

## Says Who?

# SEZ OUR PREZ!

*Jeff Manuel*

Dear Fellow Edgebrookians,

A nice and toasty summer it was, too, as autumn begins its strange, last-dance-on-the-Titanic brilliance as the precursor to Demon Winter. Well, that might have been a bit dramatic. In any event, I hope the past few months have treated you well.

### Neighborhood progress has been noted.

- The Metra station rebuilding continues at its famed incremental progress. There *is* going to be a northbound shelter, heated and enclosed, to replace the old “roof.” There will be the matter of restoration of the ravaged landscaping once construction is complete, but Metra has promised to help with that as well.
- The Lehigh/Hiawatha underpass was repaired. Neighbors attempt to erase its reputation as a graffiti Etch-a-Sketch for the culturally impaired.
- ECA representatives attended hearings for a proposed zoning variance and witnessed a compromise between remodeling one’s home and ignoring current zoning ordinances.
- The July 4th Parade and Picnic was successful, albeit not helped by severe temperatures. (Folks, please remember this is the ECA’s only fundraiser. Your participation is always appreciated.)
- Edgebrook school has nearly finished its beautiful renovation.
- We held the area’s first Garden Walk (see Mary Jo’s story below).
- Downtown Edgebrook is undergoing construction and revitalization. If you want a better downtown, the neighborhood must support local businesses that risk opening amidst vacant store fronts. There’s some good newcomers as well as long-standing businesses that will blossom if we keep our money in the ‘hood.

Lastly, please support this community organization. We are, by far, the most influential and active neighborhood organization in the area. We have a proven track record. We welcome your ideas, support and contributions. Thanks.

*Jeff Manuel—President, ECA*

## Readers are smart. Smart like paint\*!

Over 17,000 books were consumed by the 681 children participating in the Edgebrook Branch Library’s summer reading program: *You Are What You Read*. That’s almost 25 books for each reader! The summer reading program plays an important role in preparing children for the coming school year. The ECA helped fund the reading program’s incentives. We encourage enthusiastic reading and congratulate those readers who turned off the television to discover a world where the special effects are always spectacular.

\*Robert Louis Stevenson’s classic adventure *Treasure Island*

## The Gardening Corner

by M.J. Garnier

### It was a blooming success!

The inaugural Edgebrook Garden Walk was, by all measures, a success. Nearly 130 participants visited 15 gardens located throughout our community. Each garden told a unique story of color, light and creativity. Garden owners, volunteers and walkers shared ideas, dilemmas and knowledge. We all liked it so much we decided to do it again!

Mark your calendars. The **Second Annual Edgebrook Garden Walk** is scheduled for June 23, 2013. If you have a garden you would like to display or if you would like to volunteer for the garden walk committee, please contact me at (312) 406-3197 or email [gardenwalk2013@gmail.com](mailto:gardenwalk2013@gmail.com).

### Garden Club?

Are you interested in forming a garden club to allow folks to talk gardening, admire gardens and share perennials? Contact me via email at [gardenwalk2013@gmail.com](mailto:gardenwalk2013@gmail.com) to express your enthusiasm. Please put “garden club” in the subject line.

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

## ECA COMMUNITY CALENDAR

*Free Events for the Neighborhood from the ECA*

**Tuesday, September 18 • 7:00 - 8:00 PM • Volunteer Resource Center**

### Free Neighborhood Concert

Mark Dvorak, a modern day troubadour, has been called “a folk singer’s folk singer.” His concerts are a mix of traditional folk and American songbook standards.

When Mark performed at the Edgebrook Branch Library, kids were bopping their heads and enjoying the beat, said Librarian Sandy Art.

Please join us September 18 for a toe-tapping, foot-stomping, jump-up-and-dance-in-the-

aisle good time as Mark performs works made famous by American musicians.

Remember, even though school started in September, there is still fun to be had.

This free neighborhood concert at 6100 N. Central Ave. lasts an hour and will have you home before your child’s bedtime. It’s intended for the entire family. Enjoy time together, hear wonderful American songs, and, just maybe, dance.



**Monday, October 1 • 7:00 - 8:00 PM • Volunteer Resource Center**

### Lou Manfredini says “Your home is your best investment.”



Lou Manfredini, WGN Radios’ Mr. Fix-It, says “Your home is your best investment.” Lou is Chicago’s Click and Clack of home repair, except that he works solo. Edgebrook residents feel a special kinship with Lou since his family owns the local Ace Hardware where we shop, frequently.

Ask yourself, does it still make sense to invest in a home?

Home buyers tie up their money for a long time. The only way to get their investment back is to sell their house, a problem in a soft market.

Other investment types have predictable costs. Homeowners learn quickly that there are a seemingly endless series of expenses to homeownership.

Unlike investors in stocks or bonds, homeowners do not earn dividends or returns. In fact, most homeowners borrow to pay for their home and then

must pay off the principal and interest, sometimes doubling the final cost.

*The question is, why is Lou so certain your home is still your best investment?*

Lou Manfredini will speak for forty minutes at the Volunteer Resource Center, 6100 N. Central at 7:00 PM to address this question. He will then open the floor for questions for the remainder of his presentation.

When Lou says he’s going to tell you that your home is *still* your best investment, it pays to listen.

## Neighborhood Connection Project: Phase II

Phase II of the Neighborhood Connection Project (NCP) is underway and your skills and talents are needed. To continue moving this citizen-led project forward, the NCP has formed three working groups: Resource, Design and U-Neat (Underpass Neighbors Acting Together). U-Neat’s mission is to keep the underpass neat, both now and once the beautification

is finished. The Design Working Group will recommend a final theme for the structure, create an actual design, and manage the work leading to completion. Volunteers on the Resource Working Group will connect with neighbors, businesses and interested parties to secure financial, time and in-kind donations to support the beautification work.

Contact Jac Charlier, ECA Board Member at [jac.charlier@gmail.com](mailto:jac.charlier@gmail.com) or (773) 266-1420 to volunteer. NCP can only move forward if neighbors continue to make this a reality. Skill is not as important as showing up. The main expertise required for civic engagement is participation, nothing more. Make a difference. Become a part of the NCP today.

## Meet Edgebrook Mayor Leesa Engelmann

★★★★ Leesa Engelmann moved to Edgebrook with her husband Keith in 2008 because this was the neighborhood where he grew up. They have a six-year-old daughter, Helen, who attends Wildwood School.

Leesa, once a convention/trade-show professional, now devotes her time to raising Helen. She is excited to join the Edgebrook Women’s Club this year. Her family is pleased to see the

North Branch Arts open and gives a big YEA to Sweetivo! “It’s just the kind of entrepreneurship that downtown Edgebrook needs.”

When asked why she joined the ECA Leesa said, “Gosh – I can’t imagine not belonging to the ECA. I mean why else would you move to a neighborhood if you aren’t willing to support it?”

Leesa loves living in Edgebrook because she is 30 minutes away

from the city by train and can easily walk to school, church, local restaurants, the library and the forest preserve.

“I love how children who grew up here come back to raise their own families,” Leesa tells friends. “I also love that Edgebrook is a part of the city where I can enjoy the ‘perks’ usually found only in the suburbs.”

*The ECA thanks Leesa and her family for supporting the neighborhood.*