

Rockford Community Newsletter

Summer starts winding down in August. Rumbling on the Plains, Remembering JT Tumilson's Last Ride will be on the 19th. School starts Aug 23rd.

Rockford History

Prewar settlement in Rockford – Excerpt from the Story of Rockford by Michael Vala.

This is the last segment of A.R. Prescott's account of his first trip to Rockford.

Walker told me afterwards that he was greatly but pleasantly surprised. (He received forty-four dollars instead of the estimated thirty-five.) There was nothing but a cold expanse of snow and ice bound rivers on the site of the present good village of Rockford, but the imagination could easily grasp the possibilities of the location. We all made some new pleasant and lasting acquaintances here which have stood the test of years and to the present I hold them among the pleasantest of my life. Under directions from Mr. Green, we took the route by Welch's and John Ball's on Flood Creek finding a good road most of the way. We arrived at Charles City in good time and all expressed pleasure in what we had seen of the new town site and the people we had met.

A.R. Prescott-Postville, Iowa 1856

Another early settler, Addis Schermerhorn, recorded similar difficulties in traveling from Osage (about 20 miles northwest of Rockford) in the winter of 1860. Leaving Osage in the morning he and his unnamed companions arrived at Rock Grove City about six miles above Rockford in the evening. In spite of a growing blizzard, the party embarked along the Shell Rock Southward toward Rockford, lost their trail, wandered aimlessly on the prairie and found themselves at the mercy of a cold and howling snowstorm. Catching the sound of a cow bell, they followed the tinkling noise that led them to a straw stack and shed. When the storm subsided, they saw another sanctuary about ten rods away, a roofed over cellar belonging to one of the early Rockford settlers. The frozen travelers entered the dug-out, explained their plight to the settler's wife, the only occupant of the cabin at the time, and crawled behind the elevated stove in the center of the hut to enjoy a long-awaited rest. These were some of the conditions and people the Rockford Company encountered when they platted the town in 1856 and began selling lots to coming merchants and businessmen. The early founders and residents named the new town Rockford, not only because these people were from Rockford Illinois but also because the Iowa Rockford had some topographical resemblances to their former Illinois home.

What incredible journeys. It is hard to imagine such hardship in today's world.

Rockford City Council Minutes

ROCKFORD CITY COUNCIL PUBLIC HEARING & REGULAR MEETING JULY 11, 2023 7:30 P.M.

1. The Rockford City Council met in regular session at the Rockford City Hall on Tuesday, July 11th, 2023. Mayor Johnson called the meeting to order at 7:30 P.M. Present was Council Members Enabnit, Schlader, Seibert, Hoffarth, and Medlin at 7:31 P.M. Also present were Citizens Spenser & Heidi Gruis, Angie Johnson with Grow Rockford Together, Karen Saleh and Employees Daniel Paulus and Randall Schweizer.
Motion Enabnit, sec. Seibert to approve the agenda as posted. Passed all ayes roll call vote.
2. Discussion was held with resident Karen Saleh on various items such as part of the road closure of 2nd Street SE, street light holiday décor on the west side of Rockford, and the high-speed traffic that goes by her side of town.
3. Motion Hoffarth, sec. Enabnit to open the Public Hearing at 7:35 P.M. for Conveyance of interest in real estate of property of RFD W ½ Lot 8 Block 12, Rockford, Iowa. Passed all ayes roll call vote. Mayor Johnson asked for any written or oral objections or comments: there being none, Motion Seibert, sec. Schlader to close Public Hearing at 7:36 P.M.
4. Motion Hoffarth, sec. Schlader to approve Resolution #2023-29 approving Conveyance of interest in real estate of property of RFD W ½ Lot 8 Block 12, Rockford, Iowa to Spenser & Heidi Gruis. Passed with the following roll call vote: Ayes: Medlin, Hoffarth, Enabnit, Schlader, and Seibert.
5. Motion Enabnit, sec. Medlin to open the Public Hearing at 7:37 P.M. for Conveyance of interest in real estate of property of RFD E20' W44' Lot 7 Block 12, Rockford, Iowa. Passed all ayes roll call vote. Mayor Johnson asked for any written or oral objections or comments: there being none, Motion Hoffarth, sec. Medlin to close Public Hearing at 7:38 P.M.
6. Motion Schlader, sec. Enabnit to approve Resolution #2023-30 approving Conveyance of interest in real estate of property of RFD E20' W44' Lot 7 Block 12, Rockford, Iowa to S&S Investments LLC. Passed with the following roll call vote: Ayes: Schlader, Seibert, Medlin, Hoffarth, and Enabnit.
7. Motion Hoffarth, sec. Seibert to approve the consent agenda consisting of June 13th, 2023 council minutes, monthly reports, claims and expenses. Passed all ayes. Motion carried.
8. No action taken on Sewer Lagoon Project.
9. No action taken on Water Tower Project.
10. The Public Works DNR report had a couple of minor deficiencies reported on due to DNR reporting changes. No major issues reported.
11. Motion Enabnit, sec. Hoffarth to approve bid of \$7,500.00 from JC Construction and Concrete LLC for the tear out of old concrete and to put new concrete around fountain, sidewalk and 3 bench pads in central park. Passed all ayes. Motion carried.
12. Motion Enabnit, sec. Seibert to approve Mayor Johnson appointment of Sandra Adams to the Rockford Public Library Board to fill out the remainder of Emily Deetz's term. Passed all ayes roll call vote.
13. Motion Hoffarth, sec. Schlader to grant Robert Graham permission to close part of 2nd Street SE for a portion of the day on August 12th, 2023 for a celebration he is hosting at his residence. All ayes. Motion carried.
14. Angie Johnson with Grow Rockford Together discussed with the council that at the monthly grant writing class they have been working on preparing a grant for a new walking trail at the George Wyatt Campground. She discussed with the council that there has been some negative feedback that has come in on where the trail should go or why it would be even worth having it. She suggested having

