



# Newsletter

Edgewater Glen Association

**June 2006**

## **Your Property Taxes are going up...Get Ready to Fight**

The Cook County Assessors' office has mailed us the 2006 property tax assessments. These numbers reflect the change in assessed value of your property and form the basis upon which your tax is calculated. Most of us will see a substantial increase in assessed value. If you want to contest the increase in your taxes, you have to do it by challenging the change in your assessment now, within the next few weeks. **The deadline for filing a tax appeal is June 29.**

The Assessor will sponsor a workshop on June 15 from 6 to 9 P.M. at Truman College. If you go, you will learn about the 7% expanded homeowner exemption, the appeal process, triennial reassessments, and the senior freeze program

The Edgewater Community Council will hold a community action-planning meeting on June 20. The meeting will start at 7 P.M. at Emanuel Congregation at 5959 Sheridan. There is some parking available. ECC is helping us to mobilize as a community, to act for and insist on change in the property tax system. We must help develop an action plan for Edgewater as part of this effort by many groups to bring sanity to property taxes. Call Paul at ECC, 334-5609, if you have questions.

## **Clark Street Fire Station**

Do not hold your breath, but that large vacant parcel of land running along the west side of Clark St. between Elmdale (Peterson) and Glenlake may soon be a construction site. Alderman Pat O'Connor's office says the Public Building Commission indicates that ground breaking for the new fire station will occur on or about July 1, 2006, with construction beginning soon afterwards. Construction of the new facility reportedly will take 18 months.

## **What is going on at Granville and Broadway?**

We do not know for sure, but are concerned about the future of the project. The Granville task force, of which EGA is a member, will meet with the developer on June 27. Speaking of Granville, we just learned that the Illinois Supreme would hear arguments in the liquor referendum case. As you recall, residents of that precinct, with a great deal of help from those of us in Edgewater Glen, voted the precinct dry. The liquor stores appealed and the case has been pending for some two years.

## **Glenlake & Broadway Stoplight**

The city installed the infrastructure for the signal light at Glenlake and Broadway, but the project is delayed by legal hassles over the parking in front of the Hardware and small food store.

## **Condominium Project on Rosedale is named after Edgewater Glen...Go figure**

Our neighborhood is so popular that the developer of the new six-story condominium project at Broadway and Rosedale has named it the "Edgewater Glen Condos." This, even though it is far from our Southern boundary, which is Norwood. We wrote to the developer to tell him that his project was not in our neighborhood area, but he ignored us.

## **EGA Needs a Housing Committee Delegate**

ECC has a number of committees staffed by delegates from Edgewater block clubs. EGA is missing when the Housing Committee meets. We need an interested person to attend these meetings, about six a year, and help us deal with housing issues, such as bad buildings, etc. If you can help, please contact [smeiss@ameritech.net](mailto:smeiss@ameritech.net).

## **BROADWAY REFERENDUM VICTORY/ NEXT STEPS**

As most of you know by now, Edgewater Glen voted overwhelmingly on March 21 in favor of a four-story height limit on the west side of Broadway from Foster to Devon. We sent a resounding message to the community and our elected officials with an 88% YES vote. The final vote tally was 808 YES to 115 NO. Our message was strengthened by a 48% voter turnout, well above the 48<sup>th</sup> ward average of 34%. Thanks

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to all who voted, put up signs, called the council member, circulated petitions, and performed countless other tasks that made it all possible.

On April 26 the 48th Ward Planning and Zoning Committee ratified a zoning plan, which includes the four story limit, without a single no vote. The final plan, reflecting our wishes, downzones all of the west side of Broadway from Devon to Foster (with the exception of Ridge to Hollywood) to B1-2. This will restrict new construction to four stories or less. Most of the east side of Broadway will remain B1-3, allowing six-story buildings, with the exception of Thorndale to Ardmore, which will be B1-2.

