

Transcript

City of River Falls Mayor Dan Toland's weekly video update
Oct. 13, 2020

Hi, Mayor Dan here. I hope everyone is doing well and taking some time each day to unplug from social media and all of the craziness and stupidity that has become our everyday life now. Okay, I'm going to climb up on my soapbox for a minute, so I apologize beforehand.

I was raised to be able to make up my own mind and not be told what to think and believe by other people. I truly believe that as a society we must stop listening to all of these so-called celebrities, athletes, and politicians from both sides of the aisle, when they tell us what we should and shouldn't believe and do. I have the utmost faith that we are all capable of thinking for ourselves and making up our own minds. It shouldn't matter to us what they say, what they do or what they wear; we are smart enough to know that everything they do and say is for their own benefit.

Some athletes will say and do whatever gets them the most fans so they can get bigger contracts and endorsement deals. Certain celebrities will say do whatever gets them the most fans, so they get the bigger roles and win more awards. Politicians have been known to say and do anything that will get them the most votes and don't always appear to have our best interests at heart.

In fact, politics and politicians seem to be the biggest offenders in trying to change our beliefs through a constant barrage of ads on all fronts.

I read an article by Brian Hyde and he said, "Of all the addictions that plague our society today, our dependency on politics has to be one of the worst. It has literally driven those who are dependent on it to a type of madness where angry yelling and screaming has replaced reasoned discourse as the preferred method of communication. Social media is where this particular poison can be obtained at any hour."

I thought that was about as close to the truth as you can get. So, let's all turn off the political noise and tune out the hype however that works best for you.

What I am trying to say is we need to stop listening to what all these people are telling us to believe in and what we should and shouldn't be afraid of in our lives. Life is hard enough without letting people in the public eye make us feel bad that we don't believe or think the same way they do. We must remember that we are a caring, supporting, loving, and kind society, and we are capable of doing the right thing if we only think for ourselves – we have to stop letting them divide us.

We are not perfect people, but as long as we are always trying to be better that is all that matters.

Okay, I'm jumping off my soap box now. Well, it looks like mother nature is done being nice to us for a while, so while we start to move everything back indoors, let's remember to follow all of our health guidelines, which I believe we all know by heart now. Let's try to limit our indoor gatherings to small groups of family members or close friends.

In an effort to control the surge of the virus in Wisconsin, Governor Evers issued a new order last week to limit occupancy in indoor businesses where the public can enter to 25% through Nov. 6. To support our local businesses during this time, remember that carryout and curbside services are still available at business and retail shops throughout the City.

Now, let's look at the weekly COVID-19 case numbers ...

In the first slide, you will see that Pierce County has 68 active cases, an increase of 31 since last week. The cumulative case total for the county is 538. The activity level is high.

Pierce County	Oct. 5	Oct. 12	Change
Cumulative confirmed cases	478	538	+60
Active cases	37	68	+31
Recovered cases	434	463	+29
Negative cases	8,328	8,803	+475
Deaths	7	7	No change
Activity level	High	High	No change

In this next slide, you can see that St. Croix County has 557 active cases, an increase of 138 since last week. The cumulative case total is now 1,303. St. Croix County's activity level is also high.

St. Croix County	Oct. 5	Oct. 12	Change
Cumulative confirmed cases	1,103	1,303	+200
Active cases	419	557	+138
Recovered cases	676	737	+61
Negative cases	17,281	18,488	+1,207
Deaths	8	9	+1
Activity level	High	High	No change

Slide three shows us that there are 29,478 active cases in Wisconsin, an increase of 4,889 cases since last week.

State of Wisconsin	Oct. 5	Oct. 12	Change
Cumulative confirmed cases	134,359	152,192	+17,833
Active cases	24,589	29,478	+4,889
Recovered cases	108,371	121,204	+12,833
Negative cases	1,472,577	1,545,692	+73,115
Deaths	1,381	1,474	+93

On slide four, you'll see that Pierce County continues to be able to contact new cases within 24 hours. However, they are not able to trace all close contacts within 24 hours.

Local/regional	Oct. 5	Oct. 12
Adequate PPE supplies for staff	Yes	Yes
City/regional testing capacity	Yes	Yes
Case contact within 24 hours (Pierce County)	Yes	Yes
Close contact tracing within 24 hours (Pierce County)	No	No

UWRF is doing better mitigating the virus and active cases at [UW-River Falls](#) have leveled off. Campus is open and some in-person classes are being held along with hybrid and online classes.

The School District has reported some new cases and are working in tandem with Pierce County to do contact tracing and quarantining where necessary.

Now, on to some other news ...

The City has completed the first draft of the 2021-2022 budget and will present it to the Council at a workshop this evening. The workshop will be videotaped and available on the City's YouTube channel tomorrow (tinyurl.com/rfcityYouTube).

A second Council workshop is scheduled for next Tuesday at 5 p.m. See the web page below. www.rfcity.org/AgendaCenter.

Following both workshops, a final version will be presented at the October 27 Council meeting for a "first reading." On November 10, Council will hold a public hearing and then vote to adopt the final budget.

The budget is just part of the implementation process to meet the outcomes of our strategic plan.

The Election is only three weeks away! If you haven't registered online, **tomorrow, Oct. 14**, is your last day. You can still register in person at the Clerk's Office in City Hall through Oct. 30 or at your polling location on Election Day, November third.

If you have questions about the election, feel free to contact the City Clerk staff by email or phone during business hours. Contact information is available on the City's Elections webpage (www.rfcity.org/elections).

You may not have known this, but last week was National Customer Service Week. I want to give a special shout-out to the City's Customer Service Team. While they have changed the way they physically do business over the past nine months, the quality of care and service they provide our residents has never changed. They are truly our frontline heroes at City Hall. The next time you see one of our helpful City Hall staff, tell them "thanks for a job well done"!

I wanted to let you know that the second issue of our electronic newsletter was distributed yesterday. This month, it includes a readers' survey to help us better understand your

communication needs, especially around the type and frequency of our printed and e-mailed newsletters. I urge you to take five minutes and complete the survey. Your responses will be very helpful to us as we move forward. If you didn't receive a newsletter and would like to, please find a link on the City's home page shown on your screen (www.rfcity.org).

Before I wrap up, I want to remind you that our annual Electronic Recycling event is this coming Saturday, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Public Works garage. The event is available to River Falls Municipal Utility customers only. Visit the website on your screen below for more information, including what to bring and what not to bring. (www.rfcity.org/recycling)

Now, I want to leave you with some cute pet pictures; the first one is Ryker, second picture is of Brinkley, and the final photo is of Porkchop. Please email me a picture of your favorite pet and I will get them in a upcoming video at dtoland@rfcity.org.



Feel free to reach out to me at any time if you have questions or comments on any subject. I want to hear from you. Everybody take care and be safe.