

Edgewater Neighborhood Newsletter

4th of July Festivities

Join Us for Family Fun!



There's nothing quite like Edgewater on the 4th of July!

The Edgewater area may be Mayberry-like every day, but on the 4th of July, we bring it up another notch! Pride and patriotism go hand-in-hand along flag-lined walkways, and fun and fireworks fill the night sky. **Join us!** Details on page 3.

Ash Tree Update



The Public Works Forestry Division began an aggressive removal program of **city-owned** ash trees on June 9, 2014, targeting Ash Trees with 50% or more of their leaf canopy showing signs of distress resulting from the destructive effects of the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) disease. The disease has become more widespread and is causing dramatic canopy loss in many of area ash trees.

If the Forestry Division determines that a tree has declined to the point of 50% or more canopy loss, the tree will be marked for removal and city staff will provide notification to the resident or homeowner in the form of a letter left at the residence. Contact information is provided on this notification in the event respective residents have questions.

City-owned ash trees are defined as those trees found in the public right-of-way (the area between the public sidewalk and the street) or on city-owned property.

Walker School: It's OUR Neighborhood

Hello Edgewater Neighbors,

I am writing with regards to the future of Walker Elementary School, as indicated under the proposals put forth by the Rockford School District's Better Schools initiative. Included in the initiative are three proposals for utilizing the District's resources more effectively. This includes adding additions to some schools, consolidating other schools, and closing still other schools, Walker being one of them. *(continued, next page)*

After attending two Community Input Sessions, it is clear that the proposals represent a thorough, exhaustive process on behalf of the Facilities Task Force that aims to serve students while leveraging the District's resources better. Towards these aims, **each proposal makes clear that the District is not considering the Walker building for use as an elementary school after the 2014-2015 school year.** Further, the language used during the Community Input Sessions suggests that a property like Walker will be demolished expediently, in the interest of being 'good neighbors', with no intention to repurpose the property.



The outcome of these proposals in general, and Walker School in particular, will not be determined until the June 24th School Board meeting.

In the meantime, **I would like to establish a coalition of neighbors to help determine the best use of the Walker property, if/when it ceases to be used as an Elementary School.**

If you would like to play a role in determining the future of the Walker property—and you are willing to commit your time and energy to the process—please contact me. We would likely hold a meeting for the residents within Churchill's Grove, Signal Hill, North End Square, and Edgewater at a later date for the neighbors to come and share their thoughts.

Regards, Michael Smith
815.218.3958

Summer Weather: The Perfect Opportunity for Crime



A familiar pattern emerges at this time of year—we're more relaxed, with open doors and windows, making us an easier target for those with ill will.

Protect your self, family, pets, and property by:

Always lock doors, windows, cars, and your bikes. Lock the garage door, whether it leads into your home or yard. Don't leave your garage open as you do yard work, etc.

Don't leave valuables in your car and never leave your garage door opener in view.

Heading out on vacation? Leave lamps on timers, let your neighbors know you'll be away, and let the police know as well: You can even request that the police check on your home in your absence. Just click on: <http://www.rockfordil.gov/police/request-for-residential-vacation-checks-form.aspx> and fill out the form.

Community Services Officer

Eric Jones

815.987.8274, eric.jones@rockfordil.gov

Eric reminds us to CALL THE POLICE with any crime or safety concerns.

815.966.2900 Non-Emergency: Suspicious person or activity not of imminent concern.

911 Emergency: An intruder in your yard or home, immediate safety concerns.



Bike Parade and Fireworks Fun

Location: Oxford Park
Fun Begins: 5:30 pm, Friday, July 4
Bike Parade: 6:30 pm
Fireworks at dusk

Special Appearance by Rockford Fire Department
(Their siren will kick off the bike parade!)

KIDS: Decorate your bike and join the parade!
Fun and raffle prizes for ages five and under, six and up.
Show off your patriotism and your creativity.

FREE Popcorn!
(pop, nachos, and cotton candy available with small fees)

Special thanks to the Tim Moore Family
for working tirelessly to bring us this event
the past 6 years.



Become a Member!

Why?

You'll be a vital part of your neighborhood association, established in 1979 to help create a sense of community and a safer, more beautiful place to live.

What Are My Dues For?

Seasonal Neighborhood Activities

Easter Egg Hunt and 4th of July in the Park

Snow Plowing of Alleys

We pool our resources to plow the alleys, as the city does NOT do so.

Annual Neighborhood Garage Sale

Organization Fees

All fees are kept to a minimum.

Holiday Luminarias

In common areas

Watering of Auburn Street Planters

You're invited!

All Edgewater residents are invited to attend our monthly meetings:

Third Wednesday of the Month
5:30 p.m. at Rockford Country Club

2013 Edgewater Membership Form

Please mail your completed form with check to:

Edgewater Neighborhood Association
PO Box 515
Rockford, IL 61105

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

(All information is used only for Edgewater-related communication)

Annual membership dues: \$15

Snowplow fund (any amount is welcome): _____

Other (please specify): _____

Total:

Or, pay online
at rockfordedgewater.org
with PayPal!