



WSHS

WESTERN SPRINGS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

May, 2008

Annual Community Meeting Update

The Western Springs Historical Society held its annual meeting for members and residents on April 16 at Field Park School and shared its accomplishments over the past year.

“We are working to be a valued partner in our community to protect and preserve our cultural heritage,” said President Kimberly Knake. The WSHS has partnered with Western Springs District 101 and the Thomas Ford Public Library to deliver a variety of programs this year.

As part of its commitment to preserving history, the WSHS is initiating a new program to re-index and catalog its archives which are stored at the Grand Avenue Community Center. Also from the Archives, a humorous and informative presentation on Western Springs history was given by Archives Manager and Trustee, Alan Gornik.

The WSHS unveiled its new logo art at the meeting. Local artist Martin Voelker designed a logo of the Water Tower for use on all WSHS materials. Two framed posters of the logo were raffled off at the meeting.

Looking ahead, the WSHS is working hard on the Ekdahl House project and the group heard a presentation on the significance of the building and its owners to the commercial life of Western Springs.

The WSHS also launched its brand-new web site at the meeting. Designed to allow two-way communication between residents and the Society, the new site features a place to share memories and a blog to have questions answered. The site also includes information about the Society, upcoming events and a digital album of Preservation Award-winning homes, visit us at www.westernspringshistory.org.

Four retiring members of the Board of Trustees were honored for their service: Betty Howard, Nancy Pegram, Harriett Potenza and Yolanda Fabre-Shiloh and received gifts.

A rebroadcast of the meeting can be found on Channel 6.



April 16, 2008 - Western Springs - Western Springs Historical Society Trustee Patty Ptacek shares the organization's new web site (www.westernspringshistory.org) with the public at the group's annual meeting at Field Park School Wednesday night.



President's Letter

Dear Neighbors,

In letters written by August Ekdahl, we've learned much about the early days of Western Springs and the importance of community. August relied heavily on his Uncle and neighbors to help build his small house at 808 Hillgrove. There were no power tools or even electricity, just family, neighbors and sweat equity!

Just like Ekdahl, we are asking our community to get involved during the moving, restoration and building of the Ekdahl Museum and by doing so, keeping the community spirit of Western Springs strong. There are many ways to help; by simply talking with your friends and neighbors about the project; volunteering to scrape paint and pound nails, purchasing a brick paver or making a financial donation. Please call us for more information at 246-9230

The Ekdahl House is not the only thing on the move at the WSHS. Check out our new home on the web at www.westernspringshistory.com. The newly designed site has more information about the WSHS, the Ekdahl Museum, a fun and unique way to help your children learn more about their own family history and a printable house walk tour, perfect now that spring has sprung!

In closing, I would like to thank all of our volunteers and donors who have made all this possible and that believe like I do in, **Preserving History for our Children's Tomorrow.**

Kimberly Knake
President
WSHS

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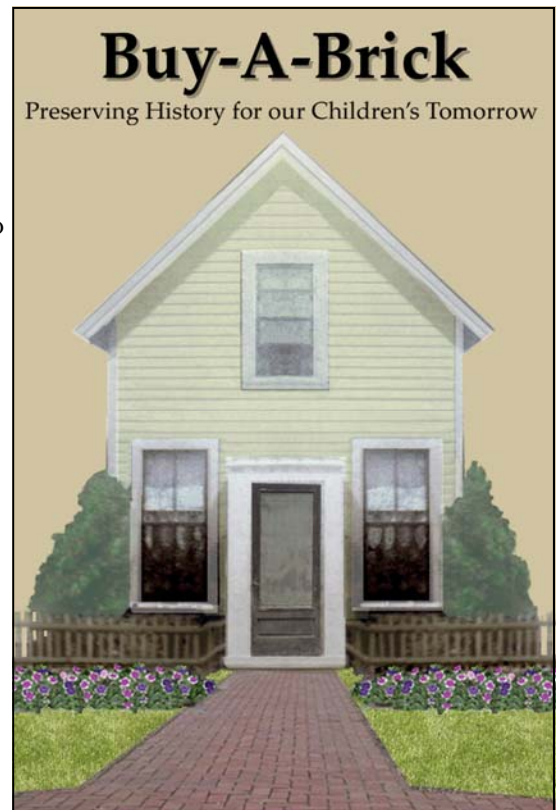
*Betty Howard
Janet Helin
Rus Nelson*

Newsletter
David Walters

We Need Your Financial Support

The WSHS invites you to show support for this project through our Buy-A-Brick Program. The bricks are available in either a 4" x 8" or 8" x 8" sizes and cost \$100 and \$200 respectively. Each brick purchased will be engraved with your family name(s) or a short statement of your choice and will become part of the walkway to the house. All proceeds will go to the building's move and preservation.

For additional information and to obtain an order form, please visit www.westernspringshistory.org, the Water Tower Museum, Village Hardware, Harris Bank, The Spaghetti Bowl or call the Western Springs Historical Society at 708-246-9230.



