

Rockford Community Newsletter

November, the month of Thanksgiving and the kickoff for the Christmas season is here already. A Happy Thanksgiving to Rockford! May everyone have a wonderful and bountiful holiday with your families and loved ones. There is much to be grateful for.

The flower barrels have provided beautiful color all summer to our town. A huge thank you to all the people and volunteers for another successful summer. Bluhm's and Kylie Knecht for supplying and planting the beautiful flowers. The faithful watering crew: Peg Huisman, Sandi Willman, Fran DeGroot, Jan Lukes, Gil and Darlene Eaton, the Groven family, the Eilertson family, Jerry and Karen Schlader, and Bob Druckrey for keeping them alive during the hot summer of 2021. Karen and Janice for weeding the boulevard area, they did a fabulous job. Pat Sinning and others from the list above for the work on the Creeping Juniper area at the old clinic site. The city of Rockford employees kept the watering cart running and gassed up. Thank you to the people who donated funds for the mulch and fertilizer this year. The pumpkin fairy visited the boulevard and downtown. They look so festive. The flowers were pulled out of the barrels and fall décor added by Sharon Enabnit, Darlene Eaton, Rollie Harden, Jan Lukes, Sandi Willman and Sherry Fischer. Thank you ladies. If you appreciate the beauty, we accept donations to Grow Rockford Together in care of Aaron Pearson.



The light project that began with the bridge over the Shell Rock River in 2013 is complete. The lights span on Main Street from the bridge through town to West Park. They are beautiful at night. Thank you to the Light committee, the City of Rockford, and all who donated lights and funds to make this project successful.



Check out the Facebook page, Grow Rockford Together for posts and pics. Meetings are held first Sunday of the month. All are welcome to attend. Next meeting is scheduled on Sunday November 7, 7:00pm via Zoom. Contact Heidi Reams at 641-756-2376 for an invite to the meeting.

Rockford History

Pre-civil war settlement in Rockford – Excerpt from the Story of Rockford by Michael Vala

The first settler in Rockford was one John Grace (origin unknown), who built a small cabin on the south bank of the Shell Rock River north of the future town in August of 1851. His cabin was located somewhere near the northwest corner of the original town plat. Jacob Beelar was the only other settler to come that year. The following year saw a Mr. Brannon join them. If more came, they were not remembered, or they did not stay long enough to be remembered. In 1853 and 1854, however, several settlers and their families migrated to the area so that by 1855 they numbered 30 or more. The settlers lived fairly close together, usually no more than a mile or two apart in and around the valley where the Shell Rock and Winnebago(Lime Creek) Rivers joined. The place was an isolated grove of trees with rolling prairie to the west and

open fields of wildflowers and brush along the rivers that surrounded the site. An old Indian trail traveled southward along the Shell Rock's east bank to the mouth of Lime Creek where the Winnebago Indians had their camp and hunting grounds in the timbers east and south of the settlement.

Indians were only one of many difficulties with which these early settlers in Rockford had to contend. The early pioneer relied almost entirely on his horse or oxen for transportation and power, and necessary items he could not get from Cedar Falls he made himself or did without. The latter was often the case. Of all the hardships the settler in Rockford or anywhere else had to face, one remained insurmountable by ingenuity or wealth. Brute strength, a determined will, and possibly a little luck were the pioneer's only defenses against the ruthless Iowa climate. Not all survived the blizzards, floods, droughts and the prairie fires of the western frontier.

Rockford City Council Minutes

ROCKFORD CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

October 19, 2021

7:30 P.M.

1. The Rockford City Council met in regular session at the Rockford Community Center to help ensure adequate space for social distancing on Tuesday, October 19, 2021. Mayor Johnson called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM. Present were Council Members Carol Hoffarth, Alex Hirv & Vern Arndt. Absent Jason Stokes & Corey Johnson. Citizens present were Kevin Tegtmeier, Sharon Enabnit, Jerry Schlader, Kristi Fullerton & Darlene Eaton. Larry Pump with Larry Pump CPA & Rustin Lingbeek with [Short Elliott Hendrickson Inc.](#) Employees present were Randy Schweizer and Daniel Paulus.

Motion Arndt, sec. Hoffarth to approve the agenda as posted. Passed all ayes roll call vote.

2. Motion Hoffarth, sec. Arndt to approve the agenda consisting of September 14, 2021 Council Minutes, Monthly Reports, Claims & Expenses. All ayes. Motion carried.
3. Discussion was held with Larry Pump reviewing the completed audit report.
4. Discussion was held regarding railroad changes. The railroad will be increasing train speed from 10 mph to 25 mph through town. For the safety of the citizens it has been discussed to implement more safety measures. Items presented were stop signs, gate closures or street closures.
5. Motion Hoffarth, sec. Hirv to approve purchase of cement for memorial lawn swing in West Park to be placed directly south of playground area. The cost of the 4 foot commercial grade steel lawn swing and frame is being donated from Mary Litterer in honor of Patty Engels. Motion carried.

