



## Mattoon Street Arts Festival

September 8 and 9  
10:00 ~ 5:00

## AQCA Annual Home Tour

September 9  
1:00 ~ 4:00

These two events are the premiere events of our year. It is our opportunity to welcome people to our neighborhood and showcase the many advantages of living in Downtown Springfield. Be a part of these exciting events!

- \* Volunteer your home
- \* Volunteer your time
- \* Volunteer your expertise.

An informational and organizational meeting for the Home Tour will be held on Wednesday, **August 8** at 7:00pm at 122 Chestnut. Come learn how you might help make this the best tour ever!

If you would like to be a part of this great event, but can't attend the meeting, please email Dianne Little at [info@122chestnut.com](mailto:info@122chestnut.com) and express your interest.

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## AQCA BOARD

### PRESIDENT

Robert Louder  
[dogman102@verizon.net](mailto:dogman102@verizon.net)

### VICE PRESIDENT

To be announced

### SECRETARY

Anna Brandenburg  
[abrandenburg@springfieldlibrary.org](mailto:abrandenburg@springfieldlibrary.org)

### TREASURER

Gerry Enright  
734-8222

### PROGRAM

To be announced

### MEMBERSHIP

Irwin Deutsch  
[ideutsch@prodigy.net](mailto:ideutsch@prodigy.net)

### NEWSLETTER

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### COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT

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### NOMINATING COMMITTEE

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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

### *Maybe our City Really is Beautiful*

Robert Louder

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This will be my feature to thank and praise people who I feel have been important in our development as a neighborhood. I first would like to thank Heather Brandon for all of the help and joy she has brought to me with her wonderful blog Urban Compass. I have also named my column after her motto because it does say a lot and makes us ask questions that normally are not asked of our city. I am sorry that she will be moving to Hartford, but she will still be in shouting distance and I will gladly welcome her back at any time.

I also must say good bye to Mr. Harry Childs who lived on Mattoon Street and was a dear friend who not only shared many a martini with me but who also told wonderful stories. I will miss him as will many of his friends and clients. May he find a martini waiting for him when he gets to the Pearly Gates, and I thank him for the many smiles and laughter he provided. Good bye, Harry, you were a gentleman and a fine friend.

#### **I want to thank:**

\* *Mrs. Esta Manthos* who has given the city part of the rich history that helped develop Springfield. Mrs. Manthos donated to the Springfield Museum the Indian Motorcycle collection that she and her late husband Charles collected all of their lives. This collection is priceless as there are items that are one of a kind and could never be replaced. The rich history of the automotive history of Springfield should someday be written for the future children of the city.

\* *The City* for the wonderful paving of streets in the area. You have made me and my car happier, not to mention many happy travelers also! I am also grateful for the signs of finally removing the building at the corner of Winter and Chestnut Street that has long plagued us with shame. I also know that the Armoury Park will be getting a much-needed face lift and will once again shine.

\* *The Springfield Armory Museum and Superintendent Michael Quijano* for the outstanding job that has been done welcoming people back into the area and in showing the world that it is possible to open gates and let people into historic sites.

\* *The Friends of the Homeless* for the plan and devotion they have shown to end the homeless problems. It is a pleasure in seeing something being done that is for a long-range plan instead of a stop-gap measure. Thank you all who have worked to create this plan and fought to make sure it became a reality because you are the real friend of the homeless.

\* *Councilman Bruce Stebbins* and his wonderful daughter for participating in the neighborhood walk to view the problems that we have and the people that have improved their properties since our last walk. It is wonderful when all come together to help improve our area. Thank you all who have helped us develop a better neighborhood.

## Second Saturday Walking Tours Continue to Showcase the Neighborhood

The July “Second Saturday Walking Tour” was a big hit! Over 30 people took the tour and listened to naturalist and photographer John Greene describe our urban landscape. We saw baby robins (just hatched!) in a nest on State Street, a big hawk on the Armory grounds, and several plants and insects.

August’s tour will be led by Springfield historian Frances Gagnon. She will lead tour-goers on a walk along State and Byers Streets and will describe some of the dramatic events that took place here on these streets, including a riot by Irish immigrants, a hot-air balloon launch by a Frenchman in 1852, and the transfer of shackled prisoners from the first

Hampden County jail on State Street to the old Court House on Court Square.

