

our town

Roscoe-Rockton



2025

Published by Rockton-Roscoe Fire Department

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Stateline Mass Transit is the preferred transportation choice of the Greater South Beloit, Rockton and Roscoe area. Continually growing to meet the needs of its community, SMTD recently implemented a new, user friendly dispatch system and added six new buses to its fleet. If you haven't taken advantage, CALL 877-561-3330 TODAY to schedule your ride.



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Rockton: a place that citizens are proud to call home

Rockton is the kind of Village that people fall in love with. A treasure nestled on the northern edge of Winnebago County, it is history, with a future. Whether you come because of the schools, the culture, the countryside, the business opportunities, or just to be a part of its small town charm, Rockton offers a million reasons to stay.

Rockton is a true Midwestern village where community and quality of life are values that are revealed in every street and sidewalk. Beginning in the historic downtown shopping center and moving out to its farm-cushioned edge, Rockton is unique--a place that its citizens are proud to call home.

Village Board

The Rockton Board of Trustees is the legislative branch of Village Government, which creates all Village policy administered by the Village Mayor. The Board of Trustees, along with the Village Mayor, serve as the corporate authorities. Three Trustees are elected by the citizens of Rockton every two years for four year terms. Board members' terms commence on the first Monday in May following their election.

As corporate authorities the Board of Trustees possesses and exercises all legislative powers

of the Village, determining the policies of the Village government through the adoption or approval of ordinances, resolutions, motions, approval of agreements, appropriations and fiscal budgets. Appointments to advisory Boards and Commissions are made by the Village Mayor with the advice and consent of the Board of

Trustees.

The Board meets at 7 p.m. on the first and third Tuesdays of each month. Meetings are held at the Village Municipal Center, 110 East Main St. Admin & Public Works Committee meetings are held the first and third Mondays of each month. The Budget & Finance Committee meetings

are held prior to the Board meeting on the first and third Tuesdays.

The Village Hall is open from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Village of Rockton

110 E. Main St.
Rockton, IL 61072
815-624-7600



Sarah Doerflinger, David Bennington and Jamin Unger took the oath of office on May 6.

MARIANNE MUELLER PHOTO *Our Town*

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Roscoe-Rockton our town

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on the cover: Thank you to everyone who supported the Harlem-Roscoe Firefighter's Association Annual Spring Dinner. There was a great turnout and 100% of the proceeds and donations go towards the association to support firefighters with training, gear, tools, and to maintain the welfare of its members to ensure the community served receives the most professional and skilled services they deserve.

HARLEM-ROSCOE FD PHOTO *Our Town*

Rockton – Village board



John Peterson
Mayor - Village of
Rockton
peterson@rocktonvillage.com



Village Clerk
Christina Stewart
815-624-6895
stewart@rocktonvillage.com



Trustee Dave
Bennington
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Trustee Sarah
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Trustee Dave
Winters
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winters@rocktonvillage.com
Not Pictured

Trustee Justin York
815-624-7600
york@rocktonvillage.com
Not Pictured

Roscoe – Village board



Carol Gustafson
Village President
815-623-2829
ext. 102



Village Clerk
Kimberly Garza
815-623-2829
ext. 113



Michael Wright
Village Trustee
815-623-2829
ext. 524



Michael Sima
Village Trustee
815-623-2829
ext. 523



Justin Plock
Village Trustee
815-623-2829
ext. 522



John Broda
Village Trustee
815-623-2829
ext. 520



Dayne Mead
Village Trustee
815-623-2829
ext. 521



William Babcock
Village Trustee
815-623-2829
ext. 510

Roscoe offers great schools, low crime rate, beautiful parks and more

Roscoe, Ill. is situated in Northern Winnebago County, just south of the Wisconsin border. We're a growing community with compelling commitments to cultural, educational, healthy living and environmental values. With excellent schools, a low crime rate and beautiful natural parks, Roscoe is the perfect place for your business, family, and home.

If you're just moving in, please visit us at Roscoe Village Hall, 10631 Main St., or call us at 815-623-2829. You may also contact us at info@villageofroscoe.com. Whether you contact us in person, by phone, or via email, we are eager to assist you with any questions or concerns you may have regarding the Village of Roscoe and our many services, events and attractions.

