



*Office of Mayor Lawrence J. Morrissey  
LEADING BOLDLY, WORKING TOGETHER*

## **PRESS RELEASE**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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### ***ROCKFORD FEATURED IN WALL STREET JOURNAL***

***MAIN STREET JOURNAL SERIES FOCUSES ON CITY'S CHALLENGES AND HOPES***

ROCKFORD – January 20, 2009 – Mayor Larry Morrissey today announced that the Wall Street Journal has launched a series entitled “Main Street Journal” which will feature Rockford as a study of a typical Midwestern city managing the current fiscal downtrends while looking towards the brighter future promised by the Obama administration.

The “Main Street Journal”, which kicked off their first story in today’s on-line version of the Wall Street Journal ([www.wsj.com/mainstreet](http://www.wsj.com/mainstreet)), will run throughout the year online, with periodic stories running in the daily paper. “The exciting aspect of this story is that it focuses on the community as a whole. It looks at everyone, from the Mayor’s office, to the economic-development group, schools, churches, social services, big corporations, small businesses, the arts, and how they are dealing with the economy and the new Presidential administration.” stated Mayor Morrissey.

Reporters from the Wall Street Journal have spent considerable time in the Rockford community interviewing community members, attending City budget hearings, and understanding the future needs of the community. “This will be a very honest portrayal of our City. Our strong history of working together to manage these difficult times, partnered with our future plans for infrastructure and economic development improvements, sends a strong message that we are a city that understands that challenges are opportunities,” Morrissey said. “The pride in our community will be reflected in this piece.”

Wall Street Journal reporters Amy Merrick and Thurow will continue their research throughout the year. The feature is projected to run throughout 2009.

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