

## Preservation Wayne VIP (Volunteers in Preservation) News – April 2004

**Welcome** – less than a month to tour season and everyone is busy!! Here's the latest news.

### VIP News this month

- Welcome to new VIPs!!

- **Note from the Board**
- **Publicity Committee update (and they need our help!!)**
- **Tour news**
- **Calendar – save the dates!!**
- **Notes from the Editor**

### Welcome to new VIPs!!

PW is very happy to welcome the following new volunteers who have joined us this year. And they are an **enthusiastic group!! We hope you all have a chance to meet them soon.**

They are:

- **Beth Carmona**
- **Chris Davidson**
- **Trish Denton (and another future VIP – 10 month-old Augustus!! Just wondering - is his middle name Woodward???) ;-)**
- **Tim Jagatic**
- **LindaSue Jankowski**
- **Mary Ann Johnson**
- **Sue Krause**
- **John Leon**
- **Becky Logan**
- **Kathleen Marcacchio**
- **Michelle Nesbitt**
- **Jeanette Pierce**
- **Craig Spencer**
- **Nicole Spieles**
- **Jan Therrian**
- **Jeff Thomson**
- **Laurie Turkawski**
- **Roberta Urbani**
- **David Zariada**

*(Editor's note - I apologize to anyone I may have inadvertently missed. Please reply and I will be sure to include you next time.)*

Along with being tour Guides and Shepherds, several people also volunteered for the Publicity Committee and the newly formed Advocacy Committee – both Committees that we really need are looking forward to some new ideas. **Thank you very much!!**

## Note from the Board

In January, Gwendolyn Esco-Davis stepped down as President. Doug McIntosh has been asked by the Board to serve as Acting President until a regular officer election is held sometime this summer.

On March 31, 2004, in a special board meeting, we elected four new members to the Board of Directors. The new directors are:

Richard Brehler  
Sandy Novacek

Lisa Rush  
Kurt Spieles

Joined by the current directors:

Doug McIntosh, Acting President  
Karen Nagher, VP  
Greg Erne  
Emery Matthews

Doug Atkinson  
Themilie Bush  
Pam Gannon  
James Turner

Each director brings value to the organization with their individual skills, experience and enthusiasm. In the near future we will determine the specific areas of responsibility for each director. Each director on this "working board" will have oversight responsibility for a committee and/or project. The volunteers acting on the committees and participating in project work will provide the appropriate director with periodic updates. If you'd like to know where our most immediate needs are please call the office at (313) 577-3559 or email your question to [preswayne@aol.com](mailto:preswayne@aol.com).

On March 18, 2004 Susan DeVries, of the Midwest Office for the National Trust for Historic Preservation met with the PW Board. The NTHP has been involved in our efforts to ensure that the owners of the Madison-Lenox complete the process required to request the demolition permit they obtained from the City of Detroit in error. Susan also summarized the Trust's capacity to assist local preservation organizations and provided various Trust publications we can use in our board building and organizational strategies.

Recently, Preservation Wayne has had the opportunity to partner and collaborate with other like-minded organizations on various events and preservation/urban concerns. These organizations include, but aren't limited to, Detroit Synergy, CityScape, and Friends of the Book Cadillac. We have found this local cooperation is producing results as well as leading us into other exciting projects. We'll keep you updated in case you wish to participate.

Lastly, at least for this note, we want to thank each volunteer for your participation in our tour programs. We would not have been named MetroTimes "best walking tours" for 2003 without your contributions. We could still use some guides and shepherds for three or four of the tours. Note: We have a couple of new guides from those we met in the local groups mentioned earlier.

Also, Preservation Week is May 3-9 this year.

Karen Nagher

## Publicity Committee Update (and they need our help!!)

Veteran Guides know that we have had difficulty in the last few years with Publicity. Our team does an outstanding job in putting information together and getting it out, but it is very disappointing when the media (because of budget cuts, etc.) does not follow through. And through our publicity efforts, we need to 'get the word out' on our tours.

The Publicity Committee has been re-vamped this year under the facilitation of Bob Jocis. Bob is a long-time PW volunteer and a Guide on the Downtown tours. He has a good core team of interested people with new and creative ideas.

Their first meeting was held on March 31. They have a lot of plans to contact the various 'calendar' listings in newspapers/TV/radio and other good ideas to promote the tours.

**BUT THEY NEED OUR HELP.** It's a small group and they can only do so much.

**They have asked the Guides/Shepherds to do the following:**

- **Hand out brochures** at the end or beginning of each tour
- **Distribute brochures** around your tour route at any site that will accept them
- **Introduce the tours** to businesses on the tour route
- If you have other ideas, contact Bob [bobjocis@msn.com](mailto:bobjocis@msn.com) .

### **ADOPT A LIBRARY**

Sandy Novacek (Midtown Facilitator, member of the Publicity Committee, (and the best library and information researcher I know)) provided the following:

#### **Adopt a Public Library to Display Tour Brochures**

Our new walking tour season is quickly approaching! Please **help promote the tours by adopting your local public library as a place to display our "Tour Detroit" walking tour brochures.** It's simple. Get a quantity of the brochures from the PW office (stop in or we'll mail them). Place a stack of brochures, we recommend 10+ at a time) in your library's community cultural events promotion area.

Then, commit to regularly stop by to check the brochure supply and replenish it as needed. Continue doing this until September.

Call or email the Preservation Wayne office today [preswayne@aol.com](mailto:preswayne@aol.com) or (313) 577-3559 and let them know which library you are adopting and we'll help to get you the brochures.