6. Motion Hoffarth, sec. Hirv to approve Halloween activities for October 31, 2021 and a donation of \$100.00 towards treat bags. The parade will begin at 5PM at the old clinic parking lot. Trick or Treat will be from 5 PM - 7 PM. A huge thank you to Kristi Fullerton and the Halloween committee for their time and dedication to the kids. Motion carried.
7. Discussion with Rustin Lingbeek with [Short Elliott Hendrickson Inc.](#) about the sewer / lagoon project. An extension of compliance schedule was granted from the DNR to allow for further data collection. Rustin further suggested that the City take advantage of the delay and consider proceeding with the water tower project and apply for American Rescue Plan funds.
8. Motion Hoffarth, sec. Arndt to approve purchase of Band Stand plaque from D&D printing in Mason City. The plaque will be placed above the stairwell and will be made of aluminum with black backing and bronze lettering to mimic the Veteran's memorial design. Motion carried.
9. Darlene Eaton with GROW reported that their first newsletter was sent and hoped everyone enjoyed it. The Main Avenue flowers will be removed on Thursday and the new flower barrels have arrived for next season's planting.
10. Discussion concerning hunting at the City Wastewater Facility was held.
11. Public Works Director Randy Schweizer reported that hydrants were flushed, East Main Avenue sidewalks in the 100 block are finished, City Hall downspouts were repaired and a new driveway is being installed behind City Hall.
12. Mayor Johnson reported that two nuisance vehicles were removed by owner at the City's request. A letter is being drafted by the City Attorney in regards to a nuisance property.
13. Motion Hoffarth, sec. Hirv to adjourn at 8:50 PM

What's happening

Elections for RRM school board and City of Rockford will be held Tuesday November 2, 2021.

Rockford City Hall will be open on Election Day from 7 a.m. until 8 p.m. for voting. Please contact the candidates with any questions you may have for them.

For City of Rockford, office of Mayor and 3 City Council Member-at large seats will be on the ballot. RRM School board has two openings.

Mayor Candidate:

Scott Johnson 641-756-3310(H) Filed on 09/16/2021

Email: c21scott.johnson@gmail.com 101 6TH ST SE ROCKFORD IA 50468

City Council Member Candidates:

Brent W. Medlin 641-512-5761(H) Filed on 09/16/2021

Email: wwmggm27@gmail.com 710 WEST MAIN AVENUE ROCKFORD IA 50468

Jerome H. Schlader 641-430-4321(H) Filed on 09/03/2021

Email: jkschlad@myomnitel.com 101 4TH ST SE ROCKFORD IA 50468

Sharon Enabnit 641-756-2465(H) Filed 09/10/0121

Email: senabnit@gmail.com 701 W MAIN AVE ROCKFORD IA 50468

Kevin Tegtmeier 641-590-7986(H) Filed 09/09/2021

Email: harleyroadkingrules@gmail.com 19 5TH ST NE ROCKFORD IA 50468

RRMR School Board Director at Large:

Courtney Ritter 641-430-4410(H) Filed 09/09/2021

Email: court.ritter@yahoo.com 1760 DANCER AVE NORA SPRINGS IA 50458

Justin Abell 641-512-4419(H) Filed 09/08/2021

Email: jtabell@live.com 2795 BALSAM AVE DOUGHERTY IA 50433

Tammie Hirv 641-512-0676(H) Filed 09/09/2021

Email: tammiehirvtradesofhope@gmail.com 602 3RD AVE SE ROCKFORD IA 50468

Bobbi Hinrichsen 641-756-2236(H) Filed 08/23/2021

Email: bobbi1357@gmail.com 501 W MAIN AVE ROCKFORD IA 50468

Spencer Rooney 641-430-8191(H) Filed 08/24/2021

Email: Spencer.Rooney@icloud.com 1250 230TH ST ROCKFORD IA 50468-8136

Daylight Savings Time ends November 7, 2021

Veterans Day is November 11, 2021. Due to COVID-19, the Rudd-Rockford-Marble Rock Schools Senior High students invite you to a virtual Veterans' Day Celebration. The Rockford

Senior Class is willing to deliver meals to anyone in the school district. Anyone outside of the school district can stop by and pick up your free meal.

Virtual Veterans Day

Presented by: RRMR Seniors

When: The video will be released
on November 11th, at 11:11 am

Lunch will either be delivered or
needs to be picked up. Call the
school for your order by
November 5th

Phone: 641-756-3813

The library is hosting a Book Club Wednesday November 17 at 2:00pm. The book title is Little Fires Everywhere by Celeste Ng. Discussion and snacks will be provided. Story hour for children is every Saturday at 10:30am.

City Hall office will be closed November 25th and 26th, congregate meals will be available for in person dining on Friday the 26th.

Rockford Congregate Meals

202 W Main Avenue

Meals are held Monday - Friday at Rockford City Hall / Community Center.

For more information, please call [\(641\) 756-3581](tel:641-756-3581)

Welcome to Rockford! In October, three new families moved to our town. Welcome to the community, we hope you thrive here. We are happy you chose Rockford as your home.


Support our local establishments and businesses.

Seams Right
Custom Fit Covers

Lorie Wilson
134 West Main Ave.
Rockford, IA 50468

Over 36 Years Experience
Office: 641.756-3301
Cell: 641.530.0212

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641-756-3500



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gambler1@myomnitel.com

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Cell (641) 525-2260

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Mike & Tony Harden

1341 Red Ball Road
Rockford, IA - 50468

Mike 641-330-0789 Tony 641-430-0040

E-mail: mphrmh1@myomnitel.com



ROCKFORD INSURANCE AGENCY & REALTY INC.

ROCKFORD, IOWA 50468

Bus Phone (641) 756-3396

Fax Phone (641) 756-3397

Contact:

Mark, Andrew, Whitney and Sheile for all your insurance and real estate needs

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

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EDDM Retail**

**Rockford Newsletter
November 2021**

**LOCAL POSTAL
CUSTOMER**

Rockford Churches

First United Methodist Church

21 3rd St NW

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

ZION Lutheran Church

805 East Main Ave

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

Holy Name Catholic Church

507 1ST Ave NW

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

Rockford Public Library

202 W Main Avenue

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

Open: Monday – Friday 1:00 – 5:30 P.M. and Saturday 9:00 – 12:00 noon

Open: Wednesday till 7:00 P.M.

Rockford Community Center

206 West Main Avenue

Call for Reservations [\(641\) 756-3718](tel:641-756-3718)