

The Bridge—Volume 142

CITY OF ROCKFORD

MAYOR'S MESSAGE

The summer of 2020 is over and who knows what the rest of the year will bring. Many of us have some interesting stories to share with generations to come and all of us will never forget the year of COVID-19. The impact on our families and friends is at varying levels and everyone will need to find a way to deal with what “normal” may be in the future.

It is with my deepest regret to announce Rocktoberfest will not happen this year. Unfortunately, with Governor Walz’s order to limit outdoor events to 250 people it makes it impossible for the city to host the event this year. We will plan for our 5th Annual Rocktoberfest to take place in 2021. The good news is the council and I did approve to have the River Days fireworks and a date will be announced in 2 weeks.

Congratulations to Tom Lemmage who was selected as our 2019 volunteer of the year. Tom has spent hundreds of hours volunteering with the Rockford Area Historical Society. Thank you Tom for your dedication and commitment to Rockford!

City staff is diligently working on 2021 budgets for council to review and approve over the next few months. The Truth in Taxation hearing will be held on Tuesday, December 8, 2020 at 6:00pm in the city council chambers.

Crow River Christmas is planned for Saturday, December 5th. Our park looks so beautiful with all the trees lit up along the walking path thanks to all of you who decorate and sponsor a tree. Please contact RiverWorks in early November if you want to volunteer or sponsor a tree this year.



It is with a sad and heavy heart to announce Council Member Ted Hill has resigned from his seat as his personal life moves into the next chapter. Ted was a great asset to the City of Rockford serving six years on council. Thank you Ted for sharing your knowledge and your commitment to making Rockford a great place to live. We will all miss you and wish you good luck!

Remember, every vote makes a difference. Please go vote on Tuesday, November 3rd!

Mayor Renee Hafften

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
Rick Martinson
Scott Seymour
vacant

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



Water Conservation tip: “Don’t Let Your Toilet Waste Water!”

A silent leak in your toilet can waste several thousand gallons of water each year. Replace old toilets with models that use 1.6 gallons or less per flush. That’s a ‘nice save’ for Minnesota’s water future. It’s important for each of us to save water, every day. Low flow toilets can help with water conservation.

Follow these steps to discover if your toilet leaks: 1. Lift the lid off your toilet tank. 2. Place 3-4 drops of food coloring into the toilet tank. 3. Do not flush or disturb the toilet for one or two hours. 4. After one to two hours, observe the toilet bowl. If the color you placed into the tank shows up in the bowl, you have a leak. See your hardware dealer or plumber to obtain a replacement valve or kit.

For more easy tips to save water in Minnesota, visit: www.mrwa.com.

**S N O W S E A S O N P A R K I N G**

During the period from **November 1st to April 1st** it shall be unlawful for any person to **park a vehicle** on or **within fifteen feet of the roadway between the hours of 2am to 6am** and anytime after there has been ice accumulation, continuous or intermittent snow fall during which there has been **accumulation of two inches or more** of snow on any street until plowed or removed the whole width of the roadway. Vehicles parked in violation of this ordinance will be towed and stored at the owner’s expense. **At NO TIME shall a vehicle be parked on ANY street for more than twelve (12) hours.**

SNOW PLOWING—It is unlawful to deposit snow onto **ANY city, township, county or state road. Doing so is a violation of state statute and you will be fined.**

R O C K F O R D F I R E D E P A R T M E N T

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

The **Rockford Fire Auxiliary** is also looking for members. If you are interested or would like more information, please contact Debbie Buoy at 612-760-8755

Events:

Fire Prevention Week October 4, 2020 to October 10, 2020

Halloween October 31st at dusk the Rockford Fire Fighters will be driving through Rockford to hand out free glow sticks to the “Trick or Treaters”

Toy Drive—always accepting new toys for distribution (boxes should be available around Thanksgiving)

COMPOST SITE

The compost site on Elm Street/CR 33 is scheduled to close **early November** until about April 15th, *depending on the weather.* **You do not need to check out a key at city hall. You must be a Rockford Resident.**

Hours of operation: Monday—Friday 7:30am-3pm, Wednesday Evenings 4:30pm-dusk, and Saturday 8am-noon

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

NO OTHER DUMPING IS ALLOWED.


Rockford-Greenfield Area
 Chamber of Commerce

The next R-G Chamber meeting will be held on **September 10th** at the Rockford Community Center—7600 Co Rd 50, Rockford. Networking starts at 11:30am with lunch and program at noon.

