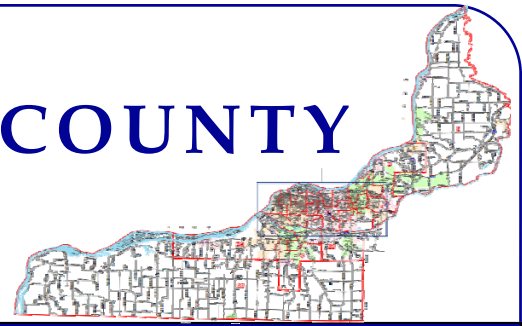




ROCK ISLAND COUNTY NEWSLETTER



APRIL 2017

UPCOMING EVENTS:

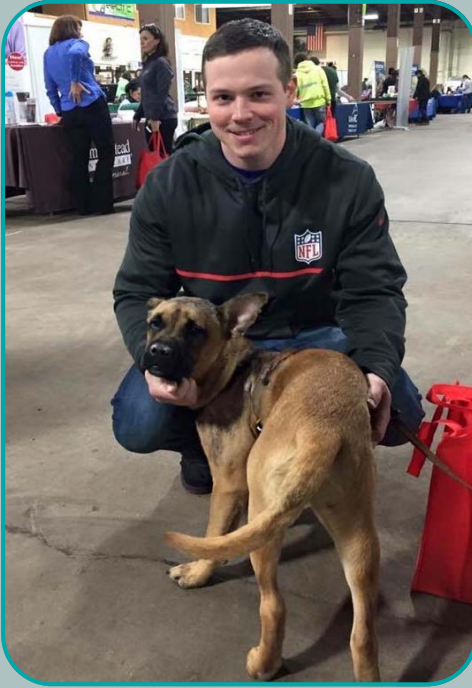
- County Hygiene Drive
Through April 28
- County Blood Drive
April 19
11:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m.
- Public Works and
Facilities Meeting
May 8, 8:30 a.m.
- Governance, Health, and
Administration Meeting
May 8, 10:00 a.m.
- Finance and Personnel
Meeting
May 9, 8:30 a.m.
- Committee of the
Whole Meeting
May 10, 5:30 p.m.
- 10th Annual Student
Government Day
May 12
- Hope Creek Board of
Directors Meeting
May 15, 5:30 p.m.
- County Board Meeting
May 16, 5:30 p.m.

ROCK ISLAND COUNTY EFFICIENCY

Rock Island County is more efficient per capita with general fund operations and operates with significantly fewer employees in almost every general fund office and department than comparable Illinois counties. The following analysis uses general fund and US Census Bureau 2015 estimate data for Sangamon, Peoria, McLean, and Tazewell Counties. Data from those counties is averaged to compare with Rock Island County data:

- Average IT staff is 16.33; Rock Island County has six. The average comparable county has 172.17% more IT employees. Average IT cost per capita is \$9.35. Rock Island County's cost per capita to support IT operations is \$3.09.
- Average public defender staff is 17.81; Rock Island County has eight. The average comparable county has 122.63% more public defender employees. Average public defender cost of operations per capita is \$7.93. Rock Island County public defender cost of operations per capita is \$4.75.
- Average state's attorney staff is 44.21; Rock Island County has 26. The average comparable county has 70.04% more state's attorney employees. Average state's attorney cost of operations per capita is \$17.34. Rock Island County state's attorney cost of operations per capita is \$9.97.
- Average assessor staff is 9.88. Rock Island County assessor staff is five. The average comparable county has 97.6% more assessor employees. Average assessor cost of operations per capita is \$3.31. Rock Island County assessor cost of operations per capita is \$2.10.
- Average coroner staff is 4.64; Rock Island County coroner staff is three. The average comparable county has 54.67% more coroner employees. Average coroner cost of operations per capita is \$3.33. Rock Island County coroner cost of operations per capita is \$2.04.
- Average treasurer employees is 6.87; Rock Island County treasurer employs six. The average comparable county has 14.5% more treasurer employees. Average treasurer cost of operations per capita is \$2.74. Rock Island County treasurer cost of operations per capita is \$2.61.
- Average auditor staff is 3.3; Rock Island County auditor staff is three. The average comparable county has 10% more auditor employees. Average auditor cost of operations per capita is \$1.48. Rock Island County auditor cost of operations per capita is \$1.39.
- Average circuit clerk staff is 49.64; Rock Island County circuit clerk staff is 37.5. The average comparable county has 32.37% more circuit clerk employees. Average circuit clerk cost of operations per capita is \$12.06. Rock Island County circuit clerk staff cost of operations per capita is \$8.93.
- Average zoning staff is 6.3; Rock Island County zoning staff is four. The average comparable county has 57.5% more zoning employees. Average zoning cost of operations per capita is \$2.27. Rock Island County zoning cost of operations per capita is \$1.46.
- Average County Board cost of operations per capita is \$2.77. Rock Island County Board cost of operations per capita is \$1.60.
- Average general fund budget per capita is \$226.91. Rock Island County is \$189.07. The average comparable county spends 20.01% more per capita for general fund services than Rock Island County.