2008 Preservation Awards Nominations

As part of National Preservation Month, the **Western Springs Historical Society** is honoring homes and businesses with its 2008 Preservation Awards. Throughout May the society is accepting nominations for its 12th annual preservation Awards.

Since 1996 more than 50 structures, private residence as well as commercial and public buildings have been recognized for maintaining or preserving their historic or architectural integrity while undergoing restoration, renovation or expansion. Nominations are sought from village residents for homes that are at least 50 years old.

There are three award categories:

The **Preservation Award** is for the maintenance, protection, repair and replacement of the structure to retain the original exterior historic character of the house

The **Rehabilitation Award** is for retaining the structure or a significant part of it to the original design.

The **Compatible Addition Award** is given for a house that adds on while maintaining compatibility with the other houses in the neighborhood.

To obtain a Nomination Form you can pick one up at the Water Tower Museum (the museum is open Saturdays from 10 until 12 Noon), Thomas Ford Memorial Library, Harris Bank, the Western Springs Recreation Center or visit our website at www.westernspringshistory.org.

For more information the society welcome's your call @ 708-246-9230.

Nominations must be received by May 31st, 2008.

Nomination Form - The Western Springs Preservation Awards

Address of Property: _____

Name of Owner (if known): _____

Information (age of house, architectural style): _____

Why do you think that this structure deserves a preservation award?

Award Categories: Please choose one

Preservation includes the maintenance, protection, repair and replacement of the structure so that it retains its original exterior historic character.

Exterior Rehabilitation returning a structure or a significant part of it to the original design and condition by repairing or replacing the original material and architectural detail and by painting with historically appropriate colors.

Compatible Addition means constructing an addition that recognizes and respects the existing architectural and environmental characteristics of the subject property. These characteristics include the general size, shape and scale of the addition and the use of compatible materials, colors and textures. The addition should respect general site characteristics and it should not alter, change, obscure, damage, or destroy any significant features of the original property.

Please return this form to: **Preservation Awards - P.O. Box 139 - Western Springs, Illinois 60558**

Nominations must be received by May 31, 2008

2007 Preservation Award Winners

Scott and Gwen Divenerere
4811 Wolf Road
Compatible Addition Award



The Divenereres purchased this 1938 English Tudor home and rented the house to the south in anticipation of an extensive remodeling project to give the family more space.

An earlier one story frame addition was re clad in brick and a second story added, nearly doubling the square footage of the residence. They also built a new detached garage and a sympathetically designed brick privacy wall, and installed complementary landscaping. The awkward front entry was reconfigured, a side entrance created, and a circular driveway added to make access to and from Wolf Road easier.

The house was chosen for this award because the addition recognizes and respects the existing architectural and environmental characteristics of the property. This includes the size and scale of the addition, as well as use of compatible material, color and texture.

Clare and Joe Idaszak
5043 Lawn Avenue
Good Neighbor Architecture Award



When the Idaszaks' family grew in size, they knew it was time to find a bigger home. As they wanted to remain in the area, their idea was simple: find a new house with the look and feel of an old one. Unsuccessful in their search, they decided to build. Inspired by the picturesque and pastoral Iowa landscape, the Idaszaks set out to replicate a farmhouse that reminded Clare of her visits with relatives in Fort Dodge.

Their project began in Fall 2001 and finished a year later. They removed the 1950's style ranch, retained the original footprint and foundation, location of the garage and all the trees on the corner property. Their architect, Jeannete Grazziano, designed them a simple two story farmhouse with a wraparound porch, doubling the square footage in the process.

The Preservation Committee thought this house is a good example of farmhouses that dotted the Western Springs area in the 1870's. It is set back from the street, allowing for friendly front and side yards, the footprint is similar to other homes on the block, and the roofline does not tower over or diminish its neighbors.

Honoring Preservation in Western Springs

The WSHS 11th Annual Preservation Awards were presented to recognize private, commercial and public buildings for maintaining or preserving their historic or architectural integrity while undergoing restoration, renovation or expansion. Each year the WSHS seeks judges based on their knowledge of restoration and experience with architectural preservation. The 2007 judges were **Eleanor Esser Gorski** - AIA-Assistant Commissioner, Dept. of Planning and Development Landmark Division, City of Chicago, **Doug Kaarre** - Preservation Planner, Village of Oak Park, **Frank Lipo** - Executive Director, The Historical Society of Oak Park and River Forest and **Dan Ruzic** - Chicago Project Planner.

The judges use specific criteria developed by the Department of Interior and the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency. Western Springs award winners are presented a bronze plaque to be placed on the exterior of their houses.

Special thanks to the WSHS preservation committee of Elizabeth Arts, Jim Havlat, Paul Karas, Mike Marcotte, Carole Cosimano, Elizabeth Trail and Kim Gareiss.

