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# THE NORTH LAWNDALE

# COMMUNITY NEWS

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PROVIDING INFORMATION ON RESOURCES AND EVENTS THAT IMPROVE THE LIFESTYLE OF INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES IN OUR COMMUNITY

## Patterson's Message: Time for Change

Don Patterson has entered the 24th Ward Aldermanic race. According to Patterson, in June of last year, he was approached by elders in the Ward to run for the office. He was also asked in the previous election in 2003, but declined to run in that election. Now he says, It's time for change.

The owner of Patterson Tax Service and reflecting on his finance career background, Patterson says he wants to duplicate Little Village, 26th street. He wants to help blacks in the ward to start businesses putting them in stores.

"I'm running for alderman because I was called to the position.

That's the only reason I'm doing it. Otherwise, I wouldn't be doing it," says Patterson. He likes his current business (speaking of his tax business). "There is a need for the people, somebody honest, somebody that is going to look out for their best interest," said Patterson.

Adapting to city hall, Patterson said, "It is just like any professional job. It's will be like on the job training. All businesses have the same principals. It's really pretty simple." Patterson acknowledges that he doesn't have all the answers, but that is why he knows he has to surround himself with people that have the answers. "I don't have all

the answers.

Patterson is one of six candidates running against the 24th Ward incumbent, Michael Chandler. Born at Cook County Hospital in 1967, Patterson was born and raised in the 24th Ward. His parents lived on Keeler and 15th Avenue. His father worked at the Post Office and also was a barber. His mother took care of the home. He has three sisters and one brother. All of his siblings went to college. He had a unique education track first attending Our



See Patterson page 4 24th Ward Aldermanic Candidate Donald Patterson

## "PEOPLE PERSON" BROOKS HOPES TO UNSEAT CHANDLER

Hertz Clyde Dézir



24th Ward Aldermanic Candidate  
Willie G. Brooks

The 24th Ward aldermanic race has drawn seven candidates from different backgrounds; all who pledge to bring positive changes, fresh perspectives, and

better opportunities to the area.

Willie G. Brooks, longtime North Lawndale resident and Karlov Block Club President, entered the race to win.

Her supporters describe her as a "people person." Brooks agreed with the characterization during a recent interview with the North Lawndale Community News (NLCN).

Frances Williams, Brooks' friend of 25 years said Brooks has a desire to serve the community, especially those who experience unfair treatment from their public officials.

"[Brooks] will make a wonderful alderman, a person that

truly represents the people; a person that's not there for the money," said.

Brooks said, if she is elected, she will form a coalition to create concrete initiatives that would offer a variety of services to the citizens of her ward. Specifically, she said there will be programs that concentrate on job creation for ex-offenders.

In a one-page autobiography, Brooks calls herself a "youth leader." Last July, she organized a community event called Keeping it Real, which was geared toward the youth in the North Lawndale area. The movement focused on the idea of giving youth an alternative to destructive paths such as drugs, gangs and violence.

"I'll be enforcing curfew [policies] as they relate to the youth. We got to take care of the children;

we need more playgrounds for the children," Brooks said.

Brooks believes the 24th Ward requires significant attention from politicians, and she criticizes incumbent Michael Chandler for being "a weak alderman."

"I want some answers [from him.] He's a coward to me," Brooks said. "We need an alderman who cares ... we got some issues over here; it's rough over here."

The 54-year-old Mississippi native moved to Chicago in 1967, and has lived in the 24th Ward ever since. Over time, she's received numerous recognitions for her involvement in a variety of community works, which include growing a botanical garden. Most recently, she received a plaque of

See Brooks page 14

## 28th Ward's Very Own Shawn A. Walker

Shawn Walker is running for Alderman in the 28th Ward for the second time around. He also ran in 2003. The 28th Ward is an odd L-shaped geographical territory on the map of the city, wrapping around the north and east side of the 24th Ward. It covers most of East and West Garfield and a small percentage of the North Lawndale, Austin, Humboldt and South Lawndale.

Walker is a single father, born and raised in the 28th Ward. As I always refer to myself, Like WGN, I am one the 28th Ward's very own," said Walker. His family has been in the 28th Ward since 1969. He attended Goldblatt Elementary and graduated from Westinghouse High School. He also played four

sports at Westinghouse, winning the city championship in 1988. During his was ranked in the top ten of his class maintaining a over 3.0 GPA. He was a spokesman for his fellow students. "I was the one everyone counted on to do the right thing, to speak up for the students," says Shawn.

After college he attended Chicago Stated. He originally, had been recruited by several Universities, but experienced a dislocated shoulder in his senior year, circumventing his athletic scholarships. He worked his way through college at Chicago State and was a walk on baseball player. In his first year, he left the team because he always believed his grades were first and more

important. He also knew that his opportunities for playing professional ball was limited because he dislocated his shoulder. Shawn went to Florida with the Chicago State team. "After a week of playing 10 games in 7 days I came back and I explained to my coach that I needed to take a few days off of practice so I can make sure my grades are up to par and I can maintain my average, my coach looked at me and said you still have a responsibility to the team. After that day, I never came back," said Walker. His response was to take care of myself and get my education. He coaches now at the Chicago Park District for five to 14 year olds.

Most his success, he attributed See Walker page 4



28th Ward Aldermanic Candidate  
Shawn A. Walker  
[www.vote4shawnwalker.org](http://www.vote4shawnwalker.org)

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# THE NORTH LAWNDALE COMMUNITY NEWS

The North Lawndale Community News is now published weekly by Strategic Human Services. Our purpose is to help inform our community on resources, events, and issues relevant to them and our neighboring communities. Our community includes those who live, work, worship in, and/or care about North Lawndale. Our focus is on positive, productive solutions, that will improve the lifestyle of our community members.

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 \$25.00 for 6 months      \$50.00 for 1 year

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## Writers' Meetings!!

### THE NORTH LAWNDALE COMMUNITY NEWS

**Where: 1211 S. Western, Suite 203**

**Time: 6:00 p.m.**

**Date: February 15, 2007**

**Free Training in Community Journalism!**

**Everyone is Welcome!**

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## North Lawndale Community News

**Winner of the  
 2005 SBC Beyond the Call Award**

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## North Lawndale Community News

**Winner of the  
 7th Congressional District 2004  
 Education Champion Award**

**Presented By Congressman Danny K. Davis &  
 Residents of the 7th Congressional District**

## NLCN 2007 Focus People and Education

The primary focus for SHS/NLCN during 2007 will be People and Education. Our history of people is great. People have strived to create progress in our community, raised their families, created businesses, triumphed over adversaries, and worked in the community. All year long NLCN will focus on articles related to people and education throughout our newspaper, weblog, and website that serves the Westside of Chicago.

Acquiring a greater knowledge of each other through wisdom and a genuine feeling of caring for each other in our micro-local community areas and homes will improve the connection we should have between each other. Using our God given resources which are himself and each other will create an environment that will provide a climate of positive growth. Confidence in each other and assuming this responsibility will overcome our fear in valuing this vulnerable process because loving and caring about others does open us up to disappointment. But the strong overcome fear and the disappointments that may happen. We just have to be wise as change agents of the people divide. We must really care about each other.

Education with wisdom can reduce and minimize high rates of unemployment and underemployment, produce healthier citizens, and reduce the dependency on traditional welfare. The West Side is changing, we have to make it in favor of everyone, equitably.

Throughout the year, we will connect you with resources and residents working in these areas. NLCN will continue to provide news and information on issues and events that are relevant to our readers, as well as touch on the focus of our previous years. By becoming an educated wise people, knowing, loving and caring about each other more, we can more participate and benefit in making our communities model neighborhoods. We hope by reading this community newspaper, you will become or remain inspired to keep moving forward to a better life.

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## **WORTHY WORKS IN NORTH LAWNDALE:**

## **COMMUNITY ADVOCATE**

- **24<sup>th</sup> Ward Resident**
  - **Led Successful Vaulted Sidewalk Repair Campaign** for Businesses on Pulaski Road
  - **Headed Development Team for Creation of Hope House Ministries** for Ex-Offenders
  - **Represented North Lawndale** on City of Chicago's Capital Improvement Advisory Committee
  - **Acquired \$5 million dollars from the City of Chicago** to repair North Lawndale streets, sewers and sidewalks

**EDUCATION**

- **North Lawndale Community Organizer For School Reform**
  - Negotiated for \$12,203,868 in Capital Improvements for Dvorak, Crown, Paderewski and Penn Elementary Schools
  - **Local School Council/ Community Rep.** at Dvorak Elem. School
  - **Served on the Transition Advisory Councils (TACs)** for Howland and Frazier Elementary Schools and Collins High School
  - **Planned the Development of Community Computer Labs** in Homan Square and CHA's LeClaire Housing Complex
  - **Planned & Negotiated the Development of Carol Robertson Daycare Centers** at: 3701 W. Ogden Ave. and 2929 W. 19<sup>th</sup> Street

HOUSING

- **Founding Board Chairman** of Neighborhood Housing Services North Lawndale Branch
  - **Development Mgr for the CHA;** responsible for West Side of Chicago including North Lawndale
  - **Developed 42 Units of Housing** at Douglas & Independence Blvd.
  - **Managed the Development of 1,247 units of housing** around the Cabrini Green area
  - **Allocated the Funding for HICA/Sam Flowers' Liberty Square Apartments** and for the Senior Citizen's Housing Building at St. Louis & Roosevelt Rd.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

