

Happy Fall!



ROCKFORD, ILLINOIS

JOHN BECK MEMORIAL PLAYGROUND UNVEILED SEVERAL HUNDRED HELP CELEBRATE

We are proud to unveil the John Beck Memorial Playground at Oxford Park! It was a beautiful morning for the dedication on September 30, 2023. We heard wonderful stories about John, his dedication to this community, and his desire to bring people together. This was a \$345,000 investment in our park. We hope our neighbors can enjoy this space for many years! Thank you, Rockford Park District!



Features Include:

- *A unitary playground surface for accessibility
- *A communication board to aid in inclusion (the first of its kind at a Park District park)
- *New trees planted
- *New benches
- *New picnic tables with a \$2500 grant from the Community Foundation of Northern Illinois
- *A concrete pad for a future pavilion



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NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

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

BOARD MEMBERS

- Barb Calgaro
- Phyllis Holm
- Richard Lopez
- Cassie Pike
- Michelle Polivka
- Zak Rotello
- Emily Johansson

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

12th Ward Alderwoman
Gina Meeks
815-419-1143
gina.meeks@rockfordil.gov

EDGEWATER MEETINGS

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

- November 15, 2023
- December 14, 2023 (holiday party and annual meeting)
- January 17, 2024
- February 21, 2024

The September dedication of the new Oxford Park Playground will stand out as another great example of what a neighborhood can accomplish for ALL of its residents by working together with the City of Rockford and the Rockford Park District leadership. The beautiful fall day was highlighted by the glowing tributes to John Beck by his co-workers, family, and friends. Alderman Beck was instrumental in initiating the idea of an ADA playground for both young and old at Oxford Park. As witnessed by the abundance of activity since its opening, our playground has been an instant success, bringing together our neighborhood residents. I would like to give a special shoutout to board member Cassie Pike for her enthusiasm and dedication in keeping this project moving ahead to its fruition. And thank you, too, to Alderman Gina Meeks and Mayor Tom McNamara for their continued efforts and support of our neighborhood and its ongoing activities.

Looking forward to the upcoming holiday season, the Edgewater Neighborhood annual party will be held December 14, 2023 at the Rockford Country Club. Be sure to mark your calendar and look for information on how to register for this wonderful neighborhood event and annual board meeting.

Don Schreiner, President
Edgewater Neighborhood Association

GETTING READY FOR WINTER

Winter is right around the corner, so it's a good time to brush up on the snow emergency parking guidelines and what your responsibilities are.

What Is the Odd / Even Parking Ordinance?

If a snow or ice storm reaches the point that streets are becoming difficult to clear, City officials can declare a Snow Emergency. A Snow Emergency requires that vehicles be parked on the odd address side of the street when the date ends in an odd number and on the even address side of the street when the date ends on an even number. If the snow emergency carries into the next day, at 8 am your car should be moved to the even address side of the street.

Both the Police department and snow ticketing staff will issue parking tickets at the cost of \$60 to vehicles that are parked on the wrong side of the street. It's safe to assume that if it's snowing the Odd/Even Parking is in effect. Although the ordinance is typically only put into effect when 2 inches of snow has fallen or is expected, the City may declare an emergency in preparation of a snow or ice storm.

If your street is marked as "No Parking" on one side of the street, the Snow Emergency allows you to park legally in the restricted area during the time the Snow Emergency Declaration is in effect.

The Odd/Even Parking is in effect so that plows can safely go down the streets. Do not assume that you can move your car when the street is plowed. Your car must remain parked appropriately until after the Snow Emergency has been lifted.



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Residential Plowing & Salting:

When two inches of snow or more is expected to accumulate on the pavement, the City's plowing contractor will be dispatched to clear residential streets. This takes anywhere from 12 to 14 hours to complete. The City is divided into 24 residential routes, consisting of 4 different sections in each route, totaling 96 sections City-wide. To get this job done within this timeframe, 150 plow trucks are needed, and 15 to 20 skid steers/tractors to handle cul de sacs and other problematic areas.

