



City of RIVER FALLS NEWSLETTER

September 2016 • VOLUME 7 • ISSUE 3



Mayor's Message



Another fall has arrived, and I hope everybody had a safe and fun summer. Fall is a great time to get outside and enjoy what Mother Nature has to offer us. She repaints the trees with beautiful colors for our enjoyment. She cools the air so we can breathe a little easier and sleep better at night. I like to think that she fattens up all of the animals for the long winter coming

so I don't feel alone as I fatten up too. The cooler weather brings football back to us, which is a great thing. Everyone should try to get out and enjoy a brisk fall night supporting your favorite team, the Wildcats, the Falcons, or everybody's favorite - the Green Bay Packers. Go Pack go!

I think that what Mother Nature does for us in the fall is a wonderful random act of kindness. We could all learn a thing or two from her example. We all live on the same planet. If we do not learn to get along and co-exist, we will not be long for it. I know that the majority of people are kind and compassionate, but we all forget sometimes to reach out. Random acts of kindness are easy little things we can do for other people to help bring a smile or a little joy into their lives. Even if we don't realize it, we already do random acts of kindness everyday - whether it's doing something for your spouse, partner, child, or neighbor that they didn't ask you to do. That's a random act of kindness and it's easy to do. We just have to start doing the same things for strangers or other people we already know.

We have all read stories about people who did what they thought was a trivial thing for someone they did not know and how that trivial thing made a huge impact on them. It showed the recipient that people do care about them and can be compassionate and kind. The one little act of kindness changed them. I think we would all love to be that person who helped someone by doing something so small as asking how they are doing, smiling at them and saying hello, or giving someone you don't know who is struggling a hug for no reason other than to show them that we are all in it together.

I found a list of "101 Easy Ideas for Random Acts of Kindness," and I listed a few examples. You might be amazed at how much you impact somebody's day or life with these simple ideas.

1. Don't write the angry internet comment you're thinking of.
2. When others gossip about someone, be the one to butt in with something nice.
3. Cook a meal or do a load of laundry for a friend who just had a baby or is going through a difficult time.

4. When you buy a new piece of clothing, donate an old one.
5. Don't interrupt when someone else is speaking. (Surprisingly few people master this.)
6. Leave a server the biggest tip you can afford.
7. Smile at someone, just because.
8. Forgive someone and never bring up the issue again.
9. Talk to the shy person who's sitting alone at a party.
10. Help a mother with her baby stroller.
11. Become a Big Brother or Big Sister.
12. Let the person behind you at the supermarket check out with one or two items go ahead of you.
13. Write someone a letter. Like a real letter on paper. And mail it!
14. Give someone a hug.
15. Call your grandparents. Call them!
16. Send anonymous flowers to the receptionist at work. (This is a shameless plug for Pearson Florist.)
17. Play board games with senior citizens at a nursing home. Sixty percent of them will never have a visitor during their stay.
18. Give someone a tissue who's crying in public and offer to talk about it but only if they want to.
19. Babysit for someone for free.
20. Frame your friend's favorite lyric/quote and give it to them with a nice note.
21. Help your elderly neighbor take out the trash or mow their lawn.
22. Tell your siblings how much you appreciate them.
23. If you're a good photographer, take photos of your friends and make them into a digital album.
24. Send mail to a child who is fighting with a life-threatening disease.
25. Say yes at the store when the cashier asks if you want to donate \$1 to whichever cause.
26. Be encouraging!
27. Help someone struggling with heavy bags.
28. Buy lemonade from a kid's lemonade stand.
29. Be kind to the customer service rep on the phone. It's not their fault.
30. Be patient.
31. Call your parents.
32. When you hear that negative, discouraging voice in your head, remember to leave yourself alone — you deserve kindness too!

There are so many more things on the list that you could do and 99 percent of them don't cost you a penny to do; just a couple of minutes of your time and the feeling you get will be priceless.

Remember this is your town so be proud of it and get out there and enjoy it - and be kind. ~

Go Pack Go!
Dan Toland



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READER SURVEY

Your Input is Needed!

The newsletter is getting a makeover, and we want your help. Tell us what you think by completing the survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/rfnewslettersurvey> for an opportunity to win "Chamber Bucks."

For a printed copy of the survey, email mzimmermann@rfcity.org.

Thank you!



City of
RIVER FALLS
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www.rfcity.org

Calendar of Events

Friday Fit Lit Club Fridays, 6:30 a.m. Library Lobby
 Sept.–Nov. Elementary, My Dear Watson, dates TBA, Library
 Sept. 1 River Falls School District Classes Begin
 Sept. 3, 4, 5 City Offices and Library Closed
 Sept. 5 Labor Day
 Sept. 6, Oct. 4, Nov. 1, Dec. 6 MS Book Discussion Group, 4 p.m., Library
 Sept. 7 UWRF Fall Classes Begin
 Sept. 9-10. Falcon Frontier Days Rodeo (see page 4)
 Sept. 10 Art on the Kinni (see page 4)
 Sept. 10-Oct. 7 The Murder Mystery, Library Gallery
 Sept. 12, 26; Oct. 10, 24; Nov. 7, 21; Dec. 5, 19 Lego Afternoons
 4-5 p.m., Library
 Sept. 13-Dec. 6 Babytime 9:30 a.m.; Toddler Lapsit 10:45 a.m., Library
 Sept. 13, Oct. 11, Nov. 8, Dec. 13 HS Book Discussion Group, 4 p.m., Library
 Sept. 13, Oct. 11, Nov. 8, Dec. 13 2nd Tuesday
 Book Adult Discussion Group, 6:30 p.m. Location TBD
 Sept. 13 Author William Kent Krueger, 7 p.m., Library
 Sept. 14, Oct. 12, Nov. 9, Dec. 14 Teens In Power
 Library Advisory Board, 4 p.m., Library
 Sept. 15-Dec. 8. Preschool Storytime 10:30-11:15 a.m. or 1-1:45 p.m., Library
 Sept. 17-18. Bacon Bash (see page 4)
 Sept. 21, Nov. 2 Coffee with a Cop (see page 4)
 Sept. 20, Oct. 18, Nov. 15, Dec. 20 Book & Beans
 Book Discussion Group, 10:30 a.m. location TBD
 Sept. 20, Oct. 18, Nov. 15, Dec. 20 4-5 Grade
 Book Discussion Group, 4 p.m., Library
 Sept. 20, Oct. 18, Nov. 15, Dec. 20 Family Story Hour, 6 p.m., Library
 Sept. 21, Oct. 19, Nov. 16, Dec. 21 YA for Adults
 Book Discussion Group, 6:30 p.m. at Junior's Bar
 Sept. 23-25. UWRF Homecoming/Family Weekend (see page 4)
 Sept. 25 Mark Twain: An American Life, 2 p.m., Library
 Sept. 26 Severe Weather Siren Test, 1 p.m.
 Sept. 26 RF Fire Dept. Open House, 6-8 p.m. Fire Hall (see page 4)
 Sept. 27, Oct. 11, Nov. 8, Dec. 13 Coloring for Adults, 6-8 p.m., Library
 Sept. 27, Oct. 25, Nov. 22, Dec. 27 Times Past History Book
 Discussion Group, 6:30 p.m., Library
 Oct. 10, Nov. 11 Out of School Day Events, Library
 Oct. 17-22 Fall Clean Up (see article page 5)
 Oct. 22 Library Foundation Fit Lit 5K Run,
 9 and 10:30 a.m. (see article page 7)
 Oct. 31 Halloween
 Nov. 1 Odd/Even Parking Begins
 Nov. 8 Presidential Election, Polls Open 7 a.m.-8 p.m.
 Nov. 21 Gingerbread Construction Class, 6:30 p.m., Library
 Nov. 24, 25, 26, 27. City Offices and Library Closed
 Nov. 25 River Dazzle (see article page 5)
 Nov. 28-29 Holiday Light Exchange (see article page 5)
 Dec. 4 Tribute to John Lennon and the Beatles, 2 p.m., Library
 Dec. 5 A Visit from Santa and Mrs. Claus, 6:30 p.m., Library
 Dec. 7 Gingerbread Competition, 8 p.m., Library
 Dec. 8 Holiday Open House, All day, Library
 Dec. 9 Library Closed
 Dec. 17 or 18 (TBD) UWRF Fall Commencement
 Dec. 18-Jan. 21. Tributaries of Earth and Water:
 A Celebration of the National Park Service Centennial, Library Gallery
 Dec. 23, 24, 25, 26, Jan 2 City Offices and Library Closed

