The Bridge-Volume 119

City of Rockford

Mayor's Message

Welcome to Rockford Father Winter! Even though the weather turned very cold sooner than we wanted, it will help get our new "Norman Rockwell" ice skating rink up and running earlier than expected at Riverside Park. Thank you to our Administrator and Special Council, Dan Madsen, who took advantage of some opportunities to develop this efficiently and in a very short time period. If the weather stays cold, kids will be skating in the park by early December.

In relationship to the ice skating rink, it is with great pleasure to announce a donation of **$50,000 from Hanover Athletic Association**. This money will be used to purchase a shelter, fire pit, boards, netting, liner, lights and other supplies. Thank you so much for the wonderful donation!

Kudos to our Public Work Staff for cleaning our streets and keeping them safe! Remember to please shovel the snow around fire hydrants by your home to enable our Fire Department volunteers to easily find them in case of a fire.

The council and staff will be focusing on the sewer and wastewater rate study by David Drown Associates over the next few months. The first workshop was held on November 25th at City Hall. We are studying the results to determine what rates will need to be to support the existing and future projects. The current averaging will also be reviewed to determine an appropriate and fair calculation which will be applied to averaging in 2015. Please contact City Hall by December 30th if you wish to change your wastewater billing from Averaging to Actual use for 2015.

My sincere thanks goes to Jeannette Graner for dedicating 12 ½ years of service to our city (8 years on city council and 4 ½ years on Planning & Zoning) and Todd Wenz for serving 4 years on city council. Their loyalty and commitment to serving our community has moved us in the right direction. They will both be missed and I wish them all the best.

We will be swearing in our two new council members, Ted Hill and Debbie Buoy, at our first council meeting in 2015 on January 13th. We look forward to hearing their ideas and vision for our city. Welcome Ted and Debbie!

I wish you and your families a safe, warm and happy holiday!

Renee

Crow River Christmas

Saturday—December 6, 2014

Some of the events:

YWAM for the pancake breakfast (9-10:30am)

RiverWorks Thrift Store Arts-N-Crafts Bazaar at the Rockford Mall (9am-2pm)

Santa at the Rockford Fire Department (10am-2pm) at 6700 Main Street

Girl Scout Holiday craft/bake sale/kids only sale at the Rockford Fire Department (10am-1pm)

Stork House open house (10am-4pm)

FREE Horse & Wagon Ride (1-3pm) begin and ending at the Stork House: 8131 Bridge Street

Light Up the Trees at the Rockford Mall (4:30pm)

Caroling led by RHS music students (5pm)

For more events and deals visit their website at:

www.crowriverchristmas.org or **(763) 477-6098**

Rockford Fire Department Pictures with Santa and Toy Drive

The Rockford Fire Department invites you and your family to join them for treats and pictures with Santa on **Saturday, December 6th** from 10am-2:00pm at the Fire Station—6700 Main Street. They will be collecting TOYS for local children.

They are looking for donations of unwrapped toys or monetary donations. Items may be dropped off at: City Hall, BANKWEST, Bridge Street Cafe, Wright-Hennepin Electric, Riverwood Covenant Church, Our Father's Lutheran Church, and other local businesses. All toys go to families in Rockford, Greenfield and Rockford Township. If you have questions or need 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 21st** from 12-3pm at the Rockford Fire Department at 6700 Main Street, Rockford.

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

Last year, Hanover, Rockford, Delano & Maple Plain shared over $25,000 and 1700 pounds of food because of the great community support generated by the Canadian Pacific Holiday Train. Please Bring a Donation of Food or Money!

Rockford Library

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

EVENTS/PROGRAMS:

Preschool Story Time on Wednesdays (11:15-noon)
12/3, 12/10, 12/17, 01/14, 01/21, 01/28, 2/4, 2/11, 2/18 & 2/25

Writers Group (1pm-2pm)
1/28/15 & 2/18/15

Knitting Night (6:30pm-7:30pm
12/18/14, 1/15/15 & 2/19/15

Book Club (2pm-3pm)
12/22/14, 1/26/15 & 2/23/15

Friends of the Library Meeting (10am)
01/17/15—All are welcome to attend!

