



2026 Editorial Calendar

Issue	Editorial Theme	Article Deadline	Ad Placement & Art Deadline
January/February	<i>Finances/Legal, Transfer of Wealth, Leadership Transitions</i>	01/10/2026	01/16/2026
March	<i>Marketing and Branding</i>	02/10/2026	02/13/2026
April	<i>The MATH issue (mathematics in business)</i>	03/10/2026	03/13/2026
May	<i>The Great Outdoors (sports, recreation, nature, outdoor occupations)</i>	04/10/2026	04/17/2026
June	<i>Makers and Movers (manufacturing, logistics, warehousing, distribution)</i>	05/10/2026	05/15/2026
July	<i>Leadership</i>	06/10/2026	06/19/2026
August	<i>Celebrating the 815</i>	07/10/2026	07/17/2026
September	<i>Workforce and Talent</i>	08/10/2026	08/21/2026
October	<i>Innovation and Technology</i>	09/10/2026	09/18/2026
November	<i>Small Business and Partnerships</i>	10/10/2026	10/16/2026
December	<i>The Business of Nonprofits</i>	11/10/2026	11/13/2026

Calendar subject to change.

Contact editor@rockfordchamber.com to reserve article space in an upcoming issue.

Contact Mike Lacny at mlacny@rockfordchamber.com or 815-494-6476;

or Kristin Muehlfelder at kmuehlfelder@rockfordchamber.com or 815-316-4315 for advertising inquiries.



The VOICE is the monthly newspaper of the Greater Rockford Chamber of Commerce and the region's only print and digital publication dedicated to business news and information.

What you need to know about writing an article for the VOICE

Submitting an article for the VOICE is like participating in an expert panel—it's your chance to share real-world experiences (good and bad), give advice, highlight best practices, and offer business insights that your fellow Chamber members would find beneficial.

GUEST ARTICLE GUIDELINES

- **GRCC members** may submit two objective, thought leadership articles per year (550-650 words). Think TED Talk or LinkedIn feature.
- The focus of the article should not be about your organization, product, or service. However, you may cite experiences, programs, or partnerships as examples that support your topic.
- The best articles are written in the authentic voice of the author, not AI.
- If possible, include local examples, anecdotes, and/or quotes from people in our region.
- Articles can relate to the monthly editorial theme or be of general business interest.
- All submissions will be edited for style, tone, grammar, and length when necessary.
- Include a photo of the author and a brief bio (50-word max).
- Include a company or organizational bio (50-word max).
- Send articles as a Word doc to editor@rockfordchamber.com.
- Photos may be included for consideration. Please send as attached jpg or png files.
- **Deadline for submissions is the 10th of the month prior to publication.**
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TIPS FOR AUTHORS

- Write in a professional but conversational voice.
- The VOICE follows AP style. If you know what that is, please use it. If not, just know that your story will be edited to comply with those style guidelines.
- First and foremost, the VOICE is a print newspaper. If you need to cite a source, please do so in the text of the article. Newspapers don't use footnotes, and hyperlinks don't work in print.
- You may submit previously published blog posts or articles produced by your corporate office. Please modify with local information if possible.

*To get a copy of the VOICE mailed to your business or home,
email your information to info@rockfordchamber.com.*

MEMBERS IN THE NEWS AND BUSINESS BRIEFS

GRCC members may send announcements and press releases to editor@rockfordchamber.com.

- New hires, retirements, promotions (may include a headshot).
- Business and individual awards and recognition.
- Announcements may be included in the VOICE newspaper and/or the VOICEnow e-newsletter.

ADVERTISING

For information about advertising opportunities or event sponsorships, contact **Mike Lacny** at mlacny@rockfordchamber.com or 815-494-6476; or **Kristin Muehlfelder** at kmuehlfelder@rockfordchamber.com or 815-316-4315.