

By Elizabeth McManus

The Mystery Person Revealed



Nora Shea

Our Mystery Person revealed is Nora Shea of Edgebrook. “People speak about their life’s journey. My journey, with my husband Dennis Henley, was more like a hop, skip, and a jump. After living for over thirty years in Jefferson Park, we moved north twelve blocks and purchased our first house and made Edgebrook our home,” said Nora.

“We liked the great transportation options that Jefferson Park offered, but Edgebrook also provided the beauty of Caldwell, Smith, and Edgebrook Woods, Billy Caldwell Golf Course (we’ve been promising for years to learn how to play!), and charming single-family homes.” Nora and Dennis fell for a house and garden that had been lovingly cared for by the Stevens Family (who moved to Sauganash) in the shadow of Edgebrook’s Public Library (more on that later.) And Edgebrook had a Starbucks!

Nora was beginning to think about retirement. “For more than twenty-five years I’ve worked for the global law firm Kirkland & Ellis LLP as a legal assistant.” Her master’s degree in Library Sciences and previous special library experience at two bank trade associations was excellent training for her responsibilities at K&E where she man-

ages case libraries for complex litigation. “When the parties can’t resolve their differences through discovery or settlement negotiations or when briefing does not result in a dispositive ruling by a judge, I’m called upon to setup out-of-town trial offices.” Nora has worked trials in state and federal courts from New York to Los Angeles, Wilmington to Spokane. She spent a month in London helping K&E’s London office with a tricky case. “The shortest trial was three days in Ft. Worth; the longest was twelve weeks in Wichita.”

Edgebrook seemed like the perfect location to transition from working couple to retirees. Nora and Dennis could easily commute to their jobs for the next few years. Now, and especially later when they have more time on their hands, they could enjoy the conveniences Edgebrook offers. “A nearby library with plenty of reading material as well as DVDs, board games, CDs, and programming that entertains, informs, and spurs our interest in new directions.” There are enough restaurants so that Nora can go a week without cooking. “Sunday brunch at Mia Figlia; a casual Monday supper at Ivy’s; Tuesday pizza at Villa Rosa; Wednesday to try something new at King Pao; deli delights from Happy Foods on Thursday; Friday at Elephant; and, Saturday brunch at Edgebrook Coffee Shop.”

“We are also fortunate in having the excellent staff at Ace Hardware and Bill of Edgebrook Construction Co. who shepherded us through the trials and tribulations of first-time home ownership.” Nora and Dennis are happy to see new stores opening along the Devon corridor. “Vintage Bloom, Local Goods, and Sweetivo are great additions to the classic shoe repair, clean-

ers, tailors, insurance agents and the like.”

The couple has served on the Board of the Edgebrook Community Association for six years. “It all started the summer we volunteered to help out at the ECA’s July 4th Picnic. Who knew our mission was to cook, wrap, and serve approximately 1,000 hot dogs?!”

“Although we’ve never actually seen the Parade (those hot dogs don’t cook themselves), we hear nothing but good things about it.” It’s pure Americana and it is heartwarming that so many families parade to Wildwood Park, picnic together, play games, and listen to the free concert the ECA members provide for the neighborhood. “We’re lucky to have an organization like the ECA working in the neighborhood, from plowing Edgebrook side streets to sponsoring public forums. The ECA celebrates holiday events, landscapes Edgebrook common areas, hosts garden walks, and supports scouts, schools, the Library, and the Neighborhood Connection Project.” Nora attributes this vitality to Edgebrook itself. “The

ECA can accomplish so much because of the generosity of Edgebrook neighbors who pledge dues to the Association.”

“We came to Edgebrook because it was convenient and pretty.

We stay because of Glen, Petra, Jac, Mary Jo, Carlos, Tony, Jeff, Olga and Rafael and all the other absolutely wonderful people we’ve met while living in this lovely corner of the City.”