Cartography for Kids (6:30pm-7:30pm)
1/26/15—come explore Cartography: the art & science of mapmaking. Ages 6-12. Limit 30.

MN History Panel: Images and Lost Stories (10:30am-12:30pm)
2/7/15—at the Rockford Community Center: 7600 Co Rd 50 Photography of Doug Ohman, Minnesota's Lost Towns by Rhonda Fochs. Local Historian Rebecca Mavencamp. Sponsored by Friends of the Rockford Library.

For more information about events: www.griver.org

Stork House

The Ames-Florida-Stork House located at:
8131 Bridge Street is open for tours Tuesdays 11am-4pm, Wednesday 10am-4pm, Thursdays 10am-4pm and by appointment 763-477-5383.
Email: storkhouse@cityofrockford.org
www.rockfordmnhistory.org

EVENTS/PROGRAMS:

12/6/14 Family Open House 10-4pm with FREE horse drawn wagon rides through Rockford (1pm-3pm), tour the decorated Ames-Florida-Stork House, make your own English Christmas Cracker, and enjoy hot chocolate & cookies. Bring a toy or food item for the local Holiday Drives.

12/14/14 Christmas Tea a formal adult event 1-4pm ($20 and RSVP required for formal event)

Annual Membership:
$25 Individual, $50 Family, $100 Silver Membership, and $200 Gold Membership

Are you looking to get involved in the community? Consider volunteering at the Stork House!

Rockford Area Historical Society

Snowmobiles

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. There is no parking or riding of snowmobiles on the levee or in city parks, per Ordinance 208.

Sidewalk Snow Removal

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.

If you live near a fire hydrant, please keep it clear of snow and ice.

RiverWorks Food Shelf

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
Focus the month of December:
peanut butter

Snow Plowing

It is unlawful to plow snow onto ANY city, township, county or state road. Doing so is a violation of state statue and you will be fined.

Rockford-Greenfield Area Chamber of Commerce

The Chamber will host a complimentary Holiday Mixer on Wednesday, **December 10, 2014** from 4pm-6pm at the Rosewood Eatery and Cafe. If you'd like to attend, please RSVP to: inquire@rgchamber.org

The next regular Chamber meeting is scheduled for Thursday, **January 9, 2015** starting at 11:45 am and located at Wright-Hennepin Electric. Cost to attend the meeting is $10 for members and $15 for non-members.

R-G Chamber website: **www.rgchamber.org**

Administrator's Report

This past year was one of change for the City of Rockford. Long time City Administrator, Nancy Carswell, retired after many years of dedicated service to our community. She continues to be involved by running the Farmer's Market and planning various other community-based activities throughout the year.

The summer and fall were busy times for development and growth, as the City purchased the struggling Rockford City Center Mall and updated the façade of the building to revitalize and support commercial businesses and services in our city. The old park shelter in Riverside Park was removed and plans are underway to replace the shelter this spring. Ice skating also returned to Rockford this winter, with a rink being constructed next to Riverside Park that we hope will serve the community well.

The City also took on infrastructure projects in Maplewood Manor and other parts of the city to address our aging utility mains and control inflow and infiltration into our utility system. The City also began construction on the Wastewater Treatment Plant to upgrade that facility pursuant to mandates established by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. These projects are nearing completion, with a few minor projects scheduled to be completed next spring. We thank the community for your patience during these projects and appreciate your understanding.

Looking forward, 2015 promises to be another busy year full of promise and opportunity. The housing market appears to be improving and we anticipate that some of our stagnant housing developments will experience new interest and construction over the coming year. The City's Housing Redevelopment Authority may be changing to an Economic Development Authority to provide more flexibility in attracting and retaining commercial and industrial businesses for our community. We hope you all have a safe and happy New Year, and we look forward to the exciting opportunities that 2015 has to offer!

