ANNUAL MEETING AND PRESERVATION SUCCESSES

April 27 at the Historic Elliott Hotel and Schooner Restaurant
The LCPS Annual Meeting and program is one you won’t want to miss. We’ll have a short business meeting as usual, but we’ll also vote on several new Board of Directors’ positions. “The Historic Elliott Hotel and Schooner Restaurant” program will be presented by owner Chester Trabucco. He will provide us with his first-hand experience restoring large buildings. We’ll hear about the work, the travails, the disasters, the work, the successes, the work, the frustrations, and the work. We’ll tour the building, view the Presidential Suite if it’s not in use, see a few rooms, and visit the underground meeting and wine tasting rooms. After the program, and for those who desire, we’ll stroll across the street to the Schooner Restaurant for a no-host drink, alcoholic or non. Chester is always a charming, humorous, and delightful speaker, so you don’t want to miss this evening. Mark your calendars now for 7:00 pm, Wednesday, April 27, 2005, in the underground meeting room at the Elliott Hotel, 357 12th Street, Astoria.

Remembering Anthony Michael Stramiello, Jr.

Our Friend and Partner in Preservation
May 15, 1943 — December 21, 2004

See page 5

EXTerior PAINT PREPARATION WORKSHOP

Summer is just around the corner, so join us Saturday, May 21, 2005, for a workshop on exterior painting. The workshop will be held at Shively Hall in Astoria, from 10:00 am to noon. Chuck Hillestad will discuss the importance of contracts, specifying materials, and how to deal with contractor problems. John and Ada Anne Wolcott will share their experiences directing and supervising a professional painting crew hired to remove multiple layers of paint and apply new paint to their house. June Lake will close the workshop with a review of exterior paint solutions and a demonstration of mechanical paint stripping techniques for the do-it-yourselfers. She will have an assortment of painting supplies and tools on hand and will discuss how to select, use, and maintain them.

OLD HOUSE FORUM SET FOR APRIL

LCPS members are invited to attend our next Old House Forum on Wednesday, April 20, at 6:30 pm at the home of Vity and Diane Kazlauskas, 531 35th Street, Astoria. Known as the Turina house, this 1915 Craftsman was built by Charles Turina, Jr. and his brother Frank. They built the modest home for their widowed mother, Natalie. The house still retains most of the original woodworking, wood windows, exposed wood ceilings, and even the original clothesline!

Old House Forums are free and open only to LCPS members. Homeowners share the history of their homes and/or restoration projects that have been completed or are in progress. As a courtesy to the homeowner, please RSVP to Kim Nurding (503) 325-6273 if you plan to attend.

GARDEN TOUR 2005

The date has been set! Mark Saturday, July 9, 10:00 am to 3:00 pm on your calendar because that’s the best day of summer in Clatsop County. It’s the fabulous LCPS fund-raiser garden tour. Plans are in the making as you read this. We’re becoming famous for this event. Last year more than 250 attended, and more and more people attend from out of the area. Please come, and tell your friends about it.
RECAP: HISTORIC CHURCH TOUR

For 50 individuals, touring five of Astoria’s historic churches was a better idea than Christmas shopping on the busiest shopping weekend of the year. Several individuals became new LCPS members, and four of the tour-goers came from Portland. A letter LCPS received from Steve Emmons best expresses the tour-goers’ appreciation of the program: “The tour of historic churches was a wonderful way to spend a Saturday. I am not a truly religious person anymore, but the whole experience was very spiritual. The day’s feeling was so friendly, sharing and community oriented — a perfect Astoria afternoon. Thank you so much. Keep up the good work.” Thank you to all of the church staff and volunteers at Grace Episcopal, St. Mary Star of the Sea Catholic, First Presbyterian, Finnish Apostolic Lutheran, and the First Baptist for giving their time and for making this another great LCPS program.
RECAP: HISTORIC NEIGHBORHOODS OF THE LOWER COLUMBIA

More than 80 people came to the January 26th lecture on historic neighborhoods. Nancy Olson and Joan Mann, from the Ilwaco Heritage Museum, provided the histories of Ilwaco and Seaview with slides and anecdotes. Rosemary Johnson, Astoria Planner and Historic Preservation Officer, used maps and pictures to put faces to many of Astoria’s historic districts. Rob Freed, Oysterville, used slides of the existing buildings and shared copies of a walking tour for this National Historic Register Community. Patricia Roberts showed slides of three distinct Gearhart neighborhoods and provided maps to help locate them. Jill Grady gave a tribute to the cottages of Cannon Beach, and showed slides of many of the remaining tiny summer cottages.

