



The Bridge—Volume 110

CITY OF ROCKFORD

MAYOR'S MESSAGE

The first events of the spring have come and gone and I want to thank everyone who participated, donated, or were involved in making them happen: Spring Clean Up Day, Fire Department Pancake Breakfast, and the Memorial Day Parade. I want to congratulate those that won something at the pancake breakfast.

The latest big event in town was the unfortunate fire at one of our local establishments, Cowboy Bar & Grill. The bar appears to be a loss. I want to thank the Rockford Fire Department in their efforts to stop the fire from over taking the buildings next to the bar. It is good that no one was injured.

The Highway 55 project through town is almost complete but the re-

maining project to Medina will be a summer long project. During that project we as a city got some much needed improvements in the sewer lines under the highway.

In the next few weeks you will be getting a flyer asking for your opinion on the construction of an event center in the downtown city park. The new building is to replace the building that has seen better days and is becoming more and more expensive to operate. Please take the time to fill out the questionnaire to give your Council the feedback they are asking for.

This spring, once again the financial audit was a piece of great news. We are doing well without over taxing ourselves to keep

things going in our town. The Council and city staff did another wonderful job keeping the spending in check. Thanks to all of you.

The food coop meeting went well and is moving forward. Check out the city web site for more information. For a grocery store to succeed it will take the support of its citizens to make it happen. Check it out and maybe get involved to make this happen.

With the beginning of summer, school will be out soon and I ask that everyone drive carefully so that the youth of Rockford will have a safe and enjoyable summer. Thank you again for calling Rockford home and have a safe and enjoyable summer.

Mike

ROCKFORD RIVER DAYS

The annual River Days Festival will be Friday August 10th to Sunday August 12th. The City will not have another newsletter before the festival, so watch the River Day's website:

www.rockfordriverdays.weebly.com or the local paper for information as it becomes available. Most of the events will take place at Riverside Park (Main and Elm Street).

Bring your family and join in on the celebration!



ROCKFORD FARMERS MARKET

Starting in June—date to be announced
Contact Sheri Thingvold 612-685-0188



CITY WIDE GARAGE SALES

June 7—June 9th through out the City of Rockford. Add your garage sale address to the list. The list and city map will be available at City Hall and some local business.



CITY PERFORMANCE MEASURES SURVEY

In order to find out how our city departments and the services they provide rate, the city council adopted 10 performance measures. We have a survey that is listed on our website and on our Facebook page that residents may complete. The survey includes the following services: administration, parks, streets, water, sewer, fire, safety, etc. The City Council would like to hear from our taxpayers on how you rate the services these department provide. The deadline for completing the survey is June 22nd. Thank you for participating. A link to the survey is:

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/ZT2KT3Q>

SENIOR HOUSING REPORT

The Rockford HRA completed a senior housing study recently which was sent out to developer's. A few developer's have expressed interest in Rockford. A public hearing was held recently to discuss the proposed plans for an active cooperative housing building with 24 units and an assisted living building that would house 36 units. A few open houses have been held to see if there is interest in this active cooperative style housing for seniors 55+. Another open house is being held on **June 21st at 10 a.m. at the Rockford Community Center 7600 Co. Rd 50.** If you are interested in hearing more about this, please attend the open house where more information will be provided. The study shows there is a need for senior housing in our city and this cooperative living style may be an option to allow our older population to stay in the area where they have friends and family. It would also allow seniors with younger families in the area to move closer to them.



DOG LICENSES

The City of Rockford licenses dogs for a 2 year period. The current licenses expire June 30, 2012. You must apply for your new license at city hall between the hours of 8-4:30 p.m. A certificate that the dog has been vaccinated for rabies is required. Fee's for licenses are:
 Spade/Neutered \$12
 Other \$18
 A kennel permit is required to have three dogs.



2011 VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

The City Council received many nominations for the 2011 Volunteer of the Year. Those mentioned included: Naomi Binsfield, Deanna Bergenbring, Kelly Grimm, Georgiana Linna, Rick Martinson and Bill Decker. The City Council voted and Bill Decker was selected Volunteer of 2011. Bill Decker was nominated by the public for his dedication to giving back to the community as a local business owner he generously donates part of his profits to the food shelf, fire department, and other non profit organizations. Bill also serves as a volunteer for the RiverWorks Organization helping out at the Christmas Gala, the Easter Egg Hunt, Roundup program and also his many hours of service as a Rockford Volunteer Fire Department Member. Thank you Bill and all of the volunteers for their dedication to make our community great !!



