The Rockford Chamber of Commerce is preparing to kick off the Christmas season with plenty of wonderful family-fun events.

The much anticipated downtown Holiday Open Houses will be hosted Friday, Nov. 16 from 5-9 p.m. and Saturday, Nov. 17 from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Visitors are invited to escape the hustle and bustle of malls and enjoy decorated storefronts, fun, food, door prizes, drawings, free gifts, and special savings.

The popular annual Lighting Ceremony is scheduled at Peppler Park, overlooking the dam at 6 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 30. Your family can enjoy the beauty of downtown Rockford during the Lighting Ceremony. The City’s Department of Public Works (DPW) has been working day and night to string thousands of twinkling lights on almost every tree, shrub and light post throughout the downtown district.

The evening will feature holiday music from the talented music department Rockford High School, including the beautiful voices of the combined choirs. After the ceremony, the crowd will count down from 10 and the gorgeous view of the downtown landscape will be spectacularly lit. There will be free carriage rides, from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at the Rockford Rotary Pavilion.

Santa Claus will be making his appearance on Saturday, Dec. 1, with a start time of 10:45 a.m. The parade will feature many floats, Boy and Girl Scouts, music and candy. After the parade, Santa will be setting up shop at the Rotary Pavilion to hear the wish lists of all the good girls and boys. There will be free milk and cookies and entertainment as the kids wait to see Santa. Again, there will be free rides through the downtown streets after the parade.

The quaint shops will capture the essence of the season with crowd-stopping window displays that are sure to delight both young and old. And amidst this Currier and Ives setting is something else - the regal carriages of Classic Carriages, LLC. A footman greets you and helps you into a snow-white carriage pulled by two sturdy horses. You pull a warm blanket around you and your family and you are off on an excursion through the streets of downtown Rockford. It is a slow and steady pace, and creates a special memory for you and your loved ones.

The good folks of Classic Carriages, LLC keeps track of the riders - and where they are from - each night as they give the rides. The carriages have hosted riders from not only around the state, and around the nation, but from around the world! The carriage rides are Thursday, Dec. 6 & 13 and Friday, Dec. 7 & 14 and are from 5-30-8:30 p.m. The carriages embark from the Rotary Pavilion, very near Arnie’s Bakery and Restaurant. They do not take over-the-phone reservations, but they do keep a list of families the night of the event and will let you know how long of a wait it will be so you can go shop or eat and come back when it is your estimated time.

Every year Santa stays in beautiful Rockford and visits with children. This year he will be listening to children’s wish lists on the following days:

Wednesday, Dec. 5 from 6-8 p.m. at the Rotary Pavilion. There will be free cocoa and cookies for all good little boys and girls.

Wednesday, Dec. 12 Santa will be bringing his LIVE reindeer back to the Rotary Pavilion and will visit with children from 6-8 p.m.

There will be two wonderful additions to the festivities downtown. There will be a live Nativity which will take place Friday, Dec. 14 from 7-9 p.m. The Nativity will be at the corner of Bridge and Main Streets, right by Speed Merchants. The talented singing voices of Rockford Baptist Church will be strolling down Bridge Street and caroling to add to the magical atmosphere of downtown.

The Chamber and the City of Rockford invite you to join them for all these traditional, and touching, events to step back, take time and enjoy this very special season.
Chamber hosts plenty of events, keeps community hopping

The Chamber staff kept busy over the past few months, visibly hosting events, while working feverishly behind the scenes to prepare for Rockford’s holiday happenings. The Chamber hosted After Hours, a Bi-Monthly Luncheon, Ribbon Cuttings, attended a memorial dedication, enjoyed a Third Thirsty Thursday, and shared some insight to the community with a Business Builders Breakfast. And, don’t forget they put on a fantastic Harvest Festival on the final weekend of September. (See page 3)

The Chamber celebrated its September After Hours installment at Robinet Physical Therapy, Monday, Sept. 10.