As always, the “Second Saturday” tours are held the 2nd Saturday of each month (April — November). The tours start and end at the Springfield Museums Welcome Center on Edwards Street (inside the Science Museum). Tours happen rain or shine and run from 10:30 AM — noon-ish. Tours are held rain or shine, and may include vigorous walking. Dress appropriately, and bring water! Tickets are \$5.00 per person, but free for Museums and AQCA members.

### Future Walking Tours

#### **October:**

Bob McCarroll on Classical High School and environs

#### **November:**

Richard Colton and the Armory grounds

## Community Police Sector E Beat Team Meeting Minutes

The Community Police Sector E Beat Team met on June 6 for the annual evening meeting. There were 26 members and guests present.

State Rep. Cheryl Coakley-Rivera spoke on what is going on in state government, particularly the budget. Candace Lopes from Senator Buoniconti’s office, reporting for the Senator, confirmed Rep. Coakley-Rivera’s statement that they are both working hard for the interest of the city of Springfield. The two officials very generously donated pizza and soda for the meeting.

Police Commissioner Flynn spoke to the group about police work in the sector. He explained his system of having three districts, each one the responsibility of a Deputy Chief.

Deputy Chief Cochrane reported on statistics in the central district which includes Sector E.

Captain Foley, recently retired, thanked the group for supporting and working with him throughout the good times and the bad.

The secretary Ruth Holman read a letter from Mayor Ryan regretting that he couldn’t attend our meeting because of graduations, and thanking us for keeping the group together to support the city.

There will be no meeting in July. The next meeting will be on August 1st at 9:00am at the MSPCA on Union Street. Deputy Chief Cochrane will be accompanied by officers from different shifts to comment on their work.

The secretary Ruth Homan announced that the August meeting will be her last due to age and to the fact that we no longer have Community Policing.

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## Exciting News ... AQCA Blog Launched July 23!

<http://blog.masslive.com/aqca/>

Don’t just tell your next door neighbor, share it with the AQCA community, and potentially many more people who could visit the AQCA Blog on Masslive.com. We all have stories to tell that could enrich somebody’s life, and maybe

convince someone to move Downtown?  
Send your submissions and any questions or comments to Anna at:  
[a.brandenburg@comcast.net](mailto:a.brandenburg@comcast.net)



# 35th Annual Mattoon Street Arts Festival

10:00 ~ 5:00

Saturday, September 8

and

Sunday, September 9, 2007

Historic Mattoon Street  
Downtown Springfield

80 exhibitors sell handmade arts and  
crafts

Jewelry ~ Ceramics ~ Fine Arts ~ Glass ~ Fibers  
~ Photography ~ Wood ~ Crafts

Snacks and meals available from local  
food vendors

Unamplified music throughout the festival

**FREE ADMISSION & FREE PARKING**

Parking is available in two lots on Pearl Street,  
in the Civic Center Parking Garage  
and in the TD Banknorth lot  
(both on Harrison Avenue - one block  
from the festival).

All festival parking is clearly marked.

## Special Festival Events:

### Saturday, September 8

#### **Second Saturday Walking Tour**

10:30 - noon

Join Architect and Historian Stephen Jablonski as he leads participants on a lively and informative walking tour of the Mattoon/Quadrangle area.

\$5.00 per person; free for AQCA and Springfield Museums members. Tickets available at the Quadrangle Welcome Center, where the tour begins and ends.



#### **Hidden Gardens of Mattoon Street**

1:00-4:00

Enjoy a thirty-minute self-guided tour of some charming gardens tucked away behind Mattoon Street homes.

\$5.00 per person. Tickets available at the festival on Saturday from 10:00 to 3:30.

### Sunday, September 9



#### **Downtown Homes Tour**

1:00 - 4:00

Spend an hour or so visiting historic and contemporary homes and see urban living at its best. Properties include townhouses, condominiums, converted living spaces and apartments.

Double-decker Peter Pan bus will leave every thirty minutes, or you can walk the entire tour. Please be advised that many homes have stairs without elevators.

\$5.00 per person. Tickets available at the festival Saturday and Sunday.

## *Happenings at The Quad*

### **The Summer Circus is in town at the Springfield Museums**

“Summer Festival Days” performances and activities at the Springfield Museums will continue with Summer Circus Week from August 7 through 10.

