



# The Bridge

City of Rockford, Minnesota | Volume 145

## The Return of River Days!



### Mayor's Message

It has been an incredibly difficult year for all of us, but there is hope and a strong feeling of relief as Summer arrives and life begins to return to normal. City and community events that were cancelled or postponed last year are now in the full-on planning process. We all look forward to gathering together in Riverside Park for events like Movie in the Park (June 4th), or River Days (August 13th – 15th) or even Rocktoberfest (October 2nd) later this Fall.

We continue to see incredible growth in our community with strong commercial and residential development continuing on from last year. In 2020, the city added roughly 45 new homes; to date in 2021 we have approximately 32 new home building permits. We are also seeing renovation in the Downtown Area with improvements continuing at the old printing press building at the corner of Main Street and Bridge Street, and the potential new development on Highway 55 and County Road 50. The City Council is also meeting with developers and exploring different options and opportunities to develop the old lumberyard property at the corner of Main Street and Highway 55.

With so much going on, it is easy to forget the important things. We would like to thank all of the volunteers and community groups who work so hard to make Rockford the place that it is. To our residents and businesses, thank you for your contributions to the fabric of our community. From all of us that serve the city, we wish you a summer full of memories and fun.

- Mayor Renee Hafften



City Hall: 6031 Main Street, Rockford, Minnesota, 55373  
Office Hours: Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.  
Contact Us: (763) 477-6464 | [www.cityofrockford.org](http://www.cityofrockford.org) |

June 1, 2021



## 2020 Volunteer of the Year Laura Franklin

Each year, the City of Rockford asks it's residents, businesses and members of the community to nominate a person or group that has evidenced dedication, support and volunteerism in our shared community. People submitting nominations are asked to submit a Nomination Form explaining why they believe their nominee is deserving of the award.

This year, the City Council selected Laura Franklin as the 2020 Volunteer of the Year. Ms. Franklin is being honored for her extensive volunteerism in our Community, including her service on the Rockford Education Foundation, her role as President of the Rockford Greenfield Chamber of Commerce, and her service on the 1,000 Hearts Steering Committee supporting the Crow River Serve Day. Ms. Franklin also supports the Rockford Area Girl Scouts. Congratulations, Ms. Franklin, and thank you for your hard work in our community.

## Stork House Stone Staircase Project

The Rockford Area Historical Society Board and other volunteers from the community have started an impressive landscaping project at the Ames Florida Stork House on the banks of the Crow River. This Historical Society began the project by clearing several large trees and invasive brush to make room for the amazing new stone staircase that now graces the front of this property. The stones that have been used for the steps and retaining wall are boulders, some from the riverbank of the property, each weighing around 600 to 700 pounds.

If you get a chance, take a walk or a drive east on Bridge Street to see a clear view of the house and staircase. The project will be completed later this summer, incorporating a stone walkway / landing and plantings to highlight and accent the new staircase. A Special thank-you to Jeff Nute, Kevin Koehler and the Rockford Historical Society Board for working hard to beautify our community and keep our history relevant and accessible!



## 1st Annual Crow River Connections

The Rockford Area Historical Society will hold it's first ever "Crow River Connections" event on July 11, 2021. The Rockford community is invited to view the Historical Society's collections of pictures and photographs from other area historians and historical societies. This event is free to the public.

1 p.m. to 4 p.m., Sunday, July 11, 2021  
Cross Lutheran Church: 6001 Main Street, Rockford.



## Rockford Compost Site

The Rockford Compost Site is located at 9000 County Road 33 (Elm Street) and is available for the City of Rockford residents. Only proper compost material originating from within the city limits may be accepted at the municipal compost site. The compost site is free to residents, as is the compost it generates. We know how important the compost site is to our community, so we are asking for your help and support to keep it open and available for use. When prohibited material is left at the compost site, City Staff need to close the site and remove the prohibited materials. Continued dumping of prohibited materials jeopardizes our ability to have a free compost site available in our community.



### Weekly Compost Site Hours

Monday through Friday, from 7:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Wednesday Afternoon, from 4:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Saturday, from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

## Rockford Water Conservation Restrictions

The City of Rockford has watering restrictions in effect that help conserve water and ensure a properly functioning water distribution system in Rockford. Residents and businesses should water their lawns on an even / odd basis. What this means is that homes or businesses with an address ending with an even number (ex. 200, 202, 204, etc.) should limit their use of outdoor water or watering their lawns to the even calendar dates each week (ex. 2nd, 4th, 6th, etc.). Homes or businesses with an address ending with an odd number (ex. 201, 203, 205, etc.) should limit their use of outdoor water or watering their lawns to the odd calendar dates each week (ex. 1st, 3rd, 5th, etc.).



