



The Bridge—Volume 109

CITY OF ROCKFORD

MAYOR'S MESSAGE

As I started to put my Mayor's message together and thinking spring was around the corner, winter showed up in a big way. Like many of you I can't wait for spring so I can get out and enjoy the weather. I want to remind everyone that in less than two months the first annual events in town will be happening. On Saturday, May 5th the city wide clean up will be held at the Public Works building. This year we added an incentive to those who donate 10 nonperishable food items on clean up day. You will be helping the food shelf and receive a reduction on the amount you pay to get rid of your stuff. Check out the city web site

for further details. On Sunday, May 6th, is the all you can eat pancake breakfast at the Fire Department. Every year the department has door prizes and a raffle to raise more money. Over the many years I have participated, the prizes that raise the most money are those handmade items made by residents. My wife makes a new comforter and I make a scroll saw piece of art that we donate. The comments I hear are always positive and the money goes to a great cause. I know there is a lot of talent out there that can be shared to raise some extra money. If you have an item (s) that you are willing to donate,

and want to help the department make more money, please contact Bill Decker at:

rfdcommunityliaison@gmail.com

Check out the city website for upcoming events in town and for volunteer opportunities. There is nothing like calling Rockford home and giving a little something back to make it a great place to live.

Thank you for calling Rockford home and I will see you around town!

Mike



ROCKFORD FIRE DEPARTMENT

The Rockford Fire Department is holding their Annual Pancake Breakfast and Raffle at the Fire Department on **Sunday, May 6th** from 7am to noon at 6700 Main Street. The cost to attend is:

- \$7 Adults
- \$5 Seniors
- \$3 Children 4 and younger.

Presale tickets are \$5 and will be available starting the week of February 27th at City Hall or with your local fire department volunteers. To make a craft donation for the raffle or to buy tickets contact Bill Decker at 763-381-1694 or email:

rfdcommunityliaison@gmail.com



CLEAN UP DAY AND FOOD SHELF COLLECTION

The 2012 City wide Clean Up Day and Food Shelf Collection will be held from 8am to noon on **Saturday, May 5th** at Public Works—6551 Utility Drive. Items MUST be sorted if you want volunteers to help unload—NO broken glass.

The following items will be accepted for a fee: scrap metal, household appliances, furniture items, electronics, tires, and fluorescent/compact bulbs. Fees available at City Hall or on the website.

The RiverWorks Thrift Store will be on hand to accept gently used: clothing, games, toys, small appliances, kitchen wares, and furniture. A contribution receipt will be provided if needed. Compost/Yard Waste will be accepted at the compost site 8am-noon.

Household Batteries and Eye Glasses accepted year round at the Rockford Library-8220 Cedar Street.

Donate 10 non perishable food items or \$10 to the RiverWorks Food Shelf on May 5th and receive \$5 off your 2012 clean-up day total!



ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Here it is the beginning of March and this winter has been mild with very little snow which has saved the city money on snow plowing costs. As a taxpayer I think you will be pleased to know that the city ended the year of 2011 with a good general fund balance. The expenses were \$73,602 less than budgeted and revenues were \$68,000 more than budgeted due to \$50,000 paid in delinquent taxes and insurance claims/dividends!

The city staff has met with two senior housing developer's who have expressed some interest in developing a senior housing project. As you may recall the Rockford HRA funded a market study in 2011 to determine the feasibility and need for senior housing in the city.

The demolition of the Byerly's building at the corner of Highway 55 and county Road 50 will take place in April. There is interest in redevelopment of this site by a developer; however, staff has no details to report at this time.

The demolition of the old Cozy Rest Motel at 8740 Highway 55 has spurred interest from a developer! The site plans are being developed for the site at this time and staff will be reviewing those along with the planning commission and city council.

E X P O



The Rockford Community Expo will be **Saturday, March 17, 2012** from 9am-1pm at the Rockford Community Center, 7600 Co Rd 50. Registration should be received at the RCC by March 10th to avoid the late fee.

Contact Marie Flanary at the Rockford Community Center at 763-477-5294 Ext. 4

Free to the public!



