



The Bridge—Volume 122

CITY OF ROCKFORD

MAYOR'S MESSAGE

Hello residents of Rockford,

This summer was busy. We finished the building at Riverside Park and the Waste Water Treatment Plant project in June. Wright-Hennepin Electric began installing solar panels at the mall and water tower and should be done by the end of October. We look forward to new opportunities coming soon.

Thank you to everyone who donated your time and support to Rockford River Days 2015. It was a great turnout with awesome events topped off by amazing fireworks. Only wish Mother Nature had cooperated for the parade and coronation. Despite the rain on Sunday, everyone seemed to have a great time during the weekend. We are always looking for new volunteers for the committee, so please

ROCKFORD FIRE DEPARTMENT

Fire Prevention Week—October 4-10, 2015



Beginning at dusk on Halloween **October 31st**, the Rockford Fire Fighters will be driving through Rockford to hand out free glow sticks to the "Trick or Treaters".

If you are interested in joining **the Rockford Fire Department**, fill out an application, available on-line at www.cityofrockford.org and select City Departments and Fire Department.

Rockford Fire Fighter Explorers Post 3053. **Fire & Emergency Service Career Exploring** is open to young men and women ages 14 (and completed the 8th grade) and not yet 21 years old with an interest in learning more about careers in the field of Fire & Emergency Services. Contact Ron Harkins at (612) 965-0850 or fill out an on-line application (same as the Fire Department Application.)

The **Rockford Fire Department Auxiliary** is looking for members. For more information contact Deb Buoy at (612) 760-8755.

consider joining this great group of people that make River Days a success.

In late August we had to accept the resignation of Denise Kesanen as Council Member due to a potential conflict of interest between city contracts and Riverworks. It's an unfortunate situation and Denise's enthusiasm and passion to make Rockford a great place to live will truly be missed on the council, but not forgotten. We are all extremely lucky to have her in our community and I am looking forward to seeing all the great things she will accomplish in our community.

I wish everyone a pleasant and colorful Fall!

Mayor Hafften

WASTEWATER BILLING CALCULATION

Historically wastewater rates had only been calculated based on the average water used between November 15th and April 15th and recalculated annually. In 2014 the City Council passed an ordinance to allow residents the choice between being billed for their wastewater use based upon their actual water use or continuing with the old system which averaged winter water use and billed that average as the wastewater usage over the summer months.

All properties in Rockford are assigned the averaging billing system for wastewater unless you contact City Hall between **December 1st and December 31st**, with the change effective for the January billing. This is the only time you can change your wastewater billing calculation.

If you do not want to be billed based upon your assigned system you can change your billing system by **contacting City Hall before December 31, 2015**. Annually you can change your wastewater billing system in December.

Hydrant Flushing - **Wednesday, October 21, 2015**

(starting at 2am - until completion)

Residents may experience low water pressure and discoloration to water.

IF the weather is bad, flushing will be delayed to the next day.

RIVERSIDE PARK BUILDING RIBBON CUTTING



Pictured are Park & Recreation Commission Members along with Rockford City Council Members: B. Dahlke, L. Gusse, R. Martinson, T. Hill, C. Hudlow, D. Buoy, M. Rentz and R. Hafften



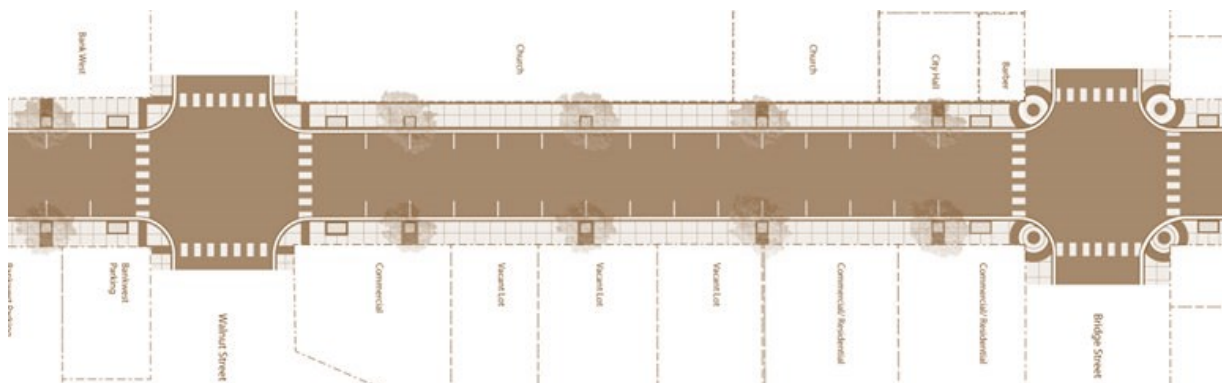
DOWNTOWN MAIN STREET REDEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITY

Wright County is conducting a paving and resurfacing project on Main Street (County Road 20) this coming spring and summer of 2016. This project will mill and overlay Main Street which will correct the road surface issues in this area.

