

Shorelines

Rock River Homeowners Association Newsletter

P.O. Box 2813 Loves Park, IL 61132-2813

Volume 29 Issue 1

Spring 2018

Spring of 2018 is here. Let's hope this is a normal summer on the river for a change. We had a wicked ice jam this winter. Some residents lost their docks and others had damage because of it. If that wasn't bad enough it was followed up by a moderate flood. Water levels went a few inches higher than last summer's flood. The flood occurred due to rapid water run off due to the ground being frozen and snow melt. The poor people of Freeport saw the worst. It would appear that FEMA needs to start buying up some of the homes in the floodplain there, like they have been doing in Machesney Park.

There is still a problem with our Dam in Rockford. Gate 1 is still broken. In November of 2016 Com-Ed hired a contractor to raise the gate halfway open and put turnbuckles on to keep it at this position. They know it is broken and this was their temporary solution until it could be repaired properly. Well, it's been a year and a half and they are making no plans to do the repairs. Their permit says they are responsible for upkeep and repairs of the dam for as long as they own it. They have come to the realization no one wants it. It's time for them to do what is needed to bring it back to working order. We have had 2 MAJOR floods with a broken dam so far. What this means is we are only discharging 87.5% of the water. We deserve to have a functional dam that operates at 100% discharge during a flood. This is what the permit says it should be doing at peak flood. On the other end of the equation in late summer when the dam is supposed to hold back water to maintain our recreational pool water level 12.5% of our water is being drained due to the broken gate being stuck in the halfway open position.

ENOUGH IS ENOUGH! I remember a Com-Ed commercial a few years back when they said Com-Ed cares about the local community. If this is true, it's time for them to put their money where their mouth is. A broken dam affects the entire community. From River residences and River businesses, to weekend boaters and the sales tax revenue they generate. Our goal is to generate thousands of phone calls and emails to local government officials to let our voice be heard. The dam needs repairs now, before the other 3 gates fail and compound our flooding and drought conditions more.

The toll free number for Com-Ed is 800-344-7661. Please call them and let them know they are responsible for the dam and it's time to fix it before it gets worse. Please call all 3 Mayors also. Mayor Tom McNamara from Rockford 779-348-7300, Greg Jury from Loves Park, 815-654-5030 and Steve Johnson from Machesney Park 815-877-5432, to ask for their help in getting the dam repaired. Also include Senator Dave Severson 815-987-7555 and State Representative John Cabello 815-282-0083.

Besides a broken gate, the high and low water alarms do not work. The only alarm that works is a phone call from the Rock River Home Owners telling them of problems with high or low water levels at the dam requiring immediate attention. To better educate you to conditions at the dam, there is a new website that has been set up.

www.BrokenDamRockford.com. Please visit the site and navigate through the information available. The media gallery tab has drone footage pictures and video taken during the peak of the flood. You will be able to see the 3 working gates fully open discharging water and the broken gate holding back the flood water it was designed to be full open at flood and it only half open. Back in the 70's when the dam was rebuilt, it could be run from the Joliet Illinois control center. This is no longer the case. They must send an area operator out to the dam and manually open or close the gates as needed. During a flood, this needs to be done twice a day to maintain the 2.5' above sea level their permit says the water level should be kept at. We are lucky to get them there once every 2 or 3 days sometimes. If you don't call and voice your concerns and discontent with their poor maintenance procedures, nothing will get done. Tell your friends and neighbors to take 2 minutes and call Com-Ed at 800-344-7661. Let's get our dam repaired NOW, not next year or next decade!

Thank you and have an enjoyable season on the Rock River!

Steve Lucas, Rock River Home Owners President



COAST GUARD AUXILLARY.NET <http://wow.uscgaux.info/content.php?unit=V-DEPT&category=welcome>

We had the pleasure of having Peter Graham from the US Coast Guard Auxiliary at our March board Meeting. They help with boating safety and can do a FREE boating safety check on your recreational boat by calling and setting up an appointment. 815-558-7062. He can do it on shore or in the water. After a successful safety check, you get a 2018



Safety Sticker. The Auxiliary also can hold boat safety classes, contact the website for where they are held and dates. A note to keep in mind is that paddle craft are becoming increasingly popular and this means watching out for them and their safety. They are also a high risk due to their size and easily capsizing. We hope beginners and experts alike all wear their floatation while operating them.

