



SPRINGFIELD PRESERVATION TRUST NEWSLETTER

Fall 2016

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image above is
Knox Automobile Factory
53 Wilbraham Road

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Community Preservation Act GET OUT THE VOTE

The SPT Board of Directors has voted to endorse adopting the Community Preservation Act, which will be Question #5 on the November 8 ballot.



CPA has already been adopted by 161 Massachusetts

municipalities, including Longmeadow, East Longmeadow, Hampden, Wilbraham, West Springfield, Agawam, and Westfield. It is also being considered in November by Holyoke, South Hadley, Boston, and several other eastern Massachusetts communities.

CPA will place a surcharge of 1.5% on tax bills with exemptions for the first \$100,000 of property valuations and for owner-occupants who are low income families or low/moderate income seniors.

The average Springfield homeowner will pay an extra \$2.50 per tax quarter. To find your CPA surcharge, go to springfield-cpa.org. The percentage cannot be changed without another ballot question. The State then provides additional funds to participating communities from the CPA Trust Fund, which comes from fees for deed & municipal lien recordings and legislation allocation.

One million dollars of local funds will be raised annually before State funds are contributed. CPA money can only be used to acquire or enhance Historic Resources, Open/Recreation Space, and Housing. A minimum of 10% of funds must be annually allocated each for each of the three eligible categories.

A local CPA committee will review project applications from city departments, nonprofits, and community groups to ensure compliance with State requirements and to send recommendations to City Council. The CPA Committee must be composed of members from the Historical Commission, Conservation Commission, Park Commission, Housing Authority, Planning Board, and may have up to four others members if City Council allows. CPA allocations need approval by City Council.

CPA can particularly be useful for rehabilitation of historic properties when the costs of rehab exceed the fair market value, thereby limiting the borrowing capacity of the developer. CPA



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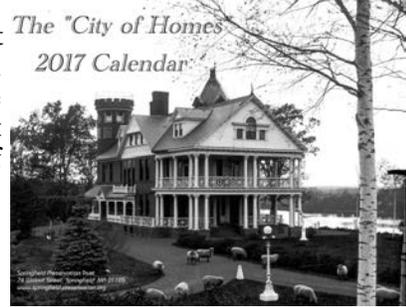
Lou & Lynn Pronovost

funds can be used as a gap filler and also paired with other local, state, and federal funding sources to create an economically viable project.

"CPA can greatly assist the rehabilitation of deteriorated historic buildings in the city. It has the full support of the Springfield Preservation Trust Board of Directors," said president Don Courtemanche.

A Beautiful Way to Mark the Passage of Time

The 2017 calendar was revealed at the Mattoon Street Art Festival. Now in its 3rd year, the calendar committee decided to change the format and highlight some of Springfield's grand homes from the late 1800's.



As Tim Cummings wrote on the insert that accompanies the calendar, it is hoped that by showcasing our wonderful architectural heritage, the people of Springfield will continue to value and support ongoing historical preservation efforts.

The Trust would like to thank the Springfield History Library and Archives Museum, especially Maggie Humberston, for sharing these rarely seen photographs. These photos are the property of the museum and cannot be reprinted without their permission.

The first calendar printing has already sold out and we are awaiting a new shipment shortly. The calendars can be purchased online by [clicking here](#) as well as Flowers Flowers and the Gilded Lily Florist. The calendar are \$15 each, \$12 for SPT members. Shipping and handling fees apply for online purchases.

SPT calendars make lovely holiday gifts for neighbors, family members living at a distance, or the local history buff on your list!



Celebrate the season with a not-so-spooky stroll "Voices from the Grave " Cemetery Tour

SPT will host our fourth annual tour of Oak Grove Cemetery, 426 Bay Street, on Sunday, October 23rd. 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!

