

# LANDMARK LINK

*The newsletter of the Oak Park Historic Preservation Commission.*

## Celebrating Oak Park's commitment to preservation

While the Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) recognizes property owners for their outstanding work on historic buildings every year, this was the first time that they attempted to make a big splash with their Preservation Awards.

Unity Temple graciously played host to the 2010 "Celebrate Our Heritage" event on the evening of September 23rd, where the HPC honored twelve projects around Oak Park for their sensitive and creative rehabilitation of buildings. Architects, contractors, and designers joined property owners in Frank Lloyd Wright's stunning sanctuary to receive their awards from Village Manager Tom Barwin and Village Trustee Jan Pate.

A large crowd attended the event not just to applaud the award winners, but also to thank the eleven individuals and organizations who chose to list their buildings as Oak Park Landmarks in 2010. Following the presentation, everyone had a chance to mingle and offer their congratulations as they enjoyed fantastic food and wine from Oak Park's own Marion Street Cheese Market.

Jim Peters, President of Landmarks Illinois, was our wonderful "master of ceremonies" for the event. It was extremely gratifying to hear the leader of our state preservation organization praise the Oak Park HPC and its staff as "one of the most respected and proactive commissions in the state." But we can't take all the credit! We recognize that is in large part because of local property owners who reinvest in their buildings, and the dedicated efforts of Village staff, that Oak Park is known around the country as an architectural mecca.

The HPC and its staff stand ready to help property owners who are interested in doing a rehab project, learning more about financial incentives, or designating their building as a landmark. Just give us a call if you have any questions. And who knows...maybe next year you'll be one of the lucky few honored at "Celebrate Our Heritage!"



*214 S. Elmwood - Restoration Award*



*St. Edmund Church Design Award*



*Reception at Unity Temple*

# New EPA lead paint rules make your rehab safer

Hearing a lot about lead paint these days and wondering what is going on? What does it mean for your home, that rehab project you've been contemplating, and your family's safety?

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has recently adopted their Renovation, Repair, and Painting (RRP) Rule to help make working around lead paint safer. The RRP Rule gives some common sense guidelines for preventing exposure to lead while working on surfaces that may contain lead paint.

The RRP rule applies to contractors doing work on homes and child occupied facilities built before 1978. It does not apply to owners doing work in their own homes, or to homes or parts of homes built after 1978. The rule also does not apply to work on surfaces that do not contain lead paint or to minor repair and maintenance activities. Demolition and window replacement projects are specifically required to follow the RRP Rule.

Exposure to lead can be very hazardous to your health. Lead based paint was used in more than 38 million homes until it was banned for residential use in 1978. 87% of homes built before 1940 contain some lead paint. Activities like demolition, window replacement, and power sanding that disturb painted surfaces can create lead dust. This dust can accumulate in your home to unsafe levels. Then, normal hand to mouth activities, like playing and eating, (especially in young children), move that dust from surface like floors and window sills into the body.

The key to protecting yourself and your family during a renovation, repair or painting job is to use lead safe work practices. These are not hard to do. The RRP Rule gives some easy to use guidelines for working safely around lead. These



include containing the lead dust by covering floors within six feet of the work area with plastic, covering or removing nearby furniture, closing windows and HVAC vents, keeping non workers out of the work area, and using dust minimizing work methods. At the end of the project it is very important to conduct a careful cleanup.

Although the RRP Rule only applies to contractors, homeowners have the ultimate responsibility for lead safety. Make sure your contractor is certified, and can explain clearly the details of the job and how the contractor will minimize lead hazards during the work. You can ask to see a copy of the contractor's firm certification or you can verify that a contractor is certified by checking EPA's website at [www.epa.gov/get-lead-safe](http://www.epa.gov/get-lead-safe) or by calling the National Lead Information Center at 1-800-424-LEAD (5323).

For more information you can download a copy of the EPA brochure 'Renovate Right' at [www.epa.gov/opptintr/lead/pubs/renovaterightbrochure.pdf](http://www.epa.gov/opptintr/lead/pubs/renovaterightbrochure.pdf). A new Lead Paint Guide (<http://www.preservationnation.org/issues/lead-paint/>) was recently posted on the National Trust for Historic Preservation website. And be sure to check out the new guide and blog posting, New Rule Shines Spotlight on Lead Paint ([www.blogs.nationaltrust.org/preservationnation/?p=11047](http://www.blogs.nationaltrust.org/preservationnation/?p=11047)) for even more in depth information.

## New Landmarks



**228 FOREST AVE.:** The Joseph D. Everett House was designed by architects Wilson, Marble & Lamson in 1888 in the Queen Anne style. Designated on May 17, 2010



**845 CHICAGO AVE.:** The Chester Flitcraft House was designed by architect John S. Van Bergen ca. 1914 in the Prairie style. Designated on May 17, 2010

### Historic Preservation Commission Members

*Christina Morris, Chair*

*Joerg Albrecht  
Garret Eakin  
Frank Heitzman  
Bob Lempera  
Rosanne McGrath*

*Regina Nally  
Drew Niemann  
Gary Palese  
Michael Plummer  
Tony Quinn*

The Historic Preservation Commission is an 11-member body of citizen volunteers appointed by the Village President to implement the Village's Historic Preservation Ordinance. Its mission is to preserve, protect and enhance the distinctive historic and

architectural heritage of Oak Park. The Commission strives to preserve the historic integrity of the Village by reviewing alterations of the exteriors of historic properties to ensure that the historic character of the building exteriors is preserved. The Commis-

sion also identifies landmark buildings and historic districts, and seeks to enhance the attractiveness of the Village by educating property owners and citizens about the importance of preservation, restoration and rehabilitation of properties.