

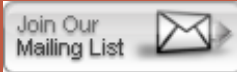


SPRINGFIELD PRESERVATION TRUST NEWSLETTER

Summer 2017

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quick links

[SPT Website](#)
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image above is
Former Westinghouse
Administration Building at
655 Page Blvd. Restored by
[CRRC](#) for their offices.

SUPPORTERS

Michael Noonan



The Kulig Family
Charitable Trust



David & Virginia Neill



ANNUAL PRESERVATION AWARDS

SPT hosted the Annual Preservation Awards Ceremony on May 17 at Center Court of Tower Square. The event, which is free and open to the public, honored individuals and organizations that have helped restore and preserve historic places in



Springfield. Photos and descriptions of this year's awardees, along with previous year's awards, were on display at Tower Square from May 13th thru the 25th. [Click here](#) for a gallery of the awardees. Thanks to Kathleen Pellegrino, Don Courtemanche, and Ben Murphy for their work on the event.

Recipients for 2017 are:

- 1104 Worthington Street LLC for sensitive additions to 1104 Worthington Street
- Demetrios Panteleakis for the restoration of 38 Greenleaf Street
- Neil Greene for the restoration of 43 Firglade Avenue
- Three Palms LLC for restoration of 176 Florida Street
- Colony Hills Neighborhood for advocating for the creation of the Colony Hills Local Historic District
- Commonwealth of Massachusetts for the exterior restoration of the Junior Officers Quarters at the Springfield Armory
- Springfield Redevelopment Authority for the restoration of Union Station
- CRRC for saving and rehabilitating the Westinghouse Administration Building on Page Boulevard
- Rod Sitterly for advocating for the creation of the Thomas Wason House Local Historic District
- Baystate Health for saving and moving of 35 Pratt Street
- The Edward Sims Award for Stewardship went to Deborah Smith for 53 Dartmouth Street.
- The Robert Holbrook Award for Stewardship went to Paula Schendledecker for 25 Green Lane.
- The George Pooler Award for Stewardship went to Robert & Patricia Triggs for 21 Greenleaf Street.

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Robert Markel



Bob McCarroll



Mark & Sally Mullan



Benjamin Murphy &
Brian Connors



Paul Phaneuf



David & Jacqueline
Pleet



William & Caroline

SPT will again have a space at the 45th annual Mattoon Street Arts Festival on September 9 and 10. Volunteers will be selling 2018 calendars, promoting the October Cemetery Tour, and giving out information about the organization.

The [Mattoon Festival](#) is the oldest arts and crafts show in the region. It will feature more than 100 exhibitors, plus food vendors and musicians, on a historic street lined with restored brick Victorian row houses.



**SPT LAUNCHES
2018 "CITY OF HOMES" CALENDAR**

The Springfield Preservation Trust will launch the 2018 "City of Homes" calendar at the upcoming Mattoon Street Arts Festival on September 9 & 10th, 2017. This year will mark the 45th year of the event-making it the longest-running Arts Festival in Western Massachusetts.

In what has become an annual SPT tradition, the organization will launch the new 2018 calendar at the Festival. This will be the 4th year that the organization has put together the calendar which highlights the unique historical heritage of the City of Springfield. According to Calendar Chair, Tim Cummings, "This year's theme will be Interiors/Exteriors and will highlight homes in the Maple Hill, McKnight and Forest Park Heights Historic Districts. This is the first year we will be highlighting interiors, which will give people the chance for a 'sneak peek' to see what is inside the magnificent homes in Springfield."

Cummings continues, "a lot of people don't realize the amount of planning and work that goes into the calendar project and that it actually is a year-round process. This year, we also wanted to make sure that we specifically noted the work of our local photographers who voluntarily contribute their time and work to make the calendar the success it is. This year, the calendar features pictures from returning SPT Calendar photographers, Jim Sharrard and Greg Murphy, as well as first-time contributor, Michelle Langan."

Calendars will be available for sale at the Festival for \$12 a piece for SPT members and \$15 for non-members. After the Festival, the calendar will be available for sale at local florists and online. Specific information on where to purchase will be provided on the SPT website.

Toner



Thomas A. Valentine

The Calendar Committee is grateful for the ongoing efforts of Tim Cummings, Denise Moccia Stratton, Derek Strahan and Marilyn Sutin.

Beome a Supporter

Interested in being listed as a Supporter in the SPT Quarterly Newsletter?

Become a member at the Greek Revival level or higher to be listed.

