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NEWS

They're homes worth preserving

City to honor its architectural treasures at ceremony

By **Kelly McCann**
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With National Preservation Month under way, Kirkwood is honoring the city's architectural treasures with the announcement of the "Favorite Buildings in Kirkwood."

Winners of the Favorite Buildings award, presented by the Kirkwood Landmarks Commission, will be recognized at a public ceremony at 7 p.m. Wednesday, May 9, at the Kirkwood Train Station.

Beginning in March, citizens submitted nominations for residential and commercial structures in one of six categories, including best restoration; most enhanced; best addition; best infill; best maintained; and most endangered. Don and Susan Marquess' 157-year-old home received the Superbly Maintained award. The Keith-Greensfelder House of 116 N. Woodlawn Ave. was the first home built in the area and predates the city of Kirkwood. Originally owned by David Keith, the house later was occupied by Judge Joseph Greensfelder, who lived in the home for almost 50 years.



Built in 1850, the Keith-Greensfelder House of 116 N. Woodlawn Ave. was honored with the Superbly Maintained award by the Kirkwood Landmarks Commission as part of the Favorite Buildings in Kirkwood contest. Owners Don and Susan Marquess will accept the award at a ceremony May 9.





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The Marquesses moved into the home in 1985 and raised both of their children there. They have spent the last 22 years working to restore the home's historic integrity.

Susan says restoration and preservation of the home, built in 1850, is a never-ending process.

"It's an everyday constant battle against time and nature," she said.

Five years ago, the Keith-Greensfelder home received an exterior makeover, including a fresh coat of paint after being hand-sanded to the bare wood. In 2005, the kitchen was

remodeled to include handcrafted cabinetry replicating those of the 1880s. Susan researched the historic woodwork to ensure the kitchen blended in with the rest of the house.

"We love the neighborhood and sincerely hope that the city of Kirkwood and P and Z (Planning and Zoning Commission) would develop more restrictive rules and laws on in-fill housing and some of these subdivisions," she said.

Two awards were presented for in-fill housing, including Elegant Infill of a Residence to 505, 507 and 515 S. Clay Ave. and Elegant Infill of a Multifamily Residence to the Terraces of Kirkwood Condominiums at 125, 127 and 129 E. Clinton Place.

"The reason they (the Landmarks Commission) honored these in-fills is because they have the aesthetic look of Kirkwood," said Alan Lamberg, city staff liaison for the Kirkwood Landmarks Commission and GIF Technician.

The Landmarks Commission also recognizes buildings that contribute to the visual character of the Kirkwood architectural community. The Belleglade Cottage of Meramec Highlands received the Sterling Addition award for a sensitive new addition outside the existing envelope of the original structure.

Anthony and Susan Masi, owners of the cottage at 24 Ponca Trail, enlisted the help of architect Catherine Enslin and DP Design and Construction when they decided to overhaul their home. After reviewing their architectural plans with the Landmarks Commission, the Masis went to work. During the course of nine months in 2006, the cottage received a new kitchen, casual dining area, deck, garage, recreation room, office and additional bathroom.

"We spent a lot of money, but it's an investment, because we are planning on being here forever," Susan Masi said.

To ensure the addition fit comfortably into the existing character of the neighborhood, the Masis selected textured fiber cement siding that resembles wood.

"It's a tedious process, because you have to make sure to do the right thing," said Susan, in regard to maintaining the historic integrity of the home. "It's really interesting and a

learning process, trying to do a new addition to an old home."

Stone work and a turret were incorporated into the addition to match the front of the house. The cottage, built in 1894, also was painted yellow from its original red exterior.

"The program honors those taking the initiative to preserve the architectural and historic integrity of Kirkwood," Lamberg said. "The purpose of the awards program is to allow the commission to honor not just landmarks. It expands beyond landmarks, but also tasteful, aesthetic buildings. It is inclusive to people that are not strictly preservationists."

The Landmarks Commission deemed the historic Osage Theater at 338 S. Kirkwood Road winner of the Graceful Adaptive Reuse of a Business Award. Converted by Mambo Development in 2005, today the Kirkwood Cinema Lofts is made up of five loft units and the office of Matt Burghoff Valuation and Consulting.

"The Kirkwood Cinema Loft project was started as an effort to reuse or to improve the building without having to tear it down," said Matt Burghoff of Mambo Development.

In addition to recreating the old neon signage of the original theater, an exterior wall was opened to provide natural interior lighting. The entire interior of the building was removed to expose a unique barrel vaulted ceiling and its structural steel trusses.

"One of the best things about the project is that today, some two years later, we get people coming into the office or at Einstein's and telling us how much they were against the project at the time and now really appreciate what we accomplished," Burghoff said.

The Osage Hills subdivision was awarded the "neighborhood of distinction," presented to an area of architectural significance and character that has maintained its integrity for 50 years.

"The program is a labor of love on behalf of the commission and staff for the people of Kirkwood," Lamberg said. "All of these buildings are beloved by each of the commissioners in their own ways."

You can contact Kelly McCann at kmccann@yourjournal.com.

Kirkwood Favorite Buildings Winners

Wonderfully Maintained - George Robinson House, 443 E. Argonne Drive. Doug & Kathleen Sprong, occupant-owners.

Superbly Maintained - McElroy-Greensfelder House, 115 N. Woodlawn Ave. Don & Susan Marquess, occupant-owners.

Elegant Infill of a Residence - 505, 507, 515 S. Clay Ave.

Elegant Infill of a Multifamily Residence - Terraces of Kirkwood Condominiums, 125, 127, 129 E. Clinton Place. Novus Development.

Marvelous Renovation of a Residence - 661 E. Monroe Ave., of the East Monroe National

Historic District. Brett and Lisa Campbell, occupant-owners.

Handsome Renovation of a Business - Wm. D. Alendale Brewing Co., 105 E. Jefferson Ave.

Sterling Addition - Belleglade Cottage of Meramec Highlands, 24 Ponca Trail. Anthony and Susan Masi, occupant-owners.

Superb Addition - 324 Central Place of the Central Place Local Historic District.

Prime Addition - 525 E. Argonne Drive, Jefferson-Argonne National Historic District. William and Kimberly Schlotz, occupant-owners.

Great Addition - 601 E. Jefferson Ave., Jefferson-Argonne National Historic District. Judith Ward, occupant-owner.

Graceful Adaptive Reuse of a Business - Osage Theater (Kirkwood Cinema Lofts), 338 S. Kirkwood Road. Mambo Development.

Neighborhood of Distinction - Osage Hills subdivision.

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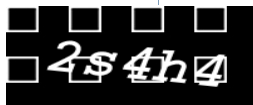


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