The Bridge—Volume 120

CITY OF ROCKFORD

Mayor's message

There has been a lot happening in the city since December. Our new council members, Debbie Buoy and Ted Hill, are working hard to get up to speed with the various city projects. The council has reviewed and approved 2015 goals. The warming house at the ice skating rink is open. A group is planning the replacement of the Riverside Park building. We had our open house and ribbon cutting at the Rockford Mall on February 20th. The Wastewater Treatment project is on schedule to be completed in April and the Maplewood Manor project is 98% complete.

Our long time dedicated Public Works Director, Dennis Peterson, has announced he will be retiring on May 1st. Dennis has been exceptional in maintaining our city streets, water towers, wastewater plant, parks, levy, city buildings and equipment. He has coordinated escalation plans during potential flooding and has been 100% committed to Rockford. Dennis will be missed and we wish him all the best. This position has been posted on the city website, League of MN Cities and local newspapers. This is a vital role we need to fill in our city and candidates will be interviewed in March.

We have a new company picking up our recycling as of February 1st. Welcome to Rockford Randy's Sanitation. Thank you to Wright Recycling for providing this service for over 25 years! The recycling pick-up schedule will not change for 2015.

I wish all of you and your families a Happy St. Patrick's Day and fun filled Spring!

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Community Expo

The Rockford Community Expo will be held **Saturday, March 7th** from 9am-1pm at the Rockford Community Center - 7600 County Road 50.

For more information contact the Rockford Community Center at 763-477-4563.

Free to the public!

2014 Volunteer of the Year

The City of Rockford is searching for its 2014 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 **Wednesday, March 24, 2015**.

City Council will vote for the Volunteer of the Year at their March 24th meeting.

Dennis Peterson's Retirement

Join us at Public Works, 6551 Utility Drive, Rockford for an Open House on **Friday, May 1, 2015** from 1:30pm-3:30pm to honor **DENNIS PETERSON,** Public Works Supervisor, as he **RETIRES** from the City of Rockford after 35 years of dedicated service!

There will be a retirement party on Friday, May 8, 2015 starting at 5pm and dinner at 6pm at the Rockford Township Hall. Please stop by and wish Dennis a Happy Retirement!

Administrator's Report

Spring is soon upon us, and with each spring comes new beginnings. In the coming weeks we will wish long-time Public Works Director Dennis Peterson all the best as he enters retirement after his many decades of a job well done. The city is currently interviewing many qualified applicants, one of which will step into this role and continue to provide high quality of services for our community.

With the demolition of the old park shelter, spring will usher in construction of a new shelter that is anticipated to provide public restrooms, meeting space and a kitchen. The new shelter design phase is ending soon and we will begin accepting proposals for construction in the near future. Also experiencing renovation, the Ames-Florida-Stork House will begin a restoration process this spring that will protect the artifacts displayed therein and provide a better environment for visitors to enjoy.

The Rockford City Center Mall remains an ongoing work in process, and we hope spring will bring new interest and tenants to join the businesses currently at the mall. We continue to advertise mall space for rent and out lots for sale, and continue to work hard to bring businesses to our community. After a few years of slower growth, it appears our on-going efforts to promote our community are being noticed. We have been in contact with housing developers over the past few weeks who appear interested in bringing new homes to our community. We are working hard to support new construction and to provide well-managed growth for our city.

There are many other projects that are currently in the works, and we look forward to all the opportunities that spring will present. It is a great time to be a part of the Rockford community, and we are excited about all that our city is, and all it will become.

Rockford-Greenfield Area Chamber of Commerce

The next Rockford-Greenfield Area Chamber of Commerce meeting will be held on **March 12th** at Wright-Hennepin Electric located at 6800 Electric Drive, Rockford. Registration starts at 11:30am with lunch and program to follow. The chamber invites all the businesses from the surrounding area to join them at their luncheon.

The Chamber will be present at the Community Expo which is scheduled for Saturday, March 7th 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

Thousand Hearts Crow River Service Day
Sunday, May 17, 2015

Thousand Hearts
Crow River Serve Day

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! The area business community, school district, church groups, civic groups, boy and girl scouts, non-profits, governmental agencies, the fire department and many agencies from the medical community will all join together to have a major impact on a single day in the area. Lets bring a thousand volunteers together to address three key areas of needed improvement: **Hunger, Health, and Habitation**

If you are interested in helping, please contact Annette Tryon at: batryon@hotmail.com or visit their website at: **ww.thousandhearts.weebly.com**

Clean Up Day & Food Shelf Collection

Clean Up Day and Food Shelf Collection will be held from 8am to noon on **Saturday, May 2nd** at Public Works - 6551 Utility Drive. Items MUST be sorted if you want volunteers to help unload. NO broken glass.

RiverWorks Thrift Shore will be on site to collect gently used items. A contribution receipt will be provided for your tax return.

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 are available at City Hall or on the website.

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 2nd and receive $5 off your 2015 clean-up day total!

