

Rockville News

2014 COUNCIL

Mayor

Jeff Hagen 320-266-0377

Councilors:

Susan Palmer 320-267-2966

Don Simon 320-250-9674

Randy Volkmuth 320-260-6095

Duane Willenbring 320-293-8732

JULY

4th City Hall Closed	
8th Planning Commission	6:00 p.m.
10th Nature Park	6:00 p.m.
16th Finance Committee	5:45 p.m.
City Council	6:00 p.m.
25th Sewer & Water Bill	Due

AUGUST

7th Rocori Trails	9:00 a.m.
Nature Park	6:00 p.m.
Park & Rec	7:00 p.m.
12th Planning Commission	6:00 p.m.
20th Finance Committee	5:45 p.m.
City Council	6:00 p.m.

SEPTEMBER

1st City Hall Closed	
4th Rocori Trails	9:00 a.m.
Nature Park	6:00 p.m.
Park & Rec	7:00 p.m.
9th Planning Commission	6:00 p.m.
10th Finance Committee	5:45 p.m.
City Council	6:00 p.m.
25th Sewer & Water Bill	Due

From your Mayor:

By the time you read this I hope our extended periods of rain will have mellowed a bit and everyone is enjoying some nice dry, warm summer weather.

In roughly 6 weeks or so, the state-wide filing period for municipal elections will be upon us, July 19, 2014 through August 12, 2014; with election on November 4, 2014.

Rockville will have 2 council positions to fill and I encourage everyone with any interest in serving your city to please give serious consideration to running. I believe you will find the work to be very rewarding and challenging at the same time.

Since our last newsletter, and at the request of your city staff and in response to staff receiving extended un-warranted criticism by a very small group of residents and councilors, the council agreed to hold a working session with staff and the council which was facilitated by a League of Minnesota Cities ambassador. I feel a number of very good points were made during this session that is related to people's volunteering to run for council seats or sit on city committees. I strongly agree with these following statements that were made by the ambassador and discussed during that session:

It is critical that members leave their self-interest out of their functions in these groups. Self-interest is more than just financial interest; it can be self-promotion, friend/relative/neighbor benefits, personal ambitions, etc.

Members should respect group decisions even though they personally disagree with them. It is detrimental to the city to undermine prior group decisions.

It is the role of the council to establish city policy along with the help of the committees and NOT to manage the daily operations of the city.

It is important that residents contact city staff when there are issues of city management and NOT contact councilors directly. It is important that all residents feel they can receive the same fair, objective treatment by the city without having to have a special relationship with any particular councilor or mayor. The city administrator is responsible for the day to day management of the city and the councilors are charged with setting city policy. This avoids the issue the resident wants explained to staff becoming inaccurately explained and avoids staff having up to as many as 6-7 different bosses.

Cont. Letter from the Mayor:

The LMC ambassador made a very important recommendation when he said that members should carry out their obligations to the best of their ability without concern for being re-elected and if after your term the residents decide that you have done a good job, you will be elected or appointed again.

There will also be a very small group of residents that will complain about something and no matter what you do, they will always complain about something. Members must develop thick skin and continue to do what they know is right. Know that the vast majority of residents appreciate the job that you are doing and don't need to be vocal about their trust and appreciation that you continue to do your best job.

We currently have in place what I feel is an excellent staff in terms of knowledge, ability, inter-working relationships, courteous and friendly service; and like any other professional employee, they deserve being treated professionally.

I know that I and the majority of members have carried out their obligations without regard to any self-interest or goal to be re-elected or re-appointed. I hope after my 2nd term of mayor is over in 2.5 years that the city will have several good candidates ready to step in and carry on the good work of the groups that I have had the pleasure of working with over these years. It is my personal opinion that only a very special person will be able to maintain the common sense needed in politics if they stay in it too long.

This issue of not having members with the intent to gain something in their self-interest will avoid situations where we might have someone resigning from multiple city positions, or undermining group decisions when that person does not receive the desired benefit that they desired. There is a reason these groups have multiple members and that is to try and insure that decisions are made with the objectivity that is necessary to avoid any particular person or group from benefiting at the expense of the general welfare.

Thank you for your time.

Jeff Hagen



Visit Eagle Park

Looking for a place to bring out-of-town visitors? Bring them to Eagle Park! They will be pleasantly surprised by the half mile trail loop, granite benches, river pier, prairie flowers, eagle nests, etc. There are young eagles in the Eagle Park nest and in the Rockville County Park nest.

The newest park addition is a basswood tree planted so as to provide some shade for the picnic table. The tree was purchased from the insurance money paid to the city after the storm loss of the big bur oak tree by City Hall. Basswood trees are fast growing and native to this area. There are some already in the park.



COMPOST

If you have grass, leaves or other vegetation to get rid of, please call one of two sites to set up an appointment to get rid of your compost. These farmers are willing to take in compost, free of charge. Please follow any rules they have set up. These sites is for the residents of the City of Rockville only. Please call 255-9394 or 685-5953.



