The Bridge-Volume 123

City of Rockford

Mayor's Message

Now that the leaves are gone and soon the snow to come we get ready for winter activities. We are very excited about our new hockey rink being added to our "Norman Rockwell" ice skating park. Thank you to our Public Works Director, Trevor Brummer, who found a great deal on the hockey boards. Also, a BIG THANK YOU to our city staff for all the work in getting the boards in place and getting things ready for the skaters.

The city has purchased the old lumber yard site and removed the building which was no longer up to code. This property will be marketed very soon to commercial developers. This is the beginning step of many as we work on our downtown revitalization plan. Thank you to everyone who provided feedback and suggestions about the plan on our city website.

City staff has put together information on water and wastewater rates through 2023. Council reviewed this on 11/24 and on 12/8 approved a wasterwater rate increase of $.40 per 1,000 gallons starting in 2016, with small proposed increases over the next couple years to keep our funds at a positive balance. Please remember to contact City Hall by December 31st if you wish to change your wastewater billing to Averaging or Actual use for 2016.

Beginning January 2016, our recycling will be picked up by Waste Management. This was determined after the council voted on the new contract proposals presented by Waste Management and Randy's Sanitation. It was a difficult decision to make and we appreciate the excellent service Randy's provided our city.

When the snow does start to fall, please remember to shovel the snow around fire hydrants by your home to enable our Fire Department volunteers to easily find them in case of a fire.

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

Renee Haffken

Wastewater Billing Calculation (Actual vs. Averaging) Open Until December 31, 2015

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 residents 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.

Wastewater Rate Increase

Wastewater rates will increase in January, 2016, from $6.45 to $6.85 (an increase of $.40) per 1,000 gallons of use.

Christmas Tree Pick-Up

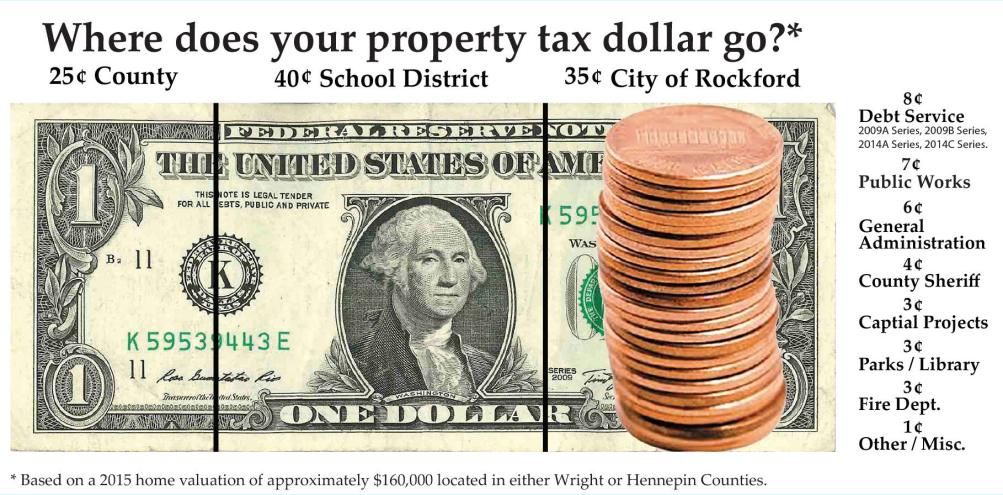
If you would like to have your tree picked-up, you MUST call City Hall by noon on Wednesday, January 13, 2016 to sign-up. If there are not a minimum of 10 participants, Waste Management will not be able to facilitate the collection of trees!

The cost is $10 and will be billed to your account.

Call Audra at 763-634-8770 to be added to the list. We will need your name, address and daytime phone number.

2016 Budget and Property Tax Levy

The City of Rockford established a 2015 Budget last December with expense totaling $2,180,258. The city levied $1,205,30 for operating expenses to provide city services, and $342,066 to pay the city's long term bond debt. The 2016 Budget is set at $2,068,094. The levy for operating expenses is $1,229,779 which represents a increase in operating expenses of $24,476 or 2.03%%. The city's long term debt has also increased based upon the principal and interest payments due and payable in 2016. These debt service payments increased from the 2015 amount of $342,066, to the 2016 required amount of $358,328; which is an increase of $16,262, or 4.75%. On December 8th following the Truth-In-Taxation Hearing the City Council approved a Property Tax Levy of $1,588,107; which represents an increase of $40,738 from the 2015 Property Tax Levy which is an increase of 2.63%.



Rockford Library

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

EVENTS/PROGRAMS:

Preschool Story Time on Wednesdays (11:15-noon)
1/13, 1/20, 1/27, 2/3, 2/10, 2/17 & 2/24/16

Book Club (2pm-3pm)
12/28/15, 1/25/16 & 2/22/16

Evening Preschool Story Times on Tuesdays (5:30-6pm)
1/19/16 and 2/16/16

Weave to Share (10am-1pm)
1/23/16—12 looms set-up to weave a rug for the library and create sample crafts to bring home.
Ages 12 to adult. Registration required.

