



The Bridge—Volume 143

CITY OF ROCKFORD

MESSAGE FROM MAYOR

Thank you to our Public Works staff and Administrator/Special Attorney, Dan Madsen, for putting up the lights downtown and at Riverside Park. The lights are beautiful and may bring a little smile to your face. Hopefully soon the ice rinks will be flooded and ready for skaters when the temperatures are just right.

City Council and staff are happy to announce a new team member at Public Works, Jason Styve. Jason is replacing a recent vacancy and will help with snow plowing, street maintenance, fire hydrant flushing, and a variety of other tasks. Welcome Jason to our team!

City Council has approved a preliminary tax levy increase of 1.95%. This will keep our budget balanced and help support future street improvement projects. The additional 44 building permits received in 2020 will help offset this increase and bring more tax base to the city.

Truth and taxation hearing will take place on December 8th at 6:00 pm in the city hall council chambers. I encourage anyone who has questions about your city taxes to please come to the meeting.

Keep fire hydrants clear of snow during the winter season. Having access to a fire hydrant clearly saves time in responding to an emergency. It is also important to make sure cars are not parked on the streets when it snows. Otherwise, snowplows cannot get through and clean the streets for everyone's safety.

It has been a tough year for everyone during this COVID-19 crisis. Unfortunately, there will be a scaled down version of Crow River Christmas on Saturday, December 5th. There will be over 100 sponsored trees to be lit up at Riverside Park with fireworks starting around 4:45pm. We hope these trees can bring some much-needed joy to the community. Thank you to everyone who sponsored a tree and supports RiverWorks.

“Embrace change and recognize that life is in constant motion. When boundaries are seen as opportunities, the world becomes a limitless place.”

Have a wonderful holiday!

Mayor Renee Hafften

TRUTH IN TAXATION HEARING

The preliminary 2021 levy for operating expenses is set at \$1,516,434, and the debt service levy is set at \$218,653 for a proposed increase of 1.95% to the cities portion of the property taxes.

To learn more about Rockford's proposed 2021 Budget, please attend the public hearing on **Tuesday, December 8, 2020** at 6pm in the Council Chambers at 6031 Main Street, Rockford, MN. The City Council may set the final levy after the public hearing at this meeting.

Snowmobiling

Persons operating snowmobiles within the city limits **must travel on designated trails**. Snowmobiles are prohibited from any public sidewalk/trail ways provided for pedestrian travel, on private property without the owner's permission, and all other public property unless designated as the snowmobile trail. There is no parking or riding of snowmobiles on the levee or in city parks.

City Hall

6031 Main Street
Rockford, MN 55373
phone: 763-477-6565
fax: 763-477-4393

email: cityhall@cityofrockford.org
website: www.cityofrockford.org

City Hall Office Hours

Mon-Fri 8am—4:30pm

Mayor

Renee Hafften

City Council

Deb Buoy
Rick Martinson
Scott Seymour

City Council Meetings

Second & fourth Tuesday of each month at 6pm

Planning Commission Meetings

Second Thursday (fourth Thursday Apr-Oct if needed) of each month at 7pm

Park Commission Meetings

First Monday of every other month at 6pm

To receive the newsletter and city updates via email, send your email address to:

audrae@cityofrockford.org

"Like" The City of Rockford on Facebook



**Crow River Christmas
Saturday, December 5, 2020
Riverside Park, 8220 Elm Street**

5:00pm Fireworks start, followed by lighting up the trees.

Bring along your thermos of hot chocolate and enjoy the crisp air and bright fireworks and trees! Please wear a mask and use the wide-open spaces of the park to social distance! Fireworks sponsored by The City of Rockford.

Enjoy walking through the one-way tree lane of 100 trees lit up for the season! Trees will be turned on right after the fireworks and will remain lit through January 1st.

TREE LIGHTING WILL BE LIVE STREAMED ON RIVERWORKS FACEBOOK PAGE STARTING AT 4:45PM



A M E S - F L O R I D A - S T O R K H O U S E

The Ames-Florida-Stork House is located at:
8131 Bridge Street
(763) 477-5383 Email: storkhouse@cityofrockford.org
www.rockfordmnhistory.org



Call Ames-Florida-Stork House for availability or to schedule a tour.

