are established in advance, both governments (and all effected landowners and residents) can plan intelligently and ensure that development is financially sustainable and that growth, conservation, redevelopment, and natural resource protections are balanced. The plan will help in maintaining a cooperative intergovernmental perspective that will enhance the quality of life of the community and ensure the availability of community services. ~



## 2011 Budget Process

The 2011 budget process is underway and a draft budget has been prepared for review by the City Council. The annual budget cycle begins in early summer with departments submitting their budget requests for the next year. The Council holds workshop sessions to review the proposed budgets, leading up to the passage of the final budget document with a public hearing in November of each year. The 2011 budget is tentatively scheduled for a public hearing on November 9, 2010. The public is encouraged to attend and participate in the public hearing. The draft budget will be available on the City's website ([www.rfcity.org](http://www.rfcity.org)) and at the River Falls Public Library.

### 2011 Budget Revenues and Expenditures

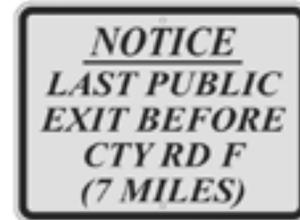
As the largest single source of revenue, the general property tax levy is a major discussion item for the City Council during the budget meetings. The ability to maintain City services and keep the property tax burden from rising is a priority for the Council. Through a combination of expenditure cuts, revenue increases and allocations from other funds, the 2010 budget maintained the same property tax levy as 2009. The 2011 budget levy will be determined after the City Council reviews projected revenues and associated expenditures.

The annual budget includes expenditures for personnel, operations, principal and interest payments and capital purchases. Efforts are made during the budget process to maintain equity between these competing priorities. The 2011 proposed budget includes funding for capital investments, such as replacement public works and public safety equipment and vehicles, planned design costs for Cascade Avenue and Radio Road upgrades, and funding for the Bartosh stormwater pipe replacement. Capital projects are generally financed for 5 to 10 years if they are significant in cost and will continue to benefit the community well into the future.

Planning for future budgets includes the possibility of additional reductions in shared revenue from the State of Wisconsin, which was cut one percent in 2009 and three percent in 2010. At 26 percent of the general fund budget, additional decreases in this funding source could significantly affect the proposed budget in 2011 as well as future years.

The City 2010 budget includes \$4.4 million in general property tax revenues, which is approximately 24 percent of the total tax bill. Other taxing jurisdictions, including the school district, technical college, counties, tax increment districts and the state make up the remaining 76 percent.

Please contact the City's Finance Department at 715-425-0900 if you have any questions regarding the 2011 proposed budget process. ~



## Kinnickinnic Signage Project

Quite often, visitors and residents of River Falls enjoy the scenic atmosphere provided by floating down the Kinnickinnic River in a tube, boat or kayak without being aware of the approximate time it takes to travel down the river and the locations where it is safe to get out of the river. Many people have attempted to climb the steep cliffs surrounding the river when they wished to get out, which often resulted in injury. Due to the lack of cell phone service and familiarity with the areas where people try to leave the river, a potentially dangerous situation has been created and needed to be addressed. The Kinni Signage Project was created to serve this purpose by

putting signs along the river, including drop off and beach areas, providing important information to people that wish to use the river. For example, the signs indicate that there is to be no littering in and around the river and that there is little or no cell phone reception in the area. The signs also provide the approximate travel time to County Road F by canoe or kayak, which is between three to four hours. Inner-tubing is not recommended because the approximate float time can be up to seven or eight hours. Planning Director Buddy Lucero has offered a suggestion for a future addition to the project, which would include putting mile markers along the river so that people would know exactly how far they have traveled in a certain amount of time which would be very useful as the unpredictability of river flow is often high. ~

# Animal Control in River Falls

The most common animal complaints in River Falls are animals running at large, stray animals, dogs that are unlicensed and dogs barking. Below are the ordinances that deal with these specific issues as well as the procedures that the River Falls Police Department takes in order to help prevent these issues from occurring.

River Falls Ordinance 6.04.060 prohibits domestic animals from running at large. An animal is considered running at large if it is off the property of its owner and is not in control of the owner or another person. This ordinance also mandates that all dogs must be kept on a leash of 8 feet or shorter at all times when off the property of its owner. Animals that are reported running at large are subject to impoundment as well as a \$76.20 citation.

