

## **CITIZENS FOR GLEN ELLY PRESERVATION 2006-2007 ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

### **Fourth Annual Preservation Seminar & Historic House Walk, October 21<sup>st</sup> 2007.**

CGEP's housewalk this year, immediately followed an informal discussion on preservation issues, lead by board member Mike Wilson, concerning teardowns in Glen Ellyn and their impact on our quality of life. Five 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.

**Newsletters** – CGEP redesigned the newsletter into an efficient format, which was bulk mailed in May of 2007 to 5000 residents within the Village of Glen Ellyn. In an effort to educate the public on local preservation topics, our newsletter highlighted the second phase of the Glen Ellyn Historic Resource Survey, plus explained the Main Street Program sponsored by the National Trust for Historic Preservation as a means to revitalize our historic downtown.

**Civic Events** – CGEP maintains a visible presence throughout the community by participating in various civic events. We participated in the 4<sup>th</sup> 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

**National Preservation Month Activities** – CGEP was thrilled by the increased number of “A” homeowners willing to display *Preserving Glen Ellyn* signs in front of their homes during Historic Preservation Month last May. The distribution of the “A” signs and their significance was also highlighted in the newsletter which arrived during Preservation Month. Fifty “A” signs were displayed in front of homes and buildings designated as potential historic landmarks according to the 2002 Glen Ellyn Historic Resources Survey. We look forward to increasing our numbers next year after the second phase of the Glen Ellyn Historic Resource survey is made public.

**Press Coverage** - The fate of historic structures at Churchill Woods, our views expressed at Village Meetings, and a feature article in the Daily Herald Homes section on the historic battle concerning Teardowns continued to keep our group's efforts before the public. Letters to the editor from our board members and membership concerning the Village Board Election of three new trustees also highlighted our group's involvement.

**Village Advocacy** - CGEP attended and spoke at Plan Commission meetings concerning the revision of Village zoning codes. In addition, a CGEP presence was demonstrated when a builder who owns the property on Chidister Avenue requested variances to encroach into the wetlands and negatively impact the character of the existing neighborhood by subdividing and placing two homes on the existing lot. CGEP works together with the Glen Ellyn Historic Preservation Commission when requested. Representatives from the Citizens for Glen Ellyn Preservation working with the Commission, helped develop the Village's Historic Design Guidelines which are now posted for public comment on the Village Website. CGEP also had input and participated in the new Environmental Tree Preservation Ordinance. Together with the Environmental Commission, several members from CGEP were part of the Tree Care

Presentation featuring speakers from the Morton Arboretum, Village Forestry Department and a member from our group

**Village Trustee Election** - CGEP sponsored a Village Trustee Candidate Forum questioning the candidates on preservation topics relating to the future of downtown and teardown issues. In addition, a phon-a-thon was conducted and election material was distributed door-to-door in an effort to get out the vote.

**Meet and Greet with the new Village Manager, Robin Weaver** – CGEP invited Robin Weaver to a regular CGEP membership meeting. Members who attended the event were impressed with Robin’s integrity and openness to citizen input. Unfortunately Robin has now resigned from that position due to “philosophical differences” with the village staff.

**Churchill Woods Update** - In the final hour, approval of the bid to demolish the historic buildings at Churchill Woods was stopped, and CGEP was given a month to come up with a use and find a government entity to fund the renovation of the historic buildings. During that month the DuPage Housing Authority, working with Mike Formento, candidate for DuPage Forest Preserve at the time, obtained a two year lease of the buildings from the Forest Preserve. Their plan will reconfigure the interior of Churchill into individual apartments for retired veterans. Currently the DuPage Housing Authority, headed by John Day, is in the process of obtaining county and state funding for their project. The National Trust for Historic Preservation and Landmarks Illinois offered their assistance to our group throughout this endeavor.

**Strategic Planning Meeting** – CGEP Board members participated in a formal strategic planning retreat at the historic Mayslake, Peabody Estate in Oakbrook, which was facilitated by Christina Morris from the Midwest Office of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. At the conclusion of the morning meeting, we developed three objectives for the coming year: advocacy, community outreach and education, and growing our membership and increasing member’s involvement in our group activities.

**CGEP Website** - CGEP during the Village Board elections, posted surveys of the candidates views on preservation issues on the website. We continue to post homes to our “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 month’s Member Meetings Minutes.

**Membership** - CGEP’s current membership is 273 and we have 398 contacts. Our Third Annual Membership Meeting (in 2006) was held at Marilyn Wiedemann’s house. We elected three new board members and enjoyed refreshments and time to socialize.

### **Chicago Suburban Alliance**

CGEP had representation at three meetings of the Chicago Suburban Alliance held in Hinsdale, Glencoe and Lake Forest. The Alliance includes members from approximately 38 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.