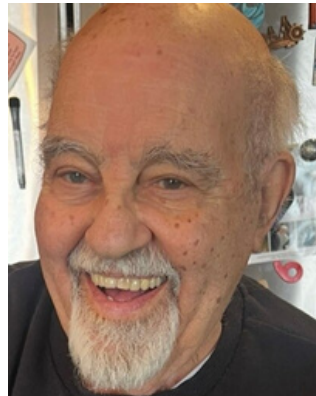




## ASSOCIATION FOUNDER'S MEMORY LIVES ON JOE CAPONE: AN EDGEWATER ADVOCATE

A proud Edgewater resident for more than 50 years, Joe Capone advocated on behalf of his fellow homeowners. In fact, it is what led to the creation of the Edgewater Neighborhood Association in 1979. Joe wanted curbs. He found a grant opportunity, but it required that the funds go to a formal organization. So, he and his wife Beverly founded the Association and gathered signatures for its creation.



Joe's daughter, Paula Capone, shared a sentiment on behalf of her father about his love of Edgewater.

"He always said, 'Don't buy the house; buy the neighborhood. Invest your time in your neighborhood, and you will see your quality of life grow.' Dad loved his neighborhood and lived there for 51 years. My parents moved from the East side to the West and were very proud to raise five kids in this neighborhood," said Paula.

Paula shared that, at one point, 57 kids in a one-block radius played together, went to school together, worked together at their part-time jobs, and are still friends to this day. Two of Bev and Joe's five children moved back to the neighborhood to raise their children in Edgewater.

"Joe was a dedicated community leader, serving as past President and board member of Stepping Stones, the Rockford Public Library Board President, and an active member of the YMCA Retired Men's Club. Joe's legacy of service and dedication to ensuring every voice was heard will remain a guiding light for our neighborhood. He will be dearly missed," said Gina Meeks, 12th Ward Alderwoman.

Joe passed away on September 29, 2024. The Edgewater Board expresses its sincere condolences to the Capone family. We are grateful for Joe's passion and determination. Edgewater's beauty and pride of homeownership is not possible without residents like Joe.

## NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

Don Schreiner, President  
Brandon Kruse, VP  
Mark Podemski, Treasurer  
BJ Alexis, Secretary

## BOARD MEMBERS

Phyllis Holm  
Richard Lopez  
Cassie Pike  
Michelle Polivka  
Zak Rotello

Need to reach the board?  
Email us:  
[rockfordedgewater@gmail.com](mailto:rockfordedgewater@gmail.com)

---

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

---

## EDGEWATER MEETINGS

All Neighbors Welcome! 5:30 pm at Rockford Country Club.

November 20, 2024  
December 19, 2024 (holiday party and annual meeting)  
January 15, 2025  
February 19, 2025

As we move from our beautiful summer and fall seasons, I can't help but feel so impressed by how much time, effort and pride our Edgewater community puts into their homes, yards, and seasonal decorations. It is these types of individual family activities, such as holiday decorations, that turn into neighborhood traditions and lifetime memories. These wonderful traditions are what makes our neighborhood so special! Such a great place to live! If you appreciate Edgewater as much as I do, please consider signing up for one of our various volunteer opportunities, such as the Beautification Committee. A huge thank you to this year's volunteers for planting flowers at the entrance signs (amazing!), organizing the Garden Walk, and awarding the Lawns of the Month. A special thanks to Kimberly Schmitt and Stacie Walton!

Don't forget to mark your calendar for the upcoming luminary sales and luminary display, and the annual Edgewater Holiday Party. More details are on page 3.

Volunteers are needed to join the Edgewater Board of Directors, event organizers and planners, and last but not least, to take pictures and write for this invaluable newsletter! A huge thank you to Michelle Polivka, who has tirelessly worked on our wonderful newsletter for the past 3 years. No one has contributed more in creating a community bond and connection via the newsletter reaching each individual household within the Edgewater neighborhood. Thank you, Michelle.

Don Schreiner, President  
Edgewater Neighborhood Association



# UPCOMING EVENTS

## LUMINARY SALE - NEW LOCATION!

DECEMBER 7, 9:00am-1pm, **Fire Department Coffee**, 811 West Riverside Boulevard

With the closing of Village Green on North Main, we are moving to a new location for luminary supply sales. We are still working out some details, but join us to visit this west side business, get your supplies, renew your membership and buy your holiday party tickets!

## LUMINARY NIGHT

DECEMBER 21

We have committed 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 19, 5:30-8:00pm, Rockford Country Club

All Edgewater neighbors are invited to the annual Holiday Party at Rockford Country Club. Join your neighbors for an evening of holiday family fun! Heavy hors d'oeuvres, kid friendly finger food, and cash bar. Children of all ages are welcome. Kids activities, door prizes, and more! Connect with the community and learn more about the benefits of Edgewater Membership. Tickets are \$25 per adult, \$5 per child (under 12) and must be purchased in advance. Buy online at [rockfordedgewater.org](http://rockfordedgewater.org).



# ADVERTISE WITH US

Run an ad in the Edgewater newsletter and reach hundreds of neighbors in Edgewater and beyond! Digital newsletters (Feb, May, Aug) are emailed to over 400 residents, and posted on Facebook, NextDoor, and the Edgewater website. Printed newsletters are mailed in November to nearly 900 Edgewater households. All proceeds support the Edgewater Neighborhood Association.

Ad sizes and prices are as follows:

- Full page (\$200 print, \$150 digital)
- 1/2 page horizontal (\$100 print, \$75 digital)
- 1/2 page vertical (\$100 print, \$75 digital)
- 1/4 page (\$50 print, \$40 digital)
- 1/8 page (\$40 print, \$30 digital)

Please contact us with any questions or to place your ad.  
Send emails to: [rockfordedgewater@gmail.com](mailto:rockfordedgewater@gmail.com).

