



[RockfordEdgewater.org](http://RockfordEdgewater.org)  
[rockfordedgewater@gmail.com](mailto:rockfordedgewater@gmail.com)  
PO Box 515, Rockford, 61105

## Neighborhood Association Officers

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Michelle Bowman

### Treasurer

Mark Podemski

### Secretary

B J Alexis

## Board Members

Stacy Bernardi

Phyllis Holm

Bill Simpson

Don Schreiner

Jennifer Smith

## Community Services Officer

Kyle Parr

779.500.6627

[kyle.parr@rockfordil.gov](mailto:kyle.parr@rockfordil.gov)

Our Summer newsletter is coming to you a little later than usual, and a bit more somber than usual. It's been a roller coaster of a year, and while there is still much to be thankful there have been times of great sadness. On April 12 Edgewater lost a neighbor, champion, and friend, with the unexpected death of 12th Ward Alderman and Edgewater Neighborhood Association President John Beck.



John moved to Rockford with his family when he was six and spent the rest of his life in this community. He graduated from Rockford West High School and earned a degree from the University of Illinois. John suffered a spinal cord injury that left him a quadriplegic, but never let his disability hold him back. He started his career with RAMP in 1985 and spent his entire working life ensuring people with disabilities had access to the same opportunities and experiences as anyone else. He continued working toward this goal in his role with the Rockford Park District, where he worked from 2007 until his death.

John was a dedicated public servant, serving as the City of Rockford's 12th Ward Alderman for 19 years and the President of Edgewater Neighborhood Association for nearly a decade. He was a tireless champion for his constituents, a highly responsive and caring leader, and a great friend. Our deepest condolences go out to his wife Sandra and his whole family. John is sorely missed. We have included his full obituary on page 2, and hope to hold an Edgewater memorial to honor and celebrate his life when it is safe to do so.

Although very little in life feels "normal" these days, there is still good news to share with you:

\*On page 3, learn more about Ginger Hanley, Edgewater neighbor who has stepped into an interim role representing the 12th Ward on Rockford's City Council

\*On page 4, hear from the new owner / chef of the Rathskeller restaurant and see some sneak peek pictures of the restaurants remodel!

\*On page 5 learn more about the Ingersoll project that is going to take place, in large part, right here in Edgewater (it's truly out of this world!)

\*On pages 6-9, we have a VERY special treat! Some Edgewater children started their own bi-weekly Edgewater News publication, and we've included a full edition for your enjoyment!

Please stay safe, look out for each other, and enjoy a beautiful Edgewater summer.

—The Edgewater Neighborhood Association Board

# John Beck | April 23, 1962—April 12, 2020



John C. Beck, 57, passed on Sunday, April 13, 2020 at 12:11 AM at the Van Matre Encompass Health Rehabilitation Hospital in Rockford, Illinois while recovering from surgery earlier in the week.

John was born 23 April 1962 in Hays, Kansas to Robert and Donna Beck. He moved to Rockford in 1968 where he lived, loved and served over the next 52 years. Despite a spinal cord injury in 1978 that left him as a quadriplegic, John graduated on time with his class from Rockford West High School in 1980. He then earned his B.S. in Economics from the University of Illinois in 1985.

After graduation, John joined the team at Regional Access & Mobilization Project (RAMP) in 1985 and met his future wife, Sandra. According to Director Julie Bosma, John will be best remembered for his fundraising and advocacy. He led RAMP through their first capital campaign enabling them to purchase their home at 202

Market St. His outreach and connections were immeasurable with the City of Rockford, RMTD, Rockford Park District, Rockford Chariots, countless corporations and organizations and others too numerous to mention. During his tenure, he represented RAMP on many boards including the Coalition of Citizens with Disabilities in Illinois. John believed every person that RAMP served deserved an equal opportunity and strove to level the playing field for all people with disabilities. His disability was part of his story but he never complained about it and it did not define him, even while it directed his vocational choices. John embodied RAMP's mission of independent living and thinking of people first, not their disability.

