The Bridge—Volume 113

CITY OF ROCKFORD

Mayor's Message

As your new mayor, I want to assure you I will do my best to make the right decisions for our city and also find opportunities for growth.

I am excited to see what 2013 brings. Already this year, people in our community have made a difference through their support. For example, in February the Masonic Lodge matched every dollar donated to the RiverWorks Food Shelf. Efforts like this help benefit the residents in need and I thank you for your commitment.

The second week of April is when we honor a special volunteer. If you know someone who has donated their time and energy to our city, please nominate them for the Rockford Volunteer of the Year by March 20th.

Thank you for making Rockford a wonderful place to live, where I come home and enjoy time with family and friends.

Renee

Community Expo

The Rockford Community Expo will be held **Saturday, March 16th** from 9am-1pm at the Rockford Community Center - 7600 County Rd 50.

For more information contact the Rockford Community Center at 763-477-4563 and ask for Christa Larson.

Free to the public!

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

2012 Volunteer of the Year

The City of Rockford is searching for it's 2012 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, March 20, 2013**.

Rockford Fire Department

The Rockford Fire Department is holding their Annual Pancake Breakfast and Raffle at the Fire Department on **Sunday, May 5th** from 7am to noon at 6700 Main Street.

The cost to attend is:
$7 Adults
$5 Seniors
$3 Children / 4 and younger FREE.

Presale tickets are $5 and will be available starting the week of March 11th at City Hall or with your local fire department volunteers. To donation craft items for the raffle or to buy tickets contact Bill Decker at: 320-492-2854 or email: rfdcommunityliaison@gmail.com

Clean Up Day & Food Shelf Collection

Clean Up Day and Food Shelf Collection will be held from 8am to noon on **Saturday, May 4th** 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 and further details will be available at City Hall or on the website in the near future.

Compost/Yard Waste will be accepted at the compost site 8am-noon on Saturday.

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 4th and receive $5 off your 2013 clean-up day total!

Administrator's Report

The new year so far has been busy. The city council held a special workshop to review a Capital Improvement Plan for the streets/water and sanitary sewer infrastructure. The plan calls for replacement of old water and sewer mains along with street overlays or bituminous removal. The plan if approved would begin in 2014 in the Maplewood Manor neighborhood as this area has older mains and experienced many water main breaks. The engineers presented a map showing all of the water main breaks over the past several years to help council determine which areas are higher risk. Staff will be meeting with our financial consultant to review the best method to finance these improvements.

The city held our fourth visioning session on February 5th regarding "branding" the community which was a second in this series. An important part of each vision session included speakers that provided some good information about the topic on the agenda.

For this last session on branding, we had asked attendees for input of some questions about Rockford:

What do you think of when you hear Rockford? (list up to 3 words or phrases)

What do you want people to think when they hear Rockford? (list up to 3 words or phrases)

Who are our customers or target market? (tourists, residents, businesses,)

How can we stand out from other cities to be more competitive? (list 3 ideas)

We are still in the process of getting all of this information compiled and will share it with you on our website and in our future meetings. Our goal is to market Rockford with a consistent identity that is positive but true to who and what we really are.

The co-op is now 91 members strong! There is a goal to get up to 500 members, so if you want a local grocery store in town JOIN TODAY. Visit our website at www.crowriverfoodcoop.com. There is an easy application to download or one that you can complete online. We are providing great looking grocery bags with our logo on it to each new member that signs up. **On April 6th from 8am–10am we will be hosting our annual meeting along with a free breakfast for the community at the Rockford High School.** There will be a panel of speakers to talk about the benefits of having a food co-op in our area and you can ask questions and make the decision to sign up that day! Immediately following the questions and answers. A new plan of action for marketing to get our goal of 500 members is underway so look for us throughout the community and here are some of the upcoming events:

- March 5th Cooking Class YWAM 7pm
- March 11th Business Meeting 6:30pm
- March 14th Rockford/Greenfield Chamber spotlight
- March 16th Business Expo table
- April 2nd Wright/Hennepin Electric Coop Annual Mtg.
- April 6th Annual Crow River Food Coop free breakfast Rockford High School 8am-10am

www.crowriverfoodcoop.com

Rockford Library

Located at **8220 Cedar Street** (763) 477-4216
For more information see their web site:
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.

Hearts to Serve Day—May 5th

What better way to give back to your community than to volunteer for worthwhile projects. If you are interested, you can sign up to volunteer as an individual or as a group. Do you have a project? Great? Area churches, school districts, service organizations, businesses, corporate sponsors, city and county entities and individuals are coordinating plans to partner with communities along the Crow River from Delano to Rogers to gather together to implement one day of service on May 5, bringing a thousand volunteers together to address three key areas or needed improvement:

Hunger, Health, and Habitation

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 & Thursdays: 10am-4pm and by appointment.

PROGRAMS:
World War I Lecture 1916—03/09/2013
World War I Lecture 1917—04/13/2013
World War I Lecture 1918—05/11/2013
All WWI meetings 10am-noon/Lion's Building-8220 Elm St
Memorial Day pie & ice cream social – 05/27/2013 at the Stork House

Grow Your Own Goodies

Applications for 10x20 Community Garden plots will be available soon, managed by GROERS and the AFS House. We need to know who's interested in this new opportunity, so please send an email to **groersgardens@gmail.com** and help us plan!

