



THE BRIDGE-VOLUME 116

CITY OF ROCKFORD

MAYOR'S MESSAGE

The City Council reviewed a 20 year Capital Improvement Plan to maintain our streets and utilities. This plan is in place to ensure costs are spread over a period of time to avoid large debt all at once. I want to thank everyone who attended the November 5th Open House and November 12th Public Hearing from Maplewood Manor on the 2014 portion of the plan. Based on the feedback we received from residents the decision was made to NOT complete the street improvements at this time. Therefore, residents will not be assessed for a 2014 street improvement.

We will still be moving forward with

the water and sewer improvements. During the replacement of the water and sewer mains, the council is also planning to inspect all the sewer lines coming in from each house to determine if there are problems which need to be addressed. For example, our sewer plant is processing over 300,000 gallons a day, but we are only charging for 200,000 gallons. This is due to water infiltrating our system from cracks in the pipes. When 50 year old pipes decay or settle on a rock it creates cracks, resulting in additional ground water coming into the system. This puts additional stress on the sewer plant and does not

allow for additional expansion in the city. More information will be shared with the residents impacted in early 2014.

Our long time dedicated City Administrator, Nancy Carswell, has recently announced she will be retiring in March 2014. We are currently taking applications for her position to ensure a smooth transition.

The City Council, Staff and I wish you all a safe and happy holiday!

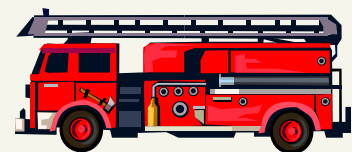
Enjoy the season!
Renee Hafften



Rockford Fire Department: - Pictures with Santa and Toy Drive

The Rockford Fire Department invites you and your family to join them for treats and pictures with Santa on **Saturday, December 7th** from 10am-2:00pm at the Fire Station—6700 Main Street. They will be collecting TOYS for local children.

They are looking for donations of unwrapped toys or monetary donations. Items may be dropped off at: City Hall, BANKWEST, Jimmy's Pizza, Wright-Hennepin Electric, Riverwood Covenant Church, Our Father's Lutheran Church, and other local businesses. All toys go to families in Rockford, Greenfield and Rockford Township. If you have questions or need to register visit RiverWorks Food Shelf at 8230 Cedar Street (763) 477-6098 or email: rfdtoydrive@yahoo.com. Due to the demand, families are asked to sign-up ahead of time. Distribution is **Sunday, December 15th** from 12-3pm at the Rockford Fire Department at 6700 Main Street, Rockford.



ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

As I write this article I get a little nostalgic, knowing that this will be my last article as I am retiring in March. I have had a good 29 years at the city and enjoyed many of the challenges and getting to know so many of the residents and business owners.

On December 10th at 7 p.m. the city council will conduct the Truth and Taxation hearing. The purpose of this hearing to explain the proposed budget and tax levy for the following year. The increase of the proposed tax levy translates to a 1.66% increase. The city's Local Government Aid for 2014 increased \$143,601 which was a great help as we have had little permit fees, and interest is awful. Staff will explain the proposed general fund budget for 2014 and compare the items with current year and also go over the tax levy which is made up of general fund taxes, and a few bond payments.

Have a safe and Happy Holiday Season!

CROW RIVER FOOD COOP

The Crow River Food Co-op Board voted to dissolve on October 14, 2013. The 152 members received refunds that were 91% of their financial contribution. Even though there is a great need in the area for a grocer we found that this was not the right time for a food co-op. The financial pro forma we had completed by a professional showed that the food co-op would not be feasible. I want to thank the volunteers that worked so hard towards making this a reality. There were just too few workers for such a lofty goal of opening a business and when the financial pro forma came out we knew it was time to STOP. We could have tried to open a smaller store or started a buyers club but that is not what we told our members, so the decision was made to dissolve. The Crow River Food Co-op had 152 members that supported our goal and I want to thank them and all of the volunteers, board members, companies and farmers that supported our efforts. The city plans to continue the search for a grocer in town, which I believe will happen someday.



STORK HOUSE

The Ames-Florida-Stork House located at: **8131 Bridge Street** is open for tours Tuesdays & Thursdays noon-4pm and by appointment 763-477-5383.

