

## LEED COUNCIL FOCUSES ON A MEMBER: OLD TOWN MERCHANTS & RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

Old Town Merchants & Residents Association  
1520 North Wells Street  
Chicago , Illinois 60610  
(312) 951-6106  
[www.oldtownchicago.org](http://www.oldtownchicago.org)



Since its establishment in 1971, the Old Town Merchants and Residents Association has served as the voice of the Old Town community advocating city services for businesses and residents including community policing, street cleaning, lighting and community planning. Working in partnership with 27th Ward Alderman Walter Burnett and 43rd Ward Alderman Vi Daley, the Association addresses issues concerning streetscape maintenance, commercial and residential development, zoning and parking.

Members are business owners, property owners and residents of Old Town . A majority of the Association's membership is made up of business/property owners who also live in Old Town . Members are kept informed of Association projects and community issues through the publication of the Old Town News newsletter and through networking socials held throughout the year.

“One obstacle facing business districts right now is bringing in new businesses. During this economic downturn it can be difficult to attract and retain small businesses. That is why the Old Town Merchants & Residents Association is offering as much support as possible by hosting a **Small Business Resource Forum, Friday, January 30th 9:15-10:30am (see more on the Forum below)**



When asked what you like about this area for business, John responded, “ Old Town has a little bit of everything in the neighborhood. The neighborhood has vintage houses that have a distinct character that cannot be matched throughout the city of Chicago . Also, there is great entertainment, fabulous restaurants and boutiques in the area. The boutiques offer rare or upscale merchandise.”



“Our organization is unique due to the fact that we work hard to represent the interest of the merchants and residents in the area. We don’t focus on one sector of the neighborhood, we focus on improving and maintaining the area for everyone involved” said John.

The Old Town Merchants & Residents Association and the LEED Council have collaborated in the past on issues such as the need to improve the North & Clybourn CTA Red Line Station, traffic and congestion issues and business development efforts. Also, John reads the LEED’s electronic newsletter to keep informed of local events and projects.

John mentioned that he likes to eat lunch at Dinotto Ristorante located at 215 W. North Avenue. It’s a popular neighborhood and family-owned Italian restaurant.

Thank you Old Town Merchants & Residents Association for your support!

**DON’T FORGET THE SMALL BUSINESS RESOURCE FORUM, FRIDAY, JANUARY 30<sup>TH</sup>!!!**

Thinking of branching out or changing your focus? Curious about free or low cost business advice? Need to get connected to financing? Then come to the **Small Business Resource Forum** at the Near North Branch of the Chicago Public Library (310 W Division, near the Clark/Division Red Line) on **Friday, January 30<sup>th</sup> from 9:15-10:30 am.**

This forum will feature speakers from the Small Business Administration, SCORE, ACCION, the Department of Business Affairs and Consumer Protection, and Chicago Community Ventures. This forum is hosted by the Old Town Merchants and Residents Association and the Near North Branch of the Chicago Public Library. Please RSVP at 312-951-6106 or [otmra@oldtownchicago.org](mailto:otmra@oldtownchicago.org).