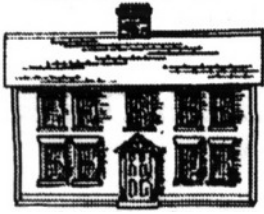


THE EAST PROVIDENCE HISTORICAL SOCIETY



John Hunt House

Gazette

Vol. XXIV No. 1

September 2011

President's letter

Nancy Moore, President



Hello Everyone,

Well, we weathered the weather this summer and hasn't the end of August been splendid!

Life at Hunt House has been quiet but we held our open houses and un-open houses (those days when someone was on site and people just seemed to rise up out of the earth). Many thanks to the Museum/Curation and Master Gardener crews for manning the site and welcoming callers so warmly.

If you are in the area of Hunts Mills, come down to see the changes around the house. The topsoil has been graded and seeded in the fish ladder area and, once all that is well established, the chain link fence will come down, leaving a split rail fence to mark the river's edge. The look of the ladder from the road is quite unobtrusive and the Board is very pleased with the masonry work in the end of the old foundation. Behind Hunt House there are major changes as the backhoes

and earth movers have been working to clear the site of the old amusement park. A venerable oak still marks the site of the carousel and some trees surround the root cellar, but the site will become a mowed lawn with paths, seating and interpretive signs (See photo on back page). Beyond this grassy space, the wooded area will be selectively cleared to the entrance road so the vista, while not being a view to the river as it was in 1920, will have long sightlines from the Hunt House and the gazebo. Hunt House will stand out very proudly in this new setting and the spring picnic will be a grand time to explore this new space.

If the summer was leisurely, the pace has picked up markedly these past two weeks. We have welcomed curation intern Kristina Calia, agreed to be open for the Smithsonian sponsored Free Museum Day on Saturday September 24, are coordinating a traveling Smithsonian – type exhibit for Weaver Library for our members' meeting on September 26, and have exciting plans for our participation in Watchemoket Square Day on

October 29. Please look for further details about these events in the Gazette and let us know how you wish to help make each day a success.

PS: For those of you who were such good sports at the picnic about trying a parlor game: I blew the date of EPHS incorporation – 1967 according to our papers, not 1969. So give yourself another point. And does that mean that our 45th anniversary will be here in 2012? WOW!

AND AS WE GO TO PRESS!

I have just logged on to the brand new Watchemoket Square Day site and it is a terrific plug for the historical side of life there (material provided by EPHS of course) Go to <https://sites.google.com/a/watchemoketsquare.com/home/> and view it for yourselves. Many thanks to Tanisha Perona for such great work.

Visit us at
EPHIST.ORG



The Gazette

Is published monthly by the
East Providence
Historical Society

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East Providence, RI 02916-4774
Tel. (401) 438-1750
Web Site: ephist.org

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Calendar Of Events

SEPTEMBER

Saturday, Sept. 24,
9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Hunt House Museum open
Hunts Mills Road, Rumford
Museum Day
Sponsored by the Smithsonian
Magazine.

To obtain a FREE admission
ticket for you and a guest to the
John Hunt House, please visit
[www.smithsonianmag.com/
museumday/](http://www.smithsonianmag.com/museumday/)

Monday, Sept. 26, 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.
General Meeting – *Public Invited*
Weaver Memorial Library
41 Grove Avenue,
East Providence, RI
**Uncovering the Past –
“Show and Tell” of East
Providence Treasures**

In celebration of Museum Day,
an annual September event
hosted by the Smithsonian
magazine, a carefully chosen
collection of artifacts from the
East Providence Historical
Society will be displayed and
their stories shared at the

Weaver Library. We promise
you’ll be both fascinated and
entertained.

OCTOBER

Wednesday, October 5, 7:00 p.m.
Board Meeting – *Members Welcome*
Hunt House Museum
Hunts Mills Road, Rumford

Sunday, October 9, 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.
Hunt House Museum open



- David Midgley
- Dorothy Midgley

Board Change

If you glanced at our Board list
this month, you notice that Peter
Allen is no longer our treasurer.
Peter has served as treasurer for
many years and the job is a big
responsibility. Because he is
now retired and on Cape Cod
and traveling much of the year,

Continued on next page . . .