Past and Present Rock River Homeowners Association Projects

If you're wondering where your dues and other donation monies are being used to improve our Rock River, here are just a few of the completed and on going Rock River improvements your association has accomplished! (Not in any specific order!)

1. Installed commercial marine navigational solar lights on bridges and maintain with new bulbs and batteries when needed. If you boat at night, these are a great help to see what pass to use and where the supports are.
2. Installed directional arrow navigation signs on the bridges to help guide boat traffic under bridges.
3. Purchased additional buoys for no wake and hazard areas and installed flashing lights on them.
4. Purchased a new Bimini shade top for the Sherriff's patrol boat.
5. Installed and maintain news and information stations at launch areas.
6. Installed navigation solar light for entry to Sports Core launch on shore.
7. Construction and installation of a static river level gauge at Davis Park in 2014.
8. Purchase and installation of an official U.S.G.S electronic gauge at Davis Park at the dam for spring of 2015, this will be of great importance to everyone viewing the water level gauges on the website, as it will give the level at the dam.
9. Create and maintain a professional Website that shows all area river gauges in one page, and other important Rock River information to home owners and boaters.
10. Donate money to the Ski Broncs yearly for their program to further the Rock River's value as an entertainment venue.
11. Publication of the Rock River Homeowners Association Newsletter to keep homeowners and businesses on the river informed.
12. Support by board members and homeowners by volunteering during Rock River cleanup events like Rock River Sweep.
13. Removal of trees to safer areas after flooding.
14. No wake signs at boat launches during high water and flooding.
15. Do you have a project you'd like to see addressed? Send us a note or call any of the board members!

Forest City Queen Fundraiser

As you all know, the county has cut back on much of the funding for some of the area's recreational activities. The Rockford Park District faced another \$1 million deficit this year and had to make some tough operational decisions. Our Park District has not increased taxes in several years even though revenue has declined, and as a result is faced with the decision to reduce certain services and attractions.



We need your help to keep one of these landmark attractions operational on the Rock River! There has been a <https://www.gofundme.com/forestcityqueen> set up to raise \$22,000 to keep this attraction on the river. Please go there and donate or you can send your donation to RRHA directly and we will pass it on in your name. Mail to RRHA, PO BOX 2813, Loves Park, IL 61132. This

is a great way for visitors to see the river and enjoy our area. Don't let the Forest City Queen be dry docked!

BRIDGE NAVIGATIONAL HEIGHT SIGNS

When you're navigating up or down the river and going under the various bridges, look for the "Arrow" signs on North and south areas of the bridges, for the best boat navigation under the bridge. The preferred space between the pylons will be marked with Arrow signs, and under some of the lower bridges, a "TALL" sign will guide you



INVOICE for 2018 Membership (Please put this in your bill paying pile!)**2018 Rock River Homeowners Association Membership Application**

Whether you are joining for the first time, or a long time member renewing, we'd love to have you!

Our mission is to: "Preserve and protect the Rock River environment, enjoyment of the river, and to promote public awareness of river safety."

Membership is \$25 and it is good for one year. It includes the newsletter to keep you informed of events and information, the ability to become a RRHA board member, and to directly make improvements to our great river. We welcome suggestions, and hope to address concerns, as well as to make the river a better place for us all, so please feel free to get involved and fill out the application.

Homeowner(s): _____

Address: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

(please give us your email address so we can notify you of current concerns and notices) RRHA Zone Number (refer to the board member zones on the address page) _____

Type of Membership: _____ I am a new member _____ I am renewing

Please return this page in it's entirety with your payment of \$25 by July 30, 2018 to:

RRHA P.O. Box 2813, Loves Park, IL 61132-2813

You can also go to the www.rockriverhomeowners.org website and pay via paypal if you'd prefer—

2018 Rock River Homeowners Association**DONATION PLEA**

To support the on-going Rock River improvement and safety projects under the guidance of the Rock River Homeowners Association, we ask that you consider an additional monetary contribution. We ask that you PLEASE support these important addition to our area by sending your membership dues in promptly and if you have just read the newsletters, and not ever sent in your dues, PLEASE help us to support our efforts to make the Rock River a safer place for homeowners and guests alike!