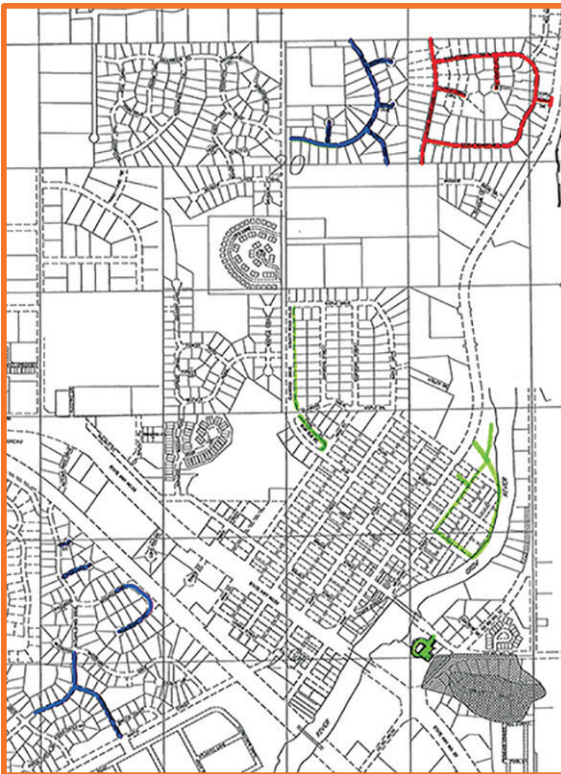
The University of Minnesota's Horticulturist Department has stated that sod can be watered every other day and an established lawn only needs one inch of water per

week. Grass seed however, does need to be watered every day. If you have grass seed planted you may contact the Public Works Department at 763 477-4346, to be placed on a waiver list so you aren't contacted for a potential water restriction violation.

## 2021 Street Sealing Project

The City will be conducting seal coating and maltene treatments in our city roads beginning in the next few weeks. Traditionally, the city fills cracks in the bituminous asphalt of the roadway with tar to keep water from penetrating into the subgrade and furthering damage to the roadway. This is especially problematic during the winter where the freeze-thaw cycle wreaks havoc on the condition of our roadways. Annual seal coating covers the entire road surface creating a protective layer to increase the lifespan of the road.

This year, Public Works will be adding a new treatment technique to our street maintenance process. Maltene treatment of roadways is a newer process, but one that has been used in some of our neighboring cities for the past few years. Instead of seal coating newly laid roads, a Maltene solution is used to coat the roadway. This rejuvenates the maltene in the bituminous asphalt, which keeps the road pliable longer and helps to prevent it from drying out, cracking and breaking. This new treatment is more affordable than the traditional seal coat process and is anticipated to add several years onto the usefulness of our newly laid roadways. The map to the left shows the streets and trails that will be seal coated or treated this summer.





The Rockford Memorial Day Service will take place at 10 a.m., May 31, 2021 at Elmwood Cemetery, Rockford, Minnesota. The National Guard will post and display colors and conduct the Rifle Salute, with Pastor Arron Fuller providing the invocation and serving as speaker. The readings will be done by Lion / Councilman Rick Martinson, and Jim Winkleman will read the names of our deceased Veterans. The Rockford High School Band will perform the musical selections and Taps and Echo.

Starting May 21st through Memorial Day, memorial plaques will be placed at Elmwood Cemetery to remember Rockford area residents who served our country defending our freedom. The Rockford Area Historical Society has also printed plaques of Rockford pioneers who were instrumental in the history of our community. There will be over 40 informational plaques on display that share and celebrate the history of some of the founding pioneers and honored military personnel that helped establish and protect the community we all now enjoy.



**Movie in the Park**  
**Friday, June 4, 2021**  
**9 p.m. / Dusk**

We are pleased to announce the return of Movie in the Park, June 4, 2021 just after dusk (typically around 9 p.m). The movie will be "The Croods, A New Age," which is rated PG. A special thank you to Heather Tody and the Rockford Ambassador Program for volunteering to lead the set-up and take-down of the movie equipment; the Modrow Insurance Agency for providing concessions for the event, and to the Wright / Sherburne Cable Commission for providing the screen and technical personnel. We hope everyone enjoys the show!

