



Edgewater Neighborhood

SPRING 2022 Newsletter

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Don Schreiner

As the newly elected president of the Edgewater Board, I would like to briefly introduce myself as an enthusiastic advocate and long-time resident of our Edgewater neighborhood. Over the last 37 years, my wife Linda and I have purchased and extensively renovated 3 homes, and currently reside in the 2600 block of Harlem Boulevard. Our two daughters, who grew up here, have since both bought and restored homes in Edgewater. We all love and appreciate the community, diversity and beauty that our neighborhood offers.

Like everyone else, we have all lived through the pandemic and the accompanying isolation and upsets to our professional, personal and neighborhood activities. But despite this protracted disruption, the Edgewater Board is very excited and thankful for the renewed enthusiasm we have experienced as we begin to bring back our much loved yearly neighborhood events. (As highlighted in this newsletter and our Facebook page)

In order to build a stronger neighborhood community, we must turn this renewed enthusiasm into time and treasure contributions from all our residents. Our minimal yearly dues are used for security, beautification, property enhancement, social events, and neighborhood outreach. One hundred percent of the Edgewater Association dues go directly back into our neighborhood. Volunteering is also essential to a thriving and welcoming Edgewater neighborhood. Our neighborhood is the best of Rockford because of everyone's continued support and participation!

I look forward to meeting and talking with you all and thank you for your trust and continued engagement in Edgewater.

NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

Don Schreiner

PRESIDENT

Stacey Bernardi

VICE PRESIDENT

Mark Podemski

TREASURER

BJ Alexis

SECRETARY

BOARD MEMBERS

Michelle Evans

Phyllis Holm

Cassie Pike

Zak Rotello

Bill Simpson

12th Ward Alderman

Gina Meeks

815-419-1143

gina.meeks@rockfordil.gov

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BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT ROOTED



The entrepreneurial spirit is alive in The North End. Liz Schaer, who grew up in Edgewater and went to Cathedral of St. Peter School, saw her dream come to fruition on December 17, 2021 with the opening of her home goods store, Rooted. The store features vintage furniture and artisan made goods, and Wonderland Sweets Bakery is located inside.

"Having my own store has always been a dream of mine growing up; I always wanted to go into the little shops when I would visit family in California," remembers Schaer. "I started getting more serious about the idea when I was feeling unfulfilled at my job and could see that there was a hole in the market here in Rockford."

She began with selling succulents in vintage ceramic pottery at pop-ups in town.

"The more I went thrifting and shopping for vintage pottery, I was finding other interesting vintage items that I couldn't leave behind," said Schaer. "It grew from there and I started sourcing vintage home goods and furniture as well."

Schaer says she was inspired by the momentum that Emily Hurd Christiansen had created with The Norwegian/The Norwegian Lofts, along with The West Side Showroom open a few doors down. When the former North End Neighborhood Coffee Bar came up for auction through the Region 1 Planning Council's Land Bank program in 2020, she saw an opportunity.

Continued on page 7



NEW BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE

The Edgewater Neighborhood Association has created a Beautification Committee to promote community involvement through participation in projects that improve Edgewater. In addition to the wonderful things already happening in Edgewater, this committee will work to improve the signs that welcome folks to our neighborhood, fill and maintain the pots on the Auburn street bridge, participate in clean up days, and award Lawn of the Month to some of our wonderful gardeners.

The committee members are Theresa Knauf, Gino Labiak, Gina Meeks, Pamela Osborn, Kimberly Schmitt, Chris Svezia, and Stacie Walton. If you are interested in working on any of these projects, please send an email to rockfordedgewater@gmail.com. All are welcome!

UPCOMING EVENTS

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EASTER EGG HUNT

APRIL 16, 10am

The annual Edgewater Easter egg hunt is back in 2022! The Easter bunny has had fun delivering eggs throughout the neighborhood, but feels it's time to bring the community back together. The event will be held at Oxford Park - near Oxford and Fulton Streets. Thousands of eggs will be spread throughout the park. Look for the golden eggs for special treats! Please remember to bring baskets or bags.



GARAGE SALE

MAY 7, 8am to 3pm



Our spring garage sale is coming back. Start cleaning out closets and basements and submit your sale for the map. We will make electronic and printed maps available for visitors. Scan the code to enter your sale. The deadline to submit is Noon on May 5th.