If an animal is captured and an owner cannot be found (or if the animal is a stray/feral animal), the animal is brought to the veterinary clinic and then to the Humane Society of Goodhue County in Red Wing, Minnesota. The Humane Society will hold the animal for five days. If the animal is not claimed within those five days, the animal becomes the property of the Goodhue Humane Society. If someone claims their animal after it has been brought to the Humane Society, the owner must pay the veterinary bill as well as any fees charged by the Humane Society. The owner must bring the receipt of the veterinary bill as well as a copy of the dog license (if appropriate) in order to retrieve the animal from the humane society.

The average vet bill is \$80-\$100 and the average humane society fees are \$50-\$150. If the animal is a stray animal, the Police Department covers the costs.

Also, in accordance with municipal code 6.04.010, every dog residing in the city must be licensed by five months of age. The license needs to be renewed annually on January 1. The license can be obtained at the front desk of city hall. The price of licensing is \$10 per intact dog and \$5 per neutered/spayed dog. Proof of current rabies vaccine is required in order to obtain the license. A late fee may be charged if the license is obtained after April. Unlicensed dogs are subject to impoundment or a citation may be issued to the owner. The citation amount for an unlicensed dog is \$76.20.

In regards to care for a domestic animal, municipal code 6.04.070 states that all dogs and domesticated animals shall be cared for, maintained and handled in a humane and sanitary manner and in such a way as to prevent noises, barking, fighting, howling or other disturbance of the peace and quiet of the neighborhood. No domestic animal shall be abandoned or turned loose by its owner or keeper. No animal shall be inhumanely confined in a manner which causes or is likely to cause pain, suffering, injury or death.

Municipal code 6.04.080 also prohibits any person from keeping or harboring within the city any dog which, by loud, frequent or habitual barking, yelping or howling, shall cause serious annoyance to the neighborhood or to persons passing to and fro upon the streets. ~



## RFC-TV Is Now Streaming Video-On-Demand! Your Favorite Community Programs are Available Online

River Falls Community Television, Channel 16, recently invested in an upgrade to its playback system. With this upgrade, RFC-TV can now record high-quality media files for television cablecast while simultaneously creating digital media files optimized for internet streaming. This means you can watch your favorite locally produced programs such as government meetings, community events, Wildcat sports, and volunteer produced programs all online when it's convenient for you.

"We are excited to be able to offer our community programs available through high-quality web-streaming," says Dawn Wills, Communications Coordinator.

RFC-TV's video library is now available online. You can find the Video-on-Demand link on the city's home web page at: [www.rfcity.org](http://www.rfcity.org) or you can go to: <http://rfctv.pegcentral.com> ~

# Energy Education in our schools

We are constantly bathed in energy from the easily recognizable light, heat, and movement to the more subtle sounds and breezes of our world. Energy plays an increasingly indispensable role in all our lives, yet it continues to be taken for granted. We not only have a responsibility to teach our children the nature of energy and how their lifestyles depend on it, but also how their consumption of today could affect the world in which we live in tomorrow. POWERful Choices! and the River Falls School District have partnered to address the energy education needs of our local students and schools. Starting in the Fall of 2010, POWERful Choices! will provide funding for a local environmental educator to teach energy education in our elementary schools, as well as, offer a grant program for secondary teachers to purchase energy related teaching materials.



River Falls School District has done an excellent job over the years to provide our community with a top notch education. The energy education program funded by POWERful Choices! builds upon the already strong foundation and provides additional expertise in a rapidly changing world of conservation, efficiency and renewable energy. Aleisha Miller, a local environmental educator, was hired

to develop a year-long science-based energy education curriculum for grades two and four. She will be in every public school 2nd and 4th grade class one day a month. The consistency will allow for students to build upon the knowledge gained from the previous months and allow for better opportunities to meet the state science standards. The goal of the program is to increase energy literacy in the student population, which will benefit the community as a whole.

Many of the science teachers at the secondary level have completed all of the courses offered in the K-12 Energy Education Program (KEEP). Thus the need in the secondary grades is not training, but rather resources. POWERful Choices! has created a grant for high school and middle school teachers to apply for funding for energy literacy materials, such as renewable energy hardware and kits. The goal of the grant is to provide resources so teachers can more easily incorporate energy into their lessons and curriculum.