ELECTION INFORMATION:

**Polling Place is @ Rockville City Hall 229 Broadway Street East
On Election Day the polling place will be open from 7:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.**

Primary Election Day - August 12, 2014
General Election Day – November 4, 2014

The below website is from the Office of the Minnesota Secretary of State (Mark Ritchie)

Vote Absentee:

Applications are available @ City Hall

Or download the application from the website: www.sos.state.mn.us

Drag cursor over the Election & Voting (Tab), then on voters, then on vote absentee:

There are a few options from the website:

- Request an Absentee Ballot Online
- Request an Absentee Ballot by mail, Fax or Email
- How to Vote Absentee
- Military and Overseas Absentee Voting
- Track your Absentee Ballot
- Ask Someone to Deliver your Ballot
- Cities and Towns that offer Absentee Ballots

Register to Vote:

Application are available @ City Hall

Or on website www.sos.state.mn.us

Drag cursor over the Election & Voting (Tab), then on voters, then on register to vote:

There are a few options from the website:

- Eligibility & Instructions
- Register Online
- Register by Mail
- Register on Election Day
- Check your Registration
- Voter Registration Drives
- Confidentiality Notices

You are encouraged to register before Election Day. To pre-register, election officials must receive your application at least three weeks before Election Day.

You can register at your polling place on Election Day if you miss the pre-registration date.

You can pre-register online or download an application. Mail or deliver application to your county election official.

“We delight in the beauty of a butterfly, but rarely admit the changes it has gone through to achieve its beauty.” Maya Angelou



Ever wonder what happened to all that yarn that was donated last year?

Well, let me tell you...the skeins were given to a very special woman with a generous heart. I told this woman I had a lot of donated yarn from a Rockville resident/business owner Paul Betz. I knew she crocheted prayer shawls and lap blankets for Veterans and for anyone who was going through a difficult time. So I asked her if she would like some yarn to make gifts with it. She took it all. She started her crochet journey making a few hats, and scarves. Sometimes life can throw you off course. She was diagnosed with cancer. She kept crocheting, with the ups and downs, going in for chemo, and all that comes with healing from cancer. She kept crocheting. 15 hats and 12 infinity scarves, 2 prayer shawls, 4 blankets, 2 granny square blankets later. She ran out of yarn.

She said she was so thankful to have her hands and mind busy, she didn't have time to worry about the cancer, and what a blessing the yarn was for her. Thank you so much Paul!

She donated all the items to various charities. Additionally, she made one very special blanket for a Vietnam Veteran she had learned about who was experiencing health issues and was in a tremendous amount of pain. She was able to give this blanket to him in person. I just wanted to share her story of overcoming difficulty, with a passion for giving. The City of Rockville would like to recognize her serving heart and send a huge thank you to Ardys Lais. And I am so proud to call this special woman my mother-in-law. *By Mandy Lais, Admin. Asst. City of Rockville.* Photos below of some of the items made:



Due to potential or current flooding in your area, CenterPoint Energy would like to extend the following flood safety tips for you to spread throughout your community regarding the use and inspection of natural gas appliances.

Before a flood happens, take the following precautions:

- Do not turn off natural gas at the meter. The gas meter should be left on to maintain proper pressure in the gas piping within the house and to prevent water from entering the lines should flooding occur.
- If a customer wishes to discontinue gas service, the gas should be turned off at each appliance.

After a flood occurs, take the following actions:

- If your home was flooded and your natural gas meter was underwater, call CenterPoint Energy to schedule an inspection. The meter may need to be replaced.
- Have flooded appliances inspected by a qualified technician, like one from HSP before operating the equipment. This includes outdoor gas appliances also, such as pool heaters, gas grills and gaslights.
- If your home did not flood and your natural gas is turned off at the meter, call CenterPoint Energy to reconnect service.

- Be alert for leaking gas as you return to your home or business to assess damage. If you smell gas, leave the area immediately on foot and tell others to do the same.
- Do not turn the lights on or off, smoke, strike a match, use a cell phone or operate anything that may cause a spark, including a flashlight or driving your car.
- Do not attempt to turn natural gas valves on or off.
- Once safely away from the area, call the 24 hours emergency gas leak hot line number 1-800-296-9815 and 911 to report the location and description of the leak.

Please follow these guidelines when anticipating or dealing with flooding. By practicing safe behavior during situations that may be hazardous such as flooding, we are able to decrease risk of accidents and work to solve problems faster and more effectively. Thank you for your cooperation and assistance in educating your community.

LOGS TO LUMBER

Pd ad

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RAFFLE: Simply Outdoors & Rockville Area Sportsman's Club, Inc. has a raffle for an Ice Castle Fish House! (value over \$15,000)

Tickets are available for \$10.

Drawing for the Ice Castle Fish House will be held on September 7th, 2014 at Stoney's Bar at 8:00 pm. Everyone is welcome to join us.

Simply Outdoors Unlimited is a group that gets kids, disabled people and Veterans interested in the outdoors.

Visit local businesses, or contact members of the Rockville Area Sportsman's Club to purchase your raffle tickets today.

