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## Todd Cagnoni

**By Jeff Kolkey****RRSTAR.COM***Posted Sep 02, 2009 @ 05:54 PM*

**Who is he?** Todd Cagnoni, 39, is the deputy director of community and economic development for Rockford. He is responsible for overseeing current planning, zoning, annexation and building. Cagnoni became interested in his career as a college economics and geography major. He has worked for the city for 11 years and lives in Rockford with his wife, 6-year-old son and 3-year-old daughter.

**Inspired by:** It is an honor to work for the community; I have the opportunity to meet many people and be involved in numerous projects. I enjoy making our community a better place.

**For fun:** I like to fish, go camping, boating, snowmobiling and spending time with my family.

**Favorite place in the Rock River Valley:** There are so many. Any of the downtown restaurants, especially Carlyle for pizza and a beer with friends.

**Ideal long weekend:** Fishing in Ontario or on the Mississippi River in Savanna.

**Desktop computer photo:** A picture of my son, daughter and me standing in front of the waterfall at Sioux Narrows, Ontario.

**People are surprised to learn:** That I didn't play high school or college basketball. I'm 6-foot-5 and did not get most of my height until my last year of high school and during college. I am always being asked about my basketball experience.

**Best advice I've received:** Honesty is the best policy.

**Last good book I've read:** "Just Bee: A Book to Bee a Better Me," a children's personal coaching book on being a good person.

**Growing up, I wanted to be:** A construction worker. I am still fascinated by and respect individuals who have the skill and knowledge to build buildings, roads and infrastructure. I have the opportunity to plan it, but not build it.

**Funny life experience:** My son (4 years old at the time) and I were at my in-laws' cattle farm walking in a field near a herd of yearling cattle. My son was wearing a red plaid coat with a matching Elmer Fudd hat he had received for Christmas. My son's ensemble and his nonstop talking triggered a stampede that sent cattle in every direction for miles. It took my father-in-law several days to round up the cattle.

**Something that distinguishes me from everyone else:** My reliability. When I say I am going to do something, I do it.

**Biggest challenge:** Raising children. Although I enjoy every minute of it, I cannot imagine a more important responsibility.

**First job:** Mowing lawns. I was 13 and started working for my neighbor's lawn-mowing business.

**Something the Rock River Valley needs:** A positive attitude. We have so many great assets within the community. It's a great place to live.

*Compiled by Jeff Kolkey. Have a suggestion for Get to Know Me? E-mail [jkolkey@rrstar.com](mailto:jkolkey@rrstar.com) or call 815-987-1374.*

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