

# HEMISPHERES

November 2007

A Traveler's Know-It-All

## Updates



### Groove Here

Hear the blues all week in dozens of Chicago venues.

A few favorites:

**Lee's Unleaded Blues** is a welcoming throwback to another era. Hear Super Percy on Fridays and other fine Chicago talent on other nights. 7401 South Chicago Avenue; Tel: 773-493-3477

**Rosa's Lounge** is a homey bar near Logan Square. Founders Mama Rosa and her son, Tony, emigrated from Milan in 1978 and still work this stellar club. 3420 West Armitage Avenue; Tel: 773-342-0452

**Kingston Mines** is popular with DePaul University students. 2548 North Halsted Street; Tel: 773-477-4646

**Buddy Guy's Legends**, in the South Loop, is big, dark, and smoky. It presents local and

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Tuned In

## Move to the Music

Discover cool Chicago this fall on a new MP3 blues tour.

OFF THE BEATEN PATH ON CHICAGO'S SOUTH SIDE, IN AN INTIMATE, CLASSY JUKE JOINT called Lee's Unleaded Blues, "Super" Percy Wood weaves through the crowd, taking his provocative vocals up close to the audience as his four-piece combo, the Soul Clique, lays down the grooves on the tiny stage up front. Welcome to the blues, Chicago style. Yes, many of the greats have passed, such as **Muddy Waters**, **Little Walter**, and **Willie Dixon**, who came here from the Mississippi Delta and transformed their rural folk music into an electrified American urban sound. But their successors are still keeping alive the traditions that put Chicago on the map as the blues capital of the world. Now, thanks to the city's new **Chicago Blues Enhanced Audio Tour** ([downloadchicagotours.com](http://downloadchicagotours.com)), featuring 10 historical sites, fans everywhere can join a pilgrimage to the roots of Chicago blues. Narrated by guitarist/singer **Buddy Guy** (above), this roughly 50-minute trip is not just an audio tour, with more than 150 images in addition to **interviews** and **music clips** featuring early and contemporary artists.

Also try Chicago's free Millennium Park MP3 audio tour ([millenniumpark.org](http://millenniumpark.org)), and look for a kids tour in the future.

View the tour online or listen to it via MP3 download. Dance down memory lane in person and hear the audio tracks on location. Figure on a few good hours to travel around the city, often into overlooked neighborhoods. Among the sites are the **708 Club** on East 47th Street, **Muddy Waters' homestead**, and the former **Chess Records** studio, now housing the educational Willie Dixon's Blues Heaven Foundation. Though the city has changed, the feel remains, transporting visitors back to what Guy calls the glory days of Chicago blues. ■—Debra Weiner



national artists seven nights a week and at lunch weekdays. In January, Guy takes the stage. 754 South Wabash Avenue; Tel: 312-427-0333

**Willie Dixon's Blues Heaven Foundation** welcomes all ages to its free summer shows Thursday nights in the garden next to the old Chess Records. 2120 South Michigan Avenue; Tel: 312-808-1286

PHOTOGRAPHY / DERRICK SANTINI