*Wildflower Nature Preschool*

**NOW ENROLLING**

LICENSED IN-HOME PRESCHOOL

LOCATED IN EDGEWATER

EXTENDED OUTDOOR PLAY

EARLY MATH & LITERACY

MEALS PROVIDED

CCAP ACCEPTED

**779-236-6049**

[wnprockford.com](http://wnprockford.com)



# 12th WARD UPDATE

## FROM ALDERWOMAN GINA MEEKS

Hello Edgewater Neighborhood:

I'm thrilled to share some great news! As of October, I am officially a cancer survivor and honored to be named the new Ambassador for the American Cancer Society, highlighting the Voices of Black Women campaign. You can learn more about this important initiative at [voices.cancer.org](https://www.voicesofblackwomen.org). Check out the photo to the right of my mom and me at the Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk.



In even more positive news, our recent budget surplus has passed through City Council, allowing for a \$23 million dollar investment in our community. West Riverside Boulevard will receive a much-needed \$3 million dollar investment in its Capital Improvement Plan, moving its completion date up from 2029 to 2025. Plus, we have secured an additional \$250,000 per ward for the 2025 Ward Plans. This will help address critical infrastructure needs and build on the progress we've made in Edgewater, and throughout the 12th ward.

It's been a blessing to see so many projects completed in our neighborhood, and I look forward to continuing this forward momentum together.


I sure hope you are seeing the many wonderful things happening for our city. I am available to chat with anyone with an idea or in need of assistance. Call me at 815-317-6572 or email [Ginameeks12thward@gmail.com](mailto:Ginameeks12thward@gmail.com)

Sincerely yours,  
Gina Meeks



My tour of the N. Main Corridor in the 12th ward with Congressman Eric Sorenson, his Outreach and Constituent Services Advocate Shaneka Young, along with North Towne Mall's Business Manager Gus Lamech.

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



**Your goals are as unique as you.**

At Edward Jones, we want to know what you want out of life on a personal level. Then, we want to help you achieve it by creating a financial strategy that's unique to your specific needs.

**Contact us today to start creating a financial strategy tailored to your specific needs.**

**Michelle R Bowman**  
Financial Advisor  
2715 N Main St  
Rockford, IL 61103  
815-636-6665

NKD-8652E-A AECSPAD 12/23/24

# NEIGHBORHOOD PRIDE

We round out 2024 "Lawn of the Month" with another beautiful set of winners. This fun recognition takes place June to September. Four winners were chosen each month. Check out pictures below of our final three months of winners. Thank you to the committee of volunteers who selected winners each month.



ROCK TERRACE



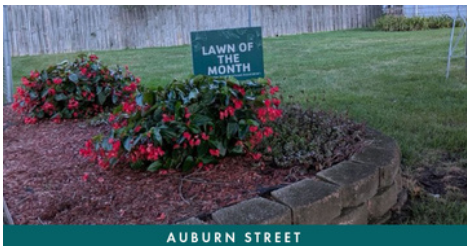
CLINTON STREET



FULTON AVENUE



MELROSE STREET



AUBURN STREET



VAN WIE AVENUE



MELROSE STREET



HARLEM BOULEVARD

## HELPFUL NUMBERS

- WEEDS HOTLINE:
- NEIGHBORHOOD STANDARDS HOTLINE:
- POLICE NON-EMERGENCY NUMBER:
- NARCOTICS COMPLAINTS
- NUISANCE NEIGHBORS (POLICE COMMUNITY SERVICES UNIT)
- WINNEBAGO COUNTY ANIMAL CONTROL:

- 779-348-7161
- 779-348-7160
- 815-966-2900
- 571-362-5098
- 779-500-6677
- 815-319-4100

Escape to

# Hilton Head Island

This Winter

Sea Pines Gated Community  
Beach, Bike, Golf, Pickle Ball, Tennis  
Shopping, Dining  
2 Bedroom, 2 ½ bath, 2 story  
Waterfront Condominium

For price and availability  
Contact Talyn at  
The Club Group  
(843) 396-8889  
frontdesk@cglhhi.com



HarborTown golf course



Salty Dog Bar and Restaurant



South Beach Pickleball Club



Average Daily Temperature 65 F No snow



Patio overlooking Braddock Cove



Sunrise view from the Patio

Rent a week or a month  
Availability November  
through March



2 Minutes from the beach

## 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. The roles are flexible and don't take up much time. If you're interested, email [rockfordedgewater@gmail.com](mailto:rockfordedgewater@gmail.com). Below are opportunities for consideration:

- Writer for the newsletter
- Beautification committee to help water plants/pots. [Click here](#) to register for a week of watering.
- Coordinate events - 4th of July, garage sale, Easter, Luminaria
- Recruit membership
- Sell ads in the newsletter
- Membership data entry
- Join the Board

# 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, 192 households have paid the \$30 membership fee for 2024. **GOAL - 50% of the 870 Households as Members**

## 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.

## 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: **\$30 annually**

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





Edgewater Neighborhood Association  
PO Box 515  
Rockford, IL 61105

Please Join us for the

# EDGEWATER HOLIDAY PARTY

**December 19 from 5:30-8:00pm**  
**Rockford Country Club, 2500 Oxford St.**

Join your neighbors for an evening of holiday fun. Heavy hors d'oeuvres and cash bar. Children welcome.



[rockfordedgewater.com](http://rockfordedgewater.com)

**\$25 IN ADVANCE**  
**\$5 PER CHILD UNDER 12**  
PURCHASE TICKETS ONLINE  
OR BUY IN-PERSON AT THE  
LUMINARY SALE ON DEC. 7

