



# The Bridge—Volume 114

CITY OF ROCKFORD

MAYOR'S MESSAGE

It's been an exciting Spring, when it finally arrived. The Fire Department's pancake breakfast was a huge success! Thank you to everyone who made it happen. The 1,000 Hearts program supported local projects like painting fire hydrants, health and wellness checks, pet care, free oil changes, home improvements and many more. Nice job to everyone who volunteered!

We had the opening ceremony for the Bankwest/Lamperts ball field in Jim Thome park on May 11<sup>th</sup>. Many people came out to watch our young athletes play on the field for the first time. We even had TC from the MN Twins and our very own Rocky Rocket attend the event. Thank you Chris Hudlow and Steve

Yakesh for making this dream become a reality for our residence to be proud of and enjoy for many years to come.

Our sewer and water system needs improvement and we are putting together a plan to address this over the next 10 years. There is also much planning being done to replace the existing Lion's building at Riverside Park with a bigger event center.

I wish you all a wonderful and safe summer.

*Renee Hafften*

## ROCKFORD RIVER DAYS

River Days celebration will be August 9th - 11th! Come and enjoy the festivities at Riverside Park. Many events happening - Band Friday and Saturday Night, Duck Drop, Carnival, Bean Bag Toss, Volleyball, Bingo, **Fireworks at dusk on Saturday** and **Parade at noon on Sunday**.



Great food and fun, so save the dates!

For more information go to the website: [rockfordriverdays.weebly.com](http://rockfordriverdays.weebly.com). If you would like to learn more information about how you could help with River Days planning or be part of the committee, please email Christina Schultz at [schultz6300@msn.com](mailto:schultz6300@msn.com).



Bring your family and join in on the celebration!

## EMAIL NOTIFICATIONS

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



## CITY WIDE GARAGE SALES

June 13th - June 15th 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 a few of the local business.



## 2013 WRIGHT COUNTY OUTSTANDING SENIOR CITIZENS

Nominate a Senior Citizen you know! They are looking for a male and female over 70 years of age and a Minnesota resident. These seniors are people full of love, patience, concern and a desire to help others...and are considered extremely valuable! Nominate someone you know for the honor of **Outstanding Senior Citizen!** Send a description of a senior fitting the description above to:



Nancy Betzler, Director  
Wright County Fair Board  
3623 156th Street NW  
Clearwater, MN 55320



Questions, call Nancy at 320-558-2431  
Nomination form can be found at:  
[www.wrightcountyfair.com](http://www.wrightcountyfair.com) or [www.mnstatefair.org](http://www.mnstatefair.org)

### ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Unfortunately, one of my staff submitted her resignation and is planning to retire. Mary Huettl has been an employee of the city as the Finance Clerk for 12 years and will be greatly missed. She has a good sense of humor and is a great part of our team. We accepted applications for the position until May 28th and received around 30!

Staff has been in contact with a senior housing developer that is interested in Rockford. As you may recall we had a market study done that shows the need for senior housing.



It also seems that the housing market has picked up. New home listings in Rockford don't last long. I am hoping that new construction will pick up again as we have a nice selection of residential lots. So far this year we have issued three new housing permits. Staff has provided a map of available lots for new housing on the city's website under economic development.

### 2012 VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

The City Council received many nominations for the 2012 Volunteer of the Year. Those mentioned included: Rebecca Mavencamp, Kerra Oberlander, Nancy Walker, Naomi Binsfield and Karen Fuller.

The City Council voted and Rebecca Mavencamp was selected Volunteer of 2012. Rebecca was selected for:

- Strive Mentorship Program through the Rockford High School which mentors seniors to reach graduation. She has built a strong relationship with our youth and is a wonderful role model for them.
- Volunteers at the Crow River Christmas, Easter Event, Memorial Day Event, Garden Club, River Days, National Night Out and summer teen nights on Thursday to name a few.
- Rebecca is a major part of our community and serves it with enthusiasm and a great smile!

She received a unique award made from a shake shingle from the Stork House.

Thank you Rebecca and all of the volunteers for their dedication to make our community great!



**Call the Sheriff's Department to report vandalism!**

### VISIONING SESSION

The recent visioning sessions that were held to discuss our potential, better market strategies, more definitive branding that is true to who and what we are is being compiled by our economic development consultant Joanne Foust of Municipal Development Group. When the information is compiled a work plan with goals and outcomes will be discussed. The city council and staff will then work to achieve the goals established.

### EVENT CENTER

The city council continues to discuss replacing the old park building with a large event center adjacent to Riverside Park and held an open house on April 30<sup>th</sup>. There were only a few residents and businesses that attended the open house. The estimated cost of building the event center was created after many meetings between the city council and CPMI a Construction Management Company where the details of the building were discussed.

### PARK NEWS

The Park Commission toured the city parks at their meeting on June 3rd. This year the Park Commission has plans to continue the development of Parkwood Park "Jim Thome Park".



**There is an opening on the Park Commission. The applications are available on the city website or at city hall.**

### CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT

The 2012 Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) regarding drinking water for the City of Rockford is posted on the city's website. View under City Departments—select Public Works and scroll down to view the 2012 CCR report.



Call City Hall if you have questions.

