



# Shorelines

*Rock River Homeowners Association Newsletter*

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

**Volume 33 Issue 1**

**Spring 2022**

Spring is usually in the air this time of the season, but winter temps just won't say good-bye to our region. The April showers we have been having are putting an end to the drought conditions our basin has been under the past year though. I did some research over the last 6 months as to why we were having large swings in water levels. Sometimes in August, the water levels were dropping 12 inches overnight at Rockton. This was determined to be a result of the gate operation at the Indian Ford Dam. This was also having an affect for the dam operators at the Janesville Power Plant dam. Eagle Creek Renewable Energy runs the power generation at Janesville, Beloit, Rockton and Rock Falls Dams. Indian Ford Dam is owned and operated by the Rock Koshkonong Lake District(RKLD). I went and spoke at a board meeting in January to the RKLD Board and expressed our concerns for the massive river level swings that were affecting Janesville and our areas of the river and the navigation hazards that this was having on the downstream residents and businesses and so far this season it appears they are making much less drastic adjustments to help keep river levels at a safer level for all that have been affected. Thank you Indian Ford for your attention to this matter.

We have our continued great relationship with Sheriff Gary Caruana and Com-Ed to make the as needed adjustments to our dam to keep water levels at a normal and safe level for residents of Winnebago County. I'm sure I wasn't the only one that found my prop smacking an unknown obstacle underwater last year. I always tell boat owners that an investment in a stainless steel prop will pay for itself with much less time and money pulling and replacing an aluminum prop. We donated a stainless steel prop for the sheriff boat this season, we just wanted to save the deputies from having to go home and tell Dad they put a ding in the prop from something they couldn't see.

I can't emphasize enough how much enjoyment we have taking friends downtown by boat to have dinner and drinks at all of the great little treasures we have in our Downtown River District. We all have said there is not enough to do in this town, but take a night this summer to take the boat downtown and park at the Water Street Docks or use the River restaurant docks and enjoy the food and fun they have to offer us all.

With the help of 2 of our dedicated board members, Mike Richter and Chuck Barber and our VP Chris Whiteford, will be out again replacing red and green bridge marker lights. With as many as we have installed there is the need to replace worn out lights with new ones to make navigation of night boating less stressful.

Effective April of 2022, there are new rules for fire extinguishers, they can be found at [USCGBoating.org](http://USCGBoating.org). The main take away is the 12 year rule for age of a fire extinguisher. If residents have an older boat, we need to look on the bottom of the extinguisher for a date

Code. I had one that was marked 06, meaning it was made in 2006. Even though the green tab was still on the top and could be tested and popped back up, I still replaced it. The new law requires boats to use a larger #1b value for units to better handle putting out a fire should the need arise. 95% of us will never need to put out a fire, but if it does happen, having a current working fire extinguisher could save our lives or a fellow boater.

The forecast I just saw stated that we should expect another hot summer with the chance for more rain than we saw last season. This will be a welcome relief for boaters, farmers and grass cutters. The Board of Directors would like to thank all of you for your continued support and donations to the group. This will allow us to continue to do projects for our river. If you have any suggestions, please include them on the back of your membership when you send back your 2022 membership fees.

Have a safe and enjoyable summer out on the water.

Steve Lucas, President RRHA

#### NEW INFO PROGRESSIVE BOAT POLICIES FOR TOWING

**Sign & Glide® On-Water Towing** Current customers: call 888-955-025 for help now. Add Sign & Glide, and you'll never have to worry about on-water breakdowns again. If your boat is disabled on the water, we'll pay for on-water towing, jump starts, soft un-groundings and fuel delivery. Simply call our dispatch center or use our app and we'll arrange for the tow and pay the tow operator directly. You pay nothing out of pocket, except the cost of the delivered fuel—just sign and glide! You can add this to your Progressive boat insurance policy at any time. **How long does it take to get service?** It usually takes about 45-60 minutes for the licensed tow operator to arrive at your location, although wait times may be longer during peak periods. **Is there a deductible or number of times I can use this service?** There is no deductible and no predetermined limit to the number of times you can use this service. (see disclosure on website) You'll pay \$0 out of pocket. If you arrange your tow directly, without going through our dispatch center, reimbursement is available with limits of \$250/per hour or \$3,000/per disablement. **How much does Sign & Glide cost?** It only costs \$30/year in all states except Florida (\$50/year) and is available for any boat or PWC on your policy. **What if I'm off water and my boat needs to be towed?**

Boat roadside assistance is automatically covered if you have a trailer listed on your policy. If your boat trailer or tow vehicle is disabled, we'll tow you to the closest repair facility. **The approved area Sea Tow provider is Rock River Enterprise, (815)243-8742**

