



Mayor's message



Welcome to back-to-school season, back-to-cooler-weather season, and – best of all – welcome to the Green Bay Packers football season!

I hope everyone had a great summer without too many sunburns, muggy nights, and mosquito bites.

Throughout the summer, your City Councilmembers and I have been working hard to ensure that we keep making progress on the City's strategic plan and that day-to-day city services are the best they can be. But we can't do it alone. We depend mightily on the time and talents of volunteers who serve on the City's 12 official boards, committees, and commissions. Today, I want to invite you to be one of these volunteers. Our city's future depends on residents like you who step to the plate, offering the skills, experiences, and passions that make our community great.

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Nearly 900 community members and utility customers attended the Customer Appreciation Event on Aug. 15. This photo was captured atop the Fire Department's ladder truck as part of City Hall Selfie Day, an annual event celebrating local government engagement. Progress on City Station/The Depot can be seen in the background (see page 5 for update).

RFFD review spurs positive changes

Over its nearly 135-year history, the River Falls Fire Department (RFFD) has undergone numerous changes. What began as a small, decentralized group of volunteers is now a thriving, integral part of City operations with a full-time chief and 50 active, well-trained volunteers.

Last year, the department made another big change – a complete reorganization.

"It became apparent that to address some departmental challenges, be compliant with new state and federal safety regulations, and continue to deliver quality services to our growing community, we needed to make some changes," said Fire Chief Scott Nelson.

The reorganization process began last spring with a review of policies and procedures, specifically as they pertained

to department member roles and responsibilities. As part of the review, Chief Nelson met one-on-one with each member of the department. He also established the Chief's Advisory Group, a cross-section of the department representing age, gender, and occupation, to encourage a more integrated approach to decision making.

The group studied the results of the one-on-ones, which they used to review the department's organizational structure and update job descriptions to reflect current responsibilities. This work was finished in April 2019 and the reorganization was phased in through May.

Nelson says the changes have resulted in improved morale and overall engagement.

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Mayor's message...from page 1

See page 3 for service information and opportunities, as well as a profile about Adam Myszewski, volunteer chair of the City's Utility Advisory Board. We will feature other volunteer leaders like Adam in subsequent issues of this newsletter. Will one be you?

Serving on a board, committee, or commission is a great way to learn about the City, how it is run, why we do the things we do, and how we do them. Time commitments vary from committee to committee, but generally include monthly meetings and participation in other activities for which the committee is responsible.

Explore board/committee responsibilities, current members, and meeting times/days at www.rfcity.org/RFserves. If something seems like a good fit, there is a volunteer application there that will be forwarded to me. If there is nothing available at the time, I will let you know when a spot opens. If you have questions, please contact me at dtoland@rfcity.org.

New volunteers bring new voices and ideas to the table. There are amazing volunteers who have been on boards for 10 or more years because there is no one to replace them. They stay on because they enjoy the work and because they feel responsible to their board and the community.

You can be that new voice! I guarantee that we'll all be better for it.

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



Go Pack Go,
Dan Toland, Mayor



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

City of River Falls Mayor and Council

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

At-Large: Scott Morrissette
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At-Large: Diane Odeen
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At-Large: Michael Page
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District 1: Sean Downing
sdowning@rfcity.org, 715/307-2057

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

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

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

Get ready for Census 2020

What is the census?

Once a decade, America comes together to count every resident in the United States, creating national awareness of the importance of the census and its valuable statistics. The decennial census was first taken in 1790, as mandated by the Constitution.

Why is the census important?

It counts our population and households, providing the basis for reapportioning congressional seats, redistricting, and distributing more than \$675 billion in federal funds annually to support states, counties, and communities' vital programs. These programs impact housing, education,

transportation, employment, health care, and public policy.

How can I take the census?

There are three modes of response: online, over the phone, or by returning a paper questionnaire.

What is the census timeline?

September-April – Enumerators (census workers) are hired. (See www.census.gov to apply.)

March – Questionnaires are mailed to most homes.

April – Census Day is observed nationwide on April 1. By this date, households will

Be a decider

In River Falls, there are plenty of ways to become involved within the City and community. One is to participate in our collective future by joining one of 12 City committees, commissions, or boards. What follows is the first in a series of profiles of current volunteer leaders.

Adam Myszewski, who serves as chair of the Utility Advisory Board (UAB), says the most rewarding part of being on the board is getting to hear from different voices in the community while also educating people about what is going on with their utilities.

"It's one of those things where someone flips on a light switch and that's it," said Myszewski. "They might not think about where it comes from or what the costs are, but that's really interesting to me."

Along with his wife and two sons, Myszewski had been living in River Falls for over 10 years when he made the decision to apply to the UAB. He has always been active in the community, coaching youth football and baseball, but as his sons got

older, he felt it was time to take the next step.

"I've always been interested in city government and politics, but I didn't feel like I had the time to run for election and serve on the City Council," explained Myszewski.

By joining the UAB, he was able to serve the City without the time commitment of an elected official.

Myszewski recognizes the responsibility of listening to and representing the community and its residents.

"It's part of what we do," said Myszewski. "And I hope we continue to fill that leadership role and be accountable to the citizenry."

About the UAB

The UAB guides and reviews decisions, plans, and projects regarding utility services. This may include recommendations on rates, budgets, or system and facility improvements for electric, water, and wastewater systems.



Adam Myszewski (l) also served for two years on the Kinni Corridor Project Committee. He is pictured here with Buddy Lucero, former project manager and director of the City's Community Development Department.

Residents interested in serving on the UAB, or any other board or commission, are invited to visit www.rfcity.org/RFserves and complete an application. Prospective volunteers are also invited to attend monthly meetings and peruse agendas and minutes available on the City's website.

