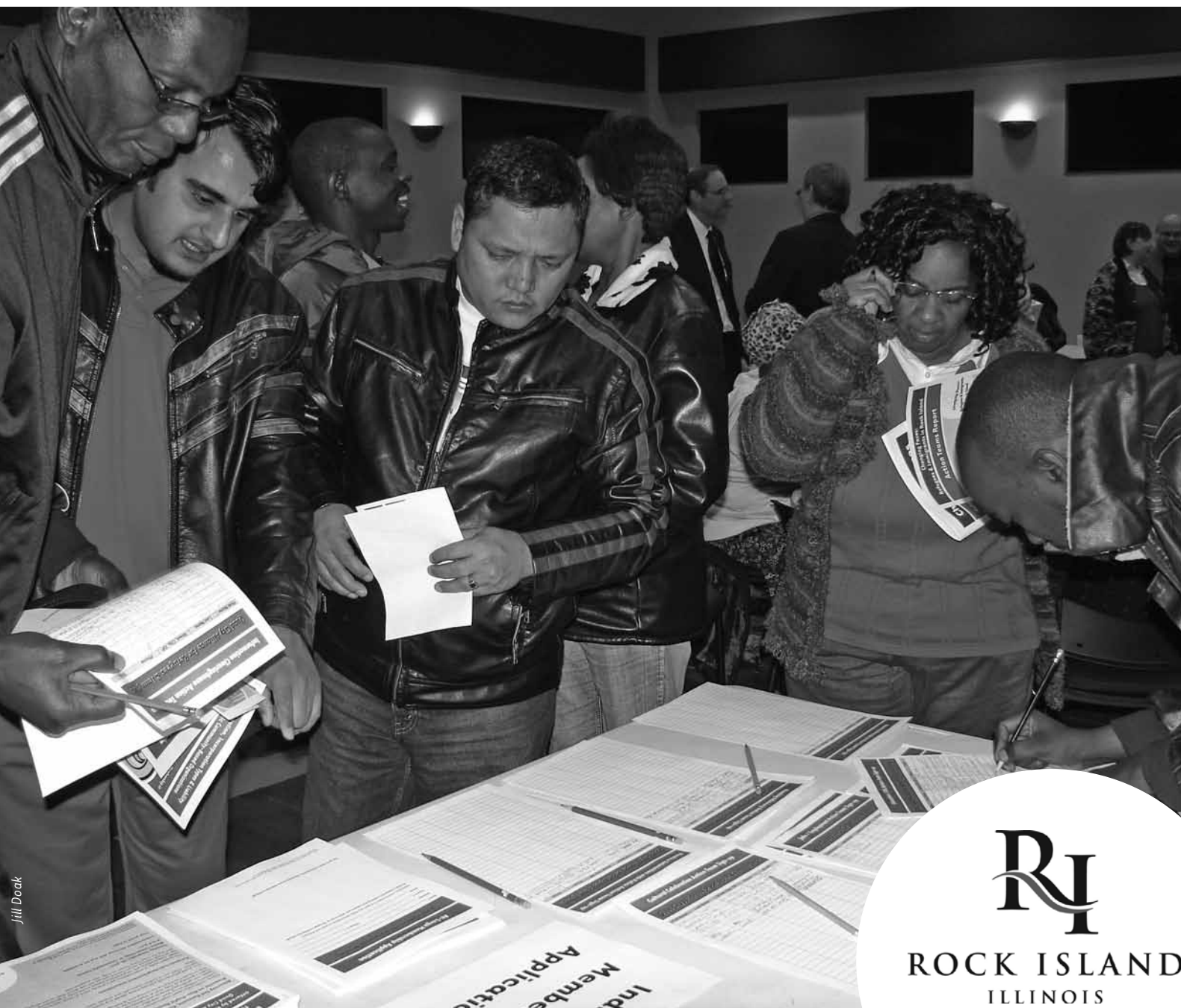


Neighborhood News

Neighborhood Partners of Rock Island

Winter 2012



“Changing Faces” Launches Immigrant & Refugee Alliance

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**January 31
Deadline for
Inaugural Board
Membership
Applications**

Applications will be taken until January 31, 2012 for organizations wishing to be inaugural members of the Quad City Alliance for Immigrants & Refugees (QCAIR). Membership is targeted to ethnic community-based organizations (ECBOs) and non-profit agencies, churches, school districts, community colleges, governments or other groups

circle and action team participants on December 1 at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Center.

The mission of QCAIR is to build a community among the Quad Cities' refugees, immigrants and citizens. The organizations and individuals involved with QCAIR will structure an information clearinghouse for refugees and immigrants and those

and the Pilot Group from the Changing Faces process that they would like to form an organization empowering refugee and immigrant groups similar to how Neighborhood Partners brings together neighborhood associations and related agencies to work for

QC Alliance for Immigrants & Refugees Created

providing services to immigrants and refugees in the Quad Cities.

The Refugee & Immigrant Center & Information Clearinghouse Action Team, formed out of the Changing Faces: Refugees & Immigrants in Rock Island study circles, announced the creation of QCAIR at the Action Teams report dinner held for all study

disparate agencies and church groups providing services. QCAIR will also identify overlaps and gaps in services. Eventually, QCAIR may operate as a direct service provider and operate a physical campus where the refugee and immigrant community can thrive.

The following Changing Faces Action Teams will continue as grassroots entities under the umbrella of QCAIR: Information Clearinghouse; Cultural

Celebration; Housing Advocacy; Positive Interaction with Police; Education/ESL; and Jobs/Employment.

Any individual in the Quad Cities community can be involved with the action teams.

To be part of an Action Team, call Jill Doak at 309.732.2900 or send an email to doak.jill@rigov.org.

The structure of QCAIR is modeled after Neighborhood Partners of Rock Island, a 15-year-old consortium of associations, governments and agencies that intersect at a neighborhood level. "We heard from a number of study circles

positive solutions," said Ed Hanna, Neighborhood Partners President and convener for the Changing Faces Pilot Group, Oversight Group and Information Clearinghouse Action Team. "The Refugee & Immigrant Center and Information Clearinghouse Action Team worked the entire fall on drafting by-laws for this new organization and identifying a potential fiscal sponsor agency so that they can apply for funding and hire a part-time

director," he added.

During the initial action team meeting, study circle participant Morten WaByaombe, Rock Island, said having a place where refugees will be represented is a good thing. He said, "A main concern is making sure refugees are going to benefit and not just paying

other people for services that are not delivered."

At the same meeting, Jonathan Ikoba, a study circle contributor from Bettendorf, said he thinks the structure is a good one for a starting position and that the organization can make changes as it moves along. He said it would also encourage the different

On the Cover

After the launch announcement on Dec. 1, more than 50 refugees, immigrants and citizens signed up to continue work on six Action Teams to be convened under the auspices of the Quad City Alliance for Immigrants & Refugees (QCAIR).

Neighborhood News

Vol. 15, Issue 4

Neighborhood News is a quarterly publication of Neighborhood Partners and is funded through a Community Development Block Grant received by the City of Rock Island.

The Neighborhood Partners Board of Directors consists of delegates from a variety of not-for-profit organizations, neighborhood associations and city at-large appointees.

PRESIDENT

Ed Hanna, Broadway Historic District Association

VICE-PRESIDENT

Mary Gallardo, Rock Island Housing Authority

This newsletter is created by City of Rock Island staff persons:

Alan Carmen,
Planning & Redevelopment Administrator

Jill Doak, Urban Planner II

If you would like to become a member of Neighborhood Partners, receive this free newsletter or need to notify us of a change of address, please contact:

City of Rock Island
Planning & Redevelopment Division
1528 Third Avenue

Rock Island, Illinois 61201

Phone: 309.732.2900 / Fax: 309.732.2930

E-mail: planning@rigov.org

Web Site: www.rigov.org



The formation of QCAIR was announced by Neighborhood Partners President Ed Hanna during a dinner attended by nearly 100 "Changing Faces" participants.

groups to learn to work together. Mr. Ikoba said there is power in numbers and if all the groups work together for a grant, the chances of funding are better.

Members of the action team, including Bhutanese and Congolese individuals, agreed that applications should be completed in English.

Constituent organizations must meet the following requirements:

1. Meet regularly;
2. Have a board consisting of at least five persons;
3. Possess ratified by-laws; and
4. Have a mission statement consistent with the purpose of QCAIR.

Applications for organizational membership and individual at-large membership can be picked up at the Rock Island Planning & Redevelopment Division, 1528 3rd Avenue, Rock Island. You can also have applications emailed by sending a request to planning@rigov.org or calling 309.732.2900. Although applications for the inaugural round are due January 31, QCAIR will be conducting semi-annual membership meetings to add new organizations. A limited number of individual at-large appointments will be made by the QCAIR executive committee.

To view full details about QCAIR, including the draft by-laws, link from "QCAIR" on the City of Rock Island's home page at www.rigov.org.

The first meeting of Quad City Alliance for Immigrants and Refugees is slated for February 23, 2012. For more information, call Jill Doak or Alan Carmen at 309.732.2900. ♦

Mentors Available for Ethnic Boards

Neighborhood Partners has a list of nine mentors available to assist ethnic community based organizations with their board creation and by-laws. To receive a list of these individuals willing to assist one-on-one with groups, contact Jill Doak at the Rock Island Planning & Redevelopment Division at 309.732.2900 or email doak.jill@rigov.org. Sample by-laws and a by-laws template can also be made available.

Changing Faces Action Teams Report to Study Circle Participants

An enthusiastic crowd of nearly 100 "Changing Faces: Refugees & Immigrants in Rock Island" study circle participants and action team members gathered on December 1 at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Community

Glenda Nicke, convener for the Education / ESL Action Team, answered audience questions.



Center to share dinner provided by the Doris & Victor Day Foundation and to hear the concluding reports from the action teams.

While all five action teams provided reports on their activities and introduced and thanked their members, the biggest announcement of the night was the formation of the Quad City Alliance of Immigrants and Refugees (QCAIR). The highest priority of the May 2011 Changing Faces Action Forum was to "create a center and information clearinghouse" for refugees and immigrants. Ed Hanna, president of Neighborhood Partners and convener for the **Center & Information Clearinghouse Action Team**, had the pleasure of making the announcement.

Mr. Hanna outlined the three months it took for the action team to hammer out details related to by-laws for the new QCAIR organization and provided details on how the name was selected (suggestions and then ballot vote), along with the decision to enlarge the focus of the organization to a Quad City-wide basis. He also said negotiations are ongoing with a local agency to provide fiscal sponsorship for the fledgling organization so that it can get underway quickly and begin to search out funds for a part-time executive director. For more details on membership in QCAIR, please see the report on page 2 or visit www.rigov.org.

The evening's agenda started off with a welcome from Rock Island Mayor Pro Tem Charles Austin III, who said, "Rock Island has always welcomed people of all nationalities, races and cultures." He mentioned that there are 30 dialects and languages spoken in Rock Island-Milan School District, more than 500 immigrants and refugees moved into city within past five years, the Hispanic population has grown from 3.8% in 1990 to 9.4% in 2010, and agencies providing services to immigrants and refugees have seen an increased demand. He concluded by thanking the many participants, the Doris & Victor Day Foundation, Community Caring Conference and Everyday Democracy for their support.

