

“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 3rd Quarter

7/2/23 1st guest, Arch Smith from The Council of Rockford Gardeners, established in 1980, discusses their annual free Garden Walk, happening this Wednesday, July 5th from 1 pm until 8 pm – he outlines the participating gardening clubs, the route with different gardens, and how to find a map and more information at their website. 2nd guest, Ted O'Donnell of the Rockford 4th of July Committee gives an overview of this year's festivities, fireworks designs, events downtown at Davis Park, and how hard their organization works, thanks to volunteers and donations, to provide the Rockford community with the best fireworks display in the state. 3rd guest, Rockford Mayor Tom McNamara talks about the U.S. National Women's Baseball Team coming to Rockford's Beyer Stadium on August 3rd, the Educators Summit happening August 8th and 9th, and a preview of Rockford's "815 Day" festivities on August 15th.

7/9/23 1st guest, Tyechia Price, Public Relations Manager of VisitBeloit.com talks about tourism in nearby Beloit, Wisconsin with summer events and fun things to do for the whole family including Downtown Beloit Farmer's Market, each Saturday 8 am to 1 pm through October, their Street Dance on Aug. 4th, the 8th annual Dirty Dash Mud Run/Walk for Kids on Aug. 19th, Art Show on Sept. 16th and more. 2nd guest, Loves Park Mayor Greg Jury discusses the 2nd annual "Rhythm of the Heart Music Fest" coming July 29th on Loves Park City Hall grounds, free to attend with music, food, beverages and local vendors. 3rd guest, Rockford Mayor Tom McNamara recaps Rockford's Independence Day festivities and thanks the Rockford 4th of July Committee for all their work putting together another incredible celebration. He also gives updates on the redevelopment of the Barber-Colman factory campus, with plans to develop into a mix of apartments and businesses, with a plan in front of City Council this coming Monday night.

7/16/23 1st guest, Amy Newell of The Arc of Winnebago, Boone and Ogle Counties talks about July being Disability Pride Month, different programs and services they offer, and how The Arc helps individuals with disabilities of all kinds lead a great quality of life. 2nd guest, Karen Tilly of the Alpine Kiwanis Club outlines their annual Alpine Kiwanis Brat Days, happening July 21st and 22nd – they ordered over 22,000 brats to be served at last year's event, and they expect this year to be a big success as well, with all proceeds to benefit local non-profits and area youth for scholarships – over the past 51 years, Alpine Kiwanis Club has given more than \$2 million to support our community.

7/23/23 1st guest, Mary McNamara of the Rockford Area Arts Council discusses ArtScene, a bi-annual gallery walk featuring new and established artists of the Rockford Region – she recaps the success of the Spring ArtScene and outlines plans for Fall ArtScene, plus development of a Rockford Region Cultural Plan. 2nd guest, Loves Park Mayor Greg Jury discusses the 2nd annual “Rhythm of the Heart Music Fest” happening this Saturday, July 29th on Loves Park City Hall grounds, free to attend with music, food, beverages and local vendors. 3rd guest, Karen Carlson of GiGi’s Playhouse Down Syndrome Achievement Centers discusses their 13th annual “No Bull” Golf Outing on August 7th and how the funds generated help support their programs and services that help individuals with Down Syndrome, at no cost to the families.

7/30/23 1st guest, Karen Carlson of GiGi’s Playhouse Down Syndrome Achievement Centers outlines their 13th annual “No Bull” Golf Outing on August 7th – she also gives a preview of their upcoming Gala on October 21st, and how funds raised from these events will help support their programs and services that help individuals with Down Syndrome, at no cost to the families. 2nd guests, Rock River Raft Race committee members Katy and Reid provide updates about the Rock River Anything That Floats Race happening August 20th, and how participants can still register through August 14th – everyone is invited to come out and enjoy the race, which is free to spectators. 3rd guest, Rockford Mayor Tom McNamara talks about the announcement of Metra rail service between Rockford and Chicago to become operational in 2027, updates on the Barber-Colman redevelopment project to transform the vacant factory into living units and commercial space, and the Rockford Public Art Trail going on this week, inviting the community to check out the various iconic murals and sculptures throughout our region.

