

Volume 14

September 2010

# PRESERVATION GAZETTE

a publication of the Preservation Alliance of Spring Lake, Inc.

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## THE PRESERVATION ALLIANCE AND THE NEW JERSEY HISTORIC TRUST: PARTNERS IN THE PRESERVATION OF A PIECE OF SPRING LAKE'S HISTORY

*by Kathy Sclafani*

On September 25th at 7:30 in the Community House, members and friends of the Alliance will gather in an annual celebration of the work we have accomplished to further the goals of preservation in our town. As we do every year, we will honor the homeowners who have contributed to the beauty and historic ambiance of Spring Lake by presenting the winners with a framed plaque. The award presentations will be accompanied by a detailed description of the architectural features of the selected homes, complemented by a video montage. Afterwards we will enjoy a slide presentation by our own local historian Bonnie Dubois on the fascinating story of the Lewis Lumber Company, an integral part of Spring Lake's history. The evening will conclude with cocktails and live music in the Brown Room.

This year, our 10th Annual Preservation Awards evening will mark the final phase of fundraising for the Frederic A. Duggan Memorial First Aid Squad Building. The Alliance will be offering to interested community members a number of donor recognition opportunities, including pavers, bronze plaques and a memory book to grace the entryway of the new building. As we eagerly anticipate the realization of our project, we would also like to pay tribute to the involvement of all three levels of government in our endeavors. The New Jersey Historic Trust, established in 1967 to preserve historic resources throughout the state, has invested millions of dollars since its inception to restoring architectural and historic treasures. It is a leading advocate of preservation at the state level and a technical and financial resource for the maintenance of historic properties. Last year, it distributed \$15.5 million to 60 projects throughout the state.

Projects selected by the Historic Trust's Board of Trustees must meet the approval of the Garden State Historic Preservation Trust and the New Jersey Legislature before being released. There are two types of matching grants offered: Capital Preservation Grants and Historic Site Management Grants. The first are for construction expenses related to historic preservation, restoration and rehabilitation, and are distributed according to size. Level I matching grants are for smaller projects (up to \$150,000) and Level II for larger ones (from \$150,001 to \$750,000).

In 2007, the Board of Trustees of the NJ Historic Trust decided that the Frederic A. Duggan Memorial First Aid Squad Building, the only public building in town on the National Register of Historic Places, was worth the investment. The town of Spring Lake received a \$46,125 Level I matching grant to finance the architectural plans for its renovation and eventual re-use as a community and visitor's center. A \$526,950 Level II matching grant, designed to see the project into fruition, soon followed. On June 6, 2007 the Board also honored our town by holding its quarterly meeting at the new First Aid Squad building, next door to the Frederic A. Duggan building that had housed the squad for over 70 years.



Roseanne McCusker of the Preservation Alliance greets Ross Sweetland, a Director of the New Jersey Historic Trust and several members of the Board.



With the receipt of a federally-funded Monmouth County Community Block Grant and a Monmouth County Historical Commission Grant to be used as part of the matching funds, the community must raise only 1/3 of the amount needed to bring this nationally recognized historic structure back to its place at the heart of Spring Lake. We have already come so far. Please mark your calendars so you don't miss the chance to participate in a great evening, and to make your family members and loved ones a permanent part of Spring Lake history.

**WE NEED YOUR HELP**  
**PLEASE DONATE TO OUR RESTORATION FUND**  
**BY USING THE FORM BELOW**



Rendering of the restored Frederic A. Duggan Memorial First Aid Squad Building

☐ I would like to support the Duggan Memorial Fund by donating \$\_\_\_\_\_

*Enclosed please find my tax deductible donation made payable to:*  
**THE PRESERVATION ALLIANCE OF SPRING LAKE**

☐ I would like to donate Stocks / Securities

*Please contact me by* ☐ phone ☐ E-mail

**CONTACTS : Peter Saklas at 732-974-0720 E-MAIL: [epsaklas@aol.com](mailto:epsaklas@aol.com)**  
**Cathleen McCusker at 732-449-9338 E-MAIL: [epsaklas@aol.com](mailto:epsaklas@aol.com)**

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**MAIL WITH COMPLETED FORM TO: PASL  
PO BOX 9  
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# A LETTER FROM OUR MAYOR



Dear Residents,

Preservation is hard work. It takes determination, energy and commitment and there is never a shortage of folks who will tell you it can't be done or that it is too expensive. But with vision, intelligent planning and the energy of like-minded residents, preservation in its many forms can become a reality.

