



The Bridge—Volume 135

CITY OF ROCKFORD

MESSAGE FROM MAYOR

Here comes winter again! Thank you to Public Works for getting the holiday decorations up, the lights on the trees and bows on poles downtown so we can get ready for the snow to fall and ice rinks to be flooded. We are planning to have the ice rinks ready for skaters the first week of December, if the weather cooperates.

Welcome Clays Restaurant, the new restaurant at the mall, which opened in September. We are glad you came to Rockford and wish you much success!

Truth and taxation hearing will take place on December 11th at 6:00 pm in the city hall council chambers. I encourage anyone who has questions about your city taxes to please come to the meeting.

Please be mindful to keep fire hydrants clear of snow during the winter season. Having access to a fire hydrant clearly saves time in responding to an emergency. It is also important to make sure cars are not parked on the streets when it snows in order for snow plows to get through and clean the streets for our safety.

Mark your calendars for Saturday, December 1st to enjoy the Crow River Christmas events. Santa is visiting the fire station from 10:00 am – 2:00 pm. Final events will be at Riverside Park starting at 4:30 pm for caroling, the lighting of the trees and fireworks.

What a great time of year to be thankful for your health, family and friends. Have a wonderful holiday season!

Mayor Renee Hafften

TRUTH IN TAXATION HEARING

The preliminary 2019 levy for operating expenses is set at \$1,355,447 and the debt service levy is set at \$315,032 for a proposed increase of 1.87% to the cites portion of the property taxes.

To learn more about Rockford's proposed 2019 Budget, please attend the public hearing on **Tuesday, December 11, 2018** at 6pm in the Council Chambers at 6031 Main Street, Rockford, MN. The City Council may set the final levy after the public hearing at this meeting.

CHRISTMAS TREE PICK-UP

If you would like to have your tree picked-up on **Wednesday, January 9, 2019**, you **MUST** call City Hall by noon on **Monday, January 7, 2019** to sign-up. If there is not a minimum of 10 participants, Waste Management will not be able to facilitate the collection of trees! The cost is \$10 and will be billed to your Waste Management account.

Call Audra at 763-634-8770 to be added to the list. We will need your name, address and daytime phone number.

City Hall

6031 Main Street
Rockford, MN 55373
phone: 763-477-6565
fax: 763-477-4393

email: cityhall@cityofrockford.org
website: www.cityofrockford.org

City Hall Office Hours

Mon-Fri 8am—4:30pm

Mayor

Renee Hafften

City Council

Deb Buoy
Ted Hill
Rick Martinson
Scott Seymour

City Council Meetings

Second & fourth Tuesday of each month at 6pm

Planning Commission Meetings

Second Thursday (fourth Thursday Apr-Oct if needed) of each month at 7pm

Park Commission Meetings

First Monday of every other month at 6pm

To receive the newsletter and city updates via email, send your email address to:

audrae@cityofrockford.org

"Like" The City of Rockford on Facebook



Wastewater Billing Calculation (Actual vs. Averaging) Open Until the end of December 2018

Historically, wastewater rates had only been calculated based on the average water used between November 15th and April 15th and recalculated annually. In 2014 the City Council passed an ordinance to allow residents the choice between being billed for their wastewater use based upon their actual water use or continuing with the old system which averaged winter water use and billed that average as the wastewater usage over the summer months.

All residents in Rockford are assigned the averaging billing system for wastewater unless you have requested to be on actual use. You must contact City Hall between **December 1st and December 28th**, if you wish to change your billing system for it to be effective for the January 2019 billing. Annually, December is the only time you can change your wastewater billing calculation and can do so by calling **City Hall at 763-477-6565 (press 1)**.

Online Utility Payments

Did you know you can pay your utility payment on-line? Just go to www.cityofrockford.org and select Pay Your Utilities. This will direct you to the web store. Follow the instructions:

1. Select or enter your account information.
Account Name (as displayed on bill)
Account Number (no dashes and *leave the last number off*)
2. If the balance does not populate, click **Check Balance**.
3. Enter a payment amount.
4. Click **Add to Cart**.