The Chamber hosted their Bi-Monthly Luncheon at Uccello’s, Monday, Oct. 1. Attendees enjoyed their delicious buffet for lunch.

The Chamber hosted their special Business Builders Breakfast with Guest Speaker Monica Sparks, who gave a presentation of “The Power of Networking,” on Wednesday, Oct. 17.

The Chamber hosted its Third Thirsty Thursday event at Bier Distillery, Thursday, Oct. 18.

Gordon Water Systems celebrated their new Rockford location with a Chamber Ribbon Cutting, Friday, October 19.

(Above) The Michael Young Memorial dedication ceremony was held near the Rogue River and White Pine Trail in Garden Club Park to honor former City Manager Michael Young.

(Right) The much anticipated opening of the beloved Corner Bar was noted with the hanging of the iconic sign.

(Far Right) The Chamber hosted a Ribbon Cutting ceremony, Saturday, Aug. 26, to note the Corner Bar’s reopening.
The Rockford Chamber of Commerce hosted the community-favorite tribute to fall – the 2018 Harvest Festival. The event was another huge success, with plenty of organizations and companies supporting the action-packed weekend.

This year’s event took place on the final weekend of September and enjoyed a beautiful, sunny fall Saturday, however, Sunday wasn’t as kind, greeting visitors with cold rain. That didn’t seem to crush traffic counts, as the 2018 installment enjoyed large crowds.

Many of the events that found great success: The Rockford Rotary Pulled Pork Dinner sold 1,191 delicious meals to hungry festival goers; there were 38 tractors in Rockford Ace Hardware’s Antique Tractor Parade; the Chili Cook Off sold 150 tasting tickets for votes; the Rockford Area Museum enjoyed brisk sales for their Attic Sale; the hayrides enjoyed a constant flow of traffic; the Lion’s Club hosted a cornhole tournament; Movies on the Rogue drew in almost 100 spectators; Aunt Candy’s Costume Contest pulled in 125 trick-or-treaters; among many other entertaining successes.

“We were thrilled with the turnout,” said Chamber Executive Director Linda Southwick. “As always, we couldn’t put on such a successful event without the support of all our sponsors. We are so grateful to them for helping us make the Rockford community such a special place to live, work, and play.”

The popular Chili Cook Off featured seven teams and over 150 tastings. The Chili Cook Off Winners were: Best in Show Jerry Zandbergen, Top 10: Jim Switzer, Debbie Thatcher, Pinky & Bones Hosford, Bill Proos, John Moleski, Rick Zukowski, Ron, Ditmar, Mugs Szanto, Mike Kamps, Dave & Bonnie Cichon.

The Tractor Parade is always a popular event that stops traffic and warms nostalgic hearts in downtown Rockford.

The Harvest Fest Costume Contest had over 125 children participate in Trick or Treating and the costume contest. Pictured above are the contest winners for a variety of categories.

Another great return to tradition, hay rides were offered throughout the weekend and was very popular with families.

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This 656 lb. pumpkin was donated by a local farmer and was on display all weekend and drew plenty of admiring looks.
Growth is their name, Physical Therapy is their game

Robinet Physical Therapy is happy to announce the opening of a new clinic in Greenville. That’s right, Yellow Jackets, now they have two locations with physical therapists dedicated to helping you “Be Your Best.”

Doors officially opened in Greenville on Monday, Oct. 5, 2018 and it’s been full speed ahead. With two young Yellow Jackets in the house, owners Barb and Jason Robinet are proud to serve their fellow community members and excited to offer their particular brand of expertise to the citizens of Greenville and its surrounding areas.

The new clinic is conveniently located at 1810 W. Washington (on M57), just west of Meijer on the north side of the road. Feel free to stop in or call (616) 532-2400 for a no-cost consultation to see if physical therapy is right for you.

