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Residents invited to get involved in process

Effort underway to 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.

Residents are invited to get involved in helping create the new plan, which will replace a long-range plan created in the 1994. The first of three community workshops is scheduled for 7 p.m., Wed. Oct. 21, at Brooks Middle School, 325 S. Kenilworth Ave. Workshops also are planned Dec. 16 and March 17.

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. Information also is posted on the Historic Preservation pages of the Village web site, www.oak-park.us.

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