- a workshop with the council and public on input and suggestions. The council does have future plans for adding new campground sites where part of the tentative walking trail map is drawn out now, so any and all input would be welcomed. The workshop is scheduled for Tuesday, July 18th at 7:00 P.M.
15. Motion Enabnit, sec. Hoffarth to accept donation of 2 plastic recycled picnic tables in Memory of the Jorgensen Family from Kathy Smith in West Park with the city paying for the concrete pads where the picnic tables will be put. All ayes. Motion carried.
 16. Motion Seibert, sec. Enabnit, to approve Resolution #2023-31 to fix public hearing date and time for August 8th, 2023 at 7:30 P.M. authorizing conveyance of portion of 2nd Street S.E. Passed all ayes roll call vote: Ayes: Seibert, Medlin, Hoffarth, Enabnit, and Schlader
 17. Public Works Employee Randall Schweizer reported on fixing storm sewer at 2nd Ave N.W., water main break at 5th St. N.E., locates, will serve letter, underground electric, filling potholes, mowing and spraying.
 18. Mayor Johnson reported on doing some research on the gnat problem and talking with the City of Clear Lake they use something that he talked with our spraying company they are going to try to use to see if they can help reduce the issue.
 19. Council member Hoffarth discussed burning issues in town. Council member Enabnit discussed NIACOG having an open house celebrating their 50 Year Anniversary
 20. Motion Enabnit, sec. Schlader to adjourn at 8:17 P.M.

What's Happening

Grow Rockford Together will have their next meeting on Sunday Aug 6th at 7:00pm at City Hall.

Monthly Boulevard workday 8/5/23 9am-11am.

Grant Writing-Monthly grant writing on Friday, Aug 4th at 8:00am at City Hall. Anyone interested in applying for a grant is welcome to attend.

North Central Iowa Genealogical Society (NCIGS) North Central Iowa Genealogical Society monthly meeting, Saturday August 12: The program is titled "IMMIGRATION: THEN & NOW." Co-Presenters will be Rod Hungerford and Dale Enkers. As usual, the location is the Society's Library Room within the Masonic Temple, 75 S. Georgia Ave, Mason City, at 1:30 p.m. Discussion and refreshments to follow, need not be a member to attend.

Coming Soon-Grand opening of Aces Restaurant & Bar. Located at the former Rockfords on Main. Monte and Brittany Wolters plan on opening the remodeled restaurant in mid-September. This family run restaurant plans to be open seven days a week. They will mainly be serving food, specializing in pizza, home raised angus beef, and alcoholic beverages.

Rockford Public Library-Book club on Aug 8th at 10:00am.

Welcome to Rockford! Welcome to the community Doug Neve!

We hope you thrive here and are happy you chose Rockford as your home.

Obituaries: Gerald Theodore Meyer, born Mar 15, 1943, passed Jul 28, 2023.