Five Years and Still Growing Strong
Where has the time gone? This past June, Robinet Physical Therapy celebrated its 5th anniversary. It’s hard to believe that five short years ago, they started with just two therapists and now have grown to five, and counting.

“It’s been an honor to serve the great people in these amazing communities and we look forward to another five years,” said Jason Robinet.

Speaking of Growing…
They are thrilled to welcome Katherine Par- tyka, DPT and Brooke Mundt, PTA, the newest additions to their growing Rockford clinic.

Katherine is a graduate of Grand Val- ley State University and current resident of Rockford. She recently got married this past September and joined our clinic as a full-time physical therapist in October after doing her last clinical experience last summer. She provides one-on-one, manual physical therapy and will help isolate your pain, identify the problem, and find effective therapy to treat it.

Brooke graduated from Baker Col- lege Physical Therapy Assistant program in July 2017 and joined the team this past May. As a patient sets their goals with the therapist, Brooke will help them and their body achieve them through both education and a specific therapeutic exercise program targeted to your limitations and goals.

Grow With Robinets
No matter your age, no matter your physical abilities or limitations, they are here to help you reach your goals. Training for a marathon? No problem. Just want to be able to keep up with your grandkids? They can help.

Call today for a free consultation and let them help you, “Be Your Best.”

Fowle Eyecare celebrates 35 years

The staff at Fowle Eyecare Associates, PLC are proud to celebrate 35 years of taking care of their patients in Rockford.

It was November 8, 1983 when Dr. Gary Fowle, his wife Peggy, and one other part-time employee first opened their door to patients in the small, 750 square-foot office in downtown Rockford. Thirty-five years later they are proud to continue to welcome new and established patients to their practice.

“Over the years we have moved, re- modeled, and added staff as our practice grew,” shared Dr. Fowle. “Especially notable was the addition of our son, Dr. Andy Fowle, to the staff in 2014.”

As in everything, technology has become a significant part of the practice of optometry. “We are proud to have continued to update our practice to take advantage of the latest developments in computerized instrumenta- tion in order to provide cutting edge eye care to our patients,” shared Dr. Fowle.

According to Fowle, one especially exciting addition to their instrumentation, is an Ocular Coherence Tomographer, (OCT for short). This instrument allows them to view areas of the eye that were previously not visible with standard eye exams. Similar to an MRI, it allows us to diagnose ocular conditions such as macu- lar degeneration, glaucoma, and diabetic retinopathy much earlier.

Along with providing comprehensive eye care, including treatment for red eyes and many eye diseases, they also offer expert contact lens fitting, a large opti- cal department to fit all budgets, and an experienced, professional staff.

“We strive to provide great customer service and a positive experience for our patients as we enter our next 35 years,” concluded Dr. Fowle.

Fowle Eyecare is located at 120 Mar- cell Dr. Rockford, and may be reached at (616) 866-0140.

A Way Out offers training to combat sexual abuse and human trafficking

The first step to fighting child- hood sexual abuse and human traf- ficking is becoming aware and spreading this awareness.

Let A Way Out help you do both. They are committed to educat- ing community and business leaders, employees, educators, parents, vol- unteers of schools, and other youth-serving or- ganizations, and concerned adults. They provide the tools and confidence to respond and report suspected sexual abuse and human trafficking.

The organization provides this training at your place of business, community center, school, church, or public meeting space. We can travel to your site in the West Michigan Area, within 50 miles of Grand Rapids. They offer more programs, and suggest combing the two, but the option to choose just one is available.

Human Trafficking Training:
This 1-hour program on Human Trafficking, led by a Licensed Professional Counselor, promotes awareness of human trafficking. The many forms of human trafficking will be discussed as well as what to do if recognized.

Topics covered include:
• Victim profiling, at risk populations and vulnerabilities
• Recruitment, profiling of traffickers, and grooming of victims by traffickers
• Effects of Trauma
• Effective Strategies of working with victims
• What trafficking may look like in different professions

This class qualifies for Two (2) Continuing Education hours by the National Association of Social Workers and The National Nurse’s Credentialing Center’s Commission on Acc- reditation.