In October of 2007, John joined the Rockford Park District as the Project Manager for Arts & Events. John's passion and love of working with others from all backgrounds through many events and programs like the annual Illinois Snow Sculpting Competition, Festival of Lights, and Music in the Parks. Rockford Park District Executive Director Jay Sandine shared, "Those of you in the community who don't know John, weren't fortunate to know him, know that your life is better because of John Beck... We will miss his quality service and we will miss his smile."

John served as an Alderperson for the city of Rockford's 12th Ward for nineteen years where he served in various capacities including Chair of the Finance & Personnel Committee and on the Rockford Area Arts Council, combining his love of service with his love of arts. When asked about John, Mayor Tom McNamara expressed that he was the epitome of what every alderman should be. "He was super courageous... a great listener, compassionate but was also strong... He was just one of those consistent, thoughtful, common sense what-can-you-do-to-help-residents type of aldermen."

From his nieces and nephews: "Uncle John's legacy was felt not only in his work in civic and non-profit organizations but even more as a personal inspiration to so many of us. He served as an example of leadership and character to those who knew him. He was never too busy to share his advice and humor with his us, or to teach us proper boat handling and etiquette. Uncle John had a presence that preceded him and never failed to inspire and uplift those who were lucky enough to be around him. He was intelligent, funny, and kind to all."

Hoping to carry on John's legacy are his wife, Sandra (Rockford); father, Robert Beck (Monroe WI); mother, Donna Beck (Laurel, MT); three sisters, Ann (Dave) Waggoner (Laurel, MT), Mary (Kevin) Flack (Littleton, CO); and Susan (David) Freymiller deVillier (Culver, IN); Mother-in-Law, Armida Rivera; Brother-in-Law Robert (Denise) Rivera; their three sons, Ryan, Devin and Dylan. Brother-in-Law Anthony Nunez. Eighteen nieces and nephews: Gina (Brandon) Larson and great-nephew Harper and great-niece Taytum. Hannah (Jaron) Ohs (Billings MT), Ben Waggoner (Laurel MT), Sarah Waggoner, Leah Waggoner and Rebekah Waggoner (all of Billings MT), Sam Waggoner (Rockford IL), Joe Waggoner (San Diego CA) and Daniel Waggoner (Laurel MT). Josiah and Lacy Flack (Pueblo CO), Caleb Flack, Nate and Emily Flack, Madi Flack and Peter Flack all of Littleton CO. Jay Freymiller (South Bend IN), Sarah Freymiller (St. Louis MO), Laur Freymiller (Oakland CA) and Adam Freymiller (Chicago IL).

In light of COVID-19 shelter-in-place, a memorial service is being planned for a future date to celebrate John's life as a community servant, husband, brother, son, and friend. Memorial contributions may be made to the Rockford Park District Foundation <https://rpdfoundation.org/>. To share a memory or online condolence, visit [olsonfh.com](https://olsonfh.com).

# Meet Ginger!



In early May, Rockford Mayor McNamara announced that he has appointed Jennifer “Ginger” Hanley to serve as 12th Ward alderman to replace John Beck, the longtime Republican who died last month.

Hanley, a physical education teacher at All Saints Catholic Academy and a fitness instructor for the YMCA, has served as the Republican committeeman for the 12th Ward since May 2019.

“I’m truly honored to be nominated to serve my community,” says Hanley. “I will strive to emulate my predecessor – John Beck. He was always extremely responsive to his constituents and thoughtful in his actions. He set a high bar and I will do my best to serve residents of the ward as well as he did.”

McNamara said: “John was an amazing advocate for not only the citizens he served, but also for the arts and the disabled community. He is leaving big shoes to fill. In speaking with Ginger, it is clear that she cares deeply for her community, just as John did. She will continue his legacy of outstanding community service with an emphasis on collaboration.”