October 8th Coffee Networking 7:30am at BANKWEST
November 12th Chamber Meeting 11:30am at W-H Electric
December 2020 Holiday Networking TBD

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

Website: rgchamber.wixsite.com

RSVP rockfordgreenfieldchamber@gmail.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

The library is now open their regular hours. Seating is limited and play areas are not available. All programs and events at the library have been cancelled at this time.

Open Hours: Monday 10am-6pm, Tuesday 3pm-7pm, Wednesday 10am-6pm, Thursday 3pm-7pm, Friday 2pm-6pm, and Saturday 10am-1pm

A virtual story time, performed by library staff, is available every Wednesday at 11am on the Rockford Public Library Facebook Page.

Also, check out the library newest service, Hoopla at hoopladigital.com With your library card you will be able to enjoy 4 videos or movies per month with no waiting.

Learn more at: <https://griver.org/library-news/new-service-hoopla>

Rockford Farmers Market
 Fridays (June-October) 3pm–6:30pm
 6121 Main Street in City Parking Lot Downtown at the corner of Main and Cedar Street
 Website: <http://rockfordmarketweebly.com>



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

Please join us on Saturday, September 26th starting at 8:30am at Riverside Park, Rockford, for free donuts and coffee. (Masks and social distancing will be required throughout the morning). We will head out to projects at 9:00am and wrap up before 1:00pm. Limited sign up slots are available! If your favorite project is full, please check out other opportunities and remember that we will return in May, 2021 with even more choices!

Click [HERE](#) for easy sign up.

*Remember, no need to create an account. Just sign up!
 #goodtimeforsharingkindness
 #didsomeonesayfreedonuts?

Thousand Hearts is a program of RiverWorks Community Development

2 0 2 0 E L E C T I O N S

Rockford residents will be able to vote for: one mayor (4 year term) and two council members (4 year term).

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 General Election is **October 13, 2020**.

Absentee voting begins 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 7:00am until 8:00pm.

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!

Utility Billing

Due to Covid-19, the Council temporarily suspended penalties and shut-off’s. Effective the August billing, payments not received by 4:30 pm on September 15th will receive a penalty. Also, accounts over 60 days old may be subjected to disconnect or certified for outstanding funds.



CITY OF ROCKFORD

Upcoming Events

- September 7th**—City Hall Closed in observance of Labor Day
- September 14th**—Rockford Senior Citizen's 11:30am at the Rockford Community Center
- September 10th**—R-G Area Chamber of Commerce Meeting 11:30am at the Rockford Community Center
- October 4th—October 10th**—Fire Prevention Week
- October 8th**—R-G Area Chamber of Commerce Coffee Networking 7:30am at BANKWEST
- October 12th**—Rockford Senior Citizen's 11:30am at the Delano Senior Center
- November 11th**—City Hall Closed in observance of Veteran's Day
- November 9th**—Rockford Senior Citizen's 11:30am at Riverside Park
- November 12th**—R-G Area Chamber of Commerce Meeting 11:30am at Wright-Hennepin Electric
- November 26th and 27th**—City Hall Closed in observance of the Thanksgiving Day Holiday
- December 5th**—Crow River Christmas more details to follow

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.

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.

September 10, 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*

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:

- **September 14th**—Rockford Community Center
- **October 12th**—Delano Senior Center
- **November 11th**—Riverside Park-8220 Elm Street

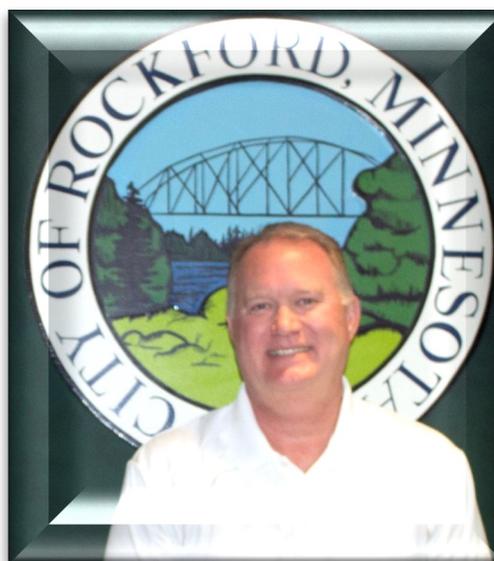
Locations of meetings subject to change due to COVID-19.

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

Upcoming Events:

- Quilt Raffle—tickets available at BANKWEST & City Hall
- Crow River Christmas—12/5



Council Member Ted Hill resigned, effective August 31, 2020. Thank you for six years of service Ted!