HENRY'S STORY



Henry and the RIPD officer who helped rescue him.

On March 14, Henry, a one-and-a-half year old boxer/shepherd mix, was found on the west end of the city of Rock Island. He was clearly in a lot of pain from what looked like a road rash that had not been cared for and had gotten infected. The police contacted Rock Island County Animal Control and were concerned that he may have been used as a bait dog. When the Animal Control veterinarian looked at him, it was discovered that Henry had had chemicals poured on him, which had burned through much of his fur and his skin. Animal Control staff gave him heavy doses of antibiotics and deworming medication and nursed him back to health. An



Henry gets his first spa treatment.

Animal Control Board member was able to reach out to a shampoo company and get help caring for his skin. Henry will have to take mud baths until his skin is fully healed and he may never get his fur back.

Through the hard work of Rock Island County Animal Control staff, Henry has found a home with the dispatcher who was on duty the night he was found. He is a wonderful dog who, despite his traumatizing past, loves people. He got to meet a lot of new friends at the Rock Island City/Rock Island County Employee Wellness Fair and loved all of the positive attention he got from people as they walked by.

ANIMAL CONTROL EVENTS

- String Art—April 28, 6:00—9:00 p.m. at the Rock Island Holiday Inn. Tickets available at qcpaws0428.eventbrite.com
- Kitten Shower—May 6, 12:00-4:00 p.m. at the shelter. Bring a baby kitten gift and come enjoy light refreshments.
- Putts for Mutts—June 3. Sponsors and prize donations needed!
- Wine for Canines and Felines—September 9, 1:00-6:00 p.m. at Creekside Vineyard
- Paws in the Parking Lot—October 21, 12:00-3:00 p.m. at the animal shelter. Vendors, food, raffles, and animal costume contest.

Proceeds from all events benefit the shelter and provide care for animals like Henry. Donations are always appreciated!

CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS

In a continued effort to reduce costs to the county and to taxpayers, Rock Island County staff has been diligently working to review existing vendor contracts in order to identify savings and renegotiate where possible. Local vendors have been receptive to the county's financial situation.

County staff recently renegotiated a contract with RK Dixon that will save the county tens of thousands of dollars annually. We also renegotiated the elevator contract with KONE at both the County office building and Hope Creek Care Center. The new contract resulted in a 27% overall monthly savings while keeping the same level of service.

Additionally, the county has worked to renegotiate union contracts. Rock Island County's negotiations with AFSCME 2025A and FOP included a 0% general wage increase and giving up a previously approved holiday. Negotiations with AFSCME 2371 resulted in a 0% general wage increase for one year and no commitment to a wage increase in FY18 as well as giving up a previously approved holiday.

SHERIFF'S BEAT

Welcome to the first issue of our new Rock Island County newsletter!

I am Sheriff Gerry Bustos, and I will use this newsletter to offer a snapshot into the Rock Island County Sheriff's Office and to share important information with you.

In the 186-year history of Rock Island County, I am the 49th Sheriff to oversee our county' law enforcement and safety needs.

In this position, one of my roles is to oversee Rock Island County Emergency Management. We coordinate an integrated emergency management framework that assists our communities with preparing for, responding to, recovering from, and eliminating or reducing the effects of natural, civil and technological emergencies and disasters.

Now that it is spring, weather changes are upon us. With warmer weather coming, residents are anxious to spend more time outdoors. Remember that weather can be unpredictable and sometimes dangerous this time of year.

It was only a year ago when we had significant tornado damage in rural East Moline, Hampton and the Rapids City area.

