



Partner Spotlight

Kankakee's Live Healthy Summit Hosts Mark Fenton

Kankakee residents walked the walk when Mark Fenton, a former Olympic-caliber race walker and current host of PBS's *America's Walking* program, visited during his cross-country tour. Fenton's mission is to promote healthy and sustainable communities through policies, systems, and built-environment changes that make walking and biking the everyday choice for residents.



Fenton assembled a panel of **policy-makers and practitioners** to accompany his keynote address, which included Village of Oak Park President David Pope, Active Transportation Alliance Deputy Director Melody Geraci, Pedestrian-Bicycle Experts Arthur Roos from Madison, WI and Jack Zabrowski from LaCrosse, WI, and SGA Executive Director Gary Cuneen, to discuss healthy and sustainable community planning strategies that are gaining traction. Fenton's visit was organized by the Kankakee Area YMCA's CEO Dirk Langfoss and the Kankakee Live Healthy Team.

For more information, [Click Here](#). We'll keep you posted for future [GreenTown Conference](#) opportunities where you can experience Mark Fenton in person!

Tips and Resources

Electric Vehicle Charging Station Grants Now Available

IL DCEO is providing rebates toward the installation of **Level II EV charging stations**. Rebates cover 50% of installation costs (equipment and labor) up to a maximum of \$3,500 for publicly accessible stations or a maximum of \$3,000 for non-publicly accessible stations. Publicly accessible stations must meet specific technology requirements described in the rebate guidelines.

Eligible applicants include public/commercial entities (e.g., units of local government, businesses, educational institutions, and non-profits) and property owners of single- or multi-unit residential buildings. Installed charging stations must be located in Illinois. The deadline for submitting rebate applications and completing projects is **June 15, 2012**. Charging stations installed after July 1, 2011 are also eligible for this rebate but charging stations funded through ARRA (in part or in whole) are not eligible. DCEO anticipates re-opening the rebate program again next fiscal year (after July 1, 2012).

[Click Here](#) for the Illinois Public / Commercial Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Rebate Program guidelines and application packet and visit the [EV website](#) for more details.

Volunteer

SGA is looking for individuals with skill sets that can contribute to our continual development through our **Board Committee**. [Click Here](#) for details on these and other volunteer opportunities!

Donate

Help keep Truck Farm on the road this season by pledging to our online fundraising campaign! You have until **5 p.m. TODAY** to help us reach our goal. [Click Here](#) to pledge and watch the new Truck Farm movie. Don't worry, if you miss the deadline you can still go to the site, watch our movie and find out more ways to help the project.

Zero Waste

Chicago Public Schools Going Green

The fourth annual Go Green Schools Symposium was held on **April 13th** at **Eric Solorio Academy High School** on Chicago's southwest side. This year's K-12 Schools Symposium was a collaborative venture between the Chicago Public Schools (CPS), the Governor's Green Government Coordinating Council (GGCC), and [Seven Generations Ahead](#). SGA and Chicago Public Schools presented to more than 60 CPS building engineers on strategies for reducing waste generated through the new breakfast in the classroom program.



Governor Quinn commended CPS building engineers for reducing waste.

Governor Pat Quinn recognized the group of building engineers for their important work and emphasized that a culture of sustainability begins in the classroom as students prepare to be the **next generation's environmental stewards**. As part of the symposium, SGA held an afternoon workshop for teachers on developing zero waste schools. The Go Green Schools Symposium provided opportunities for linking students and administrators to educational resources while enhancing our green community.

Farm to School

Fresh from the Farm's New Crop

Congratulations to the 56 newly-certified *Fresh from the Farm* educators! *Fresh from the Farm* brought farm to school education and resources to **two new, inspiring groups** in Carbondale, IL and Springfield, IL this month, sponsored by the IDPH Office of Womens' Health.