For this class is $50 per person for both Human Trafficking and Stewards of Children® Classes include presentation material. Please contact A Way Out’s Executive Director Karen Grossman at awoyouth@gmail.com or call (616) 644-4965 to schedule a class, or for more information.

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Rockford Self Storage continues growth with new building

The staff at Rockford Self Storage is excited to announce they have just opened a brand new building. The structure, located at their north location at 10511 Northland Dr., features unit sizes from 5X10 to 10X30. There is also availability for month-to-month outdoor RV, boat and camper spaces.

The north location will also be featuring a new drive-up building in the near future with tall and wide doors to store large RV's and boats indoors up to 60 feet in length. Also on the docket for 2019, is a new 10,000 square-foot climate-controlled building and a new 6,000 square-foot building offering 10X40 sizes at their central location.

You are invited to call today at (616)874-8989 to get your first month half off.

“We look forward to continuing to serve the Rockford community as we grow,” said Jordan DeGraaf. “We hope you have a wonderful fall season with friends and family.”

To find out more information, go to: www.rockfordselfstorage.com.

Vital Nutrition ready to help you attain health

There’s a wonderful store ensconced in downtown Rockford, and they are armed with plenty of information, products and suggestions to help you find health and happiness.

“We strive to be our customers’ first and number one choice for all of their health and wellness needs,” said owner Alaina James. “Whether they are new on their journey or have been living this lifestyle for years, we are here to educate and provide the best products with the cleanest ingredients.”

Vital Nutrition is located at 43 E. Bridge St., in downtown Rockford. For more information, call (616) 433-9333.

“We are so happy to be a part of downtown Rockford and are very excited to get involved in the community,” concluded James.

Find your fun adventure at Battle GR

Jenny and Joe Lashuay have a unique offering for your event. The duo has founded Battle Grand Rapids, a wonderful place to compete with lasers, celebrate birthday parties, team building – or even bachelor or bachelorette parties.

The duo actually started their mobile laser tag venture in Nashville, Tennessee, and then moved it to Grand Rapids in July, 2017.

“We offer services such as corporate events, team building, birthday parties, or just fun play for families,” said co-owner Jenny Lashuay.

Their arena is open Fridays and Saturdays and groups may reserve the arena during the week. Battle GR has seven different objective-based games. They feature tactical play, which means dimmed warehouse lighting and their taggers have red/green dot scopes to help you aim. To add extra excitement to loyal customers, they change their arena around every so often to give taggers a different playing field.

If you’re rather not travel, Battle GR offers the unique ability to come to you. They bring their army replica guns and mobile barriers to your party. They’ll come to your home, church, business, park, or other place for a memorable event.

“Big or small events, we got fun covered for you,” said Lashuay. “We service the surrounding communities and beyond.”

Battle GR is located at 4735 Lake Michigan Dr. NW, Suite E, Grand Rapids. For more information, call (616) 345-0698, or go to battlegr.com.

H&S Companies celebrates 35 years in business with fundraiser

H&S Companies started out in Fremont, Michigan in 1983. This year they celebrate 35 years in business, with 10 locations, and over 80 team members. Co-Founder, Dan Slate, never has a shortage of ideas when it comes to celebrating milestones, and he decided the firm should do so by raising money for a worthy cause, and discussed it with his business partner.

“We chose to hold a golf outing for clients and employees where all the proceeds will be donated to the Grand Rapids Whitewater Organization,” said co-founder Jack Hendon. “It’s an organization with a plan that will have a tremendous economic, social, and environmental impact on the greater Grand Rapids community.”

H&S Shareholders invited clients and employees across all offices to play in the golf outing. The 124-person outing was at Scott Lake Golf & Practice Center in Belmont, Michigan, and brought in over $15,000 with sponsorships, silent auction, 50/50 raffle, and more.

