The Bridge—Volume 127

CITY OF ROCKFORD

City Hall

6031 Main Street
Rockford, MN 55373
phone: 763-477-6565
fax: 763-477-4393
Email: cityhall@cityofrockford.org
Web Site: www.cityofrockford.org

City Hall Office Hours

Mon-Fri 8am—4:30pm

Mayor

Renee Hafften

City Council

Deb Buoy
Jeannette Graner
Ted Hill
Rick Martinson

City Council Meetings

Second & fourth Tuesday of each month at 6pm

Planning Commission Meetings

Second Thursday (fourth Thursday Apr-Oct if needed) of each month at 7pm

Park Commission Meetings

First Monday of every other month at 6pm

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

"Like" The City of Rockford on Facebook

Mayor's Message

As we close out the year of 2016, city council and staff will begin to review the water and sewer funds. A full review will be conducted to determine what rate increases may need to be put in place to keep the funds healthy based on 2016 usage and operating costs. When a decision is made about any rate changes the information will be communicated through our website and Facebook page early next year.

We will also be having a council workshop in the next month to determine our goals for 2017 and prioritize which projects benefit our community. If you have any suggestions, please send them to my email – Reneeh@cityofrockford.org.

Mark your calendars for Saturday, December 3rd for the Crow River Christmas. It looks like Santa is scheduled to be in Rockford that day! Events take place from 9:00 am through 6:00 pm at the Fire Station, Riverside Park, Rockford Mall, Library and the Stork House.

When the weather gets to a temperature for ice to form, our Public Works will flood the skating and hockey rinks so people can enjoy them soon. We are accepting applicants 16 years and older, until 12/5, for warming house attendants. Please check the city website if you are interested.

I wish you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Mayor Renee Hafften

Wastewater Billing Calculation (Actual vs. Averaging) Open Until December 31, 2016

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.

If you do not want to be billed based upon your assigned system you can change your billing system by **contacting City Hall before Friday, December 30, 2016**. Annually you can change your wastewater billing system in December.

Christmas Tree Pick-Up

If you would like to have your tree picked-up on January 18, 2017, you MUST call City Hall by noon on **Wednesday, January 11, 2017** to sign-up. If there is 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.

Administrator's Report

Welcome to Winter!

As we enter December, City Staff are preparing year end reports for 2016 and finalizing budgets for 2017. We will have a Truth in Taxation hearing at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, December 13th, 2016 in the Council Chambers in City Hall to discuss next year's proposed budgets, receive comments from the community and answer any questions people may have about our plans for the upcoming year.

The City Council has proposed a preliminary property tax increase of 1.8% for 2017 that is reflected in the property tax notices that have been sent out from Wright and Hennepin Counties. Additionally, the City Council will also be reviewing the Water and Wastewater Utility budgets at our meeting on December 13th, 2016. As it stands, the Wastewater Utility and rates appear stable, while the Water Utility and rates will likely need adjusting. Based upon our initial review, any necessary adjustment or increase in the Water rate will remain in the single digit percentages per 1,000 gallons used. We will have information and reports posted on the City's website and Facebook page regarding the city's finances in early December.

Also of note, City Staff recently completed decorating the streets for this Winter, with the youth skating rink and hockey rink scheduled to be completed in early December. We are proud of the way our city and downtown area look, and we hope to have a lot of use of the skating and hockey rinks by our community over the winter.

From all of us, we wish you a merry and safe Holiday Season! As always, please stop by City Hall if you have any thoughts, comments or questions you would like to share. We like hearing from you.

Warmest regards,

Dan Madsen
City Administrator, Special Counsel

Downtown Rockford, Minnesota

Crow River Christmas

Saturday, December 3, 2016

A few event highlights:

- The Christmas Express Bus will be running 9am-2pm
- The Jolly Jingle Jog 5K 9am (Registration fee is a bag of groceries to be donated to the food shelf.)
- Craft Market at the Rockford Mall 9am-2p
- Girl Scout Christmas & Gift Sale (Fire Station) 10am-1pm
- Pictures with Santa (Fire Station) 10am-2pm
- Stork House – Open House 10am-4pm
- Rockford Library – Open House 10:30am-1pm
- FREE Horse and Wagon Rides from Riverside Park to tour Stork House
- Christmas in the Park 4:30pm
- Light up the Trees in the Park at 5pm
- *MANY MORE ACTIVITIES*

