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### **Residents encouraged to help create strategic historic preservation plan**

The Historic Preservation Commission is leading a community wide effort to create a *10-year Strategic Historic Preservation Plan* to help guide efforts to identify and protect important historic resources throughout the Village of Oak Park.

The second of three community workshops is scheduled for 7 p.m., Tues. Jan. 12, at Hatch School, 1000 N. Ridgeland Ave. The final workshop is planned for March 17 at Beye School, 230 N. Cuyler Ave. With residents' help, the new plan will replace a long-range plan created in 1994.

Commissioners say a strategic preservation plan will enhance efforts to identify and protect important historic resources, create new methods for encouraging rehabilitation and adaptive use of important historic buildings and structures, and promote a strong historic preservation ethic among a cross-section of community stakeholders and residents.

"With several neighborhood and commercial district plans already completed, and a comprehensive plan update planned in the near future, it is critical that Oak Park's historic preservation program be evaluated, strengthened and integrated within the community's current and on-going planning activities," said Historic Preservation Commission Chair Tom Bassett-Dilley.

The new strategic plan is being approached in three phases. The first phase will develop a comprehensive baseline of information for future analysis and decision-making. The second phase will explore ideas and concepts for specific historic preservation planning strategies and initiatives. And the third, plan-making phase will create a formal document of strategies to achieve both short and long-term goals.

Diane Williams of [Business Districts, Inc.](#) is working with a steering committee to facilitate the planning process. The committee includes representatives from various Village commissions, the Park District of Oak Park, commercial and residential property owners, and local not-for-profit organizations.

For more information on the plan or the process, call 708.358.5417 or e-mail [planning@oak-park.us](mailto:planning@oak-park.us). Information also is posted on the Historic Preservation pages of the Village web site, [www.oak-park.us](http://www.oak-park.us).

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