**CONGRATULATIONS TO THE
RECIPIENTS OF THE
2013 SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS**

Jessica Dingmann

(daughter of Randy and Brenda)

and

Brandon Voigt

(son of Larry and Carol)

They will each receive \$250 from the Rockville Area Sportsman's Club to be applied to their second semester of college.

A big thank you to all the high school Rockville Seniors who took the time to apply. It was a very difficult decision.

The City of Rockville would like to give a big Thank You to the Rockville Lion's Club for all their hard work and dedication in helping our community in so many ways, especially for shoveling and snow blowing the elderly and handicapped residents driveways and walkways each winter. And for the past couple years there has been a lot of snow!

Thank you again, we appreciate all you do!



**"To be yourself in a world that is constantly trying to make you something else is the greatest accomplishment."
Ralph Waldo Emerson**

TRI-COUNTY ACTION PROGRAM, INC

In this economy more and more people and families are having difficulties making ends meet. If you are having difficulty paying your heating and/or electric bill we encourage you to contact your local Energy Assistance provider.

How can Energy Assistance help you?

Energy Assistance programs can provide:

- Assistance towards a household's home energy bill.
- Emergency assistance if a household's home energy service is shut off.
- Emergency assistance if a household is unable to get fuel delivered.
- Advocating with energy-related services such as weatherization improvements, furnace equipment repair and replacement, and budget counseling.

LOCAL ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROVIDER FOR: BENTON, MORRISON, SHERBURNE, STEARNS COUNTIES:
TRI-COUNTY ACTION PROGRAM, INC
1210 23RD AVE S
WAITE PARK MN 56387
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This program is funded by the Minnesota Department of Commerce and U.S. Dept. of Health & Human Services

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Visit The Book Nook At Rockville City Hall

Thank you to all of you who have donated books to make our Book Nook a success. We just added 4 new shelves!
Happy Reading!

Please Email Me My Newsletter:

If you would like to receive your newsletter electronically, please email your email address to mlais@rockvillecity.org

ADVERTISING IN THE NEWSLETTER

If you are interested in advertising your Rockville business in the Rockville City Newsletter and/or having your business information listed on the Rockville City website, please call Mandy Lais at 320-251-5836 for more information or send an email to mlais@rockvillecity.org.

Success is liking yourself, liking what you do, and liking how you do it. Maya Angelou

TEN EASY WAYS TO REDUCE YOUR CHEMICAL FOOTPRINT

1. **Don't buy antibacterial soap!** The American Medical Association recommends against the use of antibacterial soap in the home because it contains the chemical triclosan. All soap is equally effective at cleaning your skin and eliminating bacteria. Look for soap that does not have "triclosan" listed on the label. It makes bacteria stronger, poisons fish downstream and is linked to thyroid disorders.
2. **Don't buy toothpaste that contains triclosan.** Check the ingredients before you buy toothpaste. Triclosan can enter your bloodstream through your gums. Triclosan isn't necessary to clean your teeth or gums.
3. **Avoid fragrances.** "Fragrance" on an ingredient label indicates artificial fragrance. Products without "fragrance" listed as an ingredient are easy to find. Buy soap, shampoo and lotions that are unscented, or that are scented with essential oils, instead of artificial fragrance. Many kinds of artificial fragrances are suspected to be harmful to fish and do not readily biodegrade.
4. **Buy fresh food instead of packaged food.** The inside of metal food cans contain a lining that uses bisphenol A (BPA). The FDA recently expressed concern over "the potential effects of BPA on the brain, behavior, and prostate gland of fetuses, infants and children."
5. **Avoid food that contains preservatives.** Chemical food preservatives such as butylated hydroxyanisole (BHA) and methylparaben are listed on the ingredient label, so they're easy to avoid. These chemicals end up in the environment and may pose environmental health risks.
6. **Wash your laundry with half the detergent you use now.** Laundry detergents often contain harmful chemicals such as artificial fragrances. Your clothes will get just as clean with less detergent. Let your clothes soak before you turn on the washer and spot-clean stains to further reduce the need for detergent.
7. **Wear your clothes more between washing.** This will increase the life of your clothes, and protect the environment from the chemicals in your detergent. Steaming or hanging previously worn clothes in the bathroom while you shower can freshen the fabric and get out wrinkles.
8. **Wash your hair less often.** Many shampoos and conditioners contain chemicals that are toxic to the environment. By washing less often, you can reduce your exposure to chemicals and keep your hair healthier.
9. **Switch to non-toxic household cleaners.** When you clean your home, use non-toxic cleaners like vinegar and baking soda. If you use a housecleaning service, talk to your housecleaner about using non-toxic household cleaners or switch to a non-toxic service.
10. **Only run your dishwasher when it's full.** You've heard this tip before for water and energy conservation, but it also will improve downstream water quality by contributing fewer chemicals to the water stream.

Information provided by CMWEA's resource page.. Institute for Environmental Solutions.



HAPPY 4TH OF JULY!