



The Bridge—Volume 132

CITY OF ROCKFORD

MAYOR'S MESSAGE

Last year we explored new opportunities with developers and this effort has paid off. I am happy to say we anticipate 12 new homes to be built annually over the next three to four years. There will also be a new bar and restaurant opening up soon at the Rockford Mall this spring.

Our City Council, Staff and Fire Department have been researching how surrounding cities compensate their Chief, Assistant Chief and Officers to ensure we are paying a comparable rate. The Fire Board and City Council will review the recommendations, determine how any increases may be funded over time and make a decision on how to move forward in the next month.

We are looking for nominations for our 2017 volunteer of the year so we can recognize someone who made a difference in our community. Please fill out the form on the city website and drop off your nomination to city hall by March 22nd.

Start your spring cleaning now and get rid of your unwanted items at the City Clean-Up Day which will be held on Saturday, May 5th from 8:00 a.m. to Noon at the Public Works location behind the Fire Department.

Please support our Fire Department on Sunday, May 6th for the Annual Pancake Breakfast which starts at 8:00 a.m. with lots of door prizes and raffles.

Happy St. Patrick's Day and enjoy the warmer weather coming!



Renee Hafften

2017 VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

The City of Rockford is searching for its 2017 Volunteer of the Year. Nomination forms are available on the city website, City Hall, Community Expo or the library. Please submit your nomination no later than noon **Thursday, March 22, 2018**.

City Council will vote for the 2017 Volunteer of the Year at their March 27th meeting.

COMMUNITY EXPO

The Rockford Community Expo will be held **Saturday, March 17th** from 9am-noon at the Rockford High School - 7600 County Road 50.

For more information contact the Rockford Community Center at 763-477-4563.
Free to the public!

SEEKING COMMUNITY GARDNERS

The city has several gardening opportunities from the parks to the Stork House. If you would like to show your pride and make Rockford a more beautiful place to live, consider adopting a flower pot or a plot. Contact Darcy at 612-490-6509 or email: darcy@cityofrockford.org

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
Ted Hill
Rick Martinson
Scott Seymour

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

"Like" The City of Rockford on Facebook



6th Annual Thousand Hearts Crow River Serve Day

Saturday, May 19, 2018

What better way to give back to your community than to volunteer for worthwhile projects. If you are interested, you can sign up to volunteer as an individual or as a group. Do you have a project? Great! The area business community, school district, church groups, civic groups, boy and girl scouts, non-profits, governmental agencies, the fire department and many agencies from the medical community will all join together to have a major impact on a single day in the area. Lets bring a thousand volunteers together to address three key areas of needed improvement: **Hunger, Health, and Habitation**



Thousand Hearts 365 exists to address community needs as they arise during the year. We are currently searching for volunteers to serve at Rockford Elementary Arts Magnet School (REAMS) to listen to and help students read aloud. If you have two hours weekly during the school day to devote to this, we want you! Days and hours are flexible according to your availability.

If you are interested in helping, please contact Annette Tryon at: batryon@hotmail.com or visit their website at: www.thousandhearts.weebly.com

ROCKFORD LIBRARY

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

Highlighted Events:

Preschool Wednesday Storytime's—Wednesdays: March 21, 28 and April 4,11,18, 25 (11:15am-noon)

Monthly Lego Club—Mondays (6-7pm) 3/26, 4/23 & 5/21or Wednesday (2-3pm) 3/21 , 4/18 & 5/16

Ferdig Fridays Music Recital—May 4th (3:30pm-4pm)

Rockford Tween & Teen Game Night—Mondays: April 2nd and May 7th (6-7pm)

Rockford Adult Book Club—Mondays: March 26th, April 23rd and Tuesday: May 29th (2-3pm)

Rockford Friends of the Library Book & Bake Sale— April 9th to April 14th (during library hours)

****Book donations accepted year round****

Mother's Day Make and Take— May 7th to May 12th

See the World Through the Eyes of a Poet with Marie Olofdotter—May 17th (1pm)



The Rockford branch is working to raise money for programs, supplies and Lego blocks for their new Logo Clubs

CLEAN UP DAY & FOOD SHELF COLLECTION

Clean Up Day and Food Shelf Collection will be held from 8am to noon on **Saturday, May 5th** at Public Works - 6551 Utility Drive. Items **MUST** be sorted if you want volunteers to help unload. NO broken glass.

RiverWorks Thrift Shore will be on site to collect gently used items. A contribution receipt will be provided for your tax return.

