

The human form as her art

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Brookfield, IL —

Brookfield resident and business owner Abby Brennan Snow has an artistic side that sees a canvas in the body — and mind.

As the owner of Brennan Massage and Spa, 3700 Grand Blvd., the former Chicago grade-school art teacher now helps customers sculpt the outer and inner self into a thing of beauty.

The day spa specializes in massage therapy but also offers facial care, mud wraps, skin glows and waxing service. And after more than just three years in Brookfield, Brennan's business is ready to expand.

"We have some building out going on here to take on more customers because we are really busy," she added.

After teaching art in Chicago's Humboldt Park neighborhood for seven years, Brennan said she decided to try her hand in business. While she's still involved in ceramics and printmaking, she finds her creative nature is useful at the spa.

"I feel I really kept my creative side through the business," she said. "Everything about the business is creative — the marketing, the training of employees, developing the different protocols — it is a very creative outlet, even though it's a business."

Also a member of the Brookfield Chamber of Commerce for three years, Brennan revived the Brookfield Art Festival in 2010.

"I have heard there was an art fest at one time in Brookfield, but there hasn't been anything in town for as long as I could remember," she said. "I just thought it was something that we needed. We're kind of bringing a name to Brookfield that there is an art community here. It also brings a different kind of visitor to Brookfield."

The Chamber of Commerce Art Festival 2011 will take place from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. June 11 and 12 on Grand Boulevard between Grant and Fairview avenues. A total of 35 artists will be featured, including local artisans, who will display paintings, drawings, photography, jewelry and some crafts.

"It's really about the artwork," Brennan said. "Hopefully, we'll continue to have a reputation that we are an artistic community."

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