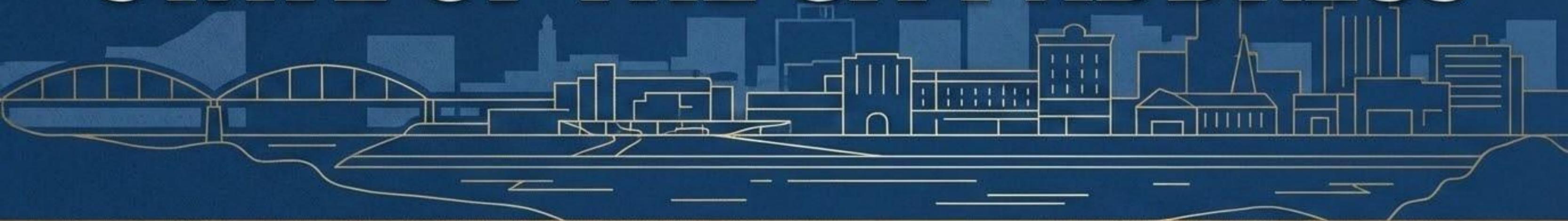




ROCK ISLAND
ILLINOIS

WELCOME TO THE 2026 STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS



Mayor Ashley Harris
January 29, 2026

City Council



Department Directors



COMMITMENT TO COMMUNITY

We show our *Commitment to Community* by providing:

- Fiscal Responsibility
- Balanced Economic Development
- Excellent Services & Amenities
- Public Safety