River Falls Municipal Utilities is locally owned and operated by your friends and neighbors who share your values and understand our community's needs. To meet our community's needs, we believe these new programs will ensure we continue to have well informed, energy literate customers in the future. ~

# November 2, 2010, General Election in the City of River Falls



This year's general election is November 2. Polls open at 7 a.m. and close at 8 p.m. on Election Day. The Polling Locations for City Residents are District 1, National Guard Armory;

District 2, UW-RF Student Center; District 3, Meyer Middle School; District 4, River Falls High School.

Candidates on this ballot have advanced from the September Partisan Primary and include the State Offices of Governor, Lt. Governor, Attorney General, Secretary of State, and State Treasurer; Congressional Offices include U.S. Senator and Representative in Congress District 3; Legislative Office of Representative to the Assembly District 29, and 30; and County Offices of Sheriff and Clerk of Circuit Court.

Voting on the November ballot may be done by choosing a straight party or voting for individual candidates in any political party.

A registered voter may vote at the polls on Election Day or by requesting an absentee ballot. To check your voter status, call the

City Clerk's Office at 715-426-3408. You can also check your voter status online at <https://vpa.wi.gov>. This site allows you to see where you are currently registered, your polling place, your voter history, a sample ballot; and if you requested an absentee ballot, the status of your ballot.



*Election Staff - Deputy Clerk, Bridget Hieb, and City Clerk, Lu Ann Hecht*

If you have moved since you last voted or you have not voted in four years, you will need to register using your current residence.

You may register to vote in the Clerk's Office or at the polls on Election Day. For more information on registering to vote or absentee voting call the Clerk's Office 715-426-3408 or view the City's web site at [www.rfcity.org](http://www.rfcity.org) or the Government Accountability Board at [www.gab.wi.gov](http://www.gab.wi.gov)

## Glen Park Swinging Bridge Restoration Project



### Before

*Natural degradation of the limestone rock in front of the piers supporting the Glen Park Swinging Bridge was jeopardizing the stability of the structure.*



### After

*Finally, the shotcrete was colored and stamped with forms to help it look more natural than plain shotcrete.*

### During

*After removing loose rock from the surface, steel anchor rods were drilled into sound rock, a reinforcing mesh was added, and shotcrete (sprayed concrete) was applied to the surface.*



## Planned Unit Development

When property is developed, there is always an interface between private and public improvements. For example, a subdivision has private lots that front on a public street and may be adjacent to a public alley. Private lots are served by public sidewalks; public parks and household utilities are connected to the public utility system. However, there is an exception to this development pattern that allows improvements traditionally considered public to be built and maintained as private. This form of development has gained popularity in many communities and has become an important part of River Falls. It is the Planned Unit Development. A Planned Unit Development (PUD) can be applied to a residential, commercial or industrial setting. The most common form of PUD in River Falls is residential.

PUD is a design process that allows for greater flexibility in the development of land while assuring substantial compliance to City ordinances and the Master Plan for the City. A PUD may have a mix of public and private improvements, common open spaces and other amenities that benefit the development.

The most common private improvement is roads. There are a number of PUD's in River Falls that have private roads that connect to City streets. Private roads in the City are designated by blue street signs. Public streets typically have green street signs. The upkeep and repair are governed by private agreements between individual home owners and a homeowners association.

The homeowners association is a self-governing body that enforces covenants (private agreements) and collects association fees that are used to pay for maintenance and replacement of commonly owned amenities within the development. The benefit of the homeowners association is residents have greater control over their environment albeit at a monthly cost over and above what they pay in property taxes.

The following are the planned unit developments in River Falls: Sterling Heights; Collinswood; Highview Meadows, First and Second Additions, Colonial Collection, Parkway Collection; Boulder Ridge Townhome Community I and II; Greenridge Homes; South Valley First and Second; Stone Brook Townhome Community; and South Pointe. ~

## Employee Spotlight – Lead Water Works Operator/ Interim Water Works Superintendent

### Steve Paurus



During January of 1987, Steve was hired as a Water Meter Repair and Tester at River Falls Municipal Utilities. In May of 2001, Steve was promoted to Lead Water Works Operator and in July of 2010, was appointed to assume the Superintendent responsibilities on an interim basis.

