



The Bridge—Volume 125

CITY OF ROCKFORD

City Hall

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

Email: cityhall@cityofrockford.org
Web Site: www.cityofrockford.org

City Hall Office Hours

Mon-Fri 8am—4:30pm

Mayor

Renee Hafften

City Council

Deb Buoy
Jeannette Graner
Ted Hill
Rick Martinson

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 up-
dates via email, send your email address
to:

audrae@cityofrockford.org

"Like" The City of Rockford on Facebook



MAYOR'S MESSAGE

What happens in MN during the summer? Construction Zones, which have hit Rockford full force this year. Our city staff and engineers continue to work hard on our downtown project with the expectation of a completion date sometime in August. Overall, the project is going very well and everyone is committed to creating as little disruption as possible.

There have, of course, been a few bumps along the way which required Main Street to be closed. At the beginning of the project we found out that the water main and galvanized bolts had deteriorated significantly since being installed in 1994 due to oxidation and electrical interaction. Fortunately, we have set sufficient funds aside in our Water Fund to include this in our current project to avoid more costly water main breaks downtown in the next 5-7 years. By correcting these issues now we will save a significant amount of money by taking advantage of the current project and construction crews on site, and will avoid tearing up Main Street to make spot repairs in the future.

Weekly construction updates are posted on the city website. We appreciate everyone's patience with the detours, construction noise and temporary water. In the end we will be creating an attractive and safer downtown for everyone.

Mark your calendars for Rockford River Days celebration scheduled for August 12th – 14th. Everyone is welcome to enjoy a fun filled weekend of live music, food, corn hole/volleyball/cribbage/Texas hold'em tournaments, beer, fireworks and coronation with the parade at noon on Sunday.

Enjoy your summer!

Renee Hafften

ROCKFORD RIVER DAYS AUGUST 12TH - 14TH

Come and enjoy Rockford River Days celebration at Riverside Park—8220 Elm Street. Many events happening – Band Friday and Saturday Night, Duck Drop, Carnival, Corn Hole Toss, Volleyball, Bingo, **Fireworks at dusk on Saturday** and **Parade at noon on Sunday**.

For more information go to the website: rockfordriverdays.weebly.com. If you would like to learn more information about how you could help with River Days planning or be part of the committee, please email Christina Schultz at schultz6300@msn.com.

Presale tickets for the rides will be available at City Hall, BANKWEST, Sabourin's and Holiday.

Great food and fun, so save the dates: August 12, 2016 —August 14, 2016!

Bring your family and join in on the celebration!

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Summer has arrived, and with it comes warm weather and enjoyment of the great outdoors. The biggest project so far this year has been the Main Street Improvement Project, which now nears completion. The work crews are finishing installation on our expanded sidewalks and tree boxes, with pavers being installed over the month of July. The new street lights should be delivered near the end of June, with tree installation following thereafter. Wright County will be paving Main Street in the near future, with that project also slated to be completed by the end of June. The overall project is on budget and ahead of schedule, with work scheduled to be completed by the end of July.

We know this project has created some difficulty for our community, especially those residents and businesses in and around the Main Street project area. We appreciate and celebrate the positive attitude people have had towards this project and look forward to seeing everyone en-

joy our new Downtown District. As we move into Fall, we will continue to work with developers like Allen Max Commercial and their project called the Tavern on the Crow. Additionally, we are working on a lot of other projects and developments that will hopefully come to fruition this Fall or in early 2017.

We hope you can take some time to explore the new Downtown District and spend some time in Riverside Park this Summer. As always, feel free to stop into City Hall if you have questions or would like updates on the happenings around the community.



**RIVERSIDE PARK
8220 ELM STREET**



Looking for a building to host your upcoming: graduation, wedding, anniversary, shower, birthday, family or class reunion or meeting?

Building occupancy approximately 48 people. Rental includes use of building and overhangs, some tables and chairs, refrigerator, oven/cooktop, sink, and bathrooms.

Rates: Residents \$128.00 (plus \$8.80 sales tax)
Non-Residents \$170.00 (plus \$11.69 sales tax)

Call City Hall for availability (763) 477-6565



The R-G Chamber will be held on **July 14th** at Wright-Hennepin Electric located at 6800 Electric Drive, Rockford. Networking starts at 11:30am with lunch and program at noon.