“We could not have done this without the support of many of our clients and business partners, who generously sponsored the outing,” continued Hendon. “Special thanks to Founders Brewing Company and ChoiceOne Bank for being our Class IV Rapids level sponsors, as well as VizCom Media, Bill & Paul’s Sportshaus, and our friends at H&S Wealth Management for their Class III Rapids level sponsorships.”

A full list of sponsors can be found on the H&S Companies website by visiting their News page.

H&S Companies would also like to thank their clients, employees, and friends who came to the outing to show their support, either by volunteering, playing, or bidding in the silent auction.

“Many folks we have known and worked with for 35 years,” said co-founder Dan Slate.

Grand Rapids Whitewater is a 501c3 non-profit organization dedicated to the restoration and revitalization of the Grand River’s rapids. Their mission is to put the namesake rapids back in the Grand for all to enjoy, paddlers, anglers, rowers, and individuals alike. Visit grandrapidswitwater.org to learn more.

H&S Companies encourages you to join them in contributing to the continued success of the Grand Rapids Whitewater Organization.

Find your fun adventure at Battle GR
Early Diabetic Eye Disease detection offered

Diabetics can develop damage to the back of their eyes that can lead to permanent vision loss. Early detection of potential damage is imperative to help prevent visual changes over time. Stites Eye Care is proud to offer their patients today’s best technology so changes can be detected earlier and vision loss prevented.

“We upgrade our instruments regularly as technology advances so we can continue to offer our patients the advanced care we have become known for,” said Dr. Carl Stites. “Our new Zeiss Cirrus HD-OCT is one of the many tools we utilize for early diagnosis of ocular disease - especially diabetic eye disease.”

Medical insurance (not vision insurance) will often cover screenings for diabetic eye disease. For more information on diabetic eye care, contact their office any time at (616) 863-2020. Stites Eye Care is located at 6840-A Northway Dr NE, Rockford, MI.

Stites Eye Care
Dr. Carl L. Stites
616.863.2020

Insightful Eye Wear
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United Bank welcomes new Rockford branch manager

United Bank is pleased to announce that Lindsey Younglove has recently joined its team as the Rockford Branch Manager.

In her role, Lindsey will focus on leading the Rockford team and solutions to every customer’s financial needs. She has three years of experience in the banking industry, two of which were in a management position. Lindsey is passionate about building strong relationships and is dedicated to serving the community.

“We’re excited to have Lindsey on our team,” said United Bank Senior Vice President Lisa Banas. “She’s committed to offering the best in customer service and we look forward to her contributions.”

Founded in 1887, United Bank, though still closely held, has more than $600 million in assets. The bank operates 12 full service banking locations throughout West Michigan, a wealth management and insurance services division. A leading business lender, United Bank offers a comprehensive suite of business and personal banking products that blend cutting-edge technology with personalized hometown service.

Delicious fare all year long

The Traboulay family wants to make sure the community knows that Flavors on the Promenade isn’t just a summer pastime. The local favorite, which is located in beautiful downtown Rockford in the Promenade Building at 8 E. Bridge St., will be open throughout the winter months.

Of course, they will continue to offer fan favorite rolled ice cream, but they also have a delicious line up of hot offerings to warm customers up on those cold winter days that are sure to come. The dessert shop features hot savory crepes, hot dessert crepes, hot soups, in addition to coffee and hot chocolate.

To learn more, go to www.flavorsonthepromenade.com, or look them up on Facebook.
Nugent Builders celebrates huge milestone, award

Nugent Builders, well-known for their quality work, eye for detail, and treating their employees every bit as well as their loyal customers, celebrated an impressive 40 years in business. But, 40 years wasn’t the only honor the company celebrated in 2018. Nugent Builders was selected as one of West Michigan’s Best & Brightest to Work For in May.