**MUSIC • FOOD • BEER • COMMUNITY**

# Dinner ON THE Dock

**PRAIRIE STREET BREWING COMPANY**

**5-10 P.M. THURSDAYS**  
LIVE MUSIC FROM 6-9 P.M.

**RESERVE A VIP TABLE**

**MAY**  
19 THREE GOOD MEN  
26 ZAC MATTHEWS

**JUNE**  
02 THE STUDENT BODY  
09 MINIMAL  
16 BOOM BOOM ROOM  
23 DIRTY POP  
30 THAT GURL

**JULY**  
07 UNITY THE BAND  
14 THE TRIPPIN BILLIES  
21 THAT 70S BAND  
28 SUNSET STRIP

**AUGUST**  
04 DIRTY FISHNET STOCKINGS  
11 THE JIMMYS  
18 MILES NIELSEN & THE RUSTED HEARTS  
25 BLACKBERRY JAM

**SEPTEMBER**  
01 GAVIN ARNOLD MUSIC

**LOCATION**  
PRAIRIE STREET BREWING CO.  
200 Prairie Street  
Downtown Rockford, IL  
psbrewingco.com

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**fnic**  
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#### BRIDGE NAVIGATIONAL HEIGHT SIGNS

When you're navigating up or down the river and going under the various bridges, look for the "Arrow & TALL" 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 to the tallest part of the bridge. This is especially helpful during high water if you have a taller boat or boat structure.



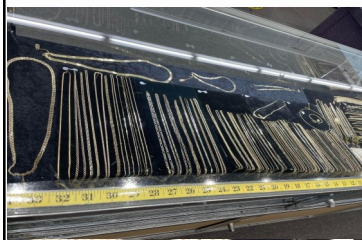
## JEWELRY CONCEPTS



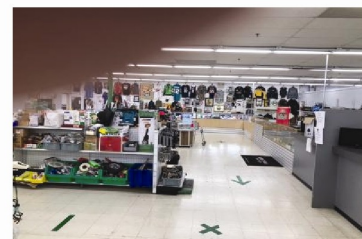
**986 W. Riverside Blvd. Rockford IL 61103**

### JEWELRY CONCEPTS - 815-877-2220

We are a full service jewelry store, we do repairs and customize your precious pieces with our state of the art laser welder and laser engraver. We service watch batteries and watch bands. We have the largest selection of estate gold and silver in the state line area. We buy gold and silver! Jewelry Concepts is your jewelry connection and one stop shop!



## PAWN DADDY



### PAWN DADDY - 815-654-7296

Who's Your Daddy, PAWN DADDY!

Stop in and check out our huge selection of merchandise in our newly expanded sales floor. We Pawn, Buy and Sell Gold, Silver, Electronics, Jewelry, Tools, Musical Instruments, Household Appliances, Knives, Jerseys, Collectibles and so much more!

### 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 & TALL 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, installation and yearly fees of an official U.S.G.S electronic gauge at Davis Park at the dam for spring of 2015, this is great importance to everyone viewing the water level gauges, 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.
13. Removal of trees to safer areas after flooding.
14. NO WAKE signs and RIVER CLOSED signs at boat launches during high water and flooding.
15. Paid fees to keep river gauge operating.
16. Do you have a project you'd like to see addressed? Send us a note or call any of the board members!

### SKI BRONCS NEWS

As always, the Ski Broncs Wednesdays and Friday shows will go on as scheduled, starting at 7pm, the July 4 show is at 6pm, all Shows are free! Practice for the National Tournament is August 6 and 7th, the National Tournament is the weekend of August 12-14th, free to the public, small fee for tournament parking. Come out and support the Ski Broncs!



Steve Lucas, Owner

6212 Park Ridge Rd. Loves Park, IL 61111

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



Dock with Pontoon Lift & Canopy



Shore Stabilization with-  
Limestone Rip Rap wall

My fellow Rock River residents, I have been selling boat lifts and docks for 33 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 33 years and I look forward to the next 33!

*Steve Lucas*

## NEED A NEW ROOF?



**CJwhiteford**  
ROOFING INC.

**815.243.1999**

www.cjwhitefordroofing.com  
cjwroofing@me.com

Fast. Reliable. **Honest.**

**GAS IS  
AVAILABLE**



**OPEN 10:30AM - 8PM FOR SERVICE**  
**SEE DOCKSIDE BAR OR CALL 815.277.9427 EXT #3**

## Do You Make These 3 Boating Safety Mistakes? NEWS from BoatUS Boat Owners Association of The United States

A look at the data shows where you can improve safety aboard ANNAPOLIS, Md., June 30, 2020 – Most boaters don't like making mistakes, especially when it comes to safety. With the recent release of the U.S. Coast Guard's 2019 Recreational Boating Statistics, the BoatUS Foundation for Boating Safety and Clean Water recommends avoiding these three common boating mistakes to increase safety for all aboard.