Village Hall Hours:

OPEN: Monday – Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
CLOSED: Saturday, Sunday

Secretary of State's Office:

The Department of Motor Vehicles is located inside of Village Hall.
OPEN: Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
CLOSED: Saturday, Sunday, Monday, Tuesday

Quick guide of local phone numbers - Utilities

Advanced Disposal (garbage and recycling) 815-874-8431
Frontier (internet) 823-5613
Frontier Communications 800-921-8101
Comcast (telephone, cable, TV, internet) 800-594-1234
ComEd (electric service) 800-334-7661
Nicor (natural gas) 888-642-6748
North Park Water (water service) 815-633-5461

Other useful phone numbers:

Roscoe Public Works Dept. 815-877-0746

Roscoe Police Dept – non emergency 815-623-7338

Emergency – Police, Fire or Ambulance 911
Harlem Roscoe Fire Department 815-623-7867

Roscoe Post Office 815-623-2500
Secretary of State, DMV (inside Village Hall) 815-623-9063
Stateline Chamber of Commerce 815-623-9065

SMTD Stateline Mass Transit 877-561-7788
North Suburban Public Library 815-623-6266
Winnebago County Office 815-319-4444

Roscoe Village Hall

10631 Main St., P.O. Box 283
Roscoe, Ill. 61073
Phone: 815-623-2829
Fax: 815-623-1360

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SMTD continues growing and going strong

SMTD (Stateline Mass Transit District) bus service has been providing safe, affordable transportation for the past 14 years. Blessings were bestowed upon the lucky day of March 17; St. Patrick's Day when this valuable community service began. SMTD stands firm in the motto, "We're here to get you there."

Under the direction of SMTD Executive Director Sharon Hecox, a Board of Trustees is comprised of seven members who are appointed by local municipalities in Roscoe and Rockton each have two members and South Beloit has three. "Every Trustee is active, responsive and shows a great deal of professionalism and expertise," Hecox lauds.

"We started with four busses which were received under a grant with the help of Congressman Don Manzullo," Hecox said. "We currently have eight busses in our fleet which operate daily and are anticipating the delivery of one medium duty and two Super Duty busses. All busses are handicap accessible.

These were awarded under State of IL. Capital Vehicle Procurement Grant; Grant CVP; through IDOT. "The busses are 100 percent paid for; we receive no local matching funds," Hecox said. "This will allow us to better service the large volume of students who go to Kids Spot in Roscoe or to the Boys and Girls Club."

"We have applied for and had a grant

awarded through "Rebuild Illinois" grant recovery. This gives us \$225,000 for three more busses, including security systems and back up cameras. "SMTD is one of the few in the state to get full apportionment for public transportation. The districts have received a lesser amount and SMTD is not restricted."

Service areas covered by SMTD are Roscoe, Rockton, and South Beloit including Roscoe and Rockton Townships. SMTD expands into different towns with a special service for medical needs provided in Rockford, Loves Park, Machesney Park, Beloit and the Town of Beloit. Additionally they go to 173 and Shirland Ave. to hook up with RMTD and BTS.

"Fifteen years ago a question went out to the community if they would support the system," she said. "Our ridership has massively grown from the original number of 207 rides in the first month."

"Our start-up money came from both the communities and organizations who generously gave us seed money. Some were municipalities and others were non-profits. We have an Intergovernmental agreement with Rockford Mass Transit for operations.

"Formerly each of these municipalities contracted with an independent contractor to provide transportation for their senior and disabled populations only. With the formation of the Stateline Mass Transit District service

was expanded to include anyone in the community," Hecox said.

In its first year SMTD and the Rockton Lions Club formed a partnership which today equals thousands of shuttle rides during four-day festival. "We worked with South Beloit in their 100th anniversary and have also participated in the Christmas Walks lighted parades," Hecox said.

Rockton Township has been integral in the success by working with the SMTD through IGA for Executive Director Services," Hecox said. "They have always believed in the Regional necessity for the transportation in the area.

Seniors can feel comfortable getting where they need to go weather shopping or to a Doctor's appointment. Young adults can grab a ride to work, or anywhere else they may want to go. Teenagers or middle to grade school age children may be picked up at home and taken to recreational facilities, to a swimming pool, to the library or to any number of activities. Anyone can be picked up at any specific location.

SMTD changes the lives of students and those who cannot get jobs or may have no transportation because of disabilities; some are able to work and to lead productive lives. Rides are given to anyone who wishes to

• CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

Service areas covered by Stateline Mass Transit District (SMTD) are Roscoe, Roscoe Twp., Rockton, Rockton Twp., and South Beloit. To further help those who need a safe, reliable mode of transportation SMTD expands into different towns with a special service for medical needs provided in Rockford, Loves Park, Machesney Park, Beloit and the Town of Beloit. Additionally they go to 173 and Shirland Ave to hook up with RMTD and BTS.