Former Neighborhood Partners President Andy Boswell, who also was a co-convener for the Changing Faces Pilot Group, summarized the year-long process of the public dialogues from inception to conclusion with the action team reports. He particularly noted the many community individuals involved, including 129 study circle participants

Continued on page 4

Continued from page 3

Action Team Reports

and over 100 people through the Pilot Group and action teams. Approximately one-third of participants were estimated to be refugees or immigrants.

Deputy Chief Jeff VenHuizen provided the report from the **Positive Interaction with Police Action Team**. He said the goal is to ease the transition of new refugees and immigrants and enhance their understanding of local laws and court systems. He said the group has set up a methodology to provide forums for specific ethnic groups and kicked off the effort with a session with Swahili speakers on November 2, 2011 that had approximately 50 people in attendance.

The **Housing Advocacy Action Team** was represented by Gail Brooks of the Rock Island Housing Authority. She said the team has discussed offering helpful pamphlets in several languages and solidified the need for certified translators and interpreters so that certain ethics rules, procedures and privacy concerns are followed. The action team will begin planning a housing forum in January.

Glenda Nicke, dean of adult and continuing education at Black Hawk College, gave the account from the **Education / English as Second Language (ESL) Action Team**. She said their team involved sharing of innovative ideas and relating of rules and regulations for education that must be followed in Illinois and the U.S. She said there is potential for much more communication and collaboration on the topic.

According to speaker Alan Carmen, the **Cultural Celebration Action Team** was organized later than the other teams, and met for the first time in November. The team incorporates people from all cultures, past and present, and will focus on a multi-cultural event in 2012. The interim convener for the team is Catherine Rodgers-Ingles from the Rock Island Arts & Entertainment District. If you wish to be involved, call

her at 309.788.6311.

The action teams mentioned above will continue under the auspices of QCAIR, and some are likely to have new leadership. The action team chairs will be QCAIR delegates and members of the executive committee. Attendees at the December 1 meeting were invited to sign up for the continuing action teams, plus a new one focusing on jobs and employment.

The 77-page Final Report for *Changing Faces: Refugees & Immigrants in Rock Island* has been printed and is available at the Rock Island Planning & Redevelopment Division, 2nd Floor, Rock Island City Hall. It is also available for download from the City of Rock Island website at www.rigov.org. The Executive Summary is provided in English, Kirundi, Spanish and Swahili. ♦

Action Team Outlines Parking Policies at Housing Complexes

The Housing Action Team was one of five advocacy groups identified as part of the original Changing Faces Pilot Program. A main priority of the Team is to provide housing related information to minimize misunderstandings and reduce or eliminate fines related to lease violations.

The following is a brief overview of the parking policies for several public housing properties serving the refugee and immigrant population living within the Rock Island.

Century Woods, 1400 5th Street (309.786.2625)

- Parking is open to visitors from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.;
- Social service agencies/workers are provided with parking stickers (parking passes are not provided); and
- Cars parked at Century Woods after 5 p.m. without a parking sticker will be towed.

Maple Ridge, 3700 5th Street (309.786.2639)

- Visitor parking is not available;
- Parking passes are issued to social service agencies/workers;
- Each resident has two visitor parking passes; and
- Persons parking on the property

Nepali & Karen Speakers To Meet with Police

The Positive Interaction with Police Action Team, an outgrowth of "Changing Faces: Refugees & Immigrants in Rock Island" study circles, will host a second ethnically-focused forum on **Saturday, January 7** from 10 a.m. to noon at Broadway Presbyterian Church, 710 23rd Street.

This forum will host refugees from Nepal, Bhutan and Myanmar (Burma) and interpreters for Nepali and Karen will be available. Speakers will include Deputy Chief Jeff VenHuizen, Rock Island Police Department; Lt. Rusty Hocker, RIPD; and Ametra Carrol, Organizer, Community Caring Conference. They will address police enforcement, local laws, domestic issues and block clubs. There will be the opportunity for questions, including privately.

For more information or to arrange a similar forum for your ethnic group, call Deputy Chief Jeff VenHuizen at 732.2701 or Ametra Carrol at 786.0345.

without a pass will be towed at the owner's expense - no exceptions.

Rock Island Housing Authority Properties:

Spencer Towers, 111 20th Street
(309.788.1809)

Sunset Heights, 3130 9th Street
(309.788.3800)

Manor Homes, 2601 7th Street
(309.786.0080)

Lincoln Homes, 9th Street and 5th Avenue (309.788.6506)

- RIHA properties include a combination of visitor and off-street parking;
- Parking passes and/or stickers are not provided;
- A list of resident, employee and social services agency representative vehicle information is maintained;
- Unauthorized and/or abandoned vehicles are tagged giving owners 24-hour notice to move or be towed; and
- All RIHA properties are monitored for parking violators.

For additional information regarding specific property parking policies, please contact the appropriate property at the phone number provided above. ♦

Submitted by: Gail Brooks,
Rock Island Housing Authority &
Changing Faces Housing Action Team

Enjoy Bald Eagle Days & Volunteer, Too!



Community Caring Conference

The Quad City Conservation Alliance presents **Bald Eagle Days** at the QCCA Expo Center, 2621 4th Avenue, Rock Island from **January 6 to 8**. Enjoy a 20-foot climbing tower, birds of prey demonstrations, exotic animal demonstrations and over 100 vendor booths. Hours are 4 to 8 p.m. on Jan. 6, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Jan. 7 and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Jan. 8. Admission is \$5 for adults, \$1 for children, and ages under five are free.

Keep Rock Island Beautiful is in need of **volunteers** to help at their booth for Bald Eagle Days. Call Carolyn Fuller at 309.786.1334 to volunteer.

Community Caring Conference will be at Bald Eagle Days again this year to conduct the **Child - ID** program. They need volunteers to help with fingerprinting and picture taking. If you would like to help, contact their staff at the 309.786.0345 or email ccc@ricaring.org.

Library Programs Focus on Seniors

The Rock Island Library offers a number of daytime programs of interest to retired persons and seniors, including a monthly book club, free computer classes, instructional classes on OverDrive, and ongoing history and culture programs. Highlights are as follows.

The **Alpha Book Club** meets at 3 p.m. on the **first Monday of each month** at

the Rock Island Main Library Community Room, 401 19th Street, to discuss fiction and non-fiction books. Upcoming discussions include:

- **Jan. 9:** *Moonlight Cove*, by Sherryl Woods
- **Feb. 6:** *The Art of Racing the Rain* by Garth Stein
- **March 5:** *Major Pettigrew's Last Stand* by Helen Simonsen
- **April 2:** *Reservation Road* by John Burnam Schwartz
Alpha Book Club

discussions may be subject to change. For updates, check the calendar at www.rockislandlibrary.org or contact Amy Penry at 309.732.7302.

Free daytime computer classes for all ages will be offered at the Main Library in **February**. Space is limited, so registration is required.

To sign up for any of the following classes, please call 309.732.7330 after January 3: **Searching the Internet, Tuesday, February 7, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.**; **Email Basics, Wednesday, February 8, 2:00 to 3:30 p.m.**; **Files, Folders, & Flash Drives, Tuesday, February 14, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.**; and **Social Media Basics, Wednesday, February 15, 2:00 to 3:30 p.m.**

Membership in the **Friends of the Rock Island Public Library** provides seniors with a monthly program and lunch at 11:30 a.m. on the second Monday of each month at the First Baptist Church of Rock Island, 3020 30th Street. The church is immediately across from the 30/31 Branch Library. An RSVP to 309.786.5293 and meal fee of \$6.50 is required to attend any of the following programs:

- **Jan 9:** **37 Years in China with Augustana College Students** with Dr. Norm Moline;
- **Feb: 13: Annual State of the City Message from Mayor Dennis Pauley;**
- **March 12: What's New at the Zoo** with Niabi Zoo director Mark Ryan; and
- **April 9: Rock Island Superintendent of Schools,**

Dr. Mike Oberhaus.

The Rock Island Library also plans a number of daytime history and culture programs for 2012, including: "**Women Serving Our Nation in the 1st and 2nd World Wars,**" at 2 p.m., on **Tuesday, March 13**, Main Library Community Room, 401 19th Street. The Women's History Month program is a tribute to the contributions of women at the Rock Island Arsenal, presented by Kris Leinicke, director of the Rock Island Arsenal Museum. The event is free and open to the public.

For more details, visit www.rockislandlibrary.org, follow the library on Facebook, or call 309.732.7323.

*Submitted by: Lisa Lockheart,
Publicity & Outreach Liaison,
Rock Island Public Library*

Dueling Pianos Help Raise Funds for Youth

Youth Service Bureau presents "**Keys to a Good Time,**" a dueling piano night, on **Friday, January 20** at Rock Island Arsenal Golf Club. This benefit will raise funds for delinquency prevention and counseling programs. The Piano Fondue Entertainers' all-request rock-n-roll is a high energy performance that engages audiences like no other. Tickets must be purchased in advance by calling Youth Service Bureau at 309.793.3460 or visiting www.ysbri.com. Cost is \$40 per person and includes hors d'oeuvres and entertainment. Event begins at 7 p.m.

*Submitted by: Johnnie Woods,
Youth Service Bureau*

Win Prizes at CCC Trivia Night

Community Caring Conference is taking reservations now for their **Trivia Night Fundraiser** at the Moose Lodge, **Saturday, January 28** at 6 p.m. Cost is \$10 per person, with eight people to a table. First, second and third place winners will be awarded. Event features

a cash bar, with soda and water available. Participants are invited to bring their own food. Contact Connie Hayes at 309.786.0345 to reserve a table.

*Submitted by: Dianna Dixon,
Organizer,
Community Caring Conference*

Fun, Food & Facts at QCBC Chocolate Fest

Sunday, January 29 is the Quad City Botanical Center's **Chocolate Festival**. Event will be 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Cost is \$10 for adults and \$5 for youth three to 12. Children under two are free. Enjoy free samples from area chocolatiers and sweet shops, meet Willy Wonka, learn about the history of chocolate, enjoy cooking demonstrations and much more! New for this year is a kids' chocolate activity area! Purchase your tickets at the door!

RICMS Tech Program Benefits from Trivia

The **Third Annual Rock Island Center for Math and Science Trivia Night** will be held at the Plumbers and Pipe Fitters Hall, 4600 Blackhawk Road, Rock Island, on **February 3**. Doors open at 6 p.m. with 10 rounds of trivia starting at 7 p.m. Cost is \$80 per table, with a maximum of eight players per team. There will be cash prizes, 50/50 raffle, basket raffle, silent auction and other activities during the event. Beverages will be available for purchase; outside drinks will not be allowed. However you may bring in your own snacks. Proceeds will go towards the RICMS technology program. Registration is recommended as the event is restricted to 40 tables/teams. The past two years the event reached maximum capacity. You can register by contacting either Tom Brokaw at 309.738.6229 or brokaw.tom@rigov.org or Brandon Pannell at 309.235.5564 or

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Pannell03@sbcglobal.net. The event is sponsored by the RICMS PTCC (Parent Teacher Community Connection) and emceed by Trivial Matters.

