



Shorelines

Rock River Homeowners Association Newsletter

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

Volume 37 Issue 1

SPRING/SUMMER 2026

Spring/Summer of 2026 Newsletter. I apologize for this Spring newsletter arriving late this year.

I have been a little overwhelmed with the high water event that our area went through this April. Then the Flash flooding rains right before the Iron man event sent my stress level through the roof. I am honored to be the jet ski captain for the event, and want to personally thank all the other jet ski, safety boats and 80 plus kayakers that made this event a safe and huge success for our region. I hope I can count on the same great staff of the volunteers next year.

April's flood was a few feet lower crest than the floods of 2019 and 2008 but the damage to resident's docks was significant due to mother nature clearing the shore lines of 50 to 70 foot long trees. They were never ending for weeks. For those that use our river gauge page on the homeowners web page, to check river levels, you were able to see that the partnership between Sheriff Gary Caruana and Com-Ed works great. Adjustments are made the same day and usually within a few hours of the request.

Our dam, like all the rest of the dams on our river is not a flood control dam. It is a run of the river dam designed to maintain a recreational pool level for boating. This is accomplished by making gate adjustments up during increased water flow events to stay within the parameters recommended by our association at the 2019 Town Hall Meetings. Also, as flow rates decrease, the gates lower to keep water in the pool to reduce the chances of sand bars being a boating hazard for river users.

We recently lost a long time river resident, Jim (Pickle) Anderson at the age of 85. Many of you may not have know him by name, but for the last 4 decades, he was the creator of the Rock Ness monsters. His family, friends and I will continue his legacy and make sure our stretch of the river always has a Rock Ness monster present for old and young alike to enjoy while out boating. Rest in peace Pickle, we can't thank you enough for your years of viewing enjoyment you blessed our river with!



I also am going to try something new this year for all boaters to enjoy while traveling down the river. I will be installing 6 large butterflies along our 14 mile stretch of the river for young and old alike to try to spot along the shoreline.

Our association continues to maintain bridge lighting and other projects to keep boaters safe this summer.

This is our Spring/Summer membership drive that we do annually at this time every year. Your membership and additional donations make our projects possible. Please take this moment to fill out and mail back the enclosed membership renewal form, thank you!

I know not all of us are on face book, but those that are will see that I do my best to do a weekend update on Fridays to give up to the minute updates to conditions and events taking place on our river.

This year's Back the Blue Boat Parade looks to be huge. It will start down steam at 3pm sharp July 4th from Shorewood Park. Ski Broncs) I look forward to running safety for the event and seeing all of you with your boats in the river parade.

As I always say, have a great summer, be observant to what is in your boat's path and make it back to the dock safe and sound.

Rock River Home Owners President, Steve Lucas.

Rock River Home Owners Hoodies for Sale!



We have various heavy weight hoodies available for sale, in some of the above colors and M, L, and XL sizes. Call Kim Bailey 815-262-0576 to arrange for getting yours delivered! \$40 each and they're great to keep in the boat for yourself and guests to wear when boating and river fun gets chilly!

You can send your check to our PO Box at:

Rock River Home Owners, PO Box 2813, Loves Park, IL 61132-2813.

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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 ungroundings 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**

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. 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.
8. 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.
9. Donate money to the Ski Broncs yearly for their program to further the Rock River's value as an entertainment venue.
10. Publication of the Rock River Homeowners Association Newsletter to keep homeowners and businesses on the river informed.
11. Support by board members and homeowners by volunteering during Rock River cleanup events.
12. Removal of trees to safer areas after flooding.
13. NO WAKE signs and RIVER CLOSED signs at boat launches during high water and flooding.
14. Paid fees to keep river gauge operating.
15. Do you have a project you'd like to see addressed? Send us a note or call any of the board members!

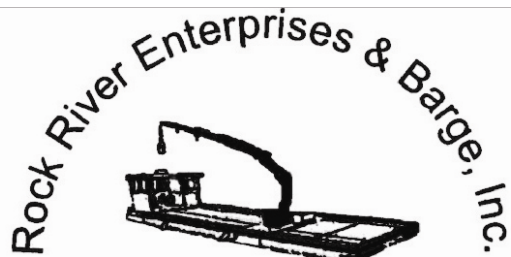


**986 W. Riverside Blvd.
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815-654-7296**

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!





Steve Lucas, Owner

6212 Park Ridge Rd. Loves Park, IL 61111

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



Dock system for multiple boats



Dock system with benches & ramp

My fellow Rock River residents, I have been selling boat lifts and docks for 37 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 37 years and I look forward to the next 37!

