

Neighbors receive plaques to honor their homes' history

A Pied Piper of sorts, Larry Stotts of Elgin secured a historic building plaque for his home and four of his neighbors Dec. 4 during the Elgin Heritage Commission's building plaque presentation.



Mark Billings
Elgin community

Stotts, his neighbors and 11 others are the latest participants in the Elgin Heritage Commission's Building Plaque program.

Twice a year since 1985, a select group of property owners receives plaques for research completed on their home's architectural and historical value to Elgin.

For each selected home, the homeowner is presented with an exterior plaque and certificate that states the construction date and the original owner's name. Since the program started, more than 300 homeowners have received plaques.

Stotts was the first recipient not only to research his own home at 102 Crighton, but four of his neighbors at 105, 108, 111 and 114 Crighton. The group

posed for a picture at the awards ceremony and received a round of applause for their efforts.

"It all started three years ago when my wife, Lou, said, 'Let's apply for a building plaque,'" said Stotts. "After researching our home, it didn't take long to figure out that the same builder, John McBride, built most of the houses on our block. Since we're close to all of our neighbors, I decided to just go ahead and do the research for them."

Stotts, a 13-year resident, is also president of Admirers of Beautiful Old Dwellings of Elgin or ABODE. He said he performed 90 percent of his research at the Gail Borden Public Library while looking at old city directories and Sanborn fire insurance maps. He then

worked with Elgin resident Mary Hill, a specialist in old house research, who completed his information and submitted it to the commission.

"Mary is the storyteller and linked all of the information together," said Stotts.

Other highlights included a 1920s "Hamilton" Sears kit home and the restored 1894 Bosworth mansion on West Highland Avenue.

Plaque recipients include:

- 156 S. Gifford is owned by Christopher and Rebecca Berry. The Italianate home was built in 1872 for Charles L. Bigsby, a mason and plastering contractor.

- 432 Division St. is owned by Jennifer Williams and Jeff Southwell. This is a vernacular structure that closely resembles the Gabled El Style. Henry Downs, a bookkeeper at Peck's Dry Goods Store in downtown Elgin, constructed the home in 1882.

- 105 Crighton Ave. is owned by Dennis and Suzanne

McQueen. This 1889 Queen Anne was built for Charles Lobdell, an employee of the Elgin National Watch Co. and his wife Lula.

- 111 Crighton Ave. is owned by Pamela Rehberg. This home was constructed in 1890 for Willis Gage, a carpenter, and his wife Nellie, who worked at Elgin's Condensed Milk Company.

- 102 Crighton Ave. is owned by Larry and Lou Stotts and was built in 1891 for John Seapy, a farmer in the Plato Township area west of Elgin.

- 114 Crighton Ave. is owned by Gene and Sue Braun and was built in 1892 for Merton Adams, a retired farmer.

- 108 Crighton Ave. is owned by Melva Tennon. This 1891 home was built for Robert R. Hunt, the superintendent of the Elgin Windmill Company, and later a longtime employee of the watch factory.

- 705 W. Highland Ave. is owned by Roy and Evelyn Chapman. This 1894 Queen

Anne mansion was constructed in 1894 for Alfred Bosworth, president of the First National Bank and an expert in commercial law.

- 258 Hamilton Ave. is owned by James Berry. George Schmidt, president of the Elgin Butter Tub Company, built this home in 1901.

- 1005 N. Spring St. is owned by James Sosnoski and Patricia Harkin. Addison Spurling and his wife, Josephine built this shingle-style home in 1894.

- 414 N. Spring St. is owned by Bob Plagemann and Eve Fogtienne. William Grote, former mayor of Elgin, built this home in 1901 as a wedding present for his daughter, Augusta and her new husband, Emil Noting.

- 1100 N. Spring St. is owned by James and Michelle Cosgriff. Charles Weitzel, district manager of the Mutual Life Insurance Company of New York, built this Colonial Revival style home in 1902.

- 177 Lincoln Ave. is owned

by Chris Walsh. Frederick Seiger and his wife, Elizabeth, were employees of the Elgin National Watch Co. and built this Prairie-style abode in 1921.

- 380 Worth Ave. is owned by Arthur Skach and Deborah Bearden-Skach. Manley Harris, owner of Manley's Fox Barbeque Tavern, built this Craftsman-style home in 1924.

- 15 N. DuBois Ave. is owned by Richard Clute. Phillip Schultz used local contractor Charles Smith to build this bungalow home in 1925.

- 680 S. Liberty is owned by Hector and Eloyso Aguirre. This 1925 bungalow is a Sears kit home called the Hamilton. The home was constructed in 1925 for Henry Klingebiel, a worker at the Illinois Watch Case Company, and his wife, Cora.

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Your blood is needed during busy holidays

Officials at Heartland Blood Centers are anticipating deficits at their blood bank as collection centers will be closed on the holidays. As a result, they are urging all eligible donors to give blood to help offset the shortfall.

