



Edgewater Neighborhood Summer Newsletter 2018



Neighborhood Association Officers

President & Alderman
John Beck 815.289.4787
john.beck@rockfordil.gov

Vice President
Michelle Bowman

Treasurer
Kim Millhorn

Secretary
B.J. Alexis

Board Members

Barb Berman
Dick Berman
Michael Goddard
Phyllis Holm
Mark Podemski
Lucretia Ristin
Bill Simpson
Jennifer Smith
Drew Williams

Community Services Officer

Brian Squires
779.500.6627
brian.squires@rockfordil.gov

Summer in Edgewater — it's a beautiful thing!

Perhaps it's not *officially* summer according to the calendar, but all the events, activities, and community energy that we associate with the season are in full swing! For Edgewater, that means anticipation of the 4th of July events to come and lots (lots!) of people walking, biking, roller blading, longboarding, dog walking, stroller pushing, and just plain enjoying our beautiful neighborhood. After being cooped up from a long winter and loooooong cold spring, it's a great time to meet new neighbors or reconnect with old ones. Spend a little extra time on the porch, linger on that over-the-fence conversation, and enjoy the long, warm evenings. You'll see lots of ways to enjoy the summer in Edgewater and beyond in the following pages.

We are very excited to let you know that Edgewater was one of 13 neighborhood and community groups to be awarded funds from the Neighborhood Grants Program that is provided through a partnership of the Community Foundation of Northern Illinois (CFNIL) and HomeStart. Edgewater applied for funds to help support our efforts to increase engagement and participation of our neighbors in events, meetings, and providing better, more consistent, and useful information both digitally and in print. The \$900 we were awarded will fund the print newsletter that is sent in late November to all 1200 households in Edgewater, as well as fund a rebuild and rebrand for our neighborhood website. **These projects will help us prepare for two major Edgewater Anniversaries that are coming up in 2019 and 2020 — learn more on page 2!** Thank you to CFNIL and HomeStart for providing these funds that support stronger neighborhoods across the city!

We hope you'll join us for a special meeting during the normal time of our association meeting on September 19. Learn more on page 2!

Have a wonderful summer!

—The Edgewater Neighborhood Association Board



Jon Bates, President of the Community Foundation of Northern Illinois and Sarah Brinkmann, Executive Director of HomeStart, speak at the Neighborhood Grants Award Ceremony on May 24th.

Promote your business to Edgewater neighbors!

Run an ad in the Edgewater newsletter and reach hundreds of neighbors in Edgewater and beyond. E-newsletters are sent to nearly 300 residents and posted on Facebook, NextDoor, and the neighborhood website. Physical newsletters are also mailed to 1200 Edgewater households in the fall.

Fees vary by ad size and whether the newsletter is digital or printed. Ad materials (digital PDF, JPEG or PNG files) can be submitted to Jennifer Smith, jenebuck@gmail.com. Please contact Jennifer with any questions.



Upcoming Neighborhood Events

Page 2

4th of July Celebration

Wednesday, July 4 | Oxford Park

Bring out your red, white, and blue and celebrate the 4th in style in Edgewater! Kids, deck out those bikes for the Kids Bike Parade starting at 6pm on Fulton Street in front of Oxford Park — everyone gets a goody bag and names are drawn for fun prizes! Face painting, music, and concessions (burgers, hot dogs, cotton candy, popcorn, drinks, and more!) will be available from 6:00pm until the start of the fireworks. The Rockford Country Club shoots off a great fireworks display starting at dusk so bring your lawnchairs or a blanket and enjoy the evening with neighbors and friends at Oxford Park! Watch for more details on Facebook ([Edgewater Neighborhood Association](#)), [RockfordEdgewater.org](#), and [Nextdoor Edgewater](#).