The evening was a wonderful opportunity for local people to tell a story about some of their community’s history and to share that love of the old with all of us. Many thanks to all presenters, and to the Clatsop County Historical Society, for allowing LCPS to use their facility.

REGIONAL UPCOMING EVENTS

April
16th: CCHS Gearhart Homes Tour
20th: LCPS Old House Forum (members only)
27th: LCPS Annual Meeting and Historic Elliott Hotel and Schooner Restaurant

May, National Historic Preservation Month
7th: CCHS Mothers’ Day Tea and Scones
21st: LCPS Paint Preparation Workshop
31st: Deadline to submit articles, kudos, classifieds for July “Restoria”

July
9th: LCPS Garden Tour
22nd: “Restoria” in mailboxes

August
20th: LCPS Garden Structures Program

September
27-Oct. 2: National Preservation Conference, Portland
28th: LCPS Preservation Successes Program

October
10th: Deadline to submit articles, kudos, classifieds for November “Restoria”

November
18th: “Restoria” in mailboxes

CLATSOP COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY UPCOMING EVENTS

“TNT” Thursday Night Talks: 7:00 pm, Heritage Museum, 16th and Exchange, Astoria. This free lecture series features a different topic and guest speaker the first Thursday evening of each month during 2005. Call for further details, (503) 325-2203 (April 7, May 5, June 2, and July 7).

Gearhart Historic Homes Tour: April 16, 1:00 to 4:00 pm. Tickets: $8 for Clatsop County Historical Society members, $10 for nonmembers. Tickets at Flavel Carriage House, 7th and Exchange, Astoria.

“Remember When, Old Timer Talks”: April 21 and July 21, 10:00 am, Heritage Museum. Call for further details of planned discussion topics, (503) 325-2203.

(The Day Before) Mothers Day Tea and Scones: May 7, 1:00 to 4:00 pm, Flavel House dining room. Treat your mom (or anybody’s mom) to a lovely afternoon tea with refreshments in a beautiful Victorian setting. $9 per person, includes a self-guided tour of the Flavel House Museum.

Other events for the summer season: July 4, Astoria Historic Homes Tour/Regatta Weekend, Heritage Museum. Ribbon cutting for the elevator and the Ed Parker Gallery and 100th Anniversary of the Dedication of the Heritage Museum Building.

LCPS BOARD RECRUITMENT

The Lower Columbia Preservation Society is accepting applications for four open positions on our Board of Directors. We are looking for honest, enthusiastic individuals with a commitment to historic preservation, a positive attitude, a basic understanding of financial matters, and a willingness to commit their time and experience to developing LCPS. We are a working board — expect a minimum three hours per week for board and committee activities. If you would like an application or have any questions, you may contact Linda Oldenkamp by phone at (503) 325-3981 or via email at lindavid@pacifier.com

CALL FOR GARDEN HELP

Please members, we need some help. We have a great committee for our 2005 Garden Tour, but we can’t do it alone. Will you help us? If you would like to be on the committee, email KC McGee at pmcee@pacifier.com or call Linda Oldenkamp at (503) 325-3981. It’s fun and it isn’t hard. If you would like to volunteer in other ways, e.g., make cookies, sell tickets in the morning, be a docent, etc., please contact us now.
PROPOSED SHIVELY-MCCLURE NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICT
by Rosemary Johnson, Astoria Historic Preservation Officer and City Planner

The City of Astoria has submitted a nomination to designate the Shively-McClure area as a National Register Historic District. This area is generally bounded by Franklin Avenue on the north, Lexington Avenue on the south, 9th Street on the west, and 18th Street on the east. The Shively-McClure name was chosen to reflect the two men who originally platted this area: John Shively and John McClure, early settlers to the wild frontier area known as Fort Astoria. It has also been referred to as the “Central” neighborhood (central residential area above the downtown) or the “Fort Hill” neighborhood (the residential hill above the historic Fort Astoria).

