

# Autumn in Edgewater

Neighborhood Newsletter | Fall 2019



## Neighborhood Association Officers

**President & Alderman**  
John Beck 815.289.4787  
[john.beck@rockfordil.gov](mailto:john.beck@rockfordil.gov)

**Vice President**  
Michelle Bowman

**Treasurer**  
Mark Podemski

**Secretary**  
B.J. Alexis

## Board Members

Barb Berman  
Dick Berman  
Stacy Bernardi  
Michael Goddard  
Phyllis Holm  
Kim Millhorn  
Bill Simpson  
Jennifer Smith

## Community Services Officer

Brian Squires  
779.500.6627  
[brian.squires@rockfordil.gov](mailto:brian.squires@rockfordil.gov)

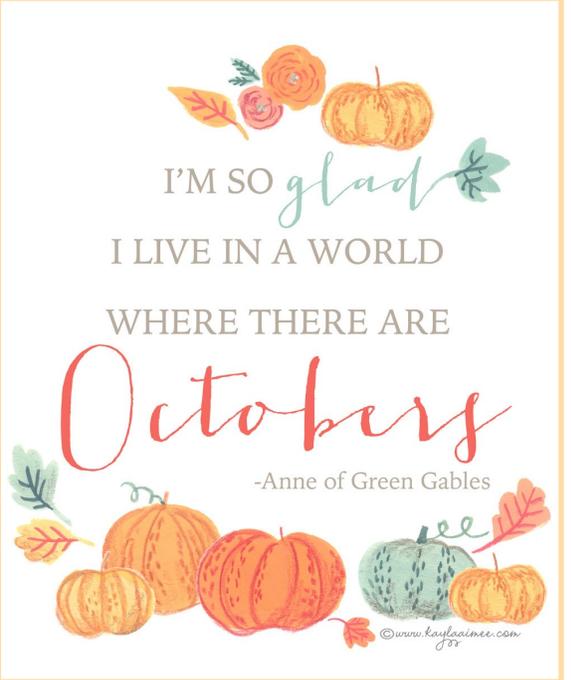
Edgewater is in a particular state of loveliness in Autumn. And there is no shortage of wonderful activities to enjoy, both in our neighborhood and beyond. Read on in this newsletter for lots of information about these events, additional seasonal reminders, and updates from the City of Rockford.

A great way to get lots of information about what is going on in Edgewater, with the City, and with the Rockford Police Department, is to attend our monthly association meetings. Held the third Wednesday of each month at 5:30 at the Rockford Country Club, all Edgewater residents are invited to attend. Light dinner is served and donations are accepted to help offset the expense. Each month our Community Services Officer Brian Squires provides a report, and Alderman and Neighborhood Association President John Beck gives updates from the City, the Park District, and more. Sometimes the meeting includes a guest presentation. This year, we have welcomed master gardeners, representatives from the Rock Valley College Center for Learning in Retirement, political candidates, and more! Do you have an idea about someone interesting who could present at a monthly meetings? Send John Beck an email or give him a call (contact information in the column to the left).

There are lots of ways you can volunteer in Edgewater this fall, from helping with the neighborhood cleanup to selling luminary bags, to simply being ready to hand out candy to hundreds of trick-or-treaters this Halloween. And be sure to get out there and enjoy some of the bright, sunny Fall days and greet lots of neighbors before we all get ready to hibernate!

Thank you for helping make Edgewater such a beautiful, vibrant, welcoming neighborhood!

—The Edgewater Neighborhood Association Board



# Edgewater Events & Updates

## October 16: Monthly Edgewater Association Meeting

Join us at 5:30 at Rockford Country Club. All Edgewater residents welcome!

## October 31: Citywide Trick-or-Treat night!

Trick-or-treating hours for the City of Rockford are 5:30—7:30 pm. Our neighborhood will be filled with kids and families enjoying the fun, so please keep an eye out if you are driving in the neighborhood that evening. Keep your porch or yard light on if you're ready to welcome trick-or-treaters and have a wonderful time!

