

Past Show Information

Podcasts



Ken Dunn



Pam Richart



Randy Blankenhorn



Dave Snyder

January 24, 2010

Ken Dunn is a Chicago activist, philosopher and recycling icon. And he's being receiving the **5th Annual Elizabeth I. Benson Award** this **Wednesday, January 27**, at the **Wellington Avenue United Church of Christ, 615 W. Wellington, Chicago IL 60657**. And I don't mention this simply because **I'm emceeing the event**.

Ken has been a driving force for sustainability and the general good in this city for more than 35 years. He founded the **Resource Center** and **City Farm** (if you've ever driven past the garden at Division and Clybourn, THAT's City Farm.) The evening will feature testimonials from the people whose lives have been changed by Ken, not to mention hors d'oeuvres from Frontera Grill and North Pond Café, wine by Bodega Ramos, and singing by the Bullfrogs Community Choir.

Pam Richart of the **Eco-Justice Collaborative** says that while there's a \$15 suggested donation, no one will be turned away for lack of funds! And all proceeds will go directly to the Resource Center and City Farm. I hope you can be there.

The people have voted and they want change. Yeah, I guess you've heard that one before, but it's not what you think. I'm talking about an online poll at a website called **Go To 2040**, where 20,000 people in the Chicago area voted for the strategies to shape the region's transportation system and development patterns, in project called **Invent the Future**. This is a continuing project of the **Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP)**, the comprehensive regional planning organization for the northeastern Illinois counties of Cook, DuPage, Kane, Kendall, Lake, McHenry, and Will.

CMAP Executive Director Randy Blankenhorn was on the show in June to plug the voting campaign. Now that it's over, he's back to talk about the direction in which Chicago area residents say they want this region to go. In addition to public input, the scenario proposed by CMAP is also based on two years of research and analysis, and the issues it addresses will require coordinated solutions at the local and regional levels. (What, you thought we could vote on it and that would be that?)

There's a fruit orchard coming to my neighborhood! (Maybe) You can learn more at an event tomorrow, January 25, at **Uncommon Ground** restaurant on Devon. They're having a benefit **Monday night from 6-8pm** to announce the name of a new cocktail that will provide \$.50 per drink sold to help fund the group **CROP**. CROP stands for **Chicago Rarities Orchard Project**, which is a non-profit organization founded to establish community rare-fruit orchards in Chicago.

CROP spokesperson **Dave Snyder** tells me that they might start growing some fruit trees in my Logan Square neighborhood, if everything goes right. Works for me. Meanwhile, **TimeOut Chicago** wrote about **CROP** and their efforts a few months ago. If you're interested in attending the event tomorrow (yes, I know that this doesn't give you a lot of time), you can purchase tix at **Brown Paper Tickets**. Or just show up and do something good for fruit in Chicago.