



Edgewater Neighborhood

Neighborhood Newsletter | Spring 2016



Neighborhood Association Officers

President & Alderman

John Beck 815.289.4787
john.beck@rockfordil.gov

Vice President

Tim Moore

Treasurer

Dick Berman 815.877.4975

Secretary

B.J. Alexis

Board Members

Barb Berman
Michelle Bowman
Michael Goddard
Mark Podemski
Lucretia Ristin
Bill Simpson
Jennifer Smith
Drew Williams

Community Services Officer

Jesse Washington
779.500.6627
jesse.washington@rockfordil.gov

Believe it or not, Spring is right around the corner! While we've been fortunate to have a relatively mild winter, I'm certainly ready to see green things coming up again and feel the warm breeze. And I'm sure we're all ready to be done with heavy coats and tracking salt and slush into our houses and cars!

Spring not only bring about the awakening of the earth, it's also a time of awakening for our neighborhood! We are looking forward to seeing neighbors come out in droves for the **annual Edgewater Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, March 26!** You can find details about this fabulous event and other Edgewater activities to come on page 3.

As 2016 unfolds there will be many opportunities for you to enjoy and participate in the activities that make Edgewater so vibrant and unique. Your Neighborhood Association Board is hard at work to ensure these events are enjoyable for you and your family. **If you are interested in volunteering or have an idea for a new event, please let us know!** You can contact John Beck, our Alderman and Association President, at the phone number or email address in the left blue column, or feel free to drop me a message at the email address below. If you haven't already, please also consider becoming an Edgewater Association Member — details can be found on the last page of this newsletter.

All Edgewater neighbors are also invited to monthly Association meetings, held the third Wednesday of each month at the Rockford Country Club at 5:30 p.m. Each month we hear from our Community Officer, get city updates, and discuss upcoming Edgewater activities. Residents are welcome to come with questions or concerns about our neighborhood and city. A light dinner is served; a donation is requested to help offset the cost of the meal.

On behalf of the officers and board members of the Edgewater Neighborhood Association, Happy Spring!



Jennifer Smith, Board Member
jenebuck@gmail.com

CITY'S CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT SALES TAX UP FOR RENEWAL

In 2007, the citizens of Rockford passed a 1% sales tax as a new method of paying for capital improvement projects including roads, alleys, sidewalks, bridges, and more. Prior to this, capital projects were paid for primarily by selling bonds through a referendum each year. In addition, citizens were required to purchase vehicle stickers each year which generated revenue for capital projects. The problem with funding the capital projects through these sources was:

1. The bonds were only paid for by Rockford property owners to their property taxes and obviously included the interest over their 13-year life. So a significant portion of the funding generated was not able to be used for capital projects.
2. The regard to the vehicle sticker, only Rockford vehicle owners paid for this whereas the roads and other capital projects were enjoyed by all citizens, including those who did not even live in Rockford.

So, when the state created a new opportunity for cities to increase their sales tax by 1% to pay for capital projects, city leaders decided to pursue this. It did require approval through a referendum and fortunately, Rockford citizens realized the benefits of this new way of paying for roads and passed it in 2007. This allowed us to get rid of the vehicle sticker and to cease selling bonds for this purpose. Thanks to this, the last issue of bonds for capital improvements will be paid off in 2018. Prior to the passage of the 1% sales tax, payments on the bonds added approximately \$.50 to Rockford's property tax rate. After 2018, that will be gone.

Another tremendous benefit of paying for our capital improvement projects through the sales tax is the fact that everyone who drives on our streets shares in the funding of repairing them. The burden is not only on Rockford citizens and/or property owners but is also shared by surrounding community's citizens who work, recreate or visit our city in any other way.

Since its passage, the 1% sales tax has provided approximately \$16 million per year for our capital projects. Unlike the bond revenue, every penny of the sales tax is spent on improving our city's infrastructure. This has been critical in allowing us to not only keep pace with our needs for rebuilding and repairing but to make some much-needed gains. For much more detailed information on what has occurred, visit www.rockfordedgewater.org.

When the sales tax was passed, City Council put a five-year sunset clause on it so that after five years, it would need to go back to referendum. I supported this because I wanted our citizens to know they had some control over the continuation of the tax if they felt that the city had not been good stewards of these dollars. Fortunately, it appears that the confidence and approval has been there as the tax was renewed in 2011. Now, once again, it is up for renewal in the coming spring primary on March 15.

I'm asking all of us to vote yes for the 1% sales tax and allow Rockford to continue making improvements to our infrastructure. Feel free to contact me if you want to discuss this further.

John Beck, 12th Ward Alderman, Edgewater Neighborhood Association President
john.beck@rockfordil.gov | 815.289.4787



2016 NEIGHBORHOOD STREET REPAIRS

Each year, as part of the City's capital improvement plan, a portion of the funds is allocated to repairing neighborhood streets and alleys. These funds are divided between the 14 wards and each Alderman is responsible for determining what streets and alleys will be repaired that year. This coming summer, the following Edgewater streets and alleys will be repaired:

- Van Wie between Douglas and Wallace
- Oxford between Auburn and Camlin
- The alley between Douglas, Hancock, Brown and Van Wie

When deciding what alleys and streets to repair each year, I rely on data provided by city staff, by my own observations and also by requests from citizens. There are many more streets and alleys that need repairing than there is funding available so we certainly take into consideration requests.

Feel free to contact me if you feel that your street or alley should be considered for future repair.

John Beck

What's My Home Worth??

FREE MARKET ANALYSIS

Call Keith Kelly, 815-509-3655

28 Years of Experience

Edgewater Resident

Time to Refinance? Rates are LOW!

