



The Bridge—Volume 124

CITY OF ROCKFORD

MAYOR'S MESSAGE

It's hard to believe winter is over and the snow and ice gone. The birds are back and flowers will be blooming soon. I hope everybody enjoyed the winter sports and had an opportunity to visit our new hockey rink at the park. Thank you to our Public Works and City Staff who made it a success!

Mark your calendars! City Cleanup Day will be the first Saturday on May 7th and you can bring your items up to Public Works 8:00a.m. - noon. Annual Fire Department Pancake Breakfast will be Sunday on May 8th at the fire station 8:00a.m. - noon. Memorial Day parade and pork chop dinner is planned for May 30th at Riverside Park.

Coming this summer Wright County will be resurfacing Main Street. During their project, the city will begin construction work on our downtown

plan. Based on positive feedback from our residence we are continuing to move forward with expanding our sidewalks, adding trees/decorative lighting and enhancing downtown. Please be patient during the construction period.

We have proposals coming in for the empty lot at Hwy 55 and Main Street and hope to have a plan approved in the next couple months. More will be shared as the process continues to move forward.

I hope all the students enjoyed their Spring Break and wish everyone a Happy Easter!

Renee



CITY OF ROCKFORD MAIN STREET PROJECT

After many months of discussion and review, the Council of the City of Rockford voted unanimously at the March 8th, 2016 Council Meeting to begin the Main Street improvement project this spring. The project entails several improvements to downtown Main Street, between Hwy 55 and Elm Street. Components of the project will include improvements to downtown safety, infrastructure and aesthetics by removing overhead power lines, widening the sidewalks, installing new light poles and boulevard trees, and replacing portions of the storm sewer and water services within the Right of Way.



in an effort to structure our project with as little disruption to our residents and businesses as possible. A high level of communication with the community will be critical to the success of the construction process. The project will be funded through a combination of Tax Increment Financing and the restructuring of the city's existing bond debt, and it is projected that the cost of this project will not be reflected in property tax levy increases or otherwise passed on to our community.

Construction for this project will occur in several phases, with the first phase scheduled to begin sometime in early April. City staff have met with several other cities that have completed similar projects

There will be numerous meetings over the next several months at which the various stages of construction and planning will be discussed. As always, the community is invited to attend those meetings or to contact city staff with interests or inquiries regarding this project.

Thousand Hearts Crow River Service Day Saturday, May 21, 2016

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: www.thousandhearts.weebly.com



COMMUNITY EXPO

The Rockford Community Expo will be held **Saturday, March 19th** from 9am-1pm at the Rockford High School- 7600 County Road 50.

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

Free to the public!



The next Rockford-Greenfield Area Chamber of Commerce meeting will be held on **May 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 19th 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

CLEAN UP DAY & FOOD SHELF COLLECTION

Clean Up Day and Food Shelf Collection will be held from 8am to noon on **Saturday, May 7th** 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 River-Works Food Shelf on May 7th and receive \$5 off your 2016 clean-up day total!

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

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, April 11th-Delano Senior Center
Monday, May 9th-Delano Senior Center

2015 VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

The City of Rockford is searching for its 2015 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 21, 2016**.

City Council will vote for the 2015 Volunteer of the Year at their March 22nd meeting.

COMPOST SITE

Minnesota state statute 115A.931 does allow yard to be mixed with municipal solid waste, so now what do you do with your clippings and brush? You can compost it in your backyard, you can pay a private hauler to pick it up, or you can take it to the city's compost site.

The city compost site is a great resource for residents. It allows for the proper disposal brush and yard waste without paying a private contractor and the finished compost is a great soil amendment for our Rockford clay. The organic matter in the compost and the biological life it supports can help loosen clay soils, and provides nutrients for turf, flowers or veggies. The city staff will turn and mix the compost pile to ensure even decomposition and heating but we need your help with what gets put into the pile. Please observe the following guidelines:

- Please remove all bags, bottles and flower pots.
- Yard waste mixed with rocks, metal, concrete, polystyrene foam, animal feces or foreign material is unacceptable.
- Landscape fabric does not decompose and is not allowed at the compost site.
- Grass clippings, leaves, garden waste and all soft bodied plant material is acceptable for the compost pile.
- Brush, sticks and wood waste need to be separated from compostable yard waste. Woody plant material does not degrade as fast as soft bodied plants and needs to be handled separately

All wood waste and brush needs to be placed in the brush pile which is separate from the compost pile. The city hires a contractor to remove the wood waste from the site every fall. Please observe the following rules to help keep this cost minimal for the city:

- No stumps
- No lumber or landscape timbers
- No concrete
- No logs over 6" in diameter
- Place all leaves and grass clippings in the compost pile.

Hours of operation:
Monday-Friday 7:30am-3:00pm
Wednesday Evening 4:30-8:30pm
Saturday 8:00am-noon

The compost site schedule is subject to weather and site conditions. Only material originating within the city limits is allowed at the site. No commercial lawn care or tree companies are allowed at the site. The site may also be closed if an illegal dumping creates a problem that needs to be corrected.

The compost site on Elm Street/CR 33 is scheduled to open to City of Rockford Residents on Friday, April 15th, **depending on the weather.**

You do not need to check out a key at city hall.