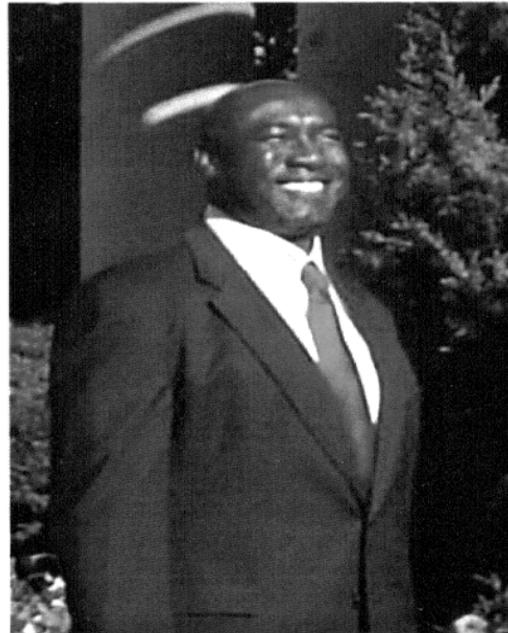
- **Awarded \$5,000,000 in development and housing services** from the Department of Planning and Development Strategic Neighborhood Action Plan for redevelopment activities in North Lawndale.

**For More Information or To Volunteer Call: 773-987-1997**

**ON FEBRUARY 27TH, 2007 VOTE  
PUNCH BALLOT #51 TO ELECT**

# **THOMAS WORTHY**

## **24<sup>TH</sup> WARD ALDERMAN**



# **BUILDING FOR OUR FUTURE, 1 BLOCK AT A TIME**

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# Vote February 27, 2007

# Kenny Johnson

Elect  
for 2nd Ward Alderman



Paid for by Johnson for 2nd Ward

#### **Endorsements:**

Jesse Jackson Jr., U.S. Rep.  
Rickey Hendon, State Sen.  
LaShawn Ford, State Rep.  
David Miller, State Rep.  
Will Davis, State Rep.  
Larry Rodgers,  
Cook County Board  
of Review Comm.  
Patricia Horton,  
Water Reclamation District Comm.  
Coalition of Black Trade Unionists

EDUCATION

- Improve the quality of education for every child in the ward.
  - Fight to make full time pre-school education available for all children.

JOBS

- Ensure that local residents receive first consideration for all new jobs.
  - Work with businesses to create a safe and friendly environment for both business owners and customers.
  - Attract and retain more women- and minority-owned businesses.

CRIME & PUBLIC SAFETY

- Improve lighting along commercial corridors and heavily traveled streets.
  - Increase police presence at crime “hot spots.”
  - Work with the union to provide better training of traffic management aides.

#### **REDEVELOPMENT & AFFORDABLE HOUSING**

- Lobby to ensure that affordable housing is a part of all redevelopment plans.
  - Advocate for residents to have more input in the redevelopment of their communities.
  - Protect homeowners from shoddy workmanship, inferior building materials, and bad developers.

## Community People

# EMPOWERED CITIZENS OF NORTH LAWNDALE HOLDS CANDIDATE FORUM

Zaki A. Muhammad



24th Ward Aldermanic Candidates (From left: Thomas Worthy, Sharon Dixon, Mark Carter) answer questions at the 24th Ward Aldermanic Candidate Forum held at Sinai Community Institute last Saturday

Sinai Community Institute was the site of the 24<sup>th</sup> ward Aldermanic Candidate Forum, held Saturday February 3. The stated purpose of the events was to help the community meet their choices for alderman.

Incumbent Michael Chandler was invited as were his six opponents. Julius Anderson, Thomas Worthy, Donald Patterson, Sharon Dixon, Willie G. Brooks and Martavius "Mark" Carter round out the field. Only Worthy, Dixon and Carter attended.

The program was a joint effort of Empowered Citizens of North Lawndale and the Leadership Development Council.

8<sup>th</sup> grade student Mitchell Joe Saffold recited the Preamble to the Constitution and



24th Ward residents listen to candidates at the forum



Bill "Doc" Walls stopped by the forum speaking to the candidates and residents and also talk about his race for Mayor

then dedicated an excerpt from the "Gettysburg Address" to troops fighting in Iraq.

The event was moderated by Dr. Shemuel Israel who asked the candidates to state their reason for running, and their length of residency in the ward.

The prearranged questions ranged from education to employment for community residents. At one point, the discussion shed some negative light on the trend to have charter schools or private schools in the community. Another major item for debate was what to do about crime, and its effect on the psyche of the community.

An audience poll produced 10 votes for Ms. Dixon, 8 for Mr. Carter and 4 for Mr.

Worthy with 7 people abstaining, and 1 vote for incumbent Michael Chandler.

Summation of the issues was limited to 2 minutes. Mr. Worthy said, "I am thankful to be able to offer my services to the community, and I trust you will make the right decision."

Ms. Dixon stated "Be fair to yourself. It is not what friends think who will do the best job, do what you think is best honesty integrity Sharon Dixon on the ballot."

Mr. Carter stated "I am a regular grassroots person of the community who has the reputation and backbone to deal with the

gangsta system who will not be told when to stand up and when to sit down."

The event concluded with a visit from Bill "Doc" Walls stopping by to advertise his race for mayor. He was given an opportunity to speak after being acknowledged by the moderator. He stated "This is a pivotal time, and the next Alderman will decide what we control and what we decide to have directly in this community."

*Zaki A. Muhammad is a West Side resident and writer. To comment on this article please visit our weblog at: [www.nlcn.org](http://www.nlcn.org).*

## Patterson from front page



Richard Allen, Don Patterson (Center), and Roe Thomas campaign manager at Wallace's Catfish Corner for a Patterson fundraiser



Aldermanic Candidate Don Patterson (third from right) with campaign workers and tax customer

Lady of Lourdes Catholic School located at 1449 S. Keeler and then going to De LaSalle High School on the southside. "That's the school Daley went to," remarked Patterson.

Patterson, at an early age, showed independence. In grammar school, he started working in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade all the way to 8<sup>th</sup> grade. He worked for the janitor cleaning the school up after school hours making five to ten dollars a week. He was also an alter boy. In his second year at high school he worked at Spiegel and the 3<sup>rd</sup> year of high school he worked a job the Sears Towers. All the while, going to school. "I was doing what my parents told me to do, wasn't no choice in the matter," said Patterson. All of his family was Catholic. He converted to Baptist at a black College in Langston, Oklahoma. Where he graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in Accounting/Finance. Patterson is now a member of Mt. Vernon Baptist Church.

Patterson worked for the IRS from 1986 to 1990. He then worked for the State Insurance Auditing Department, while at the same time starting his tax business on his own time until he built up his tax business to full time.

Patterson decided that he could better help people by being on the outside because where before he was limited. Said Patterson, "Now we get people the best money they can get, the legal way."

On visiting his office several times during this tax season, his customer traffic was busy. He has several people on his staff who seem to be organized in getting people serviced at the front desk. They were also very pleasant when I visited.

Patterson wants to address the issues that were presented to him by residents of the ward and states that they have become his issues. Issues that were provided to NLCN by his office were

1. To develop job referral programs to assist the unemployed

2. Install a senior citizens assistance program designed to provide support in activities of daily living

3. Vigorously adhere to a policy of zero tolerance to criminal damage to property and continuous coordination with local law enforcement.

4. Organize neighborhood clean-up-and enhancement programs

5. Organize meetings that focus on narcotics abuse, crime in the community, schools, education, and afterschool programs.

6. Schedule community entertainment activities to promote pride and wholesome neighborhood relationships

7. Install a ward organization that lives by their words.

For more information on Don Patterson or to volunteer his office can be contacted at 773 7042241 or 773 677-6496 .

## Walker from front page



Shawn A. Walker speaks at Westside Minister's meeting

also having worked in the management field.

After school, he had management experience, and began working as a business manager intern for Paul Vallas, former Chicago schools superintendent. He worked in their newly established business management program. Tilton on Keeler and Westend and Marshall school on Kedzie and Monroe were his responsibility as part of an accountability team, where he managed the financial aspects of the schools amounting to an 8 million dollar budget. It was created to relieve the educators from the financial aspects. "My responsibility was to find out where the dollars was, find out and meet with all the teachers and what their needs are, what the students needed.

Then let's go get the money and implement and get that done," said Walker. Close to half a million dollars were spent within a couple of months on such things as a \$100,000 on books and getting students their needs. Painting and other rehab costs to uplift the spirits of the school environment were also done.

After his Walker's position with the Board for years, he worked as a business manager for Devry and he did consulting for through Thomas J. Coates and Associates, a real estate company that did consulting for CPS. From there he got into construction, he was hired as a assistant project manager. then he was hired to be a consultant for the city of Chicago Empowerment Zone. Later he was hired by

See page 7

# HARRIS BANK AND THE NORTH LAWNDALE COMMUNITY NEWS HONORS NORTH LAWNDALE'S SMALL BUSINESS OF THE MONTH



Priscilla Lucas

## FRESH 'N' OFF THE HOOK(HOME OF THE TRUTH)

North Lawndale Community News and Harris Bank are proud to honor Fresh 'n' Off The Hook Restaurant located at 1559 South Kostner Ave., as North Lawndale's Small Business of the Month for February. Dion Price, owner and Le Cordon Bleu chef, mans the grills.