GREAT AMERICAN CLEAN UP

APRIL 30, 8am to 3pm

Join our Alderman Gina Meeks and Keep Northern Illinois Beautiful for this event to clean up the 12th ward. It starts at Brown Park on N. Main Street. See ad on page 4 for event details.

4TH OF JULY FIREWORKS

JULY 4, DUSK

Join your neighbors in Oxford Park to watch the Rockford Country Club fireworks. Bring your own blankets and chairs, and get there early to secure your spot.

LUMINARY NIGHT

DECEMBER 17

We are committing to the 3rd Saturday in December for Luminaria Night going forward. Enjoy and participate in this Edgewater tradition. Line your walkways with luminaries (white candle-lit bags weighted with sand) at dusk. The sale at Village Green will be December 3, 9am-3pm.



GREAT AMERICAN CLEAN UP & AFTER CLEAN UP BASH

A Forward For Fun Initiative



SAT. APRIL 30, 2022

Brown Park, 2010 N. Main Street, Rockford IL

For More Information contact:

12th Ward Alderwoman Gina Meeks, 815-317-6572 or ginameeks12thward@gmail.com
9th Ward Alderman Bill Rose, 815-601-8124 or bill.rose@rockfordil.gov

CLEAN UP: 9AM-12PM & 2PM-5PM

AM Volunteer Check-In: 8:30am

PM Volunteer Check-In: 1:30pm

Pre Register to volunteer by going online to:
<https://www.knib.org/#GreatAmericanCleanup>

AFTER PARTY: 5:30PM-8:00PM

Food Trucks, Beer Garden,
Educational & Art Projects,
Local Businesses/Vendors, Awards, and
Live Entertainment



The Northwest Side is our responsibility!

EDGEWATER MEETINGS

Third Wednesday of every
month at 5:30pm at
Rockford Country Club.
Everyone is welcome to
attend.

April 20, 2022

May 18, 2022

June 15, 2022

July 20, 2022

August 17, 2022

September 21, 2022

October 19, 2022

November 16, 2022

December 21, 2022

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FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK

SPRING 2022 NEWSLETTER - PAGE 5

We are building our community and engaging with neighbors on Facebook and we invite you to join us!

We recently featured some of the pets of Edgewater on our Facebook page. We are always looking for new photos and fun ways to get to know our neighbors. We invite you to send us your fave Edgewater photos that show off our beautiful neighborhood.

Find us at the below link or scan the QR code:
facebook.com/edgewaterneighborhoodassociation



BOARD MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

BJ Alexis **Secretary**

My family has lived here since 1971, this year the house is 100 years old. So attractive are the variation of architectural styles and the abundance of trees as they leaf out in spring and color in autumn. My invitation to the board came from our beloved John Beck who called asking me to become secretary, since I was attending meetings I might as well be doing something. An invite that couldn't be denied.

Cassie Pike **Board Member**

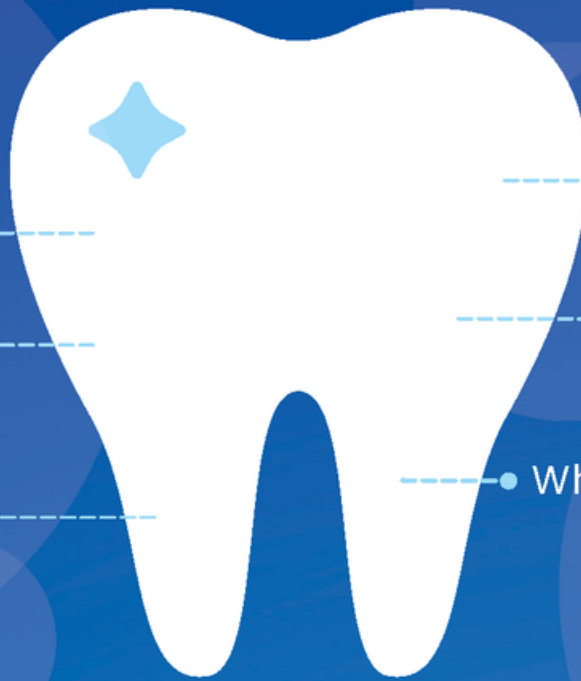
I have lived in Edgewater for seven years. Though we ended up here accidentally, and initially didn't plan to stay long, my husband and I rapidly fell in love with the area, unique homes and lovely neighbors. We now cannot even imagine leaving. I joined the board because I am excited about making our neighborhood and park more beautiful and serviceable to the residents and for community events.

