



## NEWS RELEASE

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**SPRINGFIELD, OH (Oct. 9, 2020)**

#### **South Fountain Neighborhood Receives ‘Great Places’ Award**

The South Fountain Avenue Neighborhood has been named one of Ohio’s Great Places by the Ohio Chapter of the American Planning Association (APA Ohio), the organization announced today.

The biennial awards program honors outstanding physical spaces that planners have made permanent through careful planning and unbridled imagination in Ohio, according to APA Ohio.

“The South Fountain Historic neighborhood is excited to have received this recognition. It is an indicator the our community is on the right track.” Said Ben Babian, President of South Fountain Preservation. “Thanks to all of those in our neighborhood and those supporting the Engaged Neighborhood process who made it possible for our community to be recognized.

The residents of Springfield’s historic South Fountain Neighborhood worked tirelessly for over 20 years to rehabilitate the Victorian homes at the core of the neighborhood, according to APA Ohio.

“We are pleased to know that the Ohio Chapter of the American Planning Association has recognized the amazing work of the South Fountain Neighborhood,” said Shannon Meadows, City of Springfield Community Development Director. “This recognition underscores the tireless work of neighbors in the area, and throughout the Engaged Neighborhood Planning area.”

APA Ohio cited the South Fountain Avenue residents’ leadership and dedication in its decision to include it in the 2020 awards.

“The review committee was struck by the leadership residents have taken to not only preserve their neighborhood, but also persevere to see that its success grows and influences the lives of more and more Springfield residents,” the organization announced. “Through their dedication South Fountain’s heritage has been preserved, neighborhood festivals have been created, grants for capital improvements won for such things as the preservation of the Gammon House (once a stop on the Underground Railroad), and the community once again gained an appreciation for neighborhood planning.

The 2020 recipients were chosen for their great commercial districts, parks and public spaces, beautiful designs, inspiring stories, and community-led transformations that honor their unique histories, according to APA Ohio.

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