



AUGUST 2006 NEWSLETTER

P.O. Box 5245, Naperville, Illinois 60657-5245

www.napervillehomeowners.org

The Naperville Area Homeowners Confederation Board of Directors hopes you had a great summer and welcomes you to our first newsletter of our 2006 – 2007 Planning Year. In this issue we will talk about what the NAHC Board has been doing this summer, some of our plans for the coming year, and will also bring you up-to-date on some things happening around the City.

This newsletter is designed to be an information conduit to our Member Associations, providing information you can use when managing your associations and also to help you keep your members informed. Moving forward, we'd like to use the newsletter to share information between associations and help all of us become better leaders in the community. Please provide your feedback to our External Communications Director, Bob Fischer, at rafischer1@aol.com

President's Letter

What a busy summer for the new NAHC Board of Directors!

Our Board of Directors involved themselves in many things of interest to us, the City and the Homeowners. We found ourselves involved in the following areas:

- 1) Leading the very successful June 17th Unity Day Celebration were myself as Co-Chair of the Unity event and Directors Marcia Straub and Mike Reilly, Associate Director Dan Bulley, and former Director Paul Hinterlong who served as the four Site Route Captains for the parade which brought nearly 3000 people to downtown Naperville to share in the City's 175th birthday cake.
- 2) Directors Bob Fischer and Mike Reilly, and Confederation Vice President Dr. Bob Buckman worked diligently with residents, the City Planners and the Chamber of Commerce (thru Bruce Lund) on the proposed changes to the ordinances regulating home based businesses. All was scheduled to come before the City Planning Commission on Wed. 8-16 and then on to the City Council (who has the final decision). This will involve changes primarily in Sections 6.2.7, 6.2.8, and 6.2.20 of the Zoning Code. We all want the neighborhoods preserved from any business that disturbs the residential way of life, including the environment, impact on the number of people and cars coming and going, street parking, and off-street parking, storage of vehicles, relationship to owner, activities conducted completely inside the dwelling and garage, and who should be exempt. There is an article later in this newsletter discussing what the Plan Commission decided.
- 3) We continued to update and add to our NAHC website www.napervillehomeowners.org, so please check it out if you haven't lately. Additions include a List of our new Officers and Directors; a calendar that lists our upcoming BOD meetings, General Meetings, and select community activities; homepage "notices" on important happenings around the city; a link to the City's Weekly "City Notes" newsletter; and much more.
- 4) Planning continues on the 7th Annual NAHC Tradeshow and Homeowners' EXPO, "January Thaw," scheduled for January 27, 2007 at what is expected to be the newly remodeled Marriott (current Holiday Inn Select) Please see the article later in this newsletter for more information. Anyone interested in presenting, sponsoring, or giving prizes to raffle please contact June Edlund, Tradeshow Chair at jedlund20@comcast.net.
- 5) We still need NAHC members to assist us in establishing Board liaisons to local governmental entities and commissions in the Naperville Area.. Please contact Rick Strawbridge at rstrawbridge@clausen.com if interested. We will talk more about this at our 9-16 General Meeting.

- 6) We have accepted an invitation from the City to be involved in the Downtown Nicholas Parking Deck Expansion planning. The stakeholders meetings (series of five) were scheduled to start on 7- 26 at 6PM at City Municipal Center. NAHC group participants will include Associate Directors Dan Bulley and Tom Harris. More information on the meeting scheduled to review these plans is posted further down in this newsletter.
- 7) The NAHC BOD is working with City Staff to become involved in the City's new "Curbside Appeal" Program. We hope to have further details at the 9/16 General meeting on how individual associations can work with City Code Enforcement to enhance and maintain our property values!
- 8) I am also privileged to report that I was elected President of the new Naperville Citizens Corps Council –CERT Group. I'll provide further details in upcoming newsletters and NAHC meetings on how all NAHC will be involved to help our City if an emergency hits.

The Board of Directors will meet at 8:30 AM on August 26th at the Municipal Center to begin agenda planning for the upcoming year. Please contact either myself or any of our Board members (they are listed on our website!) should you have questions, comments, or issues you feel we should be addressing.