SMTD PHOTO Our Town

utilize SMTD's Demand Response service on a registration basis and must be scheduled. "We have adjusted our hours to help riders who work at earlier times to have enough time to get to work," Hecox said.

New options in addition to paying an exact cash amount to ride include Token Transit App. Purchase fares using no cash, no cards and no personal contact with the driver. Just download the app from either Google Play or the Apple App Store. Pay online and send a pass to any mobile phone number to get your ticket to ride. Specific guidelines and time allowances need to be followed to ride.

To set up a ride or to schedule an appointment calls 877-561-3330, or email info@smdt.biz. More information can also be found on the website at www.smdt.biz, on Facebook or call Sharon directly at 815-624-7788.

"As Executive Director it my duty to have the hand on the pulse of the needs of the community and to make our service adjustments accordingly," Hecox said. One example Hecox gives is when COVID-19 hit drivers were considered essential workers. "Each driver went above and beyond to make sure that every patron or customer arrived safely to their destinations; whether they went to the bank, grocery store or to a medical appointment."

"SMTD continues to provide a vital service to the community. The relationship with municipalities, state and Federal who all have a hand in supporting the system. It has been a learning experience to deliver a successful Mass Transit system. Everyone involved from the drivers, to the staff to the riders who support and lift up the systems growth remain the inspiration behind continued growth moving forward," Hecox said.

For more information about Stateline Mass Transit District, 11722 Main St., Roscoe, IL 61073, call 779-771-6778 or send a fax to 815-770-5989.

To schedule a ride a call must be made to one of the schedulers at 877-561-3330 or TTY 815-961-0072



Old Settlers Days

The Rockton Lions Club Old Settlers Days offers four days of family fun in Settlers Park in Rockton every June. Shown here, Terrie and Belle Garlow volunteered with their friend Heather Sharp.

MARIANNE MUELLER PHOTO Our Town

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Roscoe schools

Kinnikinnick District #131

Located in Roscoe, Ill., five miles south of the Wisconsin border in the beautiful hill country found along the Rock River. Four schools (Ledgewood, Stone Creek, Kinnikinnick and Roscoe Middle School) in the district offer personalized instruction to students in small school settings.

Ledgewood School – Grades PK-1

11685 South Gate Road, Roscoe, IL
815-623-2837

Stone Creek School – Grades 2-3

11633 South Gate Road, Roscoe, IL
815-623-2837 x3100

Kinnikinnick School – Grades 4-5

5410 Pine Lane, Roscoe, IL 61073
815-623-2837

Roscoe Middle School – Grades 6-8

6121 Elevator, Roscoe, Ill.
815-623-2837

Hononegah Community High School Dist. #207

815-624-2070

Harlem High School District #122

815-654-4500

Hononegah School District

Hononegah Community High School is a public high school in Rockton, Ill., located between Rockford and the southern border of Wisconsin. The district serves students from the towns of Rockton, Roscoe, Shirland, and parts of South Beloit. The district strives to provide an academically challenging and well-rounded educational experience for student success in college and careers.

The high school opened its doors in 1923, and is named after Ho-no-ne-gah, the Native American wife of Stephen Mack, Jr., who is generally credited for founding the town of Rockton. Hononegah High School was built in 1922, and dedicated in February 1923.

Additions to the building have taken place in the 1950s, 1971 (metal gym complex), 1981 classroom addition, 1996 (Performing Arts Center and classrooms) 2003 (new entrance, locker rooms, guidance and social studies as well as the information system's academy) and on April 4, 2017, voters in the Hononegah Community High School District #207 approved a referendum to authorize up



Chloe Benson, Abigail Piliponis, and Sarisha Kunwar celebrated graduation day.

MARIANNE MUELLER PHOTO *Our Town*

to \$17.8 million in bonds for a new field house. The field house replaced the dome that collapsed during an ice storm in late 2015.

The Hononegah Nations

Hononegah Community High School
307 Salem St., Rockton
815-624-2070

Kinnikinnick School District 131

5410 Pine Lane, Roscoe
815-623-2837

Prairie Hill School District 133

14714 Willowbrook Road, South Beloit
815-389-3301

Rockton School District 140

1050 E. Union St., Rockton
815-624-8585; 815-624-1002

Rockton Grade School

1050 E. Union St., Rockton
815-624-8585

Whitman Post Elementary

1060 E. Union St., Rockton
815-624-4006

Stephen Mack Middle School

11810 Old River Road, Rockton
815-624-2611

Shirland School District 134

8020 North St., Shirland
815-629-2000



Rockton River Market

Shop to great live music in downtown Rockton while visiting a variety of food and goods vendors every Wednesday, June through August from 5 pm to 8 pm.