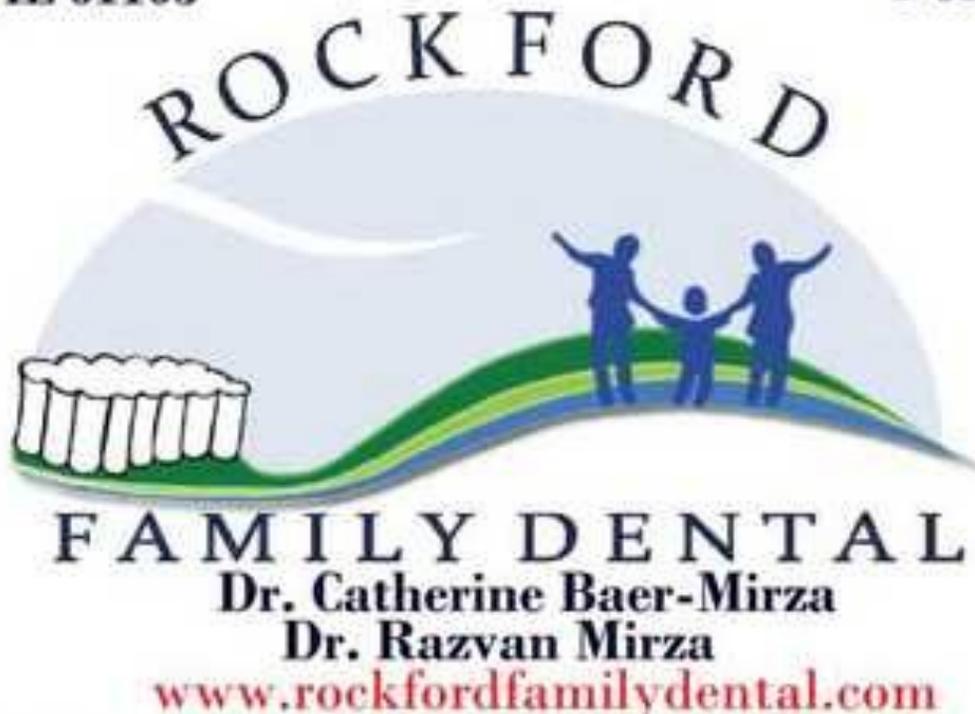
The daughter of a Navy pilot, Hanley spent her early years in many locations, including Italy and London, before moving to Rockford to attend Rockford College in 1996. After marrying and moving to Arizona, her family moved back to Rockford in 2013. She currently lives in the Edgewater neighborhood with her husband, two children and one foster child.

“The Republican Caucus of the City Council worked closely with Mayor McNamara to select Ginger to replace our friend John Beck,” 10th Ward Ald. Frank Beach said. “I’m looking forward to serving alongside Ginger. Her focus on reducing crime, improving economic development and enhancing neighborhood vitality aligns nicely with the priorities of the entire City Council.”

Ginger can be reached for Edgewater Neighborhood and 12th Ward questions and concerns at [ginger.hanley@rockfordil.gov](mailto:ginger.hanley@rockfordil.gov) or Phone: 815-299-8885

2715 N. Main St.  
Rockford, IL 61103

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



# Welcome Back, Rathskeller!

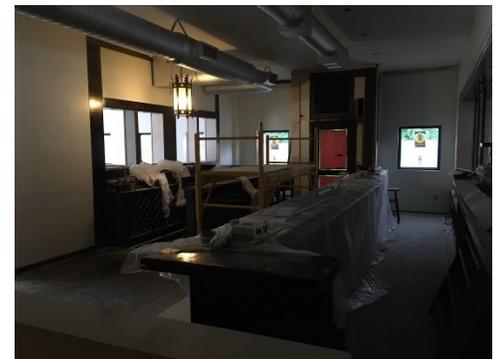
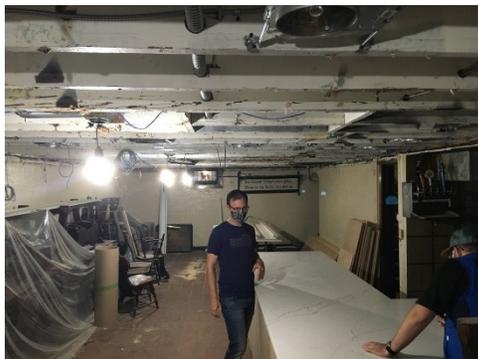
Dear Edgewater Residents,  
 My name is Jonathan Griffin and I am one of the new owners, along with Jon Reese, of Rathskeller restaurant on the southeast quadrant of the roundabout at Main & Auburn. We are beyond thrilled to be at the epicenter of numerous dynamic and historic neighborhoods in Rockford. We are breathing new life into the storied restaurant, which is nearing its 90th birthday, with a remodeled interior, revamped menus and service styles, offering KAFFEE & FINE FARE to our community. Our Kaffee will greet people in the morning, serving some of the best coffee in the region along with artisan prepared pastries, snacks, sandwiches and salads, easily taken away or enjoyed on premise. In the evening, our Biergarten, Beer Hall and Weinstube will come alive offering hand crafted local food and drink with inspiration from our German brothers and sisters. We hope to earn your trust on this curious journey as we engage and care for you, our local neighborhood. Above all else, we desire to be a place where our stories can be shared and celebrated. Whether that's a comforting coffee in the morning, a senses dulling drink in the afternoon or a nourishing meal in the evening, we hope to come alongside and celebrate all that life brings us.

