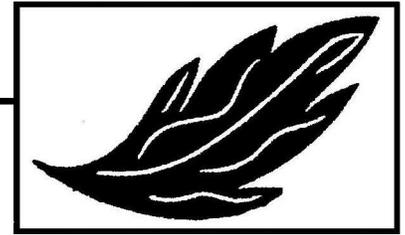


# **West Street Greenspace Preservation Coalition**

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**Newsletter March 28<sup>th</sup>, 2005**

## **Important Upcoming Dates**

- Local Consolidated Election- Tuesday April 5, Polls open 6AM-7PM.
- WSGSP biannual organizational meeting- Wednesday April 6, 7:30 PM, Township Building.
- 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Earth Day event- Saturday April 23, 9AM-Noon, Community Garden Plots

Our first Earth Day event took place at Naperville's City Hall in April 2000 during the Earth Day's 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration. Our event then moved to the Garden Plots, a central focus of our mission. April 23<sup>rd</sup> we will gather to fulfill our "Adopt-a Highway" obligations in conjunction with the Department of Public Works, and this year the event will take on a special purpose. We will be rebuilding the "Plant-a Row for the Hungry Booth" under the direction of Secretary Dan Bennett. The original booth, built in July 2001, is simply weathered to the point that it is structurally unsound. We will be building the booth as volunteers of course, but the materials and new signs will be a considerable expense, so individuals wishing to make donations for this purpose are most welcome!

All members as well as the community are invited to this event. Stop by anytime from 9AM-Noon and enjoy a spring morning at the Garden Plots with friends and fellow members...there is absolutely no obligation to do more than enjoy a good conversation. Light refreshments, including donuts, drinks, and other items will be served.

## **Time to Renew Your Membership!**

Our membership period runs from May 1<sup>st</sup> until April 30<sup>th</sup>. So it's time to renew! Your membership is important to our mission in many many ways. Dues are \$10 (or a different amount of your choosing, less or more). Please bring them to the meeting, give them to any board member, or mail them to WSGSPC, P.O. Box 84, Naperville, IL 60566-0084.

## **Local (Consolidated) Election, April 5<sup>th</sup>**

We've got a very important election April 5<sup>th</sup>. As a Coalition we were founded with the express purpose

of raising community awareness for the benefits derived from the Community Garden Plots, Sportsman's Woods, Von Oven Scout Camp, Soccer Fields, and all adjacent wooded areas for the permanent enjoyment of Naperville residents. This goal will only be accomplished long-term through the cooperation of local office holders. It should not be forgotten that during the last decade the garden plots have been threatened with the construction of a performing arts center, a large swimming pool and health club facility, a maintenance garage for the city, a community fair grounds, a concrete skate park, and a multi-use (2002) park district plan. As well, Sportsman's woods have repeatedly been in danger as the fortunes of the Sportsman's Club ebb and flow. The future may bring new threats, and as a proactive measure our Coalition continues to be politically active.

Since the beginning it has been our policy not to endorse candidates, but to relay factual information on candidate's positions and records in areas that relate to our mission. In early 2000 the city as landowners determined that any major change to the West St. properties could not take place due without Council approval. To this effect we offer the following recommendations and information concerning the City Council and Park District elections. What follows is based on information received by the WSGSPC board members and given to the editors of this newsletter. Additional information may exist. We trust the following will be useful when placing your vote.

## **City Council Elections**

The re-election of **John Rosanova** and **Douglas Krause**, as well as the election of current Plan Commissioner member **Kenn Miller**, will likely benefit our long-term goals. Both Rosanova and Krause were part of the vital Feb. 2000 vote that denied construction on the garden plots by a razor thin 5-4 vote. Without their help the West St. properties would be very different today. Although Rosanova and Krause in no way vote in unison on all issues, both incumbents have consistently shown respect for preserving the West St. properties, the largest remaining open space close to bustling downtown Naperville. Although the WSGSPC can not assure members that Rosanova and Krause would be

friendly to our cause in the future, we believe that by far the best indication of future action is a proven track record. In the case of both Rosanova and Krause their track record is excellent, and their track record of constituent responsiveness extends to the present day. More information about Douglas Krause follows later in this newsletter.