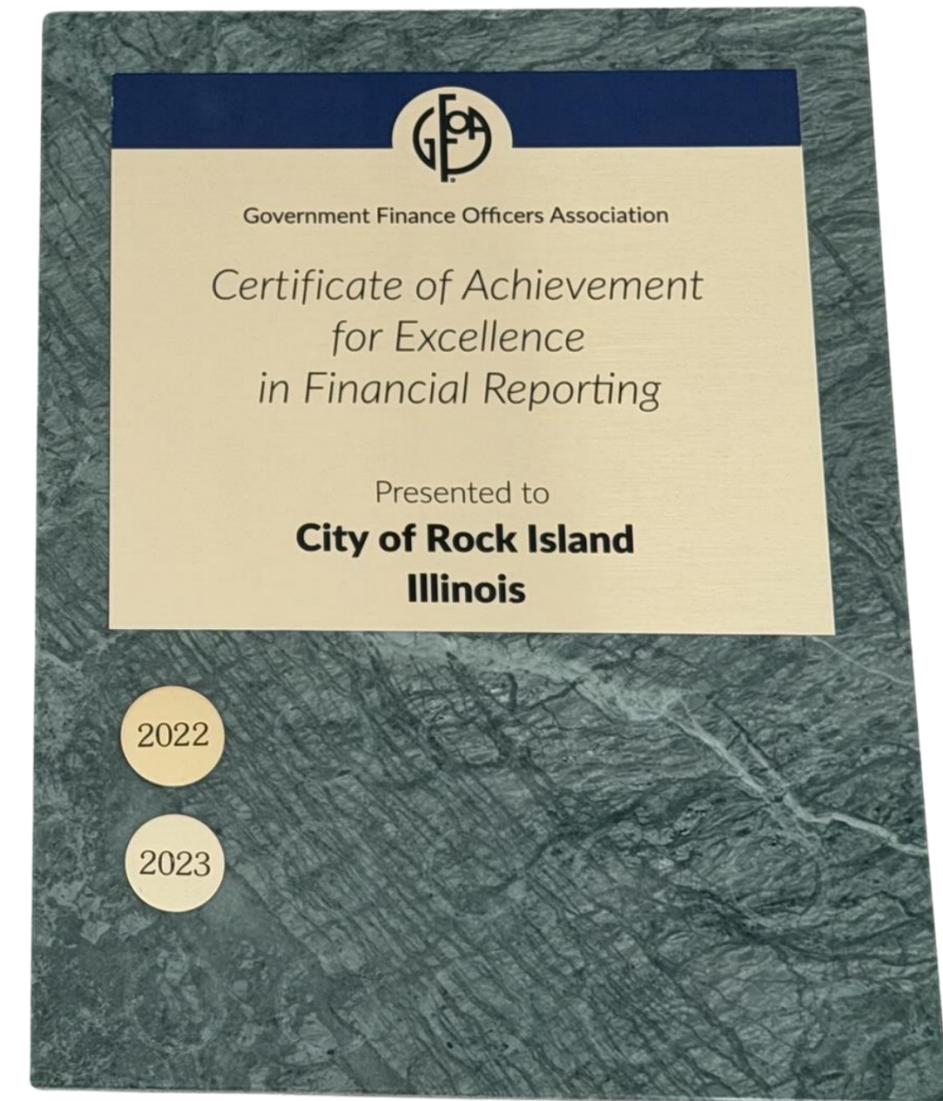
Fiscal Responsibility

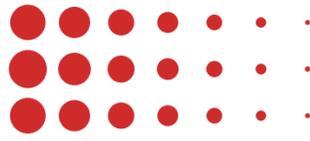
- ✓ **Maintain high level of services across all departments despite rising costs and budget cuts**
- ✓ **Implemented a local 1% grocery tax to prevent loss of \$1 million in revenue after the State eliminated the tax**
- ✓ **The City's property tax rate for 2026 is 2.77 or \$757 for every \$100,000**
- ✓ **S&P Global = A+ rating**
- ✓ **Moody's = A3 rating, Positive Outlook**

2026 Budget Highlights

- Council passed \$154 Million budget
- Expenditures dropped by \$14.3 million from 2025
- 90 day reserves of \$13 million
- Property tax levy of \$18.7 million
- Although Rock Island County EAV increased 6.25%, the City's property tax levy was passed, keeping the property tax rate flat.

The City of Rock Island has been the recipient of the Government Finance Officers' Association (GFOA) Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for 43 consecutive years (1981-2024).





Transparency

- ✓ **322 Freedom of Information Act requests processed**
- ✓ **Average response time was 2 to 3 days**
- ✓ **300 Licenses/Permits were issued, almost double from 2023**
- ✓ **10 Ordinances were published**
- ✓ **New City Clerk Amanda Torres sworn in Jan. 26**



Balanced Economic Development

- ✓ Nine businesses openings or expansions
- ✓ Nine development agreements totaling nearly \$60 million
- ✓ River Edge Redevelopment Zone approval
- ✓ Rock Island Port District Master Plan underway





Completion of the \$9 million Rebuild Downtown Rock Island Project

- \$3 million from a State of Illinois Rebuild Downtowns & Main Streets Grant
- \$3.9 million in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds
- \$1.5 million in Tax Increment Financing (TIF) District funds
- \$267,000 State of Illinois Tourism Attractions Grant



Enhanced Placemaking: **Rock Island Block**

Letters

In partnership with the Rock Island Downtown Alliance, the City held a photo contest to promote the new Rock Island block letters.





ROCK

ISLAND

BLUE CAT BREW PUB

electric

ROCK ISLAND

downtown alliance

A joint effort
between the
public and
private sectors to
strengthen
livability and
quality of place
in Downtown
Rock Island.

2025 WINS

PARTNERSHIPS MAKE ALL THE DIFFERENCE





Rebuild Downtown Construction, Summer 2024



Rebuild Downtown Project Completed, Summer 2025



2025 Ambassador Highlights

- **1,603** visitor greetings
- **1,066** trash cans serviced/cleaned
- **985** trash bags of litter filled
- **694** block faces snowplowed/weeded
- **629** street outreach encounters



1 of 43 capital improvement projects
facilitated by the Downtown Alliance
in partnership with the City to assist
business and building owners.



Before

By end of 2025, these 43 projects totaled more than \$150,000 in planned public-private investments.