Submitted by: Tom Brokaw, RICMS PTCC

Hawaiian Theme for Doll Party at Hauberg



Debbi Weston

Girls and their dolls are invited to an **American Girl Hawaiian Party** with Kanani, "2011 Girl of the Year." Make a pretty lei, enjoy shaved ice and sweet treats, and get a special Hawaiian outfit for your doll. The party will be **Saturday, February 2** from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at Hauberg Civic Center. Be sure to register early by calling 309.732.7275 or via ePark at www.rigov.org. Cost is \$20.

Submitted by: Debbi Weston, Rock Island Parks & Recreation

Stroll Black Hawk Park with Your Valentine

Valentine Moonlight Indoor Music and Outdoor Walk will be held from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., **Tuesday, February 14** at Watch Tower Lodge, Black Hawk State Historic Site, 1900 46th Ave. (Blackhawk Road), Rock Island. The event features a stroll outside on the luminary-lit trail. If it is too cold outside for the walk, come to the Lodge and keep warm by the fire with fresh donuts and cider or hot cocoa. Music will be provided by Just4Fun. Free. This event is appropriate for singles, couples and families. For more information, call 309.788.9536 or visit www.blackhawkpark.org.

Submitted by: Janet Moline, Citizens to Preserve Black Hawk Park Foundation

Black Hawk Park West Winter Potluck

Black Hawk Park West Neighborhood will hold its annual **Winter Potluck** on **Sunday, February 19**. It will be held at the Singing Bird Nature Center starting at 5:30 p.m. A representative from the Niabi Zoo will be the guest speaker. Join neighbors in learning about zoo programs and meet some special guests from the zoo. Please bring a dish to share and your own drinks.

Bowl for Frances Willard Elementary

You are invited to the **City of Rock Island Adopt-A-School's Bowl-O-Rama** event! This afternoon of fun will take place **February 26** at Milan Lanes from 1 to 4 p.m. All proceeds will go to the City of Rock Island's Adopt-A-School partnership with Frances Willard Elementary. Lanes are three to six people, and cost is \$15 per person for three hours of unlimited bowling and shoe rental. There will be worst and best bowler awards, a 50/50 raffle and other fun games. Pizza, snacks, and beverages will be available for purchase. No outside food or drinks are allowed. To register, contact Andy Parer at parer.andrew@rigov.org or call 309.732.2275.

Submitted by: Andy Parer, City of Rock Island Adopt-a-School Committee

West Point Arms Expert is Farnam Dinner Keynote



Rock Island Arsenal Museum

The **Ninth Annual Quad Cities Henry Farnam Dinner**, celebrating the 150th Anniversary of the Rock Island Arsenal, will be held **Friday,**

March 9 at Jumer's Casino & Hotel, Rock Island. Cash bar and displays open at 5 p.m. Dinner is at 6:30 p.m. and the program begins at 7 p.m.

Numerous displays will relate to the Arsenal, the island, the river, and other historical topics.

The evening's program will begin with a presentation by Regena Schantz, an expert on Fort Armstrong and the life and career of Colonel Davenport. Her topic will be "Fort Armstrong and the Island Before the Arsenal." In the years after the War of 1812, Fort Armstrong on Rock Island served a peace-keeping mission in the Upper Mississippi Valley. The fort was strategically located to monitor tribal trading practices and to protect U. S. mineral interests in northwestern Illinois. As friendly trading relationships with the Sauk and Mesquakie developed, the fort expanded in four main areas: the Indian Agency, garden and stable area, family housing, and the trading post of George Davenport.

Next, the featured speaker, Leslie D. Jensen, Curator of Arms and Armor at the West Point Museum in New York, will give an illustrated presentation on "The Rock Island Arsenal, Reflection of an Army 1862-1920." The Arsenal, established by act of Congress in 1862, was in the beginning to be a small arsenal in the West, holding and distributing supplies. Over time, however, it became a great manufacturing arsenal. Much of the support of Army operations in the various Indian campaigns came from this arsenal. By the 1880s, Rock Island Arsenal was the main manufacturing establishment for Army accoutrements and other equipment, objects that eventually went half way around the world with American expansion to the Philippines, China, and the Caribbean. By World War I, the Rock Island Arsenal was second only

to the Springfield Armory in Massachusetts as an arms manufacturing establishment.

Anyone who did not receive an invitation last year may request one for the 2012 dinner by calling River Action at 563.322.2969, Gayle Rein at 309.441.5410 or Curtis Roseman at 309.764.6122.

Submitted by: Curtis Roseman, Quad Cities Henry Farnam Dinner Committee

Princess Lucky Charms Girl Party



Debbi Weston

At the **Princess Lucky Charms Party**, you'll make charm bracelets, decorate shamrock cookies, and play games with Princess Agatina. Girls should wear a princess or party dress. There will be goody bags for each princess. Cost is \$15. Event is **Saturday, March 17** from 10 a.m to 11:30 a.m. at Hauberg Civic Center. Register online at www.rigov.org or call 309.732.7275.

Submitted by: Debbi Weston, Rock Island Parks & Recreation

Students are Real Winners at Night of 1000 Dreams



Holly Sparkman

Night of 1000 Dreams, a fundraiser where donations from over 400 individuals and businesses helped raise more than \$40,000 for elementary, junior high and high school "extras" last year, will be held **Friday, April 13** at the Local 25 Plumbers & Pipefitters Hall,

4600 Blackhawk Road. Doors open at 6 p.m. and dinner is at 6:30 p.m. The evening includes fellowship, a meal, and a silent auction, followed by an exciting live auction with a game-show twist. The highlight of the evening is the grand prize raffle where one lucky person will win a dream vacation for two. The main beneficiaries of Night of 1000 Dreams are the students in the Rock Island-Milan School District.

Submitted by: Holly Sparkman, Marketing Director, Rock Island-Milan School District

Save the Date for Broadway Home Tour



Barb Braun

The **Broadway Mother's Day Tour of Homes** is back! Scheduled from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on **Sunday, May 13**, it will feature five homes in the historic district dating to the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Admission is \$10 per person at the door or through PayPal. More details will be announced as they become available. For more information, please go to www.broadwaydistrict.org, or call 309.786.1307.

Submitted by: Barb Braun, Broadway Historic District Association Board

Neighborhood News Deadline

Monday, March 12, is the deadline for articles to be submitted for the next issue of *Neighborhood News*.

Send your articles to Jill Doak, City of Rock Island, 1528 3rd Avenue, Rock Island, IL 61201. You can fax your articles to Jill's attention at 309.732.2930 or email them to her at doak.jill@rigov.org. Digital photographs or images in .jpg or .tif format at 150 dpi or 360 ppi or higher are also welcome. ♦

Coffee & Conversation with Mayor Pauley

Rock Island Mayor Dennis Pauley invites the public to attend a Coffee & Conversations event on **Saturday, January 21** from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. at Southwest Branch Library.

Coffee & Conversations is an opportunity for the public to ask questions, get answers, and visit with the mayor. Mayor Pauley states, "I'm hosting this event to give citizens a chance to voice their concerns or just ask a question. I want to let folks know that I'm very approachable and here to serve the citizens." ♦

Submitted by: Jennifer Fowler, Marketing Consultant



Normal Refuse Collection

Holidays will not disrupt scheduled refuse and recycling pick-up during the first four months of 2012! Enjoy your normal collection schedule the weeks of **New Year's Day (Sun., Jan. 1)**, **Martin Luther King, Jr. Day (Mon., Jan. 16)**, **President's Day (Mon., Feb. 20)** and **Good Friday (Fri., April 16)**.



DETAILS on Snowstorm Street Clearance & Parking on Snow Routes

The Rock Island Public Works Department's goal is to clear streets after the storm has ended according to the following deadlines:

- Snowfall less than 2": 12 hours (primary & secondary only)
- Snowfall between 2" and 6": 24 hours (all streets)
- Snowfall greater than 6": 48 hours

Major emphasis is placed on primary streets and hills with secondary priority given to school areas. Residential streets are cleared only when the primary and secondary areas are completed. It is not the City's policy to clear snow and ice from alleys or residential sidewalks.

Parking on Snow Routes Policy

In the event of two inches (2") or more of snow, it is unlawful for any person to park or allow a motor vehicle to remain on any marked snow route until the snow has been cleared. Vehicles parked in violation of this ordinance (Section 9-41 of the Rock Island Code of Ordinances) will receive a \$35 parking ticket. ♦

Submitted by: Michelle Martin, Rock Island Public Works

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City Manager Thomas Thomas announced **Cindy Parchert** will be the new finance director for the City of Rock Island. Ms. Parchert is a Certified Public Accountant with an M.B.A. from St. Ambrose University and a bachelor of arts in accounting and business administration from Augustana College.

Her professional experience includes: Controller for WQAD, Controller for Performance Food Group – TPC, Manager for McGladrey and Pullen, and Accounting Supervisor for City of Rock Island. The City's Finance Director is responsible for planning, organizing, and directing all operations of the Finance Department including budgeting, collections, accounting, information services, and other fiscal activities. Former Finance Director **Bill Scott** retired in September.

College Hill District Stakeholders Pick Streetscape Preferences

Gateways, a “family” of streetscape elements and furniture, nodal links and a model block were among the many recommendations suggested by The Lakota Group in the Visual Preference Survey Results Report that was considered by the College Hill District Organization (CHDO) Executive Board in early December.

Executive board members favorably received the report, and agreed in general with the suggested concepts. They moved to accept the recommendations of The Lakota Group and forward them to Rock Island City Council. City Council is expected to consider the visual preference recommendations in the context of the entire College Hill District Revitalization Plan, possibly in March. A draft of the plan document must first be reviewed by the CHDO Executive Committee and neighborhood and business stakeholders on dates yet to be determined. A few key components of the plan, including an evaluation of the continuum of aesthetics regulations, are still to be discussed by CHDO Executive Committee.

The question of what College Hill District, the neighborhood commercial area along 14th Avenue at 30th and 38th Streets, should look like was mapped out by several focus groups and by more than 70 people at a public meeting on September 29, 2011. In addition, approximately 40 more people participated in the on-line version of the survey in the early part of October.

The focus groups included representatives from the College Hill District Design Committee and Executive Committee; Augustana College faculty, administration and students; City of Rock Island Community & Economic Development Department staffers; some members of Rock Island City Council; Mayor Dennis Pauley; property and business owners; neighborhood organizations; and nearby residents.