The nomination will be considered by the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) at their meeting on February 24, 2005, at which they will make a decision on the proposed district. The City will then make any needed corrections and a final nomination packet will be forwarded to the Department of the Interior, National Park Service (NPS) for review. The NPS will make a decision within 45 days of receiving the nomination.* That means, if all goes well, we could have a National Register Historic District in time for Historic Preservation Month in May!

Now, what does that really mean to each individual? Basically, there is little change. Every property that is currently designated as historic will continue with the same code reviews that are effective now. There are no additional standards applied with a National Register District designation. However, there are 23 property owners who “opted out” of historic designation as the area was inventoried over the last six years. With a National Register District, these 23 properties will be designated as historic and subject to the historic properties code reviews that currently apply to other historic properties. The current code allows new construction and exterior alterations, but with review. It does not prohibit changes; it just states that changes should be compatible with the historic design of the structure.

One of the biggest changes with the National Register District designation will be the ability of individual property owners to seek grants for restoration of their homes, or to apply for the Special Assessment Tax Incentive program. These are both voluntary programs, and with the use of these incentives come some additional reviews and restrictions. The second change is in the status of the area. Many people are drawn to National Register Districts both as tourists and as future home owners. The District is an indication that the design of the neighborhood will be preserved in some historic form.

So, what can we expect if the Shively-McClure National Register Historic District is approved? We can expect to see pride by the property owners, an increase in restoration due to the availability of additional financial incentives, a possible increase in property values, and the knowledge that we have been a small part in preserving our rich history in Astoria. We will see new development, but it will complement, not compete with the existing buildings. There will be change and growth, but it will respect the past.

* The decision had not been made at the time Restoria was printed, but will have been made by the time you receive it.

BUSY YEAR FOR FEDERAL PRESERVATION LEGISLATION
by Todd Scott, Astoria Director of Community Development

Many preservationists are expected to converge in Washington on February 28, 2005, to make the case for historic preservation. Several preservation acts are up for renewal or being targeted for modifications. The President’s budget was released mid-February and the following items are expected to be reviewed this session:

1. The Historic Preservation Fund (HPF), considered as part of the Interior Appropriations bill, underwrites the preservation programs of the States, Tribes, and Certified Local Governments and has provided funding to Save America’s Treasures and Historically Black Colleges and Universities. It is authorized at $150 million annually.

2. The Historic Barn Preservation Program is considered as part of the Agricultural Appropriations Bill. It was authorized as part of the Farm Bill in 2002, but has yet to see an annual appropriation.

3. Changes are being considered to the existing Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credit that would make it more useful for the creation of affordable housing and redevelopment of small-scale commercial buildings as part of the Community Restoration and Revitalization Act.

4. TEA-21 provides significant funding for the preservation and rehabilitation of historic resources through its Transportation Enhancements program. There is a measure proposed that could alter section 4(f) of the Department of Transportation Bill which provides protection to historic resources. This year, work that was begun in the 108th Congress on the bill will continue.

At least three of these federal funds or acts have had direct impact on the Lower Columbia. The City of Astoria uses money from the Certified Local Governments (CLG) program for administration and special projects. Several projects have used Save America’s Treasures (SAT) grants and Rehab Tax Credits. And, a portion of our RiverWalk was funded with TEA-21 money. Stay tuned.
Anthony Michael Stramiello, Jr.
Our Friend and Partner in Preservation
May 15, 1943 — December 21, 2004

We are saddened at the loss of our friend and partner in preservation, Tony Stramiello. Working as a carpenter foreman for Kellogg Brown & Root, Tony was helping to rebuild war-torn Iraq when he died in a terrorist bombing at Forward Operating Base Marez in the Iraqi town of Mosul. To Roberta, and to all of the Stramiello family, we extend our heartfelt sympathy.

