



The recently restored Berry Building, at Walnut and Orr streets, houses several downtown businesses.

A Berry Good Job

John and Vicki Ott of Alley A Realty recently received a Missouri Statewide Preservation Award for the Berry Building. Lt. Gov. Peter Kinder presented the award during a ceremony in the State Capitol Rotunda on March 2.

John Ott, a local downtown developer, recently renovated the Berry Building, “transforming a blighted area of downtown into a flourishing area of activity with apartments, a health and fitness club, art gallery and office space,” according to Debbie Sheals, a historic preservation consultant. “The Berry Building stood out from other applicants because of the location in downtown Columbia, the value of economic development and quality of historic preservation,” Sheals says. “The Berry Building renovation brings businesses we want to see into an area where we live and work.”

Businesses in the Berry Building include the North Village Lofts, Wilson’s Total Fitness, PS:Gallery, Independent Stave Co. and Pure Exposure

Photography. Ott says he is “pleased with the outcome of the building and fortunate to have great businesses complement everything that’s going on in the North Village Art District.”

Missouri Preservation annually honors individuals, groups and organizations that have contributed to the preservation of Missouri’s rich and diverse collection of historic resources. This is the 25th year that Missouri Preservation will recognize outstanding projects in commercial and residential rehabilitation, neighborhood revitalization, landscape protection and archaeology.

Ott and his wife, Vicki, were named the first-ever Outstanding Local Historic Preservationists by the Columbia Historic Preservation Commission earlier this year. The Ott’s were honored for their work restoring multiple properties in downtown Columbia, including the Dorsey Building on Broadway, the Paramount Building at the corner of Ninth and Cherry, and The Tiger Hotel. **CEO**

CHARITY BEGINS AT HOME

Boone County National Bank was recognized nationally for its community outreach at the American Bankers Association National Conference for Community Bankers Feb. 22 in San Diego. Bank President and CEO Steve Erdel accepted the award that honored the bank’s ongoing work with Habitat for Humanity and its commitment to home ownership.

“It is such an honor to lead an organization filled with people who dedicate themselves to helping our community,” Erdel says. “We understand what it means to call ourselves a community bank and we try to demonstrate that in everything we do.”

The ABA Community Bank Award was established in 2005 to recognize community banks’ outstanding charitable achievements. Last year, Boone County National Bank donated an 11-acre neighborhood site worth \$600,000 to Habitat for Humanity. The organization hopes to build as many as 30 homes on the site.