



The Bridge-Volume 108

CITY OF ROCKFORD

MAYOR'S MESSAGE

2011 is fast coming to an end. This year had a few moments we will remember. The spring tried our ability to be prepared for the rising Crow River. Like many of you, each day I waited to see, as the predictions were to possibly have one of the worst flooding since 1965. As you know we got by that one. One of my objectives was to be listed as a Heart Safe Community. Due to making the required points for all the training in CPR and access to defibrillators throughout our city, we are now a Heart Safe Community. Not many cities can make that claim. We have grown a bit now too, with a population of over 4300 residents that want to call Rockford home and still growing.

Some of the changes for the coming year are that our Fire Chief, Kevin Reed, has chosen to retire from the department. I want to thank him for his years of service and say he will be missed. I want to welcome the new Fire Chief that will be replacing Kevin

and that is Ben Sanderson. Ben has the drive and energy to keep our Fire Department at a level we can be proud of. His two new Assistant Fire Chiefs are Nate Buoy and Gordon Hopkins. Congratulations to all of you in your positions on our local Fire Department.

With winter coming I want to remind everyone that with the snow comes the responsibility of keeping the fire hydrants clear for your local fire department. Last year 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. I ask you if not for yourself, 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 all for calling Rockford home and I will see you around town.

Mike



CROW RIVER CHRISTMAS

- **December 3rd**—the Christmas Express starts 8:30 am located at the Lion's Building (8220 Elm Street) and takes guests to: YWAM for the pancake breakfast, Our Father's for activities, and the Rockford Community Center for the Holiday Expo. Enjoy—the Chili Contest, Light up the Park, Tree Lighting, The Nativity Story and Caroling. There will also be activities at the Stork House!
- **December 10th**—Stork House Christmas Open House (8131 Bridge Street) 11am-3pm, Girl Scout Holiday Craft & Bake Sale and visit Santa at the Rockford Fire Department (6700 Main Street).
- **December 11th**—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.
- **December 13th** Holiday Train 2011—approx. 4:15 pm in Loretto on West Railway Street

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

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

The city staff has been in contact with many different grocers about the prospect of opening a store in town without any success. Therefore, we are looking into another option which would involve a food co-op which means that the members own the store. A committee has formed and met twice so far, there is another meeting planned for December 5th. In a few months a town meeting will be held to bring this option to the community and find out if there is support for a food co-op in Rockford. If you are interested in serving on the committee please email me at nancyc@cityofrockford.org

This year has been a busy year for staff and the city council as we have adopted a Capital Improvement Plan, completed a Senior Housing Study, administered emergency repair grants, ordered new Welcome signs, approved a new slogan "Heart of the Crow River", approved design plans for the Parkwood Park, approved

a Youth Baseball field, started working on replacing the park building, the HRA and volunteers coordinated the B3 business program, monthly email blasts, a new city web site and face book page was launched to name a few. We continue to plan for the future of Rockford and we welcome your feedback.

Have a safe and happy holiday season!



PUBLIC WORKS

Dennis Peterson has been an employee with the City of Rockford's public works department since November 20, 1980 and was hired at an hourly wage of \$6.50!

Dennis earned his Class D wastewater operators license in 1982 and his class C license in November of 1983. In 1984 Dennis received his certification for a Class C water operator. Today, Dennis has a Class B license as a wastewater operator's license and is the supervisor of the public works department which includes 6 employees.

Dennis' knowledge of the city's infrastructure and public works department is vast and he has witnessed a lot of growth and many changes over his years with the city.

The public works department currently maintains: three water towers, two package treatment plants, several sanitary sewer lift stations, storm water ponds, storm sewers, streets, sidewalks, trails, five parks, eight buildings and decorative lighting downtown and on Highway 55, etc...

Dennis—thank you for your dedication to the City of Rockford!

PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION

The Planning and Zoning Commission has an opening for a three-year term to begin in January 2012. If you are interested in serving, please complete an application and return to City Hall by December 23rd. Applications are available on-line or at City Hall.



The R-G Area Chamber of Commerce—Coffee Break Open House on **Thursday, December 8th** from 8am-9:30am will be hosted at RE/MAX at 120 Railway Street West, Loretto. There is no charge to attend and open to interested business owners.

The next regular Chamber meeting is scheduled for Thursday, **January 12, 2012** 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

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 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.



**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.



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

**T H E R I V E R W O R K S S T O R E
“ E V E R Y D A Y E S S E N T I A L S ”**

Starting in December donations can be dropped off at the store in the Rockford Mall next to China Buffet on Mondays & Wednesdays (1-3pm) and Thursday (5-7pm).

For a list of what they will accept go to: www.riverworksonline.org and click the RiverWorks Store. If you'd like to volunteer or have questions, contact Denise at 763-477-6098. Proceeds will go back to RiverWorks Community Development to continue the work of Community Helping Community.



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: hot and cold cereals, peanut butter, and 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-3pm and by appointment 763-477-5383.

PROGRAMS:

Christmas Tea

- 12/10/11 family open house 11-3pm
- 12/11/11 formal event 1-4pm
- (\$10 and RSVP required for formal event)

The Big Story of the Big Woods

1/14/12 10am-noon or noon-2pm at the Lion's Building

Full Steam Ahead: A Saw Mill Story

2/11/12 10am-noon or noon-2pm at the Lion's Building

Wrangling the River: Rockford's Flour Power

3/10/12 10am-noon or noon-2pm at the Lion's Building

Email: storkhouse@cityofrockford.org
www.rockfordmnhistory.org



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

Holiday Book and Bake Sale
December 5-10, 2011

The History of Carols
Monday—December 12, 2011 2:30pm-3:30pm

Story Times—Wednesdays 11-11:45 am



CITY OF ROCKFORD



CITY OF ROCKFORD

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www.cityofrockford.org

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

Check our Page on Facebook!



Rockford Fire Department Toy Drive & Distribution

Looking for donations of unwrapped toys or monetary donations. Items may be dropped off at: City Hall, Bankwest, Rockford Area Schools, Wright-Hennepin Electric, Jimmy's Pizza, Tractor Supply and some local churches. The families that are eligible live in Rockford, Greenfield and Rockford Township and must have a need for help. If you have questions or would like to sign-up email: rfdtoydrive@yahoo.com. Due to the demand, families are asked to sign-up ahead of time. Distribution is Sunday, December 18th from 1-4pm at the Rockford Fire Department.

The Rockford Fire Department invites you and your family to join them for treats and pictures with Santa on Saturday, **December 10th** (10am-2:00pm) at the Fire Barn—6700 Main Street. They will be collecting TOYS for their toy drive. The Girl Scout "Kids Only Sale" and bake sale will be going on at the same time.



2012 RECYCLING INFORMATION



The new 2012 calendars will be sent out in The Drummer in early December. If you do not receive one, please call City Hall and we will send one out or you can pick one up.

Two sort recycling: 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.

January 11, 2012
 January 25, 2012
 February 8, 2012
 February 22, 2012
 March 7, 2012
 March 21, 2012
 April 4, 2012
 April 18, 2012
 May 2, 2012
 May 16, 2012
 May 30, 2012
 June 13, 2012
 June 27, 2012

July 11, 2012
 July 25, 2012
 August 8, 2012
 August 22, 2012
 September 5, 2012
 September 19, 2012
 October 3, 2012
 October 17, 2012
 October 31, 2012
 November 14, 2012
 November 28, 2012
 December 12, 2012
 December 26, 2012

