

# Edgewater Neighborhood

August 2022 Newsletter

## OXFORD PARK PLAYGROUND RENOVATION

### A New Place to Play

Oxford Park playground will be getting a makeover! As one of the most heavily utilized playgrounds in the Rockford Park District, it's next on the list to be renovated. There are no immediate dangers, but the playground was installed in 1999, so it is well beyond its useful lifecycle. The Park District has budgeted \$165,000 for the new playground and you get to help pick it out. The new playground is scheduled to be complete by next summer.

The Rockford Park District recently completed round one of engagement with residents living around Oxford Park to gather initial playground design feedback along with insight to help develop an overall master plan for the park. They received 194 responses to the online survey. Thank you to everyone who took time to give us your feedback! RPD will take this data and continue to refine playground designs and overall park concepts. Here are the top responses regarding playground design elements:



- Garden or treehouse theme
- Include rock or wall climber
- Include belt swing, tot swings, and multi-user swings
- Include zipline
- Include rung ladder or ring ladder
- Utilize interactive play panels
- Include a winding slide

Continued on Page X

## NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

Don Schreiner  
PRESIDENT  
Stacey Bernardi  
VICE PRESIDENT  
Mark Podemski  
TREASURER  
BJ Alexis  
SECRETARY

## BOARD MEMBERS

Phyllis Holm  
Brandon Kruse  
Cassie Pike  
Zak Rotello  
Bill Simpson

12th Ward Alderman  
Gina Meeks  
815-419-1143  
[gina.meeks@rockfordil.gov](mailto:gina.meeks@rockfordil.gov)

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 2 PRESIDENT LETTER
- 3 BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT
- 4 UPCOMING EVENTS
- 5 LAWN OF THE MONTH
- 9 GREAT NEIGHBORHOODS
- 10 BECOME AN EDGEWATER MEMBER

Hello Edgewater neighbors.

It is great to see so many of you out and about walking and biking the neighborhood during this beautiful time of the year. It always brings a smile to my face and genuine happiness knowing how lucky my family, friends, and neighbors are to enjoy and share everything our neighborhood has to offer. And, it is only getting better since the post-COVID resurgence of Edgewater Neighborhood membership, volunteerism, and neighborhood efforts, which I am proud to share with you now.

First of all, I want to thank everyone who recently participated in the Oxford Park Renovation Survey that was sent out by the Rockford Park District in collaboration with the Edgewater Neighborhood Association, requesting feedback on two master plans to complete a \$165,000 renovation of our current playground. This project has been in the works for over 5 years by previous and current Edgewater Neighborhood Board Members, volunteers, and city alderpersons. Special thanks to John Beck, Gina Meeks and several super neighborhood volunteers who have worked on this project for all 5 years. Stay tuned for additional updates and input sessions for the neighborhood families (kids included) as we finalize the Master Plan for Playground renovation and additional Oxford Park improvements. (Targeted completion date for the Summer of 2023!)

I would also like to thank the Neighborhood Beautification Committee volunteers for their efforts in maintaining our neighborhood public areas and in carefully identifying 5 exemplary landscaped yards in our neighborhood every month. This is a very challenging responsibility with over 800 creative landscapes to review.

In addition to telling you about organized efforts by the Edgewater Association, I would love to see and hear about individual households living in Edgewater coming together to enjoy each other's company whether it is pictures, events or stories. This could include events as simple as multiple households getting together, 5 kids playing at Oxford Park, or just recently Clinton Street Organizing a block party. We are always looking for ways to show how our neighborhood excels at building community. So please share your photos with us. You can email us at [rockfordedgewater@gmail.com](mailto:rockfordedgewater@gmail.com).

Last, but not least, I would like to thank our local businesses for their support of Edgewater. I strongly encourage our neighborhood residents to patronize our local businesses, which are a large part of making Edgewater a vibrant community with services conveniently located nearby.

Thank you for making Edgewater the best it can be and enjoy the rest of your summer in the neighborhood!