School teachers, health educators, and education coordinators joined us to learn how to bring engaging, hands-on elementary and middle school **nutrition and gardening activities** to their students. They walked away with curricula materials, fresh ideas, renewed motivation, and step-by-step guides to build gardens with their students.

Erica Mutchlu, a K-12 Educator at Tazewell County Health Department in Springfield remarked, "*Excellent curriculum/program for children and families to eat healthy, start gardens, and save money!*" We're looking forward to sharing their success stories over social media and in the newsletters ahead. To learn more about Educator Training [Click Here](#).

Sustainability Planning

Smart Growth Conference Highlights Best Practices

Are "complete streets" becoming the norm? At February's New Partners for Smart Growth Conference in San Diego, more than 1,500 guests including SGA's Gary Cuneen, learned about leading-edge smart growth initiatives supporting the surging interest in bikeable and walkable communities. An increasing number of states and more than 350 municipalities across the U.S. have adopted "**complete streets**" policies, which promote the transformation of streets to accommodate *all* modes of transportation, from cars and public transit to bikes and pedestrians.

Designing complete streets for all users is a growing movement across the U.S. that is being credited with creating communities that are safer, healthier, and environmentally sustainable. By encouraging more pedestrian and bicycle traffic, complete streets are helping **communities feel like communities again**, a quality that business owners and real estate agents are associating with increased economic development, revenues, and home values.

Local Chicago area organizations – most notably the [Active Transportation Alliance](#) – are teaming up with municipalities and Pioneering Healthy Communities teams across Illinois to support **policy, planning, and bricks and mortar projects** designed to make our communities healthy and sustainable. Visit the [National Complete Streets Coalition](#) for more information and resources.



Complete streets initiatives are improving communities.

Focus On...

A Sense of Wonder Wows Audience

More than 200 attendees gathered at the beautiful Oak Park Arts Center to witness Kaulani Lee's superb performance of *A Sense of Wonder* – a play she wrote about the life and work of Rachel Carson. Carson's book *Silent Spring*, recognized as the catalyst for the U.S. environmental movement, is now celebrating its 50th anniversary.



Kaulani Lee captivated the audience through her portrayal of Rachel Carson. Photo courtesy of Kelly Karner.

Kaulani Lee's captivating performance skillfully channeled Carson's personal, persistent journey and shed light on her passion and writing that **challenged the use of toxic chemicals** in agriculture and other sectors, and prodded producers and users of these chemicals to take responsibility. Carson's writing eventually moved the federal government to begin overseeing the production and use of these substances. Kaulani Lee's equally engaging post-performance Q&A offered insight into her journey as an actress who contributes to environmentalism through *A Sense of Wonder* and updated the audience on the ongoing evolution of Carson's legacy.

Events and Conferences

Micro Brew, Micro Waste!



Don't miss the Midwest's largest zero waste craft beer festival! Tickets are on sale now for the 5th Annual Oak Park Micro Brew Review, to be held **August 18th from 3 to 7 p.m.**

Some ticket categories are already selling out -- [Click Here](#) for your tix!

SGA and a5 Announce 2012 GreenTown Schedule

GreenTown conferences will be spreading sustainable ideas and encouraging collaboration this fall in the following cities:



- Valparaiso, IN – September 27-28
- Highland Park, IL – October 18-19
- Toledo, OH – October 25-26

[Click Here](#) for more information or to become a sponsor.

act@sevendgenerationsahead.org | www.sevendgenerationsahead.org | (708) 660-9909

Seven Generations Ahead is a 501 (c) 3 non-profit organization whose mission is to promote ecologically sustainable and healthy communities. SGA advocates for proactive community solutions to global environmental issues, and works with municipal, business, and community decision-makers to promote green community development, clean, renewable energy, eco-effective products, zero waste strategies, green building design, and fresh, local, and sustainable food raised using healthy practices.

Join us in making 2012 the year of sustainability in the Midwest. Support SGA's work building healthy, sustainable communities by making a donation. [Click Here](#).

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