John and Julie Cox
4206 Central
Exterior Rehabilitation Award



Julie and John Cox spent three years rehabilitating the exterior of their 1892 shingle style house. They replaced roof and gutters, rebuilt chimneys, repaired and replaced wood siding and windows, and repainted using a color scheme appropriate to the era. Finally, they replaced the landscaping and added new stonework for the front walk and side of the residence. The judges were pleased with the overall look, setting and retention of the home's historic character. The house remains largely intact and reflects its original construction. Although improvements to the porch railing were made earlier and not completely to the style of the home, judges agreed that the current homeowners acquired this, and as such it does not detract from the overall look and character of the house.

George and Jonell Knue
4636 Grand Avenue
Preservation Award



The Knues realized they had a piece of history in their back yard when they purchased this property in 1980. An 1889 Victorian style stable went with the house, but its state of deterioration was cause for concern. They eventually decided to fix what they had, and over a six week period of time raised the old stable, poured a new foundation and floor, inserted an I-beam for support in the loft area, reattached the structure to its new foundation, and straightened it to its original square shape. Paint was stripped and returned to its original color, and a new garage door was installed. The windows will be repaired next – then it will be time for the owners to start all over and restore the original farmhouse.

This stable was chosen for the Preservation award because the maintenance, protection, repair and/or replacement of materials allowed its historic character to be retained. Previous owners obviously had treated the structure with respect since its construction in 1889, a true tribute to preservation.

Photos of all the award-winning houses are on display in the museum located in the Water Tower and our web site at www.westernspringshistory.org.

The preservation committee is now accepting nominations for the 2008 Preservation Awards.

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Donations & Organizations

County Line Questers
 Coterie Club of Western Springs
 Dr. and Mrs. Joseph Hennessy & family
 Con & Gladys Tsaros
 Milton & Jeanette Fanta &

Bruce & Ethlyn Yount
 In honor of Wayne & Lorelie Kennedy
 Bob & Liz Burns
 In honor of Peggy Taylor and in thanks for the generous contribution of her paintings of the community.
 Kathleen & Robert Michalski
 In honor of Ken & Jo Means
 Bob & Phyllis Pierce
 Spring Rock Questers
 Village Green Questers #690
 Western Springs Lodge #1135/6
 Laurel & Richard Seidelman
 In honor of Lola D. Knott
 Lori Russell in thanks for wedding at the Tower, 2007.
 Nancy Timyan for her children, Anne & Jack, 2007.

In addition to becoming a member or volunteering at the Society, there are other ways you can help out. We are always looking for new items for the Tower Museum collection. If you would like to donate or loan artifacts, documents, etc. pertaining to Western Springs, please contact our Archives office at 246-9230.

Thanks for your help!

Benefits of Membership

All Memberships receive 10% discounts on all Historical Society merchandise sold at the Tower Museum and at the Historical Archives at Grand Avenue Community Center.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Western Springs Historical Society
 Box 139, Western Springs, IL 60558 246-9230

PLEASE PRINT THE WAY YOU WISH TO BE LISTED: _____, 20____

Name(s) _____

Street _____

City/State/Zip _____ Phone _____

ANNUAL DUES

- Life Member of the Society \$500
- Patron Member of the Society \$100 per year
- Sustaining Member of the Society \$50 per year
- Business Member of the Society \$30 (min.) per year
- Family Member of the Society \$25 per year
- Individual Member of the Society \$10 per year
- Special Gift \$ _____

Please Circle One

Thank you for your support!

- I would like to help with:
- Typing or Filing
 - Publicity and Mailing
 - Membership Promotion
 - Performing Research
 - Preserving Historical Records
 - Museum Display Arrangement
 - Museum Docent
 - Fundraising
 - Children's Museum
 - Genealogy
 - Other

Renewal notices will automatically be sent when due.



Western Springs Historical Society
P.O. Box 139
Western Springs, IL 60558

LOCAL POSTAL PATRON

916 Hillgrove Ave.
Western Springs
708.246.9230
westernspringshistory.org

THE EKDAHL PROJECT NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT

**The Tower Museum &
Children's Museum**
Located in the historic
Water Tower in Western
Springs

Museum Hours:
Saturdays
10AM - 12 PM

Volunteers/Docents
welcome
Call 246.9230

Archives and Workshop
Grand Avenue
Community Center
Second Floor

Open to the Public
Tuesdays 9 AM—Noon

Volunteers needed to
catalog donated items and
articles. Contact Betty
Howard at 708.246.9230

Pajama Night!

Thursday, June 12th

7PM -10PM



Fun, Food, Wine and Prizes
for the best PJ attire!

Join the Western Springs Downtown
Businesses as they stay open late and
support the Ekdahl House project.

Grab your mother, sister, girlfriends and
come shop in your PJ's to raise funds for
the Ekdahl House. 10% of sales from this
night will benefit the restoration of the
Ekdahl House.



Buy a Pizza this Month And Support the Ekdahl House!

A percentage of all pizzas sold in May will go to sup-
port the move and restoration of the Ekdahl House.
(The Old Spaghetti Bowl Location)