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*With the election only 11 months away, your support is greatly appreciated.*

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## **Rockford Named Top Housing Market in America**

The Wall Street Journal named Rockford “American’s Top Housing Market” – wow!

We have made tremendous strides over the last seven years. Property values are up 52%, property tax rate is down 37%, violent crime is down 34% and Rockford is soaring!

We have reduced the financial barrier for our young people to attend college for FREE through our Rockford Promise partnership; created pathways into the construction trades with our concrete workforce development program and vertical trades training and will soon open the state’s first Excel Center with Goodwill Northern Illinois to help people obtain their high school degrees.

We are improving our neighborhoods, reducing blight, investing in public art for the enjoyment of all and creating a master plan for area tourism.

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### **Redevelopment of 3 Downtown Buildings**

If downtown begins to look different, here's why...City Council approved three redevelopment projects that will bring new business and residential living downtown.

#### **Art Deco Building, 213 W. State St.:**

Urban Equity Properties plans to renovate this 11,700-square-foot building into a mix of retail and office space. It will have two businesses on the ground floor and loft office space on the second and third floors.

#### **Main and Mulberry, 134 N. Main St.:**

Oliver Emerson Development plans to turn the former Trekk building, which was built in 1929 as the city's first Walgreens, into 14 residential lofts and a ground-floor business.

#### **Watch Factory, 325 S. Madison St.:**

Oliver Emerson Development plans to rehabilitate the three-story former Watch Factory, which was built in 1874, into 24 market-rate apartments. There will also be solar-covered parking spaces flanking both sides of the building.

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## Honoring Our Promise

This week we honored 182 of our young scholars who are going to college without the financial burden of growing tuition costs. Rockford Promise helps Rockford increase property values, decrease crime, and strengthen our economy.

When we change a child's trajectory, we change a family's future, and we can truly transform Rockford. This coming school year there will be 502 tuition-free Rockford youth on a local college campus.



## CRE8IV Music + Arts Fest

CRE8IV, the community-building, arts-infused initiative, launched in 2019 as part of Rockford Area Visitors and Conventions Bureau's placemaking and public art efforts. Since then, more than 50 murals and sculptures have been unveiled across the region. This year will mark the end of the initiative and we're going out with a bang!

Join us at the CR81V Music + Arts Fest for a weekend packed with electrifying live music! Mark your calendar for

May 31 - June 2 and prepare for an unforgettable experience.



## Breaking Ground in Solar Technology

From inclusivity to sustainability, Collins Aerospace is a great corporate citizen. Recently we broke ground on their new solar site. Rockford is recognized nationally for our support of solar power including the approval of nine solar farms totaling more than 135 acres.



## Ciao, Sorella!

I recently had the opportunity to visit Rockford's sister city, Ferentino, Italy. I was invited by the Mayor of Ferentino to meet with dignitaries and participate in the celebration of Sant' Ambrogio. The trip served to strengthen Rockford's relationship with the two cities, as well as increased cultural, educational and business opportunities. (The food was pretty good, too!)



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A copy of our report is on file with the Winnebago County Clerk, 404 Elm St, Rockford, IL. Tom McNamara, Democratic Candidate for Rockford Mayor. Paid for by friends of Tom McNamara.

Send to Friends of Tom McNamara  
P.O. Box 1134  
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