

THE MYSTERY PERSON COLUMN

The Mystery Person Revealed



Jenny Reynolds

Our Mystery Person Revealed is Jenny Reynolds, the branch manager of the Edgebrook Library. Jenny was born and raised in Chicago. She grew up in Jefferson Park with her dad, who was a Chicago Police Officer, her mom, her brother and two sisters. She attended Lane Technical High School and earned a bachelor's degree in Corporate Communication from Dominican University. In 1995 she started working for Chicago Public Library's Jefferson Park branch as a page (the person who puts the books away) and then as a clerk at the circulation desk, and she continued to work there for over a decade. She loved library work so much, she continued her education at Dominican University and earned a master's degree in library and information science. After graduation she became a children's librarian and worked at

Harold Washington Library Center's Thomas Hughes Children's Library for 4 ½ years. Being a children's librarian was a rewarding experience, and she enjoyed presenting story times, craft programs and leading book discussions for preteens. In 2010 she decided to try her hand at management and was promoted to branch manager at Chicago Public Library's North Austin branch. In the fall of 2012, she transferred to the Edgebrook Branch to be closer to home and closer to one of the best Thai restaurants in the city.

Working at Edgebrook Library is truly a dream come true. Her job allows her to help people of all ages, whether she's answering questions at the reference desk, helping people use the computers or when she's reading, singing and dancing for families in story time. Community members in Edgebrook genuinely care about their library and see it as a cultural institution, and this makes Edgebrook unique. The Edgebrook Community Association and Everyday Edgebrook are two groups who regularly support the library by sponsoring events and promoting programs, and Jenny is a member of each.

The Edgebrook Library staff prides themselves on providing the community with a wide range of events each month for all age groups. Last year alone, the branch hosted yoga classes, knitting circles, seed and plant swaps, used book sales, a travel-

ing zoo program, financial literacy programs and much more. When the branch hosted its annual Christmas Puppet Show in December, over 200 people attended. During last year's Summer Learning Challenge, a record-breaking 1,600 children participated in the program by reading, discovering and creating all summer long. Jenny couldn't be prouder that she works in a community that places such a high importance on education and sees the library as a place to further learning. Her "Cook by the Book Discussion" program, which takes place on the first Saturday of each month, is one of her most favorite program series of all time. The group is made up of the nicest cooks and bakers you'll ever meet. They get together to dish on a new cookbook each month, and they share food and recipes and cooking/baking tips with one another.

Jenny lives in Norwood Park with her husband Jeff and two children, Lincoln (age 5) and Finn (age 2.) You'll often find her and her family in attendance at library programs and frequenting community events like the Holiday Stroll and Cookie Walk. They love spending time together, taking family trips, and they enjoy reading books and listening to audiobooks.