



FROM: Preservation League of New York State
44 Central Avenue
Albany NY 12206-3002
www.preservenys.org

CONTACTS: Colleen M. Ryan, Director of Communications
518-462-5658, ext. 17
Tania Werbizky
Regional Director of Technical and Grant Programs, Central and Western New York
607-272-6510

For City of Elmira
Jennifer Miller, Deputy Director, Community Development
607-737-5692, jennmiller@cityoefelmira.net

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PRESERVATION LEAGUE AWARDS PRESERVE NEW YORK GRANT **City of Elmira Secures \$10,000**

ALBANY, NY – 11/15/10 – The Preservation League of New York State will present a **\$10,000 grant** to the **City of Elmira** on **Tuesday, November 16 at 7:00 p.m.** at **Riverside Elementary School, 409 Riverside Avenue in Elmira.**

The check will be presented at the beginning of a community meeting to explore use options for the 1949 Brand Park Memorial Pool. The brick and concrete above-ground swimming pool was designed according to a patent developed by engineer Wesley Bintz. His Michigan-based firm was responsible for approximately 135 pools in the United States but it appears that only about half of those survive. Elmira's pool is unusual in that it is the second one by Bintz on the same site – the first was destroyed a major flood in 1936 – and that it was built in honor of Elmira's men and women lost in World Wars I and II.

The project consultant, Johnson-Schmidt and Associates of Corning, will complete an examination of the pool's history, structural condition and repair options and determine feasible uses that respect its design integrity and can benefit the community.

The Preserve New York Grant Program is a partnership program of the Preservation League and the New York State Council on the Arts. "Preserve New York has a strong track record of bolstering local preservation efforts and delivering a strong return on investment," said Jay DiLorenzo, President of the Preservation League. "Since 1993, Preserve New York has provided over \$1.5 million in direct support to 250 projects across the state, leveraging over \$20 million in additional project support and over \$500,000 in donated labor, services and materials."

"At its August, 2010 meeting, the Preserve New York grant program panel selected 17 projects in 14 counties around the state to share \$109,149 in funding," said Tania Werbizky, the League's Regional Director of Technical and Grant Programs in western New York. "As always,

the competition for these funds was intense. The Preservation League is delighted to help advance the preservation efforts of the City of Elmira with this grant.”

According to Heather A. Hitchens, Executive Director of the New York State Council on the Arts, “Preserve New York grants have proven to be an effective catalyst for realizing community preservation goals and saving some of the Empire State’s most significant places. We are gratified that state funds made available for strategic grants through Preserve New York continue to leverage private investment, revitalize our historic neighborhoods and downtowns, and celebrate New York’s incomparable architectural legacy.”

Organizations and municipalities receiving grant awards in 2010 are: **Broome County (2)**: First Ward Action Council; Town of Vestal; **Chemung County**: City of Elmira; **Cortland County**: Cortland Downtown Partnership; **Erie County (2)**: Allentown Association; Nash House Museum; **Livingston County**: Livingston County Historical Society; Montgomery County: Montgomery County Department of History and Archives; **New York County**: Two Bridges Neighborhood Council; **Niagara County**: Oakwood Cemetery Association; **Onondaga County**: Preservation Association of Central New York; **Putnam County**: Manitoga; **Rensselaer County**: Pittstown Historical Society; **Schuyler County**: Village of Watkins Glen; **Ulster County**: Jewish Federation of Ulster County; **Westchester (2)**: Friends of Mozartina Musical Arts Conservatory, Inc.; City of Yonkers Department of Planning and Development.

For more information on the Preserve New York Grant Program, please call 518-462-5658 or visit the League’s website at www.preservenys.org.