Kenn Miller may be attempting to win his first term as councilman, but he is not new to community service in Naperville. Although he has never specifically voted on an issue pertaining to our mission, he recently voted as Plan Commissioner to deny a developer request to place a high intensity townhouse development at West St. and Naperville-Plainfield Rd. Longtime WSGSPC member and Hobson West resident Mary Lou Cowlshaw says, "Naperville can expect both sound fiscal judgment and sensitivity to community issues from Kenn". We can't ask for more than that.

There are four open seats on the council and one or more of the additional candidates may be favorable to our mission, the WSGSPC does not have enough information concerning the other candidates to make an additional recommendation. Please remember that under voting (known widely as bullet voting), is perfectly acceptable and will not invalidate the ballot.

### **Park District Elections**

This is the first time since the Coalition's founding that one of our members is not running for a seat on the Park Board. Very likely due to the difficulties the Park District has experienced in the last two years, the number of candidates is small, with only 3 candidate vying for the 2 open seats vacated by Scott McKibbin and Mary Lou Wehrli.

Of the candidates running, the WSGSPC finds **Charles Brown** a well-rounded candidate. Brown became convinced the district needed better stewardship as the allegations of impropriety against former Executive Director Brissa mounted. He is an extremely articulate individual who would be likely to seriously listen to our concerns before casting a vote to make a major change to the West St. properties.

Virginia Wisdom stands out in the field for having consistently taken the strongest stand against the way the Park District is conducting business. Wisdom has made headlines on issues not pertaining to our mission. She is a self-styled environmentalist and former business owner who may be receptive to our mission if elected.

Marie Todd is making her second run for the district board. She has a decent grasp of issues facing the district. Unlike Charles Brown, Todd has not shared her views on the West St. properties with any members of the WSGSPC board. The WSGSPC does

not have sufficient information to make a recommendation for or against Marie Todd based upon our criteria.

### **Coalition Meeting- Wed. April 6<sup>th</sup>**

The April meeting has taken on special importance because it was at this time in 2000 that a group totaling 11 decided our mission of protecting the West St. properties was a long-term endeavor. We assumed the name West St. Greenspace Preservation Coalition that we have used ever since, and established a membership year beginning May 1<sup>st</sup>. In the summer of 2001 we reorganized and took on our current structure, with a board of directors, treasurer, secretary, vice-president, and president elected to two-year terms. These terms end May 1<sup>st</sup>. At our Jan. meeting George Bennett was nominated to serve another term as President, and Fred Turek as Vice President. Our April 6<sup>th</sup> meeting will take place at 7:30 PM at the Naperville Township Building, 135 Water St., 2<sup>nd</sup> floor. The following will be our goals:

- Nominate candidates for Secretary, Treasurer, and Directors.
- Elect all positions including President and Vice-President.
- Discuss agenda and budget for 2005-06.
- Plan Earth Day activities.
- Discuss local election results.
- Any new business from attendees.

As always our meetings are open to all members, so we hope to see everyone there!

### **West St. Townhouse Development Update**

In our January newsletter extensive background information was given concerning a developer's plan to build a 27-unit townhouse development at the corner of West St. and Naperville-Plainfield Rd., and an invitation for all to come to the upcoming WSGSPC January meeting where this would be discussed. The item on the agenda at our Jan. meeting pertained to the WSGSPC's involvement in this issue. After considerable discussion during which attention was given to the fact that this property was not specifically included in our mission statement, it was decided that the parcel is also "greenspace on the west side of West St.". Therefore a vote was taken which made it the policy of the WSGSPC to advocate the preservation of as much open space at that location as possible. At the very least, preserving the current single family zoning is a must.

