



Springfield Preservation Trust

S P T

JANUARY 2013

2013 Winter Fundraiser – Purchase Your Tickets Now



The annual Winter Fund Raiser will be held Sunday, January 27, 2012 from 2-5 P.M. The gala event will be hosted by COL Stephen and Gayle White at their beautiful Worthington Street Tudor Revival style home in McKnight.



Hors d'oeuvres, wine, and nonalcoholic punch will be served.

Tickets are \$35 for SPT members and \$40 for nonmembers. Tickets can be ordered by mailing a check to SPT at 74 Walnut Street, Springfield 01105 or by going to our website at www.springfieldpreservationtrust.org. Tickets are limited and must be ordered by January 18th. Parking is available on Florida Street and Ingersoll Grove.

Proceeds from the event will go to preservation efforts at 77 Maple Street, Springfield's oldest remaining school building.

The Casino Issue in Springfield

There are 2 proposed casino sites in Springfield; MGM in the South End and Penn National in the North End. The Springfield Preservation Trust wants to ensure that the historic buildings located at both sites are considered in the decision process.

Springfield Preservation Trust President, Ben Murphy, has written 2 letters; one to the Gaming Commission and one to Mayor Sarno expressing the Trust's concerns.

First Spiritualist Church, Bliss St.



The letters appear in their entirety below:

Stephen Crosby
Massachusetts Gaming Commission
84 State Street, Suite 720
Boston, MA 02109

Dear Mr. Crosby,

The Springfield Preservation Trust (SPT) is the only non profit organization dedicated to advocating for historic properties in Springfield. As you know, there are currently two casino proposals for Springfield. While SPT has not taken any official stance on whether a casino should be located in Springfield, we are concerned with potential negative impacts to historic properties at both prospective casino sites, and feel that no matter where a casino locates in the Commonwealth, the impact on historic properties should influence the decision process.

SPT urges the Massachusetts Gaming Commission to consider the following when deciding on licensing the three casinos within the Commonwealth.

- Require casino sites to be thoroughly and independently surveyed for historic assets since many communities may have incomplete, inadequate, or outdated surveys.
- Consider the positive and negative impacts of historic assets and select proposals which have the most benefit to historic buildings (in most cases structures that are 50 years or older).
- Work closely with the Massachusetts Historical Commission, Preservation Massachusetts, and local historical commissions in potential host communities to identify historic assets and to assess casino impacts on them.

Thank you for your consideration.



Kittredge
Building, East
Columbus Ave.

Mayor Domenic J. Sarno
Springfield City Hall
36 Court Street
Springfield, MA 01103

Dear Mayor Sarno,

As you know, there are currently two casino proposals for Springfield. While SPT has not taken any official stance on whether a casino should be located in Springfield, we are concerned with potential negative impacts to historic properties at both prospective casino sites. We are also excited at the prospect that many historic buildings that may now be in disrepair could potentially be restored by a casino developer. To make sure as many historic properties are saved and restored and not lost forever, we urge you to implement the following.

- Commission historic surveys of the two potential casino sites as there are currently incomplete, inadequate, outdated and in some cases non-existent surveys. One site has not been surveyed at all; the other was surveyed more than thirty years ago.
- Adopt criteria which take into the positive and negative impacts of historic assets and select a proposal which has the most benefit to historic buildings. Historic assets are in most cases structures that are 50 years or older, not just properties on the national register of historic places.
- We urge you to contact the Massachusetts Historical Commission and involve the Springfield Historical Commission as soon as a final site is selected to begin the required state review process, since we would not want historic review to become an impediment to the process.

Thank you for your consideration.

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Member Jim Boone also wrote a letter to each of the local newspaper publications:

The Casinos and Historic Preservation

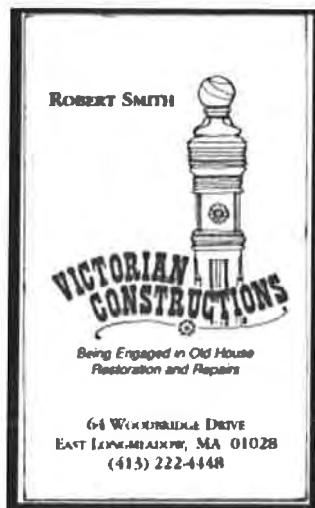
As the city considers a location for a proposed Casino, the Historic Preservation Community and citizens of Springfield should be concerned about our architectural heritage that will be threatened in each of the proposed sites.

