
ECHO

EAST CENTRAL HOMEOWNERS' ORGANIZATION
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Visit the ECHO website at <http://www.naperville-echo.org/>

CITY COUNCIL AND MAYORAL ELECTION-ECHO ASKS THE CANDIDATES



In the past, ECHO has asked candidates for election to City Council to communicate their views on the ECHO/Historic District neighborhood by responding to a single question. WE INVITE THE CANDIDATES RUNNING FOR CITY COUNCIL OR MAYOR in the upcoming election to answer the question below, by providing* a brief written response for posting on the ECHO website. ECHO's question is:

Within the context of Naperville as a whole, what city issues do you believe are likely to have the greatest impact on the ECHO/Historic District neighborhood at this time; and what resolution of these issues would you work toward and vote for as a City Councilman or Mayor?

(*Candidates can email their responses to Dave Trollope at board@Naperville-echo.org for posting on ECHO's website.)

CITY COUNCIL AND MAYORAL ELECTION CANDIDATES are invited to meet with ECHO residents at the ECHO monthly meeting on March 14th at 7:00PM in the Dining Room of North Central College's White Activities Center at 325 East Benton

☺☺☺ ☼ * ❁ **Open Your Home for a Good Cause!** ❁ * ☼ ☺☺☺

Some of the most beautiful and unique homes and gardens in Naperville can be found within ECHO's borders. And although they lie buried beneath the snow, now is the perfect time to consider whether your home should be featured in one of Naperville's charity home or garden tours.

Cup of Cheer

The Naperville Garden Club offers scholarships to high school students in Naperville school districts 203, 204 and private schools, who are interested in studying horticulture, earth science, botany or conservation. The scholarships and all of the programs, activities and projects of the Naperville Garden Club are funded by its Cup of Cheer fundraising event, which is held on the first Friday of December and consists of tours of four homes, a holiday market and tea.

For your home to be considered, submit in writing a description of your home, including your name, address, how many live at home and any items of special interest, such as collections, antiques or style of decoration to the Naperville Garden Club, P.O. Box 405, Naperville, IL 60566. You should include a photo of the front of your home and at least one room in your home that best describes your style. Additional details about the Cup of Cheer program can be found at www.napervillegardenclub.com.

Team Fox Garden Walk

The Team Fox Garden Walk was started in 2007 as a neighborhood fundraiser for the Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's research. Since then, the Team Fox Garden Committee has extended its reach into the Naperville community in search of gardens to feature on their walk. All of the proceeds of the walk are donated to the Michael J. Fox Foundation. The Team Fox Garden Walk is held on the last Sunday in June, between Father's Day and July 4th.

Some of the criteria the selection committee considers are:

- Variety in size and structure;
- Interesting qualities and a variety of environments, including shade gardens, sun gardens, water in the garden, groomed landscapes and natural environments;
- A terrain that is accessible by foot for attendees and an accessible path to view the landscaping; and
- Unique garden structures, including outdoor rooms, pergolas and fountains.

To be considered, applications must be submitted well in advance of the walk and should include three to five photos of your garden in bloom in late June. Interested residents may contact Mary Anne Ostrenga, Chairman of Team Fox Garden Walk, at teamfoygardenwalk@yahoo.com for an application and info on its due date.





Membership and ECHO Annual Meeting

There are some great ways to become more involved with your neighborhood. Ask us how you can help with our current committees or planned events, volunteer to get the word out to your neighbors and friends. We are always looking for ideas from our membership. Are there some events you would like to see or services you would like to have?

Check out our website for vendors used by some in ECHO. This is a great way to build a referral network of people that can provide services to our unique and charming homes.

If you have any questions about membership please feel free to contact me, Steve Grosskopf - sgrosskopf@gobieworld.com

The ECHO Annual Meeting will be held Monday, April 11th. ECHO Board Member Elections will be held at the meeting and the board would love to welcome a new face or two! If you have an hour or two to give to the neighborhood, contact the ECHO board by emailing board@naperville-echo.org and submitting your name for election to the board. We'll post more information on the website soon about candidate statements etc. ECHO Members will be able to vote on candidates at the meeting.

