

**March 29, 2014**

**TO:** Residents of the Ellwood Historic and the Hillcrest Neighborhoods

**SUBJECT:** Meeting to share information about new plans by NIU and the City of DeKalb that may significantly impact our neighborhoods and discuss what we can do to preserve our neighborhoods.

NIU, with the City of DeKalb's support, is proposing a new plan, "Bold Ideas." NIU states: "During five days in January 2014 campus leaders, students, facilities staff, City of DeKalb leaders and local stakeholders collaborated..." – However, **local neighborhood homeowners were not included in the discussions.**

"Bold Ideas" aims to make significant changes to campus to make it more attractive to currently enrolled students, future students and returning alumni; to increase enrollment; retain students over the weekends with more activities; and increase revenues for local businesses. "Bold Ideas" begins in Fall 2014 with one year, five year and future plans.

**A meeting of concerned NIU neighborhood residents is scheduled for Sunday, April 6<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 p.m. at the Ellwood House Visitors Center to share information on these proposed plans, discuss the possible impact they might have on our neighborhoods and work on the steps we can take.**

Some changes that will impact our neighborhoods (\*\*in NIU's 5 year plan):

- **\*\*Make the Locust/College Avenue entrance to NIU the PRIMARY entrance, with traffic entering from Locust St (on North First Street) to College Avenue to campus - through the center of the Ellwood Historic District.**
- **\*\* Trolley or electric bus from NIU/Downtown via Locust/College**
- **Create a residential neighborhood south of the Fox Hollow neighborhood on what is now the North 40**
- **Create a new east-west road through the North 40 connecting North First Street to Garden Road. This road will handle traffic to the new residential neighborhood.**
- **"Hillcrest Reborn – Thanks to the Students"**
- **\*\*John Street and Harrison Avenue revitalized with "mixed use" [retail on the bottom and one or more floors of apartments above] and new homeowners (they propose to have faculty/staff and/or alumni living there)**

Additional proposed changes to campus are:

- **Close Lucinda between the Kishwaukee River and Huskie Stadium to cars**
- **\*\*Close Normal between the Lucinda and the Parking Garage to cars to create a "spine" of quad and walkways, and "rediscover" a stream that runs through campus**
- **Moving Greek Row down to Lucinda, across from the Holmes Student Center**
- **\*\*And much more**

A small portion of the plans can be found at:

**<http://www.niutoday.info/wp-content/uploads/2014/03/Campus-re-envisioned.pdf>**

We hope that you will plan to attend this very important meeting. For more information or if you have questions, please email Misty Haji-Sheikh/Diane DeMers at **[PreserveOurNeighborhoods@gmail.com](mailto:PreserveOurNeighborhoods@gmail.com)**.