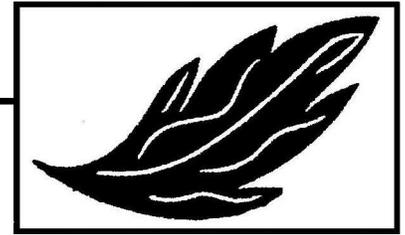


West Street Greenspace Preservation Coalition

P.O. Box 84, Naperville, IL 60566-0084 Phone: 630-637-9236 Fx:630-717-0785



Newsletter

Coalition Meeting-Wed. August 17th

The regular summer meeting of the West St. Greenspace Preservation Coalition will take place Wednesday August 17th at 7:30 PM. The location will be Naperville Township's Administrative Building, located at 135 Water St., across from City Hall.

Did You Forget To Renew?

In this mailing we have included folks who forgot to renew their membership in this issue. If you have not done so (for the 5/1/06-4/30/06 membership year) please do so now. One year memberships are \$10 or a different amount (lower or higher) of your choice. Multi-year renewals are \$10 per year. Please send your renewal to our PO box (see letterhead) or give it to any board member. If you're not sure whether or not if you renewed, here are a couple more ways to handle that: Just send it, and we'll let you know if you're already in. Or, email me at tureks@ameritech.net and ask. Come on aboard!

Welcome New Board Members

During our April 6th organizational meeting our group elected two new board members. A great big welcome to Carl Kron and Teddy Bennett who were elected to two year terms of service. Their election returns our board to its original size of ten members.

Teddy Bennett is the son of founding board member Dan Bennett, and he has been involved with most of our major projects including Plant a Row for the Hungry Booth construction, Adopt-a-Highway efforts, as well as the Winter Warm Up (held in January of 2003). Although Teddy has attended many meetings in the past and contributed to our mission in many ways, the board decided that the time had come for him to represent our group as a full, elected member of the Board.

Carl Kron is a devoted gardener and cultivates more than two plots annually at the Community Garden Plots. Carl attended last fall's Garden Plot Affairs Committee meeting and began attending our meetings. He and his wife Clare have previously contributed content to this newsletter, as they are both highly interested in organic gardening, native plant species, and Native American cultures. Carl's willingness to serve on our board has been enthusiastically received.

Wintry Earth Day at Garden Plots

For the first nearly five years of the Coalition's existence, we had a dazzling streak of good luck--whenever we held an event the weather cooperated. Even in January 2003 our Winter Warm Up at Sportsman's Community Clubhouse was filled with abundant sunshine and temperatures in the high 30's. The morning of April 23rd was colder than that, with a ferocious wind that made our typical leisurely Earth Day at the garden plots impossible. Huddled in a minivan sipping coffee, we opted to postpone the scheduled reconstruction of the Plant a Row collection booth. By preference we would have done the same with our Adopt-a-Highway parkway cleanup, but we were already there and the Department of Public Works was coming Monday to dispose of the trash we knew we would find so we pushed forward. Unlike the 2004 Fall Fling when a cold rain fell the entire time, it was only our feet and hands that ended cold and soaked. However the unrelenting wind made it tricky to even hold onto lighter trash, much less placing it in plastic bags that were now horizontal to the ground instead of the far more cooperative vertical orientation! In the end the job was accomplished, but those of you who sat out this event did so wisely. So, when a bright Indian summer day greets us this October for the Fall Fling, take advantage of it and come to the Garden Plots for refreshments and conversation. Certainly our previous string of good luck will return.

New Plant a Row for the Hungry Collection Booth

As a member of the WSGSPC you can be proud of your continued facilitation of the Plant a Row for the Hungry Program. Because of your membership a new collection kiosk was built in early June replacing the original, weathered structure built in July 2001. This has been one of our extremely successful efforts and year after year thousands of pounds of Garden Plot produce is given to those in need instead of withering on the vine.

The Board of Directors wishes to sincerely thank and recognize the efforts of Dan Bennett and son Teddy Bennett in the completion of the collection kiosk. The Bennetts not only designed and engineered the new kiosk (as they did the old kiosk), but also put their carpentry skills to work by building the booth at the Garden Plots during the week of June 11th. George Bennett assisted with the construction of the project, but it was Dan and Teddy who made it all possible. Not only did Dan and Teddy procure the quality cedar and

hardware that make the new booth larger and stronger than what it replaces, they also donated a considerable amount of material without which the project would have gone over budget. Not only is the new booth designed to be far more wind and weather resistant, it has two levels of food storage and more than doubles the old kiosk's capacity. The booth is plainly visible from West St. on the swale dividing the north and south garden plots. Donations of food may be placed there during daylight hours. Volunteers take the food to Naperville's Loaves and Fishes Pantry, with a certain amount reaching seniors on Martin Avenue. If you've yet to see the new booth, drive by and have a look for yourself.

