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Aurora honors property owners for restoration efforts

May 21, 2008 **Beacon News Staff**

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AURORA -- A dozen Aurora property owners were honored Tuesday with the 29th annual Mayor's Awards for Excellence in Historic Restoration and Property Improvement.

Properties honored by Mayor Tom Weisner, the city's Division of Neighborhood Redevelopment and the Aurora Preservation Commission -- with comments by the judges -- include:

- 851 S. River St., owner Dean Albright -- "Albright has transformed his two-unit property into a single-family home. With the help of the Reconversion Incentive Program, he was able to remove the second unit in this home as well as remodel the exterior of the property."
- 545 W. Downer Place, owners Gary and Beth Riggle -- "The owners worked with Vincent and Sons on the restoration of this beautiful home. Vincent and Sons removed the non-original aluminum siding, stripped the paint to reveal bare wood, repaired some of the original cedar siding and then painted the home using a three-color scheme."
- 823 W. Downer Place, owners Mel and Carol Magnuson -- "Mel and Carol Magnuson ... have reconstructed the front porch and entry, restored and repaired the original cedar siding, painted the exterior with historic colors and built a new three-car garage with a loft."
- 1108 Prairie St., Prisco's Fine Foods, owner Rob Prisco -- "The Prisco family serves Aurora's neighborhoods by providing a unique shopping experience. ... Prisco's has just recently undergone a large interior renovation with a 500-square-foot addition, opening up an interior wall and remodeling the enclosed entryway."
- 1042 Talma St., Jugando Se Aprende Day Care Center, owners Alexander and Maria Munoz -- "The property on Talma and Parker used to be the home of a furniture store and auto shop. ... A complete remodel of the interior space was completed, and it is now used as a colorful and inviting day-care center."
- 1685 N. Farnsworth Ave., Quad County Urban League -- "Quad County Urban League, with the assistance of Community Development Block Grant funding, acquired a parcel of land adjacent to its existing property. ... Prior to the completion of the expansion project, the Quad County Urban League was serving 1,700 individuals per year. With the added space, that number is expected to increase to approximately 3,500."
- 335 S. Lincoln Ave., owner Theodia Gillespie -- "Using the reconversion program, (Gillespie) has removed all of the apartment units from this home and returned it to a single-family home, and inside and out it looks truly spectacular."
- 117 Fifth St., former owners Christopher McKenna and Jane Tompkins -- "The former homeowners undertook an extensive exterior restoration of this home. ... Christopher McKenna and Jane Tompkins have just sold their charming Fifth Street home to a wonderful preservation-minded buyer who will no doubt continue their preservation legacy."
- 219 West Park Ave., owners Fred and Jeanne Sternberg -- "Both the home and the garage were transformed. ... Because this property is located on a corner, the garage enhancements have been a great improvement to the streetscape on Wilder Street."
- 327 W. New York St., owners Mike and Alicia Rivera -- "The Victorian-era details have been returned to this home and it is now one of the most beautiful homes in the Tanner Historic District."

- 448-450 West Park Ave., owner Ervey Dominguez -- "The changes here seem less dramatic than some of the other transformations, but a lot has been done and the improvements have been tremendous."
- 411 Grand Ave., owners Jonathon and Rebekah Litfin -- "The repairs to the home inside and outside will no doubt insure this home is preserved for generations to come."

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From Rebuilding Place in the Urban Space

The views expressed in these blog posts are those of the author and not of the Sun-Times

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annie ominous wrote:

This makes me happy. Congrats, folks.

5/21/2008 8:03 AM CDT on suburbanchicagonews.com

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