Joining the boom of new buildings in the North Lawndale area is a tantalizing twist on carry-out restaurants, bringing new flavors that your taste buds will be delighted with every bite. Fresh 'n' Off The Hook is well on its way to providing healthy alternatives for eating fried chicken, fish, shrimp and especially "Hot Wangz," boldly listed on the menu.

Price has taken fast food to a higher ground by introducing his own blend of oils and spices, cutting down on the high level of trans fat in foods. Price describes himself as "the little boy who used to always hang out in the kitchen with his mama," indicating the beginning of his love to cook and create his own signature dishes.

After graduating from Florida A&M University with a bachelor's degree in business economics, he spent 14 years working in "progressively increasing management positions."

"I been cooking my whole life," Price said. "When my last job ended I said, 'I'm going to do something I want to do now,' and so I went to culinary school." After graduating from The Cooking and Hospitality Institute of Chicago with a degree from the Professional Culinary Training Program, and gaining the title of a Cordon Bleu Chef, he went on to work for numerous restaurants and catering companies.

Here's a bit of history from the Culinary Arts Schools Worldwide Web site on the legendary title of Cordon Bleu Chef: "The name Cordon Bleu, meaning blue ribbon, is rich in history and heritage. It has been synonymous with excellence since the 16th century when King Henry III of France created ... the Order of the Knights of the Holy Spirit in 1578. It was the most exclusive order in France until 1789. This was due to the fact that its members (including royalty) were awarded with the Cross of the Holy Spirit, which hung from a blue ribbon known as a Cordon Bleu. The sumptuous banquets accompanying their award ceremonies became legendary."

Price credits his wife, Stephanie, who works alongside of him daily for inspiring him to venture out on his own by asking him, "Aren't you tired of people getting rich off you?"

"So I took that leap of faith," he said, and opened up a restaurant.

Stephanie quickly points out that he is the chef, and she is strictly customer service. Price prepares his own blend of spices, sauces, oils, including the mayonnaise and cook each order fresh at the point of order.

The name Fresh 'n' off the Hook is a combination of phrase many people use to express approval and the freshness of each meal Price prepares.

"We have all fresh food – fresh because it's never sitting here," he said. "We don't cook anything until the person orders."

His menu is extensive with everyday fast food items. Their prices are reasonable and the Prices help customers who are in dire straits by offering smaller portions for less the cost.

"The Truth Burger," has its own wall for customers to sign that are bold and hungry enough to order it. This burger consists of one pound of Black Angus beef fully dressed. Signatures are quickly covering the wall of those who could handle the truth!

Price refers to his colorful storefront restaurant as the "little kitchen that pumps out big flavors," and his professional culinary training is evident when you bite into his fried fish, or chicken even the fries are emerged in his special blend of oils that are heart healthy.

"When you taste the menu items you'll taste the gourmet coming out of the fast food," he said.

Price invites the people of North Lawndale to visit their restaurant and sample the menu with confidence that people will return. "It's not fast food it's good food served fast."

Restaurant hours are Monday – Thursday, 11am-9pm, Friday-Saturdays, 11am–12am. Closed Sundays. Contact them at (773) 521-CHEF.

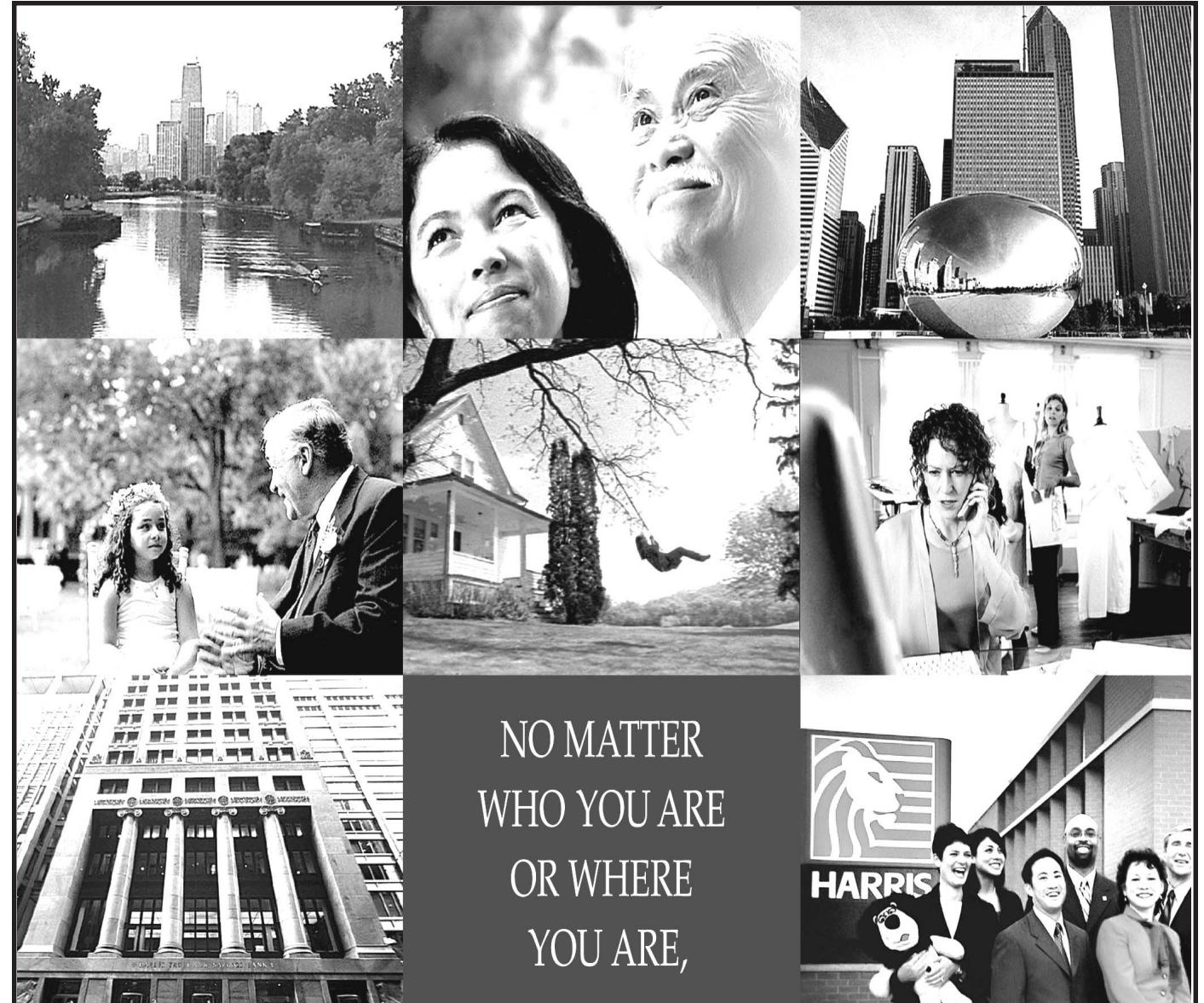
*Priscilla Lucas is a North Lawndale resident and a journalism graduate from Columbia College. Priscilla is a general assignment reporter for NLCN. To comment on this article visit our weblog at [www.nlcn.org](http://www.nlcn.org).*



Deon and Stephanie prepares a customer order



Fresh N Off The Hook Carry Out Restaurant



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# WORD UP: Remembrance of My Brother

Calvin C. Crayton

In this journey we sometimes come upon a true reality check. The kind of incident which makes you truly examine your purpose for living and your successes and failures in this life and most important what happens when it's all over. Will you have made deposits in others lives or will you have made withdrawals in other words is a person better or worse for having met you.

This past week I lost a brother, friend, counselor, and in some cases spiritual advisor, but as I spent time with people I had not seen in quite some time I realized how important Ronald E. Smith was to everyone who knew him. We once spent an evening discussing what a Good Man is and after some hours of discussion we came to the conclusion that just like when a car goes to the junk yard it is no

longer a car and when a man ceases to serve God he is no longer a man. Which brings us to the question why did God create man? Revelation 4 vs. 11 Thou art worthy, O Lord to receive glory and honor and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.

Obedience to God's Word is what brings him pleasure. You see when we obey God we glorify him. If you take a pencil and try to open a can of soup the pencil will break because that is not its purpose therefore anything we do that does not glorify God will break us. When Ford made a car he gave rules to keep the car running at peak efficiency, such as change the oil, flush the radiator, tune-up, even what kind of oil to use. Now if you did not change the oil in your car the lifters would

start ticking and the oil light would come on to let you know something was wrong and if you kept on driving the car would break down and you would take it back to Ford or the manufacturer and they would show you the manual and if you had not adhered to the instructions you would find out your warranty became void.

You see God gave us rules of operation also like Honor thy Father, Don't Steal , Keep my Sabbath Holy , Do not commit Adultery, and he even told us what we should and should not eat, now if we decide to shack up rather than marry, or become a homosexual, or a thief, or a liar then sooner or later something in our lives will start ticking and if we keep on sooner or later we will break down now here is what amazes me instead of us going

back to the manufacturer we call Jerry Springer, Ricky Lake, or Oprah, Dr. Phil or some jack leg preacher who doesn't read the book himself and because we never thought to repent and accept Jesus as Lord and Savior not just Savior and to study to show ourselves approved, and to meditate day and night so that we may be careful to observe his ways we end up with no warranty.

