

**HAPPENINGS AT THE LIBRARY**

**Research a Grant at the Springfield Library**

The Springfield City Library is now a cooperating Collection of the Foundation Center. Formerly known as the Western Mass. Funding Resource Center hosted by the Roman Catholic Diocese of Springfield, the Collection is now housed at the Central Library at 220 State Street.

Beginning in April, introductory tutorials to The Foundation Directory Online will be offered as part of the Library's HiTech@theLibrary computer class schedule. The first class will be on Thursday, April 19 from 10 to 11:30am in the Central Library Computer Lab.

For more information, visit <http://www.springfieldlibrary.org/nonprofits.html>. The Foundation Center Cooperating Collection is available to the public during all open hours of the Central Library



**140 Chestnut Street  
Springfield, MA 01103**

**Library Targets Baby Boomer Volunteers**

The Library has received a \$12,700 grant from the Massachusetts Service Alliance (MSA) as part of MSA's Baby Boomer-Plus Volunteer Initiative. The Library will be using these grant funds to recruit and train baby boomers to greatly expand its existing Library-in-Your-Mailbox program for city residents who are homebound or who have disabilities. The program, renamed Library-in-Your-Mailbox-Plus, currently serves 40 residents; the Library's goal is to increase this number to 250.

In order to offer expanded services and increase the number of customers served, the Library-in-Your-Mailbox-Plus program is seeking volunteers for a variety of positions including a program coordinator and assistant coordinator to oversee the program, reader's advisors to select books and other materials, deliverers to bring packaged library materials to designated facilities, and programmers who might enjoy reading aloud or running a book discussion group at a facility.

If you are interested in learning more about this project, please contact Ann Keefe at 263-6828, ext. 294 or [aakeefe@springfieldlibrary.org](mailto:aakeefe@springfieldlibrary.org).



**AQCA Meeting**  
**Thursday, April 19**  
**7:00pm**  
**Classical Condominiums**  
**State Street**

*Please park in adjacent lot*

**The State Street Corridor Alliance**

Come listen to an overview and an update on this important aspect of the economic development for the city of Springfield.

**Guest Speakers**  
 Maureen Hayes  
 and  
 Nicholas Fyntrilakis

\* *Save the Date!* \*

**Thursday, May 17**

The AQCA May meeting will be an opportunity for you to see our new office at the Kimball Towers. More information will be available in the May newsletter.

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**Community Police Sector E**  
**Beat Team Meeting**  
**April 4, 2007 at**  
**the MacDuffie School**  
**9:00am**

Special Guest will be Captain Foley from the Springfield Police Department who will be retiring effective April 30.

## AQCA BOARD

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Our new email address will  
be announced next month.  
In the meantime, you may email  
any member of  
the AQCA Board

Check us out on the web at:  
[www.aqcaspringfield.org](http://www.aqcaspringfield.org)

The Armoury-Quadrangle  
Civic Association  
newsletter is published once a month.



## President's Letter

### *The Bones of Greatness*

Michael Tuckey

*"We celebrate the past to awaken the future."*

*"Our problems are man-made; therefore they can be solved by man"*

*"Man can be as big as he wants. No problem of human destiny is beyond human beings. Man's reason and spirit have often solved the seemingly unsolvable, and we believe they can do it again."*

*(These quotes are all from President John F. Kennedy. References to the "male," I believe, are signs of an earlier time and not meant to exclude women. I certainly don't)*

The Armoury Quadrangle Neighborhood is faced with a tremendous opportunity. As I have said many times, we have *"the bones of greatness!"* Over the last few years, we have climbed some mountains:

- Springfield has finally received the attention we needed from our absent state government. It certainly may have been for negative reasons but, despite the reason, we'll take the long overdue attention.
- We have begun to get our financial house in order.
- We have started to restructure our city government and its departments to create a more efficient, responsive, and relevant city government.
- We have begun the *"Keep Springfield Beautiful"* campaign to create a more livable and attractive environment.

We have created an environment supportive of change and capable of responding to initiatives for a better Springfield

Earlier this month, the study performed by and the recommendation made by **The Urban Land Institute** was released. This is not simply *"another study."* **IT IS AN OPPORTUNITY TO CREATE A BETTER CITY!**

This study offers us observations of circumstances of which we were all probably aware but this study offers us three major benefits: the analysis of those problems; suggestions for change; and support and advice for those changes.

