

*** SNOW NEWS from NEIGHBORHOOD NETWORK ***

Neighborhood Network offers this information as a collaborative community service. Please forward if possible.

Cyndie Hall, Executive Director, Neighborhood Network

555 N. Court St. Suite 106, Rockford, IL 61103 Ph: 815-967-4034 Fax: 800-315-3736
email: cyndie.hall@rockfordil.gov website: www.rockfordneighborhoodnetwork.org



Join us on Facebook at Rockford Neighborhood Network

Neighborhood Network is a private organization partially funded by the City of Rockford Human Services Department, Community Services Block Grant

It looks like we will be getting our first big snow of the winter. Please see information below.

Snow Alert

The National Weather Service has issued a Winter Weather Advisory for cities including Rockford, Belvidere and others in effect from 6:00 a.m. Thursday to 4:00 a.m. Friday for snow and blowing snow. Snow will overspread the area with snowfall accumulation totals of between 4 and 6 inches possible. In addition to falling snow, winds will increase from 15 to 25 mph with gusts up to 35 mph on Thursday afternoon and into the evening. These strong winds will cause considerable blowing and drifting snow. Wind chills are also forecast to drop to near or even slightly below zero. Visibility may be limited to a combination of falling and drifting snow. Use caution, especially in open areas. For more information from the National Weather Service, go to: http://forecast.weather.gov/showsigwx.php?warnzone=ILZ003&warncounty=ILC201&firewxzone=ILZ003&local_place1=Rockford+IL&product1=Winter+Storm+Watch

With the likelihood of snow in the forecast, the Rockford Police Department would like to remind citizens to reduce their speeds when the weather is bad. Plan ahead and give yourself extra travel time. Minimize your distractions and never use cell phone texting while driving in any weather. Drive safe this winter.

Snow Removal

Do you know where your car should be parked? Whenever the city declares a snow emergency, the even/odd parking ordinance goes into effect and you can receive a \$50 ticket if you don't follow it. For anyone not sure of how the even/odd parking ordinance works, here's how it works:

What is the even/odd parking ordinance? During a snow emergency, street parking across the city is limited to one side of the street. On even-numbered days, parking is permitted on the even side of the street. On odd-numbered days, parking is permitted on the odd side of the street. The even side of the street is the side where the addresses end in an even number. The odd side of the street is the side where the addresses end in an odd number. The time to switch from one side of the street to the other is 8 a.m.

Why does the city have an even/odd parking ordinance? Street crews need as much space as possible to safely maneuver snow plows and salt trucks up and down the city's streets. Having vehicles parked on only side of the street allows more room for snow- and ice-removal vehicles to do their job.

Will I get a ticket if I'm parked on the wrong side of the street during a snow emergency? You might be issued a \$50 ticket for violating the ordinance if an officer arrives on your street and your vehicle is parked on the wrong side. If you receive a ticket for parking on the wrong side of the street during a snow emergency, you can appeal the ticket through a hearing process.

How do you know whether a snow emergency is in effect? The city issues notices announcing the declaration and lifting of snow emergencies to local media outlets. It also posts the information on the city's Web site rockfordil.gov. If you are unsure whether a snow emergency is in effect, you can call the city's public works department at 815-987-5771. If snow plows are out on the streets, if it's snowing or if there's a forecast for more than two inches of snow, it's likely that snow emergency has been or will be called.

Can I park on the wrong side of the street during a snow emergency if the street already has been cleared? No. The even/odd parking ordinance is in effect until the snow emergency is lifted. Plows might need to return to the street. Residents are advised to follow the ordinance regardless of whether their street has been plowed.

The best thing to do, if possible, is to get your car off the street and in your garage or driveway.

Commercial Snow Removal Ordinance Reminder

The City of Rockford Public Works Department would like to remind the business districts in the City of Rockford of their responsibility to comply with the City's Commercial Snow Removal Ordinance which requires property owners or tenants to remove snow from the public sidewalk adjacent to their property within 24 hours after the end of a snow event. It also prohibits the placing of snow from private commercial or residential lots or sidewalks onto City streets and rights-of-way. Compliance is our primary goal in the enforcement of this ordinance. The City appreciates business property owners and tenants support in the City's efforts to improve accessibility for those using the public walkways during the winter months. If you have specific questions regarding the Commercial Snow Removal Ordinance, please contact Kelly Nokes, 815-967-6915.