Some general conclusions were drawn from the focus group discussions:

- While the mix of buildings is eclectic, the streetscape feels old and worn, and there is a need to make it more cohesive;
- Future improvements should highlight the uniqueness of the district and avoid making it feel “too corporate;”
- Building and property owners need to invest more effort into maintaining sidewalks and facades in order to improve the overall feel and appearance;
- Augustana students are difficult to reach through promotions and the college shields them from coupons, flyers and mailers;
- Augustana has been and will continue to be a partner in the planning process and CHDO structure;
- Distinct differences exist in the business mix and building character between west and east nodes, along with lack of events focusing on east node; and
- Biggest weaknesses are aesthetics, lack of branding, lack of gateways and lack of outdoor dining or gathering spaces.

The survey activity itself was handled electronically, with slides of questions and then images requiring more than 90 electronic keypad answers from the participants. Image slides of sample streetscapes and streetscape elements from other communities were shown, and then participants recorded preferences ranging from “strongly like” to “strongly dislike.” For several slides, The Lakota Group also provided visual enhancements of actual College Hill streetscapes to chart preferences. It should be noted 70% of those surveyed shop in College Hill at least once a month and 61% live within one mile of College Hill District.

As with the focus groups, the visual preference survey takers concurred the existing streetscape is “old and worn out.” For instance, a current view of the 3900 block of 14th Avenue received a 66% “dislike” and “strongly dislike” rating.

However, the main focus was on determining preferences for streetscapes and building improvements. Some streetscape elements ranked very high in visual



Jill Doak

Two methods for public input for College Hill visual preferences: Visual Preference Workshop electronic key pads (bottom) and focus group conversation (top).





The 4100 block of 14th Avenue was the subject of layered “visualization” by The Lakota Group.

preferences, particularly corner in-ground plantings and landscaped parking areas (both 90% like/strongly like). Less conclusive were street trees and locations of planters. Some type of delineated and visible crosswalk is also preferred (ranged from 70% to 58% like/strongly like for various styles of paving).

In terms of building improvements, simple and traditional enhancements, such as the addition of awnings and attractive and visible storefronts, received higher preference scores

(72% like/strong like) than buildings that had modern or streamlined storefront covering materials attached to existing buildings (56% like/strong like). Favored newly constructed buildings possessed windows, architectural detail, and were built right up to the public sidewalks.

Banners, streets signs, street furniture, street lights, open space, building appearance and gateways were all reviewed as well.

One of the most interesting and revealing aspects of the exercise were the visualizations where The Lakota Group built amenities into the existing streetscape as a progression over several slides. Consistently, participants stated their preferences for the images one step down from the most elaborate schemes. For example, the 4100 block of 14th Avenue’s most elaborate visualization received an 82% like/strongly like vote, but the image that did not include landscaped bump-outs and street umbrellas received a 92% preference. In many ways this is very fitting to the character of the district, which consists of small buildings that have interesting details but are not the highest style of their period of construction.

The Lakota Group concluded their report with a series of fairly general recommendations regarding the

streetscape, transportation, and architecture/building improvements. It will be up to the design committee for CHDO, in cooperation with the City of Rock Island, to take the general recommendations, review specific element preferences, and make selections based on that guidance. In the short term, streetscape improvements will be expected to include banners, street furniture, moveable planters, street signs and window boxes

or hanging baskets. The Lakota Group also suggested developing a “model block” within the district near a key intersection that will combine streetscape enhancements with building façade improvements.

To view the final report for the College Hill District Visual Preference Survey, go to www.rigov.org and click on the “Community Plans” section under the “About Rock Island” tab. ♦

Great Places Nominations Sought

The American Planning Association (APA) is looking for **great streets, neighborhoods, and public spaces**. As part of this initiative, APA needs your help in suggesting places that are great and merit such designation. Places selected for designation as a Great Neighborhood, Great Street, or Great Public Space will be recognized by APA during National Community Planning Month in October. Suggestions received up to **February 23** will be considered for Great Places in America designation in 2012. Go to www.planning.org/greatplaces/ for details, information and an online nomination form.

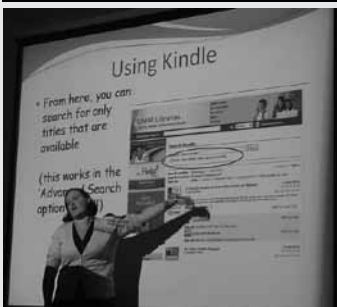
Barkan’s Honored as Oldest Downtown Retailer

Rock Island Mayor Dennis Pauley declared Friday, December 9 as “Barkan’s Day” to honor Barkan’s clothing store’s 65 years in business in downtown Rock Island.

The mayor presented Barkan’s owner Steve Barkan with a proclamation. “Barkan’s exemplifies the qualities inherent in businesses that continually show excellence in services to their customers and in their business practices,” the proclamation declared. “Rock Island is proud to have Barkan’s as a rock solid, Rock Island business.”

Last November, Barkan’s clothing store, 1709 2nd Avenue, celebrated its anniversary as downtown Rock Island’s longest-standing retail store.

Cash in on eBooks with Library OverDrive



Lisa Lockheart

To serve the growing users of its OverDrive digital media download service for eBooks and eAudiobooks, Rock Island Library has upgraded to an **OverDrive Advantage membership**.

As part of this enhanced membership, Rock Island Library purchases eBook and audio titles specifically for Rock Island Library cardholders. After logging into OverDrive, Rock Island Library cardholders have access to additional titles, as well as having continued access to the rest of the titles in the Omni Libraries download catalog.

Omni Libraries is short for Online Media of Northern Illinois, a group of 47 Illinois libraries who share a download catalog especially for digital content. The Omni Libraries group is separate from RiverShare Libraries, which shares other types of materials.

With its OverDrive subscription, Rock Island Library is among the many libraries now able to lend free Kindle-compatible eBooks, along with other major desktop and mobile devices, including Windows®, Mac®, iPod®, iPhone®, iPad®, Sony® Reader, Kobo Readers, NOOK™, Android™, BlackBerry® and Windows® Phones.

The OverDrive subscription allows Rock Island Library cardholders to browse, discover and sample new and popular titles and authors in virtually all subjects. Digital content is available anytime. Titles checked out digitally

incur no late fees because the content automatically expires at the end of the lending period.

The Rock Island Library also continues to offer free classes on how to download free eBooks or audiobooks with **OverDrive Classes** offered in January:

- 6 p.m. on **Thursday, January 12**, Rock Island Main Library
- 3 p.m. on **Wednesday, January 18**, Rock Island Southwest Branch, 9010 Ridgewood Road

For additional class times, please visit the library website at www.rockislandlibrary.org or call 309.732.7330. Further instructions on using OverDrive are available via the OverDrive link or the "Download This" menu on the library website at www.rockislandlibrary.org.

*Submitted by: Lisa Lockheart,
Publicity & Outreach Liaison,
Rock Island Public Library*

Learn Cooking at Historic Hauberg

Learn to cook from an expert in the mansion-sized kitchen at the historic and lovely Hauberg Civic Center. **Cooking with Rachel** classes will be offered from 6 to 8 p.m. on **Tuesday evenings** (\$22 each) and **Lunch & Learn** sessions will be offered from noon to 1 p.m. on **Wednesdays** (\$10 each). Register online at ePark at www.rigov.org or call the Rock Island Parks & Recreation Department at 309.732.7275.

Mediterranean Chicken on **Wednesday, January 12**: Wonderful aromas will fill your kitchen when you make this flavorful dish. Suitable for diabetics, enjoyed by everyone. Includes instruction, lunch and recipes.

Coffee & Sweet Pairings on **Tuesday, January 17**: Make espresso drinks and pair them with chocolate almond biscotti, caramel apple coffee cake and walnut brownie pie. Learn about various roasts and how to pair them with different foods. Includes instruction, tasting, recipes and warm-up-

up gift.

Shrimp Étouffé on **Wednesday January 25**: Warm up your winter evenings with delicious cajun shrimp étouffé. Want to know the secret ingredient? Come to class. Includes instruction, lunch and recipes.

Valentine Sweets on **Tuesday, February 7**: Make triple chocolate raspberry cupcakes, cheesecake pops, and raspberry filled heart cookies for the ones you love. Includes instruction, tasting, recipes and special Valentine gift.

Chicken Saagwala on **Wednesday, February 15**: Serve this scrumptious Indian dish with the traditional naan or with rice. Includes instruction, lunch and bonus recipes.

Hearty Soups & Stews Under 250 Calories on **Wednesday, February 29**: There's nothing like comfort food on a chilly day. Learn to make easy 6-can chicken tortilla soup and avocado chicken soup.

Irish Fare on **Tuesday, March 13**: Make St. Patrick's Day special with Irish bannock, stout stew, Irish whiskey cake, and yummy drinks like the green gecko, green grog, and green apple smoothie. Includes instruction, tasting, recipes and holiday gift.

Gluten-free Danish & Breads on **Wednesday, March 14**: Make delicious and light-as-air Danishes and quick breads. Includes instruction, lunch and recipes.

Yummy Turnip Gratin on **Wednesday, March 28**: You haven't tried turnips like these! They're baked in an iron skillet with butter and garlic. Includes instruction, lunch and recipes.

Anytime Cake Pops on **Wednesday, April 11**: It's the newest thing in sweets. Decadent little pops you can decorate 100 ways. Includes instruction, lunch and recipes.

Crêpes Magnifique! on **Tuesday, April 17**: Learn the fine art of making French delicacies like the apple

and brie half-moon crepe and decadent espresso crepe filled with framboise and strawberries. Includes instruction, tasting, recipes and special gift. Oooo la la.

Use Your Food Processor on **Wednesday, April 25**: Get that food processor off the shelf and make quiche, dips, jellies and even main dishes. Includes instruction, lunch and recipes.

*Submitted by: Debbi Weston,
Rock Island Parks & Recreation*

Rain Forest Food & Products Featured

On **Sunday, January 22** at 1 p.m. see a presentation on the variety of materials and foods obtained from the rainforest during the **Global Harvest Program** at the Quad City Botanical Center. Learn about things from bamboo, coconuts, chewing gum, and more. Attendees will be able to view actual live varieties of plants living in the Tropical Sun Garden and sample some fruits and foods made with spices from tropical locations. Cost is \$5 for adults, \$4 for seniors and \$3 for youth ages 5-12. Children under two years and members of the Quad City Botanical Center are free.

Youth & Volunteers Sought for Big Event



The **Quad Cities Youth Conference** presents Shellie Moore Guy as the keynote speaker on **February 23 and 24**, at 9 a.m. in the Mississippi River Hall at The River Center, 136 E. 3rd Street, Davenport. Nearly 1,000 students from 28 Illinois and Iowa high schools and middle and junior high schools are expected to attend this 2012 edition of the Quad Cities Youth Conference. High school students will attend on

Thursday, and middle or junior high students will be there on Friday.

Shellie Moore Guy is the current Poet Laureate of the Quad Cities. She is a Rock Island native and life-long resident, a storyteller, performance artist and motivational speaker, who has performed one-woman shows and created artistic opportunities for others. A community advocate and motivational speaker, Ms. Guy is the director of Healing Waters Empowerment Project, a grassroots organization that addresses family and community violence.

