



# Edgewater Neighborhood Association



Spring  
2015

# Newsletter



## Upcoming Events

### **Easter Egg Hunt**

Saturday, April 4  
10 am  
Oxford Park

### **Spring Clean Up**

Saturday, March 28  
9am-Noon  
Meet at 2116 Clinton St.

### **Neighborhood Garage Sale**

Saturday, June 13  
Watch for details on  
Facebook  
Nextdoor Edgewater  
[rockfordedgewater.org](http://rockfordedgewater.org)

### **4<sup>th</sup> of July Celebration**

Saturday, July 4

## Easter Egg Hunt ~fun for the whole family~

Bring the kids for annual springtime fun at the Edgewater Neighborhood Easter Egg Hunt. The Easter Bunny and Crew have been hard at work gathering goodies for the kids to discover.

Once the Easter Bunny has completed his deliveries, kids will be divided into younger and older groups, so everyone can get in on the fun.

You'll be able to create family memories for years to come.

Rain or shine, fun will be had by all.

**Don't forget the camera!**



## Greetings from Your Alderman

Well, it looks like winter is finally coming to an end!

It has been an interesting few months for the City of Rockford. The following are a couple of the recent issues that we've been dealing with:



## A Letter from your Alderman

~John Beck

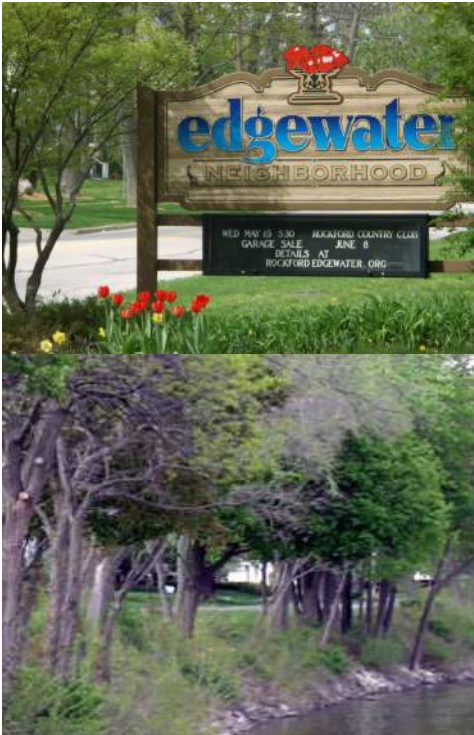
### New City Council Meeting Structure

When the last City election resulted in 7 new aldermen, we began an examination of the meeting structure of City Council. At that time, City Council meetings were held every Monday and were preceded by meetings of the three City Council committees: Codes and Regulations, Finance and Personnel, and Planning and Development. Each alderman serves on one of these committees: 5 on Codes and Regulations, 5 on Finance and Personnel, and 4 on Planning and Development. Each committee met at primarily the same time, which was problematic in a couple of ways. First, if an alderman wanted to know what was happening on another committee, they were not able to attend because they had to attend their own committee meeting. Second, with only 4 aldermen on Planning and Development, they often were not able to meet because they required a 3-member quorum. Also, while City Council meetings were televised, committee meetings were not. This meant that many people watching the meetings were not familiar with the items being discussed on the Council floor, because much of the discussion had occurred at the committee level.

After much debate and consideration of different structures, at the first of this year we moved to a new structure. City Council meetings are held on the first and third Monday of the month and consecutively running committee meetings on the second and fourth Monday of the month. Each committee is still chaired by an alderman who now sits at the mayor's podium in the City Council chambers to run their meeting. Also, one of the aldermen is now sitting on two committees, one of them being Planning and Development, so they have an easier time with a quorum.

This new structure is something that I supported because I thought it was important for aldermen to be able to attend all committee meetings and also, I felt that the public should be able to watch the committee meetings on TV, as they did the Council meetings. **After a couple of months, I'm pleased that the new format is a tremendous improvement in how we operate and helps us to be more transparent.**

(cont. on page 5)



# Welcome to the Neighborhood

Local businesses  
choose our area  
to set up shop.

## Rockford Family Dental

Conveniently located in a freshly appointed space on North Main Street, Rockford Family Dental lives up to their name. Caring and experienced dentists Dr. Razvan Mirza and Dr. Catherine Baer-Mirza are pleased to provide quality dental care to area families.

A full-service dental practice, Rockford Family Dental provides excellent dental care to all of their patients from young to old, and every age in between. Offering general, pediatric, and cosmetic dentistry, the team at Rockford Family Dental is dedicated to keeping your mouth healthy for a lifetime.

Their philosophy is to create a home away from home—a welcome and comfortable environment. They deliver dental care with a gentle touch and educate you in whole mouth health.

Michelle Bowman  
Edward Jones Advisor



2715 N. Main St.  
Suite C  
Rockford, IL  
61103

815-636-6665

I joined Edward Jones  
in 2006.

Recently, I opened the  
new branch on N. Main St.  
I'm excited to be in the  
North End and a part of

I specialize in helping  
people achieve their  
financial goals.

2715 N. Main St.  
Rockford, Illinois 61103  
815.964.8713  
rockfordfamilydental.com



## From A Sad Beginning, a Joyful Legacy 2204 Oxford Street

My family has had the pleasure of making 2204 Oxford our home since 1971. Its history has been a source of my curiosity for some time. Who'd have guessed that 95 years ago it began with tragedy and sadness...

In January 1920, Ingersoll purchased 41 lots in the North End. It was rumored that residences for company employees would be built on these lots, which led to the Rockford Country Club.

