



OFFICE  
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MAYOR

## Memorial Clock Tower Gets Timely Reset

**For Immediate Release**---*Wisconsin Rapids, WI*: Restoration of the Wisconsin Rapids Memorial Clock and Bell Tower is now complete, and a rededication ceremony is set for Thursday, September 28, from 5 to 7 p.m.

The clock mechanism has been restored to its original condition, thanks to Rory DeMesy of Mechanical Watch Supply of Minneapolis. According to DeMesy, "The mechanism drives four clocks and should last about 100 years."

In 2014, a committee was formed to address restoring the clock and bell tower (dedicated in 1991) to its original condition. After almost two years of work, the exterior and interior of the tower have been extensively reconditioned.

The September 28 clock and tower rededication ceremony will be held in honor of Paul Gross. Without his guidance and perseverance, the memorial clock and bell tower might never have been built.

"The Memorial Clock and Bell Tower is a landmark in our beautiful downtown riverfront area," said Mayor Zach Vruwink, "representing our history and the aspirations of future generations."

The restoration of the Wisconsin Rapids Memorial Clock and Bell Tower would not have been possible without the generous support of the Mead Witter Foundation.

**About the clock:** The clock was first installed in 1892, in the tower of the Grand Rapids (now Wisconsin Rapids) City Hall at the foot of Baker Street, in what is now a parking lot for the Wood County Courthouse.

The building was demolished in the mid-1950s, but the clock was spared. In the 1980s, a group of civic-minded citizens, led by jeweler and historian Paul Gross, organized a campaign to build the Wisconsin Rapids Memorial Clock and Bell Tower. On June 28, 1991, the clock and bell tower were dedicated during a formal ceremony at the base of the tower.

**Zachary J. Vruwink, Mayor**

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