

CITY OF RAPID CITY

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF RAPID CITY GOVERNMENT

CITY SPONSORS ANGEL TREE

The City is serving as a sponsor for the Salvation Army of the Black Hills' Angel Tree Program. The tree is located in the lobby of the City/School Administration Center, 300 Sixth Street.



The Angel Tree Program is an opportunity for children of less fortunate families to receive a toy for Christmas. Last year, 955 local families, which included well over 2,000 children, received gifts through the Angel Tree Program.

"The City is pleased to serve as a sponsor of the Angel Tree Program this year," said Rapid City Mayor Steve Allender. "The Salvation Army's Toy Shop helps to bring some joy and happiness to children and their families, and citizens can do their part to help make that happen."

The tree went up in the lobby of City Hall and is adorned with 35 tags. The Angel Tree Tag front shows whether the toy will be for a boy or girl, the child's age and two toy suggestions based on that child's age and gender. An individual taking a tag is asked to purchase a new toy based on the information from the Angel Tree Tag and return it back unwrapped to any participating Salvation Army Angel Tree location. Toys will be accepted until December 15.

SEASONS GREETING FROM MAYOR ALLENDER

As Christmas Day and New Year's quickly approach us, I want to wish you all a merry and safe holiday season. I hope you have a joyous time full of memories that last for years to come.

I want to thank the citizens of Rapid City for your ongoing efforts in improving our community and for tending to the least fortunate among us. Please continue to be giving of your time and contribute where you can in the New Year. Great things are in store for Rapid City, and your help will assist us in arriving to them that much sooner.

I am looking forward to the New Year with enthusiasm and a sincere sense of duty to continue collaborating with community members and my fellow City employees to ensure that Rapid City is a safe and thriving community. The holidays are a special time for celebration, and I encourage you to celebrate responsibly. Let's all do our part to keep the community safe so everyone gets home to their loved ones.

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!

Handwritten signature of Steve Allender in black ink.



NEW AIRPORT DEPUTY DIRECTOR



Following a nationwide search, the City has selected Matt Whitelock, C.M., A.C.E., to be the new Airport Deputy Director at the Rapid City Regional Airport (RAP).

Whitelock will be responsible for assisting in the direction, management and daily operations of the Rapid City Regional Airport. He will direct facility and maintenance functions as well as airport operations including safety, security, emergency response, and federal certification compliance requirements. Additionally, Whitelock will be called upon to prepare, develop, maintain, coordinate and implement policies and procedures for the day-to-day maintenance and operations of the Airport to ensure compliance with requirements as established by the airport board, city ordinances, state and federal regulations.

Whitelock brings to RAP his comprehensive work experience gained over the last 13 years working at four airports differing in size, scope and operation; experience which has gained him substantial understanding of Airport Operations, specifically FAR Part 139.

Whitelock was most recently the Airport Operations Manager at Idaho Falls Regional Airport. Prior to that, he held positions at Denver International Airport, Gunnison/Crested Butte Regional Airport, and Centennial Airport.

Whitelock has a Bachelor of Science degree in Aviation Management from the *Metropolitan State University of Denver* and is a Certified Member (C.M.) of the American Association of Airport Executives (AAAE). He is also an Airport Certified Employee (A.C.E.) with a security designation.

This search was conducted by ADK Executive Search, a retained executive search firm specializing exclusively in searches for the aviation community.



CITY CONTINUES TO MEET COMMUNITY NEEDS

HUD says City is making overall progress in number of areas

In its Annual Community Assessment, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has determined Rapid City is making sufficient progress in meeting the housing and community development needs of low and moderate income individuals. HUD recently notified City officials of its findings for the 2015 Program Year, the third year of a five-year program plan between the City and HUD.

"This is a positive report showing Rapid City is continuing to strive and improve on meeting its federal obligations and requirements in addressing the highest priority needs of our low-and-moderate income citizens. In 2015, over 99 percent of the Community Development Block Grant funds were expended to benefit low-to-moderate income residents of our community, far exceeding HUD's required 70 percent," said Barb Garcia, the City's Community Development Block Grant Manager. "This extensive process includes important reporting and data collection requirements as well as continuing to provide efficient and essential services."

HUD's assessment report reviews several areas including if the City is meeting its statutory purposes of the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program; is consistent with strategies and goals in the Consolidated Plan and Annual Action Plan; meeting requirements of the Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity programs and various timeliness and performance measure priorities.

HUD's review encompassed the period April 1, 2015 through March 31, 2016.

NEW ATTORNEY IN CITY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

The City welcomes Kinsley Groote to the City Attorney's Office in December. Groote's efforts will be focusing on prosecution and code enforcement, according to City Attorney Joel Landeen. She has been working in the Pennington County State's Attorney's Office handling civil matters for the county, including code enforcement.

RAPID CITY PUBLIC LIBRARY

CHAOS reigns at RCPL in December! Learn to code or brush up your coding skills with [Hour Of Code](#).

