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From: David Powers
Communications Director
708.358.5781

Contact: Doug Kaarre
Urban Planner
708.358.5417

Workshops offer property owners free practical preservation guidance

Free workshops offered by the [Historic Preservation Commission](#) and the [Pleasant Home Foundation](#) to provide property owners with practical advice on maximizing the potential of their historic buildings are now underway.

The free workshops, provided with the help of a \$2,500 grant from the [National Trust for Historic Preservation](#), cover a wide range of topics, including saving money with historic preservation, sustainability, window repair and replacement, historic interiors and identifying architectural styles.

For more information, call 708.358.5417, e-mail planning@oak-park.us or visit www.oak-park.us/planning. Here's the schedule:

- **Save Money with Historic Preservation** – Discuss the economic benefits and incentives available to owners of historic properties who undertake historically sensitive work on their homes. State and local financial incentives and criteria needed to qualify for these programs will be covered. **7 p.m., Tues., May 12, Pleasant Home, 217 Home Ave.**
- **Historic Preservation and a Sustainable Future: A Community Conversation** – As part of the [Burnham Plan Centennial Celebration](#), [Unity Temple Restoration Foundation](#), [Pleasant Home Foundation](#), the Oak Park [Historic Preservation Commission](#), the Oak Park [Environmental & Energy Advisory Commission](#), [Landmarks Illinois](#) and the [Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning](#) (CMAP) will team up to encourage active citizen participation in the development of Chicago's first comprehensive long-range regional plan. This [Go to 2040](#) community conversation will focus on historic preservation as a green solution. A panel of experts will facilitate the discussion, helping raise important issues and prioritize solutions to improve the region's quality of life for future generations. Participants' comments will be integrated into the final plan, to be completed in 2010. **7 p.m., Thurs., June 4, Unity Temple, 875 Lake St.**
- **Historic Windows: The Do's and Don'ts of Repair and Replacement** – Learn about the importance of original windows and window styles to the historic integrity and character of a home, the benefits of window restoration rather than replacement, repair and maintenance techniques for historic windows, and the energy efficiency and costs of renewed windows to new windows. **7 p.m., Tues., June 9, Pleasant Home, 217 Home Ave.**

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- **Historic Interiors** – Learn about locating vintage fixtures, hardware, furniture and accessories, buying salvaged items, installing vintage and reproduction elements and guidelines for decision-making. See examples of both vintage and appropriate reproduction items in a variety of price points found through local resources. **7 p.m., Tues., June 16, Pleasant Home, 217 Home Ave.**
- **Architectural Styles** – Learn about and identify the many different styles of buildings in Oak Park. **7 p.m., Tues., July 14, 2009, Pleasant Home, 217 Home Ave.**

The program was funded in part by a \$2,500 grant from the Donnelley Family Endowed Preservation Fund created in 1991 by former National Trust Trustee Barbara Donnelley, her husband, Thomas, and family. The Donnelley Fund encourages grassroots preservation of Illinois' architectural and historic resources.

The National Trust for Historic Preservation is a nonprofit membership organization chartered by the U.S. Congress to encourage public participation in historic preservation.

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