

Update Rock Island News Release

11/17/08

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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.

Wyanet Rail Connection Site Visited as Part of Plan to Get Amtrak from Chicago

It's full speed ahead for Quad Cities Amtrak service as a result of the Quad Cities Passenger Rail Coalition's site visit to the Wyanet, IL connection on November 10. State legislators, Congressional staff members, and local elected and community officials gained firsthand knowledge of what is needed to make Quad Cities Amtrak service a reality. QC Rail has identified the Wyanet connection, just west of Princeton, as the most critical infrastructure improvement needed to expand Amtrak service on the preferred route from Chicago to the Quad Cities.

2008 Quad Cities Community Vitality Snapshot

The second annual Quad Cities Community Vitality Snapshot has been published. In an effort to understand the Quad Cities better, several local non-profit organizations banded together to create the snapshot. Items to note for Rock Island include:

- Rock Island County's total population increased 3.1% from 2005 to 2006.
- Rock Island County's median household income increased 5.5% from 2005 to 2006.
- New construction housing permits for multi-family units increased by 44.8% from 2006 to 2007 in Rock Island County.
- Rock Island-Milan School District graduation rate increased by 2.9% from the 2005-6 to 2006-7 school years.
- Crime overall in the Quad Cities went down by 8.1% from 2006 to 2007.

To download a complete copy of the report, visit United Way's web site at

www.unitedwayqc.org.

Quad Cities Woodturners Now Open at New DeSoto Arts Center

Mayor Mark Schwiebert and City Council celebrated the opening of Quad Cities Woodturners at the new DeSoto Arts Center, 2324 Third Avenue, with a ribbon cutting and tour as part of the Council's study session. The City of Rock Island invested up to \$170,000 in the facility and owns the building. Quad Cities Woodturners invested in excess of 2,800 hours in time and sweat equity to prepare the space, and are leasing the space for \$1 per year. The Quad Cities Woodturners mission is to foster a wider appreciation of lathe turning through monthly meetings, public demonstrations, symposiums, and private lessons.

Gallery Hop! is 12/5

MidCoast Fine Arts and The District present Gallery Hop! on Friday, December 5 from 5 to 9 p.m. Experience 200 local artists in 30 downtown venues. It's a non-stop art party providing great opportunities for holiday shopping. Locations include the new Quad Cities Woodturners and returning favorites Quad City Arts, MidCoast Fine Arts, Left Bank Art League, Liquid Fire,

dphilms, and more. This Hop! will feature an added bonus of open houses of downtown homes for sale including McKesson Lofts and DuMarche' Market on Third. Admission is free and a free shuttle stops at all the sites.

“Food for Thought” Library fundraiser event 11/20

The Rock Island Public Library Foundation will celebrate the ability of books to inform and transform at their “Food For Thought: Books Open Doors” fundraiser on Thursday, November 20 from 5 to 7:30 p.m. The fifth annual fundraiser includes a “moveable feast” at five food stations around the historic Main Library at 401 19th Street, a silent auction of theater packages, regional getaways, signed books, and more gift items. Tickets (available at the door) are \$25 for individuals and \$45 for couples, and include complimentary dining, wine, beer, and soft drinks. Proceeds support special library projects and programs.

Martin Luther King Community Center Hosts Thanksgiving Holiday Dinner 11/23

The Martin Luther King Community Center is delighted to invite residents to the nineteenth annual Thanksgiving Holiday Dinner Sunday, November 23 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at 630 9th Street. Volunteers are also needed to work as hosts, decorators, buffet servers, kitchen workers, and clean-up. For more information or to volunteer please contact Ida Robinson at 309.732.2999.

Beautification Commission Seeks Entries for Holiday Lighting Contest

The Rock Island Beautification Commission is seeking nominations for the 23rd Annual Holiday Lighting Contest for Rock Island residents and businesses that decorate with seasonal lighting displays. To nominate a residential or commercial light display, provide the name and address of the display via email to griffin.trisha@rigov.org or by phone to 309.732.2900. Nominations are due by 5 p.m. December 8.