



# Newsletter

Edgewater Glen Association

## Spring 2005

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### Update on Area Issues and Projects

On March 8<sup>th</sup> in St. Gertrude's gym, our Aldermen Patrick O'Connor and Mary Ann Smith spoke with 100 Edgewater Glen residents on issues relevant to our neighborhood. Thank you to EGA Interim President Steve Meiss for organizing the session and to all EGA board members who helped make the event friendly and hospitable. The following information outlines the topics discussed at this informative session.

#### New and Proposed Developments

A fire station complex will be built on the west side of Clark, just north of Elmdale, replacing numerous automotive shops. Alderman O'Connor reported that the project is now out for bid; work is expected to begin late summer and continue for fifteen months. The south third of the lot will provide parking, the middle third will be the fire station building, and the north third will be space for fire department training exercises. Alderman O'Connor

assured residents that street cleaning will be up and truck traffic and disruption to side streets will be minimized during construction.

The new fire station replaces stations on Ridge and Rosemont. Alderman Smith is working to have the Edgewater Community Council acquire the terra cotta-trimmed Ridge firehouse for conversion into an art gallery, coffee shop, or youth activity center.

Additional park space is being developed for Schreiber Park, just north of Devon. Alderman O'Connor arranged for the demolition of a large building in the 6400 block of Bosworth and designated 40<sup>th</sup> ward menu money to upgrade the property. ("Menu money" refers to funds allocated for spending from a list of ward improvements.) The land will be fenced, landscaped, and ready for public use next summer when the new plantings have had a chance to take root.

The stretch of Peterson Avenue just west of Ravenswood will soon have planted medians. A Target store will replace the now demolished Kmart. The new store will be LEED certified (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) by the US Green Building Council.

An upscale billiard parlor is proposed for the former Brown Bear building on Clark. No alcohol would be served, just snack foods. The project is pending review with the Board of Appeals and faces some local opposition.

A five-story commercial and residential building, with 38 one-

and two-bedroom units, will be built at Broadway and Rosemont. A moratorium is in place for additional development on both Clark and Broadway streets pending results of a study that Alderman Smith has commissioned. She will present the findings from the study in future town hall meetings for feedback from the community and will use them as a guide for rezoning within the ward.

A used car dealership signed a four-year lease for the lot on the east side of Clark at Norwood before the moratorium went into place.

#### Neighborhood Health and Safety

Alderman O'Connor commented on an increase in the city's rodent population. Expect a pamphlet from the city soon that highlights the causes—compost bins, bird feeders and dog debris—and how you can help control pests.

Alderman Mary Ann Smith has dedicated 48<sup>th</sup> ward menu money to

**Edgewater Glen Association**  
edgewaterglen@yahoo.com

**Interim President and Treasurer** Steve Meiss

**1<sup>st</sup> Vice President** Bruce Besley

**2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President** Kim Kaulas

**3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President** Jeff Wegerson

**Recording Secretary** Dawn Wyman

**Corresponding Secretary** Betty Morita

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security cameras for Winthrop intersections at Thorndale and Granville. Through Special Service Area funds, security cameras will also be installed under every Red Line viaduct along Broadway in the ward.

A traffic signal at Broadway and Glenlake has been approved and should be installed by the fall.

### Broadway Armory Update

Planning continues for the Broadway Armory. Alderman Smith has asked the Park District for two new proposals: one for refurbishing the existing interior, including the HVAC system, and dealing with the asbestos and the other for gutting the entire entire and rebuilding everything but the façade.

Cost is still the major hurdle for upgrading and renovating this facility. Bringing other city groups into the Armory may help make it more feasible economically. The City of Chicago's public library commissioner has deemed our Edgewater branch as too small, and Alderman Smith is proposing an expanded branch in the Armory, along with offices for the Chicago Department of Aging.

