



The Bridge—Volume 139

CITY OF ROCKFORD

MESSAGE FROM MAYOR

If Old Man Winter (derived from ancient Greek mythology) keeps dropping the temperatures, the ice rinks will be ready for skaters sooner than we may all want. They will be flooded when the temperatures are just right. Thank you to Public Works staff in getting the holiday decorations up before it got too cold.

After 22 years of service, John Quirk announced he was retiring. We will miss John and wish him all the best! Public Works plans to hire staff in December, please check out the job postings at city hall on the city website.

City hall staff and council are busy working with developers on agreements for new commercial and housing construction. We anticipate more development in 2020 than we had this past year.

Truth and taxation hearing will take place on December 10th 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 snow 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, our snow plows cannot get through and clean the streets for our safety.

Mark your calendars for Saturday, December 7th to enjoy the Crow River Christmas events starting at 9:00am. Santa is visiting the fire station from 10am–2pm. Final events will be at Riverside Park starting at 4pm for caroling, to fill the trailer with food, lighting of the trees and fireworks.

Be thankful for your health, family and friends. Have a wonderful holiday season!

Mayor Renee Hafften

TRUTH IN TAXATION HEARING

The preliminary 2020 levy for operating expenses is set at \$1,480,680 and the debt service levy is set at \$221,220 for a proposed increase of 1.88% to the cities portion of the property taxes.

To learn more about Rockford's proposed 2020 Budget, please attend the public hearing on **Tuesday, December 10, 2019** 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.

CHRISTMAS TREE PICK-UP

If you would like to have your tree picked-up on **Wednesday, January 8, 2020**, you **MUST** call City Hall by noon on **Monday, January 6, 2020** 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.

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
Ted Hill
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 7, 2019 (9am-6pm)

Here are some of the events:

- 8:30am Jolly Jingle Jog 5K (9am Riverside Park)
- 9am—2pm The Christmas Express (rides to event locations)
- 10am-1pm Girl Scout Gift & Craft Sale at Fire Station
- 10am-2pm Photos with Santa at Fire Station
- 12pm-4pm Stork House Open House
- 1pm-4pm FREE Horse and Wagon Rides
- 4:30pm Christmas Music at Riverside Park
- 5:15pm Light up the Trees at Riverside Park
- 5:30pm Light up the Sky Fireworks at Riverside Park

Toy and Food donations will be accepted at most sites during events and at Riverside Park from 1pm-5:30pm.

For more information: www.riverworksonline.org or call 763-477-5480



Holiday Mixer on Friday, **December 6th** at El Bamba in Rockford from 6pm-8pm. Cost is \$30 per person—includes: turkey bingo, fajitas, taco bar, chips & dip, and 2 drink tickets. Any questions or to RSVP contact: rockfordgreenfieldchamber@gmail.com

The next R-G Chamber Meeting will be held on **January 9th** at Wright-Hennepin Electric located at 6800 Electric Drive, Rockford. Networking starts at 11:30am with lunch and program at noon.

February 13th Chamber Coffee Networking at BANKWEST 7:30am-8:30am

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

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 (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**.

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:

- **December 9th**—Riverside Park, 8220 Elm Street
- **January 13th**—Rockford Community Center
- **February 10th**—Delano Senior Center

ROCKFORD LIBRARY

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

A FEW OF THEIR ACTIVITIES and EVENTS:

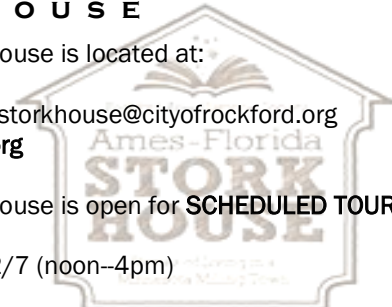
- Crow River Christmas at the Library**—12/7 (11am-1pm)
- Family Storytime**—Wednesdays (11:15am-noon)
- Treasure Boxes with Tamra***—12/12 (5:30-7:30pm)
- Adult Book Club**—12/23, 1/27 & 2/24 (2-3pm)
- "Snow Better Time to Read" Winter Reading Program**—1/2 to 2/28 (during open hours)
- Ferdig Fridays**—2/7 (3:30pm-4pm)
- Learn about Rockford History**—1/9 (6:30pm-7:30pm)
- Friends of the Library**—1/11 & 2/22 (8:30am-9:30am)
- Monthly Lego Club***—1/21 & 2/18 (4-5pm)
- Tween/Teen Comic Book Time*** - 1/23 & 2/20 (6-7pm)
- MN Author Discusses Elements of Fiction**—2/8 (8am-noon)
- Make & Take Valentine's Day Cards**—2/10 & 2/14
(*Registration Required)

Contact the library more information regarding programs, registration, age limits, etc., see their website: www.rgriver.org

Canadian Pacific Holiday Train—Thursday, December 12th (approximately 4:15pm) in Downtown Loretto

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

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



The Ames-Florida-Stork House is open for **SCHEDULED TOURS**.

