Transcript
City of River Falls Mayor Dan Toland's weekly video update
Oct. 6, 2020

Hi, Mayor Dan here. It's that time of the year when the Packers begin their march to their next Superbowl championship. I would try to explain to the Viking fans out there what a championship is, but so far through four games, it looks like it would just be a waste of everyone's time. Seeing as the Packers have this weekend off – we all know they are the only real football team in this area that are worth watching – everyone should take some time and enjoy the nice weather. Get out and look at the fall colors. We all know they are not here for long. So, get out there and soak up the beauty of nature. It's good for the soul!

Now, let's look at the weekly COVID-19 case numbers …

In the first slide, you will see that Pierce County has 37 active cases, a decrease of 22 since last week. The cumulative case total for the county is 478. The activity level is high.

Pierce County	Sept. 28	Oct. 5	Change
Cumulative confirmed cases	449	478	+29
Active cases	59	37	-22
Recovered cases	383	434	+51
Negative cases	7,858	8,328	+470
Deaths	7	7	No change
Activity level	High	High	No change

In this next slide, you can see that St. Croix County has 419 active cases, an increase of 125 since last week. The cumulative case total is now 1,103. St. Croix County's activity level is also high.

St. Croix County	Sept. 28	Oct. 5	Change
Cumulative confirmed cases	958	1,103	+145
Active cases	294	419	+125
Recovered cases	656	676	+20
Negative cases	16,187	17,281	+1,094
Deaths	8	8	No change
Activity level	High	High	No change

Slide three shows us that there are 24,000 active cases in Wisconsin, an increase of 5,030 cases since last week.

State of Wisconsin	Sept. 28	Oct. 5	Change
Cumulative confirmed cases	117,588	134,359	+16,771
Active cases	19,560	24,589	+5,029
Recovered cases	96,727	108,371	+11,644
Negative cases	1,405,377	1,472,577	+67,200
Deaths	1,283	1,381	+98

On slide four, you'll see that Pierce County continues to be able to contact new cases within 24 hours. However, they are not able to trace all close contacts within 24 hours.

Local/regional	Sept. 28	Oct. 5
Adequate PPE supplies for staff	Yes	Yes
City/regional testing capacity	Yes	Yes
Case contact within 24 hours (Pierce County)	No	Yes
Close contact tracing within 24 hours (Pierce County)	No	No

Now, on to some other news …

I want to let you know that new electric rates will be reflected in your November bill for October usage. This rate adjustment is only the second in 20 years – the latest occurred in 2008. The new rates will help us continue to provide quality, reliable service you have come to trust and expect. We have made a series of significant investments in our substations and the distribution system that delivers power to your homes and businesses.

As I mentioned last week, Lake Louise has been drawn down so that we can look at the Powell Falls Dam, which was damaged during the June 29th flood. Please stay out of the lakebed as the thick mud and debris can be hazardous.

The City was well into its hydro relicensing process when the flood came through. That process included decommissioning the Powell Falls hydroelectric facility and removing the dam in 2026. You can see the final Kinni Corridor plan and read about the relicensing process at rfmu.org/relicensing.

Well, the November election is just 29 days away. If you haven't voted yet, there are three ways to do it:

- Request an absentee ballot at myvote.wi.gov. Once you've received your ballot, fill it out and return it by mail or place it in the drop boxes at City Hall. It must be received by November third, barring any extension the state may implement.

- Vote early and in person at City Hall from October 20 to October 30. Check the City's election webpage below for more information.

- And, of course, you can always vote in person on Election Day, we will have everything ready to go for you on November third. Check your polling place at the site below (www.rfcity.org/elections).

If you have questions about the election, feel free to contact the City Clerk staff by email or phone during business hours. Contact information is available on the City's Elections webpage.(www.rfcity.org/elections).

We have been asked about whether the City will "cancel" trick-or-treating this Halloween. The City has never set any kind of official hours or rules for trick-or-treating and we don't plan to this year either. just remember to follow CDC health guidelines and only go where you are comfortable. As always, please be considerate of neighbors who do not wish to participate.

Find a link to the CDC and Wisconsin Health Department recommendations at the site below (www.rfcity.org/COVID19).

I would love to see some picture of the kids all dressed up and I could even put some of their pictures in with pet pictures. Besides, we all know they're just really expensive pets anyways.

Before I wrap up, I want to remind you that our annual Fall Clean Up began yesterday and runs through Saturday October 10th. Clean-Up Day is available to River Falls Municipal Utility customers only. Visit the website on your screen below for more information, including what to bring and what not to bring (www.rfcity.org/cleanup).

Now, I want to leave you with some happy puppy pictures. The first one is Otto. The second picture is of Sugar and Gracie. Please email me a picture of your favorite pet for next week's update at dtoland@rfcity.org.

Feel free to reach out to me at any time if you have questions or comments on any subject. I want to hear from you.

In the meantime, hang in there and remember to keep being vigilant in following all of our health guidelines and take some time each day to smile and laugh. Stay safe and be kind to each other, because we are all we have.