

Friends of the Chicago River



407 SOUTH DEARBORN • SUITE 1580 • CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60605-1119
TEL. (312) 939-0490 • FAX (312) 939-0931 • WWW.CHICAGORIVER.ORG

September 8, 2006

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Lisa Roberts
(773) 318-1887

Starting soon: Rare Opportunity to See the Michigan Avenue Bridge go up from Inside the Bridge

CHICAGO: Starting Wednesday, September 13, visitors to the McCormick Tribune Bridgehouse & Chicago River Museum will be able to see the bridge go up from inside the bridge. With exhibits inside the bridgehouse and access to the bridgeworks under the bridge, visitors have unparalleled access to the interior where they will be able to view the motor, gears, and giant weight which allow the bridge to open using very little energy. With only 18 scheduled lifts this fall and a museum capacity of 34, opportunity is limited. Bridge lifts take place Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sundays through November 18. Times, dates, and ticket prices can be found at www.bridgehousemuseum.org.

“Watching the bridge go up from inside is incredible,” says Margaret Frisbie, Friends’ executive director. “First you hear the bells start to clang warning people at street level. Then there is an enormous thud when the bridge tenders pull off the safety latch. Then finally the motor kicks on and the bridge starts to move. It is a surreal experience to watch the road, especially one so famous lift to the sky from below.”

The bridge is raised about 100 times each spring and fall to allow passage for tall-masted sailboats headed for winter storage traveling through the Main Stem of the Chicago River and the South Branch. The bridge going up is just one of the things visitors can see on a trip to the McCormick Tribune Bridgehouse & Chicago River Museum, which is open Wednesday through Sunday through September and weekends through Thanksgiving.

Friends of the Chicago River is a nonprofit organization with 2,000 members that works to foster the vitality of Chicago River for the plants, animals and people who share its watershed. Celebrating its 25th Anniversary this year, Friends of the Chicago River is pleased to invite the public to its 25th Anniversary events, including bridgehouse events, which are posted on Friends’ website at www.chicagoriver.org or by calling Friends of the Chicago River at (312) 939-0490.