RFFD ... from page 1

With the new leadership mix, better defined roles and responsibilities, and a clearer structure, RFFD members have a renewed sense of pride and ownership in the department and its operations.

"It took a year to get where we are now," said Nelson. "We need to take this time to celebrate our hard work as we continue forward."

Which the department did on Aug. 26 with a badging ceremony to recognize new leadership, welcome the Firefighter Class of 2019, and thank Carl Gaulke for his 47 years of service to the RFFD.



Battalion Chief Evan Larsen gets pinned by daughter Ava at the Fire Department's Aug. 26 badging ceremony.

Census ... from page 2

have received an invitation to participate in the census. Throughout the month, census takers begin following up with households around selected colleges and universities and conducting quality check interviews.

May-July – The bureau begins following up with households that have not responded to mailed requests.

December 2020 – The bureau delivers apportionment counts to the president. (Apportionment is the process of dividing the 435 seats of the House of Representatives among the 50 states.)

For more information regarding the 2020 Census, visit www.census.gov.

Engineering Department's changing faces

The City said "goodbye" to **Reid Wronski** on July 24. City Hall's large meeting room was packed with colleagues, partners, family, and fans wishing Wronski farewell after 20 years as city engineer.

Wronski's family moved to River Falls from Rochester, MN, in 1999. "The City looked like a good place to raise my family," he said. What he thought might last three to five years "has turned into a great 20-year ride."

Among Wronski's accomplishments are the Cascade Avenue Reconstruction Project; Radio Road Reconstruction; Glen Park pavilion and storm shelter; Veterans Park Pedestrian Bridge; and Maple Street Bridge rehabilitation.

His work on a new system for storm water management earned him recognition from the American Public Works Association (APWA) in 2008 as Professional Manager of the Year in Water Resources. Five years later, the Cascade reconstruction project won a 2014 APWA Project of the Year award and, in 2013, he was recognized by the City Engineers Association of Minnesota as the Municipal Engineer of the Year.

"Reid's contributions to this community have been many," said City Administrator Scot Simpson. "He has made a lasting impact on City infrastructure and design. We were lucky to have Reid lead our engineering efforts these past two decades. He will be missed."



Mayor Dan Toland (l) congratulates Reid Wronski for 20 years of service.

A Red Wing native, Wronski has a degree in civil engineering from the University of Minnesota. He and his wife, Liz, have three children, Sam, DeAnna, and Nate.

In retirement, Wronski looks forward, he said, to "simplifying, downsizing, and exploring new ways to enjoy life."



Crystal Raleigh was promoted from senior civil engineer to city engineer when Reid Wronski retired in July after 20 years of service.

She is the first woman to hold that position in the City's history.

"Reid was a great mentor," said Raleigh. "I certainly have big shoes to fill!"

In her nearly five years working for the City of River Falls, Raleigh has taken a lead role in ensuring the City's compliance with its MS4 (DNR Stormwater) permit and working with developers to confirm that new infrastructure meets City codes and standards.

"Crystal has been a great asset to this city," said Operations Director Mike Stifter. "And she will continue to be in her new role. I look forward to working with her in a different capacity, and I know my colleagues feel the same."

Raleigh's confident she'll be able to grow in the position and make it her own.

"One of my biggest strengths is my communication skills and my ability to get along with people from all walks of life and all professions," she said. "I'm really looking forward to building relations with the public, and continued relations with contractors and consultants."

Raleigh was born and raised in Ellsworth, earning her degree in civil engineering from UW-Platteville. Subsequently, she worked as a consultant for ACA in Hudson and Menomonie, and SEH in New Richmond.

In her free time, Crystal enjoys spending time in the outdoors camping, fishing, and kayaking with her husband and boys.



Jason Raverty joined the City's Engineering Department in July as project manager/engineer.

"I started my career in college as a summer intern poison ivy magnet working on a survey crew – and I haven't looked back," said Raverty.

A licensed professional engineer, Raverty has 22 years of experience designing and constructing projects for public and private sector clients including municipal infrastructure, residential and commercial developments, commercial site design, urban redevelopment, and industrial refrigeration systems for ice rinks.

Over the years, Raverty said he has transitioned from construction inspector to project engineer/manager. In that role, he designed and managed many challenging projects including two segments of the Lake George Trail in River Falls and the outdoor ice-skating rink at Titledown for the Green Bay Packers.

Born and raised in River Falls, Raverty received a BS in civil engineering from UW-Platteville in 1997. He and his wife, Brandi, have two daughters, Madeline and Allison.

When not working, Raverty enjoys relaxing Up North, spending time with family and friends, cheering on the Fighting Fish, and "treating my taste buds to a good IPA."

Housing development on the rise

The City's Housing Needs Analysis, completed in 2018, found that more than 1,518 general occupancy units will be needed by 2,030 and 571 senior units will be needed by 2022. Developers caught on quickly to the demand and currently there are several housing projects underway.

1) The Depot and City Station

Work has begun on The Depot and City Station projects. The Depot will have 50 units for lower-income seniors; City Station will have 24 market rate units. The project will be completed in late fall 2020.

2) The Aberdeen

Five buildings and 60 market-rate units are being built in the Sterling Ponds neighborhood. These two-bedroom, two-bath units will total approximately 1,100 square feet.

