

Says Who? SEZ OUR PREZ!

Jeff Manuel

Dear Fellow Edgebrookians,

What a year! Hurricanes, presidential elections, the continuing Metra renovations. Basic surface improvements have been made at the station. The sod is down. The Northbound heated shelter is scheduled to be constructed before the frozen heart of Winter arrives. Planters are scheduled for construction in the Spring, as well as a flurry of corrective landscaping.

The Halloween Decorating Contest awards are being distributed and winners are treasuring their heirloom-quality prizes.

The Holiday Tree Lighting and Holiday Party have merged into one event this year (see accompanying article). Be sure to stop by for the caroling and hot cocoa.

Once again, in 2012, the officers and Board of Directors of the Edgebrook Community Association have done their best to serve the Edgebrook Community. We dealt with zoning issues, area maintenance and improvement, offered free programs of interest to the community, scheduled social events such as the Fourth of July Parade and Picnic, the Easter Egg Hunt, the Garden Walk and the aforementioned Holiday Party, and provided landscaping, snowplowing and more. ECA director Jac Charlier and the NCP brought about massive improvements to the underpass at Lehigh and Hiawatha. All of our work has been funded only by your memberships, gifts, and donated time and labor.

We welcome everybody's interest and participation and are proud to have your support. If you aren't already an ECA member, it's a good time to join. Last, but not least, let's all share a wonderful Thanksgiving and Holiday Season.

Jeff Manuel—President, ECA

What Lou said...

The ECA's fourth informational meeting of 2012 featured Lou Manfredini giving his take on why your home is still your best investment. During the Q&A session, Lou delivered several practical tips, including this one. **Cover your air conditioner for the winter.** A cover helps protect the coils from dirt, dust, bugs, and dried leaves. You'll keep your AC performing at an efficient level for a longer period of time. But remember to keep the cover four inches from the ground. And, no, rain and snow won't keep your AC clean.

Informational meetings are now being planned for 2013 and will be announced on our website at <http://edgebrookcommunity.org>.

The Gardening Corner

by M.J. Garnier

House Plants

By now, any plant that has been living outside should be inside where it is warm and cozy. I hope that, before bringing them in, the plants got a fierce spray of water to remove any hitchhiking bugs. To keep plants thriving through the winter, water only when dry – check first by testing for moistness about an inch down. When you water, watch for bottom-of-the-pot runoff, a sure sign the plant has enough moisture.

To compensate for the dryness in the house, set the pot on top of a dish filled with small stones such as pea gravel. Water the stones. This creates a moist area around the plant.

Winter is not a good time to fertilize, but, if you must, use only ½ strength and only once a month. Happy Gardening!

Mary Jo Garnier was instrumental in organizing the ECA's first garden walk.

ECA COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Free Events for the Neighborhood

Sunday, November 25 • 4:30 - 7:00 PM

ECA Holiday Party

The ECA invites the neighborhood to attend its holiday party, Sunday, November 25 at 4:30 PM. We have combined our annual Party with Santa with our traditional Triangle Lighting Ceremony to create a bigger and better holiday get-together.

Start at the North Branch Arts Center at 4:30 PM for

Holiday Crafts and Pictures with the "Real" Santa. At 6:00 PM we'll witness the lighting of the Triangle, followed by treats, a bonfire, caroling, and Santa at the North Branch Arts Community Garden until 7:00 PM.

Join us for this family-friendly event. Bundle up and have some the fun.



Wednesday, December 5 • 6:00 - 7:00 PM • Edgebrook Branch Library

The Melikin Puppets Return

Don't miss out on one of Edgebrook's favorite events. The Melikin Puppets return to the Edgebrook Branch Library to present a holiday show of *The Shoemaker and*

the Elves and The Night Before Christmas. The performance will take place at the Edgebrook Branch Library, 5331 W. Devon Ave. from 6:00 - 7:00 PM. Last year's perfor-

mance was a great success. The Melikin's show is intended for all ages and is sponsored by our friends at the Edgebrook Historical Society. Registration is not required.

Wednesday, December 19 • 6:30 PM • Edgebrook Branch Library

Whose Ruby Slippers Are Those?

Christine Price as the Wicked Witch of the East and Lynn Rymarz as the Good Witch of the North bring the land of Oz to life at the Edgebrook

Branch Library, December 19, 6:30 PM. This interactive family program lets each Witch tell her side of the story. Who do you think is the

rightful owner of those famous slippers? Everyone who loves a good story is invited. This program is sponsored by the ECA.

Jinny Mose Triangle Garden Update

We are happy to report that the EPA investigation of the Jinny Mose Triangle Garden at Caldwell, LeHigh and Devon turned up only an old muffler and hub cap, but no toxic substances or gas containers.

The ECA has partnered with Greencorps, Chicago for sev-

eral years and our community has benefited from their generosity in plant, seed and bulb distributions. In 2011 the garden was awarded a 3-year grant to increase native plantings to provide habitat for birds and butterflies. The grant was put on hold during

the EPA investigation.

Greencorps will now be able to finish the landscaping work this fall. We would like to thank Nelson Chueng of the City of Chicago and Edde Jones of Greencorps for their continued support.

Petra M. Blix, Beautification Director

Family Read Aloud Nights

A family read aloud night can stimulate your child's imagination, enhance language skills, and lengthen attention spans. Sharing reading with your child will foster a lifelong love of books.

Turn off the television. Gather in a comfortable room or around the kitchen table. Open the book you've chosen and start to read. Don't forget to give older children a chance to participate. Before you know it, you'll have a spellbound audience.

Want to know some of our seasonal favorites? Sandy Art, Children's Librarian at the Edgebrook Branch, selected these titles for you to enjoy.

- *Snow* by Uri Shulevitz
- *The First Day of Winter* by Denise Fleming

- *Hurry, Hurry, Mary Dear* by N.M. Bodecker and Erik Blegvad
- *The Mitten* by Jan Brett

Ready to kindle the Christmas spirit? Grab a copy of Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*. Known to young and old, even to those who have never read it, Scrooge's tale is perfect for read-aloud nights.

Reading aloud brings books to life and it brings families together. Start your own tradition by reading aloud with your children.