This project presents an opportunity for the City to improve our Downtown area and feature Riverside Park by expanding the city’s sidewalks, burying overhead power lines and planting trees to create a scenic and walkable Downtown District. We would like your thoughts and comments on this potential project. Here are some of the details we have at this point:

- We do not need to do this project. If we decide not to move forward, the County will resurface Main Street and the area will be the same after the project is completed. We would likely not review a Main Street project for the downtown area again until the new road is in need of repairs, which is anticipated to be 25 to 30 years.
- Improving / Revitalizing Downtown has been part of the city’s Capital Improvement Plan for many years, and reviewing our Downtown options is one of the City’s goals for this year. If we decide to improve our Downtown area we would likely expand the sidewalks to improve walkability to the park, downtown businesses and slow traffic that currently speeds down Main Street. We would also look at burying the overhead power lines, installing antique street lights and planting trees to beautify our Downtown District. This improved area would run four blocks down Main Street from Highway 55 to Elm Street. Cities that have done similar projects have seen a noticeable increase in walkers, shoppers and retail businesses that are drawn to the increased commerce and improved location.
- The City would establish a Tax Increment Financing District that would capture the increase in property tax values from new construction and redevelopment in the Downton District, and use that source of revenue to fund the project. We would also receive funding from the County in cost savings they have in paving less road, would use state provided funding for street projects, existing bond proceeds, and funds previously allocated for road and sidewalk improvements in our Downtown area. We believe these funding sources could be sufficient to cover the expense of the project without associated increases in property taxes or levying special assessments.
- Finally, our planning process is in the very early stages. At this point we are trying to gather information and community input to determine whether or not a Main Street redevelopment project should be planned. We believe this project could be extremely beneficial to our community, but we would like to hear from you to understand your thoughts about this possible project. Please contact City Hall with any thoughts you may have.

Based upon what we know at this point, is this type of project something you would like to see in Downtown Rockford?



ROCKFORD LIBRARY

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



Library Hours: Mon 2pm-8pm, Tues 2pm-8pm, Wed 10am-6pm, Thurs 3pm-8pm, Fri 3pm-6pm, & Sat 10am-1pm

HAPPENINGS:

Preschool Story Time on Wednesdays 11:15am-noon
NO Story time on 11/11, 11/26, 12/23 or 12/30/15

Friends of the Library Book and Bake Sale:

October 5th to October 10th during library hours.
Donations accepted year round!

Lego Arts October 6th 6pm-7pm

Candy Corn Crafts October 24th 10:30am-noon

Flute Duet November 23rd 6:30pm-7pm

Library closed: 11/11 for Veteran's Day, 11/26 at 5pm Eve of Thanksgiving and 11/27 for Thanksgiving Day.

GRRL is proud to announce its new digital magazine collection! Magazines are available to download from the Digital Library onto Nooks, or devices with a Nook app (including iPads, desktop computers, etc.). They currently have 41 magazine titles available—everything from *National Geographic* to *Family Circle*.

For more happenings—check out their website:
www.griver.org

RiverWorks—Community Helping Community!

RiverWorks is looking for volunteers to help at the food shelf and the thrift store. If you are interested, complete a volunteer application: www.riverworksonline.org

Annual Steak Fry & Auction—Friday, October 24, 2015.
100% of the proceeds benefit RiverWorks Community Development.

For more information contact Denise Kesanen (763) 477-9803 or dkesanen@riverworksonline.org

ROCKFORD FARMERS MARKET

Fridays 3pm-6:30pm

at the Rockford City Center Mall Parking Lot:

8900 Walnut Street

June to October 9, 2015

For more information contact Nancy at 763-202-0024 or check out their website: www.rockfordmarket.weebly.com

STORK HOUSE

The Ames-Florida-Stork House is located at:

8131 Bridge Street

763-477-5383 Email: storkhouse@cityofrockford.org

www.rockfordmnhistory.org

Winter Hours: Tuesdays, Wednesdays & Thursdays (11am-4pm) and by appointment.

PROGRAMS/EVENTS:

1st Annual Founder's Day Fundraiser 10/10/15 2-5pm

PLANNING COMMISSION

The Planning and Zoning Commission has an opening for term expiring December 2015 with a new three-year term beginning January 2016. If you are interested in serving, please complete an application and return to City Hall by October 16, 2015. Applications are available on-line or at City Hall.