Donations in any amount will be gratefully accepted and appreciated. The Rock River Homeowners Association is a non-profit organization and your donation is tax deductible.

_____ I would like to make a one-time donation of \$ _____

I would like to donate \$100 \$200 \$300 \$400 \$500 \$ _____

Please make your checks payable to: Rock River Homeowners Association and mail with your membership dues to the above address.

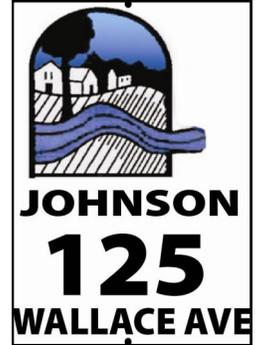
Thank you! Your Board of Directors

LOST AND FOUND

If you have lost your pier or dock sections, please go to our facebook page, Rock River Home Owners Association, where you can post a photo of your lost or found dock. We have helped a few people locate theirs this way. Be sure to have your name and address on your dock sections if you haven't already to help identify them when so many are similar looking. You can also add some color to the sides if that would help also. Most docks are tied up after removal in the fall, but swift flood waters can break them loose, so being able to identify them is key. We've seen whole boat lifts get carried downstream for blocks during a flood and the only way to find them is to use a locator.

We still are selling RRHA river shore signs for \$40.00 each. You can send a check to Rock River Homeowners Association, PO Box 2813 Loves Park, IL 61111 or pay with paypal on the website. (with the convenience fee) Please fill out the information below:

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 Phone: _____
 Name on sign: _____ (first or last name, limit to one line)
 Address numbers: _____ (will be boldest)
 Street name: _____



These are usually displayed on the shore and used for waterfront address location, or emergency boating help. These also make great gifts! For Father's Day, Mother's Day and housewarmings. They are 12" x 18" aluminum with a color logo and black name and address.

NEWSLETTER ADVERTISING: Ads will be run 3 times a year, beginning with our Spring Newsletter. Anyone that wants to start advertising at a different time of the year will pay only the prorated amount for the balance of the year.
 Ad Sizes—Business card \$100 1/2 page \$280
 Make checks payable to RRHA Advertising
 PO Box 2813, Loves Park, IL 61132-2813
 Email print ready ad or info you want published to:
 Asignedesigns@aol.com 815-877-5096
 Please support our advertisers! Remember, For Sale or Want to Buy ads are FREE for members! RRHA reserves the right to located the ad within the newsletter and also the right to refuse ads deemed inappropriate. Call for further details.

ARE YOU NEW TO THE RIVER??

Welcome and here's your chance to get the scoop on what you need to know about what's going on in that beautiful, wet watery "street" in your back yard! You'll get inside information on concerns being addressed, events going on and get to meet experienced "river folk" that can answer most questions you might have or direct you to someone who can. Plan on keeping in the loop and join the Rock River Homeowners Association today! You don't want to miss any of the excitement and fun! Send your membership application in!

3B's Cafe
 Serving delicious breakfasts & lunches!
 Follow us on Facebook for daily specials!
 7007 N 2nd St Open 5am to 2pm
 Machesney Park, Illinois 61115 (815) 282-5974

DON'T FORGET YOUR ORANGE SKI OR TUBING FLAGS! CAN BE PURCHASED OFF OF STEVE LUCAS'S DOCK!

NEW FOR 2018
ROCK RIVER HOME OWNERS NAUTICAL SILK SCREENED NYLON BOAT FLAGS. \$25.00 EACH
 Flags are 12" x 18" inches with triple sewn hems and brass grommets. If you're a proud river home owner, this will look great on any boat for your river excursions. All proceeds go to future river projects!

