

Says Who?

SEZ OUR PREZ!

Jeff Manuel

Dear Fellow Edgebrookians,

Edgebrook: America's Summer Riviera. Who can deny it? In just eight days (on July 4th at High Noon) the summer social season will commence with our annual Fourth of July Parade and Picnic. This year's theme is "Fifty Years of Fifty Stars." The USA has had fifty states for fifty years now, and if that isn't something to celebrate, I don't know what is.

Perhaps the 100th Anniversary of the founding of the Boy Scouts, as personified by the legendary Robert van Pelt. Or the retirement, after 20 years, of Elena Savoy, Wildwood World Magnet School's wonderful Principal. They are this year's Grand Marshals.

This year we have a special contest. Posted in shop windows around town are copies, among lots of others, of the winning posters in our annual poster contest. But we do not know the names of the winning artists. That's because you forgot to write your names on them! If you or anyone you know drew one of them, let us know so we can award COOL PRIZES!

It should be a great parade – at least two marching bands, decorated bicycles (of course!), imaginative floats (as always!) and surprises from folks who just won't tell us what they are going to put in the parade! Hurray! Continuing with tradition, the parade will be followed immediately by the picnic at Wildwood Park, with delicious refreshments and authentic Picnic Games! All this is done with the help of the Chicago Park District (THANK YOU) and culminating with live music from the widely acclaimed (and Edgebrook's own) Celtic Groundhogs!

On other fronts, the ECA has been continuing our discussions with Metra regarding safety upgrades at the Devon-Lehigh railroad crossing, attending meetings related to aircraft landing noise at O'Hare (doesn't sound good), working on new landscaping for the Triangle (looks great), and actively scheming with other local neighborhood organizations to paint the viaduct under Hiawatha with Art, as opposed to its current and recurrent motifs.

If you want to volunteer to help with the Parade and Picnic, or help out with our other projects, or join or donate to the noble ECA cause(s), or if you know who drew the winning posters . . . give anyone on the ECA Board a call, or call me at 773-775-4065. Or visit the ECA website (<http://edgebrookcommunity.org>) and click on "Contact Us."

Hope to see you at the Parade!

Jeff Manuel—President



GO FOUR IT!

Fifty years of fifty stars

The big day is only eight days away – the annual march from Edgebrook Park to Wildwood Park that makes everyone in the neighborhood feel lucky to be an Edgebrookian in the good old USA.

This year's grand marshals will be Robert van Pelt, the retired firefighter, former ECA president and celebrated local Scout leader; and Elena Savoy, the venerated principal of Wildwood School, who is retiring after 20 years of service in which she transformed the struggling school into one of the finest in the city. They will be accompanied by at least two marching bands, a phalanx of fantastic floats and a seemingly endless wave of cute kids on delightfully decorated bikes.

Once the parade reaches Wildwood Park, there will be refreshments, games, surprises and fun galore, including an encore musical performance by the ever-popular Celtic Groundhogs. The fun officially starts at Noon – parade lineup at Edgebrook School at 11:30 AM.

Announcing the Neighborhood Connection Project Tunnel Vision

When Jac Charlier moved to the neighborhood in 2006, he took note of the rundown condition of the Metra underpass running from Hiawatha and Lehigh to Kinzua. When he became a member of the ECA Board last year, one of the first things he said was "Let's fix the tunnel."

Thanks largely to his efforts, the ECA has joined with three other neighborhood groups – the North Edgebrook Civic Association, the Wildwood Community Association and the Edgebrook Historical Society – to start work on the "Neighborhood Connection Project." Not only will this effort result in long overdue and badly needed repairs, it also will serve as

an ambitious beautification project.

"The goal is to make this passage, which serves as a place of connection between the Edgebrook, Wildwood and North Edgebrook neighborhoods, reflective of our shared community history," Charlier said. "We are now seeking enthusiastic volunteers for a variety of roles for this new and exciting community initiative. Those with an artistic eye or a public art background are especially encouraged to step forward."

If you would like to volunteer for the project or simply need more information, feel free to contact Jac directly: 773-266-1420 or jac.charlier@gmail.com.

The Gardening Corner

Master gardener Mary Jo Garnier has a suggestion for the more ambitious among us: Create a butterfly garden in your yard!



Living near the forest preserves offers Edgebrook residents a great opportunity to create butterfly habitats right in our yards. Chicago has about 60 different types of butterflies – from the Admirals (Viceroy) and the Emperors to the Milkweed (Monarch), and Swallowtails.

To welcome these fluttery friends into your garden, choose a sunny location. Grow host plants for caterpillars to eat and nectar plants for butterflies to sip. Butterflies are sensitive to pesticides and will not land if pesticides have been used, so keep it natural. If you

feed birds, put feeding station and bird bath on the opposite side of your house. Provide evergreens for shelter from wind and rain and a wood pile for wintering. For detailed info, visit: <http://www.thebutterflysite.com/gardening.shtml> and <http://www.epa.gov/opp00001/factsheets/ipm.htm>.

*M.J. Garnier,
your neighborhood master gardener*

Calling All Gardeners

The ECA is hoping to organize a Garden Walk – a leisurely group stroll through Edgebrook with pauses to refresh at some of the wonderful house gardens in our neighborhood. If you would like to participate, or if you are willing to offer your garden as a stop along the way, call Mary Jo at 773-775-4065. Or visit the ECA website (<http://edgebrookcommunity.org>) and click on "Contact Us."

What's happenin' in the Hood?

Set your sights on our new website feature

Next time you're looking for something to do in the neighborhood, drop by the ECA website (<http://edgebrookcommunity.org>). We've added a new feature called Community Notes where we list local events.

Do you have a community event that you want to publicize? Go to our website, click

on the "Our Community" menu and select "ECA Community Notes – Submit Your Listing." Fill out the form, giving us the necessary details, and we'll be happy to announce your event to the Edgebrook Community (and the rest of the planet – after all, it is the World Wide Web).

Whodunit?



That's the mysterious question lurking in the minds of ECA board members regarding this year's winning entry in our annual Fourth of July poster contest. Each year kids from area elementary schools are invited to submit their poster designs. This

year's winning artist forgot to include an important detail: his name. Or is it her name? If you know the identity of this budding talent, please let us know. We are holding a prize that will be, in the words of ECA president Jeff Manuel, "awesome."

We're in this together!

A 2010 membership to the ECA is only \$30. Join or renew today at <http://edgebrookcommunity.org>

Your 2010 ECA Board

We're your neighbors; we're your friends. Chances are you know at least one of us. With summer in full swing, you'll see us tending to our lawns, biking on the trails, burning stuff on our grills and MARCHING IN THE

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Joni Kurtenbach

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Jody McDowell
Tom Misiewicz
Dan Trevino
Tom Wolff
Carolyn Zafiris

4TH OF JULY PARADE! If you have a concern or an idea—and especially if you want to volunteer to make our community better—don't be shy. Give us a call.