Steve Lucas

Tad's
On The Rock

CASUAL RIVERFRONT DINING ALONG THE ROCK RIVER
LOCATED AT 5904 PARK RIDGE ROAD, LOVES PARK
LIVE MUSIC ON WEEKENDS ALL SUMMER LONG!
PUBLIC DOCKS TO PULL UP TO WHILE YOU
ENJOY YOUR TIME AT OUR TIKI BAR OF
OF SITTING ON THE DECK WITH A COLD BEVERAGE!

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GAS AVAILABLE 10:30AM - 8PM
 FOR SERVICE SEE DOCKSIDE BAR OR
 HOSTESS STAND FOR SERVICE

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 PICK UP DRINKS AT THE BAR

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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.

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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. 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.
8. 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.
9. Donate money to the Ski Broncs yearly for their program to further the Rock River's value as an entertainment venue.
10. Publication of the Rock River Homeowners Association Newsletter to keep homeowners and businesses on the river informed.
11. Support by board members and homeowners by volunteering during Rock River cleanup events.
12. Removal of trees to safer areas after flooding.
13. NO WAKE signs and RIVER CLOSED signs at boat launches during high water and flooding.
14. Paid fees to keep river gauge operating.
15. Danger Shallow warning signs installed by Sports Core launches and sand bar areas.
16. Do you have a project you'd like to see addressed? Send us a note or call any of the board members!



Butterfly Hunt!

Between Jefferson Street bridge and Roscoe Bridge, there are 6 colorful butterflies on trees. For the young and young at heart, find all 6 while you're out on the river!

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 150 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!

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: _____

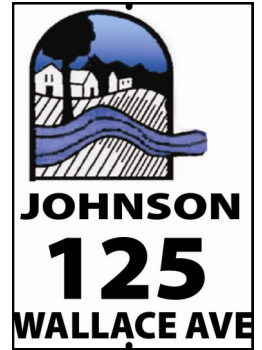
Address: _____

Phone: _____

Name on sign: _____ (first or last name, limit to one line)

Address numbers: _____ (will be boldest)

Street name: _____



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.

FLY YOUR FLAG

ROCK RIVER HOME OWNERS NAUTICAL SILK SCREENED NYLON BOAT FLAGS. \$25.00 EACH

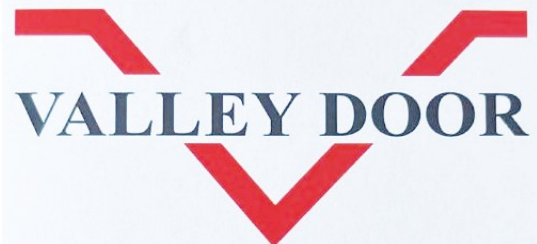
Flags are 12" x 18" inches with triple sewn hems and brass grommets. If you're a proud river home owner, this will look great on any boat for your river excursions. All proceeds go to future river projects!



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 815-985-2355 and you can pick one up.

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areas**

INVOICE for 2026 Membership (Please put this in your bill paying pile!)**2026 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 31, 2026 to:

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

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

QR CODE FOR MEMBERSHIP PAYMENT WILL TAKE YOU DIRECTLY TO THE RRHA WEBSITE

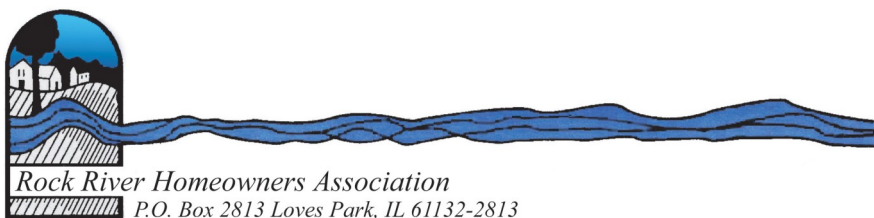
**2026 Rock River Homeowners Association****DONATION PLEA**

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 \$ _____



PRSR 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

<u>NAME</u>		<u>NUMBER</u>
ZONE 1: West side from State St. To Harlem Bridge		
Loyd & Diane Koch	2026	815-968-6685
Kim Bailey	2027	815-262-0576
ZONE 2: West side from Harlem to Roscoe Bridge		
Ron & Sharon Neuschwander	2026	815-654-9276
Mike & Pij Richter	2026	815-654-9621
Gabe Grindle	2027	815-703-8194
Mike & Nancy Dagefoerde	2027	815-623-5045
ZONE 3: East side from State St. to Harlem Bridge		
Steve Lucas	2026	815-654-8742
Chad Elston	2027	815-703-7509
Mary Johnson	2027	815-985-2355
ZONE 4: East side from Harlem to Roscoe Bridge		
Chris Whiteford	2026	815-243-1999
Chip Gammel	2027	847-323-0122
ZONE 5: North of the Roscoe Bridge		
Bruce Swartz		815-624-2465