

Awards program mapped

The Springfield Historical Commission will honor seven individuals and associations at its annual awards ceremony June 9 at 7:30 p.m. at Kimball Towers 140 Chestnut Street, one of the properties being honored for renovation work.

Along with Kimball Towers, the Springfield Library & Museums Association, Gary and Virginia Remillard, the Springfield City Council, the High School of Commerce, James and Meredith Boone and Richard C. Garvey will be honored for their contributions for their preservation of Springfield's past.

Created by a vote of the City Council in 1972, the Springfield Historical Commission is responsible for the city's six Historic Districts in accordance with City Ordinance.

It also controls change to approximately 1,400 properties in the Quadrangle-Mattoon, Forest Park Heights, McKnight, Lower Maple, Ridgewood and Maple Hill Historic Districts.

Kimball Towers, a landmark hotel located at the Apremont Triangle, is being recognized for facade improvement and for the original architectural elements retained during its renovation, according to Frances Gagnon, chairman of the Historical Commission.

The ambitious cleaning project and repairs inside and out at the Springfield Library & Museums Association earned it its honor, Gagnon said.

The Remillards will be recognized for restoration of their home at 64 Spruceland Street in the Forest Park Heights District. According to Gagnon, the work by the Remillard's is "a fine example of a family's restoration effort as well as providing inspiration and encouragement to other home owners."

The Boone's will be honored for their sensitive rehabilitation of 55 Florida Street at the corner of St. James Avenue in the McKnight neighborhood, Gagnon said.

Garvey, associate publisher of the Springfield Newspapers, will be recognized for his lifelong dedication to local history, Gagnon said.

For initiating the restoration of City Council Chambers and the historic Aldermanic Chambers at City Hall, the Springfield City Council will be honored, Gagnon said.

The High School of Commerce will be recognized for the renovation of its auditorium, Gagnon said.

WFCR radio

station replacing

tower, system

WFCR, the five-college area radio station located at the University of Massachusetts, is replacing its 25-year-old tower and transmission system with a new system that will improve reception for its more than 105,000 listeners.

The non-commercial radio station provides a format which includes news, information, and classical and jazz music to listeners in four Massachusetts counties, northern Connecticut, and southern Vermont and New Hampshire.

According to Jo Wellins, development director, the station has had to go off the air several times in recent years because of ice build-up on the antenna during inclement weather. The new tower will be able to handle the added weight of covers for the new antenna.

The covers will decrease the tower's susceptibility to ice storms by melting the ice.

"We expect our signal to be more reliable," said Joan Rubel, the station's general manager. "While we are still vulnerable to downed power lines and problems with the telephone lines connecting the transmitter to the studio, we hope listeners will notice improved reception and less time off the air due to problems beyond our control."

Rubel said she had hoped work could begin last fall, however she was worried the cold weather would prevent completion of the project.

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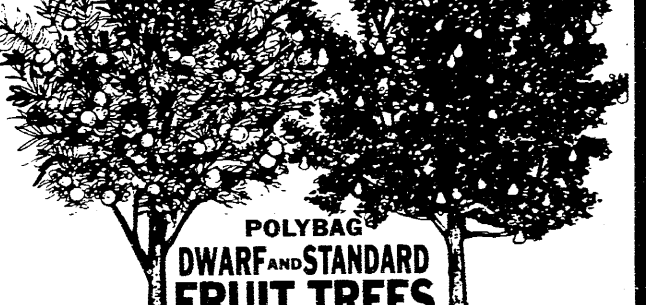
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