

October 2, 2008

Dear Naperville Sun:

On Tuesday, September 30, a letter was published from Albert Cain that gave his take on the Garden Plots situation. As there were several incorrect assertions made, I do wish to set the record straight regarding the diligent efforts made by the Naperville Park District to keep our gardeners informed. First and foremost, we wish to continue to keep the lines of communication open for the benefit of everyone involved.

The Park District believes it has done its due diligence in communicating with its gardeners. Since late June, several communications have been e-mailed, mailed and posted at the Garden Plots to provide information about the Caroline Martin Mitchell property discussions, and conversations between Park District and School District 203 regarding public input opportunities. At the September 11<sup>th</sup> Board meeting, the only related discussion that was on the table was a question from District 203. They were inquiring whether they had the Park Board's support to pursue additional public feedback opportunities. Our Board responded that they were in favor of obtaining more public input. Once the details have been established for these public input sessions, we will make that information readily available.

As for the request made by some gardeners for contact information of the entire gardening participant database, it is not the Park District's right to disclose information on its participants in any of its programs for any reason. This policy is in place for the protection and privacy of all program users, including our gardeners.

The Park District appreciates the passion of our gardeners and their involvement, and we welcome their input. To that end, the Park District will be working on a survey to be distributed to Garden Plots users this fall; the survey will be created with the input of some of the gardeners who have offered their assistance. All input received will be carefully considered. Again, please understand that no decisions have been made about the Garden Plots, and that one will not be made without further resident input and the ultimate approval of the City Council.

In the interest of preserving open communication, the Park District invites everyone who is interested in the Garden Plots, to visit [www.napervilleparks.org](http://www.napervilleparks.org). On the home page under "Upcoming Community Meetings and Significant Projects," there is an overview on the Garden Plots discussion and links to any communications that have been sent to our Garden Plots users. Please check back from time to time, as any new communications also will be posted here.

Ray McGury  
Executive Director  
Naperville Park District