



# The Bridge—Volume 140

CITY OF ROCKFORD

## MAYOR'S MESSAGE

This winter has been much nicer to us Minnesotans from a temperature stand point than the last two years. Now we have to say goodbye to our hockey and ice-skating rinks earlier than previous years. We hope you enjoyed them and are happy Spring is coming soon!

In the last few months we had a couple water main breaks under the roadways, which is a regular occurrence during the winter months and were fixed immediately. However, the road surfaces still need to be repaired with asphalt. This work can't be done until we have warmer temperatures. Please be patient as the work gets completed on the highest traffic areas first.

The council is working on our 2020 goals which align with our strategy to continue supporting development, identify opportunities to create efficiencies, and make Rockford a great place to live. The goals will be finalized in early March.

We hired two new Public Works employees, Brent Mickolichuk in General Maintenance and Renee Oelrich in Water/Wastewater. Welcome Brent and Renee! We are glad you joined our team.

Mark your calendars!! Rockford Lions will be sponsoring an Easter Egg hunt at Riverside Park on April 11<sup>th</sup>. The Fire Department's pancake breakfast is on Sunday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>. Crow River Thousand Hearts event will take place on Saturday, May 16<sup>th</sup>. Please check their website to volunteer or coordinate an activity in our community.

Enjoy St. Patrick's Day and Happy Easter!

*Renee Hafften*



The City of Rockford is searching for its **2019 Volunteer of the Year**. Nomination forms are available on the city website, City Hall or the library. Please submit your nomination no later than noon **Wednesday, March 18, 2020**.

## LOCAL BOARD OF APPEAL AND EQUALIZATION

**Important Information Regarding Property Assessments**  
**This may affect your 2020 property taxes.**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Local Board of Appeal and Equalization for the City of Rockford, Wright and Hennepin County, Minnesota will meet on Tuesday, the **14<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2020** at 6pm at City Hall in the Council Chambers at 6031 Main Street, Rockford. The purpose of this meeting is to determine whether property in the jurisdiction has been properly valued and classified by the assessor.

If you believe the value or classification of your property is incorrect, please contact your county assessor's office to discuss your concerns. If you disagree with the valuation or classification after discussing it with your assessor, you may appear before the Local Board of Appeal and Equalization. The board will review your assessments and may make corrections as needed. Generally, you must appeal to the Local Board of Appeal and Equalization before appealing to the County Board of Appeal and Equalization.

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

"Like" The City of Rockford on Facebook



## Welcome new City of Rockford Employees Brent Mickolichuk and Renee Oelrich!

My name is **Brent Mickolichuk** and I recently joined the Public Works staff. My previous experience is in the Public Works, Water / Wastewater Department and I also served as a firefighter. All of my previous experience I feel will be a benefit working in the City of Rockford. I just want to say I am pleased to be here and hope to get to know all of you.



My name is **Renee Oelrich** and I'm originally from St. Cloud/Clearlake area. I started my career in 2001-2007 at the City of Minneapolis water facility, worked in the City of Le Sueur water and wastewater in 2007-2015, and worked in the City of Mankato water and wastewater in 2015-2019. "I'm looking forward to further my career in Rockford, where the variety of the job will enhance as well as challenge my experience, knowledge and career goals." In my spare time, I enjoy family gatherings, plays and shows of all genre, and road trips around the tri state area with my camera, bike and boots.

### CLEAN UP DAY & FOOD SHELF COLLECTION

Clean Up Day and Food Shelf Collection will be held **Saturday, May 2nd** (8am-noon) at Public Works - 6551 Utility Dr. Items **MUST** be sorted if you want volunteers to help unload. **NO** broken glass.

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.
- The City is **UNABLE** to collect Household Hazardous Waste at Clean-Up Day. Contact City Hall for other options of disposal.
- RiverWorks Thrift Store will be open to collect gently used items. A contribution receipt will be provided for your records.

**Donate 10 non perishable food items or \$10 to the RiverWorks Food Shelf on May 2nd and receive \$5 off your 2020 clean-up day total!**

### 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](http://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 3, 2020** at the Fire Station (7am-noon)

#### Rockford Fire Department gets new command Vehicle

On February 11, 2020 the City Council approved the purchase of a 2010 Chevrolet Tahoe for use as a command vehicle by the Rockford Fire Department. Fire Chief Ben Sanderson is seeing bids for purchasing safety lights to mount on the vehicle.

The Tahoe has a heavy-duty police package that enables it to handle high rates of speed. The Tahoe is already painted in fire department colors. The vehicle will need to be equipped with sirens, lights and medical equipment.



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, March 9th**—Delano Senior Center
- **Monday, April 13th**—Riverside Park
- **Monday, May 11th**—Delano Senior Center

## Flushable Wipes Causing Sewer Problems

Next time you decide to flush that flushable wipe down the toilet, you may want to reconsider. Happening more often than not, sewers are becoming clogged after the pre-moistened towelettes being packaged as “flushable” are being tossed down the commode.

We’ve all seen them, and chances are we’ve used them, but many plumbers are finding out that these so-called flushable wipes are becoming a reason for backups in city plumbing systems.