I submit that we may be the only church someone may see and as my brother Ronnie who was church to a lot of people would say inject them with Love and burn your Knee caps up because it's to Good to Keep to Your self. Remember if You Don't Read The Book You Lose The Lesson. Word-Up!!

Calvin Crayton is community resident and writer on spiritual matters. To comment on this article visit our weblog at: [www.nlcn.org](http://www.nlcn.org).

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## A Word to the Parents

Michael B. Miller

It is a New Year and new tax season and if your child plans on enrolling into a postsecondary institution or trade school it is the parents' responsibility to help. Many parents do not know that they put a strain on their children who are younger than twenty-four years of age and want to continue their education. I did not make the rules, but as a counselor for a Trio program that I work for I try to enforce what the United States Department of Education says. I hate to see our young men and women who are younger than twenty-four years of age begging their parents for their income information and

personal information. I would say nine out of ten individuals do not enroll in College, University, or trade schools because they do not have an independent status. Nine out of ten is too many of our people who have a desire to get knowledge and cannot due to circumstances like this. Read slowly because we need to study the words that I am about to write as if we study words from an old proverb. Unless a person is twenty four years of age or older, have dependents that they take care of, is a veteran of the armed forces, have both parents diseased, or is a ward of the state, you are a dependent student. It is

the parents' responsibility to pay for that child's education. The US Department of Education will help if you cannot afford to, but they need proof of your income.

Most parents believe when a child turns eighteen their responsibility for them is all over, but we need to understand that the US Department of Education is not talking about being old enough to get a drivers license or get a job, but about the two people they feel are responsible for the child's education. Other groups of people know this, and for that, they try to save, and put away money for their children who might want to go off to college.

It is not that we should have the money, because that is what the US Department of Education is for. If a parent is unable to pay for their child's cost of education they will step in with financial aid, but parents have to show proof of income to prove eligibility for state and federal money that you do not have to pay back. This income could be Taft, work, social security etc. I see so many of our black children in the community go on to expensive private colleges, and universities to take out large loans to pay for tuition, and it's not necessary. When the child graduates from

See Parents page 14

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Chicago Public Schools

## To Your Health

### The I-H Syndrome, a behavioral Disease: Why We Behave the Way We Behave toward Each Other – Part 5



**Julius  
Goodman**

Now that we are beginning to understand interpersonal communication and how our basic language plays such a huge part in its results, we must look within.

Ourselves, accept the language of the times, and improve ourselves so that we can best understand each other. If I do not know who I am, why I am the way I am, how can I possibly understand who you are while you are cursing at me. Even here in my own community it would be very easy to say that to much use of profanity is the reason I can't effectively communicate within my community.

I still think profanity can be a problem but basically a person needs to know him or herself before they can know someone else.

If I enter into a respectful relationship with those individuals who I do not know, it will most certainly alter how I communicate with them. The method of communication follows closely the level of relationship.

If I overhear two people arguing vehemently with each other, one person not listening to the other, evidencing tunnel vision, and striving to prove a point, it does not take me long to discern their level of relationship with each other. Usually, with my communication skills, I can diffuse any potentially volatile situation. Where there is a lack of respect, there will be lecture and criticism, and a judgment. But there will not be effective communication. Where there is lack of relationship, there will be attack, inattentiveness, and bullying, but there will not be effective communication.

In conclusion, I understand my own community a lot better. I try to avoid situations and conversations where there is

absolutely no thought process and no mutual agreement on subject matter. There are people who think they are holding a conversation, but without the proper communication skills, these same people will be talking about the same thing in the next hour. How many times have you been in a conversation with somebody and you find yourself asking that person: "didn't we just talk about that?"

Conversely I realize that it's not so much the music with its profanity that keeps people from communicating, but more the constant repetitions of the words that remain in my mind and when I open my mouth I can only use words that I have learned when I am communicating. I understand myself.

I try not to use profanity within my conversations. In the past I would avoid people who I thought used to much profanity. When I am communicating with someone else that uses or over uses profanity I ask them not to use profanity while we are communicating. I avoid music that uses profanity. I avoid family when profanity becomes the primary means of communication.

I tell them, we should talk later. By understanding the relationship I have with myself, I eliminated my won hostility and loneliness. I have altered my attitudes. I have groaned intellectually and emotionally. I have matured. Try it I guarantee you will too.

*Julius Goodman is poet and motivational speaker. He is also a graduate from National Louis University with a degree in Behavioral Science. To comment on this article visit our weblog at: [www.nlcn.org](http://www.nlcn.org).*

### DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AFFECTS VICTIMS AND FAMILIES

**Clemolyn (Pennie) Brinson**

February is National Stalking Month. To make people more aware of domestic violence an information resource fair will be held at the Brighton Park Library, 4314 S. Archer Sat. Feb 17, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

"Domestic violence is against any family member including a brother, sister, in-law, aunt or uncle," said Officer C. Childs, Domestic Violence Officer of the 9<sup>th</sup> District police station at 35<sup>th</sup> and Lowe.

It's not just about a man and his wife or girlfriend. It can be between same sex partners or it can be the man in the relationship being abused by his wife or girlfriend. It is not only physical either. It can involve isolation, financial abuse, mental abuse, or any combination of these where the victim is helpless.

"The laws have changed," said Childs, from when the police would send the offender off to take a walk and "cool off." Now if the police are called for a domestic violence offense and they see a physical mark on the victim, they have to make an arrest. "Even if the police don't see a mark, if the victim says she was hit and she wants the offender arrested, a complaint will be signed and he will be arrested to stand before a judge, usually within 12 to 36 hours, where he will receive a court date."

If it is the offender's first domestic violence offense it is considered a misdemeanor, but he can still get anywhere from 1 to 365 days of jail time. If it is his second or more offense, or if he violates an Order of Protection it is a felony. If the offense involves hurting a child the states attorney and DCFS gets involved.

Childs said sadly, "Over the thousands of cases, I have seen, maybe only about 25 of [victims] go through with the whole proceedings of having [the offenders] do time." Many times the victim decides to drop the charges. If she does not show up on the

court date, the offender will go home.

For the offender to be arrested he has to do physical harm, or he has to make an accusation that he's going to kill her or hit her. He can't be arrested for mental abuse or isolation or the other forms of domestic violence. In those cases the victim has to decide she wants to seek help or counseling from some of the agencies that can help her. Childs said all of the 25 districts have their own domestic violence officers.

According to a 1990 book entitled: "Physical Violence in American Families; Risk Factors and Adaptations to Violence in 8,145 Families," researchers Murray A. Strauss, Richard J. Gelles and Christine Smith discovered that 50 percent of men who abused their wives also abused their children.

Yvonne Shorter is a domestic violence awareness volunteer with the 9<sup>th</sup> District. "We need to reach the teenagers because some of the girls are being abused and they think it's alright," she said. "It's so many people that are being abused and they keep it to themselves. Their families don't even know."

Literature and information from the resource fairs has helped many people become aware of what is out there for them, she said, including the offenders. "One lady's husband went to jail a few months because of the abuse and he agreed to go to anger management and found out he was really angry," she said. "Not being able to work, not having enough finances, he took it out on the person he loved."

Hotline numbers you can call other than your local police station are: 1/877-863-6338 or the mayor's office at 312-747-9972.

*Clemolyn (Pennie) Brinson is a poet and writer for NLCN and Residents Journal. To comment on this article visit our weblog at: [www.nlcn.org](http://www.nlcn.org). Pennie can be reached at [pennie7@ameritech.net](mailto:pennie7@ameritech.net).*

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### Walker from page 4

the city to be a project manager under the planning department and budget department in a separate division. From that point up until now he has been doing construction management consulting for companies and just recently until August he worked for Boeing. For the 28<sup>th</sup> Ward, Walker wants to target a new school for the Westside and help the existing schools be more able to compete with the Whitney Youngs and Walter Paytons in the city. He says, "if you look back no new high school has been built on the Westside."

Another issue that he thinks is important is to create a commercial business corridor for the 28<sup>th</sup> Ward. "If you look at our

community you have an imbalance of businesses. You have 10-12 barber shops and beauty shops within an area. You have seven liquor stores. Walker wants to change the face of the 28<sup>th</sup> Ward. Next to North Lawndale he says we have the most vacant lots. I grew up when we had bowling alleys, we had skating rinks. There are no social programs for either generation. Those are some of things I would look too. With my background in finance and construction and dealing with the businesses I could help bring those things into the community. I could sit down and negotiate how to create different business and financial packages of in order to have the business come in there. I should be able to create millionaires in my term.

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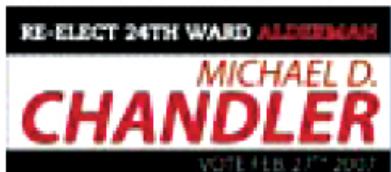
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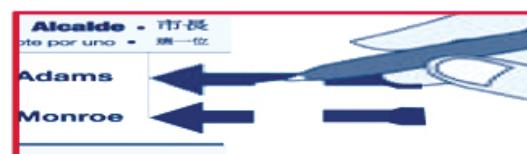
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when the voters were told to make an "X" within a target  
circle. You will be provided with a special pen by the  
judge of election to mark your ballot. Simply connect  
the two parts of the arrow.

