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# THE NORTH LAWNDALE COMMUNITY NEWS

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Serving North Lawndale, East & West Garfield, Austin, Pilsen, Humbolt Park, Near Westside & South Lawndale

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

## THE LAWNDALE CHRISTIAN HEALTH CENTER HOSTS HEALTH FAIR

John Moore



Throughout the month of July, medical students have partnered with the Lawndale Christian Health Center as part of a program called Lawndale Summer Medical Project. Health fairs have been organized as a way to bring health education to the communities of North and South Lawndale. While some residents do not have time to go see a provider, this is one way to bring healthcare to them.

Every weekend in July, groups have gone from LCHC to places around the neighborhood such as Dominick's on Roosevelt Road, Sam's Club in Cicero, and Farragut High School. These groups have offered community residents health

education such as how to eat healthy on a low budget, and getting health check-ups. Information about AllKids and Illinois Health Connect, two state programs guaranteeing health coverage in Illinois, is also made available. Entertainment is also offered, including jumping jacks for kids, snow cones, and popcorn.

Farragut High School, located at 2345 S. Christiana, is the site of one of LCHC's clinics. LCHC is also located at 3860 W. Ogden Ave., as well as in the Homan Square Community Center, located at 3517 W. Arthington.

The Lawndale Christian Health

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## GOV. BLAGOJEVICH PROPOSES \$12.5 MILLION TO COMBAT CRIME AND DRUGS

Priscilla Lucas

Governor Blagojevich has announced federal funding of nearly \$12.5 million toward programs to combat the onslaught of the drugs and crime that hold residents hostage in their own communities.

On July 17, Blagojevich slated funds to continue the stand against "manufacturing and distribution of illegal drugs." The funds will also target the "eight specialized prosecution units across the state." More than \$1.1 million will aid those who were victims of crime.

Drugs have taken their toll on people in communities with widespread gang violence which, often times, leaves behind innocent victims in its path.

"Illegal drugs destroy lives and endanger communities. One of our

most important responsibilities is to protect the public—and illegal drugs pose one of the biggest threats to public safety. These federal grants will help law enforcement and prosecutors keep up the fight against illegal drugs," Gov. Blagojevich said.

The Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) program guidelines will be the criteria for funding that will be distributed to county, state and local agencies whose services are within the "areas of law enforcement, prosecution, crime prevention, and education, corrections, drug treatment programs, program planning and evaluation, and criminal justice improvement."

The bottom line is that "drugs destroy our communities and the Governor is always looking for

ways to enhance and support programs that fight against drugs to better the communities," said Geraldo Cardenas, spokesperson at the office of the Governor.

Distribution of these funds will be for the 2007 federal fiscal year and will be combined with the balance of funds from 2005 that included a "four million increase over the federal fiscal year of 2006."

The JAG program will continue to emphasize undercover operations in its fight against those who to operate meth labs.

"The reason we continue to fund them is because they have been very effective in furthering

See Combat page 15



Governor Blagojevich

## Ravinia/Lawndale Concert A Huge Success

Clemolyn (Pennie) Brinson



Reginald T. McCants and Ravinia/Lawndale's own Lenora Green at the Ravinia Lawndale concert

Rick Walton who lives in the South Loop said his real estate broker gave him a flyer and that's how he found out about Saturday's Ravinia/Lawndale concert that featured vocalist, Julia Huff, and keyboardist Reginald T. McCants.

Walton said he was familiar with Ravinia in Highland Park and knew the Douglas Park performances would be just as good. "I thought Ms. Huff was great. She has that incredible jazz voice. And I think Reginald McCants is very good also. It's great that the city and Ravinia are putting on these types of performances," he said. "I will definitely attend the Douglas Park concerts again."

Siblings Patrice Brooks and Nate Jones are very familiar with the summer concerts and said they

come every year. "It's a nice evening, a beautiful park, and we come out once a month to Ravinia in Douglas Park," said Brooks.

She lives in the community where she and her brother were raised. Jones now lives in Bonneville. He said his sister told him about the summer concerts and he's been coming to them every year. They both attended the concert last month when the artists featured were Nanette Frank, and Ultimate Concept.

Ronnie Mitchell of North Lawndale said he was out playing basketball when he heard the music of Mr. McCants. "I heard this beautiful music, and it just brought me right here to the concert. And it was magnificent." Mitchell bought

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Visit us on our website at [www.nlcen.org](http://www.nlcen.org) for more articles, information, photos and opportunities