The title to the lot appears to have been transferred in July 1922. Taking custody of the house was Mr. & Mrs. Edwin Reber, an influential family in Rockford; Edwin's Father, Thomas, was the Co-Owner of Rockford Lumber & Fuel. On October 30th, the Reber's second child was born. Several months later, however, the child became very ill. The Rockford Republic, May 12, 1923, adds more: "when schedule permits street car men stop and inquire of some neighbor how the little grandchild is". ... "people living near the Reber home constituting the vicinity a quiet zone that the baby's sleep might not be disturbed". 12 days later, the Reber baby passes away. Funeral services were held in the home the next day, with burial in Greenwood Cemetery.



After a period of mourning, the Rebers are mentioned repeatedly in society columns almost monthly until 1941. That February, a large picture of the house is in the real estate section: "2204 OXFORD ST ...SOLD".

Years later, the home would be occupied by the Secor Browne family. A young Denise Giles met Secor in England during World War II; they married, and she came to the US with her husband in 1946. Five years later, the newspaper includes an article titled, "Ship's Banker from England visiting here". A Mr. Patrick Giles of the Midland bank of England is visiting his sister, Mrs. Secor Browne (Denise). "Giles represents the Midland Bank aboard various Cunard White Star liners, including the Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mary, Mauretania and Caronia." The seagoing bank changes currency for travelers to that of the country they are visiting. Giles is spending the holidays with his sister's family and will return "to England in 2 weeks aboard the Queen Mary". During WWII Giles was a "member of the Royal Ulster Rifles, a British regular outfit originating in Northern Ireland."

In 1961, 2204 Oxford is the home of the Cy Edwards family. A piece in the newspaper that year included young Patricia Edwards, who was described as a Charter Member of the Potluck Club, a club that Patricia and friends have been a part of since they were fifth-grade students at Walker School in 1952.

The house began with the sad passing of a newborn, but since then has been the source of many joys over the years. No, no ghosts, no babies crying as a friend asked when I mentioned the article. Previous owners have contacted us: once a Christmas card from the son of an owner writing "he had wonderful times in the house and hoped we did too." Another time a distinguished older gentlemen jogging in the alley told me he was a teenager here with many joyous remembrances. Finally, the daughter of the previous owner stopped by and after giving her a tour, told us of her many happy memories in the house. She also told us that during one dinner given by her mother, former Congressman and 3rd party presidential candidate, John Anderson, as a guest of some other friends, dined at their table.

So neighbors, even though not all our houses may not be mentioned individually in the newspaper, there are fantastic memories to be had of our historical neighborhood. I hereby issue a friendly challenge, look into your own homes on the Rockford Public Library newsbank and let us know what you find. Use a comfortable seat because, yes, it will take hours considering the long history of Edgewater, as noted 100 years ago in an August 14, 1915 article, "a fine residence district".

Your Clandestine Reporter and home owner, "Alex", signing off.



## Charming House for Across From Oxford Park

You love living in Edgewater—wouldn't it be great if your best friends moved here too?

Let them know about this 1940s charmer with freshly painted interior and landscaped yard and 3-season porch. They'll enjoy true Edgewater charm in this two story cottage with 1940s architecture and wooden beamed ceilings and tongue and groove wood 8" flooring.

This lovely home boasts:

- 2 family rooms (with fireplaces!)
- Study
- Formal dining room
- All new stainless steel appliances
- 3 bedrooms

*Letter from your Alderman (cont.)*

### **Hiring and Firing Police and Fire Chiefs**

I'm sure many of you heard that the mayor proposed changing how the police and fire chiefs are hired and fired. Currently, a three-person Police and Fire Commission is appointed by the mayor and approved by City Council to fulfill this function as well as many other hiring, training and disciplinary functions for both departments. The mayor proposed that: the function of hiring and firing our chiefs be conducted by his office, with approval by City Council. He felt that it was important for City Hall, not the Commission, to fulfill this important role—as we are the ones elected by the citizens. Also, we're the only city in Illinois (over 100,000 pop.) that does not retain this function. While there are good arguments for making this change, the timing was not good, as there are currently hearings being conducted by the Commission in regard to our current Police Chief. If we were to make this change now, the hearings would abruptly be ended without coming to a conclusion. So I did not support making the change at this time but am open to future

**As Edgewater President,** I welcome you to upcoming events like the Easter Egg Hunt, Neighborhood Cleanup and Garage Sale. I hope you will participate. Also, please join us at our monthly Neighborhood Association meetings at the Rockford Country Club, the third Wednesday of each month at 5:30 p.m.

# Be a good neighbor!

Every day, any one of us might benefit from a little assistance to make life a bit easier.

Have a neighbor who is a **senior citizen**?

Check in on them!

Ask if they'd like you to

- pick up an item on your grocery store run
- shovel their walk
- change a hard-to-reach light bulb

Just a few short minutes of your day can make a world of difference—and truly brighten—someone else's.

So, look around and offer some help to a single parent, a housebound senior...any neighbor who could use a hand.



PICK UP AFTER YOUR PUP! It's the neighborly thing to do.



PICK UP the poo!

## Become a Member!

Membership creates a sense of community and a better place to live.

Annual Dues (\$15) cover:

- Seasonal Neighborhood Activities
- Annual Neighborhood Garage Sale
- Organization Fees
- Luminarias in Common Areas
- Watering of Auburn Street Planters

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

(All contact information may be used for Edgewater communication)

Add to the Snowplow Fund (any amount is welcome): \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail your completed form with check to:

Edgewater Neighborhood Association  
PO Box 515  
Rockford, IL 61105

Or, pay online at [rockfordedgewater.org](http://rockfordedgewater.org) with PayPal.



