

Says Who?

SEZ OUR PREZ!

Jeff Manuel

Dear Fellow Edgebrookians,

September. Autumn approaches and school doors are open once again, hopefully in the wake of some excellent summer days and nights.

I recently attended a meeting in a neighboring community of a homeowner association that was really struggling due to lack of local interest. The ECA was referred to as “large and functional,” for which we all should be thankful and proud – proud of the way the Board works, proud of how Edgebrook residents both contribute and physically help our efforts, and thankful for the support of some vitally important local businesses.

Not only are ever-increasing numbers of households joining the ECA, often making additional contributions, but all over Edgebrook, folks are taking it upon themselves to weed the planters in front of their stores, to pick up debris, to re-groom parks, and to mow the stretch of grass that Metra (or the City or the Illinois Department of Transportation) always seems to overlook.

New homeowners are realizing how much of the personality of Edgebrook stems from the ECA’s efforts involving landscaping, zoning awareness, social events like the 4th of July Picnic and Parade, supplemental snowplowing and numerous other civilizing influences. We are in discussions with Metra regarding safety and convenience issues at the train station, and we have an informative and entertaining website at <http://edgebrookcommunity.org>.

You can sit at home and let the rest of us take care of your neighborhood, or you can be part of the planning and implementation of policies that directly affect you and your surroundings. Help us out, join up, grab a shovel, whatever. We, and you, have it goin’ on, as it were, and we can even make things better. Thanks for everything.

Jeff Manuel—President

ECA General Meeting – September 15 All aboard for a Metra summit

For many Edgebrook residents, the daily route to work and school starts and ends at the Metra station.

The ECA has been in regular communication with the transit agency about a variety of issues related to the quality of life near the tracks. On Wednesday evening, the ECA is hosting a Question & Answer session with Metra’s Director of Engineering, Larry Powell. If you have concerns that you would like to see addressed, this is your chance.

Wednesday, September 15, 7 PM
Edgebrook Community Church
6736 North Loleta Ave. (corner of Loleta & Hiawatha)

Earlier this year, the city announced a cutback in operating hours at the Chicago Public Library, forcing us to change the location of our quarterly General Meetings to the Edgebrook Community Church. Since then, attendance at the meetings has dropped sharply. That’s too bad, because our events director, Carolyn Zafirris, is putting together some great programs, and the wonderful folks at the church have made us feel right at home. So if you’ve been missing the meeting, you’ve been missing out on something special. The refreshments alone make it worth the stop.

And now a word from our sponsors

Each year the ECA’s July 4th Parade & Picnic is underwritten by generous contributions. Please thank the 2010 sponsors.

Ace Hardware • Aqua Salon • Archie’s Coins Jewelry and Collectibles • Baird and Warner, Near Northwest Office • Big John and Little Debby’s Collectibles • Cannizaro Law Offices • Chris Schultz, State Farm Insurance • Coldwell Banker • Devon Central Currency Exchange • Edgebrook Beneficial Society • Edgebrook Construction • Edgebrook Cycle • Edgebrook Vision • Essence Med-Spa and Wellness Center • Friends of John D’Amico • Glad Cleaners • Happy Foods • Heritage Travel • Koenig and Strey • My Sister’s Closet • Nancy’s Pizza • Alan and Kathryn Panares • RE/MAX Cityview • Starbucks Coffee • The Chocolate Shoppe • The Nail Lounge • Villa Rosa • Vintage Bloom

Things to do in Edgebrook... RIGHT NOW!

8:30 AM Neighborhood Connection Project (Lehigh, Hiawatha and Kinzua Underpass)

If you picked up your newspaper early enough, there’s still time to make the big meeting! By now you’ve probably heard about the cooperative effort undertaken by the ECA, the Edgebrook Historical Society and the Wildwood and North Edgebrook civic associations to repair and revitalize the pedestrian tunnel under the Metra tracks.

