

2007

EAST • PROVIDENCE • HISTORICAL • SOCIETY



John Hunt House

Gazette

Vol. XIX No. 4

January 2007

EAST PROVIDENCE CITY COUNCIL MEETING ALERT FOR EPHS MEMBERS

It has been posted that the East Providence City Council will take up the matter of an historic district designation for Hunts Mills at its January 16th meeting. The East Providence Historical Society and the East Providence Historical Properties Study Commission have been working toward this districting for some time now and would like your support at the council meeting. It has been demonstrated in towns such as Warren, Bristol and Providence that historic district zoning creates a heightened awareness of the historical architectural treasures located in a community. We here in East Providence already have a great appreciation of the 'Ring of the Green' area, the Rumford complex, the Riverside 'Maze' and the Riverside Terrace/Carousel area. Yet nowhere in the city have we local historic district zoning, and sadly, no demolition delay to evaluate the significance of any building slated to be torn down.

This zoning for Hunts Mills allows the city to begin the process of creating a commission to administer that area and to apply for monies to further restore its buildings (the Brown-Williams cottage – 1750, the Rumford Pump House – 1860, the Park Manager's cottage/meter house – 1900 and the John Hunt House – 1780). Plans for restoration of the grist mill at the waterfall might also become more than just a pipe dream. Since the area includes no private houses, the commission will deal only with public buildings, but the enacting of a demolition delay which would serve as a model for the whole city would be an important part of its work.

The East Providence Historical Society strongly urges its members to appear at the council meeting on January 16th, 7:30 p.m. We have found in the past that body count at meetings is very important, whether you choose to speak or not. We also urge you to make a phone call to your council member even if you plan to attend. Your voice carries more weight than you might expect. At this point, we do not know which council members support this issue so you have the chance to sway opinion with all of them.

Please let us know if you need a ride to the meeting. The Board hopes to see you all there. It has been a while since our presence has been needed at City Hall – let's show the City Council that we are still a strong, vocal force for preservation in this city.

Nancy Moore, President, East Providence Historical Society

CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS:

- Robert Cusak – 435-4860, Ward 1
- Bryan Silva – 435-4776, Ward 2
- Valerie Perry – 434-1449, Ward 3
- Bruce DiTraglia – 437-1270, Ward 4
- Isadore Ramos – 432-9984, At Large/Mayor

President's Letter

Nancy Moore, President

Hello Everyone,

Your Board wishes each of you a Happy New Year and hopes that you will join us again in March for a pot luck supper and a glimpse into the work on the new carousel going up at Oakland Beach.

(continued on page 3)

The Gazette

Is published monthly by the

EAST●PROVIDENCE●HISTORICAL●SOCIETY
 P. O. Box 4774, East Providence, RI 02916-4774
 Tel: (401) 438-1750 Web Site: ephist.org

OFFICERS

Nancy Moore	<i>President</i>
Kris Rose	<i>1st Vice President</i>
Edna Anness	<i>2nd Vice President</i>
Cheryl Faria	<i>Recording Secretary</i>
Arline Butterworth	<i>Corresponding Secretary</i>
Peter Allen	<i>Treasurer</i>
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Jeffrey Faria	<i>Grounds</i>
Kris Rose	<i>Markers</i>
Mona Breault	<i>Membership</i>
Virginia Berwick	<i>Museum</i>
Edna Anness	<i>Acting Curator</i>
Doreen Bonney/Florence Adams	<i>Newsletter</i>
	<i>Preservation</i>
	<i>Program</i>
Florence Adams	<i>Publicity</i>
Reinhard Wohlgemuth	<i>Webmaster</i>

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

The Society has a "Return Service Requested" arrangement with the Post Office. *There is a CHARGE every time we retrieve an undeliverable mailing.....* Please advise the Society of all changes, temporary or permanent. Thank you for helping us save money.

The Hunt House Museum, Hunts Mills Road, Rumford, will be open on Sunday, January 14, 1 to 4 p.m., weather permitting. Admission \$3. \$1 East Providence residents. Free, society members.

ARE YOUR DUES DO?

The anniversary month of initial membership is indicated on your Gazette address label along with the paid-up year. Example: 2611 reads, 26 (the year 2006), 11 (the 11th month). November 2006. 2702 reads, 27 (the year 2007), 02 (the second month). February 2007.

The society appreciates your ongoing support.

RECOGNITION DEPARTMENT

Edna Anness, Virginia Berwick, Pat Henry and Nancy Moore decorated the Hunt House Museum for the Christmas Open House on Sunday, December 10.

Jeff and Cheryl Faria, Virginia Berwick and Edna Anness served as Hunt House Museum docents on Sunday, December 10.

Patricia Thacker loaned the Hunt House Museum some Hunt Family Mulberry china for display in the parlor. The dining table looked beautiful with the china place settings along with silver spoons that had been donated by Judith Sharpe and the Hunt Family carving set which was a gift from Charles and Frances Gross.