Although we don't have a firm opening date as of yet, we are hoping to be able to open our doors near the end of August. Please follow us on Instagram & Facebook @RathskellerRockford for updates and sneak peeks. We look forward to welcoming you back to Rathskeller!

All My Best,  
 Jonathan



*Jonathan and Lara Griffin & their three daughters*



## Rockford-based Ingersoll Machine Tools to help build record-breaking telescope

*Running between Fulton and Willoughby streets from Oxford Park to Wallace Avenue, the Ingersoll factory has been an Edgewater feature for more than a century. Over the past year, plans have been made public that will bring a new project to Edgewater's Ingersoll factory, and not just any project, one that will help scientists explore the outer reaches of the universe. Many components of the Giant Magellan Telescope will be constructed right here in our neighborhood, and "giant" is no joke — in order to construct some of the larger components, part of the factory will be expanded UP, to a height of 80 feet! This is a very exciting project which you can learn more about in the article from the Rockford Register Star below, and visit the [Giant Magellan Telescope website](#) to learn more about the project and see videos of what the telescope will look like in action!*



Source: [Rockford Register Star](#), written by Ken DeCoster

Ingersoll Machine Tools will play a critical role in the construction of the Giant Magellan Telescope, which will help scientists explore the frontiers of the universe and seek forms of life beyond our solar system.

Magellan will measure 80 feet in diameter and is billed as a next-generation giant optical infrared observatory capable of changing the history of space exploration.

Rockford-based Ingersoll and MT Mechatronics of Mainz, Germany, will partner to design and manufacture the 1,800-ton precision mechanism known as the "telescope structure" that holds the Magellan's optics.

The telescope will be designed by MT Mechatronics and manufactured, assembled and tested by Ingersoll before it is installed at an observatory high in the remote Andes Mountains of Chile in 2025.

"We selected Ingersoll Machine Tools and MT Mechatronics for their commitment to quality, extensive experience with astronomical telescopes and abilities to manufacture complex precision structures," Giant Magellan Telescope Organization Project Manager Dr. James Fanson said in a news release.

The nine-year contract for the telescope structure is valued at \$135 million.

The structure of the telescope will hold seven giant mirrors in position as they bring the light of distant stars and galaxies into focus so they can be analyzed by the scientific instrumentation built into the huge device.

The structure of the telescope, complete with mirrors and instrumentation, will weigh 2,100 tons.

"It will be a special day when the Giant Magellan Telescope structure is completed and placed in service in Chile, as part of one of the most complicated and fascinating projects that the world scientific community has ever undertaken," Ingersoll Machine Tools CEO Chip Storie said.

Ingersoll Machine Tools develops advanced machine tools for the aerospace, transportation, energy and other industries. The company has about 200 employees.

Ingersoll International, the forerunner of Ingersoll Machine Tools, was founded in 1891 and employed about 2,000 during its heyday in the 1960s and '70s.

# Edgewater News

## Edition 5

July 25, 2020



### Articles in this Edition

Cottage Grove Construction

National Hot Dog Month

National Ice Cream Month

National Grilling Month

Weather Report

Covid Update

Pupdate

Drawing Disney

Fact of the Day

Cicadas

Adds

Ending

## Cottage Grove Construction

By: Quinton

On Cottage Grove Ave between Clinton St and Oxford St the ends of the alleys were torn up and replaced.