NEW Tween and Teen Writers Group (6-7pm)
2/1/16—Come to the first meeting to participate in forming groups.
Ages 10 to 18. Registration required.

Annual Minnesota Author Event (10:30am-12:30pm)
2/6/16—Children's Authors Justice Alan Page and Kamie Page, and Illustrator David Geister for a special family event
Registration required.

Adult Coloring Group (11am-12pm)
2/20/16-Coloring sheets, crayons, colored pencils, and markers supplied.

For more information about events: www.griver.org

Rockford Fire Department Auxiliary

The Auxiliary assist the Rockford Fire Department. Their meetings are on the 3rd Tuesday of the month.

If interested in joining, please contact Deb Buoy at 612-760-8755

Riverside Park Hockey Rink and Warming House
Just need some ice and snow to finish the picture!

The **Rockford Senior Citizens** meet the *2nd Monday of each month* from 11:30am—2pm 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 2016 schedule:

- January 11h at Rockford Community Center—7600 County Road 50, Rockford
- February 8th at Walnut Place—8830 Walnut Place, Rockford

Rockford Fire Department Toy Drive

The Rockford Fire Department is collecting toys for local children this Christmas. Donations of cash, gift cards or new unwrapped toys may be dropped off at: Rockford City Hall, All Rockford Area Schools, Bankwest, Wright-Hennepin Electric, Lamperts, Sunshine Station Day Care, Our Father's Lutheran Church, Rockford Riverview Estates and Sky Bridge. . All toys go to families in Rockford, Greenfield and Rockford Township.

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 20th** at the Rockford Fire Department at 6700 Main Street, Rockford.

Stork House

The Ames-Florida-Stork House located at:
8131 Bridge Street
Open for tours Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays 10am-5pm and by appointment 763-477-5383.
Email: storkhouse@cityofrockford.org
www.rockfordmnhistory.org

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

Rockford Area Historical Society

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

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

RiverWorks
COMMUNITY HELPING COMMUNITY

Rockford-Greenfield Area Chamber of Commerce

The next regular Chamber meeting is scheduled for Thursday, **January 14 2016** 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.

Just Coffee is scheduled for Thursday, February 11, 2016 starting at 7:30 am and located at BANKWEST. No Charge.

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

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.

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.

Maintain a safe driving distance behind snow plows.

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.

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.

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

E-mail!

City of Rockford

CITY OF ROCKFORD

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

Upcoming Events

Dec 20th—Rockford Fire Department Toy Distribution
Dec 23rd—Recycling & Garbage (recycling out at the curb by 7am)
Dec 24th-Dec 25th—City Hall closed
Dec 31st-Last day to change wastewater calculation until 2017
January 1st—City Hall closed
Jan 11th—Rockford Area Senior's at the Rockford Comm Ctr 11:30am
Jan 14th—R-G Chamber of Commerce at Wright-Hennepin Electric noon
Jan 18th—City Hall Closed for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
Jan 23rd– Weave to Share at Library (10am-1pm)
Feb 1st-Tween and Tween Writers Group at Library (6pm-7pm)
Feb 6th—Annual MN Author Event at RCC (10:30am-12:30pm)
Feb 8th—Rockford Area Senior's location to be determined 11:30am
Feb 11th—R-G Chamber of Commerce at Bankwest (7:30am)
Feb 15th—City Hall Closed for President's Day
Mar 1st—Precinct Caucuses

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

2016 Recycling Information

The City recently went out for bids for recycling services and received two bids. A seven year contract was awarded to Waste Management.

One-sort recycling containers will be delivered the week of December 28th along with a recycling calendar. Residents are able to keep their old blue recycling bins or return to City Hall or Public Works by January 29h for proper disposal.

Beginning in 2016, residential recycling fees will increase $4 annually and be billed monthly instead of quarterly. Residents will be billed $2 each month on their utility bill card ($24 annually).

Roll cart must be set out at the curb by 7 a.m. Face the lid towards the street and the handle towards the house.

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

2016 Pick-Up Dates:
January 6, 2016
January 20, 2016
February 3, 2016
February 17, 2016
March 2, 2016
March 16, 2016
March 30, 2016
April 13, 2016
April 27, 2016
May 11, 2016
May 25, 2016
June 8, 2016
June 22, 2016
July 7, 2016*
July 20, 2016
August 3, 2016
August 17, 2016
August 31, 2016
September 14, 2016
September 28, 2016
October 12, 2016
October 26, 2016
November 9, 2016
November 23, 2016
December 7, 2015
December 21, 2015
(Thursday Pick-Up *)

Questions? Call Waste Managements Customer Service at:

1-888-960-0008