

TRENTON



HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

Trenton Historical Society
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Randy Baum, President
Karl Flesch, Vice-President
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17th October, 2024

Dear Friend of Trenton History:

On Saturday, November 23rd, the Trenton Historical Society will sponsor its ***Stop the Wrecking Ball*** fundraiser at The Corner Historic, the former bank building at 1 West State Street. As before, the event benefits the Society's *Restore Trenton!* Historic Property Rehabilitation Grant Program, which helps homeowners rehabilitate exteriors to historic district standards. **We need your sponsorship** to help make this 19th Wrecking Ball a successful celebration of Trenton's heritage!

Since 2002, our ***Stop the Wrecking Ball*** party has highlighted a different Trenton building somewhere on the spectrum from desperately in need of saving to fully preserved. We've been to The Corner Historic before, in 2003, when it was still Wachovia. This year, we're delighted to be hosted by Maestro Technologies, Inc.

First Mechanics Bank planned its new headquarters by hiring New York architects Sawyer & York and by mid-1929 had arrived at a Renaissance Revival design. Trenton residents were celebrating the 250th anniversary of settlement by Yorkshire Quakers in 1679, and Colonial Revival fever grew as the year progressed. Unwilling to give up their design, the bank's directors decided on an 18th century overlay, with the names of the four 18th century taverns on the site emblazoned on the cornice.

Stop the Wrecking Ball has never been an event for speeches. Instead, it is a three-hour get-together for lovers of history and architecture, with drinks and ample hors d'oeuvres, and live music that doesn't inhibit conversation. As always, the silent auction will offer up artifacts of Trenton history ~ prints, books, ceramics and much more.

Proceeds from every *Stop the Wrecking Ball* provide funding for the *Restore Trenton!* grant program, through which more than \$235,000 has been awarded to assist owners of residential properties with exterior restoration and maintenance, encouraging historically appropriate home improvements. Funded projects serve as preservation models to the larger community, demonstrating the benefits of homeowner and neighborhood pride, dedication to Trenton's historic character, and the need for further revitalization. We believe this to be the only privately funded grant program in New Jersey dedicated to the preservation of homes.

The Trenton Historical Society seeks your sponsorship for the 2024 *Stop the Wrecking Ball*. The categories of support, including benefits, are listed on the attached Sponsorship Opportunities form. Donations of goods and services for our Trenton-themed silent auction are always welcome.

Additional tickets to the event can be purchased from the Trenton Historical Society (\$125 a person, which includes a one-year membership).

By sponsoring this event, you will be providing significant support to Trenton's heritage. All *Restore Trenton!* bricks and mortar preservation grants are generated exclusively from *Stop the Wrecking Ball* and your support will help us to continue this program and other THS initiatives. If you have any questions about *Stop the Wrecking Ball*, sponsorship opportunities, or tickets, please contact Trenton Historical Society Coordinator Sally Baxter at (609) 396-4478, or society@trentonhistory.org.

Thank you for your consideration of *Stop the Wrecking Ball* sponsorship. We applaud your dedication to the city of Trenton and its history!

Sincerely,

Trenton Historical Society Board of Trustees

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The Trenton Historical Society is a private, non-profit, tax-exempt organization whose mission is the study and interpretation of Trenton's history, the preservation of its historic buildings and artifacts, and the dissemination of information about New Jersey's capital city and its illustrious past.

The Society awards Restore Trenton! grants to homeowners for exterior preservation to historic standards; advocates for the retention, preservation and adaptive reuse of historic buildings; supports history-based public programming; publishes a yearly calendar illustrated with historic Trenton photographs; supports the acquisition of historical material for the Trentoniana Collection of the Trenton Free Public Library; maintains a website providing research sources for general use and provides research services for a nominal fee.

*Information filed with the Attorney General concerning this charitable solicitation and the percentage of contributions received by the charity during the last reporting period that were dedicated to the charitable purpose may be obtained from the Attorney General of the State of New Jersey by calling (973) 504-6215 and is available on the Internet at <http://www.state.nj.us/lps/ca/charfm.htm>.
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Visit the Trenton Historical Society on the web at www.trentonhistory.org