Prior to working at the River Falls Municipal Utilities, Steve worked eleven and a half years as a steel worker in northern Minnesota. Following the loss of his job due to company cutbacks, Steve decided to pursue a Degree of Proficiency in Water Treatment and Wastewater Treatment at St. Cloud Area Vocational Technical Institute in St. Cloud, Minnesota. Following graduation, Steve and his family moved to River Falls to begin his career at River Falls Municipal Utilities. Steve says, "I have a tremendous amount of sympathy for families affected by job cuts. I know first hand how difficult and challenging this is. Because of the unfortunate experiences my family and I have been through, I have a great appreciation for my position at River Falls Municipal Utilities and try my best not to take things for granted."

Steve is currently a member of the River Falls Municipal Utilities Safety Committee and enjoys the variety of tasks involved in his position. Steve, along with his three co-workers in the Water Department, are responsible for providing safe drinking water to the residents and businesses of River Falls by monitoring, testing, and treating on a regular basis to assure water is safe and meets, or is better than, state and federal standards. Other important aspects of Steve's position are to assist in assuring there is an adequate water supply for fire protection, maintaining and operating an effective sewer collection system, and coordinating future expansions of River Falls' high quality water and sewer collection system.

Steve and his wife, Janine, recently celebrated their 35th wedding anniversary and have four children: Jamie, Lindsey (lost her life due to medical complications), Heidi, and Heather. Steve's hobbies include keeping up with his six grandchildren and drag racing (on the track). ~

# Tree Trimming During The Winter

The City of River Falls' Public Works Department will be trimming trees and brush in alleys, on boulevards, and along road rights-of-way within the City throughout the winter months. This work is dependent upon the weather and is usually completed between snowstorms and other winter weather conditions. There is no specific route or area selected at this time. Once an area in need of trimming has been identified, door hanger notification cards are hung on properties in the area to be trimmed.

Trimming trees consists of removing certain limbs to raise the street and or sidewalk clearance under the tree and to "shape" the tree to provide good health for the tree to continue to grow. This prevents the limb from being hit or possibly broken which could cause the tree to become diseased and possibly causing damage to vehicles such as garbage trucks, snow plows school busses and the street sweeper. Trimming is also done to provide improved visibility at intersections, curves and corners.

Trimmed material normally "chipped" on site and the remaining chips are dumped at the compost site on the end of Locust Street past the River Falls School District's bus garage. Chips are free for city residents to take on a first come, first serve basis. Materials too large for the city's chipper are dumped in the wood pile at the compost site, then ground and recycled by a large tub grinder into wood fuel used in the bio boilers to heat buildings in downtown St. Paul. This process is done at no cost to city residents. If you have questions, please contact the Public Works Department at 715-425-0927 ext. 114. ~

# 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. It's not necessary to run it as high as you would if you were at home, but keeping the heat inside 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 thin 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. ~

# Winter Snow Policies

As the winter snowplowing season approaches, the River Falls Public Works Department is asking for the cooperation of residents to not allow forts, tunnels, etc. to be constructed along street boulevards/right-of-way. Snow plowing cleaning operations could cause the collapsing of such structures and cause injuries to persons playing or hiding in the snow banks.

Please do not plow or blow snow from private property, sidewalks, driveways or parking lots onto the street. An individual property owner that has limited or no on-site area to stack or pile snow must have permission from the neighboring or adjacent property owner(s) to deposit snow from their property onto the other neighboring or adjacent private property. Failure to comply with the above regulations violates City Ordinance 8.04 (Snow and Ice Removal).

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) notice will be sent to the property owner 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 the River Falls Public Works Department at (715) 425-0927, Ext. 114. ~

# Snow Removal in River Falls

October in River Falls brings brilliant autumn colors, accentuating the vitality of the community. Soon after the leaves fall, you may wake up to see a glimmering blanket of snow outside of your window. Sure enough, the winter season has arrived, and with it, another snow removal season to uncover these blankets of snow from the roads, sidewalks, and driveways of River Falls.

The River Falls snow removal equipment is comprised of five large trucks equipped with front and wing plows and pre-wet chemical spreaders. Four of the trucks 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 alleyways, and specialized equipment for sidewalks, parking lots, and specialized the downtown area. For the northern and eastern ends of the City and newer developments, 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, a notably economically efficient process.



Efficiency is also prominent in the City's utilization of an anti-icing solution used during snow removal, composed of liquid salt brine, (a water/salt solution) which prevents snow and ice from adhering to pavement surfaces and activates more quickly than de-icing methods, which break up snow and ice that has already bonded to the road surface. Anti-icing methods, like using salt brine, prevent the formation of bonded snow and ice for easier removal. Therefore, less equipment, time, and labor are utilized, eliminating labor and supplies costs.

