



October 17, 2011

Dear Trenton Museum Society Friends and Supporters,

The Trenton Museum Society Board of Trustees would like to reassure our friends and supporters that the Trenton City Museum is still open and that the Trenton Museum Society continues to work on maintaining the collection and providing appropriate programming during this period of transition.

You may not be aware that the City of Trenton is under serious financial constraints and has laid off all city employees at the Trenton City Museum including the assistant to the director, Maria Newman, and the more-than-a-custodian, Pete Hobday. Funds for the gallery greeters, NJ Devico and James Strobel, ran out in the middle of September and our energetic, creative leader, Brian Hill, was laid off as Director in mid-September as well. As a result, there is currently no one employed at Ellarslie with the qualifications to mount exhibits or oversee the programming the Trenton Museum Society has traditionally provided.

The Museum Society does have a Management Agreement with the City of Trenton that specifies a full-time, qualified museum director. It also specifies an Issues Resolution procedure. As of this writing we have initiated the Issues Resolution process by sending letters to the mayor and several members of his administration but have received no response.

We need your continuing support for the Trenton Museum Society as we struggle through this period, and are taking this opportunity to offer a lecture series on the second Sunday of each month starting in November. The series will cover topics of interest such as Trenton history, fine arts, archeology, and the ceramic arts.

This year we will be hosting an expanded Holiday Boutique on December 2 -5, featuring fine arts and artisan crafts, and, of course, including all the quality, original items sold in Molly's – the Shop at Ellarslie as well. Please mark your calendars now for this special event. We will be sending you announcements of additional events as we schedule them. Please check our website periodically as well: www.ellarslie.org.

We extend a special thank you to all our members and other supporters who have reached out to the newspapers, the mayor, and to the members of city council with expressions of concern and indignation. Your support gives us strength as we negotiate with the city. We will keep you advised of our progress.

Sincerely,

Robert Cunningham
President