

CITIZENS FOR GLEN ELLYN PRESERVATION 2004-05 HIGHLIGHTS

1. **Preservation Seminar & Historic House Walk, October 23rd** – A seminar was held in the morning featuring internationally-known real estate consultant Donovan Rypkema, who spoke about the economics of historic preservation. The afternoon consisted of a house walk visiting six homes in Glen Ellyn that represent typical architectural house styles of the Village. The purpose of the event was to educate residents about Glen Ellyn’s historic resources, recognize and encourage local preservation efforts, and highlight alternatives to teardowns.
2. **Newsletters** -- CGEP published a newsletter in the spring of 2004. The purpose of the newsletter is to educate the public about historic preservation, the environmental impact of teardowns, and alternatives to teardowns such as restoration and the use of additions to expand living space. The newsletter also highlights different architectural styles found in Glen Ellyn and the features that distinguish them. This feature is intended to educate residents and increase their appreciation for Glen Ellyn’s built environment.
3. **Village Advocacy** – CGEP had a presence at numerous Village commission meetings and Board workshops/meetings opposing inappropriate development and advocating for more sensitive responses to environmental issues associated with teardowns in downtown Glen Ellyn. These issues ranged from zoning codes requests in buffer areas around downtown Glen Ellyn, to illegal removal of trees in the Village and release of hazardous materials that occur during demolition.
4. **Election for Village President & Trustees** – 2004 was the year for the Village Town Hall Meeting and primary elections to fill vacancies for Village President and three Trustee positions. Once again, CGEP surveyed the candidates concerning teardowns and inappropriate development and shared results with members and contacts before the primary elections. At the February CGEP membership meeting, the three candidates for Village President presented their views on preserving the historic character of the Village.
5. **Civic Events** – CGEP maintains a visible presence throughout the community by participating in various civic events. For the first time, CGEP participated in the Glen Ellyn Festival of the Arts. Specially designed Citizens for Glen Ellyn Preservation t-shirts were created and offered for sale, “Fed Up With Teardowns” petitions were circulated and architecture lessons for youngsters were provided. Volunteer members also staffed a table at the annual Holiday Walk held in the downtown business district where CGEP informational brochures and teardown petitions were distributed. As part of National Historic Preservation Month, CGEP had a booth for one day at the Taste of Glen Ellyn. In addition, 44 “A” homeowners agreed to post the “Preserve Glen Ellyn” yard signs. The signs draw public attention to those historically and/or architecturally important structures in the Village as identified by the 2002 Glen Ellyn Historic Resources Survey.

6. **Victorian Home at Prairie & Hawthorne** – CGEP worked diligently with the Glen Ellyn Historic Preservation Commission to save the historically and architecturally significant home at 602 Prairie from falling prey to the “teardown syndrome”. This involved requesting zoning variances from the Village, assisting the owner in placing advertisements for the property, and featuring the home as a “special addition” to the CGEP Historic Home Tour.
7. **Certified Local Government Status/ Local Historic District Designation** – CGEP worked in cooperation with the Glen Ellyn Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) to move the Village to amend the **local historic preservation ordinance** and apply for **Certified Local Government (CLG)** status from the State of Illinois. The two groups are also working together to designate a local historic district in the Forest/ Anthony neighborhood of Glen Ellyn. This designation will exemplify the process for identifying and protecting historic resources within the community and provide a model for the Village to use in other designations. CGEP is also participating in the HPC subcommittee to develop **design guidelines** for the Village’s historic structures.
8. **Presentations to/ Meetings with Community Groups** – CGEP members have met with and spoken to numerous community groups about the nature of the CGEP organization and how to preserve the historic character of Glen Ellyn. The organizations include the Glen Ellyn Historical Society, the League of Women Voters, the Rotary and the Milton Township Democrats. CGEP is also participating in a new Chicago Suburbs Citizens group that has formed to oppose irresponsible development in suburbs across the metropolitan Chicago area.
9. **Newspaper Coverage** – Beginning with the Preservation Seminar/ Historic Home Tour, CGEP has garnered significant coverage in the local media. The Seminar/Home Tour received front page coverage in the *Glen Ellyn Sun* and all local newspapers are now receptive to press releases from CGEP.
10. **CGEP Website** – Erin Neises from O’Connor Design has redesigned our website (www.glenellynpreservation.org) with exciting new images and links to new information. In addition to links to our past newsletters and the CGEP Citizen Attitude Survey, the website offered the “Fed Up With Teardown” petition form that could be submitted online. Surveys completed by candidates for Village office were also posted on the website.
11. **Membership** – CGEP membership has grown to 302 paid members and 184 friends. CGEP also conducted its **1st Annual Membership Meeting** that was hosted by Lyn and Patrick Haithcox.
12. **Teardown Petitions** – 500 teardown Petitions were presented to the Village President and Board of Trustees along with a call for the formation of a Citizens Teardown Task Force to find and implement solutions to the teardown problem.