3) Birchcrest

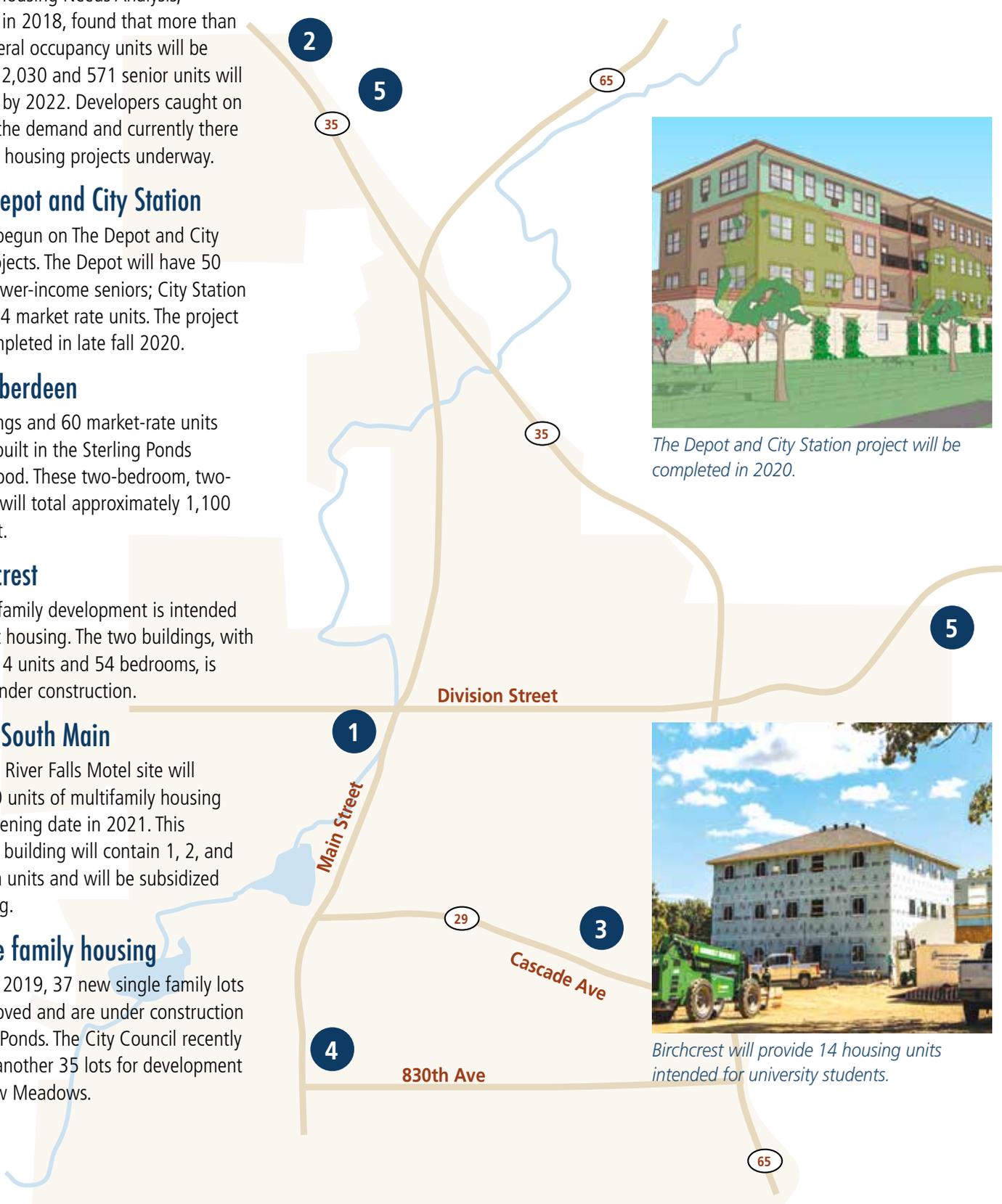
This multi-family development is intended for student housing. The two buildings, with a total of 14 units and 54 bedrooms, is currently under construction.

4) 1300 South Main

The former River Falls Motel site will become 50 units of multifamily housing with an opening date in 2021. This mixed-unit building will contain 1, 2, and 3-bedroom units and will be subsidized family living.

5) Single family housing

Thus far in 2019, 37 new single family lots were approved and are under construction in Sterling Ponds. The City Council recently approved another 35 lots for development in Highview Meadows.



The Depot and City Station project will be completed in 2020.



Birchcrest will provide 14 housing units intended for university students.

State budget in brief

Sixteen laws have passed in the current 2019-2020 session, including the state budget for the next two years. Several provisions positively impacting the City of River Falls include a 10% increase in funding for General Transportation Aids; a 2% increase in mass transit assistance; and the allocation of \$2 million in planning funds for UWRF's Science and Technology Innovation Center (SciTech).

Additional bills currently progressing through the legislative process include funding for the ramp at the Division Street interchange with State Highway 35 (see below); and safety improvements at the interchange of State Highway 29 and County Highway FF.

Jug handle ramp

In order to improve the safety at the intersection of Division Street and Highway 35/65, a ramp, or "jug handle," is being designed for the west side of the highway. The top of the ramp will be across from the existing jug handle on the east side of the highway; the bottom of the ramp will come onto Division Street in alignment with Parkview Lane. Baseball parking will move to the north side of the stadium to accommodate the new roadway.

Construction will begin in summer 2020. The park will remain open, though there may be short traffic delays in and out of the park. This project is cooperatively funded by the Federal Highway Safety Improvement Program, the Wisconsin DOT, and City funding sources.

Glen Park update

Glen Park construction is moving along at a steady pace. Projects to be completed this fall include:

- Pavilion construction
- Swimming pool liner and filtration system
- Splash pad installation
- Roads, sidewalks, and trails
- Fall plantings and site restoration
- Site and pavilion furnishings

Additional funding is needed to support construction of the nature-based playground. Current playground equipment remains on site.

While the park is open this fall/winter, new amenities will not be available for use until late spring. However, restrooms in the pavilion will be available beginning this fall during regular park hours (5 a.m. to 11 p.m.). The storm shelter in the basement level of the pavilion (accessed near restrooms) will also be available beginning this fall in the event of a weather emergency.

