

“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.

### **2023 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter**

1/1/23 Featured guest, Rockford Mayor Tom McNamara with a “Year-in-Review” of 2022. The Mayor discusses the development of neighborhoods, capital improvements, a balanced budget for this year and for the coming year, crime rates and what the city is doing to combat crime, the use of funds from the REGROW Grant, the growth of the Rockford Airport, an economic development overview of planned projects, and more.

1/8/23 We replay our exclusive interview with Rockford Mayor Tom McNamara with his 2022 “Year-in-Review” covering a wide range of topics affecting our community.

1/15/23 1<sup>st</sup> guest, Heidi Ognibene of the Rock River Valley Blood Center talks about the desperate need for blood donations at this time; in addition to outlining the basic requirements to donate blood, she recaps the process and encourages not only first-time donors, but for more people to commit to being a regular blood donor. 2<sup>nd</sup> guest, Rockford Mayor Tom McNamara discusses why the proposal to own chickens within the city limits was voted down by the City Council, and why he thinks the proposal is not dead yet for interested property owners. He also breaks down the recently approved Police and Fire Contracts with the city which run through 2024, plus he mentions the recent award from Shield Illinois for the city’s incredible Covid Testing Site numbers, which are the highest in Illinois through the Shield Illinois Sites.

1/22/23 1<sup>st</sup> guest, Laura Doise of River Bluff Health & Rehabilitation talks about their free 6-week grief support group called “Tear Soup,” going on now through Feb. 24<sup>th</sup> with free food provided – people are encouraged to share a meal, share their experience, and find a community. 2<sup>nd</sup> guest, Dennis Horton of the Better Business Bureau outlines that during this time of football playoffs, there are scammers who are preying on sports fans in our area. In addition to these football scams, Dennis discusses newly developed and returning scams as 2023 begins. Plus, he recaps the top 5 scams of 2022.

1/29/23 1<sup>st</sup> guest, Heidi Ognibene of the Rock River Valley Blood Center discusses the great need for blood donations. Due to the holidays, cold weather, and cold & flu season, donations are down and supplies are very low, not just locally, but nationwide – she encourages more first-time donors and for more people to become regular donors. 2<sup>nd</sup> guest, Sierra Kellen of Rockford Family Peace Center talks about their 2023 Mardi Gras Masquerade Ball fundraiser event on Feb. 18<sup>th</sup> – she also provides information about how victims of domestic violence can reach out and receive assistance. 3<sup>rd</sup> guest, Danny McDade of the Irish Marching Society unveils new plans for this year’s St. Patty’s Day Festival, including dates, new parade route, and more about Irish heritage.

2/5/23 1<sup>st</sup> guest, Annetta McBain talks about the 815 Makeover Movement, which she founded and has grown to include numerous businesses to help individuals gain respect, confidence, and to move forward from abusive relationships – her mission is to empower individuals who need a person to listen, lend advice, and motivate them to get out of abusive relationships and find strength. 2<sup>nd</sup> guest, Jocelyn Hare and David Ruffin from the Ethnic Heritage Museum discuss the new Black Baseball Exhibit in honor of Black History Month – the exhibit runs through 4/13/23. 3<sup>rd</sup> guest, Rockford Mayor Tom McNamara discusses the millions of dollars for improvements on South Alpine Road, the Rockford Community Investment Fund and what it's going to do for the city and local jobs, plus he reminds people to participate in Rockford Region Restaurant Week, which wraps up 2/6/23.

2/12/23 1<sup>st</sup> guest, Dee Lacny of Rock House Kids outlines the \$250,000 Grant recently awarded to this non-profit organization and how the funds will help them provide a safe, warm and nurturing environment to Rockford's inner-city children. 2<sup>nd</sup> guest, Sierra Kellen of Rockford Family Peace Center discusses their 2023 Mardi Gras Masquerade Ball fundraiser event happening this Saturday, Feb. 18<sup>th</sup> – she also provides information about how victims of domestic violence can reach out and receive assistance. 3<sup>rd</sup> guest, Rockford Mayor Tom McNamara talks about the Citizen's Police Academy sign-ups and what the course entails, Rockford being featured in the New York Times for excellent response to our homeless community, and plans to resurface Alpine Road this spring. He also shares his thoughts on the announcement that this will be the final season for the Rockford Speedway, which has operated for 75 years.