**North Lawndale Community News  
Winner of the  
2005 SBC Beyond the Call Award**

~~~~~  
**North Lawndale Community News  
Winner of the  
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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 dissapointment. But the strong overcome fear and the dissapointments 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 overcoming wisely, adversity.

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## THE NORTH LAWDALE 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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## Writers' Meetings!!

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

**Date: August 16, 2007**

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## EDUCATION &amp; TRAINING

**COMMENTARY:****CPS Students Shouldn't Have To Play Catch Up To Their Statewide Counterparts**

Mark Wallace

A recent study by the University of Chicago's Consortium on School Research indicating that the longer minority students remain in Chicago Public Schools, the more likely they are to outperform their minority counterparts statewide on standardized tests.

The CPS is patting itself on the back for what sounds like progress. But consider that CPS students are outpacing other minority students who, like many CPS students, tend to live in poor communities. And that fact is where the entire state of Illinois stumbles.

Nationwide, Illinois ranks a shameful 49<sup>th</sup> among the 50 states in per-student funding. With school districts' available funds heavily reliant on property taxes, less wealthy communities are by definition disadvantaged, their students almost inevitably left behind. All because there State failed to provide revenues sufficient to make certain they could outpace their peers downstate in Cairo, Illinois, or a world away in Cairo, Egypt.

It's clear that the funding structure supporting our public schools so unequally must change. Until Illinois musters the

political will to fund all our schools fairly, wealth and class will continue to determine most students' educational achievement levels.

We, the people of Illinois, must use our collective resources fairly to ensure that *all* students throughout Illinois have the tools, technology and teaching that *every* child needs to succeed. In Chicago, the need is tremendous. While other school districts statewide in middle-class communities offer students modern buildings with new books and costly technology at their fingertips, the CPS and our students are in dire need of computers in the classrooms, functional plumbing, and paint on the walls.

Out of frustration with this intractable situation, I joined with three like-minded associates to form the Voice of One, a nonprofit fundraising vehicle dedicated to providing resources that remove the obstacles to providing quality and equality in education to Chicago students.

The Voice of One is working toward the ambitious goal of raising \$1 million for

underserved schools within the CPS. We invite everyone who cares about our children to join us in marshalling the resources needed to maintain and expand the gains CPS students have shown. A paint job may spruce up their spirits, but good facilities, access to technology and great teaching are what will give our students the pride they must take in their education – the investment they will need to have made as the world shrinks ever closer together, forcing them to meet the challenge of competing with their multilingual, rigorously educated peers from around the globe.

Join us to invest in education. Every donation, every dollar is welcome as we seek to improve our schools. We believe it is our obligation to educate and provide for our children. They are our future – and they are depending on us.

*Mark Wallace is the chief financial officer of The Voice of One. To learn more about the Voice of One, please visit [www.voiceof1.org](http://www.voiceof1.org). To comment on this article visit our weblog at: [www.nlcen.org](http://www.nlcen.org).*

**July 25 Black Facts**

Garrett T. Morgan

\* On this day in 1916, inventor of the gas mask, Garrett T Morgan rescued six from gas-filled tunnel in Cleveland, Ohio.

\* On this day in 1972, U.S. health officials conceded that Blacks had been used as guinea pigs in forty-year syphilis experiment.

\* On this day in 1991, Dennis Hightower is promoted to president of Disney Consumer Products-Europe/Middle East.

\* On this day in 1992, General Colin Powell, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, dedicated the Buffalo Soldiers Monument at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas.

\* On this day in 2002, Black Enterprise publisher Earl G. Graves and Magic Johnson signed an agreement to purchase Pepsi-Cola of Washington, D.C., becoming the largest minority controlled Pepsi-Cola franchise in the country.

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**WESTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY WELCOMES CLASS OF 2011**

Jasmine Q. Stuart

When Western Illinois University first notified me about orientation, I was upset and didn't want to go because orientations are boring. To make matters worse, the

orientation was two days long.

All incoming freshman are required to attend orientation. An orientation is the process of introducing a new situation or

environment. For example, come fall of 2007, I will be a freshman at Western Illinois University.

My momma and I rode the train for three and a half hours. Once I arrived in Macomb, IL, my perception completely changed. While waiting at the train station for a ride to Thompson Hall, I noticed two girls standing across from me who were going to the same place. I introduced myself to Laporsha Glass and Shanice Mallet. We started conversing and, surprisingly, we had things in common.

"We were scared when we came down here," said Laporsha and Shanice. "We didn't think we would meet no one." From then on I knew my experience at Western would be nothing like I thought. I met two new friends, which caused me to feel more comfortable. I finally decided to let my guard down and give myself a chance to experience new things and to have fun.

Because orientation was overnight, I needed somewhere to sleep. Western allowed the incoming freshman to sleep in dorms to experience living on campus as college students.

Orientation included two days of useful information, including information about campus safety. We took placement tests, signed up for classes, and ate dinner. We also had group discussions and, to wrap up the two days, upperclassmen coordinated fun activities. We did many activities, but the one that is fresh in my mind is karaoke. My momma, Laporsha and Shanice tried convincing me to do karaoke with them, but I was scared. The DJ called our names and I just sat there. Then, out of no where, people started clapping and yelling my name.

"Jasmine, Jasmine," said the crowd. I was nervous and embarrassed. I felt like a star and couldn't help but blush. I really enjoyed

myself and came to the conclusion that adjusting to life on campus would be a "piece of cake."

High school and college have similarities, but there are also differences. In high school, teachers are, sometimes, lenient. They allow students to turn in late assignments. They basically hold students' hands. It is preparation for the big transition to college and "the real world." High school teachers hope that upcoming freshmen in college will succeed in school and, most importantly, in life.

Class of 2011, the time has come for you all to wake up, buckle down, and get to work. College will be different from high school. Teachers will not be there to push you and say, "you know that paper is due next week." Professors in college are more aggressive. In other words, college professors rarely show remorse.

Realize that there will be time for fun and games. Just remember to keep your priorities straight and you are guaranteed to be successful in college. Don't worry about leaving your friends behind. Sometimes it's best that you all go your separate ways, experience new things, and meet new people.

As Chris Brown says, "there's never a right time to say goodbye." So, don't say goodbye. Say, "until we meet again" or, "see you soon." Right now your main focus should be college.

College is guaranteed to be a challenge, so go prepared to work hard, give your all and hope for the best. If you happen to fall short, don't give up. Just remember the words of Nelson Mandela, who said, "Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate. Our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure."

**North Lawndale College  
Preparatory High School****BOARD MEETING DATES  
2007-2008****August 9, 2007****September 27, 2007****November 29, 2007****January 31, 2008****March 27, 2008****May 29, 2008**

All meetings begin at 5:00pm at North Lawndale College Prep, 1615 S. Christiana, Chicago, IL 60624

**Taste of North Lawndale  
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# Teens & Community Unite Against Youth Violence

James Glover

Youth violence across the Chicago area is depressing. More than 30 school children have been killed this academic year; often by their peers. Faced with this tragedy, some local youth are doing spectacular, positive things in our community.

"There is only one way to slow down the violence and senseless behavior carried out by youth," said Victor Jones, a junior student at North Lawndale College Preparatory. "And that is for the youth ourselves to get involved more than ever."

In order to do so, youth have gotten together to form a myriad of ideas ranging

from sport activities to putting together a non-profit organization run by youth.

"We are going to have fun [and] yet address some serious issues," Jones said. "There is room and enough energy amongst us to seriously be able to carry it out."

These serious issues include making sure that weapons don't get into children's hand, teaching teenage parenting skills and how to find missing children.

"These are problems that we as young people and teenagers can [make a difference] the most because it is us [who] experience the problems," said Michael Roaché, who is

a junior at Farragut High School. "We can relate to the people we're trying to reach in a way more approachable and understanding to them. That's really the goal of all of this."

The positive vibe sent out by these youths is one they hope will rub off on their peers. Positive changes will require people involvement.

"It has to start with someone, those people being us; can't end with us though," said Trevor Kingston, who is a sophomore at Lane Technical College Preparatory High School (commonly known as Lane Tech). "There has got to be a line of people coming in that share

the same mindset that we do. Otherwise, it all becomes a waste of time."

Changing the kids' inner city mindset is also an important factor. Children must know that no matter what, the possibility for change and prosperity in life exist.

"No one could have told me in my younger and certainly more defiant days that I'd be sitting here writing articles on how to better the community [and] bring positive change," said LaVonté Roaché, who is a recent Collins High School graduate and

**See Violence page 15**

## (POLICE ROUNDUP) - Roof collapses; 2 firefighters injured

Ferman Mentrell Beckless

Investigators were looking into the cause of a fire that broke out in a vacant residency in the 3200 block of West Warren early Friday that hospitalized two firefighters after the roof

of a 1-1/2 story building collapsed on them.

Chicago Fire Department spokesperson Richard Rosado told the North Lawndale Community News late Friday that the injured

firefighters sustained non life-threatening injuries. He declined to identify their specific injuries or their condition.

Various news agencies reported early

Friday that one unidentified firefighter sustained a broken leg while fighting the fire.

Rosado said the department received an alarm at 3:27 a.m. and by 3:31 a.m., a 311 alarm was placed. He said the fire was struck out at 4:10 a.m.

Both firefighters were rushed to John Stroger Hospital. There were no other injuries.

Rosado said there were numerous fires reported at the residence previously. The residence is reportedly right next door to that of 28<sup>th</sup> Ward Alderman Ed Smith.

"We're doing our regular routine investigation," Rosado said, amidst rumors that squatters were known to use the residence for various reasons.

### Man fatally wounded in shooting

Area 4 Violent Crimes investigators were without an arrest or motive in the shooting death of a 31-year-old man, who was gunned down in the 4300 block of West Wilcox early last Sunday morning.

The unidentified man was rushed to Mt. Sinai Hospital where he was later pronounced dead from a single gunshot wound to the chest.

Police reports indicate officers responding to the scene discovered the victim lying in a pool of blood just after 1:00 a.m. that morning.

