



Shorelines

Rock River Homeowners Association Newsletter

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

Volume 34 Issue 1

Summer 2023

Well, we are having a great weather summer of 2023. Although water levels are at drought, we have been having enough rain to keep the grass green and the river from going to super drought condition. I apologize for the delay of this newsletter. We continue to mark sandbars with buoys that have lights on them for safety of river users. We still have our working relationship with Sheriff Caruana and Com Ed.

The dam was closed completely early to try and keep river levels up. We are seeing water level changes due to the Janesville dam being reconstructed this summer. The dam at Indian Ford, which is south of Lake Koshkonong has also been having new gates installed for future flooding and they are closed for the past 6 weeks to try and maintain their water levels.

One thing that seems to happen often during boating is boaters without proper lighting. Pontoon boats that have a bimini top are being operated without the light put up in a vertical position. On my pontoon I actually put a bend in the light to make it vertical. If the light is in the horizontal position, it is not visible from 360 degrees as the law requires. I have noticed with the high price of gas, boaters seem to be plowing along and making big waves. To combat this, homeowners need to have large bumpers hang off their boats to avoid damage. Also boat tie up ropes need to have a small amount of slack in them. This allows the boat to move with the waves as they rock our boats. I have seen cleats ripped off of boats and docks if there is no slack in the ropes.

This year we received a large number of trees that the ice jams brought in this spring. I personally have relocated several stuck trees and floating dead heads this summer. Several boaters have put a milk jug with rope into their boats this summer, when they come across a partially submerged tree, they tie the jug to the hazard. This shows fellow boaters of the hazard and makes it easier for me to locate and move them out of harms way.

Monday night Prairie Street has music on the Dock. Tuesday has food trucks at Nicholas Conservatory. Wednesday has music at Burpee Museum on the lawn and the Ski Bronc show at Shorewood Park. Thursday night has Dinner on the Dock at Prairie Street. Friday night has City Market downtown and the Friday Ski Bronc show at Shorewood Park. Saturday and Sunday afternoon, Tad's has music on their patio. All locations have docking and you can watch the Ski Broncs anchored from the west shore. With all these great nights of entertainment, please make it a point to take your friends for a boat ride this summer. The fun memories they have will be appreciated long after boating season is over. River residents provide a lot of great posts on our Rock River Homeowners Association face book page. For those of us that have face book, it is a great way to stay up to date on weekly changes to our river. I always enjoy waving to boat loads of river residents as they enjoy our short but fun boating season.

This is our annual membership drive and fund raiser for the organization. I ask for your continued support of the RRHA and hope you feel that we are a good voice of the Rock River in Winnebago County. Please drop a check in the mail to our post office box or if you are one of my customers, you can include the check when your dock invoice arrives. You can also pay by paypal on our website with a small fee. Any thing above the \$25 annual dues goes towards river projects we continue to fund with your help.

See you on the water!

Steve Lucas,

Rock River Homeowners Association President



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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**



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

Illinois law defines a "ski flag" as; a red or orange flag measuring no less than 12 inches on each side, in the shape of a square or rectangle and mounted or displayed on a motorboat in such a manner as to be visible from every direction. This is used when towing skiers, tubing or wake boarding. Please take them down when not towing anyone.

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. The tallest place to go under on the State Street Bridge is to the far left. Lower your bimini all the way on pontoons and caution with a ski tower!



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!



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.

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 and later in the season shows. all Shows are free! Come out and support the Ski Broncs!

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 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 34 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 34 years and I look forward to the next 34!

Steve Lucas

PAULA SCHWARTZ
LAD'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

GAS IS AVAILABLE

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GAS AVAILABLE 10:30AM - 8PM
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PICK UP DRINKS AT THE BAR