Monthly Association Meetings

Wednesdays, June 20, August 15, September 19 | Rockford Country Club

Each month (excluding July) the Edgewater Neighborhood Association holds a meeting on the third Wednesday at 5:30. The meetings are held at the Rockford Country Club and all residents are welcome, whether or not you are an Association member! The meeting begins with a presentation by our community services officer Brian Squires, who shares crime stats for Edgewater and gives additional updates from the police department. Neighbors are invited to share any comments, questions, or concerns about the neighborhood, and Alderman John Beck provides updates from the City of Rockford. Occasionally a guest speaker is on hand to give a presentation on a timely topic. We break for dinner (light dinner is served by the Country Club and donations are accepted to offset the expense) and then the Board holds its business meeting, during which all neighbors are welcome to stay.

At our June 20 meeting Officer Squires will give a presentation with tips about how to keep your home, car, and other personal property safe. Get a preview of these tips on page 4!

At our September 19 meeting, volunteers of the Great Neighborhoods Project will join us and lead a facilitated session designed to help Edgewater neighbors identify and map the great aspects of the neighborhood, begin to consider how to better leverage those assets, and provide resources and tools to help us better brand our neighborhood as a unique and wonderful place. This all volunteer group has been visiting neighborhoods across the city, engaging neighbors in the work of improving their own neighborhoods and getting to know one another better. This should be a unique and fun evening, please join us! Light dinner will be served and we'll have activities on hand for kids, too!

[Take a look at the Great Neighborhoods video to learn more!](#)



Two Big Anniversaries Upcoming for Edgewater!

As mentioned on the opening letter on page 1 of the newsletter, the Board realized that the next two years hold significant milestones for Edgewater Neighborhood. 2019 is the 40th anniversary of the establishment of the Edgewater Neighborhood Association, and 2020 is the 130th anniversary of Edgewater being platted as a neighborhood! In light of these anniversaries, we plan to hold several special events over the course of those two years, and to do our best to engage many more neighbors in Edgewater activities. We'd like to increase neighbor engagement not only to keep the neighborhood association strong, but to make life in Edgewater more pleasant for every resident, and to make Edgewater even more desirable for people looking for a new place to live. We can make Edgewater vibrant and wonderful for generations to come! Look for more details and ways to get involved in the months to come, and be sure to join us for the Great Neighborhoods visit on September 19 (see above for details) which will be a great way to kick off our planning!



All About Yards!

The weather has been pretty bizarre this spring, and after a very long, cold April, it's been a challenge to keep up with the quick-growing grass (and weeds!). As we all shift into summer mode and making time for mowing and weeding, let's be patient with neighbors who may sometimes take a little longer than we'd prefer to address long grass. Do you have a neighbor who is elderly or for whom a physical impairment makes yard work difficult? Perhaps you'll consider taking a little extra time to help them out!

All this being said, should you notice a yard that is perpetually out of control, or trees and bushes that have grown to the point they impede people walking on the sidewalk or cars entering an alley, place a call to the City of Rockford Weeds Hotline to report the issue: 779.348.7161

Yard refuse pickup continues throughout the summer, and occurs on the same day your trash is picked up. Refuse including leaves, grass, and sticks should be placed in brown paper yard waste bags or in garbage cans that are clearly marked with an "X". Branches may be no more than 4 inches in diameter, trimmed to 4 feet in length, and no bundle of branches or yard waste bag/can should weigh more than



Water Meter Replacement

This spring the City of Rockford Water Division kicked off its 2018 water meter replacement program. If you are due for a meter replacement, you will receive a postcard in the mail with instructions on how to schedule an appointment. The appointment takes no longer than 15 minutes and the meter is replaced at no cost to you!

Meter Replacement Required

The City of Rockford Water Division is requesting access inside your property to install a new water meter. This meter installation should take no longer than 15 minutes and will be done at no cost to you.

Please visit www.rockfordwater.setmore.com to schedule an appointment.

Our Field Services office can also be reached at 779-348-7152, Monday thru Friday from 7am to 3:30pm.

Failure to schedule an appointment may result in disconnection.



It's Construction Season

Summer means road construction, and while there are lots of projects underway across town the major projects in our neck of the woods are making visible, tangible progress! Read more about the timeline for the Spring Creek resurfacing project [HERE](#). The North Main project remains ahead of schedule with the goal for the rebuild to be completed this fall with only minor touch-up work to be completed next spring. Whenever you can, please support our local businesses that are impacted by these construction projects!



