

## Update Rock Island News Release

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### Media Contact:

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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](http://www.rigov.org) and provides more information on the topics listed.

### Police Department Strategizes to Address Real and Perceived Problems of Crime

City Council set as a top priority for this year to “Re-examine crime fighting strategy to address real and perceived problems of crime.” Statistically, Part 1 and Part 1 Violent crimes are both down 3% when comparing year-end totals from 2008 to 2007. Additionally, reported crimes statistics are down 45% for Part 1 crimes, and down 22% for violent crime when compared to the record highs of the 1990s.

The Rock Island Police Department is doing many things to combat crime including using technology such as a consolidated dispatch center, video cameras, and in-car video recorders. Recognizing that much of our violence is drug-related, the Police Department works with other criminal justice agencies, including federal agencies. And as the Police Department believes that to seriously address crime we must work together and get as much of our society involved as possible, many community partnerships have been formed, such as the Lights and Sirens program at Rock Island High School which has now been completed by 70 students.

### Jumer’s Casino & Hotel Has Increased Quad Cities’ Market Share

Reports of adjusted gross receipts from the Quad Cities’ casinos show that Jumer’s Casino & Hotel went from an average of 18.4% of the Quad Cities’ market share in 2008, to 29.7% of the market share year-to-date for 2009. Jumer’s Casino & Hotel has historically been a major funding source for the City, with monies used for infrastructure and economic development.

### Armory Park Update

Fifteen bid packages were received by for the second bid release for Armory Park. The total of the bids was \$6,768,694, which is 8.5% below estimates. The following items are included in the bid package: earthwork and concrete, site utilities, asphalt paving, landscaping, fencing, demountable floodwall, playground equipment, masonry and stone veneer, structural and misc. steel, design build structures, general trades, roofing and sheet metal, light tops and skylights, water feature, HVAC and plumbing, and electrical and sound.

*City Council approved the bid package.*

### Two School Groundbreakings

The Rock Island-Milan School District celebrated two groundbreakings this week. Thomas Jefferson Elementary will add 1,050 square feet to the existing structure. The contract for \$683,445 was awarded to Swanson Construction Company. Denkmann Elementary will add 4,400 square feet to the existing structure. Russell Construction will complete the work at a cost of \$1,190,097.

## **Spring Events in Rock Island**

- Come to Longview Park on Saturday, April 25 for the annual Spring Community Garage Sale. Everything from clothes to furniture, toys, and more will be sold from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Rain date will be Sunday, April 26.
- The Spring Plant Sale will take place at the Quad City Botanical Center on Saturday, April 25 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Bulbs, ornamental grasses, perennials, annuals, and much more will be on sale. The sale is co-sponsored by the Rock Island Parks and Recreation Department and the Rock Island Horticulture Club.
- The public is invited to attend a Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser and free Garden Workshop on Saturday, April 25 at St. John's Lutheran Church Parish Hall, 4501 7th Avenue. The Pancake Breakfast includes both Swedish pancakes with lingonberries and American pancakes offered for a \$5 donation per adult and child. Breakfast will be served from 8 to 9 a.m. The free Garden Workshop held from 9:15 to 11 a.m. Topics include caring for shrubs and composting. This is an annual fundraiser by the KeyStone Neighborhood Association.
- The Downtown Cleanup will be held on Saturday, May 2 starting at 8 a.m. Coordinated by Keep Rock Island Beautiful and The District, the project will include sweeping, weeding, and general cleanup in the downtown area. Volunteers should meet at the northeast corner of the parking ramp at 17th Street and 3rd Avenue.