## Economic Development

# MAYOR WANTS HOUSING IMPROVED ON WEST SIDE

Wendell Hutson

Mayor Richard M. Daley introduced an ordinance at the February 7 City Council meeting that would issue up to \$6 million in housing revenue bonds for the rehabilitation of the Renaissance Place Apartments into 54 affordable units in the North Lawndale community.

"Our goal is to create and preserve affordable housing opportunities for Chicago's families," said Mayor Daley. "It's critical that we continue to provide funding to meet the demand for affordable housing in communities throughout the city."

The buildings, located at 3127-27, 3131 and 3700-06 W. Douglas Blvd., will be converted into 27 two-bedroom, 17 three-

bedroom and 10 four-bedroom units, providing affordable rental housing for low-income families in the 24th Ward. The units will be made affordable to households at or below 60 percent of area median income (\$45,240 for a family of four).

The North Lawndale community could undergo further changes after the February 27 election where more than 10 candidates are vying for the 24th Ward alderman seat.

But regardless of who becomes alderman, affordable housing advocates insist the mayor is only kicking up dust to improve housing to secure votes from voters.

"He knows that in order for him to get re-elected, he needs a strong turnout from voters

on the West Side," said Charles Baker, president of Housing Coalition United, a Chicago-based non-profit. "The mayor knows if Dorothy Brown is a favor in the 24th ward so he felt the need to do a little something extra for the residents on the West Side to ensure their vote."

Jacquelyn Heard, press secretary to the mayor, said the election had nothing to do with the mayor's support of housing opportunities on the West Side and that he has a track record of economic development in challenging communities like North Lawndale.

The developer, Lawndale Christian Corporation, will form a partnership with Safeway Construction Co. to renovate the three buildings. Plans call for the renovation to begin later this year.

The buildings are part of the Lawndale Restoration redevelopment plan. Lawndale Restoration is a 100-building, Project-based Section 8 development that the city assumed control of after the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development instituted foreclosure proceedings against the former owner. The buildings have been turned over to 23 new owners/developers and are being rehabilitated for affordable housing.

All of this follows a

Jan. 31 ceremony led by Housing Commissioner John G. Markowski marking the official opening of Praise Apartments, three buildings that have been rehabilitated into 32 units of affordable rental housing also located in the North Lawndale community.

"We are pleased to have partnered in providing quality affordable rental units for Lawndale residents," Markowski said. "It is projects like these that help our neighborhoods grow stronger, and demonstrate how working together we can collectively provide the affordable housing that is needed citywide."

The \$4.8 million development, with buildings located at 3622-24 and 4123-25 W. Cermak Road and 1836 S. Hamlin Ave., offers 15 studios, seven one-bedroom, three two-bedroom and seven three-bedroom units at initial monthly rents ranging from \$385 to \$750. Sizes in the three-story buildings range from 420 to 1,038 square feet.

Features include laundry facilities, on-site parking, an outdoor play area and two ground floor commercial spaces.

Baker said this complex is long overdue.

"While it's nice to have it, the city should have made it happen sooner. Residents in North Side neighborhoods like Lincoln Park do not have to wait long for housing projects so we (West Side residents) shouldn't have to wait long either."

Markowski added that some projects take longer than others because of zoning and environmental issues but denied race and location ever play a part in housing opportunities.

The developer for the project is Lawndale Christian Development Corporation (LCDC). Since 1987, the faith-based community

See Housing page 15



(Photo courtesy of Willye B. White)  
Willye White joins the U.S. Olympic Team at sixteen years of age  
Willye White in her track uniform at the XVI Olympiad in Melbourne, Australia, 1956.

On Friday, February 6<sup>th</sup>, the world lost a true iconic figure in woman's athletics and Olympic history when Willye B. White passed away at the age of 67.

Born in 1939 in Moon, Mississippi and raised by her grandparents, she did many things to affect the public conscience of women, especially young girls, in sports. As far as personal accomplishments, she competed in a US Olympic Record five different track and field teams between 1956 (a medal winning year) and 1972. In all she was on more than 30 international track and field teams. Winning 12 AAU titles.

Only 16 years old and a high school sophomore when she won a Silver Medal in the high jump in 1956, she became the first woman, of any race, to medal in that event. Over the years, White participated in 4 other Olympics (60, 64, 68 and 72) and won yet another Silver Medal in 1964. After her Olympic career ended as an athlete, she remained on the Midwest Board of Olympics for 12 years as President.

James Glover

Teaching, coaching and lecturing to future Olympic hopefuls, White was the first American to win the world's highest sportsmanship award, the UNESCO Pierre de Coubertin International Fair Play Trophy. She is a member of eleven sport halls of fame, including those of the National Association of Sport and Physical Education, Black Sports, Women Sports Foundation, and National Track and Field. She was chosen by *Sports Illustrated for Women* in 1999 as one of the 100 greatest athletes of the century and by *Ebony* in 2002 as one of the ten greatest black female athletes.

Coming to Chicago, she decided to help girls get involved in sports; especially low-income youth who stayed in CHA sanctioned buildings like the Robert Taylor Homes. Gil Walker, a longtime friend, attributes many of CHA's sport outing success to White. "She brought drive and motivation to Chicago and really did her part to make sure that female accomplishments in sports did not go unnoticed."

In 1990, she founded WBW Hang on Productions, a sports and fitness consultancy. The following year, she started the Willye White foundation, a not for profit organization designed to push female athlete accomplishment and awareness, as well as positively affect the neighborhoods. Donna DeVarona, an Olympic gold medal-winning swimmer who was friends with White since the two met in 1960 in Rome said of White "She was a truly remarkable person. One who embodied the spirit of what true love, giving and understanding."

Crystal Jackson, a member of her foundation and basketball player in White's program for three years, remembers White as a not just a key figure in her life, but as an instrumental

figure to many young women looking to escape the drama that the projects presented. "She was extremely special to me. Like, it wasn't just always about sports. No matter the problem I or any of the other girls were having, she always gave us the woman point of view and helped us make the transition in life. She will most certainly be missed."

White was a role model without question. Not just for women or black people, but anyone who loved life in general. Her wonderful smile, energy and passion for bringing great change to the world will definitely be missed.

James Glover is a North Lawndale resident who does freestyle writing for the NLCN. He is also involved in Non For Profit work and Community Organizing. To comment on this article visit our weblog at: [www.nlcn.org](http://www.nlcn.org).

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## Sports & Entertainment

# HIGH SCHOOL PLAYOFFS – COLLINS VS. SIMEON

Todd Thomas



*Collins player attempts to pass the ball in their playoff game against Simeon*

The Collins boys' basketball team opened up this season's playoffs against the toughest opponent in the city—the reigning City and State Champion Simeon Wolverines. Opening round playoff matchups tend to favor the team with the winning record but the visiting underdog Cobras put up a respectable effort in losing 99-51 at Simeon.

Simeon opened up the scoring in the game with several resounding dunks and it was evident that they would dominate the paint. Center Tim Flowers scored over 20 points in the first half and had no trouble scoring time and time again on layups. When it came to running the floor, however, Collins was up to the task. They have been adept at stealing the ball and running the fast break all season and they used the same methods against the Wolverines. Collins guard Deon Hughes had several steals and also scored 14 points, hitting on a variety of difficult shots. This was a big game for the Cobras and he was ready to make the most of the opportunity.

"I think that was the best game of my life," Hughes said. "I was hustling and I had a couple of steals. Plus Simeon's the top team in the state so I think I did the best that I could."

Collins didn't even know that they would be playing Simeon until hours before the game was to be played. They were aware of Simeon's

power on the basketball court but four-year players like Hughes and forward Victor Hampton weren't in awe of the No. 5 team in the nation.

Hampton said: "When I hear somebody's name like Derrick Rose or Tim Flowers that makes me feel better about myself and my game because I'm in a situation to play that person. That makes me want to show my talent."

Hughes showed similar confidence in his perspective of the game, "Just come and play ball, that's what we do. I've been doing this all my life ... I don't have any fear in my heart when it comes to basketball," he said.

This has been a fun year for the Cobras, they improved their won-loss record considerably over last season and first-year head coach Mike Clark, who has seventeen year's coaching experience rekindled the players' passion for team.

"This is the best year we've had – last year we were 3-10 and this year we're 16-9, that's a big difference," Hughes said.

**See Playoffs page 15**

## What It Iz In The Biz

Marquita Ware

It's so cold outside I don't even have a clever quote today!

First her son died of a sudden death and now Anna Nicole Smith has passed. The former Playmate and Trims spa spokesmodel passed away last week at the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel and Casino on the tribe's reservation. She and Howard Stern, her supposedly baby's daddy was together. He had been gone only about two hours when news reached him that Smith was dead. They were planning to buy a yacht, get engaged and be married on February 27<sup>th</sup>. Well I don't know what to say about this except something is really fishy. I'll keep you posted o this case because shocking details are popping up everyday.