### Senn High School Update

A show of hands at the Aldermen's meeting revealed that of those in attendance, only one person was an alumnus of Senn and not a single family had a child enrolled at the school. Alderman Smith wants to restore the community's connection to the facility. She is encouraging residents to join one of the Senn Tomorrow Task Force committees that her office has formed to deal with curriculum, community communications, facility, finances, and other issues.

For times and dates of upcoming committee meetings, call 48<sup>th</sup> Nancy

Meyerson at 773-293-8415. Other Senn groups seeking participants include the Save Senn Coalition and Save Senn Task Force. For meeting dates and times, call Helen Murtaugh at 773-534-2365 or visit [www.savesenn.org](http://www.savesenn.org).

## New in the Neighborhood

### The Chic Shop

Edgewater's newest resale boutique, *The Chic Shop*, opened April 2<sup>nd</sup> at 1210 West Thorndale. Edgewater's cachet as a destination for antique and vintage goods shoppers is growing, and the new shop solidifies that reputation. The store offers clothing, gifts, home accessories and more. Support our independent shop owners and the community's multi-faceted appeal.

### True Nature Health Food Store

Adding to the unique character of Edgewater Glen is the True Nature Health Food Store, a local success story at the corner of Broadway and Norwood. This owner-operated store will soon be transformed with an expansion from 1,000 square feet to 3,100 square feet. It will also be the site for a new recycling program conducted with the Edgewater Chamber of Commerce and funded by the city's department of streets and sanitation. Look for cooking classes, lectures, workshops, and other educational programs offered in the future.

Owner Paula Companio invites you to participate in the renovation and is seeking contributions toward an updated heating and air conditioning system and a walk-in cooler to stock produce and other perishables. Visit the store or contact her at 773-465-6400.

### Sizzle

Neighbor Jeff Seitzer reports that Sizzle, at 6157 North Broadway is a kid-friendly joint with appealing entrees, a tasting menu and special selections for children. Recently remodeled, he has found it to be a spacious yet cozy establishment that welcomes families with young children. Outside, a three-season porch offers al fresco dining. Another worthy addition to our growing selection of restaurants.

### Indie Café

The buzz on Indie Café, the new Thai and sushi restaurant at 5951 North Broadway, has spread far beyond our enclave. It's been featured in the *Reader* and *Chicago* recently included it in the magazine's list of best new restaurants. Join the crowd and taste what the talk is all about.

## City Services

### The Chicago Department of Aging

The Chicago Department of Aging offers programs and services to enhance the quality of life for Chicago residents age 60 and older. You can help an isolated senior receive benefits by calling 311 for more information. Services include:

- Well being checks, senior companions, and foster grandparents
- Senior centers
- Home delivered meals and Golden Diners program
- Health and fitness programs and life enhancement programs
- Benefits eligibility checklist, housing assistance, and nursing home ombudsman
- Employment services

- Caregiver support groups

## Street Cleaning

The street sweeping season started on April 1. The fine for failing to move your vehicle for street cleaning is \$50, and the fine for parking in the alley has increased from \$75 to \$150. For more information, call 312-744-2130.

## EGA and Neighborhood Events

### Spring Plant Swap

On Saturday, May 28<sup>th</sup> from 10 am to noon, good neighbor Sue Green will again host the Spring Plant Swap in her back yard at 1420 West Glenlake. This is a great time to divide and share any overgrown hostas, ferns, or other plants crowding your garden and find a new treasure to fill in the holes.

Local landscape designer Kim Kaulas will be on hand to answer questions horticultural insight and share landscaping ideas. Please join us even if you don't have any plants to share—shortly before noon the "unswapped" plants are there for any takers. Hope to see you!

### EGA Parkway Corner Beautification Program Continues

The EGA will reimburse *pre-approved* plantings for parkway corners up to a maximum of \$100 for total purchases of \$200 or more. Please note that this year we will offer reimbursement for perennials only. We want to use these funds for plants that will thrive for years to come. Please do continue to plant annuals as your own personal contribution if you choose.

To join this program and find a corner that needs your help, contact Kim Kaulas at 773-761-3668 or at

kaulas@rcn.com. Thanks again to all who are tending to these lush corner plots.

