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## Business Briefs: Public input needed June 4 at Unity

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May 28, 2009

"Go to 2040," a first comprehensive, long-range regional plan, is seeking citizen participation at a meeting at 7 p.m. June 4 at Unity Temple, 875 Lake St., Oak Park.

The plan is being sponsored by Burnham Plan Centennial Celebration, Unity Temple Restoration Foundation and the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning team up with Landmarks Illinois, the Pleasant Home Foundation, the Village of Oak Park Historic Preservation Commission and Environment and Energy Advisory Commission

This event, titled "Historic Preservation and a Sustainable Future: A Community Conversation," will involve a panel of experts, including Mike Jackson, chief architect of the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency, and will raise key issues and stimulate discussion of how the group envisions the future. CMAP will collect participants' comments using an interactive keypad tool that will be integrated into the final plan, to be published in 2010. Free.

The panel will consist of not only Jackson, but also three Oak Parkers: Tom Bassett-Dilley, AIA, chairman of Oak Park's Historic Preservation Commission; Michael Iversen, currently a full-time doctorate student at the Urban Planning and Policy Program at UIC; and Ed Malone, chair of the Oak Park Environmental and Energy Advisory Commission.

Call Jessamyn Miller, program manager, UTRF, (708) 383-8873; [jmiller@utrff.org](mailto:jmiller@utrff.org).

The National Trust for Historic Preservation has named Unity Temple to its list of America's 11 Most Endangered Historic Places. To learn more and to donate to support the restoration of Unity Temple, visit [www.utrf.org](http://www.utrf.org).

### 'ABCs of Kitchen Design' free May 30

The designers from Prairie Plus Inc. Design will discuss the basics of good kitchen design from 9 to 10 a.m. May 30 at VonDreele-Freerksen Construction Company, 509 Madison St., Oak Park, including: Redesigning your work zone, efficient space planning, new trends in kitchen design, how to select a designer and new countertop and tile materials. This is a free seminar. Call (708) 848-4130.

### Paint recycling day June 6 in OP

Better Homes and Gardens Real Estate Gloor Realty is sponsoring a paint recycling drive between 8 and 11 a.m. June 6 outside its office in downtown Oak Park, at 114 N. Oak Park Ave. A "Paint-Free Recycling" vehicle will be parked in front of the real estate office for anyone interested in dropping off cans of oil-based or latex paint.

There are other alternatives to recycling paint, such as donating cans to community-service organizations, schools and theater groups.

Established in 1946 and with a current market presence encompassing 13 Chicago-area communities, Better Homes and Gardens Real Estate Gloor Realty is an independent, family-owned company.

The company can be reached at (708) 524-1100; [www.gloor.com](http://www.gloor.com).

### Restaurant cooking class Saturday

Gaetano's Restaurant, 7636 Madison St., Forest Park, will offer a "Spring Vegetable Cooking Class," 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. May 30 at the restaurant. Cost is \$65. Learn how to be more creative with beets, asparagus, baby carrots, truffles and wild mushrooms.

To make a reservation for the class call (708) 366-4010 or go to <http://bodysoulgraphix.com/gaetanos/> to RSVP.

### RF healing practice: new services, facility

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Art of Natural Healing, 7773 Lake St., in River Forest, an acupuncture and natural healing practice, announces the completion of its recent renovations and facility expansion. In conjunction with the improved space, Art of Natural Healing has expanded its services. Recently added services include thermography; Tuina, a form of traditional Chinese medical massage; energy healing; and Qigong.

Thermography is a noninvasive imaging technique that measures temperature distribution of various organs and tissues. The infrared radiation from the tissue reveals temperature variations by producing brightly colored patterns on a liquid crystal display. Interpretation of the color patterns is thought to assist in the diagnosis of many disorders such as breast cancer, corroded arteries, hypo- and hyper-thyroidism and diabetes.

Tim Sperduto joins the practice to expand its Qigong services. Qigong is an ancient Chinese system of postures, exercises, breathing techniques and meditations. Techniques are designed to improve and enhance the body's "qi," the fundamental life energy responsible for health and vitality. Sperduto has been studying and practicing Qigong for seven years. His studies took him to China where he studied with famous Qigong masters, including Professor Huixian Chen, and doctors of medicine and physics.

The practice also has expanded its repertoire of testing to include blood, saliva and urine analysis in order to better evaluate patients and prescribe better courses of treatment.

In early 2008, Art of Natural Healing acquired additional 1,200 square feet of space adjacent to its current facility which has been renovated to include more patient rooms, a dedicated thermography room and space for classes and seminars.

