

"This Week in the Stateline" is our weekly Public Affairs Program that airs every Sunday from 6:00 am to 6:30 am, featuring a local host interviewing local guests about local topics of community interest.

### **2021 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter**

10/3/21 1<sup>st</sup> guests, Kelli Ritschel-Boehle and Brian Lyngaa of the Nikolas Ritschel Foundation discuss their 10<sup>th</sup> Annual "Nik's Wish" fundraiser, "Nik's Homerun" at Rivets Stadium happening this Saturday, Oct. 9<sup>th</sup> – "Nik's Wish" helps to grant last wishes to terminal adults ages 18-24. 2<sup>nd</sup> guest, Karen Carlson of GiGi's Playhouse reminds listeners about their "Down with the 815" event happening today Oct. 3<sup>rd</sup> from 1 to 5 pm, featuring food trucks, entertainment, silent auction, games and more – she also outlines how funds raised will be applied to GiGi's Playhouse Rockford. 3<sup>rd</sup> guest, Rockford Mayor Tom McNamara discusses crime in Rockford, the proposed Barbara Coleman Building Development, property taxes, working with Mid-West Family Broadcasting this past week at the Northern Illinois Food Bank, and his thoughts on being elected to serve on the Illinois Municipal League Board of Directors.

10/10/21 1<sup>st</sup> guest, local Harlem High School Basketball Coach Mike Winters discusses how he went from the sidelines to best-selling author with his new book/coaching tool titled The Journey: Lessons From The Hardwood, where he outlines how anyone can chase their dreams and how this book is helping other local coaches with the knowledge he has learned throughout his career. 2<sup>nd</sup> guest, Dee Lacny of local non-profit Rock House Kids talks about how the community can support needy kids after school with life-changing programs – she also outlines how restaurants can provide meals and other specific help needed as we head into the winter months. 3<sup>rd</sup> guest, Rockford Mayor Tom McNamara goes into more detail of last week's topics including property taxes and the proposed Barbara Coleman Building Development, plus the efforts to save Riverview Ice House, and how the community can help decrease crime.

10/17/21 1<sup>st</sup> guest, Nicole Cabe of the Rockford Park District discusses the gem of Lockwood Park in our community and invites everyone to enjoy their "Fall on the Farm" event, each Saturday in October with free admission and a variety of family-friendly activities. 2<sup>nd</sup> guest, IL State Rep Dave Vella talks about his youth growing up in Rockford and his plan for generating jobs in our area. He also outlines that in the next session Representatives will be working on new constituent redistricting coverage maps and he's picking up Belvidere along with Loves Park, Machesney Park and Rockford. 3<sup>rd</sup> guest, Rockford Mayor Tom McNamara discusses the new Rockford Casino group and how it will benefit Rockford. He also talks about the decrease in monthly crime rate statistics and what the City Council will be discussing this Monday night.

10/24/21 1<sup>st</sup> guest, Victoria Benson, founder and organizer of locally originated charitable organization “Rosie’s Birthday Club” talks about how they work to surprise needy children with the gift of a birthday party with cake and presents, and how they are currently looking for donations and volunteers. 2<sup>nd</sup> guest, Loves Park Mayor Greg Jury discusses the return of the Light Up The Park parade on November 21<sup>st</sup> and how to get involved – he also talks about new developments in the works for the city, businesses and more. 3<sup>rd</sup> guest, Rockford Mayor Tom McNamara discusses the new police camera initiative starting this Monday, Oct. 25<sup>th</sup>, how the \$23 million dollar Reinvestment Plan is working for the city, groundbreaking of the new Rockford Public Library location, and the Necessities Drive that is starting next week.

10/31/21 1<sup>st</sup> guests, since it's Halloween weekend we invite Samantha Hochmann and Kathi Kressol of Tinker Swiss Cottage to talk about this local haunted attraction and historic landmark – they outline what's inside, the strange happenings, and how to arrange a tour. 2<sup>nd</sup> guest, Dan Obert of the Rockford Area Convention & Visitors Bureau talks about our community's biggest holiday celebration “Stroll on State” on Nov. 27<sup>th</sup>, how the festival will look this year, and the need for volunteers. 3<sup>rd</sup> guest, Rockford Mayor Tom McNamara talks about the new police body cameras, Mortgage Assistance Program, Covid-19 updates, and “Stroll on State” event.

11/7/21 1<sup>st</sup> guest, Donald Czyzyk of Hoo Haven Wildlife Rehabilitation & Education Center in Durand, IL talks about their Open House fundraiser happening today Nov. 7<sup>th</sup> from 12-3 p.m. with free tours, music, food and kids' activities. 2<sup>nd</sup> guest, Janine Idstein of Olson Funeral Home talks about their Veterans Day Program, Friday Nov. 12<sup>th</sup> at The Machine Shed in Rockford with free breakfast at 9:30 a.m. followed by a one-hour program to honor local veterans. 3<sup>rd</sup> guest, Rockford Mayor Tom McNamara discusses the current Necessities Drive to benefit local families, the Rockford ReGrow community investment grant program, and why the city is forgiving nearly \$1 million dollars in small business loans to help local small businesses recover from the coronavirus pandemic.