And please, help your neighbor out if possible. Do they need help shoveling? Keep in mind the people who deliver our mail and the children that may be walking to school. In case of bad weather for a longer period of time, do your neighbors have the groceries or medications that they need? Be a good neighbor every day, but give it some extra thought during bad weather.

And please, be safe.

***** NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS *****

Neighborhood Network offers this information as a collaborative community service. Please forward if possible.

Cyndie Hall, Executive Director, Neighborhood Network

555 N. Court St. Suite 106, Rockford, IL 61103 Ph: 815-967-4034 Fax: 800-315-3736

email: cyndie.hall@rockfordil.gov

website: www.rockfordneighborhoodnetwork.org



Join us on Facebook at Rockford Neighborhood Network

Neighborhood Network is a private organization partially funded by the City of Rockford Human Services Department, Community Services Block Grant

Garbage and Household Hazardous Waste Schedule During The Holidays

The garbage collection for City of Rockford residents on Monday, December 26th and Monday, January 2nd and the balance of each respective week will be delayed one day due to the Christmas and New Year's Holidays. Residents that normally have garbage pick-up on Monday will be picked-up on Tuesday and so on through the subsequent days of each week.

The Household Hazardous Waste Site at 3333 Kishwaukee will be closed for the weekend of December 24th and 25th and also December 31st and January 1st due to the holidays.

Christmas Tree Recycling by Keep Northern Illinois Beautiful

Remember to recycle your Christmas tree and collect free mulch. Trees should be completely bare - no tree stands, no ornaments, no lights. Flocked trees and pine wreaths with metal frames will not be accepted. Items must be biodegradable and free of any metal objects.

Mulch is created as the trees are chipped and is available at no charge to area residents for use in their landscaping; it is a durable ground cover that reduces weeds and retains moisture. Acid loving plants benefit from the nutrients in the mulch. The pine mulch is available on a first come, first served basis. Residents need to bring their own shovel and containers.

The drop-off sites are unmanned and open twenty-four hours a day:

- Don Schmid Youth Sports Center / Riverdahl Park, Rockford
- Blackhawk Park / 100 – 15th Ave, Rockford
- Levings Lake / East entrance off Johnston Avenue, Rockford
- Andrews Park, 800 North Central Ave, Rockford
- Gambino Park / Pepper Drive off North Alpine Road, Rockford
- Alpine Park / 900 South Alpine Road, Rockford
- Martin Park / Park Ridge Road off Riverside Boulevard, Loves Park
- Machesney Park Village Hall / 300 Machesney Road, Machesney Park
- Baumann Park / Behind South Walnut maintenance building, Cherry Valley
- Williams Tree Farm / 4661 Yale Bridge Road, north Winnebago County
- Rockton Boat Ramp Parking Lot / Off Hononegah Road

- Valley View Farms / 6440 Belvidere Road, Roscoe
- Pecatonica Wetlands Forest Preserve / 4550 N Pecatonica Rd, Pecatonica

There will be no tree recycling at the Westlake Village location this year. For more information, visit www.knib.org or call 815-637-1343.

Public Works Department Speakers Available for Meetings

Are you looking for speakers for neighborhood meetings? Attached is a speakers list for 2012 for Public Works. When planning Ward or Neighborhood meetings or planning a press meeting this list can be used to determine who can speak on specific topics relating to the City of Rockford Public Works.

Snow Removal

Winter is coming and we will certainly have some snow. Do you know where your car should be parked? Whenever the city declares a snow emergency, the even/odd parking ordinance goes into effect and you can receive a \$50 ticket if you don't follow it.