When a residential plowing operation is in progress, you can view completion in live time. Contractors do not salt City streets. The Public Works fleet will apply road salt on residential streets when the plowing operation is complete and once all arterial roadways are cleared. If cars are parked on both sides of the street, your street may not get salted.

**Citizen Responsibilities:**

Clearing sidewalks on property that border a public place, driveways, and alleys.

Per Rockford Code of Ordinances Section 26-9, it is unlawful to plow, push, blow, or otherwise deposit snow on public streets or places. This applies to but is not limited to, the depositing of snow removed from sidewalks and/or driveways.

UPCOMING EVENTS

LUMINARY SALE

DECEMBER 2 - 9am-3pm

Buy your luminary supplies at Village Green on North Main Street. There will be a free sand pile available on a first-come, first-served basis (bring your own bucket - remember, the sand can be wet so you want something sturdy). While you're at VG, stock up on fresh greens for your winter pots! Don't forget to renew your membership for 2024 at the sale as well!

LUMINARY NIGHT

DECEMBER 16

We have committed to the 3rd Saturday in December for Luminary Night going forward. Enjoy and participate in this Edgewater tradition. Line your walkways with luminaries (white candle-lit bags weighted with sand) at dusk.

**EDGEWATER HOLIDAY PARTY**

DECEMBER 14, 5:30-8:00pm

All Edgewater neighbors are invited to the annual Holiday Party at Rockford Country Club. Join your neighbors for an evening of holiday family fun! Heavy hors d'oeuvres, kid friendly finger food, and cash bar. Children of all ages are welcome. Kids activities, door prizes, and more! Connect with the community and learn more about the benefits of Edgewater Membership. Tickets are \$25 per adult, \$5 per child (under 12) and must be purchased in advance. Buy online at rockfordedgewater.org OR purchase in-person at the Village Green Luminary Sale.



12th WARD UPDATE

FROM ALDERWOMAN GINA MEEKS

Hello Edgewater!

It has been a full month of October. The recent news about my breast cancer diagnosis must have been a major shock to many in the area, but I wanted to inform you all that my prognosis is good. There is major shrinkage of my tumor from 8cm to 2cm. Chemotherapy is tough, but not unbearable. And I'm still out there representing the 12th ward to the very best of my abilities. Please don't hesitate to contact me with ward issues via phone or email and I will continue to work on your behalf.



I participated in the Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk at Rock Valley College on October 7. Best experience for my first time. The Mayor read his proclamation and my team, the Positive Triple Negatives, raised more than \$2,300 toward breast cancer awareness. Our shirts were supplied, designed and donated by 12th ward business Fire Dept. Coffee and they were seen everywhere.

12th ward news along the North Main Corridor:

Former Atwood property is making headway. Dumping had been removed and the space is being considered for a storage unit in the near future.

Look out for progress at the former Essex building. Updated fence and clearance of greenery will make this eyesore pop before the winter months. Additionally, the former KFC has been cleared of greenery and updated.



Meeting the new Community Service Director:

I met Sgt Courtney Tillman-Listhrop who will serve as the new Director of the Community Service Unit. We are fortunate to have our two officers Brandon Mather and Brandon Burke on the streets and she will be a welcome addition to this department.

There has been interest in a solar farm in the 12th ward near Bauer Parkway. There is a neighborhood nearby that is seeking greenery along the edges of the solar farm in an effort to disguise it from the homes, and until that is worked out, this item has been laid over.

