The Bridge—Volume 117

CITY OF ROCKFORD

Mayor's message

2014 is going to be an exciting year for the City of Rockford!

The Capital Improvement Project involving Maplewood Manor is going well. All the televising of pipes has been completed and we are ready to get bids for the project.

We have signed a purchase agreement to buy the mall on the West side of town, where we plan to market any vacant space, develop the event center and relocate city hall offices. On February 20th we held a public hearing to approve the financing for this project. Next to happen is the issuing of bonds and the closing in April.

There is a committee working on replacing the existing Lion's building in Riverside Park with a picnic shelter, kitchen and restrooms by the end of this year.

Our water and sewer budgets are being reviewed to determine what rate adjustments are needed to address future water and sewer projects.

I am very excited to announce we hired a new Administrator, Dan Madsen, who has worked at the City of Madelia for 6 years. Welcome Dan!

At the end of March we will say goodbye to our Administrator, Nancy Carswell, who has dedicated 29 years to the City of Rockford. Thank you Nancy for your commitment to us and I wish you all the best in your retirement!

We have a lot to do this year and look forward to your support. Keep smiling—it might melt some of the snow!

Renee

Nancy Carswell's Retirement Open House

Join us for an Open House on **Friday, March 28, 2014** from 2pm-5:30pm to honor **NANCY CARSWELL,** City Administrator, as she **RETIRES** from the City of Rockford after 29 years of dedicated service!

City Hall, 6031 Main Street, Rockford (763) 477-6565

After the doors are locked behind Nancy one last time...the celebration will continue at Billy's Rockford Bar,
8060 State Highway 55, Rockford

2013 Volunteer of the Year

The City of Rockford is searching for its 2013 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 **Wednesday, March 19, 2014**.

The City Council vote for the Volunteer of the Year at their March 25th meeting.

Community Expo

The Rockford Community Expo will be held **Saturday, March 15th** from 9am-1pm at the Rockford Community Center - 7600 County Road 50.

For more information contact the Rockford Community Center at 763-477-4563 and ask for Christa Larson.

Free to the public!

Administrator's Report

This is my final administrator's report as I decided to retire after twenty-nine years with the City of Rockford! I take away with me much more than I started with back in 1985 when Duran Duran and Madonna were popular, the movie Back To the Future hit the big screen, big hair was the craze, Microsoft released its first version of windows 1.0 and compact discs were introduced. We had one computer that we all shared so it was typewriters and carbon copies, YIKES! The city has been a great place to work and I learned so much and had many wonderful experiences and made many new friends. There have been many new residential developments, a few new mini strip malls/office buildings, a library branch opened in Rockford, Dog Days Festival changed its name to River Days Festival, a new 80 acre industrial park, new water tower, new fire station, new public works building and now the city is buying the Mall! The city has grown but with careful planning. I feel that Rockford is a great place to grow your business and for families to put down roots and become part of the community. The Rockford residents are some of the best people and I feel very lucky to have gotten to know so many of you. The Rockford business people are a great group and I have enjoyed working with many of you and visiting you during our Business Retention meetings. In closing I want to say thank you for 29 years of challenges and experiences that helped me grow to be the character I am today! Nancy

Rockford Library

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

Story Times—Wednesdays 11:15—noon

Book Sale—April 7th to April 12th during library hours.
Donations of books accepted year round

Life is better with a library—if you appreciate the library, show your support during the month of March by making a High $5 Donation at the Rockford Library.

New Administrator Dan Madsen

We welcome Dan Madsen as our new city administrator and special counsel. Dan has his law degree and came from the City of Madelia where he prides himself on a zero tax levy increase for the past several years and branding Madelia as the Pheasant capital of MN. Madsen has been working in Rockford a few days a week and has attended some council meetings while he transitions into the position. Masen will start full time on March 31st. Dan has been busy getting up to speed on all the big projects with the city potentially acquiring the Rockford Mall in April of 2014, working on a large public works sewer and water project, and a wastewater facility plant phosphorus project. Madsen has enjoyed working for a small city and is very excited about the opportunities Rockford has to offer.

Stork House

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

Open for tours September to April: Tuesdays, Wednesdays & Thursdays: noon-4pm and by appointment.

PROGRAMS:
MN History Digitally —03/10/2014 (6:30pm-7:30pm) at the Rockford Library
Sustainability Concepts from Yesterday and Today — 04/14/2014 (6:30pm-7:30pm) at the Rockford Library
Memorial Day pie & ice cream social –05/26/2014 at the Stork House

Riverside Park Picnic Shelter

As you are aware the Lions Building as it is best known as is located in the Riverside Park which was built in 1985 with Community Block Grant Funds. The building has hosted many fun filled events, but is getting old and tired. The city is planning to demolish the building and replace it with a picnic shelter and an attached kitchen. The Riverside Park is in the flood plain and the DNR regulates the type and size of the replacement structure allowed. The city has set aside money for this project and is making plans for the new building to be completed in 2014.

Rockford Fire Department

The Rockford Fire Department is holding their Annual Pancake Breakfast and Raffle at the Fire Department on **Sunday, May 4th** from 7am to noon at 6700 Main Street. Ticket information will be available in the near future.