### National Hot Dog Month

By:Lily

Every July there is the Nathan's Hot dog eating contest. This Year Joey "Jaws" Chestnut won the men's division with 75 hot dogs in ten minutes. Miki sudo won the women's division with 48.5 hot dogs in ten minutes. This may sound surprising but Americans eat 49,080 every minute. 9% of hot dogs are eaten at ballparks.

### National Ice Cream Month

By:Lily

Do you know the top 10 ice cream flavors in America are:

- 1.Vanilla
- 2.Chocolate
- 3.Cookies and cream
- 4.Mint chocolate chip
- 5.Chocolate chip cookie dough

6.Butter pecan

7.Birthday cake

8.Strawberry

9.Moose tracks

10.Neopolitan

### National Grilling Month

By:Lily

Did you know that there is a small little store on Court St.named Pinnon. They specialize in meats. Their meat is soooo good. You can buy meat from there and grill it. Have fun grilling.

### Weather Report By:Lyla

Edgewater News is doing a weather report and the average amount of rain a week is 2.5 inches of rain.

This week is going to be hot and the mornings are going to be a little chilly! So get outside and have fun!

Covid Update By:Quinton

We are in phase 4. Cases rise as more states open up.

Though many businesses have closed due to Covid 19. Also 1.4 million people in the U.S.A. have filed for unemployment. Schools are trying to come up with plans for the fall. Virtual or in person. Meanwhile lab scientists are trying to come up with a cure to this deadly virus. The scientists are getting close to finding a cure!! The cure is expected to be out by January 2021.

Pupdate By:Lyla

Today the animal we are featuring in our pupdate is Grey. Grey is a lost dog. There are signs all over the entire neighborhood. If you see Grey call the number on the poster. Do not whistle or

call. This could frighten Grey! Thank you!

Drawing Disney By:Lyla

We are having a contest on who can draw the best Disney character. Whoever draws the best Disney character gets one free paper! So turn in your drawings at [rockfordedgewater@gmail.com](mailto:rockfordedgewater@gmail.com) So have some fun drawing!



Fact of the Day By: Quinton

A church in the Czech Republic has a chandelier made of human bones.

### Cicadas By:Lyla

Cicadas are an animal that make a weird sound but it does sound cool! Did you know that Cicadas die every year and new Cicadas come every year! Cicadas spend 5 years underground.

### O'Brien's art By:Quinton

There is another group of kids in this neighborhood that are trying to make money! They are making money by selling paintings! The paintings are 5-10 dollars a painting! You can write them a note at

[rockfordedgewater@gmail.com](mailto:rockfordedgewater@gmail.com).

If you are interested in sprucing up your house with some **Color** talk to the Obrien's!

### Rubber Band Bracelets By: Lyla

We, Lyla, Quinton, and Lily are doing another sale! We

are selling rubber band bracelets, Rubber band rings and chokers! They will come in a vast variety of colors! You can order a custom or you can look at what we have and pick! The price for the rings is 25 cents, the price for the rubber band bracelets is 50 cents and the price for the chokers is 75 cents! Customs are 1 dollar!

### Ending By:Quinton

If you are reading this in the adult Edgewater newsletter and would like to be a subscriber, to have an ad in our paper, or if you have any other questions, write us a note at [rockfordedgewater@gmail.com](mailto:rockfordedgewater@gmail.com)!

# Thank you, Neighbors!

We are very grateful to some Edgewater neighbors who took the initiative and put in a LOT of work to get the landscaping around the neighborhood sign on Harlem Boulevard looking amazing! Here's an update from Cassie, who led the effort:

"We had a couple neighbors jump in and help a ton - Stacie, her husband Jeff and son Caleb were huge helps in clearing out the old stuff, Trent helped to plant some of the plants we had gotten, and Stillman Valley Nursery donated the mulch. Matthew across the street from the sign allowed me to hook a hose up to his house and water the new grass/plants every evening. Stacie bucketed water from her house to water in the



morning. I'm blessed by the wonderful neighbors we have here, and have been more than happy to be a part of this community for 5 years now, and have no plans to leave anytime soon. We stumbled on this town and neighborhood in the middle of the winter, and had no idea how good it was!"

