

EDGEWATER GLEN ASSOCIATION



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Winter 2004

NEWSLETTER

Full house attends Alderman Q&A

Aldermen Mary Ann Smith (48th) and Patrick O'Connor (40th) addressed a range of questions about Edgewater Glen during the EGA's December year-end meeting, which saw a high turnout at Raven Theater, 6157 N. Clark Street.

Issues the two are working on include:

Traffic

- Ald. Smith mentioned the ongoing likelihood of a traffic light at Glenlake and Broadway (no timeline was mentioned).

- Smith also talked about possible traffic calming around St. Gertrude Church at Glenwood and Granville, in the form of corner "bulbs"—rather than traffic circles or stoplights—like those near Senn High School.

- When asked about proposals to reduce traffic on Broadway and Sheridan by making one lane each way and placing a common lane in the middle for turning, Smith said she "wouldn't do one (street) without the other," allaying fears that overflow from such a move on Sheridan would increase traffic on Broadway.

Development

- Rough drafts of plans for potential retail/residential development of properties at the northeast corner of

Granville and Broadway were circulated, but no timeline of a development project was mentioned. The sale has closed and developers are sharing proposed drafts of what the property will look like with local community groups.

- Smith said she'd like to start planning a dog park at Senn High School, to be used instead of the front lawn campus on Glenwood. However, a committee is needed to work with Smith on planning this space—those interested should contact her office.

- Ald. O'Connor said his ward continues to work on acquiring the properties on Clark Street for an expanded fire station and training facility.

- Clark Street may have lost the antique mall on the west side of the street (the building was difficult to heat, among other things) but O'Connor said his office is working on designating a Devon Broadway tax increment finance district (TIF) that would stretch across Devon Avenue from Sheridan Road to Clark Street and north from Rosemont to Pratt. He was hopeful City Council would pass legislation on this early in 2004, and said the next steps would be finding those interested in helping develop the area.

Check out an article on the TIF proposal that ran on page 4 of the

Chicago Tribune's Metro section on January 28.

- O'Connor also noted that work on Schreiber Park, near Clark and Devon, continues with the next steps being grading and planting the area.

On these and other issues, Edgewater Glen residents are encouraged to contact Ald. Smith at 773.784.5277 or info@masmith48.org and Ald. O'Connor at 773.769.1140 or ward40@cityofchicago.org

Keep those complaints coming!

Help the neighborhood be rid of "nuisance businesses" by contacting the Chicago Dept. of Consumer Services, which can inspect for violations. Call the complaint hotline at 312.744.9400 or e-mail cserv@cityofchicago.org.

Armory plans begin

Also at the December meeting, Chicago Park District representatives presented drafts of plans to renovate the Broadway Armory.

Drew Becker of the Chicago Park District reported that a \$1 million roof repair project has been completed and the \$500,000 repair in the parapet walls will resume once the weather improves.

Scaffolding will not come down until that project is complete. Renovation of the building is estimated between \$10 and \$15 million and expected to last at least three years from the start of construction; no work has yet been done as the Park District is waiting for neighborhood feedback and funding.

An estimated 800 phone surveys are being conducted to determine what area residents would specifically like to see in a renovated space. To get involved with this project, contact the Park District's project manager Ann Miller at ann.miller@cpd.com and consider joining the Armory Advisory Committee. Advisory Committee meetings are held the third Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. at the Armory.

EGA board meetings open to all

To better serve members, we've moved our meetings to the Edgewater Community Council Building at 6044 N. Broadway. Meetings are still held the first Monday of each month, and begin at 7 p.m. All are welcome.

If there's a particular issue you'd like to discuss at an upcoming meeting, please contact EGA President Michael Evans at 773.743.2131 ahead of time.

EGA now on Yahoo!

Due to our increased membership, the Edgewater Glen Association is now a Yahoo! group. Reach us at edgewater@yaho.com.

Volunteer for Kiwanis

Kiwanis Club of the North Shore, serving Edgewater, Uptown and Andersonville is looking for volunteers to help with local service projects. Residents and businesspeople are invited to our weekly meetings, held every Tuesday at 12:15 p.m. at Calo Restaurant, 5343 N. Clark St.

Local activities include the April non-Easter Egg Food Pantry drive, to benefit the Care for Real pantry, and supporting programs at Senn High School and Hayt Grammar School.

Call Kim Kaulas for details at 773.761.3668.

Property tax relief programs offer help

Several government programs may help alleviate some homeowner's excessive property tax burdens. Contact the Cook County Assessor's Office for more information at 312.433.7550 or go to online links at:

www.cookcountyassessor.com/exemption.html. Also check out the County Treasurer's office link at www2.cookcountytreasurer.com/Exemptions/.

New business welcome: Edgewater's answer to Starbucks?

Check out the coffee and light fare at Metropolis, 1039 W. Granville Avenue, near Kenmore. Opened in November 2003, the smartly decorated café and coffee roasting space even has parking!

EGA makes donations to area groups

At the January Board meeting, the board voted to donate \$200 each to the Raven Theater and the Edgewater Community Council for enabling us to use their spaces for meetings.

The board also will donate \$500 to Immanuel Lutheran Church's carillon replacement fund, to aid the purchase of a new carillon, which many of us may now hear playing during the day.

Winter reminders for all

Homeowners are reminded that city codes require them to remove snow and ice from the sidewalks in front

of their homes. But remember, it's unlawful to shovel snow from your sidewalks into streets and alleys.

Litter and other waste may be hiding better in the snow, but remember to help keep our streets and sidewalks clean by picking up.

Save the date!

The date for the Edgewater Glen Garden Walk is Sunday, July 11. Look to the next newsletter for more details on how to showcase your garden, or volunteer to staff the registration desk.

EGA Parkway Corner Project now underway

Local landscaper Kim Kaulas has volunteered to chair the EGA Parkway Corner Project. EGA has matching funds available for materials and Kim will start to inventory our parkway corners and designate those locations requiring immediate attention.

Our semi-annual neighborhood plant swaps will now also serve as parkway corner workshops with Kim providing information on appropriate plant and maintenance strategies to residents interested in this opportunity to further beautify our neighborhood.

Watch this newsletter for more details as this project evolves. Kim welcomes input from interested parties. Call her at 773.761.3668 or email her at kaulas@rcn.com

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 Spring newsletter is Wednesday, March 31.

Contact newsletter coordinator Genevieve Waller at 773.508.5590 or gwaller@rcn.com.