## Nov. 2: Edgewater Fall Cleanup & Goodwill Donation Drive

Meet at Oxford Park at 9am — we provide gloves, trash bags and trash grabbers! Join us to help get our neighborhood trash free before winter arrives. **This year we are again partnering with Goodwill to hold a Donation Drive!** A donation bin will be on hand at Oxford Park from 9am to Noon to collect your new and gently used clothing and household items. Donations receipts will be available for deductions for tax purposes. Come out to help clean up the neighborhood AND get a little help cleaning out the clutter at your own house!

## November 20: Monthly Edgewater Association Meeting

Join us at 5:30 at Rockford Country Club. All Edgewater residents welcome!

## December 7: Edgewater Luminary Sale & Membership Drive

9am - 4pm on Saturday, December 7, buy your affordably priced bags and candles for this year's Luminaria at Village Green, 2640 N. Main. Bring your own container and you can also pick up free sand.

During the sale, renew your Edgewater Membership for 2020 or join for the very first time -- the annually-renewable \$20 per-household membership supports Edgewater events as well as our neighborhood snow plow fund. Payments can be made by cash, check, or card during the Membership Drive, by using the form on the last page of this newsletter, or online at [www.rockfordedgewater.org](http://www.rockfordedgewater.org)

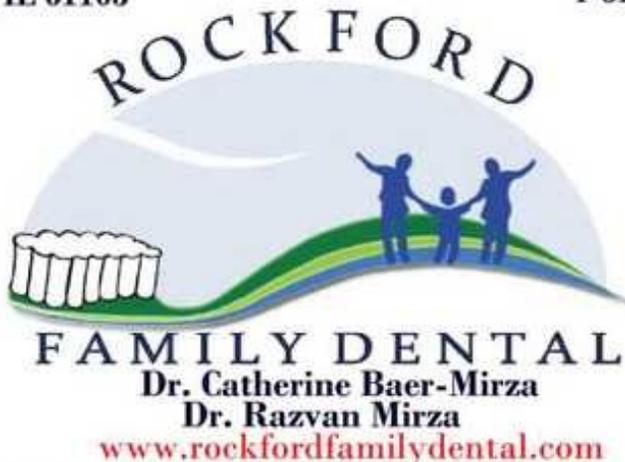
## December 14: Luminaria Night

Enjoy and participate in an Edgewater tradition: Luminaria Night! Line your walkways with luminaries (white candle-lit bags weighted with sand) at dusk on Saturday, December 14. If you plan to host a holiday party this is a great night to do it!



2715 N. Main St.  
Rockford, IL 61103

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



## December 18: Edgewater Holiday Party

Save the Date for this wonderful party! From 5:30 - 8:00pm, all Edgewater residents are invited to join the fun and enjoy an evening of delicious food and fellowship with your neighbors at the Rockford Country Club! As last year we're mixing things up a bit: instead of seated dinner, we'll have heavy appetizers, games, a visit from Santa, live music, and more! Watch for an invitation to come in the mail toward the end of November with all the details.

## A message from 12th Ward Alderman and Edgewater Neighborhood Association President John Beck

In light of the criminal activity that has occurred in Edgewater this summer I want to take this opportunity to share some thoughts with you. I can assure you that Public Safety is my top priority. I too live in this neighborhood and share your concerns. The Mayor and City Council have made Public Safety our number one priority. Within Public Safety there are four integral parts:

1. The Foundation of all our efforts is *community engagement*. You see this with the geographic policing locations, the ROCK officers who live in neighborhoods 24/7, the school resource officers in the schools, the community service officers who attend every neighborhood meeting, and the number of events we do for youth and seniors – everything from bingo to fishing and building bikes with police. We want and need to build strong lasting relationships with our citizens but specifically our youth.
2. *Investment*. Since being re-elected in 2017 we have increased our authorized force to more than 300 officers for the first time in more than a decade. We have invested nearly \$4 million into technology. Our Technology investments include:
  - A shared record management system so all police agencies are utilizing the same software
  - Tripling the number of cameras in the city
  - Purchasing mobile and stationary license plate readers
  - Purchasing gunshot detection software
  - Purchasing all new vehicles and every vehicle we purchased with the new administration includes dash cams
  - Purchasing social analytic software
  - Creating a special operations center to monitor all cameras and will soon be able to connect with all business cameras.
3. *Collaboration and focused deterrence*. We have built stronger relationships with Winnebago County Sheriff's Department, Park District Police, State Police, FBI and ATF. We have developed a Criminal Justice Coordinating council to which the mayor serves on. We also hold quarterly meetings with the most violent parolees and provide them the tools to get employment, housing and education. We also provide them a very simple but clear message – the violence must stop and we no longer tolerate violent crime.
4. *Domestic Violence (DV) and Human Trafficking Prevention*. We created the Mayor's office on DV and HT prevention - the first in the country. More than 60% of youth we arrest for violent offenses come from homes or were direct victims of DV. DV is a cycle to which we hope to stop. This month we voted on a new initiative to assist youth who are impacted by trauma from DV in their households that has been proven successful across the country (Camp Hope). We also have educated more than 250 teachers on how to recognize victims of domestic violence. We are training all Police and fire personnel on DV and what to look for. We also are leading our community's effort to create a Family Justice Center. FJC's are the Department of Justice's number one approved method for addressing DV and stopping the cycle of DV. FJC's are successful across the country most closely to home. Milwaukee has the Sojourner Family Center that is seeing tremendous results in dramatic reductions in recantation rates and far less intimate partner homicides.

We have great leadership in the Police Department. We have amazing men and women working to fight violent crime. We have an administration whose top priority is public safety and a council that time and time again re-invests in public safety.

We are making month over month progress but as with most difficult problems we will not solve this overnight. But rest assured we will not stop until we do. Thus far through August, the City's violent crime rate has dropped 17%, property crime decreased 13% and shots fired decreased 19%. Good progress but again, this is a long game. Please know we are all dedicated to fighting violent crime. Everyone in Rockford should feel safe regardless of their address.

To my neighbors in Edgewater, many of whom have lived here for decades, your vigilance and commitment to this neighborhood is paramount and deeply appreciated. I remember my mom becoming very irritated at the flight of Westside residents to the Eastside and telling us kids that we should never run away from a problem but become a part of the solution. That has stuck in my head ever since I was a child and I know it is also part of what makes me continue to fight.

On the next page you will find some additional comments from Rockford Police Chief Dan O'Shea in response to questions I posed on behalf of residents and my own questions.



Should you have additional questions or concerns, about these or any other issues, please give me a call or send me an email. Thank you for being an engaged part of this wonderful place we call home.

### John Beck

12th Ward Alderman  
Edgewater Neighborhood Association President  
815-289-4787  
[jbeck62@comcast.net](mailto:jbeck62@comcast.net)

## Information provided by Rockford Police Chief Dan O'Shea

### DEPARTMENT REPORTING AND STATISTICS

In 2006 the department switched to reporting on the National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS). This NIBRS system will be required of all law-enforcement agencies nationwide beginning in 2021 for FBI data collection. Since the 2006 switch the Rockford Police Department has not changed how we collect or report any crime data.

The records manager for the city of Rockford Police Department is the same individual that was here in 2006, and is recognized as the state's expert on the national incident based reporting system. This staff member is conducting training for other police agencies in Illinois with the FBI to try and help other agencies understand the reporting system and make sure that they implement it correctly as they move forward toward 2021. Our statistics and reporting of the statistics are routinely audited by the FBI and have always been found to be accurate and complying with reporting standards.

Crime statistics reports are based off of police reports, generated as reports are turned in, and reflect as accurately as we can the actual crime or crimes that are being committed. **Police reports should not be confused with the 9-1-1 call log.** The 9-1-1 call log sheet simply lists what dispatchers record upon receiving a 9-1-1 call. After responding to the call, police officers generate reports and title reports with coding for what the actual crime or crimes are, which may or may not match what the dispatch has titled a call depending on the information provided to the dispatcher by a caller.

