



Shorelines

Rock River Homeowners Association Newsletter

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

Volume 36 Issue 1

SPRING2025

Summer of 2025 has arrived for our beautiful Rock River in Winnebago County!

So far, the drought seems to be continuing for the state line. Far cry from last spring. Last November Helm Construction crew took on the task of clearing the log jam on the pilings at Bridge Street in Roscoe. They may have increased during the I 2 bridge reconstruction project. A big thank you to Helm for taking care of this problem for our stretch of our river. My crew has been removing some trees that have been stuck in the channel of the river to help make boating safer for all who use our stretch of the river. Most of these trees came in during the high water last spring. They had to be craned out with the barge due to having their root balls still attached. I encourage all boaters to have a milk jug with a 5' string attached in your boat this summer. If you see a hazard while out boating, please tie the string on the tree to warn other boaters and make it easier for us to locate.

I know not every one has facebook, but we update on a weekly basis to try to keep people up to date on river conditions. Rock River Homeowners Association is the facebook location.

In case you didn't know, Revers Marina downtown was sold. Teague Dickey of Iconic Energy has started the project under the name Skinny Dip Inn Corporation. He is also the owner/developer of the Register Star Building. He is just what our riverfront downtown area has been needing for years. The property is going to start being developed starting this summer. It will be mixed use with retail on the lower floors and housing on the upper floors. I look forward to having another place to load up the boat and take guests to another place downtown to enjoy. People tell me they are nervous to park boats on the docks downtown. I can tell you I have never had a problem parking at the Water Street dock, Davis Park or Beattie Park dock. Best practice is out of sight out of mind philosophy, by putting things under seats or a towel over the cooler. Make it a point this summer to have a date night and explore all downtown Rockford has to offer.



I would like to thank every one who donates to our organization each year besides their dues, to give us the funds we need to pay for all the projects we fund with your donations. Some of our on going projects include:

1. Lighted Danger Buoys at sand bars and no wake areas.
2. Keeping navigation lights repaired on 5 bridges.
3. Removing large log jams in the channel.
4. Monitoring river levels at the dam and working with Com Ed and Sheriff Gary Caruana to keep gates adjusted whenever needed.
5. Maintaining our facebook page and RRHA website, which includes our river gauges page.

On your membership renewal form, we have a space for you to fill out any suggestions you may have for us on needed projects to address.

(continued from front page)

June 22nd this year, Rockford is hosting the Iron Man Competition for the first time.

The swim event starts at 7:00am from the Rockmen at Sinnissippi Park and ends at the Chestnut Bridge on the west bank. There will be 2,500 swimmers total. Groups of swimmers will be entering the river every 3 seconds. The river will be closed for approximately 2 hours during the competition. August 1, 2 and 3, the Ski Broncs will host Division 2 Nationals at Shorewood Park. The river will be restricted hourly on Saturday and Sunday during each ski team. Boaters will be allowed to pass along the west bank between each ski team show for approximately 15 minutes between shows.

Looking forward to a fun and safe summer of 2025 on our beautiful Rock River. See you out on the water everyone!

Steve Lucas, President

NEW INFO PROGRESSIVE BOAT POLICIES



CJwhiteford
CONTRACTING



Sign & Glide® On-Water Towing Current customers: call 888-955-025for 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

**Honest.
Local.
Dependable.**

Serving Residential and Commercial Customers Since 1986.

REQUEST AN ESTIMATE

Roofing, Siding and Remodeling
815-243-1999
cjwhitefordcontracting.com

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.
Rockford, IL 61103
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!



Rock River Enterprises & Barge, Inc.



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 36 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 36 years and I look forward to the next 36!

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!

GAS IS AVAILABLE

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

HUNGRY? THIRSTY?
PSB HAS YOU COVERED!
ORDER FOOD HERE >>>
PICK UP DRINKS AT THE BAR

Prairie & BREWING CO.

Prairie & YACHT CLUB

RENTAL SLIPS NOW AVAILABLE AT PRAIRIE STREET!
EMAIL YACHTCLUB@PSBREWINGCO.COM FOR MORE INFO

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

NEW FOR ROCK RIVER HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION! NEW CUSTOM T-SHIRTS AND HOODIES!



CUSTOM PRINTED APPAREL

LOVES PARK, ILLINOIS

Type of Garment:

T-Shirts \$20 one color print
\$25 full color print

Garment Color: Please Mark X

Heather Charcoal [], Heather Grey []
Heather Red [], Heather Blue []

Garment Size: Please enter quantity of each size

S [], M [], L [], XL [], 2XL []

Print Color: Please Mark X

Black [], White [], Full Color []

Type of Garment:

Hoodies \$40 one color print
\$45 full color print

Garment Color: Please Mark X

Heather Charcoal [], Heather Grey []
Heather Red [], Heather Blue []

Garment Size: Please enter quantity of each size

S [], M [], L [], XL [], 2XL []

Print Color: Please Mark X

Black [], White [], Full Color []

**Send form with shirt choices and color of shirt and print choices with check to RRHA
PO Box 2813, Loves Park, IL 61132-2813**



if more than one ordered, please list on a separate sheet for type of shirt, color of shirts and color of print with sizes.

Our RRHA VP Chris Whiteford has a number of preprinted Hoodies available for sale, in various colors and sizes. They are great for these cool summer nights! Contact him at 815-243-1999 to meet up and get a couple for yourself and gifts! They will make good Father's Day presents!

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 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: _____

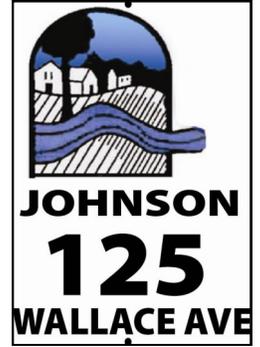
Address: _____

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.

SALES & SERVICE

Garage Doors, Openers & Springs



VALLEY DOOR

815-703-7509

Serving Rockford, Stillman Valley, Byron & Oregon and all surrounding areas

INVOICE for 2025 Membership (Please put this in your bill paying pile!)

2025 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 31, 2025 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



2025 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 \$ _____



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

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	815-968-6685
Kim Bailey	815-262-0576
ZONE 2: West side from Harlem to Roscoe Bridge	
Ron & Sharon Neuschwander	815-654-9276
Mike & Pij Richter	815-654-9621
Gabe Grindle	815-703-8194
Mike & Nancy Dagefoerde	815-623-5045
ZONE 3: East side from State St. to Harlem Bridge	
Steve Lucas	815-654-8742
Chad Elston	815-703-7509
ZONE 4: East side from Harlem to Roscoe Bridge	
Chris Whiteford	815-243-1999
ZONE 5: North of the Roscoe Bridge	
Bruce Swartz	815-624-2465