

## **Citizens for Glen Ellyn Preservation 2008 – 2009 Accomplishments**

**Festival of the Arts** – CGEP’s support of both historic and fine contemporary architecture is a logical extension of the focus on the arts at this Glen Ellyn event. Board members and active preservation volunteers spent the two days in late August 2008 at historic Lake Ellyn Park meeting interested residents and disseminating restoration literature.

**Village Government** - Fall 2008 candidates for Village President and Trustees took part in a CGEP survey that addressed village issues involving preservation, the downtown strategic plan and tree protection. Over 500 members and friends on the email list and the local press received the candidates’ responses and were directed to the CGEP website for the complete information. Candidates for Village President were invited to a special membership meeting held at the Civic Center to express their positions on important local issues and to answer questions. For the 2009 spring elections, with the addition of a 2nd candidate for Village President, an updated survey was sent to the new candidate and to the other candidates for President and Trustees, to update their survey answers. Given the heated race for Park District and preservation-related issues that are important to the protection of historic park lands and park structures, CGEP added a survey of Park District Candidates.

**Special Event** - CGEP held a unique green seminar titled *Preservation: It’s Good to be Green* on May 16. The green focus of the event reflected the coming together of environmentalists and preservationists in recognizing the dire impact of teardowns and over-sized replacement construction on the environment. The nationally renowned keynote speaker was Mike Jackson, Chief Architect of the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency, who defined how embodied energy in standing buildings is measured and revealed the astounding energy waste of replacement rather than repurposing and greening existing structures. A dozen different exhibitors complimented the speaker’s topic, displaying materials and methods for repair, restoration and retrofitting vintage homes. Also included was the Village of Glen Ellyn Historic Preservation Commission, the local Cool Cities representative and the Illinois Coalition for Responsible Outdoor Lighting. The event was recorded and will be replayed on Glen Ellyn cable access.

**National Preservation Month** – In addition to the May 16 seminar, approximately 100 “A” signs were placed by CGEP volunteers in yards of homes that were identified as significant by the Village of Glen Ellyn Historic Resources Surveys. These homes and commercial buildings would qualify as potential local landmarks. Given that only 50 homes took part two years ago, this shows a sizable increase in support of preservation by these homeowners. New signs were purchased to accommodate the increase.

**Advocacy** – CGEP members, in particular, Cam & Jim Page, continued to monitor village board meetings and meetings of the Plan Commission and

Historic Preservation Commission and then relay reports back to the CGEP board. CGEP Board member Eleanor Saliamonas began monitoring Park District meetings.

The importance of CGEP as a voice in the village could be seen in the interest of various other organizations to address CGEP meetings, such as Save Ackerman, Cool Cities, Grass Roots and Gain Ground.

**Downtown Strategic Plan** – CGEP members continued to take active part in monitoring and developing the proposed plan. Board member Tim Loftus worked on the Downtown Committee and gave periodic in-depth reports at CGEP monthly meetings. Through use of the membership email list, downtown plan public presentations were advertised to the membership and contacts. Two online surveys conducted by Town Builder Studios were also promoted. After careful study, CGEP wrote a review of the proposals and provided recommendations to the membership. Thanks to the survey response by the membership, the downtown plan included the preservation of several historic commercial buildings that had originally been suggested for future demolition. Additionally, the recommendation to landmark the downtown by Bauer Latoza, the firm that inventoried the downtown historic structures, was strongly supported by both the public and the CGEP board. This recommendation became a part of the final plan.

**Internet** – The website was updated monthly with local issues, election information and a monthly preservation-related article in national or regional news. New articles were added periodically to the Restore/Rehab, Environmental and Issues headings. Along with meeting minutes and past accomplishments, past articles will continue to be accessible under a new Archive heading. Emails to the CGEP list of over 500 members and friends have been improved through the use of a free "eblast" format that allows the inclusion of photographs and the CGEP letterhead. The email "from" designation will now be "Citizens for Glen Ellyn Preservation" rather than the personal email of the CGEP president.

**Landmarking Support** – Tim Loftus, CGEP Board member and Village of Glen Ellyn Historic Preservation Commission member researched and designed a tri-fold brochure that defines the different types of landmarking for historic buildings through local, state and national entities. This was published as a joint effort between Citizens for Glen Ellyn Preservation and the Glen Ellyn Historic Preservation Commission.

**Membership** – Several new membership levels for CGEP were added last year. This proved an effective way for preservation supporters to contribute more generously and several of members took advantage of this.

The 2007 – 2008 annual members' meeting took place at the home of CGEP Board member George Allen.