The Crow River Food Co-op is gaining support in the area for a member owned grocery store. The group has set a goal of 300 potential members signed up by the end of April. An informational meeting will be held in April. To find out more information about the co-op contact crowriverfoodcoop@gmail.com

or

<http://crowriverfoodcoop.blogspot.com>

The city council will be reviewing a site plan for a proposed 7,440 square foot park building at Riverside Park at their meeting on March 13th at 5pm. The draft of a site plan was requested to show the city council how six feet of fill will look and affect the park. The city found out that in order to build in the flood plain, the building must be at least one foot above the flood plain which in this case means six feet of fill.

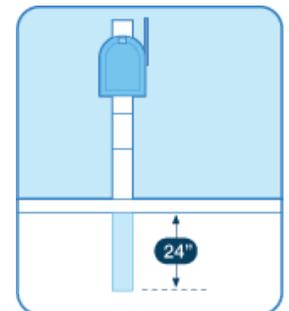
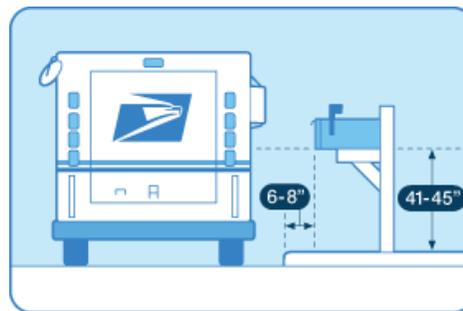
Fire Department

The Rockford Volunteer Fire and Rescue Department has put together estimated budget costs for pay per call for the department using average number of calls in the past five years. The department has reported to the city council that they are the only "volunteer" department left in the area and that all of the other departments are paid per call and per training. The Rockford Volunteer Fire and Rescue Department receives a lump sum retirement benefit of \$1,750 per year of service and is not paid for calls or training. This will be discussed at the next fire board meeting on March 15th at 5:00 p.m. at City Hall. The fire board consists of two elected officials from the Rockford Township and the City of Greenfield. If the Fire Board decides to pay the fire department this would not become effective until the year 2013 and would have to become part of the city general fund budget.

MAIL BOX REGULATIONS

Your local postmaster must approve the location of your mailbox. Put a roadside mailbox where a carrier can reach inside without leaving the truck. That means positioning it about 41" to 45" off the ground and back about 6" to 8" from the curb. Remember to keep the path to your mailbox clear in inclement weather.

If you're mounting a curbside mailbox on a post near the street, the support should be secure and safe. The best supports are designed to bend or fall away if a car hits them.



The Federal Highway Administration recommends...

- a wooden mailbox support no bigger than 4" x 4"
 - a 2"-diameter standard steel or aluminum pipe.
- Bury your post no more than 24" deep, so it can give way in an accident. Don't use potentially dangerous supports, such as...
- heavy metal pipes.
 - concrete posts.
 - farm equipment, such as milk cans filled with concrete.

In areas with lots of snow, we suggest a semi-arch or extended arm-type support. That way, snowplows will be able to sweep under without knocking it down.

COMPOST SITE

The compost site on Elm Street/CR 33 is scheduled to open on Monday, April 16th, depending on the weather. You do not need to check out a key at city hall.

Hours of operation:

Monday-Friday 7:30am-3:00pm

Wednesday Evening 4:30-8:30pm

Saturday 8:00am-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.

DOG LICENSES

All dogs 6 months or older are required to be licensed within the City of Rockford. No person shall have more than two dogs without first securing a hobby kennel license.



PARK COMMISSION

On Saturday, June 2nd the new Parkwood Park equipment is scheduled to be installed. If you'd like to volunteer to help, please contact City Hall at 763-477-6565. More details will be available closer to the date.



MN Volleyball is registering adult leagues to be held in the sand courts at Riverside Park. You can register online at: mnvolleyballhq.com. Leagues start in April and continue through the summer.



The Annual Rockford-Greenfield Area Chamber Banquet is scheduled for April 2nd to be held at the Medina Entertainment Center. A great evening is being planned to include dinner, entertainment, a silent auction and awards. The chamber is always seeking new members so this is an opportunity to find out more about the group and attend this event. The chamber is seeking nominations for awards in the following categories: Non-Profit business of the year, Small business person of the year, Small business community service award and Chamber volunteer of the year. For more information please contact Joanne Foust at foustmdg@gmail.com

RENTAL DWELLING LICENSE

All non-owner occupied residential dwellings require a rental dwelling license.

Rental Dwelling License applications are due annually. The rental housing ordinance regulates the basic housing requirements such as: heat, water, windows, screens, siding, etc.



