



The Bridge—Volume 141

CITY OF ROCKFORD

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



MAYOR'S MESSAGE

This has been a crazy time for everyone as we all find a way to adjust to dealing with the effects of COVID-19. Daycare providers and parents are becoming teachers, people are working from home while others are unemployed, essential workers are putting themselves at risk and it's hitting our local businesses hard. The city's Economic Development Authority has approved an interest free loan for businesses who may need help. Please check out the City of Rockford website for the details.

Some of you may ask why is the 2020 Census important for our community? The 2020 Census helps determine how many hundreds of billions of dollars in federal funding will flow into communities every year for the next decade. It will determine how much money is allocated for schools, special education, highway construction projects, fire departments, senior housing and the list goes on. Please complete the 2020 Census if you haven't already to help our community. You can do this online at <https://my2020census.gov/>.

It was decided by the Rockford River Days Committee on June 16th to cancel the annual event this year due to the risks associated with COVID-19 and these uncertain times. This was a difficult decision and many options to host a scaled down event were considered. However, it became impossible to hold the event and still keep everyone safe. The committee will begin to focus on next year which will be held August 13th-August 15th, 2021. Mark your calendar for next year's Rockford River Days event!

Our 2019 volunteer of the year will be announced when we can resume council meetings in person with more than 10 people.

Congratulations to the graduates of 2020! Stay safe and healthy.

Renee Hafften

**ROCKFORD RIVER DAYS
CANCELLED FOR 2020**

For more information go to the website: 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 community, please email: chairpersonrrd@aol.com.

Great food and fun, so save the dates for 2021—August 13th to August 15th

ROCKFORD LIBRARY

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

The building is closed but they are offering curbside pickup during our regular hours:

Monday: 10 am to 6 pm, Tuesday: 3 pm to 7 pm,
Wednesday: 10 am to 6 pm, Thursday: 3 pm to 7 pm,
Friday: 2 pm to 6 pm, Saturday: 10 am to 1 pm

Items can be requested from our catalog at www.griver.org with a library card. If you don't have a library card, you can call the library at 763-477-4216. When items arrive they can be picked up in our parking lot.

For more information see their website: www.griver.org

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

DOG LICENSES

The City of Rockford licenses dogs for a 2 year period. The current licenses expire June 30, 2020. You must apply for your new license at City Hall during office hours. A current certificate that the dog has been vaccinated for rabies is required to process the license.

Fee's for licenses: Spade/Neutered \$12 or Other \$18

A kennel permit is required to have three or more dogs.

CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT

The 2019 Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) regarding drinking water for the City of Rockford is posted on the city's website. Select City Departments / Public Works

The Rockford Area Seniors meet the 2nd Monday of each month at different locations. Attend and find out more information about activities or call Marilyn Blake (763) 331-5896. Membership is \$10 per year. Upcoming meetings:

- **Monday, July 13th**-Riverside Park-8220 Elm Street
- **Monday, August 10th**-Delano Senior Center
- **Monday, September 14th**-Rockford Community Center

Locations of meetings subject to change due to COVID-19.

RENTAL DWELLING LICENSE

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 2020/2021. 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, 2020

LAWN SPRINKLERS

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.

Rockford Farmers Market

Fridays (June-October) 3pm-6:30pm
Rockford City Parking Lot-6121 Main Street
At the corner of Main Street & Cedar Street
Website: <http://rockfordmarketweebly.com>

SWIMMING POOLS

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.

TALL GRASS & NOXIOUS WEEDS

The city has an ordinance regulating the height of grass. The ordinance states 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!

RG Rockford-Greenfield Area
Chamber of Commerce

Contact Information:

PO Box 413, Rockford, MN 55373

Website: www.rgchamber.org

Email: rockfordgreenfieldchamber@gmail.com

ELECTION INFORMATION

Rockford residents will be able to vote for: one mayor (4 year term) and two council members (4 year term). Filing for candidacy starts on Tuesday, **July 28, 2020** during office hours until Tuesday, **August 11, 2020**. City Hall will be open until 5pm on August 11th. The filing fee is \$2.00.

If you are a new resident to the City of Rockford, recently turned 18 or have not voted in the last four years, we encourage you to go online to www.sos.state.mn.us and complete a Voter Registration Application. You may also register to vote on Election Day, but make sure you have ID such as a current driver's license or MN ID card with your correct address. If you have not changed your driver's license you must have a current utility bill and your license. Last day to pre-register for the Primary Election is **Tuesday, July 21, 2020** and **Tuesday, October 13, 2020** for the General Election.

Absentee voting begins Friday, **June 26, 2020** for the Primary Election and Friday, **September 18, 2020** for the General Election. **Absentee ballots will NOT be available at City Hall.** Applications to request an absentee ballot are available on the City website (Election tab), at City Hall, 6031 Main Street, or in person at the county where you live:

Hennepin County Elections/Government Center
300 South 6th Street MC 012
Minneapolis, MN 55487-0012
Fax: 612-348-2151 / Phone: 612-348-5151
Email: hc.vote@hennepin.us

Wright County Elections
10 2nd Street NW, Room 230
Buffalo, MN 55313-1195
Fax: 763-682-7873 / Phone: 763-682-7578
Email: elections@co.wright.mn.us

All Rockford residents in Hennepin County and Wright County vote at the Rockford Community Center, 7600 County Road 50 (Rebecca Park Trail), Rockford. The polls will be open at 7:00 am until 8:00 pm.