EVENT CENTER

The park building better known as the "Lions Building" in Riverside Park has become dilapidated and is in need of replacement. The city council appointed a committee to review the feasibility of building a new "event center" for larger parties and gatherings such as: wedding receptions, graduations, family reunions, River Works fund raisers, Lions Green Back Dinner, Senior Citizens groups, etc. The proposed event center that is being planned will seat approximately 300 people and will be located south of Riverside Park. The proposed costs for this building is higher than was originally planned, therefore, the city will have to borrow money to construct the building. The city council is interested in your opinion on this proposed Event Center. A brochure with more information about the Event Center which includes a survey will be mailed to all of the property owners in the city within the next week. Please take the time to complete the survey and drop it off at city hall or mail it no later than June 22nd.

PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION

The Planning & Zoning Commission has been busy reviewing the zoning ordinances. A public hearing is required to make changes. Recently a public hearing was held to make changes to the temporary sign ordinance and to allow for temporary outside sales. The Commission's recommendations will go to City Council for approval at their next regular meeting.



PARK NEWS

The development of the Parkwood Park starts this summer. The city purchased the playground equipment which will be installed by employees and volunteers in the neighborhood. The Rockford Area Athletic Association is building a baseball field in the park and was recently awarded a TWINS grant in the amount of \$10,000! Bank West and Lampert's are also large contributor's to RAAA's effort to develop the field. RAAA has plans for other fund raisers to finance the development of the field. We will keep you posted on our website and Facebook as things progress. The MN Volleyball League's have started in Riverside Park. More information is on the website. We want to remind you that the skate park in Riverside Park is for skateboards only and no bicycles are allowed. Please take pride in our city parks and don't litter. The city parks are open until 10 p.m.



2012 ELECTIONS



The local elections in Rockford this year include two council members and the mayors seat. The terms for each of these positions are 4 years. Filing for candidacy starts on Tuesday, July 31st until Tuesday, August 14th at 5pm. The filing fee is \$2.00.

If you are a new resident to the City of Rockford, recently turned 18 or have not voted in the last four years, we encourage you to stop by City Hall or go online to www.sos.state.mn.us and complete a Voter Registration Application. You may also register to vote on Election Day, but make sure you have ID such as a current driver's license or MN ID card with your correct address. If you have not changed your driver's license you must have a current utility bill and your license. Last day to register before the Primary Election is July 24, 2012 and the last day to register before the General Election is October 16, 2012.

Absentee Voting will NOT be available at City Hall to vote in person. Absentee voting begins June 29, 2012 for the Primary Election and September 21, 2012 for the General Election. Absentee Ballot Applications are available at City Hall, 6031 Main Street, Rockford or on the City web site. Mail the application to the county where you live OR you can vote in person at:

Hennepin County Elections
 Government Center, PSL
 300 South 6th Street
 Minneapolis, MN 55487
 Fax: 612-348-2151 / Phone: 612-348-5151

Wright County Government Center
 Elections Division
 10 2nd Street NW, Room 230
 Buffalo, MN 55313
 Fax: 763-682-7873 / Phone: 763-682-7578

All Rockford residents in Hennepin County and Wright County vote at the Rockford Community Center, 7600 County Road 50 (Rebecca Park Trail), Rockford. The polls will be open at 7:00 am until 8:00 pm.

Primary Election, Tuesday—August 14, 2012

General Election, Tuesday—November 6, 2012

Election Judges are needed. If you are interested in serving as an Election Judge for the 2012 elections, please contact City Hall or go on the web site and complete the Election Judge Survey.

**R E N T A L
 D W E L L I N G L I C E N S E**

During these tough economic times property owners that cannot sell their homes are renting them to tenants. However, if you are renting a residential property within the City of Rockford you are required by city code to have the property licensed.

If you already have an existing Rental Dwelling License it is time to renew it for 2012/2013. The City Council has established a fee for rental property licenses. Stop by city hall or go on-line to obtain the license application. All applications need to be submitted to City Hall no later than June 25, 2012.