A grand reopening of the park is tentatively scheduled for May 19, 2020. Check the winter CitySource, City website, and City Facebook page for more information.

Reservations

Shelters/pavilion reservations open Jan. 2, 2020

Glen Park pavilion:

Available year-round beginning Spring 2020

Glen and Hoffman Park outdoor shelters:

Available beginning Spring 2020

Hoffman Park indoor shelters:

Available year-round

Note: There is a resident and nonresident fee depending on the shelter.

To check shelter availability, see shelter photos, and make a reservation:

- Visit riverfalls.activityreg.com
- Email cdanke@rfcity.org or brundle@rfcity.org
- Call 715-425-0924
- Stop by City Hall, 222 Lewis Street



City Council and Park and Recreation Advisory Board members toured the park in July to get an on-site update on the remodel project. Pictured here is the pavilion, which will be open year-round beginning in Spring 2020.

City receives positive audit results

The City's 2018 audited financial statements, now available at www.rfcity.org, show positive results with an unmodified or "clean" opinion expressed by auditors.

The City ended the fiscal year with an overall position (increase) in net assets of \$2.6 million. Total expenses increased by 1.5% to \$33.9 million, with total revenues at \$36.5 million resulting in a total net position of \$116.8 million.

The City's governmental-type funds, such as the general fund, capital projects, tax increment, and similar funds, reported combined ending fund balances of \$10.4 million at year's end; with the general fund making up \$10.1 million of the balance.

Total assets increased \$2.8 million, primarily from an increase in cash and investments due to bond proceeds.

The City's business-type funds closed the year with operating income of \$2.19 million, and net income of \$0.7 million. Overall income was less in 2018 than 2017 primarily due to a decrease in the ambulance fund, which had an operating loss of \$246,479 in 2018 compared to operating income of \$17,940 in 2017. The lack of volunteers has required hiring of additional staff, as well as increased costs related to medical direction and consulting. In addition, call volumes are decreasing with stagnant Medicare reimbursement rates.

The City issued general obligation debt of \$3.46 million for Glen Park improvements and \$516,000 for public works equipment, library upgrades, and a portion of the Lake George Trail. The City also issued \$2.5 million in electric revenue bonds for the Winter Street substation upgrade.

Public input for budgetary priorities is welcomed and encouraged. The City Council will hold a workshop **Oct. 8** to review the 2019-2020 budget, as well as a public hearing on the proposed property tax levy in November. For more information on the budget or the annual audit report, contact Sarah Karlsson, finance director, at skarlsson@rfcity.org.

Fall 2019 Emerald Ash Borer update

By Nate Croes, City Forester

Ash trees account for nearly 25% of the boulevard tree population in River Falls and are identifiable by their compound leaves, opposite-shaped branching, and diamond-shaped bark.

Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) is a small green insect native to northeastern Asia that attacks and kills all species of North American ash trees. EAB was introduced to the United States in about 2002 in Detroit, Michigan, and has since spread to Wisconsin. In July 2019, EAB was positively identified within the River Falls city limits.

With the confirmation of EAB in River Falls, the City is initiating the next stage of its EAB Action Plan, which includes community education and planning for tree removal/replacement.

Preventative chemical treatment can be expensive and needs to be reapplied every two to three years; it is not a permanent

solution but is useful in lessening the impact of EAB. The City has purchased a tree injection system and will be using it to treat some high value trees. Boulevard trees in residential areas generally will not be included in the treatment program. The City will allow adjacent homeowners to chemically treat the ash trees in the public boulevard if they so choose; however, the treatment must be documented with the City and kept current so treated trees are not mistakenly removed.

A large component of the action plan includes removing ash trees in neighborhoods where trees are still small enough (less than 12" diameter) to be



removed by City staff. Larger trees will be removed by a contractor on a case-by-case basis as EAB spreads. Trees that are scheduled to be removed will be clearly marked to notify surrounding residents. As trees are removed, they will be replaced with non-ash species.

Visit www.rfcity.org/urbanforestry for more information on Emerald Ash Borer and River Falls Urban Forestry.

all about town

Library series sampler

Maker Mondays

Join fellow “makers” on the second Monday of the month for an afternoon of family-friendly, hands-on activities in a pop-up makerspace. Families, kids 10+ w/out an adult, and adults without kids are welcome to attend.

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

Oct. 14: Wearable works of art
Nov. 11: Fun with cardboard
Dec. 9: Connecting circuits

Lego Afternoons (grades K-5)

We provide the Legos, you provide the imagination. Requires registration.

Sept. 23, Oct. 7, Oct. 21, Nov. 4,
Nov. 18, Dec. 2, Dec. 16
4-5 p.m.
RFPL, Children’s Program Room



Family Story Hour

Experience an evening with stories, songs, and activities. Geared towards children up to age 5 – but open to all.

Sept. 24, Oct. 29, Nov. 19, Dec. 17
6 p.m., RFPL, Lower Level

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

Sept. 14-15

Bacon Bash

Sept. 14: 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Sept. 15: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Heritage Park, 232 W. Maple St.
riverfallsbaconbash.com



Sept. 14

2019 Kirby Symes Memorial 5K/1 Mile Bacon Bash Dash

5K at 8 a.m.; 1 mile at 9:30 a.m.
Come in costume, win prizes. Details and registration online.
RFPL

Sept. 17, 7 p.m.

Author William Kent Krueger

Reading from “This Tender Land.” Books will be available for purchase at the event.
RFPL, Lower Level
Cosponsored by Chapter2Books



Sept. 30, 6-8 p.m.

