



The Bridge—Volume 111

CITY OF ROCKFORD

MAYOR'S MESSAGE

Summer is coming to a close and the last two big events have come and gone. The National Night Out was another great success this year. You could not have asked for better weather. I enjoyed meeting many residents who were there that night. River Days was another great success. Thank you to all who volunteer to make these events happen. I want to thank Doug and Marsha White for all they have done to make this happen. They have been involved since the beginning 30 years ago. The parade was fun to be in this year, not as your Mayor but as a candidate for Wright County Commissioner. It was great seeing so many of you lining the streets watching the parade. The weather held out and it went without a hitch.

This year is an election year and with that I chose to run for County Commissioner instead of as your Mayor again. Unfortunately I did not make the cut to be one of the final two candidates in the primary. At this time I want to thank the residents of Rockford for electing me for three terms as your Mayor. It was an experience that was well worth it. I was able to be a part of the decision making that makes Rockford the place I enjoy

calling home. I can say I am satisfied with the decisions that were made to keep going forward with the growth of Rockford. In my terms as your Mayor I have seen Rockford double in size, and still keep the small town feel that most people moved here for. There is still work to be done as we go forward. I want to wish the new Mayor and her future council the best of luck on keeping Rockford on the path of making this a great town to call home. There are four candidates running for two council seats this November, so be sure to vote and make your voice be heard.

With September means the start of school. I hope everyone remembers to drive safely and watch out for the kids as they go to and from school. Thank you for letting me be your Mayor for 12 years. Rockford is a great place to call home and I will see you around town.

Mike



CROW RIVER CLEAN UP DAY

The annual Crow River Clean Up is scheduled for **Saturday, September 15, 2012** (8am-noon). If you are interested in volunteering you are asked to arrive at Riverside Park on Main and Elm Street. Volunteers should wear gloves and sturdy shoes. Please contact Dan Nadeau (763) 682-1933 Ext. 122 for further information.

The Crow River is a beautiful resource located right in our own city. The annual river clean up event is a way for you and your family to volunteer a few hours to help preserve the quality of the Crow River.



SIDEWALK SNOW REMOVAL

In the interest of public safety, the City of Rockford reminds you of the importance of keeping your walkways cleared of snow and ice. City Ordinance 901.04 states that all snow and ice must be removed from public sidewalks 24 hours after the snow or other precipitation causing the conditions.



The throwing or placing of snow or other material in the streets, sidewalks and other public ways is a public nuisance and an ordinance violation.

ROCKFORD FIRE DEPARTMENT



On Halloween **October 31st** beginning at dusk, the Rockford Volunteer Fire Fighters will be driving through Rockford to hand out free glow sticks to the Trick and Treaters.



Fire Prevention Week October 7th-13th

The fire department recently purchased a new grass vehicle to help fight fires more efficiently!

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

There will be a City of Rockford visioning workshop on October 2nd to plan for our future. Those invited to participate includes: local property owners, businesses, city council, planning and zoning commission, Wright County Economic Development Partnership Director, staff and consultants. There is so much potential in Rockford with great commercial redevelopment and development sites on Highway 55 and in the downtown area. In this first session we have asked the participants to take 10 pictures of their favorite things in Rockford and pictures of sites where there is greatest potential for redevelopment or development and why. I am very excited about this opportunity and look forward to the feedback from these sessions. If you have a favorite thing about our city or a site that you feel has great potential please take a picture of them and email them to nancyc@cityofrockford.org no later than September 20th. We will post the outcome of these sessions on our website and in our next newsletter.

The preliminary general fund budget was reviewed at a workshop with staff and city council on August 21st. The general fund budget consists of the following departments: general government, public safety, public works/streets, parks/recreation/library and a transfer to other special funds that include Capital improvement funds for Public works equipment, Capital improvement fund for streets/storm sewers, Historical, Senior Citizens, Park Dedication and HRA. The preliminary general fund budget will be adopted on September 11th at the city council meeting. The proposed preliminary budget includes a small tax levy to the taxpayers in Rockford of 1%. You will receive a notice from the county auditor in November showing how the proposed preliminary budgets will affect you. Residents will then have an opportunity to appear at the Truth and Taxation Hearing on the 2nd Tuesday of December at 7 p.m. to provide comments and ask questions.

CROW RIVER FOOD CO-OP



Crow River Food Co-op Membership Drive - September 15th

The Crow River Food Co-op was provided funding by the Rockford HRA to pay for one half of a feasibility study, the other one half was received by the HRA as a grant from the Initiative Foundation that serves rural areas including Wright County. The feasibility study was completed in July and included some great information for the group including estimated sales for the first three years. The co-op board sent out membership applications to the 255 supporters the end of June. At this time we have received 40 paid member's applications. In order to boost membership and raise funds the food co-op committee

members and board invite you to **Dance Under the Stars** a membership drive on **September 15th** at Riverside Park on Main Street at 7 p.m. The event will include information for potential members, music, food, local wine, beer, and a silent auction. This event will be funded mostly by a grant from Allina Health to help market the Crow River Food Co-op. The cost for non members to attend the event is \$10 in advance or \$15 at the door. Tickets are on sale at city hall or at China Buffet. We need your support so become a member today! Check out their website www.crowriverfoodcorp.com for more information. Meetings the 2nd Monday at 6:30 pm



SNOW SEASON PARKING

During the period from **November 1st to April 1st** it shall be unlawful for any person to **park a vehicle** on or **within six feet of the roadway between the hours of 2 a.m. to 6 a.m.** 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 from more than twelve (12) hours.**

COMPOST SITE

The compost site on Elm Street/CR 33 is scheduled to close on November 2nd until about 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-3pm
Wednesday Evenings 4:30pm-dusk
Saturday 8am-noon



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

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.

