



THE BRIDGE-VOLUME 112

CITY OF ROCKFORD

MAYOR'S MESSAGE

As 2012 comes to a close I want to congratulate the following: newly elected Mayor, Renee Hafften, Rick Martinson for being re-elected and to the newest member of the Rockford City Council, Denise Kesanen. I wish all of you the best in conducting our cities business. I have enjoyed serving you as a council member for four years and as your Mayor for the last twelve years. The experience of being a part of Rockford's boom and fast growth to the down times where every penny counted was both challenging and rewarding. I chose to try for County Commissioner and did not get

by the Primary Election. Now I will be a resident watching from the side lines. I will still be active in Rockford as this is my home too.

With winter coming I want to remind everyone that with the snow comes the responsibility of keeping your fire hydrant clear for your local fire department. Two years ago there were too many situations around the area regarding snow covered fire hydrants. This adds unnecessary time for the fire department to hook up to water and save a home or its residents. As a member of the Rockford Fire De-

partment the ability to get to a hydrant quickly is key to how much damage may occur to a home. I ask you, if not for your self, for your neighbor, to keep the hydrants clear this winter.

I want to take the time to wish each and every resident of Rockford a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year. Thank you for letting me serve as your Mayor for the last 12 years and thank you for calling Rockford home. See you around town! *Mike*



CROW RIVER CHRISTMAS

- **December 1st**—the Christmas Express runs from 8am-1:30pm and starting in Riverside Park (8220 Elm Street) taking guests to: YWAM for the pancake breakfast, United Presbyterian Church for decorations and music, RiverWorks Thrift Store Arts-N-Crafts Bazaar at the Rockford Mall, Our Father's for their 24th annual cookie walk and other activities. Also, enjoy activities at the Stork House, the Crow River Food Co-op Chili Contest at the Lion's Building, FREE Horse & Wagon Ride, Music, Light Up the Park activities and the Holiday Expo at the Rockford Community Center.
- **Medallion Hunt**—First clue given at Tree Lighting on Saturday, December 1st. More clues during the week. Check out the Crow River Christmas page on Facebook for clues and "Like" their page!
- **December 8th**—Stork House Christmas Open House at 8131 Bridge Street (10am-4pm). Girl Scout Holiday craft/bake sale/kids only sale (10am-1pm) and visit Santa at the Rockford Fire Department (10am-2pm) at 6700 Main Street.
- **December 9th**—Stork House Christmas Tea—A formal, adult event from 1-4pm. Reserve your tickets now (only \$10) for a an event you'll never forget.

For more details on each event go to www.crowriverchristmas.org or call (763) 477-6098



ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT



It is hard to believe that the end of 2012 is so close at hand. This past year the east section of Highway 55 received an overlay and new concrete center medians. The city also upgraded water/sewer mains in this area. This past summer the development of the new Parkwood Park included new playground equipment and trails. The local RAAA received a TWINS grant and installed a little league baseball field on the west side of the park.

The city council hired CPMI from Eagan, MN to help us put together a plan for an event center to replace the dilapidated "Lions Building" at Riverside Park. The building plan included: flood proof concrete walls, seating for 300 people, a kitchen, storage rooms for Lions the Seniors, tables and chairs, a portable bar, outdoor canopy and rest-rooms. The costs for that building with equipment were presented to council last week and the costs were too high, so the city council requested a quote on a pre-engineered building to see if this type of structure would be more affordable. The city held two Visioning Sessions to receive

input and begin planning the future of Rockford. Business owners, commercial property owners, city council, planning commission, residents and staff were invited to participate. There were speakers at each session to start out the discussion and at the first session small groups completed a SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats) analysis and took pictures of sites. The second session was geared around what commercial developments would best fit on vacant site or redevelopment sites within the city. Our third session is coming up on December 4th and we are going to start working on branding Rockford.

The Housing and Redevelopment Authority is acquiring a foreclosed property along Highway 55 that is currently a non-conforming use. The HRA will be leasing the home on the property until commercial development of the site is needed.

I am looking forward to a new year building on our Vision. I wish you all a Happy Holiday Season and Happy New Year!



TRUTH IN TAXATION

The 2013 preliminary budget workshop was held on August 21, 2012 with city staff and the city council. Rockford adopted the preliminary budget on September 11, 2012 which needed to be certified to the state and county by September 15, 2012. The Truth in Taxation hearing for residents input will be held on **December 11, 2012** at 7:00 p.m. in the council chambers of city hall. The increase for the property taxes is 1%.