Mail \$25 to Rock River Home Owners, po box 2813, Loves Park, IL 61111 and one will be mailed to you, or call Mary Johnson at 815-877-5096 and you can pick one up.

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 Election Signs
 Boat Registration Numbers



Steve Lucas, Owner

6212 Park Ridge Rd. Loves Park, IL 61111

815-543-8742 (office) 815-243-8742 (cell) 815-654-8772 (fax)



Retaining wall Stair & Dock system

Steep Hill
aluminum stairs
with landings
system design



My fellow Rock River residents, I have been selling boat lifts and docks for 26 years on our beautiful Rock River. I would have to say I love the river and all it has to offer. Whether having fun on it in the summer or just looking at it on a cold winter day, I would not have asked for a better place to live.

During the summer months after all the docks are in, I am able to help a few residents with shoreline work. Whether it's a small repair or a major job, I take great pride in every job. My goal is to have my work last a lifetime. I also do many odd jobs like trimming river trees that are only accessible by water. I know that I am sometimes hard to get a hold of, but once I commit to a job I make sure the work is done to the best of my ability. I look forward to the remaining summer with great excitement. If I can help you with a project, just drop me a message or send a text. Thanks again for the past 26 years and I look forward to the next 26! *Steve Lucas*

PLEASE SUPPORT OUR RIVER HOMEOWNER'S BUSINESSES!

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PAOLA SCHWARIZ
TAD'S BAR & GRILL
Party on the Rock!

10 E. Riverside Blvd
Loves Park, IL 61111
815-654-3500 office
815-988-0111 cell
tadsbar@sbcglobal.net

OFFICE: 1.815.316.4062
CELL: 1.815.289.3362
E-FAK: 1.815.231.8529
OFFICE: 1.815.282.2222
EMAIL: tshreve4@gmail.com

Teresa Shreve
BROKER
3815 N. Mulford Rd
Rockford, IL 61114

gambino REALTORS
GoGambino.com

GUIDE TO THE ROCK RIVER

PROVIDED BY: *THE ROCK RIVER HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION*

P.O. Box 2813, Loves Park, Il. 61111



* Safety on the Rock River is our #1 concern.

ROCK RIVER

As shown on this map:
 Width: Averages 350 feet
 Depth: Varies
 4 feet, plus, in channel
 Islands: 1
 Bridges: 9
 Navigatable length: 13 mi.
 Tributaries: 4 creeks
 Number of river residents:
 Approximately 900

ROSCOE RD.

CAUTION: Very shallow water north of the Roscoe Bridge.

NORTH END OF RIVER

GLEASMAN RD.



ATWOOD PARK



OLD RIVER RD.

SHALLOW - STAY EAST



VENTURA BLVD.



MARKERS ON THE BRIDGES

↕↔ GREEN SIGNS WITH ARROWS - Mark the direction of passage for boats under bridges.

■ RED MARKER SQUARES - Mark the bridge supports...Pass between them and under the reflective green and white arrows on bridge.

RIVER RESTRICTIONS - "High Water No Wake" "River Closings" may also be posted on bridges.

KEY

- Beach
- Shallow
- Launch/Ramp
- Restrooms
- Known Sandbars

LATHAM BRIDGE
clearance 19'

RALSTON RD.



WILLIAMS PARK

POWER LINES

***PLEASE HELP TO KEEP OUR RIVER CLEAN....
...AND FREE OF LITTER!!**

*The ducks, wild geese, beaver, muskrat, walleye, bass, catfish, and water skiers will appreciate it!

**"RIVER CONDITIONS HOTLINE"
815-316-8888**

EMERGENCY PHONE NUMBERS:

Always call... 911 ...first!!!

Then call the Sheriff's River Patrol

815-319-6317

NORTH MAIN ST.

SAND BAR

SHORE DR.



