



# The Bridge—Volume 129

CITY OF ROCKFORD

## MAYOR'S MESSAGE

A big THANK YOU to city staff and volunteers who helped with City Clean-up Day and the Fire Department pancake breakfast. Both events were a huge success and we appreciate everyone's participation and support!

Volunteers are very important in any community and after careful consideration at our March 28<sup>th</sup> meeting, the city council selected Elizabeth Graunke as our 2016 volunteer of the year. Congratulations Liz!

You will soon see construction taking place on the west side of the Rockford Mall parking lot throughout the remainder of the year as Dollar General begins to break ground soon. Staff and the council continue to work with developers to support new businesses and housing to align with the City's goals.

Mark your calendars for Rockford River Days to be held August 11th-13th. There will be live bands on Friday and Saturday night, a carnival, food vendors, volleyball, corn hole, duck drop, cold beverages, fireworks and coronation. Congratulations to Annette Tryon the 2017 Grand Marshall who will lead the parade at noon on Sunday. Please go to the website for more information. The River Days committee welcomes new members if anyone would like to help with the event.

Enjoy your summer!

*Renee Hafften*

## ROCKFORD RIVER DAYS AUGUST 11TH - 13TH

Come and enjoy Rockford River Days celebration at Riverside Park—8220 Elm Street. Many events happening – Band Friday and Saturday Night, Duck Drop, Carnival, Corn Hole Toss, Volleyball, Bingo, **Fireworks on Saturday** and **Parade at noon on Sunday**.

For more information go to the website: [rockfordriverdays.weebly.com](http://rockfordriverdays.weebly.com). If you would like to learn more information about how you could help with River Days planning or be part of the committee, email: [riverdaysparade@aol.com](mailto:riverdaysparade@aol.com)

Presale tickets for the rides will be available after July 7th at City Hall, BANK-WEST, Holiday, RiverWorks Thrift Store and other local businesses.

Great food and fun, so save the dates: August 11, 2017 –August 13, 2017!

**Bring your family and join in on the celebration!**

### City Hall

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

Email: [cityhall@cityofrockford.org](mailto:cityhall@cityofrockford.org)  
Web Site: [www.cityofrockford.org](http://www.cityofrockford.org)

### City Hall Office Hours

Mon-Fri 8am—4:30pm

### Mayor

Renee Hafften

### City Council

Deb Buoy  
Jeannette Graner  
Ted Hill  
Rick Martinson

### 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](mailto:audrae@cityofrockford.org)

"Like" The City of Rockford on Facebook



CITY OF ROCKFORD PARKS DEPARTMENT

The City of Rockford has a Parks Department! This is unique for a city this size; smaller cities simply combine the work with the general public works. The differences are subtle, there is an employee with a title, Parks Lead Maintenance, as opposed to general maintenance, and the first priority is park maintenance rather than blending it in with all the other city projects needing attention. Now the department is only one full time employee along with a seasonal summer employee, and the parks employee also is in the on-call rotation for the water plant, plows snow and helps out with other projects as time dictates. The Public Works department as a whole also helps out with large park projects as needed, installing playground equipment, building hockey rinks, and getting ready for River Days to name a few, so overall Public Works operates as one large well oiled machine.

The Parks Lead Maintenance position has a diverse job description, certifications include; MN Tree Inspector license, MN Pesticide Applicator license, MN Class D Wastewater license, and is also a Certified Playground Safety Inspector. Job duties range from clearing ice and snow from sidewalks and trails to trying to make ice in the rinks where it seems to melt much easier than the stuff on the sidewalk. And it goes from stopping weeds that can grow in pavement to trying to coax grass from collapsed soils. We recently went from trying to find spots to mow that were not muddy, and then two weeks later hustling to get the irrigation systems running because the grass was desiccated.

May is by far the busiest month of the year. With everything greening up and the grass growing very rapidly keeping up mowing and trimming can be a challenge. Add in getting flowers and other spring plantings in the ground, co-coordinating service projects with Cub Scouts and Thousand Hearts, work-



**Cub Scouts from Pack 490, Den 4 recently completed their community service project planting lilacs along the fence between the cemetery and public works**

ing with RAA on the Bankwest/Lamperts Field and finally getting everything trimmed and primed for Memorial Day, and May is quickly a memory. Then summer is upon us and the work continues with mowing and trimming, removing garbage from the parks, weekly playground inspections and monitoring and watering all plants to assure adequate moisture. The summer schedule brings in mosquito control, the painting and maintenance projects, as well as adding any new fixtures to the parks all before getting ready for River Days. The Seasonal Summer Maintenance position usually ends in August so it is back to one person to keep up with mowing, trimming, fall weed control and eventually fall clean up. Autumn is also when trees and shrubs are added to the parks. Winter brings snow and ice removal as well as building ice in the rinks and coordinating warming house supervision. The winter season also brings inside projects such as building picnic tables, equipment maintenance and of course the training classes for the certifications. Before you know it the ice rinks are melting and we are back to searching for candidates for the Seasonal Maintenance position!