**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 membership form to

**Mona Breault, 23 Case Street,
Rumford, RI 02916**



Membership Form

- | | |
|--------------------------|----------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | New |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Renewal/Change |

Name(s): _____

Street: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone #: _____

\$15 Individual

\$25 Family/Business

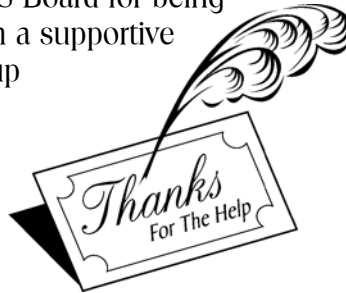
\$150 Life

Board Change from page 2

he had wished to step down but we were unable to find someone to replace him. At the September Board meeting, we voted to work with a book keeping firm to oversee the account, for a fee we thought reasonable. With that agreed upon, Dot Thornley quickly volunteered for the position, to collect monies, write checks, attend Board meetings and be the go-between with the book keeper. We will see how this new system works out and we will adjust it as necessary.

Great Thanks To:

- Kris Rose and friends for coordinating the June picnic.
- Ruth Peirce and Jo Marchi for stepping up as “Shortcake Ladies”
- EPHS Board for being such a supportive group



Museum Day Help Wanted

The Hunt House will participate in the statewide Smithsonian Free Museum Day on Saturday, September 24. We will be open from 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. and will need members to be at the Hunt House during those times.

The volunteer schedule is as follows:

- 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
- 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. with lunch provided
- 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

You of course may volunteer for the whole day. Please call or email Karen Panzarella at 434-5116 or klpanzarella@gmail.com

Gardening Tips

By Jeff Faria, Master Gardener

- ✓ September is the best month to start grass seed. Resow barren areas or redo a lawn section without the worry of weeds to interfere with germination.
- ✓ Transplanting in the fall also gets plants off to a cooler start.
- ✓ Garden centers mark down perennials and you can get a good deal. Check for bugs, root bound pots, or dried or diseased plants. You can sometimes divide pots into several plants from one plant, thus getting an even better deal!
- ✓ Check trees for severe wind damage. Broken branches are one thing, but severe cracks in the trunk are a sign that the tree will die and you should have a licensed arborist evaluate your trees for potential loss.
- ✓ Stop fertilizing perennials and focus on blooms through the remainder of the season. Deadhead roses!
- ✓ Freeze excess tomatoes and peppers without cooking or blanching! Simply clean and dry the fruit or vegetable (Ha Ha), place in a ziplock bag, and place it in the freezer.
- ✓ Enjoy tender vegetables before the frost. Cover with a blanket or sheet if temps are predicted to be below 40°



Gifts To The Museum

Jesse Albright

Large sign advertising a horse auction to be held in East Providence in 1895

Sherry Slater

The Slater Family Album

?????????

Five pound can of Rumford Baking Powder (empty)
 A Rumford booklet *The Common Sense Cookbook*
 A Rumford booklet *The Rumford Fruit Cookbook*

Would the donor of the last items please make him/herself known.

Thank you all, your gifts are greatly appreciated.



John Hunt House

East Providence Historical Society
P.O. Box 4774
East Providence, RI 02916

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
Providence, RI
Permit #2712

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Carousel Center

Part of the city's restoration of the Hunts Mills area is the partial clearing of the old amusement park. After the trees were cleared they marked the original carousel location with a ring of curb stones.



The postcard view above shows the old carousel as seen from the Hunt House.

The photo left shows the bolts that once held the center post of the carousel.

Maybe we can get the plywood off the meter house windows as part of the park restoration? You may remember that the meter house originally was the park manager's office located near the left edge of the postcard. It was moved to its current location after the park closed.