For anyone not sure of how the even/odd parking ordinance works, here's how it works:

What is the even/odd parking ordinance? During a snow emergency, street parking across the city is limited to one side of the street. On even-numbered days, parking is permitted on the even side of the street. On odd-numbered days, parking is permitted on the odd side of the street. The even side of the street is the side where the addresses end in an even number. The odd side of the street is the side where the addresses end in an odd number. The time to switch from one side of the street to the other is 8 a.m.

Why does the city have an even/odd parking ordinance? Street crews need as much space as possible to safely maneuver snow plows and salt trucks up and down the city's streets. Having vehicles parked on only one side of the street allows more room for snow- and ice-removal vehicles to do their job.

Will I get a ticket if I'm parked on the wrong side of the street during a snow emergency? You might be issued a \$50 ticket for violating the ordinance if an officer arrives on your street and your vehicle is parked on the wrong side. If you receive a ticket for parking on the wrong side of the street during a snow emergency, you can appeal the ticket through a hearing process.

How do you know whether a snow emergency is in effect? The city issues notices announcing the declaration and lifting of snow emergencies to local media outlets. It also posts the information on the city's Web site rockfordil.gov. If you are unsure whether a snow emergency is in effect, you can call the city's public works department at 815-987-5771. If snow plows are out on the streets, if it's snowing or if there's a forecast for more than two inches of snow, it's likely that snow emergency has been or will be called.

Can I park on the wrong side of the street during a snow emergency if the street already has been cleared? No. The even/odd parking ordinance is in effect until the snow emergency is lifted. Plows might need to return to the street. Residents are advised to follow the ordinance regardless of whether their street has been plowed.

The best thing to do, if possible, is to get your car off the street and in your garage or driveway.

Boone and Winnebago Counties Offer Warming Centers

The ability to provide safe locations for area citizens to go during cold weather is important to ensuring that residents stay both safe and warm during extreme temperatures. These warming sites serve as an important resource for those without housing as well as those who may not have the resources to heat their homes adequately. A complete list with locations, days and hours is below.

Warming Centers November 2011 through April 2012

ROCKFORD SITES

Carpenter's Place

1149 Railroad Ave. Rockford, 815-964-4105

Monday – Friday, 8:15 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Salvation Army

1706 – 18th Ave., 815-397-0440

Monday – Friday, 8:00 am – 5:00pm One room
One room available, if family with minors and signed
release is needed

Winnebago County Justice Center

650 W. State St.

Lobby open 24 hours/7 days a week

Women's Crisis Center

809 Cedar St., 815-986-0393

Women and Children only, Warming – 7 days a week
8:00am-5:00 pm

Public Safety Bldg.

420 W. State St.

Lobby open if 32 degrees or below
Monday – Friday, 7:00am – 5:00pm

Rockford Rescue Mission

715 W. State St, 815-965-5332

24 hours a day, 7 days a week
Meals served 3 times a day, 7:00am – Noon - 5:30pm

BELVIDERE SITES

Keen Age Center

2141 Henry Luckow Lane, 815-544-9893

Monday – Friday, 8:00am – 4:30pm

Salvation Army

422 S. Main St., 815-544-3892

Monday – Friday, 9:00am – 4:00pm

His Glory Mission

209 S. State St., 815-547-8287

Monday – Thursday, 11:00am – 4:00pm
Friday, 11:00am – 2:00pm
Closed holidays



Rockford Fire Department Open Burning Information



November 7, 2011

RECREATIONAL FIRES

The definition of a recreational fire by the City of Rockford-adopted *International Fire Code* is: "An outdoor fire burning materials other than rubbish a total fuel area of 3 feet (914 mm) or less in diameter and 2 feet (610 mm) or less in height for cooking, food for human consumption." There is no reference to campfires; therefore, campfires are not allowed inside the city limits.

Material: Fuel for a recreational fire shall consist of seasoned dry firewood, charcoal and other material approved by the code official. The recreational fires shall be ignited with a small quantity of paper. The fire shall not be utilized for waste disposal purposes, and the fuel shall be chosen to minimize the generation of air contaminants.