The East ● Providence ● Historical ● Society is dedicated to preserving the heritage and enjoying the history of our City.

If you are not a member we invite you to join now.

Annual dues are \$15 individual, \$25 family or business, or a Life Membership for \$150.

Please make check payable to:

East Providence Historical Society
and mail with form below to:

**Mona Breault, 34 Josephine Avenue,
Rumford, RI 02916-3018**

Membership Form New Renewal /Change

Name(s) _____

Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone # _____

Amount Enclosed:

\$15 Individual \$25 Family/Business \$150 Life

President's Letter *(continued from page. 1)*

We have seen some new faces at our meetings this fall and we hope that those newcomers have felt welcomed and have enjoyed our programs. However, there does seem to be some confusion about one old member: David Kelleher has resigned from the Board but HE IS STILL A MEMBER. We will be glad to have Dave join us whenever his schedule permits.

And, speaking of Dave, it was in his capacity as chair of the East Providence Historic Properties Commission that he conceived of the idea of Hunts Mills becoming East Providence's first local historic district. This month, we get the chance to voice our support of this ordinance at the January 16th City Council meeting. (Please read the letter to membership in this Gazette). For the historical society there are benefits both monetarily and for future preservation work. There are monies available for communities with historic districts which are unavailable to us now. Hunts Mills is a local treasure and all of its buildings need restoration and conservation money, including the Hunt House. Moreover, historical society members who are heartsick at the thought of further loss of our historic buildings will be able to voice their concerns to a commission appointed to address such issues.

So, we cannot urge you strongly enough: call/email your council representative and show up at the meeting! I look forward to seeing you there.

GIFTS TO THE MUSEUM

Mona Breault: The tape, "Our Heritage, Crescent Park"; the booklet, "The Blizzard of '78."

Austin and Arline Butterworth: Collection of antique iron tools including a nail puller, saw tooth straightener, bottle capper, mechanism to sharpen saws, iron fire starter, boy scout match tin, two iron ladles for lead, iron fireplace cooking pot and a sled.

Julie Lundgren: Antique yellow bowl and fire starter.

Helen Smith: 1909 blank voting ballots.

Virginia Williams: Two antique light bulbs, framed picture of antique cards and pages from her East Providence High School scrapbook.

Doris Yenko: Framed pencil drawing of the old East Providence Town Hall that burned in 1976.

Correction to the November 2006 gifts column:

John Agren: A photo of WWI Navy Camp on the rifle range about where Kimberley Rock Park is today; a set of photos of Tyler's Ice Co. trucks and cutting the ice on the reservoir. (The father of **Mary Tyler Hughes**, society member, ran the ice company in Rumford.

ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

Mary Lou Blecharczyk and **Suzanne Dearnley** were invited to St. Mary's Church, Warren Avenue, for the first of their interviews on the topic of religious freedom and tolerance in East Providence. They were warmly welcomed and came away with an excellent taping of their discussion. Mary Lou thanks **Edna Anness** for her guidance in restarting the oral history project. If your church would like to participate in this project please call the historical society, 438-1750, and leave a message for Mary Lou.

Thanks!

Over sixty of us (nearly all of us over sixty) thoroughly enjoyed our evening of friendship and song at the annual Christmas party. Our resounding thanks go to the committee: Billie Arden – general chair, Jeff Faria – catering arrangements, Peter Allen – set-up, Virginia Berwick – decorations. Thanks to all of you who pitched in that evening doing clean-up, split-the-pot, clearing the floor. And thanks to everyone who brought warm things to give away. We took two large ags each to the East Providence Community Center and to Crossroads RI. Well done, folks!

*Visit our website at
ephist.org*



East • Providence • Historical • Society
P.O. Box 4774
East Providence, RI 02916

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JANUARY

No Members Meeting

Sunday, January 14, 1 to 4 p.m.
Hunt House Museum Open (*weather permitting*)
Hunts Mills Road, Rumford
Admission \$3. \$1 E.P. residents

Tuesday, January 16, 7 p.m. East Providence City
Hall, Taunton Avenue
1st Passage of Hunts Mills area as Historic District

FEBRUARY

No Gazette or Members Meeting

Sunday, February 11, 1 to 4 p.m.
Hunt House Museum Open (*weather permitting*)
Hunts Mills Road, Rumford
Admission \$3. \$1 E.P. residents.

MARCH

Wednesday, March 7, 7 p.m.
Board Meeting *Members Welcome*
Hunt House Museum
Hunts Mills Road, Rumford

Sunday, March 11, 1 to 4 p.m.
Hunt House Museum Open
Hunts Mills Road, Rumford
Admission \$3. \$1 E.P. residents

Monday, March 26, 6 p.m.
Pot Luck Supper/Members Meeting
Newman Church, Rumford
Details in March Gazette