The Stramiello family designated that contributions in Tony’s memory be made to the Lower Columbia Preservation Society. We are humbled and deeply grateful by this honor, recognition, and gift. It is our organization’s first such designation. The LCPS board has placed the memorial contributions in an Endowment Fund. An Endowment Fund is like a “bank account for the future” that will provide a permanent source of funding for our organization. LCPS will not spend the donations received, but rather, invest them and only use a portion of the interest or earnings in support of programs, services, or operations. Thus, this important gift will keep on giving for years to come. Others wishing to make similar contributions to their loved ones will be able to add to the Endowment Fund.

Thank you to the following individuals for their contributions to LCPS in memory of Tony:
Nancy Newenhof; Don and Ann Morden; Randall and Deborah Stemper; Steven and Susan Lee; Charles and Lenna James; Charles and Arlene Norman; Gerald and Joann Uter; David Pollard and Linda Oldenkamp; Stan and Sally Hauer, Hauer’s Cyclery; William Wright; John and Eileen Cheuvront; Estella Rysala; Stanley and Faith Swanson; Marie Yost and Toby Dyal; Kelli Harris; Multnomah Athletic Club; Melissa Yowell; N. F. Byrkit; Steven Lee, LRS Architects Inc.; Lucia Powers; Ray and Bonnie Harris; Theodore and Patricia Bugas; Norman and Judith Shatto; Jeffery and Cindy Daly; Captain and Mrs. James Maher; and Edith Meyer.

Dear LCPS:
The family of Anthony Michael Stramiello, Jr. extends heartfelt appreciation for the wonderful outpouring of love and compassion after our recent loss. The cards, flowers, calls, visits, comforting words, and food, helped during what was an extremely difficult and painful time for our family.

Sincerely,
Roberta L. Stramiello

The following are excerpts from Dave Pollard’s remembrance of Tony delivered at his Celebration of Life service:

For Tony

Tony Stramiello was a leader in the Astoria preservation community. In partnership with his wife, Roberta, he maintained their historic apartments, began the restoration of one of Astoria’s most impressive historic houses, and supported Astoria’s preservation programs.

Tony and Roberta were fearless in the projects they undertook. The structural problems they confronted in their 10,000 square foot Victorian home would have discouraged most of us, yet Tony and Roberta replaced the roof, removed a tree that was growing in the foundation and repaired the foundation walls, installed a new hot water heating system, built new chimneys, stripped the exterior of the house as if it were a piece of furniture before painting, and then began the process of interior restoration, one room at a time.

Tony was a talented woodworker with a contractor’s skills and an artist’s eye for detail. He knew how to make wood come alive in his workshop, how to restore buildings, and how to successfully tackle the most demanding projects. And Tony was patient. He often said that working on their house was a lifetime project that he never expected to finish.

Tony loved to find historic materials for their projects. He was particularly excited about discovering antique radiators at Rejuvenation in Portland for their new heating system and a remarkable juke box in Seattle.

Tony had the rare ability to laugh at his mistakes. When a contractor failed to begin work on their chimneys one fall, Tony and Roberta hired a boom truck, placed plywood on their roof, hoisted up a cement mixer and bricks, and rebuilt the chimneys themselves using the old-fashioned mixture of lime, sand, and cement. Working through rain and hailstorms, they built beautifully corbelled chimneys. At the end of the last day’s work on the biggest chimney, Tony wanted to admire his work, so he removed the forms holding the top courses of brick in place — before the mortar had set — and the top of the chimney came crashing down on the roof. Of course, he rebuilt the chimney.