8/6/23 1st guest, Ann Marie Walker of Discover Center Museum outlines their annual “Countdown to Kindergarten” event happening this Friday, Aug. 11th from 4:30-7 pm, a free event for preschoolers and incoming kindergarten students and their families, designed to teach and prepare children to start school & how parents can connect with community resources. 2nd guest, Tyechia Price, Public Relations Manager of VisitBeloit.com talks about tourism in nearby Beloit, Wisconsin with summer events and fun things to do for the whole family including their very popular Downtown Beloit Farmer’s Market happening each Saturday 8 am to 1 pm through October, the 8th annual Dirty Dash Mud Run/Walk for Kids on Aug. 19th, Art Show on Sept. 16th and more. 3rd guest, Rockford Mayor Tom McNamara discusses the increase in Rockford area home values to an average of around \$198,000 and how this is a great sign for things to come, the announcement of Levings Lake to get a permanent 800-square-foot stage for local and regional entertainment, which is an investment in the community by Hard Rock Casino Rockford, and details on activities planned for Rockford’s “815 Day” on Aug. 15th.

8/13/23 1st guest, Mary McNamara of the Rockford Area Arts Council discusses ArtScene, a bi-annual gallery walk featuring new and established artists of the Rockford Region – she recaps the success of the Spring ArtScene and outlines plans for Fall ArtScene, plus development of a Rockford Region Cultural Plan. 2nd guests, Rock River Raft Race committee members Katy and Reid provide updates about the Rock River Anything That Floats Race happening August 20th, and a reminder that participants can still register through this Monday, August 14th – everyone is invited to come out and enjoy the race, which is free to spectators. 3rd guest, Tyechia Price, Public Relations Manager of VisitBeloit.com talks about tourism in nearby Beloit, Wisconsin with summer events and fun things to do for the whole family including their very popular Downtown Beloit Farmer’s Market on Saturdays from 8 am to 1 pm through October, the 8th annual Dirty Dash Mud Run/Walk for Kids on Aug. 19th, Art Show on Sept. 16th and more.

8/20/23 1st guest, Danny McDade of the Irish Marching Society. The Irish Marching Society is bringing “The Fitzgeralds” into the Rockford Public Library’s Nordlof Center on Friday, August 25th – Danny provides an overview of the show and how the Irish Marching Society uses funds raised to highlight and promote Irish culture in our area. 2nd guest, Nikki Reid of Rock House Kids talks about their annual “Streets and Sweets” fundraiser on September 21st, including dinner, raffle, silent auction, inspiring stories and more, and how the funds benefit the local inner-city children of Rock House Kids. 3rd guest, Rockford Mayor Tom McNamara reviews how many miles of fiber optic cable are being installed around the city and how that project is progressing. He also talks about the new Rockford Lightning women’s basketball team, plus plans to redevelop the former Coca-Cola bottling plant downtown into a space for family-friendly activities.

8/27/23 1st guest, John Groh of the Rockford Area Convention & Visitors Bureau invites people to take the Tourism Survey 2023, which is available through Sept. 30th and covers Winnebago and Boone Counties – the survey is intended to gauge what is working, what’s not working, and what residents would like to see moving forward – also, for their participation in taking the brief 10-minute survey, respondents will receive free fries from local restaurant Beef-a-Roo. 2nd guests, Margie Lindmark and Deb Alms of the Greg Lindmark Foundation talk about the 2nd annual Rockford Hero Climb on September 10th at Guilford High School to honor 9/11 first responders – people are invited to join local first responders on a symbolic climb of 110 flights of stairs in memory of their fallen FDNY brothers and sisters – proceeds to benefit the Greg Lindmark Foundation, which provides awareness, education, and confidential counseling to local first responders suffering from stress and trauma. 3rd guest, Kevin Haas of RockRiverCurrent.com discusses the 2-year anniversary of this free local news source that focuses on positive stories, the progress that has been made since it began, and some of the biggest stories over the past 2 years.

