



Office of Mayor Lawrence J. Morrissey

*LEADING BOLDLY, WORKING TOGETHER*

## PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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### **ROCKFORD ALDERMEN & MAYOR TO HOST WARD MEETINGS**

*“Better Rockford Today” meetings bring community leaders to the neighborhoods*

Rockford IL: On Thursday, March 27, 2014, Alderman Tim Durkee (1<sup>st</sup> Ward) will host the fourth in the “Better Rockford Today” presentations at the RMTD East Side Transfer Station located at 725 East Lyford Road. The meeting will start at 6:00 p.m. Light refreshments will be served.

The meeting will open with comments from First Ward Alderman Tim Durkee followed by a short presentation by Mayor Morrissey. Participants will be invited to discuss and ask questions during the presentation. City department heads will also be present to assist in answering questions and directing citizens to the best resources.

The Better Rockford Today Ward meetings are a precursor to the Mayor’s State of the City address which will be held on April 9, 2014 at the Coronado Performing Arts Center. The Mayor made the decision to take a preview of the speech out to the wards because he felt the once a year event had not done enough to communicate with the residents. “How many people have gone to the State of the City?” Mayor Morrissey asks at each presentation. When few of the audience members raise his hand, he nods in agreement and responds “I know, it’s a long speech and it’s very formal. That’s why I’m here tonight”.

Seventh Ward Alderman Ann Thompson-Kelly, who co-hosted a meeting with Aldermen McNamara and Hervey at Khlem Arboretum on March 19<sup>th</sup>, thanked the Mayor and city staff at last Monday’s council saying “My residents liked that the format was interactive and that they had a chance to ask questions and share their concerns with the Mayor, the Aldermen and the department heads.”

Central in the theme of the “Better Rockford Today” presentations is the integration of social media in building a more positive image of Rockford. This volunteer-led effort to drive positive change through social media was inspired by the work of the “Transform Rockford” meetings that have encouraged many of the residents in the Rockford area.

“I want to thank Chris Wachowiak and Eli Nicholosi for developing the concept of a ‘*Better Rockford Today*’ and volunteering their time to develop the web site and to start ‘tweeting’ the positive stories about Rockford,” Mayor Morrissey said.

The “*Better Rockford Today*” website can be found at <http://betterrockfordtoday.com>. Citizens can participate in the social media campaign by ‘tweeting’ their positive messages about community events, citizens who make a difference or great ideas that might improve our area to #betterRKFD.

Additional meetings will be held on the following dates:

**Saturday, March 29, 2014**

10:00 am – 12:00 pm

Alderman Marcus Hill (6<sup>th</sup> Ward) and

Alderman Karen Elyea (11<sup>th</sup> Ward)

Salem Lutheran Church

1629 6<sup>th</sup> Street

**Saturday, April 5, 2014**

Alderman Kevin Frost (4<sup>th</sup> Ward)

11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Provence Cor Mariea

3330 Maria Linden Road

**Pending April date:**

Joint meeting for Alderman Jamie Getchius (2<sup>nd</sup> Ward) and Alderman Frank Beach (10<sup>th</sup> Ward) will be scheduled for April.

The Mayor’s annual State of the City speech which will be held on April 9, 2014 at the Coronado Theatre located at 314 N. Main Street. The speech will start at 6:00 p.m. and typically lasts about an hour. The State of the City speech is free and open to the public.

City Council members encourage their constituents to attend the sessions and to become involved in the public process. Mayor Morrissey stated, “We’re proud to work with our community members to address our challenges and create new opportunities.”

“Better Rockford Today” meetings are free and open to the public. Parking is available and sites are handicap accessible.

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