HELPFUL NUMBERS

GRAFFITI HOTLINE:	779-348-7261
NEIGHBORHOOD STANDARDS HOTLINE:	779-348-7395
POLICE NON-EMERGENCY NUMBER:	815-966-2900
WINNEBAGO COUNTY ANIMAL CONTROL:	815-319-4100



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An Active Member of Our Community!



Dr. Kris Tumilowicz

- Past President, Loves Park Rotary Club
- Paul Harris Fellow & Benefactor
- Paul Harris Society Member
- Fellow, Academy of General Dentistry
- Graduate, Las Vegas Institute of Cosmetic Dentistry
- Diplomate, International Congress of Oral Implantologists
- Senior Follies Cast Member
- Former Owner, Rockford IceHogs
- Team Dentist, Rockford Rivets
- Eagle Scout 1968
- Eagle Scout Dad
- Order of the Arrow
- Past President, Blackhawk Area Council
- Silver Beaver Award Recipient
- Ethnic Heritage Museum Award Recipient
- Polish Father of the Year
- Polish Business Person of the Year
- Cantor, Choir Member - Cathedral of St. Peter
- 4th Degree Member, Knights of Columbus
- Past President, Cosmopolitan Club of Rockford
- Past President, The Mauh-Nah-Tee-See Club



"I knew that The North End would be the perfect location. I wrote up and submitted a business plan and ended up winning the auction and purchased the building in June 2020 sight unseen," said Schaer. "From there, it was 18 months of adventures and renovations. The entire building was full of trash, it took 6 months to get the power turned on, and there was a lot of work I had to do in the main shop area and the commercial kitchen area in order to rent that out to Wonderland Sweets."

Now that the store has been open for three months, Schaer hopes she has added to the luster of The North End.

"My goal with Rooted was for a customer to come in and experience a big-city store in Rockford," said Schaer. "Rockford is ready for more creativity and fun things to do in the area. Instead of driving out to Chicago or Madison to visit a shop like this, it's easy to pop over to The North End for lunch at The Norwegian, go shopping at Rooted, and see a show at The West Side Show Room."

Rooted will be an official location for Art Scene featuring Alison Weust in its 40-foot gallery hallway. Spring Art Scene is April 22 & 23, 2022.

Rooted is located at 1408 N. Main Street. It is open Thursday & Friday from 12-6, Saturday from 10-4, and Sunday from 10-2.



Neighbors, the City needs your input to help guide plans for the next 10 years. Please visit the below link, take the survey, and share with your local friends, family, and neighbors!

WWW.SURVEYMONKEY.COM/R/ROCKFORDPLANNING2022



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

The Edgewater Association is looking for neighbors who are interested in sharing their time and talent. Our sought-after neighborhood wouldn't be what it is without volunteers. Below are opportunities for consideration:

- Writer for the newsletter
- Graphic designer to layout newsletter
- Beautification committee to help water plants/pots
- Coordinate events - 4th of July, garage sale, Easter, Luminaria
- Recruit membership
- Sell ads in the newsletter

The roles are flexible and don't take up much time. If you're interested, email rockfordedgewater@gmail.com.

When it comes to your to-do list, put your future first.

To find out how to get your financial goals on track, contact us for a complimentary review.



Michelle R Bowman, AAMS®, CRPC®
Financial Advisor
2715 N Main St
Rockford, IL 61103-3111
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MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING



Edgewater Neighborhood Association
PO Box 515
Rockford, IL 61105



JOIN THE EDGEWATER ASSOCIATION

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.

Your annually-renewable \$20 Membership fee supports:

- Seasonal Neighborhood Activities including the Easter Egg Hunt, Annual Garage Sale, 4th of July Festivities in Oxford Park, and Luminaria
- 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 all winter long.
- Watering planters on Auburn Street and the north side of Auburn Street Bridge.
- Postage for neighborhood mailings and printing of those mailings, as well as signs advertising neighborhood activities.

2022 GOAL - 50% of the 870 Households as Members

Watch as we track our progress throughout the year.
Help us reach our goal!

Please mail your completed form with check to:

Edgewater Neighborhood Association
PO Box 515, Rockford, IL 61105

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Membership Dues: **\$20 annually**

Additional Donation _____ (to support snow removal
and 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