Chuck Schlabach, President, NAHC, Chuckschla@aol.com

Home Based Business Ordinance Update

The City Plan Commission concluded the Public Hearing on the proposed revisions to the Home Based Business ordinances on Wednesday night, August 16th. The Confederation, in cooperation with the Naperville Area Chamber of Commerce, presented as part of the public record a memorandum outlining our differences with the staff suggested ordinances. These differences focused on three primary areas:

- Limitation on non-resident employees working on site on the home based business. Staff favored a hard limit of one outside employee at a time. The Confederation and the Chamber opposed the numerical limits as being arbitrary and not considerate of special circumstances such as team meetings.
- Trip limitations to and from the home housing the home based business. Staff favored a limit of 100% over the "average" trips for a similar home, roughly 30 trips (both in and out) per day. The Chamber and the Confederation opposed the trip limits as they did not differentiate between residential driven trips (e.g. from a house with several driving age teen-agers) and those trips associated with the business. The Confederation also felt that the impact of trip limits was different on through streets and cul de sacs and that the proposed standard may generate an inordinate amount of traffic on cul de sacs. Our preference was managing this problem through parking restrictions.
- Limitations on "non-permanent" equipment mounted on vehicles parked overnight on driveways. The staff recommendation would ban items such as ladders being left on tradespersons' trucks parked overnight in their residential driveway. The Chamber and the Confederation felt the ordinance language was very unclear and also that banning this equipment would lead to hardships to the trades people using the trucks as well as potentially excessive noise as the equipment is affixed to and removed from the vehicle to meet code.

The Plan commission has asked City staff to prepare a table showing Confederation/Chamber language contrasted against staff language so both options can be reviewed when preparing a final report to send to City Council.

In addition to all of the above, the Confederation presented into the Public Record a proposal for administrative review of home businesses that may meet the letter, but not necessarily the spirit of

the law. This review, triggered by a majority of impacted neighbors, would include an evidentiary hearing before the Zoning Board of Appeals. This proposal was well received by the Plan Commission and Staff was instructed to further research this concept and determine how it could be incorporated into ordinance language.

The Plan Commission expects to discuss these matters again at their first meeting in September.

A critical factor in the discussions at the meetings was the partnership between the Confederation and the Chamber and the highlighting of the time we spent together, including joint meetings with City Staff, to review the ordinance language and the impact on both homes and businesses. Since homeowners are involved in their home based businesses, the Confederation strove for a reasonable approach to the situation that addressed and balanced everyone's rights. The Chamber committee, led by Bruce Lund, shared our perspectives and the spirit of cooperation and productive dialogue created a very strong public position for us during the Public Hearing as well as in our discussions with City Staff.

Trade Show and Homeowners Expo Update

January is literally right around the corner and planning for our 2007 Trade Show and Homeowners Expo is well underway. This year's theme will be "January Thaw" as we expect there will be lots of hot opportunities for associations, property managers, and residents to learn more about products, services, and issues of importance.

The following NAHC Board members and Confederation members have volunteered to lead functional areas critical to our success:

- June Edlund - Chair person - vendor registration and program
- Rich Strawbridge - Restaurant Co-Chair
- Marcia Straub - Vendor Fair Co-Chair
- Bob Fischer - Communication and Registration Co-Chair
- Boyd Briscoe - Advertising Co-Chair
- Chuck Schlabach and Mike Reilly - Sponsor and Prizes Co-Chairs (Mike will also handle drawings at the trade show)
- Tom Harris - Signage
- Chuck Schlabach - Seminars Co-Chair (with everyone's help)
- Bob Buckman - Hospitality Co-Chair
- Kathy Benson - Flyers, Brochures, business cards Co-Chair

Our next planning meeting will follow the Confederation Board of Directors meeting on Saturday, August 26th. Additional committee meetings through the end of the year are posted on the Confederation website at www.napervillehomeowners.org.

The Tradeshow is a major undertaking and requires lots of hands-on help to be a success. If you are interested in helping out, please contact June Edlund at 630 561-5653 or jedlund20@comcast.net or any of the Committee Co-Chairs.

We will be starting the exhibitor registration during September and are expecting another sold out event so it is important that exhibitors express their interest as soon as possible.

Nichols Library Parking Date Update

The City of Naperville will host a public meeting to introduce potential layouts of the new Nichols Library parking deck, the possible library expansion and potential funding options to pay for the new proposed parking deck. The meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 29, 2006 from 3 p.m. to 8 p.m. in meeting rooms A, B and C in the lower level of the Municipal Center. The meeting will be an open house format with two presentations on the potential funding options at 3:30 p.m. and 7 p.m.