Greg Harris, 48<sup>th</sup> ward Chief of Staff, said that he met with the City Zoning Administrator on May 15 and that "she is now drafting the appropriate ordinances to reflect the community's decision." As of press time, we still do not know when the ordinance will be ready for introduction to the Zoning Committee and City Council.

## Clark Street Rezoning

EGA residents have raised numerous concerns about plans for Clark Street, which runs through our neighborhood from Norwood to Granville. Building on our successful efforts to downzone the west side of Broadway, we now turn our attention to Clark St., and stand ready to mount another campaign against those who want to maximize density and height in new construction. Few of us want that outcome for the street along EGA's western border and directly backing onto our neighborhood.

According to Ald. Smith's office, following the completion of the rezoning of Broadway and Sheridan

Road, she is asking the community to turn its attention to portions of Clark Street in the 48th Ward. Again, using a community process involving affected block clubs and community organizations, Ald. Smith will support a comprehensive community-based plan for evaluating zoning classifications on Clark Street from Winona to Devon. This process will be informed by a recent study of Clark Street done by the Metropolitan Planning Council and Urban Land Institute.

Greg Harris, 48<sup>th</sup> Ward Chief of Staff, recently indicated that: "the Clark Street process will begin early this summer with a review presentation of the Clark Street TAP report, and a town hall meeting on a draft Formula Retail Ordinance. Once these two items have been discussed (which cover many issues beyond zoning such as traffic, parking, retail structure, etc.) we will begin on the actual zoning discussion".

## EGA's "Happening" for the Bryn Mawr Mural Project

**Date: Saturday June 24**

**Time: 1:30 PM to 4:30 PM**

**Location: Edgewater Community Council Offices at 6044 North Broadway**

Come join your neighbors to create a part of Edgewater's history on the spot! EGA is hosting a "Happening" as part of the Bryn Mawr Lake Shore Drive mural project sponsored by Ald. Mary Ann Smith. The mural will be installed, starting July 5, along the north wall of the Bryn Mawr viaduct.

Lead artists Tracey Van Duinen and Todd Osborne from the Chicago Public Art Group (CPAG) are using a technique called "Bricolage" in which objects, both made and

found, are grouted onto the underpass wall, giving it a "folk art" feel. They are encouraging our community to host "Happenings" to have neighbor's create/collect objects for the mural. Members Gina Caruso and Steve Bishop are coordinating the EGA Happening.

At the EGA "Happening" June 24, Caruso and Bishop will provide clay, unglazed tiles, glazes and glaze pencils for people to use. No art experience is necessary, and in fact, preferred, since some of the most wonderful images simply come from our non-judgmental hearts. All ages and abilities are welcome to participate.

Our theme is "Edgewater Glen: Our Public Family" and we will come up with common images and ideas to explore. For example, EGA is known for its Garden Walks, Block Parties, Garage Sales, porch parties and friendly, colorful neighbors. As for found objects, people can bring bricks, stones, dishware--anything that reminds them of EGA.

In addition to helping create the EGA section of the mural, residents are also being invited to watch the mural come to life, and help with its installation. Work on the mural, beginning July 5, will continue through the second or third week of August, weekdays from 9 to 5.

For more information, or if you have items to contribute to the Mural, contact Gina Caruso at [g\\_m\\_caruso@yahoo.com](mailto:g_m_caruso@yahoo.com) or Steve Bishop at [Bishop342@aol.com](mailto:Bishop342@aol.com).

## Sewer Construction on Hood and Norwood

Hurray! To the relief of residents on the 1200 and 1300 blocks of Hood, the installation of new gas lines and sewers, and the repaving of Hood

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are finally almost complete. A few miscellaneous items, including the reinstallation of the Speed Humps, remain are yet to be completed. The Alderman's office told us on June 6 that Peoples energy would be repairing the sidewalk cuts and landscaping within the "next two weeks."