ROCKTON RIVER MARKET PHOTO *Our Town*

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Harlem-Roscoe Fire:

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The Harlem-Roscoe Fire Protection District (HRFD) boundaries are irregular in shape due to the annexation of some of the district into cities. However, Harlem-Roscoe Fire Protection District is still one of the largest districts in the county.

The boundaries are Stateline Road to the north, Dorr Road and Old River Road to the west, County Line Road to the east, and Gladys Road in Machesney Park to the south plus the town of Argyle. The department is also under contract to service the western half of Manchester Township

Locations:

- * Station One - 10544 Main St. Roscoe, Ill.
- * Station Two - 825 Ralston Road, Machesney Park, Ill.
- * Station Three - 13974 Willowbrook Road, Roscoe Ill.

Contact:

EMERGENCY - DIAL 911

Administration - 815-623-7867

Email - hrfdinfo@gmail.com

Hours of operation:

- * Administration Offices - 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday - Friday



**Harlem-Roscoe Fire
Chief John Bergeron**

Rockton Firefighters:

Ready to respond

The Rockton Fire Protection District is located in northern Illinois along the banks of the Rock River. We have one fire station set within a community covering 54 square miles with an approximate population of 21,000 residents.

Established in 1947 as a strictly volunteer fire department the district then served 675 residents and responded to fewer than 50 incidents. Today our organization provides multiple services including fire suppression, EMS advanced life support, rescue and extrication, fire prevention and education.

Annually, we proudly answer an average of 1,150 calls for service. Historically, the area has had strong agricultural roots, but in recent years there has been a large influx of young families having employment outside of the area, making Rockton more of a residential community.

Daily staffing at the station is comprised of a combination of part time paid EMT/Firefighters, EMT/Firefighters from a contracted staffing agency, paid-on-premises personnel and the fire chief. Station staffing is adjusted up or down to appropriate levels depending on time of day, day of week, weather related emergencies and community events presenting increased potential for service calls. Our administrative office is open daily Monday-Friday, staffed by a business office manager.



**Rockton Fire Chief
Kirk Wilson**

Rockton Police:

Available 24/7 to assist community

The Rockton Police Department takes pride in our mission: "providing a safe community." This is an exciting time in Rockton with the growth in both residential and retail. As the community expands, services have to keep pace.

We have a plan in place for controlled growth so that police services are not left behind.

We offer a variety of programs like Neighborhood Watch, DARE, vacation house checks, and a Citizens Police Academy. We offer assistance that larger communities cannot as part of our "community policing" philosophy.

Each neighborhood has two officers assigned as "beat officers." These officers are responsible to those residents 24/7 for problems and concerns, and they have authority to solve problems and resolve quality of life concerns.

I invite you to call or stop by our station. I am always willing to discuss your special concerns or issues. My phone number is 815-624-8881, my email address is: chief@rocktonpolice.org. Thank you for your interest in the Rockton Police Department, we look forward to serving you.

Rockton PD

110 E. Main St.

Rockton, IL 61072



**Rockton Police Chief
Matt Hollinger**

Roscoe Police:

Ready to protect and serve

The mission of the Roscoe Police Department is to ensure the protection of persons and property, maintain peaceful order, and create a level of safety and service which instills pride for all whom reside within the community.

The Roscoe Police Department will strive to maintain a workforce, which without bias; will act with honesty, courage, integrity, and equality towards all. The Roscoe Police Department is committed to working with our schools, businesses, and citizens in an effort to address and eliminate any and all criminal activity, dangers to person or property, or public nuisance. The Roscoe Police Department exists to protect and serve its community.

To Report a Crime:

Call 911 for a life-threatening situation or a crime in progress.

Administrative Contact:

10595 Main St., Roscoe, Ill., 61073

Phone: 815-282-2600

Chief Sam Hawley

Whawley7804@roscoepolice.com

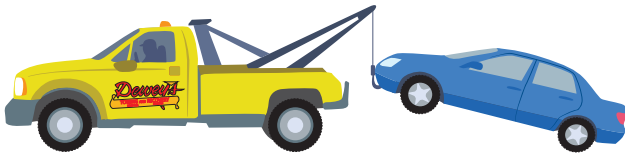


**Roscoe Police Chief
Sam Hawley**



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501 Hemenway Place, South Beloit, IL
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North Suburban Public Library serves residents of Roscoe

In 1985, a NSLD/Roscoe was opened as a storefront branch at 5540 Elevator Road. This initiative was funded through a State of Illinois Project Plus Grant awarded to NSLD. Later that year a referendum was approved, adding Roscoe Township to the district, thereby doubling the total size of the district.