Shout Outs: To the watering crew for keeping the flowers in town looking so beautiful! Thank you to Anne Eilertson, Dave Peterson, Fran DeGroote, Jan Lukes, Jerry Schlader, Karen Schlader, Julie Salisbury, Angie Johnson, Cam Johnson, Gil Eaton, Darlene Eaton, and Sandi Willman.

The 12th annual Rumbling on the Plains event is on the 19th. Motorcycle ride to honor JT Tumilson. Start and finish at Turnbull Transport, 310 2nd Ave NW, Rockford. Come see the riders off as they visit the cemetery for a short ceremony. Then they will come back through town and head east on Main Street. The bridge will be a great spot to see all the motorcycles. All are welcome to attend a BBQ dinner provided by Rockfords Flying Bull BBQ starting around 4:30pm. Cost is \$20.00. There will be raffles, t-shirts for sale, and a live DJ. 100% of proceeds go to Veteran Organizations. Contact Alan Christeson at 641-420-3817 or gambler1@myomnitel.com for more information.

Donations of paper for printing the Newsletter are appreciated and can be dropped off at City Hall. Monetary donations for the Newsletter can be made at First Security bank to the Grow Rockford account. Note that the donation is for the Newsletter. Thank you!

Come to Rudd on Saturday, September 2nd, for the Annual Chicken Barbeque. Tickets are \$12.00 and go on sale August 1st thru August 21st. Included are salads, chips, baked beans, cookies or bars, and a beverage. Serving will be in the City Shed from 5-7 p.m. The Rudd Library will also be selling root beer floats there. Call 641-420-0571 or 641-220-6159 to reserve your tickets now or buy them at the Rudd City Hall/Library, or at the museum's coffee hours and breakfasts.

Other fun activities planned for that afternoon and evening include a bean bag tournament with registration beginning at 11 a.m., bounce houses for the kids, a car and "bike" show from noon to 4 p.m., a parade with cool cars, trucks, semis, and tractors at 7 p.m., a street dance, and fireworks at dark.

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH CHICKEN BBQ



Carry Out Only

August 27, 2023

4:30 - 6:30 pm

805 E Main St. Rockford, IA

\$12 Meal - 1/2 chicken,
beans, potato salad, & bar

Preorder required July 24 - August 11

Reserve your chicken by contacting Zion Lutheran Church at
zionstpaul Lutheran parish@gmail.com or 641-756-3850





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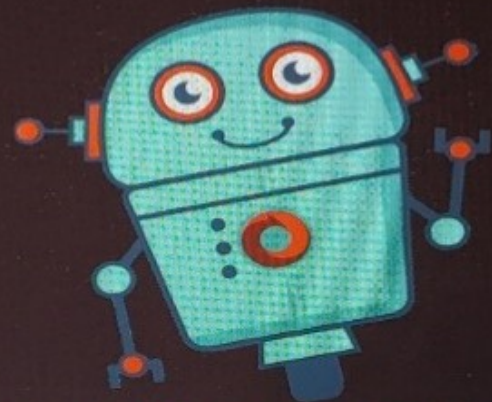
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To place an upcoming event or an advertisement to be published in the monthly newsletter, please email darangels@comcast.net or call Darlene Eaton at 641-756-2441.

Rockford Community Center
206 West Main Avenue
Call for Reservations [\(641\) 756-3718](tel:6417563718)
Call for Community Meals [\(641-756-3581\)](tel:6417563581)

RUDD HISTORICAL SOCIETY BREAKFAST
Every 1st Saturday of the month
7:30-9:30 a.m.
400 Chickasaw (Main Street)
Take outs available.
Menu: Omelets, biscuits & gravy,
scrambled eggs, pancakes, sausage links,
homemade bread and jam, rolls, coffee
cake & sweet breads.

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Sunday Worship 10:30 am (Summer 10:00) Facebook 10:30

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Rockford Churches

First United Methodist Church

21 3rd St NW

Worship 10:30am Sundays or on
Facebook

[641-756-2360](tel:641-756-2360)

ZION Lutheran Church

805 East Main Ave

Worship 10:30am Sundays

[641-756-3850](tel:641-756-3850)

Holy Name Catholic Church

507 1ST Ave NW

Mass 5:30 pm on Saturdays

[641-756-3569](tel:641-756-3569)

Rockford Public Library

202 W Main Avenue

[641-756-3725](tel:641-756-3725)

Open: Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday 9:00am – 4:00pm, Wednesday 12:00-6:30pm, Saturday 9:00 – 12:00 noon.