



NOVEMBER 2022 Newsletter

THE WINNING DESIGN IS...

New Playground Coming in the Spring

Thank you to everyone who voted online and in person at the "Pick Your Playground" event the Rockford Park District held at Oxford Park on October 5, 2022. The results are in and the winning design is.....

Little Tikes.

Little Tikes provided the photo below with a treehouse color scheme - the garden and treehouse themes were among the top responses for design elements.



NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

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

BOARD MEMBERS

Phyllis Holm
Brandon Kruse
Cassie Pike
Michelle Polivka
Zak Rotello

12th Ward Alderman
Gina Meeks
815-419-1143
gina.meeks@rockfordil.gov

EDGEWATER MEETINGS

November 16, 2022
January 18, 2023
February 15, 2023
March 15, 2023

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As 2022 begins to wind down with our final printed newsletter, it is fun to see all the events and activities coming back to the Edgewater Neighborhood such as Board meetings in person, the annual Easter Egg Hunt, Yard of the Month, The Regatta, and our second-to-none Halloween decorations backlit by the amazing fall colors.

Coming up we have our holiday luminaries, and the first in-person Christmas party in a few years at Rockford Country Club. But last, and most exciting, is how Edgewater Association is flourishing with new residents selecting and moving to our neighborhood and bringing with them new energy and participation in the Edgewater Association. Our membership is around 163 homes, but there are more than 850 households in our neighborhood. Our goal is to reach 50% or 400 household by the end of 2023. Learn more about how your membership dues support the neighborhood later in the newsletter.

The Edgewater Board, committees, volunteers, and residents have continued to make an impact in their efforts to maintain and improve the appearance of our common areas. Soon, in conjunction with the Rockford Park District, our Alderperson Gina Meeks support, and the relentless efforts and input by our volunteers and residents, a totally new playground and other structural enhancements to Oxford Park will begin in 2023. I want to personally thank everyone who participated in this community project with over \$165,000 in improvements.

So much to be grateful for and I can't wait to see what we can do as neighborhood community in 2023. I hope to see you at the neighborhood holiday party on December 15.

Don Schreiner, President
Edgewater Neighborhood Association

BOARD MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Michelle Polivka **Board Member**

My husband, Todd, and I first lived in Edgewater on Oxford Street in 2006. We tried a nearby community for five years, but it didn't take long to realize we missed Edgewater. We moved back in 2011. We are raising our two children here and love that our neighbors look out for them, as well. We are boaters and love being so close to the river. I do marketing for the YMCA and wanted to share my skills with the association in helping to manage the Facebook page and layout the newsletter. I joined the board in 2021.

Zak Rotello **Board Member**

Though I only moved into my house in Edgewater in 2019, I've basically spent my entire life in this neighborhood, as I'm the third-generation owner/operator of The Olympic Tavern. I've been hanging out behind the bar since I was a kid, so I was really excited to move into the neighborhood. When I manage to wrangle a few hours to myself, I enjoy gardening, playing disc golf, wheel-thrown ceramics, cycling, and running on the bike path with my dog Zola. I'm trying to take Lawn of the Month from Scott Howse this year but honestly, that's probably not gonna happen.

WINDING DOWN FALL IN THE GARDEN



As we wind down our yards from a beautiful fall, there are a few things to keep in mind to assure that your landscape plants are properly cared for heading into Winter. These are a few of the things we do in our own yards that have proven effective for us as we head into the colder months.

1. Water. First and foremost, it is important to give your newly planted trees, shrubs, and evergreens ample amounts of water to prepare them for the cold months ahead.

Every 10 days or so plan to soak each plant with a slow stream of water around the root ball. We recommend watering until at least Thanksgiving or as long as you can leave your hoses out. It is especially important to make sure evergreens are watered because they lose moisture all winter long. This will ensure that your landscape plants will be ready to thrive in the coming spring.

2. Mulch and Mushroom Compost. Fall is a good time to apply mulch and compost to your yard after the leaves are raked up and perennials have been cut back, it is then easier to apply the mulch layer which adds an extra layer of insulation and nutrients and is one less thing to do in the spring!

