



Pawtucket Armory Association eNewsletter: Vol. 1 No. 4 October 2004

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#### **[The Pawtucket Armory to Hold Open House on Sunday, October 24, 2004](#)**

The Exchange eNewsletter is designed to spread the word about our efforts to renovate the historic Pawtucket Armory and manage it as *The Arts Exchange*, an affordable and sustainable, regional center for the arts and arts education. The Pawtucket Armory Association is a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation.

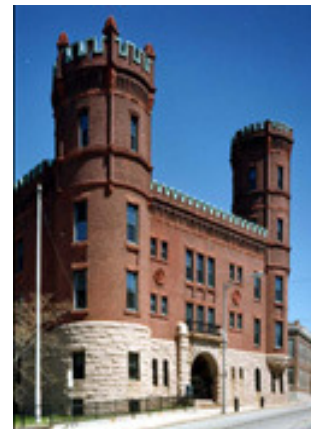
#### **Gamm Theatre Ends Extended Run of "An Enemy of the People"**

The [The Gamm Theatre](#) ended its extended run of Henrik Ibsen's *An Enemy of the People* on October 9. This production was originally scheduled to end on October 3, but incredible popular demand caused The Gamm to add three additional performance. The Gamm's next production, *The Rise and Fall of Little Voice*, begins November 11. The Gamm is located in The Annex Theater at *The Arts Exchange*.

#### **• The Pawtucket Armory to Hold Open House on Sunday, October 24, 2004**

The Pawtucket Armory and the Gamm Theatre will open their doors to the public free of charge for behind the scenes tours on Sunday, October 24, 2004 from 1 to 4pm. The Armory and The Gamm are located at 172 Exchange Street in Pawtucket, next door to Tolman High School.

These two organizations will join approximately 100 other museums, cultural arts centers, and historic sites throughout Rhode Island that will be participating in The "Save Our Heritage" Statewide Open House. The "Save Our Heritage" Statewide Open House has three goals: 1) to showcase Rhode Island's remarkable museums, historic sites, and cultural art centers; 2) to demonstrate the impact of State Preservation Grants; 3) to inform voters about three preservation bond issues on the November ballot: Question #11 (Historic Preservation and Heritage Bonds), Question #6 (Cranston Street Armory Bonds),



and Question #12 (Rehabilitation of State Owned Facilities Bonds).

Approval of Question #11 will provide \$3 million to continue and expand the State Preservation Grant program. This program provides grants for capital preservation work at public and non-profit historic sites, museums, and cultural art centers. The Pawtucket Armory Association was awarded a \$100,000 grant under this important program.

The Pawtucket Armory was designed by William Walker & Sons and built from 1894 to 1895. It is a 49,000 square foot Romanesque Revival brick castle with green copper crenellated turrets that is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The Armory was used by the Rhode Island National Guard from 1895 to 1994. The Pawtucket Armory Association purchased the building for one dollar from the City of Pawtucket and is in the process of raising the funds to renovate the Armory, oversee required reconstruction, and manage the restored building as The Arts Exchange, a center for the performing and visual arts and arts education.

In 2003, the Pawtucket Armory Association renovated the garage adjacent to the Armory into a beautiful and intimate performance space for the Gamm Theatre. The Gamm has just opened its second season of performances in this spectacular 124-seat theater. The next round of renovations of the Armory is scheduled to begin this winter when the front "Castle" section of the complex will be transformed into a new public high school for the performing and visual arts that will open in September 2005.

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