

**Letter to the Editor
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The Power of Citizen Involvement

The community organizing efforts of Elmhurst citizens that resulted in the Zoning and Planning Commission's rejection of a proposed development by Morningside Equities Group of Chicago is a textbook example of what an engaged citizenry can accomplish. Citizens became proactive on a community issue that would directly affect their quality of life. Citizens spent countless hours gathering information about the proposed development, attending and giving public comments at public meetings, learning about procedural processes in local government, organizing a city-wide "orange ribbon" community awareness campaign, and working with and educating public officials about the citizens' long term vision for Elmhurst. Citizen engagement on this issue not only illustrated the power of citizen involvement, but also directly resulted in public officials revisiting the need for a historical preservation ordinance, a move that would systemically address many of the residents concerns. Democracy is alive and well in Elmhurst!