### Gunman wounds 2 in shooting

An unidentified gunman driving a dark-colored sport utility vehicle shot a 20-year-old man and a 17-year-old girl early last Wednesday as they are all here stood on the street in the 4500 block of West Jackson Boulevard.

The shooting occurred just after 1:00 a.m.

The unidentified man was listed in stable condition at Mt. Sinai Hospital where he was being treated for a single gunshot wound to the thigh. The unidentified girl was also rushed to Mt. Sinai, where she was being treated for multiple gunshot wounds to both thighs.

Area 4 investigators were without an arrest or motive as of late Friday.

### Reward increased

The Chicago Police Department and the Fraternal Order of Police announced recently that a reward leading to the arrest and charges of an unknown person(s) involved in the shooting death of an off-duty policeman has been increased to \$26,000.

Laura Kubiak, a spokesperson with the Chicago Police Department News Affairs office, identified the slain officer as 34-year-old Jose Vasquez. He was gunned down in the parking area of his building in the 2500 block of West Harrison at 1:45 a.m. on Feb. 12.

While announcing the award, police said the person(s) responsible for this crime should be considered armed and dangerous and warned anyone with knowledge to call 911 or call Crime Stoppers at 1-800-535 STOP (7866)

Ferman is a former columnist for the Chicago Defender and the Chicago Metro News. He has also written for Chicago Athlete Magazine, Windy City Word and The Rockford Chronicle. His column has been syndicated by five different radio stations: WMPP, WWCA, WWYCA, WSSD and WXFM. He is the founder of the Reckless Beckless Foundation, offering scholarships to student athletes in the Chicago Area. Ferman currently writes for the North Lawndale Community News.

★ 5TH DISTRICT ASSISTANT MAJORITY LEADER SENATOR RICKEY R HENDON PRESENTS ★



**SENATOR RICKEY R HENDON'S 6TH ANNUAL  
BACK TO SCHOOL PICNIC**  
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Kabuika Kamunga

I used to regard meditation as something only Buddhists or Hindu people do. Last Thursday, I changed my mind. I experienced the physical benefits of meditation and much more.

The Indian Saint Sri Mata Amritanandamayi, known as Amma (Mother) was in town last week. I decided to go and meditate in her midst.

I took trains and buses, doing a three-hour one-way commute to go to Oak Brook, IL, where she was to have a conference.

I sat down on the floor with a pillow under my aching knees and a support for my back. I closed my eyes and tried to be quiet and still. The room was buzzing with people talking. I hadn't meditated in years, so I was a bit startled by all the noise. But when the band went on stage and spiritual Indian music filled every corner of the hall, I let myself immerse in the music, in the moment, in the nothingness.

For four hours I sat content on the floor and felt good. I stopped being aware of people around me. My body aches seemed to disappear. I relaxed and forgot about the anger, frustration and stress I had been carrying around with me for the past few months. I felt at peace with myself and with my body, which had been ill for so long. I later understood why I was feeling so good.

You've probably heard of the many benefits of meditation: of attaining bliss or enlightenment. To tell you the truth, I never understood what that meant.

Several yoga websites describe the benefits of meditation as followed:

"When your mind focuses on a particular part of the body, the blood flow to that part increases and cells receive more oxygen and other nutrients in abundance," the

healthandyoga.com website explains. "It improves body luster and general health."

No wonder several film stars and fashion models include daily meditation in their beauty regimen.

But there is more.

For those among you who are fierce athletes, you too can benefit tremendously from meditation.

"Psychological exercises [i.e. meditation] are a powerful way of improving concentration and improving mental strength," the website continued. "Many of the athletes and sports professionals regularly employ meditation methods."

Basketball Coach Phil Jackson introduced the Chicago Bulls to Buddhist meditation practices so that the players could quiet their minds and concentrate on the game. Their winning streak attested to the effectiveness of their mental strength.

As I researched, the list of meditation's health benefits went on.

Meditation can increase exercise endurance. It lowers blood pressure and reduces anxiety attacks and pre-menstrual syndrome. Meditation builds self-confidence. It positively affects your body chemicals thus influencing depression, obesity, insomnia and headaches. It decreases emotional distress, including neuroses and fears. Meditation enhances the immune system by increasing the activity of "natural-killer cells" which kill bacteria and cancer cells.

Don't have time for meditation in your busy life? Think again. Meditation decreases stress.

When you are under deadline, when you live in a noisy neighborhood where 4<sup>th</sup> of July firecrackers keep you awake until 3 a.m., when the pain from your illness assaults you,

when you're stressed out looking for a job and trying to make ends meet, that's when meditation can really help by relaxing you and recharging you for the next day.

Indeed, daily meditation is a precious time to refocus in the midst of our busy lives.

As Mahatma Gandhi once said, "There is more to life than simply increasing its speed."

That is all very good, you might say, but I follow the teachings of the bible. Perfect, follow the bible.

"... A great and strong wind tore into the mountains and broke the rocks in pieces before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake; and after the earthquake a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire; and after the fire, a still small voice." 1 Kings 19:12. (King James Version)

Be still so that you can hear that small voice, so that you can feel God's presence in the quietude and stillness.

It has been days since my first meditation interlude in Oak Brook. My body feels wonderful and I have noticed that I have a much more positive attitude about life.

I have found a few meditation groups and centers in my own neighborhood from which I plan to continue practicing. There might be a health club or a center in your own neighborhood, where you can meditate with others. If not, create a group. The website meditation.meetup.com is one way of getting people together.

*Kabuika Kamunga has a bachelor degree in Chemistry and a master's in Journalism. She is Congolese and resides in Chicago. She is currently doing an internship in Johannesburg, South Africa. To comment on this article visit our weblog at: [www.nlc.org](http://www.nlc.org).*

## GREEN KAMUT

Karon Elizabeth Stratton

Green Kamut is our super-food product featured this week. It is a cereal grass packed with nutrients.

Drinking Green Kamut regularly helps lessen the smell of your stools. I think it helps with other body odors as well.

Chlorophyll is an internal deodorant. That's one of the first things about natural health I learned.

"The secret nutritional ingredient in green foods is chlorophyll," said Ronald L. Seibold, the author of Cereal Grass. "[Chlorophyll is] popular for building blood, [it] detoxifies and regenerates the liver, protects against germs by preventing their growth, helps heal burns and wounds including internal wounds such as ulcers, treats diseases in the colon such as spastic or ulcerative colitis and acts as a natural deodorizer."

"The more chlorophyll in the vegetable, the greater the protection from the carcinogen," said Seibold, citing a 1980 study at the University of Texas Medical Center that showed how green foods inhibit the effects of cancer-causing chemicals in the body.

Green foods also contain antioxidants, said Nutritionist Victoria Wood.

The wheat grass juice powder, Green Kamut, detoxifies, it is anti-inflammatory, nourishes (builds) the blood and helps ulcerative colitis.

"Whereas traditional drug therapies only treat ulcerative colitis symptoms, Green Kamut works at resolving the underlying problems contributing to the disease," Seibold said. "What's more, it works quickly, often in as little as one to two days."

Green Kamut is said to be nature's multivitamin and powerful medicine.

I drink Green Kamut daily with distilled water. I recently went and got my annual eye examination and found out that my contact lens prescription will be decreased. My eye doctor talked about the importance of eating dark green leafy vegetables. I agreed and told him about my drinking Green Kamut. I had not realized until then that Green Kamut was improving my eyes' health.

The Diabetes Resource Center has awarded its seal of approval to Green Kamut (made by Pure Planet-Organic By Nature) for being a safe and beneficial food for diabetic consumption.

Green Kamut ingredients are 65% organic Kamut leaf juice and 35% organic Alfalfa leaf juice.

Barley leaves is another cereal grass. A 1989 study showed that extracts from barley leaves slow further infection from the HIV/AIDS virus. Pure Planet makes a Just Barley, barley leaf powdered supplement.

Locate all these products at your health food store such as the new WholeFoods store on Canal and Roosevelt, Chicago, IL. Visit [www.pureplanet.com](http://www.pureplanet.com). Hear Health Educator David Sandoval on WYLL radio 1160AM every Monday from 1pm to 2pm.

*Karon Elizabeth Stratton, is a former resident of North and South Lawndale and is a "Letter Writer for God." She is chosen of God to become a wise doctor and to teach and inspire wellness in the Church and in communities. To comment on this article visit our weblog at: [www.nlc.org](http://www.nlc.org).*

## Foreclosure Crisis Reaches Critical Point in Chicago

James Glover

On July 17, State Representative LaShawn K. Ford and Congressman Danny K. Davis co-hosted a Town Hall Meeting to address the Chicago foreclosure crisis affecting communities city-wide.

"The housing bubble burst for people in Chicago and throughout Cook County a long time ago, and now they have to deal with the reality of foreclosure," Ford said. "It all stems from predatory lenders who don't care if families stay in their homes, just as long as they complete the transaction."

More than one hundred people attended the town hall meeting, as well as many community groups including the Chicago Westside NAACP, the Legal Assistance Foundation of Chicago and the South Austin Community Coalition.

"It's good to know that we have a good number of community organizations and community leaders coming together to put an end to such horrible business tactics," said Congressman Davis. "There is absolutely no room in our communities for people to be taken advantage of while they believe that they have finally accomplished a lifelong dream. It warms me to know that our everyday people in the community are out here and concerned. I feel together we can put an end to predatory lending and find a way to really make dreams of home ownership come true without the fear of foreclosure."

Meeting at the Austin Senior Wellness Center, Ford, who chairs Congressman Davis's Foreclosure Prevention Advisory Committee, listened to testimonials from



Lashawn K. Ford

families hit with foreclosure.

"It was a devastating experience that really shook the foundation of our livelihood and has us losing faith as a family," said Vonda White, mother of three. "I didn't know and my husband didn't know what we would possibly do with so much invested already and no way to go on. Thankfully, we found a way to move on but a lot of people don't and that's why we're here hoping to prevent other people from similar situations."

Legal assistance groups, as well as housing counseling and government agencies, discussed what individuals and community support groups can do to assist families with foreclosure.

"People losing homes and having nowhere to go affects entire communities. It can separate families, destroy friendships and cause high stress that leads to negative actions," said Greg Watson, representative for the Legal Assistance Foundation of Chicago. "The community needs to do everything to uplift victims of foreclosure to make sure that such a drastic situation can have a turnaround to a positive so that no one feels alone in trying times."

Foreclosures in the City of Chicago increased by 42.7 percent between 2005 and 2006. Moreover, most foreclosures occur in minority or low income communities. Adjustable rate mortgages, which can have "teaser" rates as low as one percent, accounted for 97 percent of the defaults in the Chicago area. The Austin Community has one of the highest foreclosure rates in the City of Chicago, with a 30.5 percent increase from 2005 to 2006.

"The painful truth is that people are losing their homes because the can't afford these underhanded mortgages," said Ford. "Our jobs as community, state and federal leaders is to listen to the people and take steps to make sure that these lenders aren't taking advantage of our vulnerable and valuable citizens."

