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# ECHO

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EAST CENTRAL HOMEOWNERS' ORGANIZATION

NUMBER 20

NEWSLETTER

JULY 2010

Visit the **ECHO** website at <http://www.naperville-echo.org/>

## THE SOCIAL SCENE

**What:** ECHO ANNUAL PICNIC!

**When:** Saturday, September 18, 2010

Save that date--the Annual ECHO neighborhood picnic is coming! (The rain date will be the following week on September 25.) Watch the ECHO website for more details.

**What:** NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

**When:** August 3, 2010, shortly before 6 p.m.

**Where:** Chef's Corner, 821 E. Chicago Ave., & Naperville Fire Station #1

What's better on a hot summer evening than ice cream? Ice cream and FIRE TRUCKS! Come join your neighbors for National Night Out, 3 August 2010. We'll meet in the outdoor dining area of Chef's Corner (821 E. Chicago Ave.) shortly before 6PM, and then walk across the street for a free tour of Naperville Fire Station #1. We'll round out the evening by returning to Chef's Corner for frozen custard, sundaes, splits, shakes, good conversation and free ice cream (vanilla and chocolate - what more could you want!?).

**What:** A. A. SMITH HOUSE TOUR

**When:** Monday, August 16, 2010, 6-8 p.m.

**Where:** Northeast corner of Loomis and Van Buren Streets

Learn a little history while you socialize. ECHO residents are invited to tour the historic A. A. Smith House on Monday, August 16, from 6-8 pm. Get a glimpse into this beautiful old Naperville home, gifted to and now in the care of North Central College. Light refreshments will be served. The tour will be of the downstairs only; no pictures, please.

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**\*\*\* Historic District News \*\*\***

**Get Your Personal Copy of the NEW Naperville Historic Building Design and Resource Manual! (Free!)**

The new Naperville Historic Building Design and Resource Manual is a reality. This 94-page reference was prepared for the City of Naperville through the efforts of city staff and officials and citizen volunteers. It contains a wealth of information useful to ECHO area residents, and to those interested in construction and rehabilitation of traditional buildings beyond ECHO. Over 100 local photos are featured. Free personal copies are now available in print! (The manual is also archived by the city in digital form to facilitate updates.)

During June and July, the City of Naperville and representatives from the Lakota Group and Bailey Edwards Architects are conducting two training workshops focusing on how residents and property owners can apply the new manual to their home-improvement projects. The workshops begin with a presentation of the manual and then go on to highlight the most common improvements made to historic homes. Following the presentation, participants have the opportunity to talk to a historic preservation architect and city staff. Everyone who attends a workshop also receives a personal copy of the manual. The costs of printing the manual and the public outreach programs promoting its use were funded by a \$3000 grant from the National Trust for Historic Preservation Fund. Missed the workshops but would like to have a copy of the manual? Contact Ying Liu, Community Planner, by phone at 630-548-2950 or by email at [LiuY@naperville.il.us](mailto:LiuY@naperville.il.us).

~ ~ ~ **CENTRAL PARK** ~ ~ ~  
**Seating Improvements**

Article & commentary by **Carol Schmidt, ECHO President**

At its June 15, 2010, meeting, the Naperville City Council was set to award a bid of \$503,279.65 for work to improve Central Park's seating area as part of the Long-Term Master Plan approved by the Council in 2009. The design plans included five grassy terraces for seating defined by 18-inch high seat walls, a circular brick paving area suitable for ADA seating, an audio control table, new wider concrete sidewalks around the perimeter of the seating area, relocation of the temporary restroom trailer, general lighting, underground storm water detention, a bike rack, landscaping, and an irrigation system and water connection. At the June 15 meeting, staff recommended the Council eliminate the irrigation system, the bike rack, and the brick pavers with letters and symbols. The remaining work would be paid for with \$119,000 from the SECA fund, \$381,000 in grant money from the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, and \$3,279.65 in surplus funds from other city improvement projects in fiscal year 2011. Details of the proposed work can be viewed on the city's website at the following link to the City Council Meeting Agenda for June 15:

<http://eagenda.naperville.il.us/sirepub/cache/3/xfh0m355et5tabewozhfsn55/7906507032010015554526.PDF>.