Hour-long walking tours depart every fifteen minutes from the hillside winter crypt between 3:00 pm and 4:00 pm. Seasonal

William & Caroline
Toner

Thomas A. Valentine

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Contractor's List

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Please include:

- ~Name of Contractor
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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
Retirement Center

refreshments will be served. Be sure to dress for the weather! Featured will be SPT's own actors and actresses- inventor Ralph Goddard (Don Courtemanche), architect G. Wood Taylor (Jim Boone), scientist Rachel Fuller Brown (Kathleen Pellegrino), and philanthropists Orick & Mary Greenleaf (Mike & Liz Stevens).

Tickets can be purchased online by [clicking here](#), at Flowers, Flowers on Sumner Avenue , and at Oak Grove Cemetery during tour hours.

Win a Pair of Tickets to the Voices from the Grave Tour

Springfield is home to many secret and special spots. Take a walk in any of the City's older neighborhoods- McKnight, Maple High Six Corners (Maple Heights) or the South End- and you will encounter all kinds of memorial plaques, statutes, iron work fences and fountains, unique architecture, brick sidewalks, and more. Be the first person to correctly identify where in Springfield this photograph was taken, and you'll win a pair of tickets to the Voices from the Grave Tour! Email your response to teamzoeller@yahoo.com. Not responsible for wayward emails! Tell us about your favorite secret or special spot and we may feature it in the next newsletter.



Knox Building Nominated

SPT has nominated the Knox Automobile Factory, 53 Wilbraham Road, to the Preservation Massachusetts Most Endangered Historic Resources List. The complex is a connected series of industrial buildings dating between 1891 and 1912. The portion of the building fronting Wilbraham Road is owned by the City of Springfield. The building has a very high degree of integrity but has been neglected and abandoned by its past and current owners.



The Knox Automobile Factory was a leading manufacturer of gasoline engine vehicles during the first two decades of the 20th century. The building was constructed in three stages between 1891 and 1910. In addition to touring cars, buses, and delivery vehicles, the factory produced fire trucks which allowed the City of Springfield to have the first fully motorized fire truck fleet in the nation.

The Knox Automobile Factory is a contributing building to the

Credits

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***Many thanks to
Marilyn Sutin for
her years as
Newsletter Editor!***

"both nationally and locally for its associations with developments within the fields of education, industry, and transportation. ... the Knox Automobile Company manufactured motor driven fire apparatus, among other things, which resulted in Springfield's having the lowest fire loss in the state. ... The district is also significant as the largest extant group of turn-of-the-century industrial structures in the city. ... Springfield's economic prosperity at the turn of the century was largely attributable to its diversified automotive industries. The Duryea brothers designed and manufactured the nation's first gasoline engine automobile in the early 1890's. Within a decade, the companies located at Winchester Square began the production of vehicles which were also "firsts" in the field of transportation. Both the Indian Motorcycle and the Knox Motor Company's commercial trucks and motorized fire equipment received international acclaim, thereby enhancing Springfield's reputation as an automotive manufacturing center."

The Trust included the Knox Automobile Factory in our own Most Endangered Resources List this year; we hope that nomination will provide much needed publicity about the importance of this building and could locate new owners that can restore it to its former glory and return it to productive use.

Preservation Massachusetts' Most Endangered List will be announced at the "[Believe in Preservation](#)" event in Worcester, Thursday, November 3. [Click Here](#) to register for this free event.

Summer Fundraiser

Nice weather, delicious food and good company made for a nice afternoon in the garden of David Hall at 2 Glen Road. David graciously opened his home and gardens to about fifty members and friends for the SPT Summer Fundraiser on August 21st. The event was



part of the yearlong celebration of the 40th anniversary of the creation of the McKnight Local Historic District. The home was built in 1899 in the Colonial Revival Style by Mary McKnight, one of the founding members of the neighborhood. Special thanks go to Robert Louder for organizing the event, Denise Moccia for organizing the 50/50 raffle and Al Dente catering for serving wonderful hors d'oeuvres.