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**Midwest Living**  
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**THE Top Ten ISSUE**

\*Top slow-cooker recipes  
Top new restaurants  
Top attractions \*Top new hotels

**cupcake  
twists**  
EASY UPGRADES  
WITH FLAIR!

**PLUS** The coziest breakfast joints  
Fast ways to brighten any room



**ON THE GO**

**A COZY  
MASSAGE SPOT**

Going to Brennan Massage and Spa in Brookfield is like visiting a friendly neighbor over a cup of tea. Fifteen miles west of the Loop, a big front porch welcomes clients to the late-1800s Dutch Colonial home. Hardwood floors groan with homey creaks. The three treatment rooms, decked in muted earth tones, feature crown molding. History inspired Abby Brennan to transform the rundown home into a spa three years ago. "I remembered as a kid riding my bike past this beautiful house, watching parades [while] sitting on the front curb. It just felt good to build my business upon those happy childhood memories," she says.

Clients choose from 12 kinds of massages (\$50 to \$120), plus therapeutic wraps, scrubs and facials (\$80). The spa is one of several new locally owned businesses on the block (including a floral design studio, wine bar and baby boutique). Like the little engine that could, these entrepreneurs are pulling together to rejuvenate their downtown, one cup of tea at a time.

3700 Grand Blvd., Brookfield (708/255-5335; brennanspa.com).

Written by Kit Bernardi