Blood donors help save lives in their community by donating blood as often as they can. Healthy members of the community are needed every day to give blood for patients in the 34 hospitals supplied by Heartland Blood Centers. More than 400 units of blood are transfused daily to the patients in these hospitals. Without blood donation from area residents, patient lives, as well as their treatment and recovery, will be seriously affected. Heartland Blood Centers encourages citizens to share their good health by giving blood during this season of giving.

Donating blood is a simple and painless process that takes less than an hour of your time. Blood donors should be at least 17 years old (16 with written guardian permission), weigh at least 110 pounds and be in general good health. If you have traveled outside the U.S. in the last 12 months, call Heartland Blood Centers at (800) 770-GIVE so that they can verify your eligibility. All blood donors must present a photo ID.

Since 1943, Heartland Blood Centers has provided blood and blood products to area hospitals across 12 counties of northeast Illinois and northwest Indiana. The following blood drives in Northern Illinois communities are open to the public during the month of December:

Burlington: 4 to 8 p.m. Jan. 19 at St. John Lutheran Church, 13N535 French Road. Sponsored by Thrivent Financial for Lutherans

Cary: 3 to 7 p.m. Jan. 28 at St. Peter and Paul Catholic Church, 401 First St.

Crystal Lake: 3 to 7 p.m. Jan. 6 at Fountains of Crystal Lake, 965 N. Brighton Circle; and 7:15 a.m. to 1 p.m. Jan. 10 at St. Thomas Knights of Columbus, 451 W. Terra Cotta.

Elgin: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Dec. 17 at Provena St. Joseph Hospital, 77 Airlite; and noon to 5 p.m. Dec. 29 in the Assembly Hall at Sherman Hospital, 934 Center St.

Geneva: noon to 4 p.m. Dec. 22 at Delnor Community Hospital, 300 Randall Road.

Hebron: 3 to 7 p.m. today at Hebron Fire/Rescue Squad Station, Route 173.

Lake in the Hills: 4 to 8 p.m. today at Faith Community Church, 9346 Virginia Road.

Marengo: 3 to 7:30 p.m. Jan. 21 at Marengo United Methodist Church, 119 E. Washington.

McHenry: 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Jan. 24 at the Moose lodge, Route 31 and Johnsbury Road. Sponsored by the St. John Knights of Columbus.

St. Charles: 1 to 6 p.m. Dec. 18 at Re/Max Blue Ribbon Realty (MobileCoach), 40W320 LaFox Road, Suite B; 3 to 7:30 p.m. Dec. 29 at Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 1145 N. Fifth Ave.; and 3:30 to 8 p.m. Jan. 15 at Baker Memorial Methodist Church, 307 Cedar Ave.

Sleepy Hollow: 2:30 to 6:30 p.m. Thursday at Sleepy Hollow Elementary School, 898 Glen Oak Drive, with a goal of 25 units.

South Elgin: 3 to 7 p.m. Jan. 22 at Community United Methodist Church, 400 W. Spring St.

Wayne: 7:30 a.m. to noon Jan. 24 at Resurrection Catholic Church, Army Trail Road and Route 59.

Woodstock: 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Dec. 16 at McHenry County Government Center, 2200 N. Seminary Ave.; 1 to 6 p.m. Jan. 6 at Centegra Memorial Medical Center, Route 14 and Doty Road; 2:30 to 7:30 p.m. Jan. 8 at Grace Lutheran Church, 1300 Kishwaukee Valley; 3 to 7 p.m. Jan. 16 at Woodstock School District Transportation office, 11401 Charles Road; 3 to 7 p.m. Jan. 26 at First Presbyterian Church, 255 W. Calhoun; and 8 a.m. to noon Jan. 31 at Resurrection Catholic Church, 2918 S. Country Club Road.



Volunteers help Glenwood students wrap gifts the boys selected for their families for the holidays.

Glenwood accepts holiday donations

Glenwood Reserves' annual holiday store opens Monday and Tuesday at the Glenwood West Campus.

The store offers an opportunity for the students at Glenwood School to do their Christmas shopping.

The boys come to the temporary store to choose gifts for members of their families. After selecting gifts, the boys go to the wrapping stations, where volunteers help them wrap their presents.

To make this event a success, the Reserves are asking for donations: household decor, clothing, jewelry, bath and beauty items, children's books and games, videos and more. Any new item that would make

an ideal gift is welcome.

The Reserves also are in need of wrapping paper, tape, ribbons, gift bags, tissue and bows. To donate gift items, call Sue Jurczak at (630) 587-2253.

Glenwood School is a year-round, residential facility with two suburban Chicago campuses serving children whose lives have been disrupted by death, divorce, desertion, separation and extreme financial problems.

Glenwood is entirely supported by private donations.

The Glenwood Reserves is an organization committed to providing advocacy, mentoring and financial support to benefit the children who attend Glenwood school.

