



John Hunt House

# Gazette

Vol. XIX No. 5

March 2007

## President's Letter

*Nancy Moore, President*

Hello Members,

Spring has arrived (did winter ever really settle in?) and we welcome you back with food, fellowship, and a favorite pastime for many: visiting a carousel. There will soon be a brand new carousel at Oakland Beach in Warwick and we are to be treated to a first hand view of what it will look like and how it has been designed. Be sure to join us on March 26th for the potluck supper and talk by Al Martin, wood carver.

You can be very proud of the showing this group made at the East Providence city council meeting on January 14th to urge passage of local historical district status for Hunts Mills. The council unanimously agreed to the new designation. More than 30 members attended. There were a number of people who abut the property in attendance also.

Those who spoke were eloquent about the need for protection for this jewel in our city, both from the standpoint of preserving its buildings and for using the open space wisely. The council was also cautioned by several speakers to resist the expansion of local historic zoning to others parts of the city. Local historic zoning has always been a heavily debated issue in other communities and we are fortunate to have Hunts Mills as a site to begin the learning process concerning this issue.

The historical society board gratefully thanks each one of you who took time to talk with your council member, write a letter of support or attend the meeting. We know that our presence and position was strongly felt at city hall.

I look forward to seeing you at the members meeting on Monday, March 26th.

## POT LUCK SUPPER/ CAROUSEL CARVER

**March Members Meeting**  
**Monday, March 26, 6 p.m.**  
**Newman Church, Rumford**

**Al Martin**, wood carver and former physical education teacher in the Cranston school system is currently involved in carving 24 horses for the **new Oakland Beach carousel**. He will be the guest speaker at the March 26 members meeting and will bring along one of the horses for viewing. A business meeting will follow.

A pot luck supper at 6 p.m. will precede the program. The Telephone Committee will call the membership requesting main dishes, salads and desserts.

## HUNTS MILLS GAINS LOCAL HISTORIC DISTRICT STATUS

As of January 14th, 2007, the Hunts Mills area has become East Providence's first local historic district. The passage by the city council went smoothly with all members voting for the new designation. Ward 1 council member Robert Cusack spoke at length about the importance of preservation education in East Providence and noted that the Rhode Island Historic Preservation Conference to be held in Pawtucket on Saturday, April 14, has listed a number of sites in East Providence for its bus tour.

What does this local historic designation mean for us, the historical society? It means another layer of protection for the John Hunt House, The Brown/Williams Cottage, the 1905 Amusement Park office building and the Pump House.

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*The Gazette*

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

**OFFICERS**

Nancy Moore	President
Kris Rose	1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President
Edna Anness	2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President
Cheryl Faria	Recording Secretary
Arline Butterworth	Corresponding Secretary
Peter Allen	Treasurer
Kris Rose	Immediate Past President

**COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS**

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Jeffrey Faria	Grounds
Kris Rose	Markers
Mona Breault	Membership
Virginia Berwick	Museum
Edna Anness	Acting Curator
Doreen Bonney/Florence Adams	Newsletter Preservation Program
Florence Adams	Publicity
Reinhard Wohlgenuth	Webmaster

**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  
 Saturday, April 14, 2 - 5 p.m. as part of the  
 22nd Annual Rhode Island  
 Statewide Historic Preservation Conference.**

**NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

"A notice requesting qualified candidates to come forth will be placed in the March issue of the newsletter." So reads an item under the society's "Duties of Ad-Hoc Committees". The offices of President, 1<sup>st</sup> and 2nd Vice Presidents, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary and Treasurer are open. Nancy Moore has served the society as president for two consecutive terms and, according to the Standing Rules and Procedures, is ineligible to serve a third consecutive term. Any member wishing to seek office may contact the society, 438-1750, and get in the running. **NOMINATIONS FROM THE FLOOR WILL BE ACCEPTED AT THE MAY MEETING ONLY.** Elections will be held at the Annual Meeting, June 25.