The proposed new parking deck will increase the number of parking spaces to roughly 350 versus the 120 spaces that currently exist and will provide additional parking for employees and visitors of downtown Naperville. In conjunction with the new parking deck, an expansion of the library is proposed that will provide increased customer service to library patrons.

This informational meeting will be open to the public and all residents and business owners are encouraged to attend. Representatives from the City of Naperville will be available at the public meeting to discuss the project and answer questions on an individual basis. If you have questions or comments regarding this project, contact Project Engineer Kim Grabow at (630) 548-1199 or by e-mail at grabowk@naperville.il.us.

For more information on the new Nichols Library parking deck and proposed library expansion, visit www.naperville.il.us.

Liaison Committee Update

The NAHC continues to look for volunteers to be our eyes and ears with various units and groups within local governments. These include City departments, Counties, Townships, School Districts, Park District, Forest Preserve Districts, and the Library. Effectively we would like to identify people willing to meet on a regular and recurring basis with the appropriate representatives of local government, the frequency of which will vary based on particular circumstances, in order to provide two-way channels of communications about affairs of interest to homeowners. From the perspective of "top-down" (government to us), that means our representatives will be expected to learn about and report, in a manner timely enough to allow Confederation action where needed, future events or actions these governmental bodies propose, plan or expect to take. From the perspective of "bottom up," that means our representatives will convey to governmental officials the concerns, comments or other views expressed to the Confederation by its Members. A further function and expectation of these Committees is that, by virtue of their relationships with local governmental bodies, those committees will be in a position to advise our Members who are concerned about a specific matter as to who within the local government they should contact, and as to how that contact should be established (e.g., see someone and talk, file a petition, speak up at a meeting, etc., etc.)

Given the sheer number of governmental units, this task is too large for your NAHC Board of Directors to do on our own and we are reaching out to our member associations to provide volunteers willing to work in this manner and represent the Confederation and the needs and interests of Naperville area homeowners.

If you are interested in participating please contact NAHC Director Rick Strawbridge at rstrawbridge@clausen.com or any other NAHC BOD member. We would like to develop a

committee roster at our Board of Directors meeting on August 26th. This will also be further discussed at our general membership meeting on September 16th.

October Is Crime Prevention Month

(Editor's note: The following information from the City of Naperville is included in this month's newsletter as we feel it is of community wide interest and can also be adapted for inclusion in individual association newsletters and mailings. Individual events associated with Crime Prevention Month are listed on the Calendar on the Confederation Website @ www.napervillehomeowners.org)

Naperville is celebrating it's first ever "Crime Prevention Month" in October! Since effective crime prevention requires commitment from the entire community, Naperville is joining with the National Crime Prevention Council and has designated October as "Crime Prevention Month". This new initiative spearheaded by the Naperville Police Department will include crime prevention programs for just about everyone. Since the wellbeing of our city depends on how safe we keep our homes, neighborhoods, schools, workplaces and communities, the Naperville Police Department has partnered with many community organizations and city services to bring you programs that will help keep you and your family safe. Please review the list of prevention events and activities printed below and plan on joining your fellow citizens as they learn how to reduce crime and improve their safety. For more information on Crime Prevention Month, please contact Mary Browning at 420-6731.

Oct. 2nd Crime Prevention Calendar Winners recognized by Chief David Dial and Mayor Pradel at the Municipal Center. Need a calendar? Contact Marcia Schild at the Naperville Police Department, 420-6667.

Oct. 4th International Walk to School Day: Children in School Districts 203 and 204 will walk to school to promote energy conservation, an active lifestyle, and *safe routes to school*. Contact Deb Kreider at 630-305-5985 for more information.

Oct. 5th Internet Safety Presentation for parents: Detective Rich Wistocki with the Naperville Police Department will explain what you need to know to keep your children safe in cyberspace and what you can do to proactively protect them. Municipal Center, 7:00-9:00pm. For more information contact Detective Rich Wistocki at 305-5384.

