

Edgewater Glen Association

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A LOOK AROUND

On the following pages, you'll find news and information that runs quite a gamut, from proposed changes in zoning that will affect us all for years to come to how to order replacement garbage cans or dog poop signs. In between these extremes are news bites about what you've been doing to keep this neighborhood the incredible place it is: organizing a scavenger hunt for kids of all ages; offering home repair help to seniors; pushing for increased public safety, a better high school and a more usable Armory. You're offering performances, classes and services that show what a diverse and caring neighborhood Edgewater Glen is.

But you'll also find more in these pages—ideas about what you could be doing to keep the neighborhood a place where we all want to live. While our membership numbers are strong and EGA is incredibly grateful to the volunteers who spend their valuable time helping us, we also need more of you to join and become the next generation of EGA leaders. Help us remain your neighborhood voice by getting involved.

UPDATE ON AREA ISSUES & PROJECTS

Broadway Study Progresses

Block club and local organization leaders met at Ald. Smith's offices on Oct. 6 with the consulting firm URS-TPAP to discuss the first phases of a five-part Broadway study from Foster to Devon. Results are expected near year's end and consultants so far have mapped the zoning and buildings that exist on this stretch. The study's next phases include: site and zoning analysis; market analysis of both residential and retail on Broadway; an economic impact analysis and a final report that is expected to include recommendations on potential development size, type and cost among other things.

EGA expects Ald. Smith's office and community groups to call a community-wide meeting that members can attend for a broad and timely look at what issues to consider when we think about developing Broadway. We'll keep you informed through e-mail and the newsletter. Please let EGA know what you're thinking by dropping us a line at edgewaterglen@yahoo.com.

Clark Zoning Gains Ground

Zoning on Clark specifically the Andersonville stretch between Winona and Bryn Mawr Avenues, was the focus of a September 14th meeting sponsored by Ald. Smith. Presenters noted that interest in Andersonville as a commercial and residential area is likely to remain strong. In subsequent meetings, block club leaders decided that educating residents about zoning laws should continue and that groups must work to develop a vision of Clark from Ainslie to Devon.

The Metropolitan Planning Council and Urban Land Institute have been asked to help devise a formal plan to educate residents and aid in zoning plans for Clark Street. According to Ald. Smith's office, both groups are eager to start work by mid-January 2005.

EGA Supports Naval Academy

The EGA board voted in November to support a proposal to add a naval academy to Senn High School, contingent upon approval of final plans presented by Chicago Public Schools. While there have been several contentious meetings and announcements about the proposal, the EGA Board believes that students attending the academy would serve as role models for the community, and the academy would be a step toward Senn becoming a more likely choice for EG families with high school age children.

Members on EGA email received a copy of the letter sent from CPS chief Arne Duncan to block club leaders regarding the proposal. In it, Duncan countered arguments made by those who oppose the proposal and fear that current programs, space and resources will be compromised or eliminated with the addition of a naval academy. Let us know what you think about the issue of improving Senn—and what you're willing to do to help make our high school better—by contacting EGA at edgewaterglen@yahoo.com.

Scavenger Hunt a Success

Kudos and many thanks to EG residents Olivia and Darren Szrom for organizing a thoroughly enjoyable I-Spy/Scavenger Hunt on Oct. 17, which, despite the cold, saw nearly 40 people in teams scouring the neighborhood

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for clues and signs (for those of you unknowingly involved in the hunt, that's why groups of children were huddled around your front lawn!). Thanks also to Emmanuel Lutheran Church for donating space for a party and awards show afterwards.

We're hoping the hunt was the first of several EGA-sponsored community-building activities—other ideas include a champagne and/or microbrew tasting and a Battle of the Bands—in the coming year. Contact EGA at edgewaterlen@yahoo.com if you're interested in these or have suggestions for other activities.

Armory Work Starts in 2005

Armory Advisory Council president Suzanne Connor, (sconnor@artsbiz-chicago.org) sent the following update about the group's Oct. 28 meeting:

Although it's been a long time coming, representatives of the Chicago Park District have assured the Armory Advisory Council members that Phase I of the proposed renovation plan will begin in 2005. According to CPD Project Manager Anne Miller and architect Khatija Hashmy, an RFP will be prepared early next year and construction should begin in the fall.