Fire Department Annual Open House

Fire Station, 115 N. 2nd St., River Falls

Sept. 30-Oct. 31

Healing the Riverway: New Photography from the Northwest Passage

Closing reception: Oct. 30, 6-8 p.m.
Kleinpell Gallery, RFPL, Lower Level

Sept. 30, 7 p.m.

Film screening: “Risking Light”

Created in River Falls by award-winning filmmaker Dawn Mikkelsen.

Powerful stories of three people in three countries who had the courage to step out of their tragic pasts.
RFPL, Lower Level



Oct. 1, 5-9 p.m.

Run with the Cops

Activities include a kids’ obstacle course, kid/cop donut eating contest, law enforcement vehicle expo, and 5K/1 Mile Glow Run/Walk.

Oct. 8, 7 p.m.

Film screening: “Iron-Jawed Angels”

A star-studded cast portrays women’s suffrage leaders during the 1910s.
RFPL, Lower Level
Cosponsored by River Falls AAUW

Oct. 10, 4-8 p.m.

Ladies Night Out

Downtown River Falls
rfchamber.com

Oct. 14, 9 a.m.-8 p.m. (drop in)

Games in the Gallery

No-tech and low-tech games for all ages. Bring a game or use one of ours.
RFPL Gallery, Lower Level

Oct. 14 and Nov. 4, 10:30-11:30 a.m.

Out of School Event

Intended for K-6 students, though all are welcome.
RFPL, Lower Level

(RFPL=River Falls Public Library)

Oct. 17-20

Wisconsin Science Festival

Details at riverfallspubliclibrary.org

Oct. 19

UW-River Falls Homecoming

UWRF campus

UWRF vs. UW La Crosse, 1 p.m.

Smith Stadium at Ramer Field

Oct. 24, 7 p.m.

Author J. Ryan Stradal

Reading from "The Lager Queen of Minnesota." Books will be available for purchase at the event.

RFPL, Lower Level

Cosponsored by Chapter2Books

Oct. 26, 6-9 p.m.

Our Neighbors' Place 10th Anniversary Celebration

American Legion Post 121

701 N. Main St., River Falls

All are welcome!

Visit ourneighborsplace.org for information.



Nov. 14-Dec. 19

The Annual Quilt Show

Kleinpell Gallery, RFPL, Lower Level

Nov. 16, 7-10 p.m.

Community Barn Dance

Music by Greenwood Tree

NEW LOCATION: Meyer Middle School gym

230 N. 9th St., River Falls

\$5/adults; \$2.50/12 and under

Sponsored by Community Arts Base and River Falls Parks and Recreation

Nov. 18, 6:30 p.m.

Quilting: Scrapaholic Tendencies

Use your scrap stash to make amazing quilts with quilter/designer Nancy Pietrowiak.

RFPL, Lower Level



Nov. 29, 1-7 p.m.

River Dazzle

See rfchamber.com for details.

Dec. 2, 3 p.m. and Dec. 3, 7:30 p.m.

UW-River Falls Holiday Choral Concert

Tickets available at the door. Admission: \$8/adults, \$5/seniors, \$2/students, free/children 6 and under

North Hall auditorium, UWRF campus

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

Library Holiday Open House

Gingerbread contest entries due

Dec. 4; judging is Dec. 5

Details and rules online.

Dec. 9-15

Computer Science Education Week

Details at riverfallspubliclibrary.org.

Dec. 13, 8 a.m.

Coffee with a Cop

American Legion Post 121

701 N. Main St., River Falls

Dec. 14, 1 p.m.

UWRF Fall Commencement

Knowles Field House, Falcon Center

1110 S. Main St., River Falls

Dec. 20-Jan. 3

International Ceramics Exhibit

Featuring traditional Asian ceramic work by local artist Ben Gavin and visiting South Korean artist Lee Byoung-Kwon.

Kleinpell Gallery, RFPL, Lower Level

Dec. 31, 11 a.m.

Noon Year's Eve

Countdown and balloon drop at noon.

RFPL, Lower Level



Nov. 2, 1 p.m.

Halloween Party

Costumes, crafts, games, and fun; snacks provided.

RFPL, Lower Level

Nov. 7, 5-7 p.m.

Free Play at Vagabond Arcade

136 Riverwalk Rd., River Falls

See riverfallspubliclibrary.org for details.

Where to look for what to do...

City of River Falls: www.rfcity.org

City Parks and Recreation:

www.rfcity.org/recreation

Chamber/community events:

tourism.rfchamber.com/events

Community Arts Base:

riverfallscab.org

Library: riverfallspubliclibrary.org

School District Continuing

Education: rflearns.org

UW-River Falls: go.uwrf.edu/cal

Fall clean-ups

Sept. 21, 8 a.m.-noon

Fall Clean Sweep-Pierce County

Chemical/hazardous waste and pharmaceutical collection
Pierce County MRF/Recycling Center
707 N. Maple St./Hwy. 65 North, Ellsworth
Visit co.pierce.wi.us

Sept. 27

Fall Clean Sweep-St. Croix County

Chemicals/hazardous waste
9-11 a.m. (farms and businesses);
Noon-5 p.m. (households)
St. Croix County Highway Shop
666 E. Hwy. 12, Town of Hudson
Visit sccwi.gov for complete information including requirements for farms and businesses.

Oct. 7-12

Fall Cleanup Event-City of River Falls

Household items only (no hazardous waste)
Monday through Friday, 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.
Saturday, Oct. 12, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Public Works Garage, 950 Benson St., River Falls
Open to resident customers of River Falls Municipal Utilities.
Visit rfcity.org/cleanup for ID requirements and additional information.