Voter Information for Presidential Election on November 8

Photo ID

As of press time, a photo ID is required to vote in Wisconsin. A Wisconsin driver's license, Wisconsin DOT issued ID, military ID card or passport are some of the acceptable forms of identification. More information is available at <http://bringit.wisconsin.gov> or call 1-866-VOTEWIS. An affidavit will be available for those voters who are unable to obtain an acceptable photo ID with reasonable effort.

Registration

If you're unsure that you are registered to vote in the City of River Falls, please check the website: myvote.wisconsin.gov or contact the City Clerk's office at 715-426-3419. You can register on the website or in person at City Hall with acceptable proof of residency.

Polling Place Changes For the November Election

District 1 – Ward 5 Pierce County Voters – City Hall, 222 Lewis Street, Lower Level - Parking is available in the Heritage Park or City Hall lots.

District 1 – Wards 1-4 & 15 St. Croix County Voters – River Falls Public Library, 140 Union Street - Parking spaces will be reserved for voters to use on Election Day. Overflow parking will be in the St. Bridget Church's lot.

District 2 – University Center, 501 Wild Rose Avenue, Third Floor Ballroom Free voter parking is available in Pay Lot 2 to the south of University Center.

District 3 – Meyer Middle School, 230 N. 9th Street, South Entrance - Parking is available in the south side parking lot.

District 4 – River Falls High School, 818 Cemetery Road - Parking is available in the upper parking lot in front of the auditorium entrance.

Absentee Voting

Registered voters may vote absentee by mail (you may request a ballot in writing with a copy of your photo ID) starting in mid-September, or in person in the City Clerk's office from October 24 through November 4. Staff is available weekdays from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. ~

Poll Workers Needed for 2016-2017 Elections!

The City Clerk's Office is seeking residents interested in serving as a poll worker for the 2016-2017 election term. Citizen involvement is essential in conducting open, accurate, and fair elections. We hope that you will consider participating in the election process by applying to be a poll worker.

Please contact the City Clerk's Office at (715) 426-3419 if you would like more information and to apply for a position. ~

City's Kinni Corridor Planning Takes Shape

The City of River Falls has embarked on a three-year, multi-phased process that will lead to a comprehensive long-term plan for the Kinnickinnic River Corridor, which will include a decision to keep or remove one or both of the City's hydroelectric dams.

At its July 12 meeting, the River Falls City Council voted unanimously to approve SEH as the project's consultants. SEH (Short Elliott Hendrickson Inc.), established in 1927, is an employee-owned company of engineers, architects, planners, and scientists serving public and private sector clients.

"We selected SEH for their experience and expertise in public engagement, technical assessments, and their passion for designing high quality and distinctive public spaces," said Buddy Lucero, the City's Community Development Director and staff person managing the corridor project. "In addition," said Lucero, "the company has a 26-year project history successfully serving the City, involving more than 90 projects."

Subcontractors for the project will include IMO Consulting Group (water resource engineering); TRC (hydroelectric regulatory experts); and Inter-Fluve (river assessment and restoration).

Community Engagement

SEH and City staff have begun assembling a Corridor Planning Committee to formulate the project's vision, mission, goals, and objectives; identify issues related to the project; assess, review, and identify gaps in the information gathered; and provide guidance and direction throughout the information-gathering and planning processes.

The Committee will include staff; consultants; Kinnickinnic River stakeholders and activists; business and community leaders; local, state, and national government officials; residents; and others critical to the process. If you are interested in serving on the planning committee, please visit www.rfcity.org/kinniplan for more information.

SEH and City staff are also working to complete a comprehensive community engagement plan. The plan will begin with an Open House this fall and continue with various large and small group meetings, informal discussions, working groups, online and in-person surveys, visioning sessions, and design review sessions.

"Successful plan development will require a unique combination of planning, technical analysis, and public engagement," said SEH's Mark Lobermeier. "It's important that we fully engage the public so that all voices are heard and participation opportunities are plentiful."

Please visit www.rfcity.org/kinniplan for the latest information about Kinni Corridor planning, reports and assessments, timelines, links to stakeholder groups, feedback opportunities, event calendar, planning committee membership, and more. Questions can also be directed to Buddy Lucero at 715-426-3423 or blucero@rfcity.org.

Park Master Plan Implementation Update

How to implement the master plans for both Glen and Hoffman Parks has been the topic of discussion in 2016. Difficult questions such as, "Should one park be done first or both at the same time? Should construction happen all at once or should it be spread out over many years? How much will it cost?"



Initially, a phased approach for construction over time was considered. However, the challenge of providing services in the park during construction was deemed unrealistic. It seemed that one construction item typically triggered one or two other necessary services (like public restrooms); this challenged the process. Coupled with the safety concerns of visitors amidst the construction zone, it was concluded that it would be better to close the park for the season, complete all construction and then celebrate the opening of a brand new and improved City park.

To date, staff presented their recommendations to the Park Board and Plan Commission, and then the City Council. Those recommendations include completing the implementation of Glen Park. Hoffman Park implementation would follow after the completion and payment of the Glen Park project. The estimated cost to complete Glen Park is just over \$4 million, which will include new parking, expanded pool deck and splash pad, new playground, new event building, new ballfields, upgraded trails, and other amenities.

Funding for Glen Park is included in the City's capital budget, which the City Council is currently working through; budget approval is anticipated late fall. Assuming this trajectory, the preliminary design planning for Glen Park would begin later this fall with construction anticipated in 2018.

If you have questions or comments regarding the implementation plans, please contact Amy Peterson, AICP, Assistant Community Development Director at apeterson@rfcity.org.

City Awarded National Grant for Trail Development

The National Park Service recently awarded a \$207,500 Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) grant to the City to develop a paved walking/biking trail along the Kinnickinnic River Pathway. The trail will link the City's trail system from Lake George to Division Street.

"The award of this grant can be attributed to the recognition that this is an important link in the long-term development of a regional trail system as well as the continuing efforts of the City to develop its trail system," said River Falls City Planner Tony Steiner.

The federal grant was matched with \$31,300 in funds from the Wisconsin's Department of Natural Resources and \$239,000 from the City for a project total of \$478,000.

The trail will be a 1,500-foot continuation of the 10-foot wide, hard-surface path and will include lighting, trail amenities – benches, trash receptacles, and landscaping where appropriate. Construction will begin in April 2017 and be completed by October 2017.

The City will work with key community partners on trail development, including the River Falls Chamber of Commerce and Tourism Bureau and its members, local service clubs, the Kinnickinnic River Land Trust, and Trout Unlimited.

Focus on Fall Events!

