

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

*Calendar subject to change.*

Contact [editor@rockfordchamber.com](mailto:editor@rockfordchamber.com) to reserve article space in an upcoming issue.  
 Contact Mike Lacny at [mlacny@rockfordchamber.com](mailto:mlacny@rockfordchamber.com) or 815-494-6476;  
 or Kristin Muehlfelder at [kmuehlfelder@rockfordchamber.com](mailto:kmuehlfelder@rockfordchamber.com) or 815-316-4315 for advertising inquiries.

## 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](mailto: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.**
- Contact [editor@rockfordchamber.com](mailto:editor@rockfordchamber.com) to reserve article space in an upcoming issue.

## 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](mailto:info@rockfordchamber.com).*

## MEMBERS IN THE NEWS AND BUSINESS BRIEFS

GRCC members may send announcements and press releases to [editor@rockfordchamber.com](mailto: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](mailto:mlacny@rockfordchamber.com) or 815-494-6476; or **Kristin Muehlfelder** at [kmuehlfelder@rockfordchamber.com](mailto:kmuehlfelder@rockfordchamber.com) or 815-316-4315.