Don Schreiner, President  
Edgewater Neighborhood Association

# BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

# NICKELWORLD



I have been taking my family to NickelWorld for years, and we always have a good time. The name, NickelWorld, says it all. The arcade games cost 5 cents to play, and the kids collect tickets to earn prizes. The admission price is only \$2.00 per person! There are easier games for the younger children, more challenging games for the teenagers, and even my husband enjoys the classic arcade games on the back wall that are completely free. Because it is a smaller arcade, I didn't have to worry about losing my kiddos when they were little.

Over the years we've also had birthday parties in the party room, and even hosted a field trip for some developmentally disabled adults. The party room is separate from the arcade, so you do have some privacy and you can bring in your own cake and ice cream.

"The party reservation also includes unlimited time in the arcade for up to 40 people, which ends up being a pretty good deal. Kim Hachmeister, the owner, has been supportive of Edgewater events over the years, often donating cards for free admission or extra tickets to the neighborhood association. Your children may have seen these cards at the Easter Egg Hunt or after the Bike Parade on the 4th of July. She has also been active with the North End Business Association, and you may have seen her in costume at the annual Trunk or Treat.

When you're done playing the games, your kids (or adults, no judgement here!) can redeem their tickets for great prizes. Some of our favorites have been punch balloons, kazoos, and candy. You can get more information from the website, [www.Nickelworld.com](http://www.Nickelworld.com). NickelWorld is located at 3321 N. Main Street, next to Walgreens.



Article and photos by:  
Michelle Bowman, Edgewater Neighbor

## HOTLINE IN FLOWERS



In July, the Illinois Department of Human Services, Division of Mental Health launched the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline across the state of Illinois. Compassionate, accessible care and support will be available for anyone experiencing mental health-related distress. People can also dial 988 if they are worried about a loved one who may need crisis support. People walking or driving along the Auburn Street Veterans Memorial Circle can find the hotline number spelled out in flowers on a sidewalk garden bed. It was planted by Megan Pease, a Rockford resident who is a Rock Valley College biology professor and an active volunteers with Friends of Veterans Memorial Circle.

## CYCLE ON SECOND

SEPTEMBER 11, 8am to 10am

Grab your bike, water bottle, a few friends and hit the streets of Rockford for the fourth-annual Cycle on 2nd bike ride! This is a recreational, non-competitive community bicycle ride. From 8 - 10 a.m. the southbound lanes of North 2nd Street from the Auburn interchange to State Street will be closed to vehicular traffic and open to people on bikes! For more details, go to: [www.ibikerockford.com](http://www.ibikerockford.com)

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## HEAD OF THE ROCK REGATTA

OCTOBER 9, 8:45am to 4:30pm

The Rock River Valley YMCA Rowing Club will hold its 36th annual Head of the Rock Regatta. More than 2,000 rowers participate in this event. The park area along the river on Harlem Boulevard is a great place to watch. The races start at Martin Park and end near the YMCA.



## EDGEWATER HOLIDAY PARTY

DECEMBER TBD

We are still hoping to bring back the Edgewater Holiday Party and are working on party details. We will share a date and location soon!

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## LUMINARY SALE

DECEMBER 3 - 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 shovel and bucket). While you're at VG, stock up on fresh greens for your winter pots!

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## LUMINARY NIGHT

DECEMBER 17

We are committing 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.



# LOOKING GOOD, EDGEWATER!

This year, the neighborhood association has been naming "Lawns of the Month." This fun recognition is taking place June to October. The neighborhood is divided into five sections and one "Lawn of the Month" is named from each section, each month. Check out pictures below of our winners so far! You still have two months to win. Winners receive a Village Green gift card.



ROCK TERRACE



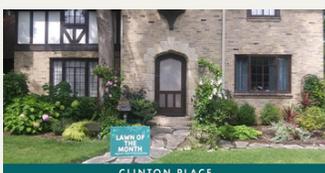
MELROSE STREET



HANCOCK STREET



HARLEM BOULEVARD



CLINTON PLACE



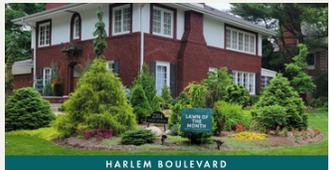
CLINTON STREET



HARPER AVENUE



MELROSE STREET



HARLEM BOULEVARD



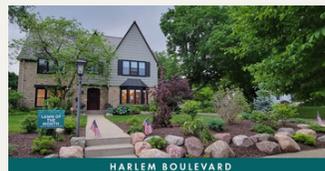
COUNTRY CLUB TERRACE



MELROSE STREET



DOUGLAS STREET



HARLEM BOULEVARD



OXFORD STREET



CUMBERLAND STREET

## EDGEWATER MEETINGS

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

- August 17, 2022
- September 21, 2022
- October 19, 2022
- November 16, 2022
- December 21, 2022



## FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK

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

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:  
[facebook.com/edgewaterneighborhoodassociation](https://facebook.com/edgewaterneighborhoodassociation)



## BOARD MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

### Mark Podemski Treasurer

Lucretia Ristin and I moved into the Edgewater Neighborhood in 2010 and have loved living here ever since. We came upon Edgewater while riding our bikes around town. While we were resting at Oxford Park, we decided that this was the place for us to settle down. Over the last 12 years we have met so many wonderful neighbors and have enjoyed many laps around the blocks. Looking forward to saying hello to familiar faces and meeting new ones as we all make our way through the streets of Edgewater!

### Brandon Kruse Board Member

I started working in the Rockford area 8 years ago and quickly realized how amazing of a city it is. I currently work for the City of Rockford and decided to buy a house in the Edgewater neighborhood three years ago. The neighborhood, neighbors, style and look of the houses are like nothing else you can find anywhere in Illinois. I joined the board to better interact with the community, help beautify the neighborhood even more and get the word out about how great Edgewater neighborhood and Rockford are.

## HELPFUL NUMBERS

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



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Dentistry

Straightening/  
Invisalign®

Smile Makeover

Cosmetic &  
General Dentistry

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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



Of the two master plan park concepts, Concept B was more of a favorite.

The next round of engagement will take place on Saturday, September 17, 2022 at 10 a.m. at Oxford Park. We will have multiple display boards out and everyone will be given a sticker to select their top playground design. We are really hoping that we have a LOT of youth attend to give us their feedback as they are the next generation of playground users. We will have breakfast snacks and games too. If you aren't able to attend, a letter will also be mailed to provide a link to vote online. Thank you all for your interest, excitement, and support of the Oxford Park playground remodel!



## 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
- 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](mailto:rockfordedgewater@gmail.com).



## NEW PARTNERSHIP



Edgewater is partnering with Great Neighborhoods to expand resources for our neighborhood. Great Neighborhoods evolved from the goals of Transform Rockford in 2017. It is a community focused program dedicated to the improvement and success of ALL neighborhoods in our region. It works to build relationships, tear down silos, and remove barriers that divide our community. Great Neighborhoods is community-led and partners with a number of diverse organizations and stakeholders to support, promote, empower, and advocate for all of our neighborhoods.

The mission is to bring neighborhoods together and help them understand who they are, what they have to offer, and empower them to work together on shared goals and actions.

Some of the ways they help neighborhoods include:

- Define themselves geographically
- Discover and understand their unique identity
- Help promote neighborhood pride
- Identify all their assets/strengths
- Co-create goals and plans
- Help develop marketing and branding strategies
- Share best practices
- Communicate information and resources
- Organize and connect neighbors
- Support neighborhood activities and meetings
- Provide education and training

You can find more info at [greatneighborhoods.info](http://greatneighborhoods.info). We will share more in the future as we expand our partnership.

Nominate your neighbor for the Great Neighbor Award. They present nominees with a certificate of recognition and a \$25 gift card.

# Nominate Here

**Edward Jones** > [edwardjones.com](http://edwardjones.com) | Member SIPC

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**Michelle R Bowman, AAMS™, CRPC™**  
Financial Advisor

2715 N Main St  
Rockford, IL 61103-3111  
815-636-6665

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# ASTOR+BANKS



*My name is Andrew Perez and I am new to the neighborhood along with my wife Anne and two boys Charlie and Will. We are excited to be in Rockford and the Edgewater community and thought this would be a great way to introduce myself and my work. Feel free to check out my watch company that is now based in Rockford!*

*All the best,  
Andrew*

[www.astorandbanks.com](http://www.astorandbanks.com)



## 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](http://www.rockfordedgewater.org) or scan the QR code