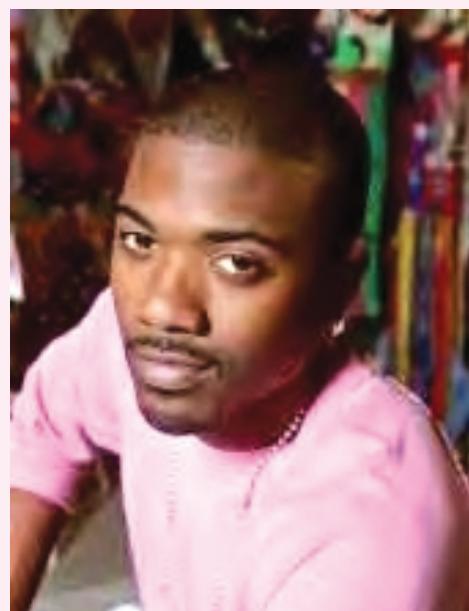
He may have gotten his start by just being the brother to R&B singing sensation Brandy, but Ray J is about to be famous, for real. The rumor mill has been buzzing about a sex tape featuring the singer/actor and Hollywood socialite, Kim Kardashian. Kardashian is a close friend of none other than Paris Hilton, and daughter to one of the defense lawyers for the O.J. Simpson trial.

Though 50 Cent has known to have started a beef or two with other rappers,

this time it seems as if he is the one being targeted. Seems as though Dipset member Cam'Ron has been spending time picking a fight with the G-Unit head honcho. It all started last week when 50 Cent made a comment about "shutting down" Koch Entertainment during an interview with New York's Hot 97 radio DJ Angie Martinez. Cam'Ron, who's Dipset label is distributed through Koch, called the station and got into a heated debate with 50 over the phone. Cam repeatedly called 50 out by his government name, Curtis, and continued to shout until Angie Martinez had to cut him off. This week, a video of that Cam'Ron phone call has mysteriously surfaced, with Cam and members of his crew laughing hysterically, while calling out "Curtis." In addition, there is also a "Ballin'" remix that features parts of that phone call with Cam's voice screaming "Curtis" all over the chorus. This should make for an interesting beef if the drama continues, and 50 has never been known to stay quiet.

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If you have any questions for me about celebrity gossip or news, just call 312-492-9090 or write to KETA, 1211 S. Western, Chicago, IL 60608 and I will feature my answer in the next column. If you want to



*Ray J*

know about one of your friends and nem' I can tell you that too. JUST KIDDING. Also check out our weblog at [www.nlcn.org](http://www.nlcn.org). You can post questions for me, other writers and anything/anyone else you want to talk about. *Marquita Ware is the Production/Layout Coordinator for the North Lawndale Community News.*

## ON VIDEO

Compiled and Reviewed by David Schultz

predictably sends this movie into foul trouble. PG-13; 95min. Sony Pictures Home Video; Available: Feb. 20

**BABEL (\*\*1/2)** The gift of an old Winchester rifle and its accidental usage triggers an interesting and provocative chain of events with troubled souls in this multi-Oscar nominated, international drama from writer Guillermo Arriaga and director Alejandro Gonzalez who last collaborated on "21 Grams."

Brad Pitt and Cate Blanchett are among the featured players as an estranged American couple seeking medical assistance in the Moroccan desert village. Best Supporting actress nominee Rinka Kikuchi delivers a remarkable performance as an introverted, tormented teenager who begins to be sexually impulsive to harbor the grief of a personal loss.

"Babel" is an absorbing ensemble drama featuring several strong performances, even though the film doesn't fully answer all the

questions it raises. It's just as riveting and insightful as "Crash."

R' 142min. Paramount Home Video: Available: Feb. 20

**MAN OF THE YEAR (\*\*)** Writer-director Barry Levinson squanders a golden opportunity to satirize the electoral procedure in a celebrity driven media society when he re-teams with his "Good Morning Vietnam" star, Robin Williams. Williams plays a cable TV talk comic who is encouraged to run for President of the United States.

Williams is led to believe he's won because of a covered-up computer snafu caught by a corporate employee (Laura Linney). The last half of this movie takes a dramatic nose dive that really doesn't serve this movie's cause too well.

PG-13; 119min. MCA/Universal Home Video; Available: Feb. 20

*David Schultz is a film critic for NLCN and other publications. To comment on this article visit our weblog at: [www.nlcn.org](http://www.nlcn.org).*



*Phillip Champion and Anthony Mackie in Crossover*

**CROSSOVER (\*\*)** A familiar street ball, urban drama with hip-hop influences doesn't score enough points here.

Wayne Brady has potential but not enough character depth in this dramatic performance as an ex-sports agent turned Detroit nightclub owner who sponsors and illegally profits from his after hours B-ball games. Brady seeks to blackmail a hot college prospect into his exclusive representation in this uninspired familiar story line. The spirited hoop action

## AT THE FLICKS

David Schultz, film critic



*Drew Barrymore and Hugh Grant in Music and Lyrics*

**MUSIC AND LYRICS (\*\*)** As spirited an effort as this romantic comedy intends to be, "Music and Lyrics" fails to hit the right note. Modeled somewhat after the 80s rock-pop duo, "Wham!" by calling this group, "Pop!" Hugh Grant return to the screen after a three year hiatus as the forgotten half as George Michaels-like superstar, Alex Fletcher, whose show biz career has been reduced to performing at area theme parks.

Fletcher's manager, Chris Riley (Brad Garrett), meets with Alex at his apartment to discuss meeting a Britney Spears-type pop diva, Cora Corman (Haley Bennett) who wants him to compose a new song based around her title, "Way Back into Love."

It seems one of Fletcher's dance songs helped Cora get through her parents' divorce. Trouble is Fletcher hasn't been able to write lyrics for over ten years, and he has less than a week to deliver the tune.

Fletcher's meeting with his manager is momentarily disrupted by a substitute gardener, Sophie Fisher (Drew Barrymore), who happens to have a knack for designing poetic phrases.

From here on, the film goes into its own dance between Fisher and Fletcher who have individual self esteem issues that lead to them falling in love while trying to construct the song.

When the song is accepted, they set out to celebrate in a restaurant until she suddenly tries to duck out when she spots the source of her insecurities: her lecherous and pompous ex-boyfriend/college professor Sloan Cates (Campbell Scott) who wrote a bestseller based on their ill-fated romance and her character flaws.

However, this is not enough to keep "Music and Lyrics" from being a movie without much of a soul (or heart) of its own.

PG; 98min. A Warner Bros. Pictures Release – Presented at selected theaters

**THE LIVES OF OTHERS (\*\*\*\*)** This is another German import recently nominated for an Oscar for best foreign language film that casts a critical look upon the former communist state of mind. But unlike "Downfall," the difference here is how universal the characters and proceedings become. Writer-director Florian Henckel von Donnersmarck's "The Lives of Others" evolves into an exceptional first class thriller that is brilliantly insightful and compelling.

It is an intricate, well crafted drama set in East Berlin in the five years leading up to Glasnost and the fall of the Berlin Wall that ultimately brought change from its communist rule. East Germany's all powerful secret police, known as the Stasi, are an elite force who resort to extreme methods to justify their interrogation and surveillance tactics that allow them "to know everything."

Lt. Col. Anton Grubitz (Ulrich Tukur) runs the secret police with blanket suspicion toward anyone who crosses his path. When he's encouraged to check out the premiere of a new stage play, Grubitz decides to question

**See Flicks page 14**

# TYRA BANKS ON BIG

Angelic Jones



In the last few months Tyra Banks, a self-made model, actress and all-around entertainment entrepreneur, has been ridiculed because—to put it in old-school terms—baby got back. Banks ended an exemplary modeling career by transitioning onto the small screen with a modeling show and a talk-show host gig. As much as the world loves Oprah, Banks, as the new kid on the block, can give Oprah's Harpo Empire a run for the money with Bankable Productions. Banks is poised to be the next hero/mentor of black women everywhere for her perseverance, talent and industry savvy, which is why mainstream America is ridiculing her weight gain.

Tyra Banks, the tall and buxom beauty who has often been accused of having surgery, has been combating negativity that she knew affecting her throughout her modeling career and that she feels has an affect on young girls and women who follow the fashion world. On her talk show, she hosted a session where it was proven that her breasts were real and also one where she wore a fat suit to prove that image is an issue in America and encompasses a lot of different dynamics, including people's decisions about how they treat you.

With a recent weight gain to bring her to a "whopping" 161 pounds, which is great for her height of 5 feet 10 inches tall, Banks is now being called pork chop because she's finally exhibiting the thick thighs and butt attributable to her ethnicity—Black—and America's not loving it.

Her years as a slim Victoria's Secret model in a bra and panties branded her for other ethnicities as a lithe beauty, while brothers might have just said she needed meat on her bones. The question is does Banks

lack the star power or simply the race of big beauties that won and kept American's hearts in their back pocket.

#### The Competition

Betty Page, Marilyn Monroe, and Anna Nicole Smith are all beauties who defied convention. They wore anything from a size 8 up to size 16 throughout their lives. However, they had an advantage because they were white women.