The following items will be accepted for a fee: scrap metal, household appliances, furniture items, electronics, tires, and fluorescent/compact bulbs. Fees and further details are available at City Hall or on the website.

Compost/Yard Waste will be accepted at the compost site 8am-noon on Saturday.

Household Batteries and Eye Glasses accepted year round at the Rockford Library-8220 Cedar Street.

Donate 10 non perishable food items or \$10 to the RiverWorks Food Shelf on May 5th and receive \$5 off your 2018 clean-up day total!



April 11th Evening Mixer at Choo Choo Restaurant from 4:30pm-6:30pm. Cost \$25 per person (includes appetizers and drink tickets). Email RSVPs to: inquire@rgchamber.org

May 10th Meeting at Wright-Hennepin Electric located at 6800 Electric Drive, Rockford. Networking starts at 11:30am with lunch and program at noon. Cost \$15 members and \$20 non-members. Email RSVPs to: inquire@rgchamber.org

May 10th Coffee at BANKWEST located at 5921 Main Street, Rockford from 7:30am-8:30am

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

**CITY OF ROCKFORD
WATER / WASTEWATER OPERATOR**

The Water Department is responsible for the operation, maintenance, and budgeting regarding the cities 3 water storage tanks, 5 pumps, chemical feed equipment, water distribution system with associated valves, pipe, hydrants, and metering systems. Daily laboratory work, along with weekly, quarterly, and annual testing is conducted to ensure proper operation of the water system along with recordkeeping including daily, monthly, and annual reporting to the MDH and DNR as required by law. The Water Operator is licensed thru the Minnesota Department of Health and maintains licensing thru continuing education. The Water Department is recognized annually for water quality.

The Wastewater Department is responsible for the operation, maintenance, permit writing/ permit compliance and budgeting regarding the cities 4 satellite lift stations, collection system, main lift station, grit removal system, fine screen system, 2 retrofitted biological Extended Aeration Activated Sludge Package Plants with associated equipment, chemical feed equipment for the reduction of Total Phosphorus, Ultraviolet Disinfection system and Biosolids holding/removal. Daily laboratory work along with weekly, quarterly, biannual, and annual tests are conducted to ensure proper operation of the wastewater system and daily, monthly, and annual reports are completed to determine compliance with our permit issued by the MPCA. The Wastewater Operator is licensed thru the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency and must maintain the licensing thru continued education. Since 2011 the current Water/Wastewater Operator has received 4 of the 5 Certificate of Commendations issued by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. Doug Duda has been awarded the highest level of licenses issued to operators in the State of Minnesota.



Doug Duda
Water/Waste Water
Operator

The Water/Wastewater Departments monitor the systems 24/7/365 thru alarm call in systems and on site monitoring.

The Wastewater Department is urging residents to discontinue flushing wipes, even though they claim to be flushable. These include disinfectant wipes, make up removing wipes, glass cleaning wipes etc. These products do not break down properly and are causing an increase in maintenance costs and possible equipment upgrades which come with downfalls not including increased costs of the equipment itself. Backups in basements are happening along with plugged pumps, partial plugged pumps which can increase electric costs of thousands of dollars and are difficult to detect, and plugging the wastewater plants themselves which can cause the city to violate its permit to discharge. There is technology to protect the plants better but this is very expensive (6 digits figure) and the wastewater department would like to resolve this problem with public education. The wastewater system is designed to treat what comes from your digestive tract and only toilet paper is designed to be handled by the system. We ask that all other items be disposed of in the trash to be taken to the landfills.

**ROCKFORD AREA
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY**

The Ames-Florida-Stork House is located at:
8131 Bridge St
Phone (763) 477-5383
Email: storkhouse@cityofrockford.org
www.storkhouse.org

For more information contact 763-477-5383 or
email: storkhouse@cityofrockford.org

**Memorial Day Pie & Ice Cream Social—Monday,
May 28th (11am-2pm)**
Enjoy—fruit pies, ice cream sundaes, and root
beer floats, as well as many activities taking
place on the grounds that day.

ROCKFORD FIRE DEPARTMENT

The Rockford Fire Department is always 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

Rockford Fire Auxiliary Members WANTED. This group meets the 3rd Tuesday of the month. If interested in joining, contact Deb Buoy at 612-760-8755.

Pancake Breakfast and Raffles—Sunday, May 6, 2018 at the Fire Station (7am-noon)

RiverWorks Food Shelf

It is time for the Minnesota Food Share March Campaign! For every pound of food donated and every dollar collected, along with the number of clients served in March, the MN Food Share will provide free dollars that can be used to purchase food.