Upcoming December Meetings:

12/9/14: City Council (EDA /HRA Public Hearing) 5pm, HRA Special Meeting 5:15pm, City Council (Truth in Taxation Hearing) 6pm
12/11/14: Planning & Zoning (Public Hearings) 7pm
12/23/14: City Council 6pm

OPENING—Planning & Zoning Commission Member: If interested complete an application (available on-line or at City Hall).

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 2014/2015 schedule:

- December 8th at 8830 Walnut Place, Rockford
- January 12th at Rockford Community Center—7600 County Road 50, Rockford
- February 9th at to be determined

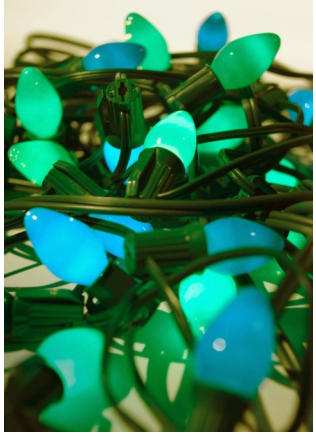
Rockford City Center Mall

Rockford Mall Upgrade

If you haven't had the chance to drive by the mall, please do so the next time you are out and about. The façade is nearly complete with new stone and panel design. The new lighting, awnings and signs will be installed by the end of the year, weather permitting. This upgrade is part of the vision to expand more interest in commerce to the mall. Rockford public works did a great job making improvements in the right-of-way in front of the mall. There is an opportunity to sponsor a tree to support the Crow River Christmas this year. A total of 20 trees will be on display, please consider sponsoring a tree. Have a Great Holiday Season!

Rockford Rick

Have a wonderful Holiday Season and a very Happy New Year!



City of Rockford

C I T Y O F R O C K F O R D

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

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

Upcoming Events

Dec 6th—Crow River Christmas 9am-5pm (events throughout town)
Dec 8th—Rockford Area Senior's at 8830 Walnut Place 11:30am
Dec 10th—Recycling & Garbage (recycling out at the curb by 7am)
Dec 10th-R-G Chamber of Commerce Mixer at Rosewood (4pm-6pm)
Dec 13th—2014 Rockford Holiday Expo at the Comm Ctr (8am-4pm)
Dec 13th—Canadian Pacific Holiday Train in Loretto at 4:15pm
Dec 14th—Stork House Formal Adult Tea (1pm-4pm)
Dec 21th—Rockford Fire Department Toy Distribution
Dec 24th-Dec 25th—City Hall closed (closing at noon on the 24th)
Dec 24th—Recycling & Garbage (recycling out at the curb by 7am)
Jan 9th—R-G Chamber of Commerce at Wright-Hennepin Electric noon
Jan 12th—Rockford Area Senior's at the Rockford Comm Ctr 11:30am
Jan 19th—City Hall Closed for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
Jan 22nd—WOW Wellness on Wheels at Bankwest (2pm-6pm)
Jan 26th-Rockford Library Cartography for Kids (6:30pm-7:30pm)
Feb 7th-MN History Panel: Images and Lost Stories (10:30-12:30pm)
Feb 9th—Rockford Area Senior's location to be determined 11:30am
Feb 16th—City Hall Closed for President's Day
Feb 26th—WOW Wellness on Wheels at Bankwest (2pm-6pm)

2015 Recycling Information

The 2015 recycling calendars will be sent out in the ***December 14th 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/plastics #1-7 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.

2015 Dates:

January 7, 2015
January 21, 2015
February 4, 2015
February 18, 2015
March 4, 2015
March 18, 2015
April 1, 2015
April 15, 2015
April 29, 2015
May 13, 2015
May 28, 2015*
June 10, 2015
June 24, 2015
July 8, 2015
July 22, 2015
August 5, 2015
August 19, 2015
September 2, 2015
September 16, 2015
September 30, 2015
October 14, 2015
October 28, 2015
November 11, 2015
November 25, 2015
December 9, 2015
December 23, 2015
(Thursday Pick-Up *)

Snow Season Parking

The snow season ordinance is in effect November 1st until April 1st 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.

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

Charter Communication Subscribers: View the City of Rockford on Channel 180 (formerly Channel 12)