Permits: Not required for a recreational fire

Conditions:

1. Limit the size of the recreational fire to no larger than 2' x 2' x 2' using seasoned, dry firewood only (about 4 logs).
2. Burn at a reasonable hour (no later than 2300hrs) and for a reasonable length of time (3 hours).
3. Check with all neighbors (courtesy and health or environmental issues).
4. Have a hose or fire extinguisher present to extinguish the fire.
5. Consider weather conditions (wind, dry conditions, etc.)

If a complaint is received and any of the above conditions are violated, the fire will be extinguished. If this is a continual issue in which legal action is required, request an on-call investigator to respond to the scene. Remember that a recreational fire is for cooking food, not a campfire. If you are dispatched to an open burning complaint and are undecided if the fire is allowed or not, it is always better to err on the side of extinguishing the fire.

BONFIRES

The definition of a bonfire by the City-adopted *ICC International Fire Code* is: An outdoor fire utilized for ceremonial purposes. A bonfire shall not be more than 5 feet (1524 mm) by 5 feet (1524 mm) by 5 feet (1524 mm) in dimension and shall not burn longer than 3 hours.

A bonfire shall not be conducted within 50 feet of a structure of combustible material. Conditions, which would cause a fire to spread within 50 feet of a structure, shall be eliminated prior to ignition.

Materials: Fuel for a bonfire shall consist only of seasoned dry firewood and other material approved by the code official. The bonfire shall be ignited with a small quantity of paper.

The fire shall not be utilized for waste disposal purposes, and the fuel shall be chosen to minimize the generation of air contaminants.

Permits: All permits, required by the IFC, shall be requested by and issued to the owner of the land upon which the bonfire is to be kindled.

Conditions:

1. Must have a permit issued by the Division of Fire Prevention.
2. Fire must be monitored at all times (person in attendance) with extinguishment plans in place, (water hose, portable fire extinguisher or equivalent).
3. Consider weather conditions (wind, dry conditions, etc.)

If you are dispatched to a bonfire, ask to see the permit. If it is confirmed the fire is not permitted or any of the above conditions are violated, and/or if this is a continual issue in which legal action is required, request an on-call investigator to respond to the scene.

PRAIRIE BURNS

Permits are issued for prairie land burns. These permits are only issued with written approval from the Environmental Protection Agency, City of Rockford Legal and Fire Departments. There are specific instructions for the people conducting the burn as to extinguishment, safety, notification of burns, and times burn is permitted. If it is confirmed the fire is not permitted, extinguish the fire and send the report to the Division of Fire Prevention for follow-up and/or legal action.

OUTDOOR FIREPLACES

There have been many questions fielded in reference to the numerous types of outdoor fireplaces, fire rings and burning dishes. The most frequently asked question is: "Are these illegal?" and/or "Why do you allow them to be sold in Rockford?"

These items are not illegal; however, the recreational fire conditions apply, meaning they may be used for cooking purposes only. These items are sold in Rockford because they are not illegal and the market area is much larger than Rockford proper and other communities may not have the same restrictions or conditions.

Therefore, the use of these types of items for recreational fires, outside of cooking, is not allowed and should be extinguished. Requesting the owner to voluntarily extinguish the fire is the best way to handle this situation. If the owner refuses to willingly comply, the Fire Department shall extinguish the fire. If the owner becomes unruly, we will request a police officer to respond, and if necessary, a fire investigator, and refer the matter to the Division of Fire Prevention for follow-up.

**For any questions, please call the Rockford Fire Department
Division of Fire Prevention**

(815) 987-5660

***** NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS *****

Neighborhood Network offers this information as a collaborative community service. Please forward if possible.

Cyndie Hall, Executive Director, Neighborhood Network

555 N. Court St. Suite 106, Rockford, IL 61103 Ph: 815-967-4034 Fax: 800-315-3736
email: cyndie.hall@rockfordil.gov website: www.rockfordneighborhoodnetwork.org

 Join us on Facebook at Rockford Neighborhood Network

Garbage Collection in the City of Rockford over Thanksgiving

The garbage collection for City of Rockford residents over the Thanksgiving Holiday week will be as follows: Regular pick-up schedule for Monday 11/21, Tuesday 11/22 and Wednesday 11/23. Pick-up for Thursday 11/24 will be delayed one day until Friday 11/25. The Household Hazardous Waste Site at 3333 Kishwaukee will be closed for the weekend of November 26th and 27th due to the holiday.