December 5–10, during regular library hours, kids can join us in the makerspace to learn to code in Minecraft, draw pictures in code with *Frozen* characters, or use the Force to solve code puzzles with their favorite *Star Wars* characters! Teens can Code the CHAOS Thursday, December 8 from 4 – 6 p.m. in the upstairs teen area with coding adventures in *The Amazing World of Gumball*, learn to make a character fly in a video game, or even make it rain tacos! Not to be left out, adults can participate in FreeCodeCamp Saturday, December 10 from 1–3 p.m. in the makerspace. Learn useful skills such as basic HTML4, CSS, Javascript and more.

PROTECTOR'S NIGHT DEC. 23

The Police Department is joining forces with the Fire Department to help the Rapid City Rush organization host a themed night of hockey dedicated to the area's first responders. The game is slated for **December 23 with a 7:05 p.m.** start. Dubbed 'Dream Protector's Night' this year, the themed evening will feature a number of elements such as:

- The RCPD Honor Guard and RCFD Pipe and Drum Corps.
- Videos of Rush players experiencing what it's like to step into the shoes of an officer or firefighter.
- A police vs. fire broomball match on the ice.
- Special recognitions for local first responders who have gone above-and-beyond the call to help the community.
- RCPD and RCFD emergency response vehicles out on the ice during intermission.

The Rush organization is offering great seats to those working in public safety at a discount rate. Employees of area law enforcement, fire, EMS, and dispatch agencies (along with their support staff) can get into the game for just \$15.00 a seat.

20% of all first responder-ticket sales will be donated back to our community to help the RCPD and RCFD provide Christmas presents for area children. First responders should secure their tickets by December 19. Tickets can be purchased at Rapid City Fire Station 1, or by calling the Rush Offices at 716-PUCK.



CIVIC CENTER RESOLUTION TASK FORCE PUBLIC FORUM DEC. 19

The Civic Center Resolution Task Force will host a Public Forum and Press Conference on Monday, December 19 from 11:30-1:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers at City Hall.

The purpose of the Press Conference is to provide an update on the work and findings of the Task Force to date. This group is interested in sharing information and gaining a further understanding the incremental value of the Civic Center to the community. All members of the community are encouraged to attend and share comments, suggestions and feedback.

STRONG INCREASE IN YOUTH TRANSIT USE IN NOVEMBER

Youth ridership on the City's transit system increased in November compared to October.

There were 7,938 youth passenger trips on the RapidRide system in November or 441 youth passenger trips per day during the month's 18 service days, according to City officials. The November number is an increase of 4% compared to October's youth transit numbers. There were 425 youth passenger trips per day in October (20 service days) and 379 in September (21 service days).

There is also an increase in the percentage of youth in RapidRide's overall ridership numbers. Youth passengers comprised 33% of RapidRide's system ridership in November compared to 31% in October and 30% in September.

FIFTH PHASE OF CEMETERY MARKER REALIGNMENT

City Parks officials are preparing for a fifth phase of monument straightening and realignment at Mt. View and Mt. Calvary Cemeteries. In 2015, an anonymous donation of \$37,550 was received by the City and has been utilized to straighten and realign 194 monuments at the Cemeteries. Approximately \$10,765 remains, which will allow for another phase of 50-70 markers next spring.

These cemeteries are our legacy and represent our past. The Parks Department has indicated their focus has remained on some of the oldest sections of the Cemeteries.

COUNCIL APPROVES RATE ADJUSTMENTS FOR PARKS/REC ACTIVITIES **Most Aquatics, Golf, Ice and Cemetery Rates Increasing**

City Council approved rate adjustments for the Department of Parks and Recreation, including rate increases for swim, golf, ice and racquetball activities.

After approval of the Parks Advisory Board, the Public Works Committee approved the increase earlier this month. Department Staff researched rates and fees charged for similar activities in other towns to ensure Rapid City remains competitive in the fees charged for recreation activities. The Department's goal is to recover 60% of the costs for the Ice Arena, 50% for the Aquatics Division and 100% for Meadowbrook Golf Course.

Among rate adjustments, there will be a 10% increase for yearly adult, senior, youth, young adult and corporate passes at Meadowbrook Golf Course with no increase at the Executive Golf Course. Daily rates at Meadowbrook Golf Course will increase 10%, for instance the

cost for nine holes will increase from \$27 to \$30 and from \$44 to \$46 for 18 holes. There is also a 10% increase in locker rentals at Meadowbrook and for 10- and 25-punch passes and 5% increases in cart rental punch passes.

For Aquatics, there is a 5% increase in yearly and quarterly adult single, adult couple, senior single, senior couple, youth, young adult, family and additional family member passes. There will be a 5% increase in hourly Swim Center and Outdoor pool facility rentals for individuals and organizations. Rental of the multi-purpose room will increase from \$40 to \$42 per hour with increases for additional rental time.

For the Ice Arena, there will be a 5% increase for adult single, family and additional family member passes. There will be a 5% increase for hourly ice time rentals. There is no increase for skate rentals and sharpening.