2012 ELECTIONS



The local elections in Rockford this year include the selection of a mayor and two council members seat. The terms for each of these positions are 4 years.

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 stop by City Hall or 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. The last day to preregister before the General Election is **October 16, 2012**.

Absentee Voting will NOT be available at City Hall to vote in person. Absentee voting begins **September 21, 2012** for the General Election. Absentee Ballot Applications are available at City Hall, 6031 Main Street, Rock-

ford or on the City web site. Mail the application to the county where you live OR you can vote in person at:

Hennepin County Elections

Government Center, PSL
300 South 6th Street
Minneapolis, MN 55487
Fax: 612-348-2151 / Phone: 612-348-5151

Wright County Government Center

Elections Division
10 2nd Street NW, Room 230
Buffalo, MN 55313
Fax: 763-682-7873 / Phone: 763-682-7578

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.

General Election, Tuesday—November 6, 2012

STORM SEWER SYSTEMS



Fall season is coming soon and with the fall weather the trees start shedding their leaves. In order to ensure that our storm sewers do not get clogged with leaves and

debris we want to remind our residents to please remove the leaves from your property quickly if possible. The city and county storm sewers play an important role in removing rain from streets, sidewalks and driveways. **Please do not rake leaves into the gutters.**

The city also has storm water ponds in many of our newer developments which the public works staff maintains and inspects on a regular basis. These ponds are dredged on as needed basis to make sure that they drain adequately.

If you notice any frozen ice or accumulation of debris blocking the city storm sewers please contact Public Works at 763-477-4346. Thank you for taking pride in your property and for maintaining it properly.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

The next R-G Area Chamber of Commerce meeting is **Thursday, September 13, 2012** (registration starts at 11:45pm) 12pm to 1:30 pm at Wright Hennepin Electric—6800 Electric Drive. RSVP to: inquire@rgchamer.org or call Joel at 612-791-1404

Meet the candidates for City Council and the Rockford School board.

www.rgchamber.com



RIVERWORKS UPDATE

RiverWorks—Community Helping Community!

RiverWorks is looking for volunteers to help at the food shelf and the thrift store. If you are interested, complete a volunteer application: www.riverworksonline.org

4th Annual Steak Fry & Auction— **Saturday, October 27, 2012**. 100% of the proceeds benefit RiverWorks Community Development.



For more information contact Denise Kesanen (763) 477-9803 or dkesanen@riverworksonline.org

PARK UPDATE

Parkwood Park— the playground has been installed, trails are being backfilled and landscaped, and grass seed has been planted. The ball field is nearing completion and the plan is to open in the Spring of 2013.



The parks department purchased a fogging machine. It was used in Riverside Park this summer to help control the mosquito population!

Recently someone set fire to a port-a-pottie in Riverside Park. If you have information regarding who set the fire, please call the Wright County Sheriff's Department at 763-682-1162

Call the Sheriff's Department to report vandalism!

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



Upcoming Events

- September 13th—R-G Area Chamber of Commerce Meeting noon—1:30pm
- September 15th—Crow River Clean-Up 8am-noon
- September 15th—Crow River Food Coop Membership Drive 7pm-10pm
- September 19th—November 28th—Preschool Story Time at the Library 11:15am on Wednesdays
- September 21st—Absentee Ballots will be available through the Counties
- September 22nd—Stork House Garden Club Meeting & Docent Training (10am Garden/3pm Docent)
- September 27th—Wellness on Wheels at BANKWEST 2pm-6pm
- October 1st to October 6th—Friend's of the Library Book and Bake Sale
- October 7th to October 13th—Fire Prevention Week
- October 13th—Stork House Harvest Celebration 1pm-4pm
- October 16th—Last Day to Preregister for the General Election (City Hall until 5pm)
- October 22nd to October 26th—Manufacturer's Week
- October 25th—Wellness on Wheels at BANKWEST 2pm-6pm
- October 27th—4th Annual Steak Fry & Auction for RiverWorks Community Development (starting at 5pm)
- October 31st—Halloween (Fire Department will hand out glow sticks)
- November 6th—2012 General Election 7am-8pm
- November 10th—Ornament Making at the Lion's Building 10am-2pm
- November 12th—Veteran's Day: City Hall & Library Closed
- November 22nd and November 23rd—Thanksgiving: City Hall Closed (see Library for their hours)
- November 29th—Wellness on Wheels at BANKWEST 2pm-6pm



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

The City of Rockford is on Facebook. Join the group to keep up-to-date on news and events in the city.

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
www.rockfordmnhistory.org
Open for tours Tuesdays, Wednesdays & Thursdays (10am-4pm) and by appointment.

PROGRAMS:

Teen Night Thursdays 5-7pm at the Stork House (ending September 26th)
Docent Training-come find out what being a tour guide is all about 09/22/12 3pm at the Stork House
Garden Club Meeting 09/22/12 10am at the Stork House
Harvest Celebration 10/13/12 1-4pm at the Stork House
Ornament Making 11/10/12 10am-2pm at the Lion's Building



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

Located at: **8220 Cedar Street**
(763) 477-4216
www.griver.org

Library Hours:
Mon 2pm-8pm, Tues. 2pm-8pm,
Wed 10am-6pm, Thurs 3pm-8pm,
Fri 3pm-6pm, and Saturday 10am-1pm



Library closed: 11/12 for Veteran's Day, 11/21 at 5pm Eve of Thanksgiving and 11/22 for Thanksgiving Day.

Friends of the Library Book and Bake Sale:
October 1st to October 6th during library hours.
Donations accepted year round!

Preschool Story Time on Wednesdays 11:15 am starting **September 19th to November 28th**