Dear Santa Letters Wanted— Starting November 27th to December 12th, area children are invited to leave their letters to Santa in a special mailbox at the Ames-Florida-Stork House. Be sure to leave your address and child's name and age in legible writing on the letter. Special elves from the Rockford Area Historical Society will be helping Santa deliver his letters this year. Enjoy this special tradition this holiday season.

Crow River Christmas -12/5 Quilt Raffle Drawing



R O C K F O R D L I B R A R Y

Located at **8220 Cedar Street** (763) 477-4216

The library will not be hosting any programs or story times through the end of the year and most likely not before spring of 2021. Many digital resources are available, including Libby and Hoopla. On their website (griver.org), select: "Databases A-Z" or "Digital" to view additional resources that are available with a library card from your home. If you don't have a card, call us at 763-477-4216.

Spectrum Cable Subscribers:
View the City of Rockford on Channel 180

C H R I S T M A S T R E E P I C K - U P

If you would like to have your tree picked-up on **Wednesday, January 13, 2021**, you **MUST** call City Hall by noon on **Monday, January 11 2021** to sign-up. If there is not a minimum of 10 participants, Waste Management will not be able to facilitate the collection of trees! The cost is \$5 and will be billed to your Waste Management account.

Call Audra at 763-634-8770 to be added to the list. We will need your name, address and daytime phone number.

Your tree needs to be at the curb by 7am on Wednesday, January 13, 2021.

Rockford Fire Department and Auxiliary Toy Drive

The Rockford Fire Auxiliary is seeking donations for their annual LOCAL toy drive. They are looking for new unwrapped toys or monetary donations. Toys will be collected until noon on Friday, December 11th for this year's distribution.

Donation boxes are located at most businesses, schools and Rockford City Hall. Monetary donations should be made payable to the Rockford Fire Relief Association with a note in the memo stating Toy Drive and delivered to City Hall or mailed to: Rockford Fire Relief Association, Toy Drive, 6031 Main Street, Rockford MN 55373. Donations are accepted year round. Please consider donating to the Rockford Fire Department Auxiliary local Toy Drive.

Due to the demand, families need to sign-up ahead of time by contacting RiverWorks Food Shelf at 8230 Cedar Street or call 763-477-6098. ALL toys collected stay in the community.



Wastewater Billing Calculation (Actual vs. Averaging) Open Until the end of December 2020

Historically, wastewater rates had only been calculated based on the average water used between November 15th and April 15th and recalculated annually. In 2014 the City Council passed an ordinance to allow residents the choice between being billed for their wastewater use based upon their actual water use or continuing with the old system which averaged winter water use and billed that average as the wastewater usage over the summer months.

All residents in Rockford are assigned the averaging billing system for wastewater unless you have requested to be on actual use. You must contact City Hall between **December 1st and December 30th**, if you wish to change your billing system for it to be effective for the January 2021 billing. Annually, December is the only time you can change your wastewater billing calculation and can do so by calling **City Hall at 763-477-6565 (press 1)**.

C O N G R A T U L A T I O N S

Trevor Brummer, Public Works Director has been with the City of Rockford for 10 Years!

Renee Oelrich, Water/Wastewater Operator was recently awarded the 2020's Inspiring Woman of Wastewater!



W I N T E R S E A S O N I N F O R M A T I O N

Snow Season Parking

The snow season ordinance is in effect November 1st until April 1st and it shall be unlawful for any person to park a vehicle on or within fifteen (15) feet of the curb line or edge of paved surface between 2am-6am.

It is unlawful for any person to park a vehicle on ANY street after ice accumulation, continuous or intermittent snow fall during which there has been an accumulation of two inches or more of snow on any street until the same has been plowed or removed from the full width of the roadway.

On street parking is prohibited from 4am-6am on ALL non-residential streets regardless of snow. At NO TIME shall a vehicle be parked upon ANY street in any one place for more than twelve (12) hours. Please make sure that your guests are aware of these regulations so that they don't end up with a ticket or worse yet, getting towed.