3. Protection from Animals. Certain plants such as Burning Bush and Fothergilla seem to always attract animals looking for food. We always protect these plants with a chicken wire fence to prevent unwanted pruning by animals.



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Article provided by:
Jon Carlson, J. Carlson Growers, Inc.

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 bucket - remember, the sand can be wet so you want something sturdy). While you're at VG, stock up on fresh greens for your winter pots! Don't forget to renew your membership for 2023 at the sale as well!

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.



EDGEWATER HOLIDAY PARTY

DECEMBER 15, 5:30-8:00pm

Join your neighbors for an evening of holiday fun. Heavy hors d'oeuvres and cash bar. Children welcome. \$25 per adult in advance and \$30 at the door. Children 12 and under are \$5. Purchase tickets online at www.rockfordedgewater.com or scan the QR code.



SNØMARKET

DECEMBER 16-18, The Norwegian

Plan to head over to The Norwegian as they transform their back alley into a Nordic Fishing Village! You'll find food, drinks, vendors, music and more. The team is still finalizing details, so watch their Facebook page for a rundown of the weekend events.

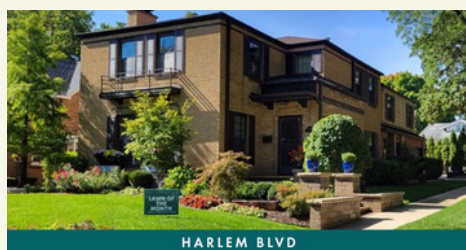
HOT CHOCOLATE CRAWL

JANUARY 28, 2023

Mark your calendar for the SECOND annual Rockford North End "Hot Chocolate Crawl"! Participating businesses up and down North Main Street will have special hot chocolate features to warm you up, and special shopping features throughout the day and night. Many participating locations will have new Rockford North End coffee mugs for sale, too.



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 final two months of winners. Winners received a Village Green gift card.



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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Edgebrook Center

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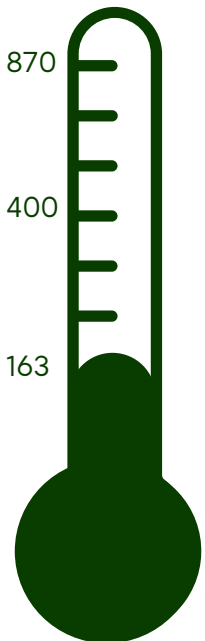
WHY MEMBERSHIP IS IMPORTANT

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. Currently, 163 households have paid the \$20 membership fee for 2022. **2023 GOAL - 50% of the 870 Households as Members**

Lock-in your 2023 membership now for \$20. On January 1, we will raise the fee to \$25. See the membership form on the last page or go online at rockfordedgewater.org.

Your annual membership fee supports:

- Seasonal Neighborhood Activities including the Easter Egg Hunt, Annual Garage Sale, 4th of July Festivities in Oxford Park, Luminaria and the holiday party.
- 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. **These fees are up an average of 7%. We spend \$410-\$585 per snowfall depending on inches of snow.**
- Plantings at the signs and pots on the bridge.
- Postage and printing for neighborhood mailings as well as signs advertising neighborhood activities.



NO MORE MULCH! The playground will have rubber tile surfacing, which will provide an accessible and safe surface. An example of what this would look like is in the photo to the right. The color of the tiles might not be blue.

Oxford Park is one of the most heavily utilized playgrounds in the Rockford Park District and is 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 Rockford Park District has budgeted \$165,000 for the new playground which should be completed by next summer. We will keep you posted about when the play pieces will be removed and construction officially begins.



Photos from the
"Pick Your
Playground" event
on October 5, 2022.



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Edgewater Neighborhood Association
PO Box 515
Rockford, IL 61105



JOIN THE EDGEWATER ASSOCIATION

Please mail your completed form with check to:
Edgewater Neighborhood Association
PO Box 515, Rockford, IL 61105

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Membership Dues: **\$20, will go up to \$25 in 2023**

Additional Donation _____ (supports snow removal & 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