[Click Here to become a SPT Member](#)

Contractor's List

If you know a skilled craftsman that you would recommend, please let us know.

Please include:

- ~Name of Contractor
- ~Category of work
- ~Phone/Email/website

Send information to jimboone@hotmail.com

SPT Board Meetings

SPT members are welcome to attend

when
First Wednesday of each month
6PM

where
Mason Wright

SAVE THE DATE "Voices from the Grave " Cemetery Tour

SPT will host our fifth annual tour of Oak Grove Cemetery, 426 Bay Street, on Sunday, October 15th. Docent-led groups will visit the graves of several famous or infamous Springfield residents, where costumed interpreters will assume the role of that resident. This is a great way to learn a little local history, enjoy the beautiful scenery and get outdoors! More information will be available closer to the date.



APREMONT TRIANGLE LOCAL HISTORIC DISTRICT

The Springfield Historical Commission recently voted to advance the creation of the Apremont Local Historic District. The next step is for City Council approval. SPT encourages you to contact your city councilor and let them know you support the creation of the Apremont Triangle Historic District. The local historic district will



protect the unique collection of buildings that surround Apremont Triangle along Chestnut, Pearl, and Bridge Streets. To learn more about the Apremont Local Historic District [click here](#) for the Springfield Historical Commission report.

SPOTLIGHT ON MOST ENDANGERED HISTORIC RESOURCES Chapman and Brooks Block & Shean Block Updates

The Chapman & Brooks Block, at 139-145 Lyman Street, was built in 1910 to meet the needs of a rapidly growing wholesale hardware supplies business. This six-story, steel, concrete and brick block was designed by William B. Reid in the Classical Revival style.



The now-vacant building has been in municipal possession through tax-foreclosure since September 2009. Over those nearly eight years, no steps have been taken to secure the structure from water penetration. No inspection was made following the 2012 Gas Blast, which occurred 425 feet away, to determine damage and to seek repair funds from Columbus Gas. The building is now in worse condition than when acquired by the City.

Credits

Newsletter contributors:

Tim Cummings
Bob McCarroll
Ben Murphy
Alicia Zoeller

Photography:

Tim Cummings
Gregory Murphy

Alicia Zoeller, **Editor**

In January, the City Council passed an amendment to the Ordinance for The Preservation of Historically Significant Buildings to encourage offering rehabilitation incentives equal to or greater than the cost of demolition. The City, however, recently issued a Request for Proposals for the building without any incentives and allowed only a month's response time. Not surprisingly, no proposals were received.

The building will probably be allowed to deteriorate until it is condemned by the Building Commissioner. Demolition of this 48,000-square foot structure may cost upwards of \$200,000 and result in a 7,527 square foot lot, about the size of a Residence A zoning district lot.

The Tax Title Custodian's budget should be adequately funded so that foreclosed historic buildings are secured from the weather and vandals while awaiting disposition. CDBG funds should be used for rehabilitation incentives.

The Shean Block, at the busy corner of State and Main Streets, is a two-story Classical Revival Style structure with ground floor retail. It is threatened with demolition for a surface parking lot to serve the nearby Court Square Building. The Board of Directors strongly supports the renovation of the historic Court Square Building, which has been allowed to deteriorate for more than a decade under municipal ownership. The Board, however, has voted to oppose the City/SRA acquisition and demolition of the Shean Block to provide approximately 45 surface parking spaces to the project.

Besides the loss of a historic resource, the proposed use will erode the streetscape and negatively affect neighboring buildings, which are historically and architecturally significant. Good urban planning and design does not replace a building with a parking lot at prominent intersection. Steps should be taken to accommodate parking on the 16,000 square feet of vacant land already with the Court Square Building.

With the MGM developed directly across State Street from the Shean Block, it is feasible that a desirable retail mix will occupy the building. These types of buildings help create an urban lifestyle experience, which is critical to creating a robust Downtown. A study by the National Trust for Historic Places found that the most vibrant areas of American cities are found where there are smaller, pedestrian scale commercial buildings, like the Shean Block. Revitalizing these buildings for continued use for small retail businesses and restoring the second floor for offices or loft style apartments would help create a more vibrant downtown.

If you don't want the historic Chapman & Brooks Block to be allowed to deteriorate further under City control, contact the Mayor and the City Council.

If you don't want upwards of \$2 million of your tax dollars to acquire the Shean Block for a surface parking lot, contact the Mayor and the City Council.

Once they're gone, they're gone forever.

To learn more about these buildings and the other 2017 Most Endangered Historic Resources [Click Here](#).