Those of us living in Spring Lake have inherited a jewel of a town. It's not one specific natural or architectural feature that defines us; rather it is the entire sum of our assets—beach, boardwalk, pavilions, lakes, parks, tree-lined streets, shops, and our lovely homes--that when taken together is our legacy. This legacy is ours to enjoy---and to protect. As stewards of that legacy, we make a commitment to plan, to invest and to leave it in better condition for the next generation of residents.

This effort requires a vision for our future and your local governing body can be a key component in this vision. Nothing replaces the hard work of thoughtful planning, prioritizing and budgeting. A well thought out plan can make the difference between prosperity and decline, action and reaction, investing wisely or money wasted.

Arguments can always be made that money is tight and the future is uncertain. What is certain is that those same concerns existed when previous generations of Spring Lakers decided to build footbridges over the lakes, pave our dirt roads, buy the land that is now Marucci Park, build our pavilions, schools and churches, and create a new commercial district after the first one was destroyed by fire. Not everything can be measured in dollars spent; instead we should consider the long view and the lasting contribution of our investment in Spring Lake's legacy.

Spring Lake belongs to us for a short time. Let our generation be remembered for planning well, investing wisely and caring deeply. Let's get united behind a common vision that reflects the pride we all have in our community.

Jennifer Naughton  
Mayor

# Looking Back

BY GIL & BETTY ROBINSON

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## Hastings Square to the Essex and Sussex

With special help from the Anniversary Edition "Spring Lake an Early History" and Patricia Florio Colrick "Images of America Spring Lake"



You may have seen this 1892 tub race picture taken by Lizzy Jones Guibert before and if you go to the TD Bank on Warren Avenue in Spring Lake Heights you can see a very large version of it and in color. I want you to particularly notice the pointed roof to the right in the picture. These background buildings are all a part of Hastings Square, but that particular double cottage was called the Essex House. The double cottage on the north east corner was named the Sussex House.

The fire that destroyed the Monmouth House on the night of September 19, 1900 started in a laundry adjoining Hastings Square's Essex House and was swept south by a thirty mile per hour wind. The inferno moved south and west laying waste to Spring Lake Beach's thriving business area on First Avenue. Some embers reached as far as Sea Girt.

After the fire, the destroyed stores and businesses found new homes on Third Avenue in what was then called North Spring Lake. Spring Lake Beach was a separate town and only went as far north as Jersey Avenue at that time and west to what is now Highway 71. Highway 71 then was a toll road running from Manasquan to Long Branch.



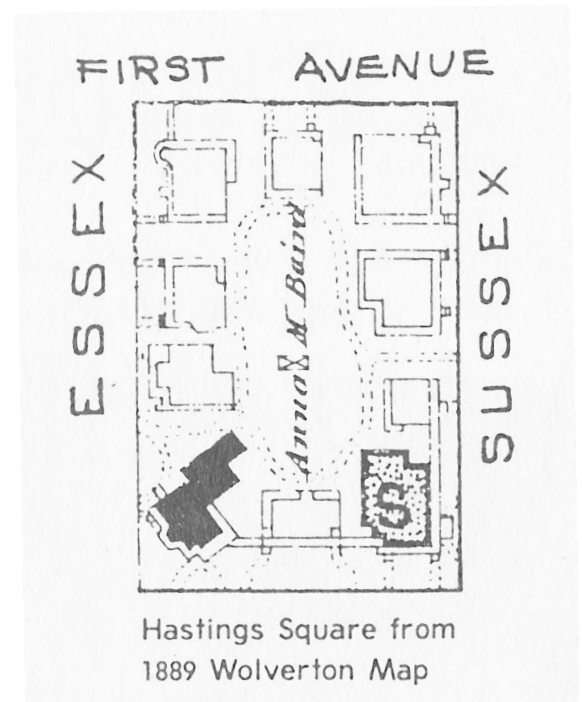
Mrs. Urie's Essex and Sussex

After the fire Mrs. Urie built two large attached “Surf Cottages” facing the ocean and named them the Essex and Sussex. These buildings were moved around the corner to Essex Avenue just before the present colonial revival structure also named the Essex and Sussex Hotel took its place on the ocean front in 1914.