2012 Budget \$1,723,972	Preliminary 2013 Budget \$1,833,646	Percent Increase 6%
2012 Levy Property Taxes \$1,429,718	Proposed 2013 Levy Property Taxes \$1,444,919	Percent Increase 1%



Canadian Pacific Holiday Train—Thursday, December 13th (approximately 4:15pm) in Downtown Loretto

Last year, the Hanover Food Shelf received over \$21,000 and 2400 pounds of food because of the great community support generated by the Holiday Train. This year a portion of the donations will be shared with RiverWorks Food Shelf in Rockford.



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.

R O C K F O R D L I B R A R Y

Located at: **8220 Cedar Street** (763) 477-4216
www.griver.org

EVENTS/PROGRAMS:

Holiday Book and Bake Sale

December 3-8, 2012 during library hours
*Donations being accepted

Music in the Library

12/4/12 6pm-7pm
Enjoy as Rolf & Carrie fill the library with music!

German Star—Intricate Craft Paper Folding

12/8/12 (10:30am-11:30am)
This class is for older teens & adults, registration is required



**P L A N N I N G & Z O N I N G
C O M M I S S I O N**

The Planning and Zoning Commission has an opening for a one-year term to begin in January 2013. If you are interested in serving, please complete an application and return to City Hall by December 27th. Applications are available on-line or at City Hall.



The next regular Chamber meeting is scheduled for Thursday, **January 10, 2013** starting at 11:45 am and located at Wright-Hennepin Electric. Cost to attend the meetings 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
3rd Wednesday of each month is Senior Day 9-11:00am
Food focus of the month: hearty soups



S T O R K H O U S E

The Ames-Florida-Stork House located at: **8131 Bridge Street** is open for tours Tuesdays, Wednesday & Thursdays 10am-4pm and by appointment 763-477-5383.

EVENTS/PROGRAMS:

Horse Drawn Wagon Rides

12/1/12 FREE rides from Riverside Park, tours of the Ames-Florida-Stork House & hot chocolate

Christmas Tea

12/8/12 family open house 10-4pm
12/9/12 formal adult event 1-4pm
(\$10 and RSVP required for formal event)



WWI Lecture Series:

1914-1915 WWI lecture

2/9/13 10am-noon at the Lion's Building

1916 WWI lecture

3/9/13 10am-noon at the Lion's Building

1917 WWI lecture

4/13/13 10am-noon at the Lion's Building

1918 WWI lecture

5/11/13 10am-noon at the Lion's Building

Email: storkhouse@cityofrockford.org

www.rockfordmnhistory.org



CITY OF ROCKFORD



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

"Like" The City of Rockford on Facebook

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



The Rockford Fire Department invites you and your family to join them for treats and pictures with Santa on **Saturday, December 8th** from 10am-2:00pm at the Fire Station—6700 Main Street. They will be collecting TOYS for local children.

Rockford Fire Department Toy Drive & Distribution

They are looking for donations of unwrapped toys or monetary donations. Items may be dropped off at: City Hall, BANKWEST, Rockford Area Schools, Wright-Hennepin Electric, Tractor Supply, Sears and many more local businesses. All toys go to families in Rockford, Greenfield and Rockford Township. If you have questions or 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 16th** from 12-3pm at the Rockford Fire Department at 6700 Main Street, Rockford.



2013 RECYCLING INFORMATION

The 2013 recycling calendars will be sent out in the December 16th issue of The Drummer. If you do not receive one, please call City Hall and we will send one out or you may pick one up.

Two sort recycling system: glass/cans/plastic bottles can be put together and paper/cardboard. Remember that cardboard must be flattened and no larger than 3x3.

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

If you need a recycling bin stop by City Hall.

2013 Dates:

January 9, 2013
 January 23, 2013
 February 6, 2013
 February 20, 2013
 March 6, 2013



March 20, 2013
 April 3, 2013
 April 17, 2013
 May 1, 2013
 May 15, 2013
 May 30, 2013
 June 12, 2013
 June 26, 2013
 July 10, 2013
 July 24, 2013
 August 7, 2013
 August 21, 2013
 September 5, 2013
 September 18, 2013
 October 2, 2013
 October 16, 2013
 October 30, 2013
 November 13, 2013
 November 27, 2013
 December 11, 2013
 December 26, 2013

CHRISTMAS TREE DISPOSAL

Waste Management will pick-up your Christmas Tree for a fee of \$5.00. The pick-up date is **January 16th**, set your tree next to your garbage container and Waste Management will have a special truck in town to properly dispose of your tree. If you have any questions, please call City Hall at: (763) 477-6565.



The Crow River Food Co-op committee continues to meet and plan for a future food co-op in the Rockford Area. We have 75 paid members/shareholders at this time! We need to have at least 500 members. If you want more information please check out our website www.crowriverfoodcoop.com or check us out on facebook crowriverfoodcoop. The Crow River Food Co-op is a great investment in your local economy! For the next 5 new members Trumpeter Swan Farm is providing an egg CSA!