*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.nlc.org](http://www.nlc.org).*



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# THE PRIMO CENTER COMMUNITY APPRECIATION DAY

Megan Sieberg

Last Thursday, July 19, the Primo Center held its annual Appreciation Day at the 4200 Block of Washington Blvd. The Primo Center is a shelter for woman and children, and it throws the event every year.

"We are trying to involve the community in games and fun for the children," said Roger Chandler, GED instructor for the program.

Activities included games, face painting, jumping rope, racing, drawing and eating. The City of Chicago Health Mobile was also there doing blood pressure checks for the children.

One of the main attractions was Priscy's Production, which featured some of Chicago's most talented youth in performances that included singing, rapping, dancing and poetry.

Two members of the Praise Dance team, 11 year old Terri Drape and 10 year old Jocelyn Mitchell, admitted to being "nervous" about their upcoming performance, but said that they were having fun at the event. When asked what kind of dancing they do, they replied "we worship God."

Darrell Lewis, R&B singer, had already



Back from left to right Bryant Palmer, Ms. Priscy, Roger Chandler, Dollie Williams, Heather Mitchell. Front from left to Right Jocelyn Mitchell, Terri Drape, Darrell Lewis

finished his performance and was eager to talk about his latest collection of songs called *Questions*. Lewis was also eager to give credit to Ms. Priscy, who has made the production program possible for these young, Chicago artists.

Ms. Priscy's multicultural arts program will soon be releasing a CD with compiled works from several artists, including original songs by Darrell Lewis. The CD, she says, will be supported by prominent Chicago figures such as Congressman Danny K. Davis and Representative Annazette Collins.

Priscy's Production will continue doing shows and special events throughout the

summer, including a parade thrown by Danny K. Davis in the coming weeks.

In all, the atmosphere at Appreciation Day was friendly and full of life. Dollie Williams, Executive Director of the Primo Center, was extremely energetic and greeted everyone with a smile. With activities around every corner, and non-stop musical entertainment, it was apparent that there had not been a dull moment all day!

Megan Sieberg is a recent graduate of Northwestern University. She has a degree in Communication Studies and is currently the Communications Manager at the North Lawndale Community News.

## Health from front page



Lawndale Christian Health Center display on health and fitness

\$150,000 grant from the Chicago Community Trust, a former Cadillac dealership was transformed into the facility that is now the Lawndale Christian Health Center. LCC subsequently launched the Lawndale Christian Development

Center is a community-based nonprofit organization, founded in 1984 and dedicated to improving the health of Chicago's Lawndale and Garfield communities. LCHC provides quality, primary care services without regard for a patient's ability to pay. It serves as a community resource for eliminating health disparities. The mission of LCHC is to show and share the love of Jesus Christ to the Lawndale and Garfield Communities by providing holistic, affordable, and quality healthcare services.

According to Brent Michel, Public Relations Manager for the Lawndale Christian Health Center, the organization has its roots in a group of community residents, largely from Lawndale Community Church, who, in 1984, spearheaded an effort to address the lack of affordable, quality healthcare services in their community. With many hours of volunteer time, and a

Corporation (LCDC), which originally focused on the development of affordable housing, but has since expanded to include educational programs and community organizing efforts. Originally, all three occupied the present structure of LCHC, but, as each ministry grew, additional buildings were acquired.

As stated on the LCHC website, specific efforts have also been undertaken to not only expand the scope of services offered at LCHC, but also to expand the quality of care. One ongoing effort seeks to combat long cycle times experienced by patients at LCHC (the time from a patient's arrival to their departure). Another initiative seeks to improve patients' abilities to self-manage their diabetes. Other targeted areas include asthma, lead poisoning, HIV, substance abuse, prenatal care, adolescent health, immunization, and tuberculosis.

## Taste of North Lawndale August 18th 312/492-9090

## North Lawndale Olympics 2007 Saturday, August 4, 2007



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Sponsored with a grant from the Steans Family Foundation through their North Lawndale Community Neighborhood Grants Program



# 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Employer Appreciation Luncheon

Mekina Gardner



In a program fit for kings and queens, dedicated employers shared their insight with those attending the Jane Addams Hull House Association's June 29th luncheon, entitled "Sowing into Success." This non-profit organization has built a strong base of volunteers, pursued partnerships with many businesses, and has remained focused on serving the community through job training and development. Mariann Chisum-McGill, Director of the Economic Development Unit, served as moderator. The luncheon was held at the Polonia Banquet Hall in Chicago, Illinois. More than 100 employers, community partners, funding agencies, clients and staff attended the event.

The Jane Addams Hull House Association wanted to show its gratitude to the dedicated employers and companies with which it does business. The employers honored were those who hired and provided job training opportunities for

clients. The honored organizations included: At Your Service, Securitas Incorporated, Help At Home, Saint Martha Manor, U.S. Security, City of Chicago Park District, and John G. Shedd Aquarium. These recognized partners received plaques of appreciation for their support.

Hull House also honored some of their successful clients. Those honored were: Kimberly Fortier from Kennedy-King College, Mekina Gardner from Workforce Investment Act (WIA), Stephanie Green from Mid-South Service Connector, Sharon Atwater from Work First, Steven Taylor from LeClaire Service Connector, Ronald Cannon from LeClaire Service Connector, Carmel Hill from Work First, and Antonio Gomez from North Service Connector.

These clients were recognized for their accomplishments and received certificates of appreciation. Each person shared with the audience how Jane Addams Hull House

See Appreciate page 10

## Avery R. Young: An Influential Voice for Youth

Clemolyn "Pennie" Brinson



but write until they get whatever is eating at them out on paper, canvas, piano, or whatever it is they do."

Detained youth have a lot to say about the frustration in their lives; they believe rap and poetry are creative and safe way to express themselves and grow as artists. When an adult takes the time to critique these young men's work, it shows someone is really listening, young said. And that's important because many of these youth people live without being heard.

Hip-hop is one example of the lack of listening effort on the part of adults.

"I've been on panels where people say they don't like hip-hop, but they never listened to it," young said. "If you don't listen to hip-hop music, how do you know you don't like it? There are some positive hip-hop artists, and not all hip-hop is bad just like not all black men are bad."

The one thing young does not tolerate is the degradation of women by some hip-hop artists. However, he said most of these artists, who use the "b" word and the word, "ho," arbitrarily, would want to kill someone if their own grandmother / mother were called these words.

Young's credentials include receiving an Illinois Arts Fellowship Award, a *King of Poetry Award*, and having work published in the Hurricane Katrina issue of *The Callaloo Magazine*. Although he writes poetry, young calls himself a performer.

"I've been writing since I was 8, dancing since I could walk, and singing every since I could talk," said young, who has performed in a movie called *Keeping It Real* and is currently working on writing his own movie. He is also finishing up a music project.

Young's inspirations are James Brown, James Baldwin, Nina Simone, Gill Scott Herron and Gordon Parks, who were all activists in their own way, he said.

As an activist, young wants to start up relationship counseling on the West Side. He said there are community dialogues on the South side, North Side and in the suburbs but not many on the West Side. He wants to see more West Side dialogue panels among men and women, black and brown people and youth and elders.

Young's website is [www.myspace.com/averyyoung](http://www.myspace.com/averyyoung). He can be contacted at [averyyoung@yahoo.com](mailto:averyyoung@yahoo.com), or 312-661-9141.

Clemolyn (Pennie) Brinson is a poet and writer for NLCN and Residents Journal. To comment on this article visit our weblog at: [www.nlc.org](http://www.nlc.org).

Writer, Performer and Teaching Artist  
avery r. young writes his name in lowercase letters because "it stands out and still keeps me humble," he said.

Young has dedicated himself to working with local youth on the West Side as well as at Bethel New Life and the Young Chicago Artists.

Young also teaches 12-18 year-old male inmates at the Juvenile Detention Center, writing skills and how to acquire their own distinct creative voice.

It's okay to write about being a drug-dealer, young said, but ask yourself why do you want to write about being a drug dealer, and then be unique in your interpretation.

"I'm there to challenge them to arm themselves with as much vocabulary as possible," young said. "When they write rhymes, if they all have the same language, it gets boring." Young said he believes in the voices of the youth. He wrote his first poem as a child when a white woman told him he was made of dirt while little white girls were made of sand.

"I thought she was trying to say I was dirty because I was black. I knew I wasn't dirty," young said. "I felt so passionately about writing a poem to let that white lady know I wasn't dirty. I remember not being able to do anything else until I got the words out on a sheet of paper."

That is how most creative people feel, young said. "They are suspended," young said. "And there is nothing else they can do

## Malcolm X College & Rainbow Push Launch "Get On The Bus - City College Tour"



City Colleges in partnership with Rainbow PUSH launch a campaign to bring awareness to City Colleges of Chicago. Malcolm X College (MXC) offers a cost effective alternative to four year and private two year institutions.

President Zerrie D. Campbell gave a phenomenal, motivating speech that captivated hundreds at Rainbow PUSH (Saturday, July 14, 2007) regarding registration, affordable education at CCC, and much more!

If you missed the event, over a hundred faculty, staff, community residents and

administrators arrived 8:00am at Malcolm X College last Saturday to Get on the Bus to Rainbow PUSH. The trip was exciting and motivating. The participation was at an all time HIGH! Nothing could beat watching the elated expressions of joy of our fellow MXCers who drove and walked to Rainbow PUSH...as they saw over a hundred colleagues GET OFF THE BUS! at Rainbow PUSH!

For additional information contact:  
Alonzo Rhoden, Malcolm X College  
312-850-7471



## Economic Development

## 7.4 Million Dollars For Homeless and Disabled

Mary Moran

Governor Rod. R. Blagojevich in his July 13, 2007 press release announced in that \$7.4 million in loans and tax credits will provide housing for homeless and disabled individuals in Chicago and Matteson, Ill. The two-city developments will provide affordable rental homes and services to 86 individuals and families.

"Everyone deserves a place to call home, but many times those who need the most help in finding an affordable, decent place to live are overlooked," Blagojevich said. "These funds will provide a stable and safe environment for dozens of disabled or homeless residents to get back on track and become more independent."

According to a survey by The Chicago Coalition for the homeless in collaboration with the Survey Research Laboratory at the University of Illinois at Chicago, there were 73,656 people homeless in Chicago between July 2005 and June 2006.

Of those, 26,413 were children, 12,007 were adults in families and 32,105 were single adults. Out of these single adults, 19,477 lived in shelters and 54,179 on the streets or at some

unfixed and irregular locations.

The Illinois Housing Development Authority (I.H.D.A.) will allocate the state funds, leveraging scarce federal resources for affordable housing in Illinois.