### CITIZEN CONCERNS ABOUT HEARING GUNFIRE MORE OFTEN

Criminals are much more mobile, not only with cars, but also basing their movements on social media postings, such as Facebook Live and Snapchat. So even if the person being targeted is not the actual resident of a home, perhaps they are visiting or staying with the occupant temporarily, they are easier to find based on their online presence. On the whole the population is more mobile and transient than it may have been ten, twenty, thirty years ago, and criminal activity has followed suit.

### WHY THE POLICE DEPARTMENT DOES NOT RESPOND TO OR REFUTE CLAIMS MADE ONLINE THAT MAY BE FALSE

Social media, blogs, and the internet in general have made it very easy for anyone to make claims or post information anytime, and from anywhere. Sometimes even well-meaning individuals pass along information that is false, misleading, or incomplete.



We cannot, nor would we ever, try and refute anything that is put on social media sites or blogs as we are bound by law to only report facts and we can only report certain facts in every case without hindering the prosecution later down the road. While the general public can post and say anything and everything they want on social media sites, we are greatly restricted and can only post what is allowed by the courts and or the state attorneys office.

**Daniel O'Shea**  
Police Chief  
Rockford Police Department

JOIN US FOR OUR CITY WIDE  
**TRUNK OR TREAT**  
Monday, October 28  
6-8 PM  
Rockford Public School Building  
501 7th Street

The Rockford Police Department and the Rockford Fire Department invite you to attend a FREE Trunk-or-Treat event! Wear your Halloween costumes early and trick-or-treat from the trunk of a police care, ambulance, firetruck and others.



**NATIONAL**  
Coffee WITH A Cop  
DAY

BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS. ONE CUP AT A TIME.

Join your neighbors and police officers for coffee and conversation on National Coffee with a Cop Day.

Wednesday, October 2, 2019 | 3134 N Rockton Ave | 8:00 am to 10:00 am

The mission of Coffee with a Cop is to break down the barriers between police officers and the citizens they serve by removing agendas and allowing opportunities to ask questions, voice concerns, and get to know the officers in your neighborhood.

THIS EVENT IS PRESENTED BY THE: Rockford Police Department & Angle Inn

QUESTION? PLEASE CONTACT: Officer Brian Squires  
Brian.Squires@rockfordil.gov or call 779-500-6627

coffeewithacop.com



# ROCKFORD COUNTRY CLUB

## A PROUD MEMBER OF THE EDGEWATER NEIGHBORHOOD SINCE 1889

Rockford Country Club offers the perfect one-year memberships to preview everything we have to offer. Golf Preview Membership allows unlimited family access to golf, pool, tennis, skeet, dining, and social events. Social Preview Membership allows unlimited family access to the pool, tennis, skeet, dining, and social events.

**CALL FOR YOUR PERSONALIZED TOUR TODAY!**

2500 Oxford Street    [www.rockfordcc.com](http://www.rockfordcc.com)    815.968.9881





## Street Sweeping, Yard Refuse Pickup, Hydrant Flushing

City-wide street sweeping commenced the week of September 16th. The city is divided into 23 zones which indicate the order in which locations will be swept — 1-2 zones are cleared each week. This year, Edgewater is in zone 12, which means our neighborhood will be swept in approximately the first full week of October. This is an estimated timeframe, as weather and other factors impact the speed at which sweeping will occur.

**Regardless of the timing of the official sweep by the City, it is illegal to blow, rake, or sweep yard refuse into the street.** This is not only unsightly but also clogs gutters, storm drains, and puts unnecessary debris into our water system.