Saddle Up! Falcon Frontier Days Rodeo rides in on September 9 and 10

UW-River Falls is holding its annual rodeo. Visit <https://www.uwrf.edu/ANFS/FalconFrontierDaysRodeo.cfm> for details. ~



Art on the Kinni is September 10

Head to River Falls for the region's most scenic art fair along the Kinnickinnic River. The event runs 9 a.m.-5 p.m. The 21st annual Art on the Kinni will showcase unique, handcrafted items from 60 local and regional artists, day-long music on two stages, a wide variety of food vendors, and art activities tent. Details at www.riverfallscab.org. ~

Bacon Bash is September 17 and 18

Come celebrate all things bacon at the Bacon Bash - the nation's largest free bacon festival! This outdoor festival features a plethora of bacon-inspired food booths, cook-offs and pig-themed activities for the entire family, along with live music, an arts and crafts fair, local microbrews, and more! The Bacon Bash returns as a Super Qualifier for the World Food Championships, the largest and richest food competition in the world of Food Sport - competitors and judges wanted! New this year - the Great American Cookout will join the Bacon Bash and bring its food sampling and demo tour. To learn more, visit www.riverfallsbaconbash.com. ~



Join Us for Coffee with a Cop

The River Falls Police Department, in coordination with local businesses, invites residents to attend "Coffee with a Cop." This is an opportunity for citizens to have a chance to ask questions, voice concerns and get to know the officers of the Police Department. Upcoming dates include: September 21, 8 a.m., at UW-River Falls and November 2, 8 a.m. at the South Fork Café. Please view the calendar on the City's website (www.rfcity.org) or contact the Police Department at 715-425-0909 for future dates and locations. Please stop in for a cup of coffee and some pleasant and informative discussion. ~

UW-River Falls Homecoming/Family Weekend is September 23-25

It's Homecoming/Family Weekend at UW-River Falls! Visit <https://www.uwrf.edu/StudentInvolvement/EventsandPrograms/Homecoming.cfm> for details. ~

You're Invited the River Falls Fire Department's Open House on September 26

Join us for the Fire Department's Open House on September 26, 6-8 p.m. at the Fire Hall, 115 N. Second Street. In addition to our fire trucks, there will be many fun activities and information on fire prevention. Refreshments will be served.

This year's Fire Prevention Week campaign, "Don't Wait – Check the Date! Replace Smoke Alarms Every 10 Years," represents the final year of our three-year effort to educate the public about basic but essential elements of smoke alarm safety. Why focus on smoke alarms three years in a row? Because survey data shows that the public has many misconceptions about smoke alarms, which may put them at increased risk in the event of a home fire. For example, only a small percentage of people know how old their smoke alarms are or how often they need to be replaced.

As a result of those and related findings, we're addressing smoke alarm replacement this year with a focus on the key messages: replace your smoke alarm every 10 years and know how old your smoke alarms are.



More Upcoming Events!

Fall Cleanup Runs October 17-22

Fall cleanup for residents in the City of River Falls who are currently billed for City garbage service on their River Falls Municipal Utility bill. Residents bringing items for disposal will be asked to present a form of identification and a copy of their utility bill. People who do not qualify will not be allowed to dispose of their goods. The cleanup is located at the Public Works Garage at 950 Benson Street. Dates are: Monday-Friday, October 17-21, 4-8 p.m. and Saturday, October 22, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Advanced Disposal reserves the right to refuse any hazardous materials. Please visit www.rfcity.org/cleanup for a list of acceptable and unacceptable items. If you have specific questions, please call Advanced Disposal at 866-983-6542.

For City residents living in Pierce County, Pierce County Solid Waste (715-273-3092) offers a clean sweep program on September 17 from 8 a.m. to noon for disposal of many hazardous waste products. Visit the website for more information: <http://www.co.pierce.wi.us>.



River Dazzle is November 25

Kick off the holiday season the day after Thanksgiving! Enjoy a lighted parade, holiday sing-along, chili crawl, and much more! Family-friendly festivities with visits from Santa and Mrs. Claus, plus live animals. Sponsored by the River Falls Area Chamber of Commerce and Tourism Bureau. Details at www.rfchamber.com.

Holiday Light Exchange at City Hall

Monday, November 28, 9 a.m.- 7 p.m.; Tuesday, November 29, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

It's "light's out" for the City's holiday light exchange. This is the last year of the program. The light exchange is an example of an ideal program for River Falls. Inefficient lights are removed from service and replaced with efficient ones. The old lights are donated to sheltered workshops to be recycled.

If the program is so great, why is it ending? The market for LED lighting is "mature," and it's tough to find anything but LED lighting in the stores. As good stewards of rate payer dollars, this will be the last year for the light exchange. After this year, the funds will go toward other efficiency programs.

Here's how the program works: bring in up to two strands of holiday lights, and we'll replace them with two free strands of new LED holiday lights. We'll also recycle as many old lights as you care to get rid of until January 31, 2017. The light exchange lasts for 2 DAYS ONLY so mark your calendar and get to City Hall.

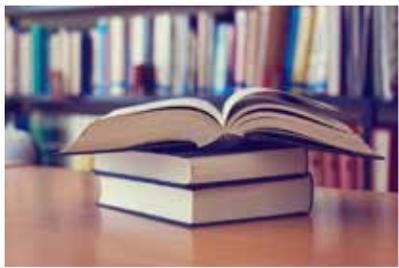
If you do not have any old light strands at home, bring in at least four nonperishable food items, and we'll give you two strands of LEDs. All the old strands and food will go to good use.



Prescription Drug Disposal Available

The River Falls Police Department (125 E. Elm Street) is once again collecting prescription medications for disposal. All prescriptions must be taken out of the original bottle and placed in a baggie. Liquids, lotions, inhalers, and needles are not accepted.

The bin is located in the Police Department lobby and is available Monday-Friday from 9 a.m.-5 p.m.



Library Programs and Events Fall/Winter 2016

Check the library website at www.riverfallspubliclibrary.org/events.html or our Facebook page for the most up-to-date information and events not included

in this list or call 715-425-0905. Library programs are free of charge. Registration is not required unless noted. Sign up for email notification of our monthly schedule by emailing events@riverfallspubliclibrary.org, or get notices of upcoming events by registering for notifications at the City's website, www.rfcity.org.

Closed Dates

September 3, 4, 5; November 24, 25, 26, 27; December 9, 23, 24, 25, 26

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

Events and Programs

"Elementary, My Dear Watson" – September-November, dates TBA

A multi-event look at the work of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle and his most famous literary character, Sherlock Holmes. Films, reader's theater, book discussions, art projects, and more. Watch for more information and dates.

Author/crime writer, William Kent Krueger – September 13, 7 p.m.

Krueger is best known for his Cork O' Connor series which are set mainly in Minnesota. He won back-to-back Anthony Awards for best novel in 2005 and 2006.

Mark Twain: An American Life – September 25, 2 p.m.

Hear Mark Twain's words, wit and wisdom, interspersed with songs of the era and stories of the man himself. A return engagement here at the library for Judy Cook.

Gingerbread Construction Class – November 21, 6:30 p.m.

This is a free class. Instruction and tips for making your own gingerbread creation for the library competition or just for fun!

Tribute to John Lennon and the Beatles – December 4, 2 p.m.

This is the fifth annual musical tribute to John Lennon and the Beatles by Thomas R. Smith and friends.

A Visit by Santa and Mrs. Claus – December 5, 6:30 p.m.

The holiday season begins with a visit from everyone's favorite elf! You can have your child's photo taken with Santa and Mrs. Claus for a small fee.



Annual Gingerbread Competition – December 7, 8 p.m.

A holiday favorite! Enter your creation in adult or youth categories, architectural (buildings) or whimsical. Special graham cracker category for little ones. Sponsored by the library and River Falls State Bank. Entries due December 7 at 8 p.m. Display runs through Friday, December 23.



Holiday Open House- December 8, all day

A celebration of the library and you! Demonstrations, music, refreshments and more.

Children/School-Aged Youth Programs

Fall Story Times

Stories, songs, action rhymes, and lots of fun! Pre-registration required and begins September 1. Class sizes are limited. Held in the Children's Program Room.

