

Update Rock Island News Release

4/6/09

Media Contact:

Mayor Mark Schwiebert
City of Rock Island
1528 Third Avenue, Rock Island, IL 61201
309.732.2012



Update Rock Island is a segment at City Council meetings given by Mayor Mark Schwiebert focusing on news in Rock Island. The video segment from the meeting is available on the home page of www.rigov.org and provides more information on the topics listed.

Rocky Speech Team Wins State Championship

The Speech Team at Rock Island High School is the 2009 State Champions for Drama. The 13-member cast won for their performance of "The Elephant Man." This is the first time in 53 years that a school outside the Chicago area has won.

Golf Courses Now Open for the Season

Highland Springs and Saukie Golf Courses are now open for the season. Highland Springs is located at 9500 35th Street West and Saukie is located at 3101 38th Street. Sign up to receive golf course eNews with information updates, events, and coupons for the courses at www.rigov.org.

Federal Stimulus Update

The City of Rock Island will receive approximately 20% more in Community Development Block Grant funds this year, and will receive \$168,600 for energy audits or energy saving installations in public buildings. In addition, City staff is identifying opportunities for funding through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act approved by Congress. Some of the grant opportunities include: energy efficiency and conservation block grant program, ferry boat discretionary program, highway infrastructure investment, neighborhood stabilization program, drinking water state revolving loan fund, and diesel emissions reduction act.

Armory Demolition Ceremony

The Rock Island Armory Demolition Ceremony will be held Thursday, April 9, 2009 at 2 p.m. at the 20th Street Overlook. This is another significant step in the City of Rock Island's development of downtown's new riverfront park. The ceremony will be officiated by Mayor Mark Schwiebert. Valley Construction, the sub-contractor for the Armory demolition, will swing the first wrecking ball. Souvenir postcards will be provided at the event. The public is invited to attend.

Traffic Signal Lights' Energy Consumption Reduced

The Green Team is pleased to report a remarkable energy and money savings due to the switch of traffic signal lights from incandescent to LED bulbs. Traffic signal light energy costs have fallen from about \$56,000 per year in 03-04 to \$20,000 in 07-08. This represents a reduction of about 450,000 kilowatt-hours of electricity (~270 tons of CO²) per year.

Election Day is 4/7

All citizens are encouraged to vote in the municipal elections on April 7. The mayor and four City Council seats (1st, 3rd, 5th, and 7th Wards) are up for election.