

## Update Rock Island News Release

5/11/09

### Media Contact:

Mayor Dennis Pauley  
City of Rock Island  
1528 Third Avenue, Rock Island, IL 61201  
309.732.2012  
[rimayor@rigov.org](mailto:rimayor@rigov.org)



---

Update Rock Island is a segment at City Council meetings given by Mayor Dennis Pauley focusing on news in Rock Island. The video segment from the meeting is available on the home page of [www.rigov.org](http://www.rigov.org) and provides more information on the topics listed.

### Retail Development

Retail development continues to be an important priority for the City. "Refocus and refine the retail strategy," was indentified as a top priority on the City Council's management agenda for the year. City Council reviewed four new retail incentives during Study Session directed at supporting the expansion of existing local retail businesses and assisting start-up retail enterprise in the community.

The four programs reviewed are:

1. District Retail Business Grant Program – provide grants up to \$10,000 to support new businesses or expanding businesses in The District.
2. District Retail Entrepreneurship Program – a retail incubator in a vacant downtown building for small retailers.
3. Focused 11<sup>th</sup> Street Retail Property Program – a pilot program targeting specific properties on 11<sup>th</sup> Street for a comprehensive exterior renovation.
4. Buy Rock Island Program – encourage local residents to buy products and services from homegrown businesses.

### Rock Island Schools' Building Excellence Groundbreakings

The Rock Island-Milan School District will celebrate two Building Excellence groundbreakings on Thursday, May 14. The first groundbreaking will be at 1 p.m. at Ridgewood Elementary, 9607 14th Street West. The contract for \$1,685,000 has been awarded to Precision Builders, Inc. The Ridgewood project will encompass six classrooms, a new cafeteria, and additional storage space. The second groundbreaking will be at 2 p.m. at Frances Willard Elementary, 2503 9<sup>th</sup> Street. The contract for \$1,554,275 was awarded to Construction Partners, Inc. Frances Willard will receive two classrooms, restrooms, new cafeteria, small instruction space, office remodel, and storage.

### Modern Woodmen Bank Moves to New Rock Island Location

Modern Woodmen Bank will celebrate its recent move to 100 17<sup>th</sup> Street with a ribbon cutting at 3 p.m. Thursday, May 14. The downtown office is the only Modern Woodmen Bank office nationwide. The new office is staffed by a loan originator and customer service staff, and has drive-up lane capabilities including a new drive-up ATM. As a direct bank, Modern Woodmen Bank conducts business primarily via the Internet, mail, telephone, and other electronic means.

### Community Caring Conference Hosts Community Forum on Violence

Community Caring Conference (CCC) will host a Community Forum on Violence on Saturday, May 16 at 3 p.m. at the Martin Luther King Jr. Community Center. The public is invited to attend and provide input on how to fight violent crime in the city and in neighborhoods. For more information call 309.786.0345.