Private Property Tree Removal Program

The City of Rockford has launched a new program to help address dead and dying trees on private property. The program provides a no-interest loan, to be repaid on the resident's water bill, for the removal of trees deemed a hazard by the City's Forestry Division. The program is available to residents with an annual income under \$70,000, and only for owner-occupied property. Visit the [program detail page on the City's](#)



2715 N. Main St.
Rockford, IL 61103

P 815-964-8713
F 815-964-3719

ROCKFORD

FAMILY DENTAL
Dr. Catherine Baer-Mirza
Dr. Razvan Mirza
www.rockfordfamilydental.com

A few friendly reminders to help keep your Home Sweet Home safe this summer

Our Community Services Officer gave us a few reminders about ways to discourage criminal activity.

- Most of the non domestic-related burglaries that occur in our neighborhood occur when a car or garage door is accidentally left unlocked. Double check that entrances are secure and help your neighbors stay safe, too — if someone inadvertently leaves a garage door open, give them a call!
- If you have outside lights, turn them on at night. A well-lit street and well-lit entrances are major deterrents. Also, keeping bushes, shrubs, and trees trimmed around the perimeter of your house leaves fewer places for someone to hide or be obscured from street view.
- With increasing amounts of shopping done online, there are also increases in packages being stolen off porches. If you have a neighbor who is home during the day, you might ask if they can keep an eye out for the delivery.
- If you see activity that seems suspicious, do not hesitate to call it in to the non-emergency line: (815) 966-2900. Every police officer that visits our neighborhood meetings stresses this point and encourages residents to not feel they are being a bother for calling in something that “may be nothing”.



One of the best things about Edgewater and one reason that we have very low relative incidents of crime is that there are so many people enjoying our neighborhood by foot and by bike. **“Eyes on the street” can be one of the most effective deterrents against criminal activity.** Keeping our neighborhood friendly for people walking with kids or dogs, pushing strollers, or enjoying a leisurely bike ride sends a clear message about who these streets are for — for our neighbors to enjoy!



With this in mind, help keep Edgewater walkable and bikeable:

- Keep sidewalks clear from overgrown grass, shrubs, and trees.
- Don't park your car in a way that blocks the sidewalk or crosswalks.
- Keep an eye out for pedestrians bikes when driving through the neighborhood.

And above all, get out and enjoy the neighborhood yourself! Meet some new neighbors, linger on a front porch, take a different route and discover a new street. See you out and about this summer!

City of Rockford E-Newsletter

If you're looking for another way to stay in the loop about what's going on in Rockford, the City of Rockford has started producing a community e-newsletter! Add your name to the email contact list [HERE](#).

Ahimsa-Yoga with Keri

Official Yoga Teacher of the Rockford Icehogs!

Weekly classes & private sessions available!

Learn more by visiting:
www.ahimsa-yogawithkeri.com

www.facebook.com/ahimsayogawithkeri

Contact Keri:
815.312.2830
Keri@ahimsa-yogawithkeri.com

Upcoming Community Events

Page 5

Rockford City Market & North End Market

City Market: Fridays, 3:30—8:30 p.m.

Intersection of State & Water St., downtown Rockford

North End Market: Saturdays, 9 a.m.—1 p.m.

SE corner of North Main and Auburn

City Market and North End Market are here again for your enjoyment all summer long! Live music, fresh produce, local handmade goods, and delicious food make both these weekly events popular with residents and visitors alike. The North End Market is just a short walk or bike ride from Edgewater and a great way to meet neighbors and friends in our own stomping grounds! www.rockfordcitymarket.com



Tuesday Evenings in the Gardens

Live music on Tuesday evenings in the grounds of Anderson Japanese Gardens. [Learn more.](#)



Japanese Summer Festival

A Celebration of Traditional Cultural Arts, Saturday, July 28. The Japanese Summer Festival features exhibits, demonstrations and unique performances that appeal to all age groups and helps foster a better understanding of the Japanese culture. [Learn more.](#)



