

## **Grant Will Help Cut Energy Use in City Buildings**

The Governor's Office on April 6 announced that Two Rivers is among 82 Wisconsin cities, villages, towns and counties sharing in \$9.5 million in Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) funding.

These funds were provided to the State through the Federal Stimulus Program, AKA the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA)

TR's grant award of \$74,700 will help fund energy efficiency projects in various City departments. Local match required for these projects is \$32,400. The work will begin following execution of a grant contract with the State, which is still pending.

Local projects include lighting system improvements at city hall, the fire station, DPW, Lester Public Library, cemetery service building, and the water department service building. Also planned are installation of variable frequency drives on the HVAC system at City Hall and solar water heating installations at the Senior Center and Fire Station.

Thanks to Electric Utility Director Tom Bushman for an outstanding job preparing the City's grant application. Most of the projects to be undertaken will achieve a three to five-year payback, and will help hold down the City's operating budget.

Congratulations to the City of Manitowoc on also receiving an EECBG grant, in the amount of \$135,100.

## **Happy 40<sup>th</sup>, Heart-a-Rama!**

Heart-a-rama begins its annual run this week, with shows at the J.E. Hamilton Community House on Thursday, Friday and Saturday of this week and next.

2010 is a special year for this highly-successful fundraiser for the Heart Association, as the comedy and variety show celebrates its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

Congratulations to everyone who has been involved in this Manitowoc County tradition for the past four decades, bringing great fun to the Lakeshore and raising over \$2 million for the Heart Association in the process.

At last report, tickets for the Thursday night shows remain available for purchase, at Larry's Piggly Wiggly in Manitowoc and Inman Jewelers in Two Rivers.

## **Farmers/Crafters Market Re-Opens May 1**

The downtown Farmers and Crafters Market returns to Central Park on Saturday, May 1.

Market hours are Saturdays 8:00 AM to 1:00 PM and Wednesdays 1:00 to 5:30 PM.

While you won't find much produce this early in the season, vendors will open the market season with plenty of crafts, plus garden plants, onion sets, and other items to kick off the Spring gardening season.

The Farmers and Crafters Market is an activity of the Two Rivers Main Street Program.

### **Main Street Re-Opens Manager Search**

Speaking of Main Street, that organization recently re-opened its search for a new, full-time manager. Information on the position is available at [www.trmainstreet.org](http://www.trmainstreet.org).

While the position is "open until filled," interested parties should submit resumes by next Wednesday, April 28 to be considered in an initial review.

The Main Street Board recently welcomed several new members, and I am optimistic that we will see this organization get "back on track" after some controversy in recent weeks about the manager search process.

The City and many private businesses have invested significantly in downtown Two Rivers in recent years. Downtown remains TR's retail and service center, and the venue for many community events. Geographically and symbolically, downtown is the heart of Two Rivers.

We continue to need an effective downtown organization, to sustain and expand upon past successes. Moreover, we need to focus on filling vacant storefronts, and on charting a course for the future of downtown TR, as an economic engine for the community.

Main Street can be the vehicle for developing and implementing that vision. But that can only happen if we put personalities and politics aside, and focus on what's good for Two Rivers.

### **Census Return Rates as of April 16**

Wisconsin continues to be the national leader in census return rates. As of April 16, the official deadline for returning 2010 Census forms by mail, the return rate for WI was highest in the nation, at 78 percent. National average was 69 percent.

Our local area is again exceeding even the statewide averages, with the countywide return rate at 84 percent, City of TR at 82 percent, and City of Manitowoc at 83 percent on April 16.

If your 2010 Census form is still laying on your kitchen table, take a few minutes to complete it, and save the Feds the cost of sending a Census worker to your door!

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