



# Springfield Preservation Trust

# S P T

APRIL 2013

## Allis Mansion

Since mid December the SPT has been very focused on trying to save



the Allis Mansion on Carew Street in Springfield. This 1867 Second French Empire brick mansion is the largest and oldest of its type in Springfield. It

was built by Waitsill Hastings Allis who owned the Hampden Brick Works on Carew Street which provided bricks for numerous buildings, schools and St Michaels Cathedral.

In 1898, the mansion became the first home of the House of Mercy, the forerunner of Mercy Hospital. It has also served as a residence of Sisters of Providence, offices, and a day care center. Twelve years ago it was abandoned by the hospital and has sat empty and deteriorating since. Two years ago there were rumors that it was going to be demolished, a rumor dispelled by the Hospital. The mansion was put on PreservationMass most endangered list.



On December 17 Mercy took out a demolition permit for the Allis Mansion. The preservation community (including the Springfield Historical Commission,

PreservationMass, and the Trust) organized news alerts in the paper and on TV, writing campaigns to include a nationally circulated petition, and contacts with elected officials to include City Council and Congressman Neal.

After presenting the Petition to City Council and Mercy Hospital, the Mercy Hospital administration and representatives from all the preservation groups met with a City Council committee led Bud Williams and Tim Allen. At the end of this meeting Mercy agreed to postpone demolition for 90 days and work together with all the interested groups to try to find an acceptable developer so the building could be saved.

Mercy hired the well respected preservation consultant Greg Farmer to help develop a Request For Proposals to be sent out to possible developers. This group is co-chaired by Bob McCarroll of the preservation community and Dan Keenan of Mercy Hospital. The group has worked very well together and all parties have genuinely worked to find a way to save this building.

At a news conference held on March 4, Dan Moen, President of Mercy, officially launched the RFP to find a developer. On Monday, March 11, the building was made available for potential developers to tour the property. Developers now have until April 3 to submit an initial proposal. Mercy and the committee will then review all proposals to see if any meet acceptable criteria; Mercy wants a use that is compatible with the mission of the hospital.

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The final deadline is April 22 when Mercy will either choose a developer and continue on with negotiations over the details, or, determine there are no viable acceptable proposals and then proceed with demolition.

It is felt that every effort has been made to save this very architecturally and historically significant building since everyone came together to work on a plan.

We want to thank everyone who wrote letters, signed petitions, called their elected officials, attended meetings and came to the news conferences. We have raised the consciousness of the community to the importance of historic preservation. We have heard how beloved this building is and how so many will mourn its demolition if it is lost. Thank you, Springfield is a better place because of your efforts.



**ARCHITECT for 77 Maple St.**  
SPRINGFIELD  
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### UPCOMING EVENTS


#### Carriage House Tour

The SPT spring tour will feature six carriage houses in McKnight, Downtown, Maple Hill, and Forest Park. The event will be Sunday, May 5 from 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM.

"Few out buildings such as carriage houses survive in the city. Once they were no longer needed, they were replaced or allowed to fall into ruin," said SPT President Ben Murphy, "This tour will highlight how some of them have survived."

Featured will be an apartment on Bowdoin Street, offices on Temple Street, a house on Crescent Hill, an apartment just off of Longhill Street, and one carriage house on Bellevue Avenue that still has its original stables.

Advance tickets will be available for \$15 at Flowers Flowers, 758 Sumner Avenue; The Flower Box at 596 Carew Street; and online at [www.SpringfieldPreservationTrust.org](http://www.SpringfieldPreservationTrust.org). Tickets can be purchased for \$20 on the day of the tour from 12:45 p.m. until 3:00 p.m. on Warner Avenue, just off of Longhill Street. SPT members received a discounted price. For information, call 413-736-0629.



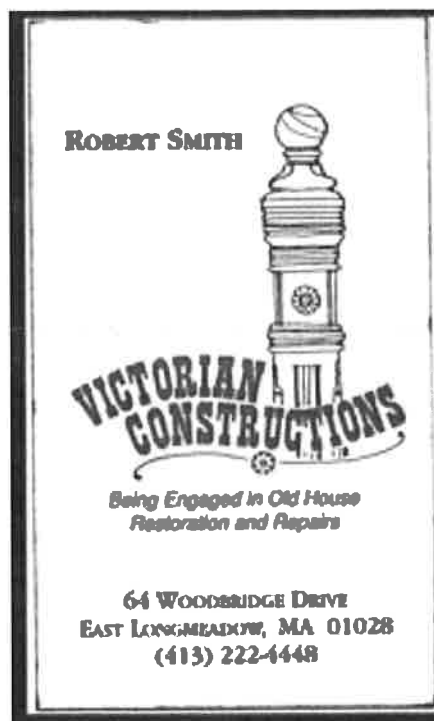
**Springfield City Council**

**Melvin A. Edwards**  
melvinspeaks@msn.com

Room 200 Phone: (413) 733-2664  
36 Court Street Fax: (413) 787-6833  
Springfield, MA 01103 Email: melvinspeaks@msn.com

### Preservation Awards

On Tuesday, June 11 at Center Court in Tower Square, The Springfield Preservation Trust will host it's annual Preservation Awards.