The Quad City Youth Conference also offers students a choice of three workshop sessions. Nearly 20 different community agencies have come together to offer workshops to enhance decision making skills necessary for living in a socially complex world. For more information, check out the QCYC website at <https://sites.google.com/site/qcyouthconference/>.

Rock Island County Area Project is also making a **call for volunteers** for the youth conference. Volunteer duties include directing students to workshops, monitoring hallways, and supervising during lunch. Perks for volunteers include a QCYC t-shirt, continental breakfast and lunch. For more information, call a member of the Volunteer/Chaperone Committee: Wendy Smith at 309.794.1100 ext 110, Nicole Begecke at 309.794.1100 ext 111 or Sue Wendt at 309.794.1100 ext 112.

*Submitted by Wendy Smith,
Executive Director, Rock Island
County Area Project*

Professional Fundraisers Provide Tips to Area Groups

Local members of the Association of Fundraising Professionals will offer **Success in Fundraising** on

Wednesday, March 7. Some of you might remember this learning opportunity for local and small non-profits called "Pro Bono Day" in previous years.

There will be sessions for every variety of fundraiser, from brand new to the seasoned professional. The event committee members took participants' suggestions from last year's event and molded them into a great new program for this year. Success in Fundraising will be held at the Stoney Creek Inn, 101 18th Street, Moline, from 8 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Designed with the same ideals as Pro Bono Day, the cost will remain low and scholarships will be available. Watch for more details, but mark your calendars now! For contact information, go to www.afpquadcities.com.

Invasive Plants Have Local Consequences

Angella Moorehouse, Illinois Nature Preserve Commission, will speak about **Control of Invasive Plants** on Natural Areas of Illinois on **Tuesday, March 13** at 7 p.m. at Singing Bird Center, Black Hawk State Historic Site. Singing Bird Center is accessed by turning north from Black Hawk Rd./Rte. 5 onto 15th Street. Free.

*Submitted by: Janet Moline,
Citizens to Preserve Black Hawk
Park Foundation*

South RI Township Garden Meeting Set



Wendy Smith

Last growing season, South Rock Island Township residents

planted more than 25 plots with crops including corn, potatoes, radishes, pea, tomatoes, greens, okra, pumpkins, squash, peppers, rhubarb and raspberries. Extra produce was donated to South Rock Island Township clients. South Rock Island Township, Rock Island County Area Project (RICAP), Keep Rock Island Beautiful (KRIB), and the University of Illinois Extension partner for this successful garden venture. Based on the success of last year's garden, organizers will be continuing the program in 2012. The **initial planning meeting for gardeners** will be on **Wednesday, March 14**. Contact Wendy Smith by March 12 to make your lunch reservation by phone (309.794.1100 x 110) or email at ricapdhs@aol.com. You can find photos and information on Facebook: RICAP.

*Submitted by: Wendy Smith,
Executive Director, Rock Island
County Area Project*

Planning for Urban Agriculture Systems

On **Wednesday, March 14** from 3 to 4:30 p.m., the American Institute of Certified Planners and the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy will offer an audio conference on **Urban Agriculture and Food Systems Planning**. Planning now addresses everything from transportation to green markets and urban agriculture to food access. Learn how this has become a planning issue and what communities are doing to ensure safe, healthy, and appropriate food systems. Examine how the conflicts between urban dwellers and urban agriculture are resolved. This free audio conference will be held on the Third Floor of the Rock Island County Office Building, 1504 3rd Avenue, Rock Island. Reserve your spot by calling 309.793.6302 ext. 138 or emailing ppearson@bistateonline.org.

*Submitted by: Patty Pearson,
Bi-State Regional Commission*

Money Smart Week Sets April Activities



Lisa Lockheart

Money Smart Week Quad Cities is set for **April 21 to 28**, and a number of area program partners are again planning a variety of free programs to help Quad Citians learn how to save money, build assets and make wise financial choices. Among the choices include free **Community Shred Days** offered by area libraries and Document Destruction and Recycling Services of Davenport (DDRS). Sites and times were still in development at *Neighborhood News* press time, but will include the Rock Island Public Library. The Community Shred Days help users protect their identities by providing a secure drop-off point for personal financial documents that will be shredded in bulk at a monitored facility for confidentiality.

These are drive-through collection events. The library Community Shred Day events are made possible by a sponsorship from Document Destruction & Recycling Services, an affiliate of City Carton Recycling. For more details about dates and times, contact the Rock Island Public Library at www.rockislandlibrary.org or 309.732.7303.

Money Smart Week is coordinated by the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago, with additional support from local partners, including area libraries. An online calendar of Quad City Money Smart Week events will be available at www.moneysmartweek.org/quadcities after April 1.

*Submitted by: Lisa Lockheart,
Publicity & Outreach Liaison,
Rock Island Public Library*

Calendar NUSA Conf. in Indianapolis in May



Save the date for the **37th Annual Conference on Neighborhood Concerns** to be held in Indianapolis, Indiana from **May 23 to 26, 2012**.

The conference is presented by Neighborhoods, USA and hosted by the Indianapolis Neighborhood Resource Center

Early registration fee is \$200 if paid by April 27, 2012. Registration materials will be available in early February.

Conference activities and events include:

- Welcome Reception - Wednesday evening
- 40 plus Workshops (several with youth involvement)
- 10 plus Neighborhood Tours on Thursday evening
- Youth Involvement Tours on Friday

For additional information contact: Cassandra Gillenwater, NUSA 2012 Conference Coordinator, Indianapolis Neighborhood Resource Center (INRC) at 317.920.0330 ext. 109 or email cgillenwater@inrc.org www.inrc.org.

Chippianock Cemetery Records Reveal Ancestry



Dennis Fretry

Since it was founded in 1855, Chippianock Cemetery has

maintained unique records on Quad Citizens, and now the cemetery staff members are offering an **opportunity to enhance the information about people buried at the cemetery**. Recently, the cemetery upgraded its record-keeping software. The next generation of software moves all of the cemetery's historic records data off property for greater security.

The new conversion will allow greater flexibility in how cemetery officials access and input historical information. Cemetery officials will be happy to expand on the information in the data records if individuals have information they wish to have included from family records.

The new system will also be expanded to include one additional workstation in the future. It is hoped there are **community volunteers** willing to use this workstation to assist cemetery staff in adding old records into the database. "Keeping our records current with new technology is never-ending," said Chippiannock Cemetery Superintendent Greg Voegel. The records at Chippiannock far exceed the basic information required by Illinois law. "Compared to other cemeteries, we continue our effort to be one step ahead," he added. To learn more, call the cemetery office at 309.788.6622.

From Chippiannock Cemetery Heritage Foundation newsletter, Fall 2011.

Library Offers Mango Language Tutorials



Submitted

Going somewhere in 2012? Don't forget to pack your Mango! If you're traveling overseas in 2012 – or want to learn a new language – make

time to pack in some **Mango Languages lessons** from the Rock Island Public Library. The fun, fast and easy language learning program is offered online, via the library website at www.rockislandlibrary.org. It's free for Rock Island Library patrons, and can be accessed anywhere there is Internet with your library card. Mango language lessons are available in two versions: Basic and Complete.

Perfect for a foreign language beginner, Mango Basic teaches everyday greetings, gratitudes, goodbyes and helpful phrases in a short period of time. The courses, which require only two to five hours of time to complete, are currently available in 34 foreign languages and 15 English as a Second Language (ESL) courses.

Mango Complete offers a 100-lesson course that digs much deeper and is designed to provide a more complete understanding of the entire language and culture. It is available in 31 foreign language and 14 ESL courses.

To learn more about using Mango and get started on a course, visit the Rock Island Library website at www.rockislandlibrary.org and look under "Online Tools" on the home page.

Submitted by: Lisa Lockheart, Publicity & Outreach Liaison, Rock Island Public Library

In 2011, **Keeping Rock Island Beautiful** awards were presented to: Wendy's, 1432 38th Street; CJ NOW Plumbing, 401 9th Street; Rock Island Center for Math & Science, 2101 16th Avenue; Saint George Greek Orthodox Church, 2930 31st Avenue; KJWW Engineering Consultants, 630 26th Avenue; Eye Surgeon Associates, 4731 45th Street; Tri City Heat Treat, 2020 5th Street; Process Automation Concepts, Ltd., 4470 48th Avenue. Keep Rock Island Beautiful extended congratulations to all winners for keeping Rock Island beautiful. If you would like to nominate a location in the future, call 309.786.1334.

Lessons Learned

infrastructure (roads, sewers, parks, schools) is already in place.

Historic Preservation Supports Small Business and Stabilizes Main Street

- Older buildings make ideal locations for small, independent businesses and for start-ups.

Historic Preservation Attracts Visitors

- 78% of U.S. leisure travelers participate in cultural and/or heritage activities when traveling, and they spend on average \$994 per trip compared to \$611 for all U.S. travelers.

Historic Preservation Is Good Economic Development

- In Nebraska, historic preservation generates \$170 million per year.
- Between 2001 and 2005, an estimated total of \$1.5 billion was spent on rehabilitation of buildings.
- Twenty-two jobs were created for every \$1M spent on historic preservation, which supported 3,869 jobs in the state in 2009.
- Historic designation of neighborhoods and downtowns enhances and protects property values. Of the districts studied, property values as a whole showed increases in historic districts.

But in the end, any building is a piece of real estate and its development will need to make economic sense. There may be times when there is a gap between the cost of a restored building and the current value of that building. And, as with many economic development projects, incentives to close the gap would be appropriate. As we work to maintain the unique character that is Rock Island, we need to continue to develop and utilize well structured incentives to foster quality long term investment and produce maximum value for our public dollars. ♦

Submitted by: Linda Anderson, Rock Island Preservation Society

Lessons Learned on Community Character and Economic Benefits

Rock Island Preservation Society members Linda Anderson and Diane Oestreich recently attended the Illinois Association of Historic Preservation Commissions (IAHPC) Annual Meeting & Workshop in Galesburg. The two speakers at the workshop were Donovan Rypkema speaking on "What's New with Historic Preservation: Incentives and Beyond" and Phillip Thomason on the topic "Bringing Your Community's Local Historic Preservation Plan to Life." As members affiliated with Neighborhood Partners, they are sharing some of what they learned with [Neighborhood News](#) readers.

It is widely accepted that cities and regions should prepare for future needs by planning – for land use, for transportation, for utilities, etc. Yet it is rare to find planning that includes maintenance of the special character that makes each of our communities unique. This character isn't represented by strip malls or franchises, but rather by the historic buildings that provide desirable ambience within our towns and regions. This ambience is a major factor in attracting new residents as well as tourists. Even when tourists come for a single special event, the historic character of a town or community – what makes it different from the next place – is what encourages them to stay and explore.

Nationally known planner, Phil Thomason of Nashville, explored the concept of "preservation planning," calling it "community character planning." Throughout his presentation, Mr. Thomason emphasized that historic preservation is "The Original Green" as well as "Green, Sustainable, Authentic."