#### **THE ONLY MISSING PIECE IS YOU!**

This initiative offers our neighborhood a unique opportunity. It includes a specific suggestion for the revitalization of the Apremont Triangle commercial area in the heart of **THE ARMOURY QUADRANGLE NEIGHBORHOOD**. But, when I discuss my enthusiasm for the future and my excitement for the opportunity, I am frequently met with responses such as, *"Another study, so what. Nothing is ever done, anyway."* My question is: **Nothing is ever done by whom? We are Springfield. We create our own future.**

## The View from City Hall

Bruce Stebbins, *Member of the Springfield City Council*

### City Council Endorses Preserve America

Working with Michael Quijano from the Armory National Historic Site, I was pleased to sponsor a resolution for the council to approve that will allow Springfield to apply for designation as a Preserve America community. Preserve America is a federal program administered by several departments and agencies that helps provide resources and grants to community primarily for historic programming needs. I was pleased to have representatives from the Springfield Preservation Trust there as well to speak on behalf of the resolution. "The program recognizes and designates communities that protect and celebrate their heritage, use their historic assets for economic development and community revitalization, and encourage people to experience and appreciate local historic resources through education and heritage tourism programs." Once we are approved, organizations throughout our community will be able to apply for grants. In addition, Preserve America communities are able to position themselves more favorably when they apply for Save America's Treasures grants that can help fund "bricks and mortar" projects.

### Ward Representation

The ward representation lawsuit started with opening testimony by the plaintiffs before Judge Michael Ponsor. After hearing the plaintiff's case, it was decided that the case be suspended until action can be taken on the Home Rule petition filed by the mayor with support from the city council. The petition asks that the city create an 8 ward (there are 8 existing wards) and 5 at-large seat council seats. I supported this measure primarily because I feel Springfield's neighborhoods should have at least one voice on the council that will be accountable to that neighborhood and the voters. We now await action by the legislature and Governor before the measure can come back before Springfield voters to approve the new plan.

### The Simpsons Come to Springfield

Mayor Ryan's staff has working with several organizations and business leaders to submit a marketing proposal to the creators and producers of "The Simpsons", who are planning a opening night screening of their feature length movie. Though the Springfield depicted in the cartoon program in no way mirrors our proud city, I would certainly welcome the national attention for the movie's premiere.



### ULI Report

I joined several of my council colleagues, Mayor Ryan, Chief Development Officer David Panagore and business officials to unveil the Urban Land Institute plan for Springfield. The contributions, public comment and input for this plan came from across the city. The plan highlighted the emphasis and focus that needs to be placed on the downtown neighborhoods. The ULI panel, which visited Springfield last fall, clearly stated that no large city can be successful without a strong and vibrant downtown. I could not agree more. If our downtown community is not strong, it will only be a matter of time before the rest of the city fails. As chair of the city council Finance Committee, I will be asking city department heads during our next few weeks of Fiscal Year 08 budget hearings how their department's budget reflect the priorities of the ULI plan.

### Bottle Redemption Centers

The council tonight acted to require bottle redemption centers to be located within industrial zoned property and require a special permit by the council. The Planning Department recommended this zone change because they believe these businesses should not be located in commercial business districts. These facilities tend to utilize larger buildings with very few jobs. In building vibrant commercial districts, they suggested to the council that these types of business be sited elsewhere.

Once again, there are good things happening in Springfield and I invite your comments. You can reach me by e-mail at [bstebbins2005@yahoo.com](mailto:bstebbins2005@yahoo.com)

# Keep Springfield Beautiful

On Saturday, April 7, "Keep Springfield Beautiful" becomes an affiliate of the national organization "Keep America Beautiful" <http://www.kab.org/>

## The Keep America Beautiful Affiliation Certification

Karen Sprague Cultural Arts Center

American International College

1000 State Street

Springfield MA 01109

Saturday, April 7, 2007

9:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Please join us to celebrate

Refreshments will be served



all have to make a contribution," she said.

The Republican is highlighting the event as part of its Quality of Life series on issues affecting living conditions for city residents, including litter, junky lots, abandoned houses, graffiti, vandalism, excessive noise and more.

The Springfield campaign is seeking volunteers to spend April 28 picking up litter, clearing brush, moving junked items, covering graffiti and putting a polish on all the major doorways to the city.

"We're going to take out about 170 tons of trash that day," Cruz said.

More than 3,000 people, many of them city residents, are expected to take to the streets that day. Among visitors who have already signed up to help is Keep America Beautiful President Raymond G. Empson, who will bring a team of cleanup experts to help.