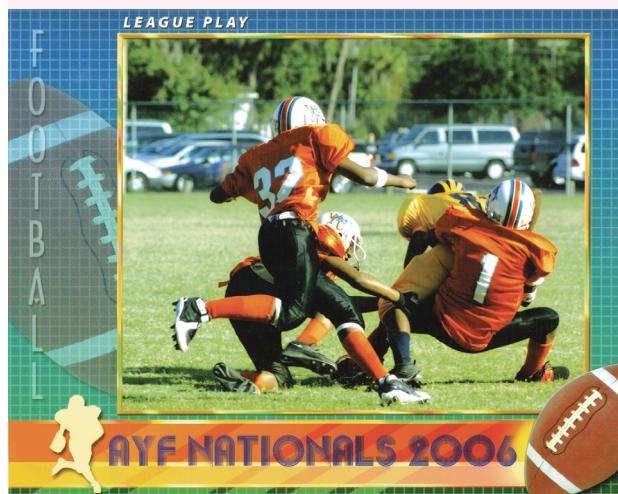
For black women the competition to remain marketable to a market that, perhaps, regards your skin color as a disadvantage is a huge issue to face in entertainment. Similar to the business world, it is necessary to mirror the image of the dominant group to be successful. In the business world this has meant shunning natural hair and braids and wearing oversized clothing to cover attributes like thick thighs and bigger bottoms. In entertainment, the mainstream desires icons to maintain an image that is unattainable because for them this sets an example of something they can shoot for but don't necessarily have to attain—which is what makes them normal.

In order to set a Black person on that pedestal of greatness, the Black person must exceed the standard of beauty. Banks has long exceeded the standard of beauty with breasts anyone would die to have, beautiful eyes, long legs, a flat stomach and the standard weave. But now that she feels freer to reveal her true self, since she has discovered success in the form of her own business, she's discovering just how much freedom she truly has.

*Angelic Jones is a freelance writer and editor. To comment on this article visit our weblog at: [www.nlcn.org](http://www.nlcn.org). Angelic can be reached at: angelicwrite4u@excite.com.*

# WINDY CITY DOLPHINS WIN YOUTH FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP IN FLORIDA

Todd Thomas



*The Windy City Dolphins*

The Windy City Dolphins of the American Youth Football League traveled to Florida in December and accomplished what the Chicago Bears failed to do in the sunshine state – they won a National Championship. After going undefeated in

the regular season at 14-0 they defeated Osceola, Florida 22-19 to win the championship game.

The Dolphins and the Windy City Youth Football League (WCYFL) have been developing the athletic and social skills of young men and women on the West Side for over a decade. Since its inception in 1995 hundreds of youth in the area have learned the game of football and cheerleading in the league. Many former players have gone on to play at top high schools in Chicago and for colleges around the country. Hubbard high school star Robert Hughes, who is bound for Notre Dame to play football, starred in the league, and the list of successful Dolphins' players is

**See Champs page 15**

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- Our Learning for Life workshops teach students basic business skills to help them prepare for their future.

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At ComEd, we empower the communities we serve by investing in educational programs for young people. Last year, we provided and helped raise nearly \$5 million for over 100 organizations involved in the African-American community such as the United Way, After School Matters, Metropolitan Family Services, NAACP and the United Negro College Fund.

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For more information on how ComEd empowers the communities we serve, visit [www.community.cecocommunity.com](http://www.community.cecocommunity.com).

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## ARREST FREE.COM FOUNDER SEEKS 1 MILLION EXPUNGEMENTS

Zaki A. Muhammad

Kenneth Coats has a dream. He hopes to mobilize one million people throughout the country to clear minor offences from their criminal record before the present climate in legal circles prevents such an act.

"Expungement is a necessary opportunity for those who would otherwise not have one," said Coats, founder of ArrestFree.com.

Coats is focusing his efforts in communities like North Lawndale, Englewood and Austin, where ex-offenders frequently return after their incarceration.

Coats, a South Side native, attended Madame Currie High School where he participated in the Marching Band, Jazz Band and was a percussionist par excellence.

He attended Illinois State University with the intention on becoming a renowned percussion artist. He soon changed course and studied pre-law, philosophy and political science, with the intention of becoming a lawyer.

Upon graduation, Coats returned to the outskirts of the city, and had to commute to

Chicago to find employment. He was often racially targeted depending on the time of day that he was commuting.

In 1998, Coats became a Microsoft Certified System Engineer, and in 2001 he became a Cisco Certified Network Administrator. In 2004, he developed an online Expungement Kit that was self-help oriented. It merely required the downloading of his information onto the computer, and sold for \$24.95, however, it did not produce adequate results. Back to the drawing board he went and ArrestFree.com was born. It is a service that for \$100 will expunge a criminal record.

Coats has taken expungement on as a serious quest to help to alleviate the vicious cycle that seems to follow incarceration for most of those being released in the 7<sup>th</sup> Congressional District. He has spoken with Congressman Danny K. Davis who is one of the foremost experts on the subject of expungement.

In 2006 Coats spoke with Hip-Hop's royalty at the BET 1<sup>st</sup> Hip-Hop Music Award in Atlanta. He combines his technology and law experience, and his desire to eradicate barriers to employment for formerly incarcerated individuals.

"We want to put a new spin on Liberty and Pursuit of Happiness, and that is with the process of ArrestFree.com, where you get the information you need to know, and how to go about becoming arrest free," he said.

Kenneth Coats can be reached online at ArrestFree.com or contacted by phone at 1-888-702-7734.

*Zaki A. Muhammad is a West Side resident and writer. To comment on this article please visit our weblog at: [www.nlcn.org](http://www.nlcn.org).*

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*Sebastian Koch and Martina Gedeck in Sony Pictures Classics' The Lives of Others*

fight against terrorism in the near future.

There are some signals shown in the film's opening scene that already exist in our society. It is a revealing yet disturbing introduction to how this secret police justifies their extreme procedures and "profiling" tactics. For example, they identify an interrogated person's guilt or innocence based upon their emotional reaction to long hours of questioning and not being allowed to sleep.

This is what is being explained to a classroom of recruits by the police instructor at the academy. Minorities who see this film should take note of this particular scene because beyond the human elements of the story, there is a fear that the pendulum could swing the other way.

R; 137min. A Sony Pictures Classics Release – Presented at selected theaters

*David Schultz is a film critic for NLCN and other publications. To comment on this article visit our weblog at: [www.nlcn.org](http://www.nlcn.org).*

## Black History Month in Community Parks

The Chicago Park District commemorates Black History Month during February with various events and activities for the whole family. Most programs are admission free. Please contact each individual park for additional information or the Central Region office at 312-746-5962 for details on west side and near south and southwest side park events.

### Black History Month Exhibition

Monday, Feb. 5 - Wednesday, Feb. 28, Sunday – Saturday, 11 a.m. - 7:30 p.m., Humboldt Park, 1440 N. Sacramento Ave., 312-742-7549, Admission free; recommended for all ages, This exhibition features artwork on African American history. Featured artists to be announced.

### "Umoja" Black History Month

Saturday, Feb. 17, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m., Homan Square Park, 3559 W. Arthington St., 312-746-6650, Admission free; recommended for all ages, Umoja, meaning "to strive for and maintain unity in the family and community," features performances and a marketplace with food, jewelry, clothing and artwork.

### Black History Month

Saturday, Feb. 17, 12 - 2 p.m., Union Park, 1501 W. Randolph St., 312-746-5494, Admission free; recommended for all ages, This celebration features guest speakers and special performances. Artists to be announced.

### "People of Color in the Past" Black History Month Celebration

Friday, Feb. 23, 6 - 9 p.m., Austin Town Hall Park, 5610 W. Lake St., 773-287-7658, Admission free; recommended for all ages, This celebration features live music with local bands, special dance performances, drama and refreshments.

For more information about the Chicago Park District's more than 7,300 acres of parkland, 552 parks, 32 beaches, nine museums, two world-class conservatories, 16 historic lagoons, nearly 50 natural areas, thousands of special events, sports and entertaining programs, please visit [www.chicagoparkdistrict.com](http://www.chicagoparkdistrict.com) or contact the Chicago Park District at 312-742.PLAY or 312-747.2001 (TTY). Want to share your talent? Volunteer in the parks by calling 312-742.PLAY.

## Parents from page 6

that institution, not only do they walk across the stage with a degree in hand, but also a large promissory note promising that they will pay off all those loans. If you do your research, your child will not need to take out any loans until they get to graduate school. This is considering they want to go to graduate school.

In addition, if we as parents do our research we will also find out that City Colleges of Chicago have it where education could also be inexpensive even if you do have to come out of your pocket. What we do not realize is because most of us do not have the money financial aid will not pick up some of the slack, but most of it, and sometimes all. It is like someone legally hands you two grand because you are having some financial problems, and you turn it down.

This is what many of our parents have been doing. The truth is if we do not allow our children to take advantage of these funds now they will not be around later. Our government will make sure of that. Many parents in the African-American community do not trust their children with their income information, tax forms, social security number, or even finding out how old or young they are.

If this is the way a parent feels go to the institution with your children and make it a family thing, but whatever you choose do not prevent your child from learning, because the US Department of Education rules cannot be broken. Let me give the parents a bit of food for thought. If we want to keep our children and especially our young black men off the streets doing everything they could imagine, allow them to get the knowledge by helping them pay for a quality education.