Oct. 26, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Fall Drug Take Back Day

River Falls Police Department
125 E. Elm St., River Falls
For what to bring/what not to bring, visit rfcity.org/police

Soup, Salad, and Science

by Tanya Misselt, Library Director

When is the last time you thought about taking a trip to Mars, or brewing your own beer? River Falls Public Library hosts six "Soup, Salad, and Science" events a year in partnership with UW-River Falls Professor Emeritus Purnendu C. Vasavada, Ph.D.

One past attendee said this: "'Soup, Salad, and Science' challenges all of us to continue learning by introducing us to concepts outside our experiences. Magic!"

A light meal of soup and salad is provided at each event, adding to the fun and bringing a sense of community to each occasion. Attendance is free, but registration is required. Space is limited to 50.

A big thank you to the First National Bank of River Falls who recently joined the River Falls Library Foundation in sponsoring this program. Thanks, as well, to River Falls Community Education for their assistance with event registration.



Soup, Salad, and Science: Fall 2019

5:30-7:30 p.m.

Register at rflearns.org.

RFPL, Lower Level

Sept. 12: "In Defense of Milk: Debunking Myths and Misconceptions" with Dr. Purnendu C. Vasavada, professor emeritus, UW-River Falls

Oct. 10: "Living, Looking, and Learning at the South Pole" with Dr. James Madsen, professor of physics, UW-River Falls

Nov. 14: "Examining the Diversity of Chili Peppers as a Food" with Dr. David J. Baumler, professor of food science, University of Minnesota-Twin Cities



Library gets a 'Big Idea'

River Falls Public Library was awarded the \$10,000 Big Idea Grant by the River Falls Community Foundation (RFCF) to create the "Big Fun Lab," a free pop-up space for babies through tweens and their families that will be open during the winter. Pictured here at the River Falls Days Parade (l-r): Scot Simpson, City of River Falls administrator; Cole Zrostlik, event and gallery coordinator, River Falls Public Library; Monica LaVold, youth services librarian, River Falls Public Library; and Michelle Rinehart, board member, RFCF.

KinniCC incorporates

The Kinni Corridor Collaborative, Inc. (KinniCC) seated its first board of directors in June. Since then, it has been working to get the organization up and running. As a community-based nonprofit, KinniCC's mission is to work collaboratively with public and private organizations and individuals to gather the financial and technical resources needed to implement the Kinnickinnic River Corridor Plan while preserving the ecology and beauty of the Kinni.

The board invites the public to its meetings; dates and locations are posted on the

KinniCC Facebook page, facebook.com/KinniCC and website, kinniCC.org.

In addition to meeting information, visitors to these pages can find: progress on the projects in the Corridor Plan, how to make a donation, and ways to get involved.

"We are very excited to be on this journey with River Falls residents and visitors to the Kinni," said Board Chair and President Judie Foster Babcock. "We thank the community for their support as we work with Kinni lovers like you to begin a new chapter of the Kinni Corridor!"

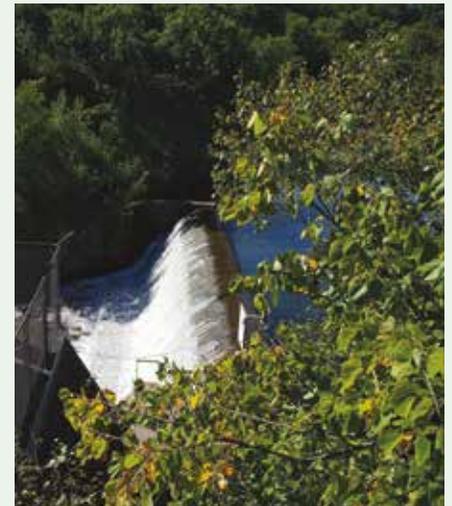
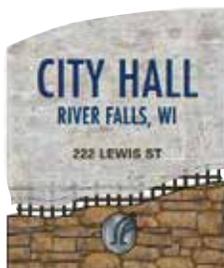


Newly appointed KinniCC Board members include (l-r): Nate Pachi, Treasurer and Finance/Audit Committee Chair; "Duke" John Welter, Vice-Chair; Michelle Maher, Vice-President; Judie Foster Babcock, Chair and President; Katelyn Meyer, Secretary and Communications Committee Chair; Matt Johnson, Director-at-Large; Scott Eickschen, Director-at-Large; and Ben Blauert, Director and Project Committee Chair.

Phase I of 'Wayfinding' project begins

Residents and visitors will begin to see new, City-branded welcome and directional signs at entrances to the City and in the downtown area beginning this fall. The installation is part of the Community Signage and Wayfinding Master Plan (see Fall 2017 CitySource) approved by the City Council in April 2018.

Additional signage will be phased in over time. To see more sign graphics and planned sign locations, visit www.rfcity.org.



Hydro relicensing process underway

The City's Municipal Electric Utility is completing the first of a five-year relicensing process for its hydroelectric project, which includes two hydroelectric facilities and two dams: Junction Falls (upper) and Powell Falls (lower).

The ultimate goal, included in a City Council resolution passed in February 2018, is to remove both dams and restore the Kinnickinnic River to its natural state by the mid- to late- 2030s.

This past year, stakeholders and the public were invited to submit requests for studies of the riverine (the river and banks) of the Kinni from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to guide the relicensing and removal process. FERC subsequently mandated that the City complete ten studies over the next two years.

To learn more about the relicensing process and see which studies were requested prior to renewal, visit rfmu.org/relicensing.



Members of the Somali Museum Dance Troupe will perform during UW-River Falls' International Education and Engagement Summit and "Year of Somalia" events in November. Photo credit: Mustafa Ali Photography

UWRF to celebrate "Year of Somalia"

UW-River Falls will celebrate the country of Somalia during the 2019-2020 academic year as part of its "Year of" program, which began in 2013 to engage faculty, students, and community participants in breaking down stereotypes and connecting across cultures.

