

This is a reminder to our email in December 2019 regarding, the Plainfield Historic Preservation Commission's afternoon workshop in Plainfield on **Wednesday, February 19, 2020** with **Mike Jackson**, formerly of the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency, **Frank Heitzman**, a licensed architect from Oak Park and now **John Curley**, also a licensed architect and the Chief Development Officer for the city of Aurora. The workshop will conduct at least a two-hour presentation on building codes and historic preservation and their implementation and application. This workshop will focus more on downtown properties than for residential ones. Many of the same code enforcement issues exist for residential properties, but the current International Residential Code does not have any special provisions for historic residential properties so there isn't a specific "**code relief**" argument to be made.

A revised description of our workshop program follows on the next page. The program will begin at 1:30 pm in Community Room A on the second floor of the **Plainfield Village Hall, 24401 W. Lockport Street**. This workshop is for staff members who work with Historic Preservation Commissions plus their local building inspectors or code officials who work with local owners to rehabilitate or restore their historic properties.

I originally spoke to 14 representatives of area CLG communities about our planned workshop and then later followed up with an email giving everyone a description of the workshop. After some discussions, we were directed to John Curley who agreed to participate in the workshop. Thus we felt the need to follow with an email reminder to note the additions and clarifications of the topics that will be presented. Initial responses were favorable from many of the CLG personnel that this workshop would help code officials and staff to understand the confusing array of codes and depending on how many communities decide to participate, the cost could be no more than \$100.00 and less if most of agree to participate.

Thus far five (5) CLG communities have indicated their participation. The Planning Office of the Village of Plainfield was scheduled to send out a letter to those remaining CLG communities that as of last week had not responded. I thought I would send out this email reminder in case the letter does not reach the person I originally spoke with originally since I know how hectic everything was at the end of 2019 and the beginning of this month. If you wish to come to the Workshop respond to either this email or the letter from the Village. Once we see how many communities are attending, we can determine the registration fee. Either call my cell number below or complete the registration information below and send it back to [MBortel47@sbcglobal.net](mailto:MBortel47@sbcglobal.net) so we can create a list of participants to determine the registration fee or respond to the information in the letter.

**Commission:**                      **Contact Person:**                      **Phone #:**                      **Email contact:**

**Mike Bortel -**  
**Chair – Plainfield H.P.C.**  
**MBortel47@sbcglobal.net**

**815-531-7117 – Cell**

## Building Codes and Historic Preservation Workshop

Building codes are essential tools for the improvement of the built environment. The first building codes focused on structural and fire safety but today building codes address topics of accessibility and energy conservation. Most building codes were written for new construction but have now evolved with special codes for existing buildings. The 2003 International Existing Building Code (**IEBC**) marked a major change in evolution of building codes, including a choice of approaches or 'code paths' and a special chapter on historic buildings. The treatment for historic building provides a range of options that are all designed to improve older buildings when they are renovated while respecting their historic character. This program will examine building codes and their application to existing and historic buildings based upon performance goals of health and life safety, accessibility and energy conservation.

**Mike Jackson** is a preservation architect with more than 40 years of experience in historic preservation. Mike will cover topics of historic structures, various codes and their approaches and some of the typical issues. **Frank Heitzman** is an architect from Oak Park IL and will cover the topic of "universal design," and accessibility - a method of creating and modifying buildings for people with all levels of ability. **John Curley** is a licensed Architect and the Chief Development Officer for the City of Aurora and the previous Chief Building Official for Aurora will cover some of the administrative issues as well as typical solutions - insight into the implementation and application of the IEBC.

### Learning Objectives

- Describe the evolution of building codes and their application to existing and historic buildings based upon performance goals of health and life safety, accessibility and energy conservation.
- Compare the various code compliance paths for existing and historic buildings in the International Existing Building Code (**IEBC**).
- Describe the critical issues for material conservation and life safety when applied to character defining features and finishes that pre-date modern fire rating systems.
- Summarize best practices and opportunities in the application of the **IEBC** and Accessibility Codes to historic buildings.

Mike is also part of a team that created **Upstairs Downtown**, a nationally recognized program that offers development and design training on the renovation of the vacant upper floors on Main Street. Their website includes projects, examples and training presentations.

<https://www.apti.org/codes-and-standards> - Association for Preservation Technology Code Committee

[www.UpstairsDowntown.com](http://www.UpstairsDowntown.com) – does training and feasibility studies to help revitalize downtowns