Eleven years after Roscoe Township was annexed to the Library District, voters approved a \$5.3 million bond to build a new library in Roscoe.

Construction began on NSLD/ Roscoe's new location at 5562 Clayton Circle in 1997.

NSLD/Roscoe offered wireless Internet access starting Oct. 3, 2005. The library also increased the number of public computers in NSLD/Roscoe to 10.

During 2005-2006, circulation at NSLD/Loves Park and NSLD/ Roscoe increased to 590,794. NSLD/Roscoe library's yearly circulation increased more than 35 percent and Loves Park's annual circulation increased over 15 percent.

The number of visitors at both libraries increased 8.2 percent to 360,681. Overcrowding at NSLD/Roscoe's library was a problem. There was a severe shortage of program space and also shelving space for materials.

NSLD celebrated our 70th anniversary by going to the ballot in March to ask taxpayers to allow the library to redirect funds from an expiring building bond to the operating fund. The Library

• CONTINUED ON PAGE 13

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Beloit Health System



BEST IN THE REGION

ROCKTON FIREFIGHTERS

• CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

Our primary response area is home to several public schools, a number of churches, strip malls, multiple industrial plants, a senior independent living facility, an extended care living facility, group homes for the handicapped, several recreational parks, golf courses, dining establishments, retail stores, and many single and multi-family dwellings. Area schools include Hononegah High School, Stephen Mack Middle School, Whitman Post Elementary School and Rockton Grade School.

Within the community are 12 miles of railroad track, with much of the line running through the most densely populated area. Several trains per day traverse this line carrying a wide variety of commodities, industrial products and hazardous materials. Outside the major population center the fire district is mostly rural with much of the land used for livestock and food production making protection against agri-terrorism a priority.

PUBLIC LIBRARY

• CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

Proposition did not pass. NSLD went back to voters in November, 2014 with a successful outcome.

The question passed and renovation on NSLD/Loves Park and improvements to NSLD/Roscoe began in 2015. Funds from the redirection of the expiring bond went to pay for continuous improvements to both library facilities.

Renovations continued at NSLD/Roscoe in fall, 2016. Plans for NSLD/Roscoe included an expanded parking lot and updated HVAC.

For the most current information about hours and opening status, call 815-623-6266. The library is located at 5562, Clayton Circle, Roscoe.



Stop by and pick up a book or two from the Talcott Free Library's kiosk at Rockton River Market this summer.

TALCOTT FREE LIBRARY PHOTO Our Town

Talcott Free Library offers service to Rockton residents

Mission Statement

Talcott Free Library is a strong community partner that provides a friendly, safe space for generations young and old to strengthen their knowledge and enrich their lives.

Library History

In 1875, a Public Library Association was organized in Rockton of which each person had to pay to use the collection. 13 years later, in June of 1888, the Honorable Wait A. Talcott donated a building to Rockton Township to be used as a library, providing the town would organize under the laws of Illinois and vote to establish a tax to support the library.

The original building was constructed in 1854 as a feed and grain store; Wait's son William paid for the repair of the building to become a library including a new roof, his brother Thomas donated a nucleus of books, and W. W. Austin installed electric lights.

Talcott Free Library was dedicated on Aug. 22, 1889 and named such because the public no longer had to pay to use the collection. For further information on Talcott's more than 125-year history, please come visit our Local History section.

Library Cards

Residential (Library listed on tax bill)
All residents and property owners of Rockton Township are eligible for a library card.

* Issued for 3 years

* No Charge

* Proof of residency

* Children 5-15 years – Parents/Guardian must sign off.

Non-Residential (No library listed on tax bill)

A non-resident library card may be purchased at the "closest public library in the school district in which non-resident has his or her principle residence." Cards are issued for one year. Cost of card is based on the taxable value of property of primary residence (same structure used for resident card holders).

Valid Talcott Library cards may be used at area libraries.

Computer & Printer Use

Public access computers – providing access to the library catalog, the internet, and online databases. Patron will be held to a half hour limit on computer use when other patrons are waiting to use the computers.

Printing – there is a charge for each page printed from the computer.