In some ways, Rock Island is a leader in character planning, with our several neighborhood plans incorporating historic preservation to a greater or lesser extent depending on the neighborhood. But we do not have a comprehensive city-wide plan, nor do we even know what our citizenry considers important to maintain and enhance our historic character.

Community character planning is similar to our neighborhood plans, beginning with a vision process and consensus – what buildings and areas (potential historic districts) do we see as important for our future? A big difference is that the vision would involve the entire community, not just a relatively small neighborhood.

Once that vision is articulated, action to achieve the goals can begin. Components of the final document include a community history with a summary of previous and current planning history, an analysis of public perception, and an inventory of the historic features that create the community character. Finally, strategies and an action scheme complete the plan.

One benefit of a long range plan is that it enables preservation advocates to become proactive rather than reactive. Such plans are often developed by contract professionals, but city staff can also assume the task when time and budget allow.

Mr. Thomason noted that, nationwide, only nine percent of homes date from earlier than 1919. Over 60 percent of our national housing stock was built after 1960. This is obviously not the case in Rock Island, or probably any of the Quad Cities, but it does show the increasing rarity of our older homes. He also noted that there are "anchor buildings" that can become a catalyst for reinvestment and preservation in the surrounding area – in smaller towns, this can mean the entire community. ♦

Submitted by: Diane Oestreich, Rock Island Preservation Society

The keynote speaker at the Illinois Association of Historic Preservation Commissions Workshop and Illinois Main Street Conference and was Donovan Rypkema, a nationally renowned authority on the economics of preservation. Mr. Rypkema's enthusiasm for historic preservation is infectious. Leaving the auditorium after his keynote, one could not help but want to take up the cause and share the message of the economic and social benefits of historic preservation.

Economic benefits of historic preservation have been studied extensively and are real. The following points are reprinted with permission from a National Trust for Historic Preservation document.

Rehab Costs Are Roughly the Same as Building New

- If no demolition is required, a major rehabilitation will cost between 12% less and 9% more than new construction; if demolition is required, the cost savings from rehabilitation will be between 3% and 16%.
- Life spans for new buildings are often 30-40 years versus more than 100 years for most historic structures.

Historic Preservation Creates Jobs

- In a typical rehabilitation project 60% to 79% of the total cost is labor. In new construction, it is 50%.

- Laborers are almost always hired locally and, in turn, spend their money locally.

Historic Preservation Increases Property Values

- In a study of National Register districts in Philadelphia, homes in historic districts received a sales price premium of 131% over comparable properties in undesignated neighborhoods.

- A study of nine Texas cities found that local designation increased property values from between 5% and 20%.

Historic Preservation Conserves Resources

- Approximately 25% to 30% of the material being added to the landfills is demolition and construction waste.
- Demolishing one typical two story commercial building on Main Street eliminates all of the environmental benefits of recycling 1,244,000 aluminum cans.
- Historic buildings contain significant *embodied energy*. That's the amount of energy associated with extracting, processing, manufacturing, transporting and assembling building materials.

Historic Preservation Uses Existing Public Investments

- Historic preservation directs development to places where

Continued on page 12



Donovan Rypkema

Illinois Historic Preservation Agency



Illinois Historic Preservation Agency

Rypkema addressed a joint session of Illinois Main Street and Illinois Association of Historic Preservation Commissions members at the historic Galesburg Orpheum Theatre.

Safety Belt Laws Change as of Jan. 1

With the New Year upon us, Rock Island Police Chief Scott Harris warns that whether you are traveling across town or across the state, if you or anyone in your vehicle is unbelted, you run the risk of getting an unwelcomed gift from law enforcement. As of January 1, 2012, everyone, no matter the age or seating position, will be required to wear a safety belt.

"I urge everyone driving on Illinois roadways this holiday season to drive carefully, do not drive impaired and, most importantly, buckle up each and every trip, night or day. Remember, the best defense against an impaired driver or a distracted driver is a safety belt." said Chief Harris.



The Illinois Department of Transportation's Division of Traffic Safety (IDOT/DTS) is proud that Illinois has a 92.9 percent daytime safety belt usage rate. However, far too many drivers and passengers still do not buckle up. In Illinois, during the Thanksgiving holiday period in 2010, 15 vehicle occupants died in motor vehicle traffic crashes; nine of those deaths involved a drinking driver and over 700 were injured.

"To lose a loved one is a terrible thing to experience, but to lose one's life when it might have been saved by taking two seconds to buckle a safety belt is truly senseless," said Chief Harris.

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) statistics show that those least likely to buckle up are teens; young adults; males; motorists traveling on rural roads and individuals traveling in pickup trucks, especially during the late night hours. Data shows late-night hours are when the highest percentage of motorists die in alcohol-involved crashes and the lowest percentage of vehicle occupants are properly restrained.

"If you fail to buckle up, you run the risk of getting a ticket, or worse, being injured or killed," Chief Harris warned. The same applies when you have been drinking and choose to drive, "said Chief Harris. "We want all drivers and passengers to 'Click It or Ticket,' day and night—and remember, 'Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over.'"

Regular safety belt use is the single most effective way to protect people and reduce fatalities in motor vehicle crashes, according to NHTSA. Research has shown that when lap and shoulder belts are used properly, the risk of fatal injury to front-seat passenger car occupants is reduced by 45 percent, and the risk of moderate to serious injury is reduced by 50 percent. Remember, the best defense against an impaired driver is a safety belt.

For more information about the "Click It or Ticket" and the "Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over" campaigns please visit www.buckleupillinois.org. ♦

Submitted by: Deputy Chief Jeff VenHuizen, Rock Island Police Department

RIPD Offers Vehicle Theft Prevention Suggestions for Winter Weather

Rock Island Police Chief Scott D. Harris urges motorists to take certain precautions in an attempt to reduce the number of vehicle thefts as well as thefts from vehicles during this time of year.

With the onset of colder temperatures, motorists are likely to start warming up their vehicles before driving. While this may be more comfortable at the start of the trip, an unattended running motor vehicle is an open invitation for criminals to take the vehicle. Although letting an unattended vehicle run on the street is prohibited, many still continue this practice. If it is necessary to pre-heat a vehicle, make every effort to keep the vehicle in sight while it is running.

Another precaution vehicle owners may take is to install vehicle alarms and remote starters which often stop the engine unless the ignition key is used. While this will not guarantee a vehicle will not be stolen, it greatly reduces the likelihood. Some of these systems are designed so that the owner can start the vehicle with the door locked and alarm on. If the door is opened, the alarm is triggered and the owner alerted. Some systems incorporate alarm triggers on doors, motor compartments, and vibration from an attempt to enter the vehicle. Whichever alarm/starting system an owner chooses to install, do not discount any alarm as false.

Residents are asked to report the activation of an audible alarm to police immediately. Remember that most thefts are crimes of opportunity. Reducing the opportunity and joining with law enforcement efforts by reporting suspicious activity immediately can have a big impact on those incidents.

Anyone with information regarding vehicle theft or any criminal activity should contact the Rock Island Police Department at 309.732.2677 or Crime Stoppers at 309.762.9500. ♦

Submitted by: Deputy Chief Jeff VenHuizen, Rock Island Police Department

Phillips Lookout Dedicated

A telescope has now been mounted along the promenade in Schwiebert Riverfront Park and aptly named "Phillips Lookout" in appreciation of the 25 years that John Phillips spent looking out for the City of Rock Island as city manager.

The Mayor and City Council wanted to appropriately honor Mr. Phillips for his service. Because of his friendship with former mayor Mark Schwiebert, and their joint work on the new signature downtown park, the Schwiebert Riverfront Park location was chosen.

The telescope can be used to spot eagles, view sister cities' skylines, and enjoy the beautiful views of the Mississippi River.

Mayor Dennis Pauley said, "The City Council and I are proud of John's service and wanted to honor his influence in our great city. John truly is a Rock Solid, Rock Islander, and 'Phillips Lookout' will serve as one reminder of his commitment."

"It has been an honor to serve the people of Rock Island and I thank the Mayor and City Council for the 'Lookout.' I hope that everyone will enjoy this new feature in our beautiful Schwiebert Riverfront Park," stated John Phillips. ♦



Jen Fowler

New Construction in Broadway and.....

Subdivision Coming for New Old Chicago Neighborhood

Rock Island Economic Growth Corporation (GROWTH)'s Neighborhood Stabilization Program 2 (NSP2) efforts within the New Old Chicago redevelopment area are underway. Five "Coming Soon" signs have been placed at each new infill housing location off 7th Avenue and 10th Street. GROWTH will be building five units of new single family construction within a one block radius along 10th Street between 6th and 7th Avenues. Groundbreaking is expected to occur in March.

The New Old Chicago Redevelopment Plan was adopted by the City of Rock Island in 2006. Objectives identified in that plan are now being implemented throughout the New Old Chicago neighborhood. In the last five years, the neighborhood has seen significant development with over \$6.1 million invested, and an additional \$5 million

to be invested by the end of 2012. Development efforts have included the recent expansion of the Martin Luther King Jr. Community Center (\$3.6 million), creation of Douglas Park Place (\$2 million), new single family home construction in Habitat Park (\$527,000) and new homes built in partnership with GROWTH and Community Housing Solutions (\$450,000). The City of Rock Island has demolished 67 dilapidated structures and will replace obsolete infrastructure in the near future. A new park across Ninth Street from the Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Center is also planned for 2012. The New Old Chicago area will see more than \$13 million in improvements between 2006 and 2012.

GROWTH will also soon break ground in the Broadway neighborhood for two new infill houses located

at 1042 17th Street and 1208 19th Street. Approximately \$3 million dollars has been expended or committed in the neighborhood since the Neighborhood Stabilization Program began. GROWTH sought the input of the Broadway Historic District and the Rock Island Preservation Commission on the designs for these new homes. Deb Kuntzi, president of the Broadway Historic District Association, commented: "This is such a great thing for our neighborhood and I really don't know what our neighborhood would be like at this point if the NSP 1 and NSP 2 money had not been available and such a competent organization such as GROWTH had not stepped in to facilitate... We thank you for letting the neighborhood have input in the rehabbing of our lovely homes." ♦

Submitted by: Beth Payne, Executive Assistant, Renaissance Rock Island

Signs are up at 10th Street & 7th Avenue in anticipation of March groundbreaking for five new homes.



19th Habitat Home in Rock Island Dedicated

Habitat for Humanity Quad Cities (HFHQC) was proud to dedicate their 71st home for Fernand Avegnon and Sera Akako and their daughter, Annabelle. Fernand and Sera worked diligently to earn this opportunity by each contributing 250 hours of "sweat equity." These hours were spent attending classes to learn about budgeting, use of credit, home maintenance and conflict resolution. They also worked at the Habitat ReStore, worked on the



building of other Habitat homes and helped care for the lots owned by Habitat. The home was generously sponsored by Wells Fargo, the Amy Helpenstell Foundation, the Duncan J. Cameron Family Foundation, Quad City Area Realtor Association, Rock Island Community Foundation and the Augustana College Student Chapter. The build was led by long time construction volunteers Ed and Judy Connelly.

