

Edgewater Neighborhood



NEWS LETTER

June

2025

EDGEWATER MEETINGS

All Neighbors Welcome! 5:30 pm at Rockford Country Club.

August 20, 2025

September 17, 2025

October 15, 2025

“It's more than just a neighborhood—it's a community that makes every day feel like a gift.



Neighborhood Events

- Annual Garden Walk
Sunday, 6/22/25
- 4th of July fireworks
viewable from Oxford Park
(bring your chairs)

Volunteers Needed Take Action



NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

Don Schreiner, President
Brandon Kruse, VP
Mark Podemski, Treasurer
BJ Alexis, Secretary

BOARD MEMBERS

Richard Lopez
Cassie Pike
Zak Rotello

Need to reach the board?
Email us:
rockfordedgewater@gmail.com

12TH WARD ALDERWOMAN

Gina Meeks
815-419-1143
ginameeks12thward@gmail.com



LIVING IN EDGEWATER

Spring into Summer! written by Richard Lopez

Hello Edgewater neighbors!

Spring has officially sprung here in Edgewater, and what a spring it's been! Our neighborhood is bursting with activity, color, and community spirit.

We kicked off the season with our Annual Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 19th, 2025—the day before Easter. It was a huge success! We were honored to welcome both our alderwoman and Rockford's mayor, along with some friendly competition from our emergency responders—the Rockford Police and Fire Departments. They brought their coolest gear for kids (and adults!) to check out, and we loved having them join the fun. If you lost count, you weren't alone—we scattered over 3,000 Easter eggs throughout the park! And this year, we hit a new milestone with 10 golden eggs, each redeemable for \$10. A huge thank you goes out to Michelle Polivka and her amazing kids for stuffing all those eggs—you made it happen!

Next up, we hosted our Annual Edgewater Garage Sale on the first Saturday in May, and once again, it was a hit! Shoppers came from all over the Rockford area, and our neighbors showed up with everything from vintage treasures to fresh-baked goodies. What a great way to connect, clean out, and cash in.

Of course, Mother's Day followed soon after, and we couldn't have asked for more beautiful weather. We hope everyone took time to celebrate the moms, grandmas, aunts, and all the strong women who help make Edgewater such a special place to live.

Now, it's time to roll up our sleeves and dig in—literally! The summer planting season is in full swing. As you walk or drive through Edgewater, you'll see neighbors out planting flowers, refreshing landscaping, and prepping for the coveted Lawn of the Month award. Who knows? Maybe this year, the judges will award your house!

It was a busy, beautiful spring here in Edgewater, and summer is here. Thank you to all our amazing neighbors for making this community feel like home.

See you around the neighborhood! 🌸🇺🇸🌳

FEATURED EVENTS



Annual Garden Walk Sunday June 22

The 2025 Edgewater Garden Walk was a HOT success! Attendees braved the heat to be welcomed into five beautiful, shady gardens. Many thanks to Deb, Steve, Kim, Steve, Robin, Don, Linda, Bill and Norma Lee for opening their properties to the neighborhood. The walk is meant to give a glimpse “behind the fences” of our unique neighborhood, as well as promote gardening and community amongst gardeners. This was the second year of the Garden Walk, wonderfully organized by Kimberly Schmitt, and we look forward to many more.

If you enjoy gardening and would like to share your garden next year, please contact Kimberly Schmitt, by text at 815.494.9122. There are no special qualifications for participation other than a willingness to share.



HELP!!!! SPEAKING OF GARDENS.... The plantings at the Edgewater signs will need volunteers to help keep them beautiful through the summer! Please go the Edgewater Neighborhood Face Book page, Rockfordedgewater.org, or [click this link](#) to sign up for a week of watering this summer. Instructions are emailed prior to your chosen week. This is a great way for neighborhood students to bank service hours required by their schools. Your assistance is greatly appreciated!

4th of July Celebration

The 4th of July, or Independence Day, is special because it commemorates the adoption of the Declaration of Independence in 1776, marking the colonies' freedom from British rule. It symbolizes national pride, liberty, and unity. The day also encourages reflection on democracy and the ongoing journey toward equality and civil rights.

Rockford Country Club puts on fireworks every year, and they are usually able to be seen from Oxford Park. Bring your lawn chairs and enjoy the show – it usually begins when it is dark.



PAST EVENTS



*"I'm
eggcited
about
Easter
sweets!"*



Easter Egg Hunt

APRIL 19, 10 am, Oxford Park

We are excited to share that our Edgewater Easter egg hunt was a fantastic success! Children of all ages eagerly searched for colorful eggs spread throughout the park, and their enthusiasm for the search was palpable.

Our Alderwoman and Mayor visited the hunt, and we also had a special K9 demonstration from Andii, who served well in action with her handler later that day. A huge thank you to all the volunteers who helped organize the event and to everyone who participated. Your enthusiasm and support (and friendly competition between the fire department who brought their fire house and police department who brought "the bat") made this event truly special.

We look forward to creating more joyful memories together next year!

Garage Sale

MAY 3, 8am to 3pm

Our recent community garage sale was a resounding success! The rain decided not to fall and the sun lit a beautiful day. Thanks to the hard work and collaboration of our neighborhood residents, we brought together a vibrant marketplace filled with unique treasures and a wonderful sense of community spirit.

Not only did we clear out unused items and bring new life to them, but we also fostered connections and strengthened our bonds as a community. Thank you to everyone who participated, whether as a seller or a buyer – it was great to see you all!



*"Our stuff
could be
your
stuff!"*



Clinton Street Block Party Sunday, June 8

Echos on Clinton Street

BY GREG GEORGIS

Edgewater's homes, many nearing a century old, have sheltered generations of Rockfordians—each leaving behind subtle marks on the walls, gardens, and porches they once called their own. Spend enough time in Edgewater, and echoes of the past begin to repeat themselves. This year's Clinton Street Block Party is the latest example.

