

## **Press Release: Downtown Enfield Restoration & Preservation Presents: “DIY Projects for Your Historic Property” on December 4**

Each year, Downtown Enfield Restoration and Preservation (DERP) holds festivities during the holiday season. Besides the Oyster Roast on November 26 at Scotfield Preserve at 193 Country Club Drive and the Christmas Tree Lighting on December 1 at Town Square, another activity this year is the “DIY Projects for Your Historic Home and Historic Tax Credits for Your Home and Business,” which will be held Sunday, December 4, from 12:30 until 5 p.m. at the Historic Episcopal Church of the Advent at 200 Batchelor Street in Enfield. This year, the DIY Workshop replaces DERP’s annual Christmas Homes Tour. To celebrate Enfield’s historic designation, which was granted August 16, 2021, DERP wants to focus on restoration of historic homes and businesses in Enfield.

Restoring an old house or business can be expensive and there are some jobs – involving infrastructure – where it pays to have a professional complete the work. But there are many smaller projects the property owner can undertake. Not only does DERP want to help you develop an appreciation of the fine craftsmanship of these old structures, but the organization also wants to save you money. The DIY Workshop will help you do just that. The cost of the workshop (lunch included) is \$10 for seniors and students and \$15 general admission. Tickets will be sold at the door. Please RSVP to [KHGallery@aol.com](mailto:KHGallery@aol.com) if you plan to attend, so we have attendance numbers.

The “DIY Projects for Your Historic Home and Historic Tax Credits for Your Home and Business” afternoon begins with a luncheon at 12:30 – meatball and/or sausage heroes as well as other homemade nourishment – at the church. After lunch, the following workshops will be held:

**How to Replace Ropes in Weighted Double-Hung Windows:** If you are interested in historic tax credits, you should always restore rather than replace, especially when it comes to old windows. Prior to 1940, most windows had rope sashes, which could be replaced by homeowners when they wore out. It’s not a difficult project, but a hands-on demonstration will help matters go more smoothly. **Wayne Anderson** is our DIY expert for this workshop.

**How to Reglaze Single-Pane Wood Windows:** While this is an inexpensive repair – all you need is a putty knife and a handful of glazing compound – there is a knack to getting nice, clean edges that last for the duration. The good news is that repairing damaged old wood windows will not only improve the look of your paint job but also give you increase energy efficiency. **Judge Holdford** is our DIY expert for this workshop.

**How to Create Cement Countertops:** It can be a messy job, but you will save thousands on countertops if you create your own from cement. Typically, a concrete countertop is poured outside, and when it cures, it's carried indoors and flipped over. But as you well know, there are many ways to skin a cat – or build a countertop. And just as many designs as well. **Lee Jones, Rob Scala** and **Myra Wirtz** will be on hand to give DIY tips on the best techniques for your home.

**How to Radon-Test Your Historic Property:** Radon is an invisible poisonous gas and unsafe levels of radon can be found in 1 out of 15 homes, according to the *Old House Journal*. But even if you had a test before you bought the property, you should still test “every couple of years and after a major renovation.” An EPA website can tell you whether you live in a dense area for radon, but there's also a DIY approach you can take to remediate the situation. Our DIY expert for this workshop **Chester B. Williams** from the Fresh Water-Fresh Start Coalition.

**How to Age in Place:** You love your historic home, and you don't want to move because the house is becoming too burdensome. Did you know there are many home modifications you can make to age in place. Just a few minor changes – grab bars in the tub or shower, nonskid floors and better insulation – can make all the difference. And you don't have to wait until you're 80 to make them. Our DIY expert for this workshop is **Julia Andrus**.

**How to Improve the Outside Landscape:** There's nothing like a fresh coat of paint to improve the exterior, but another environment-friendly improvement you can make is to add a beautiful tree. EEDRC, another Enfield community organization that sponsored the historic designation, is partnering with NC Wildlife to offer free native trees to homes and businesses in the district. Not only will the tree beautify the historic district, but they also improve air quality and provide cooler temperatures in the summer. The Tree-Giveaway Project will be delivered by **Gerry Middleton**, EEDRC Executive Director.

**How to Qualify for Historic Tax Credits:** There are no restrictions on properties in the National Register. But if you want to replace your wood windows with vinyl windows or cover your house in aluminum siding, you may not be eligible for tax credits. Renovations must follow federal preservation standards, set by the Secretary of the Interior. **Reid Thomas**, from the eastern office of NC Preservation, will discuss how whether your renovation project is eligible and how to apply for the state and federal historic tax credits. He will also answer any general renovation questions the property owner may have.