Tony made Astoria a better place to live. He respected our heritage and worked to preserve it. He always found the time to offer advice and encouragement, and he forged friendships throughout our community. Tony’s love of historic buildings, his meticulous craftsmanship, his attention to detail, and his active participation in state-sponsored preservation programs are an example for everyone who believes in historic preservation.
We've all heard tales of the energy savings associated with a modern window retrofit. We've all heard of the high cost to repair a wood sash window, and how much money can be saved by installing a vinyl window instead. What are the economics of window replacement?

Realtor Magazine Online (www.realtor.org/rmomag NSF/pages/ costvalue deco02e) includes an article entitled “2002 Cost vs. Value Report, Window Replacement” which considers the cost of installing new windows in a house and how that project affects the value of the house. You have heard that a kitchen remodel affects the value of your house. Well, it's the same with windows. Almost.

“Project Midrange” replaces ten 3-by-5 foot double-hung windows with vinyl-clad, double-glazed windows. Interior and exterior trim remains undisturbed. Results for Portland: Job cost = $9,452; resale value increase = $6,083; cost recouped = 64%.

OK, so all of the money that you spent replacing windows doesn’t show up as equity in your home. Surely the energy savings will make up the difference and pay back in a very short time? Won’t it?

Now go to the Clark County Public Utilities website at www.clarkpublicutilities.com/Residential/TheEnergyAdviser. According to the U.S. Department of Energy, an average household spends 40% of its annual energy budget on heating and cooling. This means that if your annual energy cost is $2,000, then $800 goes for heating and cooling. Let's be very optimistic about the energy efficiency of new windows and say that the heating and cooling costs will be cut in half. This means that you would save $400 per year. Sounds great, but you just spent $9,452 on Project Midrange to save this money. Do the math; it will take 23 years before you profit from this project.

Visit any window manufacturer’s website and you will see that they claim energy savings, but they won’t help you figure out the payback time because it doesn’t make sense and they will lose sales. The Milgard site states that 30% of your home heating and cooling energy is lost through windows. Milgard also states that a house in Oregon with 15% single pane window to wall coverage will save 13% on heating and cooling bills after installing double pane Milgard windows. This means that a do-it-yourself, slap-in-a-vinyl window job (assuming $150 per window, times 10 windows), will cost $1,500 if your labor and other materials are free. With an annual energy savings of $240 (13% of a $2,000 annual energy cost), even this low cost scenario results in payback after six years.

“People want the comfort and convenience of modern windows.” We’ve all heard that argument and it can sometimes be true. I think that this argument isn’t as relevant with historic houses. People will pay a premium for a really neat old house, and an old house with original restored windows will be certain to out-price an old house with vinyl “upgrades.” In fact, installation of inappropriate materials on a historic building could easily lower the value.

So, what makes the most sense from an economic perspective? If your existing windows are showing their age, you have some choices. You could rip out the original windows and replace them with a modern window system. Entire new thermo-pane windows mounted in quality wooden sashes and tight frames are available. Or, you could hire a craftsman to rebuild and restore the original windows. Either of these options is expensive. I have learned to be creative and “settle for less” than total replacement. This saves money while preserving the original material.

Work with what you’ve got. If you have double-hung windows then the greatest source of heat loss is probably air blowing through the cracks around the sash edges. You can feel the cold draft and the windows probably rattle in the wind. The energy cost to heat this cold air far exceeds the energy loss through the glass. Rebuilding or replacement isn’t the only option. And forget about the caulking gun. Go down to your local lumber store and buy Caulking Cord Weather strip. Ninety feet of it costs a couple of bucks. The weather strip is a long coil of 1/8” diameter material that is similar to sticky modeling clay. It only takes a minute to push the weather strip into place around the entire sash. Leave it there all winter long and pull it off in the spring. Paint isn’t harmed, and no tools or talent are required. The effect is immediate and the cost is negligible. My kind of project.

But what about “The window is rotted and falling apart”? You would be astonished at what you can do with a little glue, putty and paint. Sure, it’s not the “proper way,” and the window won’t be “perfect.” Complete replacement may be inevitable some day, but if replacement can be deferred for a few more years and you are retaining the original materials then you really can’t go wrong, either financially or from a stewardship perspective. Let the next guy replace it.