8230 Cedar Street , Rockford
www.riverworksonline.org (763) 477-6098



Upcoming Events

March 16th—Princess Party at Rockford Elementary Commons Area 6:30pm-8pm

March 17th—Community Expo at Rockford High School & Commons 9am-noon

March 31st—Easter Egg Hunt at Riverside Park 10am

April 7th—Rockford Masonic Hog Roast at the Rockford Township Hall 4pm

April 9th—Delano Senior Center 11:30am

April 9th–April 13th—Rockford Library Book and Bake Sale (during library hours)

April 11th—R-G Area Chamber of Commerce Evening Mixer at Choo Choo Restaurant 4:30pm-6:30pm

April 14th—Rockford Lion’s Greenback Dinner & Silent Auction at Rockford Township Hall 5pm

May 5th—Clean-Up Day at Public Works 8am-noon

May 6th—Fire Department Pancake Breakfast at Fire Station 7am-noon

May 10th—R-G Area Chamber of Commerce Meeting at Wright-Hennepin Electric 11:30am/noon

May 14th—Rockford Senior Citizen’s at Walnut Place 11:30am

May 19th—Thousand Hearts Day of Service

May 28th—Memorial Day Parade and Events in town (watch the website for more details)

C O M P O S T S I T E

The compost site on Elm Street/CR 33 is scheduled to open to City of Rockford Residents on *Monday, April 16th, depending on the weather.*

Items accepted: grass clippings, leaves and brush no larger than 3” in diameter. All bags used to transport composting must be removed.

Please observe the following guidelines:

- Please remove all bags, bottles and flower pots.
- Yard waste mixed with rocks, metal, concrete, polystyrene foam, animal feces or foreign material is unacceptable.
- Landscape fabric does not decompose and is not allowed at the compost site.
- Grass clippings, leaves, garden waste and all soft bodied plant material is acceptable for the compost pile.
- Brush, sticks and wood waste need to be separated from compostable yard waste. Woody plant material does not degrade as fast as soft bodied plants and needs to be handled separately

All wood waste and brush needs to be placed in the brush pile which is separate from the compost pile. The city hires a contractor to remove the wood waste from the site every fall. Please observe the following rules to help keep this cost minimal for the city:

- No stumps
- No lumber or landscape timbers
- No concrete
- No logs over 6” in diameter
- Place all leaves and grass clippings in the compost pile.

Hours of operation:
Monday-Friday 7:30am-3:00pm
Wednesday Evening 4:30-8:30pm
Saturday 8:00am-noon

The compost site schedule is subject to weather and site conditions. Only material originating within the city limits is allowed at the site. No commercial lawn care or tree companies are allowed at the site. The site may also be closed if an illegal dumping creates a problem that needs to be corrected.

You do not need to check out a key at city hall.

NO OTHER DUMPING IS ALLOWED.

Finished compost material is available to Rockford Residents.

Park Commission Openings - the Park Commission meets every other month on the 1st Monday at 6pm. Applications available on-line or at City Hall.

**S I N G L E S O R T
R E C Y C L I N G**

Waste Management **collects recycling every other Wednesday.** The 2018 calendar is available on the City website or at City Hall.

Recyclables must be set out at the curb by 7 a.m. Face the lid toward the street and the handle toward the house.

Items for recycle: metal cans, plastic bottles & containers #1-7, glass bottles & jars, paper, flattened cardboard & paperboard, and dairy & juice cartons.

DO NOT INCLUDE: plastic bags, sharps & medical waste (needles), foam cups & containers or food waste.

The City of Rockford supports residential recycling in the general fund budget. Recycling was state mandated by legislature. The more everyone can recycle the bigger the county rebates, reducing the tax burden.

2018 Pick Up Dates:

- March 28, 2018
- April 11, 2018
- April 25, 2018
- May 9, 2018
- May 23, 2018
- June 6, 2018
- June 20, 2018
- July 5, 2018***
- July 18, 2018
- August 1, 2018
- August 15, 2018

- August 29, 2018
- September 12, 2018
- September 26, 2018
- October 10, 2018
- October 24, 2018
- November 7, 2018
- November 21, 2018
- December 5, 2018
- December 19, 2018
- January 3, 2019***
- *Thursday pick-up**

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, April 9th**-Delano Senior Center
- **Monday, May 14th**—Walnut Place, 8554 Walnut Place
- **Monday, June 11th**—Delano Senior Center