Submitted by: Kristi Crafton, Executive Director, Habitat for Humanity Quad Cities

The **grand opening and ribbon cutting of Jackson Square**, Rock Island Economic GROWTH Corporation's largest and most visible redevelopment to date, took place on December 20. Jackson Square, a Rock Island Landmark and former oil manufacturing and office location, has been transformed into 30 residential units featuring one, two or three bedrooms ranging from 736 to over 1,400 square feet.

Pioneer Property Management is currently processing applications, with the first tenant already occupying a unit. Anyone wishing to apply may stop by Jackson Square between Monday and Friday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. or call 309.786.7565.

The next issue of *Neighborhood News* will provide more photos and details.

Access to 2012 Arts Dollar\$

Applications to the **Arts Dollar\$: Community Access to the Arts** 2012 regranting program must be submitted or postmarked by **January 31**. Applications may be submitted electronically to jblack@quadcitiesarts.com.

These funds are made available for artists and nonprofit organizations that provide high quality, innovative public or community arts programming through payment to local artists. Requests can be made up to \$2,000 per application. Arts Dollar\$: Community Access to the Arts will award at least 30% of funds to arts programming that makes special efforts in reaching locally neglected or underserved audiences including minority, elderly, people with disabilities, low income, youth at risk or populations with limited access to the arts. Projects must take place between April 15, 2012 and March 31, 2013.

For more information on eligibility and program guidelines, go to www.quadcitiesarts.com. Applications can be found on the Quad City Arts website.

Support for Arts Dollar\$ is provided by grants from the Illinois Arts Council, the Doris and Victor Day Foundation, and the John Deere Foundation.

Free Tax Assistance Offered

The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) and AARP Tax-Aide sites will again help reach families and individuals in Rock Island and other communities who need free tax preparation during the tax season. The volunteer-based program offers free, fast and convenient tax preparation services for filers with low to moderate incomes.

The VITA and AARP Tax-Aide programs provide trained volunteer tax preparers who help taxpayers take full advantage of all qualifying tax credits, including Earned

Wells Fargo Grants GROWTH \$75,000 for Stabilization Projects



Rock Island Economic Growth Corporation (GROWTH) was awarded a \$75,000 grant from Wells Fargo as part of its Leading the Way Home® Program Priority Markets Initiative. The program aims to stabilize and revitalize neighborhoods that have been hardest-hit by economic downturns. The funds will be used to further GROWTH's Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP) efforts within the New Old Chicago Redevelopment Subdivision, detailed on page 15 of this edition of *Neighborhood News*.

Brian Hollenback, president of Renaissance Rock Island, commented, "The Neighborhood Stabilization Program has allowed us to address decline in our neighborhoods where there are high degrees of foreclosure and abandonment. Through the Leading the Way Home Initiative, Wells Fargo is truly demonstrating their commitment by investing in Rock Island. Their contribution will make a positive impact in the New Old Chicago Redevelopment Subdivision and will yield future development and opportunity for this vibrant neighborhood."

"This grant will help make a positive difference for Rock Island and the New Old Chicago neighborhood," said John Stavnes, president for Wells Fargo in the Quad Cities. "It's part of our overall commitment to helping local communities succeed."

Wells Fargo's Leading the Way Home Priority Markets Initiative provides grant support for neighborhood stabilization projects that are located in areas designated for revitalization to stimulate growth, stability and investment in distressed areas. The \$75,000 grant is part of \$5.53 million in grants recently awarded to 52 nonprofits and government entities with successful histories of building or renovating housing for low-to moderate-income homebuyers.

Submitted by: Beth Payne, Executive Assistant, Renaissance Rock Island

Income Tax Credit (EITC) and the Child Tax Credit (CTC), and help to complete and electronically file returns. AARP membership or senior status is not required for AARP Tax-Aide sites. Most returns are filed electronically and taxpayers can expect to receive their refunds within seven to 10 business days.

The United Way tax assistance preparation coalition will offer two "**Super**

Saturday" tax assistance days at the Rock Island Main Library Community Room, 401 19th Street, on **February 4** from 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. and **April 7** from 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Appointments are helpful for the Super Saturday, but are not required.

Persons who cannot attend the February 4 launch can access other VITA or AARP Tax-Aide sites, including sites at the Martin Luther

King Center, Rock Island County Senior Center, and the Rock Island Township Hall. Some locations require appointments. For more information about tax sites and requirements, call the United Way at 563.355.9900 or visit www.unitedwayqc.org.

When visiting a tax preparation assistance site, taxpayers should bring the following items:

- Valid driver's license or photo ID;
- All W-2 forms;
- Social Security Card or Individual Tax Identification Number (ITIN) for all members in your family;
- If filing jointly, your spouse must be present;
- Address and tax identification of any child care provider;
- Copy of the previous year's tax return (if applicable);
- 1099 forms (if applicable);
- Bank account numbers for electronic deposit of refund;
- Tax rebate received last year (if applicable); and
- Property taxes documentation (if applicable).

Submitted by: Lisa Lockheart, Publicity & Outreach Liaison, Rock Island Public Library

Targeted Housing Rehab Help

The City of Rock Island Planning and Redevelopment Division will accept preliminary waiting list applications for the **Targeted Rehabilitation Loan Program** beginning at 8 a.m. on **Monday, April 2** on a first come, first served basis. This program is available to qualified owner-occupied properties throughout the City to make specific property repairs. One improvement project may be completed from the following selections: house roof, gutters (both house and garage), concrete flatwork, tree removal, and garage repair.

The maximum loan amount is \$5,000 and meeting household size and income guidelines is required. This program provides funding for very low to low income households as a forgivable

loan. No payments are required if ownership maintained for five years.

Forms may be picked up beginning in March in the Rock Island Planning and Redevelopment Division offices on the second floor of City Hall from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. Completed forms will not be accepted prior to **April 2**.

"This program provides the opportunity for property owners to enhance the property's appearance and eliminate dangerous situations. This popular program is another example of the City using Community Development Block Grant funds to address neighborhood needs," said Alan Carmen, Rock Island Planning and Redevelopment Administrator.

For more information, call Carol Triebel, Housing Program Officer, at 309.732.2900.

*Submitted by: Carol Triebel,
Housing Program Officer,
City of Rock Island*

DoSomething Youth Seed Grant

Are you working to start a community action project or program? Do you need money to put your ideas into action? If you answered, "YES!" you are eligible to apply for a **Do Something Seed Grant**. The Do Something organization gives out a \$500 Do Something Seed Grant **every week** to help young people just getting started with their idea, or to jump-start a program. These grants can also be used towards projects that are already developed and sustainable, towards the next steps of a project, or for expansion of a project.

There is no deadline for the program. You will be notified whether or not you have won two to three months after submission. Applicants must be 25 years of age or younger and a U.S. or Canadian citizen. Go to <http://www.dosomething.org/grants/seedgrants> to learn how to apply, what kinds of projects are eligible and uses of funds.

Check & Connect

Youth Education Agencies and Providers Pool Resources

Education does not stop when school ends at 3 p.m. or at the end of the school year in June. Classroom teachers are not the only ones who teach children. There are after school and summer programs throughout the community who use paid staff, volunteers, and other agencies to bring their services to children. These programs are held in the community (churches, housing developments) and in schools. Do all after school and summer programs know about the resources in the community that could complement their services to children and families? What could happen if everyone was at the same table talking and planning together? What could happen if we collaborated on program planning and grant writing? With federal, state and local funding cuts in social services, we need to be proactive in making our money stretch. We could make a great application for grant money and we could sustain our programs that have been such an asset in helping children and families.



Since November 2007, this has been the focus of the Rock Island-Milan Community Check and Connect. This consortium is an affiliation of educators, service providers, and private citizens who are interested in enriching the lives of children in Rock Island and Milan. Our mission is to support children's personal and academic development by coordinating partnerships that strengthen programs, reach more children, and engage families. We checked into what is currently happening, identified needs, explored assets and determined how to connect them together. Every program, agency, business, school, church, and neighborhood is a piece of the big picture. This group believes that if we all come to one table, and collaborate together on the issue of after school and summer programs and how they connect, we will have a better chance of assisting schools and parents to "develop high achieving world citizens."

Community Check & Connect's accomplishments include creation of "Museums Alive," a traveling program by the Figge Museum, River Music Experience, Butterworth Center and the Quad City Botanical Center; the development of a directory of after school and summer programs; funding procurement for no-cost background checks for Check & Connect members and volunteers by Rock Island County Area Project (RICAP); opening of two new sites by Spring Forward Learning Center for after school programs; organization of summer programs by Church of Peace Summer Initiative; and collaboration between partners to apply for Doris and Victor Day Foundation funds as one proposal. Rock Island-Milan School District partnered with these efforts and incorporated a tutoring program in several summer programs within the community. In addition, Check & Connect secured funding from Bi-State Literacy Council for tutor training with Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) and Rock Island-Milan School District 41 for anyone who wishes to tutor. Demographic and other assessments are being collected to position the consortium to apply for other grants that would benefit the community.

Here is what Community Check & Connect members have to say about the consortium and its efforts:

Alex Kolker, United Way: "Agencies need to band together and share resources in order to better serve the community. By working together, our agencies can become more efficient and more effective, helping more clients, offering a wider array of services, and all at lower cost. Partnership is key."

Wendy Smith, Rock Island County Area Project: "Collaboration Makes IT Happen!"

Amy Johnson, 2 Rivers YMCA: "I think the group is important so that we as organizations don't duplicate the services to families in Rock Island. The group helps us keep moving forward and serving as many people as we can."

Lynn Gingras-Taylor, FIGGE Art Museum: "Being a member of Check & Connect has enabled us at the FIGGE Art Museum to serve Rock Island schools and community

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Check & Connect

programs (RIHA, Lights on for Learning, Martin Luther King Jr. Center and more) whose students and families we were unable to reach before. We recognize the value and importance of Check & Connect and are proud to be a part of this committed Rock Island community support group."

Katie Colbrese, Spring Forward Learning Center: "Community Check & Connect has helped to build pivot relationships amongst community organizations and programs. At Spring Forward Learning Center the relationships built at Community Check & Connect have helped our program add low to no cost enrichment activities to our tutoring hours and find a partnering organization to provide snacks to our youth. We have the chance to sit at a table with people who have similar interests and passions. I believe that any agency/organization/program that is not sitting at that table each

personally was to hear everyone who has programming for RI students talk in one room about what they are working on currently and planning for next. This dialog keeps organizations from duplicating services and helps identify areas where more services are needed. This organization's name says it all!"

What pieces of the puzzle do you hold? Organizers for Community Check & Connect invite you to join their efforts in connecting after school and summer programs in the cities of Rock Island and Milan. Call Virginia Jarrett at 309.793.5900 ext. 280 or email virginia.jarrett@risd41.org or contact Wendy Smith at 309.794.1100 or email ricapdhs@aol.com for more information.