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This event honors the people and organizations that are helping to restore and maintain historic structures in Springfield. Every year the Trust showcases exemplary properties that represent the best preservation efforts in Springfield over the previous year. Please join us to help congratulate those who have

completed great preservation work over the past year. The display will remain up for the month of June.

## Garden Party

Mark your calendar for Sunday, August 25<sup>th</sup>, 2013. The Garden Party is our annual summer fundraiser and it's a wonderful way to support the Preservation Trust while socializing and having a good time in a beautiful setting. Please look for more details closer to the date of the event.

## 2013 Winter Fundraiser, a Big Success

The 2013 Winter Fundraiser was held on January 27<sup>th</sup> at the beautiful home of Stephen & Gayle White on Worthington Street. Their home, with its Tudor and Colonial Revival details, was designed by architect G. Wood Taylor, son-in-law to William McKnight who developed much of the neighborhood with his brother John.

The event was a great success with over 60 people attending. Guests enjoyed lovely live piano music from the second floor hall provided by Larry Pichard & Michael Rheault. Both donated their time and talent.



Passed hors d'oeuvres and a dining table filled with delicious food were presented by Cecy Perry of Al Dente Catering. Wine was again provided at cost from Pride and served by John Perry. As usual, Bob Holbrook and Robert Louder did a wonderful job coordinating the event and making everything look fantastic.

Guests also had a chance to raise additional funds and win a variety of prizes through a raffle. We want to thank the following people and



organizations for their donations: Betti Boggis - Big Y Corp, Lynn Bolton - Friendly's Corp, Melissa Pinkerton - Six Flags Friends, Sarah Murray - Panache Theatre tickets (Death Trap), Gayle White - scarves, Roger Burnett - Tax Preparation Services, Jill Crosler - Starbucks South End Spfld., Daniel Boyle - Springfield Symphony Orchestra (Opera Gala tickets). A special thanks goes to Denise Moccia for all her work in soliciting the above donations.

## Annual Meeting

The Trust held its annual meeting on March 3, 2013 at Atwater Studios, a nifty photography studio in a



renovated brick factory building at 45 Warwick Street. The event began with a social time and refreshments

including coffee and tea provided by Jill Crosler and Ricky Robichaud of Starbucks.



Elected as officers were Benjamin Murphy, President; Michael Marcinkewich, Vice President; Gayle White, Treasurer; and Bob McCarroll, Clerk. Elected to the Board of Directors were Margaret Ashe, JoAnne Cardell, Kevin Charlton, Don Courtemanche, Tim Cummings, Melvin Edwards, Zaida Govan, Bob Holbrook, Robert Louder, Denise Moccia, Jesse Lederman, Kathleen Pellegrino, Mike Stevens, and Marilyn Sutin.

After an overview of the past year and a preview of the coming year, Ben Murphy discussed the Most Endangered List. Guest speaker, Jame Igoe, Executive

Director of Preservation Massachusetts, addressed the gathering about the mission and activities of the state-wide nonprofit group.



### Meet the New Board Members

On March 3, 2013 The Springfield Preservation Trust (SPT) nominated its Board of Directors. Over the past 40 years (founded in 1972) SPT has nominated many boards and numerous members have come and gone. Being the only All Volunteer Non-Government organization dedicated to historic preservation in Springfield, we want to take a moment and introduce you to this year's newest Board of Directors who will serve from March 2013 to March 2014.

**Margaret A. Ashe** - an educational consultant and adjunct professor at the Elms College in the Education Department. She graduated from the University of Massachusetts Amherst and received a MAT from Elms College. A former Springfield Public School English as a Second Language and Evening Adult Citizenship Teacher, she held the Curriculum Management/Assessment Implementation position and served as a system-wide language arts tutor before her retirement from the Professional Development Department. She is a lifelong resident of the Forest Park section of Springfield; she and her husband have lived in their 1895 Victorian home for 43 years and continue to this day with the restoration process.

