

Update Rock Island News Release

12/8/08

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.

Expanded Leaf Collection and Leaf Burning Ban Considered

Tonight, City Council will consider a leaf burning ban. If the City Council decides to ban leaf burning, the Public Works Department recommends the following steps.

1. Direct the staff to include the costs of an expanded Free Fall Leaf Collection Program in the FY2010 budget. This would be an increase of about \$98,000 per year.
2. Direct the staff to recruit local groups such as neighborhood organizations, Boy Scouts of America, Girl Scouts of America, service clubs, high school clubs, and college clubs to provide a cadre of volunteers willing to assist citizens who are financially and physically unable to bag their own leaves. The financial analysis includes \$2,000 for honorariums for leaf bagging volunteers (200 yards at \$10.00 per yard).
3. Direct the staff to expand the free leaf bag distribution network so that all customers have an opportunity to receive free leaf bags.
4. Direct the staff to prepare the required ordinance modifications.

City Council voted to proceed with the above recommendations.

Centennial Bridge Visitors Center May Extend Hours

The Centennial Bridge Visitors Center may get extended hours tonight if City Council approves an agreement on the agenda. Keep Rock Island Beautiful is proposing to move its office to the Center, providing more hours the facility will be open during the week all year-round. Currently, the Quad Cities Convention & Visitors Bureau staffs the Center Thursday, Friday, and Saturday from May to September. The Centennial Bridge Visitor Center opened this year with the support of a Preserve America grant, providing visitor information and a unique look at the Quad Cities' bridges.

City Council approved the contract.

Promoting Volunteerism: Making Great Things Happen in Your Organization, Neighborhood, and Community

Neighborhood Partners' Knowledge Through Neighbors Task Force will host the third in a series of "Dessert and Learn" sessions on December 11 at 6 p.m. at Hauberg Civic Center. "Promoting Volunteerism: Making Great Things Happen in your Organization, Neighborhood, and Community" will focus on recruiting, motivating, and maintaining volunteers. Panelists are from some of the Quad Cities' most successful volunteer-based organizations: United Way, American Red Cross, Modern Woodmen of America, and Quad City Arts. Sweet treats and beverages will be served.