The Historical Commission has already called for there to be a review and survey of the buildings in each of the proposed sites and this is a very good start.

The South End area was surveyed years ago but already some of the buildings of significance have been lost and many more are threatened.

On Page Boulevard the old Stevens Duryea plant was taken down on the Casino site but the architecturally and historically significant Westinghouse building still stands and is in good shape.

The North End site contains the Kitteridge building and is worthy of study to assess its architectural and historical significance.



The South End site is of real concern as it contains many important buildings, many of which MGM has already indicated will be either demolished or suffer façade-ectomies and become simply a caricature of what they were.

In this area is the Spiritualist Church, the State Armory, 73 State Street which is the old United Electric building with its

beautiful stain glass atrium. Also Howard St. School, the 1884 Rescue Mission, the restored Edison Theater Block on the corner of Bliss and Main, and the Chapin block across the street.

Though National Register Status does not automatically protect these buildings, it may be argued that the issuing of State licenses for Casinos and other government involvement that goes with Casinos, should require a review by the local and state Historical Commissions.

Also Public outrage at the possibility of many National Register Buildings being destroyed for a Casino should stimulate the developers to integrate these buildings into their plans.

The citizens of Springfield and the Valley need to speak out at local meetings about the importance of saving these historical assets.

Please consider writing the local newspapers, Mass Gaming Commission, and the Mayor's Casino Commission to express your concerns. Casino information is available on the City's website at www.springfield-ma.gov/casino.

Other Upcoming Events; Save the Date(s)

SPT Annual Meeting

The 2013 SPT Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, March 3, 2013. Annual elections will be held for the Board of Directors and a review of the past year will be presented. Look for your invitation in the mail closer to the date of the meeting.

The meeting is being held at 45 Warwick Street in the "Wireworks Complex" in Atwater Enterprises, LLC space. The historic industrial space is one of three buildings comprising the complex. It was originally built in the late 1800s as a bicycle factory which later went out of use with the emergence of motorcycles. It was then converted to a wire coating facility and subsequently had many industrial uses.

This is a wonderful example of adaptive reuse. The current building includes approximately 12,000 square feet and has recently been rehabbed to serve as office space for the Behavioral Health Network (BHN), Atwater Enterprises LLC, commercial photography studios and Springfield Police Assessment Center. With its sister buildings, a total of 89,000 square feet has been developed for conversion use.

JAMES A. BOONE
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Spring House Tour

The afternoon of May 5 will be the next SPT tour. It will focus on carriage houses. We already have three committed: one converted to an apartment, one converted to an office, and one still in original condition. We are looking for three more.

Contact Bob McCarroll at bobmccarroll@verizon.net if you have a carriage house you would like to open.

40th Anniversary of Historic Preservation in Springfield

1972 was an important year for historic preservation in Springfield. The *Springfield Historical Commission* was created as the local government agency to oversee historic preservation in the city. The *Quadrangle-Mattoon Street Local Historic District* was designated to protect the exterior of buildings within the district. The *Springfield Preservation Trust* was incorporated as a nonprofit charitable corporation to work on preservation in the private sector. The *Mattoon Street Historic Preservation Association* was formed as an advocacy group for its neighborhood.

SPT assembled a photo display of wins and losses in an overview of the past forty years of historic preservation in Springfield. It featured schools, religious buildings, commercial structures, houses, and industrial complexes—some saved and some lost forever.

The display was shown at Tower Square for several weeks. SPT is in discussion with taking it to the Wood Museum of Springfield History. We are also looking into purchasing our own display boards so this and future exhibits such as the Annual Preservation Awards can be shown at other locations.