Daily admission to the Swim Center and Ice Arena will increase to \$6 with seniors admitted for \$5. There will be a \$1 increase for family night and group passes. There will be a 5% increase in 10-punch passes for the Ice Arena and 20-punch passes for the Swim Center.

Hourly Racquetball costs will increase to \$6 with a 5% increase for 10- and 20-punch passes as well as quarterly and yearly passes.



2017 SEASON GOLF PASSES

Get your 2017 season pass for Meadowbrook and Executive Golf Courses at 10% OFF through December 31. Shop on-line, by phone or stop in at Meadowbrook or the Executive to get your season pass.



DENVER NUGGET SKILLS CHALLENGE

This challenge will test your skills in shooting, ball handling, and passing. It is free to boys and girls ages 6-13 and will be held Dec. 18 from 1-5 p.m. at South Community Gym. For more information contact the Recreation Office at 394-4175.

SWIM LESSON REGISTRATION

Registration for January-February and March-April sessions begins December 17 at 8:00 a.m. at the Swim Center, with online registration opening at 10:00 a.m. Click [here](#) for online registration.

ADULT BASKETBALL REGISTRATION

Registration for the Rapid City Recreation Department's adult winter basketball leagues is currently underway. Deadline for the six-week leagues is January 4, 2017. There are men's and women's divisions based on level of experience. The season begins January 8, with games played on Sundays at South and West Community Gyms, followed by an end-of-season tournament.

Cost is \$335 per team. Applicants can sign up [online](#), at the Swim Center, 125 Waterloo Street, or the Parks and Rec Office, 515 West Boulevard. For more information, contact [Matt Brandhagen](#) at 415-0226 or 394-5223.

BROOMBALL CHALLENGE

Main Street Square was the scene of an annual tradition between Rapid City's Finest and Rapid City's Bravest. The Saturday morning broomball game between the RCPD and RCFD marked the tenth in a series of matchups. The game is a friendly competition that, on occasion, sees the transfer of a ceremonial broom. The broom, crudely adorned in gold spray-paint, is just for show. The real importance of the broomball matchup is to garner new-toy donations for children receiving the services of Youth & Family Services.

The game itself was a slugfest. Two 15-minute periods ticked by without a single goal to break the action. The matchups' first score came late in the third period when Lt. John Olson of the RCPD eeked one into the fire department's goal. The game would remain at 1-0, leaving the golden broom in the RCPD's possession for at least another year.

[Contact Us](#)

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COUNCIL APPROVES VISION FUND PROJECT RECOMMENDATIONS

The Rapid City Council approved the list of Citizens Vision Fund Committee recommendations for funding from the Vision Fund at the December 5 Council meeting.

After 90 minutes of presentations, questions and discussions, the Council voted 6-3 to approve funding the recommendations. The next step in the process will be negotiations of contracts and agreements between the City and the Vision Fund recipients.

The nine-member Citizens Vision Fund Committee has been meeting since early September, vetting over two dozen proposals. The process included reviewing follow-up information from applicants on the proposals, conducting two days of public hearings on the applications, attending several site tours of project locations, reviewing the complete history of Vision Fund project requests and funding dating back to 1995, and reviewing the applications with the goals and values presented in Rapid City's Comprehensive Plan especially the Plan's Seven Core Values.

A total of \$6.5 million for projects was made available through the Vision Fund by the Council.

Projects approved for funding:

- Disabled American Veterans: Flag Pole for \$21,000.
- Community Health Center of the Black Hills: Mental Health Pod for \$523,406.
- Wellfully: Premier Adolescent Care Center (LAB Space) for \$1,125,000.
- Rural America Initiatives: Community Center for \$2 million.
- Rushmore Little League: Field Lighting Project for \$25,000.
- South Dakota School of Mines & Technology: Turf and Beautification of Corridor for \$1,897,604.
- Central States Fair: Stall Barn Expansion for \$550,000.
- Summer Nights: Stage for \$127,990.
- ASA Softball: New Concessions/Bathroom Building for \$200,000.
- The Skin Institute: Shade Structure installation for \$30,000.

For more information on the work of the Vision Fund Citizen Committee click [here](#).



CITY SURPASSES \$300 MILLION MARK IN BUILDING PERMIT VALUATION

For the first time in its history, Rapid City has surpassed the \$300 million mark in building permit valuation in a year, according to the City's Building Services Division.

November's total of \$39,984,584.52 also established a benchmark. Not only was it the highest November total, it was the third highest monthly total for permit valuation, eclipsed only by the \$62,679,361 record set in March and the \$40,327,909 permit valuation for April 2012.

"It has been a record-setting year in many respects, especially with a number of large projects," said Dale Tech, the interim director of the City's Planning Department. "Whether the project is large or small, the result is work for contractors, construction workers, plumbers, electricians, painters, welders and others."

For 2016, Rapid City's total permit valuation is \$301,965,041. The City eclipsed the previous record of nearly \$259 million set in 2011 with October's valuation total of \$16.2 million.

**CITY OFFICES CLOSED
MONDAY, DECEMBER 26 AND
MONDAY, JANUARY 2**

*In observance of Christmas and
New Year's Day*