L A W N S P R I N K L E R S

Residents installing a lawn sprinkler system need to apply for a building permit before installation. A site plan with the proposed placement needs to be submitted with the permit and fee. The permit fee is \$55.00.

W A T E R I N G B A N

The City has an even/odd watering band which is determined by your address, for instance, if your address is an odd number, you may water outdoors on odd numbered days of the month. City Staff and the Sheriff's Department will enforce the water ban. Anyone found in violation of this ban will be fined or prosecuted as a misdemeanor.



**T A L L G R A S S & N O X I O U S
 W E E D S**

The city has an ordinance regulating the height of grass. The ordinances states that grass shall not exceed 12" and all noxious weeds and other rank growths of vegetation upon public or private property must be removed.



Typically 5 days are given for tall grass and less if there are noxious weeds. If you are aware of a property that is in violation of this ordinance contact city hall and we will send the property owner a letter.

Thank you for your cooperation and taking pride in the city!

S W I M M I N G P O O L S

All swimming pools with a capacity of five thousand (5,000) gallons and a depth greater than thirty (30) inches requires a permit and a yearly inspection. Contact City Hall if you need to apply for a permit.



Call the Sheriff's Department to report vandalism!

CITY OF ROCKFORD

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

STORK HOUSE

The Ames-Florida-Stork House is located at:
8131 Bridge Street
763-477-5383 Email: storkhouse@cityofrockford.org
www.rockfordmnhistory.org
Open for tours Tuesdays & Wednesdays (10am-4pm),
Thursdays (11am-7pm) and by appointment until October
PROGRAMS (2nd Saturday):

Your Garden & You: Sustainable Farming Practice

6/9/12 10am-2pm at the Stork House

All a flutter: monarch butterflies

7/14/12 10am-2pm at the Stork House

Rockford River Days

8/10-08/12/12 at Riverside Park
Quilt tickets available for sale!

CROW RIVER FOOD CO-OP



The Crow River Food Co-op needs your support! A group of citizens started meeting last October in 2011 to discuss our options for a food co-op in the Rockford area. The group has grown to 255 members but needs more. If you are willing to support a local member owned grocery store email the group or by mail PO Box 2 Rockford, MN 55373. The executive committee meets on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at Riverside Park 8220 Elm Street. If you are interested in more information please check out the following:

www.crowriverfoodcoopblogspot.com

Or email us at crowriverfoodcoop@gmail.com

ROCKFORD LIBRARY

Located at:
8220 Cedar Street
(763) 477-4216
www.griver.org



Hours: Mon 2pm-8pm, Tues. 2pm-8pm, Wed 10am-6pm,
Thurs 3pm-8pm, Fri 3pm-6pm, and Saturday 10am-1pm

We welcome our new librarian, Theresa Jacobs!

Summer Reading Program June 4th—August 4th! Patrons can sign-up anytime during the summer.

June 11th (3pm-6pm) Kickoff to Summer
Visit their web site for more exciting events!

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

Riverside Park—8220 Elm Street



Tuesday, August 7th
5:30pm food and 6pm activities

All families in the Rockford area are invited to Riverside Park for an evening in the park.

Free—hot dog, chips, beans, beverage & treat

Family activities, stations and games. Meet your local fire department and sheriffs.

RiverWorks is collecting donations of school supplies for the Rockford School District. Please consider bringing a donation to support Rockford students!

MUSIC IN THE PARK

Riverside Park—8220 Elm Street

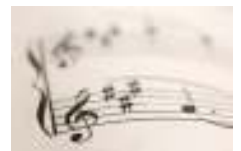
**Refreshments provided!*

Tuesday, June 12th at 7pm-9pm

Music provided by: Our Father's Lutheran—Howlin' Coyotes, Riverwood Covenant—Worship Band and Lord of Life Lutheran—Tom Tipton

Tuesday, July 10th at 7pm-9pm

Music provided by: to be announced



Tuesday, July 24th at 7pm-9pm

Music provided by: Annandale Community Band

MOVIE IN THE PARK

Riverside Park—8220 Elm Street

Provided by the Wright/Sherburne Cable Commission

We have two dates:

Friday, July 13th at dusk
and

Friday, August 17th at dusk



Movies to be announced

Bring your own chair and/or blanket, bug spray and treats. Some concession may be available for purchase.

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