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 anytime after there has been ice accumulation, continuous or intermittent snow fall during which there has been **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 ordinance 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 deposit snow onto ANY city, township, county or state road. Doing so is a violation of state statute and you will be fined.

SOLAR ENERGY PARTNERSHIP

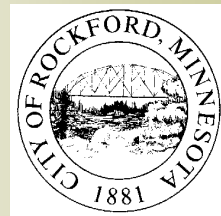
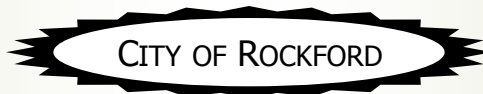
Recently the City of Rockford and Wright Hennepin Electric formed a partnership in a renewable energy project involving the implementation of solar energy to offset some electrical costs to the city of Rockford facilities.

Specifically Wright Hennepin Electric was interested in promoting solar energy as a long term solution to some of the City of Rockford's electrical costs. The idea was to install solar panels in areas within the city that were not being used for residential and or commercial purposes. After several discussions and meetings two areas were chosen for this purpose. The main solar panel array will be located just to the southern hillside portion of the water tower in our millennium industrial park. This unused land will serve as the location for this purpose. Low maintenance grasses will be planted to keep any unwanted growth from interfering with the ability to produce electricity.

The second location will actually be located on the roof above the newly remodeled City Center mall. The idea behind this installation is to put a space that is not used other than as a roof to actually generate a portion of the energy that goes into the operation of that facility. The impact on the space is minimal as the solar panels are light weight and not bolted or fastened to the roof other than with weights thus preventing any damage to the structure.

The City is excited to have the opportunity to partner with Wright-Hennepin Electric on these projects!

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



Upcoming Events

October 4th to October 10th—Manufacturer's Week

October 4th to October 10th—Fire Prevention Week

October 5th to October 10th—Friend's of the Library Book and Bake Sale during library hours

October 7th to December 16th—Preschool Story Time at the Library 11:15am on Wednesdays

October 8th—Manufacturer's Breakfast 7:30am at Ver-Tech Labs

October 8th—R-G Area Chamber of Commerce Meeting 7:30am at BANKWEST

October 10th—Stork House 1st Annual Founder's Day Fundraiser 2pm-5pm

October 12th—Rockford Senior Citizens 11:30am at Delano Senior Center

October 24th—5th Annual Steak Fry & Auction for RiverWorks Community Development

October 31st—Halloween (Fire Department will hand out glow sticks)

November 9th—Rockford Senior Citizens 11:30am at Riverside Park (Rockford)

November 11th—Veteran's Day: City Hall & Library Closed

November 12th—R-G Area Chamber of Commerce Meeting noon at BANKWEST

November 26th and November 27th—Thanksgiving: City Hall Closed (see Library for their hours)

December 5th—Crow River Christmas (more details to follow)

December 5th—Ornament Making 10:30am-1pm at the Library

December 14th—Rockford Senior Citizens 11:30am at Riverside Park (Rockford)



The R-G Area Chamber of Commerce Morning Gathering is **Thursday, October 8, 2015** (7am) at BANKWEST.

The next R-G Area Chamber of Commerce meeting is **Thursday, November 12, 2015** (registration starts at 11:45pm) 12pm to 1:30 pm at BANKWEST.

RSVP: inquire@rgchamer.org or call Joel at 612-791-1404

The **Rockford Senior Citizens** meet the *2nd Monday of each month* at different locations. The cost is \$10 per year. Attend a meeting and find out more about the group. For more information, call Bonnie Pool at (763) 477-4468. Their 2015 schedule:

- October 12th at the Delano Senior Center
- November 9th at Riverside Park-Rockford
- December 14th at Riverside Park-Rockford

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

Join the group to keep up-to-date on news and events in the city.

The City of Rockford is on Facebook.



Charter Communication Subscribers:
Channel 12 for the City of Rockford has
been changed to Channel 180

C O M P O S T S I T E

The compost site on Elm Street/CR 33 is scheduled to close on **November 2nd** 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-3pm

Wednesday Evenings 4:30pm-dusk

Saturday 8am-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.

M A N U F A C T U R E R ' S W E E K

The manufacturing sector is the backbone of Minnesota's economy, thanks to its strength, versatility and innovation. It represents one in seven jobs and has the largest total payroll of any business sector. Manufacturer's week is celebrated October 4th to October 10th. The City of Rockford will be hosting a breakfast to celebrate **Manufacturer's Week on Thursday, October 8th** at Ver-Tech Labs—6801 Bleck Drive starting at 7:30am.