1. Using your cellphone to make a call, check social media, use a nonboating app, send emails, watch videos or anything else that distracts you from safely operating your boat. This all adds up to operator inattention and improper lookout, which combined with operator inexperience, excessive speed, and alcohol use rank in the top five primary contributing factors in accidents. Just like you do in your car, stay off your phone or other portable devices. Boaters should learn the S.C.A.N. (Search, Concentrate, Analyze, and Negotiate) method to help you navigate safely and stay clear of other traffic.

2. Not taking a boating safety course. Many boaters only learn about boating safety from family or friends, which may not be the best education. Where instruction information was known, the 2019 report notes that 70% of deaths occurred on boats where the operator did not receive boating safety instruction. Don't wait until your state requires boating safety instruction – taking a course now will improve your chance for a safe day on the water. The BoatUS Foundation offers the only free, NASBLA-approved online boating safety course for 36 states.

3. Allowing guests to consume unlimited amounts of alcohol aboard your boat, even if the captain is sober. Recreational vessels operate under a wide range of hazardous conditions from the hot blazing sun to wind-whipped waves kicked up by a late afternoon thunderstorm. All of these combined with alcohol create a challenge for the person at the helm, who is legally responsible for everyone aboard. Alcohol use is the leading known contributing factor in fatal boating accidents, and statistics show it may be better to save it for when you and your guests are safely back at the dock.



# 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

## NORTH END OF RIVER

CAUTION: Very shallow water north of the Roscoe Bridge.

### 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

- (B) Beach
- S Shallow
- (L) Launch/Ramp
- (R) Restrooms
- Known Sandbars

\*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**

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## 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

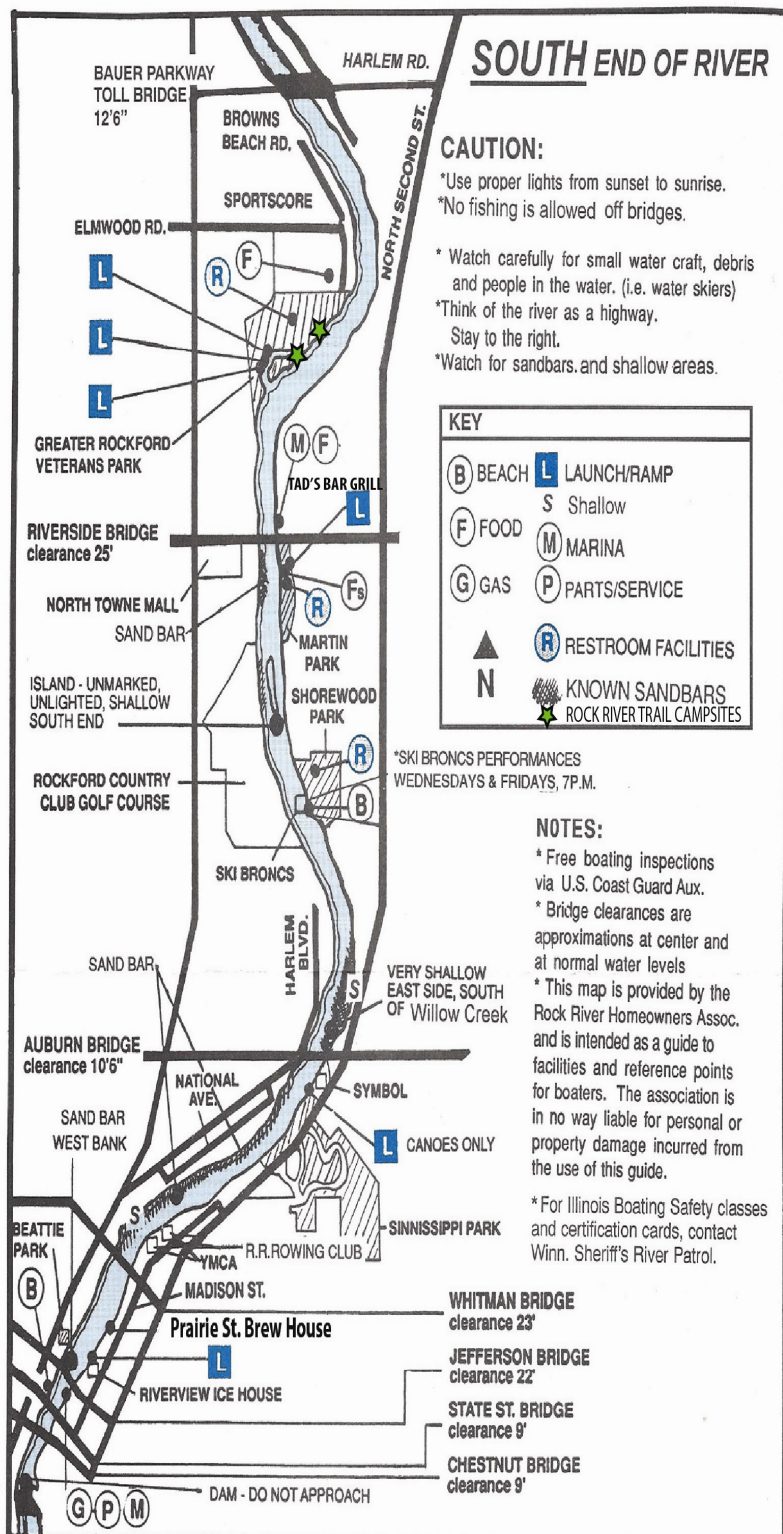
- (B) BEACH (L) LAUNCH/RAMP
- (F) FOOD (M) MARINA
- (G) GAS (P) PARTS/SERVICE
- ▲ RESTROOM FACILITIES
- N KNOWN SANDBARS
- ★ ROCK RIVER TRAIL CAMPSITES