Safety Tips

Please be careful shopping and driving.

There will be large crowds, especially on Black Friday. Avoid carrying a purse and shop with other people rather than alone if possible. Put packages away in the trunk, don't leave them in plain site in your car. Be watchful going to your car, and if you feel afraid, go back into the store and ask someone to walk you to your car. Do everything you can to avoid being a target.

Drive defensively and carefully, especially in parking lots! Local and state police will be out throughout the holiday season so please don't drink and drive! And please don't over serve your guests.

Holiday Shopping Tips

From the FBI via a local Police officer: In advance of the holiday season, the FBI reminds shoppers to beware of cyber criminals and their aggressive and creative ways to steal money and personal information. Scammers use many techniques to fool potential victims including fraudulent auction sales, reshipping merchandise purchased with a stolen credit card, sale of fraudulent or stolen gift cards through auction sites at discounted prices, and phishing e-mails advertising brand name merchandise for bargain prices or e-mails promoting the sale of merchandise that ends up being a counterfeit product.

Fraudulent Classified Ads or Auction Sales: Internet criminals post classified ads or auctions for products they do not have. If you receive an auction product from a merchant or retail store, rather than directly

from the auction seller, the item may have been purchased with someone else's stolen credit card number. Contact the merchant to verify the account used to pay for the item actually belongs to you. Shoppers should be cautious and not provide credit card numbers, bank account numbers, or other financial information directly to the seller. Fraudulent sellers will use this information to purchase items for their scheme from the provided financial account. Always use a legitimate payment service to protect purchases. Diligently check each seller's rating and feedback along with their number of sales and the dates on which feedback was posted. Be wary of a seller with 100% positive feedback, if they have a low total number of feedback postings and all feedback was posted around the same date and time.

Gift Card Scam: The safest way to purchase gift cards is directly from the merchant or authorized retail merchant. If the merchant discovers the card you received from another source or auction was initially obtained fraudulently, the merchant will deactivate the gift card number, and it will not be honored to make purchases.

Phishing and Social Networking: Be leery of e-mails or text messages you receive indicating a problem or question regarding your financial accounts. In this scam, you are directed to follow a link or call the number provided in the message to update your account or correct the problem. The link actually directs the individual to a fraudulent Web site or message that appears legitimate; however, any personal information you provide, such as account number and personal identification number (PIN), will be stolen. Another scam involves victims receiving an e-mail message directing the recipient to a spoofed Web site. A spoofed Web site is a fake site or copy of a real Web site that is designed to mislead the recipient into providing personal information.

Consumers are encouraged to beware of bargain e-mails advertising one day only promotions for recognized brands or Web sites. Fraudsters often use the hot items of the season to lure bargain hunters into providing credit card information. The old adage "if it seems too good to be true" is a good barometer to use to legitimize e-mails.

Black Friday has traditionally been the "biggest shopping day of the year." The Monday following Thanksgiving has more recently (2005) been labeled *Cyber Monday*, meaning the e-commerce industry endorses this special day to offer sales and promotions without interfering with the traditional way to shop. Scammers try to prey on Black Friday or Cyber Monday bargain hunters by advertising "one day only" promotions from recognized brands. Consumers should be on the watch for too good to be true e-mails from unrecognized Web sites.

Along with on-line shopping comes the growth of consumers utilizing social networking sites and mobile phones to satisfy their shopping needs more easily. Again, consumers are encouraged to beware of e-mails, text messages, or postings that may lead to fraudulent sites offering bargains on brand name products.

Tips you can use to avoid becoming a victim of cyber fraud:

- Do not respond to unsolicited (spam) e-mail.
- Do not click on links contained within an unsolicited e-mail.
- Be cautious of e-mail claiming to contain pictures in attached files, as the files may contain viruses. Only open attachments from known senders. Always run a virus scan on attachment before opening.

