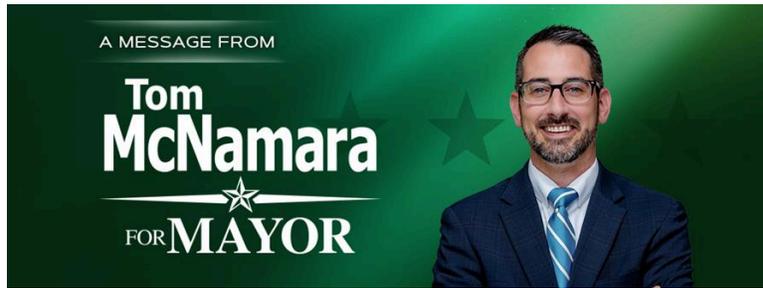


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There's a lot of good energy in Rockford right now, and I'm excited to share some of the big steps we're taking together.



From “Miserable” to Earning Magnificent Headlines

Not long ago, Rockford was labeled “miserable” and the underwater mortgage capital of the U.S. - but look at us now!

The Wall Street Journal and Realtor.com just ranked Rockford the 9th best housing market in the country thanks to our affordability and quality of life. We've made huge progress together, and while there's more work to do, we're building the

community we all deserve with a 38% reduction in violent crime, historic investments in our roads, increase in Rockford Promise college scholarships, and celebrating the grit, culture, restaurants, shops, and diversity that make this city shine.

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Join Me at the Mayor's Hunger Luncheon

I hope you'll join me at Veterans Memorial Hall on **Wednesday, October 29** for this year's Mayor's Hunger Luncheon. This isn't just about sharing a meal, it's about standing together as a community to make sure no child, senior, or working family in Rockford has to choose between putting food on the table and covering other basic needs.

Every ticket, donation, or sponsorship directly supports the nine local pantries in the Greater Rockford Pantry Coalition.

There are lots of ways to help:

- Grab a \$25 ticket and join us for lunch.
- Make a donation of any size.
- Become a sponsor at \$1,000, \$2,000, or \$5,000.



The First Excel Center in Illinois

We officially opened the very first Excel Center in the entire state of Illinois! This incredible new resource will provide free, state-accredited high school diplomas to adults, while also reducing barriers by offering free childcare and transportation assistance.

With more than 30,000 people in Winnebago County without a GED or high school diploma, this is a truly transformational step forward for our community.



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Big Win for Davis Park!

After six years of planning, community input, and partnerships, City Council officially approved the transformation of Davis Park! Our goal from day

one was bold: making it the most welcoming, accessible, and activated park in Rockford.

The plan includes our first-ever skate park, a 6,000 sq. ft. universally accessible playground, public art, new restrooms and concessions, boat docks, and a stage that can host anything from a 200-person wedding to a concert with 3,000 on the lawn. This is going to be a game-changer for our community.



“Hope Rides” Arrives in Rockford

A new partnership will make a real difference for survivors in our community. Uber and Alliance for HOPE International launched Hope Rides — a program that provides free Uber rides to Family Justice Centers across the country, including right here at the Rockford Family Peace Center.

Transportation is often a big barrier for survivors of domestic violence when trying to get the help they need. This program helps remove that hurdle and connects people directly to safety and support.

If you or someone you know could benefit, call the Family Peace Center at **779-348-7600**.



Rockford is EV Ready!

Rockford officially completed the EV Readiness Program with the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus and ComEd, making it easier and faster for residents and businesses to install EV charging stations.

This work sets us up for a cleaner, healthier, and more sustainable future. Electric vehicles bring real benefits: lower emissions, better air quality, fewer maintenance costs, and a smoother ride. Most importantly, we're laying groundwork so every neighborhood can access the opportunities that come with clean transportation.

Rockford is on the road to a greener future and we're just getting started.



Building Rockford's Future, Together

Rockford is at an exciting moment in its growth. Recently, I joined regional partners and state leaders to talk about how we can keep that momentum going and it's clear we're all moving in the same direction.

From housing to major projects like PCI, JL Clark, Water Power Lofts, the Chick Hotel, and the Armory, we're seeing strong confidence in Rockford's future. The city has been fueling this growth with new TIF districts, housing incentives, and business corridor programs — but this work only happens when we align with partners like the Greater Rockford Chamber of Commerce, GoRockford, Region 1 Planning Council, RAAC, and our legislators.

By working together, we're making Rockford more competitive, more livable, and better positioned for long-term success.



New Home for the Rockford Sign

If you've been wondering where our big, bold "ROCKFORD" sign went — don't worry, it didn't skip town. We've moved it from Davis Park to its new spot near the library, where even more people can enjoy it. It's the perfect backdrop for photos, so grab a friend, strike a pose, and show off your Rockford pride!



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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

Rockford, IL 61105

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