HOUSEHOLD HAZARD WASTE

Do the products you use in your home pose a hazard to your drinking water? The fact is, many of the products used in the home--if not used, stored and disposed of properly–may find their way into your drinking water supply. Some examples of these products include aerosol cleaners, bug spray, charcoal lighter fluid, fertilizer with weed killer, pesticides, used motor oil, batteries and fluorescent lights. Even small amounts of hazardous chemicals contained in many of these products can be hazardous to you, your family, and the environment. Improperly used, stored, or disposed of household products containing hazardous chemicals have the potential to enter the area's groundwater aquifer by infiltrating from the land surface through the soils.

The City is working cooperatively with the County solid waste office and homeowners to implement preventative measures to help protect the drinking water of its residents.

SIMPLE STEPS YOU CAN DO TO PROTECT YOUR DRINKING WATER

- Check your kitchen, basement, and garage. If any labels contain any of these words: *CAUTION*. *WARNING*. *DANGER*. *POISON*. Those products may contain hazardous chemicals.
- Keep track of the products used in your household and keep a minimum supply on hand.
- Ensure that the products in your household are stored in a safe place and according to manufacturer's instructions.
- If you have unwanted products that contain hazardous chemicals
- --**DON'T** throw them in the garbage!
- --**DON'T** pour them down the drain!
- --**DON'T** pour them down the storm water drain!
- --**DON'T** pour them on the ground!
- Always be sure to follow the manufacturer's instructions when using products containing hazardous chemicals. Follow all MN Pollution Control Agency requirements and recommended practices concerning the disposal of products containing hazardous chemicals

For additional information visit http://www.pca.state.mn.us/waste/hhw/index.html, http://www.mrwa.com, or to identify the county's household hazardous waste collection location site contact the County solid waste management office listed below or the City of Rockford (763) 477-6565

Wright County Residents: 505 County Road 37 NE, Buffalo. Call 763-682-7338 to make an appointment.

Hennepin County Residents 8100 Jefferson Hwy, Brooklyn Park **or** 1400 West 96th St, Bloomington. Any questions call 612 -348-3777.

Event Center Update

The old park building known as the Lions Building Is in a dilapidated state and the city has been discussing replacing this building with a new event center. The city established a Committee to review construction of an Event center that would seat 300 people. The City hired CPMI Construction Management Co. last fall and after a few workshop meetings with the city council and the committee they provided costs for the project. The latest cost for a pre-engineered building with all of the administration/site work/labor/materials is $1.6 million. The city council asked the committee to review the elements of the building and find areas where we can make changes to bring the cost down to $1.3 million. With this done, the staff along with our financial consultant will discuss the potential tax impact of this building along with other CIP plans, for streets, water, and wastewater. The council will discuss this financial information at a workshop meeting on March 18th.

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.

Jim Thome Park (Parkwood neighborhood) The newest addition to our park system includes a youth baseball field partly funded by a MN Twins grant, Bankwest, Lamperts and volunteer labor from the Rockford Area Athletic Association (RAAA). There will be a grand opening on May 11, 2013. Look for more information in the local newspaper. The MN Twins will be here to help celebrate this.

CITY OF ROCKFORD

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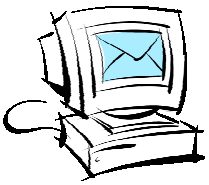
763-477-4393 FAX
www.cityofrockford.org

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 9th—WWI 1916 at Lion's Building at Riverside Park 10am-noon
March 11th—Crow River Food Co-op Meeting 6:30pm
March 14th—R-G Area Chamber of Commerce Meeting at Wright-Hennepin Electric noon
March 16th—Community Expo at Rockford Community Center 9am-1pm
April 8th— Crow River Food Co-op Meeting 6:30pm
April 13th—WWI 1917 at Lion's Building at Riverside Park 10am-noon
April 13th—Rockford Lion's Greenback Dinner & Silent Auction starting at 6pm
May 4th—Clean-Up Day at Public Works 8am-noon
May 5th—Fire Department Pancake Breakfast 7am-noon
May 5th—Thousand Hearts Day of Service
May 9th—R-G Area Chamber of Commerce meeting at Wright-Hennepin Electric noon
May 11th—WWI 1918 at Lion's Building at Riverside Park 10am-noon
May 13th— Crow River Food Co-op Meeting 6:30pm
May 27th—Memorial Day Events in town (watch the web site for details)

Rockford-Greenfield Area Chamber of Commerce

The next Rockford-Greenfield Area Chamber of Commerce meeting will be held on **March 14th** at Wright-Hennepin Electric located at 6800 Electric Drive, Rockford. Registration starts at 11:30 a.m. lunch and program to follow. The speaker at this meeting will be discussing employee benefits and how the new health care laws affect small businesses. The chamber will be inviting all the businesses from the surrounding area to join them at this luncheon to try and increase the membership. The Chamber will be present at the Community Expo which is scheduled for March 16th at the Rockford Community Center, so stop by and find out more about the benefits of joining your local Rockford-Greenfield Area Chamber of Chamber.

www.rgchamber.com

Compost Site

The compost site on Elm Street/CR 33 is scheduled to open to City of Rockford Residents on Monday, April 15th, 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.

Finished compost material is also available at no charge.

Recycling Information

Wright Recycling **collects recycling every other Wednesday**. The 2013 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 6, 2013. See dates to follow:

March 6, 2013
March 20, 2013
April 3, 2013
April 17, 2013
May 1, 2013
May 15, 2013
May 30, 2013-Thursday
June 12, 2013
June 26, 2013
July 10, 2013
July 24, 2013

August 7, 2013
August 21, 2013
September 5, 2013-Thursday
September 18, 2013
October 2, 2013
October 16, 2013
October 30, 2013
November 13, 2013
November 27, 2013
December 11, 2013
December 26, 2013-Thursday