*Michael B. Miller is a professor at Malcolm X College and writer for NLCN. To comment on this article visit our weblog at: [www.nlcn.org](http://www.nlcn.org).*

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## Flicks from page 6

the honesty of its native playwright, Georg Dreyman (Sebastian Koch). Dreyman is considered by most to be a socialist writer and supporter of the German Democrat Republic party.

Grubitz assigns Captain Gerd Wiesler (Ulrich Muehe) to head up the surveillance operation on the Dreyman's apartment. Wiesler is a man dedicated to his work who sees himself as the Party's "Shield and Blood." After secretly observing and recording Dreyman's daily procedure, Wiesler and his team quietly broke into and bugged the apartment.

While monitoring Dreyman's private conversations, Wiesler began to alter his views and question the morality of his work.

Eventually, Dreyman needs help from a couple of literary friends to smuggle out his written report to be published in the West. This ultimately leads to a moral versus career decision. The Stasi police already suspect Dreyman for writing the article but are unable to prove it.

The final raid on the apartment leads to a surprise and a tragedy that years later leads to a personal healing. This is an exceptional film with a debatable edge that makes us feel cautious and curious about life after 9/11.

One has to wonder how much the Orwellian tactics of security and surveillance, abandoned since the demise of the Berlin Wall, will somehow filter into our stateside



## Brooks from front page



honor from Harris Bank and the Steans Family Foundation for the Garden of Eden, which she's founded, according to her autobiography.

The aldermanic hopeful declared that she favors the "big box" ordinance that failed last year when the Chicago City Council fell three votes short of overriding Mayor Daley's veto. In addition, she has openly criticized the "big box" stores' owners who fought the wage increase for their employees.

"You take the \$7.25 and let me live on your salary," she said of the "big box" stores'

owners. "Let's change the table."

Brooks is planning two fundraisers just one day apart from each other. The first one will take place Feb. 16 at 737 S. Pulaski Road, and the second Feb. 17 at 824 S. California Ave.

As the election is approaching, Brooks's campaign manager, Jerome Altman, remains confident that she's the right candidate for the 24<sup>th</sup> Ward. "As we move forward ... look at the issues and her history. Right now, this community needs someone who's going to fight for the people."

Brooks said that some of her critics claim she's after the aldermanic seat simply for the money – an allegation she firmly denies.

Instead, she said her supporters believe that God will use her to bring about change in the 24<sup>th</sup> Ward.

*Hertz Clyde Dézir is a native of Haiti and a general assignment reporter for NLCN. Hertz has a journalism degree from Columbia College. To comment on this article visit our weblog at: [www.nlcn.org](http://www.nlcn.org).*

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## Housing from page 10

development corporation has worked to revitalize the Lawndale community through residential and commercial development.

"It takes cooperation and hard work, but we are thrilled to see the three buildings that make up Praise Apartments restored," said officials at LCDC. "This project brings 32 beautiful, fully rehabbed two- and three-bedroom units back into the community. In addition, the development offers two commercial units, which we look forward to leasing to two long-time community members - one for a sports ministry office and the other for a barbershop."

And city assistance includes an \$862,698 loan, \$335,000 in tax credits, generating \$2.8 million in equity and the conveyance of two City-owned lots for parking.

*Wendell Hutson is a freelance writer for NLCN and various publications. To comment on this article visit our weblog at: [www.nlcn.org](http://www.nlcn.org).*

## APARTMENTS

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## Playoffs from page 12

Hampton sees a change in this years' Cobras as well, "This has been the best season ever, working with Clark." This is my first year really being coached," he said. "Clark's been here for us—he wants us to be something in life."

Clark has coached for many years and the challenge of taking on the job of the Cobras' head coach was something he couldn't pass up. The team spends a lot of time together away from the court but there are eight seniors on the team and they hope to be off at college studying and playing ball next year. Clark didn't have time to build a basketball dynasty in the one season he's coached this team but he thinks they were on the verge of something big.

"I just wish I had you guys another year," Clark said. "We could really do some things and cause some problems around here."

In other first-round playoff games No. 10 Marshall, No. 14 Farragut and Crane were all winners. Second round games will be played Wednesday Feb. 16. Senn at Marshall, Foreman vs. Farragut at Collins, and Crane at No. 15 Washington. All games are set to begin at 4:00pm.

\*Farragut's home games will be played at Collins gym due to water damage to Farragut Academy's gym floor. Pipes underneath the basketball court apparently burst during the recent wave of cold weather.

*Todd Thomas is a freelance writer for NLCN and other publications. To comment on this article visit our weblog at: [www.nlcn.org](http://www.nlcn.org).*

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## 24TH WARD

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## Champs from page 13

extensive. Success on the football field is fine, but there's a deeper component to the program that league president and coach, Gerald Harris, stresses more than winning.

"Our real responsibility is growing these young boys into young men, and football just happens to be a vehicle to do that," said Harris. "Football teaches accountability, responsibility, discipline and teamwork."

Many of the young men on the Dolphins are in dire need of developing those characteristics. More than 70 percent of the players come from single-parent families and the male coaches in the league use practice time and games to instill values and work habits that will help keep the kids away from the trouble in the streets.

"I want to keep my kids out of the street and build our community

up," Harris said.

Kids who want to play on the Dolphins and don't have all of the fee money have a friend in WCYFL as well.

"If their parents truly don't have it [the fees] then we're not going to turn a kid away who wants to play football," said Harris.

The opportunity to participate in a team sport and learn about sportsmanship and camaraderie are cornerstones of the experience and there are a set of Golden Rules that they espouse including: 1. Display a devotion to one another 2. Communicate to one another respect and honesty 3. Affirm and value the uniqueness of each participant 4. Teach respect for one another 5. Instill a sense of responsibility.

Back when they started in 1995 the Dolphins had a little trouble competing against some of the more established suburban teams in the mid-suburban league they played in.

Harris thought it was important for the youth to venture out of their immediate surroundings to experience life outside of their neighborhoods and they eventually rose to the level of the competition.

As time went on Harris and his junior varsity coach, Jarod Cooper also felt that North Lawndale needed a team of its own. Consequently they developed the Lawndale Falcons to represent the area.

The Falcons have been steadily growing in popularity and as an outgrowth of WCYFL they strive for the same ideals. The motto for WCYFL sums up their mutual goal: "A Kid in sports is never in the Courts!" For more information on the Windy City Dolphins or the Lawndale Falcons contact:

Gerald Harris at: 312/831-4650

*Todd Thomas is a freelance writer for NLCN and other publications. To comment on this article visit our weblog at: [www.nlcn.org](http://www.nlcn.org).*

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| Struts<br>Front or Rear<br>Installed<br>\$199.00<br>MOST CARS &<br>LIGHT TRUCKS                                                                                                                          | Mufflers<br>\$19.99<br>Inspect exhaust<br>system for leaks.<br>Labor Extra.<br>MOST CARS &<br>LIGHT TRUCKS                                                                                                                          | Converter<br>INSTALLED<br>\$119.99<br>MOST CARS &<br>LIGHT TRUCKS                                                                                                          |
| Full Tune-Up<br>Service<br>4 cyl.<br>\$159.00<br>8 cyl.<br>\$199.00<br>Includes plugs, wires, fuel filter, air<br>filter, P.C.V. valve cap, rotor, oil<br>change and filter.<br>MOST CARS & LIGHT TRUCKS | Front or Rear<br>Brakes Service<br>6 cyl.<br>\$179.00<br>Includes installation of front<br>pads, inspect rotors,<br>wheelbearing, calipers,<br>hydraulic system and road test.<br>Pads and shoes extra.<br>MOST CARS & LIGHT TRUCKS | Front or Rear<br>\$59.99                                                                                                                                                   |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Includes installation of front<br>pads, inspect rotors,<br>wheelbearing, calipers,<br>hydraulic system and road test.<br>Pads and shoes extra.<br>MOST CARS & LIGHT TRUCKS |

Includes installation of front pads, inspect rotors, wheelbearing, calipers, hydraulic system and road test. Pads and shoes extra.

MOST CARS & LIGHT TRUCKS



**Strategic Human Services**  
The North Lawndale Community News  
1211 S. Western Avenue, Suite 203  
Chicago, Illinois 60608

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### 2 LOCATIONS

**Lawndale Christian Development Corporation - 3843 W. Ogden**

Open Computer Lab - Monday, Wednesday & Friday 10:00am-2:00pm

Basic Computer - 5 session workshop - Session Starts: Mondays Dec. 4—10:00am

**North Lawndale Community News - 1211 S. Western, Suite 203**

• Open Computer Lab

Monday – Friday 9:00am — 6:00pm

• Basic Computer – 5 session workshop

Session Starts: Wednesdays 6:00pm

Saturday Jan. 13-12:30pm

• Intermediate Microsoft Office - 4 session workshop

Session Starts: Wednesday Jan. 10—6:00pm

Saturdays —12:30pm

Desktop Publishing

Session Starts: Saturday Nov. 25-3-5pm

• Basic Website Design – 5 session workshop

Session Starts: Tuesdays -6:00pm

Saturdays -10:00am

• Intermediate Website Design - 5 session workshop

Session Starts: Tuesdays—6:00pm

Saturdays -10:00am

**Please Call Strategic Human Services for more information at 312-492-9090**

Strategic Human Services' computer workshops are funded by the State of Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (State Senator Art Turner), State of Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (Digital Divide Program under Gov. Blagojevich)

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