The Wicker Park Renaissance development in Chicago will receive \$6.9 million, which includes a \$575,000 low-interest loan from the Illinois Affordable Housing Trust Fund, as well as \$665,209 in federal low-income housing tax credit and \$250,000 in state affordable housing tax credits. The credits will generate a total of more than \$6.3 million in equity for the project.

The current structure of the Wicker Park building will create 61 studio and one-bedroom apartments. It will include 12 accessible units for residents with disabilities, with alcohol and drug abuses, and for persons at risk of becoming homeless.

Wicker Park Renaissance residents will receive supportive services such as case managers, life skills training and crisis intervention services through its social services company, Renaissance Social

Services.

"Under Governor Blagojevich's leadership, I.H.D.A. is constantly working to preserve existing affordable housing as well as create new housing for Illinois residents," said Deshana L. Forney, the executive director of I.H.D.A. "Financing the Wicker Park Renaissance development is a part of these preservation efforts to stem the decline of affordable housing."

Nancy Kapp, who is the president of Renaissance Realty Group (the developer in charge of the Wicker Park project), commends I.H.D.A. and the governor for recognizing the importance of affordable, quality housing for people with special needs.

"The ability to leverage public and private dollars demonstrates the willingness of both sectors to address the ever growing need of affordable housing," Kapp said.

The governor also announced that the state of Illinois will contribute a \$500,000 affordable housing trust fund loan (through I.H.D.A.) to finance the Matteson Supportive Housing development in southern Cook County. The development, led by Non-Profit

Developer Over the Rainbow Association, will provide 25 physically disabled individuals and their families with fully accessible and affordable housing.

"The financial support from Governor Blagojevich and the state will allow ... a development that will provide persons with physical disabilities the opportunity to live independently in accessible housing and to support themselves through meaningful employment," said Eric Huffman, who is the executive director of Over the Rainbow Association.

These two developments are a continuation of the state's Comprehensive Housing Plan. Last May the state launched a \$15-million program to help veterans and active duty personnel afford homes.

Copies of Illinois Comprehensive Housing Plans are available at [www.ihda.org](http://www.ihda.org)

Mary Moran is a writer for NLCN. Mary is a veteran of the U. S. Army and journalism graduate from Columbia College in Chicago. To comment on this article visit our weblog at: [www.nlcen.org](http://www.nlcen.org).

## Appreciate from page 9

Association impacted each of their lives and made it possible for them to attain marketable skills, career, and employment opportunities.

The ceremony began with a description of events from the Jane Addams Hull House Project Director of Employment, Mrs. LaSherrie McKinnie-Bates. Following the intro we were blessed with an inspirational prayer by Hull House Community Linkage Specialist, Mr. Brian Smith. Katrice Harris, Computer Operations Specialist, and Clarence Hogan, Coordinator from the LeClaire office, put together a remarkable Power Point presentation of

successful Hull House events and daily training programs during the year. This presentation was run during a great lunch. Mariann Chisum-McGill spoke highly of her organization and of its successful staff members and the businesses with which it networked

The event was a tremendous success. The staff of the Jane Addams Hull House Association looks forward to the continued relationship with their many employers as they assist their clients in obtaining gainful employment. The organization would also like to invite other employers to partner with them. For more information, call LaSherrie McKinnie-Bates at (312) 850-3183.



## At Home in Chicago

Latisha White

If you are looking to purchase a new condo in Chicago, market rate prices may seem to put that condo beyond your reach. However, thanks to a unique partnership between the City of Chicago and real estate developers, affordable condos in market rate development across Chicago are making homeownership possible for residents of every age, income and background.

Single Mother Anna Lombardo received a price assistance to buy an affordable, 1,000-square-foot condominium with two bedrooms and one full bath this summer. Her condo is only a block from a boulevard lined with historic homes.

"The neighborhood is quiet, and I have an inner unit... uninterrupted by noise," Lombardo said. "This location is close to the C.T.A. and very convenient for dropping off children to school."

Lombardo cherishes being a homeowner in a neighborhood with an eclectic mix of restaurants, stores and residents. The neighborhood's diversity is important for raising her son, she said.

Home ownership is a major personal wealth builder, which stabilizes and revitalizes communities and enhances the quality of life. Housing near businesses reduces commute time and cost and increases productivity and family time for employees. Reduced commutes also reduce traffic congestion; hence, air pollution, and wear and tear on the transportation infrastructure.

Now in its fourth year, the Chicago Partnership for Affordable Neighborhoods (C.P.A.N.) creates affordable homeownership opportunities for hundreds of Chicagoans. Under C.P.A.N., a percentage of the new-development units are priced below market-

rate units, making a new home possible for more Chicagoans. Buyers can also receive tens of thousands of dollars in purchase price assistance to help reduce the purchase price even more.

One of the affordable C.P.A.N. condominiums is the ArmitEdge development, a new 24-unit condominium development in Logan Square, at 3021 West Armitage Avenue.

In addition to maintaining long-term affordability, the majority of the C.P.A.N. units will become part of the Chicago Community Land Trust.

Chicago is the first big city to create a citywide land trust. Under the land trust model, the land beneath the home is leased to the homeowner through a long-term renewable ground lease. When the homeowner decides to move, he or she can sell the home for an amount determined by the resale formula set forth in the ground lease. If the unit is a condominium, (rather than a single family home), the resale formula is set forth in a long-term deed limitation, which works like the lease of the ground; this is to maintain the long-term affordability of the unit.

The success of C.P.A.N. is spreading. More than 500 new affordable housing units were created in the past four years. More and more developers are participating in the program, which means that more affordable housing is being developed throughout the city. The outcome of such programs is making homeownership a reality for many people and strengthening Chicago communities.

For more information on the ArmitEdge development, call Bonnie Logan at 312-742.0637. To find out more about the C.P.A.N. program and for your eligibility, call 311 or visit the Department of Housing Web site at [www.cityofchicago.org/housing](http://www.cityofchicago.org/housing).

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## Sports &amp; Entertainment

## AT THE FLICKS

David H. Schultz, film critic



**I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK AND LARRY (\*1/2)** In the movie *I Now Pronounce You Chuck and Larry*, Adam Sandler and Kevin James portray heterosexual firemen who pretend to be a recently married gay couple in order to shift James' pension to his two children from his deceased wife.

The potential is there to make an honest comedy which deals with a moral issue. But,

as expected, "Chuck and Larry" takes the low road for cheap laughs while trying to get its bias-is-bad message across. A lot of talented individuals are wasted for the sake of cliché moments, juvenile sight gags and lame gay jokes that make this movie sillier than it is amusing.

Portraying New York firemen, widower Kevin James manages to rescue his playboy partner, Adam Sandler, by shielding him from

falling debris inside a burning warehouse.

After their hospital recovery, Sandler's character assumes his "Mr. February" lifestyle, entertaining several beauties at his bachelor pad.

James' character ponders over his pension papers with concerns about the welfare of his two children. He is also concerned about his son's interest in singing and dancing in an upcoming school play.

James makes Sandler honor a promise, for saving his life, to enter a fake "domestic partnership." This would allow the pension to be left to his partner for his kids. But, upon filing the papers, James and Sandler are visited by a city inspector who questions the authenticity of their relationship.

James and Sandler seek legal counsel from a lovely lawyer (Jessica Biel). Sandler has eyes for her, but must keep up the "homo" charade for James.

She invites James and Sandler to attend an AIDS coalition benefit that gets crashed by protestors, leading to a street brawl and front page scandal. This puts them in hot water with their fast-talking, firehouse chief (Dan Aykroyd).

The film goes from one situation to

another with comedic attempts to prove a moral point. It is further cheapened by cameo appearances from such recently out-of-the-closet performers as Lance Bass and Richard Chamberlain.

Ving Rhames delivers a strong (but wasted) performance as the transfer veteran firemen, portraying the intimidating "bad ass" who is eventually encouraged, by James and Sandler, to "come out." However, the role feels too similar to roles he's done before.

No doubt, there is enough material here for a situational comedy series. The movie tries to be funny while not offending anyone. However, it could be funnier and smarter with a greater sense of purpose.

*Chuck and Larry* seems to have arrived after its time. It could have done some good in more socially conscious hands. I heard guys telling their ladies, "It is what it is". Clearly, this isn't saying much on this movie's behalf.

PG-13; 115min. A Universal Pictures 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.*

## Bonds Closes in on Hammerin' Hank

Todd Thomas



Baseball slugger Barry Bonds of the San Francisco Giants is now within two home runs of breaking Major League Baseball's all-time home run record of 755 set by Henry Aaron in 1974. Bonds was mired in a 0-for-21 slump when he finally busted out with two dingers against the Chicago Cubs last week giving him 753 for his storied career.

It'll be interesting but also a bit disturbing to see how his run at the record climaxes. If his treatment in the friendly confines of Wrigley Field is any indication, a lot of people simply loathe the man.

Boos and rancid comments toward Bonds abounded during the series, and only his bat could silence them – which he did with those two blasts into the ferocious Chicago wind and out of the ballpark. One of the homers landed on Sheffield Avenue – the first to travel that far at Wrigley this season.

But Bonds' power at the plate is considered ill-begotten to most fans, who are adamant that he was a true steroid and human growth hormone junkie. And Bonds did morph into a muscle-bound gladiator type from a slender speed demon in odd and spectacular fashion.

But it's also obvious that many, many athletes are juicing with illegal drugs and they're not catching the vicious flack that Bonds is. Possibly it's because he's about to surpass baseball's most hallowed record, or maybe it's because people never really warmed up to him, despite the fact that he's

won six Most Valuable Player awards.

One overriding opinion about Bonds that irks people is his alleged greed. Greed for the money sluggers earn and greed to be more than a great all-around player, which he was before he put so much weight and muscle onto his frame. After bulking up Bonds was a home-run hitting machine and peaked at an unbelievable 73 in 2001.

This contrasts sharply with the power numbers of Hank Aaron who peaked with 45 homers in 1962. Aaron was also more even-keeled as far as a media personality, while Bonds was often uncooperative and combative with the media and on some occasion's fans too.

But not to be forgotten is the ever-present legacy of Babe Ruth. The 1920's baseball hero still has a significant presence in the game, and some fans will never get over Aaron breaking his home run record. As we all know Hank Aaron was under great pressure due to the many racially motivated incidents during his home-run record chase, and when he did break the record there was more relief than celebration. The same will be true for Bonds, who has received death

threats in 2007 just as Aaron did 33 years ago.