Weather-related issues, such as thunder and lightning storms, flash flooding, high winds and tornados can hit at any time and in any location.

Alert systems are in place, but sometimes there can be confusion about what the alerts mean.

First is an "advisory" which means to **be aware**.

Next, a "watch" means to **be prepared**.

And, finally, a "warning" means to **take action**.

Warning systems, such as sirens, are designed for people outside. They are alert system warnings that you should seek shelter and monitor the television and/or radio for further information.

Many alert systems are offered on phone applications to receive quick warnings.

I can't stress enough that monitoring local television, radio channels or weather radios is the best way to know up-to-the-minute information about the location and severity of the storm danger.

If you find yourself in the path of one of these severe storms, seek shelter in a basement or storm cellar. If that is not available, find an interior wall or go under a workbench or table.

For those who live in mobile homes, strong winds and tornado weather can cause a mobile home to overturn. Seek shelter

inside a permanent structure.

If you are driving while a severe warning has been issued, seeking shelter inside a building is better than continuing to drive or parking underneath a bridge or structure.

In case of flooding, do not wade or drive through flood water. With swift currents, roadways can be washed out in areas that are not visible and cause drivers and pedestrians to be swept into unsafe waters.

A predetermined safety plan for your family when you are inside your home, while traveling and when you are apart should be established before such plans are needed.

Rock Island County has more than 90 weather spotters throughout the county along with volunteer fire departments and patrol deputies that observe severe weather and are trained to respond to help you.

Stay safe!

Sheriff Gerry Bustos

ANNOUNCEMENT FROM ROCK ISLAND COUNTY TREASURER/COLLECTOR, LOUISA EWERT:

The **2016** Real Estate tax bills payable in **2017** are being mailed out on Friday, May 5, 2017.

The first installment will be due June 8, 2017.

Remaining installments are due August 8, September 8, and November 8, 2017.

For more information, please visit the website:

www.rockislandcounty.org

For questions, please call:

309-558-3510

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT: JOHN BROWN



County Clerk Chief Deputy John Brown has been with Rock Island County for a total of 34 years. His first stint with the county lasted from 1982-1997, at which time he left to serve as a supervisor in Rock Island Township for 17 years. In 2010, when County Clerk Karen Kinney was elected, Mr. Brown returned to Rock Island County and has worked here ever since. Mr. Brown's institutional memory has been very helpful throughout years of newly elected officials and other countywide changes. His favorite part of his job is that it gives him the ability to combine his career with his political passion. Mr. Brown explained that he is very active politically, so running elections was a natural step for him. He has spent half of his career inside and half his career outside the political process. He is sure he will remain politically involved when he retires.

When Mr. Brown isn't working, he enjoys gardening, maintaining and renovating his home, and caring for his cats. He is the oldest of 10 siblings and is close to his family.

HOPE CREEK EVENTS

- Garage Sale—Donations accepted starting May 1. Garage Sale runs May 24-26, 8:00 a.m.– 3:00 p.m.
- Galena Bus Trip—May 13. Departure at 7:30 a.m. from Kmart parking lot. \$40 round trip. Trip includes 50/50 drawing, complimentary snacks and juices, and road trip games.
- Mother's Day Tea—May 12, 2:00 p.m. Hope Creek Main Dining Room.
- Senior Prom—April 26, 6:00 p.m.
- Hope Creek Family Council—May 10, 4:15 p.m.

Proceeds from all events benefit the Hope Creek Activities Department. Volunteers and donations of prizes and supplies are always welcome. Contact Kenny Shuman if you would like to help or if you have any questions: 309-796-6725.

ILLINOIS HOUSING AUTHORITY GRANT

Rock Island County recently received a \$40,000 Illinois Housing Development Authority grant to demolish dilapidated structures in the county. The Building and Zoning Department has a list of structures to demolish and expects to use all available funds. The County hopes to turn these properties into greenspace and will prioritize those areas that are currently in the floodplain. The grant will cover demolition of up to five structures.

County staff continues to seek out grant opportunities to help Rock Island County residents and to help fund county operations. If we had not applied for and received this grant, the money would likely have gone to another area of the state. Even though Rock Island County's staff is minimal compared to other Illinois counties of similar population, we continue to aggressively work to accomplish our objectives while keeping the county's portion of property tax to a minimum by seeking out non-taxpayer funding sources.

ROCK ISLAND COUNTY

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