- **Babytime** (0-23 months & caregiver) – Tuesdays 9:30-9:50 a.m. Dates: September 13-December 6
- **Toddler Lapsit** (24–36 months & caregiver) – Tuesdays 10:45-11:15 a.m. Dates: September 13-December 6
- **Preschool Story Time** (3-5 year olds) Thursdays 10:30-11:15 a.m. or 1:00-1:45 p.m. Dates: September 15-December 8
- **Family Story Hour** (geared to up to 5 year olds but open to all) Third Tuesday at 6 p.m. Dates: September 20, October 18, November 15, December 20

The **High School Book Discussion Group** (9-12 Grade) meets the second Tuesday of each month from 4-5 p.m. in the Board Room. Dates are September 13, October 11, November 8, December 13.

The **Middle School Book Discussion Group** (6-8 Grade) meets the first Tuesday of each month from 4-5 p.m. in the Board Room. Dates are September 6, October 4, November 1, December 6.

The **4th-5th Grade Book Discussion Group** will meet 4-5 p.m. on September 20, October 18, November 15, December 20.

Legos Afternoons (grades K-5) meets every other Monday from 4-5 p.m. We provide the Legos; you provide the imagination. Call to register. Dates: September 12, 26; October 10, 24; November 7, 21; December 5, 19.

1,000 Books Before Kindergarten

This is an independent program that allows you to track books read to your baby or toddler with the goal of reading 1,000 books together by the time s/he starts kindergarten! Registration required.

Out of School Day Events – October 10, November 11

The library will be sponsoring a special event or craft session on no school days. Dates: October 10, November 11

Library Programs and Events

(continued from page 6)

Teens In Power (TIP)

Are you a teen in grades 6-12? This is our teen advisory board, and we talk about events for teens and to plan the kinds of things that you want to be a part of. Meets the second Wednesday of the month at 4 p.m. Dates: September 14, October 12, November 9, December 14.

Adult Programs

Friday Fit Lit Club, 6:30 a.m.

Friday mornings in the library main level meeting room participants meet and share the books they are reading, and then head out the door for a walk or run. Participants return to the library for coffee, light snacks, conversation, and access to the library Internet before the doors open.

Coloring for Adults

Come and see what the coloring craze is all about! This program will meet on the 4th Wednesday of each month from 6-8 p.m. in the Main Level Meeting Room. No registration required. Designed for adults and all supplies are provided. Dates: September 27, October 25, November 22, December 27.

Foundation Fit Lit 5K Run, October 22 at 9 a.m. (5K) and 10:30 a.m. (1 mile)

Join the River Falls Library Foundation for the 2nd Annual Foundation Fit Lit 5K. The proceeds from the race will be used to refurbish the River Falls Public Library. Participants are encouraged to dress as their favorite literary characters. The Library Foundation is seeking individuals to be a part of the race committee. Please contact Heather Johnson with questions: 715-425-0905 ext. 660. More specific details about the race will be available on the library's website at www.riverfallspubliclibrary.org.

Adult Reading Programs

Second Tuesday Book Discussion Group – 6:30 p.m.

Dates: September 13, October 11, November 8, December 13. Location is to be determined.

Book & Beans Book Discussion Group – Third Tuesday at 10:30 a.m.

Dates: September 20, October 18, November 15, December 20. Location is to be determined.

YA for Adults Books Discussion Group – Third Wednesday at 6:30 p.m.

Dates: September 21, October 19, November 16, December 21. Location: Junior's Bar and Restaurant, 414 S. Main Street.

Times Past History Book Discussion Group, 6:30 p.m.

Dates: September 27, October 25, November 22, December 27.

Fall/Winter Gallery Events

The Murder Mystery – September 10-October 7

Visit the world of Sherlock Holmes, Miss Marple, the intrepid Hercule Poirot, and other famous sleuths

Tributaries of Earth and Water: A Celebration of the National Park Service Centennial – December 18-January 21 ~



2015-2017 Work Plan Updates

On July 28, 2015, the City Council approved the Administration's 2015-2017 Major Work Plan. The Work Plan is an important tool for planning, executing, implementing, and monitoring priority initiatives and projects based on the City's Strategic Plan.

The following projects are included in the Work Plan organized by Strategic Plan goals. For a complete listing of the Work Plan, please see www.rfcity.org/workplan.

Ensuring Financial Stability

- Review Fiscal Plan
- Create Business Plan for Electric Utility
- Create Business Plan for Water Utility

Consistently Delivering Quality Municipal Services

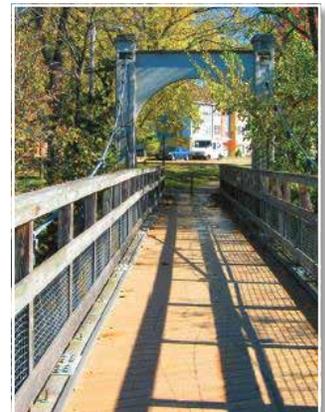
- Develop 2020 Organization Plan
- Conduct Citizen Survey & Evaluate Results
- Evaluate City Hall Front End Configuration Options

Promote Economic Vitality

- Complete STH 35 North Commercial Sector Plan
- Develop Plan for Future Land Uses on South Main
- Consider Tax Increment District (TID) for Undeveloped/Underdeveloped River Falls Industrial Park Land
- Marketing Plan for Sterling Ponds Corporate Park
- Develop Business Incubation Strategy with Partners
- Cooperative Boundary Agreement with Town of Kinnickinnic

Connecting Community Members

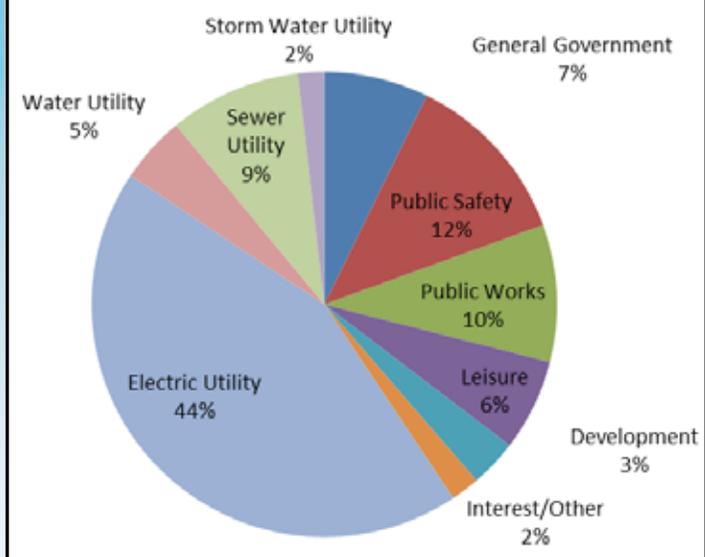
- Phasing and Implementation Plan for Glen Park Improvements
- Phasing and Implementation Plan for Hoffman Park Improvements
- Begin Development of Kinnickinnic River Corridor Plan



Considering Future Generations

- Develop and Implement Plan to Increase Participation in Green Energy Purchases
- Assist UWRF with Falcon Center and Rodli Hall projects to impact sustainability measures included in new facilities
- Complete Main Electric Substation Reconstruction Project
- Complete Wastewater Plant Improvements
- Evaluate Recreation Fees – Set Policy on Revenue Recovery/Affordability ~

2015 Statement of Activities



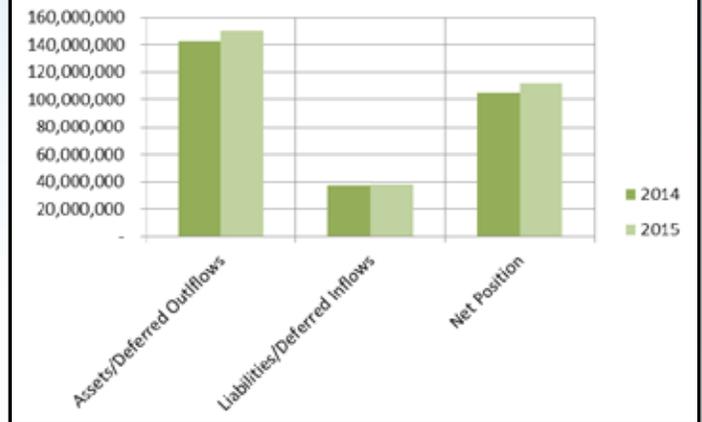
2015 Audit Highlights

The City's 2015 annual audit report was approved in July. In addition to the services provided to residents, the statements reflect receipt of long-term financing of \$1.6 million for the 2013 Mann Valley Corporate Park land purchase, a Federal Emergency Management grant of \$583,000 for the Hoffman Park storm shelter, and financing of \$270,000 provided to the River Falls Housing Authority to purchase property for future housing projects.