After



1 of 10 New Business Sidewalk Patios: Soi 2, Summer 2025



1 of 8 New Downtown Businesses: Bev's Yarn Barn, Fall 2025



1 of 2 New Murals: Skellington Manor, Alternating Currents 2025



Arts Alley Activated, Alternating Currents 2025



2nd Saturdays on 2nd Ave., Summer 2025





 **FLAHERTY'S**
The IRISH CANDY Company
WWW.FLAHERTYSCANDY.COM

2nd Ave. Holiday Market, Winter 2025





downtown
ROCK
ISLAND



Rock Island -
Milan School District #41

- 3% increase in graduation rate over two years
- Decreased the graduation rate gap for African American and Hispanic students
- 8% decrease in chronic absenteeism over two years
- 19% reduction in out-of-school suspensions over two years
- Five schools improved their accountability rating in 2025 on the Illinois State Report Card



Community Development

- 1,657 building inspections completed
- 2,096 building permits issued
- 2,043 rental inspections completed
- 1,274 grass and weed citations issued
- 1,358 nuisance citations issued
- 115 properties were registered as foreclosed, vacant or abandoned
- Nearly \$500,000 in CDBG and IHDA funding was used to complete 35 housing rehabilitation projects.
- 26 zoning actions completed





Excellent Services & Amenities

- A well-staffed, skilled Fire Department that answered more than 9,200 calls for service in 2025
- A Proactive Public Works Department that performed major street repairs and reconstruction; emergency sanitary, storm and water repairs; snow removal; and fleet repairs
- A Parks & Recreation Department that maintains all city properties, two golf courses, one public swimming pool and 21 parks.
- A Library Department that serves the entire community, offering creative programs, educational opportunities and endless materials ... all for free.
- A Martin Luther King Jr. Community Center that uplifts the community through day camps, educational programs and West End Revitalization.



Rock Island Fire Department

- Five new firefighters were hired in 2025
- Firefighters clocked more than 20,000 hours of training
- Incidents: Over 9,200 calls for service in 2025, including 87 fires & 3,142 EMS/rescue
- 1,067 fire inspections were completed
- Firefighter Joel Wilford was named Firefighter of the Year by Knights of Columbus and Community Caring Conference
- TAG Communications hired for recruitment videos. Take a look!





Jon Briggs
FIRE MARSHALL

RIFireJobs.com



RIFireJobs.com



Public Works

- After 5-years of effort, Engineering succeeded in obtaining \$24.5 million in RAISE/BUILD Grant funds for the 11th Street/US 67 Reconstruction Project
- Fleet Services purchased 14 new vehicles, including a new fire engine and three new ambulances
- \$1.7 million in federal funding for the RI Parkway/35th Street West roundabout construction
- More than a dozen grant applications submitted for major road projects
- Major street repairs & reconstruction
- Maintenance of 51,374 linear feet of sanitary sewer mains