“Summer Festival Days” programs are sponsored by Bank of America and the Eugene A. Dexter Charitable Fund through the Community Foundation of Western Massachusetts.

Activities are free with the price of museum admission unless noted.

#### **Tuesday, Aug. 7**

Safari Dan will introduce some live animals, 12:30-2:30 p.m.

Make a balancing clown to take home, 11 a.m.-3 p.m.

#### **Wednesday, Aug. 8**

Pozey the Clown performs, 12:30 p.m.

Make a balancing clown to take home, 11 a.m.-3 p.m.

#### **Thursday, Aug. 9**

Magician Jonas Toutant will amaze you with his tricks, 12:30 p.m.

Make a zoo-riffic animal puppet, 11 a.m.-3 p.m.

#### **Friday, Aug. 10**

The Tanglewood Marionettes present *The Fairy Circus*, 12:30 p.m.

Make a zoo-riffic animal puppet, 11 a.m.-3 p.m.

#### **Tuesday through Friday:**

- Live animal demonstrations, Wed. & Fri., 11:30 a.m.-noon, Science Museum.
- Hands-on Family Science Adventures, Tues. & Thurs., noon-3 p.m.; Wed. & Fri., 1-3:45 p.m., Science Museum.
- Planetarium shows, 11:15 a.m., noon, 1 & 2 p.m., Science Museum (additional fee).
- Crafts and Costumes, noon-3:45 p.m., Hasbro Games Art Discovery Center, G.W.V. Smith Art Museum.
- Pan for fossils and gemstones at the “Museum Mining Company” (additional fee)

Ancient Culture Quest will be the theme of the final week of “Summer Festival Days” from August 14-17.

The Springfield Museums are located on the Quadrangle at 21 Edwards Street off Chestnut Street in downtown Springfield. Free parking is available in the Edwards Street parking lots. Hours are Tuesday through Sunday, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. (Science Museum open 10 a.m.-5 p.m.). Admission is \$10 for adults, \$7 for seniors and college students, \$5 for children 3-17, and free for children under three and museum members. The fee provides admission to all four museums and the Dr. Seuss National Memorial Sculpture Garden. Springfield residents are free with proof of residency.

*For information, call 413-263-6800 or visit [www.springfieldmuseums.org](http://www.springfieldmuseums.org).*

## City of Homes Exhibit Looks at Springfield's Houses

*City of Homes*, an exhibit exploring the ways Springfield builders, designers, manufacturers, merchants, and residents interpreted the concept of home, will be on view from July 18 through Jan. 20, 2008 at the Connecticut Valley Historical Museum at the Quadrangle.

In the 1880s, journalist Frederick R. Guernsey christened Springfield "The City of Homes" in a *Boston Herald* editorial. The city's 19<sup>th</sup>-century mix of well-paid industrial and commercial jobs meant that a large number of residents could afford to be homeowners rather than tenants.

Springfield's housing stock blossomed in suburban developments in the McKnight, Forest Park, and Hungry Hill neighborhoods. Springfield's wealth of homes in a profusion of styles led Springfield architect Eugene Gardner to extol "the heterogeneous character of our domestic architecture."

The nickname "City of Homes" is still used to promote Springfield today. But what makes a home? The exhibit will explore the different ways people have defined "home" and will invite viewers to explore their own ideas for what makes an ideal home.

The exhibit will feature rare architectural drawings and photographs of some of Springfield's grand Victorian mansions, blueprints and catalogs for middle-class single-family homes, articles and photographs showing the

Disneyland in the 1960s, and even images of Springfield's first mobile homes. Selections from advertisements, advice books, and interior views will illustrate how changes in fashion and technology shaped home interiors as well as exteriors.

Visitors will be able to design their own homes by choosing from various styles of architectural features such as roofs, gables and windows and placing them on a magnetic board in the shape of a home. Another magnetic board will allow visitors to design an interior space.

Members of the Springfield Preservation Trust have generously loaned items from their private collections for display in the exhibit.

The Connecticut Valley Historical Museum is located on the Quadrangle at 21 Edwards Street off Chestnut Street in downtown Springfield. Free parking is available in the Edwards Street parking lots. Hours are Tuesday through Sunday, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Admission is \$10 for adults, \$7 for seniors and college students, \$5 for children 3-17, and free for children under three and museum members. Springfield residents are free with proof of residency. The fee provides admission to all four Springfield Museums and the Dr. Seuss National Memorial Sculpture Garden.