Sometimes you cannot avoid complete replacement. If considering a modern replacement then ask yourself if a new material will last as long as the 100 years that your old windows survived. Will you be proud of the new windows? Will new window materials add value to your house? Economic considerations alone will often lead you down the path of restoration.
THE HISTORIC PRESERVATION LEAGUE OF OREGON WANTS TO KNOW...

With the recent passage of Ballot Measure 37, governments must now decide whether to compensate landowners for loss of value when they claim a land use restriction has reduced their property values, or to waive the restriction.

On December 2, 2004, city and county offices began accepting applications from property owners who feel they are entitled to a claim under this measure.

HPLO is interested in finding out how this will affect historic structures and properties throughout Oregon. Do you know of any historic resources involved in a Ballot Measure 37 claim? If you do, please contact HPLO at their office. (503) 243-1923, email to staff@hplo.org, or send the information to: Historic Preservation League of Oregon, 3534 SE Main Street, Portland, OR 97214.

100 SCHOLARSHIPS OFFERED TO NATIONAL TRUST CONFERENCE

In an effort to encourage attendance from a broad audience, the Historic Preservation League of Oregon is offering 100 scholarships to preservationists in Oregon to help defray the costs of attending the National Trust for Historic Preservation’s national conference September 27 to October 2 in Portland. The scholarships will be presented to those applicants whose attendance will benefit their community and whose commitment to historic preservation will be strengthened by their participation.

The scholarship pays the recipients’ early bird registration fee, plus $35 toward a field session. Recipients also receive a complimentary one-year membership to the Historic Preservation League of Oregon. Recipients must have a demonstrated interest in historic preservation by volunteering on preservation-related projects, holding a membership in an organization dealing with historic preservation, owning or improving a historic building, or focusing college studies on historic preservation or a related field. The deadline for submitting applications is May 15. For more information and an application, visit www.hplo.org.

FUTURE BILLINGS FOR MEMBERSHIP DUES

To process your membership information more efficiently and to make the most of our volunteer resources, the LCPS board has determined that membership renewal notices will be mailed in January and July of each year. Your membership renewal date can be found on your Restoria mailing label.

WELCOME AND THANKS TO NEW AND RETURNING MEMBERS

Ron and Charlene Larson, Barbara Hollenbeck, Robert Freed, Ron and Michelle Zilli, Cliff and Arlene LaMear, David and Kathy Wigutoff, Penny and Tom Treat, Gil and Ann Gramson, Carolyn Hammer, Sigrid Wood, Paul Vanderveldt, Jane Audrey, Steve Emmons, Jim Atterberry, Lisa Studts, Joan Adams, Jim and Pamela Alegria, Ken and Carole Barnhart, Daniel and Ruby Block, Ann Brooks, McAndrew Burns, Mary Caldwell, Sara Campbell, Mark and Gigi Chadwick, Joan Chambreau, Eileen Cheuvront, Nancy Cook, Mary Civanovich, Martha Dahl, Joy Diamond, Todd and Dixie Dowaliby, Judith Drage, Betty Eisenh, Trudy Enre, Donalda Speight, Chris Goad, Mahlon and Joyce Heller, Edith Helligso, David and Mary Jane Hill, Charlotte Longsey, Berit Madsen, Kati Tuomenen Maki, Muschi Mayflower, Jean Mattson, Denyse McGriff, Jill Merrill, Jerry Olson, Roy Osborne, David Phillips, Melissa Sculera, Bob Pressey, Linda Price, Sam and Deanna Rascoe, Carole Ann Ray, Jan and Irmin Roberts, Dusty Rose, Linda Ryan, Carole Sanderson, Jessica Schlief, Sharon Scovel, Jim and Carol Servino, John and Susan Spring, Frank and Lynda Steward, David Sundquist, Monica Taylor, Kathleen Hughes, Ken and Joyce Stuber, Fred and Marty White, Pat Guerin, Bonnie Murphy, Mickey Cox, Bill and Jill Grady, Sue Skinner and Tom Duncan, John Goodenberger, Joe Murray and Peggy Nikkila, Pam Tillson and Bruce Holmes, Sharon Van Heuit, Darlene Story, Howard Clark, Linda Oldenkamp and Dave Pollard, Ray Barmore, Rick Coleman, Richard Covert, Jeff and Jane Donnelly, Linnea Gannaway, Gale Hemmen, Blair Henningsgaard, Wendy Hensley, Shari Moyer, Paul and Sandy Olson, Kathleen Silverman, and Chuck Wassinger.

