

“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.

### **2022 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter**

10/2/22 1<sup>st</sup> guest, Geno Iafrate, President of Hard Rock Casino Rockford recaps their groundbreaking ceremony last Wednesday, Sept. 28<sup>th</sup>, which was attended by city leaders and local celebrities – nearly a year after opening their temporary location, construction has now begun at their permanent location at the site of the former Clock Tower Resort. Iafrate predicts that this will bring more than 2000 jobs to the area in both the construction and casino job sectors. 2<sup>nd</sup> guest, Laura Gibbs Green of the Rockford Park District talks about upcoming fall activities such as “Fall on the Farm,” happening every Saturday in October at Lockwood Park – admission to the park is free and people can add-on a variety of experiences including picking your own pumpkin, taking a wagon ride around the scenic farm, riding a pony, or interacting with the animals at the petting zoo. 3<sup>rd</sup> guest, Rockford Mayor Tom McNamara breaks down the Public Safety Town Halls from last week, what they learned, and when future sessions are planned. He also talks about his 2023 Action Plan sessions coming next month, plus he mentions FEMA being in town this week for local training.

10/9/22 1<sup>st</sup> guest, Jennifer Roser, one of the organizers of the annual “Festival of Frights” going on this month at Sinnissippi Park – she explains how this non-profit event raises funds through donations to purchase Halloween costumes for underprivileged children who need them. 2<sup>nd</sup> guest, Karen Carlson of GiGi’s Playhouse Down Syndrome Achievement Centers talks about their “I Have a Voice” Great Expectations Gala fundraiser happening this Friday, Oct. 14<sup>th</sup> at the local Tebala Event Center. 3<sup>rd</sup> guest, Nichole Kunde of Hilton Garden Inn discusses their Winter Clothing Drive going on through Sunday, Oct. 16<sup>th</sup> – she covers the items needed such as hats, gloves, mittens, etc. and how all the items will go to local children in the RPS205 school district.

10/16/22 1<sup>st</sup> guests, Meredith MacKay and Geneva Porter of Crusader Community Health talk about October being Breast Cancer Awareness Month, the importance of screening, services available, and why it is important to start screenings as soon as possible. 2<sup>nd</sup> guest, Luke Fredrickson of Midway Village Museum discusses their All Hallows Eve event happening this Saturday, Oct. 22<sup>nd</sup>, where kids can go trick-or-treating at different stops around the museum grounds. 3<sup>rd</sup> guest, Rockford Mayor Tom McNamara discusses Mental Health Awareness Week and initiatives as well as funding. He also talks about the Rockford Promise scholarship program and Open Enrollment currently underway for students. Plus he mentions the city receiving \$1 million dollars in grant money to help with crime prevention.

10/23/22 1<sup>st</sup> guest, with Halloween coming soon, we again feature Jennifer Roser, one of the organizers of the annual “Festival of Frights” at Sinnissippi Park – she explains how this non-profit event raises funds through donations to purchase Halloween costumes for underprivileged children who need them. 2<sup>nd</sup> guest, Eric Willard of the Veterans Drop-In Center explains how this organization helps local veterans who are down on their luck and in need – he also outlines their 5K Walk/Run event happening Nov. 5<sup>th</sup> to raise funds. 3<sup>rd</sup> guest, Rockford Mayor Tom McNamara talks about the demolition of the Lorden Building, the construction of the Coleman Yards, his next Public Safety meeting, and the 150<sup>th</sup> Library Week and construction of the new library.

10/30/22 1<sup>st</sup> guest, with Election Day Nov. 8<sup>th</sup> approaching, Winnebago County Clerk Lori Gummow outlines how to register, how to vote by mail, new districting, and details about a new location for county voters that is opening in Loves Park, IL this weekend through the election. 2<sup>nd</sup> guest, Janine Idstein of Olson Funeral Services talks about an upcoming Veterans Day Program on Nov. 10<sup>th</sup> at Loves Park City Hall in conjunction with Olson Funeral Services and the Rock Valley College Center for Learning in Retirement, featuring music, a guest speaker, and apple pie after the program for all veterans. 3<sup>rd</sup> guest, Rockford Mayor Tom McNamara discusses construction projects and the revitalization happening in downtown, the city budget presented to the City Council, and his Safety Town Hall Meeting at Rockford University on Nov. 2<sup>nd</sup>.

11/6/22 1<sup>st</sup> guest, Renee Henert of the Winnebago County Forest Preserves talks about the health benefits of enjoying nature, fun Fall and Winter activities people can enjoy for free, hours of operation, and how to get more information. 2<sup>nd</sup> guest, with Election Day this Tuesday, Nov. 8<sup>th</sup> we again feature Winnebago County Clerk Lori Gummow with reminders about how to register, how to vote by mail, new districting, and details about a new location for county voters that is now open in Loves Park, IL through the election. 3<sup>rd</sup> guest, Rockford Mayor Tom McNamara discusses the progress on the Lorden Building Demolition, a follow-up on his Public Safety Meetings, the progress on the 2023 City Budget, and when this season’s yard waste collection time will end.

11/13/22 1<sup>st</sup> guests, Mycah Cornish & April Adams of Milestone, a not-for-profit care facility for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, which currently houses over 300 residents – they discuss their recent Job Fair, how rewarding it is to work with and care for their residents, and how they are still in need of more help. 2<sup>nd</sup> guests, Pam Osborne & Corinne Sosso from Keep Northern Illinois Beautiful talk about recycling, what items can and cannot be recycled, and how to celebrate America Recycles Day this Tuesday, Nov. 15<sup>th</sup>. 3<sup>rd</sup> guest, Rockford Mayor Tom McNamara discusses the one-year anniversary of the Hard Rock Casino opening, the demolition of the Lorden Building, a city budget update, and the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Rockford’s annual “Stroll on State,” a free community event happening the Saturday after Thanksgiving, featuring a parade, fireworks, tree lighting, musical performances, and more.