- Black and white copy – .10
- Colored copy – .50

Loan Periods

3 Weeks: Books, CD's, Juvenile Magazines and back pack buddies

1 Week: DVD, Magazines

30 Days: Items on Outreach Patron Cards (Schools), Interlibrary loans, Talcott

• CONTINUED ON PAGE 14

FREE LIBRARY

• CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13

Traveling Tales, Juvenile back pack buddies

Library Use Only: Reference, Current Magazines, Newspapers, Historical Materials

Fees

Talcott Free Library does not charge overdue fines on late materials. However, patrons are responsible to return items on time and to pay for lost and damaged materials.

Copier and printer charge: \$.10 to \$.50 per sheet

We are a strong community partner that provides a friendly, safe space for generations young and old to strengthen their knowledge and enrich their lives. Please consider supporting your library.

Hours

Monday - Tuesday -
9 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Wednesday - 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
Thursday
9 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Saturday
9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Sunday - Closed



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HISTORIC AUTO ATTRACTIONS PHOTO Our Town

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Downtown boat dock



The Rockton downtown boat dock was officially installed in August 2024. The Village of Rockton is happy to assist our residents and neighbors access a variety of water activities on the Rock River. A special thanks to resident Rob Ebany who worked with Mayor Peterson to make this project a reality. And of course, a huge thank you to Steve Lucas at Rock River Dock and Pier for making and installing it.

VILLAGE OF
ROCKTON PHOTO
Our Town

A big thank you to State Senator Andrew Chesney and his office for coordinating Saturday's FREE Community Shred Event in partnership with Village President Carol Gustafson. We are grateful for their efforts in organizing this valuable service for our community. 185 residents took advantage of the event, safely disposing of sensitive documents and helping protect themselves from identity theft. Thank you to everyone who came out and participated — and to Senator Chesney's office for their leadership in making it happen!

VILLAGE OF
ROSCOE PHOTO
Our Town



Community shred event

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CLOSED WEEKENDS

The Old Stone Church



OUR CHURCHES

Rockton churches

Prince of Peace Church

2336 Freeport Road, Rockton
815-624-2115
princeofpeace-rockton.com/

St. Andrew Lutheran Church

511 W Rockton Road, Rockton
815-624-6051

Rockton United Methodist Church

102 W Chapel St., Rockton
815-624-7591
www.rocktonumc.org

Church By The Side of The Road

500 S. Blackhawk Blvd., Rockton
815-624-7841

The River Chapel

14053 Nazarene Dr., Rockton
815-624-7418
riverchapel-naz.org/home.html

Old Stone United Church of Christ

101 E Union St., Rockton
815-624-6212

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Rock Valley

329 School St.
(Old Stephen Mack School)
815-624-4094
www.uucrv.org

Roscoe churches

Church of the Holy Spirit

5637 Broad St, Roscoe
815-623-6930

Church Our Savior Lutheran

5506 Reimer Dr., Roscoe
815-270-0630

Cross & Crown Lutheran Church

7404 Elevator Road, Roscoe
815-623-6853

First Congregational Community

10780 3rd St., Roscoe
815-623-2348

Heritage Baptist Church

128 Willowbrook Road
Roscoe • 815-389-2290

Hope Evangelical Free Church

5656 Elevator Road, Roscoe
815-623-6545

Life Church

5910 Elevator Road, Roscoe
815-623-7625

New Life Tabernacle

5414 Reimer Dr., Roscoe
815-623-5387

Roscoe United Methodist Church

10816 Main St., Roscoe
815-623-2292

above: The Old Stone Church is located at 101 E Union St, Rockton, IL, United States, 61072. For more information, call 815-624-6212 or visit <http://www.oldstonechurch.net/>

OLD STONE CHURCH PHOTO *Our Town*

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Rockton, Roscoe offer parks, recreation

Rockton is home to many great parks, each offering their own unique atmosphere and recreational activities. With so many wonderful spaces to play, it's no surprise that families of all ages are moving to Rockton and enjoying the perfect mix of youthful spirit and historic character.

Village Green Park, home to Walt Williamson Pool, is just two blocks south of downtown Rockton. Kids all summer long enjoy a day at the park, where they enjoy the swimming pool, a playground, picnic area, and open grass spaces to run and play. It's the perfect village park.

Settlers Park, just one block south of downtown, is a beautiful space spanning three city blocks of the Rock River.

The park is home to the Rockton River Market, Old Settlers Days, and many other great festivities throughout the year. Any given day you will find weddings at the gazebo overlooking the river, people enjoying a walk through the park, or a pick-up basketball game on the court. There is even a baseball diamond to practice your swing.