Ronald Keller, Director of the Naperville Municipal Band for 45 years, spoke before the City Council urging them not to move forward with the proposal. In 2000, the concert center improvement plans included permanent washrooms and permanent seating for 1700 people. Both of these items were subsequently eliminated. On Thursday nights in the summer, anywhere from 1500 to 6000 people attend the concerts in the park. And the park is used for so much more than these wonderful concerts put on by our very talented and dedicated Municipal Band. During the recent July 4th weekend, families enjoyed watching the film *Madagascar Escape 2 Africa* on the big screen. Even with no planned activities, the park is always full of families just enjoying the beautiful park setting. After considerable discussion, the Council voted to reconsider the Central Park plan at it's Tuesday, July 20th meeting.

Central Park is just as much a crown jewel of Naperville as the River Walk, Carillon Tower, and the many other fine amenities offered by our great city. As president of ECHO, I feel that it is critical that the park be the best that it can be. Of course, cost is a significant consideration, particularly given the current economic climate. But I agree with Ron Keller in that the proposed plan is not adequate. We will live with whatever is done at Central Park for generations and it needs to be done right. Perhaps a phased approach is best so that the work and cost is spread over a period of years. However, as ECHO president, I also have to represent what residents of our neighborhood want. **Please share your thoughts on what is best for Central Park by sending an email to [board@naperville-echo.org](mailto:board@naperville-echo.org). I also urge you to contact City Council to share your opinion on whether you agree with Ron Keller and me or not.**

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### **Boarding Houses Update**

On June 15th the City Council was scheduled to consider a proposed ordinance for boarding facilities and recommendations for rental housing, but the meeting ran late and the first reading of the proposed recommendations was postponed for the July 20th Council meeting.

Consequently, on Tuesday, July 20, 2010, the Naperville City Council will consider a proposed amendment to the city's regulations for boarding rooms and boarding houses, as well as recommendations related to rental housing, including rental registration.

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***NORTH CENTRAL COLLEGE 2010-2020 MASTER LAND USE PLAN: CLARIFICATION:***

In the last newsletter we reported that the NCC Master Plan had been approved, but we neglected to mention that it was approved by the Plan Commission - not the Naperville City Council. The Master Plan was forwarded to the City Council for consideration, but it is typical for the Council to take two meetings for something as significant as this, to be sure there is an opportunity for resident feedback. The NCC Master Plan is on the agenda for the July 20th City Council meeting.

*THIS LETTER FROM NORTH CENTRAL COLLEGE IS UNEDITED WITH RESPECT TO CONTENT, BUT IS MISSING SEVERAL OF THE LINKS AVAILABLE IN THE ONLINE VERSION.*

**DEAR ECHO NEIGHBORS,**

We want to give you an update on North Central College and clarify a few items, especially as they relate to our new Residential and Recreation Center (Res/Rec Center) on the south end of Campus. Even though we opened the doors to 250 student residents in September, we are still in the development phase in completing the shower facilities. Locker and fitness room are set to be completed by September. Due to this and our desire to better understand our students' usage of the building we are unable to offer memberships at this time. We do plan to offer a discounted membership to our ECHO neighbors for those that walk or bike so as not to impact parking in the neighborhood. We have begun working on all the logistics and will keep you informed.

Additionally, I would like to take this opportunity to highlight some opportunities available to you as a neighbor of the college.

**Athletics**-North Central College has a large amount of free athletic events that neighbors are welcome to attend. Basketball and football have nominal charges as well as post-season tournaments per NCAA rules.

**The Cage**-For those that attend ECHO meetings and the annual holiday party in the White Activity Center, you may also be familiar with The Cage at 325 E. Benton Ave. The Cage has all of the old favorites, along with exciting new menu items such as the Hot Dog Platter, Steak Torta, and Baked Potato! Be sure to try the Chef's Choice Dinners, which are gourmet meals prepared by the chef and his team. They will be available Monday through Thursday during dinner hours.