August 11th Chamber Coffee Meeting at BANKWEST 7:30am

The chamber invites all the businesses from the surrounding area to join them at their gatherings. www.rgchamber.com

RSVP inquire@rgchamber.org

**RENTAL DWELLING
LICENSE**

If you are renting a residential property within the City of Rockford you are required by city code to have the property licensed.

If you already have an existing Rental Dwelling License it is time to renew it for 2016/2017. The City Council has established a fee for rental property licenses. Stop by City Hall or go on-line to obtain the license application. All applications need to be submitted to City Hall no later than June 30, 2016.

ROCKFORD LIBRARY

Located at **8220 Cedar Street** (763) 477-4216
For more information see their website: www.griver.org

EVENTS:

Summer Reading Program—started June 13th (sign-up anytime during the summer)

Fate of the Dakota with Author Colin Mustful—July 7th (6-7pm) Author Colin will discuss stories around the tragic & complicated events surrounding the US Dakota War of 1862.

Bruce the Bug Guy—July 19th (4-5pm)

Minnesota Gold with Author Patrick Mader—July 26th (2-3pm) Come and learn about some Minnesotans who have gone to these historic games with Author Patrick.

Rockford Royalty Storytime—August 1st (4-4:30pm)

ELECTION INFORMATION

The local elections in Rockford this year include two council members and the mayors seat. The terms for each of these positions are 4 years. Filing for candidacy starts on Tuesday, **August 2, 2016** until Tuesday, **August 16th** at 5pm. The filing fee is \$2.00.

If you are a new resident to the City of Rockford, recently turned 18 or have not voted in the last four years, we encourage you to go online to www.sos.state.mn.us and complete a Voter Registration Application. You may also register to vote on Election Day, but make sure you have ID such as a current driver's license or MN ID card with your correct address. If you have not changed your driver's license you must have a current utility bill and your license. Last day to register before the Primary Election is **July 19, 2016** and the last day to register before the General Election is **October 18, 2016**.

Absentee voting begins **June 24, 2016** for the Primary Election and **September 23, 2016** for the General Election. Absentee ballots will NOT be available at City Hall to vote in person. Applications are available on-line on the City website (Election tab), at City Hall, 6031 Main Street, or in person at the county where you live:

Hennepin County Government Center
 300 South 6th Street PSL 012
 Minneapolis, MN 55487-0012
 Fax: 612-348-2151 / Phone: 612-348-5151

Wright County Government Center
 10 2nd Street NW, Room 230
 Buffalo, MN 55313-1195
 Fax: 763-682-7873 / Phone: 763-682-7578

All Rockford residents in Hennepin County and Wright County vote at the Rockford Community Center, 7600 County Road 50 (Rebecca Park Trail), Rockford. The polls will be open at 7:00 am until 8:00 pm.

Primary Election, Tuesday—August 9, 2016
General Election, Tuesday—November 8, 2016

If you are interested in serving as an Election Judge, please contact City Hall or go on the website and complete the Election Judge Survey.

Rockford Farmers Market
 Fridays (June-October) 3pm—6:30pm
 Rockford City Center Mall Parking Lot
 8900 Walnut Street (north side of State Hwy 55)
 Website: <http://rockfordmarketweebly.com>

**2015 VOLUNTEER
 OF THE YEAR
 ERIC SORENSON**

The City Council received nominations for the 2015 volunteer of the year. Those mentioned included: Eric Sorenson and Sarah Bacon & Heather Tody.

On March 22nd the City Council selected Eric Sorenson as the 2015 Volunteer of the Year for his community spirit with the Thousand Hearts Crow River Serve Day, RiverWorks Community, Rockford Lions, Rockford Masonic Lodge and other volunteer activities.



Thank you Eric and all of the volunteers for their dedication to make Rockford a great community to live and work!

(Eric Sorenson pictured with Mayor Renee Hafften)

**ROCKFORD FIRE
 DEPARTMENT**

The Rockford Fire Department is looking for NEW members. Paid on call. No experience needed. Training will be provided. Applications are available at City Hall or online at: www.cityofrockford.org

Fire Fighter Water Ball Contest will be held Saturday, August 13th during Rockford River Days starting at 4pm at Cedar Street and Mechanic Street.