PRESERVATION NEWS/EVENTS VIA EMAIL

LCPS periodically sends members information regarding preservation related news and events via email. If you aren’t receiving them and would like to, call Susan Bryant at (503) 325-2290, or email her at jimsue@pacifier.com. If you changed your email address and want to continue receiving these, contact Susan and she will get you back into the system. LCPS will not share or sell members’ email addresses.

Lower Columbia Preservation Society

Current Board of Directors:

John Goodenberger, Chair
Jewel Benford
LaRee Johnson
Susan Bryant
Ann Gydé
June Lake
KC McGee

Kim Nurding
Linda Oldenkamp
Pat Roberts
Lisa Studts

Restoria Editor: Marty White
BIG YEAR FOR ASTORIA IN PRESERVATION
by Todd Scott, Astoria Director of Community Development

The City of Astoria is involved in a number of historic preservation projects that will come to fruition during 2005. We have received several grants from various organizations and we’re hoping to get them all completed before the end of the year. Our biggest grant source this year is the Oregon State Historic Preservation Office. Because Astoria is a Certified Local Government (CLG), they make funds available every year to help staff our Historic Landmarks Commission. This year we’re also able to fund projects with this grant. We’ve also received funds from the Oregon Heritage Commission, and the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT). Here’s a list of some of the things you’ll be seeing throughout the year:

• A feasibility study is currently underway to determine if the Doughboy Monument in Untown can be reopened as a public restroom. As Mayor Van Dusen often points out, “We have the only public restroom on the National Register!”

• Additional “Historic Landmark” signs will be produced. The familiar blue and white signs are a popular item, and we’ve run out!

• During the spring and summer we’ll be developing a series of educational brochures relating to the “best practices” for restoring your historic building. These will be available at City Hall and online.

• The National Preservation Conference will be held in Portland in September, and we’ve submitted a proposal for a Field Session to Astoria. There will be lots of opportunities for people to help out with this project.

• We’re partnering with Sunset Empire Transportation District and the Columbia River Maritime Museum to make plaza improvements at the historic Astoria Depot.

• We’re working with ODOT to replace the traffic signals downtown. We’re encouraging them to use a historic reproduction fixture.

• City Hall’s collection of historic blueprints has been digitized and DVDs should be available for research at the Astoria Public Library and the Heritage Museum.

• The City continues to work with Bank of Astoria and the Federal Home Loan Bank to find a use for the historic Merwlyn Hotel (a.k.a. Waldorf Hotel).

• The City has established a process for Measure 37 claims. This could potentially have an impact on historic preservation. We’re waiting to see how the legislature deals with the measure.

It’s going to be a busy preservation year. Look for more detailed information on each of these projects as the year progresses. If you have any questions please contact Todd Scott at (503) 338-5183 or tscott@astoria.or.us

KUDOS
To Norm and Holly Stutznegger, for restoring the Fisher Building, 1210 Marine Drive, Astoria (Pacific Coast Medical Supply). The previously covered windows are being exposed, allowing the building to come to life, and we predict it will soon breathe new life into the area in which it resides.

To Steve Nurdig, who always says “yes” when we ask him to write an article for Restoria. And another for Steve: for serving and completing his term on Astoria’s important Historic Landmarks Commission.

To these Seaside folks who are seeing the beauty in their historic buildings: Will Perkins and Avery Loschen for the restoration of the Gilbert block; Christine Hammond for restoration on Bridge Street Bank and Salmonberry Square; and Kirk and Wendy Fausett for the Kirwen Building.