**R-G Rockford-Greenfield Area Chamber of Commerce**

The R-G Chamber will be held on **July 13th** at Youth With A Mission located at 8150 20th Street SE, Rockford Township. Networking starts at 11:30am with lunch and program at noon.

**August 10th** Chamber Coffee Meeting at BANKWEST 7:30am.

The chamber invites all the businesses from the surrounding area to join them at their gatherings. [www.rgchamber.com](http://www.rgchamber.com)

RSVP [inquire@rgchamber.org](mailto:inquire@rgchamber.org)

Nominate a male and/or female MN resident over 70 years of age for the honor of **Outstanding Senior Citizen!** These seniors are people full of love, patience, concern and a desire to help others...and are considered extremely valuable!

Send a recommendation of a senior fitting the description above to: Nancy Betzler, Director, Wright County Fair Board, 3623 156th Street NW, Clearwater, MN 55320 **Nominations are due June 19, 2017**

Questions, call Nancy at 320-558-2431  
Nomination form can be found at:  
[www.wrightcountyfair.com](http://www.wrightcountyfair.com) or [www.mnstatefair.org](http://www.mnstatefair.org)

The Rockford Area 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, July 10th**—Riverside Park, 8220 Elm Street
- **Monday, August 14th**—Delano Senior Center
- **Monday, September 11th**—Rockford Community Center

**ROCKFORD FIRE DEPARTMENT**

The Rockford Fire Department is looking for NEW members. Paid on call. No experience needed. Training will be provided. Applications are available at City Hall or online at: [www.cityofrockford.org](http://www.cityofrockford.org)

Fire Fighter Water Ball Contest will be held Saturday, August 12th during Rockford River Days at 4pm at Cedar & Mechanic Street.

**Rockford Farmers Market**

Fridays (June-October) 3pm—6:30pm  
Rockford City Center Mall Parking Lot  
8900 Walnut Street (north side of State Hwy 55)  
Website: <http://rockfordmarketweebly.com>

**CONSUMER CONFIDENCE  
DRINKING WATER  
REPORT**

Water suppliers that serve the same people year-round must prepare annual water quality reports (Consumer Confidence Reports—CCR) for their customers. The first reports were due in October 1999, and from then on they came out in June of each year. The reports tell where drinking water comes from, what is in it and how you can help protect it.

The 2016 Consumer Confidence Drinking Water Report can be seen in its entirety on the City’s website: <http://www.cityofrockford.org/city-departments/public-works/>. You can view CCR’s from 2008 through 2016.

If you would like a hard copy mailed to you, please call City Hall at 763-477-6565

**R E N T A L D W E L L I N G  
L I C E N S E**

If you are renting a residential property within the City of Rockford you are required by city code to have the property licensed.

If you already have an existing Rental Dwelling License it is time to renew it for 2017/2018. The City Council has established a fee for rental property licenses. Stop by City Hall or go on-line to obtain the license application. All applications need to be submitted to City Hall no later than June 30, 2017.

**R O C K F O R D R I V E R D A Y S  
A M B A S S A D O R S**

The Rockford River Days Ambassador Program is a non-profit Scholarship Program put on solely by volunteers.

The RRD’s Ambassador Program is currently seeking candidates. For more information, visit their website: <http://rockfordambassadors.weebly.com/>



Join the Rockford Ambassadors in Riverside Park on Friday, **July 28, 2017** for Movie in the Park. More details to follow.

**2016 VOLUNTEER  
OF THE YEAR  
ELIZABETH GRAUNKE**

The City Council received nominations for the 2016 volunteer of the year. Those mentioned included: Annette Tryon, Elizabeth Graunke, BANKWEST Employees and Rockford Lion’s

On March 28th the City Council selected Elizabeth Graunke as the 2016 Volunteer of the Year for her community spirit with the Rockford River Day’s, Rockford Area Athletic Association, Rocktoberfest, R-G Area Chamber of Commerce, Rockford Lions and other volunteer activities through the Rockford Schools.

