

Rockford Community Newsletter

Welcome to the first edition of the Rockford Community Newsletter, brought to you by The Grow Rockford Together Community Organization. Grow Rockford's mission is dedicated to working with the Rockford City Council to develop conceptual plans and implementation strategies which will enhance the natural, cultural, and visual resources to the Rockford community. Check out their Facebook page, Grow Rockford Together. Meetings are held every first Sunday of the month. All are welcome to attend. Next meeting is scheduled on Sunday October 3, 7:00pm in the Community room at City Hall.

We hope this newsletter will further our community spirit and inform you of what's happening in our town.

Rockford History

The first town settler arrived in August of 1851 and built a small cabin in Northwest Rockford along the South bank of the Winnebago River.

By 1855 the area boasted of thirty settlers mainly occupying the area where the Winnebago and Shell Rock Rivers meet. Robert Mathews came to Rockford that year and purchased most of the current day town site. In 1856 he sold it to a group of men who called themselves "the Rockford Company." The Rockford Company was formed of six men: John Platt, E.G. Bowdoin, S.P. Brittan, Dwight Johnson, George Wyatt, and R.N. Mathews.

After Rockford was platted, two water-powered sawmills, and a steam sawmill in 1857, provided early pioneers with their lumber. George Wyatt built the first frame house in 1856, while John Furgeson built a small general store, and Ransom Knapp built "the Rockford House," the first hotel, the same year. By 1858 the town had one hotel, three stores, two sawmills, one lath-mill, one shingle-mill, one blacksmith shop, one schoolhouse, and 26 dwellings. And, by 1860 Rockford grew in population to have over 150 settlers.

Dwight Johnson and Harmon Mitchell established a brewery in 1864 that supplied towns within a 40 mile radius. In 1865 a Howe Truss bridge was laid across the Shell Rock River, and in October of 1871 the Burlington, Cedar Rapids, and Minnesota Railroad completed work to include Rockford on their line. Our key industry, the brick works, finally started in 1878 under the support of Lord Melborne Harris. But it wasn't until 1910 when a local corporation bought the brick works that it began to prosper.

This history account was taken from the City of Rockford website, www.rockfordiowa.org. There is a lot of information on this site, please check it out.

In future issues, there will be history bites and pictures included in the Newsletter.



Rockford City Council Minutes

ROCKFORD CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

September 14, 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, September 14, 2021. Mayor Johnson called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. Present were Council Members Hoffarth, Hirv, Stokes, Johnson & Arndt. Citizens present were Kevin Tegtmeier, Sharon Enabnit, Brent Medlin, Travis Mahlstedt, Harry White & Elizabeth Everts with Rockford Public Library. Employees present were Randy Schweizer and Daniel Paulus.
Motion Hoffarth, sec. Hirv to approve the agenda as posted. Passed all ayes roll call vote.
2. Citizen's discussion included asking the council to set Trick or Treat night on Halloween October 31st. Item will be on agenda next month to set.
3. Motion Stokes, sec. Hirv to approve the agenda consisting of August 10th & 31st, 2021 Council Minutes, Monthly Reports, Claims & Expenses & Yesway Liquor License. All ayes. Motion carried.
4. Discussion was held with Brent Medlin & Travis Mahlstedt about the fire the Elevator had and if there is anything the city can do with health concerns that have occurred with it. Mayor Johnson said he would contact Jeff Sherman with Floyd County.
5. Discussion was held with council on 2 roads with railroad crossings that Iowa Northern Railroad would like to see closed in town.
6. Motion Johnson, sec. Hoffarth to approve Main Ave Sidewalk bid from JC Construction and Concrete LLC with asking the abutting property owners to pay 4ft of sidewalk in front of their properties. Passed all ayes roll call vote.
7. Discussion was held with Harry White and Elizabeth Everts with Rockford Public Library about water concerns in basement from the down spouts.