Primary Election, Tuesday—August 11, 2020
General Election, Tuesday—November 3, 2020

If you are interested in serving as an Election Judge, please contact City Hall or go on the website and complete the Election Judge Survey. **WE NEED YOU!**



Water Conservation Tips for Lawn and Yard:

- Morning is the best time to water most lawns. Before 10:00am is best of all because rising heat later on tends to steal a lot of water by evaporation. Another benefit is that grass and leaves have a chance to dry off quickly. Evening or night-time watering leave the grass wet and can allow lawn diseases to develop.
- A lush green lawn requires 1 to 1 1/2 inches of water a week. Keep in mind the amount of rainfall that might fall on your yard and adjust your watering schedule accordingly.
- If you let your grass grow to about 2 1/2 to 3 inches in the summer, water loss will be reduced because the blades will provide shade for the roots.
- Avoid watering when windy or in the heat of the day.
- Don't allow sprinklers to run unattended. Use a timer as a reminder when it's time to move or turn off the sprinkler.
- Lawns that are frequently aerated absorb water better.
- High nitrogen fertilizers stimulate lawn growth and increase water requirements.
- Thatch build-up in a lawn can create a rapid run-off situation. Every spring the lawn should be raked and dead grass removed.
- Sprinklers throwing large drops in a flat pattern are more effective than those with fine, high sprays.
- Forget about watering streets, walks and driveways. They don't grow a thing.
- Mulch shrubs and other plantings so the soil holds moisture longer.
- When possible, flood irrigate vegetables and flower gardens rather than using sprinklers. Irrigation allows deeper soaking with less water. Sprinklers result in high evaporation loss of water.



WATERING BAN

The City has an even/odd watering band 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. City Staff and the Sheriff's Department will enforce the water ban. Anyone found in violation of this ban will be fined or prosecuted as a misdemeanor.



Upcoming Events

June 26th—Absentee Voting Begins for the Primary Election

July 3th—City Hall Closed in observance of the Independence Day

July 13th—Rockford Senior Citizen's 11:30 am at Riverside Park

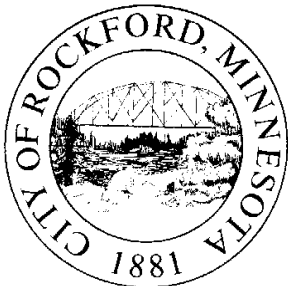
July 21st—Last day to Pre-Register for the Primary Election

July 28th—August 11th—Filing for Candidacy at City Hall (during office hours and until 5pm on the 14th)

August 10th—Rockford Senior Citizen's 11:30 am at the Delano Senior Center in Delano

August 11th—Primary Election 7am-8pm at the Rockford Community Center

September 7th—City Hall Closed in observance of Labor Day



The **Rockford Economic Development Authority (EDA)**, with the support of the Rockford City Council, has established a **Small Business Pandemic Emergency Loan Program to provide no-interest loans** to support eligible local small businesses impacted by Pandemic Emergencies. The purpose of this program is to support the preservation of employment opportunities in the **City** of Rockford, Minnesota through the prevention of business closures to promote long-term economic vitality in the community.

Information regarding the Small Business Pandemic Emergency Loan Program Guidelines is available on the city's website: www.cityofrockford.org.

RECYCLING

Waste Management collects recycling every other Wednesday. The 2020 calendar is available on the City website or at City Hall.

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

- June 17, 2020
- July 2, 2020
- July 15, 2020
- July 29, 2020
- August 12, 2020
- August 26, 2020
- September 9, 2020
- September 23, 2020
- October 7, 2020
- October 21, 2020
- November 4, 2020
- November 18, 2020
- December 2, 2020
- December 16, 2020
- December 30, 2020
- January 6, 2021



Due to COVID-19, projects have been rescheduled to **September 26th** (tentatively)

For more information and to sign up, contact Annette Tryon at annette-tryon@gmail.com or visit our website at www.thousandhearts.weebly.com and like us on Facebook at Thousand Hearts Crow River Serve Day.

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
Website: www.rockfordmnhistory.org

Tours—The Ames-Florida-Stork House is open for small tours by appointment. The museum is located at 8131 Bridge Street. Call (763) 477-5383 or email storkhouse@cityofrockford.org to schedule a time.

Annual Quilt Drawing—Raffle tickets for the annual quilt drawing will soon be available at just \$5 each. This year, the Rockford Area Historical Society (RAHS) has TWO handmade quilts to raffle! Proceeds support programs at RAHS and maintenance on the Ames-Florida-Stork House. Purchase your tickets in July at City Hall, BANKWEST and other local businesses. Drawing will be held during Rocktoberfest.

Volunteers—We are always looking for volunteers to help in a variety of ways. If you have a green thumb to help with the gardens, want to help behind the scenes at an event or just like to help with a project, call (763) 477-5383 or email: storkhouse@cityofrockford.org and we will find a spot for you.