The extent of this first phase is dependent upon the actual cost of the components being considered and the funds that are available. Priority will be given to life safety code compliance, ADA compliance, the HVAC system, and finishes within the lobby area, ballroom and multipurpose room. Due to the enormous cost of installing and operating air conditioning in the Armory's mammoth gym, the current plan is to improve ventilation in the gym and provide air-conditioning only in the meeting and program areas. Renovating program spaces along the perimeter of the gym and adding a running track are also being discussed, if sufficient funds are available.

Three million dollars has already been committed, thanks to Rep. Jan Shakowsky and Sen. Dick Durbin; State Rep. Harry Osterman is seeking an additional \$1.5 million in state funding.

Members of the Advisory Council expressed support for a phased approach, along with frustration that the proj-

ect was taking so long in the planning phase. There was a desire to seek additional public input regarding programming as the process moves forward, and Ms. Miller and CPD Community Affairs Director Robert Steele assured the attendees that the public would continue to be involved in the process. Ms. Miller also indicated that it would be some time before decisions would be made regarding future phases, which currently include demolition of the rear addition and new construction on the north side of the building. No funding is available to pursue the planning of subsequent phases at this time.

At an upcoming meeting, members of the Advisory Council plan to invite appropriate Park District officials to address their concerns regarding the use of rental revenues from the Broadway Armory.

The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for **Thursday, December 2nd at 6:30 P.M. at the Armory.**

ECC Aims for Growth

Edgewater Community Council's new executive director Doug Fraser met with community leaders in early October to outline ECC's near-term goals: increasing and improving communication among block clubs and ECC as well as with the general membership, raising funds and recruiting new members. ECC continues to seek board members willing to serve on the general board as well as at least one of the group's committees. Contact ECC at 773.334.5609 if you're interested.

Fraser also noted that a hoped-for meeting with CTA leader Frank Kruesi is highly unlikely, but ECC plans to pursue other channels to push for continued improvement and more safety—including meeting with District 24's new commander—at the Granville and Thorndale El stations.

Fraser said ECC also has funds to work with the Alderman's office to conduct a pilot project on how best to control residential flooding during storms. Again, contact ECC at 773.334.5609 if you have problems with your home flooding.

OUT FOR A STROLL

Let EGA know about businesses you'd

recommend to neighbors by contacting LuAnn Paladino at 773.761.2189 or Olivia Szrom at 773.262.3221.

REMINDERS & INFORMATION

Pressing for Public Safety

Neighbors took to the streets this summer following a rash of muggings in the neighborhood, successfully bringing resident and police attention to the issue and helping quiet down such activity on our streets. But while EGA hasn't heard as many reports of criminal activity, we remain concerned about vandalism on cars and public safety in general.

To that end, EGA continues to encourage residents to attend neighborhood CAPS meetings and to call 911 when they see any suspicious behavior.

Edgewater Community Council's CAPS representative, Chris Lawrence, 773.381.1346 or edgecc@core.com says that area beat cops traditionally concentrate their efforts on "problem zones" in neighborhoods. Granville near the El and Thorndale near the El are two particular areas which are rife with drugs and prostitution that sometimes filter into the Glen. However when other offenses that appear to have a pattern such as muggings, physical attacks, car break-ins or vandalism come to our neighborhood, it's important for residents to coordinate communication efforts with one another and with Lawrence and, through CAPS, to the 24th district leaders. This will make law officials aware of residents' concerns and more likely to respond to calls for help.

CAPS meetings are held at 7 P.M. the first Wednesday of each month at the library. Also, EGA has heard from neighbors who are interested in organizing CAPS walks, positive loitering, phone trees and an ECC whistle program. Let us know if you're interested in joining with others to coordinate such activities, and we'll keep you up to date on what develops.

Need a Garbage Cart?

If you know someone who is missing a garbage cart, please have them contact the Streets & Sanitation office at 312.744.2130 (6:00 A.M. to 2:30 P.M.,

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Monday through Friday) for special assistance.

Traffic Issues Don't Stop

For those of you who missed the email about Traffic Calming Initiatives, former EGA president Mike Evans submitted this update:

GLENLAKE & BROADWAY TRAFFIC LIGHT A year after Ald. Smith's office persuaded the Chicago Dept. of Transportation to put in a traffic light at East Glenlake and Broadway, the Illinois Dept. of Transportation has halted work. The alderman's office is presently trying to convince IDOT that a traffic light is necessary to alleviate the danger of crossing to and from the shops on East Broadway and re-schedule the light's installation for 2005.