The budget is based on the history of snow removal in previous years. Based on past data, the Public Works Department is able to estimate that there will be approximately 12 storms per year and can determine the cost of each storm by examining the cost of about 10 hours per storm, the cost of using equipment and supplies, and the cost of hiring additional assistance. By determining these costs, the Public Works Department

requests the amount of capital necessary for snow removal and presents it to the Council for approval. Although the cost of fuel and labor are difficult to predict because they are arbitrary costs, or are subject to change depending on the severity of the winter months, there has been little expansion of roads so costs are quite predictable and are often reasonable for the necessity of snow removal services.

Citizens may have concerns in regards to how snow removal practices affect the health of the community and the environment. The City uses the least amount of salt necessary to maintain safe, ice-free surfaces during snow removal. The anti-icing solution is also used more widely on main roads, hills, sharp curves, and busy intersections; and therefore, is less concentrated in residential areas and is not likely to become a large threat for public health or the environment.

## What you can do to help:

-The Public Works Department attempts to maintain travel-safe walks and roadways for pedestrians and vehicles properly equipped for winter driving conditions. Arterials and major collectors will generally be free from compacted snow or ice upon snowfall cessation. Residential streets will not be free of ice or snow packed pavement. Bare, dry pavement should **NOT** be expected after each storm on residential streets.

- Please be patient and understanding! Despite how it may seem, snow removal is a very complicated and unique process in River Falls due to limited off-street parking, which causes the necessity for the City to be plowed twice. Plow schedules also try to accommodate the downtown businesses since many function very late into the night, producing only a small window of time to plow early in the morning when there are few cars on the roads. 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.

- Wait to shovel your driveway until the streets are plowed. Many people become extremely frustrated because they believe that the snow pushed out of the street by the plows create a barrier so that they cannot get out of their driveway. However, if you wait until after the plows have come by, you won't have to shovel the end of your driveway a second time.

- Maintain the sidewalks on your property to prevent unwanted fines! Sidewalks need to be shoveled, full width, within 24 hours after a storm. They are inspected regularly, and you will be billed if they are not maintained, even in your absence. ~

# No Cost LED Holiday Lighting Exchange



River Falls Municipal Utilities (RFMU) will be holding a "Holiday Light Exchange" to help electric customers save money and protect the environment by using less energy this holiday season. This exchange will take place during the week of November 29 through December 4, at City Hall during the following hours: Monday 8 a.m. – 7 p.m. and Tuesday – Friday 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. This exchange allows customers to bring in old strands of incandescent holiday lights (working or not working) to be recycled, in exchange for new LED holiday light strands. There is no cost and the exchange is limited to two strands per household on a first come, first served basis. For more information, visit [www.rfmu.org](http://www.rfmu.org) or call 715-425-0906. ~

## City of River Falls 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 3 and 14, 2011. 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 21, please call 715-426-3409. ~

# Solid Waste and Recycling Information for City of River Falls Residents

## City Residents Must Sign Up for Service from Waste Management



The City of River Falls contracts with Waste Management for residential solid waste and recycling disposal. In accordance with City Ordinance 8.36.040, all residential units in the City are required to have their solid waste collected by the City through its contractor unless they have applied for an exemption from the City Clerk. Exemptions are only available to residences that are part of or contiguous to a commercial property under the same ownership, and owners of duplexes, triplexes or rooming houses. **Please call Waste Management at 888-960-0008 or 715-425-8397 to provide them with billing information and to obtain waste and recycling containers if necessary.** Standard garbage containers are 35 gallons. Larger containers are available at an increased cost to the customer. Billing is on a quarterly basis (2009 rate = \$10.19/mo). Residents may only discontinue garbage service if the water meter to their home has been disconnected.

### Why Can't I Choose My Own Hauler?

There are a number of reasons why the City of River Falls has chosen to contract for residential garbage collection through one hauler including:

- ◆ Garbage trucks are the single biggest vehicle contributing to deterioration of our local neighborhood streets.
- ◆ It is a sustainable practice reducing fuel consumption, pollution, and unnecessary damage to roads.
- ◆ It makes our neighborhoods cleaner, safer and quieter with less unnecessary truck traffic.
- ◆ We know who to contact if there is a litter problem associated with garbage pickup.

