

A Very Important Message from our Village President (Mayor)
HAROLD J. MIRE, JR.

**PLEASE TAKE 5 MINUTES OF YOUR TIME TO READ AS OUR PUBLIC SAFETY
FUTURE DEPENDS ON IT!**

Dear Resident(s):

I want to start off by saying thank you because I don't say it enough. Thank you for giving me the privilege to give back to a community and its people that I cherish and admire so very much. Often times, people ask me why do I do this job and my answer is quite simple, WHY NOT? Why not, when you work with fine Board Members and dedicated Village Staff like I do whose only desire is to improve the quality of life for its citizens and ensure a nurturing environment for the next generations. After all, isn't that truly what life is about, leaving a better place for our children, grandchildren and their children. So, on behalf of the Village Employees, the Board of Trustees and myself, thank you for this wonderful feeling that we experience as we give back to all of you.

As we enter the Holiday season, please take a moment to remember all those who have given so much, so that we enjoy the freedoms we have. Speaking of Holidays, I am thrilled to announce that SANTA will be making rounds through the Village with the Fire Department on **SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2025 from 10:00am-12:00pm**. When you hear the sirens be looking for him.

Another one of my joys is getting to visit with the Seniors of which I am now one. I am happy to announce the **9TH Annual Senior Thanksgiving Luncheon will be held on Wednesday, November 19th, 2025 at the Rapids City Community Center from 11:30am-1:30pm. Doors open at 11:00am so please join us in a spirit of fellowship and take part in a nice meal.**

Now let's take a moment to discuss Village Finances (your money). Since 2016, we have, and continue to do more with less even in the face of inflation, benefit costs, etc. We have not increased the number of Village employees in over 20 years, even though there has been a double-digit percentage increase in the number of households over that same period. Our employees are working harder and smarter. As such, I was once again able to recommend, and the Board approved, a decrease in the Village Property Tax Rate from .53 to .51. This means that since 2016, the Village has reduced the village property tax rate five (5) times and never increased it.

However, there is an elephant in the room that will be discussed over the next few months with you, the residents. Our law enforcement contract expires in April 2027 and we, as a Village, must decide, do we maintain the current levels of law enforcement protection and if so, what does that mean from a financial perspective? If not, what are the options? To that end, I will be hosting three town hall meetings on 2/3/26 at 2:00pm, 2/12/26 at 6:30pm and 3/11/26 at 6:30pm, all in the Community Center. I will go into detail and explain the financial commitment that will be needed to 100% fund our current level of law enforcement protection and what is the financial burden to you, the homeowner. It's really complicated and that is why the Town Halls are necessary. Suffice it to say, there are current metrics in Illinois law that result in our law enforcement budget being underfunded by less than two thirds of actual law enforcement expenses. That underfunding continues to grow year by year and is unsustainable.

Historically speaking these Town Halls are not well attended but I'm asking, no, I'm begging you to please attend one so you can give your input, ask your questions and receive information. This is the biggest issue facing our Village soon, so please attend. At the end of the day, the decision will be yours as the issue will more likely than not be placed on the March 17, 2026, ballot to fully fund law enforcement or not.

If you can't or don't want to attend a Town Hall Meeting, call me. My number is 563-650-7661; my email is h.mire.president@rapidscity.us and I will be happy to sit down with any individual, any group, etc. at your place, my place, etc. This is too important an issue to not have all the information before casting a vote. Remember this is our safety and the safety of our children that we are speaking about. I believe, 100% funding of the law enforcement budget is the greatest and most consequential issue facing Rapids City since I've become your Village President and it deserves your undivided attention and scrutiny.

On behalf of myself and all Village Officials and Staff, we wish you and your families a Safe and Happy Holiday Season. Please drive safely and responsibly. Also, please remember to **LOCK BOTH YOUR VEHICLES AND YOUR HOUSES.**

Regards,

Harold J. Mire, Jr.
Your Village President

VILLAGE OF RAPIDS CITY

2025 FALL NEWSLETTER

GREETINGS TO ALL RESIDENTS & BUSINESSES!!

Please see the enclosed separate piece of paper for a message from our President / Mayor Harold Mire Jr.

The regular board meeting normally scheduled for November 11th, 2025 is rescheduled to November 10th at 6:30pm to observe the Veterans Day Holiday.