Just because something tells you to flush it, doesn’t necessarily mean it’s “flushable.” Pre-moistened wipes are particularly different than regular toilet paper. These wipes are not biodegradable and don’t break down after being flushed.

Many tests have been done to see if the word “flushable” can really be associated with these certain types of wipes. Most studies found that most wipes were found intact miles away from where they were flushed, with only minor tears and rips.

As wipes continue to contribute to blockages in city sewers, crews are being sent to unclog the pipes and pumps, eventually costing more money to fix the problem. However, as money gets spent, people are still flushing these wipes down the toilet. Wipes do cater to the consumer by being efficient and convenient but flushing them down the toilet may be a mistake.

Wastewater authorities say wipes may go down the toilet, but even many labeled flushable aren't breaking down as they course through the sewer system. That's costing some municipalities millions of dollars to dispatch crews to unclog pipes and pumps and to replace and upgrade machinery. The problem got worldwide attention in July when London sewer officials reported removing a 15-ton "bus-sized lump" of wrongly flushed grease and wet wipes, dubbed the "fatberg."

The complaints have prompted a renewed look at solving the problem. The Association of the Nonwoven Fabrics Industry, the trade group known as INDA, recently revised voluntary guidelines and specified seven tests for manufacturers to use to determine which wipes to call flushable. It also recommends a universal do-not-flush logo — a crossed-out stick figure and toilet — be prominently displayed on non-dispersible products.

The wastewater industry would prefer mandatory guidelines and a say in what's included but supports the INDA initiatives as a start. Three major wastewater associations issued a joint statement with INDA last week to signal a desire to reach a consensus on flushability standards.

Please choose to not flush any other items down your toilet drains that are not a number #1, a number #2, and regular toilet paper.



## ***Protecting Drinking Water Sources in Minnesota*** **Source Water Protection**

The job of a public water supplier (PWS) is to supply safe and affordable drinking water to their customers. This involves protecting the drinking water source from contamination and other risks. A PWS identifies and manages risks as part of MDH's Source Water Protection program. Partners often include state agencies, local government, citizens, and natural resource professionals.

Source water protection plans are a tool to keep drinking water clean and abundant for generations to come. As of 2019, protection plans in Minnesota covered:

- 94% of people's drinking water at home supplied by a PWS
- Over 600 communities
- Approximately 1.2 million acres of land (3% of state land)

MDH tailors source water protection requirements and recommendations for public water suppliers (PWS). The intent is that source water protection is doable and meaningful for all communities. Considerations include the population served, regulatory protections in place, and natural protections offered by the geology and soils.

MDH will contact a PWS when staff are ready to start the planning process or amend a plan. MDH provides plan development assistance for all PWS in the wellhead protection program. Assistance varies depending on the size and type of the PWS. The basic requirements of developing and implementing a wellhead protection plan are:

- Delineate the Wellhead Protection Area (PDF) and determine the Drinking Water Supply Management Area (DWSMA). The DWSMA is the area on the land covering the groundwater that could flow to the well within 10 years.
- Conduct a vulnerability assessment (PDF) to determine how protected the water supply is. Vulnerability factors in the geology and well construction. Conceptual models of wellhead protection areas in a High Vulnerability with Direct Surface Water-Groundwater Interaction Setting (PDF) and a Low Vulnerability Setting (PDF) can help illustrate this concept.
- Groundwater Model Calibration Policy (PDF)
- Inventory potential sources of contamination and other threats within the DWSMA.
- Identify activities to reduce the risk from potential sources of contamination and other threats to the water supply.
- Develop a plan for an alternative supply in case of contamination or mechanical failure.
- Report on plan progress to MDH.
- Vulnerability Assessment Parameters Factsheet (PDF)
- Land Cover and Associated Potential Contaminants Sources (PDF)

All PWS supplying groundwater must manage the land adjacent to their wells. The 200-foot radius around the well is the Inner Wellhead Management Zone (IWMZ). MDH conducts an IWMZ survey with public water suppliers during the wellhead protection planning process (for community systems) or during a sanitary survey (for noncommunity systems). The results of the survey are in the wellhead protection plan or the sanitary survey. Public water suppliers who have had an IWMZ survey conducted must:

- Maintain the isolation distances defined in the state Well Code (Minnesota Rules, Chapter 4725) for proposed potential sources of contamination.
- Monitor existing potential sources of contamination that do not comply with the isolation distances defined in the state Well Code.
- Implement wellhead protection measures for potential contaminant sources in the Inner Wellhead Management Zone.

In-depth information can be found on the MDH website about Source Water Protection and Wellhead Protection Programs, Laws and Rules.