GRANVILLE & BROADWAY TRAFFIC LIGHT The time allowed for east-west crossing of Broadway at the Granville traffic light is ridiculously short. The EGA pressured CDOT to extend the time allowed to walk east and west. After a year of grousing, CDOT adjusted the timing but did so only a tiny increment. The EGA has again pressured CDOT to increase the crossing time of the east-west light.

EGA also has let Ald. Smith know of neighbors' concerns about the hazardous "temporary" double left turn lane from southbound Broadway onto eastbound Ridge that seems to now be permanent.

Any questions or comments can be directed to the EGA at edgewaterlen@yahoo.com.

Correction on Light Replacement Requests

Report burned out light or problems with street and alley lights immediately. The best way is for residents to call 311 with the following information:

1. Whether the light out is a street or alley light.
2. If it's a street light, whether it is the only light out or if every light on the block is out.
3. If it's an alley light, is the light completely out or does it go on-and-off intermittently?
4. The exact address of the closest building to the problem light.

5. If the closest building's address is not on the same street as that of the light (for example, if the nearest building is on the cross-street side of the light) mention this street's name to the 311 rep.

6. One can also request that the light globe be cleaned of debris or that any tree branches around the light be trimmed.

If you have a more involved request, have difficulty describing the location of the light or want to follow-up on a light request that hasn't been fulfilled yet, please contact Ann Felger at 773.293.8414 or Ernie Constantino at 773.293.8411. Their respective emails are: Ann@MASmith48.org or Ernie@MASmith48.org.

Keep Leaves Out of Street

Ald. Smith's office reminds residents and landscaping companies that it's against city ordinance to rake, sweep, leaf-blow or otherwise place leaves in the streets or gutters. Such actions can lead to clogged sewers, rank smells and difficulty in snow shoveling during winter. Instead, use leaves for mulch in your yard or place them in blue-bags for pickup by your garbage hauler.

Disconnect Downspouts

The City actively encourages homeowners to disconnect their downspouts from the City's sewer system and direct the water instead to their yards or gardens. Public service announcements, community meetings, instructional video tapes, brochures and discounts on materials for downspout disconnection are available to homeowners. Contact Ernie Constantino at 773.293.8411 or ernie@masmith48.org or the City of Chicago at 312.747.7030 for more information.

Home Help for Seniors

The Edgewater Community Council is searching for seniors who qualify for the federally funded program Home Repairs for Assisted and Independent Living (<http://home.core.com>). H-RAIL is available to seniors 60 years and over—homeowners and renters—at no cost to applicants. Contact Lynn Pierce at ECC for more information, 773.334.5609.

School Guide Now Available

The new edition of the Chicago Public School's *Education Opportunities for Chicago's Children*, a guide to the City's elementary schools and their programs, is available at Ald. Smith's office, 5533 N. Broadway. Office hours are 9:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M., Monday through Thursday; and 9:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M. on Friday.

Schools are listed by category, e.g., magnet schools, magnet cluster schools, gifted schools, etc., with a description of the programs available at each facility. The guide gives information on how to apply, how students are accepted, what transportation is offered and much more.

The deadline for applying for these programs is December 17, 2004.

Baby-Sitter Workshops

DePaul's Nursing Department offers a Safe Sitter course that covers baby-sitting as a business, child development and appropriate play, rescue breathing for infants and children and how to manage health issues from scrapes to breathing problems.

If anyone is interested in getting together a group of 11- to 16-year-olds, DePaul can offer a course for 8 participants or more. For more information, contact Kim Siarkowski at 773.325.1160.

Love of Music Starts Young

Early childhood is believed to be the best time to expose children to a second language. MusikMakers, run by local resident Valerie Booker, offers English and Spanish programs for children 6 months to 5 years. Visit the web site www.musikmakers.com for more information or call 773.820.0340 to set up a complimentary trial class.

Update Pet Shots

Chicago Animal Care & Control advises dog and other pet owners to make sure your animals' distemper vaccinations are up to date. Since May of this year, an unusually large number of distemper cases have appeared in Chicago area dogs and in wild animals such as raccoons.

Dog Poop Signs

Ald. Smith's office also has updated

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laws for posting regarding dog poop and dog leashing. Contact Ann Felger at 773.293.8414 or Ann@MASmith48.org for more information.

Ald. Smith Seeks Help on Dog Park

Alderman Smith continues to seek volunteers interested in working to identify suitable locations for dog parks in the Bryn Mawr and Sheridan area and another near Thorndale between Sheridan and Clark. Contact Tom Samuels at the 48th Ward office 773.293.8417 or email Tom@MASmith48.org.