<p align="center">NEW FEATURE! ECHO EVENTS CALENDAR 2011 Mark Your Calendars Now!</p>									
<p>April  4/11 (Mon) ECHO Annual Mtg.</p>	<p>May</p>	<p>June  6/4 (Sat) ECHO Garage Sale</p>	<p>July</p>	<p>Aug  8/7 (Tue) National Night Out</p>	<p>Sept  9/10 (Sat) (9/17 rain) ECHO PICNIC</p>	<p>Oct</p>	<p>Nov</p>	<p>Dec * 12/3 (Sat) ECHO HOLIDAY EVENT</p>	

ECHO POSITION - HISTORIC PRESERVATION TEXT AMENDMENT, PC 10-1-144, February 15, 2011

After more than four years, the process of amending the City of Naperville Historic Preservation Ordinance is finally nearing an end. The ECHO Board recognizes the time and effort that went into this text amendment. We applaud the joint efforts of Naperville City Staff, The Heritage Society, North Central College and ECHO residents and the public process that resulted in this text amendment. Overall, the ECHO Board concurs with the amendment. However, we have two concerns with the proposal relating to the COA (Certificate Of Appropriateness) approval criteria and the establishment of historic districts.

- o **COA APPROVAL CRITERIA.** As the text amendment stipulates, one of the key considerations in reviewing a COA should be the compatibility of the requested improvement with the character of the district and the style of the existing structure. However, an equally important criterion that is omitted from the text amendment is whether the structure retains its architectural and historic significance after the proposed project is complete. Currently, 93 percent of the structures within the Historic District contribute to the architectural and historic significance of the neighborhood. A proposed modification that is so extensive that the resulting structure no longer contributes to the Historic District should not be approved under most circumstances. Unless the historic and architectural significance of a structure is considered when reviewing a COA, there really is no point in having a Historic District.

An example of a project so extensive that the result no longer contributes to the Historic District is the home at 30 South Ellsworth. This home was essentially demolished nearly two years ago. Due to economic challenges, the project was halted and all that remains of the home are the studs and exterior cladding. It is just a empty shell without windows or doors. Photos of the structure as it exists today are enclosed. While this project was approved under the previous ordinance, the proposed ordinance does not include any protections against virtual teardowns like this. While some might argue that this is exactly what residents and other stakeholders asked for, ECHO believes that these stakeholders did not understand the potential impact of considering character alone rather than character and historic and architectural significance together.

- o **ESTABLISHMENT OF HISTORIC DISTRICTS.** To establish a Historic District, the current ordinance requires the written consent of 10 percent of the property owners within the proposed Historic District. Were the requirement greater than 10 percent when the original Historic District was proposed, the City of Naperville would not have a Historic District today. And since the existing Historic District was established, no additional petitions to establish Historic Districts have been submitted. Option A requiring 51 percent of property owners to oppose the petition to form a Historic District was arrived at with the input residents of the existing Historic District and the city at large as well as the National Trust for Historic Preservation and Landmarks Illinois. Option A should be approved as it is the national standard and adds sufficient safeguards to the rights of property owners.

Since the amendment to the Naperville Historic Preservation Ordinance will have a significant impact on future renovation projects in the Historic District within the ECHO neighborhood, we request that Council address ECHO's concerns in the ordinance that is approved.

SPRING IS HERE!

Well, it's getting close....

And those spring bulbs will be popping up out of the soggy ground real soon.

Don't forget, ECHO has planned a neighborly competition to identify the best bulbs.

Submit your photos to board@naperville-echo.org and we'll post them on the website.

After receiving an email with your beautiful creations, one of our (very informal) judges might just stop by to admire them in person, (so please include your address.... After all, how will we know where to deliver the prize???)

ECHO Membership Form

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Home Phone _____ Other Phone (optional) _____

Email _____ (To be used exclusively for ECHO business)

Dues are \$20 per household *per calendar year*. Dues for 2011 may be paid any time after September 1. Please list both heads of household under NAME(S) if applicable. Return the completed form with a \$20 check (payable to ECHO) to Tim Messer, Treasurer, 6 N. Huffman St., Naperville, IL 60540.

Your record of ECHO Membership:

Date Paid _____ For Membership Year _____ Amount _____ \$ 20.00

Check Number _____ Notes _____

For more information about ECHO, visit www.naperville-echo.org