\*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 operate 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 flotation 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.



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: \_\_\_\_\_

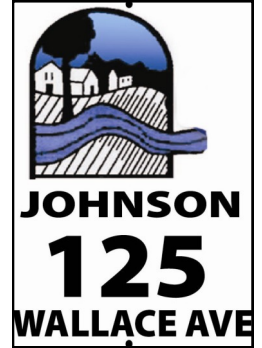
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

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



#### 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! today!

NEWSLETTER ADVERTISING: Ads will be in the 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:

Asigndesigns@aol.com 815-985-2355

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.

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

### **FLY YOUR FLAG**

**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.



#### FLOODPLAIN INFO

Machesney Park has obtained 143 parcels of land from property being demolished in the floodplain, with ongoing plans to do more as funding is acquired. Plans to proceed with the floodplain recreation plans for the empty areas have been postponed for more information on how the village will handle some of the questions being asked by area homeowners.

#### WHERE CAN WE DISPOSE OF OLD BOAT GASOLINE?

The Household Hazardous Waste site, 3333 Kishwaukee Street, Rockford will accept only household waste and gasoline in a maximum amount in 5 gallon cans. This site does not return the containers you bring in, Be prepared to leave the container unless you put them in other containers clearly marked. Gas must be in clearly marked proper containers. Hours are Saturdays 8am to 4pm, Sundays noon to 4pm. Closed when a major holiday falls on a weekend. Follow the signs that say "Household Hazardous Waste" once in the drive. For a complete list of rules and other household chemicals they accept, please go to the website. Knib.org.

**INVOICE for 2022 Membership (Please put this in your bill paying pile! )****2022 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 August 30, 2022 to:

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

You can also go to the [www.rockriverhomeowners.org](http://www.rockriverhomeowners.org) website and pay via paypal if you'd prefer—

**2022 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***

**ASKING FOR EVERYONE'S HELP!**

We are asking everyone to please help support the Rock River Homeowners Association by turning in your membership of \$25 this year. We have had roughly 900 homes and businesses on our stretch of the Rock River. During the last 10 years before Covid hit, we would have 250 to 300 members pay their dues. During the past two years, we have only had 157 renew their memberships. We have also lost around 140 homes due to the FEMA flood buyout program, and this resulted in having lost residents permanently in the Machesney Park part of the river due to this buyout of flood homes. We're here to serve our residents, please send in your dues to help us keep the river a fun and safe place in our community!



PRSRT STD  
 U S POSTAGE  
 PAID  
 ROCKFORD, IL  
 PERMIT NO.781

Or Occupant

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

**The Officers**

President	Steve Lucas
Vice President	Chris Whiteford
Treasurer	Ron Neuschwander
Secretary	Mike Dagefoerde

**Committee Chairs**

Membership	Chip Gammel
Newsletter	Mary Johnson
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
Sheriff's Boat cell	815-262-1510

**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**

<b><u>NAME</u></b>	<b><u>NUMBER</u></b>
<b>ZONE 1: West side from State St. To Harlem Bridge</b>	
Loyd & Diane Koch	815-968-6685
Kim Bailey	815-262-0576
<b>ZONE 2: West side from Harlem to Roscoe Bridge</b>	
Ron & Sharon Neuschwander	815-654-9276
Mike & Pij Richter	815-654-9621
Chuck & Jane Barber	815-654-9720
Mike & Nancy Dagefoerde	815-623-5045
<b>ZONE 3: East side from State St. to Harlem Bridge</b>	
Steve Lucas	815-654-8742
Chad Elston	815-703-7509
<b>ZONE 4: East side from Harlem to Roscoe Bridge</b>	
Chris Whiteford	815-243-1999
<b>ZONE 5: North of the Roscoe Bridge</b>	
Bruce Swartz	815-624-2465