When or if he breaks the record one thing appears to be sure. Baseball commissioner Bud Selig and Aaron will probably not be in attendance. Aaron has stated publicly that he will not attempt to attend games to see Bonds break his record. "I will never reconsider my decision," he said. But he added, in typical classy fashion, "I wish him all the luck in the world."

A player of Bonds' talent doesn't need much luck, although he is 43 years old and starting to break down. He also probably didn't need to use performance enhancers to dominate the game the way he did, but this is the age of mass and muscle and those with little limbs usually get littler paychecks and less time on ESPN. And in today's sports world where ethics have been all but abandoned it's not at all surprising, but it is disappointing, that amazing athletic feats will be marred with attitudes and asterisks.

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

## Hank Aaron – More than Just Home Runs

Todd Thomas

Baseball great Henry Aaron's overall accomplishments on the baseball field are being a little overshadowed by his power hitting numbers and as the fever of the home-run record chase reaches its zenith people are forgetting that he was a fantastic all-around baseball player that hit not just for power, but for average as well. He was also a capable fielder and won three gold gloves. This is how Hammerin' Hank and Barry Bonds stack up against each other.

Career Batting Average: Aaron .305 – Bonds .299

Career On Base Percentage: Bonds .443 – Aaron .374

Career Batting Titles: Both have won two batting titles.

Career Slugging Percentage: Bonds .608 – Aaron .555

Career Home Run Titles: Aaron has four – Bonds has two

Career RBI Titles: Aaron has four – Bonds

has one

Career Hits: Aaron 3,771 – Bonds 2,872  
Career Doubles Titles: Aaron (624) has four – Bonds (597) has none

Career Extra Base Hits: Aaron has 1,479 – Bonds has 1,412

Career Gold Gloves: Bonds has eight – Aaron has three

After looking at the statistics it appears that both players are holding their own in a big way, but Aaron actually eclipses Bonds in several categories. Barry's biggest advantage comes in fielding where he was superb in his younger years and compiled eight gold gloves, and base stealing with 510 compared to just 240 for Aaron. Aaron holds the biggest advantage in career hits with nearly 1,000 more than Bonds. But Bonds stands out as the only player in Major League Baseball history with 500 home runs and 400 stolen bases.

It becomes apparent after looking at both

players careers that they were the cream of the crop of baseball during the years they played. Little league baseball coach William Strong, who coaches at Loyola Park thinks the home run excitement today is good for baseball, but it doesn't measure up to the initial thrill when Aaron broke Ruth's record in 1974.

"The steroid thing has puts a blemish on this one, but it's like a lot of things today – you just don't know for sure what's up," Strong said. When Aaron was going for it he was past his prime too, and he wasn't in the shape that today's athletes are in, whether it's drugs or great training."

But Strong also says that both players are dealing with a great strain as they try to focus on hitting with so much at stake.

"Hitting a baseball the way they do is a very difficult thing to do," said Strong. And

**See Hank page 14**





# RADIO TROTTOIR

Kabuika Kamunga

A week ago, in the midst of our busy, westernized life, my extended family and I managed to pull together and be, well, simply Congolese.

When a dear cousin of mine died recently in Toronto, on a Sunday morning at two o'clock a.m., my father, who is one of my family's elders in North America, got called right away. He telephoned me shortly after.

Thus, the familiar chain of communication called, Radio Trottoir, started. Radio Trottoir, a French term, which literally means "pavement radio," is a common phenomenon in Africa. It is an effective, oral-tradition used to spread news; in this case, the death of a family member.

About a century ago, in Congo-Kinshasa, people used talking drums to spread news from one village to the next. With urban development, Radio Trottoir has changed. Thirty years ago, people who got news would hop in their cars or on a bus to go tell it to others. Face to face was more human than

announcing important news over the telephone and, no, you did not wait for your work shift to be over or for your kids to come home from school. You simply told your boss there was a family emergency or handed your kids to the next door neighbor and headed out the door.

Because, you see, by receiving the news, you are actually given the responsibility of telling those to whom it matters. You become an important link in the chain of communication.

Today, with the migration of African families across the globe, traveling to announce news is, oftentimes, not feasible. The next best thing is to talk over the phone, which is warmer than sending a short email. Over the phone, you can still judge the state of mind of the person with whom you are speaking. Have they eaten breakfast yet? Is their spouse or best friend near them? You can ask them these questions before telling them the bad news.

So, when my Dad called me from his home in Montreal that Sunday morning, he was not simply telling me that my cousin had died, but also that he and my cousin's children needed me to call the rest of the family.

Even in modern times this is no small task when you consider that my family has close to 100 members in North America alone, at least 60 members in France and Belgium, some members in South Africa and Ghana and an infinite number in Congo-Kinshasa (I doubt anyone ever counted my family members there).

After hanging up with my Dad, I took out my address book, a few telephone cards for long-distance calling, my cell phone and a bottle of water. Then, I walked out onto the porch, sat on a comfortable chair and got on the phone. I spoke for six hours straight. I called the eldest member of our family, my father's big brother, who lives in Paris. I called a few more family members in France before switching to the next countries.

Making these phone calls was emotionally draining. I had to give emotional support to the person receiving the bad news. These were no 30-second calls. Some people sighed in sadness or even cried. They needed time to process the news, so I gave them that time by recounting the details of the little I knew. Yes, he died in the hospital; he was very sick. But, he did not want to worry his wife, so he never told her he had a terminal illness. Only his two eldest sons knew. I can only imagine the sorrow of his wife and their children. My cousin Kalala Lubenji had eight children and I don't know how many grandchildren; quite a few I'm sure. He will be sorely missed.

*Kabuika Kamunga is a freelance journalist, originally from the Democratic Republic of Congo. She has a master degree from the Medill School of Journalism at Northwestern University. She spends her time between the United States and South Africa. To comment on this article visit our weblog at: [www.nlc.org](http://www.nlc.org).*

## THE RECKLESS BECKLESS PERSPECTIVES: MAYOR NOT CONVINCING ENOUGH ON OPS

By all accounts, Ilana Rosenzweig is just what the Chicago Police Department's Office of Professional Standards (OPS) need.

Besides having served as an attorney/investigator with the Los Angeles County Office of Independent Review, she's been described by her peers as a person who is "principled beyond pale." Those same people firmly believes that she is well-suited for the task at hand, and that is, cleaning up a police department with far too many black

eyes over the last few months.

No matter her credentials, Rosenzweig's new gig includes orders from Mayor Richard Daley that she report directly to him on all findings. And that's where she'll eventually falter, just as her predecessors who repeatedly failed to convince a leery public that the OPS are above the fray.

"The fact I'm an outsider who owes no one and knows nothing about the culture of the Chicago Police Department will be beneficial at a time when public confidence

in the OPS has hit rock bottom," she told reporters at a news conference where a smiling Mayor Daley introduced her.

"While lots of cities are presented with the same issues," she continued, "not every city has the same political will to address the issues and to provide the tools and do the things that need to be done to change the situation."

No matter what, Ms. Rosenzweig will have a tough time convincing Chicagoans that the tools are in place to do the things that need to be done to change the situation. As long as she must first go to Mayor Daley, the general public will only think she's a puppet of the mayor.

Unfortunately, the city council doesn't see it that way. At last Thursday's monthly meeting, the council voted unanimously to approve her appointment. It seems as though the 50 council members are dealing with a case of Alzheimer's disease.

Well, let's remind them.

When now retired Detective Jon Burge was allegedly torturing suspected criminals in his own personalized torture chamber on the Far South Side, Mayor Daley was the Cook County State's Attorney. It was his office that approved charges once Burge and his boys finished their job and presented their coerced and often-times beat-the-mess out of suspect's confessions.

Later, an independent investigation revealed that a good percentage of the complaints filed against the likes of Burge and his cohorts had some validity to them. Yet, as mayor of the city of Chicago, Daley has supported the defense of Burge for years.

Meanwhile, the taxpayers of this great city have been forced to foot the legal bills associated with defending Burge along with paying millions of dollars in settlements to those victimized by the few rogue cops that exists in the nearly 13,000-strong police force.

If a recall of history is correct, the OPS was formed after a lengthy series of complaints filed by those who claimed they were victimized by the very same men and women who are sworn to serve and protect. The original office of the OPS was located in the 1100 block of South Wabash Avenue, just one block east of where police headquarters was located in the 1100 block of South State.

In 2001 when police headquarters was relocated to its current location in the 3500 block of South Michigan Avenue, OPS headquarters relocated as well to the Illinois

Ferman Mentrell Beckless

Institute of Technology Building at 10 West 35<sup>th</sup> Street. That location happened to be right in the shadows of police headquarters, leading one to easily believe that when filing a complaint against a rogue officer, he was, in essence, going to the police to report on police behavior.

I never will forget a few years ago when Terry Hilliard was the police superintendent and how excited he was when Laurie Lightfoot was appointed to head OPS. He told me: "We've got a good one, now," in reference to Lightfoot being handed the top job.

Should that convince me that Lightfoot—who was then required to report to Hilliard her findings—was above the fray? Did she have an allegiance to make the department look as clean as a whistle?

We all know that whenever there are upwards of 13,000 employees to oversee, there are bound to be a few bad apples. But on last week, it was reported that at least 662 officers of that force had compiled at least 10 or more complaints over a five-year period dating back to 2001. And less than 1 percent of all complaints were viewed as valid.

This year alone, two videotapes of apparently rogue officers have surfaced that doesn't even deserve an investigation. The fact that one tape shows a burly white cop beating on a petite white woman meant action was required. But that didn't happen as expeditiously as it should have.

The other tape depicts a few off-duty officers jumping on a few businessmen at a downtown bar. That tape also shows the off-duty cops waving off on-duty officers responding to a 911 call. Yet, OPS moved like turtles in mud before taking any action against the accused officers.

From the Burge incident to the videotaped incidents, Daley was either the county's top prosecutor or the mayor of the city. Should we now trust him to do the right thing when Rosenzweig presents him with evidence?

Common sense tells one that Mayor Daley shouldn't be trusted to pick an unbiased OPS administrator who reports directly to him.





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# Congressional Unrest Over Gun Violence

Megan Sieberg

Presidential candidate Barack Obama spoke recently at the Vernon Park Church of God in reference to the increasingly heated issue of gun violence in Chicago. "The violence is unacceptable," he told an enthusiastic congregation. "It's got to stop."

Senator Obama reflected on recent accounts of violence among Chicago's youth. He acknowledged that the number Chicago Public School children killed in the past year exceeds the number of students killed at Virginia Tech last April.