In 2018-2019, "Year of Canada" activities included, among others, photo exhibits and an ancestry display, book discussions, concerts, recipe samplings, hockey and broomball games, and a presentation by Canadian Consul Robert Pengelly.

Look for "Year of Somalia" events on the UWRF website. Several activities will be held during the university's International Education and Engagement Summit, Nov. 18-22. They include a teaching kitchen featuring food and recipes from Somalia, and Somali music and dance performances.

Ann Bancroft to keynote International Education and Engagement Summit

Polar explorer and environmentalist Ann Bancroft will provide the keynote address for UW-River Falls' International Education and Engagement Summit on Nov. 21 from 7-8:30 p.m. in Abbott Concert Hall. The event is free to the public; no registration is required.

Bancroft is the first known woman to reach both the North and South poles and is a U.S. National Women's Hall of Fame inductee dedicated to inspiring women and girls around the world to unleash the power of their dreams.

Her address is part of the university's weeklong series of summit events occurring during International Education Week, Nov. 18-22. The week celebrates the benefits of international education and exchange worldwide.

In alignment with one of the university's three primary goals – Global Education and Engagement – events throughout the week will focus on global learning and comprehensive internationalization while engaging ideas, people, cultures, and places



beyond campus to enrich learning and understanding.

The community is invited to attend all events and activities planned for the week, which include discussions about UWRF international partnerships and the meaning of global citizenship, reflections on study abroad experiences, and the "ripple effect" of broadening cultural awareness, as well as international cooking and dance clinics. See uwrf.edu for a complete schedule of activities.

Expanding horizons: new degree programs and MBA tracks approved

Two new degree programs at UWRF were recently approved by the UW System Board of Regents.

A new bachelor's degree in biomedical and health science will be offered through the College of Arts and Sciences beginning this fall, and the College of Education and Professional Studies will offer a master's degree in strength and conditioning beginning in spring 2020.

New, specialized Master of Business Administration (MBA) tracks in innovation, leadership, and agribusiness are now available through the College of Business and Economics. The new tracks, launched this fall, allow graduate students to customize their MBA program based on specific career goals. Classes are tailored to working students with evening classes offered at the UW-River Falls Hudson Center.

Ten Years of Helping Neighbors

by Shelly Smith, Executive Director, Our Neighbors' Place

Over the past 10 years, Our Neighbors' Place (ONP) has been an important local resource for those seeking help to meet their basic needs, including housing, shelter, food, clothing, personal care products, and referrals. ONP provides help through four basic programs:

Day Center: Guests can access resources including food; laundry and shower facilities; computers, phones, and Wi-Fi; and appointments and other support agency referrals. The ONP case manager meets with guests needing help finding shelter options or affordable housing.

Clothing Closet: This volunteer-run thrift store includes adult clothes, shoes, accessories, and outerwear. The public is welcome to shop (funds raised go to support ONP programming). Guests who are in need receive a voucher to shop at no charge. See ourneighborsplace.org for days/hours.

Backpack Program: Since 2010, ONP has provided backpacks full of nutritious, kid-friendly food to families who are experiencing financial hardship in the

River Falls School District. Each week that school is in session, ONP volunteers pack about 70 bags containing 7-9 pounds of non-perishable food (along with a voucher for perishable food) to send home with students. This amounts to over 20,000 pounds each year. In partnership with the River Falls Lions Club and Ezekiel Lutheran Church, ONP also offers a Summer Backpack Program to help families when school is not in session.

Transitional Housing: ONP owns a four-unit building in River Falls, which provides families experiencing homelessness a safe place to live and professional case management as they work to overcome their barriers to permanent housing. The lack of affordable housing in River Falls and surrounding communities remains a key issue for struggling families. ONP is currently providing shelter for six adults and 12 children.

To donate or get involved with Our Neighbors' Place, contact Shelly Smith at director@ourneighborsplace.org, 715-426-9000, or visit www.ourneighborsplace.org.



River Falls Area Optimist Club members Alice Baldini (l) and Sue Nechville help raise funds to support ONP.

By the numbers: 2018

- Points of contact* = 4,123
- Number of households who avoided homelessness through our programs and housing counseling = 54
- Backpacks of food to district students during 2018-19 school year = 2,067
- Closet vouchers issued = 736
- Volunteer hours donated to programs = 3,490

*Phone calls or in person visits to the Day Center and Clothing Closet



(l-r): Our Neighbors Place Board Member Jackie Cobian, Executive Director Shelly Smith, and Case Manager Sara Fathauer gather in the Day Center kitchen during National Night Out.



You're invited!

Past volunteers, board members, supporters – and community members – are invited to celebrate the 10th anniversary of Our Neighbors' Place.

When: Saturday, Oct. 26, 6-9 p.m.

Where: American Legion, 701 N. Main St., River Falls

What: Live music, refreshments, giveaways, 50/50 raffle, and more.

Rental occupancy changes coming

By Jan. 1, 2020, all rental properties zoned R-1 will be limited to no more than four nonrelated persons living together. In most cases, R-1 zoning applies to detached single family homes.

To address parking and crowding concerns from R-1 rental properties, the River Falls City Council passed a resolution in 2005 limiting the number of nonrelated persons living in new R-1 rental properties from five to four. The same resolution also required that all rentals follow this ordinance by Jan. 1, 2020.

Contact Dave Hovel at 715-426-3426 if you are unsure about your property's zoning or have other questions concerning occupancy changes.

Renewable River Falls

by Mike Noreen, Conservation and Efficiency Coordinator

Plug in

River Falls Municipal Utilities is accelerating the transition to electric vehicles by covering the cost of a home electric vehicle charger. RFMU will cover up to \$700 for the cost of purchasing a Level II charging station for your home when you purchase a new or used electric vehicle.