Stones Landing Launch

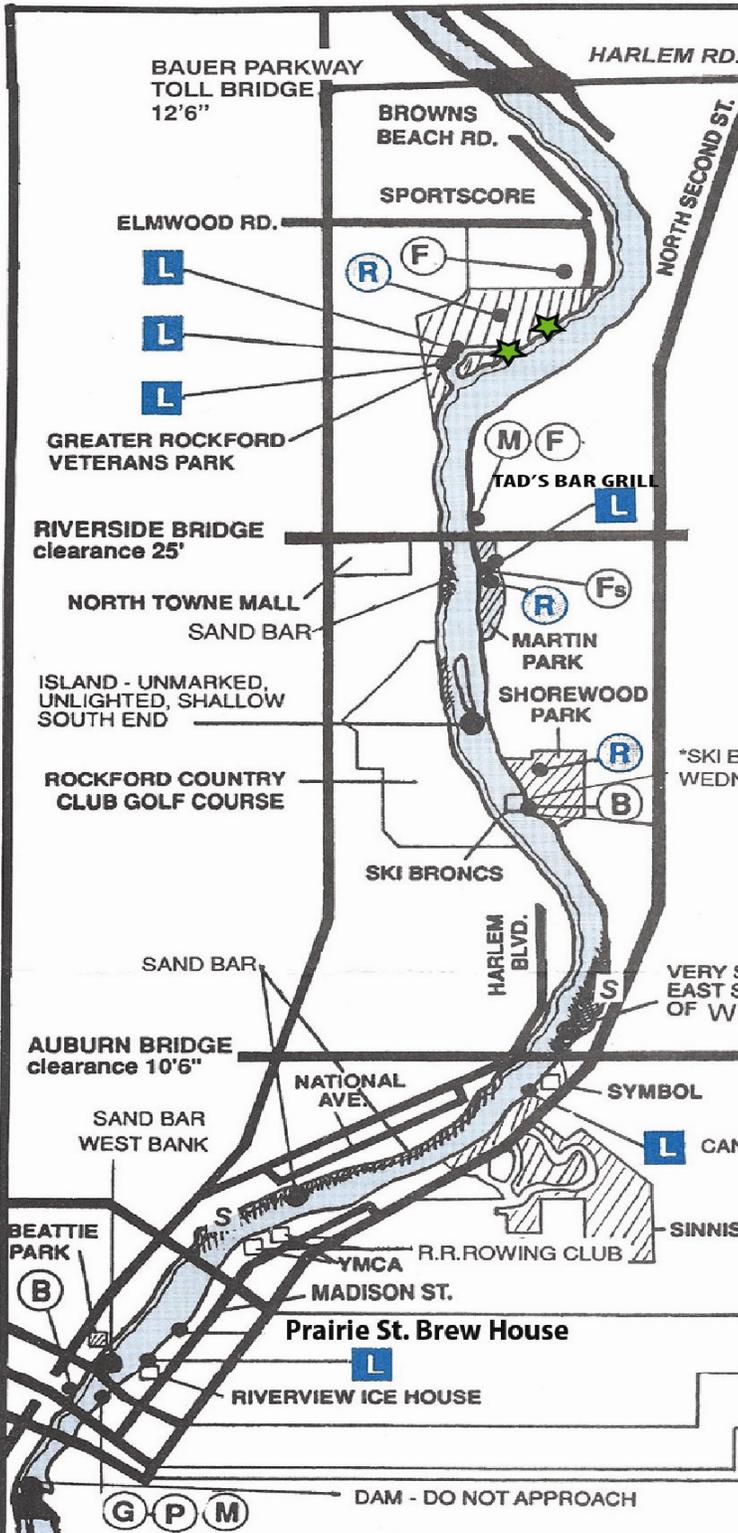
MACHESNEY PARK MALL

HARLEM RD.

BAUER PARKWAY



SOUTH END OF RIVER



CAUTION:

- *Use proper lights from sunset to sunrise.
- *No fishing is allowed off bridges.
- * Watch carefully for small water craft, debris and people in the water. (i.e. water skiers)
- *Think of the river as a highway. Stay to the right.
- *Watch for sandbars and shallow areas.