Members of Community Check & Connect include: Afro-American Heritage, American Red Cross, Big Brothers Big Sisters, Bi-State Regional Commission, Boys and Girls Club, Broadway Presbyterian Church, Butterworth Center/Deere Wiman House, Rock Island Citizens Active for Responsible Education (C.A.R.E.),

Child Abuse Council, Church of Peace, Community Foundation of the Great River Bend, Early Childhood Coalition, Edison Jr.

Members of Check & Connect gather routinely.

month is missing out on a fantastic opportunity!"

Kristie Sullivan, Washington Jr. High Lights On For Learning Program: "Check & Connect has given my after school program a chance to be up to date and in touch with the events and agencies in the Quad Cities. It is vital to my program to have such resources available."

Anne McGlynn, Rock Island Rotary: "The biggest benefit for me

High, Family Resources, FIGGE Art Museum, Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Center, Open Door Region 3, Project NOW, Putnam Museum, Quad City Botanical Center, Retired & Senior Volunteer Program, Rock Island County Area Project (RICAP), South Park Presbyterian Church, Rock Island County Center on Addictions (RICCA), Rock Island County Regional Office of Education, Rock Island Academy, Rock Island High School, Rock Island Housing Authority, Rock Island Parks & Recreation, Rock

Island Public Library, Rock Island Regional Office Of Education, Rock Island Rotary, Rock Island School District #41, Second Baptist Church, Spring Forward Learning Center, Two Rivers YMCA, University of Illinois Extension, United Way QCA, and Washington Jr. High School. ♦

Submitted by: Virginia Jarrett, Community Services Coordinator, Rock Island-Milan School District

Test Dates Set for Illinois Schools

The **Illinois Standards Achievement Test (ISAT)** test dates for schoolchildren in the State of Illinois are set for **February 27 through March 9** for grades 3 through 8. The Rock Island-Milan School District advises parents check with their children's individual schools for actual test days.

Rock Island High School **Prairie State Achievement Examination (PSAE) testing** is on **April 24 and 25**. Make up dates are May 8 and 9.

Mark School Dismissal Days in Your Calendar!

Rock Island-Milan School District Calendar for next year is available on their website at www.rockislandschools.org. Click on the "Calendar" tab.

Dismissal days for the rest of the school year include:
Jan. 13: Half-Day Early Dismissal
Jan. 16: Martin Luther King Jr. Day, No School
Feb. 17: Half-Day Early Dismissal
Feb. 20: President's Day, No School
Mar. 12 – 26: Third Intersession, Spring Break
Mar. 26: Local Staff Institute, No School
Apr. 6: Good Friday, No School
May 28: Memorial Day, No School
June 1: Last Day of School (pending emergency days)

Submitted by: Holly Sparkman, Marketing Director, Rock Island – Milan School District



Submitted

Jordan Catholic School to Dedicate New Wing

Continued from page 20

The dream of a unified campus, where all children may learn and grow together, has finally become a reality at Jordan Catholic School in Rock Island. For more than a year, Jordan Catholic School has fundraised to build the new wing of the elementary school at 2901 24th Street, Rock Island. The addition includes:

Jordan third grade students Miriana Peterson and Caleb Habel visited the new science lab, which will be available for all grade levels.



Janine Parr

- Four new middle school classrooms wired for technology teaching;
- Computer technology and science labs;
- New music and art rooms with instrument and supply storage;
- New multi-purpose room for early childhood physical education and sports practices;
- Renovation of former kindergarten area for an expanded library;
- Renovation of former daycare area for reading and math resource and JET (Jordan Engineering Team) room;
- Courtyard with rain garden for enhanced outdoor education; and
- New building access security system and fire alarm system throughout the school.

Students and faculty moved over Christmas break and will utilize the single campus beginning the second semester. Jordan principal Michael Daly explained the school is seeing an increase in enrollment inquiries. "It's not simply the new resources, but the caliber of education that students receive at Jordan," he said. "Jordan is made up of an active community of

educators, parents, clergy, donors, and friends working together for a common goal: 'To provide a Christ-centered, academically excellent education that will enable each child to reach his or her potential.'" The school offers preschool through eighth grade classes as well as daycare and aftercare programs.

Jordan has also been recognized for the excellence of its S.T.E.M.

(Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) education program, and has been invited to provide math and engineering demonstrations at other schools in their region. Another recent change is that all educational services are provided under one roof, including special education and math and reading resource teachers, which were added to Jordan's faculty this school year.

Jordan's administration invites the community to join in celebration as Bishop Daniel Jenky dedicates the new school wing on **Thursday, January 26**, beginning at 10 a.m. with mass in St. Pius X Church. Dedication of the new wing and an open house will immediately follow in the school. ♦

Submitted by: Janine Parr, Director of Advancement, Jordan Catholic School

Karpeles

locations," he said. "It is our hope that the Karpeles will bring increased visibility to our neighborhood, and that once our building is re-purposed, another investor may be stimulated to adaptively re-use and develop the nearby Lincoln School."

Initially, the Karpeles plans to open the foyer area as a preliminary exhibit space, while the remainder of the building is addressed. The proposed hours of operation will be Tuesday through Friday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., and the museum would be closed on holidays. There will be two to five employees.

The list of documents at the Karpeles Manuscript Library website, <http://www.rain.org/~karpeles>, represents a sample from over one million manuscript pages that the library has to offer.

"The Karpeles organization is very excited to become a part of Rock Island," concluded Mr. Kelly. "We have already experienced an outpouring of support and enthusiasm in Rock Island and in surrounding areas, including neighboring property owners, historical society members, preservation enthusiasts, and local media." ♦

Abigail Calder

Named National Merit Semi-Finalist

Rock Island High School senior Abigail Calder was recently named as one of just 16,000 high school seniors in the United States who are semi-finalists in the annual National Merit Scholarship Program.

"Being recognized as a National Merit Scholar Semi-Finalist is one of the most significant academic honors a student can receive during their high school career," said Tim Wernentin, Rock Island High School Principal. "We are proud to have a consistent representation of National Merit Scholars at Rock Island High School every year."

The semi-finalists have the opportunity to continue in the competition to win from among 8,300 National Merit Scholarships worth more than \$34 million to be offered this spring. To be considered for a Merit Scholarship award, semi-finalists must fulfill several requirements to advance to the finalist level of the competition.

Abigail is the daughter of Kathy and Lendol Calder of Rock Island, and is currently participating in the Rotary Youth Exchange program and spending the year in Taiwan. She was also named as a Charles O. Austin Jr. Scholar earlier in the school year, an honor that recognizes Rock Island High School senior students who complete six semesters of study and earn a 3.5 GPA or higher during each semester.

Submitted by: Holly Sparkman, Marketing Director, Rock Island-Milan School District



Submitted

Rock Solid. Rock Island.

Get Your Name on the Neighborhood News Mailing List!

Are you one of **600** households receiving *Neighborhood News* for the first time? You are if your mailing label says "CURRENT RESIDENT." If you would like to continue to receive this ALWAYS FREE quarterly publication, you have to let us know – because next quarter a different 600 households will get the newsletter. To be added permanently to the mailing list and/or the twice monthly eNews, call 732.2900 or email planning@rigov.org, and provide your name, address and email. *Funded by Community Development Block Grant, U.S. Dept. of Housing & Urban Development. This is a service of the City of Rock Island.*

**Karpeles Manuscript Library
 Moving into Landmark Church**

The Karpeles Manuscript Library, a non-profit corporation with eleven museum locations across the nation, recently purchased the First Church of Christ, Scientist, a Rock Island Landmark located at 700 22nd Street in the Broadway Historic District. An official from the Karpeles Manuscript Library, the director of the Buffalo Karpeles museum, was in Rock Island in mid-December to expedite conversion and renovation of the building. Christopher Kelly received permission for exterior renovations to windows and installation of a sign from the Rock Island Preservation Commission. Special use permits for the change in land use will be considered by the Rock Island City Council on January 9. Mr. Kelly also made contact with several area

contractors so that opening of the building's lobby area could be completed in early 2012.

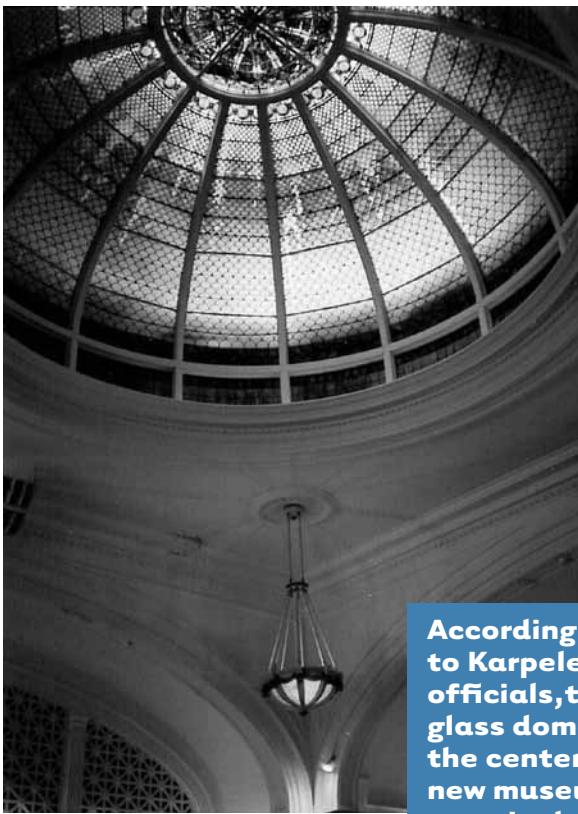
The Karpeles Manuscript Library preserves the largest private collection of original manuscripts in the world. Dr. David and Mrs. Marsha Karpeles originally founded the Museum in 1983, in order to stimulate an interest in learning, especially in children. All of the Karpeles Manuscript Library services, including admission and school programs, are provided free of charge to the public.

The Karpeles currently has 11 museum locations, in nine states, across the United

States. Rock Island will be the twelfth location. On-site exhibits are continually rotated amongst all locations, and are changed approximately every four months. Exhibit subject matter includes a wide range of topics, including literature, science, religion, history, and art, and examples of materials displayed include everything from 5,000 year-old clay tablets to Harry Potter-related items. The first proposed exhibit for Rock Island will focus on the writings of Mark Twain. A description of the exhibit is available for viewing online at <http://www.rain.org/~karpeles/RIcur.html>.

The Karpeles also offers a variety of free programs to schools in the community. One of the most popular programs, the Mini-Museums program, consists of educational exhibits of manuscript reproductions and accompanying descriptions, which are provided to schools on an on-going, permanent basis. Two hundred and thirty-three schools across the United States were enrolled in the Karpeles Mini-Museum program as of December 2011.

According to Mr. Kelly, the Karpeles museums aim to be an asset to neighborhoods. "Besides providing a free cultural destination and free educational programming, the addition of the museum may also benefit the local community in other ways, such as increased property values, as has happened in other Karpeles Museum



City of Rock Island (Suzanne Curry Files)

According to Karpeles officials, the glass dome in the center of the new museum is amazingly intact. This photo is from the 1993 landmark file.