

West Street Greenspace Preservation Coalition

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Newsletter July 4th, 2006

Summer Coalition Meeting- July 20, 7:30 PM, Naperville Township Building

The Board of Directors of the West St. Greenspace Coalition will meet on the evening of Thursday, July 20th. Although the meeting will take place at our traditional location, please note that this a Thursday evening (Wednesday has been the norm). The meeting will take place two days after the City Council is scheduled to debate the future of the Clark-Soper property known today as the Hobson West Ponds town home proposal (more information to follow later in the newsletter). In addition to our normal agenda items and updates on the West St. properties we exist to protect, we will have a discussion on the aftermath of whatever decisions the Council may have made on Hobson West Ponds. Make plans to attend the meeting and become more involved with the Coalition!

Get Well Soon Dan

Founding Board member, gardener, and architect of both of our "Plant a Row for the Hungry" collection booths, Dan Bennett has recently been diagnosed with a very serious illness. Dan is undergoing intensive treatment, but he needs your prayers & encouragement. Dan may be reached at his home or through the Coalition at our address, PO Box 84, 60566. The Board would like to extend a most sincere wish to Dan, Teddy and the entire Bennett family for a prompt and complete return to good health.

Coalition Membership & Time to Renew (if you haven't already.)

I am pleased to report that our paid membership renewals as of the time of this newsletter are sufficient to allow the group to function for another year. It is truly a reward to see that a number of our members have renewed for the 7th straight year! Thanks to all of you who have done this, and remember that even if your renewal is the only involvement you have with the WSGSPC, it is our strength in numbers that may have already been effective as a deterrent to development along West St. If you have yet to renew, no time is better than today to do so.

Thank you,
George Bennett

To renew, please send \$10 (or a different amount of your choice, higher or lower) for a 1 year renewal to the address in the letterhead. If possible, include any updates on you contact information (new email address, phone # etc.) You can also do a multi-year renewal for \$10 per year or greater. So, there is no minimum amount for a 1 year renewal, and you can renew for several years at once for a minimum of \$10 per year.

Sincerely,
Fred Turek

Council to debate the Clark-Soper property July 18th, 7PM City Hall

The misguided redevelopment proposal by Crestview Builders of the more than 5 acres of the Clark farmhouse (owned by the Soper family until 2004) is scheduled to be debated by the Naperville City Council for the first time on July 18th. As a Coalition, we agreed in early 2005 to oppose re-zoning of the property from R-1A (single family) to R-3A (medium density multi-family). This decision came after the first unanimous Plan Commission rejection of an essentially similar plan. In our spring newsletter the history of the property dating back to a period prior to the existence of Hobson West was once again outlined. Then, later this spring the Plan Commission once again voted against (a 4-2 vote) recommending that the City Council approve Case #1564 (now officially known as the Hobson West Ponds). Furthermore, Councilmen Kenn Miller and Grant Wehrli served on the Plan Commission when the proposal was unanimously rejected. On the surface, it would appear as though the request to re-zone has little chance of approval, and yet Crestview is pushing forward with the plan. This leaves true reason for concern.

The WSGSPC has been careful from the beginning to remind the public that official viewpoints of the Coalition may not be those of individual Coalition members (a policy consistent to those of other non-profit advocacy groups). However, thanks to your membership your voice will be heard on this issue, in opposition to the re-zoning. If you'd like to do more here is a simple plan.

In a nutshell, now is the time to get involved, by either attending the meeting July 18th or addressing the Council by writing a short letter to the members of the City Council. These letters should mention your

opposition to re-zoning the property at 1000 Plainfield-Naperville road surrounded by the Hobson West Ponds. It can be noted that because the area is surrounded by Park District land, the OBVIOUS best possible land use would be as a park, thereby creating a large, usable park.

Letters should be sent to the following City Councilmen, as well as City Manager Peter Burchard:

- George Pradel
- Kenn Miller
- Grant Wehri
- Richard Furstenau
- Douglas Krause
- John Rosanova
- Mary Ellingson
- Darlene Senger
- James Boyajian

It is important to send letters to each of the Councilmen, and better to send one form letter than nothing at all (although personalizing the letter is always more desirable). Please address letters to the above individuals at:

Naperville Municipal Center
400 South Eagle St.
Naperville, IL 60566

Hobson West and Green Acres lead opposition to Town Home development

Although the Board of Directors of the Green Acres Homeowners Association has drafted and approved a resolution opposing the re-zoning of the Hobson West Ponds, it is the far larger Hobson West neighborhood that would be most adversely affected by Crestview's town home development. Under the leadership of Hobson West Homeowners President George McConaghy, Hobson West has been very effective conveying a unified front in opposition. For up to the minute updates (including the potential that the City Council will change the date of the hearing) the official Hobson West Homeowners website has been very reliable. Before heading to City Hall on the 18th, it is recommended that you take a look at www.hobsonwest.org. Additionally, you will find other valuable information about the community on that site. Naperville Celebrates 175th Year

For those of us who were in Naperville in 1981 when festivities were held for Naperville's 150th year, it may be surprising that a birthday party could surpass the events of that year. The parade, the opening of the Riverwalk, and the realization that Naperville was irreversibly moving from its small town agricultural roots was significant indeed. But there really was nothing in 1981 that was comparable to the June 17th unveiling of this year's ten-foot tall, 15-foot wide, three-tiered birthday cake! Of course we celebrated Independence Day with festive fireworks in 1981, and had a "Last Fling" on

Labor Day, but both Joe Naper Days and Rib-Fest were some years in the future. Twenty-five years ago we celebrated when a celebration took place, now we have a number from which we may choose. If any readers of this letter have recollections of what took place when Naperville turned 125 or maybe even the opening of Centennial Beach in 1931 please send them to the Coalition for use in a future newsletter.

An upcoming worthwhile event that offers a peak into Naperville's farming heritage is the annual Farmer's Pig Roast barbecue hosted by the Wheatland Plowing Match Association on August 5th from 5-8 PM. The first plowing match competition took place in 1877, and it soon drew farmers from throughout north-eastern Illinois. The event now takes place at Naper Settlement, but traditionally the barbecue took place on farms in Wheatland Township and indeed did involve plowing competition done by hand the hard way. There is a monument on the Riverwalk to Naperville's founding farm families highlighted by a hand plow that was also adaptable for use by an ox or other livestock. Naper-Settlement is a suitable venue for this peak into the past. For more information go to www.wheatlandplowing.org.

Contact Information

See info in letterhead

Website: www.FyrFox.com/WSGSC

(WSGSC must be caps)

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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.*