Dogwood Park is a wonderful dog park for your best friends to enjoy. It's the perfect space to let your dog run free and play.

GOLF COURSES

Rockton has two golf courses in the community – Macktown & Redbarn, with two others very close by, Ledges & Atwood Homestead. There are several other golf courses just minutes away, Sugar River Greens in Shirland, Aldeen in Rockford, and numerous other great courses you can play for under \$50.

Rockton has a 18-hole disc golf course at Porter Park and an extensive bike path that welcomes walkers, joggers and bikers. The bike path networks Rockton with neighboring Roscoe and beyond!

BOAT RAMPS

Rockton's public boat ramps provide river access to residents and visitors who enjoy boating and water recreation, such as canoeing and fishing on the Rock, Pecatonica and Sugar Rivers (all abundant with fish). Another water attraction is the Walt Williamson Swimming Pool located in Village Green Park.

ATHLETIC FIELDS

The Rockton Athletic Fields feature multiple baseball games throughout the summer. The athletic fields will feature six baseball diamonds, six soccer fields, a football field, a concession area, a playground, a two-mile walking path and a skate park.



Hononegah Forest Preserve is celebrating 100 years of providing recreation for families and organizations. Shown here are boy scouts from Troop 620 out of Roscoe.

COURTESY PHOTO Our Town

CAMPING

Campers can stake their claims at two county forest preserves. Both Hononegah Forest Preserve (62 campsites) and Sugar River Forest Preserve (100 campsites) have full amenities.

YOUTH ATHLETICS

Providing the establishment and supervision of an educational, training, and competitive recreational program of youth baseball and softball.

815-914-1766

Roscoe Rockton Lions Jr. Tackle Football Jr. Tackle football and cheer program for boys and girls 7th thru 8th grade.

815-623-7810

Stateline Family YMCA

The Stateline Family YMCA is a not-for-profit, charitable association dedicated to developing the Spirit, Mind and Body. Phone: 815-623-5858

PORTER PARK CABIN

6545 Windflower Lane, Roscoe

To book the cabin the full rental fee and deposit is required. The rental fee is nonrefundable in the event of cancellation, however the \$75 deposit will be refunded within 30 days of cancellation.

Roscoe Village Hall accepts checks, cash and credit cards for payment. Alcoholic beverages and smoking is prohibited in the cabin.

Rental Fees:

- Resident of the Village of Roscoe is \$175 with a \$75 deposit.
- Non-resident of the Village of Roscoe is \$350 with a \$75 deposit.

LELAND PARK PAVILION

5727 Broad St., Roscoe

The rental fee for Village of Roscoe residents is \$25 and for a non-resident is \$50. The completed rental form will serve as your permit, which you'll need to bring with you on the day of your event.

The public bathrooms are unlocked and available for use from March through the end of October. The electricity and outdoor water usage is no longer available for use at the pavilions. Alcoholic beverages and smoking are prohibited on park property.

For any questions regarding the rental of Porter Park Cabin or Leland Park pavilion, please call Village Hall at 815-623-2829 between normal business hours Monday through Friday.

ROSCOE PARKS

Robert J. Cross Memorial Park

11588 Cedarbrook Road, Roscoe, 815-623-7323

Riverside Park

100 River St, Roscoe
Closes 10:30 p.m.
815-877-0746

Kelley Myers Park

12595 Wilmington Cl, Roscoe
Kieselburg County Forest Preserve
Roscoe

Swanson Park

5444 Swanson Road, Roscoe

Chicory Ridge Park

11291 Valerian Way, Roscoe

Roland Olson Forest Preserve

9669 Atwood Road, Roscoe,
815-877-6100

Macktown Living History: Families learn history in interactive fashion

Macktown Living History is a hub of knowledge about Rockton's past.

BY Marianne Mueller
REPORTER

Set in Macktown Forest Preserve, Macktown overlooks the Rock and Pecatonica rivers in Rockton and are the remnants of Winnebago County's first settlement.

It was founded by Stephen Andrew Mack Jr. and his wife Mary Hononegah. In its original time Macktown was known as Pekatonic.

On the premises still sits the Mack's two story home and store, and the Whitman Store. Past places on the property also included fur trappers' cabins, a trading post and other homes belonging to the population of 200-300, a furniture store, a school room, a shoemakers shop, a tavern.

A ferry bridge traversed the Rock River. Following Stephen Mack's death in 1850 and the destruction of the bridge in 1851 the Macktown settlement failed to thrive. The northern part was prosperous and that area became known as Rockton in around 1846 or 1847.