Celebrate the season at ECC holiday concert

The Elgin Community College Concert Band will present a traditional holiday concert to celebrate the season at 7:30 p.m. today in Blizzard Theater in the ECC Arts Center, 1700 Spartan Drive, Elgin.

Director James Kull has prepared a repertoire with a diverse selection of holiday music from cultures around the world, including Leroy Anderson's "Sleigh Ride," Peter Tchaikovsky's "Suite from The Nutcracker," "A Chanukah Celebration" by Bobrowitz and Soper, and Jerry Brubaker's "SNOW!"

Kull is director of the 300-member Marching Saints, one of the largest marching bands in Illinois. He has degrees in music education from Vandercook College of Music, Chicago, and the University of Illinois-Champaign, and is director of bands at St. Charles High

School where he oversees a band program that encompasses seven concert bands and four jazz bands. Kull has done advanced work in wind conducting at Indiana University in Bloomington, where he was a student of Ray Cramer and David Baker.

The audience will be treated to a mix of seasonal favorites that hark back to a time when concert bands were staples at outdoor holiday venues, such as skating rinks, town squares and festivals.

Tickets for the concert are \$8, \$6 for students/seniors and are available at the ECC Ticket Office in the Arts Center from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday and noon to 5 p.m. Saturday or by calling (847) 622-0300. Visa, MasterCard, Discover and American Express are accepted. Tickets also will be available at the door.

ECC students earn honors

Two students in Elgin Community College's Youth Transition Project have received the Governor's Workforce Award.

One of the students is enrolled in the Out of School Youth Program and the other is from the In-School Youth Program. The Youth Transition Project assists 14- to 21-year-olds living in Cook or Kane county with financial support for school, transportation, work clothes and expenses related to employment.

Daniel Kobylarz, Hanover Park, 19, and Tiffany Bush, Elgin, 18, were nominated by the college and chosen by Local Workforce Investment Board 5 and 8. The awards were given recently in Springfield.

Kobylarz helped support his family from the time of his father's death when he was 13 years old, and he struggled in school. Eventually he entered the pre-GED program at ECC and obtained his GED in July 2002. After working with a job developer, he now is employed

at an area car dealership. He also is registering in credit classes to pursue a certificate in a trade.

Kobylarz's success has been supported by Hanover Township, the Streamwood Police Department, ECC's Adult Basic Education Center, and ECC's Alternatives/Workforce Transitions Department.

Bush suffers from spina bifida, causing her to wear leg braces and have difficulty with reading, spelling and memory. A student at Elgin High School, Bush was directed to the Youth Transition Program's Career Exploration Program and the Academic Enrichment component by U-46's Special Education Department.

The Kane County Department of Employment and Education worked with her during intake and testing. She successfully completed the program and received its Extra Effort Award. Her goal is to obtain a college degree in child care.

Artist donates painting for charity drawing

Tom Lynch, a local painter whose work is featured in the Daily Herald every Dec. 25, is donating one of his original watercolors to Shelter Inc.

To enter the drawing, contribute \$20 to Shelter Inc., the not-for-profit organization that benefits foster homes and foster care, by Dec. 31.

The donation will earn one chance to win the painting in a year-end drawing.

The winner will be notified Jan. 7.

Mail your donation to the Daily Herald, P.O. Box 40, Arlington Heights, IL 60006 or to Tom Lynch Watercolors, 25111 W. Ramm Drive, Suite

10, Naperville, IL 60564.

You can also make donations at one of Lynch's galleries:

- Renaissance Art Gallery, 481 N. Main St., Glen Ellyn.
- Colbert's Custom Framing, 8 W. Gartner Road, Naperville.
- Colbert's Custom Framing, 2401 Kaneville Road, Geneva.
- Art & Frame Express, 1346 Spring Hill Mall, West Dundee.
- Proud Fox Gallery, 11 N. Third St., St. Charles.
- Tavern Club, 333 N. Michigan Ave., Suite 2700, Chicago.
- Fancy Art, 113 E. Main St., Barrington.
- Tom Lynch Watercolors, 25111 W. Ramm Drive, Suite 10, Naperville.

Ballet: Local girl trains hard

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together and dance. I picture myself in the role when I grow up."

The way Olivia is headed, she most likely will have her pick of roles when she grows up. She now dances six days a week, studying at the Faubourg Dance Academy of Hanover Park, and, when "The Nutcracker" run is over, she'll begin a one-year scholarship with the Ruth Page Dancers in Chicago. She is a sixth-grader at Elgin Academy and also studies piano.

A year ago, Olivia danced in a party scene of the Joffrey Ballet's "Nutcracker" in Chicago and this fall she was named an alternate for a tour with the Radio City Music Hall Rockettes Christmas show.

With a lot of varied experience for a young girl, Olivia says it is simply the act of dancing that she loves best. Her favorite step is a grand jete (a leap with an outstretched leg) that she says is fun performed in a fast sequence across the ballet studio floor.

"You feel like you're flying," she says.

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