Although the initial plan, (detailed in the last newsletter) was rejected by the Plan Commission in

December, a revised plan may surface at any time. When the issue returns, the Coalition will take a public stance if the new proposal is not adequate.

### **Garden Plots for Rent**

For the 5<sup>th</sup> year in a row the WSGSPC has rented two Community Garden Plots in an effort to contribute to the success of the Park District's program and plant a row for the Hungry. George Bennett has acted as the Coalition's designated "green thumb" for some time, but a volunteer gardener to assist the Coalition's work would be most welcome. Please contact George Bennett at [bennettgeorge@hotmail.com](mailto:bennettgeorge@hotmail.com).

Those who have forgotten to renew their plots for the summer and those who would like to try this very rewarding activity for the first time may still rent from the Park District. Plots will be available through at least the end of May, and at the cost of \$24 per plot for residents, it is a tremendous bargain. Work is currently underway to increase the number of water spigots and water pressure, so gardening this year promises to be more enjoyable and convenient than ever. To rent a plot call the Park District at 848-5000, visit their website [www.napervilleparks.org](http://www.napervilleparks.org), or simply go during business hours to the District's Administrative Center, 320 West Jackson, with check in hand.

### **Additional Election Information**

As detailed earlier in the newsletter, both John Rosanova and Douglas Krause are valuable proven allies of the WSGSPC. Doug Krause also was the individual who in 2002 introduced our land use ordinance as written by Jim Cavanaugh. Additionally Douglas Krause is the author of the following:

"Over the years I have held the position that we must keep the area along West St. open. Every so often there is a group or organization that wants to build on this open greenspace. This group (has even) included the City of Naperville itself with the idea of a City Hall or opening an operation center for the department of Public Works. (In 2000) the Naperville Park District wanted to build a huge skateboard park on West St. I voted to defeat this proposal. We must all be ever vigilant to prevent those individuals or groups that always look for the opportunity to build on this open space on West St. I will continue to vote against any development that will take away this wonderful open green space on West St."

### **Nature in the Neighborhood**

If squirrels used real estate agents, they would have no interest in schools, property taxes or crime rates.

Instead, their needs might include abundant foraging, fresh water, and shelter from predators. Creating habitat for animals, birds, and butterflies is the goal of the National Wildlife Federation's Backyard Wildlife Habitat Program. In 2004, two Naperville families earned the federation's distinction after submitting applications and photos of their yards, which include bird feeders, butterfly-attracting plants, and an elaborate pond with water plants and koi. The program encourages homeowners to create yards that are environmentally friendly and that conserve water. People might plant prairie or woodland wildflowers, remove invasive plant species, and choose plants that are inviting to butterflies.

The program, which originated in 1973, is said to be growing at 10% a year, and there are 44,000 yards across the country "certified" as wildlife friendly. Locally, Naperville's Conservation Foundation has recently begun a new Conservation at Home program that encourages homeowners to plant native plants and improves storm water management. So far 25 homes have received "certification" under this program, and each homeowner is given a sign which allows neighbors to understand what they are doing. "A lot of people want to do the right thing, or are thinking about it, or have the spirit that they like conservation issues" said Jim Kleinwachter of the Conservation Foundation. Kleinwachter encourages those interested in making their yards more friendly to wildlife to visit the Conservation Foundation's website at [www.theconservationfoundation.org](http://www.theconservationfoundation.org), or to call him directly at 630-428-4500, ext.15.

### **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](http://www.greenspace.koolhost.com)

## **Board of Directors**

Dan Bennett	George Bennett 357-0289
Elaine Fisher	Fred Turek
Nan Kroll	Chris Wilkinson
Wendy Mouche	Warren Gill

**President:** George Bennett

**Vice President:** Fred Turek

**Treasurer:** Wendy Mouche

**Secretary:** Dan Bennett

**Newsletter Content:** George Bennett, Fred Turek,  
Wendy Mouche & Others

**Newsletter Editor:** Fred Turek

**Public Relations:** Dan Bennett

**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.*