Thank you Liz and all of the volunteers for their dedication to make Rockford a great community to live and work!



(pictured: Mayor Hafften and Liz Graunke)

**R O C K F O R D L I B R A R Y**

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

**EVENTS:**

- Summer Reading Program— started June 12th sign-up anytime during the summer to participate
- Celebrate Summer Reading with...Professor Marvel’s DIY Magic Show—June 23rd (4-5pm)
- Preschoolers Can Sing, Play & Learn with MacPhail Music—June 28th (10:30-11:30am)
- Rhythm and Blue Jays—July 6th (3-4pm)
- Rockford Royalty Storytime—July 11th (3-4pm)
- Design A Wire Sculpture—July 20th (4-5pm)
- Build a Better World with Gary Harbo—July 25th (4-5pm)
- LEGO Building Challenge—July 8th (4-5pm for ages 5 to 8 and 6pm-7pm for ages 9-12)
- Battle of the Books—June 12th to August 10th
- Snap Circuit—August 24th (4pm-5pm)



Many other events and activities throughout the summer. For more information see their website: [www.griver.org](http://www.griver.org)



**Upcoming Events**

- June 14th— Historic Window Demonstration Event—6pm at Rockford Area Historical Society
- June 15th to June 17th—City Wide Garage Sales
- July 4th—City Hall Closed in observance of the Independence Day
- July 10th—Rockford Senior Citizen's 11:30 am at Riverside Park
- July 11th—Rockford Royalty Storytime 3pm at Rockford Public Library
- July 13th—R-G Area Chamber of Commerce Meeting 11:30am at Youth With A Mission in Rockford Twsp
- July 28th—Movie in the Park (at dusk)
- August 1st—National Night Out (organize an event in your neighborhood)
- August 10th— R-G Area Chamber of Commerce Meeting 7:30am at BANKWEST
- August 11th to August 13th—Rockford River Days Celebration
- August 14th—Rockford Senior Citizen's 11:30 am at the Delano Senior Center in Delano
- September 4th—City Hall Closed in observance of Labor Day
- September 11th—Rockford Senior Citizen's 11:30 am at Rockford Community Center



**A M E S - F L O R I D A - S T O R K H O U S E**

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

**R E C Y C L I N G**

Waste Management collects recycling every other Wednesday. The 2017 calendar is available on the City website or at City Hall.

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

- June 21, 2017
- \*July 6, 2017
- July 19, 2017
- August 2, 2017
- August 16, 2017
- August 30, 2017
- September 13, 2017
- September 27, 2017
- October 11, 2017
- October 25, 2017
- November 8, 2017
- November 22, 2017
- December 6 2017
- December 20, 2017
- \*January 4, 2017
- \*Thursday pick-up

**Historic Demonstration Event**—Wednesday, June 14th at 6pm.

Join in for a demonstration on historic windows by Mark Johnston on Historic Designs, LLC. Mark will use 1850's tools to show how to build windows in a historic fashion as well as how to repair existing historic windows. FREE event for Community Members of ALL ages.

**Annual Quilt Drawing**—August 13th during the Rockford Ambassador Coronation Ceremony. Only 500 tickets available, and at just \$5 each. Help support the RAHS and purchase your chance to win a handmade quilt. Tickets will be available at: City Hall, BANKWEST, Farmer's Market and other local businesses.

Also hosting BINGO in the Park on August 12th during Rockford River Days!

**T A L L G R A S S & N O X I O U S W E E D S**

The city has an ordinance regulating the height of grass. The ordinances state that grass shall not exceed 12" and all noxious weeds and other rank growths of vegetation upon public or private property must be removed.

Typically 5 days are given for tall grass and less if there are noxious weeds.

Thank you for your cooperation and taking pride in the city!

**S W I M M I N G P O O L S**

All swimming pools with a capacity of five thousand (5,000) gallons and a depth greater than thirty (30) inches requires a permit and a yearly inspection. Contact City Hall if you need to apply for a permit.

**L A W N S P R I N K L E R S**

Residents installing a lawn sprinkler system need to apply for a building permit before installation. A site plan with the proposed placement needs to be submitted with the permit and fee. The permit fee is \$51.00.

**\*The City has an even/odd watering ban which is determined by your address, for instance, if your address is an odd number, you may water outdoors on odd numbered days of the month.**