



The Bridge—Volume 107

C I T Y O F R O C K F O R D

M A Y O R ' S M E S S A G E

As August comes to an end I hope everyone has had a great summer. It was good to see so many people at National Night Out this year. I want to thank all of the volunteers who spend so much of their free time making the River Days Festival and National Night Out happen. You could not have asked for a better day for both events. Unfortunately I was unable to attend River Days, but I am still hearing how great the fireworks were and the size of the crowds at the parade and the coronation. If you missed either the parade or coronation, you can enjoy them on cable channel 12 or go to the City of Rockford web site and watch.

Once again your City Council and the city staff recently completed next year's budget and I am happy to say we were able to continue with maintaining the essentials we all expect and keep tax increases to a minimal. Thanks to all involved.

The next time you enter Rockford look at our sign and you will notice an additional sign. That sign is to recognize Rockford as a Heart Safe Community. What does this mean? This means that over the past year there have been enough citizens trained in the life saving procedure of CPR. This program is through Allina hospitals and they acknowledge those cities who achieve a certain criteria that increase the chance of someone needing CPR during a heart attack will get help faster. By faster that means access to an AED (Automated External Defibrillator) and citizens that are trained in CPR. This also means a significant amount of AEDs are located through out town. Some of those locations are City Hall, the park building, the bank, and the school to name a few. Thanks go out to Kim Harkins and those who assisted her in training nearly 1500 people in the

area. If this is something that may interest you, keep an eye on the city events so that you can also be trained to be a life saver.

I invite you to get signed up at the cities web site to get e-mailed the events going on around town. It is a great way to find out what is happening so you won't miss out on the many things going on.

With September means the start of school. I hope everyone remembers to drive safely and watch out for the kids as they go to and from school.

As always I want to thank each and every one of you who have chosen to call Rockford "The Heart of the Crow River" home. I'll see you around town.

Mike



S T O R M S E W E R S Y S T E M S



The fall season is coming soon and with the fall weather the trees start shedding their leaves. In order to ensure that our storm sewer systems do not get clogged with leaves and debris we want to remind our residents to please remove the leaves from your property quickly if possible. The city and county storm sewers play an important role in removing rain from streets, sidewalks and driveways. Please do not rake leaves into the gutters.

The city also has storm water ponds in many of our newer developments which the public works staff maintains and inspects on a regular basis. These ponds are dredged on as needed basis to make sure that they drain adequately.

If you notice any frozen ice or accumulation of debris blocking the city storm sewers please contact public works department. Thank you for taking pride in your property and for maintaining it properly. Public Works Department 763-477-4346 or fax 763-477-3987.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

These past few months have been very busy, which is great! The city has a new website designed by a local talent "Flying Orange" website design, owner Jennifer Strumble. We love the new design and I hope you find it very user friendly. Also the city has a new face book page and twitter! I hope that you will use these tools as a means of communication with the city.

A new slogan was selected with the help of residents which is "Heart of the Crow River". The HRA is recording a marketing video and have asked a few business owners, residents, the school superintendent, a student and elected officials to participate in this venture. It will be streamed on our website and government access channel. This video recording is made possible due to the city's membership in the Wright/Sherburne Cable Commission.

The city's HRA has acquired the dilapidated house at 6127 Mechanic Street! The demolition of the structures will occur prior to the winter season and we are getting bids on that project now.

The city held an open house to give neighbors an opportunity to view a couple park design options for the Parkwood Park. The city hopes to begin the park development with the installation of playground equipment next spring, followed by a sand volleyball court, basketball court and a Little League ball field. The Rockford Athletic Association is planning on assisting with the development of the new ball field through a fund raising event, donations and applying for a TWINS matching grant.

The city also has established a committee to research the feasibility of a new park building/event center in Riverside Park. The old park building has become very dilapidated and needs to be replaced or demolished. The needs of the community are being taken in to account, as well as the cost. The new welcome sign is still in the design stages and the city is waiting for approval for the site along Highway 55 from the Minnesota Department of Transportation.

The 2012 preliminary budget workshop was held on August 16th with all city staff and the city council. The preliminary levy must be certified to the state and county by September 15th. The preliminary budget/tax levy and how it will affect your 2012 property taxes will be reflected on your property tax card. Also on this card will be dates for hearings you may attend to find out what that preliminary budget/tax levy entails. Rockford will be adopting our preliminary tax levy on September 13th and it reflects a 2.9% increase from 2011. Our Truth in Taxation hearing for residents input will be held on December 13th at 7:00 p.m. in the council chambers of city hall.

A new small farmer's /craft market has started up this fall and needs a few more farmers/gardeners or crafters to join the group. The market place is open at Riverside Park on Main Street every Wednesday from 4 p.m. until 7 p.m. For more information check out our website.

BUSINESS HAPPENINGS



B3 Program—Paying-it-Forward Rockford business professionals are creating their own version of "Barn Raisings" of the past, coming together to complete a project and moving on to help the next. The B-3 Program, which was created earlier this year, includes a talent swap component. Currently Flying Orange a web designer is creating a web site and local graphic Designer Kelly Grimm is creating a logo for TC & J Welding in Rockford, In turn, TC & J Welding's employees paid-it-forward by painting the base coat on the side of the ABC Lettering building, which will be the site of a new historic mural. In addition, local designers are donating their time and talents to help design the exterior of a commercial building in Rockford. In turn, these business owners have offered to assist the next business that is in need of assistance. Businesses interested in receiving assistance and paying it forward to help other businesses are asked to contact the City of Rockford at: 763-477-6565.