The City of River Falls ended the fiscal year with an overall increase in net position of \$4.1 million. Approximately \$2 million of this increase is related to investment in capital assets, with changes in pension accounting adding an additional \$1.2 million.

The complete audit report and annual statements are available on the City's website.

Statement of Net Position December 31



Artist is Leslie Batt-Lutz; located by Kwik Trip, North Main Street

Utility Box Artwork

Utility boxes are so ubiquitous that people rarely notice them. Since we started the utility box beautification project in 2015 all that has changed. To date, eight utility boxes have become works of art. People are now seeing the other green and gray boxes and requesting more beautification. We take that as a compliment and a good sign of a successful program.

The four boxes for 2016 have been painted, and in 2017, we'll select another four boxes to beautify. If you have a box you want us to consider, please contact Mike Noreen at 715-426-3467 or mnoreen@rfcity.org.



Artist is Sor Her; located by First National Bank Stadium in Hoffman Park



Artist is Stephanie Howell; located by Copper Kettle on South Main Street



Artist is Samantha Rohl; located on the UWRF Campus

UW-River Falls: Falcon Center Construction Progressing Well

Construction on the UW-River Falls Falcon Center continues to progress smoothly. Some limited use of parts of the building will be available as early as fall 2016, with other portions opening in spring 2017. There is a good chance (although not confirmed) that fall 2016 Commencement may be held in Knowles in December. Throughout the coming year, ongoing construction means that access will come with some inconvenience. The Falcon Center website will be updated regularly and should be referenced for further construction schedule information (www.uwrf.edu/FalconCenter). Full occupancy is planned for fall 2017.

Thanks to the good progress being made, the overall construction budget is being respected. Given these challenging budget times, it is important to remind everyone that state funding for capital projects such as the Falcon Center cannot be used to address shortfalls in operational funding or to make up for budget cuts at the University. The Falcon Center project is supported primarily by bonded capital funds from the state, and by student segregated fees, charitable gifts, and parking user fees that cannot be used for purposes other than those for which they were collected. The word 'bonded' actually signifies that the monies are borrowed for a term of 20 years, with the annual bond payments being paid by state general purpose revenue designated to retire debt. The student segregated fees collected for Falcon Center are also used to make a portion of the annual bond payments. More information on the Falcon Center budget is available at www.uwrf.edu/FalconCenter.

Falcon Center is an exciting addition for the campus and the community, one that has been 30 years in the making. A special thanks to the many faculty and staff who have been involved in making this a reality. The project will definitely be a benefit to our current and future students, becoming an important driver in recruitment and retention. Thank you, also, to the many generous donors who have supported the project with more than \$2 million in private gifts raised through the UW-River Falls Foundation.

Contact Facilities Management for more information by emailing alan.symicek@uwrf.edu. ~



UWRF Budget Impact FAQ

Questions are often raised by concerned members of the community concerning the funding of the Falcon Center and the impacts of the recent state budget cuts on UWRF. Following are some of the most frequently asked questions and our responses:

Q: Can't you just raise tuition to make up for state budget cuts?

A: No. Wisconsin government has mandated a resident undergraduate tuition freeze throughout the UW System. We are entering the fourth consecutive year of this freeze. We have no option for implementing modest tuition adjustments to help cover state budget cuts. A tuition freeze may look like a savings to UW students and families; however in this context, it translates into fewer class offerings and larger class sizes, which means less personalized attention and possibly increased time to obtain a degree.

Q: Aren't you building a new \$63 million facility?

A: Yes. State funding for capital projects such as the UWRF Falcon Center project cannot be used to address shortfalls in operational funding due to the 2015-17 budget cuts. The Falcon Center is supported by capital funds from the state, student fees, charitable gifts, and parking user fees.

Q: Didn't I just hear about a successful \$20 million fundraising effort?

A: Yes, and we are proud of our success! However, charitable gifts can only be used for the purposes intended by the donor. Therefore, most of these funds are destined to support our students directly and are not used to pay for items such as faculty and staff salaries, educational supplies or equipment. Scholarship funding, instructional space improvements and program support are the most commonly chosen charitable designations.

Q: Doesn't the university have lots of money in reserves?

A: No. The university's current tuition reserves could support faculty salaries and other educational costs for less than two months. Other fund balances in areas such as housing, parking, construction projects, and dining services are committed for specific projects or uses, and cannot be used to fund faculty or support basic teaching and learning activities. For more information on the UWRF Budget Impacts and our strategic response, visit <https://www.uwrf.edu/Administration/Chancellor/State-Funding-Budget-Advocacy.cfm> ~

Food Science and Technology Program Reinstated

The UWRF Food Science and Technology major has been reinstated and students will be accepted into the program in the fall. This decision will help meet both student and industry demand for expertise in the food processing and technology area.

"Reinstatement of the major within our department represents opportunity," Justin Luther, interim chair of the Animal and Food Science Department, said. "An increasingly strong job market exists for graduates with the level of expertise this major has to offer."

More information on the Food Science and Technology program can be found at www.uwrf.edu/ANFS/FoodScienceTech.cfm. ~

Important UW-River Falls dates:

- Sept. 3 Move-in Day
- Sept. 7 First Day of Classes
- Sept. 9-10 Falcon Frontier Days Rodeo
- Sept. 10 Year of Brazil, Brazilian Carnival
- Sept. 23 Rising to Distinction Campaign
- Sept. 24 Homecoming Celebration
- Dec. 13 Undergraduate Research, Scholarly and Creative Activity Gala
- Dec. 16 Last Day of Fall Classes
- Dec. 17/18 (TBD) Fall Commencement



Blue Bikes a Hit!

Introduced this past spring, the Blue Bike program has been a hit, offering free transportation and recreation to hundreds of residents and tourists.

What it is: The Blue Bike program is a free bike-share program with about 20 bikes at five racks strategically placed around town. Four of the five racks are equipped with a fix-it station.

What it isn't: This is not the same type of program you see in large cities like Milwaukee or Minneapolis. With the Blue Bike program, there is no credit card to swipe, no liability waiver to sign or lock to unlock – just a free bike to ride and return.

Then, who pays? The bikes were provided at no cost from charitable organizations and individuals. The racks and fix-it stations were purchased with a biking grant from New Belgium Brewing, and prepped and painted by the River Falls High School National Honor Society. River Falls Municipal Utilities provided a \$1,500 maintenance contract to local bike shop, Crank Worx.

Is it working? Yes! Look around town and you'll see people of all shapes and sizes riding Blue Bikes. The program's goal to provide bikes for fun, transportation and has been accomplished. It's not without glitches, however. The "return" part of the program is a work in progress. Bikes have been found as far away as Hudson!