The residential and commercial construction company celebrated the two distinctions in June with a picnic.

“For over 40 years we have conveyed to our employees, ‘Take care of everyone the way you would want to be taken care of,’” said Rick and Carol Nugent.

The team also gave a nod to their “Best and Brightest” award at the picnic.

According to the website, “The Best and Brightest Companies to Work For® competition identifies and honors organizations that display a commitment to excellence in their human resource practices and employee enrichment. Organizations are assessed based on categories such as communication, work-life balance, employee education, diversity, recognition, retention and more.”

“Our team of over 40 dedicated employees make all the difference at Nugent Builders,” the duo continued.

“We are so PROUD of their talents, commitment to quality, excellent craftsmanship and teamwork spirit. We are honored to be recognized and dedicate this special award to our amazing group of employees – congratulations Team Nugent.”

Nugent Builders is located at 11625 Northland Dr., please call (616) 866-7663 for more information.

Rockford Family Eyecare celebrates fourth anniversary

The expert staff at Rockford Family Eyecare is ready to take care of all your eye needs.

Rockford Family Eyecare just celebrated their fourth year in business November 3, by hosting their annual Sees Spa and Sorre Trunk show.

“Thank you to everyone who attended making this a fun-filled event including over 50 giveaways from many supportive business around the Rockford area,” said Dr. Ted Sees. “This is a yearly tradition, so if you missed it this year you can always plan on stopping by next year.”

Dr. Carrie and Ted Sees continue to offer comprehensive eye care, as well as provide specialty treatment and management care for Dry Eye Disease.

Their newest addition is Dr. Kelly Daugherty-Zielaskowski, who specializes in pediatric eye care and Binocular Vision Disorders.

Dr. Ted Sees also provides a unique specialty called OrthoK- contact lens-like molds worn overnight to correct vision thus eliminating the need for contacts or glasses during the day.

“Thank you, again, for your support of our office,” continued Dr. Ted Sees. “We are so happy to be able to help keep everyone’s eyes in the Rockford area healthy and seeing 20/20.”

Rockford Family Eyecare is located at 2745 10 Mile Rd, and can be reached at (616) 951-7115.

Herman’s Boy does it again

Floyd (AKA Herman’s Boy) Havemeier has created another unique eye-popping addition to The Coffee Ranch featuring Herman’s Boy, Inc. Floyd needed to create additional storage for his sons’ business as it continues to grow; but wanted to preserve the rural farm feel of the property.

Floyd located two 36-foot diameter grain bins in Iowa, had them disassembled and then reassembled on his property at 220 Northland Dr. The bins are visible from Wolverine Boulevard and add to the farmstead look that he originally maintained when relocating Herman’s Boy from downtown Rockford.

Sons, Jeff, Doug, and Bryan Havemeier are pleased with the extra space as they prepare for the upcoming busy holiday season. Much room is needed for all the additional kitchen and BBQ gadgets and sauces, coffee and tea mugs, as well as the coffee, smoke meats, cheeses, nuts, teas and all the packaging supplies that go into making the gift boxes they produce for customers’ family, friends, clients, and employees.

You’re invited to check out all the delights for the upcoming holiday season by visiting Herman’s Boy.

Local painting company doubly involved in community

Not all painting companies are created equal, nor is their community members, which is why Chad Druckenmiller feels Druckenmiller Painting is your best local choice.

“We live in Rockford and that’s why we give back to those in need such as North Kent Connect, silent auctions (fundraisers), support local schools and churches through donations/volunteering so the money you’re spending goes right back into the community,” shared Druckenmiller. “We have been so blessed this year with lots of work - both commercial and residential - that we’re now booked through the end of January.”

