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## **Begalka: Creative kids wanted at Raue**

**Date:** August 4, 2009 **Section:** Sidetracks

At a time where falling property tax revenues are jeopardizing funding for music and art in public schools, the **Raue Center** for the Arts is encouraging kids to tap into their creative potential. Cultural Youth Day begins at noon Aug. 23 at the **Raue**, 26 N. Williams St. in Crystal Lake. The free event, open to those 18 and younger, begins with a visual arts reception. A fashion show follows at 1:30 p.m.; a performing arts show at 2:45 p.m. and an awards' presentation at 3:45 p.m. Prizes, sponsored by Home State Bank, will be awarded in each category – \$250 for first, \$100 for second and \$50 for third.

Mail or drop off submissions to the **Raue**. If you are unable to submit a picture or recording of your work by the Aug. 14 deadline, a more detailed application must be completed. It can be accessed on the **Raue** Web site. Participants can choose one of the following categories.

Visual art. Artists may submit up to two pieces of their original artwork (pieces submitted must be available to hang) on a CD in a jpeg format. Note the framed and unframed dimensions of the pieces you are submitting on the CD or in print form. Only one of the pieces will be accepted in the jury process.

Performing art. Applicants can submit a brief description of an act lasting no more than four minutes. All artists must be able to perform as stand-alone act (i.e. basic sound and lighting will be provided).

Fashion design. Fashion designers must create a wearable fashion based on the logos and theme of one of the downtown Crystal Lake businesses. The three-dimensional fashions must be suitable for display on a fashion runway. For additional guidelines and to find out about participating businesses, call Connie Perez at Aesthetics at 630-567-2873.

Admission is \$10 for adults and \$5 for children 12 and younger. Tickets can be purchased at participating downtown businesses. Look for a gold star in participating businesses' windows. The money raised from the event will go into an account to support next year's event.

**Raue** Director of Development Kristin Kruse believes the pilot program will continue to grow, drawing the community into the theater and strengthening ties to the local business community.

"If they sell 10 tickets, any downtown business can participate," Kruse said. "They'll get a star they can put in their window that says Cultural Youth Day. And if parents want to buy tickets, they'll be referred to a downtown business."

Tickets will not be sold at the **Raue** box office or online.

"We'd like to see it become an annual event," **Raue** General Manager Kate Wilford said. "We want them involved in the arts."

#### Nature photo contest

The Nature Conservancy is hosting its fourth annual photography competition, capturing striking digital images of nature shot anywhere in the world. Images may show animal behavior, portraits of wildlife in their natural habitat or people interacting with nature. For details, visit [Photo captions must accompany all submissions. All photographers must be at least 18 years old.](#)

#### Vote at Moraine Hills

Seventeen photographers from the Chicago area entered 116 photographs in six categories for the 12th annual Nature Photo Contest in Moraine Hills State Park in McHenry. Visitors to Moraine Hill's Nature **Center** may cast a vote for their favorite in each category – (color) plant, landscape, vertebrate, invertebrate; (black and white) combined plant/animal/landscape; or people and pets in the park. The Friends of Moraine Hills State Park will announce winners 1:30 p.m. Oct. 4 during an awards ceremony at the park, 1510 S. River Road. For information, call 815-385-1624.

#### 'Uncontrolled Airspace'

The "Uncontrolled Airspace" photographic exhibit of Galt Airport, most recently on display at Conscious Cup in Crystal Lake, has moved to the Experimental Aircraft Association Museum in Oshkosh, Wis. The 50 photographs will remain on display through Oct. 31.

You can see the exhibit area from the museum's live Web cam at the "Pioneers of Flight" camera and pan it a little to the left.

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