"Our playgrounds have become battlegrounds. Our streets have become cemeteries. Our schools have become places to mourn the ones we've lost," he proclaimed.

Obama is not the only prominent Chicago figure drawing attention to loose gun control legislation. Last week, Rev. Jesse Jackson, along with Dr. Gary Slutkin, held a summit meeting in Hyde Park encouraging political action against gun violence. While addressing a passionate and interactive audience, Slutkin stated "we have a humanitarian crisis in Chicago."

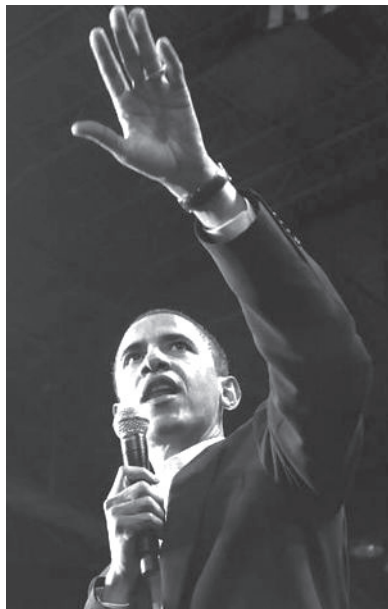
Renewal of the Tiahrt Amendment, which

restricts police access to national gun trace data, has sparked conflict among politicians concerning United States gun laws. It has also evoked concern from activist organizations such as The Brady Campaign, which has been fighting gun violence since 1974.

A surge in media attention begs the question, what is congress going to do about gun violence in the United States?

At last week's church service, Obama pointed out that "when you've got the gun lobby saying we can't use ballistics to trace back where guns came from, then it is time for us to stand up to the gun lobby and say 'enough.' It is time for a change in Washington."

The gun control issue has been sitting on the backburner since the Bush Administration



came into office in 2000. The National Rifle Association (NRA), in its notorious relationship with the Republican Party, remains the strongest influence against tighter U.S. gun legislation. Illinois Congressman Danny K. Davis, in an interview last Wednesday, indicated that the NRA is more powerful than even the largest coalition of advocates for tighter gun control.

"I think that there has been a great deal of support in Congress for stronger gun legislation," he said. "But, not strong enough to get legislation passed."

Both the NRA and the current administration have been criticized for their unwavering defense of the second amendment, obstructing bills that would

prevent gun access to minors and which would require a more thorough registration process for those purchasing weapons.

The latest controversy involves the availability of assault weapons, such as AK-47s, which the NRA defends as being a constitutional right. Obama responded to this by saying "that type of weapon belongs on a battlefield, not on the streets of Chicago."

Rev. Jesse Jackson would, no doubt, agree with him, referring to both the NRA and the Government as being "gang banged."

Obama, Jackson and Davis all appear to be hopeful that, as long as political advocates continue to put pressure on the government, a change in gun legislation will be achieved. Although the future of gun control looks grim under the Bush Administration, Congressman Davis maintains that we need to keep "plugging away." Gun violence will not disappear on its own, so "the fight has to continue."

Megan Sieberg is a recent graduate of Northwestern University. She has a degree in Communication Studies and is currently the Communications Manager at the North Lawndale Community News.

## What It Iz In The Biz

Marquita Ware

*What Up all my loyal readers!*

The R. Kelly trial where he was charged with 14 counts of child pornography back in 2002 in the final pre trial steps. The jury selection process moved forward during a morning hearing on July 20, The Chicago Tribune reports. At the hearing, where R. Kelly

was present, attorneys for both sides presented questionnaires that they would like potential jurors to fill out. According to Asst. State's Atty. Shauna Boliker, a follow-up hearing is slated to take place July 25. At that hearing, both prosecution and defense will present Judge Vincent Gaughan a questionnaire that combines



Lil Wayne



Ja Rule

questions from both. Though Boliker admits that the level of the juror pre-screening process is new to Illinois's Cook County, it was a necessary step due to the high-profile nature of the case. So, R Kelly may or may not be going to jail in a minute. I hope the trial takes as long as the pre trial so we can get about 2 or 3 more hit cd's.

Rappers Lil' Wayne and Ja Rule were arraigned today on weapons charges after the two were arrested separately on Sunday night in New York City. The rappers who's collabo "Uh Oh" is has just been released, were both

charged with felony gun possession. Trouble started for the two shortly after they performed together during Lil' Weezy's concert at Manhattan's Beacon Theatre. After the show ended at around 11:30 p.m., officers spotted Wayne and another man smoking marijuana near a tour bus parked at 61st Street and Columbus Avenue. The officers took both men into custody and discovered a .40-caliber pistol in a bag Wayne, born Dwayne Carter, tossed from the car, according to *Associated*

**See Biz page 14**

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## Biz from page 11

*Press.* Both men were arrested and charged with criminal possession of a weapon and marijuana. Prosecutors say police believe as much as 7 pounds of marijuana were stuffed down the tour bus' toilet by another individual, though no one has been charged for drug possession.

About an hour before Weezy's arrest, Rule's Maybach was stopped for speeding near West End Avenue. A check revealed that the vehicle had no insurance and that its registration was suspended. Police then discovered a .40-caliber pistol in the rear driver's side door, and arrested Rule, born Jeffrey Atkins, and two men, Mohamed Gamal, his driver and Dennis Cherry, his road manager. Ja Rule's bail was set at \$150,000. Wayne's bail was set at \$70,000. A bail bondsman told *AP* Rule's bail and that of the other men arrested with him would be secured by Rule's \$3.5 million dollar home in Saddle Brook, N.J. Ironically, 50 Cent (Ja Rule's number one rival) recently dissed Lil' Wayne in a song.

### QUICKIES:

Hip hop fans everywhere have been eagerly waiting for The Fugees to officially return, but group member **Pras** says it will never happen. He told *Billboard.com*, "We went in the studio and recorded a couple of records that were incredible. But it's dead. Me and **Clef**, we on the same page, but **Lauryn** is in her zone, and I'm fed up with that s\*\*t. Here she is, blessed with a gift, with the opportunity to rock and give and she's running on some bulls\*\*t".

Laila Ali married her boyfriend retired football star Curtis Conway last weekend in front of about 200 guest including her father Muhammad Ali. They dated for two years before he asked her to marry him last Thanksgiving.

Lisa Bonet just had another baby girl who has not been named yet. The father is Jason Momoa (Baywatch, Stargate Atlantis).

Rapper Trina is planning a photo shoot for her upcoming album *Da Baddest Chick II*, which will take place in various locations throughout Miami today (July 24).

Rumor has it that former Roc-A-Fella CEO **Damon Dash** is negotiating a return to the music



Trina

industry. Allhiphop.com reports that Dash could soon be the head of a major label's ailing urban division.

Singer **Rihanna** has more to celebrate than just making chart history overseas with her hit single "Umbrella." The singer will be getting her own line of umbrellas through a deal she has recently struck with umbrella manufacturer Totes. The umbrellas will reportedly have her name printed on it and be sold for \$50. BBC News reports that her song has held the Number 1 position for ten weeks in the UK chart, making her the seventh artist in the chart's history to achieve such a feat.

Speaking of R Kelly, according to Variety, The IFC Network has linked with **R. Kelly** to air the original twelve episodes of "Trapped In The Closet". They will also produce ten more new episodes.

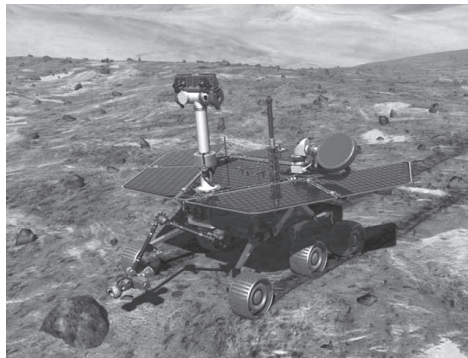
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If you have any questions for me about celebrity gossip or news, just call 312-492-9090 or write to KETA, 1211 S. Western, Chicago, IL 60608 and I will feature my answer in the next column. If you want to know about one of your friends and nem' I can tell you that too. JUST KIDDING. Also check out our weblog at www.nlc.org. You can post questions for me, other writers and anything anyone else you want to talk about.

*Marquita Ware is the Production/Layout & Design Coordinator for the North Lawndale Community News.*

## ON VIDEO

Compiled and reviewed by David H. Schultz



**ROVING MARS (\*\*\*)** Originally released on the massive IMAX screen, *Roving Mars* is still an awesome spectacle. This fascinating documentary recounts the 2003 Mars Rover space mission in which two robots, developed by a team of scientists, explored the red planet and chronicled their discoveries. Bonus features include Walt Disney's *Mars and Beyond*, a 1957 TV special that compliments the 2003 documentary for a "then and now" perspective.

G; 40min. Walt Disney Home Video

**Coming Soon to Home Video:** Will Ferrell and Jon Heder put on the figure skates in "Blades of Glory" due out Aug. 28. John Travolta, Martin Lawrence, Tim Allen, and William H. Macy try to be hell on wheels in "Wild Hogs" due out Aug. 14

## Hank from page 13

continuing to do it in bad situations with people yelling and criticizing makes it so much harder ... I give both of them credit for that."

One last thing to note is that Aaron's career did include a World Series win with Milwaukee in 1957. Bonds has yet to win a World Series title and it is unlikely that he will. The Giants definitely won't win the pennant this season and Bonds will probably retire after this grueling campaign.

*Todd Thomas is a freelance writer for NLCN and other publications. To comment on this article visit our weblog at: www.nlc.org.*

**Taste of North Lawndale**  
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# New Dance School Teaches Students the Art of 'Stepping'

Marcus D. Whittington

One of Chicago's richest treasures is its creation of the dance art form called Stepping and this art form is celebrated throughout the year at the stepping dance school CrossTown Steppin'.

CrossTown Steppin' was started by Eileen Brown after giving herself a birthday party where, after having recently taken stepper lessons, she showcased her new stepper moves at her party. Brown had such fun and received so many requests from her friends to teach them how to step that she met with her instructor Eliad Israel and decided to form CrossTown Steppin'. The school has locations on the North, South and Westside and will be reopening a location on the East side as well.

Stepping as a dance form can trace its roots back to 1950's Chicago to a dance called the Bop. The Bop was a variation of previous dances such as the Cakewalk and the Jitterbug, which were made famous by legendary Cotton Club performer Cab Calloway.

The city had numerous venues where young African Americans could go and Bop to the sounds of R&B, Blues and Jazz artists of the time. House parties called rent and quarter or waistline parties, like those made famous in the film *Cooler High*, were also popular places during the 50's and 60's for young African Americans to go and Bop.

The Stepping tradition evolved from this and

has been popularized by various Chicago DJ's such as Herb Kent and has recently gained more notoriety from Chicago R&B artist R Kelly. As well as a continuous supply of stepping music from R&B, jazz, neo soul and hip hop artists.

Although stepping evolved from the Bop and is practiced today by various age groups it seems to have grown up with its developers and maintains a level of maturity and elegance not found in many of today's musical genres. Stepping has some of the elegance of a waltz or ballroom dance without the formality as well as the synchronized choreography of Salsa.

Brown attributes this elegance to the era from which Stepping has its roots, "You know there is a move in stepping we call the Fred Astaire and if you go back and watch some of those movies with Ginger Rogers and Fred Astaire they were good steppers. If they were around today steppers would have to give them their respect," said Brown.

Stepping also seems to have bridged generational gaps and has a character all its own steeped in the African American tradition from which it evolved. Stepping's appeal to various generations may come as much from the beauty of the dance as it does from a love of music that Steppers seem to share through the DJ's who play the music and the Steppers who dance to it. "There are some songs that are hip hop songs

that DJ's sort of edit to take certain lyrics out and they become big time stepper songs. Stepping has the smooth stepper and the freestyle stepper. Freestyle steppers fall into that category of hip-hop. Smooth steppers are more of the laid back R&B stepping. Like to the very quieter songs," said Brown.