SCORE offers free business counseling once a month in Rockford. Call City Hall to make an appointment for Wednesday, September 14th at 8:30am, 10am or 11:30 am. More information is available on their website at: www.scorempls.org

R-G Area Chamber of Commerce—meets every other month, their next meeting is Thursday, September 8th at Wright-Hennepin Electric. For more information check out their website: www.rgchamber.org

COMPOST SITE

The compost site on Elm Street/CR 33 is scheduled to close on October 31st until about April 15th, depending on the weather. **You do not need to check out a key at city hall.**

Hours of operation:

Monday-Friday 7:30am-3:00pm

Wednesday Evening 4:30-dusk

Saturday 8:00am-noon

Items accepted: grass clippings, leaves and brush no larger than 3" in diameter. All bags used to transport composting must be removed. **NO OTHER DUMPING IS ALLOWED.**

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.

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

STORK HOUSE

The Ames-Florida-Stork House is located at: **8131 Bridge Street** 763-477-5383 Email: storkhouse@cityofrockford.org **www.rockfordmnhistory.org** Open for tours Tuesdays, Wednesdays & Thursday (10am-3pm) and by appointment starting October 1st

- PROGRAMS: Paper Quilling & Origami 9/10/11 10am-2pm at the Stork House Harvest Celebration 10/8/11 1pm-4pm at the Stork House Tis the Season 11/12/11 10am-2pm at the Stork House

RIVERWORKS FOOD SHELF

The food shelf is open Monday 5:30-8:00pm Tuesday 9:00-11:00am Thursday 5:30-8:00pm The 3rd Wednesday of each month is Senior Day 9-11am **8230 Cedar Street** 763-477-6098

www.riverworksonline.org

For more information contact Kelly Finger the manager at: kfinger@riverworksonline.org



Food focus for the month of September is: *Hearty Soups*

SNOW SEASON PARKING

During the period from **November 1st to April 1st** it shall be unlawful for any person to **park a vehicle** on or within six feet of the **roadway between the hours of 2 a.m. to 6 a.m.** and after continuous or intermittent snow fall during which there has been an **accumulation of two inches or more** of snow on any street until plowed or removed the whole width of the roadway. Vehicles parked in violation of this chapter will be towed and stored at the owner's expense. **At NO TIME shall a vehicle be parked on ANY street for more than twelve (12) hours.**

SNOW PLOWING

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.



VACANT BUILDING REGISTRATION



Recently, the City Council adopted Ordinance #613 to regulate vacant buildings within the city. The purpose of the ordinance is to protect the health and safety of the public. When a property is not maintained it affects the neighboring properties and can become an attractive nuisance to children and also harbor rodents. This will help staff to deal with complaints on a more timely basis.

If you are the owner of a vacant building in the City, you are required to register with the City and pay an annual fee of \$100. The ordinance and application are available at City Hall or the City's web site. The City Council may consider waiving the registration fee if the home is listed for sale by the property owner.

ROCKFORD LIBRARY

Located at: **8220 Cedar Street** (763) 477-4216 **www.griver.org** Hours: Mon & Tues 2pm-8pm, Wed 10am-6pm, Thurs 3pm-8pm, Fri 3pm-6pm and Saturday 10am-1pm



6031 Main Street
Rockford, MN 55373
763-477-6565 office
763-477-4393 FAX
www.cityofrockford.org



Upcoming Events

Every Wednesday Farmers Market 4-7pm until sold out

September 5th—Labor Day City Offices & Library Closed

September 8th—R-G Area Chamber of Commerce Meeting noon-1:30pm

September 10th—Paper Quilling & Origami at Stork House 10am-2pm

September 10th—Rockford Lion's Golf Tournament/Steak Fry starts at noon

September 13th—The Story of Music Stories from Home 7pm at Our Father's Lutheran Church

September 17th—Crow River Clean-Up start at Riverside Park at 8am-noon

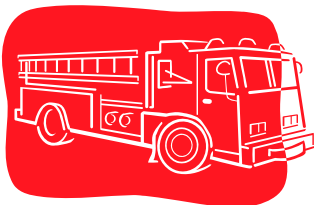
September 29th—Wellness on Wheels at Casey's parking lot 2pm-6pm

October 8th—RiverWorks Food Shelf Steak Fry and Auction at Rockford Fire Dept

October 10th—Harvest Celebration at Stork House 1pm-4pm

November 11th—Tis the Season at Stork House 10am-2pm

ROCKFORD FIRE DEPARTMENT



On Halloween, October 31st beginning at dusk, the Rockford Volunteer Fire Fighters will be driving through Rockford to hand out free glow sticks to the Trick and Treaters.

Happy Halloween 

The City of Rockford is on Facebook. Join the group to keep up-to-date on news and events in the city.

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



RECYCLING INFO

September 7, 2011
September 21, 2011
October 5, 2011
October 19, 2011
November 2, 2011
November 16, 2011
November 30, 2011

Recyclables must be set out by 7 am



CROW RIVER CLEAN UP DAY

The annual Crow River Clean Up is scheduled for Saturday, **September 17 2011**
8:00 am—Noon

If you would like to volunteer, you are asked to arrive at Riverside Park on Main and Elm Street. Volunteers should wear gloves and sturdy shoes. Please contact Dan Nadeau 763-682-1933 Ex 122 for further information.



The Crow River is a beautiful resource located right in our own city. The annual river clean up event is a way for you and your family to volunteer a few hours to help preserve the quality of the Crow River.