Yard refuse pickup continues through the fall, and occurs on the same day your trash is picked up. Refuse including leaves, grass, and sticks should be placed in compostable brown paper yard waste bags or in garbage cans that are clearly marked with an "X" on all sides. Branches may be no more than 4 inches in diameter, should be trimmed to 4 feet in length, no bundle of branches or yard waste bag or can should weigh more than 50 pounds. **Reminder:** Bagged trash and yard refuse should not be placed in the street for pickup but up on the right of way or driveway so street sweepers can get closer to the curb. Sweeping crews do not come back to sweep an area that was missed because of improperly placed garbage receptacles or parked cars.

This fall, Edgewater will get "spot-flushing" only for the hydrants that need flushing, as determined by the water division, and as such no definitive schedule can be provided.

## Updates from Code Enforcement & Neighborhood Standards Division

The City of Rockford Code Enforcement Division would like to inform all residents and property owners to be aware of these property maintenance issues within the community:

### Vehicles – Parking/Storage \*\$50 citation\*

- Total number of motor vehicles shall be limited to four (4) for each dwelling unit.
- All motor vehicles shall be operable and have current license plates displayed. Failure to correct this violation may result in the City's removal of the vehicle from the property.
- Autos, motorcycles, vans and trucks with passenger car or "B" plates must be parked on a paved surface in side and rear yards and must be parked in a driveway in front yards.
- Motor homes, campers, travel trailers and boats up to 30 ft in length, must be stored in side or rear yards on a paved surface. No motor home, camper, or travel trailer may be stored in any area located between the front property line and the street facing wall of the residential building (Side yard storage must be a minimum of 6 ft from the property line). All other trailers are prohibited. (Example: Utility Trailers, Box Type Trailers, Commercial Trailers, Car Trailers, etc.)

## For Housing News, Visit: [Edgewater-Homes.com](http://Edgewater-Homes.com)



**Dickerson & Nieman**  
REALTORS

**Keith Kelly**  
815-509-3655

[keithk@dickersonnieman.com](mailto:keithk@dickersonnieman.com)

### 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

[Sign up for the City of Rockford  
Community Email Newsletter!](#)





## Stay up to date on Casino proposals

For up to date information about the ongoing Rockford casino proposal project, including the presentations used during the public hearing, visit [rockfordil.gov/casino](http://rockfordil.gov/casino)



## Edgewater Medical Center opening soon!

Construction of SwedishAmerican's new Edgewater Medical Center is moving along ahead of schedule! The 70,000-square-foot facility located at 2909 N. Main Street is scheduled to open its doors to patients in December.



Picture taken in early September 2019



### Ultimate 8 Fall Home Maintenance Tips

- 1 Check smoke detectors, fire extinguishers & first aid kits
- 2 Clean your chimney & fireplace
- 3 Check windows
- 4 Wrap indoor pipes
- 5 Inspect your Roof
- 6 Inspect your heating system
- 7 Stock up on Supplies
- 8 Finish seasonal yard maintenance

TrustedChoice



Healing Centered  
Community Inspired  
Accessible Wellness

Engaging our Community through Personal & Social Change.

Offering Yoga, Reiki & Wellness Workshops

Check out are class schedule at [thecalm.company/classes](http://thecalm.company/classes)

Saturday Classes Now Available!

1404 N. Main St. Suite 3 Rockford, IL 61103  
Located above the Norwegian Restaurant.



## Edgewater Medical Center

At Swedes we understand you and are here for you.

Because after all, we're close like family which is why we're growing for the community!

**Edgewater Medical Center** will be a beautiful facility providing primary care, obstetrics and so much more.

We can't wait to serve the Edgewater community.

For more information or to find a doctor that's right for you, visit [SwedishAmerican.org](http://SwedishAmerican.org).

**SWEDISHAMERICAN**  
**A DIVISION OF UW HEALTH**

Coming soon at 2909 N. Main Street | Rockford, Illinois

# Fall Community Events

## October 4-5: Fall Art Scene

This annual event features dozens of local artists and exhibits all over town! There are usually a few exhibits happening right in our backyard, check out the details and get maps to all of the locations at [fallartscene.com](http://fallartscene.com)



## Edgebrook Events

Be sure to check out Cider & Cinnamon Arts & Crafts fair at Edgebrook Center October 5-6! This free event features over 70 vendors, live music, and of course all the wonderful Edgebrook shops. And save the date for Edgebrook's Holiday Tree Lighting (November 22) and Open House (November 23)! Learn more at [edgebrookshops.com/events/](http://edgebrookshops.com/events/)



## October 13: Head of the Rock Regatta

The YMCA Rowing Crew plays host to the Head of the Rock Regatta this October 13. This decades-old race draws more than 2,000 rowers from across the country and more than 5,000 spectators to the banks of the Rock River.