- ◆ The monthly rate contracted for by the City is lower than would be obtained by individuals contracting for service. It is most efficient for one hauler to pick up from each and every home in neighborhood rather than having to skip one that would be picked up by another hauler.

### Curbside Garbage and Recycling

Garbage and recycling must be placed at the curbside by 6 a.m. on the designated collection day. The hauler is not obligated to pick-up garbage and recycling that was not at curbside by 6 a.m. on the day of scheduled pick-up. **Call 888-960-0008 or 715-425-8397 if your garbage pick-up has been missed.**

### Residential Recycling

Place steel and aluminum cans, #1 to #7 plastics, colored and clear bottles and jars, newspaper, magazines, and cardboard together in the recycling bin. They do not have to be separated. Do not use plastic bags. Large cardboard should be flattened and folded or cut into pieces not larger than 2' x 2' in size, place next to or underneath the recycling bin. All recycling must be placed curbside for collection on the same day as your garbage service. ~

### Preparation Tips:

- ◆ Labels do not need to be removed from cans and bottles.
- ◆ Rinse to produce less than five percent food debris.
- ◆ Remove caps from bottles, jars, and other containers.

### Non-Recyclable Items Include:

- ◆ Hazardous waste containers
- ◆ Medicine containers
- ◆ Food contaminated packaging
- ◆ Plate/window glass/mirrors
- ◆ Plastic cups
- ◆ Waxed paper or boxes
- ◆ Packaging material
- ◆ Bathroom wastepaper
- ◆ Paint cans
- ◆ Gasoline containers
- ◆ Light bulbs
- ◆ Aerosol cans
- ◆ Pottery
- ◆ Ceramics
- ◆ Dishes
- ◆ Paper Cups
- ◆ Wrapping Paper

## Customer Appreciation Energy Expo

In celebration of Public Power Week, October 4 - 8, 2010, and the 110th Anniversary milestone of providing electricity to River Falls, River Falls Municipal Utilities will be hosting a family-friendly Customer Appreciation Energy Expo on October 7 from 5 - 7 p.m. at City Hall. Utility customers present will have an opportunity to get answers to your energy questions, enjoy a picnic lunch, receive a FREE energy conservation kit (while supplies last), and register to win a grand prize ENERGY STAR appliance. For more information, visit [www.rfmu.org](http://www.rfmu.org) or call 715-425-0906.



# Holiday Fire Safety Tips

Each year fires occurring during the holiday season claim the lives of over 400 people, injure 1,650 more, and cause over \$990 million in damage. According to the United States Fire Administration (USFA), there are simple life-saving steps you can

take to ensure a safe and happy holiday. By following some of the outlined precautionary tips, individuals can greatly reduce their chances of becoming a holiday fire casualty. ~

## Preventing Christmas Tree Fires

- **Christmas Tree Fire Hazards**

Movie segments demonstrating how fast a live Christmas tree can become fully engulfed in flames. Special fire safety precautions need to be taken when keeping a live tree in the house. A burning tree can rapidly fill a room with fire and deadly gases.



- **Selecting a Tree for the Holiday**

Needles on fresh trees should be green and hard to pull back from the branches, and the needle should not break if the tree has been freshly cut. The trunk should be sticky to the touch. Old trees can be identified by bouncing the tree trunk on the ground. If many needles fall off, the tree has been cut too long, has probably dried out, and is a fire hazard.

- **Caring for Your Tree**

Do not place your tree close to a heat source, including a fireplace or heat vent. The heat will dry out the tree, causing it to be more easily ignited by heat, flame or sparks. Be careful not to drop or flick cigarette ashes near a tree. Do not put your live tree up too early or leave it up for longer than two weeks. Keep the tree stand filled with water at all times.

- **Disposing of Your Tree**

Never put tree branches or needles in a fireplace or wood burning stove. When the tree becomes dry, discard it promptly. The best way to dispose of your tree is by taking it to a recycling center or having it hauled away by a community pick-up service.

## Holiday Lights

- **Maintain Your Holiday Lights**

Inspect holiday lights each year for frayed wires, bare spots, gaps in the insulation, broken or cracked sockets, and excessive kinking or wear before putting them up. Use only lighting listed by an approved testing laboratory.