The effort is being sponsored by in-kind services and donations from several key sponsors, including American International College, where students have designed a logo for the campaign, and space is given for the now-weekly meetings that 30 key organizers hold.

AIC spokesman Craig Greenberg said the college's contributions add up to more than \$60,000. Other key sponsors are the MassMutual Financial Group, Baystate Health and Balise Honda.

Cruz said planners have divided the city into four quadrants, and there will be one volunteer captain heading up each of those sections.

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## Keep Springfield Beautiful (continued)

The city's Public Works Department has agreed to stay open the entire day, and provide a driver and truck for each of the 17 neighborhoods to help with the cleanup effort.

Each of the 17 neighborhoods has identified two sites in need of cleanup for that day. Also, 10 streets in each neighborhood will be cleaned.

Baystate Health will bring volunteers to spruce up all major entry points to the city and into neighborhoods, Cruz said.

Volunteers will also come from the four city colleges - AIC, Springfield College, Springfield Technical Community College, and Western New England College - as well as city schools, where an educational program is under way to raise awareness of keeping communities clean. City employees are expected to turn out in force.

Cruz said the event will also serve as a means to measure the city's "litter index." That figure will be used as a base for future cleanups, she said.

In addition to the citywide cleanup effort, the **Keep Springfield Beautiful** campaign will include a month of activities, including a graffiti cleanup during the entire second week.

Cruz said the city will be better for the effort.

"A clean city is so important to the quality of life and the economic health of a community," she said.

"People don't have to read or hear anything. If they come to a city and they see litter and graffiti, that tells a story. We're going to do something about that," she said.

Anyone interested in volunteering can call (413) 886-5044.



## THE LUSTER ON THE PEARL

by Michael Tuckey

In any organization there are always those who deserve attention for their outstanding contributions. Sometimes these people are completely overlooked. Sometimes the constraints of time cause the attention to be given later than it should. This month's AQCA member is a person who has worked tirelessly, most frequently unnoticed and sometimes under appreciated.

I have only been with the Armoury-Quadrangle Civic Association for about one year. Early on in my membership, I recognized this person was a special contributor. One Saturday, my brother, with whom I live, went to Spring Street Drug store. When he returned, he said he had just seen **Wil Stebbins** sweeping and cleaning, by himself, a public area on Pearl Street. I thought that this is a person who puts substance to his commitment to this neighborhood. Since that time, I have found Wil does take these actions regularly. He is continually in contact with city leaders, apprising them of situations of concern in our neighborhood. He has been instrumental in the city's increased concern for the revitalization of our open spaces and parks. He has kept the city constantly aware of deteriorating and neglected buildings. He developed relationships with influential people in positions critical to the further redevelopment of a neighborhood and, most importantly, these officials respect his opinion and suggestions. Interestingly, Wil doesn't announce his accomplishments. He has performed these activities quietly, without fanfare, and without much recognition. But, we are a much better and attractive neighborhood for his efforts.

Recently, I asked Wil to be our contact with Mary Ayala of the Keep Springfield Beautiful campaign.

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## Community Improvement Committee

Carol Costa, *Chair*

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It's been a while since we last met as a group to discuss Community Improvements. But the holidays are long gone, and spring is arriving. So now it's time to get to work. There are lots of exciting opportunities for us right now in this neighborhood, but there is also a great deal of work to be done.

### **NEXT MEETING:**

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 4, 5:30 PM**

**Classical Condominiums, 235 State Street**

Brian Connors from the Office of Economic Development, will be briefing us on development plans for the downtown and our neighborhood, and he will identify ways that we can help with development efforts. We will provide information on the Police Department's reorganization and how it will affect our neighborhood. We will also discuss ideas for improving the appearance of properties and green space, lighting, and reuse of vacant buildings.

I hope you can attend. I will be distributing a survey to all of you, asking you to identify problems as you see them. Also on the survey, there will be an opportunity for you to volunteer to help in different ways. Your choices will range from attending different types of neighborhood or city meetings, to reaching out to some business or property owners, to helping with spring cleanup efforts, to making phone calls, to enlisting new AQCA members, to working on ideas for new development, or to simply agree to keep your business or property clean and attractive. We need you all.

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### THE LUSTER ON THE PEARL (continued)

There could be no better representative of AQCA I am certain. Mary and Wil will be seeking volunteers for this program and it seems to me to be more rewarding to volunteer to work with a person who is committed to the goal. If you choose to work with Wil, be aware of what you are doing, what Springfield is doing. What Wil has been doing in AQCA for several years now he has been doing it at his own expense and, largely, without help.