For information, call 413-263-6800 or visit [www.springfieldmuseums.org](http://www.springfieldmuseums.org).

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### News from the Springfield Library ...

Poetry (and Potluck) in the Park  
Open Mic for all ages  
Wednesday, August 22 at 6:00pm  
Under the Quadrangle Tent behind the Central Library

For more info, contact Anna at [abrandenburg@springfieldlibrary.org](mailto:abrandenburg@springfieldlibrary.org)  
or 263-6828, ext. 426

## Notes on Neighborhood Walk

**July 14, 2007**

Carol Costa, *Community Improvements Chairman*

**Participants:** Carol Costa, Robert Louder, Mike Tuckey, Whiting Houston, Mary McNeill, Bruce Stebbins.

**Overall Impressions:** The neighborhood continues to look better each time we check it out. But there continue to be property owners who are perennial offenders. We also noted some significant sidewalk disrepair.

I have grouped problems by category.

- \* Trash and/or Overgrowth
- \* Building Disrepair:
- \* Long Vacant Buildings
- \* Sidewalk Disrepair
- \* Lighting Concerns
- \* Other:

Chestnut, from Edwards to Triangle – unattractive storefronts, excessive window signage

37 Spring — Satellite dishes and many hanging wires

32 Byers – dangerous entryway – water leaking

84 Temple – satellite dish in historic neighborhood

AQCA banner ripped and falling off pole, corner of Maple and State

Low-hanging tree limbs on Temple and Chestnut that obscure light

### **Pressing Issues**

Tech and Data Center decision

Courthouse completion and State Street Corridor plans

Apremont Triangle development; CVS/Spring Street property

Armoury Common (park) renovations

### **Follow-up:**

**Carol Costa will –**

Report all code violations to Code Enforcement.

Call Housing regarding vacant buildings.

Discuss development issues with David Panagore.

Speak to Patrick Sullivan about the park areas and tree limbs.

Report sidewalk problems to DPW.

**Bruce Stebbins will:**

Look into better lighting for Chestnut, Byers and Temple Streets.

Investigate possibility of restricting window signage on storefronts.

Report sink hole to DPW.

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## **Exciting Things Happening Throughout Downtown!**

**The Happy Hour CityBlock Concerts** take place at MarketPlace Centre every Friday from 4-7pm. These Free Happy Hour Concerts feature great performers in a fun atmosphere while also showcasing the new Marketplace Centre. There is always something new every week; jewelry vendors, chair massages, Falcons Hockey tickets, free WiFi and more! And don't forget about the next **Young Professional Society (YPS)** free *Third Thursday* event is being held at the Skyplex on August 16<sup>th</sup>. Enjoy and relax as you view the city skyline and mingle with other young professionals. We hope to see you out enjoying the many good events happening in downtown Springfield this summer! To find out what's happening visit [SpringfieldDowntown.com](http://SpringfieldDowntown.com)

# Summer Time Happenings in Downtown Springfield

## FREE City Block Concerts

FREE Lunchtime CityBlock Concerts

Fridays, noon - 1:30pm

Main & Bridge Street

FREE Happy Hour CityBlock Concerts

Fridays, 4 - 7pm

Behind JT's Sports Pub, 1331 Main Street

August 3 ~ *The Stingrays*

August 10 ~ *Jimmy Mazz Band*

August 17 ~ *Trip The Light Fantastic*

August 24 ~ *Intonation*

August 31 ~ *Alibi*

September 7 ~ *Lisa Martin Band*

September 14 ~ *Floyd Patterson Band*

September 21 ~ *Lonesome Brothers*

September 28 ~ *Time Trippers*

## FREE Summer Concert Series

Thursdays ~ 7:30pm

Stearns Square

Between Bridge and Worthington Streets

(rain or shine)

August 2 ~ *Guitar Shorty*

August 9 ~ *The Shadows of Knight*

August 16 ~ *Willie Nile*

August 23 ~ *Stephen Kellogg & The Sixers*

August 30 ~ *Michelle Malone*

September 6 ~ *Southern Rock All-Stars*

September 13 ~ *FAT*

September 20 ~ *Jay and The Americans*

**For downtown happenings visit:**

**[SpringfieldDowntown.com](http://SpringfieldDowntown.com)**



**140 Chestnut Street  
Springfield, MA 01103**