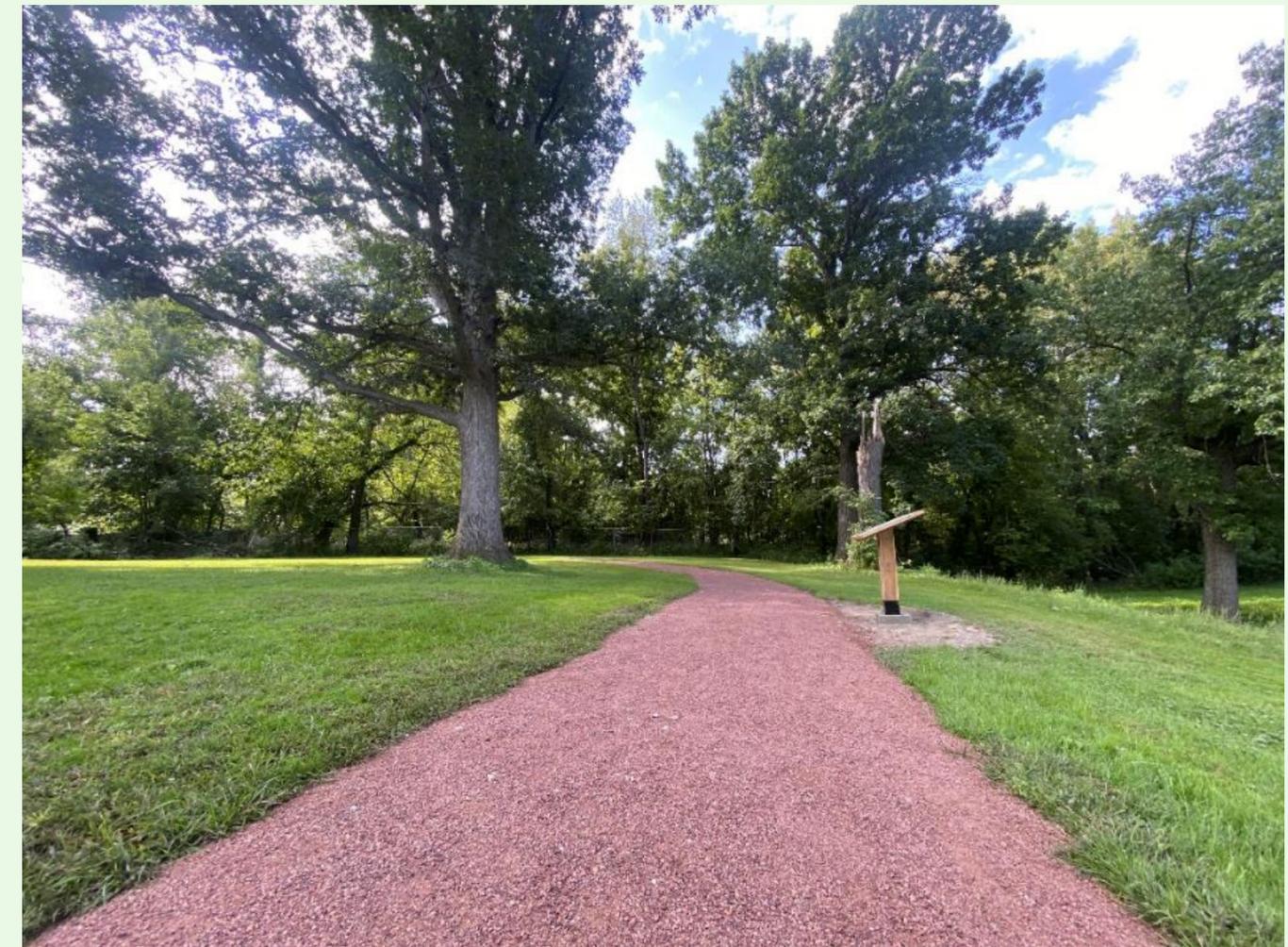
Parks & Recreation

21 Parks

2 Golf Courses

One public swimming pool (Whitewater Junction)

One fitness Center (RIFAC)



Hodge Park exterior walking path. This project was made possible by the Illinois Trails Grant Program.





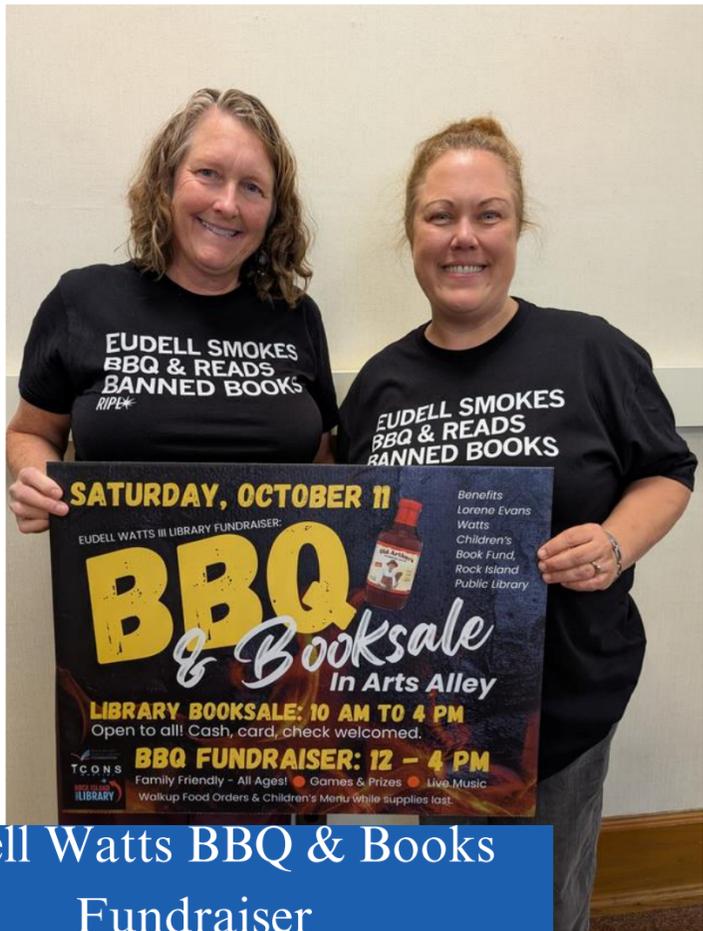
Sunset Park North Boat Launch
and Parking Lot