Solar sense

There are many reasons to go solar. One is that solar is now more affordable than ever in River Falls. In 2019, customers can receive enhanced incentives from the statewide Focus on Energy program, receive a \$2,000 incentive from River Falls

Municipal Utilities, and get in on the last year of a 30% federal tax credit. Thought solar was too expensive? Think again!

Shrink your footprint

Your purchase of a \$3 block of renewable energy keeps us from burning over 140 lbs. of coal per month. Blocks are a flexible, easy and affordable way to buy renewable energy. You won't be alone because River Falls ranks #1 in the state and #5 in the nation for participating in such programs.

For more information about these and other renewable programs, contact Mike Noreen at mnoreen@rfcity.org or 715-426-3467.

Get cash back

The City partners with Focus on Energy, which gives residents access to program resources. From cash back when recycling an old refrigerator to free energy-saving products, there are many ways to save big. Incentives are also available for eligible heating and cooling equipment, smart thermostats, lighting, and more. Visit rfmu.org/EfficiencyPrograms for complete program details.



Fall/winter reminders

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

Parking permits

The City of River Falls residential parking ordinance is in effect Sept. 1, 2019, through May 31, 2020, for most residential parking zones. Visit rfcity.org/parking for more information and a parking zone map. Parking permits are issued at the Police Department, 125 E. Elm St., on Mondays from 2-4 p.m. and Wednesdays from 10 a.m.– noon. If those days/times are not convenient, call the department at 715-425-0909 to make an appointment. Save time obtaining your permit by completing and printing the form available on the website.

Field improvements expand opportunities

In February, the River Falls Baseball Council was awarded a \$850,000 grant from Major League Baseball and its Players Association Youth Development Foundation to install field turf at the First National Bank of River Falls Field in Hoffman Park.

The new turf will provide increased opportunities for players of any age and ability, according to River Falls Baseball Council President Greg Peters. Because the project includes a state-of-the-art drainage system, game delays and cancellations due to excessive water on the field will be reduced.

The MLB-MLBPA funds will be used not only to improve field conditions, increase

playing time, and significantly decrease maintenance costs, but also to enhance baseball programs for youth, especially among underserved communities.

"The thing we are most excited about is making it an inclusive field for everyone," he said. "We'll be able to host girls' softball, youth baseball, and add a Challenger League focused on youth with physical disabilities."

The stadium opened in 2014 and hosts around 130 amateur, high school, American Legion, and youth baseball games each year. Turf construction has begun and will be completed in late October.



Stormwater drain sends a message

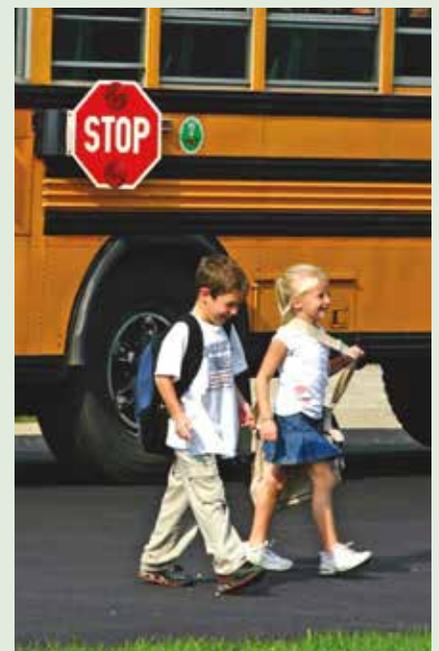
Several organizations and individuals came together this summer to create art on a library stormwater drain (south side) with this message: "Keep trash out of the picture."

Pictured (l-r): Mike Noreen, conservation and efficiency coordinator, and POWERful Choices! project leader, City of River Falls; Crystal Raleigh, City engineer and Rain to Rivers of Western Wisconsin chair; Michael Beutel, River Falls High School student; Aleisha Miller, energy educator for River Falls Municipal Utilities; Taylor Berman, local artist and art educator; and Cole Zrostlik, gallery and events coordinator, River Falls Public Library.

Bus safety

School is back in session and drivers are encouraged to stay alert and always be cautious near school zones, bus stops, residential areas, parks, and universities. Here are some additional tips for student safety.

- Yellow flashing lights: bus is preparing to stop to unload or load children. Slow down!
- Red flashing lights and an extended stop sign: the bus has stopped and children are getting on or off. Traffic in both directions on undivided roads must stop.
- Never pass a moving school bus on the right.
- Leave at least 10 feet of space between your vehicle and the bus to allow students room to safely enter and exit the bus.
- Do not block crosswalks when stopped for a bus, and always stop when directed by a school crossing guard.



Connect with us!

Frequently called numbers

General information: 715/425-0900

Utility Department: 715/425-0906

Police Department: 715/425-0909

Public Library: 715/425-0905

Municipal Court: 715/426-3429

Garbage/Recycling: 715/425-0900

Parks and Recreation: 715/425-0924

715/426-3422 (cancellations)



Follow us

City of River Falls
Emergency Medical Services
Fire Department
Kleinpell Gallery
Municipal Utilities
Parks and Recreation
Police Department
Public Library



Check out our new videos!

[YouTube.com/user/cityofriverfalls](https://www.youtube.com/user/cityofriverfalls)

City of River Falls

Mission: *To coordinate and deliver essential services and ensure a sustainable future.*

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

CitySource is published three times yearly and mailed to all River Falls residents. It is also available at www.rfcity.org.

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Caught on camera ... River Falls Fire Department volunteers learn how to fight propane cylinder fires at a training hosted by the Ellsworth Fire Department in June. Photo by City SCADA engineer (and firefighter) Greg Dietsche.