



December 2025

City of Two Rivers NEWSLETTER

YOUR TAX DOLLARS, YOUR TRANSIT **TWO RIVERS RESIDENTS SPEAK UP ON ROUTE 1**



In Two Rivers, civic engagement isn't just encouraged, it is driving the conversation forward

Public participation has been in full swing lately as City Hall has leaned into more civic engagement, inviting residents to share feedback on Route 1, the Maritime Metro Transit (MMT) bus line that connects Two Rivers and Manitowoc. Route 1 offers an important connection for residents who commute to work, school, or medical appointments between the two cities, covering 75 stops across the lakeshore. Clearly, it remains a lifeline for many in our community.

But along with that recognition has come a growing conversation about how it's funded.

Two Rivers currently contributes about \$156,000 per year from the City's General Fund (your property taxes) to help cover MMT driver wages, fuel, and maintenance. That's a 44% increase since 2020, at a time when the City faces rising property taxes, new state-mandated expenses, and unfunded operational requirements.

Residents responding to the City's quick poll and in-person discussions over the last couple weeks have expressed strong support for keeping Route 1 operating, but also broad agreement that local property taxes should not be a long-term funding source. Many noted that mass transit should be funded primarily through federal transportation dollars and rider fares, rather than property tax revenue from Two Rivers' homeowners.

City leadership shares that goal. Two Rivers is currently working with MMT officials on operational and funding changes aimed at ensuring Route 1 can continue serving both communities on a more sustainable financial model.

As the 2026 budget process continues, City Hall thanks all who have shared their thoughts and participated. Your feedback is helping shape a balanced approach, one that preserves a vital public service while protecting taxpayers and promoting fiscal responsibility.

CITY COUNCIL REAFFIRMS COMMITMENT **TO FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY**



In early November, the Two Rivers City Council approved a Resolution Affirming the City's Commitment to Financial Sustainability and Responsible Debt Management, as recommended by the City Manager. This action strengthens the City's long-standing practice of conservative financial stewardship by formally establishing a self-imposed debt cap, ensuring the City maintains borrowing levels well below the State of Wisconsin's legal limits.

This City Hall fiscal policy sets clear expectations for how future capital projects will be financed, prioritizing essential infrastructure, minimizing long-term costs, and protecting taxpayers from excessive debt burdens. By committing to disciplined borrowing that links the City's annual borrowing level to changes in property values, we can ensure community investments into our neighborhoods grow in line with community capacity, while staying below the self-imposed debt cap.

This proactive approach positions Two Rivers for long-term success, balancing responsible spending with the ongoing improvements that make our community strong, vibrant, and welcoming.

COOL CITY CHRISTMAS 2025

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Deja & Martin Funeral Chapels

EVM, Inc.
Fox Communities Credit Union
Friends of Two Rivers SnowFest
G3 Industries (Formrite)
Garage Door Specialty
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COOL CITY CONNECT

STAY INFORMED WITH THE COOL CITY CONNECT

If you haven't signed up for Cool City Connect yet, now is the perfect time. This regular email newsletter straight from City Hall is one of the easiest ways to stay informed with facts about what's happening in Two Rivers, from major City projects and public safety updates to community events, business news, and opportunities to get involved.

More than 2,500 people already receive Cool City Connect and the list keeps growing each week. If you want quick, clear updates delivered right to your inbox, visit www.two-rivers.org and to join. If you need help signing up, give us a call at City Hall at 920.793.5532.

Two Rivers is moving forward on a lot of important initiatives, don't miss a thing! Sign up today and stay part of the informed conversation.

Gift Certificates Available!



GOLF & MULTI-SPORT SIMULATOR



HOURS

Monday | 9am - 8pm
Tuesday | 1pm - 8pm
Wednesday | 9am - 8pm
Thursday | 9am - 8pm
Friday thru Sunday | 9am - 6pm

GROUP RATES

\$25 per hour (Monday thru Thursday)
\$35 per hour (Friday thru Sunday)

Located in the J.E. Hamilton Community House, Two Rivers

To book your session, scan the QR code, call (920) 793-5592, or visit the Community House.

WINTER PARKING BAN BEGINS DEC 1

Enforcement of the on-street overnight parking ban will only occur when there is a snow event in the forecast, and to allow cleanup in the wake of any major snowfalls.

Watch the TR City Hall and Police Department Facebook pages for updates!



TRIAD TIPS: Safe Winter Driving



Check the Weather: Check the weather along your route and when possible, delay your trip if bad weather is expected. Before going out, notify others as to your route, destinations and estimated time of arrival.

Keep you gas tank full and your engine maintained. Install good winter tires. If you do break down, pull over to the right, open the hood, wait inside the car as you call for help. Do not get out until help arrives.

Never warm up a vehicle in an enclosed area, such as a garage.

Drive slower and don't use cruise control on snow covered or icy roads. Increase your following distance.

A well-stocked emergency kit should include the following: Cell phone car chargers. Flashlight with extra batteries. Reflective or warning triangles (put outside of the vehicle to signal a breakdown). First-aid kit. Drinking water and non-perishable food. Ice scraper or snow brush and shovel. Gloves, extra coats or sweatshirts, hats, and blankets.

NEW SCHOOL BUS LAW

IN TWO RIVERS



STOP FOR BUSES WHEN RED LIGHTS FLASH & STOP ARM IS EXTENDED

EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1

EXPLORETWORIVERS.COM