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

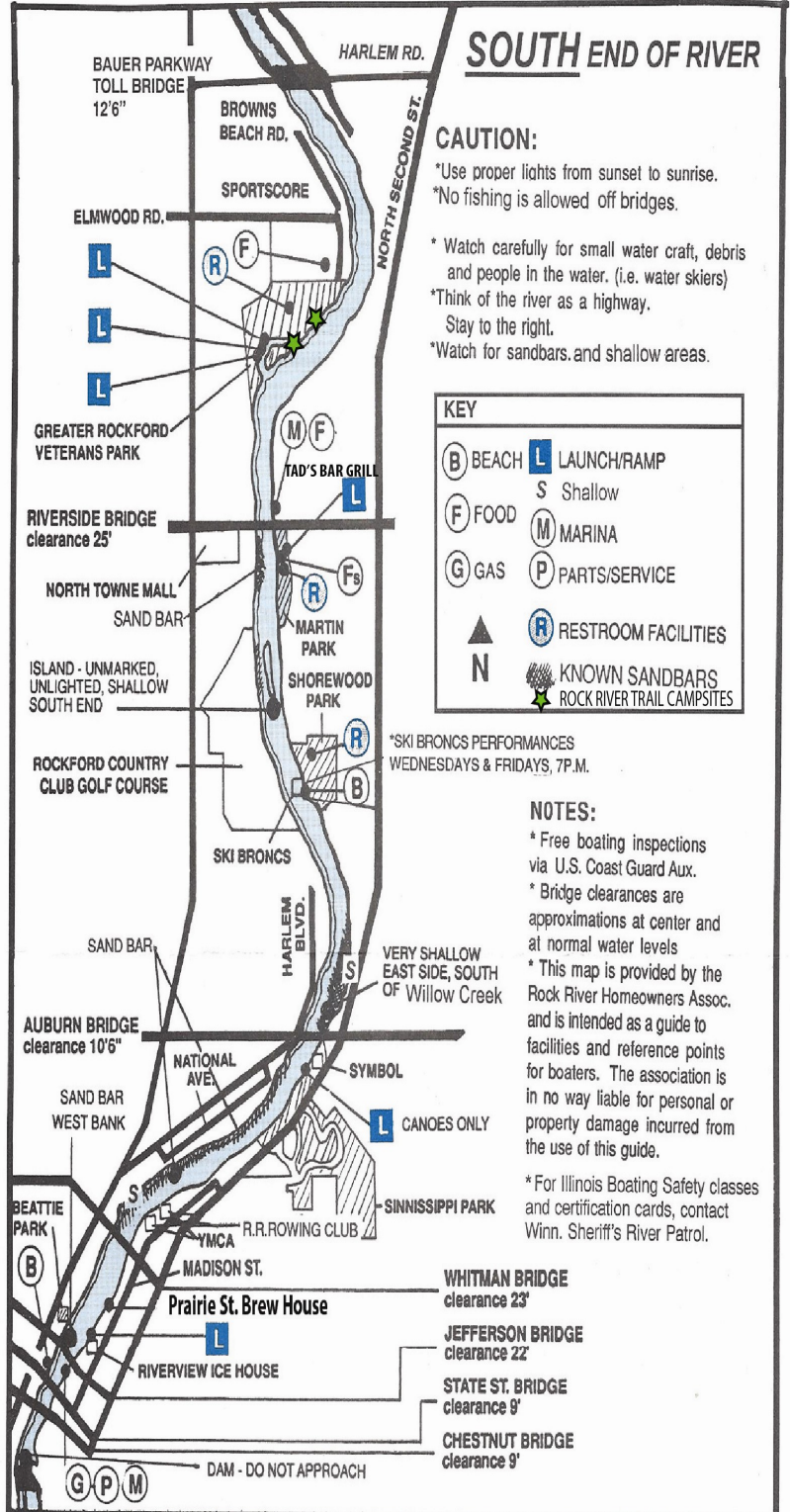
- B** BEACH
- L** LAUNCH/RAMP
- S** Shallow
- F** FOOD
- M** MARINA
- G** GAS
- P** PARTS/SERVICE
- R** RESTROOM FACILITIES
- N** KNOWN SANDBARS
- ROCK RIVER TRAIL CAMPSITES

*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 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: _____

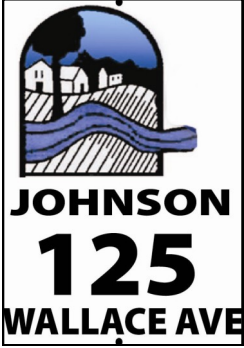
Address: _____

Phone: _____

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

Address numbers: _____ (will be boldest)

Street name: _____



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.

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.

WHERE CAN WE DISPOSE OF OLD BOAT GASOLINE?

The Household Hazardous Waste site, 3333Kishwaukee 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 2023 Membership (Please put this in your bill paying pile!)**2023 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 September 30, 2023 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—

2023 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 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!



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

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

<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
Chuck & Jane Barber	815-654-9720
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