



## Says Who?

# SEZ OUR PREZ!

*Jeff Manuel*

Dear Fellow Edgebrookians,

Ah, Spring. *Sort of.* The promise of a lifting of the snowy veil to reveal a new optimism in the future. Okay, enough of that.

Just a quick note to thank all of you who have supported the Edgebrook Community Association over the years and continue with your support in 2011. The ECA, particularly the Board of Directors and volunteers, works year-round to maintain, improve and represent our community, using donations and contributions solely to make this neighborhood a better place to live. We plant shrubs, landscape, plan neighborhood holiday parties, maintain a website, monitor community zoning issues, connect with police representatives, keep an eye on local forests and parks, donate to schools and the library, and more. We do it without salary and with no public funding. We do it because we live here, and we do it for you. **I invite all of you to join or renew your ECA membership** (<http://edgebrookcommunity.org>), to make additional contributions, or to help with ECA projects in person. It's all for Edgebrook.

Thanks for being the good neighbors that you are.

*Jeff Manuel—President  
Edgebrook Community Association*

## ECA COMMUNITY CALENDAR

### General Meeting March 16 • 7 PM **The Candidates – Neighbor to Neighbor**

The field has narrowed. The 41st and 45th wards each have two candidates standing. Now it's time to make a choice. Mary O'Connor and Maurita E. Gavin (from the 41st ward) and John Garrido and John Arena (from the 45th ward) have agreed to appear at the **Edgebrook Community Church, 6736 N. Loleta Ave., Wednesday, March 16 at 7 PM** to answer the neighborhood's questions. Don't miss this chance to hear the candidates speak. You'll be better able to make an informed decision for the aldermanic runoff. *Email your questions to [edgebrookcommunityweb@gmail.com](mailto:edgebrookcommunityweb@gmail.com) so that we can include them in the meeting.*

### Agatha Christie March 30 • 6:30 PM **The Mystery of Living**

Agatha Christie accompanied her husband, noted archaeologist Sir Max Mallowan, on archaeological digs throughout the Middle East. She photographed excavations, restored and labeled artifacts, and became one of the most knowledgeable women in the archaeological field. She also wrote detective novels, using those exotic locales as her settings. The ECA is proud to sponsor a performance of **Packing for Syria with Agatha Christie**, at the **Edgebrook Branch Library**. Please join us **Wednesday, March 30 at 6:30 PM** and watch Betsy Means bring Agatha Christie to life.

### Easter Egg Hunt April 23 • 10 AM **Don't miss this egg-citing event**

It's that time again! Get out your calendars and circle **Saturday, April 23rd**. That's the day before Easter when a horde of neighborhood youngsters descend upon **Jeff Green "Choo-Choo" Park** to take part in the ECA's annual rite of spring: the Easter Egg Hunt. The festivities begin at **10 AM sharp** – rain, snow or shine – and continue until the last egg is found – typically five minutes later! See <http://edgebrookcommunity.org> for details.

### Summer Camp June - August **Be a happy camper**

Children, age 2 to 15, can learn about science and nature at Camp CBG. From June to August, the Chicago Botanic Garden sponsors camps that introduce children to science, cooking, gardening, and art & music. Visit <http://www.chicagobotanic.org/camp/summercamp.php> for more information.

## The Gardening Corner You can fool Mother Nature

by M.J. Garnier

Tired of the cold and snow? Longing for spring blooms? Some trees and shrubs can be forced to bloom indoors. The easiest are forsythia, pussy willow and dogwood. Others such as lilac and crabapple can also be manipulated. It's okay to experiment with whatever is growing in your yard.

Cut the branches with a clean sharp knife or scissors. Immerse the cut end in water. Soak-

ing the whole branch overnight in warm water is also good for encouraging water uptake and softening the scales that cover the buds.

Place the branches in a vase of water in a cool room. Blooms should appear in 1-3 weeks. Cutting different branches at different times should give you weeks of color indoors. Enjoy.

*Mary Jo Garnier is a master gardener and long-time ECA board member. Her Edgebrook home is filled year-round with lovely, home-grown flowers.*

## Gardening Tips for Spring

by Tina Shaw

*"In the spring at the end of the day, you should smell like dirt." – Margaret Atwood*



No truer words could be said. Even now with snow flurrying around outside the window, I read this quote and smile, recognizing the happiness behind these simple words. Smelling like dirt is not everyone's idea of a good time, but with spring just around

the corner, it is time to focus on the tasks that need to be done to prep the garden for a new season. The list of chores in the spring garden could fill several pages and not every task applies to every garden. But there are a few chores common to most gardens that will get you started in the right direction.

- Cut down any perennials and grasses that were left standing over the winter.
- If you didn't add compost in the fall, apply a 1"-2" layer over the garden in mid-May.

Lightly dig the compost into the soil being careful not to disturb your plants. This can be done every two to three years. A soil test should be performed every 3-4 years to ensure that the soil is getting the proper mix of nutrients.

- Inspect your woody trees and shrubs for broken branches and prune with a sharp pruner or saw leaving a clean cut.
- Get your stakes in place as soon as you can see the plants that need it.

A few notes on what NOT to do:

- Don't work in the soil when it is wet. Working in wet soil will ruin the soil structure.
- Don't mulch too soon. The soil needs to warm up a bit before a mulch covering is laid.
- Don't prune your spring blooming shrubs until after they have finished flowering.

*Botanic One Design, Inc. provides landscape design/build services and professional garden maintenance. They focus on keeping planting beds and plants at the peak of beauty and performance. For further information visit [www.botaniconedesign.com](http://www.botaniconedesign.com).*

## You'll dig these free seeds

In the same way that One Book, One Chicago, unites Chicago residents through reading, One Seed Chicago unites Chicagoans through urban gardening. Gardeners receive free seeds to plant in their own or community gardens.

First, GreenNet-Chicago selects three candidate plants (alternating annually between vegetables and flowers). Chicago residents then vote for their favorite seed. Once the voting has finished, the winning seed is mailed, *free of charge*, to all voting gardeners.

This year's candidates are **eggplant, radish and Swiss chard**. Go to <http://www.oneseed-chicago.com> to vote. Voting ends on April 1, 2011 and the winning seeds will be mailed to all participants shortly after. As an added treat, one randomly-selected Chicago voter

will be given a TB57 Lithium Ion Battery Cordless String Trimmer/Weed Trimmer compliments of Troy-Bilt.

*One Seed Chicago is a not-for-profit project of NeighborSpace, Chicago's community garden land trust. Its goal is to enlist gardeners in the greening of Chicago by cultivating urban gardening.*



## Your 2011 ECA Board

We're your neighbors; we're your friends. You may have seen us digging our way out of the Blizzard of 2011. Now that spring has arrived, we're thinking about the community and what we can do to make

it a better place. You can help too. Be a part of the ECA. Join or renew online at <http://edgebrookcommunity.org> today. A 2011 membership is only \$30 and you'll be helping us fight the good fight.

Jeff Manuel ( <i>President</i> )	Michelle Brugioni	Jennifer Gatesman	Julie Marske
Phil Loftus ( <i>Vice-President</i> )	Mary Bunker	Jim Gillespie	Jody McDowell
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