



MEMORANDUM

To: Mayor Thomas McNamara
City Administrator Todd Cagnoni
City of Rockford Aldermen and Alderwomen

From: Martin Bloom, Sr. Project Manager-Permits and Special Events
RE: Special Events Report to Codes and Regulations
Date: February 23rd, 2026

City staff has completed a preliminary review of the proposed event plan and confirms conformance with the provisions set forth in the City of Rockford – Code of Ordinances (Article XII. Special Events). Staff brings forward the following for committee and council consideration:

1. Irish Marching Society St. Patrick's Day Parade: Annual parade hosted by the Irish Marching Society to celebrate Irish tradition with a parade line up street festival, and post event celebration.

Location: The parade will follow the traditional route beginning at 7th St. and 5th Ave.; north on 7th St. to State St.; west on State to Madison St.; north ending at Prairie St.

Date: Saturday, March 14th, 2026 12:00 P.M.-5:00 P.M. with parade step off at 3:00 p.m.

Alderman: Jonathan Logemann/Jaime Salgado

Event Organizer: Tyler Pickering (815) 505-4760

Attendance: Approximately 3,000 people

Council Action: Permission for street closures; Permission for use of City electric

City Support: Rockford Police Department will provide traffic control;

Cost of event: None- Costs to be paid by the event organizer



2. *Spruce up Day at the Veteran's Roundabout:* Annual clean up and planting day around the Veteran's Roundabout

Location:	Veteran's Roundabout (Main St. / Auburn St.)
Date:	May 9 th , 2026 8:00A.M.- 5:00P.M. (lane closures in place by 7:00A.M.)
Alderman:	Chad Tuneberg
Event Organizer:	Ernie Redfern (312) 404-6452
Attendance:	125 volunteers
Council Action:	Permission for Lane Closures
City Support:	None.
Cost of event:	None: Costs to be paid by event organizer



3. Rockford Area Pride Parade: 2nd Annual parade to celebrate diversity, inclusivity, and resilience of the LGBTQ+ community and its allies

Location:	The parade will follow a route beginning at E. State St. and 6 th St; west on State to Wyman St.
Date:	Saturday, June 6 th , 2026 11:00 A.M.-1:30 P.M. with parade step off at 12:00 P.M.
Alderman:	Jonathan Logemann/Jaime Salgado
Event Organizer:	Andrew Mertzenich (815) 721-6925
Attendance:	Approximately 1,000 people
Council Action:	Permission for street closures
City Support:	Rockford Police Department will provide traffic control;
Cost of event:	None- Costs to be paid by the event organizer



4. Lifescape Classic July 4th Run/Walk: 35th Annual 8K run, 2-mile run, and 1-mile walk encourages family participation and starts the July 4th celebrations for the day. All proceeds benefit Lifescape.

Location: Begins and ends on N. Water St in front of the Riverview Ice House.to Madison St to the rec path, to Illinois St and back

Date: Saturday July 4th, 2026 6:00 A.M. – 11:00 A.M. (run begins at 7:00 A.M.)

Alderman: Jonathan Logemann

Event Organizer: Carli Jonet (923)450-1496

Attendance: 800 people

Council Action: Permission for street closures;

City Support: Rockford Police Department will assist with traffic

Cost of event: None, to be paid by the event organizer



5. 4th of July Celebration: The Rockford 4th of July Committee presents its annual Independence Day Celebration including a parade, fireworks, and entertainment.

Location:	Parade: Traditional Route beginning at 7 th St. & 2 nd Ave, ending at State St. /Church St.; Fireworks: To be launched from Jefferson St. Bridge; Bridge to be closed July 3 rd beginning at 12:00 P.M. to begin setup. Detours will be in place
Date:	Saturday July 4 th , 2026 4:00P.M.-10:00P.M.; Parade begins at 4:45P.M. Fireworks begin at 9:30P.M.
Alderman:	Jaime Salgado, Tamir Bell, Jonathan Logemann
Event Organizer:	Tom Luepkes (815) 279-2455 Ted O'Donnell (815) 209-8734
Attendance:	80,000 people
Council Action:	Permission for road closures; permission for use of City Electric; Permission for use of City Market Pavilion, Permission for Electrical Permit; Permission for Not-for-Profit Liquor License; Permission for open carry in designated areas within the event footprint
City Support:	Event Organizer requesting City Support for Police, Fire, and Public Works as well as traffic control needs.
Cost of event:	<u>2025 totals as follows:</u> Police Services: \$ 101,493.09 Fire Services: \$ 750.00 Traffic Control: \$ 26,266.45 Public Works: \$ 4,350.00 Port O Lets: \$ 3,752.00 Total: \$ 136,611.54

***Staff anticipates a similar cost of services for 2026**



6. *One Table: An Open-Air Dining Experience:* An event designed to build community and encourage engagement while seated at one long table in an urban street setting. Sponsored by the YWCA Northwestern IL

Location:	Water St. (from Market St. to Lower Jefferson St. Bridge)
Date:	Saturday August 29 th , 2026 6:00P.M. - 10:00P.M.
Alderman:	Jonathon Logemann
Event Organizer:	Michael Lindvall (815) 316-6126
Attendance:	225
Council Action:	Permission for use of City Electric. Permission for Not-for-Profit Liquor Permit
City Support:	Road Closure
Cost of event:	None: Costs to be paid by event organizer