



The Bridge—Volume 128

CITY OF ROCKFORD

MAYOR'S MESSAGE

The best part of winter is when it's over and the seasons change. Now we get to look forward to more daylight, warmer weather and fishing opener.

Speaking of change, so will our city as we explore opportunities to bring more variety into our community. This year we will continue to work with developers in adding new buildings and businesses in the area which align with our 2017 goals set by council and staff. We will focus our attention on potential possibilities for the Rockford City Mall, development of under utilized city property and our Fire Department.

Many people in our community volunteer their time and we would like to recognize an outstanding individual who dedicated their precious time to make a difference in 2016. Please fill out the form on the city website and drop off your nomination to city hall by March 22.

Start cleaning out your basements, closets and garages and get rid of your unwanted items at the City Clean-Up Day which will be held on Saturday, May 6th from 8:00 a.m. to Noon at the Public Works location behind the Fire Department.

Please support our volunteer Fire Department on Sunday, May 7th for the Annual Pancake Breakfast which starts at 7:00 a.m. Hope to see you all at the pancake breakfast.

Happy St. Patrick's Day!

Renee Hafften



2016 VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

The City of Rockford is searching for its 2016 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 4pm **Wednesday, March 22, 2017**.

City Council will vote for the 2016 Volunteer of the Year at their March 28th meeting.

COMMUNITY EXPO

The Rockford Community Expo will be held **Saturday, March 18th** from 9am-1pm at the Rockford High School Gym & Commons - 7600 County Road 50.

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

Free to the public!

SEEKING COMMUNITY GARDNERS

The city has several gardening opportunities from the parks 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

City Hall

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

Email: cityhall@cityofrockford.org
Web Site: 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

"Like" The City of Rockford on Facebook



T h o u s a n d H e a r t s C r o w R i v e r S e r v e D a y

Saturday, May 20, 2017

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



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

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

Highlighted Events:

Picture Book Peek-A-Boo—Month of March

Preschool Wednesday Storytime's—Wednesdays: March 8, 15, 22, 29 and April 5,12,19, 26 (11:15am-noon)

Ferdig Fridays Music Recitals—March 3rd, April 7th & May 5th (3:30pm-4pm)

Rockford Tween & Teen Book Club—Mondays: March 6th, April 3rd and May 1st (1-3pm)

Tween and Teen Friday Afternoon Movie—Friday, March 10th (1-3pm)

Rockford Adult Book Club—Mondays: March 27th, April 24th & May 22nd (2-3pm)

Reptile and Amphibian Discovery Zoo Event for Spring Break—Thursday, March 30th (4-5pm)

Rockford Community: Timeline of Transformation from the 1800's to Today—month of April

Rockford Friends of the Library Book and Bake Sale— Monday, April 3 to Saturday, April 8 (During library open hours)

Book donations accepted year round.

Made by Hand: Spa Crafts—Saturday, April 29th (10:30am-noon)

Author/Appraiser Mark Moran and the History of Your Objects—Friday, May 26th (3pm-6pm)

In this unique event, author and appraiser Mark Moran, who has written over 25 books on antiques and collectibles and has appeared on the PBS “Antiques Roadshow” program, will help to evaluate your items and learn more about the history of your own personal objects. Limit one object per person, limit 40 items. Please register for a time slot by calling the library. Additional guests are welcome to attend to listen and observe. A Legacy event.



C L E A N U P D A Y & F O O D S H E L F C O L L E C T I O N

Clean Up Day and Food Shelf Collection will be held from 8am to noon on **Saturday, May 6th** 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 6th and receive \$5 off your 2017 clean-up day total!



The R-G Chamber will be held on **March 9th** and **May 11th** at Wright-Hennepin Electric located at 6800 Electric Drive, Rockford. Networking starts at 11:30am with lunch and program at noon.

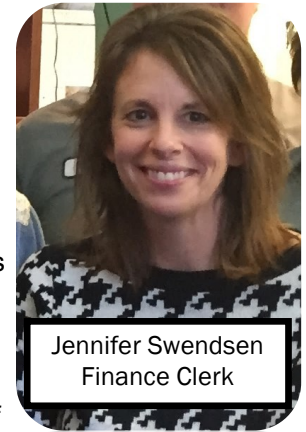
April 12th Chamber Evening Mixer at Rosewood Eatery in Rockford from 4:30pm-6:30pm.

Email RSVPs to: inquire@rgchamber.org

The chamber invites all the businesses from the surrounding area to join them at their gatherings. www.rgchamber.com

**CITY OF ROCKFORD
FINANCE DEPARTMENT**

The City of Rockford's budget process is a year-round project. During the summer months, preparation begins for the following year's budget. City staff will review and update equipment replacement schedules and capital improvement schedules of future purchases and improvements. Staff will compare prior year's budget to the revenues and expenses received to date and projections are made and revised until the preliminary budget and property tax levy is established. Public workshops are scheduled to gather additional budget information. Once the preliminary budget and property tax levy is submitted to the County Auditor no later than September 30 of the current year, Cities are able to decrease the amount of the property tax levy but generally cannot increase the preliminary certified levy amounts. Staff continues to review revenues and expenses and schedules public workshops for additional input until the final budget is established. Council approval is required for the adoption of the budget and property tax levy and certification to the county is needed before December 30.



