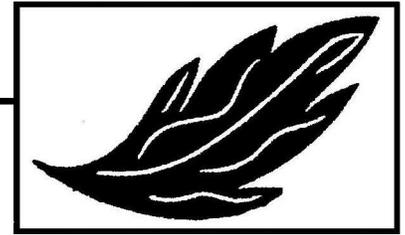


West Street Greenspace Preservation Coalition

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Newsletter – October 2nd, 2004

Fall Fling 2004- Sat. Oct.23rd, AM-Noon

The Board of your Coalition is pleased to announce the 4th annual "Fall Fling" event at the Naperville Community Garden Plots. The get together will take place Saturday morning October 23rd from 9AM- Noon. We meet at the "Plant a Row for the Hungry" collection booth, which we will likely remove for the winter after the event. Please feel free to come by the garden plots at any point during the 9-12 time frame. We once again will honor our "Adopt a Highway" beautification effort and light refreshments including coffee, juice, apples, and doughnuts will be available. The Fall Fling was added to our Earth Day event in 2001, and it has become a permanent Coalition event. The Fall Fling celebrates the end of a successful harvest season, values the continuation of agricultural activity in Naperville, and highlights the importance of the garden plots as they prepare to enter winter dormancy.

Please drop by on the 23rd. The conversation is always enjoyable, the garden plots and prairie always beautiful, and the weather always cooperates. In fact, we have been very lucky for more than 4 years and have yet to have a coalition event rained out!

October Coalition Meeting Wednesday October 13th, 7:30 PM

With our change to a quarterly meeting schedule the importance of each meeting becomes even greater. As this is being written, the Park District is in the process of creating a Garden Plot Committee scheduled to meet this winter. We need to have Coalition members involved, and the best way to begin is October 13th at the Naperville Township Administration building, located at 135 Water St.

The next Coalition meeting will be held on Wednesday January 12th, 2005.

Park District to create Garden Plot Committee

In potentially the most important news to reach the pages of this newsletter in a few years, the Naperville Park District has placed a Garden Plot evaluation survey on its website. Information gained from this survey will be given to the new Garden Plot Committee if it is indeed formed this winter as planned. The purpose of the committee is to "discuss improvements to the area".

Given that our primary mission is not to loose greenspace on any of the four West St. properties, it is very possible that the Coalition will not be enthusiastic with some proposed "improvements". Of course it is far too early for panic, but coalition members and especially board members should take an interest in this development.

To take the garden plot survey, please go to the Park District's website at www.napervilleparks.org, click on "Programs" and than on "Evaluations". Currently, a member of the Coalition board has asked to serve on this new committee, but we will have strength in numbers, and if you'd care to serve please contact Jacque Clermont at 848-3530. Committees through the years have often yielded surprising results, so your involvement may truly be important.

Special Request for You from Fred Turek

Every organization is dependent on mixture of degrees of participation, from joining and being a member through its persons who work the hardest to make it succeed.

We have quite the mission to accomplish. Not only do we have to ready to go to the big inevitable battles in the upcoming decade, we also affect the course of events on an ongoing basis by our mere existence, displayed willingness to do so, and activities on the smaller ones.

For our long term health and success, I would like to ask you to take one very tiny baby step forward in this regard. If you are a member who has never been to one of our fun events, work events or meetings, this requested one tiny step forward is to attend one of these items in the next year. Attending our 7:30 PM Oct 13th meeting would be a good time to do this. It's conveniently located at the Township hall which is in the Riverwalk just (across the street) north of City Hall. Attending our fall fling on October 23rd would be another way to do this.

If you have not renewed your membership

Membership runs May 1st through April 30th. Dues are \$10 or a different amount (lower or higher) of your choosing. Send it to our address as in our letterhead. If you're not sure if you did, you can send it in and if you've

already renewed, we'll can apply it to the following year (or return it to you if you note that on there.)

Plant a Row Program again a success

With only two weeks left in the official gardening season, and with frost likely the week of October 4th, it is now possible to say that the coalition's collection booth has once again served well to assist those in need. The final collection total will be reported in the next newsletter, and despite the frequently overflowing booth, it is quite likely that the total will not quite reach last years record setting pace. The reason can be simply explained by remembering that the summer was booth dry and cool, including the coolest August on record as measured at Midway Airport. While ideal for saving money on air conditioning and preserving green lawns, the cool weather is ill suited for crops such as peppers and tomatoes. Nancy Carroll, a University of Illinois Extension Master Gardener explained that tomatoes need warm weather to ripen. Just to develop from blossom to fruit a tomato plant needs a certain amount of time in the right kind of warm weather. The cool weather delayed the process, and with conditions deceptively dry, many plants failed either partially or completely. If it's too cool at night and the plants are flowering, the flowers die just as they would if it were too hot during the day. Of course weather conditions are rarely ideal regardless of the year, but whenever records are set as they were this year, it is quite normal to see a reduction in vegetable yields. -Adopted from the Sept. 6th "Naperville Sun" by George Bennett

Greenspace Coalition Information

Mission Statement *The West Street Green Space Preservation Coalition resolves to defend the existing green space west of and adjoining West Street against incompatible development and encourage and promote programs and amenities that foster conservation, honor historical tradition, and preserve the area for passive use.*

More on Our Mission Our focus is to not lose any greenspace the 4 properties on west side of West Street. (Garden Plots, Sportsman's Park, Von-Oven Scout Camp, Soccer Fields/Forest on Oswego.) Support current uses that keep it green, and advocate no more construction, lights, pavement or new high intensity uses. No reduction in trees, and additional uses should utilize the green or natural values of the properties.

Contact Information

See info in letterhead
Our web site is: www.greenspace.koolhost.com

Board of Directors

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Special Consultant: Teresa Ryan

Webmaster: Elaine Fisher

Membership

Membership is open to all individuals, families and organizations who would like to support our mission (see mission statement). Dues are \$10 or your choice of a different amount (lower or higher) A membership application is available to facilitate joining. *The WSGSC is always careful to note that its viewpoints on individual topics do not necessarily reflect those of individual members and member organizations.*