How to Avoid and Eradicate Bird Mites – Part 2

Commons sense must prevail to avoid a possible infestation of bird mites. Keep nests off of, and away from, your home. Bird feeders and bird baths should be far from the home, and avoid

wearing outdoor shoes, indoors. Should you find a nest on your home, do not approach it with a cavalier attitude, as recently vacated nests are usually teeming with mites. Wear clothing you can dispose of; being sure to wear long sleeves and rubber gloves. Spray the nest profusely with either a chemical intended for bird mites, and or straight rubbing alcohol. You must be sure to approach BOTH SIDES of the home, that is, treat both indoors and outdoors.

If only the exterior is treated, you only serve to push them into your home. Place the nest in a garbage bag, seal it, and place that bag in another sealed bag. Spray the bags profusely with rubbing alcohol before placing in the garbage can. Dispose of your clothing in a garbage bag and shower immediately. Another option is to call either an exterminator, or a wildlife specialist to remove it for you.

Should your home become infested, call a professional exterminator who has years of experience with bird mites. Many exterminators claim to have knowledge of this elusive member of the spider/tick family while homeowners spend thousands of dollars and endure weeks or months of torture only to find no relief. They must treat every stitch of fabric in the furniture, all woodwork, window casings both interior and exterior, and bedding.

Assume your vehicle(s) are also infested and have those treated as well. Professionals should use a number of different chemicals as not every chemical will prove effective. The most effective SAFE treatment the homeowner can do themselves is diatomaceous earth. This non-toxic powder can be put in window wells, along the walls, around and under the bed, on the floors of your vehicles, etc.

Clothing and bedding must be laundered after EVERY use in very hot water and then dried on high heat, this includes sheets, blankets, pillows, etc. Keep all clean



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fabrics in garbage bags or tightly sealed bins after laundering. It is also recommended to iron all clothing and underwear on high heat before wearing to kill any lingering eggs. It is exhausting, but if not done, the cycle will only continue and the mite population will continue to grow.

Vacuuming is important but one must exercise caution with the bags. They should be placed in the freezer after use in order to kill any live mites. Canister vacuums should be kept outside and sprayed with rubbing alcohol after each use then wiped down with Clorox wipes. Cleaning is by far the most effective method of attack after chemicals, but be sure to NOT wipe off the chemicals the exterminator just put down. Floors should not be mopped for several weeks at least. Clutter is problematic as it gives the mites more places to hide and propagate.

Bird mites hide during the day and come out at night. The nymphs swarm on the face and in and around warm and moist body cavities so keeping the sleeping area as clean and bare as possible is critical.

A few options to assist in getting a few hours of sleep are to wear the following: swim goggles over the eyes, mentholated jelly under the nose and around the mouth, ear plugs, a shower cap with Bounce fabric softener sheets in it, and thick polyester clothing. An oscillating fan placed next to the bed also helps as they do not like movement. A prescription from a physician for a sedative may be helpful.

It generally takes more than one treatment to completely eradicate bird mites so you must be prepared to lose a lot of sleep, toss a lot of belongings in the garbage, and do a LOT of laundry. Bedbug, lice or flea infestations are mere annoyances compared to a home infested with bird mites.

The information offered here is only the tip of the iceberg. There are a number of credible web sites offering great information.

77 Maple Street

Work at the building is still dormant; a new fundraising campaign is currently being prepared

Advertising

If you are interested in advertising in our newsletter, the cost is \$35 per issue for a business card size ad. Contact jimboone@hotmail.com if you would like to join the group of advertisers that support the Trust and want to have our members as customers.

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Visit us at [www.springfieldpreservationtrust.org](http://www.springfieldpreservationtrust.org). If you are interested in the eNewsletter; just fill out your name and email address under the eNews Sign-Up banner on the left side of the page.

You can also find us on FaceBook, [www.facebook.com/PreserveSpringfield](http://www.facebook.com/PreserveSpringfield)

Monthly meetings of the Springfield Preservation Trust are held on the first Wednesday of each month at 6:30 p.m., at the Mason Wright Retirement Center, 74 Walnut Street. All Trust members are welcome.

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