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.

ROCKFORD LIBRARY

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



This year, library supporters who make a donation of \$5 or more to Great River Regional Library will receive a lime green bracelet that declares: "I AM A LIBRARY SUPPORTER!"

Storytimes—Wednesdays 11:15—noon (no storytimes in May)
 Book Club—Mondays 3/28, 4/18, & 5/23 2pm-3pm
 Tween&Teen Writers Group—Mondays 3/7, 4/4 & 5/2 6pm-7pm
 Writers Group—Wednesdays 3/25, 4/22, and 5/20 1pm-2pm

Special Events:

- Super Hero Craft Make & Take—Saturday, April 16th 10:30am-noon (ages 10-adults)
- Pinterest 101—Monday, April 18th 6pm-7pm
- Book Sale—April 25th to April 30th during library hours. Donations of books accepted year round.
- The History of Your Objects at the Rockford Library—Tuesday, May 17th 1pm-4pm . Author/Appraiser Mark Moran, who has written over 25 books on antiques and collectibles and has appeared on the PBS "Antiques Road Show" program, will help to evaluate your item and learn more about the history of your own object.
- 1000 Hearts Book, Volunteer and Friend Drive—Saturday, May 21st 10am-1pm
- Flute Duet—Monday, May 23rd 6:30pm-7:30pm

STORK HOUSE

The Ames-Florida-Stork House is located at: 8131 Bridge St
 Phone (763) 477-5383 Email: storkhouse@cityofrockford.org

The Ames-Florida-Stork House will be closed January 1st, 2016 through May 29th, 2016 for the installation of a new HVAC system. This system is part of a larger effort to better preserve and protect the Stork House and the thousands of artifacts housed inside. The vast majority of the cost to install this vital HVAC system is already in hand in the form of the MNHS Grant and matching funds provided by the City of Rockford.

There remains, however, a significant gap in funding for the project, and **we need your help** in closing it. The RAHS is asking members – past and present – donors, or anyone interested in preserving the Ames-Florida-Stork House and Rockford's history to make a donation to help us complete this important and unprecedented preservation project. Our suggested donation for the HVAC project is \$52 – or just \$1 per week for a year – but any and all support goes a long way toward reaching our goal of raising \$10,000 by July 1st to complete this much-needed project.

We apologize for any inconvenience for the temporary closure and thank you for your continued support throughout the duration of this project. **To DONATE**, visit www.rockfordmnhistory.org or <https://www.givemn.org/project/hvac-project-at-the-ames-florida-stork-house56d8a4ada33f1>. On behalf of the Board of Trustees, Thank You so much for helping keep Rockford History alive!

Memorial Day Pie & Ice Cream Social—Monday, May 30th 10am-3pm
 Enjoy—fruit pies, ice cream sundaes, and root beer floats, as well as many activities taking place on the grounds that day.



CITY OF ROCKFORD

"Like" The City of Rockford on Facebook



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

Upcoming Events

- March 19th—Community Expo at Rockford Community Center 9am-1pm
- April 2nd—Rockford Masonic Hog Roast at the Rockford Township Hall 5pm
- April 11th—Rockford Senior Citizen's at the Delano Senior Center in Delano 11:30am
- April 16th—Rockford Lion's Greenback Dinner & Silent Auction at Rockford Township Hall 6pm
- April 18th—Pinterest 101 at the Rockford Library 6pm-7pm
- April 25th—April 30th—Rockford Library Book Sale (during library hours)
- May 7th—Clean-Up Day at Public Works 8am-noon
- May 8th—Fire Department Pancake Breakfast 7am-noon
- May 9th—Rockford Senior Citizen's at the Delano Senior Center in Delano 11:30am
- May 12th—R-G Area Chamber of Commerce Meeting at Wright-Hennepin Electric noon
- May 17th—The History of Your Objects at the Rockford Library 1pm-4pm
- May 21st—Thousand Hearts Day of Service
- May 30th—Memorial Day Parade and Events in town (watch the website for details)

S I N G L E S O R T R E C Y C L I N G

Roll cart must be set out at the curb by 7 a.m. Face the lid towards the street and the handle towards the house.

Items for recycle: metal cans, plastic bottles & containers #1-7, glass bottles & jars, paper, flattened cardboard & paperboard, and dairy & juice cartons.

2016 Pick-Up Dates:	August 17, 2016
March 30, 2016	August 31, 2016
April 13, 2016	September 14, 2016
April 27, 2016	September 28, 2016
May 11, 2016	October 12, 2016
May 25, 2016	October 26, 2016
June 8, 2016	November 9, 2016
June 22, 2016	November 23, 2016
July 7, 2016*	December 7, 2015
July 20, 2016	December 21, 2015
August 3, 2016	(Thursday Pick-Up *)

**R O C K F O R D F I R E
D E P A R T M E N T**

The Rockford Fire Department is holding their Annual Pancake Breakfast and Raffle at the Fire Department on **Sunday, May 8th** 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's website for more information regarding the Rockford Fire Department.

The Fire Department is seeking members, please complete an application if your are interested. The application is available on the City website.

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 Fire Department Auxiliary

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