### Bike the Drive

The Chicagoland Bicycle Federation's fourth annual Bike the Drive is scheduled for Memorial Day weekend on Sunday, May 29. In 2005, kids under 12 can now ride for only \$5 with a paid adult. Information on the event and registration details is available at [www.BikeTheDrive.org](http://www.BikeTheDrive.org) or by contacting Cathy Haibach at [cathy@biketraffic.org](mailto:cathy@biketraffic.org).

### Earth Day Parks Clean Up

St. Gertrude Parish is hosting a celebration of Earth Day on Saturday, April 23 from 9 am to noon. Parishioners, their families, friends and neighbors are invited to the morning filled with speakers, a video presentation, face painting, nature writing, a book sale, nature walks, and art projects for children—all focusing on the celebration and care of Earth. For more information call St Gertrude at 773-764-3621.

Earth Day will also mark the launch of the City's permanent battery recycling program, with drop-off sites at all Chicago Public Library branches and Walgreen's stores.

The evening before, the Department of Water Management and the 48th Ward Alderman's Office will offer an environmental outreach event with an orchestral concert featuring Beethoven's Symphony #4 and Handel's Water Music Suite. The concert will be on April 22<sup>nd</sup> from 7 pm to 10 pm at St. Andrew's Church, 5649 North Sheridan Road at Hollywood. For more information, contact Ernie Constantino, Aide to Alderman Mary Ann Smith, at 773-293-8411 or Tom

LaPorte, Assistant Commissioner, Department of Water Management, at 312-742-1029.

### EGA Meetings

Get involved in EGA! We hold meetings the first Monday of each month at 7 pm at the Edgewater Community Council office at 6044 North Broadway. The next meeting is Monday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>. Come join us to learn more about activities and issues in the neighborhood and to contribute your ideas for bringing more value and enjoyment to living and working here.

### EGA Board Changes

With regret, the EGA Board accepted Genevieve Waller's resignation as president. A hearty thanks to past president and current treasurer Steve Meiss, who is now filling as interim president for the remainder of the term. Elections for board positions will be held in late June during the EGA Garden Walk.

Both Genevieve and LuAnn Paladino resigned as editors for the newsletter. If you have information or a story to contribute to the newsletter, please email it to [edgewaterlen@yahoo.com](mailto:edgewaterlen@yahoo.com) or contact Kim Kaulas at 773-761-3668. Kim is funneling information to our current newsletter editor, Anonymous.

### CAPS Monthly Meetings

Our Community Policing Beat 2433 meeting is the first Wednesday of every month. It begins at 7 pm in the Edgewater Branch Library at 1210 West Elmdale. These monthly meetings will be reduced to bi-monthly if community participation is not high enough. All residents are welcome to join. Please help to be our voice with our police force.

*Newsletter design by Violetta Skutnik*

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## EGA Garden Walk Information and Application

Join the EGA Garden Walk on June 26<sup>th</sup>, 2005 by opening up your garden or participating in the walk. Neighbors are still talking about the rare chance to see the many secret and often astonishing gardens tucked behind the houses on their blocks. Add to the experience with your own creative solutions to urban landscaping or come and enjoy a glimpse into the variety of ways that plants can reshape a standard city lot.

We've moved the date up a little earlier this year to try to catch the June show of roses. Please support this EGA fundraiser, which helps to fund neighborhood perks such as this newsletter.

### *Date, Time and Place*

Sunday, June 26, 2005

Noon to 4 pm

Starting point and map at 1420 West Glenlake

I would like to participate in the 2005 EGA Garden Walk:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number \_\_\_\_\_

- Back yard only
- Front yard only
- Both front and back yard

Special features of my garden are: \_\_\_\_\_

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Please call one of our Garden Walk chairs for more information or to participate in the Garden Walk. You may also mail in your completed application if you prefer.

Betty Barclay at 1310 West Hood, 773-465-2226  
Jeff Wegerson at 1240 West Hood, 773-722-5000