EVENTS/PROGRAMS:

12/7/13 Family Open House 10-4pm with FREE horse drawn wagon rides from Riverside Park (1pm-4pm), tours of the Ames-Florida-Stork House, make your own English Christmas Cracker, and hot chocolate & cookies. Bring a toy or food for the local Holiday Drives.

12/15/13 Christmas Tea a formal adult event 1-4pm

(\$20 and RSVP required for formal event)



Annual Membership:

\$25 Individual, \$50 Family, \$100 Silver Membership, and \$200 Gold Membership

Are you looking to get involved in the community? Consider volunteering at the Stork House!

Email: storkhouse@cityofrockford.org

ROCKFORD LIBRARY

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

EVENTS/PROGRAMS:

Holiday Book and Bake Sale

December 2-7, 2013 during library hours

*Book donations accepted year round.



Music in the Library

12/5/13 starting at 5pm

Enjoy as harpist Andrea Stern fills the library with music!

German Star—Intricate Craft Paper Folding

12/7/13 (10:30am-11:30am AND 11:45am-12:45pm)

This class is for older teens & adults, registration is required

Writers Group

12/18/13 starting at 1pm

Book Club

12/30/2013 starting at 2pm

Preschool Story Time on Wednesdays (11:15-noon)

Until 12/18/2013

Starting again 1/15/2014

For more information about events: www.griver.org

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

Last year, Hanover, Rockford, Delano & Maple Plain shared over \$17,000 and 1800 pounds of food because of the great community support generated by the Canadian Pacific Holiday Train. Please Bring a Donation of Food or Money!




P A R K I N G

The snow season ordinance is in effect until April and it shall be unlawful for any person to **park a vehicle** on or within six feet of the **roadway between 2am-6am** OR 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.

S N O W M O B I L E S

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. So, there is no parking or riding of snowmobiles on the levee or city parks, per Ordinance 208.

**S I D E W A L K
S N O W R E M O V A L**

 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.

The throwing or placing of snow or other material in the streets, sidewalks and other public ways is an ordinance violation.

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



S N O W P L O W I N G



It is unlawful to plow snow onto or across ANY city, township, county or state road. Doing so is a violation of state statute and you will be fined.



The next regular Chamber meeting is scheduled for Thursday, **January 9, 2014** starting at 11:45 am and located at Wright-Hennepin Electric. Cost to attend the meeting is \$10 for members and \$15 for non-members.

Check out their web site: www.rgchamber.org

**R I V E R W O R K S
F O O D S H E L F**

Located next to the Library at: **8230 Cedar Street** (763) 477-6098 www.riverworksonline.org

Hours of operation:
Monday 5:30-8:00pm, Tuesday 9:00-11:00am
Thursday 5:30-8:00pm

Focus of the month: *personal care products*



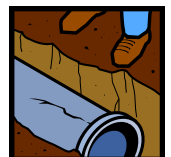
2014 Sewer and Water Project

The city is planning to replace old water and sanitary sewer mains within the city. We have established a Capital Improvement Plan which prioritizes areas where there have been the most problems. The first neighborhood or area is Maplewood Manor north of County Road 33 since there have been so many breaks in the water mains and infiltration shown while televising the sanitary sewer mains. The project will also include the replacement of mains on the north side of State Highway 55 between County Road 50 east to 8020 State Highway 55.

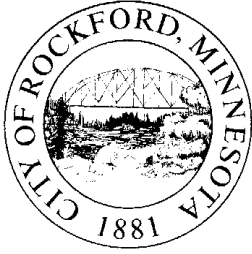
The replacement of these trunk mains and the private water services will be paid by the water and sewer funds. The city is also planning on televising the private sanitary sewer services in this area to make sure that if they are cracked or filled with tree roots that they are replaced at the same time. The city ordinance states that the private sanitary sewer services are the responsibility of the property owner. Therefore, we are getting quotes from the private contractor who will televise all of these private sanitary sewer services and provide the city a record of the condition of each service. The property owners have the option of having their service televised and provide the information to the city.