**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, 23 Kay Street,  
 Rumford, RI 02916**

**WARM WELCOME TO  
 OUR NEW MEMBERS**

**Elizabeth Boyer  
 Michael Charves  
 Burt Chase  
 Daniel Erickson  
 David and Susan Nichols  
 Carole Pace**

**Membership Form**  New  Renewal  
 /Change

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

**Amount Enclosed:**

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

## INDUSTRIAL-STRENGTH EAST PROVIDENCE BUS TOUR

Saturday, April 14, 2 - 5 p.m.

The bus tour is part of the  
22nd Annual Rhode Island Statewide  
Historic Preservation Conference.

Jeanne Boyle, Director of Planning,  
East Providence  
Ned Connors, Preservation Consultant

"When Roger Williams fled Massachusetts in 1635, he settled at a waterpower site on the Ten Mile River in what is now East Providence. Generations of industrialists followed and developed the area for the next 300 years. Explore East Providence's industrial heritage in relation to local history, community development, technological innovation and current preservation projects. Stops will include Phillipsdale, Rumford Chemical Works, Hunts Mills and the 1895 Loeff Carousel. Learn how industry transformed the landscape, and then witness how recent efforts will ensure the preservation of important community resources."

Registration fee: \$35.00.

(includes morning coffee, and pastry, lunch and reception) 8:15 - 9:00 a.m.

Tolman High School, 150 Exchange Street,  
Pawtucket

For further information:  
[www.preservation.ri.gov/conference](http://www.preservation.ri.gov/conference),  
email [janetballetto@cox.net](mailto:janetballetto@cox.net)  
or call Janet Balletto at 401-732-1009.

Visit our website at  
[ephist.org](http://ephist.org)

## HUNTS MILLS GAINS LOCAL HISTORIC DISTRICT STATUS

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It also means more support from the state with regard to grant funding for future projects concerning these buildings. It means that a board will be convened to discuss the future of the area and the possibility of extending local historic zoning to other places in the city. It also means that East Providence will now join places like Bristol, Providence, Warren and Pawtucket: communities which have decided that the preservation of their historic buildings is worth the hours of discussion and debate that are provoked by this issue.

So, this is a moment that the East Providence Historical Society and East Providence Historic Properties Study Commission has been waiting for...for some time. This is a very important step for the East Providence City Council to take and we applaud their action.

## GIFTS TO THE MUSEUM

**Anonymous:** Rumford Cookie cookbook pamphlet.

**George Chalko:** 1980 letter declaring his former home to be in the Rumford Historic District; guide to Rehoboth historic sites; original newspaper on Lincoln's assassination; Rhode Island Preservation Commission Report on East Providence and one on Providence's west side; 1923 Crimson Yearbook.

### East • Providence • Historical • Society Historical Marker Program

Your home may be eligible for a **Marker**. Any building in the City of East Providence which contributes to the historical development or architectural character of the City is eligible to be considered for a  
**Historical Marker.**

*Request information by sending your name, address and phone number to the*

**Marker Program  
East Providence Historical Society  
P.O. Box 4774  
East Providence, RI 02916-4774**



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## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### *MARCH*

**Monday, March 26, 6 p.m.**  
**Pot Luck Supper**  
**Newman Church, Rumford**  
*Program: Al Martin, Carousel Carver*

### *APRIL*

**Wednesday, April 4, 7 p.m.**  
**Board Meeting *Members Welcome***  
**Hunt House Museum**  
**Hunts Mills Road, Rumford**

**Saturday, April 14, 2 - 5 p.m.**  
**Hunt House Museum Open**  
**Hunts Mills Road, Rumford**  
*RI Historic Preservation Conference*

**Monday, April 23, (4th Monday) 7 p.m.**  
**Members Meeting Public Invited**  
**Newman Church, Rumford**  
*Program: Don Carpenter, History of Scituate Reservoir*