If you know of other places that would be good to place the brochures follow the same procedure as noted above. Call us and let us know where you'll be placing them, etc. Thanks!

***(Editor's note – the 'personal touch' and follow-up works better than almost anything else. All Guides and Shepherds should have a stack of brochures in their car to hand out when anyone asks. We always get amazed looks when we describe the tours ("This is great!! I didn't know anything about this!!")***

*Also – everyone probably belongs to or is aware of other organizations that may be interested in our tours – some examples are your neighborhood activities committee, your church or temple social groups, your kid's PTA group, perhaps your professional organization, or your work group, etc. that might be interested in setting up a group tour. We have had great success in these areas.) Contact your Facilitator or the office to set up something like this.*

*One last note – you all are familiar with the ‘stacked racks’ of ‘attractions’ brochures found in local hotels, AAA, museums, etc. etc. Be aware that these are generally run by ‘for profit’ companies that will toss any brochures that don’t belong to them. So it’s best not to leave our brochures there, unless you know how they are maintained.*

## Tour News

It’s less than a month away!! This year the **New Center tour** will be held only for groups with advance reservation only. (They will be asked to make reservations 4 weeks in advance.)

**New this year is a Cultural Center tour** on Saturday mornings that Bob Goldsmith is facilitating. It’s a good addition to our tour program - an area rich with culture and learning, wonderful art, and some of Detroit’s best architecture. Here’s what it will include - the impressive DIA, three other great museums, the main branch of the Detroit Public Library, a block of East Ferry Avenue, the Center for Creative Studies, the Scarab Club, and much more. They’ll meet at the Cass Ave. entrance of the Library.

The **Downtown tours** have a good core group returning and they are looking forward to seeing the changes and interest in the renovation of several of the buildings on their tour route.

Bob G. is grateful to have several new volunteers for the **Downtown Tuesday ‘After Work’ tours**. (For the most part, he has single-handedly been doing the tours since the beginning.)

**Eastern Market** is revising their route (to essentially ‘flip’ the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> parts of the tour.) It should help with the logistics and have everyone end up in the heart of the Market. They have also gotten contact information for a woman who wrote her PhD dissertation on Eastern Market!!

**Midtown** is basking in the wonderful publicity in the Free Press last month just in time for tour season. If you didn’t see it, check out [Detroit Free Press: Midtown series](#) They are also looking at including a few interiors of some of the buildings on the tour this year.

The **Auto Heritage tour** team is looking forward to having one of their previous Guides return from living in Chicago. I guess there’s not much Auto Heritage in Chicago – so welcome back, Matt W.!!

## Calendar ~ save the dates!!

**April 10** – “meet the authors” book signing by Rebecca Binno Savage and Greg Kowalski on their new book ‘Art Deco in Detroit’. Noon – 3 pm at the Pure Detroit store in the Fisher Building.

**April 28 – the Boston Edison Home Preservation Fair - 6:30 pm – 9 pm.** Historic home owners will be afforded the unique opportunity to participate in one stop shopping with area home repair/preservation specialists. In addition, historic commission representatives from the City and State will be on hand to explain historic credits, building permits, etc. There will also be a series of three informative workshops. Contact (313) 867-3112 for details.

**June 5 – the Indian Village House Tour.** This is moved up one week this year due to the rescheduling of the Festival of the Arts. Guides are needed, contact Kirk Handren ([kirkhand@aol.com](mailto:kirkhand@aol.com) or call 313-579-2526 or 313-207-6834) for information. A very fun opportunity to see some great historic homes of Detroit.

**June 11 – 13 – Detroit’s Festival of the Arts.** Moved up from September this year. PW will host tours of the Mansions of Ferry Avenue and needs Guides for the homes on Saturday and

Sunday afternoons and Booth Personnel all three days. Contact the office (313) 577-3559 if you can help. It's a great festival!!

**July 31 – PW's once-a-year (and always sold out) tour of Detroit's Grand Circus Park Theatre district.** It's usually in August, but the DSO has every Saturday in August booked at the Opera House this year. Guides, Shepherds, and support personnel will be needed. This is a huge event, and lots of fun!! Save the date and more information will be forthcoming closer to the tour date.

**Beginning July, 2004 - the Wirt C. Rowland exhibit.** Wirt Rowland was the design architect of the University of Michigan's Hill Auditorium, the General Motors Building, the Detroit News Building, Jefferson Avenue Presbyterian Church, and his designs for the Buhl, Penobscot, and Guardian buildings transformed the skyline of Detroit in the 1920's. In the last years of his life, he created the original designs for the Kirk in the Hills in Bloomfield Hills.

See the exhibit:

July, 2004 – at the Guardian Building lobby

August, 2004 – at the Penobscot Building lobby

September, 2004 – at the main branch of the Detroit Public Library

See [www.wirtrowland.org](http://www.wirtrowland.org) for more info.

## VIP Spotlight

Next time we'll Spotlight one of the Committees.

## Notes from the Editor

Thank you to the following people who provided articles or information to this edition of the newsletter – Bob Goldsmith, Bob Jocis, Karen Nagher, Sandy Novacek, Rebecca Savage, and Ken Siver.

I'd like your feedback!! We are looking at how best to communicate to our membership and VIPs, between the PW web page, the *Preservation Works!* members newsletter and the VIP newsletter. If you have suggestions (especially for this newsletter), please let me know (reply to [preswaynewnews@aol.com](mailto:preswaynewnews@aol.com)) or contact the office (313) 577-3559. Look for changes in the future.