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It's easy to be excited about fall in Rockford...



Photo courtesy of Brian Thomas Photography

## **HARD ROCK**

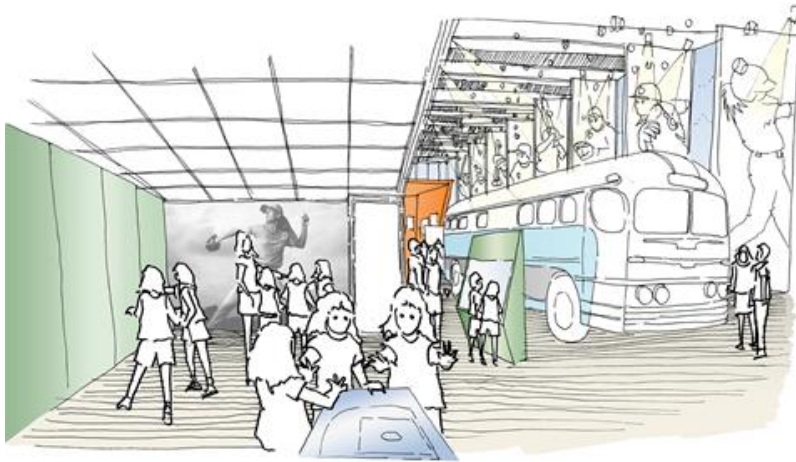
Mid-month I was honored to get a sneak peek of the exciting “Opening Act” Hard Rock Casino Rockford at the corner of Bell School and East State Street in Rockford.

The building has been transformed into a full-fledged casino, filled with 600 slot machines, two restaurants and, hopefully many future winners! The City of Rockford is a winner in partnering with Hard Rock and the State of Illinois to bring the casino to our region. Watch for its opening next month!



### **Rockford Promise**

The numbers are in, and Rockford Promise is a success! Through leadership and investment from City Hall, we saw a 380% increase in the number of RPS 205 students attending Northern Illinois University; of those, 59% were minorities and 79% were first generation college students. Improving our educational attainment levels is critical to the success of our community. When we see higher educational attainment, we always see lower crime.



### **INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S BASEBALL CENTER**

Play ball! That's the message Rockford City Council sent to the dedicated volunteers behind a game-changer for Rockford, the International Women's Baseball Center. Earlier this month, aldermen approved a special use permit for the one-of-a-kind museum to be built at Beyer

Stadium, 311 15th Avenue where the historic Rockford Peaches played ball many years ago. The \$10 million structure will celebrate the history of women in baseball and encourage girls to pursue careers in sports. Museum supporters are planning a November 1st baseball-themed fundraiser.

<http://www.internationalwomensbaseballcenter.org/>

## **NEW LIFE FOR BARBER-COLMAN BUILDING?**

Earlier this month, the Rockford City Council approved an agreement to sell the former Barber-Colman building at 1300 Rock Street in Rockford to Milwaukee historical developer J. Jeffers & Co. The real estate firm now has 180 days to perform environmental and feasibility studies to make a decision on moving forward. The potential sale could mean transformational redevelopment for the City's southwest corridor





## **PROPERTY TAXES REMAIN FLAT**

No one likes to talk about taxes, but I do when I can share that for the ninth straight year, Rockford has reduced its tax levy or kept its levy flat, including reductions in two of the last four years. The City's property tax rate is now at 16%, its lowest rate in a decade. That's great for Rockford families. It's great for Rockford homeowners. It's great for Rockford.

**Thank You for Your Support!**

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A copy of our report is on file with the Winnebago County Clerk, 404 Elm St, Rockford, IL. Tom McNamara, Democratic Candidate for Rockford Mayor. Paid for by friends of Tom McNamara.

Send to Friends of Tom McNamara  
P.O. Box 1134  
Rockford, IL 61105

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