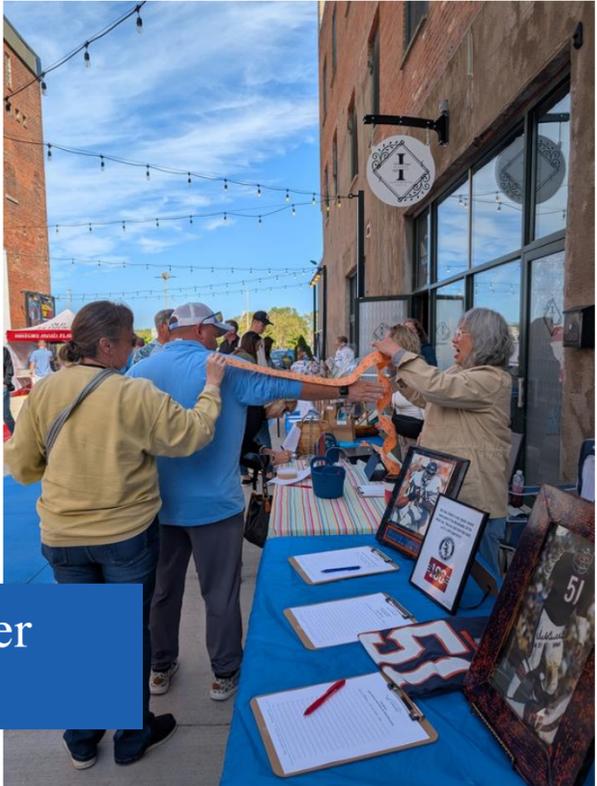
Refurbishment of the tennis and basketball courts at Mel McKay Park. This was made possible by a grant from the United States Tennis Association in honor of Rock Island's own, Madison Keys, winner of the 2025 Australian Open Tennis Tournament.



Rock Island Public Library



Eudell Watts BBQ & Books Fundraiser

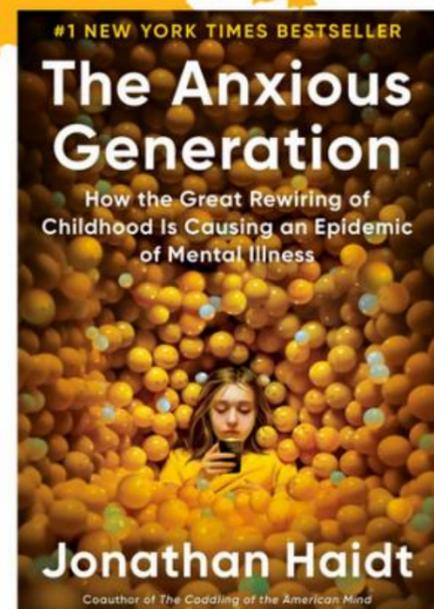


Arts Alley Fundraiser



Reading Revolution Community Book Club

We are excited to invite you to join our Reading Revolution School Community Book Club as we read and discuss the thought-provoking book *The Anxious Generation* by Jonathan Haidt.



PICK-UP OR CHECK-OUT YOUR COPY:

June 2nd - 6th
at each library location and the
RIMSD 41 Administration Center

BOOK CLUB MEETING DATES:

Part 1 & 2 (Chapters 1-4)	Part 3 (Chapters 5-7)
June 18th from 5 - 6 pm	July 9th from 1 - 2 pm
Southwest Branch	Downtown Branch
9010 Ridgewood Road	401 19th Street
Rock Island, IL 61201	Rock Island, IL 61201

Part 4 (Chapters 8-12)

July 23rd from 5 - 6 pm
Watts-Midtown Branch
2715 30th Street
Rock Island, IL 61201

PD credit will be offered to certified staff who attend book discussions.

