



# Shorelines

Rock River Homeowners Association Newsletter

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

Volume 31 Issue 1

Summer 2020

The Summer of 2020 is here. What a great relief from the past 3 years of flooding. Farm fields are drying out and the river is benefitting from this. We all have been affected by the virus and mother nature is giving us one less thing to worry about. We could not be more pleased with Sheriff Gary Caruana and Com-Ed for working with us to have the dam run in a proactive manner for all Winnebago County residents.

We appreciate your support in the past and would like to have you take a minute and send us a check for another year of support by filling out the dues and donation invoice and returning it with your check. You can also pay online using Paypal on the website.

We will be replacing some of the bridge navigation lights that have started to wear out since we installed them 5 years ago. If you are like me, the red and green lights are an amazing aid to navigating the bridges at night. We want the river to be a safe and fun place for residents and river users. Solar lights have become very affordable and by adding a couple of them to your boat dock can also make the river safer at night for all that use it. City Market is back open on Friday nights and with the addition of the 8 slip marina at Water Street, just north of the State Street Bridge, makes taking family and friends for a fun night out very convenient.

Please support the river businesses and downtown restaurants. They have been impacted by the shut down and we all need to make the time to go for a boat ride and give them extra support this summer. If you have any ideas how we can make the river more enjoyable and safe, please jot us a note when you send in your membership application and donations. Dues are \$25 a year and your support allows us to fund our projects. River signs are \$40 and make a great addition to your riverfront so friends can find you and also help first responders should the need arise. We have our [Rockriverhomeowners.org](http://Rockriverhomeowners.org) website that has all river gauges to view. Also our Rock River Homeowners Facebook page is able to keep up to date when river conditions are changing and you want to be kept up to date.

There are a handful of residents that think the dam can be run as a flood control cure all for stopping a flood from affecting Winnebago county. The reality is there are no flood control dams on the entire Rock River. With the addition of the gauge at the dam several years back thanks to your donations, we all have the ability to monitor river levels and see that the dam is being adjusted on a regular basis to help as much as possible for Winnebago County residents.

Our summers are short in the Midwest, so please make time to get out and enjoy our communities greatest asset before the leaves changes and 5 months of cold weather arrive.

See you on the river, be safe and stay healthy! Steve Lucas, President

**NEW TO BOATING?** There are always new boaters and new boats on the river each year. A good idea is to have anyone operating a motorized vessel take the Boat-Ed class, no matter what your age is, to know what the boating rules and laws are in Illinois. The class is available on line at [www.Boat-Ed.com](http://www.Boat-Ed.com) and is \$35 to obtain your certificate upon completing and passing the course. The course takes several hours to complete or you can do it in several days.

## Illinois Boating Laws and Regulations

### Age and Operator Restrictions

**Persons age 10-11** may operate a vessel powered by a motor of more than 10 hp **only** if they are under the direct on-board supervision of a person over 18 who has an Illinois Boating Safety Certificate.

**Persons age 12-17** may operate a vessel powered by a motor of more than 10 hp only if they have an Illinois Boating Safety Certificate or are under the direct on-board supervision of a person over 18 who has an Illinois Boating Safety Certificate.

Supervising **persons born on or after January 1, 1998**, must have a valid Illinois Boating Safety Certificate.

### Enforcement

Illinois law enforcement officers patrol the waterways to make your boating experience safe and pleasant. Cooperate with them by following the laws and guidelines.

**Carry the Card:** Vessel operators who are required to have a Boater Education Card must carry the card on board the vessel and have it available for inspection by an enforcement officer.

**Penalty:** Not carrying your Boater Education Card when one is required can result in a fine.

### 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 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!

### 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





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 31 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 31 years and I look forward to the next 31!

Steve Lucas

**NEED A NEW ROOF?**

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ROOFING INC.

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cjwroofing@me.com

Fast. Reliable. **Honest.**

**Congratulations to the Anderson family on their retirement! Many quality awnings and additions have been made by them throughout the years! Thank you for supporting RRHA by advertising many years!**

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**Anderson Awning AND SHUTTER**

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Bus: (815) 654-1155  
Home: (815) 494-1071  
8414 N. Second St

JIM ANDERSON  
Fax: (815) 654-1196  
Rockford, IL 61115

**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.

**Your editor's cringe worthy sight is seeing kids sitting in front of the playpens of a pontoon, dangling their legs over the pontoons while the boat is underway. One big wave and dangerous injuries! Keep safe, and keep them inside the railings and also off the back tanning beds while underway.**