What people are saying: The City has received tremendous positive feedback from riders, the community and local and national media. In July, the program earned a Travel Green Wisconsin certification sponsored by the Wisconsin Department of Tourism to "promote smart, environmentally friendly business practices."

What's next? The program is being assessed and changes will be made to ensure the program is even better in 2017. Examples include considering more rack locations, tracking the bikes and adding new styles of bikes like tandems, choppers – and bringing back the banana seat!

Want to get involved or have a bike to donate? The City welcomes your ideas and energy. Contact Mike Noreen at 715-426-3467 or mnoeen@rfcity.org.

New EMS Equipment



Recently, the Mayor and City Council had an opportunity to view the EMS Service's new pickup and utility terrain vehicle (UTV). The UTV was purchased with a grant and will be used for special rescues when an ambulance won't fit.

The pickup is also a special rescue unit that holds 'command' items. Pictured by the UTV are EMS Director Jeff Rixmann, Mayor Dan Toland and Alderpersons Bjerstedt and Bjork.

Renewable Energy has Come of Age in River Falls

River Falls has embraced clean energy, receiving national recognition for our actions. Whether you want to install a renewable energy system in your home, business, church or non-profit, want to participate in community solar, or wish to offset usage with low cost renewable energy, we have options.

Green Energy Blocks – Receive 300 kilowatt hours of renewable energy each month for \$3. You can start and stop at any time. When you sign on, you won't be alone because River Falls ranks #1 in the state in customer participation!

Community Solar – The demand for solar led us to be the first municipality in the state to build a solar garden. You can buy a share in the garden for \$567 and every month for the next 19 years you will receive a credit on your bill for the energy your share produces. The share can follow you to your next home in River Falls, or you can sell it back to RFMU, someone else or even gift it to another customer in River Falls.

Renewable Energy for Non-profits – The United Church of Christ meets approximately 20 percent of its energy needs from the photovoltaic array on their church. A \$25,000 grant from WPPI Energy helped make that project a reality. An even larger grant is now available for your church or non-profit. Don't wait, get involved!

Hydroelectric Power – Both hydroelectric facilities are operating and provide enough renewable energy to power about 175 homes. See article on page 3 for information about the plan to study the future of these facilities. For more information, visit www.rfmu.org/renewable.

#1 in Wisconsin

River Falls Municipal Utilities (RFMU) and the River Falls community recently received national recognition for leading the nation in renewable energy participation. The Department of Energy's National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) evaluated the green power programs of utilities across the nation and released lists of the top 10 utilities in four categories. RFMU ranked first in Wisconsin and fifth in the nation in the category of Green Power Participation Rate.

The Green Power Participation Rate is determined by the percentage of customers who participated in a utility's renewable or green energy programs. In 2015, 8.58 percent of RFMU customers participated in the green block program. The Green Power Sales Rate compares the ratio of a utility's renewable energy sales to total sales. In 2015, 3.76 percent of RFMU's sales were renewable energy sales.

"It's an honor to be recognized nationally for our renewable energy programs," said Kevin Westhuis, RFMU director. "And, we are grateful to River Falls' residents for recognizing the value of green energy through their participation and support."



The Fitzgerald family (L-R) Jenny, Ethan, and Matt, has been purchasing enough green energy blocks to cover 100 percent of their energy use for the past 10 years.

Contract with WPPI Energy Extended Long-Term

River Falls Municipal Electric Utility (RFMU) was one of the original founders of WPPI Energy (a joint action agency created to supply wholesale electricity) just over 35 years ago. WPPI Energy consists of 51 municipal electric utilities mainly throughout Wisconsin. WPPI's mission is to secure and buy a diverse portfolio of electricity for its members. The model of and decision to develop, join, and support "joint action" and bulk power supply purchasing has been advantageous for our City. Being a member of WPPI Energy has created a stable rate environment for River Falls that residents and businesses can depend on. Joint action through WPPI Energy presents an overall value proposition through competitive rates and high levels of service that our customers have come to expect.

On March 8, 2016, River Falls City Council approved an amendment to RFMU's existing long-term power supply contract with WPPI Energy extension from December 31, 2037, to December 31, 2055.

Long-term contracts are necessary so that WPPI has the ability to acquire new power supply resources, issue long-term bonds to finance the costs of these resources, and make other arrangements to continue to provide stable and low cost power supply for its members over the long term.

The all-requirements, long-term power supply agreement between WPPI Energy and its members, including RFMU, is a visible sign of financial stability that allows our joint action agency to negotiate cost-effective power purchases and access lower-cost power plant financing to meet our community's needs.

Fundamentally, a long-term contract extension will enable a member, through WPPI, to continue to own a share of generating resources and a well-diversified power supply portfolio, while receiving services that allow member utilities to operate efficiently and effectively for the benefit of their customers. We look forward to our continued and extended relationship. ~

Winter Utility Bills: We Can Help!

We understand that during the colder months in the year, utility bills tend to rise making it more difficult for some customers to pay their bill. If you are a customer struggling to make utility payments, please remember we are here to help you. It is best to reach out early so we can assist you. There are many agencies that offer payment assistance. We will connect you with them if you need their services.

From November 1-April 15, the River Falls Municipal Utility cannot disconnect electric or water services for non-payment (if these services are a necessary part of the heating system according to PSC 113). However, the Utility will continue collection efforts to try to collect during winter months.

Past due notices are sent to the service address as well as the landlord of the rental property. Any past due amounts accrued during the winter months must be paid in full or the customer must have payment arrangement in place by April 15 to avoid disconnection.

Again, a reminder to start this process for help as early as possible as lag times to receive assistance can be lengthy and available money runs out at many of these agencies. We value you as a customer of River Falls Municipal Utility. Call our customer service staff at 715-425-0906 for assistance with your bill paying questions. ~

Who Do I Call?

Police Department

- Abandoned vehicles
- Animal issues
- Disorderly conduct
- Loud noises
- Suspicious activity

During business hours, call 715-425-0909. For emergencies, call 911.



Fire Department

- Carbon monoxide alarms
- Gas smells
- Outdoor burning

During business hours, call Chief Scott Nelson, 715-426-3534. For emergencies, call 911.

Public Works Department/City Forester

- Icy sidewalks
- Obstruction of intersections
- Potholes
- Park concerns
- Snow removal
- Street sign down or missing
- Trees down or low-hanging limbs

During business hours, call 715-426-3481. For tree issues, call Nate Croes at 715-425-1697.

Utility Department

- Electric outages
- Frozen pipes
- Low-hanging/exposed wires and cables
- Sewer backups
- Street light outages
- Water main breaks

During or after hours (24/7), call 715-425-0906. This number provides 24 hour emergency service for customers.

Engineering Department

- Stagnant water
- Water pollution/illicit discharges
- Drainage concerns
- Signal and roundabout issues
- Sidewalk tripping hazards
- Public sidewalk accessibility

For water-related issues during business hours, call 715-426-3412; all others call 715-426-3409.

Community Development/Building and Inspections

- Abandoned furniture or appliances in yard or curb
- Dangerous signs and billboards
- Rental housing issues
- Tall grass and weeds

During business hours, call: 715-426-3426 or 3427.

EMS Department

General questions during business hours: 715-425-0370
Billing questions: 1-800-244-2345 ~

Business is Booming in River Falls!

2016 has been a big year for development in River Falls. A number of new companies are breaking ground this year, new clinic plans and downtown business improvements are underway, and high residential development numbers are in.

One of the priorities of City and business leaders for the past five years has been the development of the Sterling Ponds Corporate Park. Established in 2014, this is the City's newest corporate park for light industrial and corporate tenants. The park is very similar to the existing Whitetail Corporate Park (across the highway) with similar types of tenants and buildings and includes paved trails along the street.