Tour de North End

Rockford's original bike festival and neighborhood ride returns for its SEVENTH year on July 28! Hosted by Olympic Tavern and featuring many North End businesses, this is right in

our backyard and you do NOT want to miss out.

www.tourdenorthend.com



Enjoy Life on 2 Wheels this Summer

Looking for more opportunities to explore Rockford by bike and get to know other people who enjoy life on two wheels? I Bike Rockford is an all-volunteer group that works to establish more ways for people on bikes to

enjoy Rockford,

including hosting weekly Swarm the Market rides at the end of City

Market! Meet at the south entrance of City Market (State and Water Streets) for a casual ride in and near downtown, starting at 7pm. Learn more about I Bike Rockford [on their Facebook page!](#)



Swarm The Market

For housing news

Please visit...

Edgewater-homes.com



Keith Kelly

815-509-3655

Rockford Public Library Summer Reading Club

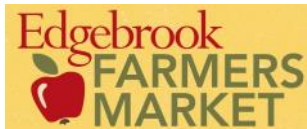
Kids, young adults, and adults alike can participate in the RPL Summer Reading Club, and earn points and prizes along the way! Kickoff parties will be held at five library branches on June 2. Can't make the kickoff party? You can still [register online anytime.](#)

ROCKFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY'S 2018 SUMMER READING CLUB June 2 nd – August 11 th	
CHILDREN'S CLUB Birth - 5th Grade	JOIN US FOR ONE OF THESE SUMMER READING CLUB KICKOFF PARTIES!
YOUNG ADULT CLUB 6th - 12th Grade	East Branch 6685 E. State St. Saturday, June 2 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
ADULT CLUB Ages 18 and up	Rockton Centre Branch 3112 N. Rockton Ave. Friday, June 8 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.
	Hart Interim Library 214 N. Church St. Saturday, June 2 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.
	Montague Branch 1238 S. Winnebago St. Saturday, June 9 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
	Rock River Branch 3128 11th St. Thursday, June 7 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.
	Can't make it to the Kick-Off parties? Join at any RPL location between June 2 and August 11.

Community Events, Continued

Page 6

Edgebrook Events



Rockford's longest running farmers market is open every Wednesday from 9a—1p until October 31 in the parking lot at Edgebrook Shops, 1639 N Alpine Road. And on select Fridays throughout the summer, enjoy live music outside the Edgebrook Mary's Market! [Learn more.](#)

Sinnissippi Music Shell

Free live performances on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 7:00pm, through August 2. Sinnissippi Park Music Shell is located at 1401 N. Second St.



Tunes on the Terrace

Free concerts featuring local musicians on the outdoor terrace at Nicholas Conservatory. Held Wednesday nights during the summer from 6-8pm. Don't forget your lawn chair!



Levings Showcase & Domingo el Parque

Live music, Sunday afternoons and evenings throughout the summer. Located at Levings Lake, 1420 S. Pierpont Ave.



Learn more about all three of these Rockford Park District summer music series in their [Sounds of the Summer Program Guide!](#)

Become a Member of Edgewater Neighborhood 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 \$15 Membership fee supports:

- ✧ Seasonal Neighborhood Activities including the Easter Egg Hunt, Annual Garage Sale, 4th of July Festivities in Oxford Park, and Luminaria (including Luminaries placed in public places like the Auburn Street Bridge).
- ✧ Snow Plow Fund: The City does not plow Edgewater's many alleys, so as a neighborhood we pool our resources and contract with a plow service to keep those 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.

Thank you for your Membership and for helping Edgewater continue to be the vibrant, unique neighborhood we can be proud to call home!



Please mail your completed form with check to:

Edgewater Neighborhood Association
PO Box 515
Rockford, IL 61105

Name _____

Address _____
(Used for Edgewater mailings)

Phone _____
(Used for Edgewater information only)

Email _____
(Receive updates from our Alderman and Neighborhood Association President, John Beck)

Membership Dues **\$15**

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 with PayPal at www.rockfordedgewater.org!