Regular Board Meetings are the second Tuesday of each month at 6:30pm. Agendas are posted 48 hours prior to all meetings that are not an emergency. We encourage all members of the community to attend board meetings, but if you cannot attend, approved meeting minutes are available to view at www.rapidscity.us.

Village Hall holiday closures for the remainder of 2025:

Tuesday, November 11th

Veterans Day

Thursday & Friday, November 27th & 28th, 2025

Thanksgiving

Wednesday & Thursday, December 24th & 25th

Christmas Eve & Christmas Day

Wednesday & Thursday, December 31st & January 1st, 2026

New Years Eve & New Years Day

RAPIDS CITY PRESIDENT HAROLD J. MIRE JR. & BOARD OF TRUSTEES WOULD LIKE TO WISH ALL OF OUR RESIDENTS & BUSINESS OWNERS A HAPPY AND SAFE THANKSGIVING.



WE ARE ALSO PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THE 9TH ANNUAL SENIOR THANKSGIVING APPRECIATION LUNCHEON FOR RAPIDS CITY'S SENIOR CITIZENS 60+

Meals will be served on

Wednesday, November 19th, 2025

at the Rapids City Community Center.

Doors will open at 11:00am for our Seniors to gather and enjoy conversation. Meals will be served between 11:30am and 1:30pm.

Meal options include your choice of:

Turkey	Green Bean Casserole	Mashed Potatoes
Cranberry Jelly	Gravy	Roll with Butter

Your choice of one piece of pie:



Pumpkin



Apple



Pecan

If you are not able to drive, please call Village Hall to order your meal, 309-496-2321, deliveries can be arranged. This is a free luncheon to honor our Senior Citizens.



Please help with keeping the culverts clean & not blocked. Raking leaves & debris into the streets plugs the storm drains, which causes flooding in yards & streets. Burning in the streets is prohibited by ordinance or a ticket may be issued. Be sure to be compliant with the Village Burning Ordinance by finding the ordinance at www.rapidscity.us before burning leaves.

Ⓟ Ⓟ Street Parking Ordinance Reminder Ⓟ Ⓟ

- When parking on the street please do not block mail boxes per ordinance.
- If there is 2" of snow predicted to fall you will need to find an alternative to street parking. When removing snow from private property, please do not put snow in the roads per ordinance.



Village of Rapids City in conjunction with the Rapids City Fire Protection District are very excited to have **SANTA CLAUS** traveling

through the Village on December 13th, 2025 from 10:00am – 12:00pm. Santa will be driven through the village giving a jolly **HELLO!** and a **HO HO HO!** to the young and young-at-heart on various village streets. Candy canes, hot cocoa and holiday cheer will be passed out to all residents. You will know he is near when you see lights and hear sirens, so bundle up and come out to say HI!



MAKE SURE YOU STAY SAFE & INFORMED BY RECEIVING NOTIFICATIONS & ALERTS FROM THE VILLAGE. SIGN UP NOW TO RECEIVE IMPORTANT EMERGENCY NOTIFICATIONS PERTAINING TO:

- ✓ Water Main Breaks
- ✓ Criminal Activity
- ✓ Natural & Manmade Disasters
- ✓ Evacuations
- ✓ Pandemics
- ✓ Burn Bans / Wildfires

Signing up is easy! Simply go to

<https://rapidscity.us/information.php>

and enter your contact information. Then we'll send updated alerts through email, voice, or text.



Have you seen Weikert Iron and Metal Recycling drive through your neighborhood? Rock Island County Waste Management Agency has a partnership with Weikert so that they can pick up your old appliances and tires for FREE year-round!

To make an appointment,

call (877) 934-5379 or go online to

<https://www.weikertrecycling.net/pick-up-request>



A single large item may be disposed of that will not fit in the provided garbage bin once a month on the 1st full week of each month on Thursday. Please call the Village Office to be added to the special pickup list. November 6th & December 4th will be the last large item collection dates in 2025

2026 large item pick up dates will be:

January 8 th	February 5 th	March 5 th
April 9 th	May 7 th	June 4 th
July 10 th	August 6 th	September 10 th
October 8 th	November 5 th	December 10 th

The last day for yard waste to be picked up will be November 29th, 2025.

Live Christmas tree disposal collection will be Friday, January 16th, 2026.

2026 waste calendars should be available for pick up at the Village Office mid-December; electronic copies will also be available on our website and Facebook page.