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Rockford happenings are merry and bright...



Rockford on the Road to Better Roads

Over the next five years, the City of Rockford will invest more than \$62 million in repaving residential streets and alleys as part of the 2022-2026 Capital Improvement Program. The plan also provides \$10 million for pedestrian and bicycle riding improvements and more than \$3 million to improve stormwater facilities.

To view the full plan, [click here](#).



Free Bus Rides for Students and Veterans

Starting January 3, 2022, veterans and students in grades K-12 will be able to ride on RMTD bus routes for free, giving individuals the opportunity to more easily access work, education, appointments and recreation. To ride free, students need to present a school-issued ID or an RMTD ID card. Veterans need to present an RMTD ID card. RMTD ID cards can be obtained at the RMTD Transfer Center, 520 Mulberry Street in downtown Rockford.



**Javon Bea Hospital Closes
Medical/Surgery/ER at Rockton Ave.
Location—Hearing Requested**

I have put in a formal request to the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board for a public hearing related to the application submitted by Javon Bea Hospital and Mercy Health Corporation to discontinue the 70-bed medical surgical category of service at Javon Bea Hospital on Rockton Avenue. I expect a hearing to be held in January. More details will be announced in the coming weeks; however, if you or your organization would like to speak at the hearing, send an email to communications@rockfordil.gov and we'll provide more information as it's available.

The Arts Impact the Local Economy

An economic impact study on the arts industry in Northern Illinois found that investment in the arts leads to more job creation and economic growth in other industries. According to the report, in 2021 the arts industry created \$144 million in economic output in Winnebago County and that investment created \$84 million in economic activity in other areas of the economy including construction, real estate, manufacturing, hospitality, local government and retail. These results can help secure funding for our area arts organizations and reaffirm our belief that the arts play a critical role in our community.



Give Gift to Yourself and Your Family This Holiday Season: Get Vaccinated!

Boost your spirits and your health by getting vaccinated this holiday season. In Winnebago County, COVID cases are rising and hospitals are full, but being vaccinated greatly reduces the probability of serious illness or hospitalization if you do get a breakthrough case. First and second vaccination shots are available to anyone aged 5 and over, and booster shots are available to those 16 and older. Give the gift of good health to you and your family this holiday season.





Happy Holidays!

From my family to yours, we hope you have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

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Thank You for Your Support!



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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