Brown states that stepping has both the benefit of connecting its practitioners to a history as well as being an avenue of physical and cardio exercise. "A CD that I have at home goes all the way back to the Cab Calloway days. If you can get some old 50's tapes you can see some of the moves that we do today, they were doing back then. It was much faster paced and the women were more acrobatic. There were flips involved which ladies don't care to do the flips much today. Now we are more into turns perhaps because its an older generation that's taken hold of it," said Brown.

Of its health benefits Brown advocates stepping, "It's a good aerobics, it's a good time for getting off the couch because going home from work and getting on the couch and eating is just not the thing to do," said Brown.

Brown states that stepper sets take place around the city every weekend. Cross-Town Steppin' offers a seven-week program, which

See Steppin page 15

## Summer Sizzle!

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*Malcolm X College invites the community to **Summer Sizzle** festivities from August 1<sup>st</sup> through the 29<sup>th</sup>. The events are geared to showcase the College's amenities and increase awareness regarding the affordability and benefits of a community college education. All events are free, open to the public, and will be held at the College.*

***Jazz Under the Stars** will be held 6:00 p.m. every Wednesday in August. The concert series will showcase a variety of performers. Registration for College Credit, Adult Education, and Continuing Education classes will be on-going. Additionally, the **24-Hour Registration Block Party** will begin 6:00 p.m. Friday, August 3<sup>rd</sup>. The public will enjoy live bands, dancing, games, and round the clock registration.*

*For more info contact :  
(312) 850 - 7055 (Registration)  
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## Ravinia from front page

a CD from Mr. McCants and posed for a photograph with him.

He said he didn't know about the monthly concerts but that he will definitely come back next month and will bring a friend, too. He plans to go to Hyde Park to McCants next performance. "These guys are real professionals."

Ravinia in Highland Park provides music lessons at four West Side park districts, and visiting for the first time were employees from that program, Beth Lambert, Hillary Catrow, and Kristen Gelians.

Lambert said it was fun to be at the park in the summer. "I think we've all been down here in the winter to see what Ravinia is doing in the classroom," she said, "but it's so nice to get to participate [in the summer concerts] and it's a beautiful park."

Catrow said the performers were entertaining and thought the audience thought so too. "The crowd is really great, and laid-back, and they really appreciate the music here. I think it's wonderful ... I didn't know what to expect and I'm looking forward o coming back."

Gelians said this was her first time at the park. "I think it's a lot of fun. It's definitely a different atmosphere and a different crowd from Ravinia. I had a great time."

The next concert is scheduled for Saturday, August 18 at 6 pm on the corner of Ogden and Sacramento. Performing will be Nicole Mitchell & The Black Earth Ensemble, and The James Perkins Ensemble.

The Ravinia Lawndale Festival Partnership presents four summer concerts every year in Douglas Park and features local artists. The Ravinia Lawndale Music Conservatory offers year-round free music lessons in violin, guitar, piano and voice to ages 8 to 98. The lessons are held at Piotrowski, Franklin Park, Homan Square, and Douglas Park. To obtain an application call Lenora Green, community project manager of Ravinia in Douglas Park, at 773-522-5303.

To find out who is performing in Highland Park and ticket information visit [www.ravinia.com](http://www.ravinia.com).

*Clemolyn (Pennie) Brinson is a poet and writer for NLCN and Residents Journal. To comment on this article visit our weblog at: [www.nlc.org](http://www.nlc.org).*



# THE NORTH LAWDALE COMMUNITY NEWS'

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### ANNOUNCEMENTS

**THE WILLIE WILLIAMS III YOUTH FOUNDATION IS HOSTING 3 ON 3 BASKETBALL TOURNAMENTS.** Dates and Times: July 27 and 29 on the North Side at Wrightwood Park, August 3 and 4 on the Northwest Side at Lincoln Park, August 11 and 12 on the West Side at Orr High School, August 25 at Union Park, August 31 and September 1 on the North Side at Seward Park, September 15 and 16 on the Northwest Side at Union Park. For more information call (773) 252-5965 or go to [Williewmsyouth.fdn.com](http://Williewmsyouth.fdn.com).

**HOUSING FAIR 2007** is an event sponsored by the Lawndale Christian Development Corporation and The Resurrection Project that will showcase a range of new housing options in the community. These options will include 45 rental units at Fountain View Apartments, a majestic former CHA building at the corner of Douglas and Independence Boulevards. The event will be held on Saturday, July 28 at the Homan Square Community Center on 3517 W. Arthington Street, and will run from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. For more information please contact Kelly Klein at 773-762-8889.

**FREE LEGAL CONSULTATIONS & REFERRALS** with licensed attorneys. **When:** Saturday, July 28 (family law workshop); Saturday, August 25 (modest estate workshop); Saturday, September 22 (youth and the law); Saturday, October 20 (consumer fraud and I.D. theft); Saturday, November 17 (healthcare fair); Saturday, December 15 (disability law). **Where:** Shepherd's Temple M.B. Church located at 4339 W. Cermak Rd. Chicago, IL 60623.

**NATIONAL CITY ANNOUNCES CHILDREN'S CHAMPION AWARD** to Honor Excellence in Children's Programming and Services. The final, statewide honoree will receive a \$10,000 grant. Nominations are being accepted through August 17. For more information contact Voices for Illinois Children at (312) 456-0600 or visit [NationalCity.com/ChildrensChampion](http://NationalCity.com/ChildrensChampion).

**VIDEO GAMERS IT'S ON!** LAN party for all youth aged 12 to 17. **When:** August 1 from 4:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. **Where:** the Allison United Foundation for Better Living, located at 4540 W. Washington Blvd. Challenge other players in intense team-based multiplayer action in two thrilling game types. This event will be hosted by DDCCOC, WCTI, Lawndale WiFi Collaborative, AUFBL & South Austin Coalition Community Council.

**HI THERE PARTNER COME ON DOWN IN BACK OF THE DUSUBLE MUSUEM SATURDAY THE 28<sup>TH</sup> OF JULY 2007 FOR A HIGH NOON HORSEBACK AND PONY RIDE.** Come join us, the Black Cowboys and Black Cowgirls for a day Of horseback riding, entertainment and food. Dusable Musuem is located 740 e. 56<sup>th</sup> pl Be there Be there

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

**THE DAVID G. FARRAGUT HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI PICNIC** Committee is gearing up for their 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Alumni Cook Out. Classes of 1955-1980 are invited to attend @ Douglas Park at Sacramento Blvd. & Ogden Ave at the Northeast corner, on Saturday, July 28, 2007, from 12:00 pm -8:00pm. A community event that is symbolic not only to community residents but representatives from various Westside schools. There will be entertainment for children and adults. Several recent graduates of Farragut High School will be recognized at this time. Contact Jeanne Keller, Coordinator for further information at 773-522-4213.

**THE BETTER LIFE FOR YOUTH WILL HOST ITS ANNUAL TALENT SHOW** on Friday August 31<sup>st</sup> at 5<sup>th</sup> City, 3350 W. Jackson Blvd. from 7 p.m.- until. Group Needs are: Singers Actors and Dancers. For More information contact: Eugene Wolf at 312/ 671-1026

**CHICAGO'S CITY PARK DISTRICT ANNOUNCES MOVIES IN THE PARKS** where more than 150 current and classic movies will be shown in neighborhood parks from June through September. **Douglass Park**, located at 1401 S. Sacramento Ave., will be showing *The Ant Bully* on July 27, and *Charlottes Web* on Aug 17. **The Garfield Park Conservatory**, located at 300 N. Central Park Ave., will be showing *Casino Royal* on August 30, and *The Pursuit of Happyness* on September 6. **Franklin Park**, located at 4320 W. 15<sup>th</sup> St., will be showing *Happy Feet* on August 12. For a complete schedule of the Park movie dates and times go to [www.chicagoparkdistrict.com](http://www.chicagoparkdistrict.com).

**YOU ARE INVITED TO AN OPEN HOUSE AT FRESSENTIUS MEDICAL CARE CHICAGO WESTSIDE DIALYSIS FACILITY** located at 1340 S. Damen St. Suite 100, Chicago, IL 60608. **When:** 12 p.m. to 3 p.m. on August 2. You will be introduced to the latest treatment options available to the dialysis community. For more information contact Martha Sowell, Area Manager, or Sharon Thomas, Administrative Assistant at (312) 738-2587.

**PERFORMING ARTS SHOWCASE.** **What:** Anointed in Movement Chritstian Performing Arts Company presents "Another Level...Open Heaven." Performances will include drama, dance, singing, poetry and comedy. **When:** Saturday August at 5 p.m. with a pre-show production at 4:15 p.m. Tickets (\$10) may be purchased online at [www.aimcompany.org](http://www.aimcompany.org), or at the following locations: Betty Jo's Bookstore in Broadview, IL; Fountain of Living Waters; and New Sound Gospel & Tapes on 107<sup>th</sup> & Halsted). For more information call Christian Valley Baptist Church at (773) 762-4417.

### LEGAL NOTICES

**STATE OF ILLINOIS, COUNTY OF COOK, Estate of Deandre M. Washington.** The Case Number is 07 P 3193. Notice is hereby given you, Michael Sewer, that a Petition has been filed in the Circuit Court of Cook County by April Lucas, praying that he be appointed successor guardian on the above named minor. A hearing on said Petition will be held before the Honorable Judge, Dorothy Brown on September 18, 2007, at 10 a.m., In Room 1806, in the Richard J. Daley Center. **NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN**, pursuant to "An Act in relation to the use of an Assumed Business Name in the conduct or transaction of Business in the State," as amended, that a certification was filed by the undersigned with the County Clerk of Cook County. File No. D07108228 on July 18, 2007. Under the Assumed Name of Wrap Braids with the business located at 839 N. Sacramento, Chicago, IL 60622. The true name(s) and residence address of the owner(s) is: Frances Simmons, 839 N. Sacramento, Chicago, IL.

### Combat from front page

the strategic plan the authority and state has for combating drug use," said

Gregory Stevens of the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority (ICJIA).

This award will be "to continue support of court advocacy and compensation programs in Cook County for juvenile and elderly victims, victims with disabilities, Spanish- and Polish-speaking victims, victims of traffic crimes, and family members of homicide victims."

"With this award, we can continue to fund successful anti-drug strategies," said Authority Executive Director Lori G. Levin. "These initiatives have a long history of effectiveness in communities throughout Illinois."

The Authority's mission is to improve the administration of criminal justice in Illinois, and it believes an informed and involved public is perhaps the greatest asset in that endeavor

*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.nlcen.org](http://www.nlcen.org).*

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### Violence from page 6

currently, a writer for The North Lawndale Community News. "But once you get a change to break the mindset, you realize just how many options you have and how much potential you have to change a life. If that isn't proper motivation to get up and do something, I don't know what is."

With a fresh outlook on life and with goals, young men and women are out looking to brighten up the skies and remove clouds hanging over our community youth. By lending our support to their dedication, we can certainly make things happen.

*James Glover is a North Lawndale resident and an NLCN general assignment reporter. He is also involved in nonprofit work and community organizing. To comment on this article visit our weblog at: [www.nlcen.org](http://www.nlcen.org)*

### OPS from page 12

Seeing that in most situations where rogue cops have been prosecuted for corruption, it was the Feds who came in and did it.

The feeling would be considerably better if Rosenzweig was reporting directly to a federal prosecutor. Then maybe, just maybe, her credentials will remain impeccable. Anything less would mean she has an allegiance to the mayor.

*Ferman is a former columnist for the Chicago Defender and the Chicago Metro News. He has also written for Chicago Athlete Magazine, Windy City Word and The Rockford Chronicle. His column has been syndicated by five different radio stations: WMPP, WWCA, WWYCA, WSSD and WXFM. He is the founder of the Reckless Beckless Foundation, offering scholarships to student athletes in the Chicago Area. Ferman currently writes for the North Lawndale Community News.*

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