Jennifer Swendsen
Finance Clerk

Monthly and quarterly reports are generated to keep staff, council and the public informed of the ongoing financial operations of the City. Staff keeps a watchful eye on budgeted revenues and expenses throughout the year to keep within the adopted budget.

Information and publications of the budget can be found on the City's website at www.cityofrockford.org and/or at City Hall located at 6031 Main Street.

ROCKFORD FIRE DEPARTMENT

The Rockford Fire Department is always 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

Rockford Fire Auxiliary Members WANTED. This group meets the 3rd Tuesday of the month. If interested in joining, contact Deb Buoy at 612-760-8755.

Pancake Breakfast and Raffles—Sunday, May 7, 2017 at the Fire Station (7am-noon)

Fix leaky faucets immediately. A leaky faucet that drips at a rate of one drip per second can waste more than 3,000 gallons per year. That's a 'nice save' for Minnesota's water future. It's important for each of us to save water, every day. Repairing all leaky faucets promptly can help with water conservation. For more easy tips to save water in Minnesota, visit: www.mrwa.com.

Ten percent of homes have leaks that waste 90 gallons or more per day. Leaky faucets can be reduced by checking faucet washers and gaskets for wear and replacing them if necessary.

Fixing easily corrected household water leaks can save homeowners more than 10 percent on their water bills.

Minnesota Rural Water Association
* 800-367-6792

ROCKFORD AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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

1920's Mystery Party - Saturday, March 11, 2017 (6:30pm)
Join in the fun of a fully-themed, interactive Roaring Twenties Murder Mystery Party. Attendees are encourage to get into the swing of things by dressing in 1920's style costume. Ladies think Charleston dresses and feathers in your hair. Guys think Bugsy Malone Italian Gangster suits. Location: 6040 Maple Street, Rockford, MN \$50per person. Limited space available.

For more information contact 763-477-5383 or email: storkhouse@cityofrockford.org

Memorial Day Pie & Ice Cream Social—Monday, May 30th (11am-2pm)
Enjoy—fruit pies, ice cream sundaes, and root beer floats, as well as many activities taking place on the grounds that day.

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



Upcoming Events

- March 9th**—R-G Area Chamber of Commerce Meeting at Wright-Hennepin Electric 11:30am/noon
- March 11th**—1920's Mystery Party at 6040 Maple St 6:30pm
- March 13th**—Rockford Senior Citizen's at the Delano Senior Center in Delano 11:30am
- March 18th**—Community Expo at Rockford High School & Commons 9am-1pm
- April 1st**—Rockford Masonic Hog Roast at the Rockford Township Hall 5pm
- April 3rd**—April 8th—Rockford Library Book Sale (during library hours)
- April 8th**—Rockford Lion's Greenback Dinner & Silent Auction at Rockford Township Hall 5pm
- April 10th**—Rockford Senior Citizen's at Riverside Park 11:30am
- April 12th**—R-G Area Chamber of Commerce Evening Mixer at Rosewood Eatery 4:30-6:30pm
- May 6th**—Clean-Up Day at Public Works 8am-noon
- May 7th**—Fire Department Pancake Breakfast 7am-noon
- May 8th**—Rockford Senior Citizen's at Riverside Park 11:30am
- May 11th**—R-G Area Chamber of Commerce Meeting at Wright-Hennepin Electric 11:30am/noon
- May 20th**—Thousand Hearts Day of Service
- May 26th**—Author/Appraiser Mark Moran and the History of Your Objects at Rockford Library 3pm-6pm
- May 29th**—Memorial Day Parade and Events in town (watch the website for more details)

COMPOST SITE

The compost site on Elm Street/CR 33 is scheduled to open to City of Rockford Residents on *Friday, April 14th, depending on the weather.*

Items accepted: grass clippings, leaves and brush no larger than 3" in diameter. All bags used to transport composting must be removed.

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.

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

NO OTHER DUMPING IS ALLOWED.

Finished compost material is available to Rockford Residents.

SINGLE SORT RECYCLING

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. Face the lid toward the street and the handle toward the house.

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

DO NOT INCLUDE: plastic bags, sharps & medical waste (needles), foam cups & containers or food waste.

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.

2017 Pick Up Dates:

- | | |
|----------------------|--------------------------|
| March 15, 2017 | August 16, 2017 |
| March 29, 2017 | August 30, 2017 |
| April 12, 2017 | September 13, 2017 |
| April 26, 2017 | September 27, 2017 |
| May 10, 2017 | October 11, 2017 |
| May 24, 2017 | October 25, 2017 |
| June 7, 2017 | November 8, 2017 |
| June 21, 2017 | November 22, 2017 |
| <u>July 6, 2017*</u> | December 6, 2017 |
| July 19, 2017 | December 20, 2017 |
| August 2, 2017 | <u>January 4, 2018*</u> |
| | <u>*Thursday pick-up</u> |

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, March 13th**-Delano Senior Center
- **Monday, April 10th**-Riverside Park-8220 Elm Street
- **Monday, May 8th**-Riverside Park-8220 Elm Street