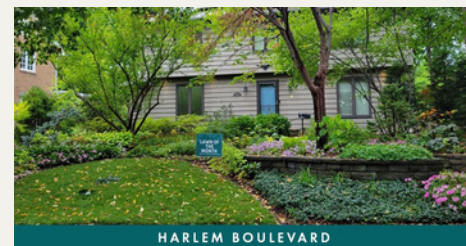
City Council update:

Garbage contracts were approved this week with new cans and recycling cans being added to the contract. This will come at a very small cost to residents in the form of cents per month, but will allow for new cans to be distributed to each resident. These cans will be easier for garbage removal and will be replaced at no cost to residents when damaged. This new contract will take effect shortly and new garbage cans will soon be distributed to all.

Happy October, Edgewater! See you this Halloween! Let's try to work our way throughout the neighborhood this year as many homes outside of the infamous Cumberland look to celebrate with the kiddos each year. Venture inside all of Edgewater to experience the Halloween spirit!

Gina M. Meeks

We round out 2023 "Lawn of the Month" with another beautiful set of winners. This fun recognition takes place June to October. Four winners were chosen each month. Check out pictures below of our final three months of winners. Winners received a Village Green gift card. Thank you to the committee of volunteers who selected winners each month.



HELPFUL NUMBERS

WEEDS HOTLINE:
NEIGHBORHOOD STANDARDS HOTLINE:
POLICE NON-EMERGENCY NUMBER:
NARCOTICS COMPLAINTS
NUISANCE NEIGHBORS (POLICE COMMUNITY SERVICES UNIT)
WINNEBAGO COUNTY ANIMAL CONTROL:

779-348-7161
779-348-7160
815-966-2900
571-362-5098
779-500-6677
815-319-4100



BEAUTIFICATION UPDATE

The 2023 gardening season is over. Thanks to a great group of volunteers, our Edgewater signs and bridge planters made our neighborhood welcoming and beautiful all season long. Thank you to Brandon, Brenda, Bryan, Don, Cynthia, Gina, Glenda, Jennifer, Nancy, Shannon, and Suzi, for your dedication and commitment to the neighborhood.

CALLING ALL GARDNERS IN 2024

The Edgewater Neighborhood Beautification Committee is planning a Neighborhood Garden Walk on Sunday, June 23, 2024 from 1-4PM. This will be a free event for neighbors to get a close-up look at some of the lovely gardens in the neighborhood. If you are interested in sharing your garden, please contact Kimberly Schmitt at kimberlyschmitt@aol.com. Look for more information regarding the Garden Walk in the Spring newsletter.



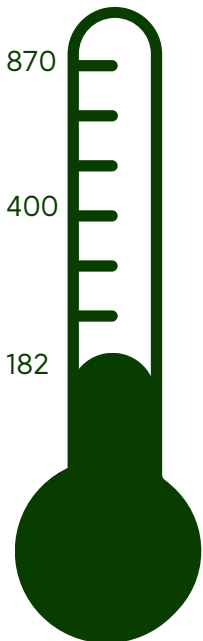
WHY MEMBERSHIP IS IMPORTANT

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, 182 households have paid the \$25 membership fee for 2023. **2024 GOAL - 50% of the 870 Households as Members**

Lock-in your 2024 membership now for \$25. On January 1, we will raise the fee to \$30. See the membership form on the last page or go online at rockfordedgewater.org.

Your annual membership fee supports:

- Seasonal Neighborhood Activities including the Easter Egg Hunt, Annual Garage Sale, 4th of July Festivities in Oxford Park, Luminaria and the holiday party.
- Snow Plow Fund: The City does not plow Edgewater's alleys, so we pool our resources to contract a plow service to keep the alleys clear. **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.



We are excited for the next phase of improvements at Oxford Park. The Park District has created a master plan with input from our neighborhood. Join us at the holiday party where we will unveil next steps for the plan and how you can help. Details for the holiday party can be found on page three or on the invite included with this newsletter. (Photos below were from the Oxford Park dedication on September 30, 2023).



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Edgewater Neighborhood Association
PO Box 515
Rockford, IL 61105



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: **\$25 annually (lock in now for 2024. \$30 annually starting January 1)**

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