Right now our neighborhood is in the right place at the right time. The City has made security and economic development top priorities in the downtown area. With the excitement surrounding the new courthouse and the State Street Corridor project, as well as new initiatives to make the downtown a hub of new development, we can finally look forward to improvements that will stretch from Temple and High Streets, across to Chestnut Street, the Apremont Triangle, and up to Byers Street.

I promise to make this meeting informative, productive, optimistic, and efficient in terms of time. We will complete all business NO LATER than 7 PM. Light refreshments will be available.

**Please let me know by email or by phone (636-9550) if you plan to attend.**

And, surely, if you know anyone (resident or business person or property owner) in the neighborhood who you think would be a good addition to our Community Improvements efforts, please bring them, too!

The time is right to get ideas moving and action happening.

**Again, the meeting is scheduled for —**

**Wednesday, April 4, 5:30 PM**

**Classical Condominiums, 235 State Street**

**(Please park in the adjacent Quadrangle lot)**

As a resident of the Armoury Quadrangle Civic Association, I **THANK YOU MR. WILL STEBBINS.**

As the president of the Armoury Quadrangle Civic Association, I request that all residents join me in extending to **WIL STEBBINS** our gratitude for his selfless efforts to make our neighborhood the beautiful place it is. **WIL STEBBINS**, you truly put the LUSTER ON OUR PEARL!

### **The Bones of Greatness** (continued)

I expect to work to insure that the suggestions in this study are implemented and that **The Armoury Quadrangle Neighborhood** gets its fair share of those improvements.

**THE ARMOURY-QUADRANGLE CIVIC ASSOCIATION** has been gifted with the participation of some very tireless workers who give their time, energy and, sometimes, their finances to make this a better neighborhood. Some of these good-hearted folks commit themselves to other projects and organizations to better our general quality of life. I am trying to shine the light of gratitude on just a few of these people every month, but we could use your assistance. Membership is open to all our residents and businesses and your participation is welcome and encouraged.

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### **ONE BOOK, ONE SPRINGFIELD PLANNED FOR APRIL**

*Library kicks off three-week program starting April 2nd*

The Springfield City Library is excited to announce the 2007 One Book, One Springfield community-reading program. This year's selection is the award-winning book, *Tuesdays With Morrie*, by Mitch Albom. The program lasts three weeks and kicks off **April 2nd with an opening event at 6:00 pm at the Central Library**, located at 220 State Street in Springfield.

Now in its third year, One Book, One Springfield is an annual citywide reading and discussion program that promotes the value of reading by recommending a compelling book that links the community in a common conversation. One Book, One Springfield aims to encourage dialogue about a particular book, but also fosters lifelong learning and the development of a strong community identity. It is the largest adult program offered by the Library.

"Springfield City Library is looking forward to this event and we hope area residents of all ages join in the discussions of *Tuesdays with Morrie*," said Linda Grodofsky, One Book, One Springfield program coordinator. "The themes in the book — appreciating our elders, engaging in the mentoring process, attempting to preserve memories and historical events, and adopting a lifestyle that helps us live a healthy and meaningful life - contribute to a healthy and vibrant community."

Of all the great advice I have read and received, my Father, Mother, and Grandmother imparted the most important to me. I am a child of the 1960's. As some of you understand, I was conditioned early on to complain about the state of things in the world (in all of my youthful wisdom). These three great advisors told me, at different times and in different situations; **"Those people who are of benefit generally are those who see a problem and work to affect change."**

**Will you please help us to affect change? We need your help and my grandmother would be so pleased!**



One Book, One Springfield features numerous events throughout the three-week period including book discussion groups in English, Spanish and Russian, *Tuesdays With Morrie* movie screenings, a genealogy lecture, workshops on scrapbooking and oral history, and more. Most programs are geared toward adult readers, although some of the programs will attract, and are open to, children as young as eight.

*Tuesdays With Morrie* spent more than four years on the *New York Times* bestsellers list. It is a magical account of the relationship between a student and his former professor. It chronicles their time together, through which Mitch shares Morrie's lasting gift with the world. The book was later turned into a made-for-television movie, garnering numerous awards from the Screen Actors Guild, the Directors Guild of America, and the Broadcast Film Critics Association.

For more information about One Book, One Springfield call 263-6828 x 213 or visit the Library's Web site at <http://www.springfieldlibrary.org/onebook.html>