Monday-Thursday - 10 a.m.-midnight Friday - 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday - 4 p.m.- midnight Sunday Closed

**Cultural Activities**-The college does offer many events to the public, many free of charge. Check our Web Calendar for listings of events. Also, we have multiple Art Galleries that are free for your enjoyment.

Schoenherr Gallery at the Fine Art Center, 171 E. Chicago Ave., Open 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Tuesday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Mondays and Saturdays, noon to 5 p.m. on Sundays, and will be open one hour before most performances in the Fine Arts Center.

Oesterle Library Gallery, 320 E. School, Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-8 p.m., Saturday 9 a.m.-5:30 p.m., Sunday noon- 8 p.m.

Meiley-Swallow Gallery, 31 S. Ellsworth Mondays- Friday, 8 a.m.-8 p.m. Saturday 9 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Sunday 1 p.m.-5:30 p.m. (Check our website for schedule of showings)

**Fine Arts-** To get the best seats we do recommend purchasing tickets when they first come on sale. Periodically we send out notification regarding discounted tickets so we are asking ECHO members to contact the box office at 630-637-SHOW and ask to be added to our neighborhood mailing list. You will receive our season brochure and be registered to receive any special offers via email. For upcoming events please visit our website [www.northcentralcollege.edu](http://www.northcentralcollege.edu) and click on Fine Arts.

**Oesterle Library-** Neighbors eighteen and older are more than welcome to drop in and use items on site. There is a small fee to check materials out; \$5.00 for Naperville Public Libraries patrons and \$50.00 for patrons of other public libraries. Neighbors are also welcome to use the three computers in the lobby to access the library databases. If there are specific interests, please feel free to check with the library. Library patrons under the age of eighteen may apply for a personal Courtesy Borrower Card if they present a letter from their school librarian stating their special need for this service. Forms are available at the Information Services Desk.

**The Rolland Center Boilerhouse Café-**29 N. Loomis St. is open for use by our neighbors as well as our students and staff. It also houses a convenience store. The store offers grab-and-go salads and sandwiches, a variety of bottled beverages, candy bars, half-gallons of milk, canned soups, cereal, chips and lots more. The Boilerhouse Café features Starbucks coffee.

Monday-Friday 6:30 a.m.-midnight Saturday-7:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Sunday-Noon-midnight

**Student Workers-**If neighbors have any needs for babysitting, tutoring, or other odd jobs, they can post their needs on our web site at <https://noctrl-csm.symplicity.com/>. They will be able to log in as an employer and create an account. There is no charge for this service. This is where we send all our students to look for full time, part time, and internship opportunities.

**Zip Cars-**Rental cars are available for use by the neighbors. In order to register you must go to [www.zipcar.com](http://www.zipcar.com). Standard registration and usage fees will apply. The zip cars are located at the parking deck at Highland and Brainard. Once you join, you can add other drivers to your account.

On November 11, 2011 we will be celebrating our 150th year as a college. It has been an honor to be in this neighborhood and to grow together as a community. We greatly appreciate your involvement with the college. If there are any questions or any ways we can better serve you please feel free to contact me.

Kindest Regards,  
Michael Squire-Director of Community Development  
North Central College  
630-637-5559 [mesquire@noctrl.edu](mailto:mesquire@noctrl.edu)

## 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 2010 may be paid any time. Please list both husband and wife under NAME(S) if applicable. Return this form, completed, with a \$20 check (payable to ECHO) to Tim Messer, 6 N. Huffman, Naperville, IL 60540.**  
**Your record of ECHO Membership:**  
 Date Paid \_\_\_\_\_ For Membership Year \_\_\_\_\_ Amount \_\_\_\_\_ \$ 20.00  
 Check Number \_\_\_\_\_ Notes \_\_\_\_\_