Scan the code to explore the digital library of eBooks and eAudiobooks!



Scan the code to join the club!



The Reading Revolution School Community Book Club is a collaboration between the RIMSD41 and the Rock Island Public Library System!



The Reading Revolution School Community Book Club





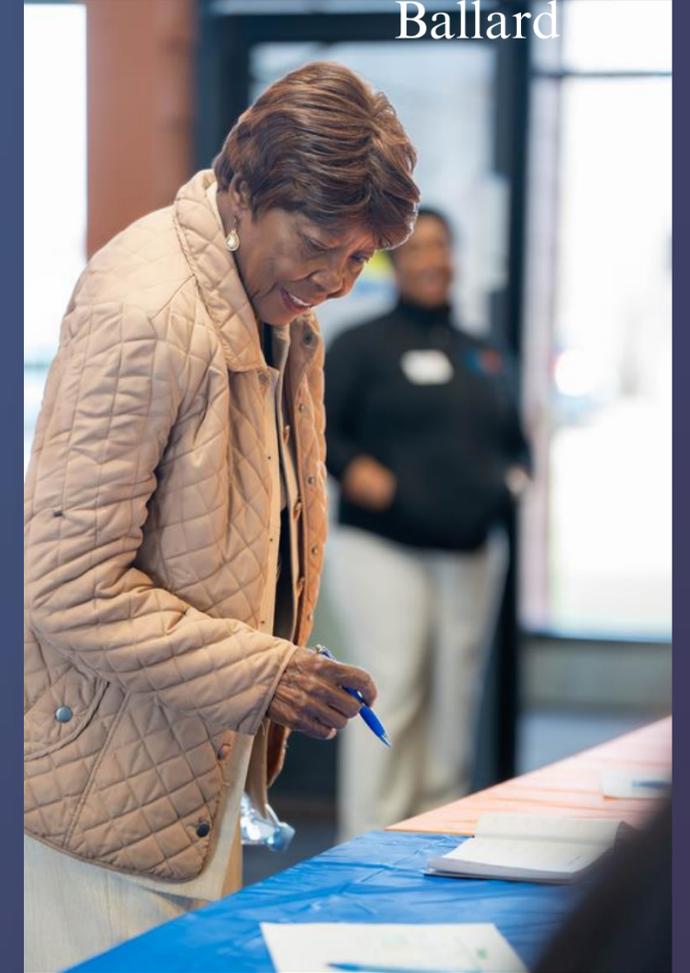


MLK Center

Bonnie Ballard



Minnijean Brown-Trickey
Member of the Little Rock Nine



50th Anniversary Celebration





Soul of the City

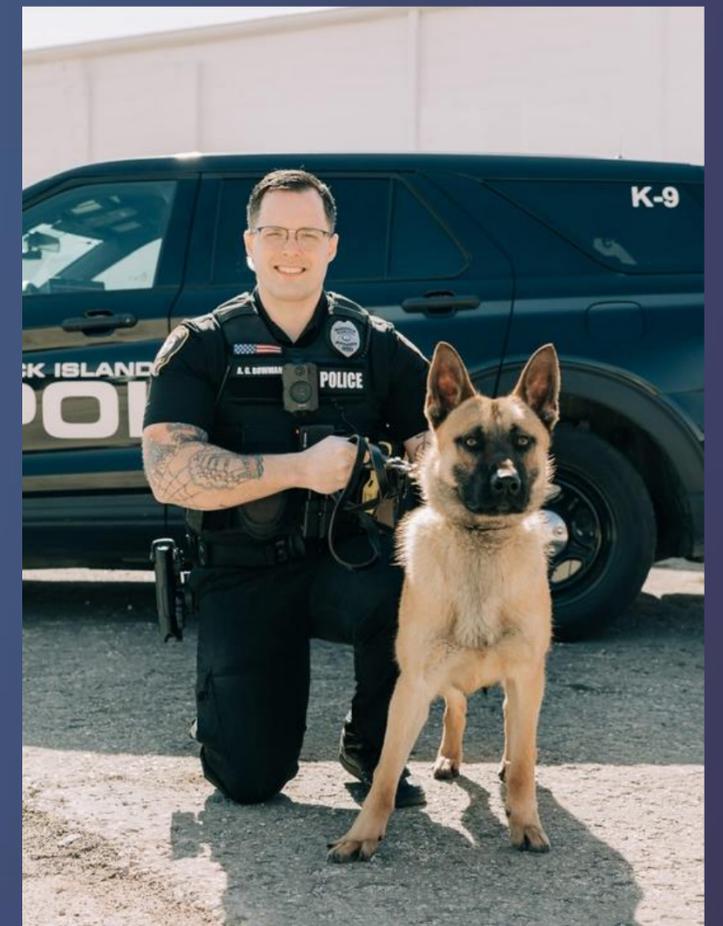
9,000 Thanksgiving meals served!