It is a dirty messy process, but our basements are less likely to flood with the installation of new super-sized sewer lines that carry away much more water than the old pipes that were nearly 100 years old. According to Councilperson Smith's office, the project on the 1200 & 1300 blocks of Norwood will begin in early July. That job, beginning at Glenwood and working east, should take about eight weeks, weather permitting.

## Two Edgewater Glen Residents Elected to Hayt Local School Council

In a special election on April 19, two Edgewater Glen residents, Peggy Osterman and Kim Cavitt, won the election for the two community seats on the Hayt Local School Council. Osterman is currently a member of the Local School Council at Hayt. They received strong support from the many Edgewater Glen residents who voted. Both will begin new two-year terms on July 1, 2006. Please feel free to contact them at 773-465-7978 with any questions, suggestions or concerns.

On May 9, the Local School Council selected Dan Gomez to become the new principal at Hayt. He served as interim principal after the departure of Yvonne Smith in September 2005 and previously served as an Assistant Principal at Hayt. Mr. Gomez's selection was strongly supported by the teachers, numerous community leaders and

many parents throughout the community. If interested in learning more about Hayt, please contact the school at 773-534-2040. Lets all work together to make Hayt great!

## Support our Supporters!

Thanks to the brave Broadway businesses that displayed our zoning signs in their windows in a show of solidarity with the neighborhood. Many businesses were asked, but only these three responded. We urge you to thank them personally and show your support by patronizing these businesses.

## Ethiopian Diamond Restaurant Moody's Pub Value Auto Services

## Outdoor Market

An Outdoor vendors Market is coming to Edgewater Glen. The grand opening is set for **Saturday June 17**, from 8 AM until noon. It will open every Saturday, from 8 - 12, throughout the summer and into the fall. Tru-Nature Foods is hosting it on Norwood between the alley and Broadway. The Farmer's market in the parking lot at Thorndale and Broadway will not open this year.

## Adopt a Corner...Please!

We have a few parkway corners still in need of adoption by caring residents who live near them. EGA will reimburse adoptive corner landscapers 50% of the cost of pre-approved expenditures up to a maximum of \$100 per corner. Eligible materials include perennials, shrubs, soil amendments, and mulch. Sorry, but annuals are not eligible for matching funds. If you would like to adopt a corner, please call Kim Kaulas at 773-761-3668 to

discuss available locations and additional aspects of the program

## Gardening tip from our expert, Kim Kaulas

Newly planted or transplanted items need extra attention. Water them once a day for the first week. After that, water once a week for the first month. Then, water once a month for the first year

## Cork Recycling Program Helps Orchids Grow

Drop your corks at True Nature Foods 6030 N. Broadway or the Edgewater Chamber of Commerce at 1210 W. Rosedale Corks are donated to the Lincoln Park Conservatory for use as a planting medium for orchids and to fill the bottoms of very large pots.

### Edgewater Glen Association

President	Steve Meiss
First VP	Bruce Besley
Second VP	Kim Kaulas
Third VP	Tim Later
Treasure	Jeff Wegerson
Recording Secretary	Dawn Wyman
Corresponding Secretary	Betty Morita

Regular EGA meetings are on the first Monday of the month at the ECC offices. However, the next meeting is June 27 at 7 PM in the ECC offices at 6044 Broadway. All are welcome to attend and actively participate in our community processes.

# Edgewater Glen Association

# GARDEN WALK 2006

SUNDAY, JULY 9

12 NOON TO 4pm

Starting point – 1420 W. Glenlake

For maps and information

\$4.00 donation per adult...children free

Register for door prize drawing

Enjoy refreshments at select locations

Vote for EGA Officers

## EDGEWATER GLEN GARDEN WALK

SUNDAY, July 9, 2006

Noon to 4:00 P.M.

I wish to participate in the EGA Garden Walk:

name \_\_\_\_\_ address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Back yard only  Front yard only  both front and back yard

Special features of my garden

Are: \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail to or call: Betty Barclay-1310 W. Hood - 465-2226 or  
Jeff Wegerson-1240 W. Hood -533-2795 by July 4, 2006.