ROCKFORD LIBRARY

Located at **8220 Cedar Street** (763) 477-4216
For more information see their website: www.griver.org

Story Times—Wednesdays 11:15—noon

Life is better with a library—if you appreciate the library, show your support during the month of March by making a High \$5 Donation at the Rockford Library.



BURNING INFORMATION

Due to the recent dry conditions, please use precautions before burning. Check the DNR website for more information at: <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/index.html>

Call City Hall before you burn!

ROCKFORD GARDEN CLUB



Contact Marsha about the "Adopt a Pot" program where volunteers keep their favorite pot(s) or garden weeded and looking great all summer. If you are interested in helping, contact Marsha White at (763)477-6173 or email: mjwhite528@gmail.com

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 & Thursdays 10am-3pm and by appointment through April:

PROGRAMS:

- Wrangling the River:** water power and the flour mill
3/10/12 10am-noon or noon-2pm/Lion's Building
- The Wool over their Eyes:** Rockford's Woolen Mill
4/14/12 10am-noon or noon-2pm/Lion's Building
- Memorial Day pie & ice cream social plus quilting expo**
5/28/12 10am-3pm/Stork House

2011 VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

The City of Rockford is searching for it's 2011 Volunteer of the Year. Nomination forms are available on the city website, at city hall or the library. Please submit your nomination no later than **Monday, April 2, 2012.**





CITY OF ROCKFORD

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www.cityofrockford.org

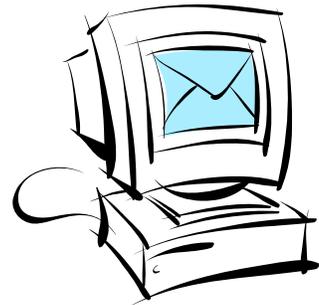
The City of Rockford is on Facebook—like our page!



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

Upcoming Events

- March 8th—R-G Area Chamber of Commerce Meeting at Wright-Hennepin Electric noon
- March 10th—Wrangling the River at Riverside Park 10am-noon / noon-2pm
- March 12th—Crow River Food Co-op Meeting 5:30pm
- March 17th—Pancake Breakfast at High School Commons 8am-11am
- March 17th—Community Expo at High School Commons 9am-1pm
- April 14th—The Wool over their Eyes at Riverside Park 10am-noon / noon-2pm
- April 21st—Transplanting Hope Benefit 3pm-7pm
- May 5th—Clean-Up Day at Public Works 8am-noon
- May 6th—Fire Department Pancake Breakfast 7am-noon
- May 10th—R-G Area Chamber of Commerce Meeting at Wright-Hennepin Electric noon
- May 28th—Memorial Day Events in town (watch the website for details)



W R I G H T C O U N T Y E C O N O M I C D E V E L O P M E N T P A R T N E R S H I P

WCEDP presented the following awards to Rockford businesses:

- Outstanding Member of WCEDP—Wright Hennepin Electric
- High Economic Vitality Business of the Year—Design Ready Controls

Congratulations!

RiverWorks Food Shelf

It is time for the Minnesota Food Share March Campaign! For every pound of food donated and every dollar collected, along with the number of clients served in March, the MN Food Share will provide free dollars that can be used to purchase food.

8230 Cedar Street , Rockford
www.riverworksonline.org (763) 477-6098



R E C Y C L I N G I N F O R M A T I O N

Wright Recycling **collects recycling every other Wednesday**. The 2012 calendar is available on the City website or at City Hall. Two sort program: glass/cans/plastic bottles can be put together and paper. Cardboard should be flattened and no larger than 3 x 3. If you need a recycling bin stop by City Hall. **Recyclables must be set out at the curb by 7 a.m. The next scheduled pick up is: MARCH 7, 2012. See dates to follow:**

- March 21, 2012
- April 4, 2012
- April 18, 2012
- May 2, 2012
- May 17, 2012
- May 31, 2012-Thursday
- June 13, 2012
- June 27, 2012
- July 11, 2012
- July 25, 2012
- August 8, 2012



- August 22, 2012
- September 6, 2012-Thursday
- September 19, 2012
- October 3, 2012
- October 17, 2012
- October 31, 2012
- November 14, 2012
- November 28, 2012
- December 12, 2012
- December 27, 2012-Thursday