

Says Who?

SEZ OUR PREZ!

Jeff Manuel

Dear Fellow Edgebrookians,

Having winters like this past one is just ONE of the perks of living in Edgebrook. Spring is in the air, snowblowers sit idle in the garage and—one hopes—just as pleasant a summer awaits us. The ECA, volunteers all, continues to work *in* the community *for* the community. As it has for fifty years. If you haven't already done so, please remit your dues and any additional contributions—it all goes right back to you.

We landscape the Metra Station, represent the neighborhood when our voice needs to be heard (train shelter saved, zoning affairs, forest and park concerns), snowplow, and maintain a useful and informative web site (<http://edgebrookcommunity.org>). We host great neighborhood events, community forums and public lectures. We support our schools, and programs at the library. *And more.*

You can help support us at any time in our efforts to take care of this little corner of the world. This is a great neighborhood. And it's great because of you. It always has been. Thanks.

Jeff Manuel—President
Edgebrook Community Association

The Gardening Corner

by M.J. Garnier



Tempting Temps!

It has been warm enough that early blooming snowdrops and crocuses have poked their heads out. It makes one want to start digging out the garden to see what else is popping up! But don't do it! Those fragile shoots need shelter from the lion of March. A smarter gardening idea is to prune shrubs and trees. It will get you out into the garden to enjoy the warmer weather. It's best to prune when the plant is dormant—mid-February to early May. Pruning will help shrubs and trees look their very best this summer! For more info visit <http://www.mortonarb.org/tree-plant-advice/article/710/pruning-deciduous-shrubs.html>.

Save that Date! The much-anticipated inaugural **Edgebrook Garden Walk** will be held **June 24, 2012** (with a rain date of *July 1st*). The ECA has partnered with **North Branch Arts** to present not only gardens, landscapes and hardscapes, but also kid's arts and crafts garden workshops. Tickets will be sold for these activities with discounts for seniors and for participation in multiple events. If you live in Edgebrook or Wildwood and would like to have your garden—or someone else's garden—included in the walk, please contact Margaret Dospiljulien at (773) 230-6724 or email talk2eca@gmail.com no later than March 28th.

Meet you in the garden!
Mary Jo Garnier is a master gardener and long-time ECA board member.

Long Distance Renewal

ECA members are fiercely loyal. We received membership renewals postmarked from Florida and Arizona. But even we did not expect to see an envelope from Helvetia (Switzerland)! Long-distance ECA members like these think enough of this community association to renew from overseas. What more can we say except, "Merci. Danke. Grazie."



We appreciate *all* of our members. If you haven't renewed yet, we encourage you to send in your dues today. (Renew online at <http://edgebrookcommunity.org>.) You still have time to make Edgebrook the best neighborhood ever.

ECA COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Wednesday, March 14 • 6:30 PM • Resource Center

How do we measure up in 2012?

The State of Edgebrook Real Estate

We've purchased Edgebrook homes. We've renovated. Built up. Built out. Hard-earned money, time, energy, and commitment have been invested. Are our investments holding up?

How viable is our neighborhood?

To answer this question, the ECA has assembled an expert panel to discuss house prices (up, down or even-keeled), home supply, housing trends, market forecasts, the buying public's confidence in the City, and the neighborhood vibe. Three prominent realtors and the city's leading real estate journalist will candidly answer your questions at the ECA's first informational meeting of 2012.

Our guest panel includes:

- **Cam Benson**, @properties
A Chicago native and Past President of Chicago Association of Realtors, Ms. Benson was instrumental in forming the Multiple Listing Service of Northern Illinois.
- **Linda Kramer**, Baird & Warner
A busy real estate broker who gives back to the community by sponsoring the *Paint*

Edgebrook Pink Breast Cancer 5K Fun Run and Walk.

- **Sue Oleksy**, Coldwell Banker
With 25 years of experience, she has assisted hundreds of families in making the right decision on home ownership. She is a frequent speaker at real estate seminars.
- **Dennis Rodkin**, Deal Estate Columnist
Covering the real estate beat for *Chicago Magazine* since 1991, it is unlikely that you can stump him with your questions.

Do you make that investment in solar heating? Landscape your property? Leave Jefferson Park for the greener pastures of Edgebrook? Will your investment pay off? Attend the ECA's *State of Edgebrook Real Estate* meeting to hear what the experts have to say.

The meeting will be presented Wednesday, **March 14, 6:30 PM** at the **Volunteer Resource Center**, 6100 N. Central Ave. It's free to the public and you need not be selling a home to benefit from the panel's knowledge.

Saturday, April 7 • 10 AM • Jeff Green Park

Easter Egg Hunt

Dust off your ears!!

Grab your basket. Add a new ribbon to your bonnet. Fluff up your cotton tail. On **Saturday, April 7th**, the day before Easter, a gaggle of youngsters will descend upon **Jeff Green "Choo-Choo" Park** to take part in the ECA's

annual Easter Egg Hunt. The festivities begin at **10 AM sharp**—rain, snow or shine—and continue until the last egg is found and the last prize is awarded. Check <http://edgebrookcommunity.org> for complete details.

Wednesday, May 16 • 6:30 PM • Edgebrook Branch Library

Taking better photographs.

Smile...



You've said that a hundred times. But did it pay off? Did you wind up with the photo you meant to take?

The ECA is pleased to welcome **Wayne Ross of Crockett & Co.** to our May 16 meeting. Wayne, studio manager for Will Crockett's group, has taken his share of great photos. He will explain—in plain English—basic, yet essential, photography tips.

Say Cheese!

Get ready for the summer photo season. Capture a graduate's look of pride, a bride's radiance, a grandchild's lop-sided grin, a pet's amazing trick, and a national park's grandeur. Wayne will deliver helpful guidelines for

better compositions. With his guidance your okay photos will turn into photos that wow.

Watch the Birdie.

Digital cameras have reduced the expense of photography as a hobby by eliminating film costs. Photography is a great family activity and can be introduced to children at an early age. Students are welcome to the ECA event. As is everyone else who would like to develop their camera skills to produce the photographs they meant to take.

Wayne Ross has graciously agreed to comment on a few local photographic efforts. If you would like to be considered for his critique, please send a photo to talk2eca@gmail.com. Include your name, age, and phone number. Please, only one photo per individual.

The ECA's General Meeting will be held at the **Edgebrook Branch Library**, 5331 W. Devon Ave. from **6:30 PM - 8:00 PM**. This free event is open to the public.

Your 2012 ECA Board: Jeff Manuel (President) • Phil Loftus (Vice-President) • Christine Rosenberg (Secretary) • Jim Quinn (Treasurer) • Petra M. Blix • Jackie Boland • Michelle Brugioni • Mary Bunker • Jerry Butler • Jac Charlier • Mary Jo Garnier • Jennifer Gatesman • Jim Gillespie • Ben Gruber • Dennis Henley • Janet Kachoyanos • Joni Kurtenbach • Julie Marske • Jody McDowell • Nora Shea • Matt Swain • Dan Trevino • Tom Wolff