

Says Who?

SEZ OUR PREZ!

Jeff Manuel

Dear Fellow Edgebrookians,

After a cold, dank rain, followed by steaming summer heat, Chicago's Fall season is here—with promises of an "exciting" winter. But the ECA has got your back, as they say, with snowplowing, holiday festivities and the last general meeting of 2011! (For more information, see the ECA Community Calendar in the column at the right.) Long-time residents know these are the events of the holiday season.

On the "what are we doing around the neighborhood?" front:

- we are closely monitoring proposed excessive tree felling in the Forest Preserves (ash borer inspired)
- we are distributing more mulch (thanks again Joe) and obtaining and planting more plants and shrubs in needy areas
- we continue our efforts to beautify the underpass at Hiawatha and Lehigh
- we are monitoring zoning discussions of the proposed construction of the drive through at Devon and Central (currently, no zoning change and no new drive through)

and more, but this list, as do all good things, has to end.

Please support your ECA with your membership and donations. We really do a lot of good work for the neighborhood. We all hope the upcoming season is wonderful.

*Jeff Manuel—President
Edgebrook Community Association*



The Gardening Corner

by M.J. Garnier

Top 10 FUN things to do in your garden right now

1. Sharpen and clean tools.
2. Browse seed and plant catalogs.
3. Plant bulbs for spring color.
4. Draw a map of your garden.
5. Plant bulbs in containers for indoor winter blooming.
6. Collect seeds from neighbor gardens for 2012 planting.
7. Visit the indoor gardens at the Garfield or Lincoln Park Conservatories.
8. Hire neighbor kids to rake leaves and watch them jump in the pile.
9. Better yet, have neighbor kids rake leaves onto a tarp so they can take them home to their own yards.
10. Consider displaying your garden in the first ever Edgebrook Garden Walk!

Contact MJ Garnier at reinrag6@gmail.com to express your interest in the garden walk for the Edgebrook community.

Mary Jo Garnier is a master gardener and long-time ECA board member.

Give Thanks...

A branch library within walking distance

Use of our neighborhood branch library is still, thankfully, free. Download John Grisham's latest—*The Litigators*—to your Kindle, borrow a Bette Davis DVD, obtain passes to explore city museums (The Adler Planetarium, for example), or thumb through food magazines to get plenty of ideas for your holiday feast. *All at no charge.* Enjoy the Chicago Public Library—it's one of the things that makes this city great.

Don't miss **Bookamania** at the Harold Washington Library, Saturday, November 19, 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM. Children, ages 3–11, and their families will have the chance to meet authors and illustrators and to make crafts related to their books. See <http://www.chipublib.org/eventsprog/events/bookamania> for more information.

ECA COMMUNITY CALENDAR

General Meeting High School Options

Wednesday, November 16 • 7 PM

Do you have a child in the fifth grade or higher? You won't want to miss ECA's third annual high school options presentation—this Wednesday, November 16, at 7 PM—at the Edgebrook Community Church, 6734 North Loleta. If you have a sixth or seventh grader, this event must not be missed!

Representatives from the Chicago Public Schools and Taft High School will provide information on their respective schools and answer your questions about navigating the sea of considerations known as the Chicago

high school admissions process. The Catholic Archdiocese has also been invited to attend.

Here's your chance to get the entire picture—from the coveted CPS selective enrollment spots to the quality and cost of neighborhood and private school options. Learn about testing and application procedures, class sizes, academic offerings, extracurricular activities and more.

This meeting is free to the general public. Refreshments will be served.

Sparking the Season The Triangle Lighting Ceremony

Sunday, November 27 • 5 PM

Join us at the northeast corner of Devon and Kinzua for our annual lighting ceremony. At 5 PM sharp, we will have a countdown and the Jinny Mose Triangle Garden will be ablaze with Christmas decorations! After just a bit of caroling, we'll adjourn to the

Creativo! Garden (just north on Kinzua) for a warming fire, refreshments, and holiday cheer. Adults and children are welcome to the ECA's holiday kickoff. Don't miss out on the fun! *This event will be canceled in case of rain or heavy snow.*

One Night Only! Stars of the Silver Screen

Wednesday, November 30 • 6:30 PM

Bette Davis, Judy Garland and Elizabeth Taylor are brought to life by Roberta Randall—one night only—at the Edgebrook Branch Library. Don't miss this in-depth and intimate portrayal of the most famous actresses in film history. Please join us as these actresses come alive through scenes

from their most memorable films.

The ECA is proud to sponsor this free performance of *Stars of the Silver Screen*, at the **Edgebrook Branch Library**. Please join us Wednesday, November 30 at 6:30 PM and watch Roberta Randall create magic.

Santa Returns! ECA Holiday Breakfast

Saturday, December 3 • 10:00 AM

Our annual morning of season's greetings and good cheer provides our families with the opportunity to get up close with the *Real* Santa (yes, Virginia, you will believe) as well as to sing carols, be entertained by talented

people beyond belief and have a fantastic time. The party is held Saturday, December 3 at 10:00 AM at the Edgebrook Community Church, 6734 North Loleta and is free to all residents of the Edgebrook community.

Winter Gardening—Dormant Pruning

It may seem counter-intuitive, but cutting the branches of your trees encourages growth. The process, called dormant pruning, is best performed from late January to early March and, correctly done, improves plant health.

The perfect time to examine your plants for problems is in the winter when the branch system, minus leaves, is open for inspection. Look for dead, diseased or damaged plant material and remove it. Remove crossing or rubbing branches that will cause future damage. Thin and cut back limbs per the plant's natural growing characteristics.

Renewal pruning, a process carried out over a period of two to four years, is the gradual thinning of overgrown stems and limbs to enable more light to reach the base of the plant and stimulate new growth. With the number of buds reduced in the winter, the remaining buds get more of the food stored in the roots and will grow healthier in the spring.

Check with your gardening expert before you tackle this winter gardening task. A little time spent in the garden in January will lead to healthier and more vibrant gardens in the spring.

An Edgebrookian You Should Know—Paul Engleman

Edgebrook residents and ECA members should not be unfamiliar with the name Paul Engleman. Paul served a term on the ECA board as newsletter editor.

A freelance writer with stories in major magazines, Paul worked for nine years at Playboy as a proofreader and publicist (don't ask—he won't tell). He is the author of eight novels.

Dead in Center Field, Paul's first novel, was published in 1983 and introduced private eye Mark

Renzler. Paul's novel won the coveted Shamus Award for best private eye paperback original in 1984. Long out of print, it has recently been released by Alleron Press and is available at amazon.com. Several of Paul's other books are available at the Chicago Public Library.

Do yourself a favor and check out *Dead in Center Field*. Studs Terkel said that "Engleman is a deft storyteller with a quirky touch." Edgebrookians will probably just say, "That's our boy. Way to go, Paul."

Your 2011 ECA Board

Jeff Manuel (President) • Phil Loftus (Vice-President) • Nora Shea (Secretary) • Jim Quinn (Treasurer)
Petra M. Blix • Jackie Boland • Michelle Brugioni • Mary Bunker • Jerry Butler • Jac Charlier • Linda Fox
Mary Jo Garnier • Jennifer Gatesman • Jim Gillespie • Ben Gruber • Dennis Henley • Janet Kachoyeanos
Joni Kurtenbach • Julie Marske • Jody McDowell • Dan Trevino • Tom Wolff • Carolyn Zafiris