

MAY 2007

Does Downtown Glen Ellyn Need New Life?

Much has been made of the number of retail vacancies in downtown Glen Ellyn, with some people asking for bolder steps to revitalize this shopping district.

Citizens for Glen Ellyn Preservation believes that the nationally recognized Main Street™ program could be a successful way to draw new businesses and customers downtown while preserving Glen Ellyn's historic character.

The Main Street program is a comprehensive approach that advocates rebuilding traditional commercial districts based on their unique assets: distinctive architecture, pedestrian-friendly environments, personal service, local ownership and a sense of community. Main Street encourages communities to use a network of business owners and volunteers to target four areas:

- **Organization**, to align efforts toward the same goal. Typically, a governing board and standing committees are supported by a paid program director.
- **Promotion**, to sell a positive image of the commercial district by illustrating its unique characteristics through advertising, special events and marketing campaigns by local volunteers.

- **Design**, to capitalize on the community's best assets, such as historic buildings and pedestrian-friendly streets. Activities include enhancing the downtown's physical appearance by long-term planning, rehabbing historic buildings, encouraging appropriate new construction and developing sensitive design management systems. Other design considerations include appealing window displays, convenient parking, building improvements and attractive signs and landscaping.

- **Economic Restructuring**, to retain and strengthen existing businesses and recruit compatible new ones that meet today's consumer needs.

Over its 25-year history, Main Street has seen a community reinvestment ratio of \$25.76:\$1, meaning for every dollar invested in the local program an average of \$25.76 was generated. This is a hard record to beat and one that could surely help improve downtown Glen Ellyn.

For more information see www.mainstreet.org.

For Your Review: New Historic Preservation Guidelines

The Glen Ellyn Historic Preservation Commission has developed historic preservation guidelines to assist building owners with exterior changes or additions to historic properties. While the guidelines specifically apply to structures designated as village landmarks, they offer a wealth of information and illustration to anyone interested in architecture and historic preservation.

The guidelines are currently posted for public comment and review before they are formally adopted by the village. To view and use them, visit the municipal Web site at www.glenellyn.org/histcom/preservation%20guidelines.htm. The village is welcoming suggestions to improve the document via email until November 1.

The guidelines are in accord with Illinois Historic Preservation Agency requirements for maintaining Glen Ellyn's status as a Certified Local Government (which means we're eligible for state and federal grants promoting historic preservation).

SURVEY SAYS...

Documenting Glen Ellyn's Historic Resources is Underway



719 Crescent

Often, a community that's serious about historic preservation will conduct a survey to explore and document its historic structures. Generally, results of such a survey are used as the basis of a community preservation plan to safeguard homes and other buildings of historic significance, as well as determine those eligible for the National

Register of Historic Places or other national or local landmark designations.

In 2006, the Village of Glen Ellyn commissioned such a survey, building upon work first done in 2002 in a historic resources survey conducted by graduate students from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago and acting upon the

recommendation of the village Historical Preservation Commission. Funded substantially by a grant from the State of Illinois, the latest village architectural survey includes an intensive exploration of approximately 900 buildings in the northeast and northwest sections of Glen Ellyn, conducted by
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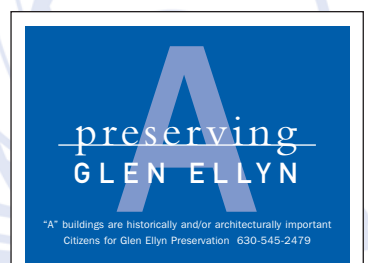
May is Historic Preservation Month

Citizens for Glen Ellyn Preservation is joining thousands of individuals around the country to celebrate 2007 National Preservation Month in May. "Making Preservation Work!" is the theme of this year's celebration, sponsored by the National Trust for Historic

Preservation. Preservation Month provides an opportunity to celebrate the diverse and unique heritage of our country's cities and states and encourages more Americans to get involved in historic preservation.

Citizens for Glen Ellyn Preservation

is again offering to post "A" signs in the yards of historically and/or architecturally significant properties throughout the Village, as identified in the first (2002) phase of the village's Historic Resources Survey, undertaken to identify potential landmarks.



SURVEY SAYS... (continued from front)

Granacki Historic Consultants of Chicago. The village selected Granacki after a thorough review and bidding process, based partly upon the well-respected firm's experience conducting similar surveys for communities including Hinsdale, Highland Park, Elgin, Elmhurst, Geneva, Lake Bluff and West Chicago.

This stage includes two survey areas: one bounded by St. Charles Road on the north,



750 Riford

Lenox Road and the village limits east to Park Row on the west, the railroad tracks on the south and a second bounded by Geneva Road on the north,

Kenilworth Avenue on the west, Linden Avenue on the south and Prairie Avenue on the east. Both areas consist exclusively of residential structures except for one church, on Prairie Avenue. When complete, a good portion of the oldest section of Glen Ellyn north of the tracks will have been surveyed.

Late this winter, Granacki presented a preliminary report of its work to the village Historic Preservation Commission. The

final report, expected by early summer, will be presented to the village board and made available on the Glen Ellyn Municipal Web site.



750 Elm

Please join us at our monthly meetings on the first Thursday of each month from 7:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at Faith Lutheran Church, 41 N. Park Boulevard, Glen Ellyn.

For more information
Contact Chris Wilson at 630.469.7924 or visit us online, www.glenellynpreservation.org.

Officers Chris Wilson, President
Linda Gilbert, Vice President
Debbie O'Connor, Secretary
Betsy Summers, Treasurer

Board of Directors Tim Bateman, Tim Loftus, Meredith Morris, Eleanor Saliamonas, Genell Scheurell (Immediate Past President), Marilyn Wiedemann, Michael Wilson

PO Box 454
Glen Ellyn, IL 60138

Citizens for Glen Ellyn Preservation

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Save the Date!
Citizens for
Glen Ellyn
Preservation
Historic
House Walk
September 22, 2007

CALL FOR MEMBERSHIP

We need you!

Please join other interested citizens in helping preserve the historic character of Glen Ellyn. Your membership dues will help us keep in regular communication with citizens who share our philosophies. Dues and contributions also provide the seed money we need to raise other funds, and keep the organization growing.

Please make checks payable and send dues to:
Citizens for Glen Ellyn Preservation,
PO Box 454, Glen Ellyn, IL 60138

To purchase a membership online go to www.glenellynpreservation.org.

We are a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization which means that your membership fee or donation will be tax deductible.

Annual Membership Dues

- Individual \$15
- Dual or Family \$25
- Student \$7.50
- Senior Citizen (over 65) \$7.50
- Charter Member \$150
- Non-profit Organization \$50
- Corporate Member \$100

Name _____

Address _____

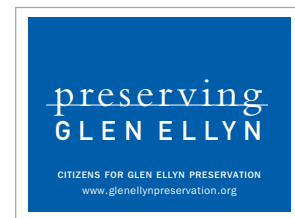
City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

Preserving Glen Ellyn Sign

- Plastic Corrugated Sign with Stand \$32



Preserving Glen Ellyn signs, which are available for purchase, signify the homeowner who desires to promote and preserve the historic character of Glen Ellyn.