2/19/23 1<sup>st</sup> guest, since February is American Heart Month, nutritionist Ann Shirk of Crusader Community Health joins us to talk about the importance of good eating, making healthy choices, what to eat, what not to eat, and how to manage your diet. 2<sup>nd</sup> guest, Ann Marie Walker of Discovery Center Museum discusses their upcoming hands-on educational exhibits from Kids Town to National Engineering Week with local high schools' Robotics teams showing demonstrations. 3<sup>rd</sup> guests, to celebrate Black History Month, Ciara Stahly of Community Foundation of Northern Illinois, Tony Turner of Urban Intellectuals 815, and Alderperson Gabrielle Torina talk about the inaugural Black Winter Event, a fundraiser for scholarships to support local black students, happening this Saturday, Feb. 25<sup>th</sup> at Rockford Art Museum.

2/26/23 1<sup>st</sup> guest, Jocelyn Hare and David Ruffin from the Ethnic Heritage Museum discuss the new Black Baseball Exhibit in honor of Black History Month – the exhibit runs through 4/13/23. 2<sup>nd</sup> guest, since February is American Heart Month, nutritionist Ann Shirk of Crusader Community Health joins us to talk about the importance of good eating, making healthy choices, what to eat, what not to eat, and how to manage your diet. 3<sup>rd</sup> guest, Danny McDade of the Irish Marching Society unveils new plans for this year's St. Patty's Day Festival, including dates, new parade route, and more about Irish heritage.

3/5/23 1<sup>st</sup> guests, local Girl Scouts of Northern Illinois and Den Mothers discuss the next phase of Girl Scout cookie sales in area store locations through March 19<sup>th</sup> and how the funds are applied – they also talk about what Girl Scouts learn in the organization, how far one can go in it, and the Girl Scouts area property, Camp McCormick. 2<sup>nd</sup> guest, as we get closer to the holiday, Danny McDade of the Irish Marching Society joins us to discuss the process of dyeing the Rock River green for St. Patrick's Day, the St. Patrick's Parade happening March 11<sup>th</sup> with this year's changes to the parade route and start time of 3 pm, and the annual Paddy Fest happening after the parade. 3<sup>rd</sup> guest, Rockford Mayor Tom McNamara discusses how residents can sound off on how to spend \$3.5 million dollars in the HOME-ARP Allocation Plan through the city's website, Household Hazardous Waste collection this month, and his thoughts on Women Owned Business month and how the city is employing more women than ever.

3/12/23 1<sup>st</sup> guest, Loves Park Mayor Greg Jury discusses the State of the City of Loves Park, plans for a City Celebration July 29<sup>th</sup> on City Hall grounds, and how the city is revamping the parking lot at the Peace Memorial at the Field of Honor in Loves Park. He also talks about how this will be the final season of the Rockford Speedway after 75 years in operation, and what happens next for the developers in that area. 2<sup>nd</sup> guest, Freeport Mayor Jodi Miller discusses the State of the City of Freeport and what construction projects the city is working on. In addition, she talks about the search for a new City Manager as well as a new Police Chief. 3<sup>rd</sup> guests, Den Mothers and members of the Girl Scouts of Northern Illinois remind people that there is just one more week of Girl Scout Cookie Sales, available in some local stores through March 19<sup>th</sup>, and how the funds raised through cookie sales benefit Girl Scout programs.

3/19/23 1<sup>st</sup> guests, Nicole and Christina Pascucci of MOMS Club of Rockford discuss the local branch of this international non-profit group, a community of welcoming and supportive moms and their families, featuring a monthly calendar of events with a variety of activities for moms & kids to do together – yearly dues are only \$25 to cover costs of supplies, service projects and programs, but no one is ever turned away for inability to pay. 2<sup>nd</sup> guest, Julia Jones of Northern Illinois Food Bank talks about NIFB celebrating 40 years of helping communities, how this food pantry started, who they serve & how people can donate. 3<sup>rd</sup> guest, Tammy Christensen of ProMedica Hospice discusses the annual "Guns & Hoses" charity ice hockey game on 4/2/23 between Rockford Police and Firefighters, with proceeds to benefit the Jamie Cox Foundation, Greg Lindmark Foundation & ProMedica/Heartland Hospice Memorial Fund.

3/26/23 1<sup>st</sup> guest, Katy Chadwick of the Rock River Raft Race Committee outlines this year's Rock River "Anything That Floats" Race scheduled for 8/20/23, with registration open through 8/14/23 – always a fun community event and free for spectators. 2<sup>nd</sup> guest, Corinne Sosso of Keep Northern Illinois Beautiful talks about the 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Earth Day Awards Banquet on 4/13/23, with guest speaker, former Rockford Mayor Doug Scott, including information about Earth Day and recycling facts. 3<sup>rd</sup> guest, Rockford Mayor Tom McNamara discusses a deal with ComEd to open a walking path across the Rock River at Davis Park, road improvements coming to Charles Street, and how our local Anderson Gardens was just included as a top travel destination.