Oct. 7th "Passport to Safety" at Safety Town: Families with children of all ages will find valuable safety information at this event coordinated by the Naperville Police and Fire Departments in conjunction with various community organizations. Participants will receive a "safety passport" which will be stamped after visiting each safety destination and learning important ways to avoid danger. Those that complete the adventure will receive a small prize. For more information contact Mary Browning at 630-420-6731 or Soraya McLaughlin at 305-7055.

Oct. 11th Identity Theft Presentation: Join Detective John McAnally with the Naperville Police Department as he explains how identity theft occurs, how you can prevent it, and what to do if you become a victim. Identity theft is the fastest growing crime in America, affecting half a million new victims each year...Don't be one of them! Call Mary Browning at 630-420-6731 to register for this important seminar at the Municipal Center from 7:00-8:30 pm.

Oct. 17th "Becoming a Tough Target": This presentation being held at the Kroehler Family YMCA, 34 S. Washington St. is a personal safety class for women who want to learn how to protect themselves. Officer Sakelakos with the Community Education and Crime Prevention Unit of the Naperville Police Department, will discuss ways women can reduce vulnerability and maintain control

while at home, driving, walking or jogging, shopping, or while on the street. Following his presentation learn some hands on self defense moves that could save your life! This is a free program open to all residents and is scheduled from 11:00-1:00 on Oct. 17th. Lunch and babysitting will be provided. Space is limited so sign up early by calling the Kroehler Family YMCA membership office at 420-6270.

Oct. 21st Halloween Safety at Safety Town. Children ages 2-10 are welcome to "Trick-or-Treat" at Safety Town from 11:00-3:00. Sponsored by the Naperville Junior Women's Club, this event not only promotes Halloween Safety, but allows children to dress in costume and trick-or-treat in a safe environment. The cost is \$1.00 and all children are encouraged to bring a canned good to donate to Loaves and Fishes. No reservations are required. For more information call 630-369-8400.

Month Long Activities:

***Crime Prevention Essay Contest:** Students in grades 3 through 8 can participate in the Naperville Police Departments first ever Crime Prevention Essay Contest:

How Would You Prevent Crime?

That's the question the Naperville Police Department wants answered in their first ever Crime Prevention Essay Contest occurring during October's Crime Prevention Month. The contest is open to all interested students in the 3rd through 8th grades.

Each essay must be original and should be no longer than 200 words. Since crime prevention is everyone's responsibility, the chosen topic for the contest is "What I Would Do to Prevent Crime." There will be one winner in each of the following three age categories:

- **3rd through 4th grade,**
- **5th through 6th grade**
- **7th through 8th grade**

Winners will be given a private tour of the Naperville Police Department, as well as the unique opportunity of having lunch with one of our police officers. Winners will also receive a Brunswick Zone Family Fun Package which includes two hours of unlimited bowling for up to six people, free shoe rental, and a pitcher of soda (Retail value \$64.99).

All entries must be postmarked no later than October 20, 2006. Judging will take place at the end of Crime Prevention Month and winners will be notified by November 1st. Please be sure to include your full name, address, phone number and grade on top of your essay and mail to:

**Naperville Police Department
1350 Aurora Avenue
Naperville, IL 60540**

**Attn: CE/CPU
Mary Browning
Crime Prevention Specialist**

***Crime Prevention Display** in the lobby of the Municipal Center: Come to the Municipal Center and gather information on various Crime Prevention Strategies to keep yourself and your family safe. Find information on a variety of topics including; Identity Theft, Scams, Domestic Violence Prevention, Bicycle Safety, Internet Safety, Home Security and more.

***Home Security Surveys:** Call the Community Education/Crime Prevention Unit of the Naperville Police Department to schedule a free home security survey. A safety analysis of your home will be conducted and suggestions as to how to improve the security of your home will be discussed. Call Marita Manning at 420-6725 to set up an appointment.

***Car Seat Inspections:** According to the National Highway and Traffic Safety Administration, almost 80% of all children are improperly restrained while riding in a vehicle. With such a wide variety of child restraint systems available today, correctly installing the right system, the right way, can be challenging. The Naperville Police Department can help. Car seat inspections are conducted at Community Connection, Monday through Friday from 11:30am-2:30pm. These inspections are made by appointment only, so be sure to contact Zarine Hussain at 630-305-7060 to make an appointment to ensure that *your* child is riding safe!

Watch for our September newsletter which will include information on our September 16th General Membership meeting!!!!

***Bob Fischer
Director - NAHC***