[www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water](http://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water)



**Sharing love and faith by gathering and serving in our communities to address Health, Habitation and Hunger.**

Save the date! **Thousand Hearts Crow River Serve Day** is **Saturday, May 16, 2020**. This year's format has all projects running in the morning followed by lunch and short program at the Lions Building in Riverside Park, Rockford. The Signature Projects we are known for remain: Elmwood Cemetery, Riverside Park, Ames-Florida-Stork House, Rockford Schools, Kids Against Hunger, Food Drive for RiverWorks Food Shelf, Red Cross Blood Drive, Eyeglass Collection for Rockford Lions and many more! Kids activities in the park are also included. Join over 300 volunteers who serve our Community on May 16! Please be sure to follow Thousand Hearts Crow River Serve Day on Facebook, visit their website [www.thousandhearts.weebly.com](http://www.thousandhearts.weebly.com) or email [annette-tryon@gmail.com](mailto:annette-tryon@gmail.com).

### 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](http://www.riverworksonline.org) (763) 477-6098



The chamber invites all the businesses from the surrounding area to attend. [www.rgchamber.wixsite.com/rgchamber](http://www.rgchamber.wixsite.com/rgchamber)

- **March 12th** Meeting at Rockford Community Center located at 7600 County Road 50, Rockford. Networking starts at 11:30am with lunch and program at noon. Cost \$15 members and \$20 non-members. Email RSVPs to: [rockfordgreenfieldchamber@gmail.com](mailto:rockfordgreenfieldchamber@gmail.com)
- **April TBD** Evening Tax Mixer. Join in for networking and fun as we celebrate the completion of tax season. Email RSVPs to: [rockfordgreenfieldchamber@gmail.com](mailto:rockfordgreenfieldchamber@gmail.com)
- **May 14th** Meeting at Wright-Hennepin Electric located at 6800 Electric Drive, Rockford. Networking starts at 11:30am with lunch and program at noon. Cost \$15 members and \$20 non-members. Email RSVPs to: [rockfordgreenfieldchamber@gmail.com](mailto:rockfordgreenfieldchamber@gmail.com)

## ROCKFORD AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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

**The Roaring 20's Returns—Saturday, March 7, 2020** (7pm-10:00pm)  
 Pig on the Porch (formerly Axels) in Loretto  
 Tickets \$29 each in advance or \$35 at the door (limited amount of tickets available)

**Memorial Day—Monday, May 25th** (following the Memorial Day Program) **Meet the People** come meet some of our ancestors interred at the Elmwood Cemetery following the Memorial Day Parade; AND **Pie & Ice Cream Social** (11am-3pm)

## ROCKFORD LIBRARY

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

### Highlighted Events:

- Ferdig Fridays Music Recital**—March 6th, April 3rd, and May 1st (3:30-4pm)
- Pebbles and Scribbles**—March 12th (5-6:30pm)
- Rockford Friends of the Library**— March 7th, April 4th and May 9th (8:30-9:45am)
- Spring Equinox Animal BINGO**—March 26th (4-5pm)
- Henna Tattoo Workshop**—April 14th (6-7:30pm)
- Lorna Landvik Author Visit**—April 21st (6:30-7:30pm)
- Rockford Friends of the Library Book & Bake Sale**— April 27th to May 1st (during library hours)
- \*\*[Book donations accepted year round](#)\*\*
- Sensory Bottles**—May 6th (4-5 pm)
- Dry Sand? No! Wet Sand? No! Kinetic Sand? Yes! Round Two**—May 14th (6-7pm)

**Contact the library for more details regarding these events.**





**Upcoming Events**

- March 3rd**—Presidential Nominating Primary Election at the Rockford Community Center 7am—8pm
- March 6th**—Rockford Ambassador’s Princess Party at the Rockford Elementary Commons Area 6:30pm-8pm
- March 7th**—The Roaring 20’s Returns at Pig on the Porch 7pm-10pm
- March 9th**—Rockford Senior Citizen’s at Delano Senior Center 11:30am
- March 12th**—R-G Area Chamber of Commerce Luncheon Meeting at Rockford Community Center 11:30am/noon
- April 4th**—Rockford Masonic Hog Roast at the Rockford Township Hall 4pm
- April 11th** —Easter Egg Hunt at Riverside Park 10am
- April 13th**—Rockford Senior Citizen’s at Riverside Park 11:30am
- April 18th**—Rockford Lion’s Greenback Dinner & Silent Auction at Rockford Township Hall 5pm
- April 27th—May 1st**—Rockford Library Book and Bake Sale (during library hours)
- May 2nd**—Clean-Up Day at Public Works 8am-noon
- May 3rd**—Fire Department Pancake Breakfast at Fire Station 7am-noon
- May 11th**—Rockford Senior Citizen’s at Delano Senior Center 11:30am
- May 14th**—R-G Area Chamber of Commerce Luncheon Meeting at Wright-Hennepin Electric 11:30am/noon
- May 16th**—Thousand Hearts Crow River Serve Day
- May 25th**—Memorial Day Parade 10am and Events

**C O M P O S T   S I T E**

The compost site on 9000 Elm Street (County Road 33) is scheduled to open to City of Rockford Residents on *Wednesday, April 15th, 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 may be available to Rockford Residents.*

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

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. 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.

**2020 Pick Up Dates:**

- March 11, 2020
- March 25, 2020
- April 8, 2020
- April 22, 2020
- May 6, 2020
- May 20, 2020
- June 3, 2020
- 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
- \*Thursday pick-up**



**March 8, 2020**