In the spirit of making lemonade out of a lemon, local residents from both sides of the tracks are focused on turning a neighborhood eyesore into a site for sore eyes. The trains may not always be on time, but this project is right on track. By next year at this time, we hope the walls of the tunnel will display an awesome mural that celebrates our neighborhood and its history.

ECA board member Jac Charlier, who is coordinating the effort, says that everyone in the community is welcome at this morning’s meeting to contribute ideas, find out how to get involved and receive an update on the status of the project. He is especially eager to hear from volunteers with an artistic eye

or public art background. And if you can’t make the meeting, call him at 773.266.1420 or email jac.charlier@gmail.com.

10 AM-2 PM Triangle Beautification Project (Ginny Mose Triangle at the Intersection of Lehigh, Caldwell and Devon)

Put on your gardening gloves, get yourself to downtown Edgebrook, and join your friends and neighbors! Starting at 10 AM today, ECA volunteers will be busy digging and planting bulbs and spreading woodchips on the Ginny Mose Memorial Garden at the Caldwell, Devon, and Lehigh intersection.

Yesterday, as part of ECA’s grant from Green-corp Chicago, advance landscapers did the dirty work and got the garden ready for us to put on the finishing touches. But there’s still plenty of work to do today, so feel free to stop by and begin to dig in.

If gardening interests you, please contact ECA board member Mary Jo Garnier. She has several projects in mind, including starting a neighborhood garden club and a community garden walk. Call her at 773.775.4065. Together, we can make the neighborhood grow!

Where did the summer go?



It seems like only yesterday we were celebrating the Fourth of July in the traditional Edgebrook style – with our annual parade and picnic at Wildwood Park. This year’s event was a success by every measure, although we heard that one of the critters from the Happy Foods menagerie did get a bit ornery.

We received a lovely note of thanks from a parade Grand Marshal, retiring Wildwood School principal Elena Savoy, who wrote, “I very much appreciate your acknowledgement of my years of service at Wildwood School. It truly was a labor of love.... You have a won-

derful new leader in Mary Beth Cunat and I know she will advance the school to the next level of excellence.”

The photograph above was snapped by ECA secretary and shutterbug Nora Shea. Last month it made an appearance on the WGN Radio website, as a nominee in the “monthly photo challenge.” It ran with the caption “Three of the Boy Scout Chefs at the Edgebrook July 4th Parade and Picnic. Their smiles say it all.”

Goodbye summer, bring on the fall.

A Site Worth Seeing

If you want to keep up with what’s happening in our neighborhood, make a point of stopping by the ECA website next time you’re browsing the Internet. ECA board members Linda Fox and Dennis Henley are making sure that you’ll find links to community resources and information about upcoming community events. We even have a page for you to announce your own event. Visit <http://edgebrookcommunity.org> for details.

Opportunity knocks

Have you ever thought about upgrading your membership in the ECA to become part of that distinguished panel of volunteers known as the ECA board of directors? We will soon be accepting nominations to fill open board slots for next year. To suggest someone or volunteer yourself, contact Jeff Manuel at 773.775.4065.

Your 2010 ECA Board

We’re your neighbors; we’re your friends. Chances are you know at least one of us. But even if you’ve never met us, know that we are serious about this community. If you’d like to join with the hundreds of your

neighbors who have paid their annual dues (only \$30) to the Edgebrook Community Association, you’ll get no argument here. Please take a moment and sign up at the ECA website: <http://edgebrookcommunity.org>.

Jeff Manuel (President)
Phil Loftus (Vice-President)
Nora Shea (Secretary)
Jim Quinn (Treasurer)
Petra M. Blix
Michelle Brugioni

Mary Bunker
Jerry Butler
Jac Charlier
Paul Engleman
Linda Fox
Mary Jo Garnier

Jennifer Gatesman
Jim Gillespie
Ben Gruber
Dennis Henley
Janet Kachoyeanos
Joni Kurtenbach

Julie Marske
Jody McDowell
Tom Misiewicz
Dan Trevino
Tom Wolff
Carolyn Zafirris