### COMPOST SITE

The compost site on Elm Street/CR 33 is open to the City of Rockford Residents. You do not need to check out a key at city hall. Hours of operation: **Monday-Friday 7:30am-3pm, Wednesday evening 4:30pm-8:30pm, & Saturday 8am-noon.** Items accepted: grass clippings, leaves and brush no larger than 3" in diameter. All bags used to transport composting must be removed.

**NO OTHER DUMPING IS ALLOWED.**  
*Finished compost material is also available at no charge!*  
**The gravel, sand and rock piles are for City use ONLY!**

**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 to tenants. 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 2013/2014. 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 28, 2013.

A committee is reviewing the housing code and preparing changes for council to consider.

**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.

**A N I M A L   O R D I N A N C E   5 0 2**

The City Council recently amended the city code to clarify animal definitions and allowed use after staff received complaints regarding chickens, turkeys and farm animals within the city limits.

Farm Animals shall only be kept in a an agricultural district established by the Zoning Ordinance (AG). Any owner of such an animal at the time of adoption of this code shall have 30 days in which to remove the animal from the city. The official publication will be June 6, 2013.

Definition of a Farm Animal—those animals commonly associated with a farm or agricultural setting. Unless otherwise defined, such animals shall include members of the equestrian family (horses, mules), bovine family (cows, bulls), sheep, poultry (chickens, turkeys), fowl (ducks, geese, pheasants), swine (including Vietnamese pot-bellied pigs), goats, bees and other animals associated with a farm, ranch, or stables or agricultural purposes. This also includes Cervidae, Ratitae and Llama animal groups as defined by MN state statue. (These animals include, but are not limited to elks, ostriches, emus, rheas and llamas and under state law all are considered to be livestock and raised for agricultural pursuits).

The full ordinance will be available on the city website or at City Hall. Call City Hall if you have any questions!

**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!**

**R O C K F O R D   L I B R A R Y**

Located at:  
**8220 Cedar Street**  
(763) 477-4216  
[www.griver.org](http://www.griver.org)



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

Summer Reading Program June 10th—August 10th!  
Patrons can sign-up anytime during the summer.

June 10th (3pm-6pm) Kickoff to Summer. Join them for summer time treats, meet Rockford Royalty, work on crafts, and if you are between the ages of 0-18 then you can also sign up for the Summer Reading Program. Prizes for all who complete the program include books and a chance for gift certificates.



Visit their web site for more exciting events!



6031 Main Street  
 Rockford, MN 55373  
 763-477-6565 office  
 763-477-4393 FAX  
[www.cityofrockford.org](http://www.cityofrockford.org)

**S T O R K   H O U S E**

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

PROGRAMS (2nd Saturday):

**Liberty Gardens**

**6/9/13** 10am-noon at the Stork House

**War Kites** (make your own box kite to fly)

**7/13/13** 10am-noon at the Stork House

**Rockford River Days**

**8/9-08/11/13** at Riverside Park.

Quilt tickets available for sale  
 around town & at City Hall!  
 (see picture—beautiful!)



**Teen Night at the Stork House**

Thursdays starting June 13th to August 29th  
 5pm to 7pm (meal at 5pm and activities to follow)

**M O V I E   I N   T H E  
 P A R K**



Riverside Park—8220 Elm Street

Equipment and staff provided by the Wright/Sherburne  
 Cable Commission

**Friday, July 26th** at dusk—movie to be determined  
 Sponsored by the R-G Chamber of Commerce  
 and

**Friday, August 23** at dusk—movie to be determined  
 Sponsor to be determined

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

**M U S I C   I N   T H E   P A R K**

Riverside Park—8220 Elm Street  
 \*Refreshments provided!



**July 2013**—date to be determined

**CITY OF ROCKFORD**

**N A T I O N A L  
 N I G H T   O U T**

Riverside Park—8220 Elm Street

**Tuesday, August 6th**

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!

**C R O W   R I V E R   F O O D   C O - O P**



The Crow River Food Co-op held their annual  
 breakfast on April 6<sup>th</sup>. The event brought  
 out many new members. We are at 136  
 members to date! The Rockford HRA and  
 the Initiative Foundation recently awarded  
 the co-op a total of \$6,000 towards a financial pro forma  
 and work on a business plan. The financial plan will lay out  
 the costs associated with opening the store and will project  
 sales and expenses for the next ten years. The co-op  
 already had a market study completed which provided  
 some financial information, the competition in the area,  
 the locations for the store, local census data such as pop-  
 ulation, per capita wages, etc. The market study found  
 that the co-op could be successful and recommended that  
 a full meat market be part of the store along with another  
 specialty item. The financial plan is being completed by Bill  
 Gessman at CDS Consulting Coop who is an expert in this  
 field. If you want a local food co-op in Rockford don't wait  
 any longer, we need your support now! Check out the web-  
 site [www.crowriverfoodcoop.com](http://www.crowriverfoodcoop.com)  
 and sign up today or stop  
 by city hall and pick up your membership form.

We are hoping to get a farmers market  
 started this summer at the Rockford  
 Mall, if you have a garden, or canned  
 jams or pickle beets, bake breads, we  
 would love you to be part of this healthy  
 endeavor, etc. We are thinking about  
 Friday nights so we don't compete with  
 the other local markets if interested  
 please send us a note at [crowriverfoodcoop@gmail.com](mailto:crowriverfoodcoop@gmail.com)