KEY

(B) BEACH	(L) LAUNCH/RAMP
(F) FOOD	S Shallow
(G) GAS	(M) MARINA
▲ N	(P) PARTS/SERVICE
	(R) RESTROOM FACILITIES
	☀ KNOWN SANDBARS
	★ ROCK RIVER TRAIL CAMPSITES

*SKI BRONCS PERFORMANCES WEDNESDAYS & FRIDAYS, 7P.M.

NOTES:

- * Free boating inspections via U.S. Coast Guard Aux.
- * Bridge clearances are approximations at center and at normal water levels
- * This map is provided by the Rock River Homeowners Assoc. and is intended as a guide to facilities and reference points for boaters. The association is in no way liable for personal or property damage incurred from the use of this guide.
- * For Illinois Boating Safety classes and certification cards, contact Winn. Sheriff's River Patrol.

SAFETY GUIDELINES:

This guide is in compliance with the laws and ordinances of the U.S. Coast Guard and the Winnebago County Sheriff's Dept./River Patrol.

- Speed limits are 45mph during daylight, 25mph from sunset to sunrise.
- Water-skiing after sunset is extremely dangerous and unlawful.
- Open exhaust boats are against State Law.
- Polluting and littering of the river is prohibited. This means yard waste also.
- Proper boat lighting is required from sunset to sunrise.
- Driving a boat while intoxicated with result in a "O.U.I." citation.
- Children under the age of 10 cannot operated any motorized watercraft; from ages 10-12 they must be under direct control of parent or guardian.
- Young adults (age 18 years), in order to operate a motorized watercraft, must carry an Illinois State Certification card as proof that they have completed a boating safety course.
- All boaters must observe the "No Wake" zones.
- Safety equipment must comply with the U.S. Coast Guard and IL Dept. of Natural Resources regulations
- No person may operate a watercraft under 26 feet in length unless a Type I, Type II, Type III or Type V personal floatation vest is being properly worn by each person under the age of 13 on board the watercraft at all times in which the craft is underway.



Rock River Homeowners Association
 P.O. Box 2813 Loves Park, IL 61132-2813

PRSRT STD
 U S POSTAGE
 PAID
 #700
 RKFD, IL 611

Or Occupant

Rock River Homeowners Association
P.O. box 2813 Loves Park, IL 61132

The Officers

President Steve Lucas
 Vice President Jack Sokolski
 Treasurer Ron Neuschwander
 Secretary Mike Dagefoerde

Committee Chairs

Membership Chip Gammel
 Newsletter Mary Johnson
 Natural Environment Bruce Olson
 Dam Operation Steve Lucas
 Website Chip Gammel

Telephone Numbers

Sheriff's Dept. 815-282-2600-Dispatcher
 Sheriff's Dept. 815-319-6317-Shift
 Chief Deputy Ditzler 815-319-6312
 Coast Guard Auxiliary 815-877-6522
 Army corps of Engineers (309)794-4200
 Emergency Services 815-319-6215
 River Hotline 815-316-8888
 Com-Ed 800-344-7661

MISSION STATEMENT

The Mission of the Rock River Homeowners Association shall be to preserve and protect the Rock River environment, enjoyment of the river and to promote public awareness of river safety

THE BOARD

<u>NAME</u>	<u>TERM</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>
ZONE 1: West side from State St. To Harlem Bridge		
Loyd & Diane Koch	2018	815-968-6685
Kim Bailey	2019	815-262-0576
ZONE 2: West side from Harlem to Roscoe Bridge		
Ron & Sharon Neuschwander	2018	815-654-9276
Mike & Pij Richter	2018	815-654-9621
Chuck & Jane Barber	2019	815-654-9720
Mike & Nancy Dagefoerde	2019	815-623-5045
ZONE 3: East side from State St. to Harlem Bridge		
Steve Lucas	2018	815-654-8742
Jack Sokolski	2018	815-877-8205
Chris Whiteford	2019	815-243-1999
ZONE 4: East side from Harlem to Roscoe Bridge		
Tim Hendricks	2018	815-633-2327
ZONE 5: North of the Roscoe Bridge		
Bruce Swartz	2019	815-624-2465