Crow River Christmas -12/7 (noon-4pm)

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

Wastewater Billing Calculation (Actual vs. Averaging) Open Until the end of December 2019

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 27th**, if you wish to change your billing system for it to be effective for the January 2020 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**

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 13th for this year's distribution. Due to the demand, families are asked 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.

Donation boxes are located at most businesses, schools and Rockford City Hall. Monetary donations should be made payable to the Rockford 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.



Rockford Fire Department Auxiliary Annual Spaghetti Dinner

The Rockford Fire Auxiliary is hosting their Annual Spaghetti dinner, silent auction and raffle on **Saturday, February 29, 2020** at the Fire Station—6700 Main Street from 4:30pm to 8pm.

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.

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.

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.



CITY OF ROCKFORD

Upcoming Events

- December 6th**—*Chamber Holiday Mixer* 6:00pm at the El Bamba Restaurant in Rockford
- December 7th**—*Crow River Christmas* 9am-6pm Riverside Park and other locations within the Community
- December 9th**—*Rockford Senior Citizen's* 11:30 am at Riverside Park
- December 24th and 25th**—*City Hall Closed* for the Holiday Season
- January 1st**—*City Hall Closed* for the New Year's Day Holiday
- January 8th**—*Christmas Tree Pick-Up* curbside by 7am (sign-up is required)
- January 9th**—*R-G Area Chamber of Commerce Meeting* 11:30 am at Wright-Hennepin Electric
- January 13th**—*Rockford Senior Citizen's* 11:30 am at Rockford Community Center
- January 20th**—*City Hall Closed* in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
- February 10th**—*Rockford Senior Citizen's* 11:30 am at Delano Senior Center
- February 13th**— *R-G Area Chamber of Commerce Coffee & Networking* 7:30am-8:30am at BANKWEST
- February 17th**—*City Hall Closed* in observance of President's Day
- February 29th**—*Fire Department Auxiliary Spaghetti Dinner* 4:30pm-8pm

R E C Y C L I N G

Waste Management **collects recycling every other Wednesday**. The 2020 calendar will be available on the City website or 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.

2020 Census—April 1, 2020 ~ Everyone Counts!

The Census is important for many reasons, here is why:

- * It is about fair representation—every 10 years the results are used to reapportion the House of Representatives. MN could lose a seat if not everyone in MN is counted.
- * It is about \$589 billion—the distribution of more that \$589 billion in Federal funds, grants and support to state and our City is based on census data.
- * 2020 will be easier that ever and can be done online!
- * Your data is confidential

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT: www.2020CENSUS.GOV

Future Pick-Up Dates:

December 4, 2019	<u>July 2, 2020*</u>	July 15, 2020
December 18, 2019		July 29, 2020
<u>January 2, 2020*</u>		August 12, 2020
January 15, 2020		August 26, 2020
January 29, 2020		September 9, 2020
February 12, 2020		September 23, 2020
February 26, 2020		October 7, 2020
March 11, 2020		October 21, 2020
March 25, 2020		November 4, 2020
April 8, 2020		November 18, 2020
April 22, 2020		December 2, 2020
May 6, 2020		December 16, 2020
May 20, 2020		December 30, 2020
June 3, 2020		January 6, 2021
June 17, 2020		<u>*Thursday pick-up</u>

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.

2020 Elections will be a unique year ~ with 3 State Elections!

2020 precinct caucuses will be held Tuesday, February 25, 2020 at 7pm

Tuesday, March 3, 2020—Presidential Nomination Primary (PNP)

Only MN major parties may participate in the March 3rd PNP. The current MN major political parties are (in alphabetical order): Democratic-Farmer-Labor, Grassroots-Legalize Cannabis, Legalize Marijuana Now and Republican.

At this time, it is unknown which parties will participate in the PNP.

The MN major political parties have until December 31st to provide their list of candidate names and finalize the candidate choice of "uncommitted" and/or the presence of a "write-in" choice on their ballot.

What is placed or not placed on each major party's ballot is the decision of each party's chair. City staff cannot provide any information about their decision. You need to contact your party if you have any questions about what will be on their ballot.

Key points for the PNP election: voters will be required to declare their party and receive a ballot for that party ONLY. A record of which party's ballot you selected will be provided to the major political parties.

Tuesday, August 11, 2020—Primary Election

Tuesday, November 3, 2020—General Election

Absentee voting is available for voters 46 days prior to each election.

For more information visit: www.sos.state.mn.us