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: March and April: Tuesdays—Thursdays: 11am-4pm and May: Tuesdays and Wednesdays 10am-4pm and Thursdays 10am-7pm OR by appointment. Due to the unheated office, staff will temporarily work off-site. If you would like a tour or need to communicate with the Director, please call 612-308-8559 during hours or email: storkhouse@cityofrockford.org

Memorial Day pie & ice cream social—Monday, May 25th 10am-3pm
Enjoy—fruit pies, ice cream sundaes, and root beer floats, as well as many activities taking place on the grounds that day.

Rockford Library

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

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.

Storytimes—Wednesdays 11:15—noon (no storytimes in May)
Book Club —Mondays 3/23, 4/20, and 5/25 2pm-3pm
Writers Group—Wednesdays 3/25, 4/22, and 5/20 1pm-2pm
Knitting Night—Thursdays 3/19, 4/16, and 5/21 6:30pm-7:30pm

Learn Manga Drawings—March 23rd 6:30pm-7:30pm (ages 12-18)

Book Sale—March 30th to April 4th during library hours.
Donations of books accepted year round

April Showers Craft Program—April 25th 10:30am-noon (ages 8-adults)

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

Rockford Senior Citizens

The Rockford Seniors meet the 2nd Monday of each month at different locations. Attend and find out more information about activities or call Bonnie Pool (763) 477-4468. Membership is $10 per year. Upcoming meetings:
Monday, March 9th-Delano Senior Center
Monday, April 13th-Walnut Place in Rockford
Monday, May 11th-to be determined

Trailblazer Transit—Bus Service

Trailblazer Transit provides Dial-A-Ride service, meaning that customers call a dispatcher to schedule times and locations for pickups and drop-offs.

Call **1-888-743-3828** to schedule a ride!

Rockford Community Market

Friday's June 5th to October 2nd
3pm to 7pm
Rockford Mall—8900 Walnut St. (north side of Hwy 55) west end parking lot.

Local fresh farm produce, honey, maple syrup, home crafted: jellies, jams, pickles, and breads, crafts including: bird houses, soaps & jewelry

Non-profit groups welcome to fundraise: churches, scouts, athletic groups, etc.

Fee is $5 per date or $40 fee for the entire season.

www.rockfordmarket.weebly.com

Compost Site

The compost site on Elm Street/ CR 33 is scheduled to open to City of Rockford Residents on Wednesday, 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 to Rockford Residents.

City of Rockford

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

Community Gardening

The city has several gardening opportunities from the mall to the Stork House. If you would like to show your pride and make Rockford a more beautiful place to live, consider adopting a flower pot or a plot. Contact Darcy at 612-490-6509 or email: darcyd@cityofrockford.org

Upcoming Events

March 7th—Community Expo at Rockford Community Center 9am-1pm
March 9th—Rockford Senior Citizen's at the Delano Senior Center in Rockford 11:30am
March 12th—R-G Area Chamber of Commerce Meeting at Wright-Hennepin Electric noon
March 30th—April 4th—Rockford Library Book Sale (during library hours)
April 13th—Rockford Senior Citizen's at 8830 Walnut Place in Rockford 11:30am
April 11th—Rockford Masonic Hog Roast at the Rockford Township Hall 5pm
April 18th—Rockford Lion's Greenback Dinner & Silent Auction at Rockford Township Hall 6pm
May 1st—Public Works Supervisor Retirement Open House at Public Works 1:30pm-3:30pm
May 2nd—Clean-Up Day at Public Works 8am-noon
May 3rd—Fire Department Pancake Breakfast 7am-noon
May 11th—Rockford Senior Citizen's at a location to be determined in Rockford 11:30am
May 14th—R-G Area Chamber of Commerce meeting at Wright-Hennepin Electric noon
May 17th—Thousand Hearts Day of Service

Recycling

Randy's Environmental Services **collects recycling every other Wednesday**. The 2015 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 18, 2015. See dates to follow:

March 18, 2015	August 5, 2015
April 1, 2015	August 19, 2015
April 15, 2015	September 2, 2015
April 29, 2015	September 16, 2015
May 13, 2015	September 30, 2015
May 28, 2015-Thursday	October 14, 2015
June 10, 2015	October 28, 2015
June 24, 2015	November 11, 2015
July 8, 2015	November 25, 2015
July 22, 2015	December 9, 2015
	December 23, 2015

Rockford Fire Department

The Rockford Fire Department is holding their Annual Pancake Breakfast and Raffle at the Fire Department on **Sunday, May 3rd** from 7am to noon at 6700 Main Street. Ticket information will be available in the near future.

To donate craft items for the raffle or to buy tickets contact the Rockford Fire Department at 763-477-4840.

Check out the City website for more information regarding the Rockford Fire Department.

Rockford Fire Department Women's Auxiliary

The Women's Auxiliary group of volunteers meets the 3rd Tuesday of the month at 7pm. For more information contact Deb Buoy at (612) 760-8755.

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

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