



June 2021 E-News

***From the Armoury-Quadrangle Civic Association (AQCA)
Serving the Downtown Neighborhood***

No June General Meeting! Instead, please join us for:

**Second Saturday Walking Tour
Springfield Street Patterns —
A Historical Look at Whether for People or Cars
Saturday, June 12 @ 10:30 AM
Meet at Springfield Museums Visitors' Center**

Led by our own AQCA Board President, Betsy Johnson!

Tickets to the Second Saturday Walking Tours are \$5 and free for Springfield Museums, Armoury Quadrangle Civic Association, and Springfield Preservation Trust members. Please buy your tickets in person at Springfield Museums from 10-10:25 am on June 12, 2021. The tour will conclude at Union Street.

Massachusetts as of May 28 has rescinded its mask order. SPT has decided to hold the Second Saturday walking tours based on this and by adhering to the following guidelines:

No one should participate who is sick or feeling any COVID-19 symptoms such as fever, coughing and or trouble breathing. Masks are optional. Participants should avoid close contact, such as shaking hands or high-fives. Participants may practice social distancing during the tour.

FREE HOTSPOTS—Internet for Your Home!

The Springfield City Library is circulating portable internet hotspots, effective immediately, for those in the community who don't have internet access at home. The borrowing program is beginning slowly, with a few hotspots available at the Central Library, Mason Square Branch and Forest Park Branch locations, available to Springfield library cardholders only. Click for more info and to reserve a hotspot in the catalog!

Sensory Friendly Saturday

Saturday June 12, 9 am–11 am
Amazing World of Dr. Seuss Museum and the Springfield Science Museum

The Springfield Museums present Sensory Friendly Saturdays, the second Saturday of each month. Sensory Friendly Saturdays provide less noise, less bright light, and cool-down spaces for those who have sensory sensitivity.

The Amazing World of Dr. Seuss Museum and the Springfield Science Museum will open early, with some exhibits modified to provide an opportunity for people with a range of differing abilities to experience what the museums have to offer. Trained staff and volunteers will be on hand to answer questions and, if necessary, direct visitors to a quiet space that provides a chance to cool down and take a break. Sensory-friendly crafts for all ages will be available in the Cat's Corner.

Parents and caregivers must stay with their children at all times. The modifications are enabled until 11 am.

Cut 'N' Rough Collection
Through June 2022
Mineral Hall
Springfield Science Museum

[The Springfield Museums](#) presents Cut 'N' Rough, a collection of cut stone displayed side-by-side with the same stone in its original rough state, ready for all to see in [Earth Hall](#), on the second floor of the [Springfield Science Museum](#). The Cut 'N' Rough exhibit is on loan from Fred Wilda and Helen Rodak of Hadley, MA.

“The first stone I cut was a revelation,” said Wilda, a mineral collector, self-taught artist, and passionate spokesperson for geology. “I was amazed to see what the stone had hidden inside it—a piece of art that rivaled masterpieces in museum galleries!”

The large, bright glass case, donated by the Connecticut Valley Mineral Club, is filled with stones whose inner beauty is breathtaking. “Each and every stone has a story,” Wilda said. “And almost every story is connected to other people.”

In the meantime, a bit more information about the state gem rhodonite from the handbook that accompanies Significant Rocks and Minerals from Massachusetts: "Named after the Greek word for rose (rhodon), Rhodonite is a silicate mineral that is formed in metamorphic rocks." There is only one known location in Massachusetts where you can find this gemstone: but if you want an easy look at a beautiful specimen, visit the Springfield Museums!

Contact us :
413.747.1830
aqca@aqca.org
www.aqca.org

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