CROW RIVER CHRISTMAS

Saturday, December 1, 2018 (9am-6pm)

Here are a some of the events:

- 8:30am Jolly Jingle Jog 5K (9am Riverside Park)
- 9am—2pm The Christmas Express (rides to event locations)
- 10am-1pm Girl Scout Gift & Craft Sale at Fire Station
- 10am-2pm Photos with Santa at Fire Station
- 11am-1pm Christmas at the Rockford Public Library
- 1pm-4pm Stork House Open House
- 1pm-4pm FREE Horse and Wagon Rides
- 4:30pm Christmas Music at Riverside Park
- 5:30pm Light up the Trees at Riverside Park and Light up the Sky Fireworks at Riverside Park

Toy and Food donations will be accepted at most sites during events and at Riverside Park from 1pm-5:30pm.

For more information: www.riverworksonline.org or call 763-477-5480



Spectrum Cable Subscribers:
View the City of Rockford on Channel 180

Canadian Pacific Holiday Train—Wednesday, December 12th (approximately 4:15pm) in Downtown Loretto

AMES - FLORIDA - STORK HOUSE

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

The Ames-Florida-Stork House is open for **SCHEDULED TOURS**.

Crow River Christmas -12/1 (noon--4pm)

The Rockford Area Senior Citizens meet the 2nd Monday of each month at different locations. Call Bonnie Pool (763) 477-4468 for information or to sign-up. Membership is \$10 per year. Upcoming meetings:

- **December 10th**—Riverside Park, 8220 Elm Street
- **January 14th**—Rockford Community Center
- **February 11th**—Walnut Place, 8854 Walnut Place

WINTER SEASON INFORMATION

Snow Season Parking

The snow season ordinance is in effect November 1st until April 1st and it shall be unlawful for any person to park a vehicle on or within fifteen (15) feet of the curb line or edge of paved surface between 2am-6am OR after ice accumulation, continuous or intermittent snow fall during which there has been an accumulation of two inches or more of snow on any street until the same has been plowed or removed from the full width of the roadway. On street parking is prohibited from 4am-6am on ALL non-residential streets regardless of snow. At NO TIME shall a vehicle be parked upon ANY street in any one place for more than twelve (12) hours. Please make sure that your guests are aware of these regulations so that they don't end up with a ticket or worse yet, getting towed.

Sidewalk Snow Removal

In the interest of public safety, the City of Rockford reminds you of the importance of keeping your walkways cleared of snow and ice. City Ordinance 901.04 states that all snow and ice must be removed from public sidewalks 24 hours after the snow or other precipitation causing the condition.

If you live near a fire hydrant, please keep it clear of snow and ice.

Snow Plowing

It is unlawful to plow snow onto ANY city, township, county or state road. Doing so is a violation of Minnesota Statue 160 and you may be fined.

Please leave garbage and recycling containers at the edge of the driveway, not in the street.

Snowmobiling

Persons operating snowmobiles within the city limits **must travel on designated trails**. Snowmobiles are prohibited from any public sidewalk/trail ways provided for pedestrian travel, on private property without the owner's permission, and all other public property unless designated as the snowmobile trail. There is no parking or riding of snowmobiles on the levee or in city parks, per Ordinance 208.

Rockford Fire Department and Auxiliary Toy Drive

The Rockford Fire Auxiliary is seeking donations for their annual LOCAL toy drive. They are looking for new unwrapped toys or monetary donations. Toys will be collected until noon on Friday, December 14th for this year's distribution. Due to the demand, families are asked to sign-up ahead of time by contacting RiverWorks Food Shelf at 8230 Cedar Street or call 763-477-6098. ALL toys collected stay in the community.

Donation boxes are located at most businesses, schools and Rockford City Hall. Monetary donations should be made payable to the Rockford Relief Association with a note in the memo stating Toy Drive and delivered to City Hall or mailed to: Rockford Fire Relief Association, Toy Drive, 6031 Main Street, Rockford MN 55373. Donations are accepted year round. Please consider donating to the Rockford Fire Department Auxiliary local Toy Drive.



Rockford Fire Department Auxiliary Annual Spaghetti Dinner

The Rockford Fire Auxiliary is hosting their Annual Spaghetti dinner, silent auction and raffle on **Saturday, February 23, 2019** at the Fire Station—6700 Main Street from 4:30pm to 8pm.