Food donations for the RiverWorks Food Shelf will be accepted at all events and at the Lion's Park from 1pm-5:30pm. The food shelf is especially looking for spaghetti sauce, chocolate chips, cereal, and hearty soups.

www.riverworksonline.org or call 763-477-5480

Ames-Florida-Stork House

The Ames-Florida-Stork House is located at:
8131 Bridge Street
(763) 477-5383 Email: storkhouse@cityofrockford.org
www.rockfordmnhistory.org

The Ames-Florida-Stork House is now open for **SCHEDULED TOURS** following the completed installation of a new HVAC system.

Upcoming Events:

- Crow River Christmas—12/3

The Rockford Area Senior Citizens meet the 2nd Monday of each month at different locations. Call Bonnie Pool (763) 477-4468 for information or to sign-up. Membership is $10 per year. Upcoming meetings:

- **December 12th**—Riverside Park, 8220 Elm Street
- **January 9th**—Rockford Community Center
- **February 13th**—Walnut Place, 8854 Walnut Place

The Snow Removal Crew

John Quirk, Mike Hoppe, Chris King, Trevor Brummer and Darcy Desens

'Tis Snow Plowing Season…

The City of Rockford's Public Works Department has a mapping system divided the city's street system into three (3) routes for snow and ice control. Within each of these areas, the City has classified city streets based on the street function, relative traffic volume, and importance to the welfare of the community. Those streets classified as priority "A" streets and will be plowed first. These are higher volume streets which connect major sections of the city and provide access for emergency fire, police, and medical service. The second priority streets "B" are those streets providing access to schools, homes and commercial businesses. The third "C" is low volume alleys parking lots.

The Street Department with the assistance of the Wright County Sheriff's Department, monitors street conditions and is responsible for making the decision to call out personnel and equipment to begin snow and ice control operations.

The Street Department has the responsibility of determining plow routes and sequencing of operations in accordance with priorities as established. Staff may adjust sequencing or route assignment based on storm conditions, equipment availability and/or other conditions warranting changes.

Did you know? The City of Rockford maintains approximately 18 miles of residential roads along with six miles of trails, four parking lots, alleys and other city owned properties.

On a typical snow fall (2-4 inches):
18 miles of residential roads: 3 staff (8-10 hours)
6 miles of trails, four parking lots, alleys and other city owned properties: 2 staff (6-8 hours)
As time permits—Public Works removes piles of snow from Main Street: 3 staff (6-8 hours)

A fully loaded tandem axle plow truck (one set of wheels in the back) can weigh up to 50,000 pounds.

Stay back 500' from snow plow vehicles.

In addition to being on call to snowplow, every public works staff member rotates on-call duty (Wednesday until Tuesday). During this time they do required tests at the wastewater plant and verify operations. Employees also do required water testing, checks lift stations & pump house, visual of the city, and check phone messages. Additionally the employee is responsible for other occupational duties and respond to Public Works emergencies.

Snow Removal Fleet:

- **2012 International tandem axle with 12' main plow,10' wing, 11' belly blade with sander**
- **2005 International single axle with 12' main plow, 9' wing, 10' belly blade with sander**
- **2012 John Deere 544k payloader with 12' main plow and 9' wing and 14' sno-pusher**
- **2006 Chevrolet 3500 pickup truck with 9' V-plow**
- **2015 Bobcat s630 with 6' snowblower and 6' broom**
- **2016 Toolcat 5600 with 6'snowblower**
- **2014 Bobcat Utility 3650 with 5' plow**
- **24" snow shovel** (being held by John Quirk in picture)

Mayor Hafften stated *"Our dedicated Public Works staff can be called in any time of the day or night, 7 days a week, to plow snow, deal with a broken water main or other emergencies. I am extremely grateful for their commitment to ensure the safety of our community."*

Public Works Director Trevor Brummer noted *"the staff appreciate hearing positive feedback from the community".*

EPA estimates that the average U.S. citizen wastes 2 gallons daily on oral hygiene. That might amount to 600 million gallons daily! Don't run the faucet when you aren't using it. That's a 'nice save' for Minnesota's water future. It's important for each of us to save water, every day.
Shutting off the faucet will help with water conservation. For more easy tips to save water in Minnesota,
visit: www.mrwa.com.

