

CITIZENS FOR GLEN ELLY PRESERVATION 2005-2006 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

1. **Preservation Seminar & Historic House Walk, October 15th**- The morning seminar "Preservation Doesn't Cost, It Pays" was presented by Bob Yapp, a nationally known preservation expert, who spoke on the benefits of historic preservation and on historic preservation techniques. In the afternoon six homes were toured that represented unique architectural styles present in the Village. The purpose of the event was to educate residents about Glen Ellyn's historic and architectural resources, recognize and encourage local preservation efforts, and highlight alternatives to teardowns.

2. **Newsletters** – CGEP published a newsletter in the summer of 2005. 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. **Civic Events** – CGEP maintains a visible presence throughout the community by participating in various civic events. We participated in the 4th of July parade, Festival of the Arts, and Holiday Walk where we handed out informational brochures, and talked with citizens about the impact of teardowns and the need to control what is going up in order to protect the character of the village

4. **National Preservation Month Activities** – CGEP hosted a Wine and Cheese Open House at the Glen Ellyn Boat house, inviting the public to join us in a relaxed and informal atmosphere to learn more about our groups preservation activities, as well as learn about the land marking process in Glen Ellyn. 40 "A" signs were displayed in front of homes and buildings designated as potential historic landmarks according to the 2002 Glen Ellyn Historic Resources Survey.

5. Press Coverage:

CGEP received extensive news coverage this year due to our involvement in the Park District Referendum concerning the demolition of the Main Street School Recreation Center and the proposed demolition of the DuPage County Forest Preserve's Churchill Woods Mckee Residence. The following newspapers reported on the preservations involving CGEP: Glen Ellyn News, Daily Herald, Chicago Tribune and the Glen Ellyn Sun. Crain's Chicago Business devoted an issue to the impact of teardowns and featured Glen Ellyn in several of their articles on the impact of teardowns to the environment and the changing character of the community.

6. Village Advocacy:

CGEP presented to the Zoning Board of Appeals recommendations to deny approval of construction variances for new homes that are constructed to exceed zoning code height limits. The Village Board supported our position making a statement to the builders to abide by the zoning codes.

CGEP gave input to the Environmental Committee's revisions of the Village Tree Ordinance to protect trees on private property during construction. CGEP lends assistance to the Glen Ellyn Historic Preservation Commission when requested. Glen Ellyn is now a certified local

government and the Village has obtained government funds to conduct Phase II of the Historic Resource survey. Representatives from the Citizens for Glen Ellyn Preservation are also working with the Commission on the development of historic design guidelines.

Save Main

CGEP reacted quickly to the recommended demolition of Main Street Recreation Center. Within two weeks we created a fact sheet on the Park District Referendum, and hand distributed it to 3,000 households, had letters to the editor published, and had vocal members in attendance at the Park District's informational meetings. The Glen Ellyn News which originally endorsed the referendum, came out the week before the election with a full page front story and an editorial against the referendum.

Churchill Woods

CGEP joined forces with relatives of the first residents of the Churchill Woods Superintendent's home to try and save the WPA era buildings from demolition by the DuPage County Forest Preserve. Since the buildings are in unincorporated Glen Ellyn, we became involved with preservation agencies at the state level. We were successful in obtaining a letter from the Illinois State Historic Preservation agency stating that the residences meet the criteria for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. On behalf of the out of state relatives of the Churchill residence, CGEP members have advocated at the county level to preserve the buildings and find community uses for the buildings. To date we have been successful in having the Forest Preserve obtain an outside firm to report on the condition of the buildings. The Forest Preserve has promised that we will be able to review the reports and have public input into their re-evaluation sessions. The reports should be available the first part of July 06.

7. GEP Website:

CGEP added a "Historic Homes For Sale" section to our website with the purpose of helping those residents sell their homes to people who will not tear them down. Our website also lists homes at risk, copies of all of our newsletters and contains the current months' Member Meetings Minutes.

8. Membership

CGEP conducted our first phon-a-thon to encourage members to renew their memberships and contacts to join our group. Our current membership is 370 and we have 174 contacts. Our Second Annual Membership meeting (in 2005) was held at Deb and Jim O'Connor's house to help them celebrate the landmark designation of their home.

9. Chicago Suburban Alliance

CGEP had representation at two meetings of the Chicago Suburban Alliance held in Kenilworth and Hinsdale. The Alliance includes members from approximately 25 Chicago suburban communities who are struggling with teardowns and overdevelopment. The meetings offer an opportunity to exchange ideas and tools on how to combat teardowns and to control the size and bulk of the infill.

10. Sandy Pihos, Illinois State Representative.

CGEP representatives met with the Illinois State Representative from our district who sits on the Illinois Preservation Caucus. She was asked for her support for the renovation of the Churchill Woods' buildings and was also informed about other Village and state preservation issues.