**DWS** LAW OFFICE of  
**DAVID W. SANBORN**

1391 Main Street, Suite 1006 • Springfield, Ma 01103-1642


**DAVID W. SANBORN**

Tel: (413) 734.2156 Fax: (413) 731.8924

david@bsnllplaw.com

Love and appreciation for Springfield's architectural heritage and interest in its preservation has been a cultivated interest for her.

**Kevin Charlton** - works for the American Red Cross in the blood services division at National Headquarters in Washington, DC. He became familiar with the work of the Preservation Trust about eight years ago when SPT was working to save a house that had once been a large mansion on State Street. Working on the project sparked an interest in the amazing architecture found throughout the city. He moved to Springfield in September 2012 and is thrilled to have been asked to join the Preservation Trust board. He is looking forward to working with the team and doing what he can to preserve the history and beauty of the city.



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**Timothy Cummings** - is an independent consultant following a career of more than 15 years in the International Red Cross. He worked on humanitarian relief and international developments projects throughout the Former Soviet Union, Africa and Asia. He is a graduate of Washington University in St. Louis and the Columbia University School of International and Public Affairs. Tim has also been a Peace Corps Volunteer and served in the Kyrgyz Republic in 1994-1996. He and his partner settled in the Forest Park area in 2012 and became involved with the Springfield Preservation Trust during its campaign to

save the Allis Mansion. He looks forward to working with the Trust to preserve the architectural vibrancy of Springfield.

**Melvin Edwards** - a Springfield City Councilor and a lifelong resident of the city, he lives in the neighborhood of his birth, Maple High Six Corners. He retired from the State Department of Mental Health in 2009. He is involved with many community organizations including, President of Keep Springfield Beautiful and the Maple High Six Corners Neighborhood Council.

He is a member of the boards of HAP Housing, Springfield Partners for Community Action, the Puerto Rican Cultural Center, Mason Wright Retirement Home. He is also a member of the University of Massachusetts's Chancellor's Diversity Committee, Springfield Rotary Club, and a supporter of several local social advocacy organizations.

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Robert Holbrook      Robert Louder  
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**Zaida Govan** - is a lifelong resident of Springfield after being brought here by her family at the age of 3. She graduated from the High School of Commerce, Springfield Technical Community College and Springfield College. She currently works as a consultant for the United Way and Arise for Social Justice, and as a social worker for Behavioral Health Network and Valley Mental Health Association. She serves on the Mason Square Health Task Force steering committee and Board of Directors of The Village. She is passionate about improving this community by organizing at the grassroots level. She joined the Trust because she loves the "City of Homes" and the beautiful architecture here.

**Jesse Lederman** - is Renaissance High School Senior and lifelong resident of the Historic McKnight Neighborhood. Jesse has been a member of the McKnight Neighborhood Council Board for the last four years. He has coordinated numerous projects within the

McKnight Neighborhood and fought for the protection of these historic homes. Beyond historic preservation, Jesse serves on the Executive Board of the Springfield Democratic Committee and has worked as a political consultant on many local campaigns in and around Springfield.


Also NEWLY elected to the board was Robert Louder. However, at press time his bio was unavailable.

### **Maple Street Receives Grant from the 1772 Foundation**

SPT received a huge boost to the fundraising goal of \$500,000 when it received a grant of \$50,000 from the 1772 Foundation. The 1772 Foundation, based in Pomfret, CT, helps preserve America's architectural and cultural history through grants to preservation revolving funds, farmland preservation, and preservation restoration projects. This grant adds to funds already raised through the City of Springfield, Massachusetts Historical Commission, MassMutual, and individual donors like you.

These funds will be utilized for the continued restoration of the exterior of 77 Maple Street, specifically trim work on the north elevation of the building and window restoration.

SPT has applied to the State for a matching grant from the Massachusetts Historical Commission (MHC). The MHC grant requires a 1 to 1 match and the 1772 Foundation grant will be used to leverage these additional funds in hopes of receiving an additional \$50,000. Those funds would pay for the restoration of windows and a substantial amount of the remaining exterior trim. After this work is finished we will have completed a significant portion of the major exterior restoration work.

  
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## Contractors

The very popular Contractor Recommendation List is in need of updating. If you have recently used a contractor that you were pleased with, let us know so we can add them to our list. Contact [jimboone@hotmail.com](mailto:jimboone@hotmail.com) with the name, trade specialty, and contact information. If you need a contractor you can find the list on our website, [www.springfieldpreservationtrust.org](http://www.springfieldpreservationtrust.org).



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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.

## Newsletter contributors:

- ❖ Jim Boone
- ❖ Bill Devlin
- ❖ Michael Marcinkewich
- ❖ Bob McCarroll
- ❖ Ben Murphy

## Photography:

- ❖ Marilyn Sutin

Marilyn Sutin, Editor