# 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

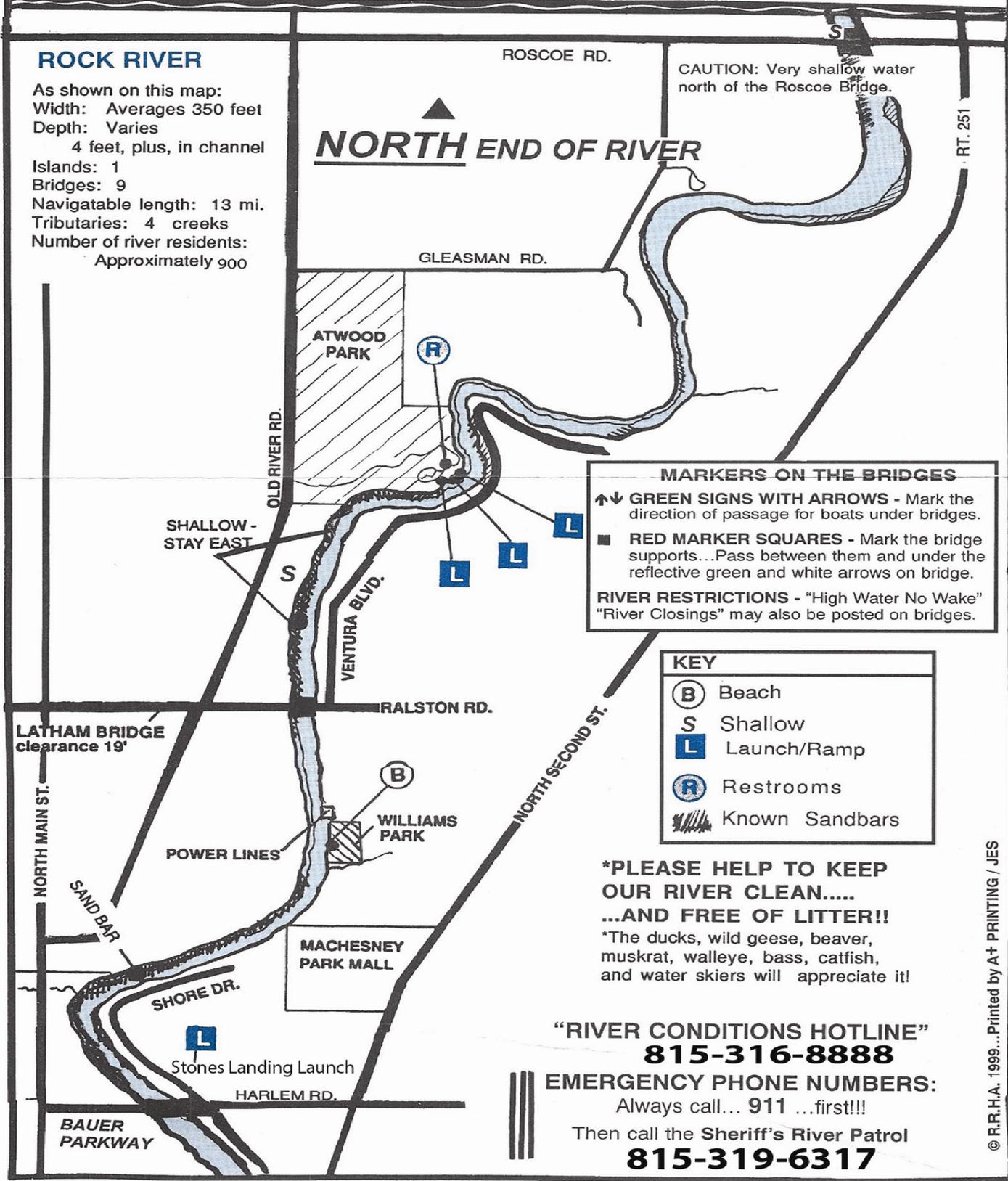
**MARKERS ON THE BRIDGES**  
 ↑↓ GREEN SIGNS WITH ARROWS - Mark the direction of passage for boats under bridges.  
 ■ RED MARKER SQUARES - Mark the bridge supports...Pass between them and under the reflective green and white arrows on bridge.  
**RIVER RESTRICTIONS** - "High Water No Wake"  
 "River Closings" may also be posted on bridges.