9/3/23 1st guest, Ann Marie Walker of Discovery Center Museum discusses upcoming September events including a special Grandparents Day event – since Grandparents Day is celebrated on September 10th, kids and families are invited to visit the museum's art studio on September 9th to create a keepsake gift for their grandparents. 2nd guest, Nikki Reid of Rock House Kids talks about their annual "Streets and Sweets" fundraiser on September 21st, including dinner, raffle, silent auction, inspiring stories and more, and how the funds benefit the local inner-city children of Rock House Kids. 3rd guests, Margie Lindmark and Deb Alms of the Greg Lindmark Foundation talk about the 2nd annual Rockford Hero Climb on September 10th at Guilford High School to honor 9/11 first responders – people are invited to join local first responders on a symbolic climb of 110 flights of stairs in memory of their fallen FDNY brothers and sisters – proceeds to benefit the Greg Lindmark Foundation, which provides awareness, education, and confidential counseling to local first responders suffering from stress and trauma.

9/10/23 1st guest, Tyechia Price, Public Relations Manager of VisitBeloit.com talks about fun family things to do in nearby Beloit, Wisconsin this month, including their very popular Downtown Beloit Farmer's Market happening each Saturday 8 am to 1 pm through October, their DEVIATE Interactive Art & Music event on Sept. 16th, and their 47th annual Beloit Autorama on Sept. 17th. 2nd guests, Rebecca and DeeDee of Youth Services Network discuss their mission of providing therapy and supportive services to children and families who have experienced trauma, and details about their 2nd annual "Spare No One" bowling fundraiser on Oct. 14th. 3rd guest, Rockford Mayor Tom McNamara discusses Madison Street expansion and changes, the Mayor's Hunger Campaign Celebration Breakfast on Sept. 26th to celebrate fundraising efforts to fight food insecurity in Rockford, and the announcement of a major investment in our community by PCI Pharma Services, including building a new \$150 million dollar facility and bringing at least 250 new jobs to our area.

9/17/23 1st guest, Heather Carr of Lifescape Community Services talks about their 31st annual Lifescape Senior Expo on Sept. 23rd from 9 am to 3 pm featuring a variety of booths with information about health care, financial management, in-home care and other services for senior citizens – COVID and flu vaccinations also available on-site. 2nd guest, Nikki Reid of Rock House Kids talks about their annual "Streets and Sweets" fundraiser happening this Thursday, Sept. 21st, including dinner, raffle, silent auction, inspiring stories and more, and how the funds raised go towards food, educational items, and other benefits for the local inner-city children of Rock House Kids. 3rd guest, Rockford Mayor Tom McNamara provides road construction updates including the progress on Charles Street, new construction on Broadway beginning this Monday, Sept. 18th, and a massive Madison Street construction project starting next summer, and how these improvements will be great for our city.

9/24/23 1st guest, John Groh of the Rockford Area Convention & Visitors Bureau reminds the community that there is still time to take the Tourism Survey 2023, which is available through this Saturday, Sept. 30th and covers Winnebago and Boone Counties – the survey is intended to gauge what is working, what’s not working, and what residents would like to see moving forward – also, for their participation in taking the brief 10-minute survey, respondents will receive free fries from local restaurant Beef-a-Roo. 2nd guest, since September is Hunger Action Month, Maeven Sipes of Northern Illinois Food Bank joins us to talk about the differences between food banks and food pantries, how to donate and volunteer, and numerous ways people can take action and help. 3rd guest, Ann Wasser of Severson Dells Nature Center outlines their annual “Drinks for the Dells” fundraiser on Oct. 14th, including local breweries, games, food and live music, with proceeds to support nature education.