11/14/21 1<sup>st</sup> guest, Dan Obert of the Rockford Area Convention & Visitors Bureau discusses continuing preparations for the annual “Stroll on State” event happening the Saturday after Thanksgiving, how the festival will look this year, and the need for volunteers for our community's biggest holiday celebration. 2<sup>nd</sup> guest, Ted O'Donnell talks about getting ready to set up this year's Festival of Lights with dozens of displays at Sinnissippi Park, and how this is a free event for the community based solely on donations and support from local businesses. 3<sup>rd</sup> guest, Rockford Mayor Tom McNamara discusses the opening of the Hard Rock Opening Act Casino, and the multi-million dollar infrastructure bill awaiting City Council approval this coming Monday night and what it entails for the city.

11/21/21 1<sup>st</sup> guest, Keri Asevedo of Habitat for Humanity recaps summer 2021 projects and talks about the National Day of Giving on 11/30 and how people can make donations. 2<sup>nd</sup> guest, Shawn Way & Arles Hendershott of Milestone explain what Milestone is, how it operates, and the services provided to their 200+ permanent residents – they also outline their fall fundraising campaign. 3<sup>rd</sup> guest, Rockford Mayor Tom McNamara discusses the 260+ million dollar Capital Improvement deal passed by City Council this week, as well as the Governor's 2.6 million dollar training grant for AAR at the Rockford Airport, the 16 million dollar downtown improvement RAISE Grant, and he goes on to explain that while there is a lot to celebrate for the city, there is still a lot of work to dive into concerning public safety and health.

11/28/21 1<sup>st</sup> guest, Shauna El-Amin of the Downtown Beloit Business Association talks about what's new for the holidays and into 2022 in the downtown Beloit Business District – she also touches on the new Sky Carp logo and branding for their minor league baseball team. 2<sup>nd</sup> guest, Mark Finnegan of Vets Roll discusses plans moving forward for their May 2022 event, rolling Veterans from South Beloit to Washington and back – he outlines fundraising efforts and how the public can spread awareness and help sign up Veterans for the all-expenses paid trip. 3<sup>rd</sup> guest, Rockford Mayor Tom McNamara delivers his Thanksgiving Weekend wish and what our community can be thankful for – he also recaps the need to be safe with the recent rise in Covid-19 cases.

12/5/21 1<sup>st</sup> guest, Laura Gibbs Green of the Rockford Park District talks about their "Winter Flurry" events and how to have a flurry of fun this winter, including the Alpine Hills Sledding Hill, Lockwood Park Wagon Rides, Snowmobiling, the upcoming Snow Sculpting Competition January 27<sup>th</sup> through January 30<sup>th</sup> at Sinnissippi Park, and more. 2<sup>nd</sup> guest, Victoria Benson, founder of "Rosie's Birthday Club" discusses this uniquely Rockford charity celebrating 10 years, and how she is looking for volunteers to help with throwing birthday parties for children in poverty who might not otherwise have a birthday party. 3<sup>rd</sup> guest, Rockford Mayor Tom McNamara recaps the success of Rockford's annual "Stroll on State" event the Saturday after Thanksgiving and how great it was for local business. He also discusses Covid-19 rates increasing and the importance of getting vaccinated, as well as what is on the agenda for City Council this week.

12/12/21 1<sup>st</sup> guest, Teacher and Student representatives from Boylan High School discuss the newly opened Hispanic Arts & Heritage Display created by students and counselors to highlight the diversity and Hispanic heritage in our community – the display is open to the public through the end of the year. 2<sup>nd</sup> guest, Pastor Bobby Sheets of Riverside Community Church talks about their gift to the community, a live Nativity Display – he outlines the specifics, dates, and welcomes the public. 3<sup>rd</sup> guest, Rockford Mayor Tom McNamara talks about our Rockford Area Convention and Visitors Bureau being the awards recipients of this year's Illinois Governor's Conference on Travel & Tourism Excellence in Tourism including Best Cooperative Partnership and Best Branding Initiative. He also highlights holiday activities in our region including Anderson Gardens Lights, Norwegian SnowMarket, and more.

12/19/21 1<sup>st</sup> guest, Jean Ginner of Keep Northern Illinois Beautiful discusses their annual KNIB Christmas Tree Recycling Program, back for its 30<sup>th</sup> year – she covers the participating parks, how and when to recycle, and when the free mulch program will be open for distribution. 2<sup>nd</sup> guest, Ted O'Donnell with the annual Festival of Lights talks about this uniquely Rockford event featuring about 80 lighted displays at Sinnissippi Park – we're about halfway through the 2021 season and attendance has been up but donations are down – Ted covers how to donate and what the donations mean to next year's event. 3<sup>rd</sup> guest, Rockford Mayor Tom McNamara discusses the concerns with COVID-19 numbers in the area and going into the holidays – he reminds people to gather responsibly and take proper precautions – he also stresses that he speaks with the Rockford School Superintendent weekly and there are no plans to go to virtual learning at this time. In addition, he reviews the newly announced Civilian Oversight Board, designed to increase transparency with our local police department and help build trust and relationships with the community.

12/26/21 Rockford Mayor Tom McNamara joins us for a "Year in Review," looking back at the good and bad of 2021 in Rockford, and highlighting positive events coming in 2022. Topics discussed include casino deals, Rockford Icehogs sale to the Chicago Blackhawks, redevelopment of Barber-Colman industrial complex, new fire and police chiefs, Rockford Promise, Women's Baseball Center coming, Camp Hope, Crisis Response funded, Bird Scooters, development of citywide fiber optic network, new police body cameras, and Rockford Airport advances.