Nearly two decades ago, Chuck and Nancy Regan lived in the little white Barloga house in the middle of the 2000 block of Clinton Street. Each summer, they invited neighbors to a block party: barricades went up on Cottage Grove and Harper, tables and chairs were borrowed from Chuck's church, and neighbors reconnected after long winters spent hibernating indoors.

When Chuck and Nancy retired to North Carolina, the spark that lit those beloved summer gatherings quietly flickered out. A few years later, a new family moved into that same white house. The Pikes brought a youthful energy to the block, and after much encouragement from their neighbors, committed to revive the tradition. Their enthusiasm proved contagious. The following year, what began as a single-block gathering expanded to include an adjacent block with Kimberly Schmitt. Then the next block with Lesli Nelson Richter. The year after that, it grew even further.

In 2025, block captains of Clinton Street, Clinton Road, and Clinton Boulevard organized a block-by-block blowout that took over the boulevard. Inflatable water slides, brilliant games including the beloved egg toss challenge for block supremacy (congrats 2100 block!), ice cream sandwiches from local purveyor Bad Humor, brats and hot dogs from Edgewater's own Pinnon's Meats, and a bounty of potluck dishes fueled an evening of fun, laughter, and storytelling.

Neighbors, both longtime residents and new arrivals, came together in celebration of summer, community, and shared history. It was the kind of evening Chuck and Nancy would have cherished. That continuity is what makes life in Edgewater so special: we live in a place where the past and present meet, and where community winds its way from one generation to the next—evolving with the times, yet always grounded on the same bumpy brick road.





June 2025

Help **VOLUNTEERS** **NEEDED**

The Edgewater Association is looking for neighbors who are willing to share their time and talents. Our beloved neighborhood thrives because of the dedication of volunteers. The roles are flexible and require a minimal time commitment.

If you're interested, please email rockfordedgewater@gmail.com.

Below are some volunteer opportunities to consider:

- Freelance writers for the newsletter
- Beautification committee to help water plants/pots
- Coordinate events – 4th of July, garage sale, Easter, Luminaria
- Recruit membership
- Sell ads in the newsletter
- Membership data entry
- Join the Board

A time to Give Back

EDGEWATER NEIGHBORHOOD

By Maria Gonzalez

Volunteering in your neighborhood is a powerful way to make a difference. It not only addresses local needs but also helps you connect with your neighbors and strengthen the community. By working together, you can create positive change and enhance shared spaces. Plus, volunteering builds skills and provides a rewarding sense of fulfillment. Get involved—your contribution can inspire others and lead to lasting impact!

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Michelle R Bowman, AAMS™, CRPC™
Financial Advisor

2715 N Main St
Rockford, IL 61103-3111
815-636-6665

READY?

ADVERTISE WITH US

Advertise in the Edgewater newsletter and connect with hundreds of neighbors in Edgewater and beyond! Our digital newsletter reaches over 400 residents via email and shared on Facebook and the Edgewater website. Our printed newsletter is mailed in November to nearly 900 households in Edgewater. All proceeds support the Edgewater Neighborhood Association.

Run an ad in the Edgewater newsletter and reach hundreds of neighbors in Edgewater and beyond! Digital newsletters (Feb, May, Aug) are emailed to over 400 residents and posted on Facebook and the Edgewater website. Printed newsletters are mailed in November to nearly 900 Edgewater households. All proceeds support the Edgewater Neighborhood Association.

Ad sizes and prices are as follows:

- Full page (\$200 print, \$150 digital)
- 1/2 page horizontal (\$100 print, \$75 digital)
- 1/2 page vertical (\$100 print, \$75 digital)
- 1/4 page (\$50 print, \$40 digital)
- 1/8 page (\$40 print, \$30 digital)

Please contact us with any questions or to place your ad. Send emails to: rockfordedgewater@gmail.com.

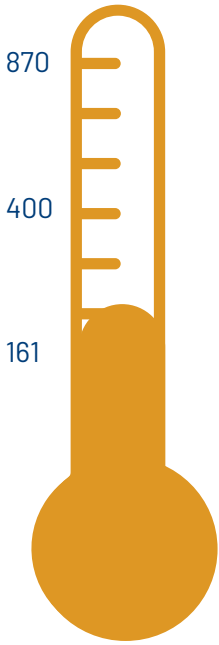
WHY MEMBERSHIP IS **IMPORTANT**

The Edgewater Neighborhood Association was established in 1979 to create a greater sense of community and provide resources that help keep Edgewater a beautiful, safe, and inviting place to live. Currently, 161 households have paid the membership fee for 2025.

2025 GOAL – 50% of the 870 Households as Members

YOUR ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FEE SUPPORTS:

- Seasonal Neighborhood Activities including the Easter Egg Hunt, Annual Garage Sale, Luminaria and the holiday party.
- Snow Plow Fund: While the city says they will plow our neighborhood's alleys as time permits, we pool our resources to contract a plow service to keep the alleys clear in a timely manner. These fees are up an average of 7%. We spend \$410-\$585 per snowfall depending on inches of snow.
- Plantings at the signs and pots on the bridge.
- Postage and printing for neighborhood mailings as well as signs advertising neighborhood activities.



JOIN THE EDGEWATER ASSOCIATION

Please mail your completed form with check to:

Edgewater Neighborhood Association

PO Box 515, Rockford, IL 61105

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Membership Dues: \$30 annually

Additional Donation _____ (supports snow removal & other neighborhood activities)

TOTAL _____

Checks may be made out to Edgewater Neighborhood Association. Prefer to pay by card? Pay online at www.rockfordedgewater.org or scan the QR code