Maintain a safe driving distance behind snow plows.

Snow Plowing

It is unlawful to plow snow onto ANY city, township, county or state road. Doing so is a violation of Minnesota Statue 160 and you may be fined.

Please leave garbage and recycling containers at the edge of the driveway, not in the street.

Sidewalk Snow Removal

In the interest of public safety, the City of Rockford reminds you of the importance of keeping your walkways cleared of snow and ice. City Ordinance 901.04 states that all snow and ice must be removed from public sidewalks 24 hours after the snow or other precipitation causing the condition.

If you live near a fire hydrant, please keep it clear of snow and ice.



CITY OF ROCKFORD

Upcoming Events

- December 5th—Crow River Christmas 5pm Riverside Park
- December 24th and 25th—City Hall Closed for the Holiday Season
- December 31st and January 1st—City Hall Closed for the New Year's Holiday
- January 13th—Christmas Tree Pick-Up curbside by 7am (sign-up is required)
- January 11th—Rockford Senior Citizen's 11:30 am
- January 14th—R-G Area Chamber of Commerce Meeting 11:30am
- January 18th—City Hall Closed in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
- February 8th—Rockford Senior Citizen's 11:30am
- February 11th— R-G Area Chamber of Commerce Coffee & Networking 7:30am-8:30am
- February 15th—City Hall Closed in observance of President's Day

RECYCLING

Waste Management **collects recycling every other Wednesday**. The 2021 calendar will be available on the City website and at City Hall.

Recyclables must be set out at the curb by 7 a.m.

The City of Rockford supports residential recycling in the general fund budget. Recycling was state mandated by legislature. The more everyone can recycle the bigger the county rebates, reducing the tax burden.

You may have noticed odd objects on the towers, well The City of Rockford hires Water Tower Clean and Coat, Inc. to clean and inspect the towers annually. This keeps our towers in good condition, helps us maintain their structure to get the maximum life from the towers, allows us to monitor more closely so we're aware of any issues and cleans the tanks for quality assurance of safe water for our community.



Online Utility Payments

Did you know you can pay your utility payment on-line? Just go to www.cityofrockford.org and select Pay Your Utilities. This will direct you to the web store. Follow the instructions:

1. Select or enter your account information.
Account Name (last name as displayed on bill)
Account Number (no dashes and *leave the last number off*)
2. If the balance does not populate, click **Check Balance**.
3. Enter a payment amount.
4. Click **Add to Cart**.

Future Pick-Up Dates:

December 16, 2020	July 14, 2021
December 30, 2020	July 28, 2021
January 13, 2021	August 11, 2021
January 27, 2021	August 25, 2021
February 10, 2021	September 8, 2021
February 24, 2021	September 22, 2021
March 10, 2021	October 6, 2021
March 24, 2021	October 20, 2021
April 7, 2021	November 3, 2021
April 21, 2021	November 17, 2021
May 5, 2021	December 1, 2021
May 19, 2021	December 15, 2021
June 2, 2021	December 29, 2021
June 16, 2021	January 5, 2022
June 30, 2021	<i>*Thursday pick-up</i>



The chamber invites all the businesses from the surrounding area to join them at their gatherings. For more information contact their website at: <http://rgchamber.wixsite.com> or Email: rockfordgreenfieldchamber@gmail.com

January 2021 Chamber Luncheon/Meeting- TBD
February 2021 Coffee Networking - TBD

The Rockford Area Senior Citizens meet the 2nd Monday of each month at different locations. Call Marilyn Blake (763) 331-5896 for information or to sign-up. Membership is \$10 per year. Upcoming meetings:

- **January 11th**—Rockford Community Center
- **February 8th**—Delano Senior Center

Due to current restriction on gathering, call to confirm.



Rockford Area Take-Out and Delivery is NEW Facebook page dedicated to Rockford Area Businesses as a place where menu items and specials for pick-up or delivery can be posted. This page is also dedicated to Rockford Area Residents as a resource for local take-out and delivery options.