



The Bridge

CITY OF ROCKFORD

MAYOR'S MESSAGE

The Christmas season is here and that means the end of 2009 is coming quickly. This year has been a very challenging one with the recession. As cities go, our conservative form of governing has kept us in a good financial position. I commend the Council and staff for the sacrifices that were made to keep the taxes in check for next year and still perform the basic services that we all expect.

We did accomplish some major projects last year such as the new and expanded levee. The improved levee will now give the downtown more protection that has been needed for many years. We also have been vigorously pursuing more businesses for our town, especially a grocery store. I hope that in 2010 we will succeed in bringing more retail to town.

The Adopt-A-Hydrant program that

started in 2009 has added something to talk about in some neighborhoods. If you are interested in the program for next spring, for more information check out the Fire Department on the Cities web site .

On January 30th the Fire Department will be hosting a basic CPR class at the Fire Station at 10:30 in the morning. This class will give you the basics for helping someone going into cardiac arrest. This basic knowledge can mean the difference between life and death for someone. I encourage everyone to look into taking this class.

There are some new things that we can expect in 2010, one being that when there is a fifth Wednesday in the month, Wright Recycling will be picking up on that day. I, like you, end up hav-

ing a lot of recycling piling up when there is a three week gap between pickups. That was the good news.

I want to take the time to wish all of you who call Rockford home a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

As always thank you for calling Rockford home and I will see you around town.

Mike

CHRISTMAS EVENTS

- The Rockford Area Historical Society has their annual Christmas Tea on **December 12th** (1-4pm) Please RSVP (763) 477-5383
- The Rockford Fire Department (6700 Main Street) has invited Santa for a visit and would like your family to join them for pictures and treats with Santa on **December 12th** (10am-2:00pm) and they will be collecting items for the Hanover Food Shelf Drive. A drop box will also be located at City Hall.
- Holiday Train 2009—**December 14th** approx. 4:15-5:15pm in Loretto on West Railway Street



ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

The preliminary budget for 2010 has been established and the Truth and Taxation Hearing is being held at the Regular City Council Meeting, December 8th. Residents are invited to attend to find out where your tax dollars from the city are being spent. The proposed tax increase from 2009 to 2010 is 2.6%.

A special council meeting was held on November 17th to discuss the westerly access for the Parkwood Devel-

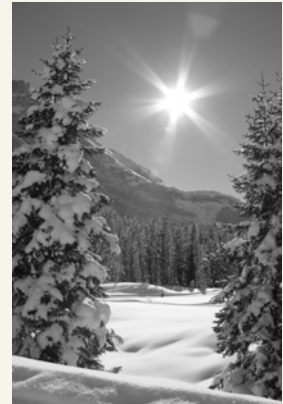
opment.

The city is applying for a grant through the Clean Water Fund to add to the toe of the Crow River to replace area's of erosion. This project will protect the flood levee that was recently upgraded and moved inland. If awarded the grant will fund 75% of the project.

The city is paying off the 2004A Bond that financed the infrastructure for the Industrial bond in February

2010. This is bond is being paid off 6 years in advance of the maturity date and will save \$155,005 on interest. February 1, 2010 is the first call date.

The city is working towards getting some public service DVD's for our government channel. Our goal is to work together with the Rockford Schools to air some of their concerts, games, etc. Have a Safe and Happy Holiday Season!



HAPPY HOLIDAYS

Water saving tips
Check out the DNR website or the MN Rural Water Resource websites. Water conservation rates will be implemented in the future so start conserving water today.



SANITARY SEWER

Before you flush those old prescription drugs, cleaning chemicals, grease.... Think about how this affects the city's system. The city treats the wastewater so that it is not toxic as it enters into the Crow River and eventually to the Mississippi River.

Lately, certain toxins are being flushed into our system. These toxins create violations of our wastewater treatment permit. Another problem we have experienced is flushing diapers and rags, into the system which causes the pumps at the lift stations to break downs

and are very costly to replace. The city is asking for your cooperation in the future, think before you flush. If you are not sure about what can and cannot be flushed please contact our operator Scott Niesen at 763-477-4346. Thank you for your assistance!

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

On November 12th the Rockford/Greenfield Chamber of Commerce bylaws were approved. A seven member board has been appointed as well as committee's for marketing, ambassadors, finance, membership recruitment and events.

The next meeting is Jan 14th-noon at Wright Hennepin Electric which will include a State of the Cities and School. If you are interested in becoming a member please contact city hall. The group approved a work plan: Support Business Expo-March 2010, Develop web site, host annual dinner, support other non-profit organi-

zations and conduct bi-monthly meetings. So far the group has received dues for 40 members. The dues for voting members is \$100 per year or \$50 for non-voting members.