- Avoid filling out forms contained in e-mail messages that ask for personal information.
- Always compare the link in the e-mail to the web address link you are directed to and determine if they match.
- Log on directly to the official Web site for the business identified in the e-mail, instead of "linking" to it from an unsolicited e-mail. If the e-mail appears to be from your bank, credit card issuer, or other company you deal with frequently, your statements or official correspondence from the business will provide the proper contact information.
- Contact the actual business that supposedly sent the e-mail to verify that the e-mail is genuine.
- If you are requested to act quickly or there is an emergency, it may be a scam. Fraudsters create a sense of urgency to get you to act impulsively.
- If you receive a request for personal information from a business or financial institution, always look up the main contact information for the requesting company on an independent source (phone book, trusted internet directory, legitimate billing statement, etc.) and use that contact information to verify the legitimacy of the request.
- Remember if it looks too good to be true, it probably is.

Seasonal Citywide Yard Waste Pick-up Ending

The City of Rockford announces the conclusion of Citywide Yard Waste pick-up for the 2011 season. The final week that yard waste pick-up will be taken will be November 28 through December 1. Yard waste will not be picked-up again until the compost site re-opens in the spring of 2012.

Armed Robbery - Mobil - 2600 Stowmarket Ave

At 12:54 AM, Officers from the Rockford Police Department responded to a report of an armed robbery to the business at the Mobil located at 2600 Stowmarket Avenue. Upon the officers' arrival, the suspect had already fled on foot in an unknown direction. The investigation revealed that an unknown race male, dressed in all black including a ski mask and armed with a handgun, entered the business and robbed the clerk at gunpoint. The suspect fled from the business on foot with an undisclosed amount of money. There were no shots fired and no one was injured during this armed robbery.

Anyone with information regarding this crime is asked to call the Rockford Police Department Shift Commander at 815-987-5824 or Crimestoppers at 815-963-7867. Callers may remain anonymous

River District Holiday Hoopla Event

(Rockford, IL) The River District Association is proud to announce the Holiday Hoopla Event coming up on December 9, 2011.

Holiday Hoopla Event

Friday, December 9, 2011

6:00p – 9:00p

River District (downtown Rockford)

Event Highlights

- Downtown businesses from E State St to Main St will festively decorate their storefronts for the holidays.
- Santa will be in the lobby of City Hall from 6p-9p for the kids. Toys to be given away are donated by Burpee Museum.

- The municipal parking lot on the 300 block of E State St will have a stage for Christmas music.
- Press event will be held in City Hall at 6:30pm to kick off the Holiday season with Mayor Morrissey and Alderman Mark.

Watch for more information.

Your child can get a Head Start before birth

City of Rockford Early Head Start now offers services to pregnant women and children birth-to-three in Winnebago County



Pregnant women will receive prenatal and post-partum support



Families will receive:

- Weekly home visits from an infant/toddler teacher
- Family support
- Screening and assessments to ensure that development is on track
- Medical, dental, mental health, and nutrition support
- Support for infants/toddlers with disabilities



There are a limited number of center-based slots available at Circles of Learning on N. Main



For more information or to complete an application,
contact 815-987-5480.

Su niño puede participar en Head Start antes de nacer

El programa de Head Start de la ciudad de Rockford ahora ofrece servicios de Head Start para Edad Temprana a las mujeres embarazadas y niños de nacimiento-a-tres años de edad en el Condado de Winnebago.



Las mujeres embarazadas recibirán apoyo prenatal y posparto

Las familias recibirán:

- Visitas semanales de maestras de infancia
- Apoyo familiar
- Observaciones y evaluaciones para asegurar que el desarrollo está en orden
- Apoyo de salud médica, dental, salud mental, y nutrición
- Apoyo para niños de infancia con incapacidades



Hay un número limitado de matrículas disponibles para la guardería Círcles of Learning de N. Main.



Para más información o para completar una aplicación, llame al 815-987-5480 o headstart@rockfordil.gov