Public Safety



- ✓ Reduction in burglaries, narcotic offenses and stolen vehicles
- ✓ Strong Community Partnerships
- ✓ Group Violence Intervention Program
- ✓ Suicide Prevention Signs



Police Department



Sgt. Brienne Lonergan



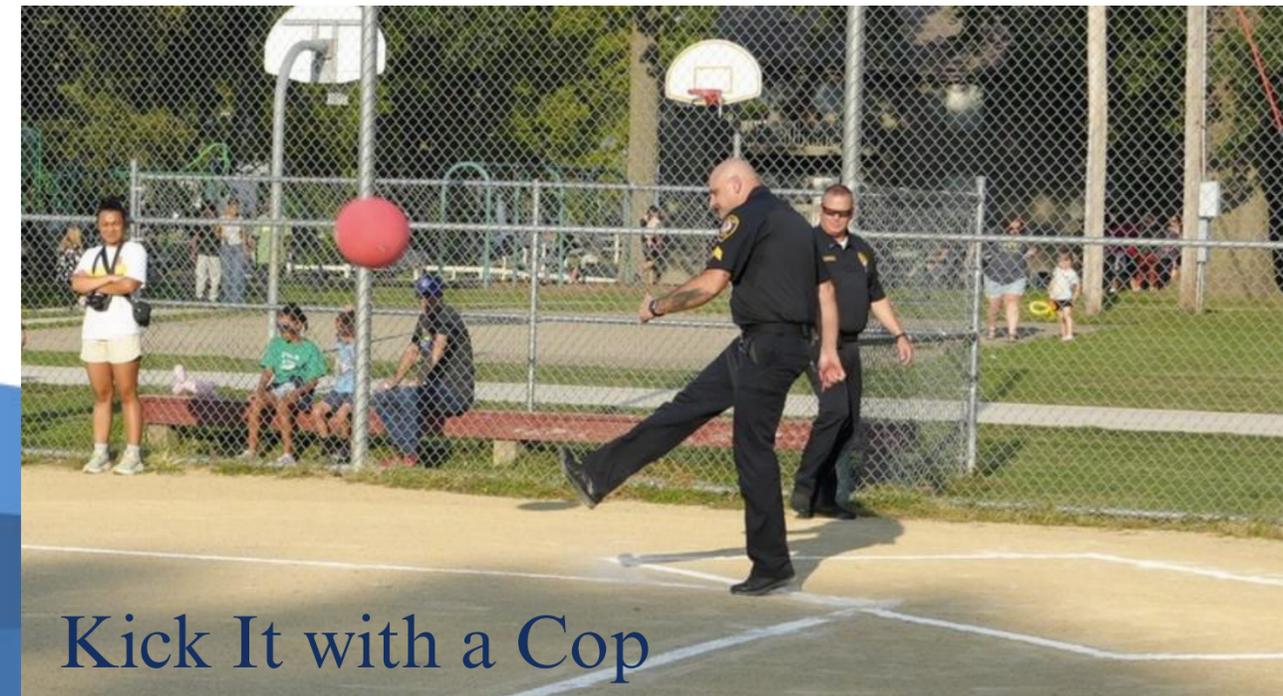
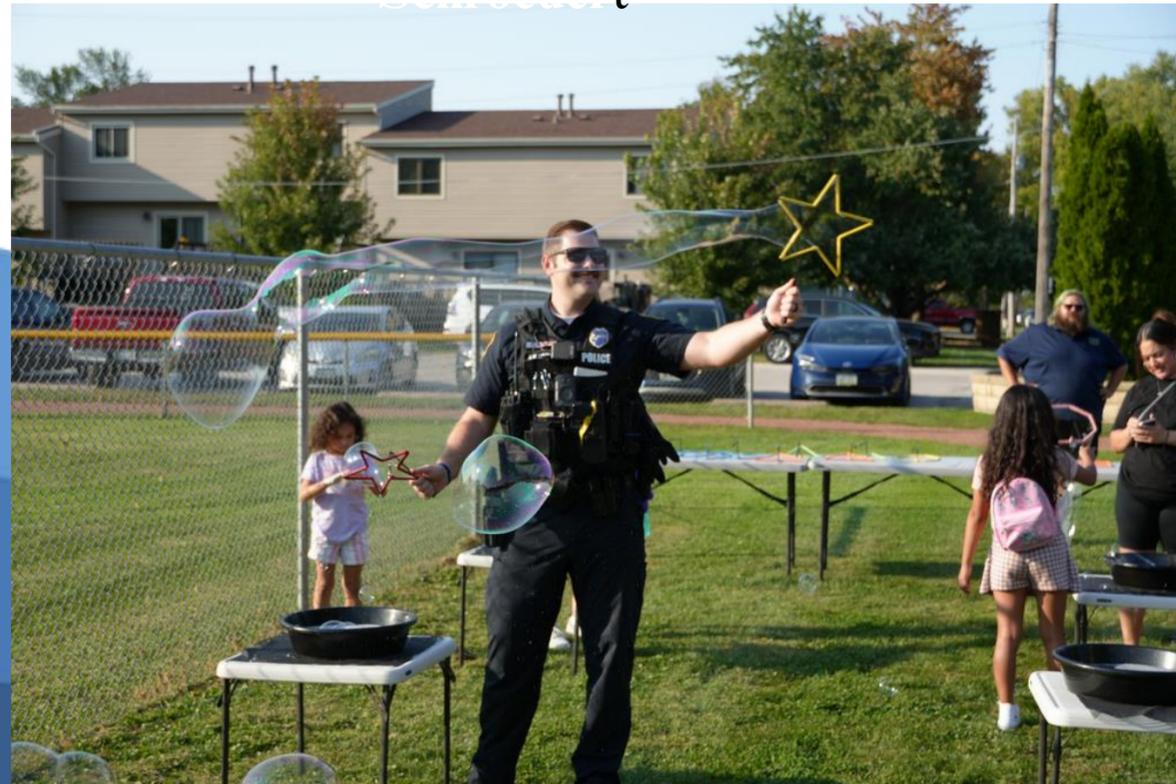
Officer Drake