The replacement of the private sanitary sewer services will be paid by the property owner if they are found to be leaking, cracked and filled with tree roots. The city will notify the property owners and conduct an assessment hearing prior to installing the private sanitary sewer services as the city may choose to assess these costs. Some of the private services are over 100' from the trunk main and could be costly, therefore assessing the costs to the tax roll for 7 to 10 years will allow the cost of the improvement over a period of time.

The city has been researching our water and sewer rates knowing that these improvements must be funded by the revenues received. An 8% increase in the water and sewer rate was established in May this year and additional increases will be taking effect in 2014 that will provided the necessary revenue to maintain the operations.



CITY OF ROCKFORD



CITY OF ROCKFORD

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Rockford, MN 55373
763-477-6565 office
www.cityofrockford.org

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To receive city updates via email, send your email address to:
audrae@cityofrockford.org



Upcoming Events

Dec 2nd-Dec 7th—Book & Bakesale at the Rockford Library
Dec 5th—Music at the Library starting at 5pm
Dec 7th—Crow River Christmas (events throughout town)
Dec 9th—Rockford Area Senior's at Riverside Park 11:30am
Dec 11th—Recycling & Garbage (recycling out at the curb by 7am)
Dec 14th—2013 Rockford Holiday Expo at the Comm Ctr (8am-1pm)
Dec 15th—Rockford Fire Department Toy Distribution
Dec 15th—Stork House Formal Adult Tea (1pm-4pm)
Dec 15th—Canadian Pacific Holiday Train in Loretto at 4:15pm
Dec 24th-Dec 25th—City Hall closed (closing at noon on the 24th)
Dec 26th—Recycling & Garbage (recycling out at the curb by 7am)
Jan 9th—R-G Chamber of Commerce at Wright-Hennepin Electric noon
Jan 13th—Rockford Area Senior's at the Rockford Comm Ctr 11:30am
Jan 20th—City Hall Closed for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
Jan 30th—WOW Wellness on Wheels at Bankwest (2pm-6pm)
Feb 10th—Rockford Area Senior's location to be determined 11:30am
Feb 17th—City Hall Closed for President's Day
Feb 27th—WOW Wellness on Wheels at Bankwest (2pm-6pm)

CROW RIVER CHRISTMAS

December 7, 2013

The Christmas Express runs from 9am-2pm and starting in Riverside Park (8220 Elm Street) taking guests to:

YWAM for the pancake breakfast (9-10:30am)

United Presbyterian Church for decorations and music (10am-noon),

RiverWorks Thrift Store Arts-N-Crafts Bazaar at the Rockford Mall (9am-2pm),

Our Father's Lutheran Church for their 25th annual cookie walk and other activities (9am-1pm).

Girl Scout Holiday craft/bake sale/kids only sale at the Rockford Fire Department (10am-1pm)

Santa at the Rockford Fire Department (10am-2pm) at 6700 Main Street

Stork House open house (10am-4pm)

FREE Horse & Wagon Ride (1-4pm)

Light Up the Park (4:30pm)

Christmas Sing-Along (6pm)

www.crowriverchristmas.org or (763) 477-6098



2014 RECYCLING INFORMATION

The 2014 recycling calendars will March 19, 2014 be sent out in the *December 15th* April 2, 2014 *issue of The Drummer*. If you do April 16, 2014 not receive one, please call City Hall April 30, 2014 and we will send one out or you May 14, 2014 may pick one up. **May 29, 2014***

Two sort recycling system: glass/ June 11, 2014 cans/plastic bottles can be put to- June 25, 2014 gether and paper/cardboard. Re- July 9, 2014 member that cardboard must be July 23, 2014 flattened and no larger than 3x3. August 6, 2014 **Recyclables must be set out at the August 20, 2014 curb by 7 a.m.**

If you need a recycling bin stop by City Hall.

2014 Dates:

January 8, 2014
January 22, 2014
February 5, 2014
February 19, 2014
March 5, 2014



September 4, 2014*
September 17, 2014
October 1, 2014
October 15, 2014
October 29, 2014
November 12, 2014
November 26, 2014
December 10, 2014
December 24, 2014
(Thursday Pick-Up *)