

## Burr Elementary needs gala donations

Burr Elementary School, 1621 W. Wabansia Ave., is looking for donations and sponsors for their annual Spring Gala at Mercedes Benz on Saturday, May 14.

Those who would be interested in sponsoring the event or donating a silent auction item, or placing an ad in their program book should contact amy.pearl@friendsofburr.org. This is Burr's biggest fundraiser of the year and allows them to purchase things such as computers, dance and music programs, and classroom resources for their students.

## GRAPHIC DESIGNER WANTED

Newspaper graphic designer wanted for North Side newspaper group.

Must be deadline-driven and proficient in InDesign, Illustrator and Photoshop. Skilled in photo-editing, great attention to detail, ability to multi-task and have knowledge of North Side of Chicago.

Print production experience with newspaper and ad layout and design is required.

This is a substitute art director position.

Please send resume to:

insidedesigndept@gmail.com

# The key to parking for less Downtown

BY MIRA TEMKIN

Finding inexpensive parking in downtown Chicago is often a challenge. But several companies now offers services that let drivers pay in advance at a garage near many Loop venues. These services are easy to access from either a computer, smartphone or APP.

For the venues featured here, just click on the site, enter the destination and a variety of options will pop up. Determine the one wanted and order it. Upon arrival at the garage, swipe the code from the phone or printed UPC code and presto! the gate opens. Show the pass again upon departure.

## Park like magic with Chicago Genie

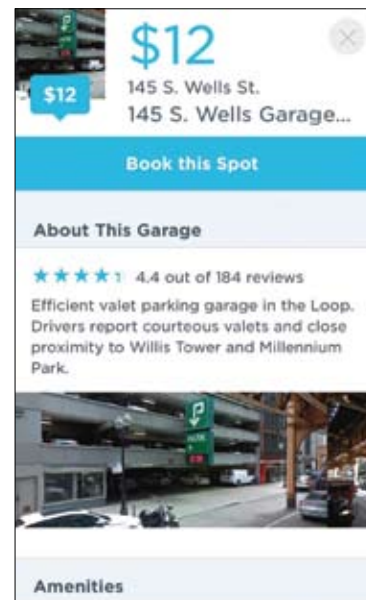
Chicago Genie [www.chicagogenie.com], which began last April, offers flat rate parking in more than 20 garages in downtown Chicago, including near popular theatres.

"Our customers are extremely pleased to learn about some of our online specials. One of the most popular is our \$15 for 12 hours deal, which starts from the moment they enter the garage and allows some extra flexibility on arrival time," said Michael Norris, editor of Chicago Genie.

"Customers have told me personally that they can't believe we're able to post such low rates," he said. "After organizing a group parking special for a wedding – the wedding planner stated that



SpotHero map with prices



ParkWhiz easy-to-use app

he'd come back to us every time from then on. And he has."

The Genie's most popular garage is Wabash-Randolph (20 E. Randolph). Because of the location, the garage attracts people heading to Millennium Park, the nearby theater district, and some of the nearby stores like Macy's.

"We're currently building an APP that should be available soon," added Norris.

Chicago Genie educates Chicagoans about important events happening in the city – and now where to park.

## ParkWhiz offers parking across the country

ParkWhiz [www.parkwhiz.com] provides parking in 150 cities as well as daily/monthly parking, special event and airport parking. "In Chicago, we have great parking options at the United Center, so if the Blackhawks or Bulls are in town, those spaces sell quickly," said Brandy Kemp of ParkWhiz.

Feedback from customers has been very positive. "We do help our customers save money, but equally as important we save them time and eliminate the stress that can come from parking in an unfamiliar or congested area."

*More recently, attention has been paid to issues such as neighborhood "food deserts" or "employment deserts" or "transportation deserts," suggesting that residents must travel far outside of their community to access basic needs for food, income or transportation options, while many times having to cross gang boundaries in doing so.*

## SEGREGATED from p. 1

many of these problems date back to the Great Migration of black Southerners to the north more than 100 years ago, there will be no quick fixes.

However, she argues that more public and private investments in the city's most segregated neighborhoods now could have positive effects in the future.

"We really need to see employment opportunities, jobs, small businesses," she states. "So, home-grown small businesses within the community areas growing up, as well as external employers who are looking to bring opportunities back into the community."

Over the past decades, in what the CUL refers to as the post-Civil rights era, community advocates and community based organizations and others have drawn attention to the challenges faced by many Chicago neighborhoods, particularly those in predominantly African-American community areas. More recently, attention has been paid to issues

such as neighborhood "food deserts" or "employment deserts" or "transportation deserts," suggesting that residents must travel far outside of their community to access basic needs for food, income or transportation options, while many times having to cross gang boundaries in doing so.

Declines in Chicago's manufacturing and industry base over the last 30 years, coupled with changes in neighborhood small business economies, made vulnerable a number of African-American communities. Unemployment among blacks is higher in Chicago than it is nationally, and the gap between whites' and blacks' unemployment rates is larger. Whites had an average annual unemployment rate of 5.3% in 2014 nationally, while the rate for blacks was 11.3%.

The more recent closing of schools and health clinics and the slow or nonexistent development of new neighborhood economies in many African-American areas of the city points to a larger issue than any one type of desert.

According to a recent study by the Brookings Institute, Chicago is the nation's third-most segregated large city, behind only Milwaukee and New York City, even as African-Americans have opted to move to the suburbs and more whites and Latinos have moved into black communities.

But slow improvement has been found.

According to the Brookings' data, there has been a steady de-

"Our APP provides a seamless parking experience," continued Kemp. Customers find exclusive mobile-only rates, driving directions to their spot and directions from their spot to their final destination. "Drivers can open their pass in the APP, scan it and drive in; no need to print their pass."

## SpotHero saves the day

SpotHero [www.spothero.com] lets drivers reserve parking with convenient garages, lots and valets in more than 2,500 locations across the country. Through both a mobile app and website, customers can access parking in New York, Chicago, San Francisco, Washington D.C., Boston, New Orleans, Baltimore and Denver.

"SpotHero's home base is Chicago," said a spokesperson. "We offer more than 500 parking facilities around the city, up from just 250 last year with average savings of around 19%." The Loop and River North are some of their most popular parking locations in Chicago.

SpotHero also saves drivers time by not having to look for a parking space, especially when they're in a hurry for a meeting or need to make a show. One customer gushed, "Thank you, SpotHero for making life so much easier when driving to the city! So appreciate the convenience and ease."

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