- **Do Not Overload Electrical Outlets**

Do not link more than three light strands, unless the directions indicate it is safe. Connect strings of lights to an extension cord before plugging the cord into the outlet. Make sure to periodically check the wires - they should not be warm to the touch.

- **Do Not Leave Holiday Lights on Unattended**

## Holiday Decorations

- **Use Only Nonflammable Decorations**

All decorations should be nonflammable or flame-retardant and placed away from heat vents.

- **Never Put Wrapping Paper in a Fireplace**

It can result in a very large fire, throwing off dangerous sparks and embers and may result in a chimney fire.

- **Artificial Christmas Trees**

If you are using a metallic or artificial tree, make sure it is flame retardant.

## Candle Care

- **Avoid Using Lit Candles**

If you do use them, make sure they are in stable holders and place them where they cannot be easily knocked down. Never leave the house with candles burning.

- **Never Put Lit Candles on a Tree**

Do not go near a Christmas tree with an open flame - candles, lighters or matches.

Finally, as in every season, have working smoke alarms installed on every level of your home, test them monthly and keep them clean and equipped with fresh batteries at all times. Know when and how to call for help. And remember to practice your home escape plan. ~

**This information was obtained from the U.S. Fire Administration.**

# City Employee News

The City welcomes three new employees. Police Officer Scott Bangert joined the RFPD on June 3. Carol McClelland, became the Library's Event Coordinator on September 1. Scott Nelson began as the City's first full-time Fire Chief on September 27. Scott, Carol and Scott - welcome to the City of River Falls!

This past summer, the City said farewell to several long-time employees. Susan Wang retired after 25 years with the City. Sue was an Administrative Assistant who worked in the Engineering/Public Works Departments. She was the front line contact for these departments and fielded calls and worked on many projects. In retirement, Sue plans on spending more time with her family.

Katie Chaffee, Event Coordinator at the Public Library, retired in June after six years of service. During her time as Event Coordinator, Katie coordinated and set-up about 60 exhibits at the library. She also helped develop programming, created posters

and flyers, wrote news articles, recruited volunteers, and arranged school visits. Katie is also part of the creative force behind the annual Haunted House staged in the library's lower level each Halloween.

Jan Lorenz, Customer Service Supervisor, retired after ten years with the City. Jan helped coordinate many changes including the implementation of an automatic meter reading system, startup of POWERful Choices!, and a number of new customer programs.

Jay Frederiksen, Engineering Technician, is retiring after 30 years with the City. Throughout his career with the City, Jay has played a key role in building and maintaining important City infrastructure. From identifying and fixing hazardous sidewalks, to evaluating City streets for necessary maintenance, Jay was committed to preserving the City's infrastructure in a cost effective manner.

The City of River Falls thanks these employees for their dedicated service and wishes them all the very best in their retirement. ~

# Alternate Night Parking

## (Odd/Even Parking)

Alternate night parking begins November 1 and runs through March 31 every year, regardless of snow. Every night between 1 and 6 a.m. you must park on the odd numbered side of the street on odd dates and 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. ~

### 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

#### NEWSLETTER TEAM:

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

Kristi McKahan  
Dawn Wills  
Scot Simpson, City Administrator

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City of River Falls  
Web Site

[www.rfcity.org](http://www.rfcity.org)



Back Row: Tom Cafilisch, Scott Morrissette, David Cronk, Randy Kusilek  
Front Row: Bob Hughes, David Reese, Mayor Don Richards, Jim Nordgren

## The Current Mayor and Common Council

Position	Name	Address	Phone	E-mail Address
Mayor	Don Richards	106 N. Wasson	715-441-2397	drichards@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 Cafilisch	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	Bob Hughes	709 Bartosh Lane	715-425-3419	bhughes@rfcity.org

## Council Seats up for Election

There are four Council Seats up for election in the City of River Falls, to be voted on at the April 5, 2011, Spring Election:

- Aldersperson At Large – currently held by Randy Kusilek
- Aldersperson District 1 – currently held by Tom Cafilisch
- Aldersperson District 2 – currently held by Jim Nordgren
- Aldersperson District 3 – currently held by David Reese



The first day to circulate nomination papers is December 1, 2010, and the final day for filing nomination papers is 5 p.m. on Tuesday, January 4, 2011. Contact the City Clerk's Office at 715-425-3408 for more information regarding filing as a candidate for City Office. ~

River Falls, WI 54022  
222 Lewis Street

