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With the election only 5 months away, your support is greatly appreciated.

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Colman Yards Set to Welcome Residents in 2025

Work is progressing on the former Barber Colman Campus. Here are some highlights.

• Four letters of intent are in place with one remaining for the first phase of commercial

space. J. Jeffers will announce those tenants once all letters are signed.

- On track to welcome its first residents by summer 2025, as scheduled. Preleasing could start as soon as May.
- 100% of the work being done on site will be done by union workers.

This is a transformational project for Southwest Rockford and our entire city. More than 25 acres and 9 vacant historic buildings will soon be transformed into a more than \$400 million redevelopment.

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Rockford Promise Expansion

Rockford Promise's partnership with Rockford University will be expanded next year thanks to the \$500,000 annual funding from Hard Rock Casino Rockford. Rockford University expects more than 100 students to be eligible in the fall, adding to the roughly 40 Rockford Promise students currently on campus.



Graduation Day for Workforce Development Program

I, along with Kee Solutions, recently celebrated the graduation of six students from our new workforce development program.

The students, alongside Kee Solutions, renovated the former Jerome Furniture building on North Main Street into the future home of Think Big – a minority and women small business development center. The contractor also provided mentorship, experience and workforce development skills to six City-hired young adults through a preapprenticeship program.



Rockford to Get Strongest Electrical Grid in America

I'm thrilled to announce a more than \$100M investment in our Electrical Grid. With storms coming more frequently and with greater severity, this investment will provide Rockford with the strongest GRID in America!

In addition to upgrading infrastructure, the city will have greater control and flexibility over billing, allowing us to decrease expenses. This investment will also provide training to Rockfordians in growing a clean energy economy. Plus, this investment will provide STEM education opportunities for our youngest Rockford residents!



United Way Brings the Books!

Reach Out and Read Illinois is coming to Rockford! Thank you, United Way of Rock River Valley, for coordinating a city-wide approach to improving literacy of our youngest residents. Literacy is critical to our residents' and our community's health and success. Every child should have 14 wellness visits between birth and 5 years old.

At each wellness visit, pediatricians have committed to providing a book and discussing with the child and the parents. The Reach Out and Read initiative is a proven successful model to improve literacy and I appreciate all the partners who collaborated to bring this to our city.



First Illinois Excel Center to Open in Rockford

With nearly 30,000 people living in Winnebago and Boone County without a high school diploma or GED, we are excited to see Goodwill of Northern Illinois open Illinois' first Excel Center! Excel Centers provide free State of Illinois Accredited High School Diplomas with free childcare and free job placement assistance after completion.



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A big thank you to the <u>YMCA of Rock River Valley</u> for investing more than \$3M into the former Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd. This new facility will provide before and after-school programming, a great local work out and a gathering space for neighbors to develop and foster community. The city of Rockford was proud to invest in this space. Beyond the physical and program attributes, it will provide our residents with new opportunities and hope.



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Mental Health Tax Continues to Fund Successful Programs

Rockford residents voted to continue a half-cent sales tax that funds community programs approved by the Winnebago County Community Mental Health Board. The Family Peace Center used one of the grants to expand staff and survivor mental health and wellness programming.



The Most Wonderful Time of the Year

Stroll on State is nearly here and I can't wait to attend again with my family! New this year, GoRockford is planning an exciting holiday drone show, a 5K toy drive, new inflatable parade balloons, ice carvings and much more alongside classic attractions like s'more stations, ice skating and horse and wagon rides. Mark your calendar for Saturday, November 30 and join me in downtown Rockford for the holiday magic!



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With the election only 5 months away, your support is greatly appreciated.



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 Rockford, IL 61105

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