Thinking of SELLING?

Low inventory = Faster sale!!!



Keith Kelly

815-509-3655

Upcoming Neighborhood Events

Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, March 26, 10 a.m.
Oxford Park

Fun for the whole family! Bring the kids for our annual Edgewater Easter Egg Hunt! The Easter Bunny ad crew have been hard at work gathering goodies for the kids to find. Kids will be divided into older and younger groups so everyone has a chance to find those eggs! Rain or shine, this is an event you won't want to miss. Don't forget your camera!



Neighborhood Spring Clean Up

Saturday, April 30, 9 a.m.—Noon
Meet at 2116 Clinton Street

Trash bags, gloves, and trash pick up tools provided.



Neighborhood-wide Garage Sales

Saturday, June 11

Watch for details on Facebook ([Edgewater Neighborhood Association](#)), [Nextdoor Edgewater](#), and [RockfordEdgewater.org](#)



4th of July Celebration

Monday, July 4, Oxford Park

Kids activities (face painting, bike parade, and more!) in late afternoon/early evening, fireworks at dusk.



Upcoming Community Events



PaleoFest

Friday, March 11 and Saturday, March 12
Burpee Museum of Natural History, 737 N Main, Rockford

This annual STEM program celebrates the science of Paleontology. This year's theme is "Women in Paleontology" and the fest will feature 20 world-renowned paleontologists, children's activities, and hands-on family workshops. Visit www.burpee.org for more information.

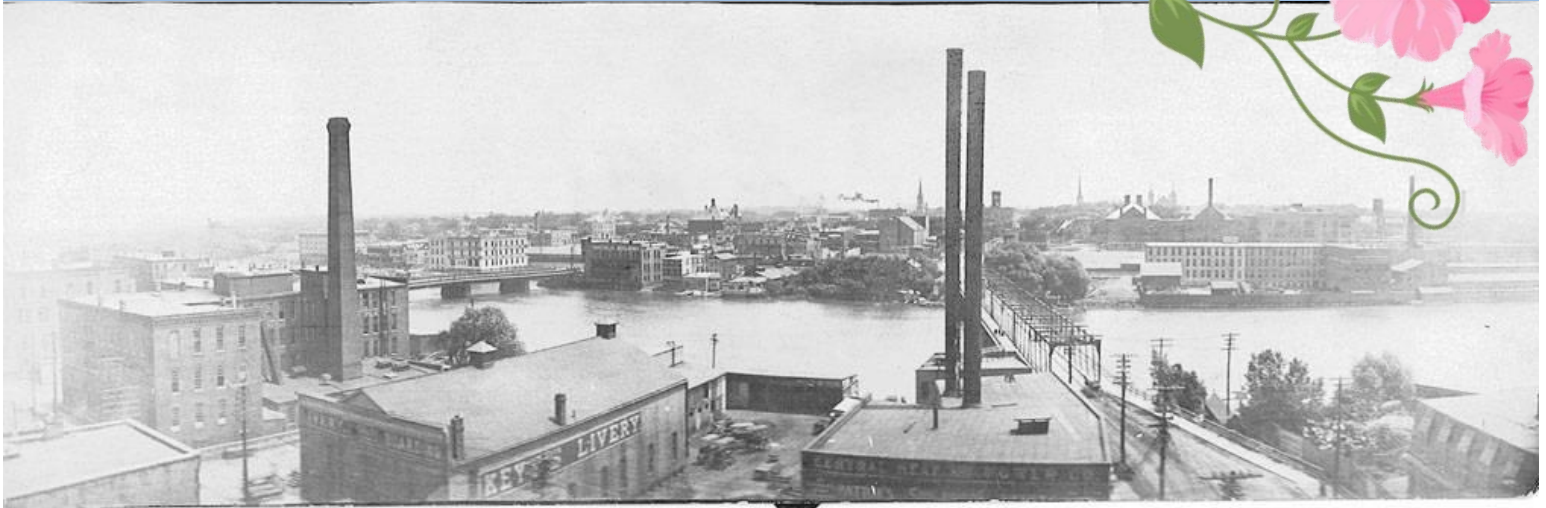
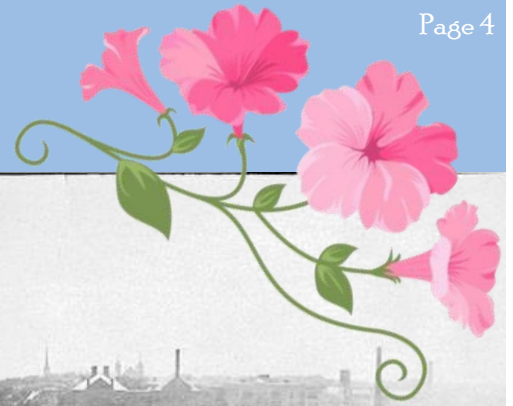


MeltFest

Saturday, March 26, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Prairie Street Brewhouse, 200 Prairie Street, Rockford

After the Edgewater Egg Hunt, head down to Prairie Street Brewhouse for this family-friendly festival that celebrates the melting away of winter and the melting together of our community! A variety of entertainment, kids activities, and vendors on hand will mean there's something for everyone! Visit www.meltfest.com to learn more.

A View from the Past...



This photo was taken from the William Brown Building (which still stands today at the northeast corner of Chestnut and Main) in 1915, looking east across the Rock River. The State Street Bridge can be seen in the far left, with the Chestnut Street Bridge just right of center. Source: Rockford Public Library, retrieved from <http://www.idaillinois.org/cdm/ref/collection/rockford01/id/44>

Become a Member of the 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!