To Fred Van Horn, for the exterior renovations to 437 30th Street, Astoria.

To Dave and Diane Christian, new owners at 1589 Franklin, Astoria, for painting their house and for the superb landscaping.

To board member Pat Roberts, for coordinating the LCPS Historic Neighborhoods program and the Wood Windows II Workshop.

To Clatsop County Historical Society, for work in progress at the Heritage Center: removing walls around the staircase that were not original and stripping paint off woodwork in the first floor hallway and matching it to the original finish. The results will allow it to look more like the original Astoria City Hall.

To the Public Works Facility managers at the City of Astoria, for hiring artist Josh Brown to apply faux paint to City Hall’s exterior; brown marbleized concrete patches at the base of the building, seamlessly blending paint with original pulsichrome terra cotta clad structure.

CLASSIFIEDS

FOR SALE: circa 1860 settee, carved wood frame and upholstery, in excellent shape, porcelain casters, springs need retying ($250 est.) $1200 OBO. Also, used chimney bricks suitable for nonstructural use, 10 cents each, u-clean u-haul. (503) 325-8089.

WANTED: Articles, kudos, or most anything about historic preservation. Mail them to PO Box 1334, Astoria, OR 97103, email them to lindavid@pacifici.com, or call (503) 325-3981.
LETTER FROM THE CHAIR by John Goodenberger

At its annual retreat, the LCPS board sought advice from a nonprofit specialist to guide the sustainability and growth of our organization. The recommendation was to initiate fund development while growing slowly and steadily. Our goal is to become an advocate for preservation throughout the lower Columbia region, not just north Clatsop County. As an advocate, it is our charge to educate through lectures, workshops, newsletters, brochures, film, a resource library, etc. Advocacy also includes attending public meetings throughout the region and speaking for the protection of our historic resources. Increasing our membership and broadening our funding base is critical to accomplishing these goals.

Your organization has a remarkable board and its membership has offered assistance when asked. I am proud of everyone involved. But volunteer energy is a limited resource. As the LCPS grows, it will become necessary to hire part-time staff or an executive director, particularly if we want to be here in 10, 20, or 50 years. And, wouldn’t it be great to have a small office or storefront someday, filled with locally-generated educational material for the preservation of our area’s historic properties? And wouldn’t it be fantastic to coordinate traveling programs which reach out to the public on multiple levels: from grade school students to adults, from novice homeowners to professional contractors.

Between now and then, the money we collect will be used for the further development and enhancement of programs. It will also be conserved for the hiring of staff. Admittedly, hiring staff may not sound sexy, particularly when there are urgent needs in our community for financial assistance. But, it is my hope your continued financial support will help us meet the educational needs of many rather than providing financial assistance to a few. After all, it is the mission of the LCPS to give, through education, tools to help people help themselves.

Your membership to and financial support of the LCPS is a direct link to the preservation of our region’s rich heritage.

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

NAME
ADDRESS
CITY     STATE     ZIP
PHONE NUMBER(    )
EMAIL*

BEFORE JULY 1, 2005:
☐ $10 Membership
☐ $20 Contributing
☐ $50 Supporting
☐ $________

AFTER JULY 1, 2005:
☐ $15 Membership
☐ $25 Family
☐ $50 Business
☐ $100 Supporter

Please indicate which areas you would be able to assist the organization as a volunteer:
☐ Planning meetings
☐ Publicity
☐ Education
☐ Advocacy
☐ Newsletter
☐ Membership
☐ Grant Writing
☐ Other

* LCPS will not share or sell members’ email addresses.

INCREASE IN MEMBERSHIP AND WORKSHOP FEES

Our Board of Directors aims to balance the financial resources needed to provide our membership with interesting lectures, helpful workshops, and an informative newsletter, while planning for the future of LCPS. After careful deliberation, the Board voted to increase the membership fees, effective July 1, 2005. The new fees are: Individual $15; Family $25; Business $50, and Supporting $100. Beginning January 1, 2006, a fee will be charged for all workshops: Members $5; Nonmembers $7.