

RAPID CITY PROGRESS REPORT



Mayor Sam Kooiker

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October - December 2014

Increased Access to City Government

Investment Committee

The Investment Committee, formerly referred to as the Subsidy Committee, was established through ordinance for the purpose of making recommendations to the Common Council on funding allocations to applicants for the annual Community Development Block Grant program (\$443k) and selection of non-profit grantee recipients of the General Fund allocations made for Health and Human Services (\$102k). This committee will also advise, appoint and confirm the members of the Rapid City Strengthening Families Committee as well as review quarterly reports.

Civic Center Task Force

City Council formally established the Rushmore Plaza Civic Center Executive Task Force for the purpose of moving the Civic Center expansion project forward. Learn more about the expansion at www.gotmine.com.

Statehood Anniversary Committee

South Dakota joined the union as a State on November 2, 1889. This year marks our 125th Statehood Anniversary and in recognition Rapid City is promoting community-wide events in celebration throughout the months of October and November. On November 8, special events include a dedication of Memorial Park Promenade and Legacy Commons, a Black Hills Spruce Tree dedication and time capsule at the Journey Museum, with speaker Wayne Gilbert depicting the life of City leader Valentine McGillycuddy, as well as tours of the museum and Pap Madison Cabin. View schedule of events at www.rcgov.org.

Actions Taken

Police Department

In an effort to make the city safer, the Rapid City Police Department is renewing its commitment to traffic enforcement. The RCPD has assigned six patrol officers to focus on traffic enforcement, with two working on each shift.

"It's important to make traffic enforcement a high priority," said Police Chief Karl Jegeris. "In part, it's what the public wants. We constantly receive calls from the public about traffic concerns in different parts of the city, whether it's speeders in residential neighborhoods or drivers running red lights at busy intersections."

Fire Department

The Rapid City Fire Department is reviewing its commitment to the safety of Rapid City citizens and, in a partnership with WAVI, is developing new training to enhance the patient connection established in an ambulance during calls that involve domestic violence. As part of this new program, the RCFD has also reviewed the "Safe House Project", which establishes all fire stations in Rapid City to be places where the public can seek refuge when they feel their safety is threatened or need medical attention. If citizens are lost, being harassed, require medical attention, or have been abused or neglected, then they can seek the help of fire department employees at their station when other forms of help may be too far away or unavailable.

In Progress

Mt. Rushmore Road

Let's Dig! The dream of a revitalized, safer, attractive Mt. Rushmore Road is in the process of becoming a reality as construction has begun. Upper Plains Contractors was awarded the \$11.85m Phase 1 project from Tower Road to Flormann Street and includes repairs to the Tower Road Bridge structure. Three phases are anticipated and expected to continue through 2016.

Fire Prevention

The Fire Department has kicked off a fuel mitigation project to clean up a 60-acre footprint of ponderosa pine forest in the City's Skyline Wilderness Area. Work is expected to last between 12 and 15 months.

Fiscal Responsibility Partnership

Approved a MOU for the 1st time with Pennington County regarding the funding and operation of Detox services.

Exemplary Audit

The Finance Office did a remarkable job coordinating the FEMA reimbursement process. The City received an Unmodified audit for FY2013, which included much of the FEMA monies from the October 2013 storm.

FY2015 Budget

Approved \$147,167,320 budget for FY2015 without the allowable increase in Consumer Price Index Property Tax.

Infrastructure

Bike Plan

Rapid City submitted an application seeking a Bike Friendly Community designation from the League of American Bicyclists, per the Rapid City Bike/Pedestrian Master Plan. Rapid City received an Honorable Mention as well as specific recommendations for improving bicycling throughout our community through Engineering, Education, Encouragement, Enforcement, and Evaluation & Planning.

Countryside

City Council approved funding request for Countryside Subdivision Annexation/ Water System Improvements for \$800k contingent upon approval of an annexation agreement. Countryside Homeowners Assoc. is initiating a voluntary annexation petition concerning all of the approx. 238 properties within Countryside subdivision and one parcel that is adjacent to the subdivision. This agreement obligates the City to annex the property if a proper petition is made and to make improvements to the water system within the annexed area over the next four years.

~ Contact Us ~

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Growth & Economic Development

World Competition

Rapid City has been selected to host the International Collegiate Programming Contest (ICPC) in 2018. The ICPC will bring together regional world finalists to compete in the International World Finals. At the world finals in 2014 in Russia, 122 universities, 120 three-person computing science teams participated in the Olympic-style competitions. The ICPCs begin in the fall of each year with over 2500 universities and 250,000 students competing. In 2018, the best of the best will meet in Rapid City!

2014 Building Permit Summary

The building permits activity has continued to be strong in 2014. Permits for single-family homes are on pace for a record year. Permit activity for multi-family structures has been slow this year however there are several projects in the planning stages and including the proposed apartment complex next to Rocker Square west of SDSM&T. The developer is seeking approval from the City Council for TIF funding for this project.

Willow Park

The City and Neighborworks Dakota Home Resources completed the Willow Park Community Build Playground project in North Rapid with over 100 volunteers assisting in the installation. This public-private partnership was facilitated with several grants totaling over \$40k in private donations of services and material and only about \$5k in City staff time and materials.

Welcome to the City!

Craig Baltzer is welcomed as the new executive director of the Rushmore Plaza Civic Center. Baltzer has more than 25 years of experience in the entertainment management business, he is originally from Sioux Falls.

Darrell Shoemaker is the City Communications Coordinator. In this newly created position, Shoemaker will direct the City's public relations activities, communications strategies, and public affairs. He spent 27 years as constituent service and outreach director for Senator Tim Johnson and brings 30 years of journalism experience with him. He works out of the Community Resources Department and can be reached at (605) 721-6686.

DID YOU KNOW?

Rapid City Regional Airport has grown from 15,500 passengers annually in 1951, to 535,658 passengers annually in 2013.

Police were involved in 48 vehicle pursuits in 2013, have conducted 783 DUI arrests and averaged 306 calls for service per day in 2014.

Raffles are now administratively approved and easier to obtain. So far in 2014, 40 raffles have been approved through the City Attorney's Office.

Rapid City Public Libraries collect Oral History Interviews and have over 100 interviews from survivors of the historic 1972 flood.

The Parks & Recreation Department maintains 1,650 acres of park lands and open space as well as 14 miles of hard surface bike path/pedestrian trails throughout the community.

It is important to note that the items listed in this report are the result of a joint effort between City Council, Department Directors, our employees, citizens, and myself. *We are a team.*