Please support your local businesses so they may continue to grow and thrive in the area.



Business Summit—Bank West

W I N T E R S E A S O N

So far it seems as though winter may never arrive. Although, we must plan for the snow that someday will fall on our streets so that we can make sure our resident can travel safely on our streets. The snow season ordinance is in effect until April and **does not allow over night parking in residential neighborhoods. On street parking is prohibited from midnight to 8 a.m. In commercial**

areas on street parking is prohibited between the hours of 2 a.m. to 6 a.m. Please make sure that your guests are aware of these regulations this winter so that they don't end up with a ticket or worse yet getting towed.

We also have mail box regulations that should be adhered to which will avoid those snow plow mishaps. If you would like more information about the mailbox

regulations please call city hall or use our website:
www.cityofrockford.org

Have a safe winter and stay a safe distance behind the snow plows.

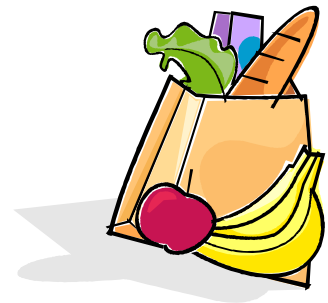


R I V E R W O R K S F O O D S H E L F

A newly formed non-profit group named RiverWorks is making plans to open a Food Shelf in Rockford. The City has approved a lease allowing RiverWorks to operate the food shelf and other community resources out of a city building adjacent to the Rockford Library at 8230 Cedar Street. The group is

seeking volunteers, materials grants, etc to remodel the old city building in the downtown. The building has been vacant for some time and used by the city for storage. The facility will require a restroom, water heater, furnace, etc. As well as all of the refrigeration, freezers, shelving needed for the food

shelf. Office equipment and furniture. For more information or to make a donation please contact: Denise Kesanen at 763-607-9308.



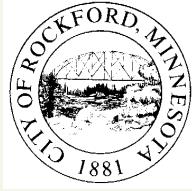
S H E R B U R N E W R I G H T C A B L E C O M M I S S I O N

As a member of the Sherburne Wright Cable Commission the franchise fee's and peg fee's make it possible for Rockford to have our own 24/7 government channel (12) on Charter Cable. The commission hired a full time employee this fall to produce video's for member cities. These will be aired on the government channel along with city council

meetings, school events, and other public service video's as information for our residents. The Cable Commission purchased a large movie screen last summer which may be used by member cities. Rockford had a Movie in the Park in August and September. A calendar has been established for 2010 Movie Nights at the ten cities. Rockford is sched-

uled to have the Movie in the Park on two dates in the summer. However, the city will need sponsors for each of these movies as a license costs \$300 for each movie. In the past our local businesses have sponsored the movie and in order to have the movies this summer the city is seeking sponsors. Please contact city hall if you are interested.

CHECK OUR WEB SITE
CITYOFFROCKFORD.ORG



CITY OF ROCKFORD

6031 Main Street
Rockford, MN 55373
763-477-6565 office
763-477-4393 FAX

Please recycle your glass, aluminum, tin, newspapers, magazines, cardboard, phone books. Curbside collection is the 1st, 3rd & 5th Wednesdays. Look for your new 2010 calendar in the Drummer out Dec 4th.

Join the newly formed Rockford/Greenfield Chamber of Commerce! Contact City hall for more information.

Sponsor a Movie In the Park:
July 23, 2010
Sept. 10, 2010

Get Involved in the City-
Rockford Historical Society
Garden Club
Friends of the Library
Rockford Lions
Rockford Seniors Club

ROCKFORD TAKE HEART

Kim Bemenderfer and Ron Harkins presented information about Take Heart Minnesota which is a state wide program with the goal of providing every patient of Sudden Cardiac Arrest with immediate bystander CPR, CPR circulation-assist technologies by EMS, rapid defibrillation with an automated external defibrillator (AED) and in hospital state of the art therapies.

The Rockford Fire Department is working towards

training Rockford residents on how to perform CPR. Rockford training is scheduled for January 30, 2010 at 10:30 a.m. at the Rockford Fire Department 6700 Main Street. Families and individuals from ages 10 and older are invited to attend. The training will last 1.5 hours and at a cost of \$30 per kit that may be taken home and used to practice. A video was shown to the viewers at the council meeting which is also on UTube – "No Fear

CPR". Cities that train a certain percentage of its population will receive a Take Heart Minnesota sign.