Local Gardening Showcase-Sat. August 27th

The Naperville Community Gardeners annual Garden and Flower Show will begin at 1:30 PM in the Rubin Community Center at the corner of Jackson and Eagle in downtown Naperville. Members of the Naperville Community Gardeners are avid users of the Community Garden Plots.

The Naperville Community Gardeners began in 1980 as the Naperville Men's Garden Club, but in 1995 the name was changed to the Naperville Gardeners Club. In January of 2003 the current name was adopted in order to reflect the contributions they make within the community. The group strives to increase interest in amateur gardening and to provide those interested with an opportunity to learn and share their knowledge and experiences. The group meets at 7 PM the first Monday of the month at John Green Realty's Rt. 59 office (near 83rd St.).

The gardening showcase on August 27th will award ribbons to gardeners who present the best examples of vegetables, fruits, and flowers, with a special category set aside for young gardeners. Membership is not necessary to participate, and those interested are asked to bring items to the Rubin Center from 7 to 10 AM on the day of the show. More information may be found on the [club's website, www.napervillegardeners.homestead.com](http://www.napervillegardeners.homestead.com), or call 355-2626.

Naperville in Bloom

In September international judges may name Naperville as one of the world's most beautiful places. In 2004 Naperville was declared the most beautiful community in America in its population category by winning the "America in Bloom" contest. Prohibited from again entering the same contest, Naperville is looking for an even more prestigious title this year by entering the international "Communities in Bloom" competition. Competition comes from communities in Canada, England, and Scotland, but with 39 flowerbeds along the Riverwalk alone community leaders think Naperville will compare favorably. Communities in Bloom though, is not designed to simply evaluate public gardens, but also

those of private citizens whose individual gardens demonstrate civic pride.

Some notable Naperville gardens are those of Carolyn Finzer, known widely for her portrayal of the character Mother Nature, as well as her colorful clothes. Featured in "Chicagoland Gardening" as well as "Birds and Blooms" magazine's "The Best of Birds and Blooms 2005", Finzer's 1-acre yard includes a variety of themed "garden rooms". They include water gardens, herb gardens, an orchid house, a sculpture room, and bat, bird and butterfly boxes connected by wood chip trails. The garden has been certified by the National Wildlife Federation, Wild Ones, the Conservation Foundation, and the Illinois Audubon Society.

Yvonne Hammond's English cottage-style garden is a backyard habitat certified by the National Wildlife Federation. No pesticides or herbicides have been used in the garden that features David Austin roses, lavender, yarrow, poppies, larkspur and foxglove, along with an antique sundial, a rose arbor gateway, and a Japanese koi pond.

International judges evaluated Naperville on the weekend of August 5th for its beautification and environmental efforts in eight categories. The results will be evaluated and in September Naperville may be declared one of the most beautiful cities in the world.

Credits- "The Naperville Sun" Feb 24 and July 25, 2005, and the "Daily Herald"- Amy Borema, August 5,6 2005. Compiled by George Bennett.

Gems of Summer- Tomatoes

A long time ago in a far away land called Milwaukee, I had a large balcony, plenty of sunshine and a few planters. All those planters needed, I reasoned, were a few good tomato plants. I ignored all of the gardening books that said tomatoes could not be grown in containers. I wanted homegrown tomatoes and a lack of real estate was not going to stop me. Earlier in the year, around mid-February, I started various types: Sweet Millions cherry, Amish plum, and an heirloom known as Brandywine. By May, I started to harden them off, or rather let them go to the harsher outdoor climate. By August the vines exceeded 6 feet in height and were laden with fruit. I was astounded. From this experience I realized two things: the books aren't always right and tomatoes can be grown in containers. Tomatoes are sun lovers, enjoy rich soil, and thrive with adequate water. All of these conditions I could provide in a container, provided I gave them a weekly dose of fertilizer.

Even though I have a small vegetable garden in my yard, I still grow tomatoes in planters. They seem to thrive on my sun drenched deck, and a payment of a quarter a week to my girls ensures me that someone will water them. And when the first ripe one comes in, there is no argument who gets it: my husband.

Written by : Pam Westfall, Naperville Community Gardeners.

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.*

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

We have a temporary /partial basic website at <http://fyrfoc.com/wsgsc.html>,

Board of Directors

Dan Bennett	George Bennett 357-0289
Jim Cavanaugh	Elaine Fisher
Nan Kroll	Chris Wilkinson
Wendy Mouche	Warren Gill
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Vice President: Fred Turek

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Newsletter Content: George Bennett. Also 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