8. Memorial Bench was tabled until next meeting.
9. Bandstand Plaque was tabled until next meeting.
10. Motion Arndt, sec. Hoffarth to approve Resolution #2021-17 Street Finance Report. Passed all ayes roll call vote.
11. Motion Stokes, sec. Hirv to approve Resolution #2021-18 Authorizing Transfer of FEMA Windstorm fund to the General Fund. Passed all ayes roll call vote.
12. Motion Hoffarth, sec. Arndt to approve Resolution #2021-19 Authorizing Transfer of Road Use Funds to the Capital Street Fund. Passed all ayes roll call vote.
13. Public Works Director Randy Schweizer reported on hydrants being flushed, 1 dog call and working on street light project.
14. Mayor Johnson reported on a nuisance property and the city's annual exam.
15. Motion Johnson, sec. Stokes to adjourn at 8:39 P.M.

August Receipts: General \$13, 984.52, Library \$30.50, Road Use \$7,989.82, LOST \$7,687.42, ARPA \$61, 248.73, Water \$15, 049.90, Water Deposit \$100.00, Sewer \$11,522.40

August Disbursements: General \$16,521.30, Library \$3,940.93, Road Use \$2,628.10, Employee Benefits \$4,352.33, Emergency \$5,781.94, CAP Water Meter Project \$2,241.55, Water \$13,474.67, Sewer \$12,371.88

What's happening

The 26th Annual Fire Prevention Open House is Sunday, October 3rd 2021. Enjoy free hotdogs, drinks, prizes and more. Watch the lighted parade on Main Street starting at 7:00pm. See the surrounding rescue services and their emergency response vehicles!

Interested in history or your family background? North Central Iowa Genealogy Society (NCIGS) serves a 9-county area of north Iowa. It maintains a resource library, can provide research assistance (fees may apply), and has monthly programs on various topics. Membership is not required to attend or take advantage of their resources. Visit their web site www.northcentraliowagenealogysociety.com or their Facebook page North Central Iowa Genealogy Society.

A new game is in town thanks to Fran DeGroot. Glenn Biggs was the inspiration for this project. He worked at the brick and tile company. His knowledge of the different styles of brick and tile where they are located throughout town was instrumental. Thank you, Glenn, for bringing some Rockford history to life. The game is a hunt for different styles bricks and tiles used in the construction of several homes and businesses in our town. There will be commemorative plaques installed on buildings throughout Rockford. Pamphlets will be

available at the Fossil Center and City Hall to locate the plaques. Each building has different type of brick or tile that was produced at the Rockford Brick and Tile Company. The company operated from 1878-1899 and 1909-1977. The idea is to highlight the different bricks that were produced and used to build our town and bring Fossil Park visitors into town after visiting the Center and Park.



Installation of the first commemorative plaque on September 22, 2021.

Halloween activities will be Sunday, October 31st, pending city council approval at Oct 12th meeting. Parade starts at 5:00pm. Trick or Treat from 5:00-7:00pm. Contact Kristi Fullerton, 756-2405, for more information.

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:6417563581).

A big thank you to everyone involved in refurbishing the Bandstand in Central Park. It is looking grand again. The city put on a new roof, installed handrails on the steps for easier access, new lights, and made other needed repairs. Volunteers Kristi Fullerton, Theresa

Cannon, Bobbi Hinrichsen, Janet Fullerton, Dan Paulus on the lift, and Cory Murray picked up the paint. They all did an excellent job repainting the bandstand.

Welcome to Rockford! Since May of this year, 14 new residents have moved to Rockford. Welcome to the community, we hope you thrive here. We are happy you chose Rockford as your home.

 <p>Lorie Wilson 134 West Main Ave. Rockford, IA 50468 <i>Over 36 Years Experience</i> Office: 641.756-3301 Cell: 641.530.0212</p>	<p>Lukes Central Machine <i>Complete Machine Shop Service</i> <i>47 Years of Experience</i></p>  <p>Ron Lukes <i>Master Machinist</i> <i>ASE Certified</i></p> <p>41 8th St SW Rockford, Iowa 50468 www.lukescentralmachine.com</p> <p>Bus. (641) 756-2477 Cell (641) 525-2260</p>
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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.

I want to thank everyone involved in getting this newsletter off the ground. This is truly a community effort and would not have happened without the support of the community. The newsletter will need continued community input in the form of advertisers, donations and most important, information from the community, to keep it going. Your feedback is appreciated.

A sincere thank you to Joyce Navratil of the Rudd Historical Society for helping me through the startup process. Your experience and help have been invaluable.

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**Rockford Newsletter
September 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)