11/20/22 1<sup>st</sup> guest, Nicole Blough of the Rockford Area Convention & Visitors Bureau talks about the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual “Stroll on State” happening the Saturday after Thanksgiving – she breaks down the schedule for the day, the various attractions, and how people can get more information about this free community event. 2<sup>nd</sup> guest, Ted O'Donnell of the “Festival of Lights” talks about this annual event at Sinnissippi Park that has become a local tradition since 1989. From the day after Thanksgiving through New Year's Eve, people can drive through the park to view over 85 lighted displays – this is a free event supported by volunteers and donations. 3<sup>rd</sup> guest, Rockford Mayor Tom McNamara discusses the new Habitat for Humanity Subdivisions partnership and build announced this week, the latest unemployment rates for the city, upcoming Resource Fair, and how veterans and students can ride the Rockford Mass Transit District for free all year long.

11/27/22 1<sup>st</sup> guest, Dee Lacny of Rock House Kids, a non-profit organization with a mission to meet the physical, emotional and educational needs of inner-city children in a safe, Christ-centered environment – Dee talks about their upcoming holiday plans and the need for volunteers. 2<sup>nd</sup> guest, Erika Fleck of the Epilepsy Advocacy Network, which replaces the former Epilepsy Foundation that closed up three years ago – she discusses why she and others rallied behind the Epilepsy Alliance of America to create this Rockford/DeKalb Agency. 3<sup>rd</sup> guest, Rockford Mayor Tom McNamara discusses the importance of Rockford's annual “Stroll on State” and “Small Business Saturday” events over the Thanksgiving weekend and what they mean to the city. He also outlines the passing of the City Budget at City Council and renovation plans for Davis Park.

12/4/22 1<sup>st</sup> guest, Ted O'Donnell of the “Festival of Lights” talks about this annual event at Sinnissippi Park that has become a local tradition since 1989. Through New Year's Eve, people can drive through the park to view over 85 lighted displays – this is a free event supported by volunteers and donations. 2<sup>nd</sup> guests, Jeanette Jones and John Pingo of the Goldie B. Floberg Center talk about their annual Mother Christmas Program, where the community can help purchase gifts for their more than 65 residents who have developmental disabilities. 3<sup>rd</sup> guest, Rockford Mayor Tom McNamara discusses the city's new Capital Improvement plans, supporting local small businesses during the holiday season, and deadlines for yard waste pickup.

12/11/22 1<sup>st</sup> guest, Dee Lacny of Rock House Kids, a non-profit organization with a mission to meet the physical, emotional and educational needs of inner-city children in a safe, Christ-centered environment – Dee talks about their upcoming holiday plans and the need for volunteers. 2<sup>nd</sup> guest, Pastor Bob Sheets of Riverside Community Church outlines the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the church's Annual Drive Thru live Nativity Event happening this evening, 12/11 from 6 to 9 pm with many volunteer helpers and live animals – it's their annual gift to the community, but a free will offering will be accepted. 3<sup>rd</sup> guest, Rockford Mayor Tom McNamara discusses the responsibility of local gun owners and how they can get free gun safety kits at nearby police stations. He also outlines the Capital Improvement passage and how they select the roads for construction, plus he discusses the newly developed Civilian Oversight Committee.

12/18/22 1<sup>st</sup> guest, Danny McDade of the Irish Marching Society talks about their fundraiser concert, "Inspiration on the Creek" happening today Dec. 18<sup>th</sup> from 3 to 5 pm at Spring Creek United Church of Christ, featuring Irish/Celtic Christmas music, with funds to help them host the 2023 St. Patrick's Day Parade. 2<sup>nd</sup> guests, Jeanette Jones and John Pingo of the Goldie B. Floberg Center discuss their annual Mother Christmas Program, where the community can help purchase gifts for their more than 65 residents who have developmental disabilities – they also talk about how someone can work and help at the center, now serving the community for over 103 years. 3<sup>rd</sup> guest, Rockford Mayor Tom McNamara discusses crime rates in the city, how homicides are currently down 35%, plus other crime statistics. He also outlines the current bill in front of the City Council concerning owning chickens within the city limits – if the ordinance passes, it would allow citizens in certain districts to keep a maximum of four hens in an enclosure or coop that is allowed to be up to 80 square feet in size, as long as it is at least 6 feet from a lot line and at least 20 feet from a structure. Mayor McNamara also encourages people to shop locally this holiday season.

12/25/22 1<sup>st</sup> guest, Renee Henert of the Winnebago County Forest Preserves talks about the health benefits of enjoying nature, fun wintertime activities people can enjoy for free, hours of operation, and how to stay in touch and get more information through their social media channels. 2<sup>nd</sup> guest, Ted O'Donnell of the "Festival of Lights," with a reminder that people still have time to enjoy the drive through Sinnissippi Park to see over 85 beautiful lighted holiday displays, going on now through the end of the year – this event has become a free Rockford tradition since 1989, supported by volunteers and donations. 3<sup>rd</sup> guest, Dee Lacny of Rock House Kids, a non-profit organization with a mission to meet the physical, emotional and educational needs of inner-city children in a safe, Christ-centered environment – Dee talks about their plans for this holiday season and the need for volunteers.