CITY OF ROCKFORD

Upcoming Events

- December 1st**—*Crow River Christmas* 9am-6pm Riverside Park and other locations within the Community
- December 5th**—*Chamber Holiday Mixer* 4:30pm at the Clays Restaurant in Rockford
- December 10th**—*Rockford Senior Citizen's* 11:30 am at Riverside Park
- December 24th and 25th**—*City Hall Closed* for the Holiday Season
- December 31st and January 1st**—*City Hall Closed* for the New Year's Day Holiday
- January 9th**—*Christmas Tree Pick-Up*
- January 10th**—*R-G Area Chamber of Commerce Meeting* 11:30 am at Wright-Hennepin Electric
- January 14th**—*Rockford Senior Citizen's* 11:30 am at Rockford Community Center
- January 21st**—*City Hall Closed* in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
- February 11th**—*Rockford Senior Citizen's* 11:30 am at Walnut Place
- February 14th**— *R-G Area Chamber of Commerce Meeting* 7:30am at BANKWEST
- February 18th**—*City Hall Closed* in observance of President's Day
- February 23rd**—*Fire Department Auxiliary Spaghetti Dinner* 4:30pm

RECYCLING

Waste Management collects recycling every other Wednesday. The 2019 calendar will be mailed in December and is available on the City website or at City Hall.

Recyclables must be set out at the curb by 7 a.m.

The City of Rockford supports residential recycling in the general fund budget. Recycling was state mandated by legislature. The more everyone can recycle the bigger the county rebates, reducing the tax burden.

Future Pick-Up Dates:

December 5, 2018	<u>July 3, 2019*</u>
December 19, 2018	July 17, 2019
<u>January 3, 2019*</u>	July 31, 2019
January 16, 2019	August 14, 2019
January 30, 2019	August 28, 2019
February 13, 2019	September 11, 2019
February 27, 2019	September 25, 2019
March 13, 2019	October 9, 2019
March 27, 2019	October 23, 2019
April 10, 2019	November 6, 2019
April 24, 2019	November 20, 2019
May 8, 2019	December 4, 2019
May 22, 2019	December 18, 2019
June 5, 2019	<u>January 2, 2020*</u>
June 19, 2019	<u>*Thursday pick-up</u>

R-G Rockford-Greenfield Area Chamber of Commerce

Holiday Mixer on Wednesday, **December 5th** at Clays Restaurant in Rockford at 4:30pm. Cost is \$25 per person—includes 2 drink tickets and heavy appetizers. Any questions or to RSVP contact: rockfordgreenfieldchamber@gmail.com

The next *R-G Chamber Meeting* will be held on **January 10th** at Wright-Hennepin Electric located at 6800 Electric Drive, Rockford. Networking starts at 11:30am with lunch and program at noon.

February 14th Chamber Coffee Meeting at BANKWEST 7:30am

The chamber invites all the businesses from the surrounding area to join them at their gatherings. For more information contact their website at: <http://rgchamber.wixsite.com> or Email: rockfordgreenfieldchamber@gmail.com

ROCKFORD LIBRARY

Located at **8220 Cedar Street** (763) 477-4216

A FEW OF THEIR ACTIVITIES and EVENTS:

- Crow River Christmas at the Library**—12/1 (11am-1pm)
 - Family Storytime**—Wednesdays (11:15am-noon)
 - Tween/Teen Game Time*** - 12/3, 1/7 & 2/4 (4-5pm)
 - Winter Snowflake**—12/6 (6-7pm) *
 - Monthly Lego Club**—12/17, 1/21 & 2/18 (4-5pm) and 12/19, 1/16 & 2/20 (2-3pm)*
 - "Get Yeti to Read" Winter Reading Program**—1/2 to 2/28
 - Ferdig Fridays**—1/4 & 2/1 (3:30pm-4pm)
 - Friends of the Library**—1/5 & 2/28 (8:30am-9:45am)
 - Adult Book Club**—1/28 & 2/25 (2-3pm)
 - Hearts Galore Craft Program**—2/9 (10:30am-noon)
 - Introduction to Ancestry for Libraries**—2/26 (6pm) *
- (*Registration Required)

HAVE A WONDERFUL HOLIDAY SEASON!

Contact the library more information regarding programs, registration, age limits, etc., see their website: www.griver.org