Sterling Ponds Corporate Park officially opened May 24 when Turnkey Corrections/Three Square Market broke ground. The building will be 115,000 square feet, accommodating more than 150 employees. The two companies, subsidiaries of TW Companies, use advanced technologies to manufacture kiosk and software solutions for correctional institutions in over 20 states, and micro market locations -- convenience stores in the workplace -- to replace outdated vending operating technology throughout the US, Canada, and Europe.

At its meeting July 26, the City Council voted unanimously to accept a developer's agreement with WinField Solutions, a wholly owned subsidiary of Land O'Lakes. WinField has begun construction of an office, laboratory, and research facility in Sterling Ponds Corporate Park as well as a structure in Mann Valley. The company provides agricultural and related technology services to growers and dealers through seed development, crop protection products, plant nutrients, and other products and services.

Since 1989, WinField has leased land on the UWRF Mann Valley Lab Farm and worked closely with students and faculty to develop new products. It has also operated a small research facility in the Whitetail Corporate Park for a number of years.

Another tenant being welcomed to the corporate park is the St. Croix Valley Business Incubator (SCVBI). The project is a collaboration between UW-River Falls, the City of River Falls, and the regional economic development community. The incubator will serve as a one-stop location for the coordinated delivery of business development services in the region. In October 2015, a \$1.4 million grant for the creation and construction of the SCVBI was awarded by the U.S. Economic Development Administration. The incubator's grand opening is tentatively scheduled for spring 2017. For more information and updates on the project, visit www.rfcity.org/incubator.

First National Bank in downtown River Falls is expanding and remodeling much of its existing building. The project includes a 6,500 square foot expansion, a new community room, Board of Directors room, elevator, restrooms, additional and modernized offices, and more. Allina Health is drawing up plans for a new clinic in River Falls. The clinic will be located just to the north of the hospital and will be approximately 14,000 square feet. Look for construction to begin this fall.

On the housing side, over \$11 million in the value of permits were pulled. This breaks out to 81 residential permits (32 single family and 49 additions/alterations), and 12 commercial/industrial permits. The 2016 numbers are ahead of 2015's for development so far this year. ~

Mann Valley Annexation

The City first purchased over 85 acres of agricultural land at the corner of Mann Lane and City MM in 2011. At the same time, the City purchased a first right of refusal on the adjoining 243 acres of land. In 2013, the City exercised its right and purchased the land which brought the City's total land holdings in the Mann Valley area to over 325 acres. In spring 2016, the City was approached by WinField Solutions, a subsidiary of Land O' Lakes, to develop five acres of land in Mann Valley for agricultural purposes and reserve another 20 acres of land for future development. Due to the quality of the project, the City Council approved the annexation of 220 acres of land in Mann Valley at the July 26 City Council meeting.

A temporary zoning designation of (I) Industrial to the WinField site and (A) Agricultural to the remainder of the property being rezoned was assigned by the Plan Commission. The annexed land is city-owned and will continue to be tax-exempt until developed and sold through agreement with potential businesses. The City will continue to collect rent from farming activities on the unimproved land.

WinField Solutions will begin construction on the Field Facility in the fall and plan to be operational by spring 2017. For more information on Economic Development projects around the City, please visit www.rfcity.org/doingbusiness. ~

Downtown Business Improvement District

The Downtown Business Improvement District fosters business development and retention by completing and assisting with downtown improvement projects. The BID is funded by downtown businesses through a special tax; then the money collected is spent on projects and events, or granted back to the downtown businesses for sign and façade improvements.

Here is a list of the types of projects funded by the BID:

- Second Street Gardens
- Main Street and Maple Street Hanging Flower Baskets
- Additional Garbage and Cigarette Receptacles
- Main Street Banners
- Murals
- Holiday Lighting
- Main Street Community Events
- Main Street Benches
- Sign and Façade Improvements



Applications for grant funding are accepted throughout the year and are reviewed on a first come, first serve basis. Funding is renewed each calendar year, so be sure to talk to City staff or a BID Board member if you have an upcoming project downtown. Go to rfmainstreet.com for more information. ~

Kinnickinnic Trail Planning – Current and Future

As the welcome to River Falls sign says, we are “The City on the Kinni where life keeps getting better and better”. In a concerted effort to enhance our ability to interface with the Kinnickinnic River, the City continues in its efforts to maintain and enhance the trails available along the river. Here is an update on these efforts:

Kinnickinnic Trail (Heritage Park to Winter St.) – Originally constructed in 1982, this trail was widened from 8’ to 10’ when it was repaved in 2004.

Winter Street Bridge - In 1992, the bridge was constructed to replace the Falls Street Bridge and included pedestrian sidewalks connecting the Kinnickinnic Trail on each side of the bridge.

Veterans Park Bridge – In 2001, the bridge was reconstructed, providing an inviting handicap and bicycle accessible connection from Heritage Park to Veterans Park and the heart of downtown.

Kinnickinnic Trail (University Falls) – In 2010, this pathway segment was built as part of the University Falls apartment building project.

Kinnickinnic Trail (University Falls to Family Fresh) – In 2015, the City acquired the necessary property to complete the trail from University Falls to Family Fresh. Trail construction should be completed by this fall.

Kinnickinnic Trail (Family Fresh) – In 2013, the City acquired property between Family Fresh and the Kinnickinnic River. Included was a pathway segment built in the mid-1980s that was in need of upgrades including widening and resurfacing. Design is currently underway with construction anticipated in 2017.

Kinnickinnic Trail (Heritage Park to Division St.)

– In 2015, the City applied for and received a matching \$238,800 grant from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Stewardship Program to construct a paved trail between Heritage Park and Division Street at an estimated cost of \$477,600. This trail will pass underneath the Maple Street Bridge and have a spur connection to the riverside plaza at City Hall. Design on this project was authorized by the City Council on May 24 and is underway. Construction is anticipated to begin in 2017 and be completed by summer 2018.

Kinnickinnic Trail (Old Rail Trestle) – In January 2016, the City submitted an application to the Wisconsin Department of Transportation for funds to construct a pedestrian bridge on railroad abutments across the Kinnickinnic River that would connect the Kinnickinnic River Trail near Family Fresh to the Kinnickinnic Trail near Heritage Park. The City is seeking a \$1.14M grant for project. If successful, project completion would be anticipated in 2019.

Kinnickinnic Trail (Walnut St.) – The Downtown Design Plan adopted in 2002 anticipated a trail bridge connecting from West Walnut to the Old Rail Trestle Bridge. This connection will occur after construction of the Old Rail Trestle segment, possibly as early as 2022.

For more information on any of these projects, feel free to contact Reid Wronski, City Engineer, rwrnski@rcfcity.org or 715-426-3409. ~



2015 Fire Department Annual Report

Each year, a report is compiled highlighting many of the accomplishments of the department including a review of inventory, call volume, statistics and other items of interest. Every department member has contributed to its success. We are all very proud of our department and its service to the River Falls community. If you would like to view the report in its entirety, it can be accessed on the City website at: <http://www.rfcity.org/DocumentCenter/View/956> ~

Find the Firefighter in You!



Seven out of ten firefighters and emergency responders are volunteers, and that's no different in River Falls. Our community relies on folks with the heart to serve in ways few can. If you're one of them, the Department needs you!

The River Falls Fire Department has a proud history of serving the community since 1885. If you are ready to make history, learn more by contacting Fire Chief Scott Nelson at 715-426-3534 or snelson@rfcity.org.

Fire Department Practices Water Rescue

The River Falls Fire Department practiced water rescues on the Kinni in June. The kayak was donated by the Moody family in memory of their father, Robert "Bob" Moody, Sr. First National Bank River Falls donated the Rapid Deployment Craft (RDC) with proceeds from their 5K run in April.

