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SOAR News Briefs

March 1, 2010

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March 6 - Community Meeting on Updated Garage Proposal

Streeterville residents are invited to attend a community meeting to discuss the revised plans for the garage Northwestern Memorial Hospital (NMH) plans to build at 441-449 E. Ontario Street. This garage resulted from SOAR's efforts working with the Streeterville community, Alderman Reilly and the medical campus institutions to ensure that significant neighborhood parking resources were not overtaken by institutional growth, including that from Children's Memorial Hospital medical staff, employees and visitors when the new hospital opens in 2012.

The purpose of this meeting is to gather additional community input on NMH's revised proposal. If significant community concerns are raised at this meeting, Alderman Reilly will defer Plan Commission review of this proposal until the issues are addressed or resolved.

The meeting, sponsored by SOAR, Alderman Reilly's office, and NMH will be held on Saturday, March 6th at 11:00 AM, at NMH's Feinberg Pavilion located at 251 E. Huron Street in the 3rd floor conference center. No advance reservations are required.

Streeterville residents are encouraged to attend this public forum to provide feedback on NMH's proposal.

March 3 - First Wednesday Event

The Nature of Streeterville: Finding Nature in the City and Living Sustainably

We may be surrounded by acres of steel and concrete, but that doesn't mean nature is absent from Streeterville or that it cannot be a significant part of our urban life.

Join SOAR at the next popular First Wednesday event for a presentation on how to find nature in the city and live sustainably. Speakers will include Jerry Adelmann, President & CEO of the land conservation organization, Openlands, as well as Gail Borthwick, Senior Architect at Smith + Gill Architecture. And the team from the Sustainable Solutions Group will provide examples of how energy efficiency programs can impact a building's bottom line.

Click here to see more details and RSVP.

Chicago Police Safety Alerts - Sent to Your Phone

The Chicago Police Department recently implemented an alert notification system which sends messages to registered cell phones and web-enabled devices.

Registered users will be able to receive updates about critical situations affecting the city, initially starting with community and business alerts, missing person alerts, Amber Alerts for Cook County, CAPS beat meeting information and relevant news releases.

The system, called Nixle, is secure and ensures subscribers' information is protected and that messages are authentic. To learn more and register your cell phone or web-enabled device, please click here.

Testing for Census Jobs

The U.S. Census Bureau is hiring for the 2010 Census. These temporary, part-time jobs offer good pay, flexible evening and weekend hours, and the chance to work near home.

Testing for these jobs are held Tuesdays and Thursdays, 4 p.m. and 6 p.m., and Saturdays at 11 a.m., at McClurg Court, 333 E. Ontario St.

To see a complete list of testing locations, take a practice test, or find out about identification needed for test applicants, visit the Census website or call (312) 453-9060.

March 27 - Earth Hour

On March 27, hundreds of millions of people around the world will call for action on climate change by doing something simple - turning off their lights for one hour. Join people worldwide, and your neighbors from 8:30 to 9:30 p.m. local time.

Chicago, an Earth Hour Flagship U.S. City in 2008, participates by turning off the lights on city landmarks such as Willis Tower and the Tip-Top-Tap sign atop Streeterville's Allerton Hotel. These structures join the likes of the Golden Gate Bridge, Sydney Opera House, and Rome's Coliseum for this international event.

To learn more visit the Earth Hour website.

Save the Dates for Upcoming SOAR Events

Please save the dates for these upcoming SOAR events:

Town Hall Meeting with Alderman Reilly
Wednesday, April 7th in the evening

SOAR Night at Lookingglass Theatre
Wednesday, April 14th in the evening
Performance of Trust, Pre-show Dinner location TBD

It's Easy to be Green - Increasing Work Productivity

Using green materials in building construction has received a lot of attention lately. Most people can recognize the long-term cost savings that can be achieved in energy costs and maintenance. But did you know that environmentally-friendly buildings can actually increase worker productivity?

A recent University of San Diego study found that tenants in green buildings are more productive. Survey respondents reported an average of 2.88 fewer sick days after they moved into an environmentally-friendly facility, and an increase of productivity.

Materials such as certain paints, varnishes, plywood, and certain upholstery emit volatile organic compounds (VOC's) that cause irritation to humans at normal room temperatures. Green building design utilizes materials that have little to no VOC emission, thereby contributing to a healthy atmosphere.

Contact SOAR

By email: office@soarchicago.org
By phone: 312-280-2596
By mail: Streeterville Organization of Active Residents
244 E. Pearson Street, Suite 101
Chicago, IL 60611

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Article Headline

Are there publications that only members have access to? Provide your new members a list (or link to a list) of publications that they now have access to. What are some upcoming publications and release dates? Publications can be a key draw for new members. Inserting a link in your article lets you track which topics attract the most interest.

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