The event is free to spectators, and Edgewater has a front row seat! Bring your blankets and a picnic lunch and enjoy the sights along the river right in our neighborhood!



## International Table Tennis Fed. North American Olympic Trials

This fall, Rockford will host men's and women's table tennis teams who are competing to qualify for the 2020 Summer Olympics in Tokyo! In addition to the opportunity to watch the trials on Saturday, October 5, at BMO Harris Bank Center, "Rally RKFD", a table tennis trials fan festival, will be held from 11—3 p.m. in downtown Rockford. Learn more and buy tickets at [gorockford.com/Olympic-table-tennis-trials](http://gorockford.com/Olympic-table-tennis-trials)

## City Markets

City Market continues every Friday through September 27, and North End City Market continues through October! Located in the parking lot on the southeast corner of the North Main roundabout, 9am-1pm on Saturdays until October 26. Visit [rockfordcitymarket.com/northend/](http://rockfordcitymarket.com/northend/) for more information.



## Lockwood Pumpkin Fest

October 12-14, 10 a.m.—5 p.m. each day, Lockwood's Pumpkin Fest will feature a variety of activities and entertainment for kids and adults to enjoy. Hand-pick your pumpkins, ride a pony, enjoy games, a corn maze, make your own s'mores, and more! New in 2019: the fest will feature a vendor market, food trucks, and live music. Learn more at [lockwoodpark.com/pumpkinfest](http://lockwoodpark.com/pumpkinfest)



## November 30: Stroll on State

November 30th, enjoy the 7th annual Stroll on State! Brought to you by the Rockford Area Convention and Visitors Bureau, this family-friendly event kicks off the holiday season with a the "Dasher Dash" 5k race, a visit from Santa, tree-lighting and fireworks on the Rock River, ice skating, sleigh rides, holiday shopping, and much, much more. Keep an eye on [gorockford.com/stroll-on-state](http://gorockford.com/stroll-on-state) for details as they are announced!



## Submit your Edgewater photos and show off the best views from our neighborhood!

We need your help! We're looking to expand our collection of Edgewater photos, taken by Edgewater neighbors, showing off all the things you love about our neighborhood. Submissions will be used in future newsletters, on Facebook, and on our website. Photos from all seasons welcome! Email your photos (JPG or PNG, please) to [rockfordedgewater@gmail.com](mailto:rockfordedgewater@gmail.com). Thank you!

**Please Note:** by submitting a photo, you give us permission to use it as described above, and also indicate that any people in the photos have given permission to be featured on those platforms, too. We reserve the right to crop/edit photos. Submission does not guarantee that a photo will be used.



## Promote your business to Edgewater neighbors!

Run an ad in the Edgewater newsletter and reach hundreds of neighbors in Edgewater and beyond! Digital newsletters are emailed to over 400 residents and posted on Facebook, NextDoor, and the neighborhood website. Physical newsletters are also mailed to 1200 Edgewater households in the fall. All proceeds support the Edgewater Neighborhood Association. Ad materials (PDF, JPG or PNG files) can be submitted to [rockfordedgewater@gmail.com](mailto:rockfordedgewater@gmail.com). Please contact us with any questions!



**PRICING: Digital (spring, summer, fall)** -- Full-page ads are \$100, 1/2 page \$50, 1/4 page \$25, business card size \$20.

**Print (winter)** — Full-page ads are \$125, 1/2 page \$75, 1/4 page \$40, business card size \$30.

## 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 \$20 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 **\$20**

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)!