"We have been training with the equipment to familiarize ourselves with how it handles on the river," said Fire Chief Scott Nelson.

"The equipment enables us to be better prepared to handle emergencies along the Kinni." ~



Firefighters pictured in the water rescue are Chris Cernohous, Brendan Johnson and Pauline Williams.

Residential Parking System

The City's residential parking permit system goes into effect on September 1, 2016, and runs through August 31, 2017, a few select zones will end May 31, 2017. The first permit for residents living within a permit zone is free. However, fees apply for reissuance of a lost permit or transferring the issued permit to a different vehicle owned by the permit holder. Homeowners are eligible for two vehicle specific permits and two guest permits. Persons renting in a permit zone are eligible for one vehicle-specific permit. Landlords may apply for guest permits.

A parking permit must be obtained in person at the Police Department during specified dates in September. The application is available online and can be completed in advance. To obtain a permit you will need to provide:

- Proof of residency within the parking zone
- Make, model and license plate information

Permits can be obtained at the River Falls Police Department on the following dates: September 6, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. and September 7, 10 a.m.-12 noon. After these dates, parking permits are available Mondays 10 a.m.-12 noon and Wednesdays 2-4 p.m.

If you are unable to obtain a permit during the days/times listed above, please call the Police Department at 715-425-0909 to make an appointment between the hours of 9 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. ~

IRS Phone Scams

The River Falls Police Department would like to issue a warning to all residents regarding Internal Revenue Service (IRS) phone scams occurring in the area. The scam involves a phone message, reportedly from the IRS, alleging that the recipient owes several thousands of dollars in back taxes.



The taxpayer is threatened with a lawsuit or arrest, and then asked to call a certain telephone number or send money to settle the alleged outstanding tax debt. These scammers can be very convincing and aggressive in their efforts.

Please note: the IRS will not contact you by telephone and threaten you with a lawsuit or arrest. The IRS contacts people via U.S. mail.

If you get a phone call from someone claiming to be from the IRS, here's what you should do:

- If you know you owe taxes or you think you might owe taxes, call the IRS at 1-800-829-1040. IRS employees will assist you with a payment issue, if there really is such an issue.
- If you know you don't owe taxes or have no reason to think that you owe any taxes (for example, you've never received a bill or the caller made some bogus threats as described above), then call and report the incident to the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration (TIGTA) at 1-800-366-4484.
- You can also file a complaint with the Federal Trade Commission at www.ftc.gov. Please add "IRS Telephone Scam" to the comments in your complaint.

For additional information and/or questions regarding suspicious phone calls please contact the River Falls Police Department at 715-425-0909. ~

From the Police Chief: Safety Tips for Halloween

The River Falls Police Department wants to help remind the community to be safe while enjoying the fun tradition of Halloween. The following tips are recommended to ensure the safety of everyone participating in the activities:

- Wear comfortable costumes that provide visibility, are fire retardant, and not a tripping hazard. Bright costumes are more visible than dark costumes. Glow in the dark and light up props can be used to enhance visibility to motorists.
- Children should be supervised by a responsible adult at all times. If older children are allowed to go out without supervision (not recommended), there should be a designated return time, planned route, and a way to contact the child in case of emergencies.
- Never enter anyone's home. Allow the resident to bring the treats out to you.
- Trick or Treat before the sun goes down to allow better visibility to motorists.
- Stay in familiar neighborhoods.
- Avoid cutting through yards as there may be multiple tripping hazards.
- Only accept wrapped candy, and do not eat it until it has been checked.
- If you are operating a vehicle, always obey the posted speed limit and traffic signs. Watch for children crossing the street or walking between parked cars. If a child's view is obstructed he or she may dart into traffic.
- Make sure children know their home address in the event they get lost.

Many odd behaviors are exhibited on Halloween. Please do not confuse them with any with behaviors that may harm someone. If you have any concerns for the safety of a child or see any suspicious or illegal activity please notify the River Falls Police Department.

If you have any concerns for the safety of a child or see any suspicious or illegal activity please notify the River Falls Police Department at 715-425-0909. ~



Winter Holiday Safety

Winter holidays are a time for families and friends to get together. But that also means a greater risk for fire. Following a few simple tips will ensure a happy and fire-safe holiday season.

HOLIDAY DECORATING

- » Be careful with holiday decorations. Choose decorations that are flame resistant or flame retardant.
- » Keep lit candles away from decorations and other things that can burn.
- » Some lights are only for indoor or outdoor use, but not both.
- » Replace any string of lights with worn or broken cords or loose bulb connections. Connect no more than three strands of mini light sets and a maximum of 50 bulbs for screw-in bulbs. Read manufacturer's instructions for number of LED strands to connect.
- » Use clips, not nails, to hang lights so the cords do not get damaged.
- » Keep decorations away from windows and doors.



Before Heading Out or to Bed

Blow out lit candles when you leave the room or go to bed. **Turn off** all light strings and decorations before leaving home or going to bed.

HOLIDAY ENTERTAINING

- » Test your smoke alarms and tell guests about your home fire escape plan.
- » Keep children and pets away from lit candles.
- » Keep matches and lighters up high in a locked cabinet.
- » Stay in the kitchen when cooking on the stovetop.
- » Ask smokers to smoke outside. Remind smokers to keep their smoking materials with them so young children do not touch them.
- » Provide large, deep ashtrays for smokers. Wet cigarette butts with water before discarding.

FACTS

- ! **Two of every five** home decoration fires are started by candles.
- ! **Nearly half** of holiday decoration fires happen because decorations are placed too close to a heat source.



Your Source for SAFETY Information

NFPA Public Education Division • 1 Batterymarch Park, Quincy, MA 02169

www.nfpa.org/education

Customer Appreciation Event Heats Up!

Despite predictions of a dangerous heat index, the annual Customer Appreciation Event was a success! Customers and community members braved the sweltering temperatures to attend. Lunch was served by City employees. Customers were able to eat inside and visit educational booths. River Falls Municipal Utility (RFMU) customers had the opportunity to sign up for a free energy kit, and celebrated being renewable energy champions by being ranked first in Wisconsin for Green Power Participation. Kids of all ages enjoyed the bounce house, henna, face painting and live music. Thank you to our customers, and we look forward to seeing you again next year! ~



Odd/Even Parking Begins November 1

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

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

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

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

FREQUENTLY CALLED PHONE NUMBERS

General Information
715-425-0900

Utility Questions
715-425-0906

Police Department
715-425-0909

Public Library
715-425-0905

Municipal Court
715-426-3429

Garbage/Recycling
715-425-0900

Recreation Cancellation Hotline
715-426-3422

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

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The 2016 River Falls City Council (from left): Christopher Gagne, David Cronk, Scott Morrisette, Mayor Dan Toland, Diane Odeen, Hal Watson, Todd Bjerstedt, and Jeff Bjork

Mayor and Common Council

Position	Name	Address	Phone	E-mail Address
Mayor	Dan Toland	420 E. Elm Street	715-426-3404	dtoland@rfcity.org
At Large	Jeff Bjork	759 River Ridge Road	715-629-7655	jbjork@rfcity.org
At Large	Scott Morrisette	2137 Rushmore Drive	715-425-8993	smorrisette@rfcity.org
At Large	Diane Odeen	811 Oak Knoll Avenue	715-426-5325	dodeen@rfcity.org
District 1	David Cronk	843 Leroy Lane	715-425-9174	dcronk@rfcity.org
District 2	Christopher Gagne	75 E. Johnson Street	715-222-3220	cgagne@rfcity.org
District 3	Hal Watson	215 7 th Street	715-781-5814	hwatson@rfcity.org
District 4	Todd Bjerstedt	531 High Ridge Road	651-248-1099	tbjersedt@rfcity.org

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