Art of Natural Healing, a natural health care and education practice incorporating traditional Chinese medicine and acupuncture, was started in 2001 by Kelsey Fernandez and Alejandro Fernandez, who are each licensed acupuncturists, have master's of science degrees in Oriental Medicine and are Naturopathy Medical Doctors.

### **Take part in Miss Illinois June pageant**

The second annual Miss Illinois Scholarship Charity golf outing will be held June 20 at Pheasant Run Resort & Spa in St. Charles during Miss Illinois week, which culminates in the crowning of the 2009 Miss Illinois the evening of June 20. Family members and friends of Miss Illinois contestants, as well as the public-at-large, are welcome to participate in the outing. Registration is \$100 per person and includes golf, cart, driving range, lunch, raffle prizes and awards for Longest Putt, Closest to the Pin and Longest Drive. Lunch entertainment provided by 2008 Miss Illinois Katie Lorenz, and the 24 Miss Illinois 2009 contestants. First tee time is 8 a.m.; lunch and awards will run from 2:30 to 4 p.m.

Hole sponsorships with signage are also available to businesses and individuals.

Proceeds from the golf outing will benefit the Miss Illinois Scholarship Association, as well as the Children's Miracle Network, the official sponsor of the Miss Illinois Charity Golf Outing. To register and for more information, call or e-mail Glenn Schwerdtmann at (847) 917-9279 or [ggschwerdtmann@comcast.net](mailto:ggschwerdtmann@comcast.net).

### **Award won by Thrive Counseling Center**

At its 10th annual nonprofit symposium May 13 at North Park University, the Axelson Center for Nonprofit Management awarded its Alford-Axelson Award for Nonprofit Managerial Excellence to Family Service & Mental Health Center of Oak Park & River Forest (its name was recently changed to Thrive Counseling Center). It received an honorable mention award.

Thrive was outstanding in the following areas: Clear mission and demonstrated impact of programs on target groups served; Creative strategies to generate revenue; Strong budget and financial policies; Evidence of strategic innovation; Attention to support for the growth and development of staff; A governing board that is demonstrably engaged with the organization, contributes financially to support the mission and ensures organizational accountability; and engagement with its community.

Established in 2002, the Alford-Axelson award program is sponsored by CHASE and ShoreBank. The award is given annually to two nonprofit organizations that exemplify extraordinary managerial excellence. The award is named in honor of leading nonprofit thinker, Jimmie R. Alford, and devoted community health care leader, Nils G. Axelson. In choosing this year's winners, a panel of evaluators consisting of a group of Chicago's top nonprofit and philanthropy leaders reviewed an applicant pool of 42 nominees.

For more information, visit [www.northpark.edu/axelson](http://www.northpark.edu/axelson).

### **Vote for local toy store up for award**

Nickelodeon's ParentsConnect, the online resource for parenting advice and community, is allowing parents to pick the best of their local communities with its second annual Parents' Picks Awards. Geppetto's Toy Box of Oak Park is a nominee for Best Toy Store in Chicagoland. Users can vote online for nominees until July 15 and ParentsConnect will announce the winners online on Aug. 17. The 2009 award winners will be featured on ParentsConnect throughout the year. The awards will identify winners in 52 major U.S. cities. Categories include: Best Kids' Museum; Best Toy Store; Best Playground/Park; Family Restaurant; and many more. Users can vote for nominees online at <http://gocitykids.parentsconnect.com/parents-picks> until July 15.

All Parents' Picks businesses are nominated based on recommendations from ParentsConnect local city editors who live and work in the cities they cover, in conjunction with feedback from the ParentsConnect community. Users' votes and rankings ultimately determine which venues are selected as winners in their respective categories. Vote for your favorite hometown store.

### **Cremation society's teddy bears aid kids**

The Neptune Society, the largest independent cremation company in the nation, is bringing teddy bears to Chicago area children who are hurt, frightened or alone. The Neptune Society Teddy bear program names a teddy bear in honor of every person whose death care is handled by Neptune on the one-year anniversary of their death. The cute and cuddly teddy bears are then donated to organizations such as Rainbow Hospice in Park Ridge, and local fire departments, to be given to a child in need.

On the first anniversary of any cremation, Neptune sends the deceased's family a certificate alerting them that a bear has been donated in their loved one's name. Each nonallergenic bear arrives with a special Neptune tag noting details of the donation and may even carry the name of the deceased if the family chooses. In each local community, Neptune works with local organizations to ensure that the bears are donated wherever they can do the most good.

For more information, [www.neptunesociety.com](http://www.neptunesociety.com).

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