

## Says Who?

# SEZ OUR PREZ!

Jeff Manuel

Dear Fellow Edgebrookians,

In the final days of summer the weather was blissfully temperate. Kids are getting ready for school and college – or not – and there hasn't been a monsoon or savage desert heat in over a week. There has been a noted increase in skunks, though. How pleasant.

The ECA's Fourth of July Parade and Picnic was a wonderful day – marching bands, hot dogs, and Norman Rockwell watching from the sidewalks. The vitality of your organization is good, partially due to wonderful donations from folks who, we hope, realize how much they are appreciated. Of course all funds are directly spent on the Edgebrook community. The fine fellow (Joe) who donated the mulch at the train station even helped distribute it – bless him. People everywhere are being more proactive and fixing things up themselves (including certain athletic areas) which is great.

### Don't let METRA take away your Train Shelter!



See petitions at  
Starbuck's  
&  
Happy Foods!

Metra's plan to remove the northbound shelter at the station and not replace it has been rebuffed for the time being, in part due to the hundreds of signatures collected on petitions in the neighborhood. While work was said to be "finished" at the station, it will continue next summer. The northbound shelter will be reinforced by Metra.

The "Welcome to Edgebrook" signs have been repainted and the downtown area is in fine shape, horticulturally speaking.

New initiatives are attempting to enliven the downtown business area and all of Edgebrook is eager to work with our two new aldermen, John Arena (45th) and Mary O'Connor (41st). Thanks to everyone for participating with a renewed surge of pride and activism in the Edgebrook community, and, in addition, with the ECA.

Jeff Manuel—President  
Edgebrook Community Association

## General Meeting

Wednesday, September 21 • 7 PM

### You Want Me to Pay WHAT???

The Edgebrook Community Association is hosting the Cook County Assessor's Office at our next General Meeting. The topic,

doesn't actually calculate your taxes (check your tax bill to see how many hands are reaching out for a share), their assessment is the foundation of your tax base.



You will learn what an appeal is; when to file an appeal; how you can file an appeal; and, why you might consider an appeal. The Assessor's representatives will dispel the notion that you need to have sophisticated research skills to file an appeal. And they will introduce you to their new approach for filing property tax appeals online ([www.cookcounty-boardofreview.com](http://www.cookcounty-boardofreview.com)).

residential property assessments and the appeal process, is timely as our neighborhood is scheduled to be reassessed in 2012. If you think your property has not received an honest, fair, and judicious evaluation, please plan to attend this meeting to learn what action you can take to correct the situation.

Two speakers from the Assessor's office will be on hand to instruct you in navigating what is perceived to be a confusing trail from assessment to tax bill. Although the Assessor

A recent news release from Cook County President Toni Preckwinkle reported that the County Board of Review analyzed over 380,000 appeals in Cook County last year. Attend the ECA's meeting Wednesday, September 21, at 7:00 PM at the Edgebrook Community Church (6736 N Loleta, Chicago) to learn more about the assessment process. The meeting is open to the public and is free of charge.

## Alderman O'Connor Pledges Support for NCP

Members of the Neighborhood Connection Project (NCP) met with Alderman O'Connor on Tuesday, August 16, to secure her support for the structural repairs necessary to make the Metra underpass on Lehigh safe.

"Yes you have my support," O'Connor stated. "You absolutely would have my support."

The alderman admitted she was familiar with the condition of the underpass as she and her crew spent a full day cleaning it during Memorial Day weekend. Forty bags of debris and trash were removed.

Money for structural repairs will not be available until 2012 according to Alderman O'Connor. The \$1.5 million each Ward receives from the Aldermanic "menu" funds to cover Ward expenses has already been allocated. TIF money is unavailable because there are no TIFs in the 41st Ward. The alderman said she would

investigate other funding sources and would report to the NCP Team.

The NCP provided Ms. O'Connor with a recent video depicting the disrepair at the underpass. She plans to use it when she talks with the City.

NCP members also asked for the Alderman's non-financial support for the NCP's beautification endeavor. She said that she was happy to see this kind of community involvement and would definitely lend her support.

The NCP Team previously had brought the condition of the underpass to former Alderman Doherty's and the City Department of Transportation's attention, yet saw no action towards making the necessary repairs.

Those interested in making the underpass reflective of all that our neighborhood represents should contact Jac Charlier at [jac.charlier@gmail.com](mailto:jac.charlier@gmail.com).

## The Gardening Corner

by M.J. Garnier

Wondering what to do now in the garden? Select and plant bulbs for spring or summer blooming? Pull warm weather crops and plant cool weather veggies? Collect seeds? Dig in compost? All these things are possibilities but the most essential activity when getting ready for winter is giving your garden a good grooming. Weeds may die when frost hits, but their seeds survive in the soil. So pull all you see and discard them in the compost or in landscape waste. Any plant you suspect might be diseased – those with spotted, black or withered leaves – should go in the landscape waste including diseased tree and shrub leaves. This will keep the disease from spreading to your compost and becoming a bigger problem next year. *Happy gardening!*

### Did You Know?

The ECA maintains the raised bed gardens, the Jinny Mose Triangle Garden and the land along the Metra tracks from Central to Ponchatrain. We also watch out for overgrown weeds in the trees and sidewalks lining our downtown area. Some of the beds have even been 'adopted' by neighboring businesses or homeowners. Our sincere thanks to these gardening volunteers!

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

## Survey Says...



hadn't renewed and how the ECA could better serve the community.

We're pleased to say that almost everyone who completed the survey renewed their membership. The surveys were a big help in finding out what Edgebrookians value from the ECA and what additional benefits they would like to receive.

Everyone responded that they enjoyed the community green spaces and flower beds the ECA designs, plants and maintains. Several respondents requested park cleaning initiatives or other neighborhood improvements. We are happy to report that the ECA is already working on many of these suggestions – for instance the underpass renovation at Hiawatha.

Last May, in an effort to improve our services, the ECA surveyed lapsed members, asking them why they

A common survey request was for more adult-friendly events. Empty nesters asked the ECA to present events that are not geared primarily towards families with kids. We will be acting upon your suggestions as we plan the ECA's 2012 events.

Snowplowing issues were also on the survey response list. Some members argued that plow service was inferior to areas like Wildwood. We have contacted these responders and hope they will find more satisfaction this winter.

Surprisingly, some members were unaware that ECA membership dues provided for snowplowing. Many Edgebrook residents would have been stranded during the Blizzard of 2011 had it not been for this membership benefit.

Do you have an idea for bettering our community? Is there a topic or an idea for an event you think would make Edgebrook social life better? We encourage you to contact us with your thoughts and concerns. Visit <http://edgebrookcommunity.org> and let us know what you think. We really want to know.

And, don't forget to like us on Facebook!