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

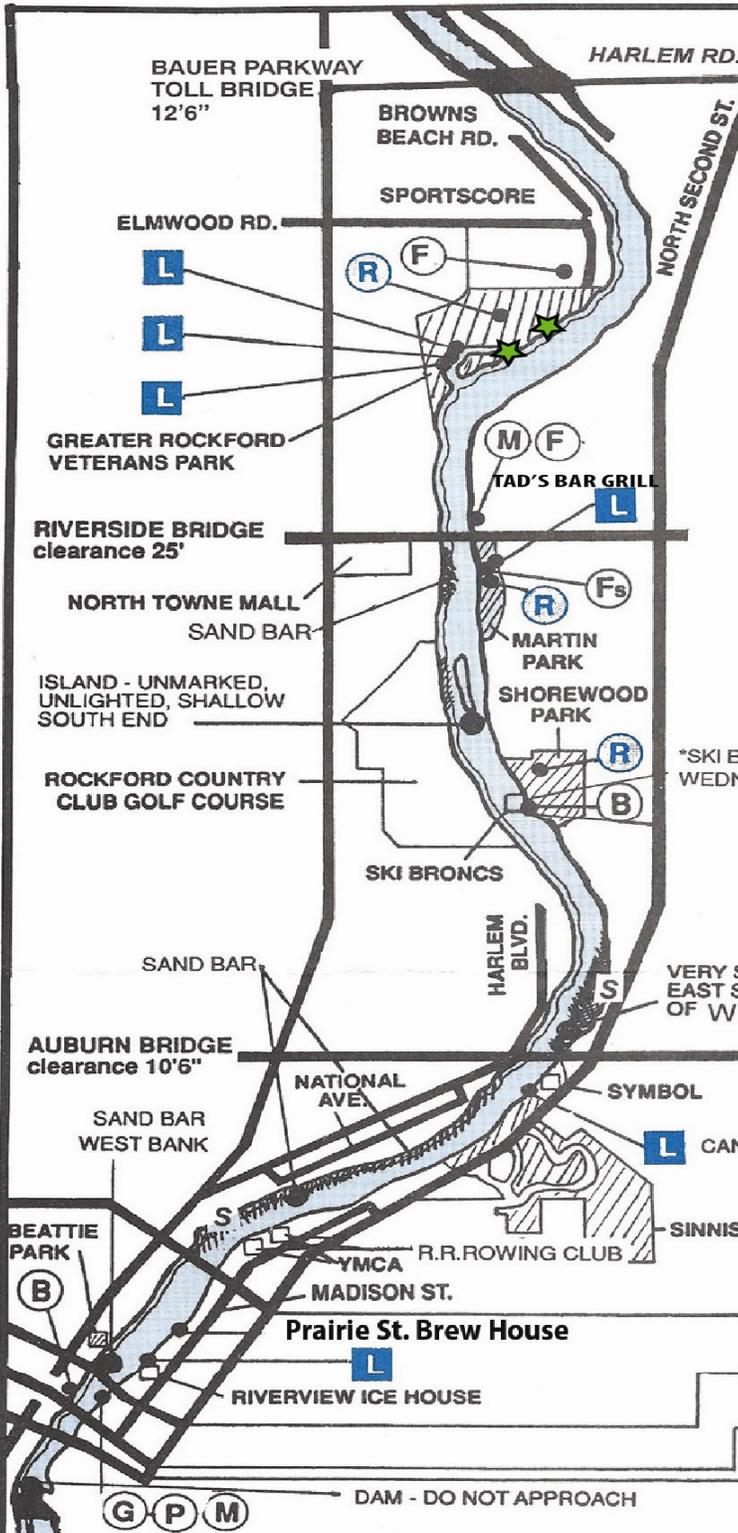
**\*PLEASE HELP TO KEEP OUR RIVER CLEAN....  
 ...AND FREE OF LITTER!!**  
 \*The ducks, wild geese, beaver, muskrat, walleye, bass, catfish, and water skiers will appreciate it!

**"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	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.

- WHITMAN BRIDGE clearance 23'
- JEFFERSON BRIDGE clearance 22'
- STATE ST. BRIDGE clearance 9'
- CHESTNUT BRIDGE clearance 9'

## 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.

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: \_\_\_\_\_

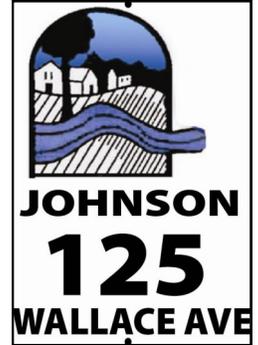
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

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 run 3 times 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.

PAULA SCHWARTZ 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

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.



NOW OPEN PRAIRIE ST BREWHOUSE DOCKSIDE TAPROOM ROCKFORD BREWING COMPANY Sunday thru Wednesday: 11AM to 10PM Thursday: 11AM to 12AM Friday & Saturday: 11AM to 2AM 200 Prairie Street Rockford, IL (815) 277-9427 www.rockfordbrewingco.com/dockside

A-SIGN DESIGNS GRAPHICS & ADVERTISING Fleet graphics. Logo design. Signs 125 Wallace Ave. Machesney Park (at the Mermaid!) 815-985-2355 Your place for: boat lettering registration numbers banners & yard signs Waterproof River decals - \$5 postpaid 6" x 12"

LIFE is BETTER on the ROCK RIVER

**INVOICE for 2020 Membership (Please put this in your bill paying pile!)****2020 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, 2020 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—

**2020 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.



PRSR 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	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
<b>ZONE 4: East side from Harlem to Roscoe Bridge</b>	
Tim Hendricks	815-633-2327
Chris Whiteford	815-243-1999
<b>ZONE 5: North of the Roscoe Bridge</b>	
Bruce Swartz	815-624-2465