By the late 1920's the Essex and Sussex was an impressive competitor to the “New” Monmouth Hotel in popularity and reputation. The two grand ladies of Spring Lake were also valued by ships at sea for helping to determine position relative to the coastline.



Hastings Square cottages, probably the Sussex or Urie Cottages as seen from the Ocean House







This Spring Lake post card (probably from the late 1950's or very early 1960's) shows our two grand hotels on the ocean front along with a portion of the Kavanaugh's mansion along the ocean to the right. Notice all the beautiful lawn areas as well as the new saint Catharine's Grammar School, the Presbyterian Church, Saint Catharine's Church and the Shoreham and Lakeview Hotels on Monmouth Avenue.



Among the many rich and famous guests that enjoyed vacations at Spring Lake Hotels, our Historic Society has this picture circa 1926 of George M. Cohan and his son in the Tea Garden of the Essex and Sussex.



A matchbook from the Essex and Sussex



## Hank's Reflections

*By Hank Schroder*

### A Mother's Loss

This week a Mother will get the dreaded call.....  
She has lost her son  
In Iraq or Afghanistan  
Or around the corner

What can we say to this devastated Mom  
Who must bury her young son  
"But he looked so good in his Army photo  
With shiny boots and his tech gadgets on his belt"

This Mom must now grieve her lost son  
The same Mom who hung his drawings on the  
fridge  
Who cheered him wildly at his soccer games  
Who thought college acceptance would make  
everything all right

None of us can count on always having  
What we have today  
But please God, especially comfort this Mom  
Through every day following her profound loss

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## *The* Preservation Alliance *of* Spring Lake, Inc.

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## **WE NEED YOU AND YOUR SUPPORT !!!**

PASL is a not for profit group of volunteers dedicated to preserving the traditional charm and character of Spring Lake. Membership is offered to all who are interested in these same goals. The diverse activities of the Alliance create a need and opportunity for members to use personal skills, become an active participant, or assume an inactive role of support, through tax deductible dues and/or donations.

We invite you to join our organization and help us continue to be a voice for the preservation of historic and beautiful Spring Lake.

### **MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

**PLEASE TEAR OFF THIS PAGE AND MAIL IT TO THE ADDRESS BELOW**

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email** \_\_\_\_\_

**TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP: NEW** \_\_\_\_\_ **RENEWAL** \_\_\_\_\_

**Single/Family \$35** \_\_\_\_\_ **Corporate/Business \$100** \_\_\_\_\_ **Life \$250** \_\_\_\_\_

**Please make all checks payable to: Preservation Alliance of Spring Lake  
Post Office Box 9 - Spring Lake, New Jersey 07762**

#### **THE PRESERVATION ALLIANCE OF SPRING LAKE MISSION STATEMENT:**

***TO FOSTER APPRECIATION AND PROACTIVE PLANNING FOR PRESERVATION OF SPRING  
LAKE'S UNIQUE ARCHITECTURAL, CULTURAL AND NATURAL SIGNIFICANCE.***

**FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT OUR WEBSITE -  
[WWW.PRESERVATIONALLIANCEOFSPRINGLAKE.COM](http://WWW.PRESERVATIONALLIANCEOFSPRINGLAKE.COM)**

*The*  
Preservation  
Alliance *of*  
Spring Lake, Inc.  
PO BOX 9 SPRING LAKE NEW JERSEY 07762

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07701

*Please Join Us for Our Annual Awards Night*

*Saturday, September 25, 2010*

*Spring Lake Community House*

*Madison & Third Avenues*

*at*

*7:30 PM*