Million Father March



Officer Spencer Brooks



Kick It with a Cop



SKYLAR JESS

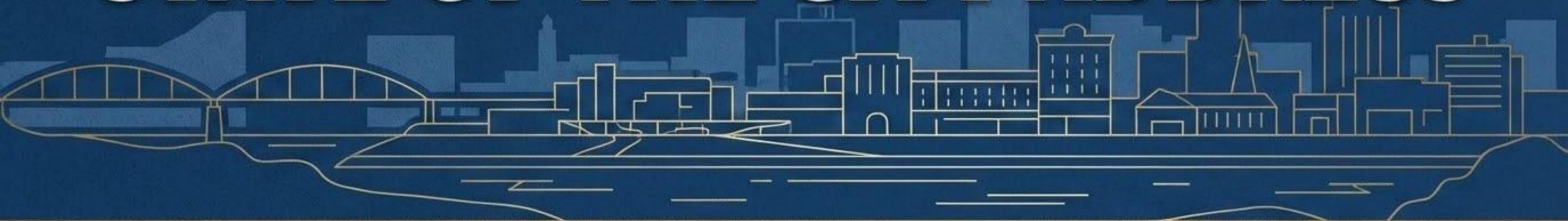
PATROL OFFICER

RIPoliceJobs.com



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Thank You For Coming