- Brushing teeth uses 2 gallons (tap on).
- Hand washing uses 2 gallons (tap on).
- Tub bathing uses 40 gallons (full).
- Showering uses 5 gallons per minute.
- Toilet flushing uses 5-7 gallons.
- Shaving uses 3-5 gallons (tap on).

Unused running water is like connecting a drain to your tap; wasting water!
Minnesota Rural Water Association * 800-367-6792

CITY OF ROCKFORD

Upcoming Events

December 3rd—*Crow River Christmas* 9am-6pm Riverside Park and other locations within the City
December 7th—*Chamber Holiday Mixer* 7pm at the Choo Choo Restaurant in Loretto
December 12th—*Rockford Senior Citizen's* 11:30 am at Riverside Park
December 26th—*City Hall Closed* for the Holiday Season
January 2nd—*City Hall Closed* for the New Year's Day Holiday
January 9th—*Rockford Senior Citizen's* 11:30 am at Rockford Community Center
January 12th—*R-G Area Chamber of Commerce Meeting* 11:30 am at BANKWEST
January 16th—*City Hall Closed* in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
January 18th—*Christmas Tree Pick-Up*
February 9th— *R-G Area Chamber of Commerce Meeting* 7:30am at BANKWEST
February 13th—*Rockford Senior Citizen's* 11:30 am at Walnut Place
February 20th—*City Hall Closed* in observance of President's Day
February 25th—*Fire Department Auxiliary Spaghetti Dinner* 4:30pm

RECYCLING

Waste Management **collects recycling every other Wednesday**. The 2017 calendar is available on the City website or at City Hall.

Recyclables must be set out at the curb by 7 a.m.

The City of Rockford supports residential recycling in the general fund budget. Recycling was state mandated by legislature. The more everyone can recycle the bigger the county rebates, reducing the tax burden.

December 7, 2016
December 21, 2016
January 4, 2017
January 18, 2017
February 1, 2017
February 15, 2017
March 1, 2017
March 15, 2017
March 29, 2017
April 12, 2017
April 26, 2017
May 10, 2017
May 24, 2017
June 7, 2017
June 21, 2017
July 6, 2017*
July 19, 2017

August 2, 2017
August 16, 2017
August 30, 2017
September 13, 2017
September 27, 2017
October 11, 2017
October 25, 2017
November 8, 2017
November 22, 2017
December 6, 2017
December 20, 2017
*January 4, 2018**

Thursday pick-up

Rockford-Greenfield Area Chamber of Commerce

December 7th *Holiday Mixer* at Choo Choo Restaurant in Loretto at 4:30pm

The next *R-G Chamber Meeting* will be held on **January 12th** at Bankwest located at 5921 Main Street, Rockford. Networking starts at 11:30am with lunch and program at noon.

February 9th Chamber Coffee Meeting at BANKWEST 7:30am

The chamber invites all the businesses from the surrounding area to join them at their gatherings. **www.rgchamber.com**

Email: inquire@rgchamber.org

ROCKFORD LIBRARY

Located at **8220 Cedar Street** (763) 477-4216
A FEW UPCOMING EVENTS:
Ferdig Fridays: Music Recital—12/2, 1/6 & 2/3 (3:30-4pm) Showcases the talents of local school-age musicians from Mr. Ferdig's Rockford School District music classes.
Health & Wellness Series with Allina Health Buffalo—(11am-noon)

- 1/7—Healthy Eating on a Budget
- 1/14–Healthy Eating for Children/Active Older Adults
- 1/21–Stress Management, Mindfulness and Mediation
- 2/11-Muscle Condition and Strength Training/Flexibility and Stretching
- 2/18-Healthy Eating Cooking Basics
- 2/25–Healthy Cooking Class/demo with samples

Minnesota Native American Author Panel—2/4 (10:30am-12:30pm: 3 speakers and Q&A at the Rockford Community Center

For more information see their website: **www.griver.org**