

## **Congratulations, Formrite Companies!**

It was the kind of good news story that we all needed, in a week marked by economic uncertainty and stock market gyrations...

There, on the front page, was an announcement by Formrite Companies President Dave Wage that a new contract with Caterpillar will net 60 new jobs for our area.

High strength hydraulic lines, formed from carbon steel, shaped and machined by a skilled workforce, will soon be flowing from Formrite in Two Rivers to Cat production facilities, marking a major expansion of a longstanding business relationship between the two companies.

This success story highlights Mr. Wage's entrepreneurial skills and determination, as he has guided the turnaround of this local company that faced serious challenges just two years ago. It also reflects the hard work of a dedicated management team. ...And of production workforce that was willing to sacrifice wages and benefits when the going was tough, to help see Formrite through to better days.

The City of Two Rivers is proud of the support it provided for Dave Wage's purchase of a controlling interest in the Formrite Companies, and the expansion of HMF Innovations to the Formrite plant in TR. And we will do everything we can to assist this local business leader and his team—both union and management—as they continue building a bright future for this local business.

We are likewise encouraged by the enthusiasm that the Walker administration and the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation have shown for this project. A state economic development strategy that recognizes and builds on Wisconsin's manufacturing strengths is long overdue.

Thanks, Dave Wage and Formrite, for giving us all a reason to celebrate!

## **Bids Opened for 17<sup>th</sup> Street Bridge Project**

The Wisconsin Department of Transportation opened bids in Madison on August 9 for the replacement of TR's 17<sup>th</sup> Street lift bridge.

Low bidder for the project was Lunda Construction of Black River Falls, one of the Midwest's pre-eminent bridge builders. Its bid of just under \$13.5 million was within 1.5 percent of the engineer's cost estimate.

With design and construction engineering added in, the total cost of this project is just under \$17 million. Total cost to the City of Two Rivers will be \$3.4 million, or 20 percent.

That's a hefty price tag. But, given the importance our community have placed on this project, we are indeed fortunate to have secured the funding when we did.

Demolition of the old bridge should commence this Fall. Construction will occur throughout 2012, and should be completed by mid-Summer 2013.

Two Rivers continues to invest in its infrastructure.

### **Coming Up: Kites Over Lake Michigan**

The Lakeshore's annual aerial extravaganza, Kites Over Lake Michigan, returns to Neshotah Beach on Saturday and Sunday of Labor Day weekend, September 3-4.

Mark your calendar now to take in one or both days of this event. And be sure to include Saturday night in your plans. The night fly, sky lantern release, and fireworks display all paint the dark night sky with a rich palette of colors.

**Two Rivers City Manager Greg Buckley can be contacted by calling 920-793-5532 or by e-mailing [grebuc@two-rivers.org](mailto:grebuc@two-rivers.org).**