DOG LICENSES

The City of Rockford licenses dogs for a 2 year period. The current licenses expire June 30, 2016. You must apply for your new license at City Hall between the hours of 8-4:30 p.m. A certificate that the dog has been vaccinated for rabies is required.

Fee's for licenses are: Spade/Neutered \$12
 Other \$18

A kennel permit is required to have three dogs.

The Rockford Area Seniors meet the 2nd Monday of each month at different locations. Attend and find out more information about activities or call Bonnie Pool (763) 477-4468. Membership is \$10 per year. Upcoming meetings:

- **Monday, July 11th**-Riverside Park-8220 Elm Street
- **Monday, August 8th**-Delano Senior Center
- **Monday, September 12th**—Rockford Community Center



Upcoming Events

- June 24th—Absentee Voting Begins for the Primary Election
- July 4th—City Hall Closed in observance of the Independence Day
- July 7th—Author Colin Mustful 6pm at Rockford Library/Tour to Stork House
- July 10th—RoyalTEA Party—10am-noon at the Stork House
- July 11th—Rockford Senior Citizen's 11:30 am at Riverside Park
- July 14th—R-G Area Chamber of Commerce Meeting 11:30am at Wright-Hennepin Electric
- August 1st—Rockford Royalty Storytime 4pm at Rockford Public Library
- August 2nd—August 16th—Filing for Candidacy at City Hall (office hours 8-4:30 and until 5pm on the 16th)
- August 2nd—National Night Out (organize an event in your neighborhood)
- August 8th—Rockford Senior Citizen's 11:30 am at the Delano Senior Center in Delano
- August 9th—Primary Election 7am-8pm at the Rockford Community Center
- August 11th— R-G Area Chamber of Commerce Meeting 7:30am at BANKWEST
- August 12th to August 14th—Rockford River Days Celebration
- September 5th—City Hall Closed in observance of Labor Day



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

Once the construction is complete the AFS House will be open for tours mid-July. If you would like a tour, please call or email the address listed above. Volunteer docents needed to give tours.

Minnesota Author Colin Mustful —Thursday, July 7th (6-7pm) at the Rockford Library. Colin will give a presentation about his latest book on the 1862 US-Dakota War. Following the presentation the group will walk from the library to the AFS House, pointing out along the way those locations in Rockford which connect to this intense part of MN history.

RoyalTEA Party - The Rockford Ambassador's Tea at the Stork House – Sunday, July 10th (10:00am-noon). Come and join in on the festivities with the Rockford Ambassadors. Cost \$8.00 if you RSVP before July 1st or \$10 after. For more information regarding the program visit their website: www.rockfordambassador.weebly.com

Annual Quilt Drawing—August 14th during the Rockford Ambassador Coronation Ceremony. Only 500 tickets available, and at just \$5 each. Help support the RAHS and purchase your chance to win a handmade quilt. Tickets will be available in July at City Hall, BANKWEST and other local businesses. Also hosting BINGO in the Park on August 13th during River Days!

T A L L G R A S S & N O X I O U S W E E D S

The city has an ordinance regulating the height of grass. The ordinances states that grass shall not exceed 12" and all noxious weeds and other rank growths of vegetation upon public or private property must be removed.

Typically 5 days are given for tall grass and less if there are noxious weeds.

Thank you for your cooperation and taking pride in the city!

S W I M M I N G P O O L S

All swimming pools with a capacity of five thousand (5,000) gallons and a depth greater than thirty (30) inches requires a permit and a yearly inspection. Contact City Hall if you need to apply for a permit.

R E C Y C L I N G

Waste Management collects recycling every other Wednesday. The 2016 calendar is available on the City website or at City Hall.

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

*July 6, 2016

July 20, 2016

August 3, 2016

August 17, 2016

August 31, 2016

September 14, 2016

September 28, 2016

October 12, 2016

October 26, 2016

November 9, 2016

November 23, 2016

December 7, 2016

December 21, 2016

*Thursday pick-up