Passing on this information in an interesting way to families and individuals is one of the main reasons behind the forming of "Second Sunday" events. On the second Sunday of each month volunteers, guest presenter's reenactors and Macktown volunteers open doors to learning history in a creative and interactive fashion.

The goal of these events is to expand knowledge of the history of the area to the public.

Since the beginning of this series in 2018 a variety of topics have been brought to life. Archaeology, native culture, and gardening, farming, and fiber arts just tap the surface of subjects presented. Another focused on how to raise chickens in your backyard.

Time frames for topics run from pre-historic times through 1850.

October's event revolved around a fall favorite; apple cider. Attendees learned about its history, and were given an explanation of how to make the cider, and the best types of apples to use. Apple

varieties that are used depend on how sweet or acidic cider is being made.

All had an opportunity to take part in a tasting cider.

In November of 2021 guests had the opportunity to experience hands on fun while reliving how settlers prepared to get ready for the winter. In cool winter temperatures willing volunteers were guided by Macktown Living History volunteers Connie Gleasman and Mike Bost. Gleasman advised on the best way to split timber into useful firewood. Both volunteers showed the proper technique to those giving it a try. Volunteers used a heavy axe and a large saw to accomplish this mission.

Gleasman explained which type of wood is best to use to start a fire and how it is dried and stored.

Inside the Whitman Trading Post volunteer Terry Sorshy showed young visitors a game board with basics such as chess and checkers. Other unique games

• CONTINUED ON PAGE 21

Plan your special event at the **ROTARY RIVER CENTER** *in beautiful Riverside Park, Beloit, Wisconsin*



The Rotary River Center is a beautiful 3,000 sq. ft. structure that overlooks the scenic Rock River. It is the perfect setting for events of all kinds and is provided at an incredibly low rate! The center is equipped to seat 120, but has a maximum capacity of 266. You are welcome to bring in additional chairs and tables to accommodate your needs. There is a serving kitchen with a coffee maker, large refrigeration unit and sinks, two restrooms, central air conditioning, storage closets and furniture including: 120 chairs, 3 round tables, 9 oval tables and 8 banquet tables. The building is also equipped with a public address system, floor lectern, and a screen for overheads, slide shows or films.

- *Excellent facilities indoors and outdoors*
- *Located on the beautiful Rock River & Riverwalk*
- *Excellent photo opportunities*
- *Reasonable Rates*

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2351 SPRINGBROOK COURT, БЕЛОИТ
(608) 364-2890





Macktown Living History volunteers gathered for a photo at a volunteers social event on June 8.

MACKTOWN LIVING HISTORY PHOTO Our Town

MACKTOWN

• CONTINUED FROM PAGE 20

were also featured.

In December, Christmas was celebrated honorary an old time Christmas classic. The historic Mack House was the home of the reading of the well-known poem of 'Twas the Night before Christmas.' Also shared was background of this tale.

The story behind this popular Christmas staple began on Dec. 23, 1823 when the poem, "A Visit from Saint Nicholas" was published anonymously in the "Sentinel," the local newspaper of Troy, New York.

Originally this piece offered a different take on Santa Claus, a figure who was, until that time traditionally depicted as a thinner, less jolly horse-riding disciplinarian; a combination of mythologies about the British Father Christmas, the Dutch Sinterklaas, and the fourth-century bishop Saint Nicholas of Myra.

The poem in the newspaper painted a different picture. It gave Santa eight reindeer, and even named them; it described a Santa who could magically sneak in and out of homes down chimneys; and it created the cheerful, chubby icon that is known today.

"Twas the Night before Christmas is what this poem had been renamed, often a tradition carried on in many homes still today.

Thirteen years after it was first published Clement Clark Moore took credit for its authorship; though his claim to the poem is now in question. Many believe that it was actually penned by New York writer Henry Livingston.

In addition to Second Sunday events Macktown Living History holds other events year-round such as the Frenchman's Frolic, education days where local students or youth are welcomed, and Saturday workshops. MLH has partnered with the Rockton Township Historical Society on different events. Earlier this year both organizations met at to enjoy time together at an ice cream social.

Information on all upcoming events can be found on a Facebook page and the organizations website.

Nygren Wetlands

Fall migration of water fowl in the wetland is always interesting. This photo shows a Great Blue Heron, Nygren Wetlands. Migration continues for a few weeks each year, so we hope you get a chance to go to the wildlife overlook or walk the Dianne Nora Nature Trail soon at 3714 W. Rockton, Road, Rockton, IL 61072.

DAVID WATTS PHOTO *Our Town*





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