Druckenmiller invites you to contact them at (616) 632-4666, to reserve your company painting project. To find out more information, look them up on Facebook.
New condos available in downtown Rockford

Bruyn Homes is excited to announce their newest building project in the gorgeous Old Millpond condo development. This extraordinary neighborhood offers a park-like setting with many community areas in a private setting, just a minute’s walk from downtown Rockford. Riverview units are available and ready for customization. Units in this new phase are starting at $359,900.

Units to include painted or stained cabinets with full overlay doors, full extension drawers and access to White Pine Trail. Includes private shared beach space, commercial land and access to White Pine Trail. Condo Association fees are $335 a month, which includes snowplowing, maintenance of property and grounds, exterior maintenance of all condos, trash, and water included.

Contact Bruyn Homes at (616) 647-3439, or stop in at 5356 Plainfield St., Grand Rapids, 49525.

Peppermill Grill in business for 21 years

The Peppermill Grill was started by Nick Wawee III in 1997, and has easily become a favorite for both the community and visitors. The eatery is open early in the morning, so it is convenient for breakfast lovers, and closes at 2 p.m., making sure to serve delicious lunches to their grateful patrons. When customers enter the building they are greeted with fantastic smells and a cheerful greeting from the staff.

“I give thanks to the many customers and wonderful families that we have met throughout the years,” said Wawee. “Discovering the charm of Rockford has been a great experience, which is in a treasure of physical work and work ethic.”

With a friendly staff, great food, and great service the Peppermill Grill is sure to be a Rockford favorite for years to come.

The Peppermill Grill is located at 8 South Squires Street, right near the White Pine Trail, and nestled behind Vitalie’s. Their hours are Monday-Friday 7 a.m.-2 p.m. and Saturday 7 a.m.-2 p.m. For more information, go to www.thepeppermillgrill.com.

WAR Chest celebrates big milestone

The WAR Chest Boutique celebrated 10 years of business in Rockford this month. They opened in November 2008 on Grand River St, which was Women At Risk International’s first-ever storefront. They launched the business to sell the handmade, handcrafted items made by women in their anti-trafficking programs worldwide.

Starting with just a few dozen products, they now carry thousands. Since the end of 2012, they changed locations to be down along the river near Amie’s. They are invited to help them celebrate their 10-year anniversary by visiting them and shopping with a purpose.

Everyday Rockford launches Rockford Compass app

Rockford Compass is a fun and free new app for iPhone and Android that combines a walking tour with a scavenger hunt around Rockford. When participants load up the app, they’ll be presented with a list of landmarks around the city such as parks, statues, historical buildings, and more.

Compass will show how far away you are and in what direction you need to walk to reach the landmark. Once you’ve accepted the challenge and navigated to the landmark, just tap the “Finish Challenge” button, take a moment to look around and enjoy this beautiful city, and then find another challenge to complete. Each challenge gives you a little bit of background information about your destination, so it’s a fun way to learn about Rockford while enjoying the sights.

Rockford Compass also ties into the Everday Rockford event calendar, so when there is a local event about to start the app will notify you and provide directions to the event’s location. No one has to worry about missing any of Rockford’s great events anymore.

Over the coming weeks and months, Everyday Rockford will be featuring special in-app events for holiday activities, partnering with local businesses to provide even more great challenges and destinations, and adding tons more great games.

Download Rockford Compass on the Apple App Store or on the Android Google Play Store.

SERVPRO prepares to celebrate new building

SERVPRO of NE Grand Rapids started construction on a new building. The construction started in the summer of 2018, and is slated to be ready for occupancy in the beginning of 2019. The new facility is located in Comstock Park, within a half mile of their old office, located at 4870 West River Dr.

Over the years SERVPRO has serviced and supported the community and are looking forward to a bigger and more spacious environment to work with their customers. With the first of the year approaching quickly, they are planning their Grand Opening and are excited to have all their supporters join them in celebrating in the first part of 2019. There are still finishing touches that have to be made, but the staff looks forward to the future in their new location.

Be sure to watch for the announcement for the date and time of the Grand Opening celebration.