

Update Rock Island News Release

11/10/08

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Update Rock Island is a new installment at City Council meetings given by Mayor Mark Schwiebert; it focuses 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.

Armory Park Update

Armory Park plans are well underway and several components of the park will go out to bid soon.

- Asbestos and lead-based paint abatement contracts are expected to be awarded on December 1, 2008, with work to be completed by mid-January 2009.
- A contract to create temporary flood protection should be awarded in December 2008 with work completed January 2009.
- Also in December 2008, a contract to demolish the Armory, install the sewer, and create permanent flood protection with a sheet pile wall and demountable flood wall should be awarded, with work estimated to be complete in May 2009. A new flood protection option is being researched to include driving sheet pile steel into bedrock just north of the Armory and build steps atop the steel, replacing using the north wall of the Armory for flood protection. The permanent demountable flood system would be located just to the south at the top of the seating steps, and the flood walls would be installed only when the Corps of Engineers requires it.
- Designs for the stage, entry icon, water feature, playground, and observation shelter continue, with many details yet to be determined. Park construction could start in May 2009, dependent on Corps of Engineers review and approvals.

Liquor Ordinance Revisions to Be Considered

At the study session on October 20, the City Council discussed possible changes to the liquor ordinance for license holders who have a 3:00 a.m. liquor license. Renaissance Rock Island has taken the lead in facilitating several meetings with downtown bar owners, which has led to an agreement among many of the owners on patron conduct, TIPS training, public transportation, and other matters. These efforts stem from strategies identified in the Downtown Strategic Plan and the recommendation from the Responsible Hospitality Institute (RHI). The RHI study specifically said that The District would benefit from a "broader consumer group" that would occur if liquor license holders had longer and more consistent hours of service. City Council will vote tonight on an ordinance amendment to require all liquor license holders with an extended hours option to maintain hours of business not less than forty hours and five days per week to become effective with the license period beginning May 1, 2009. (City Council voted to defer the motion for 60 days, until January 12, 2009.)

Business News

Congratulations District Drugs (319 18th St.) and owner Jim Perry for winning the National Alliance of State Pharmacy Association's Innovative Pharmacy Practice Award for Illinois - the only one in the state.

Congratulations Barkan's Clothing (1709 2nd Ave.) and owner Steve Barkan for celebrating 63 years in business in downtown Rock Island.

Broadway Historic District Featured in Old House Journal

Old House Journal surfed the Net for cutting edge ways to tour historic areas, and landed in Rock Island. The November/December 2008 issue of this national magazine will feature the Broadway Historic District audio tours that were created in 2007 by the Rock Island Preservation Commission. Fifty downloadable .mp3 files were created as a companion to the full-color brochure upgrade for the historic district in 2007. The audio option is available through the purchase of a \$10 CD and brochure at City Hall or through free downloads of individual .mp3 files from the City's website at www.rigov.org.

Seeking WWII Veterans for Rocky History Project

Once 16 million strong, U.S. veterans of World War II are dying at a rate of more than 1,000 a day and now number about 2.5 million, the Department of Veterans Affairs estimates. With fewer and fewer WWII veterans alive, who will help the next generation remember? In answer to that question, three students from Rock Island High School History teacher Rick Miers' class will interview veterans as part of a project organized by the Illinois WWII Veterans' Memorial Project. If you are a WWII Veteran or if you have memories of what was happening on the home front during WWII and would like to be interviewed, please contact Rick Miers at Rock Island High School, 309.793.5900 x1138.

Alleman Wins Student Hunger Drive

Alleman High School gathered 136,965 pounds of food for the Student Hunger Drive, winning them not only the Division B category title (300-1,250 students), but also amounting to more food collected than any other school in the area. Congratulations Alleman for collecting 297 pounds of food per student.

Veteran's Day 11/11

In observance of Veteran's Day, November 11, we would like to honor all those who have helped protect the freedoms we enjoy today.