**Thank you, Cassie and team, for helping keep Edgewater in tip top shape!**

## **DO-IT-YOURSELF DOG WASH AT PAMPERED PET GROOMING**

NW CORNER OF RIVERSIDE BLVD. AND N. MAIN ST.

\$12.00 for ½ hour and \$20.00 for an hour.

Includes brushes and combs, towels, power dryer, walk-in tube and aprons.

You can use our shampoo for \$1.00 extra or bring your own.



Goes by appointment,  
please call 815-282-9663.



# You Count! Complete the Census Today!

In the midst of everything else going on in the world, the 2020 Census is underway. Current and future relief from the COVID-19 crisis and many, many other areas of funding for our city and region depend on a complete count in the 2020 Census. Paper invitations to participate in the Census were mailed from the Census Bureau between March 12-20. Whether or not you have received your Census invitation, you can complete the questionnaire online at [www.mycensus2020.gov](http://www.mycensus2020.gov) (screenshot of this website below). **It takes less than 10 minutes and is vital to helping Rockford remain strong.**

In addition to the option to complete the Census online, you may complete it by phone or by mail. Visit [www.2020census.gov](http://www.2020census.gov) or call 844-330-2020 for full details.



## Welcome to the 2020 Census

- It's quick and easy. The 2020 Census questionnaire will take about 10 minutes to complete.
- It's safe, secure, and confidential. Your information and privacy are protected.
- Your response helps to direct billions of dollars in federal funds to local communities for schools, roads, and other public services.
- Results from the 2020 Census will be used to determine the number of seats each state has in Congress and your political representation at all levels of government.

## Getting started:

- You must complete your questionnaire once you begin. If you leave the questionnaire and return later, you will have to start over.
- Do not use the web browser buttons (back, forward, or close browser). Use the buttons within the questionnaire to navigate.
- For best results, use the latest version of Chrome, Firefox, Internet Explorer, or Safari. Enable cookies.

[www.my2020census.gov](http://www.my2020census.gov)

Shape  
your future  
START HERE >

United States®  
Census  
2020

Start Questionnaire



The General Election may not be until November 3, but now is the perfect time to register to vote for the first time, or to apply to vote by mail! In order to ensure a safe and efficient Election Day voters are encouraged to vote by mail or to vote early (in-person early voting begins September 24).

Many registered voters in Rockford will automatically receive a Vote by Mail application, but if you do not you may request one or even complete the application itself online. Visit [VoteRockford.com](http://VoteRockford.com) today to learn more, register, and sign up to vote by mail!

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)

## Become a Member of the Edgewater Neighborhood Association!

The Edgewater Neighborhood Association was established in 1979 to promote a sense of community and provide resources that help keep Edgewater a beautiful, safe, and inviting place to live. Your annually-renewable \$20 Membership dues support:

- ✧ 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.
- ✧ Seasonal Neighborhood Activities including the Easter Egg Hunt, Annual Garage Sale, 4th of July Festivities in Oxford Park, the Holiday Party, and Luminaria (including Luminaries placed in public places like the Auburn Street Bridge).
- ✧ 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 (made out to Edgewater Neighborhood Association) to:

Edgewater Neighborhood Association  
PO Box 515  
Rockford, IL 61105

Prefer to pay by card?  
Pay online with PayPal at [www.rockfordedgewater.org](http://www.rockfordedgewater.org)!

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
(Used for Edgewater mailings)

Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
(Used for Edgewater information only)

Email \_\_\_\_\_  
(For updates from the Edgewater Neighborhood Association)

Membership Dues	<b>\$20</b>
Additional Donation (to support snow removal and other neighborhood activities)	_____
<b>TOTAL</b>	_____

### 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.

**Pictured at right:** Auburn High School Key Club members helping at Edgewater Egg Hunt



### 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 \$140, 1/2 page \$75, 1/4 page \$40, business card size \$30.