ACROSS THE FENCE

The Edgewater Chamber of Commerce (www.edgewater.org) gives the following updates on Devon Avenue: Viet Bistro, the brainchild of Edgewater resident and woman entrepreneur, Kim Nguyen of Pasteur, is planned for 1344-6 W. Devon, site of the former Center Theater. The restaurant will feature a full menu with "neighborhood friendly" prices. No opening date on the restaurant yet.

Also, during community hearings for the Broadway, Sheridan and Devon TIF, local residents and business-people asked that new construction be of a human scale and that the streets be pedestrian friendly. The Advisory Committee suggested that a good way to achieve this would be by adopting design guidelines. Kimberly Bares, executive director of Dev Corps North has formed a committee. Architectural and planning firms have been invited to submit applications for the work.

Participating groups include: Edgewater Chamber of Commerce, Edgewater Community Council, Edgewater Development Corporation, the 40th Ward Service Office, the 49th Ward Service Office, Loyola Area Neighbors, Loyola University Chicago, Loyola University Student Government, Rogers Park Community Action Network, Rogers Park Community Council and Rogers Park Community Development Corporation.

Edgewater Development Corp. (www.edgewaterdev.org) reports that the following residential and commercial developments are on the way: A 12-story

mixed use development at the northeast corner of Granville and Broadway; renovation for commercial purposes at 1055 W. Bryn Mawr; a Nookies Restaurant at 1100 W. Bryn Mawr; condos at the southwest corner of Sheridan and Bryn Mawr as well as at the Zengeler Building at 5427 N. Broadway; a 126-unit condo building at 1122 W. Catalpa and mixed-use developments at 6124 N. Broadway and 6256 N. Broadway.

EGA MEETINGS OPEN TO ALL

Remember that EGA board meetings are held the first Monday of each month, at 7 P.M. in the first floor conference room of the Edgewater Community Council Building at 6044 N. Broadway. All are welcome. If there's a particular issue you'd like to discuss at an upcoming meeting, please contact EGA President Genevieve Waller at 773.508.5590 or gwall@rcn.com ahead of time so that item can be placed on the agenda.

Join Us

It's never too late to become an EGA member. By paying a \$10 annual membership fee, you'll help fund a group that works with myriad other neighborhood and area interest groups to represent you on the many issues that affect Edgewater Glen (bordered by Norwood on the south, Granville on the north, Clark on the west and Broadway on the east).

Send membership payment and information, which includes your name, contact numbers, address and email address to EGA Treasurer Steve Meiss, 1242 W. Hood, Chicago, IL 60660. Also, please make sure we have your email address so that we can distribute information to you on a timely basis. Please note that EGA does not sell or share email addresses with any other group, organization or marketers; we use e-mail to occasionally "blast" important messages to residents from the Alderman's office or other community groups.

Contact the newsletter

If you've got news or event information you'd like to share with residents of Edgewater Glen, let us know. Deadline for inclusion in the Winter newsletter is Monday, January 31. EGA also

is seeking opinions about the newsletter as well as a volunteer to write or report the newsletter and work with LuAnn Paladino, EGA's volunteer editor and graphic designer. Contact Genevieve Waller at 773.508.5590 or gwall@rcn.com.

CALENDAR

November Events

NOVEMBER 13-DECEMBER 19
1 P.M.

Raven Children's Theater, 6157 N. Clark, performs *Puss in Boots...and Other Tails* on Saturdays and Sunday through December 19. Tickets are \$8 each. For more information or tickets, call 773.338.2177.

December Events

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 4
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 5

St. Gertrude Parish holds its annual St. Nick's Bazaar. Contact Laurie Jacob at 773.262.6816. Donations of cast-offs for the white elephant sale and new items for the raffle are now being accepted at the rectory. Senior citizens needing assistance with items should call the rectory at 773.764.3621.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2004
7:30 P.M.

Edgewater Singers hold their 19th annual free holiday concert at Bethany Evangelical Lutheran Church, 1244 W. Thorndale Ave. The program features holiday classical and seasonal music, the Edgewater Flutes and an audience sing-a-long. On street parking available, as well as at the Broadway Armory.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2004
2:00 P.M.

Edgewater Historical Society Museum, 5358 N. Ashland performs "Those Were the Days Radio Players" and the third installment of the Bob and Ray "Garish Summit." For information call 773.506.4849.

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