To donate craft items for the raffle or to buy tickets contact Bill Decker at: 763-213-7831 or email: rfdcommunityliaison@gmail.com

Check out the City website for more information regarding the Rockford Fire Department.

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

Rockford-Greenfield Area Chamber of Commerce

The next Rockford-Greenfield Area Chamber of Commerce meeting will be held on **March 13th** at Wright-Hennepin Electric located at 6800 Electric Drive, Rockford. Registration starts at 11:30am with lunch and program to follow. The chamber invites all the businesses from the surrounding area to join them at their luncheon.

The Chamber will be present at the Community Expo which is scheduled for Saturday, March 15th at the Rockford Community Center, so stop by and find out more about the benefits of joining your local Rockford-Greenfield Area Chamber of Chamber.

www.rgchamber.com

Thousand Hearts — May 18th Crow River Service Day

Thousand Hearts
Crow River Serve Day

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, boys 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

Clean Up Day & Food Shelf Collection

Clean Up Day and Food Shelf Collection will be held from 8am to noon on **Saturday, May 3rd** at Public Works—6551 Utility Drive. 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 will be available at City Hall or on the website in the near future.

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 3rd and receive $5 off your 2014 clean-up day total!

Rockford Garden Club

Consider the **"Adopt a Pot"** program where volunteers keep their favorite pot(s) or garden weeded and looking great all summer. If you are interested, contact Marsha at 763-477-6173 or email: mjwhite528@gmail.com

Rockford Fire Department Women's Auxiliary

The Women's Auxiliary group of volunteers meets the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 7pm. For more information contact Deb Buoy at (612) 760-8755.

CITY OF ROCKFORD

6031 Main Street
Rockford, MN 55373
763-477-6565 office
763-477-4393 FAX
www.cityofrockford.org

The City of Rockford is on Facebook—like our page!

To receive the newsletter and city updates via email, send your email address to: audrae@cityofrockford.org

Upcoming Events

March 10th—Rockford Senior Citizen's at Walnut Place in Rockford 11:30am
March 10th—MN History Digitally at the Rockford Library 6:30pm-7:30pm
March 13th—R-G Area Chamber of Commerce Meeting at Wright-Hennepin Electric noon
March 15th—Community Expo at Rockford Community Center 9am-1pm
March 28th—Administrator Carswell's Retirement Open House at City Hall 2pm-5:30pm
April 14th—Rockford Senior Citizen's at Riverside Park in Rockford 11:30am
April 5th—Rockford Masonic Pig Roast at the Rockford Township Hall 5pm
April 7th to April 12th—Rockford Library Book Sale (during library hours)
April 12th—Rockford Lion's Greenback Dinner & Silent Auction at Rockford Township Hall 6pm
April 14th—Sustainability Concepts from Yesterday to Today at the Rockford Library 6:30pm-7pm
May 3th—Clean-Up Day at Public Works 8am-noon
May 4th—Fire Department Pancake Breakfast 7am-noon
May 5th—Thousand Hearts Day of Service
May 8th—R-G Area Chamber of Commerce meeting at Wright-Hennepin Electric noon
May 12th—Rockford Senior Citizen's at the Delano Senior Center in Rockford 11:30am
May 26th—Memorial Day Events in town (watch the web site for details)

Compost Site

The compost site on Elm Street/CR 33 is scheduled to open to City of Rockford Residents on Tuesday, April 15th, **depending on the weather**.

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

Hours of operation:
Monday-Friday 7:30am-3:00pm
Wednesday Evening 4:30-8:30pm
Saturday 8:00am-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.

Finished compost material is also available at no charge.

Rockford Senior Citizens

The Rockford 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 10th—Walnut Place, Rockford
Monday, April 14th—Riverside Park, Rockford
Monday, May 12th—Delano Senior Center
Monday, June 9th—Delano Senior Center

Rockford Community Market

Friday's May 16th to October 17th, 2014
3pm to 7pm (earlier closing September & October)
Rockford Mall—8900 Walnut St. (north side of Hwy 55) west end parking lot/inside the mall in bad weather.

Local fresh farm produce, honey, maple syrup, home crafted: jellies, jams, pickles, and breads, crafts including: bird houses, soaps & jewelry

Non-profit groups welcome to fundraise: churches, scouts, athletic groups, etc…

Fee is $5 per date or $30 fee for the entire season.
www.rockfordmarket@weebly.com

Recycling

Wright Recycling **collects recycling every other Wednesday**. The 2014 calendar is available on the City website or at City Hall. Two sort program: glass/cans/plastic bottles can be put together and paper. Cardboard should be flattened and no larger than 3 x 3. If you need a recycling bin stop by City Hall. **Recyclables must be set out at the curb by 7 a.m. The next scheduled pick up is: MARCH 19, 2014. See dates to follow:**

March 19, 2014
April 2, 2014
April 16, 2014
April 30, 2014
May 14, 2014
May 29, 2014-Thursday
June 11, 2014
June 25, 2014
July 9, 2014
July 23, 2014
August 6, 2014
August 20, 2014
September 4, 2014-Thursday
September 17, 2014
October 1, 2014
October 15, 2014
October 29, 2014
November 12, 2014
November 26, 2014
December 10, 2014
December 24, 2014